

Nene Valley

news

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY
NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Telephone:
01522 692542

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

INSIDE
this issue



**SPOTLIGHT
ON SUMMER
DAYS OUT**

PAGE 04



**SAVILLS SPONSORSHIP
FUNDS SCHOOL VISITS
TO FERRY MEADOWS**

PAGE 10

NEWS IN BRIEF

New Chair appointed

At North Northamptonshire Council's Full Council, Councillors welcomed a new Chair for the civic year up to May 2027.

During the meeting, Cllr Andy Sims was elected as the Council's chair. The role of the Chair is a largely ceremonial one, including chairing Full Council meetings and representing the area at civic functions and events.

The Chair of the Council also selects a charity for the year, and Cllr Sims has selected Wicksteed Park and Two Wheels for Life as his charities for this year.

Cllr Andy Sims, Chair of the Council, said: "It is a real honour to have been chosen as Chair of North Northamptonshire Council. I'm looking forward to representing our communities over the coming year, supporting local events and organisations, and working alongside fellow councillors to promote the area. I'm particularly pleased to be supporting my chosen charities, which do such valuable work for residents across North Northamptonshire."

The next Full Council is due to take place on 24th September 2026.

Higham Ferrers strengthens international friendship with Twin Town visit

Higham Ferrers Twinning Association members recently extended a warm welcome to visitors from the German town of Hachenburg as part of the long-standing twinning partnership between the two communities.

To mark the occasion, the German flag was proudly raised in Higham Ferrers, symbolising the close relationship between the two towns and offering a visible welcome to the visiting delegation.

Higham Ferrers and Hachenburg, located in Germany's picturesque Westerwald region, have been officially twinned for 36 years. Although separated by more than 400 miles, the two historic market towns share much in common, including attractive medieval town centres, impressive heritage buildings and thriving community spirit.

Historically, twinning partnerships were established to encourage friendship and understanding between communities in different countries following the Second World War. Across Europe, town twinning became an important way of promoting peace, cooperation and cultural exchange,

allowing people to build relationships that transcend national borders. The partnership between Higham Ferrers and Hachenburg began in the '80s, and following exploratory visits and discussions, Higham Ferrers formed a twinning committee in 1989 with both councils subsequently approving the partnership.

The first Hachenburg delegation travelled to Higham Ferrers in November 1989, shortly after the fall of the Berlin Wall on 9th November. The visit became an especially symbolic moment, as a new friendship between a British and German community was developing at the same time as Europe was experiencing historic change. The formal twinning agreement was signed in Higham Ferrers on 17th March 1990, creating an official partnership that has continued for more than three decades.



Every two years, members of both Higham Ferrers and Hachenburg Twinning Associations take turns hosting visitors in their own homes or utilising nearby accommodation, offering guests the opportunity to experience everyday life, local traditions and community events while forging friendships that often last for decades.

For this visit, most of the German guests, along with members of the Higham Ferrers Twinning Association, began the day by attending the Sunday morning service at St Mary's Church on 12th July. This was followed by a civic reception in the Town Hall Chamber, where the Mayor, Councillor Chris O'Rourke, formally welcomed the visitors.

Continued on page 2

SHOWROOMS: 69-71 WASHBROOK RD • RUSHDEN • NORTHANTS NN10 6UR action2mobility.co.uk



Wet rooms
and easy access
bathrooms
supplied
and fitted

Action²Mobility
THE REGION'S LEADING MOBILITY AID CENTRE

Phone us for
delivery if you're
shielding*

Simply make your choice and
phone through your order to
0800 698 2588

*Limited to 25 miles radius from our
showrooms in Rushden

CALL FREE: 0800 698 2588

MON-FRI 8am-4.30pm

FREE PARKING

Stockist of Cosyfeet and Sandpiper shoes

STAIRLIFTS: FULLY GUARANTEED, FREE HOME SURVEY

Continued from page 1

Refreshments were served before speeches were delivered by Gill Mercer, Secretary of the Higham Ferrers Twinning Association, and representatives from Hachenburg, Stefanie Klevers and Christian Müller. During the reception, the Hachenburg delegation presented Higham Ferrers with a ceramic plaque commemorating the long-standing friendship and partnership between the two towns, along with a table depicting the Westerwald region.

The celebrations continued with a barbecue in the historic gardens of Chichele College. Entertainment was provided by Fynnus Fogg, a band that has supported numerous charities and organisations over the years with its repertoire of music from the 1950s to the 1980s. Guests also had the opportunity to enjoy a game of croquet.

The following day, the group travelled by coach to Althorp House, the ancestral home of Diana, Princess of Wales, where they spent time exploring the house and gardens in warm, sunny weather. Upon returning to Higham Ferrers, the visitors were welcomed at the Higham Ferrers SAS Club, where they were served fish and chips prepared by the award-winning Georgia's Fish

Bar on Westfield Terrace.

Mayor of Higham Ferrers, Councillor Chris O'Rourke said: "It has been a real pleasure to welcome our friends from Hachenburg back to Higham Ferrers. Our twinning partnership is about much more than exchanging visits. It is about building lasting friendships, learning from one another and celebrating the values that unite our communities. We are proud of this long-standing relationship and look forward to many more years of friendship."

As the visitors waved goodbye, all looked ahead to the next chapter of their partnership in 2027 when the Higham Ferrers group make the return journey to Hachenburg. In an increasingly connected world, the twinning relationship between Higham Ferrers and Hachenburg continues to demonstrate how international understanding begins at a local level, bringing people together through shared experiences, mutual respect and lasting friendship.

You can find out more about Higham Ferrers Twinning Association on their website: www.highamferrers-tc.gov.uk/twinning

GENEALOGY JOTTINGS

WORDS BY
JAN PEARSON

Last time, I mentioned that less is sometimes more when searching the censuses. Names that begin with an 'H' might actually lose the 'H' because of the way that they were said. Therefore, a search for the name HALLETT might show up as ALLETT. Worth thinking about perhaps using that asterisk at the front – just in case!

Another thing to bear in mind is the use of nicknames or abbreviated names. John can become Jack, Henry can become Harry and even Mary can become Polly! I have yet to discover what the reason is for the Mary/Polly change, so if you know, please contact me via the Nene Valley News! I could not find one of my great Aunts, whom I always knew as Nell. Her real name turned out to be Florence Mary Helen....

If you still cannot find your ancestor in the census but you know that they had a child in a year close to census time, try to track down the birth certificate for that child. It will have

an address on it, which may help to narrow down the location of your ancestor during the census. Some commercial providers have the facility that you can search the census just using the address – worth a go! The Library has access to commercial genealogy websites on its computers, giving you the chance to have a good old rummage for free.

As I mentioned before with Robert Austin, people moved around the country looking for work so they have the tendency to pop up where you least expect them. If you see the name of someone as a domestic servant at the other end of the country to where they were born, don't write them off without investigating further. My Great Grandfather moved from Kent to Humberside and then down to Hertfordshire – all in the name of finding work.

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

Want to place an advertisement or submit an article?

If you wish to contribute or have any comments please email news@nenevalleynews.co.uk or call 01522 692542. To advertise, call 01522 692542. Alternatively you can email advertising@nenevalleynews.co.uk

If you are not receiving your copy of Nene Valley News, please email distribution@km-media.co.uk or telephone 01522 692542.

