

Nene Valley news

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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NEWS IN BRIEF

The Quit Hub launches ahead of Stoptober

North Northamptonshire Council's Stop Smoking Service is beginning this year's Stoptober campaign with a fresh new identity, relaunching as The Quit Hub.

The service provides 12 weeks of free behavioural support from a dedicated Stop Smoking Advisor, alongside Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) products delivered directly to clients' homes.

Supporting people to stop smoking is a key priority within North Northamptonshire Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2029, which identifies smoking and vaping as one of the area's major health challenges.

The service plays an important role in supporting the Government's ambition for England to become smoke free by 2030. Smokers are three times more likely to quit successfully with support, and local data continues to demonstrate the effectiveness of the support available from the service.

Contact Quit Hub on 0300 126 5700 (option 2) if you'd like to find out more, or visit www.northnouthants.gov.uk/thequithub to self-refer and begin your journey.

Following in Ella's footsteps: Family raise almost £700 for The Never Alone Project in her memory

A Northamptonshire family has continued a young girl's fundraising legacy, raising almost £700 for the charity that supported her and her brother following the loss of their dad.



When 13-year-old Ella Walden took part in the Great Northampton Run last year, she did so in memory of her dad and to raise money for The Never Alone Project (TNAP) - a Northamptonshire charity supporting children, young people and families through grief and bereavement.

This year, following Ella's tragic death in April, her family

returned to the run to complete the challenge she had started. Ella's stepfather, Phil Jones, her brother Drew and her three step-siblings took part in the 5K at the Great Northampton Run on Sunday 13th September, running together in Ella's memory and raising almost £700 for The Never Alone Project.

For the family, the run was about much more than fundraising. It was a chance to celebrate Ella, remember the impact she had on the people around her, and continue something that had been so important to her.

Ella and Drew had both

been supported by The Never Alone Project after the loss of their father. The charity gave them a place where they could talk about their grief, feel understood and spend time with others who had experienced the loss of someone they loved.

Last year, Ella chose to give something back by taking part in the Great Northampton Run herself. This year, her family followed in her footsteps.

Phil said that when Ella completed the run last year, the plan had been for them to run together this year. "I agreed to run it with her this year. We were going to run it together,



Ella Walden family at the Great Northampton Run

so she wasn't alone."

Although Ella was not there to take on the challenge herself, her family made sure she was very much part of it, wearing personalised t-shirts in tribute to her.

Now, by completing the challenge in Ella's memory, the

family hope the money raised will help other children and families facing the devastating experience of bereavement.

Ella is remembered by her family as someone who brought warmth, laughter and energy wherever she went,

Continued on page 2

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Changes to Executive announced

North Northamptonshire Council has announced changes to the membership and responsibilities of its Executive.

Councillor Ken Harrington, who has been the Council's Executive Member for Assets, Waste and Environmental Services, has made the difficult decision to step down from the Executive due to health concerns and to spend more time with his family.

Councillor Harrington will remain a councillor and will continue to focus on representing his ward, Hatton, in Wellingborough on North Northamptonshire Council.

In order to ensure the council remains focused on delivering its ambitious plans for the future, the Leader of the Council has reviewed the responsibilities of the Executive Members and these will be spread across the existing Executive Member portfolios.

With effect from Tuesday 15th September 2026, Cllr Graham Cheatley, the Executive Member for Finance, Efficiency and Change will take on responsibility for Assets. Cllr Cheatley is

also Deputy Leader of the Council.

Cllr Chris McGiffen, Executive Member for Highways and Travel, will take on responsibility for Waste, Environmental Services and Country Parks.

Cllr Kirk Harrison, Executive Member for Regulatory Services, will take on responsibility for Climate and Sustainability and Corporate Enforcement.

Cllr Greg Wilcox's title will change to Executive Member for Communities and Rural Affairs to better reflect his duties and responsibilities.

Cllr Martin Griffiths, Leader of the Council said: "Ken has been an Executive member from the very start of this administration and has worked extremely hard to help make North Northamptonshire a great place for our residents.

"I would like to thank him for his enormous contribution and I'm delighted that he will continue to represent the people of Hatton ward in Wellingborough.

"Ken is a fighter and we wish him well."

Continued from front cover with Phil describing her as "funny, kind and caring" and an inspiration who could light up a room simply by being there.

That spirit was very much at the heart of the family's run.

Ilze Lee, founder of The Never Alone Project, said: "What makes this so incredibly special is that Ella was already part of the TNAP family. She knew first-hand what the charity could mean to a child who has experienced the loss of a parent, and she chose to

support us herself by taking part in the run last year.

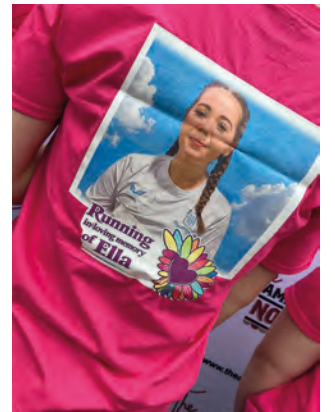
"To see her family come together this year and carry that forward in her memory is incredibly moving. They have turned something that was understandably going to be very difficult into a positive celebration of Ella's life and the legacy she has left behind.

"Almost £700 is a fantastic achievement and will help us continue supporting children, young people and families who are facing their own grief.

We are hugely grateful to Phil, Drew and all of Ella's family for doing this in her memory."

About The Never Alone Project

The Never Alone Project is a Northamptonshire bereavement charity supporting children, young people, adults and families affected by grief and loss. With a particular focus on children and young people, TNAP provides safe spaces, peer support, one-to-one support, activities, grief recovery programmes and practical resources designed to help people navigate their grief and feel less alone. The charity's message is simple: no one should face grief alone.



For more information, visit www.tnap.org.uk or contact The Never Alone Project on 01933 588009 or hello@tnap.co.uk. Registered Charity Number: 1201585.

GENEALOGY JOTTINGS

WORDS BY
JAN PEARSON

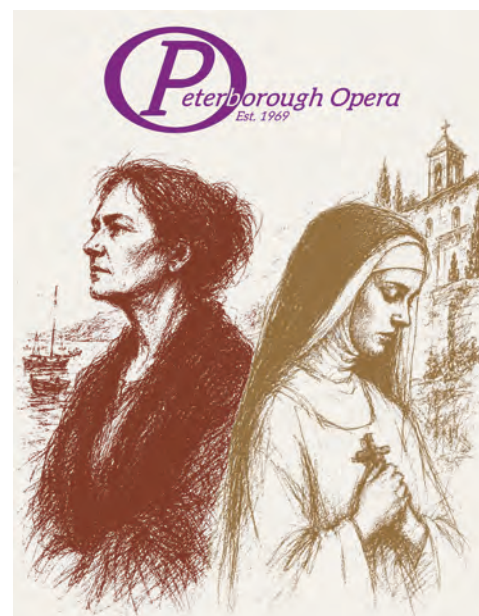
The nights are starting to draw in, the weather is not up to much either and the lawn mowers and gardening tools have been mainly put to rest for the winter months. Time maybe for a bit of pruning – not in the garden but perhaps of the family tree.

