

Nene Valley news

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Join SHAPE Dance this autumn

SHAPE Dance, part of North Northamptonshire Council's leisure and physical activity programme, is welcoming dancers back after the summer break and encouraging new members aged 4 and over to join its classes for the autumn term.

From complete beginners to those with previous dance experience, SHAPE Dance offers an inclusive and supportive environment where children can learn new skills, build confidence, keep active and make new friends.

Classes are available in tap, ballet and modern dance, with limited spaces currently available. The first session is free of charge and information to sign up, including locations and class times, can be found on the council website.

SHAPE Dance is designed for children and young people aged four years and over and forms part of North Northamptonshire Council's commitment to helping residents stay active, healthy and connected through a range of leisure and wellbeing activities.

Anyone interested in joining SHAPE Dance and taking part in this year's Christmas performances can visit the website and complete an online enquiry form before 30th September 2026.

Higham's Horticultural Show is a winner as family and Penny repeat successes

Higham Ferrers Tourism's recent Horticultural Show was a family affair for Elaine Goold and her children, Freya and Benjamin.

All three took home trophies for being the best in their separate categories, with mum Elaine being crowned the Best Baker, nine-year-old Freya taking the coveted cup for being the Best Junior Baker and seven-year-old Benjamin scooping the trophy in a new category for entering a craft made from Lego.

Both mum and daughter already had their names engraved on their trophies as they won the same categories last year.

But Elaine's award-winning sticky toffee cake almost did not make it to the show in Higham's historic Chichele College.

Spying the showpiece cake, topped with a sprinkling of tiny yellow stars, the best baker's husband Mike was about to take a slice when his wife halted him,

explaining that he could not eat it as it had to go in the show the following day.

Ten-year-old Penny Moth, who has her own allotment, once again scooped the trophy for being the Best Junior Gardener.

It is the third year in a row that Penny has impressed the judges with her gardening skills and received the trophy.

Higham Ferrers Tourism's chairperson, Liz Barnatt, won a trophy too, taking first prize in the floral art category called 'Reflections' with a dramatic design in a mirror.

Compère Carol Fitzgerald, told the packed audience that an anonymous adjudicator – who had not known who had submitted entries – had judged the category.

Higham Ferrers Mayor, Cllr Chris O'Rourke, who presented the trophies, said the competition, which had grown over the years, was "absolutely brilliant" and called for a round of applause for the organiser, Pam Webbley.

The other winners were: The Best In Show and Best Preserve: Sue Caulfield-Kearney; Best Craft: Sharon White; Best Flowers and Best Vegetables: James Gell; Best Fruit: Linda Washington.



A proud Liz Barnatt with her winning floral art design



Sue Caulfield-Kearney, the winner of the Best Preserve trophy also took the Best in Show cup. She received her trophies from Mayor Chris O'Rourke and Mayoress Kathleen Meredith



Higham Ferrers Mayor, Cllr Chris O'Rourke cannot quite believe what Best Junior Gardener Penny Moth has grown on her allotment



Elaine Goold and her children, Freya and Benjamin, received a lot of praise at Higham Ferrers Tourism's Horticultural Show – and three trophies

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Pre-treatment support for people with cancer launched at Maggie's Northampton

More people with cancer will be able to access expert support to help them get ready for treatment as a new programme is launched at Maggie's Northampton.

Prehabilitation, known as **Getting Ready** across Maggie's, is designed to help people prepare for treatment by building healthy lifestyle habits and improving people's emotional health, nutrition, and physical activity levels.

Developed alongside staff from Northampton General Hospital, Getting Ready is a five-week programme now being offered at Maggie's in Northampton, aiming to reduce anxiety around hospital

visits, improve understanding of treatment and help people manage the stress and the uncertainty of a cancer diagnosis.

Research has shown that implementing healthier habits in the weeks leading up to starting treatment can see benefits including reduced length of stay in hospital and fewer post-treatment complications.

Supporting people to lead healthier lives overall can also reduce the likelihood of cancer recurring and minimise the

chance of people developing other serious health conditions.

Maggie's has been at the forefront of providing prehab, with the programme well established across Maggie's centres in Scotland. A successful pilot led to the wider rollout of prehab sessions across the UK, with many centres in England and Wales now offering the life-changing pre-treatment support.

In 2025, a total of 2,389 prehab sessions were delivered across all Maggie's centres – an

increase of over a third (37%) from the year before.

Feedback showed 83% of people felt more confident making changes to their diet and exercise routine after participating in prehab at Maggie's, and 87% reported improved confidence in managing their emotional wellbeing.

There was also a 53% annual rise in family and friends attending these sessions, and this support from loved ones can make it easier for people with cancer to maintain healthy lifestyle changes.

