Inside this issue of ENCircle:
Celebrate community project success | pg3
Puppy smuggling at Christmas | pg5
Be ‘woodsure’ this winter | pg7
Waste services over Christmas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Normal collection day</th>
<th>Amended collection day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 24 Dec</td>
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Please remember to recycle your paper wrapping, cardboard boxes and recyclable packaging from all those presents!

Don’t forget to use your food recycling caddy for all your cooked and uncooked Christmas food waste.

Food waste is collected separately from the refuse/recycling bin. This may be considerably earlier or later than when your wheeled bin is emptied.

Please place your bin out for collection by 7am.

Please note there are no garden waste collections between 22 Dec – 6 Jan.

To find out your bin collection day, visit www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/waste

Message from the Chairman

Welcome to the winter edition of ENCircle.

Since I became Chairman I have visited many of the wonderful towns and villages in our district and have represented East Northamptonshire further afield.

I have travelled to Nottinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Milton Keynes and Daventry, to name just a few, and one of the most enjoyable aspects of being Chairman of East Northamptonshire Council is the opportunity to meet so many people from across the area and tell them about our wonderful our beautiful district.

I have attended many functions this year to commemorate 100 years since the end of the First World War. I know you join me in giving thanks to those who sacrificed much so that we may live the lives we have today.

In the lead up to Christmas, I would like to remember our Armed Service personnel who will be serving abroad this Christmas and all the many people who will be working on Christmas Day, including nurses and doctors, carers and many other professions who give up their day to help others.

I hope you manage to have a peaceful and restful break over the Christmas holidays and I send good wishes for the New Year.

Cllr Wendy Brackenbury

Higham Ferrers poppy display

Got an old sofa to get rid of? Find out about our bulky waste collection service at www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/bulky

Save time - go online www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/doitonline
Local communities celebrate opening of new public facilities

Our Community Facilities Fund provides local communities with brand new and refurbished facilities and since its launch in 2013, we have been able to invest more than £1.5m into improving our local towns and villages.

Families are now able to enjoy hours of fun at the brand new children’s playground in Barnwell, within the garden of the Montagu Arms, which was officially opened by our Chairman and Leader along with representatives from Barnwell Parish Council in October (below).

Residents in Easton-on-the-Hill are now able to enjoy a Peace Labyrinth in the grounds of the church gardens (below). This space is an area for reflection and contemplation, with views over the valley.

Ending their whistle stop tour of the district in Higham Ferrers, our Chairman and Leader joined the Mayor of Higham Ferrers in unveiling the impressive cableway zip wire, overhead carousel and rope swing at Saffron Road Recreation Ground and brand new blue heritage plaques in Market Square.

A new outdoor gym opened at Irthlingborough Central Recreation Ground (below). Designed with inclusivity at the heart, the new equipment is accessible for all ages and abilities and provides residents with the opportunity to get active, no matter the weather. Our leisure partners, freedom leisure are now delivering free gym buddy sessions every Monday between 10am and 11am.

Leader of East Northamptonshire Council, Steven North, said:

“The Community Facilities Fund provides local communities with the opportunity to benefit from improved public facilities and I was honoured to join Wendy, fellow councillors and other community leaders to open and see these projects first-hand. I hope that residents will enjoy their new facilities for years to come.”

The Community Facilities Fund provides constituted community groups and organisations, town and parish councils in East Northamptonshire with funding up to £50,000. There must be a minimum of 25% match funding to be eligible to apply.

For more information about the process and eligibility, visit www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/cff

Not sure where to report a pothole? Northamptonshire Highways look after the county roads at www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk

Awarded £32,100

Awarded £32,500

Awarded £8,000

Awarded £3,500

Awarded £39,430
Changes to councils in Northamptonshire

In March 2018, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (HCLG) requested proposals from councils across Northamptonshire to replace the existing two tier system of local government. His request followed a report from inspector, Max Caller into the financial management of Northamptonshire County Council. You can find the report on our website.

In response to the request, Northamptonshire’s borough, district and county councils worked with partners and the government to design a proposal which puts residents’ needs at the heart of any solution. Members of East Northamptonshire Council debated this proposal at a public meeting on Wednesday, 29 August and agreed that the plan of creating two unitary authorities, north and west, should be submitted to the Secretary of State.

Steven North, ENC Leader, said: “The case for two unitary authorities in Northamptonshire was thoroughly discussed with many councillors contributing to the debate.