Settling down in front of the computer, you power it up and review your tree. Last winter, in your haste to add the family of your second cousin Joe, you see that you have his oldest son as being just 10 years younger than his wife. Erm... that cannot be correct.... can it? Where did you get the information from? You check your notes (if you have kept some...) and find that it was copied from a tree on the internet. Aha! It is so very tempting to see something on the interwebby that appears to relate to your tree and copy it blindly. But that is how mistakes occur. I have seen trees on places like Ancestry that have glaring errors but which have been copied willy-nilly from one person to another

until the thought is, "If so many have that as a fact, then it must be true!" Yes? No! Always verify what you find and don't take someone else's word for it unless they can provide a source reference.

In the early days of my research using a computer, I recorded a death date for an ancestor on a family tree website but subsequently discovered that it was incorrect. I have changed my records but still have the original death date pop up from time to time on other folk's trees. This can be amusing when they also have children born to the person several years after they have died... but is pure laziness on the part of the person who has copied the information. Some people are just name collectors, I reckon.

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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 24th October
Articles to the editor by: Wednesday 14th October

Publication date: Saturday 7th November
Articles to the editor by: Wednesday 28th October

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National recognition for Moulton College farmer at British Farming Awards 2026

Moulton College's Tyler Webb has been shortlisted for the Farm Worker of the Year category at this year's British Farming Awards.

Now in its 13th year, the awards, hosted by Farmers Guardian, celebrate the hard work, talent and innovation found across the UK agricultural sector. The ceremony will take place at The Vox in Birmingham on 15th October.

Tyler is based at Moulton College's Lodge Farm, which spans 1,100 acres and includes a mix of arable and



Tyler Webb of Moulton College has been shortlisted for the British Farming Awards

livestock farming. Having begun his agricultural journey at the age of 10, Tyler studied agriculture at the College before joining the team in November 2025. He now balances the demanding responsibilities of a working farm with helping to develop the next generation of farm workers.

Vicky Rogers, Agriculture Lecturer at Moulton College, nominated Tyler for the award. She says: "Tyler quickly established himself as a valued member of our team. He is enthusiastic, well organised and always keen to take on new challenges.

"He also shares his knowledge with our agricultural students, helping them gain the hands-on skills they will need to pursue rewarding careers in agriculture. He takes great pride in his work and is a terrific role model for our students, always looking for ways to support their learning."

Day to day, Tyler combines managing the farm's livestock operations, which include 450 ewes, a continental suckler

herd and finishing cattle, with planning and delivering practical lessons for students.

Vicky adds: "The great thing about farming is that no two days are the same. Tyler loves working with the sheep and cattle but also turns his hand to arable operations when needed.

"He also helps other local farms with sheep shearing and made a real impact during this year's lambing, when he led the lambing shed. He closely monitored the ewes and their welfare, took the lead on biosecurity and management, and shared best practice while maximising the learning experience for students."

Moulton College offers a range of land-based courses, including agriculture and countryside management at Levels 1 to 3, as well as T Levels. Vicky says: "The farming industry absolutely needs new people coming into it with fresh ideas, energy and passion. Seeing one of our former students thrive in his role here while supporting the next generation is incredibly rewarding.

"Tyler really deserves this recognition, and we wish him every success at the awards."



Farmer Ben Aveling supports Moulton College students

Meanwhile, Northamptonshire-based farmer Ben Aveling, who also supports Moulton College students, has been named a finalist in the Content Creator of the Year category.

The nomination recognises Ben's work to promote farming and the food chain to his 120,000 followers across platforms including YouTube, Instagram and TikTok. Based at Radmore Farm in Litchborough, Northamptonshire, Ben shares content under the handle @RadmoreFarm.

Alongside farming and the launch of his online meat box business, Ben

visits Moulton College's students to demonstrate butchery skills and also hosts Level 1 and Supported Learning students at his farm, providing valuable work experience.

Both Tyler and Ben will attend the British Farming Awards in October with colleagues from Moulton College. To find out more about the awards, visit www.britishfarmingawards.co.uk

Information on Moulton College's range of agricultural courses can be found at www.moulton.ac.uk

OPEN EVENTS

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Spotlight on > Homes & Gardens

> NENEHAVEN GARDEN BUILDINGS LTD

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additional living or working space, Nenehaven's insulated garden rooms can be internally lined and finished to provide a comfortable, attractive environment suitable for home working, hobbies, exercise, treatment rooms or simply relaxing.

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matched by complementary fencing or walling.

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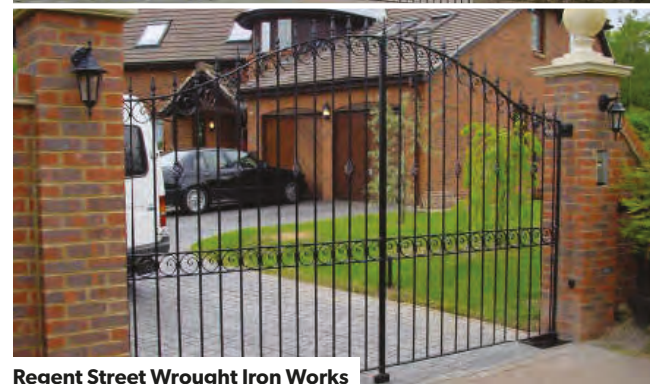
"We can only do this because every gate is built to each customer's individual specifications and as a family business we believe in giving old-fashioned service with genuine low prices."

For more details visit www.regentiron.co.uk or call 01536 485892.

> CHRISTMAS COMES HOME TO BOSWORTH'S

There's a particular kind of magic that settles over Bosworth's once the fairy lights go up and the first frost catches the greenhouse roof — and it's here. Christmas has arrived at Burton Latimer, and this year it's brought a little something new.

The Magical Sleigh Ride VR returns with an all-new adventure



Regent Street Wrought Iron Works

for 2026. If you soared through the snowy skies last year, this is your invitation to strap in again — the route has changed, and so has the view. Alongside it, the old favourites remain exactly as treasured as ever. Santa's Grotto welcomes families back for another year of wide-eyed wonder, while the Quiet Santa sessions offer the same warmth in a calmer, gentler setting for

those who prefer it. And this year, the magic extends to the whole family — Santa Paws means your dog needn't be left waiting in the car.

