

# Oundle Chronicle

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## ENC draft Local Plan raises objections to housing plans

The East Northamptonshire County planning authority has submitted for consultation a new Local Plan that will have a far reaching impact on developments within Oundle, and on the Oundle Neighbourhood Plan. The Oundle Town Council have strongly objected to the ENC plan.

The ENC's proposed new district-wide Local Plan Part 2 will replace the Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan that was adopted in 2011. The new plan is currently in a consultation period that runs until 17 December. If adopted, the plan will form the basis on which decisions about future applications are made.

The plan covers a period from 2011 to 2031, and identifies a requirement for 645 new houses in

**Have Your Say**  
Residents must express their views about the ENC draft Local Plan by 17 December. The online link can be found on the ENC website titled "Development Plan Documents".  
Or visit the survey page directly at:  
[www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/LocalPlanP2](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/LocalPlanP2).

Oundle. As of 2018, 384 new houses have already been completed, and 89 houses have received planning permission or commitments to grant permission. The plan identifies a requirement for "a residual" of 172 to 242 dwellings, and outlines three locations for developments where a total of 300 houses can be built to meet the "outstanding requirement during the remainder of the plan period".

The ENC plan allocates 70

dwellings to a site on the Stoke Doyle Road past the cemetery; 130 houses to a site at the end of Cotterstock Road; and 100 houses at St Christopher's Drive.

Each site will be expected to provide a housing mix which includes provision for older persons and affordable housing. A contribution towards the proposed extension to Oundle Cemetery at Stoke Doyle Road will be required.

The Oundle Town Council have

vigorously objected to the ENC Local Plan, which they feel has not taken into consideration the draft Neighbourhood Plan that was approved by Oundle residents and submitted to the ENC for approval in April 2018.

The council's Neighbourhood Plan made allocations for the required 300 houses across seven sites that they felt better served environmental concerns and issues relating to housing density and traffic management. In particular they object to the ENC plan's proposed development on Cotterstock Road, adjacent to Oundle Primary School, which has a housing density that far exceeds what the Neighbourhood Plan allowed for, raising concerns about proximity to

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### St Peter's spire provides lookout for peregrine falcon



**Erica Pascoe**

Birdwatchers enjoyed a rare local sighting of a peregrine falcon when one was spotted in Oundle on November 7th.

**Continued on page 2**

### Funding for North Bridge means repairs can begin

**Stella Simpson  
Amelia Milne**

After intense lobbying from Tom Pursglove MP, Philip Amps at Oundle Business Association and the Oundle Town Council, funds amounting to £1.3m to repair North Bridge have been allocated to NCC from central government.

Early projections were that repair work would start in the next few months, but Northamptonshire County Council is now projecting that work will start "in the latter part of 2019".

Tom Pursglove has received assurances from the Environmental Agency that they will prioritise the Flood Risk Activity permit that is necessary for work to begin without delays. Listed Building Consent will also be required from East Northamptonshire.

North Bridge is a Grade II listed structure with 13 arch spans. It was originally rebuilt in 1571 and again in 1835. It was widened in 1912. Strengthening the bridge needs to

take into account potential archaeological work, as well as traffic management during construction and access to the site.

In October 2014, the bridge was assessed by the Northamptonshire Highways in order to determine its load capacity. Since the 2014 assessment, the bridge's structure has been monitored through 'Moniteye', a system that accurately measures the structural movement and wirelessly transmits the data, reviewed daily by Northamptonshire Highways. This data identified the deteriorating condition, drawing immediate attention to the need for the repair and strengthening of 7 of its 13 arch spans. For the past four years, Northamptonshire Highways have been aware of the issue and the need to reduce heavy traffic but they took no action until March 2018. During this time, thousands of heavy vehicles passed over the bridge, potentially causing even more damage.

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# The Chronicle Team



## THE TEAM

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Giorgio Capuzzello  
Lily Hunter  
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Archie Parkinson  
Erica Pascoe  
Alfie Peterson  
Tom Pilsbury  
Stella Simpson  
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Lily Wolfson

## Local newspapers under threat

Earlier this month, the regional newspaper publisher Johnston Press was delisted from the London Stock Exchange after its market value crashed from £1.4bn in 2005 to £4m. Among the newspapers owned by Johnston Press are our regional papers, the Northampton Evening Telegraph and the Peterborough Telegraph. The future of the business remains uncertain.

Local newspapers have seen readership and advertising revenues slashed by the rise of tech giants such as Facebook and Google. On the one hand, these tech companies have helped generate traffic to newspapers, but on the other hand, they have benefited from free use of newspaper content and at the same time, have stripped newspapers of vital advertising revenue as classified advertising has moved online.

In an initiative that has been viewed with some cynicism from

the industry, Facebook is looking into funding a scheme that would invest in training reporters. The BBC has also pledged funds to pay for local reporters to serve the regional press.

Nationally, news organisations are also facing challenging conditions with the loss of print advertising. Some newspapers, such as The Times have successfully introduced pay walls, and have retained their readers. The Guardian is one of the few papers that continues to offer free online content, but has successfully solicited voluntary contributions in a "reading funding model". Last month it reported that it has received funding from over one million readers from around the world, and is one of the top two most read newspapers in the world.

Communities cannot afford to lose newspapers; they provide a refined engagement with local issues attributable to journalists and editors who establish standards of

credibility for the news they publish, and safeguard readers against a broad brushstroke style of online news that does not engage directly with the community.

The Oundle Chronicle has been published twice a year since 1991, and is researched and written by young journalists-in-training. Although the paper is modest by most standards, its ambitions are those of any newspaper: to inform its readers about news and events, and to celebrate the people who live and work in our community. We are also conscious of the historical record that a newspaper offers for future historians.

The Chronicle greatly values the encouraging feedback from our readers. That the paper continues to be viable in these troubled times for newspapers is entirely due to our advertisers, many of which regularly feature in every issue. We are grateful for their ongoing support.  
**Co-written by Patrick Boyle**

## Peregrine falcon in Oundle

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The first to catch sight of the falcon was Noah Wood, a teacher at Oundle School. "I saw it mobbing a buzzard in the air over the Gascoigne car park. It then flew out of sight but I could hear it calling and tracked it to the church spire, knowing that it favours high, precipitous vantage points to roost on and hunt from."

Over a period of many days, bird-watchers stationed themselves in the churchyard with long lens cameras, powerful telescopes and binoculars to get a close-up view.

Peregrines can often be found above rocky sea cliffs and upland areas throughout the UK in the

black 'moustache' that contrasts with the white face.

As an apex predator, it is swift and agile in flight; its phenomenal speed makes it an awesome aerial hunter that dives onto birds on the wing, killing them in flight. The dive is called a stoop and can generate speeds of around 200mph, making it the fastest-moving creature on earth.

Pigeons seem to be its favourite prey. Oundle's falcon has been seen eating them on platforms of the church spire, where it plucks and devours them. Mr Wood said there has been some debate as to whether it is a male or female, as they are hard to tell apart.

Peregrines are no longer uncommon in Northamptonshire, but have never been recorded in Oundle. Records from the Oundle School Natural History Society in the last century report six sightings in Titchmarsh, Decoy Wood, Lilford and Cotterstock of single birds between 1928 and 1945. It is known that the population of the species crashed in the 1960s with the use of DDT in pesticides, which caused contamination through the food chain. This made their eggshells fragile and they were unable to breed successfully. Now that DDT has been banned, they have made a come-back, but had not been found in northeast Northamptonshire.

Since early November the falcon has flown off for days and then returned. "It is a stunning bird," said Mr Wood. "Here's hoping it will stay through the winter and maybe even find a mate for next spring!"



Photo by Barny Dillarstone

breeding season. In winter, they are often seen hunting above East Coast marshland. Their features include long, broad, pointed wings and a relatively short tail. They are blue-grey coloured with a blackish top to the head and an obvious

## ENC local plan

continued from page 1

the sewage works and the primary school.

Glaphorn Parish Council have also raised objections to the proposed Cotterstock Road development, which crosses into their parish boundaries. The Glaphorn Neighbourhood Plan was approved last year, and explicitly excluded this development from within its borders.

Among the sites identified in the Oundle Neighbourhood Plan, were two sites that offered the benefits of substantial green space, including a new cricket ground.

The council have pointed out that the only benefits offered by the three identified sites in the ENC plan were contributions to the cemetery.

At an Extraordinary Meeting held at St Peter's Church on 21 November, the council said: "The Local Plan is not in line with the council's wishes and aspirations."

Residents of Oundle indicated how they want the town to manage growth and development when they approved the Neighbourhood Plan. At the Extraordinary meeting attended by roughly 300 residents, a show of hands nearly unanimously agreed with the motion: "The meeting deplores the Local Plan and the three allocations, and asks that the sites in the original Neighbourhood Plan be reinstated."

The ENC Local Plan is currently in its consultation stage. Residents have until Monday 17 December 2018 to express their views about the plan to the ENC.