If you would like to receive this publication as a download, Nene Valley News is available online as a pdf at nenevalleynews.co.uk.

You can also subscribe to Nene Valley News for £1.50 per issue.

Nene Valley News is produced by KM Media & Marketing, County House, 9 Checkpoint Court, Sadler Road, Lincoln LN6 3PW.

Copy dates for Nene Valley News

Publication date: Saturday 15th August
Articles to the editor by: Wednesday 5th August

Publication date: Saturday 29th August
Articles to the editor by: Wednesday 19th August

km
KM Media & Marketing
Your partner in publishing

Parson Latham's proud tradition of support

Nicholas Latham was born in 1548, a time when many inhabitants of his local parish were homeless or living in hospitals and poor houses. He grew deeply concerned by this and became a crusader of his time for the poor and homeless. Over the years as Rector of Barnwell St Andrew's, he bought property and land to be used as endowments and fund his hospitals in Oundle and Barnwell.

As well as creating two almshouses, Latham founded schools in Oundle, Barnwell, Brigstock, Weekly and Hemington – further evidence of his great philanthropy. It is important to understand that in these times almshouses were known as Hospitals. To this day, Parson Latham's Hospital in Oundle still holds the name 'Hospital' in its official title, although it is an almshouse only.

In 1620, 30 poor men's sons were chosen from Oundle to attend the Blue Coat School for a maximum of 4 to 5 years. Fifteen pounds a year was set aside to buy the scholars "coats of blue cloth" and a cap or hat of the same material. Parson Latham went to great pains to ensure the Statutes of the school led to the appointment of a fair and suitable school master.

In 1924, after the closure of The Blue Coat School, a new scheme was set up under The Parson Latham's Educational Foundation. This charity would be run by a body of Trustees and provide funds for the provision of apprenticeships and further education to boys only. In 1981 the Charity Commissioners agreed to amend the



scheme to include girls for grant eligibility.

Fast forward to 2026 and The Parson Latham's Educational Grants are still being gifted to primary, secondary, college and university students. All students must have studied at a state school in either Oundle or Polebrook for a minimum of two years. Students must also live in the Parish of Oundle, Ashton or Polebrook at the time of applying for the grants. Grants are decided by the board of nine Trustees, led by the Chairman, Paul Goldsmith. Paul has led the charity for 15 years but has been on the board for over 25 years. The board meets and the grants are decided in late September. Types of grants that are made include music tuition, sports clubs, college transport, course books, course equipment and more.

For further details about the grants and for an application form please visit the website www.parsonlathamscharity.org.uk or email the clerk at clerk.lathams@outlook.com

Parson Latham's Oundle Educational Grants

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

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

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

To apply for a grant, download an application form from the website-
www.parsonlathamscharity.org.uk
Return the completed form to the Clerk-
Zara Shacklock
Email- clerk.lathams@outlook.com
Or by post to
Parson Latham's Hospital, 24 North Street, Oundle, Peterborough PE8 4AL

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

New community football goal at Bassfords Recreation Ground unveiled

Raunds Town Council has unveiled a new Community Football Goal at Bassfords Recreation Ground on Marshalls Road, Raunds.

Thanks to a successful funding partnership, the project was made possible by a £5,000 Community Funding Grant from North Northamptonshire Council and match funding from Raunds Town Council.

The goalpost was officially unveiled by the Mayor of Raunds, Cllr Bill Cross, alongside Raunds Town Councillors.

The new recessed steel goal replaces the previous goalpost and has been relocated so that no more missed shots end up in the road. It is designed to be both durable and sustainable, and aims to:

- **Promote Health:** Encourage residents of all ages to live healthier, more active lives.
- **Enhance the Park:** Make the recreation ground a safer, more vibrant, and welcoming space.
- **Build Community:** Bring local people together and

foster connections through sport.

Mayor of Raunds, Cllr Bill Cross said: "During my year as Mayor of Raunds, I want to be able to improve the facilities for the children of Raunds. All Town Councillors were in favour of this project, as the last goalpost was at the end of its life and urgently needed replacing.

We hope the new goal will be an asset to the children of Raunds' footballing skills and possibly even make a future football star!"

Residents had the opportunity to enjoy the new facility during the Raunds Summer Picnic, where football-themed games took place alongside a range of family activities.



HALL PARK AWARDED GREEN FLAG AWARD 2026

Hall Park achieves coveted Green Flag Award as it is officially recognised as one of the country's best parks.

Hall Park in Rushden has received the prestigious Green Flag Award, achieving the international quality mark for parks and green spaces.

It comes as the internationally recognised standard for parks and green spaces celebrates its 30th year.

Hall Park is one of a record breaking 2,391 in the UK to achieve the award this year – a fantastic testament to the hard work, passion and dedication of the team who care for this green space, ensuring it is maintained to a high standard for visitors and residents to enjoy.

Paul Todd MBE, Green Flag Award Manager at Keep Britain Tidy, said: "Parks are essential public spaces that support our wellbeing, our communities and our economy. Yet for millions of people, particularly in the most deprived areas, local parks simply don't feel safe or welcoming.

"With public services under pressure, investing in parks is not a luxury, it's a practical, preventative solution and one of the most visible ways to improve people's quality of life.

"Rushden Town Council have shown what can be achieved when parks are properly supported and managed. As we celebrate 30



years of the Green Flag Award, we want every community to have access to green spaces like this that are safe, welcoming and maintained to a high standard.

"Congratulations to everyone involved."

The Green Flag Award scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under contract from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of green spaces across the UK and around the world.

FURNITURE CENTRE

DISCOVER QUALITY HAND MADE SOFA RANGES, RECLINERS & MORE

Visit Our New Website @ www.thefurniturecentre.com



HAND MADE TAMARA RANGE
CHOOSE FROM 1000'S OF FABRICS

NARDO POWER RECLINER
FULL RANGE AVAILABLE




furniture centre
stylish home furniture

Pytchley Lodge Road, Kettering NN15 6JQ
sales@thefurniturecentre.com 01536 414121

Spotlight on > Summer days out

> RB TRAVEL

RB Travel is a family run local company with over 50 years' experience in the coach industry, operating from Kettering in the heart of Northamptonshire.

"We specialise in a wide range of coach travel including excursions, tours, holidays, short breaks and longer holidays for individuals and groups or executive travel for corporate clients or special occasions.

"Our experienced staff are happy to answer all questions and help with all aspects of your coach hire and are committed to helping our customers feel as if they are 'one of the family' in all

of their communication with us."

The business has continued to grow to its present form as a major local company offering a wide variety of services to a diverse range of customers, incorporating Taurus Holidays.

RB Travel now offers a wide range of 30-70 seated coaches, offering everything to make for a comfortable journey.

Day Excursions

"We offer a wide variety of days out to lots of destinations for all the family. Come back and visit our website regularly as we add new excursions

which may not be in the original brochure, and you won't want to miss out."

Holidays

"You can't beat Taurus Holidays for all-inclusive value. Most of our holidays include excursions at no extra cost and 'Added Value' on many of our longer holidays. As soon as you arrive at our feature hotel, you can expect that little bit extra.