Throughout the centre, Christmas displays have been reimagined with entirely new themes, each more enchanting than the last. For those wanting to make a day of it, Bosworth's sister centre at Elton Walled Garden



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Christmas at Bosworth's Garden Centre

is once again hosting Breakfast with Santa — a beautifully festive start to the morning. Real trees will be available from the end of November, filling the centre with the scent of the festive season, and the Singing Reindeer have returned to raise their voices — and funds — for Cransley Hospice once again.

Don't forget, if you are looking for that perfect present, there is something for everyone in the

giftware departments too.

With demand for the grotto, sleigh ride and breakfast sessions building quickly, early booking is strongly recommended to avoid disappointment. Reserve your place today, and let Christmas at Bosworth's begin.

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NHFT'S ACUTE AND INTENSIVE CARE MENTAL HEALTH WARDS **RATED OUTSTANDING BY CQC**

Acute and intensive care mental health inpatient services provided by Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) have been rated outstanding by health watchdog the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

An unannounced routine inspection of NHFT's acute and psychiatric intensive care wards for adults aged 18 to 65 at St Mary's Hospital in Kettering and Berrywood Hospital in Northampton took place in July 2026.

The inspection report published recently awarded the highest possible rating to the services, with CQC inspectors praising their "strong leadership", "exceptional culture" and the "overwhelmingly positive" feedback given by service users and carers.

Anne Rackham, Group Chief Integration and Delivery Officer for NHFT, said: "This outstanding rating is

a fantastic achievement for the brilliant teams at our adult acute inpatient and psychiatric intensive care units. They truly embody our Trust's commitment to delivering safe, compassionate and responsive care that's built around the needs of our service users – and to making a difference, together, every day.

"It is particularly pleasing to see that inspectors identified the leadership and culture on the units for particular praise, as well as highlighting how our teams are continually innovating, improving and involving service users in their care. I'd like to thank every single one of our colleagues in these services for their incredible dedication, professionalism and hard work to make this possible."

As well as the overall rating, the CQC rated the services outstanding in the "effective" and "well-led" inspection areas, with good ratings for the "safe", "caring", and "responsive" inspection areas.

Gemma Berry, CQC deputy director of Mental Health in the Midlands, said: "When we inspected the service,

we found a strong leadership who created an exceptional culture of learning, openness, and continuous improvement, which led to better results for people using the service.

"People and carers we spoke to were overwhelmingly positive about the care they received, describing staff as kind, supportive, and professional.

"Care plans were comprehensive and consistently person-centred. Staff were proactive and constantly adapting to people's needs; one person was provided with a temporary care plan so they could attend a local hospital with minimal distress.

"Staff and leaders should be proud of the level of care they are providing to people at a very vulnerable time in their lives. The findings of this report are testament to the impact of their hard work."

CQC inspectors also found:

- Innovation in several areas, including the introduction of sexual health screening, support for people with complex physical health needs and



Berrywood Hospital

approaches to managing self-harm risk and quality improvement

- Staff understood their responsibilities under the Mental Health Act 1983, the Mental Health Act Code of Practice and the Mental Capacity Act and discharged these well
- Staff recognised the close relationship between physical and mental health and worked with service users to identify any health risks early and prevent deterioration
- Ward environments and approaches promoted inclusion and reduced distress for neurodivergent patients, with many wards providing access to sensory rooms and equipment
- The acute and psychiatric intensive care units are part of the wide range of

adult mental health, learning disability and autism provided by NHFT across our county and beyond

There are three adult inpatient wards at the Welland Centre, St Mary's Hospital, and three at Berrywood Hospital, all providing specialist care for people whose mental health needs and associated risks mean they cannot safely receive treatment at home.

Each location also has a psychiatric intensive care unit (PICU) for people whose mental health problems need intensive treatment and a stable environment for recovery.

Find out more about NHFT's mental health services at www.nhft.nhs.uk/mentalhealth



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Your Health – Wobbling with age?

Here's something to try while you're waiting for the kettle to boil. Stand on one leg.

Easy? Now try the other one.

How did you get on? Balance is one of those things we don't think about until it becomes less reliable.

If you're starting to grab the banister or worry about walking on uneven ground, it's easy to think: "I'm getting older." But, as you know, I don't think this is always a good approach to good health. Getting older doesn't automatically mean getting wobbly.

Balance is actually a clever bit of teamwork. Your brain takes information from your eyes, inner ear and sensors in your muscles and joints, then makes tiny adjustments to keep you upright. Your muscles also need enough strength and speed to keep you steady.

Some of those things change as we age. But here's the important bit: balance and strength can be trained.



Falls are common as we get older, with around one in three over-65s falling each year. North Northamptonshire's Public Health team has been looking at this locally too. In its recent Healthy Ageing consultation, most over-65s who'd fallen in the previous year said it happened outside the home.

Worrying about falling can also start an unhelpful cycle. You do less, lose strength and confidence, then feel even more wobbly.

So wrapping yourself in cotton wool isn't the answer.

What do we recommend? Keep moving! Walk, stay

active and challenge your strength and balance safely. Don't go out and mow the lawn hopping on one leg!

If you've noticed a change in your balance, particularly if it's sudden or unexplained, don't dismiss it as your age. Get it checked by a GP, osteopath, chiropractor or physio.

There are also some great balance classes locally. In Higham we've got Silver Strength Classes, and there are bound to be others near you.

And if you're still standing on one leg waiting for the kettle, you can put your foot down now!

North Northamptonshire Council highlights major investment and maintenance programme for local roads

North Northamptonshire Council has published its Highways Maintenance Transparency Report 2026-27 setting out how it is investing in and maintaining the area's extensive road network.

The report, published on the council's website and submitted to the Department for Transport, highlights the scale of the network which includes more than 1,850km of roads, almost 2,000km of footways, 791 bridges and structures, 61 signalised junctions and 128 signalised pedestrian crossings.

Over the past year, the council has increased its focus on maintaining roads through a combination of preventative maintenance and reactive repairs. A new Highways Maintenance Inspection and Response Framework was also approved earlier in 2026.

During 2025/26, highways teams repaired 17,295 potholes (compared with 14,350 in the

previous year) and completed more than 45,000 square metres of additional carriageway repairs as part of an ongoing commitment to keeping roads safe across the local area. 140,000 square metres of carriageway repairs are planned for 2026/27.

But the report also highlights that the majority of roads across North Northamptonshire fall into the 'Amber' category and may need maintenance soon, with 10% of roads in the 'Red' category showing poor condition and should be considered for maintenance.