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Cripps Library  
Church Street  
Oundle  
Peterborough  
PE8 4EE

E: [oundlechronicle@gmail.com](mailto:oundlechronicle@gmail.com)  
[www.oundlechronicle.co.uk](http://www.oundlechronicle.co.uk)

# Campaign seeks community pledges to save Fletton Field

The power of crowdfunding comes from the number of small donations that add up to significant sums. So far, 81 donors have contributed towards 80% of the bid for Fletton Field. If most of the residents of Oundle pledged £5 or £10, the total of all those small donations would go a long way towards reaching the required bid. Each donation, no matter how small, helps to secure a green space in Oundle to be enjoyed by everyone, today and for generations to come.

To save Fletton Field, visit [www.saveflettonfield.org.uk](http://www.saveflettonfield.org.uk)



Photo from saveflettonfield.co.uk

## Patrick Boyle

The #SaveFlettonField campaign has been gathering serious momentum in recent months. With 81 different backers having pledged a total £229,455 so far, Oundle Recreation and Greenspaces Group (ORGSG) has been very effective in its efforts to protect Fletton Field.

Banners, advertisements, media campaigns, and regular trips to the local market from the ORGSG have been instrumental in the raising of awareness and financial pledges. Christina Cork, Chairwoman of the ORGSG, said: "The amount of support from the local community has been absolutely fantastic".

The largest pledge to fund the purchase of the field is from Oundle School with £125,000, followed by the Oundle Town Council with £95,000.

The ORGSG believes that the community and the school are "completely aligned" in their plans for Fletton Field. The school's offer came with conditions however, which include the establishment of a charity to run Fletton Field, and that the charity must involve school-appointed trustees.

The sale of Fletton Field was deemed necessary by the Northamptonshire County Council in order to fund the transition of Oundle Primary School to their new location on Cotterstock Road; the field had been the playing fields used by

the Oundle Primary School pupils. However, Christina Cork said: "Fletton Field's value is far in excess of short-term funding to plug a school's budget, when actually they should have done their maths".

NCC's financial difficulties were revealed last year, and since then the council has initiated a wave of radical expenditure cuts.

NCC revealed in December 2017 that it would increase council tax by 5% in 2018-19, while cutting its spending by £34m in an attempt to pay back the £609 million of borrowing the council had accumulated over recent years.

The council attempted to get planning permission for Fletton Field, believing its value could amount to around £2 million with planning permission.

The first planning application in 2016 involved a proposal for 13 dwellings. Planning authorities at East Northamptonshire Council said: "The development, by reason of the proposed density at 19 dwellings per hectare, would not be regarded as efficient use of land".

The initial planning permission request was refused. Its value as a playing field is believed to be around £200,000.

The issue of Fletton Field has been contentious, because, as members of the public have found, council-related information has

been inaccessible, and the NCC has not been straight-forward about deadlines.

"Progress is slow with the NCC... councillors can't give you answers because it's not their answer to give; they don't have the information," according to the ORGSG.

The ORGSG also criticised the NCC's surreptitious handling of the attempted sale. "When it first went on the market and the boards went up, they hadn't notified the ENC, as they should have done, to give the community six months to raise funds".

Oundle Town Council had secured the Asset of Community Value status from the ENC in 2016, which allows the community the opportunity to gather funds and submit a bid for the land ahead of any purchase by potential developers.

The NCC have not yet offered any concrete timescales or deadlines.

Fletton Field has been a public space since 1899 and its central location has benefited generations of Oundle residents. If it were to be developed by the council, Oundle's accessible greenspace



would decrease by 40%.

Neil Fraser, a member of the ORGSG, said: "Fletton Field can provide walking space, recreation space, allotments, growth space; it could be there for events, meetings...just about anything the town wants, and is soon to need".

Mr Fraser pointed out that the aims of the ORGSG are completely aligned with Oundle town's Neighbourhood Plan. Within the design statement of the plan, it is clearly stated: "Open spaces must be considered carefully when new developments or alterations are proposed. Open spaces used for sports and recreational use of the town are important and should not be lost."

Greenspaces ought to be cherished, as they provide a hub for social cohesion within the town. The ORGSG firmly believe that their £280,000 target will be met, and hope that the community continues to support the campaign.

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## Tresham Garden Village development approved

**Patrick Boyle**

A masterplan proposing the development of a "garden village" in Deenethorpe has been adopted by the East Northamptonshire Council.

The masterplan is part of a nationwide scheme to help boost sustainable rural living and this project is one of 14 schemes across the country that will share £6 million funding, along with ongoing support from the Government's Homes and Communities Agency.

The proposed development, which includes up to 1,500 homes, community facilities, shops, business premises and generous green spaces, would occupy part of the 600-acre airfield site located between the villages of Deenethorpe and Upper Benefield to the west of Oundle.

In accordance with the wishes of the current landowners, East Northamptonshire Council is referring to the development as "Tresham Garden Village" to commemorate the historic links between the Brudenell and Tresham families who have resided at Deene Park for

many years.

Leader of ENC, Cllr Steven North, said: "Our ambition is to create a unique new village with high-quality homes, first class schools, local jobs that are easy to access and plenty of green space and recreational areas, all in an outstanding location.

"Councillors debated the merits of the masterplan at our full council meeting this week and agreed that this exciting project must move forward. We have secured government funding and have consulted with the local and wider community so now that we have the masterplan approved, we're ready to see this wonderful development take shape."

A planning application for the site will be submitted in the near future. With only a 15-minute drive between Oundle and Deenethorpe, Oundle residents may well be able to benefit from the first-class facilities which are being proposed by the masterplan.

Due to the scale of this project, the proposed time frame is 10 to 15 years before the village is complete.

## North Bridge repairs

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To protect the bridge and prevent further damage, in January Highways will be introducing a 3 tonne weight limit, and bollards for width restrictions for all vehicles.

Existing weight limits will not be lifted for bridges in surrounding villages, although emergency vehi-

cles are exempt from weight limits, and can use Cotterstock Bridge.

They will be revoking the 18 tonne weight limit currently in place on Mill Road and Barnwell Road to allow for an alternative route for heavy goods vehicles into Oundle. South Bridge can take up to 40 tonne vehicles.

When the weight limit is imposed on North Bridge, permanent traffic lights will be installed on the A605 at the Barnwell junction to protect turning vehicles. Highways have not yet made a plan for HGV traffic flow through Oundle, but have proposed to monitor traffic in the early stages and put systems



in place to manage the flow when required.

The council has raised particular concern about the potential for traffic to back up on the approach to the bridge from the A605, and is waiting for comment from Highways about how to manage this.

North Bridge is a vital throughway for traffic entering the town. There are four bus and coach services that use the bridge, along with 12 to 18 school buses. Discussion is ongoing with the bus and coach companies about what the impact will be on their services.

Since May Oundle Town Council has been in discussion with Highways about Stagecoach's plans for the X4 Bus through Oundle, but Stagecoach has not yet provided a statement about its plans.

## Primary school playing field saved from sell-off after years-long campaign

The playing field at Oundle CE Primary School have been protected from sell-off by Northamptonshire County Council, and saved for generations of pupils. With the support of Tom Pursglove MP, the community appeal to retain the playing field was upheld by a recent decision from Lord Theodore Agnew, Under Secretary of State for the School System.

When Oundle Primary School moved from its location in Milton Road to Cotterstock Road in 2016, Northamptonshire County Council said a portion of the playing fields was redundant to requirements and announced their plans to sell the land. After a campaign by Hands off Our Field led by Julie Grove, the council agreed to transfer the majority of the playing fields to the school, but opted to retain one acre of the field for development, which

it valued at £1m.

Objections to the sale observed that the land did not feature in the town plan for housing. However, with budget deficits in sight, NCC was determined to realise funds from the sale of potential land for development. Before planning consent for development could be considered, the council was required to seek consent from the Secretary of State to dispose of playing field land under Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act.

Oundle CE Primary School has now converted to academy status to become part of the Peterborough Diocese Education Trust. With this transfer of the school from the local authority, the playing fields have been confirmed as belonging to the school, and will remain available for the continued use of future generations.

## OPS sprints to sporting success

**Hannah Wakeford**

Oundle Church of England Primary School is celebrating after winning the prestigious Northamptonshire Sports Premium Award at a recent prize ceremony.

The school was singled out by the judges for demonstrating exactly how sports premium money has affected teaching and learning beneficially and, specifically, proving that PE and sport is successfully embedded in the curriculum and the ethos of the school.

Oundle Primary secured the award whilst they were also

after-school clubs.

Peterborough United was so impressed with Oundle Primary's efforts, it reported this to football's Premier League, which responded by supplying brand new sports kit.

"This is a ringing endorsement of our sports and PE strategy and once again our lovely children have done us proud by throwing themselves into curricular and extra-curricular activities", said head teacher Mrs Janet McMurdo. "Being recognised for our efforts, both nationally and locally, is reward for them and for our dedicated staff



Sports teacher Michael Nyczka, headteacher Janet McMurdo and chair of governors Gordon Montgomery

and partners." Teacher Michael Nyczka, who has spearheaded the school's winning campaign, said: "This has been five or six years in the making and is the result of some very hard work. Sports premium funding is vital in order to give some of the children a better chance in PE and sport and I guess we have used that opportunity to the full."

Strong commitment by teachers assisted by coaches from outside agencies, including Peterborough Football Club, ensured that 77 per cent of Key Stage Two children and as many as 90 per cent of pupils supported by sports premium took part in active or healthy

finalists in the overall Northamptonshire Sports School of the Year category.