The National Cancer Plan for England, launched at Maggie's Royal Free in February, committed to making universal prehab accessible to more people across the country, and the introduction of prehab at Maggie's Northampton will enable hundreds more people to

receive this transformative care.

Wendy Lilley, centre head at Maggie's Northampton, said: "Being told you have cancer can be one of the hardest conversations you may ever have and figuring out where to turn to for support and guidance before treatment can feel overwhelming.

"This programme, delivered for free in our welcoming centre by our expert staff, gives people clear, practical information and guidance on how to look after themselves, so they can start treatment feeling as strong, calm and supported as possible."

Liz Summers, lead cancer nurse at Northampton General Hospital, said: "Prehab empowers people diagnosed with cancer to take steps to improve their physical and emotional wellbeing, promoting

healthy behaviours which maximise resilience to treatment and improve long-term health.

"The need for a dedicated cancer prehabilitation programme is well documented, with considerable evidence demonstrating the positive impact on clinical outcomes and patient experience. We are delighted to be working with Maggie's to deliver a universal prehab which is a fundamental aspect of cancer care."

Getting Ready is delivered at the Maggie's centre on the grounds of Northampton General Hospital, close to the Billings Road exit. The course is open to anyone starting or preparing for cancer treatment, and all sessions are completely free with no referral needed. Family members and carers are also welcome to attend.

To find out more, visit maggies.org/northampton or drop into the centre. Maggie's Northampton, Getting Ready up coming sessions:
16th September – 14th October (5.30pm-6.30pm)
30th September – 28th October (3.30pm-4.30pm)

GENEALOGY JOTTINGS

WORDS BY
JAN PEARSON

Have you ever looked at a census entry and completely dismissed it as it did not look right? A woman might show as having been widowed – but you knew that her husband was still alive so it cannot be her, right? Not necessarily. Where was the husband? If you find him, what does his marital status say? It may well be that the wife has decided on a fib as she does not like the circumstances – especially if the husband is in an asylum or even married to someone else. Bigamy was known as the "poor man's divorce".

I discovered an example of the latter being true the other week when I was researching for someone else. The wife was living with the children at one address, whilst the husband was living just a couple of streets over with another woman – who had the same first name as the original wife. Thinking that the two women were the same person, the person who had been searching for them was wondering where the children had got to and, although they saw the entry for the 'proper'

wife with the children, had dismissed it. For respectability's sake, the 'proper' wife was calling herself a widow.

By the way, if you do find a second marriage for a chap and his new wife has brought some children with her, beware of the entry in the relationship column. You might see 'son-in-law' or 'daughter-in-law'. This does not always have the same meaning as today. 'Son-in-law' could also mean that they are considered their son – by law; in other words, their step-son, so not the husband of their daughter.

Other relationships that can catch people out are that of 'cousin', 'niece' and 'nephew'. One of my great grandfathers is recorded as having bought some premises from his aunt. She was, in fact, his father's cousin, 'aunt' being a courtesy title. That took some working out, I can tell you!

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ALLISON HOMES TEAM CONQUERS THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE

A team from Allison Homes Central has completed the gruelling Three Peaks Challenge, raising £9,089 for The Lighthouse Charity and significantly surpassing its original £5,000 target.

The 11-strong team pushed themselves to the limit to summit the UK's three highest peaks, Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon, completing more than 62,000 steps in approximately 24 to 26 hours.

Taking part were Michelé Raucci, John Cohen, Chrissie Matthews, Paul Vasey, Jacob Bingham, Gage Webb, Russell Patrick, Sarita Louzolo, Declan Rust, Grant Dean and Matas Baranauskas.

The challenge tested the team's physical and mental endurance through steep ascents, long hours, limited rest and hundreds of miles of travel between the three mountains. Their determination, resilience and teamwork saw them successfully complete all three peaks and raise more than £4,000 above their initial fundraising target.

The funds will support the Lighthouse Charity, which provides free and confidential emotional, physical and financial wellbeing support to people working within the construction industry and their families. Its services include a 24/7 helpline, text support, self-support app and training designed to promote positive wellbeing across the sector.

As a long-standing supporter of the charity, Allison Homes has welcomed representatives from the Lighthouse Charity to several of its developments to deliver sessions focused on mental health, wellbeing and the importance of looking out for colleagues across the construction industry.

Paul Vasey, Senior Site Manager at Allison Homes Central, said: "We chose to take on the Three Peaks Challenge because mental health is something we're passionate about, and we wanted to raise awareness of a subject that still isn't spoken about enough."

"The climbs were physically demanding, while the long journeys between the peaks were tougher than we anticipated. Knowing we were raising money for an incredible charity made it all worthwhile, and we're extremely grateful to everyone who sponsored us."