The council is aware of the investment that is needed and the budget for highways maintenance is set to rise to £44.9 million in 2026/27, compared with £35.3 million in 2025/26 and £30.2 million in 2024/25, enabling further improvements across the network.

A comprehensive programme of works is planned for the

coming year, including road resurfacing, surface dressing, drainage improvements, bridge maintenance and traffic signal upgrades.

The council's annual highways maintenance programme is developed using an evidence-led, risk-based asset management approach. Planned works are prioritised using tools including condition surveys and a scoring system which looks at factors like safety, wider impacts and importance of the road on the wider network.

The Highways Maintenance Transparency Report has been prepared in line with Department for Transport requirements and provides residents with a detailed overview of how North Northamptonshire Council manages and maintains its highway network.

The full report can be found on the council's website.

£5,000 grants now available for community groups across North Northants

North Northamptonshire Council has opened the latest round of community funding grants for 2026-27 - with grants of up to £5,000 available.

In this round there is £90,000 of grant funding available for voluntary and community groups to apply for, to help improve the quality of life for local residents and increase community involvement. A further grant round will be available later in the year.

The scheme is open to community and voluntary sector organisations, registered charities, town and parish councils and not for profit organisations including clubs, School PTAs and 'Friends of' groups. The council is particularly encouraging applications from

organisations with a turnover of less than £100,000.

To be considered for a grant of up to £5,000, projects need to demonstrate how they support the council's Corporate Plan priorities of Community, Family and Prosperity. In addition to these priorities, applications must address positive outcomes for one or more of the key priorities set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy - children and young people, mental health and wellbeing, keeping active, financial resilience and smoking and vaping.

Cllr Greg Wilcox, North Northamptonshire Council's Executive Member for Communities and Rural Affairs, said: "We know that these grants make such a difference to communities across North

Northamptonshire and I am sure that this latest round of funding will be no different.

"We are now encouraging charities and community groups, plus other organisations including parish and town councils, voluntary groups and not for profit organisations to take a look at the criteria online and apply before the deadline."

Cllr Martin Griffiths, Leader of North Northamptonshire Council, said: "As a Council, we really value the work of community and voluntary groups, especially those that fit in with the key themes of our Corporate Plan - which can be viewed on our website."

The application form along with full details of the criteria and guidelines is available on the Council's website.

Anyone who would like more information can also email communityfunding@northnorthants.gov.uk. The closing date for applications is Mon 26th Oct at 12 noon.

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OCTOBER

Thu 15 Watercross 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
Sat 21 Chester Christmas Market
Sat 21 Thurstford Christmas Spectacular
Sun 22 Royal Leamington Spa Christmas Market
Wed 25 Oakham & Gates Garden Centre
Thu 26 Bury St Edmunds at Christmas
Fri 27 Thurstford Christmas Spectacular
Sat 28 Bath Christmas Market
Sat 28 Melton Mowbray Christmas Market
Sun 29 Stratford Upon Avon Christmas Market
Sun 29 Chatsworth at Christmas

DECEMBER

Tue 1 Milton Keynes Shopping
Thu 3 Christmas Lunch River Cruise
Fri 4 Worcester Christmas Market
Sat 5 Nottingham Winter Wonderland
Sat 5 Stratford Upon Avon Christmas Market
Sat 5 Thurstford Christmas Spectacular
Sun 6 Oxford Christmas Market
Sun 6 Rochester Dickensian Christmas Market
Sun 6 Stratford Upon Avon Christmas Market
Tue 8 Thurstford Christmas Spectacular
Thu 10 Windsor
Thu 10 Windsor Castle at Christmas
Fri 11 Ambassador Cruise Ship Lunch & Show
Sat 12 Cromer Pier Christmas Show
Sat 12 Hyde Park Winter Wonderland
Sun 13 Thurstford Christmas Show
Mon 14 Thurstford Christmas Show

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NOVEMBER / DECEMBER

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 TINSSEL - £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.

30 NOVEMBER-4 DECEMBER - VALKENBURG CHRISTMAS MARKETS - £699PP

The hotel is Schaepekens van St Fyt, Valkenburg. Half Board including excursions. Uniquely situated on the borders of three countries - Holland, Germany and Belgium, Valkenburg is not only the perfect destination for a fabulous festive break. Valkenburg sits up amongst the South Limburg Hills. In the weeks leading up to Christmas, Valkenburg's spectacular limestone caves are transformed into glittering festive grottoes. Add to this a myriad of shops festooned with sparkling fairy lights and you have the perfect destination for a seasonal shopping spree.

22 DECEMBER-3 JANUARY - CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR IN SPAIN - £1369PP

Main hotel, Volga Hotel, Calella. Half Board including excursions. Calella is perfect for enjoying the Costa Maresme's coastline. As you would expect, much of the town's entertainment is geared towards beach life. Away from the beach, the old town is classic Spain. Winding alleys lined with whitewashed houses lead to a pretty town square, home to markets and festivals throughout the year. Located on the northern coast of Catalonia, this resort town sits some 58km northeast of Barcelona. This holiday includes all coach travel, excursions and a guided tour of Barcelona.

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NENE VALLEY NEWS - EVENTS

> 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 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 18TH OCTOBER, 10.15AM

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

> FRI 23RD OCTOBER 7PM, SAT 24TH OCTOBER 3PM, SUN 25TH OCTOBER 3PM

Opera Double Bill: Riders to the Sea & Suor Angelica - St Peter's Oundle (23rd / 24th) / St Andrews URC Netherton (25th). Admission fee: £18 (Free under 18s). Contact information: www.peterboroughopera.co.uk. An operatic double bill performed in English. Two stories of love, loss, family & faith.

> SUN 25TH OCTOBER, 10.15AM

Morning Worship with Holy Communion - At Whitefriars Church, Whitefriars Primary School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX.

> 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 Broughton.

> SAT 21ST NOVEMBER, 7.30PM

Tchaikovsky's Pathetique - St Peter's Church, Oundle, £16 (Student/under 18 £5). Contact information: www.rutlandsinfonia.org.uk, rutlandsinfonia@gmail.com. An emotionally rich orchestral programme of Lyadov, Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky.

WHAT'S ON AT:

NENE VALLEY RAILWAY

For further details visit www.nvr.org.uk

> 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

THE WORLD OF GILBERT AND SULLIVAN COMES TO PETERBOROUGH

There will be a great treat in store for G&S fans when 'The Wandering Minstrels' (www.wanderingminstrels.org.uk) visit St Peter's Church, Yaxley, Peterborough on Saturday 14th November for 'The World of Gilbert and Sullivan'.

They will sing, act and dance their way through many of the Savoy Operas including 'The Gondoliers', 'HMS Pinafore', 'The Pirates of Penzance', 'The Mikado', 'Utopia, Limited', 'Trial by Jury', 'The Grand Duke', 'Ruddigore' and 'The Yeomen of the Guard'.