"We are committed to Quality, Service and Customer Care. Whether you're a seasoned traveller or a new friend – we look forward to helping you."

Book now, telephone: 01536 791066 www.rbtravel.co.uk

> AFFORDABLE FAMILY FUN RETURNS TO THE NENE VALLEY RAILWAY THIS SUMMER

Keeping the children entertained during the school holidays doesn't have to cost a fortune, and this summer the Nene Valley Railway is once again helping families enjoy a great-value day out with the return of its popular Kids for a Quid offer.

Every Wednesday throughout August, children can travel for just £1 when accompanied by a full-paying adult, giving families unlimited travel on the railway's heritage trains and the



Nene Valley Railway

freedom to hop on and off throughout the day to explore the stations, picnic areas and attractions along the line.

Each Wednesday also features a different family attraction, making every visit unique. Walkaround magic and balloon modelling, interactive wildlife displays, the ever-popular Punch & Judy show and the brand-new Muddle Mystery all feature in this year's programme. (Please note that Muddle Mystery is a separately ticketed event due to limited capacity, with tickets including both the mystery experience and a Kids for a Quid Day Pass.)

The family fun doesn't stop there, Paddington™ makes personal appearances throughout the day on

Sunday 23rd August, giving families the chance to meet everyone's favourite marmalade-loving bear. On Thursday 27th August, the railway will also host its annual Inclusion Day, providing a relaxed and welcoming environment for visitors with both visible and hidden disabilities, supported by the railway's Autism Railway Crew.

Whether you're looking for an affordable day out, a nostalgic train journey, or something different to entertain the children this summer, the Nene Valley Railway has a packed programme of events to help families create lasting memories together.

For full details and advance booking, visit www.nvr.org.uk.

RB Travel



AUGUST

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
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
Tue 18	Cleethorpes
Wed 19	Wye Valley River Trip & Lunch
Thu 20	London Free Time or Museums
Thu 20	Kensington Palace
Fri 21	Cirencester Market Day
Sat 22	Epping & Ongar Railway & Fish & Chips
Sat 22	Weston Super Mare
Sun 23	Bognor Regis Seaside
Sun 23	Mablethorpe
Tue 25	Bournemouth
Wed 26	Black Country Museum
Wed 26	Dudley Zoo
Thu 27	Kew Palace & Gardens
Thu 27	Little Venice & Camden Markets
Fri 28	Clacton Airshow
Sat 29	Alton Towers
Sat 29	Whitby
Mon 31	Skegness

SEPTEMBER

Tue 1	Springfields OR Spalding
Sat 5	London Free Time or Museums
Sat 5	Kings Gallery London
Sun 6	Chatsworth Country Fair OR Skegness
Wed 9	Sheringham & NNRW
Fri 11	Southwold
Sat 12	Carriages of Cambridge
Sat 12	Scarborough
Sun 13	Duxford Battle of Britain Air Show
Tue 15	Moreton & Stow on the Wold
Fri 18	Stratford Upon Avon
Fri 18	Staffordshire Lunch & Cruise
Sat 19	Bletchley Park
Sat 19	Milton Keynes Shopping
Sun 20	Hunstanton
Sun 20	Sheringham 1940's Festival
Thu 24	Cotswolds Tour - Stowe & Broadway
Fri 25	Skipton OR Skipton Cruise Cream Tea
Sun 27	Malvern Autumn Show

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



OCTOBER

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

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

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

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

NOVEMBER

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

Dream Castle Hotel. Embark on a Christmas voyage to your favourite worlds from the Old West to Galaxies far far away, you'll be transported to the enchanted lands of the stories that you know and love from Disney, Pixar, Star Wars and MARVEL! Take off on a fun-filled adventure with over 50 attractions to enjoy, it's the perfect way to spend an unforgettable pre-Christmas time with friends & family! Create memories this Christmas to cherish forever. Includes all coach travel, ferry and 2 day pass to Disneyland.

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

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

CALL NOW ON 01536 791066
TO GET OUR FREE BROCHURE!
taurus@rbtravel.co.uk
www.taurus holidays.co.uk

NENE VALLEY RAILWAY

Where every journey is a step back in time

★ WHAT'S ON ★



Kids for a Quid - With Varied Entertainment

Every Wednesday in August + Thursday 27th August

Take a heritage train ride and Kids travel for just One Pound! As an added extra, we'll be putting on different entertainment each week. Some entertainment may cost extra



THE FLYING CODMAN

Selected Dates

Afternoon family friendly fish & chip service across selected dates in August



MURDER AT THE RAILWAY

Saturday 16th August

Join the RAW Theatre Production Company for a night of Murder & Mystery set within our Continental Carriages, as seen in ITV's Murder on the Orient Express



SUMMER CREAM HSTea

Wednesday 19th August

Enjoy a Cream Tea while enjoying the views of the Nene Valley in First Class on board the InterCity 125 HST



THOMAS & HIS TEDDY BEAR'S BIG ADVENTURE

Friday 21st August

Join Thomas on his Big Adventure as he takes the main line from Peterborough Nene Valley Station to Wansford with his special train



MEET PADDINGTON AT THE RAILWAY

Sunday 23rd August

Travel on our heritage trains, enjoy a relaxed picnic, and meet Paddington himself at intervals throughout the day on the platform at Wansford.



THOMAS BANK HOLIDAY BRANCH LINE WEEKEND

Saturday 29th, Sunday 30th & Monday 31st August

Travel behind Thomas on his Branch Line to Yarwell and back

ALSO: The Peak of Summer Freight Driving Experience; Into the Night (Mixed Traction); HST Driving Experience; Jolly Fisherman (Evening Fish & Chips)

Nene Valley Railway
Wansford Station, Stibington
Peterborough, PE8 6LR

BOOK ONLINE
NVR.ORG.UK



NeneValleyRailway



nene_valley_railway



nenevalleyrailway

> FOLLOW THE CREATIVE TRAIL THROUGH THE NENE VALLEY

This September, Northants & Rutland Open Studios invites residents to explore the remarkable creativity found throughout the Nene Valley.

From 5th September to 3rd October, artists, galleries and heritage venues across the area will open their doors, offering visitors the chance to discover original artwork, meet local makers and enjoy inspiring days out close to home.

At Stanwick Lakes, the Stanwick Art Collective brings together artists responding to nature and the landscape, while nearby Rushden Lakes hosts a textile exhibition exploring wildlife, plants and the natural world. In Higham Ferrers, Chichele College provides a historic setting for contemporary art, while Barton Hall welcomes a varied group of artists for a special one-day exhibition.

Visitors can also discover open studios in Rushden and Wellingborough, creative demonstrations at Wicksteed Park and a large group exhibition in the atmospheric surroundings of Pythchley Church.

Further along the trail, Kettering offers exhibitions, galleries and artists working



across painting, ceramics, printmaking, glass and textiles.

Whether you visit one venue or plan a full day of exploring, Open Studios offers a chance to see familiar places differently and



discover the creativity thriving throughout the Nene Valley.

Most venues are free to visit.

Find full listings, opening times and the festival guide at nros.co.uk.