# Open Learning Partnership launched in Oundle

Heads, Governors, Academy leaders and senior staff representing all four Oundle schools, alongside Thomas Deacon Academy

launch of a new partnership known as the Oundle, Peterborough and East Northants (OPEN) Learning Partnership.

university representatives from Oxford and Goldsmiths.

Janet McMurdo, Head Teacher at Oundle CE Primary School opened the evening to mark the latest phase of this local initiative, and the evening was rounded off by a joint presentation from Liz Dormor, Principal of Prince William School and Sarah Kerr-Dineen, Head of Oundle School.

Julie Taylor, CEO of the Thomas Deacon Education Trust, delivered the evening's keynote speech on 'The Potential of Partnership'.

The OPEN Learning Partnership is a collaboration between primary and secondary schools from both maintained and independent sectors which aims to offer opportunity and experience that individual schools could not offer alone, allowing pupils to work with, and be challenged by others of similar ability or interest.

Each member school will

promote and facilitate access to these activities for pupils and teachers, and act as host for events which take place in their school.

Activities in recent years have included science events, maths conferences, engineering challenges, open lectures, debates and shared professional meetings of teachers.



The founding Chair of the OPEN Learning Partnership is Gordon Montgomery, Head of Community Partnerships at Oundle School.

"This formal partnership is just the next phase of maturing school-to-school connections which have grown in recent years. Every school in this partnership has expertise to contribute in order to help address our common areas for improvement," he said.



Oundle School Head, Sarah Kerr-Dineen and Prince William School Principal, Liz Dormor delivered a joint presentation

and Kettering Buccleuch Academy, gathered at Oundle School's Great Hall in November for the official

Other guests included Oundle's Mayor Jerry Hutton, former MP Andy Sawford and

## Prince William School opens new science block

### Johnny Capstick-Dale

Prince William School's new science block opened at the start of term, and was named by a group of pupils after Francis Crick, Northamptonshire's famous scientist. The new facility will allow 14 classes of young scientists to study at one time.

At the official opening in September, Tom Pursglove MP encouraged the students to "make the most of it, and keep working. Hard work pays dividends in the end".

To cheers of the pupils, he unveiled the dedication plaque.

Chris Campbell, Assistant Principal: Science at Prince William School said that the block is already having a positive effect on pupil enthusiasm.

"The new facilities will ensure that science lessons can be conducted with a greater level of challenge

which in turn will increase engagement and enthusiasm in the classroom. The block will benefit both our current and our future pupils by creating a fantastic new learning environment with modern equipment," he said.

Family owned construction company Jeakins Weir have been building for Prince William School and other Northamptonshire schools such as Roade Primary School, Moulton Primary School and Henry Chichele Primary School for 30 years, and completed the modern science block for £3.6 million. The new building, with its impressive facilities and capacity, has been welcomed by the school.

Mr Campbell said: "It is an impressive building, one that staff and students alike will simply just enjoy being in and working in, and that in itself will make people more

enthusiastic towards science."

Asked whether the block is worth this investment, Mr Campbell said: "Investing in science and education is essential to overcome environmental challenges in the future. Providing high-quality teaching facilities is incredibly important in order to help young people at the Prince William School reach their full potential. The new Science block is something for all

members of the school community to be proud of.

"This pride will be reflected in students' attitude and work ethic as they use the new facilities."

The funding came from Prince William School's sponsors, the EMLC Academy Trust, which began sponsoring PWS in 2015, allowing the school to start this refurbishment programme.



Cllr Sandra Naden-Horley from Northamptonshire County Council, Tom Pursglove MP, Prince William School Principal Elizabeth Dormor, school governor Debbie Twigger and school governor Emma Tansley



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## Sir David Attenborough pays tribute to Sir Peter Scott

A new house at Oundle School was officially opened in September by Sir David Attenborough.

Named in honour of Sir Peter Scott, who was a pupil at Oundle School in the 1920s, Scott House is the new home for Oundle's junior

area, changing rooms and a quiet study room, while retaining original architectural details.

Signed art work by Sir Peter and his daughter Dafila is on display throughout the House.

The house emblem bears the

passes through its doors. Knowledge of the natural world is being lost with every generation, and we will educate and engage our pupils to ensure they take a natural lead in conservation efforts."

It was Sir Peter's father Captain Robert Falcon Scott who, in his last letter from the ill-fated Antarctic expedition, gave the instruction to Sir Peter's mother, Kathleen, to "make him interested in natural history".

## The legacy of Sir Peter Scott

**Erica Pascoe**

Unobserved by many, the nation's best loved broadcaster, Sir David Attenborough, slipped into town in early October to open Oundle School's new junior day house, Scott House, named after Old Oundelian Sir Peter Scott, who left Oundle in 1927.

about birds with two other classmates.

As well as being a painter, Sir Peter was a war hero and Olympic sportsman. But his primary interest remained the natural world, about which he produced countless books and television programmes. Sir David said that Sir Peter's deep knowledge about wildlife impressed him more than he could say.

As a broadcaster, Sir Peter commentated on the television broadcast of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, and as an ornithologist and conservationist he presented the first BBC nature television programme 'Look' from 1955 to 1981, which included the first BBC wildlife documentary filmed in colour, 'The Private Life of the Kingfisher' in 1967. His programmes inspired millions with the wonders of the natural world.

During a talk in the Great Hall, Sir David said that of all those who have worked in the field of conservation, the one name that stands out is that of Sir Peter Scott.



Sir David Attenborough opened Oundle School's new day house, named in honour of the Old Oundelian Sir Peter Scott

day pupils.

Together with Sir Peter's daughter Dafila Scott, her family, and Martin Spray (CEO Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust), Sir David toured the beautifully restored building, which features a listed façade that was originally a folly set within the gardens of The Berrystead on North Street.

Merging the adjacent buildings with a dramatically glazed atrium, the school adapted the house for pupil use with a café and break-out

image of a shoveler duck drawn by Sir Peter while a pupil.

Fiona Quiddington, Housemistress of Scott House, is keen to ensure the pupils learn and become inspired by the life Sir Peter led.

"Scott House represents a new era at Oundle School. To be named after a man who led such a diverse and fascinating life – not only a world-renowned conservationist but a naval officer, painter and Olympic sportsman – Scott House hopes to inspire every child who

## Oundle Primary School awarded Gold School Games Mark

**Hannah Wakeford**

Oundle Primary School is aiming to obtain the School Games Platinum Mark of 2019 after achieving a Gold Mark for the fourth consecutive academic year.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme that

to assess themselves, with bronze, silver and gold levels of the mark available. It allows schools to evaluate their PE programs and to develop ideas for improving these programmes further.

There have been 35,500 School Games Mark applications since the scheme was set up.

Oundle Primary School is known for its efforts in encouraging pupils to participate in sporting activities, with 77% of its Key Stage 2 children partaking in a sporting activity in an after-school club.

The school has also enjoyed a strong link with Peterborough United through the Premier League Primary Stars Programme, and took part in 20 local inter-school sporting competitions.

The head teacher at Oundle CE Primary School, Mrs Janet McMurdo said: "We are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport and to receive this award is a well-earned reward for them."



was launched in 2012, assisted by the Youth Sports Trust, to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community.

Schools across England are able



Peter Scott with David Attenborough at Slimbridge in 1962

Sir Peter Scott, said to be "the most important man in the establishment of the conservation movement" had been a friend and life-long source of inspiration for Sir David. They met in the 1950s and 1960s when they both worked for the BBC presenting wildlife programmes.

Peter Scott was the only child of Sir Robert Falcon Scott, the explorer who led two expeditions to the Antarctic. Even though his name is not so familiar to the current generation, Sir Peter was very famous during his lifetime.

After a degree in History of Art at Cambridge, Sir Peter became a portrait artist, however his focus soon swung to his passion for wildlife, which had been nurtured during his time at Oundle School, where many of the teachers, including the Headmaster, were keen naturalists and ornithologists.

It was at Oundle that he illustrated and published his first book

He was a member of the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature where he helped create the Red Data books, the first list compiled of the world's endangered species.

Sir Peter's legacy now lives on as co-founder of the World Wide Fund for Nature, for which he designed its panda logo, and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.



Photo from Oundle School Archive

## What will Brexit bring to the Market Place?

**Joseph Meisner**  
**Archie Parkinson**

It seems impossible to escape Brexit at the moment. The Irish border question, trade and possibilities of 'no deal' have dominated the news cycle for the past two years and could continue to do so, right up to midnight on March 29th.

Businesses across Oundle, from a variety of sectors, have voiced concerns about the Brexit negotiations, suggesting they could lead to a higher cost of living and reduce their revenue. They attribute this to the potential loss of trade in and out of the UK, especially from the EU, as well as a possible general economic downturn.

The phrase "Project Fear" recurred in conversations across the business community.

But opinion locally can be as divided as opinion in the national press. Estate Agent Chris Woodford thinks we are already experiencing this downturn, observing a "slowdown in activity in retail and in sales of property".

Sharon Coleman of Sharman Quinney disagreed, however. "We are still selling really well, and have seen nothing like the

uncertainty predicted."

Nigel Croskell, of Southams, acknowledged that there was uncertainty. "I am not thrilled with how things are going", he said, focusing blame on the negotiators. "You don't show your negotiating hand before you have started negotiating", referring to the "divorce settlement".