Artistes appearing in this concert will be Alexandra Ferrari, Emma Stratton, Charles Mills, Stephen Godward and Tim Hurst-Brown, with

Peter Hewitt at the piano.

Tickets for the concert are £15, which can be obtained via www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/the-wandering-minstrels-concert-at-st-peters-yaxley or on the door. Refreshments will be available beforehand and during the interval. Proceeds from the event will go to St Peter's Church. The concert, which begins at 7.30pm, is a light-hearted evening of songs and scenes from the Gilbert and Sullivan comic operas, traditionally staged and presented in period costume. It consists of two hours of Savoy favourites, combining the biting wit of WS Gilbert and the enchanting music of Sir Arthur Sullivan. Don't miss what promises to be a hugely enjoyable evening!

COFFEE, CAKES, CHATTER AND MORE RETURNS

Coffee, Cakes, Chatter and More returns to Cotterstock Village Hall (PE8 5HD) on Tuesday 20th October from 10-12.30pm, when the focus will be on raising awareness of dementia in a friendly and welcoming space.

This is not just for people suffering from dementia and their carers but also for anyone who would like to learn more or who just fancies a hot drink and delicious cake (£3 cash only). All of the following will be available:

- Natalie Wattam, a Northamptonshire Admiral Nurse, will speak about her role and how she can help. There will be an opportunity for people to speak to her privately too. Alongside many other things Natalie can provide consultancy and support, offer coping strategies for difficult behaviours and communication tips. Natalie's advice could be helpful to us all as we might one day be supporting someone with dementia.
- Helen Ward, an accredited and experienced music therapist registered with the HCPC and BAMT, will talk about the benefits of music therapy and deliver an enjoyable short demonstration too.
- Max Robinson, the manager at Oundle Library, and colleagues with recommended books, games, puzzles and activities available from the library and an opportunity to try them too.
- Experts to advise on benefits and social care.
- People around with time to chat.

The morning is intended to be relaxed with visitors able to access as much or as little of what is on offer as they wish. The Cotterstock bakers are already planning their bakes so do come and sample them if you are free and learn more about dementia too.



Oundle granted 'Fairtrade Town' status

Oundle has once again been granted 'Fairtrade Town' status, recognition by the Fairtrade Foundation of the various parts of Oundle's community that supports the idea of fairly traded goods.

It's a simple concept that we can all engage in - making sure that more of the pounds we spend on food goes directly to the producers. We are very fortunate that the Coop in Oundle forms a bedrock of much that we do - the cooperative movement goes right back to the 1800s on "fairness", and so many Coop own brands support the fairly traded ideal (coffee, wines, fruit and beyond). Cafés, shops, schools and community groups also actively ensure they choose fairly traded goods, to spread an important share of the wealth directly back to producers.

Another of the bedrocks of our 'Fairtrade Town' award is the annual Fairtrade /Eco Market in St Peter's Church Oundle, which begins the countdown to an ethical and sustainable Christmas. Held on the same Saturday (14th) as the November Oundle Farmers' Market (don't forget to order your Xmas food from the Farmers' Market stall holders!), from 9am-2pm, a wide variety of local sellers of Fairtrade goods and fairly traded or locally made products gather together to offer their wares. With music in the background, tea

and coffee on offer, you can pick up handmade glassware, knitted and sewn goods, repurposed and recycled ethical gifts. Please come and browse.

Stick the date in your diary for the Fairtrade/Eco Market-Saturday 14th November, 9am-2pm, St Peter's Church, Oundle.

Fairtrade & Eco Market
Crafts, gifts, food, homeware, Fairtrade refreshments

Saturday 14 November
9 am – 2 pm

St Peter's Church,
Church Street,
Oundle, PE8 4EE

Come and do some ethical Christmas Shopping

GWR LEGEND PENDENNIS CASTLE TO SPEND CHRISTMAS AT THE NENE VALLEY RAILWAY

The Nene Valley Railway is delighted to announce that one of the most celebrated locomotives of the Great Western Railway, No. 4079 'Pendennis Castle', will be visiting the railway this winter, operating from December 2026 into January 2027.

Visiting the Nene Valley Railway with the kind cooperation of Didcot Railway Centre, the famous Castle Class locomotive will feature as part of the railway's busy Christmas programme before remaining into the New Year for a series of special events and experiences, which are now on sale.

During December, Pendennis Castle will haul a selected number of the Nene Valley Railway's Santa Specials, giving families the opportunity to experience a Christmas journey behind one of Britain's most historic surviving steam locomotives.

Details of the selected Santa Specials to be hauled by No. 4079 will be announced shortly, giving visitors the opportunity to plan their Christmas journey behind this iconic locomotive.

Built at Swindon Works and completed in February 1924, No. 4079 Pendennis Castle was the seventh of 171 Castle Class locomotives constructed by the Great Western Railway.

Its place in railway history was firmly established in 1925 when the GWR loaned the locomotive to the London & North Eastern Railway for comparative trials against Sir Nigel Gresley's new Pacific locomotives, including No. 4472 Flying Scotsman. Pendennis Castle worked heavy express trains on the East Coast Main Line from London King's Cross during the trials.

Its remarkable story later took the locomotive halfway around the world. Pendennis Castle left Britain for Australia in May 1977, where it was cared for by the Pilbara Railways Historical Society and operated excursion trains through the Chichester Ranges.

In 1989, the locomotive travelled to Perth where it was reunited with its former rival Flying Scotsman during celebrations surrounding Australia's bicentenary.

After more than 23 years away, Pendennis Castle finally returned to Britain in July 2000 and is now part of the collection at Didcot Railway Centre.

A spokesperson for the Nene Valley Railway said: "We're incredibly excited to welcome Pendennis Castle to the Nene Valley Railway. This is a locomotive with a remarkable history, from the famous trials against Flying Scotsman to more than two decades spent in Australia, and it will be a privilege to see it operating here.

"Christmas is already one of the most special times of the year at the Nene Valley Railway, and having Pendennis Castle hauling selected Santa Specials will make some of those journeys even more memorable.

"We're also delighted that visitors now have several opportunities to experience Pendennis Castle after Christmas. Whether that's getting behind the controls on one of our Driving Experiences, enjoying an evening Fish and Chip train or simply travelling behind this magnificent locomotive on our Winter Warmer service, we're looking forward to starting 2027 in style."

Pendennis Castle in January

Following its appearances during the Christmas season, Pendennis Castle will remain at the Nene Valley Railway into January, with several opportunities to experience the locomotive now available to book.