RESIDENTS TO ENJOY FREE TENNIS AT SPENCER PARK THIS SUMMER

Rushden Town Council is encouraging residents of all ages to make the most of the school holidays by taking advantage of free tennis

sessions at Spencer Park. Throughout the school holidays, Courts 3 and 4 at Spencer Park, Washbrook Road, Rushden NN10 6UL,

will be available free of charge from 10am to 6pm, giving families, friends and tennis enthusiasts the opportunity to enjoy one of the town's popular recreational facilities. Booking required: <https://bit.ly/3RK6Q0s>

Whether you're looking to improve your fitness, spend quality time with family and friends, learn a new skill or simply enjoy the outdoors, the free tennis sessions offer a fun and active way to make the most of the summer break.

A spokesperson for Rushden Town Council said: "We're delighted to offer free tennis sessions throughout the school holidays. Spencer Park is a fantastic community space, and we hope residents of all ages will take advantage of this opportunity to get active, enjoy friendly competition and spend time outdoors with family and friends."

For more information, please visit the Rushden Town Council website or follow Rushden Town Council on social media

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

FREE! TENNIS

BOOK A FREE COURT NOW!

Get active during the holidays and book a FREE tennis court at Spencer Park, Washbrook Road, Rushden, NN10 6UL

FREE sessions on courts 3 & 4 running daily during the school holidays. From 10am-6pm

- ✓ Have fun and develop your tennis skills
- ✓ Get active
- ✓ Practice and play

SCAN ME

Any booking issues, please contact Rushden Town Council on 01933 316216 or info@rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk

www.rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk
01933 316216 | info@rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk | [@rushdencouncil](https://www.facebook.com/rushdencouncil)



5 Sept - 3 Oct 2026

The Art of Exploring THE NENE

Explore inspiring studios and galleries across Rutland and Northants.

Meet the artists.

Discover original painting, ceramics, sculpture, textiles, glass and printmaking.



nros.co.uk



NORTHANTS & RUTLAND OPEN STUDIOS

Be Inspired
this September

FREE ENTRY

Playing with words

Followers of Thrapston Amateur Dramatic Society's excellent twice yearly productions at The Plaza in Thrapston will be used to seeing Hazel Wright on stage.

Hazel has been a member of the company for over 30 years and has played many diverse characters. Quite by chance as I read a small local magazine I came across a short story written by a Hazel Wright and having enquired learned that the two were one and the same, and that Hazel had been writing these stories along with interesting poems for some years.

I was privileged to be able to read all of her work to date and was pleased when she decided to publish it. My interest in local authors prompted me to ask what motivated her to write and from where her inspiration came.

As with all authors with whom I have spoken, Hazel was modest about her work but told me that even as a child she had loved "playing around with words" and had enjoyed writing



poetry. However it was ten years ago that she had started to seriously put together short stories and poems.

She says that there is no real connection between her amateur dramatics and writing except of course that they all revolve very much around words and while the writing is only a hobby pursued for her own enjoyment, it has often had a therapeutic effect.

Words: Richard Wilding

Hazels' work to date is available as Grabbing Five Minutes, and copies can be obtained from her by emailing hazelwright1801@gmail.com or phoning her on 07788558964.

Parachuting osteopaths raise £47,000 for detection dogs

Forty-four osteopaths and chiropractors from across the UK took to the skies recently in a spectacular mass tandem skydive for Medical Detection Dogs. The brave team included four osteopaths, two patients and a psychotherapist from The Ashgrove Clinic in Higham Ferrers.

The event was organised by Ashgrove director and regular skydiver Steven Bruce, who somehow persuaded the other 43 healthcare professionals, almost all of them first-time skydivers, that jumping out of an aeroplane from 13,000 feet was a perfectly sensible thing to do.

Together they've already raised an incredible £47,000, enough to fund the lifetime cost of one-and-a-half Medical Detection Dogs. They're hoping to reach £60,000, which would pay for the second in full.



Medical Detection Dogs trains dogs to detect diseases such as cancer, Parkinson's disease and serious bacterial infections through their remarkable sense of smell. The charity also provides assistance dogs that can warn people of life-threatening medical episodes (such as anaphylaxis and POTS) before they happen.

For some of the jumpers, the cause was deeply personal. One participant signed up after her own pet spaniel repeatedly alerted her to a fast-growing breast cancer before it had been diagnosed.

Steven Bruce said: "Persuading 43 healthcare professionals to jump out of an aeroplane was a lot of fun! Not one of them backed out, and I'm incredibly proud of them. Together we've raised enough to change lives, and that's what really matters."



Right, Steven Bruce, Ashgrove Clinic Director

To help the team reach their £60,000 target, visit: www.justgiving.com/page/ashgrove-tandems

LOW BACK PAIN? NECK PAIN? CURRENT TREATMENTS NOT WORKING?

Do you suffer from...?

- ☐ Herniated or Bulging Discs
- ☐ Degenerative Disc Disease
- ☐ Posterior Facet Syndrome
- ☐ Sciatica
- ☐ Spinal Stenosis
- ☐ Spinal Arthritis
- ☐ Acute or chronic back pain



Find out if you are a candidate for **IDD Therapy®**

A comfortable, non-invasive back pain treatment with success rates reaching 92%.



01933 469043

www.ashgrovehealth.co.uk
reception@ashgrovehealth.co.uk

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



YOUR HEALTH – RECURRING INJURIES

Last weekend, a group of us from The Ashgrove Clinic were part of a team of 44 osteopaths and chiropractors at a charity event. At one point I produced a giant Jenga set for a bit of fun.

As you'll know, the tower becomes more and more wobbly as the game goes on. Eventually someone pulls out a block, the whole thing crashes to the floor, and that person gets all the blame.

But were they really the reason it fell over?

Not really - the tower had been getting less stable for quite some time. The last block was simply the tipping point.

We see exactly the same thing in clinic.

When you come to us saying that you've done your back again, or that your shoulder's playing up again, or that your knee pain keeps coming back, you'll also mention what you were doing when it happened - you were bending to pick up a sock, reaching into a cupboard or walking to the shops.

The sock gets blamed.

The cupboard gets blamed.

The shopping gets blamed.

But they were probably just the last block.

Long before that, your body may have been coping with more than usual. Perhaps you'd been training harder. Sleeping less. Sitting at your desk for longer. Looking after the grandchildren. Decorating the spare room. Recovering from a cold. Or maybe you'd stopped doing the exercises that had kept an



old injury under control. None of those things is necessarily a problem. In fact, many of them are good for you. But together they increase the demands on your body.

Our bodies are remarkably adaptable. They repair, recover and become stronger. But if the demands placed on them keep exceeding what they're ready for, the same injury can become the weak link that keeps reminding you it's there.

When you see a practitioner for help always remember to tell them the full history - if we can work out the underlying stresses we are much more likely to be able to stop it becoming a regular problem.

And for the record... it was me who pulled out the last block on Saturday!

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

High fire risk means a barbecue ban at Ferry Meadows and across Nene Park

Nene Park Trust has announced a complete ban on all barbecues across the Nene Park estate until further notice.

This decision is in direct response to the increased fire risk caused by the extreme heat waves we have been having. The ground, trees, and foliage across the Park have all become very dry, and a spark from a fire or barbecue could start a fire that could quickly spread and get out of hand.