His strongest words were reserved for the political class, dismissing their worries about a strong economic hit. "Mark Carney never gets it right, the economists don't know what's going to happen, the IMF don't know what's going to happen, the politicians don't know what's going to happen, no one knows what's going to happen."

Another businessman called Mr Carney's predictions "guesswork".

Stuart Blow, of Stu-Pots, said: "I think you'll probably see 10% [rise in prices] because of the extra paperwork, time, all the people they have got to employ to manage it. You can guarantee it's going to be the end-consumer, not the big businesses, who will bear the costs."

He did urge caution, however. "It won't be the worst-case scenar-

io, it never is."

Graham Darbourne, from the accountants Bulley Davey, thought that business could slow down, and that potential customers might leave.

All the businesses agreed that the country must leave, citing the democratic process, and some are anxious the result of the referendum will not be honoured. Two longstanding Oundle businessmen, who wish not to be named, are concerned that the "big corporations will not let it happen".

*"'Project Fear' recurred in conversations across the business community."*

"It's the first time the establishment haven't had their way and had their liberal agenda defeated and they don't like it one bit." They think that a so-called hard Brexit is the only way the vote can be respected.

There was no consensus about what deal the government should pursue. Bilal Vohra, from the pharmacy, backed staying in the customs union, Mr Blow backed

the Chequers proposal, calling it the "only deal on the table", while others reluctantly said that Brexit must be delivered in full, with Britain carrying out a clean break from the EU.

One businessman said: "It will be easy to make trade across the world. We had deals all over before, and the EU tied us up."

Some saw positive potential about leaving the EU that could help the UK. It would greatly help Stu-Pots, for example, if the UK managed to secure a free trade deal with China, something the EU does not have. Mr Blow said: "Deregulation will help us."

Others took issue with Brexit coverage in the media: "Why wouldn't you put it down to the general economy? Why put it down to Brexit? What reason do you have to say it's Brexit?"

Some called for the media to recognise the "positives, not just the negatives".

All the businesses agreed that a decrease in immigration levels to the UK will not have a noticeable effect on the town.

The Oundle Pharmacy was upfront about its worries, and was the shop most concerned that a deal is reached. They told us how many ingredients in their stock come

Continued on page 8

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## Brexit and the Market Place

continued from page 7

from the EU, and how it is essential that the UK gains a strong free trade agreement.

They warned of dire consequences. "Stockpiling is happening. Not for individual pharmacies but for wholesalers." They have found many more products to be out of stock. However, they did think it will be good to leave. "It will allow the UK to make its own trade deals, and freedom to make its own rules".

East Northamptonshire Councillor, Rupert Reichhold, does predict a minor impact, and emphasised the importance of a deal. He strongly backs Theresa May, his fellow Conservative, to achieve the deal that the country deserves.

"The strength of the town and the country will carry us through this difficult time," he said.

Businesses were confident in Oundle's ability to stay afloat. Trendall's, the butchers, relies on local produce and local customers, so they will not be affected.

Sharman Quinney said that the property business will be able "to adapt to the market, that's what businesses do".

Woodfords struck a similar tone, and Southams is just as eager for the negotiations to end.

Some are actually excited about the new opportunities Brexit could bring. Whatever the outcome, business owners just want it over so that Oundle can carry on with business as usual.

## A year of disruption and change at NCC

Giovanni Bernardi

Feeling confused about how this came to pass, and what lies ahead? Here is a timeline of the events and decisions that have been rolled out over the last year.

**September 2017** The council leader Heather Smith asked the government for an extra £115m for social services, blaming the government's funding formula for not factoring in fast-growing populations. She said the increasing population was affecting local services' abilities to cater to everyone.

**November 2017** Council workers are asked to take a day's unpaid leave in an attempt by the council to save over £2m. The money saved on December 27th, however, made up only about two percent of the total required to save the NCC from bankruptcy.

**January 2018** Secretary of State for local government Sajid Javid

# Unitary plans for Northamptonshire get green light

Giovanni Bernardi

Northamptonshire County Council is to be split into two unitary authorities, said Inspector Max Caller, following a financial crisis affecting the NCC over the last year.

The eight principal councils in Northamptonshire have sent proposals to the Secretary of State for the abolition of these principal councils (NCC and seven district councils), and their replacement by two adjoining unitary councils. The new "Unitary North Northamptonshire" incorporating Oundle would comprise the Corby, East Northamptonshire, Wellingborough and Kettering territories.

Town and parish councils are not affected by the proposals.

Rupert Reichhold, a district councillor for the East Northamptonshire Council and former county councillor, said "In the proposals, we and other present principal councils have asked for a total of 78 unitary councillors for Unitary North Northamptonshire Council, based on three unitary councillors for every present NCC Electoral Division. This is to allow for sufficient councillors both to cover the wider range of work now done separately by the current councils, and to deal with constituents' case work on the many issues raised by us."

Oundle is currently represented by Heather Smith. Cllr Reichhold said: "I respect Councillor Heather Smith, who is a good councillor."

However, Ms Smith remains undecided about whether to continue: "I haven't yet made any decision on whether or not to stand as an Independent Unitary Councillor. Naturally there will no longer be any County Councillors."

ordered Inspector Max Caller to investigate the council's financial status after concerns over its performance.

**February 2018** Council imposed emergency notice section 114 for the first time in 20 years, one month after Inspector Caller was hired to look at the council's way to manage money. It banned all new spending for the upcoming year.

**March 2018** Inspector Caller finishes his investigation and reveals his recommendation that the council to be split into two unitary authorities by 2020. Shortly after, Chief Executive Damon Lawrenson left his post.

**May 2018** Two commissioners were appointed by the government to work at the Northamptonshire County Council and oversee

During the transition, the current council structure will be maintained for one more year to allow councils to complete the arrangements for restructuring, with the two elections for the two unitaries being held in April 2020. Two unitaries will come into operation in May 2020. It is proposed that a group from the current council remain as a 'residual body' to make sure a financial crisis is not repeated.

It is expected that services available to the new councils would increase with the passing of time as the two unitaries reach a more stable position after their development: "Again, the costs of such transformation will be significant



Image from Future Northants

and the benefits will only accrue in later years."

Mr. Reichhold said: "Having served as a Northamptonshire County councillor between 2001 and 2013, I am sorry that Northamptonshire County Council will be coming to an end. We now need to look forward to make success of the successor unitary councils."

financial management and their governance of the area. The two commissioners, led by former chief executive of Lincolnshire County Council Tony McArdie, are to be in place until the end of March 2021 and will issue a report to the Secretary of State every three months detailing the council's progress.

**July 2018** A second 114 notice was issued by Chief Finance Officer Mark McLaughlin, due to financial pressures and the 'completely insupportable' approach to financial management. Because of this, the council is likely to deliver only main statutory services for the "foreseeable future". The notice added that the council has "no financial resilience".

**August 2018** NCC councillors vote to scrap current management of the Northampton area. In a vote

The unitaries will certainly need to avoid the previous mistakes detailed in the Inspector's report.

Mr Reichhold pointed out that the NCC was not the only council having financial problems. "This is because the government changed the law. They reformed the present way in which government supports the councils. In the past there was a block grant - a revenue support grant - which aimed to cover two-thirds of every council's expenditure. The other third, the council would fund themselves via domestic taxes. The Government said it would taper down and end Revenue Support Grant, and repatriate all business rates back to the council. That hasn't really started and NCC coped by raising council tax each year by two percent."

Inspector Max Caller had another view, however. "During the period under review NCC's performance has been characterised by three elements: poor budget management, the 'Next Generation Council', and a claim that NCC was specifically and unusually disadvantaged by the funding formula.

"NCC has the fastest growing tax base of any county council. During this period NCC's tax base has grown by an impressive 11%. The comparable figures for England and all county councils are 8% and 7% respectively."

In a devastating conclusion, the report said: "In essence, no effective work had been done by NCC to turn a radical vision of a future operating model for a County Council into a practical system which recognised the need to join up services and ensure effective controls for the use of public money."

of 31 for to 14 against, the decision showed the majority of the council was prepared to accept the new change, and were willing to adapt. The Secretary of State is to decide whether the council will go ahead with the restructuring into the two unitaries by November 2018.

**Nov 2018** Secretary of State James Brokenshire launches eight week consultation on local government restructuring.

**April 2019** Shadow authorities created to form 'residual body'. Local district and parish elections to be cancelled to save costs.

**1 April 2020** New unitaries established.

**May 2020** Elections for representation on new unitaries.



## Police beat

### Giorgio Capuzzello

According to the latest published police report data, there was a general increase in crime from August to September, totalling 33 crimes. While there were eight cases of antisocial behaviour during both months, the number of burglaries increased from three to eight. The number of cases relating to violence or sex decreased from eight to a total of five.

During a burglary that happened sometime between August 10 to 24 at Spurlings, criminals forced entry and stole three designer handbags and a vehicle after taking its keys.

On August 31 a burglary took place in Springfield Road. A housemate had left the window open and on his return to the shared property, some items had been stolen, including the keys to a W Reg Corsa, which was taken from the driveway.



Image from northants.police.uk

A van was stolen from Rock Road between September 6 -7.

Between August 31 and September 7, unknown people damaged three solar lights placed along a garden on Cricketers Way.