For those who have dreamed of taking control of a Great Western Railway Castle, Pendennis Castle Driving Experiences will take place on 2nd, 3rd, 8th and 9th January 2027, offering participants the opportunity to get behind the controls of No. 4079.

On the evening of Saturday 2nd January, Pendennis Castle will also take charge of The Fenman Jolly Fisherman, combining an evening heritage train journey with traditional Fish and Chips.

The visit will culminate on Sunday 10th January with a Winter Warmer Passenger Service, giving visitors another opportunity to travel behind Pendennis Castle and enjoy steam-hauled passenger services through the Nene Valley during the winter.

Christmas at the Railway
The arrival of Pendennis Castle

adds another highlight to the Nene Valley Railway's Christmas at the Railway programme, which begins in late November and continues through to Christmas Eve, with Pendennis Castle hauling a selection of these services.

The railway's traditional Santa Specials return for 2026, with families beginning their experience among the festive surroundings of Wansford Station before boarding their Christmas train for a journey through the Nene Valley.

Santa's elves will provide entertainment on board before Santa Claus visits children at their seats, presenting each child with a special Christmas Wish Coin. After the journey, children can exchange their coin for a gift of their choice at one of Santa's Toy Shops.

Children can also bring along their letters for Santa and visit Santa's Post Office, where his postal workers will prepare them for posting.

Back at Wansford, the railway is creating a festive market atmosphere, with seasonal decorations, Christmas characters and platform cabins offering mulled wine, mince pies, festive treats and seasonal gifts. Christmas choir performances will also add to the atmosphere on selected days.

Young Thomas fans will have their own opportunity to enjoy Christmas on the railway, with Christmas at the Railway: Thomas Specials taking place on Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd December.

Thomas will take families along his Christmas Branch Line between Wansford and Yarwell, with Santa visiting children aboard the train and the Christmas Wish Coin and Santa's Toy Shop forming part of the experience.

The Miniature Railway will also be available for £1 extra on selected Christmas running days, while the Garden Railway will be open subject to volunteer availability and weather conditions.

With Santa Specials, Thomas Specials, festive entertainment and now the addition of one of Britain's most famous Great Western steam locomotives, the Nene Valley Railway is preparing for a particularly special Christmas season and an exciting start to 2027.



Pendennis Castle – Dates and Booking

Christmas at the Railway – selected dates TBC

nvr.org.uk/product.php/681/Christmas-at-the-Railway-Santa-Specials

Pendennis Castle Driving Experiences – 2nd, 3rd, 8th & 9th January 2027

nvr.org.uk/product.php/822/pendennis-castle-driving-experience

The Fenman Jolly Fisherman – 2nd January 2027

nvr.org.uk/product.php/150/the-fenman-jolly-fisherman

Winter Warmer Passenger Service – 10th January 2027

nvr.org.uk/product.php/361/winter-warmers

No. 4079 visits the Nene Valley Railway with kind thanks to Didcot Railway Centre.

Christmas at the Railway

NVR
NENE VALLEY RAILWAY
PETERBOROUGH, ENGLAND

SANTA SPECIALS
Wansford to Peterborough Return
A MAGICAL FESTIVE TRAIN RIDE
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.
28 NOVEMBER to 24 DECEMBER
ON SELECTED DATES

THOMAS SPECIALS
Wansford to Yarwell Return
A MAGICAL CHRISTMAS JOURNEY WITH THOMAS
Join Thomas for a festive family adventure packed with Christmas cheer, magical moments and memories to treasure.
21 DECEMBER & 22 DECEMBER

MEET SANTA
GIFT FOR EVERY CHILD
FESTIVE ENTERTAINMENT
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FESTIVE MARKET FEEL

MAGICAL MEMORIES • FAMILY FUN • FESTIVE CHEER

BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!
TICKETS AND INFORMATION AT NVR.ORG.UK

Nene Valley Railway, Wansford Station, Stibington, Peterborough, PE8 6LR • 01780 784444
www.nvr.org.uk NeneValleyRailway nene_valley_railway nene_valley_railway
Registered Charity No 263617 • Museum No 1636 • Registered in England No 1038056

YNBB'S SPITFIRE CONCERT!

"It has been a very exciting summer for the Yarwell and Nassington Britannia Band. We have played for the international Rolls Royce Rally, we were invited to play in Peterborough Cathedral, we have had a number of summer fetes concluding with the Nassington Garden Show. But possibly the highlight for me was the band playing for my daughter's wedding in June.

"Our musical director, John Hudson, announced his retirement in June as he has returned to his native and beloved Yorkshire. So, we have also been spending the summer looking for a new conductor and are pleased that we now have the skills of two

great musicians helping us with our conducting. As we move towards autumn, I am pleased to announce that we will be performing our 'Spitfire' concert in Nassington Church on Friday 20th November. It is the 90th anniversary of the Spitfire and we think this is worth celebrating. The concert will be full of brass band favourites, lots of good tunes from films and shows.

"The concert will be conducted by Matthew Brown. Tickets are still only £10 and will soon be available from all our usual outlets, from band members and online at Spitfire Tickets. We look forward to seeing you all in November for what will be another great night of brass band music."

Joanne Harris: Sleepers in the Snow

Join best-selling author Joanne Harris just before Halloween to hear her talk about her latest novel, *Sleepers in the Snow* – an astonishing, original and powerful story of love, loss, and mystery set on the North Yorkshire Moors.

Out on the moor, in the snow, a house stands beneath a pylon. It is a house full of memories, and full of old things. And, in the dark, when the pylon sings in the wind, it is a house full of ghosts and fading memories...

The house, Kirkhill, has a new occupant – just moved in, fresh from a bitter divorce and looking for a fresh start. The moor is the perfect place for it: isolated, beautiful in the changing seasons, peaceful, and with just enough of the previous owners' belongings that it's a perfectly self-contained and cosy home.

Only as the nights start to draw in, and the weather takes a turn, so does the house. The cosy isolation becomes menacing. . . and the diaries of the previous owners begin to reveal a terrible tragedy which befell Kirkhill – one which its new occupant may be unable to escape...

Joanne Harris (OBE, FRSL) is the author of 20 novels, three cookbooks and many short stories. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, an honorary Fellow of St Catharine's College, Cambridge, and in 2022 was awarded an OBE.

Thursday 29th October, 7.30pm-8.30pm
Great Hall, New Street, Oundle PE8 4GH
Tickets £14 (£10) available online
from www.authorsinoundle.co.uk
Contact info@authorsinoundle.co.uk

Orange Button Scheme launched in Northamptonshire to strengthen suicide prevention support

North and West Northamptonshire Councils have launched the Orange Button Scheme, creating a visible network of trained people who can support conversations about suicide and help people access support.

