

Nene Valley

news

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY
NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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

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ONCE AGAIN**

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NEWS IN BRIEF

**Consultation on
changes to town
and parish councils**

Residents, community groups and stakeholders in North Northamptonshire are being encouraged to take part in the second stage of a review of community governance in the area.

The latest consultation looks at draft recommendations for future local governance arrangements for town and parish councils and parish areas (but not North Northamptonshire Council).

The review is being undertaken to ensure that community governance arrangements continue to reflect local identities and interests and provide effective and convenient local governance. Feedback already received has been considered in developing a set of draft recommendations. These include changing the number of councillors on some councils and altering or moving existing boundaries.

The consultation closes on Sunday 4th October 2026. Comment via the council's consultation hub. Alternatively, email elections@northnonthants.gov.uk or write to Head of Electoral Services, North Northamptonshire Council, Municipal Offices, Bowling Green Road, Kettering NN15 7QX

Charity bike ride raises nearly three times its target for Breast Cancer Support

Cyclists taking part in The Carriage House's charity bike ride in aid of Breast Cancer Support received a warm welcome back to Higham Ferrers after completing an impressive fundraising challenge.

Higham Ferrers Town Mayor, Councillor Chris O'Rourke was delighted to greet the riders on their return, congratulating them on their achievement and thanking everyone involved for supporting such a worthwhile cause.

The event, organised by The Carriage House, saw riders Paul Gallagher, Liam Gallagher, Jamie Fane and Paul Jolley, shadowed by their support crew Zoe Lewis and Cassie Perkins, set off from Skegness on Tuesday 4th August. Covering more than 100 miles over two

days, the team travelled 66.5 miles to Peterborough on the first day before enjoying a well-earned overnight rest. They then completed the final leg of their journey on Wednesday 5th August, arriving back in Higham Ferrers at around 1pm to cheers and applause from friends, family and local supporters.

Councillor Chris O'Rourke said: "It was a pleasure to welcome the riders back to Higham Ferrers. Their determination, teamwork and commitment to raising money for such an important cause are truly inspiring. The support they have received from the community has been fantastic, and everyone involved should be incredibly proud."

The team's original fundraising target was £500 for Breast Cancer Support, a UK charity that provides care and support to people with breast cancer, including those in some of the world's poorest



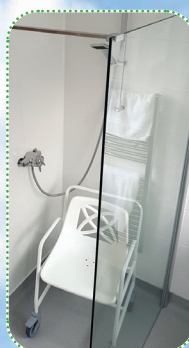
countries who cannot afford treatment. Thanks to the generosity of supporters, they have already raised almost three times their target, with a further £200 collected at a coffee morning held to welcome the cyclists home.

Higham Ferrers Town Council congratulates The Carriage House, the riders, volunteers and everyone who supported the event. Fundraising initiatives like this showcase the generosity, compassion and community spirit that make Higham Ferrers such a special place.

The JustGiving page remains open for anyone who would like to contribute: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/carriagehousecycle>



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New Chair appointed at North Northamptonshire Council

At North Northamptonshire Council's Full Council recently, 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,



Andy Sims

which do such valuable work for residents across North Northamptonshire."

You can watch back the 16th July 2026 Full Council on the council's YouTube channel. Please note this meeting was postponed from 25th June. The next Full Council is due to take place on 24th September 2026, and the agenda will be published the week before the meeting.

GENEALOGY JOTTINGS

WORDS BY
JAN PEARSON

You find the census with your ancestor's wife and children, but the husband is nowhere to be seen. Why? What has happened to him? Is he still alive? Of course he is, as he shows up 10 years later back with his wife!

There are many reasons for not being at home on the night of the census, as the person in question might be in the workhouse hospital, prison, lunatic asylum or working away. I have seen censuses where a policeman was on duty that night and so has been enumerated at the Police Station rather than at home.

Mind you, I have also seen people counted twice – once at home and again with the person who they are visiting!