A vehicle crime took place in a car park on Benefield Road on September 5. Unknown persons removed the metal trim from a Red Peugeot 108, which had been left locked and secured.

A theft took place at Boots in the Market Place, on September 3 when a male and a female shoplifted goods totalling £2653. On September 10, the male returned to the store. He was recognised by the staff and was arrested while carrying a variety of stolen items.

At an attempted burglary on Cotterstock Road on September 11, the offenders were disturbed by the resident and left.

A vehicle parked in Clifton Drive, Oundle was broken into on September 14. Money was taken and a tin of sweets was stolen.

Offenders broke into both a garage and the vehicle parked inside it on September 15 in Benefield Road, Oundle. Nothing was taken.

There was a burglary at a property in St Peters Road on September

24. Whilst doing some gardening, the resident removed her ring and wristwatch, opened a window at the front of the property and placed the items inside and closed the window. After returning from a shower, both items were missing.

During the night of September 26, the owner of Angels Catering in North Street found that the front door had been forced open and a search of the whole shop had been conducted. On the same night, suspects gained entry into the Kingfisher Café, in Barnwell Country Park, causing damage to the locks on the door, and a grill was stolen. This was the third burglary at the premises in three months.

There was an attempted distraction burglary at a property in Latham Road, Oundle on September 16. An unknown female called at the address asking for money in order to get to Birmingham Hospital where she said her son had been air lifted to. The police arrived on the scene after a call from a friend. The suspect was detained and

arrested for another un-associated crime.

There was an attempted burglary at a property in West Street on September 30. A man, having climbed onto the roof of the property, broke the skylight, alarming the occupant.

During the night between October 22 and 23, in New Road, Oundle, criminals used an unknown instrument to shatter the driver's side window on a vehicle parked in the street. Access was not gained.

At the Co-op on October 24, offenders forced their entry to the delivery yard of the supermarket and raided the contents of the tobacco counter.

There was a burglary in Mill Road, Oundle between October 24 and October 26. The key safe was found to be missing and the garden door was open. The alarm had been ripped off a door on the inside of the property and the property had been disturbed.

On 21 November a television was stolen from a property on Milton Road, and between 25-26 November, the Oundle Rugby Club was burgled and items taken from a secure container.

## Animal licensing law has changed to protect animal welfare

Pet owners should be aware of new animal licensing laws that affect how residents and local businesses buy and sell pets, or run day care or animal boarding services.

Anyone who sells pets or who breeds more than three litters a year needs to apply for a licence from the council. Adverts selling pets must now include: the licence number; the name of the local authority issuing the licence; a photograph and pet listing the age; the county of origin and residence of the animal.

If you're looking to buy a pet, it is important that you look out for this information to make sure that the animal seller or breeder is doing so legitimately to ensure animal welfare.

The new legislation is intended to ensure a good standard of animal welfare, as well as protect pet owners.

The new law also requires anyone offering day care or

home-boarding to apply for a licence from the council. It is in the interests of the pet owner to be sure that anyone providing these services holds the correct licence.



A new star rating has been rolled out for all animal activity licences, with ratings ranging from one to five, five being the maximum that can be achieved. This rating will be displayed on the licence.

Steven North, at the ENC said: "The changes in animal licensing laws will help to further protect animal welfare, and ensure that anyone selling and breeding pets or offering home-boarding services is responsible when caring for animals."



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# Counterfeit money purchased online circulates in the Market Place

**Joseph Meisner**  
**Tom Pilsbury**

Reflecting trends across the country, businesses in Oundle have experienced counterfeit money. Dexters, The Talbot, Beans, Co-op, Crackers and Oundle News are all known to have received fraudulent notes.

According to Beans Coffee Stop, the most common fake is the £20 note, which has been a recurring problem. In order to verify the note, Beans has a UV light scanner that shows if the note is fake. The Co-op also now has a UV light at every till. Sometimes the fake notes do not show up though, and Beans

only discovers them when they are exchanging money at the Post Office.

Most of the time, people do not realise their notes are fake. However, the manager at Beans said they can tell when people do know they have a fake note. "They try to buy the cheapest item to get the note off their hands."

In one incident, "a lady came in with big wedge of £20 notes, and when the one she paid with turned out to be fake, she walked straight into Crackers next door."

Despite fakes most often being £20 notes, fake £50 notes have also posed a problem. Beans and The

Talbot Hotel both received their first fake £50 notes on the same day in late November. These notes do not show up as clearly on the UV scanner, and so each one has to be checked individually by staff.

When a business receives a counterfeit note, it is a criminal offence to pass it on. Beans confiscates the fake note and reports it to the police. The Co-op hands it back and advises the customer to go to the bank.

new businesses springing up.

Prices range from £20 for £400 worth of fake notes to £100 for £2,000 worth. The notes are paid for via Bitcoin or bank transfer, and posted or left at collection points not linked to the seller.

Fraudsters use unmonitored forums and dormant websites to attract traffic to their sites. The Old Northamptonians Cricket Club website has not been active in the last year and its forum is

## Playing Monopoly is a good investment

**Grace Maund**

Having an edition of the Oundle Monopoly board might be more of a good investment than just a game, and owners may want to hang onto them. The boards have become collectable.

School pupils and released for sale in May 2009. They were a huge success, with 1,150 pre-ordered boards and more sold in the Oundle market, to a total of 1,224. Orders even came from as far away as America, Malaysia, Hong Kong, St Lucia and



Ten years after their release, a board attracted 20 bids on eBay in September and sold for a hefty £86, having originally sold for £25. Anyone interested in the investment value of their board may have to keep it in its box, as collectors are always keen for items to remain in pristine condition.

The boards include various landmarks around Oundle town, with the most coveted properties, SciTec and Cobthorne, replacing Mayfair and Park Lane at 400 and 350 monopoly dollars respectively.

Looking at the board now, you can see how much Oundle has changed over the past decade, with longstanding shops such as Normans, Archies and Cottons having closed. Newer residents of the town will notice how much current properties have changed, such as the shopfronts to the Coffee Tavern and Eastern Spices.

The Oundle Monopoly boards were created by a group of Oundle

Australia.

Managing director of Oundle Monopoly, Jacob Dillarstone, said at the time: "We hope that the final product effectively portrays Oundle as a town, and as a school community, and that for those people for whom Oundle was or is a home, the workplace, or school, it brings back fond memories."

The pupils created the board as part of the Oundle School Charity Ventures scheme. They were able to donate over £13,000 to Volunteer Action, which aims to help elderly residents by organising drivers to take people to medical appointments, shopping trips or social events.

Another Oundle collectible was recently launched by Volunteer Action in May 2018 - a jigsaw puzzle of Oundle town.

The puzzle costs £20 and is still available from Oundle Bookshop, Coleman's Stationery and the Dolby Gallery.



Oundle News confiscated this £20 counterfeit note

In 2014, the number of counterfeit Bank of England banknotes taken out of circulation was around 430,000 with a face value of £8.05m, a reduction from 693,000 banknotes with a face value of £11.76m in 2013.

The most counterfeited was the £20 note. Earlier this year it was estimated that as many as three per cent of the old round pounds were fake, representing £50 million of fake coinage in circulation in the UK at the time.

Fake versions of the new fivers are believed to be in circulation, but the new pound coin has been hailed as the most secure currency in the world.

The Bank of England thinks that almost all counterfeit notes are removed from circulation quickly as a result of retailers banking their takings.

Counterfeit money impacts the global economy. There have been cases where a nation has tried to destabilize the economy of a political and economic rival by counterfeiting their currency and transporting it into the market. This not only weakens them economically, but also socially and politically.

But the market has proved hard to combat. It is now much easier to distribute fake goods because of the dark web and encrypted services that protect the identity of the seller. Police are closing accounts down every week but they simply cannot keep track of the number of

unmonitored and available to anyone to make posts.

The Oundle Chronicle found that this site is being used by fraudsters in the counterfeit market to post discreet links to websites, whatsapp contacts and email addresses for counterfeit bills. One post had 357 views in the last six months.

The claims of one post highlights the problems that counterfeit currency creates: "Our money is perfectly reproduced, Indistinguishable to the eye and to the touch. We are sending in various sizes, packed and hidden. All our notes carries all the holograms and watermarks and passes the light detector test. We will deliver the money directly to your home without the interference of customs. we have a Huge quantity ready in stock."

The posts direct users to a website that offers counterfeit products based in Bavaria, Germany. Other posts direct buyers to a site from Ukraine.

How can you tell if a note is counterfeit? There is plenty of help on the Bank of England website, including a "banknotes virtual tour" showing how to check for security features on genuine notes.

It is a criminal offence to keep or pass on a note you know to be counterfeit. If you think a note looks dodgy you should hand it to the police, who will issue a receipt promising its return if it turns out to be real.

## Barnwell Castle on At Risk Register

### Alfie Peterson

Historic England has listed the condition of Barnwell Castle as "poor", and entered it on its 2018 Heritage at Risk Register.

Historic England East Midlands is working with the owner to help manage and repair this important castle, which is a Scheduled Monument of national importance, granting it protection from unauthorised changes.

on Historic England's advice.