Sarah Bolton, CEO of the Lighthouse Charity, added: "Thank you so much to the intrepid team from Allison Homes who took on the mighty Three Peaks Challenge to raise vital funds for our charity. It is very humbling when people go above and beyond, pushing themselves to the limit to help support our construction community."

"These funds will help us provide our essential proactive and reactive charitable services and continue to make a life-changing and life-saving difference to our workforce."

To support the team and contribute to their fundraising total, visit www.justgiving.com/team/allison-homes-three-peaks-challenge.

If you or anyone you know is struggling, reach out for 24/7 free and confidential support now; 24/7 helplines; 0345 605 1956, (UK) 1800 939 122 (ROI) & Live chat www.lighthousecharity.org. Find out more at www.lighthousecharity.org.

Bark in the Park 2026

Rushden Town Council was pleased to welcome a fantastic turnout of dogs and their owners to its annual Bark in the Park event on 6th September.

Hall Park was filled with residents and their dogs as they enjoyed an afternoon of activities, competitions and entertainment at the popular community event.

Bark in the Park is a self-funded event organised by the 'dog crazy' staff at Rushden Town Council, with money raised through the event supporting local animal-related charities.

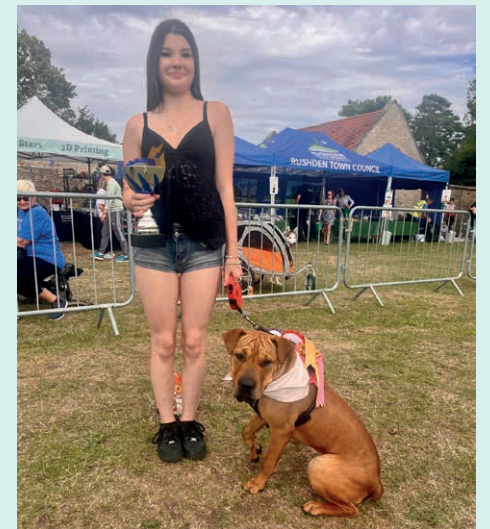


Rushden Town Council would like to thank everyone who went along and supported the event, as well as everyone who helped to make the afternoon possible.

Particular thanks go to all of the generous class sponsors who supported the event and to Gladwells Pet & Country Store, Rushden, the event's principal sponsor.

The Council would also like to congratulate all of the winners who took part in the various classes and competitions throughout the afternoon, and thank everyone who entered and helped create such a fantastic atmosphere.

Rushden Town Council looks forward to welcoming residents and their dogs back to Bark in the Park next year.



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Thu 15 Watercress Line & Winchester
Sat 24 Blackpool Illuminations
Mon 26 Shrewsbury Cruise & Shrewsbury
Wed 28 Black Country Museum
Wed 28 Dudley Zoo
Thu 29 Colchester OR Colchester Zoo
Fri 30 London Free Time or Museums
Fri 30 Shard & Free Time
Sat 31 Longleat Safari Park

NOVEMBER

Sat 7 Birmingham Christmas Market
Fri 13 Chatsworth at Christmas
Sat 14 Nottingham Winter Wonderland
Sun 15 Blenheim Palace at Christmas
Sun 15 Skegness with Fish & Chips
Wed 18 Kew Gardens at Christmas
Thu 19 Bicester Shopping Village
Fri 20 Ely Cathedral Christmas Fair
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NEW SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY AIMS TO SAVE LIVES ACROSS NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

North Northamptonshire Council has approved the new Northamptonshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2026-2031, reaffirming its commitment to preventing suicide and supporting the mental wellbeing of residents.

Content warning: This article discusses suicide and mental health. If you are affected by the issues raised, support information is available at the end of the article.

The countywide strategy has been developed jointly by North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council alongside NHS, voluntary sector and community partners, setting out a shared vision to reduce suicide and the harm it causes across Northamptonshire over the next five years.

The strategy recognises that suicide remains a significant and preventable public health challenge and requires sustained, coordinated and compassionate action. Latest data shows an average of 77 deaths by suicide each year across Northamptonshire, including around 40 deaths annually in North Northamptonshire. Men continue to be disproportionately affected, alongside people facing social and economic disadvantage, underlining the need for targeted action and early support.

Developed with input from people with lived experience and informed by local evidence, the strategy aims to reduce suicide rates, improve mental wellbeing and ensure support is available before people reach crisis point. It outlines a whole-system approach to prevention, recognising that suicide prevention is everybody's business and that meaningful change can only be achieved through partnership working.

The strategy builds on the successes of the previous Northamptonshire Suicide Prevention Strategy, which delivered a range of initiatives across the county, including awareness campaigns, suicide prevention training and strengthened support services.