“This council has much to be proud of with many achievements recognised over the years and we now have an opportunity to build on this good foundation by working more closely with partners and developing new ways to deliver the services our residents and businesses expect and deserve.”

The proposal was agreed by seven out of eight councils in the county. Whilst Corby Borough Council did not sign up to the submission, they did agree to support the reform process because more than one other council had agreed to the restructuring and so the proposal would go forward to Government.

Steven North, added: “The proposal was sent to the Secretary of State on Friday, 31 August as it was not a requirement for all councils to agree to it. Whilst we await a response, we’re speaking with Ministers to agree how the councils, our partners and the government can work together to ensure that the two new unitary authorities will be financially sustainable and provide high-quality services from the moment they are created which we expect to be April 2020.”

For more information about local government reform visit www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/localgovernmentreform

Be taxi safe this Christmas

- If you’re having a festive night out, plan how you’re going to get home and arrange a lift or book a taxi in your name.
- Always keep the number of a reliable firm with you.
- Avoid taxis or private-hire cars that tout for business and are unlicensed.
- If you can pre-book your taxi, make a note of the company you are using and the phone number and leave it with a friend.
- When the taxi arrives, check it’s the one you booked. If in doubt, don’t get in.
- Always sit behind the driver in the back seat.
- If you feel uneasy, ask to be let out.
- Never accept a lift from a stranger.
- Stick with your friends and choose a meeting point where you’ll wait for each other if you get separated.
Help to combat puppy smuggling this Christmas

With Christmas just around the corner, you might be thinking about buying a puppy to join your family, but there are puppies being illegally transported into our country each year and it is important to make sure that you buy from a licenced breeder.

New legislation came into effect in October 2018, overhauling current animal licensing laws and providing East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) with more powers to combat puppy smuggling in the district.

Dog breeders operating as a business, must now apply for a licence from East Northamptonshire Council. Adverts selling pets must include a photograph of the pet, the country of origin and residence of pet, licence number and the name of the local authority issuing the licence.

Officers at ENC are able to suspend, vary and revoke licences where conditions are not being complied with, where the law is being breached or where it is necessary to protect animal welfare. If the council becomes aware of dog breeding taking place without a licence, officers are also able to investigate with a view to prosecuting the individuals concerned.

Steven North, Leader of East Northamptonshire Council, said: “The recent changes in legislation will enable our officers to help stop puppies being sold illegally in our district, and ensure residents have the essential information to make sure that they are buying pets from a responsible breeder.

“If you’re looking to buy a puppy this festive season, it is important that you check that breeders hold the relevant licence, to make sure that the person selling is doing so legitimately.”

To check whether a business holds the correct licence, or to apply for a licence, visit: www.northantslicensing.gov.uk or contact the licensing team:

East Northamptonshire Council, Cedar Drive, Thrapston, Northamptonshire NN14 4LZ
Telephone: 01832 742102
Email: licensingunit@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk

Winter walking in the district

Whether you’re just starting to get active or you’re looking for a regular exercise, to help you stay it in the long run, joining a short group walk in your local area could help you feel great.

East Northamptonshire Council and freedom leisure organise short, friendly and inclusive walks that are free to join and within easy reach of where you live.

Our walks are run by volunteer Health Walk Leaders and involve a chance for refreshments and a chat after the walk so are also a great way of meeting new people.

They take place every week to help you establish a routine, are ideal for beginners and there is no need to book in advance, just turn up and say hello to the Walk Leader on the day!

We have three group walks each week;

RUSHDEN HALL PARK (below)
Meet: 10am every Friday at Rushden Hall, near the flagpole, Hall Park, Rushden, NN10 9N Cost: FREE
Refreshments available at the hall afterwards.

NASSINGTON
Meet: 11am every Friday at The Black Horse Pub, Fotheringhay Road, Nassington, PE8 6QU Cost: FREE
Refreshments available at the pub afterwards.

WOODFORD
Meet: 9.30am every Wednesday at Tiggywinkles Tearoom, Addington Road, Woodford, NN14 4ES Cost: FREE
Refreshments available at the tearoom afterwards.
East Northants Business Network  
- a local network startup success

18 Months ago, local trader Laura Patey-Smith of Thrapston Tiling took the decision to launch a local business network.

Laura tells the story:

“I’ve always covered East Northants, but I had to travel to networks in Wellingborough and Kettering. I realised there was an opportunity to create a business community in East Northants.