People sometimes also give false information on census forms, either for personal or political reasons. I know that there was quite a discussion on the television and radio when the census was taken in 2011 as to whether or not people had the right not to be included, but nothing is new. A hundred years

earlier, "If women don't count, neither shall they be counted." was the rallying call for suffragettes on the night of the 1911 census in the UK. Therefore, if you cannot find your ancestor in that census, maybe they were one of the suffragettes who went out for the night. The form stated that it should contain the names etc of those who spent the night at that address. If they were not there, then they should not have been counted...

Mind you, names also changed – they could become anglicised if their owner came from abroad and they felt that they could be "discovered" if they gave their true name. People have gone into hiding for many reasons from their homeland. Emmerich could become Eric, Petrus could become Peter, not to mention Scottish names dropping the Mc or Mac. Quite a minefield, eh?

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www.genealogy-specialists.com

Ferry Meadows awarded Green Flag Award once again

Nene Park Trust is celebrating once again after receiving a Green Flag Award for Ferry Meadows Country Park. This prestigious award is an international quality mark for parks and green spaces and means that Ferry Meadows is officially recognised as one of the country's best parks.

Ferry Meadows is one of a record breaking 2,391 parks 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.

"Nene Park Trust has 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."

Greg Higby, Head of Landscape at Nene Park Trust says. "We are delighted that Ferry Meadows has once again been awarded Green



Flag status. This achievement is a testament to the dedication, commitment and hard work of everyone who helps care for this wonderful green space. A special thank you goes to our dedicated volunteers and the Landscape and Conservation Team, whose efforts have been instrumental in making the Park a beautiful, clean, safe and welcoming place for all to enjoy."

The Green Flag Award scheme, now in its 30th year, is managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under contract from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. It recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of green spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

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Rushden Neighbourhood Plan consultation display opens at Rushden Library

Residents who were unable to attend the Rushden Neighbourhood Plan consultation event on 25th July 2026 now have another opportunity to view the proposals, following the installation of the consultation display boards at Rushden Library, Newton Road NN10 OPT.

The display will remain at the library until Friday 18th September 2026, giving residents, businesses and community organisations additional time to explore the draft Neighbourhood Plan and provide their feedback.

The Rushden Neighbourhood Plan will help guide planning and development decisions in the town through to 2031, making public feedback an important part of shaping the final document.

The display boards can be viewed during the library's opening hours:



Rushden Library



Consultation display boards

- Monday to Friday: 9am-6pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

The consultation documents and online response form are also available at: <https://bit.ly/4vIFxS3>

Rushden Town Council encourages everyone with an

interest in the future of the town to take part in the consultation before it closes on Friday 18th September 2026.

Every response counts and every voice matters. Together, we can help shape the future of Rushden.

Your Voice Matters...

consultation launched on a Public Space Protection Order in Wellingborough

North Northamptonshire Council has launched a consultation on measures to reduce anti-social behaviour in Wellingborough.

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) are designed to help tackle anti-social behaviour and protect those who live, work and visit town centres. The Orders allow a council to impose restrictions within a defined area.

In Wellingborough, a Public Space Protection Order for the town centre was first introduced in November 2020, before being renewed in November 2023. Now the council is looking to renew the PSPO for another three years.

The Order includes measures to address behaviours linked to anti-social behaviour such as street drinking, aggressive begging and nuisance behaviour.

Cllr Greg Wilcox, the council's Executive Member for Communities, said: "Public



Space Protection Orders provide councils with tools to help us manage anti-social behaviour, ensuring that town centres are safe for everyone. It is important that any Order is suitable for each town.

"This consultation is a vital part of this process, and I would encourage everyone to get involved and have their say."

Cllr Martin Griffiths, Leader of the Council, said:

"We have an ambition for Wellingborough, and all towns and villages across North Northamptonshire, to be safe and welcoming places. Tools like Public Space Protection Orders are an important part of achieving this."