Barnwell castle was built in 1266 during the reign of King Henry III by Berenger Le Moynes, who was found to have built it without a licence. It was then passed to the Manor to the Abbots of Ramsey with whom it remained until the dissolution, and was then granted to Sir Edmund Montagu in the 16th century.

The castle was most probably



Despite the demolition of its internal buildings in the late 17th century, Barnwell Castle is considered to have survived in a remarkably complete form. But in recent years, vegetation growth and deterioration of the local limestone has led to structural issues presenting the possibility of collapse.

The owner is working on a phased programme of vegetation management and repairs, drawing

used as a farmyard and walled orchard during the 1700s and 1800s, with access coming from a break in the west wall.

In 1920 a tennis court was created within the castle walls.

The castle is located on Armston road in Barnwell. In 1938 it was purchased by the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, after passing from the Duke of Buccleuch's estate.

## Barnwell opens new playpark with Communities Facilities Fund

Residents in Barnwell have a new outdoor community space to enjoy after receiving support from East Northamptonshire Council's Community Facilities Fund project.

The recreational play area within the grounds of the Montagu Arms was officially opened in October by the Chairman of East Northamptonshire Council, Cllr Wendy Brackenbury and Leader of ENC, Cllr Steven North.

Barnwell Parish Council successfully secured funding from the Community Facilities Fund to deliver the brand new play area for local residents and visitors to enjoy.

Cllr 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 of Barnwell will enjoy their new facilities for years to come."

The Community Facilities Fund provides 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.

## Open Garden Day success raises funds for Cransley Hospice



Gardeners Lois Fletcher and Alison Lloyd presented a cheque for £4458 to Allision Waterhouse (centre) from Cransley Hospice

### Hannah Wakeford

Early in the summer, eleven gardens in Oundle opened to the public to raise money for Cransley Hospice Trust.

On the day, a phenomenal £4458 was raised for Cransley Hospice, far exceeding the initial £2,000 target.

The Open Gardens event was organised by Alison Lloyd, whose

father came under the hospice's care. Cransley Hospice cares for patients in East Northamptonshire with life-limiting illnesses, either at the hospice at St Mary's Hospital, Kettering, or the patient's home. Hospice care includes physical and mental health, and social and spiritual care, and is very dependent on fund-raising and donations to maintain its services.

## Post office relocation stalled

### Erica Pascoe

After nearly three years of uncertainty, the Post Office's future is on the road to security. The Post Office was due to relocate to the Oundle Pharmacy in the Market Place before Christmas, but building works required for the refurbishment have caused the move to be delayed until after the new year.

With plans for the creation of a more open-plan space requiring the premises to be vacated, a temporary cabin will be installed in the Market Place to allow the Pharmacy to continue trading during the refurbishment.

Kam and Mick Patel have been running the Post Office on New Street with their father Rashik since 1987. When the Post Office changed their contracts, they worked as an agent contracted to Post Office Ltd on behalf of the Royal Mail.

Due to restructuring of the

business model for delivery of retail post office services, Post Office Ltd advertised for a new or existing retailer in Oundle to share its floor space and provide the services of a traditional post office.

In 2018, the Pharmacy owners were successful in their application to obtain the franchise for a new Post Office main branch. They were required to identify potential business opportunities and implement innovative working methods to promote Post Office products within the business. Post Office Ltd are covering the costs of the equipment and its installation.

Even though plans for the move have been put on hold, the new Post Office is expected to bring many benefits for customers. The new facility will be a bit more accessible than the existing Post Office, and will have longer hours.

## Festive lights at Christmas

### Hannah Wakeford

After a brief period of uncertainty, the Town Council ensured that there would be a Christmas tree in the Market Place to gather round and celebrate the festive season.

The Oundle Rotary Club had helped to fund the town's Market Place Christmas tree for a number of years. However, earlier in the year, the President of the Club said that it could no longer be responsi-

ble for the lights and maintenance of the Christmas tree.

Fortunately a solution was found to keep the town's Christmas traditions. The tree was, as usual, donated by Fotheringhay Christmas Trees.

The council, along with over 50 local businesses, generously contributed to the cost of the lights across town, and the installation and maintenance of the tree.

# What it means to click the "Accept" pop-up on a website

**Giovanni Bernardi**

How many times have you opened your favourite website, only to be greeted by a pop-up message reading "We've updated our privacy policy. Click here to Accept"?

The GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) was agreed by the European Parliament in 2016, and came into force on the 25th May 2018. The purpose of this regulation is to "Harmonize data privacy laws across Europe, protect and empower all EU citizens' data privacy and reshape the way organizations across the region approach data privacy."

But what does all that exactly mean?

retain your data for access to services or for targeted advertising.

"Cookies" that track your online behaviour are then installed individually on each browser, but you do have to go through the same "accept" system when you use another device running a different browser.

If you refuse consent, you might find the website prevents you from accessing some of its features, as the new law has introduced some very hefty fines if not followed.

This is the second major change to the Data Protection rules: the new legislation fines any company that violates them - up to four percent of a company's global turnover or \$20m, depending on whichever

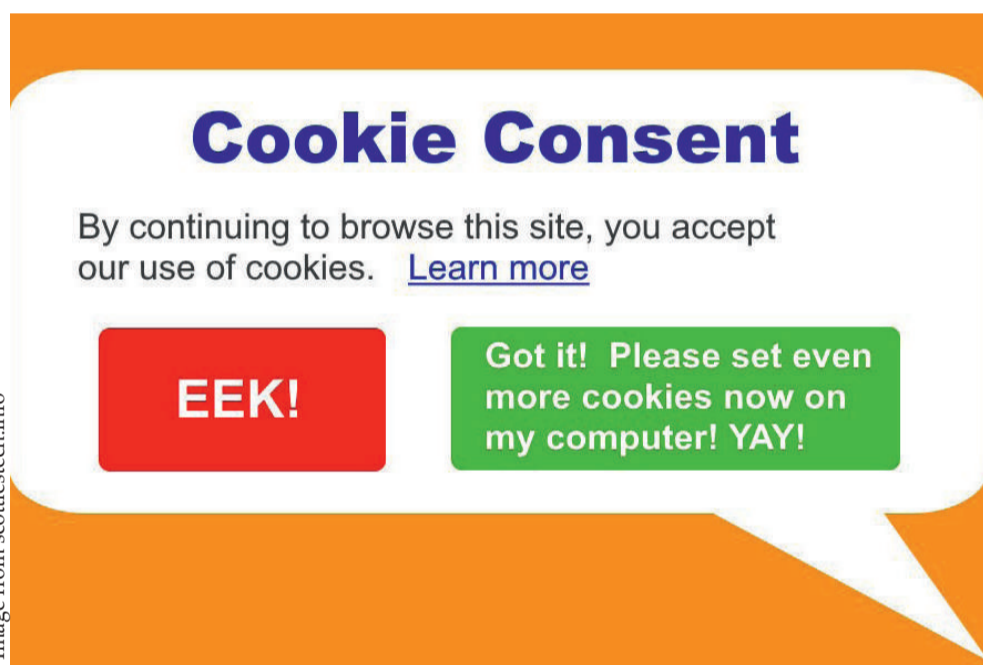


Image from scottiestech.info

GDPR has a global reach and requires users of websites to click an agreement about data use before accessing its content

The new law replaces the 1995 Data Protection Directive, which was becoming outdated with the development of new technologies and the expansion of the Internet. While parts of the GDPR remain the same, the new rules expand the old in two fundamental ways.

First, the new regulation sets the bar for obtaining and using personal information higher than ever before. This causes companies to need explicit consent from EU customers for these companies to collect your personal data. This is why your favourite websites, but in particular social media such as Facebook or Twitter, have asked users to agree to their "updated privacy policy".

Most users click the "Accept" button without thinking twice, not knowing why or what they are accepting. After all, who actually reads the 20-page-long policy?

If you click "Accept", you are allowing the website to collect and

is the larger sum of money. This is potentially billions of dollars for big companies such as Google and Facebook, and the impact is potentially fatal for smaller companies that rely on traffic from these corporate giants.

Some companies outside the EU, particularly American companies, have opted out entirely, and block access to EU users because their websites are not GDPR compliant. Other companies have removed their website's ability to collect or track data entirely, and for EU users, now offer sites completely free of advertisements. For instance, USA Today now offers a website completely free of advertisements for EU users.

Next time you see an "updated privacy policy" alert, make sure you read even one of the dozens of pages to find out just what that website does with your data.

# Seven simple strategies for maintaining good mental health

**Lily Wolfson**

Are you really looking after yourself? Are you sure?

Most people will, at some point in their lives, struggle with mental health. Depression is one of the most common disorders in the world, the third leading cause of disability, affecting three percent of the UK population. Despite its prominence, a minimal awareness and understanding of this illness exists.

We have all felt low, tired and stressed at points in our lives. But when you felt blue, did you look after yourself and take it easy until you felt better? I doubt it. When it comes to "being in good health", most people automatically think about physical health such as being fit or losing some weight. But in order to be healthy, one needs to focus equally on both physical and mental health. Seven simple changes to habits can help improve your emotional wellbeing and keep you happy.

## Making time for yourself

Ever wanted to take up a hobby and been defeated by the usual "lack of time"?

Taking a step back from your hectic life and focusing on yourself is as challenging as it is beneficial. Whether "me-time" involves piano lessons, watching a boxset on TV or curling up with a book, time-for-yourself will keep you happy, make you more productive doing less enjoyable tasks, and help keep you relaxed in our busy world.

