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Waste services over Christmas

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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 21 Dec – 5 Jan.

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

Cllr Dudley Hughes JP

As Chair I visit others towns and districts and I am reminded of the great aspects of East Northants from thatched houses in small villages, some of whom still have their 'local', to the new sparkling shopping centre at Rushden Lakes and the great walks and wildlife at Stanwick lakes.

Our new enterprise centre in Raunds is well on its way to completion and will provide facilities for small businesses to get going with available support and help. It is hoped there will be a natural turn over and once enterprises have been established they will see the centre as a stepping stone to expansion so creating more local employment.

I was pleased to be at the first East Northamptonshire Sports Awards Ceremony in the restored Goods Shed at Rushden Station. This is a great facility and it was an ideal venue for recognising the many sports women and men in our District, a number of who have won international honours.

Much is happening in preparation for the changes to our authority and the formation of the new. As this is on-going the best way to get up to date information is to look at futurenorthantsnorth.org.

The season of Christmas is soon here and I look forward to visiting a variety of celebrations across the District; I hope you are able to have an enjoyable time over the holiday period – especially those who have to work part of the time in services to keep us all safe and well.

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

Message from the Chairman

Twelve years ago, I stood at the gravel pits which are now Stanwick Lakes, and I was so pleased to recently celebrate ten years since the opening of the building. For my first civic event of the year, I held a dinner at the venue not only to celebrate that anniversary but also forty years of the great work Service Six do for the young people in our community.

I was delighted to open the Nene Valley Festival in Peterborough. Events took place along the Nene Valley culminating in a day of displays and fun at Stanwick Lakes. Throughout the District are volunteers that make these events happen from car festivals, garden parties, Mayors’ celebrations and displays of all kinds from gardens to military vehicles; they all provide us the residents with interesting things to go to for all tastes. Of course there are also the volunteers that make life possible and enjoyable caring, performing and sometimes consoling others and we should all be grateful for their willingness to serve too.
Local community groups receive funding to kick-start projects

Through our Communities Facilities Fund (CFF), well deserving groups and community assets across the district have received much needed funding boosts.

Recently, Stanwick Community Gardens were awarded a grant of £6876 for a new summerhouse whilst Thrapston Plaza was granted funds totalling £3000 for new audio visual equipment, which has improved facilities and allowed for film afternoons to take place, alongside wider community activities. The venue has already seen an increase in bookings.

Huxlow School was also awarded a grant for a new dance and drama studio, which is being used by both students and the community, including several local dance groups who have started using the new facilities.

Previous funding rounds also saw a strong sporting theme with Ringstead Parish Council securing £49,000 for a new multi-use games area or ‘MUGA’ and Oundle bowls club received £50,000 for the new renovation and upgrade of their clubhouse, including a new bowling facility. Thrapston Parish Council also used CFF grant monies to improve 3 parks across the town.

CFF utilises money from the New Homes Bonus scheme and was established to support and develop community facilities within East Northamptonshire. To date CFF has invested over £2.5 million in projects all over the district and for more information, visit www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/CFF

Free call blockers for scam or nuisance phone calls

The National Trading Standards (NTS) Scams team has secured government funding to provide free call blocking units to help people in receipt of scam or nuisance phone calls.

The unit filters unwanted scam or nuisance phone call from landlines and works by checking the caller’s number. If it is a trusted caller, then it allows the phone to ring as normal, but if the caller is not recognised, then the call blocker asks the caller to identify themselves and results show that this process blocks around 95% of unwanted calls.

For more information, please visit www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/callblocker

Council services over Christmas/New Year

East Northamptonshire Council will close at 12 noon on Tuesday, 24 December and will re-open on Thursday, 2 January. You can still access the majority of our services online at www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk

For out of hours emergencies call 01832 733530.

Follow and tweet us on Twitter @ENCouncil
East Northamptonshire celebrates sporting heroes

Sporting stars and physical activity champions from across East Northamptonshire attended the very first district wide awards ceremony on Thursday, 17 October. Which celebrated the sporting achievements of people of all ages and abilities.

The very first East Northamptonshire Sports and Physical Activity awards, held at the Rushden Historical Transport Society Goods Shed in Rushden, was attended by more than 150 guests including sports persons nominated from the eight awards categories, dignitaries and senior colleagues from Northamptonshire Sport, Freedom Leisure and East Northamptonshire Council.