Feedback from the consultation will be reviewed and considered before any final decisions are made on the implementation of the Order.

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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

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TAURUS Holidays

OCTOBER

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

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

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

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

NOVEMBER

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

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Brand new free festival comes to Ferry Meadows this September

Celebrate nature, wildlife and the great outdoors at Ferry Meadows on Sunday 13th September with Wild About Cambridgeshire, a fantastic free family festival.

The festival brings together a wide range of local wildlife and environmental organisations, community groups and the team from Nene Park Trust. Meet the people helping to protect and care for our local wildlife, learn about the amazing work happening across the county and discover how you can get involved.

There will be plenty to see and do throughout the day, from hands-on activities and interactive workshops to fascinating live displays and demonstrations. Visitors can also enjoy a great selection of food and drink, making it the perfect day out for the whole family.

Event highlights include an exciting bird of prey flight display from the Raptor Foundation, interactive animal encounters with ZooLab, the Fossils Galore portable museum, nature-inspired poetry workshops with Helen Cross and a relaxing outdoor yoga session.

At the Nene Park Trust stand, families can take part in the Where's Carrot? activity, enter a Name the Bear competition and join Ranger Trish for a guided Foraging Trail, with fantastic Jellycat prizes up for grabs.

Another festival highlight will be Wild Wagons, a community art project celebrating creativity and nature. Local community groups



and organisations have transformed simple wagons into imaginative, wildlife-friendly displays, which will be showcased at the festival. Visitors will be invited to vote for their favourite, with prizes awarded to the top three winning designs.

Nene Park Trust, a Registered Charity, is a company Limited by Guarantee No 2288607.

Wild About Cambridgeshire will also feature exclusive screenings of The People's Emergency Briefing, an inspiring documentary exploring the urgent challenges facing nature and our changing climate.

Visit Coney Meadow in Ferry Meadows from 11am to 4pm on Sunday 13th September. Entry is free and usual parking charges apply. Follow Nene Park Trust on social media for the latest event updates.

Wild About Cambridgeshire is hosted by Nene Park Trust, in partnership with Wild About Huntingdonshire.

For more information visit www.nenepark.org.uk/wild-about-cambs

Experience the great outdoors as Woodfest returns to Irchester Country Park this August

Woodfest is back at Irchester Country Park on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th August, with live music, food and drink, craft workshops and more.

Irchester Woodfest is a vibrant weekend set in the stunning woodland terrain of North Northamptonshire Council's vast Irchester Country Park. Following a hiatus from the last Woodfest in 2019, the return of the woody weekend is set to be a family-friendly outdoor celebration of nature, sustainability and craftsmanship. Visitors can expect a variety of attractions including renowned chainsaw sculptor, Peter Leadbeater, who'll be working live on new carvings.

There will also be:

- Live music
- Street food & drink
- Woodworking, whittling and traditional skills
- Nature, wellbeing,

and woodland-themed activities

- Handmade and artisan crafts
- Upcycled and recycled treasures

Set in 200 acres of woodland, why not explore the network of trails, check out the adventure course with zip line, or visit one of the themed play areas for children?

Cllr Ken Harrington, Executive Member for Assets, Waste and Environmental Services, said: "Woodfest will showcase the very best of Irchester Country Park where visitors can look forward to a weekend of discovery, entertainment and the great outdoors.

"Events like this encourage people to connect with nature, support local makers and spend quality time together in a stunning outdoor setting. We hope

residents and visitors alike will join us this August for what promises to be a fantastic event."

Woodfest events will run between 10am and 7pm, with music from 12noon. The park will be open as usual to all visitors.

There is no admission fee to Woodfest and no booking is required. Visitors should note that some activities may be chargeable and the usual parking fees of £3.50 for 12 hours apply. Parking, directions and accessibility information can be found on the council website.