As part of the strategy's ongoing delivery, partners across Northamptonshire will continue to expand the Orange Button Scheme, a countywide initiative operating across both West and North Northamptonshire. The scheme identifies trained members of the community by the distinctive Orange

Button badge they wear. These individuals can provide a listening ear, offer reassurance and signpost people to appropriate support relating to suicide in everyday community settings such as libraries, community centres, pharmacies, cafés, leisure centres and other public-facing venues. The strategy includes the continued implementation and promotion of the Orange Button Scheme as a key action over the next five years.

The strategy also commits to the ongoing promotion of Northamptonshire's male suicide prevention campaign, which was developed with males who have lived experience of mental health challenges and aims to encourage open conversations, reduce stigma and support earlier help-seeking.

Residents can find out more about the Orange Button Scheme on the North Northamptonshire Council's website and listen to stories shared through the Northamptonshire male suicide prevention campaign.

Councillor Brian Benneyworth,

North Northamptonshire Council's Executive Member for Housing, Health and Leisure, said: "Every suicide is a tragedy that has a devastating impact on families, friends, colleagues and communities. While progress has been made over recent years through awareness campaigns, training and improved support services, we know there is still much more to do.

"This new strategy brings together partners from across Northamptonshire behind a shared commitment to reduce suicide, tackle the factors that can increase risk, and ensure people get the help and support they need as early as possible. We will continue to build on initiatives such as the Orange Button Scheme and our male suicide prevention campaign, which are helping to start

important conversations, reduce stigma and connect people with support.

"We are particularly focused on reaching those groups most at risk, reducing inequalities and strengthening support for people who have been bereaved by suicide.

"By working collaboratively and listening to communities and people with lived experience, we can make a real difference and help save lives."

The strategy aligns with national suicide prevention priorities and focuses on improving evidence and data, providing targeted support to groups at higher risk, addressing common risk factors linked to suicide, improving crisis support, strengthening bereavement support and making suicide prevention everybody's business.

Anyone experiencing emotional distress, or concerned about somebody else, can access support through local and national mental health services. Information about support available across Northamptonshire can be found at www.northnorthants.gov.uk/mental-health-and-wellbeing/urgent-mental-health-help-and-support

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AIMING HIGH IN HIGHAM FERRERS AND PROVING THE SCEPTICS WRONG

When the organisers of a Higham Ferrers and Olney-based charity told people that they were planning a massive community festival, sceptics said that no one would support it.

"But telling us that 'you won't be able to do that' was all we needed to rise to the challenge" said Niven Whatley, the chair and founder of Ailsa's Aim.

And with almost 100 local businesses, volunteers and organisations backing the Aim High Festival on Saturday 19th September – there is no longer any doubt about the success of the inaugural gathering.

"It turns out that telling a group of slightly stubborn people that something won't happen is quite an effective way of making absolutely certain that it does," Niven said.

The Aim High Festival was totally free for attendees and offered fun and entertainment, along with craft stalls, staged at various venues throughout Higham Ferrers: Chichele College, Saffron Road Recreation Ground, Castle Fields as well as at the clubs and churches.

The charity footed all the costs and infrastructure via sponsorship, partnership, volunteering and donations raised, so that everything – save for the artisan stalls and the drinks and food vendors – could be free and thus accessible to everyone.

Making money was not the priority: "We are

hoping to make friends, followers and future partners and to allow everyone to find out about our work," Niven explained.

Some of the highlights on the big day were period re-enactments and interactive events at Castle Fields, and a funfair, games and activities and a main stage at the Recreation Ground.

Free rides

There were also free fairground rides, face-painting, glitter tattoos, dinosaurs, inflatables, soft play – and much more.

Higham Ferrers Tourism and its Chichele College Management Team, which like to partner with community organisations, backed the event and threw open the Chichele College Gardens to provide a safe space for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

Fair-goers could also take time out to stroll around and enjoy the Chichele College Gardens.

And two artists – Ellen Bletsoe and Ashley Medlock – taking part in the Tourism organisation's art exhibition by the Northants and Rutland Open Studios at Chichele College from 19th-27th

September, will be generously donating work to Ailsa's Aim after the exhibition.

"This will be auctioned for the charity at a later date," said Liz Barnatt, chair of Higham Ferrers Tourism.

"As the organisers of the art exhibition, we would generally take 10% of the sales, but this time, we will be passing all of that on to Ailsa's Aim," she said.

Sinister-looking cyst

The charity is named after Niven and his wife Sara's daughter, seven-year-old Ailsa.

When Sara was about 20 weeks pregnant with Ailsa, an unexpected and sinister-looking cyst appeared growing alongside the baby.