From Thursday 17th July, all the fixed barbecue stands in the Park will be covered up and signs placed nearby clearly explaining the ban. There will be additional signage explaining the ban around the Park and increased security in place in the evenings to remind visitors and help keep everyone safe.

The Trust understands that many visitors may be disappointed by this change but hopes that everyone will understand that the most important thing to consider is keeping everyone and the beautiful Park and wildlife safe.

Duncan Bridges, Director of Landscape and Conservation



for Nene Park Trust says: "We are highly aware of the increasing numbers of wildfires across the country, including in green spaces not far from us in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Moreover, Natural England has recently declared that parts of the UK, including the Midlands, are now at 'exceptional' risk of wildfire. We can't delay this decision any longer and hope all our visitors will support us by leaving their barbecues at home this summer."

The only exceptions to this ban are private events that have been organised at Lakeside Kitchen and Bar or at the weekly Foodie Friday events, where there are additional fire extinguishers and safety measures in place.

This ban will remain in place until further notice but it is likely to be for the entirety of the summer.

In summary: No barbecues or campfires of any kind are allowed anywhere across Ferry Meadows and the wider Nene Park estate until further notice.



BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER THROUGH NATURE

A new partnership between two voluntary organisations is set to bring people from across North Northamptonshire together through the power of nature, community, and volunteering.

Groundwork's Green Patch, in the heart of Kettering, has joined forces with Volunteer Action, which supports volunteers across rural East Northamptonshire, to launch Rural Hands – an exciting new project designed to improve health, wellbeing, and social connections while strengthening links between rural and urban communities.

Participants from East Northamptonshire will be transported to Green Patch to take part in a variety of practical and community-based activities including:

- Grow, plant, harvest, and care for vegetables, fruit, and flowers.
- Help prepare nutritious meals using fresh produce grown on site.

- Support wildlife through habitat creation and species monitoring.
 - Take part in craft and woodwork projects.
 - Assist with community events.
 - Enjoy Tai Chi, yoga, and mindfulness sessions.
 - Contribute ideas through monthly volunteer forums.
 - Build friendships across generations at regular social events.
- Volunteer Action provides a range of services and activities for people aged 65 and over, and for adults living with a long-term health condition, across



The King's Award for Voluntary Service

North East Northamptonshire. The organisation relies on its dedicated team of volunteers to deliver these vital services and is always keen to hear from people interested in making a difference in their local community.



For more information about the Rural Hands project or other volunteering opportunities including driving and one to one befriending, please contact Volunteer Action on 01832 275433 or email admin@volunteer-action.org.uk, www.volunteer-action.org.uk

Higham's best kept secret is right on Market Square...

When you need legal help you'll want a law firm that stands by you. At Wilson Browne we have a friendly, down-to-earth-approach, so we can understand you and you can understand us.

With offices across Northamptonshire and in Leicester, we offer a complete range of legal solutions for individuals and businesses, with transparent costs.



0800 088 6004
info@wilsonbrowne.co.uk
wilsonbrowne.co.uk

- Wills, Trusts & Estates
- Managing Wealth & Assets
- Residential Conveyancing
- Family Law
- Employment Law
- Disputes
- Debt Recovery
- Business Services
- Commercial Property

All the help you need



wilson browne
SOLICITORS

An evening with the legendary **Fynnious Fogg**
Northampton's oldest boy band performing free of charge

5th September 2026
Queen Victoria Hall - Oundle
(doors 6.45pm / show starts 7.30pm)

Fundraising event for **Volunteer Action**
Licensed Bar & Raffle

Tickets £14 - available on Eventbrite or from Volunteer Action on 01832 275433

Registered with **FUNDRAISING REGULATOR** www.volunteer-action.org.uk

NENE VALLEY NEWS - EVENTS

> SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST, 9AM

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.

> SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST 12 NOON-4PM AND MONDAY 31ST AUGUST 10AM-4PM

Art Exhibition - Masonic Hall, Wellingborough Road, Rushden NN10 9YJ. Art exhibition from local artists, some are returning but there will also be new artists attending.

WHAT'S ON AT:

COWPER & NEWTON

For further details visit
www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk

> SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST, 9AM - 11AM

Emberton Country Park Moth Group - Samuel Flowers (Emberton Country Park Manager (MKCC)) will tell you all about the moths of our gardens.

> SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST, 1.30PM-3PM

Art Workshop with Something Less Boring - Book through www.somethinglessboring.co.uk

> SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST, 7PM-9PM

Beati Vocal Ensemble - Evening of singing pop, jazz, musicals and choral.

> SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST, 10.30AM-1PM

Art Workshop with Something Less Boring - Book through www.somethinglessboring.co.uk

> MONDAY 3RD AUGUST, 7.30PM-9PM

The Mosaic in the Car Park - Talk by Tom Jones of the Cowper & Newton Museum.

> WEDNESDAY 5TH AUGUST, 11AM-12.30PM

Nature Crafts - By Pat at the Cowper & Newton Museum.

> SATURDAY 8TH AUGUST, 10AM-11AM

Pilates with Helen Stephenson - Book through Nook by Nature. www.nookbynature.co.uk

> SATURDAY 8TH AUGUST, 1PM-2.30PM

Heart Healing Meditation with Laura - Book through Nook by Nature.

> TUESDAY 11TH AUGUST, 10AM-12NOON

Relaxation tools for families - (Adults & children 10yrs+) with Emily Joy and Alex - book through Nook by Nature.

> TUESDAY 11TH AUGUST, 2PM-3.30PM

Terrarium Making Workshop - For Families with Nicky Kenny - book through Nook by Nature.

> WEDNESDAY 12TH AUGUST, 11AM-12.30PM

Nature Crafts - By Pat of the Cowper & Newton Museum.

> THURSDAY 13TH AUGUST, 10.30-12NOON

Refreshments in the Courtyard - At the Cowper & Newton Museum.

> FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST, 7PM -9PM

Histories and Mysteries of Olney in the 1600s - talk by trustees of the Cowper & Newton Museum.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Children, teens and families can look forward to a summer packed with a wide range of leisure activities planned by North Northamptonshire Council.

There is something for everyone lined up this summer. From fun activities, sports camps and teen-only sessions to a printed activity journal and countryside walks. Look out for free or low-cost activities, which can make it easier for families to take part and enjoy an active summer together, all brought to you by North Northamptonshire Council.

Summer holiday events and activities include:

- **Active Families Fun Days:** FREE and enjoyable for all ages, these sessions include fun movement, crafts and art. A host of free activities will include: climbing walls, trampolines, mini golf, soft play, inflatable penalty shoot-out, water tattoos, clay making and local sports club tasters. There will also be lots of stalls where organisations and partners will be promoting the services they can offer families. The Active Families Fun Days will run every Wednesday throughout August, from 12 noon to 4pm. Visit the council website for venue details.
- **The Movement and Explorer Journal:** a fun, jungle-themed printed journal packed with activities to keep children entertained all summer. Whether they're feeling energetic or in the mood for something calmer, the handy journal is designed to inspire kids to stay active, creative and mindful during the school holidays.

Pick up a copy of the journal from your nearest North Northamptonshire library.