Visitors are welcome to bring a picnic and spend the day enjoying the park and everything Woodfest has to offer. To help protect the park, wildlife and visitors, barbecues, fire pits, camping stoves and other naked flames are not permitted.

Woodfest can also be found on Facebook.

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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.



Family-friendly Ford Fair celebrates 40 years at Silverstone this summer

See out the summer holiday in rip-roaring style as the spectacular Ford Fair celebrates its 40th birthday at Silverstone on Sunday 23rd August with thousands of iconic vehicles, thrilling live entertainment, and a nostalgic journey through the history of Britain's favourite cars, in the comfort and glamour of the home of British motorsport.

First launched in 1986, when the Ford Escort topped the UK's car sales charts and cinema-goers were flocking to see Teen Wolf, Ford Fair (sponsored by Laird Performance) has grown into Europe's biggest celebration of the iconic Blue Oval brand.

Whether you're reliving fond memories of your first Fiesta, with a showcase celebrating its 50th birthday, or discovering iconic Ford models for the very first time, there's something to capture every generation's imagination.

From lovingly preserved classics and rare performance legends to modern show cars and eye-catching custom builds, get up close to the cars that helped shape Britain's motoring history, with lots of opportunities to chat and reminisce with friendly owners, clubs and enthusiasts.

Sit back in grandstand seats and feel the power as some of the UK's most talented drivers take part in spectacular high-speed track sessions. The 'UK's Fastest Fords' showcase brings together some of the most powerful and impressive examples of Ford engineering, before pitting them in edge-of-the-seat track competition.

Got your own Ford star in the garage? Get your chamois out and book your Individual Display place for your chance to show off your pride and



joy to thousands of enthusiastic visitors in the heart of the show. Or take the opportunity to test its mettle in a timed Track Session around the famous F1 Silverstone Circuit.

Taking your foot off the pedal, enjoy browsing the extensive retail village and wide range of food and drink outlets throughout the day. Silverstone's excellent facilities, accessibility and parking make it an easy and enjoyable day out for families, friends and enthusiasts alike.

Event organiser Phil Weeden says: "Ford Fair is about much more than cars; it's about memories, community and bringing people together. Almost everyone has a Ford story, whether it's a first car, a family favourite, or a dream model they've always admired. Our 40th anniversary celebration will be a fantastic opportunity to enjoy everything that makes the Ford scene and UK motoring so exciting and inclusive, with everyone warmly welcome to this fun and memorable day out."

Combining nostalgia, thrills and a fantastic summer day out at the home of British motorsport, for full event details, discounted advance tickets, plus full-throttle updates and prizes, visit <https://fordshows.co.uk/ford-fair>

Busy months for Rushden Higham Ferrers Litter Wombles

You'll probably recognise the volunteers from the Rushden Higham Ferrers Litter Wombles by their identifiable green hi-vis jackets and the trusty litter-pickers.

The Litter Wombles are looking for new volunteers to join their community group, which meets regularly each month, with social events every other month.

Recently the group were able to visit Rushden Historical Transport Society for a social evening and played skittles in an old train carriage.

At the start of the year they were invited by Monoworld Rushden, on the Sanders Lodge Industrial Estate, to tour their recycling plant and learn how waste is processed.

In the coming months the Litter Wombles plan to organise more social events, and encourage people who wish to join to follow their social media platforms



including Facebook: Rushden Higham Ferrers Litter Wombles. You can also email the group on rhflwcommittee@gmail.com

A spokesperson for the group said: "Litter is an issue across our beautiful towns which have so much history. It is such a shame to see parks and green spaces blighted by

litter in the summer months.

"We encourage people to take their litter home – we are grateful for our volunteers and supporters in the local community, including The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Rushden Town Council and residents for their kind words and online support."



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NENE VALLEY NEWS - EVENTS

> SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST, 10.15AM

Whitefriars Church Forest Church in Hall Park, Rushden - all welcome.

> SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST, 10.15AM

Worship for Everyone service - Run by Whitefriars Church at Whitefriars Primary School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX.

> 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.

> SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST, 8.50AM

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group - Saffron Road car park for car sharing. Contact Barry on 07800 849393. 5.5-mile walk around Cogenhoe, Whiston and the River Nene.

> SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER, 9.40AM

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group - Saffron Road car park for car sharing. Contact Ann on 07469 186731. 6-mile walk from Chester House, Irchester Country Park and the River Nene.

WHAT'S ON AT:

COWPER & NEWTON

For further details visit www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk

> SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST, 2PM-4PM

Herbal Remedies and foraging - With Nicky Kenny (Adults only) - book through Nook by Nature. www.nookbynature.co.uk

> SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST, 7PM-9PM

Sarah Jones Jazz evening - With Sarah Jones and Ant and Dick accompanying.

THE NORTHANTS COUNTRY SHOW COMES TO DEENE PARK

The much-loved Northants Country Show will return to Deene Park, Deene, Corby, Northamptonshire on Saturday 22nd August and Sunday 23rd August 2026, bringing two action-packed days of family entertainment, countryside traditions and attractions for all ages.

Known as "The Event with Something for Everybody," the show will once again showcase the very best of rural life alongside an exciting programme of live displays,

demonstrations and hands-on activities.

Visitors can look forward to an incredible line-up of attractions including wrestling, Shetland pony racing, amazing reptiles, motorbike stunt displays, BMX demonstrations, archery displays, chainsaw carving and interactive cookery demonstrations throughout the weekend.

For tickets and further information, visit: www.northantscountryshow.co.uk

VOLTA BOOKS CELEBRATES WINNIE THE POOH'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

You may have seen the Royal Family recently taking part in events to mark the 100th birthday of Winnie the Pooh.

Well here at Volta Books in Wellingborough we are celebrating too and want you all to come along. Join us on the 21st August - Winnie's actual birthday - when we will have:

- A display explaining how Winnie started out as Canadian before turning into Edward, then becoming the Pooh bear we all know today
- At 2pm there will be a free story reading session, followed by a singalong plus birthday cake (whilst stocks last)
- A selection of bear books for sale
- To complement the day, bear themed goodie bags can be pre-ordered for £5 (limited stocks)

This is free event (except goodie bags) suitable for children aged 3 years and up. Bring Your Own Bear encouraged.

Celebrating Winnie the Pooh and continuing to read over the summer is vital to maintaining literacy skills in children. This is supported by The Reading Agency, who have designated 2026 The Year Of Reading. Volta Books fully backs this campaign, especially the ethos of making

reading available to everyone, part of why Volta Books prices start at £1 for children's books and £2 for adult books.



To find out more and to purchase a goodie bag go to <https://volta-books.sumupstore.com/product/winnie-the-poohs-birthday-bash-party-bag> or visit Volta Books shop to buy a ticket over the counter. For more details contact Jade at Volta Books via voltabooks@outlook.com

Sell-out anniversary success sets the stage for exciting new Rutland Sinfonia season

Following a landmark 50th anniversary season that saw packed audiences and sold-out performances, Rutland Sinfonia is looking ahead to an ambitious and inspiring 2026/27 programme that promises to continue the orchestra's long tradition of musical excellence.

The orchestra's golden jubilee year proved to be one of its most successful seasons to date, drawing enthusiastic audiences from across Rutland and beyond. Celebrating half a century since its founding in 1976, the orchestra marked the occasion with memorable performances and a renewed appreciation for its unique place in the county's cultural life.

Often described as "an amateur orchestra that plays like professionals", Rutland Sinfonia has built a reputation over five decades for presenting music of exceptional quality and ambition. As it enters its sixth decade, that commitment remains as strong as ever.

Chair Rachel Rayner said the orchestra was delighted to build on the momentum generated by the anniversary celebrations.