Then, after Ailsa's premature birth, Sara's consultant told the new mum that the cyst was a rare and little-known form of cancer, later diagnosed by a specialist at Charing Cross Hospital in London as three rare, advanced ovarian cancers.

Ailsa was just four weeks old when Sara began five months of gruelling chemotherapy along with several blood transfusions. Niven spent the time moving between the hospital and caring for a tiny, underweight baby.

"Thanks to Sara's strength, the motivation of looking after Ailsa and the extraordinary skill of the NHS, Ailsa has grown into a happy little girl and



Pic cap) Sara and Niven Whatley prepare to deliver essential care packs to cancer and neonatal hospital patients

Sara is in full remission," Niven explained.

Setting up the charity was the couple's way of saying "thank you" to the people who helped save the lives of Ailsa and Sara "and to all the families and frontline staff still walking similar roads."

The charity provides essential care packs to cancer and neonatal patients both locally and to regions further afield.

Despite the many months of planning and preparation, Niven himself was unable to join in the fun as he too is now battling cancer and his pending operation clashed with the date of the festival.

Following the success of the event, the team are now planning to return in 2027.

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THE GRUFFALO AND PEPPA PIG COMING TO NENE VALLEY RAILWAY FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL PADDINGTON VISIT

Following the success of Meet Paddington™ at the Railway, the Nene Valley Railway has announced two more much-loved characters will be heading to Wansford, with The Gruffalo and Peppa Pig both set to make special appearances.

Paddington's visit to the railway on Sunday 23rd August proved incredibly popular, with families travelling from near and far to enjoy a day of heritage train travel and the chance to meet the famous marmalade-loving bear. Building on that success, The Gruffalo will be the next special visitor, arriving at the Nene Valley Railway on Sunday 25th October.

Looking ahead to 2027, Peppa Pig will make her first visit to the railway on Monday 31st May.

Each event combines the chance to see the visiting character making personal appearances at intervals on the platform at Wansford Station with a Day Pass offering unlimited hop-on, hop-off heritage train travel throughout the day.

While Paddington's visit was a great success, the popularity of the event meant some train services became exceptionally busy, with standing room only at the busiest points of the day. For future character visits, the Nene Valley Railway is therefore planning to provide additional capacity on its train services, helping more families travel comfortably while retaining the flexibility of unlimited travel throughout the day.

A spokesperson for the Nene Valley Railway said: "Some of our trains became extremely busy

during the most popular parts of the day, so rather than introducing restrictions on when families can visit, we're planning additional capacity for our forthcoming character days.

"We're really excited to welcome The Gruffalo this October, followed by Peppa Pig in 2027. These character days are a great way of introducing younger families to the railway, often for the first time, and we hope they'll come back to discover even more of what we have to offer."

Halloween will also see the return of Thomas's Halloween Branch Line Weekend, combining heritage train travel with some family-friendly trick-or-treat fun, while the Wizards Express will bring a little magic to the railway over the Halloween period. For those who like a slightly calmer day, the Autism Railway Crew are running Doc's Happy Haunting on Wednesday 28th October.

The year will then conclude with the Nene Valley Railway's traditional festive programme, including its popular Christmas at the Railway Santa Specials and Thomas Specials.

Upcoming Character Visits:
Meet The Gruffalo at the Railway – Sunday 25th October 2026
nvr.org.uk/product.php/819/meet-the-gruffalo-at-the-railway
Meet Peppa Pig at the Railway – Monday 31st May 2027
nvr.org.uk/product.php/792/meet-peppa-pig-at-the-railway



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Nene Valley News - Events

> SUN 27TH SEPTEMBER, 10.15AM

Morning Worship - Whitefriars Church, Whitefriars Primary School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX.

> SAT 3RD OCTOBER, 10AM ONWARDS

Volunteering event - Midshires Covert, Kelmash Road, Harrington NN6 9ND - including food cooked on the campfire. Details on 07943 307873.

> SUN 4TH OCTOBER, 9.30AM

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group - Saffron Road car park for car sharing. Contact Mark 07462 422097. 6.5 mile circular walk around Aldwinckle and Islip.

> SUN 4TH OCTOBER, 10.15AM

Morning Worship - Whitefriars Church, Whitefriars Primary School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX.

> SUN 4TH OCTOBER, 2.30PM

Celebrating 150 Years since the Restoration of Warmington Church - Church of St Mary the Blessed Virgin, Warmington PE8 6TE, £10. Tel 07701052043. Talk in church by Kathryn Baird followed by tea and cake in village hall.

> FRI 9TH OCTOBER, 2PM

Meet the Author - Raunds Library and Community Hub, High Street, Raunds NN9 6HT. Tickets available at the library. 01933 623747 or Raunds Post Office. Lorna Marlow (shorted listed for romantic novel of the year 2026) talking about her latest novel Finding Home.