- **Good Vibes Only – teen wellbeing and mindfulness days.** A calming and creative 4-hour retreat for teens aged 12 to 16. Limited spaces are available at various locations across North Northants and booking is required.
- **Silent Discos** - 45 minutes of fun and feel-good vibes, for children aged 8 to 12 years. Book your child's place for just £3. Various locations. Plus lots more activities:
- **Active Play and Bounce:** drop-in sessions with bikes, trikes, bouncing and climbing.
- **Racket sports:** Tennis, table tennis, badminton, squash, and pickleball - book in advance or pay and play.
- **Sports:** keep your children active with a range of summer sports sessions, from teen-fit sessions to engaging holiday clubs and family golf.
- **Swimming:** all ages and abilities can enjoy our aquatics sessions, from family splash time to learn to swim or dive.
- **Walks:** explore the Corby heritage trail or try an interactive family walk with a downloadable app that will guide and entertain you. Pack a picnic and step out into our stunning parks and open spaces. Will you find a tree fairy, stumble into a dinosaur footprint or hunt out mini beasts? Get prepared by visiting our website.

To explore the full programme and plan your summer visit www.northnorthants.gov.uk/summer-holiday-activities-children

Northants Veterans



Breakfast Club

We are open to all Serving military personnel and retired Military and Blue Lights Veterans.

We meet at the Needle and Awl in Rushden, Northants EVERY Wednesday and Saturday from 0900-1100.

You will find a wide variety of people from all three Military Services, all there to enjoy the camaraderie and banter we were all so used to.

We run day trips eg Bletchley Park, Westminster and Royal Hospital Chelsea as well as quiz nights, Bar-b-q's and Christmas dinner.



AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY



Superb art by local artists

Please come and support us, meet the artists and purchase some of these beautiful paintings

Sunday 30th August - 12 noon - 4pm

Monday 31st August - 10am - 4pm

at the **MASONIC HALL**

Wellingborough Road, Rushden NN10 9YJ

FREE ENTRY • Car Park available

*We would love to see you
Tell your friends and neighbours*

Nene Valley Crematorium donates more than £5,000 to support local charity's vital missions

Nene Valley Crematorium has donated £5,667 from its metal recycling scheme to support the lifesaving missions of Your Local Air Ambulance (YLAA) in Northamptonshire.

The metal recycling scheme, with explicit consent from the bereaved families, recovers metals remaining after cremation, such as orthopaedic implants and coffin fixtures to prevent them being buried or sent to landfill. These materials are then recycled and the net proceeds donated to bereavement and local charities just like Your Local Air Ambulance.

The total donated to the charity to date is £20,667, including a £15,000 donation in 2022 – these vital funds help the charity to continue their lifesaving missions in Northamptonshire and

further afield.

Your Local Air Ambulance brings rapid emergency care to communities across Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland.

From road traffic collisions and cardiac arrests to strokes, serious falls and workplace accidents, the crew are available to respond by helicopter or critical care car 24/7, 365 days a year.

Molly Norton, Community Fundraising Relationship Executive for the charity said: "On behalf of the charity I would like to say a big thank you to Nene Valley Crematorium for choosing to support our charity and the incredibly generous donation they have given us."

"Without support just like this we wouldn't be able to

respond and deliver critical care when it is needed most."

Cllr Tom Patridge-Underwood, Chair of the Nene Valley Crematorium Board, said: "The team at Nene Valley Crematorium have a long history of raising funds for charities and I am sure this donation will make a considerable difference to the work done by Your Local Air Ambulance."

The Air Ambulance Service comprises Your Local Air Ambulance, bringing rapid emergency care, and the National Children's Air Ambulance, a unique hospital transfer service for critically ill children and babies across the UK. The charity has launched its 'Big Bases Appeal' to help fund the future of its lifesaving work across the region. To learn more, please visit the Big Bases Appeal website.

HOMEBUILDER CELEBRATES WORLD CUP WITH FOOTBALL DONATION

Following the end of the FIFA World Cup, David Wilson Homes has donated mini footballs to a local primary school, encouraging young children to stay active during the summer of sport.

Harlestone Primary School, which is based close to David Wilson Homes' Harlestone Grange development in Northampton, received 25 of the footballs for its children to enjoy.

Sam Phillips, Headteacher at Harlestone Primary School, said: "We are very grateful to David Wilson Homes for their kind donation. The World Cup and England's run to the Semi Finals has captured the

imagination of the children and this donation will enable them to build on the activity they enjoy at school over the summer break."

In addition to Harlestone Primary School, David Wilson Homes has been donating footballs to schools across the region, aiming to support early engagement in physical activities that could inspire the next generation of footballers.

Ben Kalus, Managing Director at David Wilson Homes South

Midlands, said: "We are delighted to donate mini footballs to pupils at Harlestone Primary School and help them celebrate the excitement of the FIFA World Cup. Supporting young people in our communities is important to us, and we hope the footballs help inspire a lasting enjoyment of sport."

Harlestone Grange currently has a range of four and five bedroom homes available, starting from £410,995.

A number of schemes are available for those looking to make a move, including deposit boosts to help first-time buyers, and the Part Exchange scheme to benefit those looking to sell their current home.



For more information about any developments in the area, visit the website at David Wilson Homes in Northamptonshire

SPITFIRE HOMES LAUNCHES COMMUNITY FUND SUPPORT

Northamptonshire charities, clubs and community organisations are being invited to apply for funding through the brand-new Spitfire Homes Community Fund, launched as part of the award-winning homebuilder's 15th anniversary celebrations.

The fund makes £15,000 available to support projects, activities and initiatives that make a positive impact within local communities – a meaningful investment that reflects the homebuilder's values as a people-first business with deep roots in the places it calls home.

Applications are open to charities, societies, clubs and valued community assets based within Northamptonshire. Organisations are asked to share how they would use the funding and the difference it will make, making the process straightforward for community groups of all shapes and sizes to get involved.

The fund has been established as part of wider celebrations marking Spitfire's 15th anniversary. Since its inception, the homebuilder has delivered more than 1,500 homes in 62 communities across the Midlands and beyond, creating lasting legacies in the places it helps to shape.

Matt Vincent, Operations Director at Spitfire Homes, said: "As we reflect on 15 years of Spitfire Homes, it's the communities we've been part of that stand out as much as the homes we've delivered. The brand-new Community Fund is our way of giving something back to the organisations that make those places worth living in. We encourage eligible organisations to come forward



and apply. The application is simple, and the fund has been created to support projects that make a genuine difference locally."

From grassroots sports clubs and local charities to community projects and social initiatives, Spitfire Homes is inviting applications from organisations seeking financial support to help deliver meaningful outcomes within their local area.

For more information about Spitfire Homes' Community Fund, including eligibility criteria and details on how to apply, please visit <https://spitfirehomes.co.uk/community-fund/>

Regent Wrought Iron Ltd

The Regent Street Wrought Iron Works

180-186 Regent Street, Kettering, Northants NN16 8QH

PHONE 01536 485892

High quality gates and fencing hand made on the premises since 1963



We have 18 styles to choose from.
All on show in our showroom.
Full fitting & painting service.