"Celebrating 50 years of music-making was a remarkable milestone," she said. "The support we received from audiences throughout the season was extraordinary, and we are excited to carry that energy forward into a new season filled with outstanding music and exceptional guest artists."

The forthcoming programme offers audiences a rich and varied musical journey, featuring accomplished soloists and a wide-ranging repertoire that combines beloved masterpieces with lesser-known gems.

The new season opens with Mendelssohn's

evocative Hebrides Overture and Mozart's much-loved Clarinet Concerto, featuring soloist Easher Austin, before concluding with the vibrant energy of Kodály's Dances of Galánta.

Russian masterpieces take centre stage in the second concert, with pianist Jeremy Young performing Shostakovich's sparkling Piano Concerto No. 2, followed by Tchaikovsky's powerful and deeply moving Pathétique Symphony.

Drama and storytelling define the third programme, featuring Beethoven's Egmont Overture, Bruch's lyrical Scottish Fantasy, played by violinist Fenella Humphreys, and Dvořák's orchestral tale, The Noonday Witch.

The season concludes with a nostalgic celebration of British light music, including favourites by Eric Coates, Ronald Binge and Albert Ketèlbey.

Rutland Sinfonia continues its mission to bring high-quality orchestral music to audiences across Rutland and the surrounding area. While maintaining the warmth and friendliness that have long defined the orchestra, it remains committed to presenting concerts that entertain, inspire and encourage musical discovery.

As the orchestra embarks on its next chapter, audiences are invited to join a musical journey that continues to surprise, delight and inspire - proof that after 50 remarkable years, Rutland Sinfonia's story is far from finished.

Tickets for the new season on sale via www.rutlandsinfonia.org.uk. Given the sell-out success of the most recent season, book tickets early so as not to miss out!

Northamptonshire Tourism Conference 2026 to showcase opportunities for growth

Tourism businesses and industry professionals from across the region are being invited to come together this autumn as the Northamptonshire Tourism Conference returns for 2026.

Organised by Discover Northamptonshire, the county's Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP), the conference will take place on Wednesday 7th October 2026 at Kettering Park Hotel & Spa and will provide a platform for businesses, attractions and tourism partners to explore opportunities for collaboration, growth and innovation across the visitor economy.

Ahead of the main conference programme, the Northamptonshire Tourism Business Network will host a dedicated morning networking session, bringing together representatives from the Heritage Forum, Hoteliers Forum, Made in Northamptonshire (MIN) Group and Restaurateurs Group to encourage greater partnership working across the sector.

By connecting businesses and organisations from across the county, the event aims to foster new partnerships, encourage knowledge sharing and support the development of joined-up visitor experiences that enhance Northamptonshire's tourism offer.

Richard Clinton, Chair of Discover Northamptonshire, said: "The Northamptonshire Tourism Conference is a fantastic opportunity to bring together businesses and organisations from across the visitor economy. By sharing ideas, strengthening partnerships and working collaboratively, we can continue building a thriving and sustainable tourism sector that

benefits communities and businesses throughout Northamptonshire."

Cllr Gregory Wilcox, North Northamptonshire Council's Executive Member for Communities, said: "Tourism makes a significant contribution to the local economy in Northamptonshire, supporting jobs, attracting investment and helping to showcase our towns, villages, heritage attractions and beautiful countryside. Events such as the Northamptonshire Tourism Conference provide valuable opportunities for businesses and organisations to come together, share best practice and explore new ways to strengthen the county's visitor economy."

Cllr Kamala Guliyeva, Cabinet Member for Local Economy, Culture and Leisure at WNC, said: "From our heritage sites and cultural venues to our events, countryside and hospitality businesses, Northamptonshire has a fantastic story to tell."

"This conference brings together the people and organisations at the heart of our visitor economy, providing an opportunity to exchange ideas, share innovation and work together on how we tell Northamptonshire's story to a wider audience."