> SAT 10TH OCTOBER, 10AM

Cake Sale, Raffle and Tombola - Woodford Community and Sports Complex, free. Contact 07717696153. Cake Sale, Raffle and Tombola for Twinkling Stars Appeal for KGH and Baby Awareness Week.

> SUN 11TH OCTOBER, 10.15AM

Whitefriars Church Table Church - Informal church with food - at Whitefriars Primary School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 0HX - all welcome.

> SUN 11TH OCTOBER, 2.15 FOR 2.30PM

Whitefriars Church countryside walk (about three miles) - Meeting near Manchester Lodge Farm (PE28 ORE) at the top of Mickle Hill on the road from Covington to Keyston. Details on 07943 307873.

> SUN 18TH OCTOBER, 9.30AM

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group - Saffron Road car park for car sharing. Contact Rose 07740 995707. 5 mile walk in the Easton Maudit area.

> SUN 1ST NOVEMBER, 9.30AM

Higham Ferrers Footpath Group - Saffron Road car park for car sharing. Contact Evelyn 07742 620081. 5 mile circular walk around Pytchley and Boughton.

WHAT'S ON AT:

NENE VALLEY RAILWAY

For further details visit www.nvr.org.uk

> SAT 26TH & SUN 27TH SEPTEMBER

Thomas Branch Line Weekend - Join Thomas for a delightful journey along his countryside branch line to Yarwell, passing through the famous Wansford Tunnel. With plenty to see and do across the railway, it's the perfect family day out.

> CHRISTMAS 2026

Christmas at the Railway: Santa Specials - Step into a world of wonder this festive season with the magical Christmas experience at the Nene Valley Railway, where timeless traditions, family memories, and a sprinkle of Christmas magic come together. Thomas takes you on a special journey along his Christmas Branch Line from Wansford to Yarwell and back.

WHAT'S ON AT:

COWPER & NEWTON

For further details visit

www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk

> SAT 17TH OCTOBER, 11.15AM-12.30PM

Black History Tour: Exploring African History - Discover the African history represented in the museum's collections as Tom and Fiona take you on a guided tour, sharing fascinating insights into the artefacts on display and exploring the stories behind them. The tour will include a particular focus on the Slave Trade Room, offering an opportunity to learn more about this important and complex part of history. Free tour. Limited places. Book in advance: events@cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk/01234 711516/or ask in the shop.

> THU 29TH OCTOBER, 2PM-4PM

Create a Mini Autumn Garden - Half term holiday activity for children. Visit the Summer House garden and make a miniature garden for Autumn using flowers and leaves, stones and sticks from the garden with some fun Halloween bits and pieces to add too. Lots of enjoyment to be had creating a beautiful miniature garden in a wooden box. Limited places. Child £3 and usual admission for accompanying adult. Book in advance: events@cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk/01234 711516/or ask in the shop.

> SAT 31ST OCTOBER, 7.30PM-9PM

Spooky History Walk - Join in the fun of Tom's night-time guided walk. Walk Olney's mysterious byways by night. Wear comfy footwear and warm clothing and bring a torch or lantern if you would like to. If you have any local myths and legends, or local ghostly stories to share, do contact the museum. The walk finishes with a stroll through the gardens to see the beautiful Christmas light display. Complimentary mulled wine, mince pies, tea and coffee in the Museum Courtyard at the end of the walk. Meet outside the Museum/Pay on the night. Cost: Adults £12/Child 16 years and under £2. No need to book in advance. www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (PUBLIC FOOTPATH PB11 – WADENHOE & PUBLIC FOOTPATH MC2 – ALDWINCLE) (TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above Order made by North Northamptonshire Council on 12th March 2026 and which came into effect on 20th March 2026 has been extended until the works to which it relates have been completed or until midnight on 19th March 2027 whichever is sooner by the Secretary of State for Transport. Private access to land or premises adjacent to the said footpaths is unaffected.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for health and safety due to the legal route being unusable/unwalkable.

Dated this 26th day of September 2026

KAMILA COULSON-PATEL,
Director of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer) ROW/205-N
To view the map for this Order please visit www.northnorthants.gov.uk and enter "Temporary Traffic Regulations Orders" in the search box. If you require any further information please contact Sarah Cureton on 01604 529700.

SCHEDULE

(Lengths of footpaths to be closed)

The route to be closed starts on Church Street at point A on the map at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL01054 83353. The route travels generally south west along footpath PB11 to the Parish Boundary with Aldwinckle where it becomes MC2 for a total distance of approximately 658 metres to point B at NGR TL00647 82861. The route to be closed is shown by a solid black line between A-B. **ALTERNATIVE ROUTE:** There is no alternative route.