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 this article.

Orange Button holders wear a distinctive badge, making it easier for people experiencing thoughts of suicide, or those worried about someone else, to identify a trusted point of contact in their community. They have completed accredited suicide prevention training and may be volunteers, community workers, council staff, school staff, health professionals or employees in local organisations.

While they are not counsellors or therapists, they are confident

talking about suicide and can listen without judgement, offer support and reassurance, and signpost people to services.

The Orange Button Scheme has already been adopted in several areas across the country and is the latest initiative supporting suicide prevention efforts across Northamptonshire.

The scheme was launched at The Chester House Estate in September ahead of World Suicide Prevention Day.

Anyone who has completed eligible suicide prevention training in the last two years can email orangebutton@northnorthants.gov.uk about joining the scheme.

www.northnorthants.gov.uk/orangebutton
www.westnorthants.gov.uk/orangebutton
If you're struggling with your mental health, having thoughts of suicide, or are worried about someone else, support is available:

- **NHS Call 111 and select the mental health option**
- **Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust**
- **Call the 24-hour mental health number: 0800 448 0828**
- **Text the 24-hour mental health support service: 07480 635531**
- **Chat online: <https://chathealth.nhs.uk/start-a-chat/h/NorthantsChatMentalHealth>**

Samaritans:

- **Call 116 123 free, 24 hours a day**
- **Visit www.samaritans.org**

Emergency support:

If you or someone else is at immediate risk of harm, call 999 immediately. If it is safe to do so, seek urgent medical help by attending the nearest A&E department.

New director announced for Peterborough's The Cresset

The Cresset, Peterborough's much-loved venue for music, comedy, theatre and family entertainment, has announced the appointment of its new director. Joe Flavin will take up the role this autumn – bringing with him a wealth of experience working with arts and theatre venues that are at the very heart of their communities.

Nearly 50 years after opening its doors, The Cresset remains true to its original ethos of inclusion and community focus. As part of YMCA Trinity Group, all year-end profits go back into the charity's work, which directly supports young and vulnerable people; giving them a safe place to belong, participate and contribute.

Jonathan Martin, Chief Executive of YMCA Trinity Group, says: "I'm delighted to welcome Joe Flavin as the new director of The Cresset. Joe brings energy, vision and a wealth of experience in programming, venue management and community arts. I'm confident he will

continue to build on The Cresset's strong foundations to make it an even more vibrant and welcoming place for everyone in Peterborough."

He continues, "The Cresset is so much more than a theatre. As part of YMCA Trinity Group, it's a space where people of all ages and backgrounds can come together, be inspired, and feel they belong. Joe shares our commitment to making sure the arts are open to the whole community, and I'm excited to see what he and the team will achieve."

Jonathan concludes: "I'd also like to pay tribute to Louise Chantal, whose leadership has strengthened the programme and grown audiences. Louise originally joined us on an interim basis, but ended up staying for two years! She leaves The Cresset in great shape, and we're hugely grateful for everything she has contributed."



Joe Flavin, new director for The Cresset

With The Cresset's 50-year reputation for arts and culture within the city and a strong vision for the future, it's an exciting time to be involved. Joe Flavin explains: "I am delighted to be joining the brilliant team at The Cresset this November. It is clear that The Cresset has both young people and community at its heart and I'm looking forward to developing an exciting programme of events and engagement opportunities throughout this brilliant venue in the coming months."

For more information about The Cresset, visit www.cresset.co.uk, where you can sign up to the newsletter for all the latest news and events. You can also keep up to date by following The Cresset on Facebook and Instagram too.

Northamptonshire Healthcare completes transfer of specialist services from St Andrew's Healthcare

Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) has formally taken responsibility for a number of specialist secure services previously provided by St Andrew's Healthcare in Northampton, marking an important step in securing the future of these specialist services for patients and communities.

The following medium and low secure services have transferred to NHFT:

- The Midlands' male inpatient medium and low secure services
- The national secure male d/Deaf services
- The national secure male Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) services

Alongside these services, responsibility for a number of additional patients has also transferred to NHFT to support safe continuity of care while suitable long-term arrangements are identified.

Angela Hillery, Chief Executive of Northamptonshire Healthcare, said: "We are delighted to welcome our new colleagues, service users and carers in medium and low secure services to the Trust and look forward to working together. Our immediate focus has been on ensuring we are together and safe from day one, and we will now build on that foundation by continuing to improve and develop these important specialist services for people.

"I would like to thank our new colleagues, St

Andrew's Healthcare and NHS England for their support throughout this transfer process. This transfer provides greater certainty for patients, carers and colleagues, helping to safeguard specialist care and retain valuable expertise and roles in Northampton.

"We are committed to listening, learning and providing compassionate, quality care for the people who will come under NHFT's care. We know that we are on an improvement journey, and with our new colleagues, service users and carers, we will work together to develop a positive future for these services which support some of the most vulnerable people in our community."

To enable this transfer, several buildings have been leased by NHFT from St Andrew's Healthcare as part of long-term arrangement. NHFT's medium and low secure services will be primarily based at William Wake House and Fitzroy House, with care also provided to some patients at neighbouring Smyth House and Kemsley House, all in Northampton.

NHFT continues to provide an established low secure service at Berrywood Hospital in Duston, Northampton.

For more information about Northamptonshire Healthcare visit: www.nhft.nhs.uk

Tales from a North Country Antiquarian

A talk by Eric Knowles, "Tales from a North Country Antiquarian", was a sell-out success at Cotterstock village hall on Friday 2nd October. Eric is a charismatic speaker and the audience thoroughly enjoyed stories of his early life, growing up in Lancashire.

His professional journey in the antiques world started at Bonhams the auctioneers in London and he quickly progressed to being their head of ceramics before becoming a non-executive director of the company. Eric gained fame as an expert on the Antiques Roadshow and Bargain Hunt. Alongside all of these appearances Eric is an auctioneer, an acclaimed author of nine books, a lecturer and curator.

In the second half of the evening Eric appraised objects submitted by the audience, he talked about a brass bound gentleman's campaign chest which was beautifully kitted out with silver topped pieces. He was also surprised and delighted to see two unusual Scottish horn and silver topped snuff mulls in really good order despite their age. Eric enjoyed hearing the story of a large Delft bowl which dated from 1650 to 1680; it had been bought at auction in a mixed lot of bowls recently



for £38 and that bowl alone, despite some chips to the rim, was apparently worth many hundreds of pounds!

Jo Elwood from Green Man Antiques in Oundle, Tim Stubbs and Richard Bright both well known in the world of antiques, helped to select items for Eric to appraise in the second half of the evening and the organisers are very grateful to them for their support.