Automatic Estate Gates

- Highest quality equipment
- Up to 14' opening
- Flat draped or bow topped
- Fully installed & painted
- **FREE** first year service
- Guaranteed for 2 years
- Full back up & yearly service
- We have been installing automation since 1998
- Full pressure tested and certified to BS 12453

We can automate your existing gates (if suitable) or upgrade old equipment to meet BS 12453 safety regulations



Has your garden wall/fence had it? Replace it with wrought iron!
LASTS A LIFETIME • USUALLY FITTED IN A DAY

BEAT THE BURGLAR – Free security locking bolts fitted to all our side entry gates or full range of mortise locks fitted

Visit our website for our online catalogue www.regentiron.co.uk

GENEROUS SPONSORSHIP FROM SAVILLS FUNDS SCHOOL VISITS TO FERRY MEADOWS

Funding from Savills Peterborough, the land and property agent, means that Nene Park Trust can continue to offer funded visits to the Park to a local school from September this year.

For the last five years, Nene Park Trust has run a School in Residence programme, thanks to funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of the Your Community Greenspace project. Each year, a local Peterborough primary school has benefitted from a year of funded visits to the Park and visits from the

Trust's education team back to the school.

Children have taken part in outdoor activities, all designed to give them access to and understanding of nature, wildlife, looking after green spaces, and sustainability. They have also had support from Nene Park Trust to improve the green space

available in their own school grounds. The programme has funded coach travel, outdoor all-weather clothing, equipment needed and building planters for the school grounds.

Over the last five years 174 primary aged children in Peterborough have benefitted from these funded visits to Ferry Meadows. One school shared that the children involved have benefitted so much from the scheme: "Many children had not been to Ferry Meadows before and had thrived on the opportunities the programme had given them. They loved learning about nature and also learned a lot about themselves!"

Now that the five-year lottery funded project is coming to an end, Nene Park Trust is pleased that Savills has stepped up to sponsor another local primary school for the next academic year and has announced that the chosen school is Leighton Primary School in Peterborough.

Over the 2026-27 academic year, thirty Year 3 pupils will be visiting Ferry Meadows for four visits and will receive three visits back to the school from the Trust's education team, working with the school to improve their available green space, with items and resources that may



include planters and wildlife habitat development, among other elements.

Lucy Thornton Reid, Senior Fundraising Officer for Nene Park Trust said: "We are so grateful to Savills for sponsoring this project and enabling it to continue, giving such a valuable opportunity to these local children. Sponsorship from local businesses like this really makes a difference to the impact The Trust can deliver."

David Goodson, Rural Director and Head of Savills Peterborough, said: "We're proud to be supporting Nene Park Trust and its School in Residence programme, which has already made such a positive difference to

hundreds of local children. Access to green spaces and outdoor learning opportunities is incredibly important, and Ferry Meadows offers a unique setting where children can explore nature, build confidence and learn in a hands-on way.

As a business that works closely with land, communities and the environment, this sponsorship is a natural fit for Savills. We are committed to supporting the communities in which we live and work, and we're delighted to help give local pupils the opportunity to benefit from this inspiring programme."



MVO Rosemary finds comfortable, supportive and stylish shoes for swollen feet

Finding shoes that feel comfortable, supportive and stylish can be difficult if your feet are swollen or need more room than standard high street styles provide.

That is why DB Wider Fit Shoes in Rushden offers one-to-one fitting advice and a wide choice of footwear designed to give customers more room, comfort,

support and confidence without compromising on appearance.

MVO recipient Rosemary Mason recently visited the Rushden Fitting Centre to take

part in a photoshoot showing how the right footwear can make a real difference. Rosemary was appointed a Member of the Royal Victorian Order in 2024, recognising her

long-standing role as former Nosegay Maker for the Royal Maundy Services.

Following an incident a few years ago that left her paralysed from the chest down, Rosemary has worked hard to regain the ability to walk, supported by rehabilitation and her own determination. Today, swelling, balance and mobility challenges mean finding the right footwear remains especially important. Rosemary was thrilled with the wide selection at DB Wider Fit Shoes and found styles that met her needs.

With more than 100 years' footwear experience, DB understands the difference small design details can



MVO recipient Rosemary Mason at DB Wider Fit Shoes in Rushden, where one-to-one appointments help customers find footwear that is comfortable, supportive and stylish

make, from extra depth and adjustable fastenings to attractive styles that are easier to put on and take off.



**The Shoe Fitting Centre
DB Wider Fit Shoes**

Open: Mon to Fri, 10am-4:30pm
www.widerfitshoes.co.uk

Like Rosemary, discover comfortable, supportive and stylish wider fit shoes.

Appointments required — call 01933 311077 to book at DB Wider Fit Shoes, Irchester Road, Rushden NN10 9XF.



Appointments are required so each customer has time for one-to-one fitting advice tailored to their needs. If your feet need more width, extra depth or room for swelling, DB Wider Fit Shoes on Irchester Road in Rushden NN10 9XF can help. To book, call 01933 311077.

Permanent Executive Director of Children's Services appointed

North Northamptonshire Council has confirmed the permanent appointment of Cornelia Andrecut as its Executive Director of Children's Services and Statutory Director of Children's Services (DCS).

Cornelia joined the Council's Corporate Leadership Team in July 2025 on a one-year secondment from Northamptonshire Children's Trust (NCT), where she served as Director of Children's Social Care.

Following a successful period in the role and after being selected through a competitive recruitment process, she has now been appointed permanently.

The appointment provides continuity of leadership for Children's Services and reflects the Council's commitment to delivering the best possible outcomes for children, young people and families across North Northamptonshire.

With more than 30 years of experience spanning nursing,

teaching, social work, sector-led improvement and senior leadership roles, Cornelia has dedicated her career to improving the lives of children and families. Her expertise in leading improvement programmes and developing high-performing services has earned recognition both regionally and nationally.

Since joining North Northamptonshire Council, Cornelia has worked closely with elected members, schools, partners and colleagues across the wider children's system to drive improvement and build on the strong foundations already in place.

Cornelia Andrecut said: "I am honoured to be appointed permanently as Executive Director of Children's Services for North Northamptonshire. Having served in the role on secondment over the past year, it has been a privilege to work alongside such dedicated colleagues, partners and communities who are united by a shared commitment to



Cornelia Andrecut

improving the lives of children and families. I am passionate about creating brighter futures for children and young people and about leading meaningful lasting change that makes a real difference to their lives. I am proud of everything we have achieved together and of the strong foundations we have built. I look forward to continuing our journey, working with our partners across the system to deliver the best possible outcomes and ensure every child in North Northamptonshire has the support and opportunities to thrive."

Children's services rated Good with Outstanding leadership following Ofsted inspections

Children's Services across North Northamptonshire have received strong Ofsted inspection outcomes, highlighting significant and sustained improvement since 2022.

North Northamptonshire's Children's Services have been rated Good overall, with leadership judged Outstanding, marking a major milestone in their transformation journey.

In 2019, a Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government report stated: "Children's Services in Northamptonshire is now, by any available measure, one of the worst-performing in the country."

Since then, services have undergone a significant transformation, including the establishment of Northamptonshire Children's Trust (NCT) in November 2020 to deliver children's social care and family help on behalf of North and West Northamptonshire Councils.

The latest inspections recognise the impact of ambitious leadership, strong partnership working and sustained investment, which are now delivering improved outcomes for children, young people and families.