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (WAITING, STOPPING, LOADING AND UNLOADING RESTRICTIONS AND ON STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council, in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 19, 32, 35, 35(b), 36, 37, 39, 45 to 49, 51 to 53, 55, 122, 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ('the Act'), as amended, The Traffic Management Act 2004 (as amended) and all other enabling powers, after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act, proposes to make the above Order.

The effect of this Order is primarily administrative in nature and includes;

- The revocation of all existing Traffic Regulation Orders relating to Waiting, Stopping, Loading and Unloading Restrictions and On Street Parking Places in North Northamptonshire (this includes Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough).
- All existing traffic restrictions and associated provisions will be re-enacted within the new Order without material alteration.
- Existing written schedules and schedule plans will be replaced with comprehensive map-based schedules introduced as part of the new Order.
- Associated definitions and articles have been updated to accommodate the map-based schedules.
- All existing traffic restrictions will be digitised and incorporated into the Council's map-based traffic regulation system in accordance with the Department for Transport's Digital Traffic Regulation Orders (DTRO) programme.
- The Order does not make any material changes to the effect of the existing restrictions on site, or to how existing restrictions operate, apply or are enforced.

Full details of the proposed Order, Notice of Intent and statement of reasons for making the Order, along with the traffic Orders to be revoked may be inspected in person (by appointment only) at Keir Highways, Brixworth Depot, Old Harborough Road, Brixworth, Northamptonshire, NN6 9BX, to arrange an appointment, please call 01604 529700. The proposed Order, proposed map schedules, Notice of Intent and statement of reasons for making the Order can also be viewed on the Council's website at www.northnorthants.gov.uk (search traffic regulation orders).

Persons wishing to make comments, representations or objections to the Order, must do so by sending them in writing to "The Traffic Orders Section, Keir Highways, Brixworth Depot, Old Harborough Road, Brixworth, NN6 9BX, or by email to NNCParkingenquiries@kier.co.uk, no later than 17th October 2026, quoting reference P/2147.

Dated this 26th day of September 2026

KAMILA COULSON-PATEL,
Director of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (RAUNDS ROAD, RINGSTEAD) (30 MILES PER HOUR SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council, in exercise of its powers under Sections 82, 83, and 84 and Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, proposes to make an Order to implement a 30 miles per hour speed limit on that length of road described in the Schedule to this Notice.

The effect of the proposed Order will be to prohibit any person from driving a motor vehicle at a speed exceeding 30 miles per hour on that road specified in the Schedule below.

A copy of the proposed Order, together with a plan showing the exact length of road to which it relates and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing the Order, may be:

- Viewed online at: www.northnorthants.gov.uk (search: "Traffic Regulation Orders"), or
- Inspected by appointment at: Keir Highways, Highways Depot, Old Harborough Road, Brixworth, Northamptonshire NN6 9BX. To arrange an appointment, please call: 01604 529700

MAKING REPRESENTATIONS OR OBJECTIONS Any person wishing to object to, support, or make representations regarding the proposed Order must do so in writing, stating the grounds for their objection or representation, quoting reference P2174 to:

The Traffic Order Team, Keir Highways, Highways Depot, Old Harborough Road, Brixworth, Northamptonshire, NN6 9BX or by email to: NNCParkingenquiries@kier.co.uk

Responses must be received no later than 17th October 2026.

Dated this 26th day of September 2026

KAMILA COULSON-PATEL

Director of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

SCHEDULE

30 miles per hour speed limit

Item	Road Name	Description
1	Raunds Road, Ringstead	From a point 217.4 metres south of the centre point of its junction with Denford Road, extending in a northerly direction for a distance of 186.4 metres.

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (PARK STREET, KINGS CLIFFE) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council intend, not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit traffic from proceeding along that length of Park Street, Kings Cliffe as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Park Street, Kings Cliffe from outside no.4 to no.12.

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

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 14th October 2026 and will continue in force for a period of 18 months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the road will be restricted for up to 3 days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Stamford Road; A47; Old Leicester Road; Yarwell Road; Wansford Road; Nassington Road; Station Road; Apethorpe Road; Bridge Street; Kings Cliffe Road; Bridge Street.

For further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 26/27 – N383
Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T26/814

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (KIMBOLTON ROAD, HIGHAM FERRERS) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council intend, not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit traffic from proceeding along that length of Kimbolton Road, Higham Ferrers as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Kimbolton Road, Higham Ferrers from A6 to A5028.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during gully cleansing.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 12th October 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 A6 and A5028.