Cllr Colin Wright, ward councillor for the Rushden Pemberton area, compered the evening and the eight awards were presented by dignitaries including chairman and vice-chairman of the council, Cllrs Dudley Hughes and Helen Howell.

Chairman of the Council, Dudley Hughes, said:

“This event provided us with an opportunity to celebrate the sporting talent in East Northamptonshire with the very first awards ceremony and I would like to congratulate everyone who was nominated and won an award. We look forward to continuing to champion physical activity through our healthy and active lifestyles programme.”

The awards recognised the vast talent of residents across the district, and celebrated the fantastic work they deliver in the community. However, there could only be one winner for each award:

1. **Community Champion/Volunteer of the Year** - Robert Phipps, Nassington Walking for Health group
2. **Community Club/Group of the Year** - Eclipse Gymnastics, Rushden
3. **Community Coach/Activator of the Year** - Ian Gow, Oundle Chatter Runners
4. **Primary Sports School of the Year** - Newton Road School, Rushden.
5. **Secondary Sports School of the Year** - Prince William School, Oundle
6. **Beat the Street Champion** - Janet Brown, Rushden Walking for Health group
7. **Disabled Sports Person of the Year** - William Roberts, Peterborough Special Olympic Swimming
8. **Sports Person of the Year** - Rachael Lever, Fencing

East Northamptonshire Council delivered the event with its partners Freedom Leisure supported by Intelligent Health and Northamptonshire Sport.

All of the winners were included for the county-wide Northamptonshire Sports Awards which took place on 20 November 2019, and for the first time there was representation from clubs and individuals from East Northamptonshire District.

Leader of East Northamptonshire Council, Steven North, said:

“We have a wide range of sport facilities across the district which are enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities.
Check your taxi this Christmas

With Christmas approaching, and following thefts of several taxi licence plates in East Northamptonshire, residents are reminded of some golden rules when planning a trip or night out. So if you are out and about this festive season, remember:

• Plan how you’re going to get home from your night out - arrange a lift or book a taxi in your name and leave the taxi booking details with a friend.
• Always keep the number of a reliable firm with you.
• Avoid taxis that tout for business and are unlicensed.
• When the taxi arrives, check it is the one you booked by asking for the name in which it was booked and if in doubt, don’t get in.
• If travelling alone, always sit behind the driver in the back seat
• If you feel uneasy, ask to be let out
• Stick with your friends and choose a meeting point for if you get separated
• Never accept a lift from a stranger

For more information on taxis in East Northamptonshire, visit www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/taxi

Think before you buy a puppy this Christmas

With Christmas just around the corner, you may be considered adding a four legged friend to your family, but sadly there are puppies being illegally transported into the county each year and it is important to make sure that you buy from a licensed breeder.

However the process is now more straightforward for those wishing to purchase a puppy, as dog breeders operating as a business must now apply for a licence from East Northamptonshire Council. Also any adverts selling puppies must include a photograph of the animal, the country of origin and residence of pet, licence number and the name of the local authority issuing the breeder’s licence.

If you are thinking of buying a puppy this festive season, the Dogs Trust urges you to consider the following before making any decisions:

Do…

1. Ask to see mum and pup together
2. Visit your new pup more than once
3. Get all your pup’s paperwork before going home including vaccinations and ensure your puppy is microchipped
4. Walk away if you are at all unsure
5. Report suspicious sellers or breeders
6. Take your puppy to your own vet for a health check as soon as possible

Don’t…”

1. Meet anywhere that isn’t the pup’s home
2. Buy a pup from anyone who can supply various breeds on demand
3. Buy a pup that looks too young/small or underweight
4. Feel pressured to buy a puppy
5. Buy a pup that you suspect has been illegally imported

If you have any concerns about where a dog was purchased from or would like further information, please contact the Animal Licensing team on 01832 742042.

Did you know?

East Northamptonshire Council staff are trained in supporting those with dementia.

Follow and like us on Facebook @ENCLatestNews
Enterprise Centre, East Northants

Work is well underway to deliver the flagship Enterprise Centre, East Northants at Warth Park, Raunds and a number of key milestones have already been achieved in this ambitious project.

Dignitaries from East Northamptonshire Council (ENC), South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) and ASHE construction signed the last steel frame of the £8 million state-of-the-art facility in August, officially marking the completion of the steel frame. The roof topped off the next milestone for this project at the end of November, ahead of the centre’s anticipated opening in spring 2020.