"By showcasing everything our county has to offer and creating memorable visitor experiences, we can encourage more people to discover Northamptonshire, enjoy what it has to offer and keep coming back for more."

Further information and booking details can be found on the Discover Northamptonshire website.

CALL FOR FAMILIES TO HELP IMPROVE SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Families are being encouraged to get involved in helping further improve support for children travelling to school in North Northamptonshire.

In recent years, a significant amount of progress has been made by North Northamptonshire Council in developing and strengthening school transport services for children, young people and families, with plans now in place to identify more opportunities for improvement.

Earlier this year, the council invited families and professionals to share their experiences of school transport through a survey, and a series of engagement sessions with Northamptonshire Parent and Carer Voice.

From this, five priority areas were identified where families and professionals felt further improvements could be made.

These are:

- Clearer and more consistent communication – To improve communication, the council has worked with families to improve an Easy Read version of the Travel to School Transport policy, as well as website content and supporting information. These changes will be introduced over the coming months to help make information easier for families to access, understand and navigate.
- Improving operator quality – To support the quality and consistency of transport operators, which feedback suggested would be most valuable, families may be invited to share feedback about their transport operators each term.

- Annual Reviews and building independence – To support travel which better meets a young person's needs, three new questions will be introduced into the annual review to help families reflect on how they can support their child's journey towards adulthood and independence.

- Personal Travel Budgets (PTBs) – The Travel to School Transport Team have contacted families who are eligible for a current Personal Travel Budget trial directly. A PTB is funding provided to families to support them in arranging their child's journey to school. For some families, this can offer greater flexibility and control over travel arrangements.

- Independent Travel Training (ITT) – Families of young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), in secondary and post-16 education settings who receive council-funded travel to school transport, are being invited to express an interest in taking part in a trial to help them develop the confidence and practical skills needed to travel more independently.

Cllr Chris McGiffen, North Northamptonshire Council's Executive Member for Highways and Travel, said: "Our focus is on creating a Travel to School service that provides greater clarity, supports independence and gives families more choice, while continuing to meet the needs of children and young people."

Find out more about Travel to School transport on the council's website.

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SENIOR STEAM DAY

Sunday 6th September

Enjoy a day out at the Nene Valley Railway with up to 15% discount for pensioners (66+) and complete freedom to explore the line at your own pace.



PEAK DRIVING EXPERIENCE

Friday 11th September

Step into the cab of a true heavyweight of the British Railways era and experience driving Class 45 "Peak" No. 45041 Royal Tank Regiment.



MAIL BY RAIL / NIGHT MAIL PIE & POSTAL

Saturday 12th September

Experience the thrill of The Night Mail at our Mail by Rail event or enjoy a unique evening of heritage rail travel, traditional pies, and hands-on Travelling Post Office history!



NENE VALLEY AFTERNOON TEA

Sunday 13th September

Combine the nostalgia of steam with the elegance of a traditional Afternoon Tea on our beautifully restored Continental Carriages, as seen in ITV's Murder on the Orient Express.



THOMAS & THE TRAVELLING POST OFFICE / NIGHT MAIL FLYING CODMAN

Saturday 19th September

For one special day, Thomas has been chosen by the Wansford Controller to pull the famous Travelling Post Office Train!



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PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14
(STATION ROAD, 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 Station Road, Oundle as set out below.
LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Station Road, Oundle from Kings Road to Black Pot Lane.
REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during water mains works.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 20th 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 up to 2 days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use A605, A14, A6116, A43 and A427.
For further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 26/27 – N199
Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T26/636

Dated this 15th day of August 2026
KAMILA COULSON-PATEL
Director of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer)



An evening with the legendary

Fynnius Fogg

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5th September 2026

Queen Victoria Hall - Oundle

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Fundraising event for
Licensed Bar & Raffle



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www.volunteer-action.org.uk



Earls Barton set to welcome three days of family inflatable fun this August

With the school summer holidays in full swing, families across Northamptonshire will soon have another opportunity to enjoy an active day outdoors as BounceCamp brings its travelling inflatable theme park to Earls Barton.