For further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 26/27 – N475
Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T26/826

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (WANSFORD ROAD, KINGS CLIFFE) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council intend, not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit traffic from proceeding along that length of Wansford Road, Kings Cliffe as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Wansford Road, Kings Cliffe from the junction with Stamford Road to the junction with Kings Cliffe Road, Nassington.

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

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 12th October 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 Stamford Road, King's Cliffe; Collyweston Road, Easton on the Hill; the A47; Old North Road, Wansford Road & Old Leicester Road, Wansford; Wansford Road, Yarwell; King's Cliffe Road, Nassington.

For further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 26/27 – N486
Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T26/841

Dated this 26th day of September 2026

KAMILA COULSON-PATEL
Director of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Christmas

Merry Christmas
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Magical Sleigh Ride VR - New adventure for 2026. Santa's Grotto, Santa Paws and Quiet Santa. Booking open online now! Real Christmas Trees from the end of November. Festive Workshops & Coach Trips. Festive Displays open from mid October

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Drought could leave Britain's butterflies fighting for survival next summer, warns Butterfly Conservation

The results of Butterfly Conservation's 2026 Big Butterfly Count are in and show it was a very good summer for butterflies. But experts warn that despite a good year, what comes next could be dire...

With the Met Office confirming it 'increasingly likely' to be the hottest summer on record, August saw the UK's National Drought Group declare that more than 70% of England was officially in drought, with almost all of the UK experiencing drier than usual conditions.

As a result, the charity fears that the real cost of this summer's extreme weather may not be felt until next year, when this year's drought-stressed caterpillars should be emerging as adults.

Professor Richard Fox, Head of Science at Butterfly Conservation, said: "This has been one of the hottest, driest summers on record, and the figures certainly suggest that was good news for many of the widespread butterfly species monitored by the Count. In fact, it was the second-best year in the 16-year history of the Big Butterfly Count!

"Adult butterflies love hot,

sunny weather for flying, feeding and breeding, and that's exactly why people saw so many this summer. But a good summer for adult butterflies is not the same as a good summer for butterfly populations.

"What matters far more is what's happening on the ground, to the butterflies' caterpillar offspring and the plants they depend on. The very same weather that made it a good year for butterflies - lots of sunshine and very little rain - could mean we're actually on course for a population crash, which could take years to recover from."

Butterfly Winners and Losers

During this year's Big Butterfly Count, 101,565 participants recorded almost 1.4 million butterflies and moths across the UK.

Among individual species there were winners and losers.

More species had above-average counts this summer than below-average. Holly Blue and Gatekeeper both had their best ever Big Butterfly Count results, and Small Copper its third best. Holly Blue abundance has increased by 42% over the 16 years of Big Butterfly Count and Small Copper has increased by 93%.

No species had its worst Big Butterfly Count in 2026, but it was the second-worst year for Small Tortoiseshell, which has now decreased by 66% since the Count began. Speckled Wood, Green-veined White and Ringlet, all species known to be sensitive to drought, were seen in below-average numbers and show declines of 44%, 54% and 39%, respectively, since 2011.

One of the standout stories was the Painted Lady, up 335% on last year, in what's been widely described as a 'Painted Lady

summer'. It was the second-best year for Painted Lady since the Big Butterfly Count started and its abundance has increased by 74% over that time. Painted Ladies undertake one of the most remarkable insect migrations in the world, arriving in Britain via a relay of several generations, each flying a leg of the journey from Africa, across the Sahara Desert and Mediterranean Sea, before reaching UK shores.

Small White topped the national table this year, with 281,634 recorded, ahead of Gatekeeper (211,029), Large White (190,295), Red Admiral (141,178) and Meadow Brown (134,335) rounding out the top five.

A difficult year ahead

Butterfly Conservation's greater concern lies not with this summer's results, but with the impact of the extreme summer weather experienced across much of Britain on butterflies next year and in the longer term.

This year, many of the plants that caterpillars depend on had



withered or died before the caterpillars had finished feeding on them, and the charity fears the impact on butterfly and moth populations will become fully apparent in 2027.

Professor Fox added: "Our real worry isn't this summer, it's what happens next. We've been here before and it's not good; the extreme droughts in 1976 and 1995 had severe impacts on butterfly populations, with some species never fully recovering. And the major problem we

have now is that 80% of the UK's butterflies have declined since the 1970s, so many are already struggling for survival, without these extreme weather pressures."

Three top tips to 'drought-proof' gardens for butterflies

- Plant more trees and shrubs
- Set up water butts
- Leave patches of grass to grow long

The Big Butterfly Count will return in 2027.

Mark your diary now... Big Butterfly Count 2027 - Friday 9th July - Sunday 1st August. For more butterfly friendly gardening tips visit www.butterfly-conservation.org

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