## Stop multi-tasking and take things one step at a time

Rather than helping you complete more tasks in less time, multi-tasking has the contrary effect. It reduces attentiveness and impairs your ability to function at your finest. Finishing tasks one-thing-at-a-time will help you reduce stress, allow you to work to a higher standard on individual tasks and instill calm into your life.

## Reflecting on positives

Gratitude is a skill which needs cultivating, nurturing and developing. Experiencing genuine appreciation for what you have, rather than always striving for more improves emotional wellbeing by promoting optimism and helping develop a positive outlook on life. Taking just a minute a day to list ten things you are grateful for, allows you to magnify positive emotions and celebrate the present moment.

## Sleep

Sleep is essential for physical and mental health. People who suffer from sleep problems, such as

insomnia or chronic oversleeping are at higher risk of depression. No magic number exists, but experts agree you should get between seven to nine hours sleep per night. To improve sleep, get into a routine of sleeping and waking around the same time every day; avoid food and alcohol at least two hours before bedtime; establish a wind-down sleep routine.

## Exercise

Anyone who has run 5K or successfully lifted weights can relate to the immediate endorphin-induced euphoria after exercising. While it may seem transient, physical exercise is an effective way to combat depression. You cannot ignore the scientists: it is a physiological fact that physical activity fights depression.

Exercise increases blood flow to the brain, releases endorphins which are the body's own natural antidepressant and releases other neurotransmitters, like serotonin, which help lift mood. 140 minutes a week of moderate exercise is recommended; equivalent to 20 minutes of speed-walking each day.

## Don't isolate yourself

Simply putting yourself in a social atmosphere can lift your spirits. Try going to a place where people share interests with you, like a museum or park, or a friend's house for tea. Humans are by nature social creatures; we need other humans to survive, to help develop our social cognitions, and social interactions allow us to express feelings and share any problems.

## Get help when you need it

Asking for help is a strength not a weakness.

Perhaps you've noticed that you find daily life harder than before; you are having mood swings, feeling worried or spending a disproportionate amount of time feeling blue. While online forums, family and friends provide a fantastic support network, these are not always sustainable. In Oundle there are mental health professionals. You just need to ask for help.

Every year, the Oundle Chronicle donates money to a local charity. This year, our chosen charity is Dovedale Mental Health Support, a charity that provides a variety of day services for anyone who is struggling. From group activities to one-to-one work, this professional service offers support for a range of mental illnesses in a safe and confidential environment.

<https://dovedalementalhealth.weebly.com>

## Young people learn to navigate issues about "consent" in the #MeToo era

### Lily Hunter

With the rise of the #MeToo movement, the issue of "consent" is now a talking point for men, women, boys and girls across the world.

The World Health Organisation estimates that 1 in 3 women worldwide experience sexual violence in their lifetimes. Some countries are introducing change at legislative levels. In Spain, the government will introduce a new law aimed at removing ambiguity in rape cases that states "yes means yes" and anything else means no (including silence). Sweden introduced a new law to recognise that sex without explicit mutual consent constitutes rape. Prosecutors will no longer need to prove that violence or threats were used by the accused in order to obtain a conviction, making it the 10th European country to amend its legislation in this way.

Education is key in resolving such matters. In the UK, some groups use theatre, such as the Theatre for Change group, a partnership between the UK and Malawi, and the Cat's Paw Theatre in Wales. Following the publication of That's

What She Said, a report on "lad culture" in higher education, the National Union of Students held workshops at 20 universities, as part of the I Heart Consent project to raise awareness during Fresher's week.

Other initiatives include consent

*"No means no, not convince me!"*

apps. Cody Swan, CEO of Gunner Technology said: "This is like a digital handshake agreement. You talk about what you are agreeing to, and then shake on it."

However, ask a group of teenagers what consent, or even rape means, and the responses are surprisingly confused, ranging from defensive and wary to embarrassed.

A defensive attitude has arisen as part of the backlash from the #MeToo movement. At the University of York a student objected to

a consent talk saying "it is not the place of a student how to tell another student how to act in the bedroom". However, he later admitted that the definition of rape confuses him, highlighting the need for such education.

For young people today, casual relationships can be fraught. The influence of social media and films, as well as alcohol and drugs create confusion that blur an understanding about what is acceptable behaviour in a sexual relationship.

Oundle School has recognised that education is pivotal and the issue is part of its Learning for Life programme for Years 7 to 13. In Year 7 permission is a focus. Year 9 is where the syllabus is based around consent, the main topics being sex and consent, pleasure, and social media.

Hannah Dawes, the head of the programme, said: "Consent is actively agreeing to be sexual with someone. Consent lets someone know that sex is wanted. Sexual activity without consent is rape or sexual assault."

Providing a clear definition, as well as informing teenagers of the law is essential. Alex Fryer is a leading PSHE speaker on sex and healthy relationships. She argues clearly and unambiguously, "no

means no, not convince me!"

Prince William School includes consent related topics in their PSHE programme. Mark Cooper, Assistant Principal said: "The teaching of Sex and Relationship Education lies within the PSHE curriculum where we help students to consider their development as individuals within the context of society."

In Years 7 and 8 the pupils look at the issues surrounding friendships such as freedom and individuality as well as different relationships and appropriate behaviour within a relationship.

In Year 9 the focus is on sexual relationships: peer pressure, the law regarding consent, and myths about 'who is doing what'.

In Year 10 the importance of both parties consenting and different forms of contraception are involved.

Sixth Form students are encouraged to explore ideas of meaningful relationships and the main topics include issues of consent, contraception, promiscuity and the dangers of unprotected sex.

Pupils think having good information through education about this important issue is vital. One said: "I feel educated by the talks, and I think that consent is taken seriously as a result."

## "Ask for Angela" campaign offers support and security for pub patrons

### Grace Maund

Restaurants and pubs in Oundle have started to participate in the 'Ask for Angela' campaign, which seeks to help people who feel



uncomfortable or need protection whilst on a date or meeting. Places such as the Onkar Restaurant, Brew Babu, The Talbot Hotel and the George Inn have introduced the scheme to their employees in order for them to be able to help any visitors who might feel unsafe.

The campaign was created by Hayley Child, a sexual violence and abuse strategy co-ordinator for Lincolnshire, who said that she wanted to "provide reassurance that there is support available if needed". Angela was picked as the "safe word" as it is a play on words

"guardian angel". The campaign has been warmly greeted across social media from both the general public and celebrities such as Ashton Kutcher.

The campaign could potentially save both men and women from situations which could become dangerous. It functions as a safety net for customers: if feeling vulnerable or uncomfortable, they can go to the bar and "Ask for Angela". The employees will then either order a taxi home for the person, take them to a safe room in the restaurant, or just keep an eye on them.

The Talbot Hotel general manager said: "It is a really useful tool for people and is recognised throughout the hotel. We have 15 hotels within The Coaching Inn Group and every single hotel is signed up and supporting it."

A member of staff in the George Inn said: "We have posters in the ladies' toilets and all staff are made aware of the policy. There is a form behind the bar for staff to see. We have never had to use it, but if anyone feels uncomfortable they can approach the bar."

With its successful introduction to a few of the social hubs in town, the scheme aims to spread to all pubs and restaurants to ensure a safer space for those who need security.

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## Prince William School Winter Extravaganza at Queen Victoria Hall

Prince William School is presenting a Winter Extravaganza at the Queen Victoria Hall on the 13th and 14th December 2018.

As part of their BTEC Performing Arts course, students have choreographed, directed and rehearsed Christmas favourites and other much-loved musical numbers, and a sing-along will provide the opportunity for the audience to join in. Pupils will also be serving festive food including mince pies and mulled wine.

Alongside their show, pupils will be taking in-kind donations for A Winter Night's Shelter in Peterborough, a church-based charity that opens its doors in various churches over the winter months for homeless people. In lieu of cash donations, audience members should bring items such as, deodorants, shaving gel, toothpaste, razors, toothbrushes, flannels, and bed linen for single beds such as duvet covers, pillow cases and unfitted bed sheets and flannels.

The show starts at 7pm and tickets are now on sale from the Prince William Finance Office.

Tickets are £8 for adults and £6 for concessions.

## Oundle Cinema screens Matthew Bourne's magical Cinderella

### Grace Maund

Oundle Cinema brushes off its dancing shoes to help audiences sit back and enjoy Matthew Bourne's Cinderella to complete the festive period in style.

After the whirlwind of Christmas festivities, Oundle Cinema presents the opportunity to re-experience the acclaimed performance of Cinderella, screening at 4pm on Thursday 27th December at The Stahl Theatre.

First performed in 1997, this encore screening offers audiences the ability to catch this production again. Using Prokofiev's ballet score, choreographer Matthew Bourne sets the classical fairy tale Cinderella in London during the Second World War, and tells his evocative story of Cinderella and her young pilot falling in love before being parted by the Blitz.

Bourne recreates the sights and sounds of war-torn London in "a gripping theatrical spectacle", with the help of the Olivier award-winning designer Lez Brotherston's costumes and sets.