ENC, which is delivering the project, received £1.69 million funding from SEMLEP’s Local Growth Fund towards the project and is working with industry specialists ASHE construction and Total Project Integration to deliver the centre.

“It is ENC’s ambition to increase and improve the skills base across the district through delivering a robust and strategic economic plan for sustainable job creation and business growth. By delivering this pioneering project we aim to create up to 785 jobs in the first 10 years.” Said Steven North, Leader of East Northamptonshire Council.

Local businesses and entrepreneurs will have access to a range of support and expertise to nurture and grow their business and it is anticipated that the centre will provide business support to 205 businesses in the first 10 years.

To register your interest or for more information please call 0808 1787 060 or visit www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/een

Enterprising East Northants

Enterprising East Northants (EEN), is now entering its third year and is underway to delivering a number of new projects which will benefit the local economy.

The initiative has established relationships with local businesses and partners and is working alongside the social and health care agendas.

EEN is committed to working with young people to provide them with opportunity to develop and enhance their skills. The Boosting Skills’ group has delivered a half day conference at Prince William School Oundle, supported by over 20 representatives from and partners.

In addition, EEN has supported a bid to fund a £1 million programme to help vulnerable young people access employment.

EEN has offered a short-term, high intensity business support programme.

This is delivered by ‘Building Business’, which is open to 25 small and start-up businesses across the district. The programme offers 1-2-1 meetings and workshops for businesses to provide them with skills to develop.

The Film and TV, and life science sector have ambitions to expand in Northamptonshire. This will aim to provide residents with more employment options, but also impacting the UK as they take pride in film-making across Northamptonshire, and delivering laboratory services to industry and the NHS that make a difference for our health care.

To find out more about Enterprising East Northants, visit www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/een
Walkers along the Greenway in Rushden will see an exciting new addition to the route as the Out to Water, Into History group has unveiled the latest stage of the project. 33 green train track wayfinding markers have been added to the section of the Greenway from Rushden Lakes to Rushden Historical Transport Museum, allowing users of the route to easily find their way from the historic town to the vibrant lakes.

Tracks are designed to lead Greenway users from one end to the other, and read differently depending on the direction travelled. If travelling from Rushden Lakes to the town, the tracks read ‘Into History’ and those travelling from Rushden town centre to the Lakes will see ‘Out to Water’.

The train tracks are the latest stage in the Out to Water, Into History project which aims to connect Rushden’s heritage with the area’s wildlife, along the green corridor.

Consultation with residents is a duty of every council in order to help local people influence decisions and express their views on local services or issues. East Northamptonshire Council is committed to acting on the results of consultation so that services are delivered in a way that best meet the needs of its residents.

Our annual Residents’ Survey is designed to gather the views relation to:
- The services we offer
- The way residents use our services
- Communication between the council and its residents
- Our district surroundings and their accessibility
- Planning needs

The survey will launch on the Monday 6 January and will run until Friday 31 January. The survey can be accessed at www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/info/200024/consultations/120/have_your_say

You can also access the survey through our Facebook and Twitter page. Paper versions of the survey are available at all of our Customer Contact Centres and upon request. Should you require a paper copy or would like to complete the survey over the telephone, please contact the Corporate Support team on 01832 742153.

Are you single and looking to mingle? Sorted a date for Christmas? Well East Northamptonshire Council, working in partnership with Northamptonshire Police and National Pubwatch have a scheme to keep you safer on your date.

If your date isn’t all that they seemed, for example they look nothing like their profile picture, acting strangely or they simply make you feel uncomfortable, go to the bar and ‘Ask for Angela’. The member of staff will see this as a sign that something isn’t right and you need help. This could simply be to keep an eye on you or even take you to safe room and call a taxi.

Find out more and the businesses taking part at www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/askforangela
Commanding some of Britain’s most spectacular views and stunning landscapes, the impressive Nene Valley is an oasis of tranquillity with exciting opportunities for new outdoor experiences. The river valley has hidden gems, ancient mill sites, wintering bird habitats, naturally important Roman archaeology and buzzing wildflower meadows, to name but a few. We want to help people enjoy the Nene Valley whilst at the same time preserving the natural landscape.

Our vision will be delivered within four cross-cutting priorities which will include the following:

- Creating an enterprising approach to the rural economy
- Improve access to the Nene Valley
- Attracting visitor and spend
- Encourage local communities to lead healthier outdoor lifestyles

We look forward to working with our partners, to enhance the Nene Valley for future generations to enjoy.