So, I applied my own business knowledge, and sought advice from Simon Cox, who had launched the Kettering network. We launched in March 2017 – 37 businesses came together to support the start up. I ran this on my own, with a little support from Copy Design Studio, and 1 year on, I have the support of Kate Day, and we’ve seen attendance dip, and then increase above 40! To begin with, some people travelled from out of area to join us – but more and more local businesses are coming along.

My passion is for building a business community that’s affordable and accessible.

We’re inclusive – nothing is forced – normally businesses get a chance to make their pitch, but if someone’s new and doesn’t want to, there is no obligation. I remember what it was like when I started out – I felt alone and alienated, not knowing who to turn to. That’s why I really want to build up the support in the local area. That’s why the network is designed to be ‘easy in, easy out’, just £4 on the door, no subs, no pressure.”

Kate agrees:

“It was amazing for my confidence levels. I have only really started networking in the last 18 months. I was experienced, and mature, but learning to network was something new – it has really helped get my business off the ground.”

East Northants Business Network is independent of the Council – they chose the name to highlight the location.

It is only one of a mix of local networks that Enterprising East Northants is supporting as part of its drive to ensure local businesses are at the heart of the local economic development. For example ‘Time for Networking’ (time4networking.co.uk) has also recently launched with a different format. Are you interested to find out more? Get in touch with James, our Business Account Manager, who can describe the wider offer.
Many homes now burn wood as a source of heat and enjoyment. It’s economical, renewable and can heat your home well, if used properly. A wood burner or open fire that isn’t being used properly can produce excessive smoke, which wastes energy, and creates air pollution. By considering the way you use your fire you can make major pollution reductions.

Here are some tips to keep your fire burning efficiently so you get the best value from your firewood and really cut down the smoke.

- **Only burn dry, well-seasoned wood** that has been split properly. Green wood is a major culprit in the creation of smoke. It pollutes the air and generates soot that clogs your chimney.
- **Don’t use wood that has been rained on or is damp.** If it got wet in the rain, take small amounts inside to dry out before putting it on the fire.
- Get your wood from a **wood supplier who sells wood that was cut 12 months ago and is cut into 110mm logs**. Look out for the ‘Ready to Burn’ logo for reassurance that the logs you are purchasing are dry enough to be ready to burn and carry the schemes stamp of approval.
- **Burn fires bright and hot.** A smoldering fire creates more smoke and less heat.
- **If the glass front on your wood burner is coated with soot**, it means you are not burning your fire hot enough.
- **If your wood burner is smoking excessively**, get it checked. Make sure you know about your own model of burner and how it operates. Ask a HETAS* member if you are not sure.
- **Don’t burn plastic, disposable nappies, electrical cables, painted or treated timber and particleboard, rubber products and waste oils.** This is prohibited because they contain very harmful, polluting chemicals.
- **Don’t burn domestic rubbish, glossy paper or magazines and wrappers in your wood burner.** They produce harmful chemicals and cause offensive smoke.

If you are buying a new wood burner, or replacing one, it is important to **ensure it is the right size** for the rooms that are being heated and that it meets emission standards. **Look out for Ecodesign Ready brands of stoves** that are tested to high emissions standards. The wood burner also needs to be installed correctly. **Check with your local council or a HETA member** if you think your burner may not be correctly installed.

In England and Wales, there are only two routes to legally install a domestic solid fuel, wood or biomass-burning appliance. You can either:

- Use a registered HETAS installer who can self certify that the work they do complies with the relevant Building Regulations; or
- The consumer applies to their local authority building control department for a building notice, and pays the appropriate fee.

For more guidance on how to burn wood responsibly visit [woodsure.co.uk](http://woodsure.co.uk)

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**Did you know there are strict rules for organisations that collect house to house for charity?**

Any in East Northants will require a licence and will be added to our Licensing Public Register. So before you donate, check them out at [www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/charitybags](http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/charitybags)

The Home Office has a list of organisations that are exempt, which means they do not require a permit from the local authority for House to House Collections. Visit the above page where you will find a link to this list.

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*HETAS is the national organisation working for consumer safety and the wider public interest in safe, efficient and environmentally responsible use of biomass and other solid fuels.*
For many households, the basic costs of cooking meals, heating and lighting can become more expensive year by year. Shopping around to switch to a cheaper and/or better deal for your energy supply is key and NESS is here to help.

An expert Energy Comparison Review by the NESS team can provide you with comparison information and guidance on reducing the cost of energy to your home. Advice covers electricity and/or gas, heating oil and LPG.

Find out more at www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/energy