The event will be held at Whites of Earls Barton, Clay Lane, Earls Barton, Northampton NN6 0EP on 18th, 19th and 20th August, with visitors able to book 2.5-hour sessions packed with giant inflatables, family activities and outdoor entertainment.

Designed for children, parents and groups of friends, BounceCamp offers far more than a collection of bouncy castles. The temporary inflatable park includes large obstacle courses, inflatable slides, bounce areas and interactive games arranged across a spacious site, giving visitors plenty to

do throughout their session.

The timed entry system also helps keep the event well organised, allowing families to move between attractions comfortably while making the most of their visit.

Ashley James, founder of BounceCamp, said: "The summer holidays are always busy for families looking for activities that everyone can enjoy together. Earls Barton gives us a great location to bring the inflatable park to local communities, and the session format means visitors have plenty of time to explore the attractions without feeling rushed."

The event is expected to appeal to a broad range of visitors, including families looking for a school holiday activity, birthday groups, youth organisations and local residents searching for something different to do during August.

Food and refreshments will also be available throughout the event, with burgers, marinated chicken, drinks and

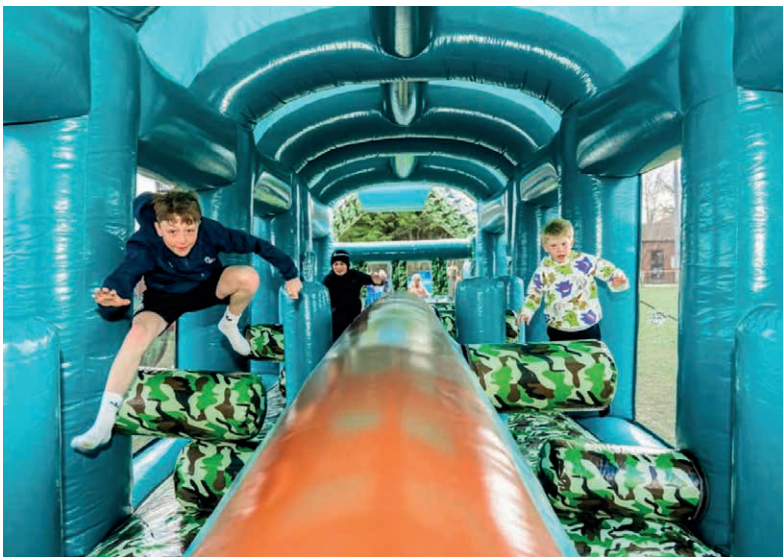
snacks on sale during each session.

All BounceCamp events are supervised by trained staff, with inflatable equipment prepared before opening each day. Sessions are ticketed individually to help manage visitor numbers and provide plenty of space across the attractions.

Adults wishing to use the inflatables alongside children will also require

a ticket, while families interested in celebrating birthdays can enquire about dedicated party packages.

BounceCamp continues to visit towns across Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire, bringing large-scale inflatable events to local communities during school holidays and seasonal periods.



Event: BounceCamp Inflatable Theme Park

Dates: 18th, 19th & 20th August

Venue: Whites of Earls Barton, Clay Lane, Earls Barton, Northampton NN6 0EP

Session Length: 2.5 hours

Food & Refreshments: Burgers, marinated chicken, drinks and snacks available on-site

Parking: Some venues may charge a small parking fee (typically £1)
Advance booking is recommended as tickets are allocated to individual sessions.

Book online: www.bouncecamp.co.uk/category/august-events/396/earls-barton-aug-18th-19th-20th#BodyContent

Website: www.bouncecamp.co.uk

Telephone: 01525 455765

Email: info@bouncecamp.co.uk

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