The Antiques Trade Gazette supported the evening by donating a complimentary copy of the magazine for everyone.

After a quality raffle of lovely prizes donated by local businesses which included a copy of 'Swan Song, Diana my sister' signed by Earl Spencer, everyone left with a smile on their face. The marvellous sum of £1,620 and 20 euros(!) was raised and will be shared between the charities Dementia UK and Dementia Carers Respite.

The organisers are so very grateful to Eric Knowles and all those who helped in any way to make this event such a success and one that people will remember for a long time.



Readers invited to join the autumn book bingo challenge

Residents are being encouraged to rediscover the pleasure of reading and take part in a new Book Bingo challenge launching in North Northamptonshire Council's LibraryPlus libraries this week.

The free challenge, which is open to library customers aged 18 and over, forms part of the National Year of Reading and has been made possible thanks to public funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England. It is designed to encourage reading for pleasure, support literacy and inspire more people to make the most of their local library service.

Book Bingo encourages participants to explore six themed reading challenges that are flexible, accessible and enjoyable for everyone. Rather than focusing on specific genres, the challenge invites readers to interpret each theme in their own way, whether through fiction, non-fiction, biographies, newspapers, magazines, eBooks or audiobooks.

Participants collect a stamp for each challenge they complete and, once all six squares are finished, can return their completed card and feedback questionnaire to be entered into a prize draw to win a £50 book token. An additional

Library Explorer bonus challenge offers readers a second entry into the draw.

The initiative aims to encourage adults to read more often, discover new authors and formats, build confidence in reading, and showcase the positive impact that reading can have on wellbeing, learning and community connection.

Cllr Martin Griffiths, Leader of North Northamptonshire Council said: "Reading can open up new worlds, spark imagination and support wellbeing at every stage of life. Our libraries are a welcoming space for people to discover new books, access a wide range of resources and connect with their local community."

"As part of the National Year of Reading, we're delighted to offer the Book Bingo challenge and encourage residents to visit their local library, take part and enjoy the many benefits that reading for pleasure can bring."

Book Bingo cards will be available from all LibraryPlus libraries across North Northamptonshire, with the challenge running until 13th March 2027. Participants who complete all six reading challenges and return their completed card will be entered into a prize draw to win a £50 book token.

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



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PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (PUBLIC FOOTPATH MK17 (PART) – BRIGSTOCK) (TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Northamptonshire Council have made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit pedestrians from proceeding along that length of Public Footpath MK17 (Part) in Brigstock as specified below. Private access to land or premises adjacent to the said length of footpath are unaffected. RIGHT OF WAY TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: The route of MK17 (Part) to be closed starts on Park Walk at point A on the map at National Grid Reference (NGR) SP9436 8512. The route travels generally south for approximately 153 metres to point B at NGR 9432 8498. The route to be closed is shown by a solid black line between points A – B.

REASONS FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required in the interest of health and safety during environmental investigatory works.

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

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: The alternative route starts at point A on the map at NGR SP9436 8512. The route travels approximately 350 metres north west along the footway to point C at NGR SP 9411 8536. The route then travels generally south westerly along footpath MK18 for approximately 568 metres to point D at NGR SP9361 8510. The route then travels generally south east along footpaths MK19 and MK17 for approximately 719 metres to point B at NGR SP9432 8498. The alternative route is shown by a broken black line between points A – C – D – B. If you require any further information please contact Sarah Cureton on 01604 529700. ROW/228-N

Dated this 10th day of October 2026

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

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

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 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 Blackpot Lane, Oundle as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Blackpot Lane, Oundle from Gardenways to Glaphorn Road.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during HV connection.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 26th 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 7 days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use New Street, Market Place and A427.

For further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 26/27 – N498
Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T26/858

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (PEGS LANE, DENFORD) (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 Pegs Lane, Denford as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Pegs Lane, Denford from outside Hill House Gardens to Holmsley.

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during stop tap replacement.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 26th 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 Front Street and High Street.

For further information please contact Steve Fowler ref:- 26/27 – N384
Steve.Fowler@northnorthants.gov.uk PKG/T26/878

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 have made an Order the effect of which is 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 have made an Order the effect of which is 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 have made 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 10th day of October 2026

Director of Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Celebrate Christmas carnival style at Ferry Meadows

Christmas is coming to Ferry Meadows, and this year we're celebrating carnival style!

Join the mischievous Christmas elves for a festive family adventure filled with carnival-inspired games and activities, live entertainment, festive surprises and an enchanted winter garden to explore, with plenty of elf antics along the way.

Taking place on selected dates from 26th November to 23rd December, the Christmas Carnival is packed with festive entertainment and activities for all the family to enjoy.

No Christmas celebration would be complete without delicious food and drink, and our festive food trucks will be serving a selection of seasonal favourites. You can also browse our Christmas Pop-Up Shop, filled with gifts, decorations and festive treats.

Whether you're bringing the family along, meeting up with friends or simply looking for a fun way to celebrate the festive season, come and enjoy Christmas carnival style at Ferry Meadows!



Dog-Friendly Thursdays

We know Christmas is best enjoyed with the whole family, including your four-legged friends. That's why every Thursday evening is dog-friendly. Everyone is welcome to attend as usual, but on these special evenings, dogs can come along and enjoy the Christmas Carnival with you.

Plan Your Visit

Christmas Carnival admission:
Early Bird Tickets: Adults £12 | Children £8 | Age 2 & Under Free after 14th October: Adults £15 | Children £10 | Age 2 & Under Free

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

Make the most of our Early Bird offer and save 20% when you book before 14th October. No discount code is needed, the discount has already been applied to all ticket prices.

Sessions start at 4pm and 6pm on the following dates:

- 26th to 29th November
- 3rd to 6th December
- 10th to 13th December
- 17th to 23rd December

The 4pm sessions on 27th November and 21st December offer quieter sessions with reduced capacity.

Find out more and book your tickets at www.nenepark.org.uk/christmas-carnival

Teresa Fairchild, Commercial Events Manager said: "We're incredibly excited to launch our Christmas Carnival at Nene Park this year. We've created something that's all about having fun together, with carnival games, live entertainment, festive food and plenty of surprises along the way, all with our Christmas elves at the heart of the experience.

We're also pleased to be introducing dog-friendly Thursdays, so families can bring their four-legged friends along to enjoy the Carnival too. We hope the Christmas Carnival will give families a great reason to get together and enjoy some festive fun at Ferry Meadows this year."

As a charity, every ticket helps support the work of Nene Park Trust, helping us to care for the Park and continue bringing people together through memorable events and experiences. We can't wait to welcome you to Christmas Carnival this festive season!

Apartments available at Roman Court

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

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*Other monthly charges apply.