Cllr Elizabeth Wright, Executive Member for Children, Education and Families at North Northamptonshire Council, said: "This is an amazing outcome. Credit and thanks go to our fantastic workforce and partners who show care and dedication every day, and go above and beyond, to improve the lives of local children and their families. It is wonderful that positive feedback from the children we support has contributed to this outcome. We know there is still much to do, and we will build on this success, and continue to put children and their families at the heart of everything we do."

Ofsted inspectors praised the transformational leadership that has driven improvement at pace and embedded a strong, values-based culture.

Leaders have successfully built a stable, skilled workforce, significantly improving recruitment and retention. This consistency means that "social workers speak warmly of their children and know them well", reflecting the strength of relationships and continuity of care.

Staff across the Trust described the organisation as being "like a family", highlighting a motivating and empowering environment. Inspectors found a strong culture of trust, where staff feel valued, listened to and able to influence service development, resulting in a workforce committed to continuous improvement.

Inspectors highlighted that partnership arrangements have evolved to become embedded, strategic and highly effective, with shared accountability and clear governance.

Close collaboration between Northamptonshire Children's Trust, the councils, health partners, police, education providers and safeguarding boards has created a more joined-up system focused on achieving the best possible outcomes for children and families.

Ofsted identified areas for further development, including:

- The quality and consistency of plans for children in need
- Communication of the Local Offer for care-experienced young adults

Inspectors recognised that both areas had already been identified by leaders for development and were pleased that work is already underway to address these priorities as part of the next phase of improvement.

Nene Valley news CLASSIFIEDS

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

ACCOUNTANCY

Jon Essam & Co Ltd
Chartered Accountants

Proactive accountancy and tax service for landlords, sole traders, partnerships and limited companies
Fixed fee quotation
Bookkeeping, management accounts and VAT submissions
Payroll, auto enrolment and CIS bureau service
Making tax digital (MTD) submissions
Partner with Xero, Quickbooks and Sage
Tax planning and advice
Registered auditor



Email or visit our website to arrange a free consultation
23 Cottingham Way, Thrapston, Kettering, Northants NN14 4PL (behind the fire station)
info@essamca.co.uk | www.essamca.co.uk | 01832 730280

Family NOTICES

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



For help and information to place your notice please call **01522 692542** or visit www.nenevalleynews.co.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14
(BLACKPOT LANE, 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 Blackpot Lane, Oundle as set out below.
LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Blackpot Lane, Oundle from Station Road to Glaphthorn Road.
REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during road maintenance works.
PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 1st August 2026 and will continue in force for a period of 18 months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.
EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the road will be restricted for 1 day.
ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use New Street and A427.
For further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 26/27 – N154
Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T26/580

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14
(CHURCH LANE, BARNWELL)

(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 Church Lane, Barnwell as set out below.
LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Church Lane, Barnwell from Church Green to Armston Road.
REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during bridge repairs.
PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 3rd August 2026 and will continue in force for a period of 18 months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.
EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the road will be restricted for 3 days.
ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Church Lane, Well Lane, Armston Road, Red Lodge Road, Oundle Road, Main Street, Duke Street, Church Street and Hemington Road.
For further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 26/27 – N141
Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T26/587

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

(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, Hargrave as set out below.
LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Brook Street, Hargrave from Raunds Road to Church Street.
REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during GPR survey.
PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 3rd August 2026 and will continue in force for a period of 18 months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.
EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the road will be restricted for 3 days.
ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Raunds Road.
For further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 26/27 – N134
Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T26/588

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

(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 Kimbolton Road, Hargrave as set out below.
LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Kimbolton Road, Hargrave from the private track to Church Road.
REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during culvert realigning.
PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 31st July 2026 and will continue in force for a period of 18 months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.
EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the road will be restricted for 5 days.
ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use B645, B660, A14, A45, A6 and B645.
For further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 26/27 – N387
Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T26/628

Dated this 1st day of August 2026

KAMILA COULSON-PATEL

Director of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer)



To advertise in Nene Valley News please call **01522 692542**

Nene Park Trust Long Border entry at RHS Sandringham wins **Silver Gilt Medal**

Nene Park Trust is proud to share that its Nene Nursery Long Border entry for RHS Sandringham won the prestigious Silver-Gilt Medal.

The Nene Nursery Long Border entry reflects the work of the Trust's community plant nursery, Nene Nursery, and raises awareness of the health and wellbeing benefits of gardening and spending time in green space. It was designed by Nene Park Trust staff; young horticulturalist and Creative Landscape Officer, Sofija Tarasevic

and her experienced colleague, Project Officer Gareth Lorman. The plants for the border were grown by the various community and school groups who come to the nursery, and by dedicated Nene Park Trust volunteers.

The RHS Sandringham show, held 22nd-26th July, allowed visitors the chance to view the Nene Nursery Long Border and speak to the team behind it throughout. They were able to discover more about Nene Nursery's outreach work with different communities in Peterborough and find out more about the incredible impact the nursery has on the people that interact with it. The Long Border also highlights the importance of green social prescribing and building connections between people and nature, as well as educating school children about where their food comes from and how to look after the natural environment around them.

Sofija says: "This is a first for Nene Park Trust. The work we carry out at Nene Nursery has given us the opportunity to enter our Long Border design into this new high-profile RHS show. Our Long Border at RHS Sandringham highlights the great work the Trust does with local underrepresented communities across Peterborough through Nene Nursery and beyond. We want to share the impact



that nature has on wellbeing for all ages and the importance that green space has on all our lives."

Gareth went on to say: "We are so proud to have been awarded the Silver-Gilt Award and to be recognised among so many other great entries. Bringing this award back to Peterborough is an honour and it shows the importance of the work we achieve at Nene Nursery through our various projects such as Green Social prescribing and Building Healthier Green Futures.

"We cannot wait to bring back our border to Nene Nursery for our communities to enjoy and nurture."

Adrian Oates, Director of Development and Partnerships at Nene Park Trust said: "We're thrilled

to win a Silver Gilt at RHS Sandringham. It's a real credit to our staff and volunteers, particularly the team at Nene Nursery, whose dedicated effort has made this possible. It's brilliant to see their hard work celebrated with this award."

The Nene Nursery Long Border entry was generously sponsored by Cambridgeshire marketing agency, Famille. The ethos behind Nene Nursery and the work Nene Park Trust does to improve health and wellbeing through access to nature and gardening fits well with Famille's mission to drive greater social and environmental outcomes. The Nene Nursery team are very grateful to Famille for supporting them and proud to display their logo at the Long Border.

RHS Sandringham was held in the grounds of the royal family-owned Norfolk estate from 22nd-26th July 2026. More information about the show awards can be found at www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-sandringham-flower-show/awards

Purchase a shared ownership apartment at **Roman Court**

Are you over the age of 55? Housing 21 has new Extra Care apartments available at Roman Court.

Properties are available to rent from £280.56 a week or purchase through shared ownership, from £30,020* for a 10 percent share.

Benefit from:



Communal facilities



On-site housing manager



On-site care team



Pet-friendly environment

Book a viewing today:



0183 223 8090



info.romancourt@housing21.org.uk

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

*Other monthly charges apply.