Tickets are available from the Oundle Box Office, New Street or from [www.oundlefestival.org.uk](http://www.oundlefestival.org.uk)

## The Yarrow Gallery to host solo show of work by Oundle artist-in-residence Nick Grove



Nick Grove worked with pupils in the Oundle art studios

Local artist, Nick Grove, joined Oundle School as Artist-in-Residence for the Michaelmas Term.

Working mostly with oils, Mr Grove paints portraits, landscapes, seascapes and cityscapes, preferring to paint "en plein air", where the immediacy and vitality of the subject can be experienced "in the raw".

As Artist-in-Residence, Mr Grove looked at all aspects of

student life and the role of the school within the community. He worked alongside the pupils in the art room, helping to develop their skills and giving them an insight into the day-to-day life of an artist.

This body of work will be showcased at his inaugural solo exhibition, Light Observations, at the Yarrow Gallery on Glapthorn Road from 12th to 25th January 2019.

Photo by Ivan Quetglas

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## Find some independent style at Diversity Boutique on St Osyth's Lane

### Philippa Bourne

What distinguishes a market town like Oundle from shopping centres like Rushton Lakes or Corby is the range of independent

Owner Nicola Charles relocated to Oundle from Brighton, and was inspired to open a new shop with the independent creative edge that characterises the Brighton Lanes.

showcases a wide-ranging collection with a palette of pale neutrals to bright prints, and smart casual wear to special occasion pieces. The selection is unique and not duplicated in high street shops. Ms Charles said her range of clothing is "inspired by fashion trends, but not driven by them."

Offering a personalised styling service to help women develop the confidence to try something new is one of Ms Charles' principal aims. "I want to offer women the chance to step out of their comfort zone."

Her styling ethos is about layering: "I aim to offer clothes that can be worn year-round and that suit all body shapes." For example, she

shows how a jersey dress edged with lace can be layered with jeans, a jumper or a fur-edged gilet.

Alongside clothes, Diversity stocks a wide selection of good value, glittering costume jewelry with presentation boxes and branded bags that are perfect for presents. Her Italian leather bags come in classic leather finishes as well as eye-catching colours.

The shop is packed with unique items for discerning shoppers. And what stands out is the quality of the range on offer. "My clothes are not disposable," Ms Charles said. "I look for quality in the construction and styling. I want my customers to come back."



Photo by Leigh Giurlando

Owner Nicola Charles at Diversity Boutique on St Osyth's Lane

shops with unique, personalised service. Tucked along St Osyth's Lane, just around the corner from the Market Place, Diversity Boutique is just such a shop, offering timeless styles blended with fashion forward trends.

The "diversity" in the name reflects the range of clothes, accessories and jewelry that she stocks, which include Scandi and Italian labels that do not trade in the UK, and are not easily available online. This little gem of a shop

## Turnover in the Market Place creates new business opportunities

### Johnny Capstick-Dale

Over recent months several Oundle properties and businesses have changed hands, offering new opportunities for property owners and business entrepreneurs to make an investment in Oundle's market.

The sale of 2-3 Crown Court, Market Place, attracted multiple potential buyers, and was sold over the asking price at more than £535,000 for the building. Dexters, Oundle in Stitches and Paul Watts are unaffected, providing an average rental income of £40,000 a year for the new owner.

Next door, Trendalls Butchers changed hands in September after the retirement of Martin Trendall. The new owner has other butcheries in the Midlands region.

After 17 years under the successful ownership of the Raper family, the Coffee Tavern business and its building were both offered for sale. The building, which includes a flat, was sold separately for £500,000, while the business remains for sale at £150,000. Despite competition among Oundle's independent cafés, the Coffee Tavern has proved to be an enduring success in a changing market.

Competition is also high for pubs. High taxation on beer across

the country is resulting in three pubs closing per day, according to the British Beer and Pub Association.

The Angel Pub closed down and will be missed by many regulars. The building on St Osyth's Lane was set to be auctioned off at a starting price of £250,000, but was bought prior to the auction in Nottingham by an unknown buyer.

Rental units in the Old Town Hall, which sold for over £750,000 to a northern-based pensions investment company, are being handled by a Nottingham based company. Estates agents Sharman Quinney have relocated across the street to the space occupied by the building society. Premises formerly occupied by the hair salon are for rent at £15,000 a year.

The departure of Natwest Bank has left a gap in the Market Place. Natwest Bank leased their ground floor space from an out-of-town owner, who was initially asking for rent of £20,000. The lack of windows on the frontage could make it difficult for potential retailers. Offers are now invited.

On West Street, the charity shop Age UK closed. Oxfam will be expanding next door, and will move across their books and vinyl ready for the new year.

## Munton's brings old-fashioned convenience shopping back to the neighbourhood



Photo by Leigh Giurlando

Gary Bennett-Munton sourced his catering trailer from Pembrokeshire

### Erica Pascoe

The convenience of being able to pop out to a corner shop for daily essentials is now a reality for those living at the north end of town.

Gary Bennett-Munton reached out to residents on Facebook to pitch his idea about a "mobile shop" and to ask about what items would be most in demand to carry in his stock. After attending council meetings and listening to comments from residents, he wanted to provide a service to his community, and his idea was enthusiastically received. Many said it would be very useful for those who cannot quickly pop into town.

Munton's Grocer and Confectioner is housed in a lovingly-restored 1940s style van based on Sidons Close, off Rockingham Road. Against a backdrop of 1940s band music, owner Mr Bennett-Munton serves customers in traditional style, wearing a fedora, waist coat and braces overlaid with a white grocer's apron. He said he has a number of different outfits to wear from his 1940s themed catering

business. He grew up in Oundle and has worked in catering and retail.

Many residents are grateful; the shop can play a role in reducing traffic through the Market Place, and also help out those who find a trip into town far from easy.

The van stocks fresh bread from Kings Cliffe Bakery, fresh eggs from a local farm and fresh vegetables, and store cupboard supplies. In order to reduce packaging, he weighs out quantities of flour and sugar, and herbs and spices.

As parents and children returned home from the school run on his second open day last week, Mr Bennett-Munton scooped out sweets for a little girl and her mother, who looked round. "It's a long way to into town, just for bread and milk, especially once you have parked. This is cozy and welcoming," she said.

Its opening hours are also convenient for residents: Monday, Thursday and Friday 8am-6pm; Tuesday and Wednesday 3pm-6pm; Saturdays 9am to 3pm.

## Doing good in your work, is good for business

### Giorgio Capuzzello

Fixing cars is not a glamorous business, but it is a fundamental service for anyone who lives in Oundle and who relies on a car to get to work and school. The people at Oundle Tyre and Exhausts are so good at their job, that their business

recommend the gents at Oundle Tyre and Exhaust highly enough, I really can't." She said the people working there helped her immediately.

The flood of comments that followed echoed her appreciation.

"Ask your average Joe on the

sional, you know there's a lot more to success than just what gets put in the bank," said a business research blogger at Pro Opinion.

Tony Shaw and his son Steven are the ones handling all repairs. After joining the business in 1990, Mr Shaw took some years away and returned permanently in 1999. His son joined in 2005. They take their customer service seriously.

Oundle Tyre and Exhaust has been in business at the end of New Road from before 1990, fixing car punctures, repairing exhausts, tyres, cracked windshields, brakes and providing general assistance for anyone who needs it. Quite simply: "We fix them."

Tony Shaw said: "We can't compete with the big boys out there, but if you go to them for a cracked windshield they'll ask a fortune for it, while we'll change it, and try to be as reasonable as we can."

Mr Shaw started engineer training with Baker-Perkins back in the day when there were still proper apprenticeships.

"My father signed me over to an indentured four year programme. I rotated around in the trades and then specialised as a turner."

The business currently keeps 747 tyres in stock. When it first opened, the tyres were smaller and they kept 3500 in stock. He observes that tyres got larger and "got stupider".

"Today's tyres are nothing like they should be. They're not fit for proper 4x4 driving."

The tools of the trade have evolved considerably and a business must have diagnostic equipment to do everything. Mr Shaw looks forward to new developments and believes that electric cars are the future.

He is concerned about the Brexit negotiations and their impact on small businesses that will still depend on Europe for the supply chain and technical specifications of Euro standard parts. "Suppliers may just go to the large dealerships," he said.

Most work is a "panic buy". "No one plans a tyre repair; most purchases are a distress purchase. You don't plan to replace the exhaust, it just falls off."

It is much like the work of a local blacksmith, Mr Shaw said. "Someone comes in with a stone, gotta fix it."

The Quaker philosophy of the founders – and of many of their employees – became part of the Baker Perkins tradition, and has influenced the principles by which Mr Shaw conducts business.

This may be the reason for all the positive comments from their customers. "It doesn't cost me anything to help someone in this world," he said.



Photo by Leigh Giurilando

Steven Shaw has been working at Oundle Tyre and Exhaust for over ten years.

is considered one of the best small enterprises in town.

One resident posted on a community Facebook page: "I can't

street what makes a business successful and you'll likely hear something about making a lot of money. But as a business profes-



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## PWS fencing champion is Young Sportswoman of the Year finalist

### Hannah Wakeford

Rachael Lever, a pupil at Prince William School is a world-class fencer, ranked number one for her age group in the country.

Rachael has accomplished much in her short career: she is the British Cadet U17 champion; in May, she won the British U16 championships; in July, she was part of Team Scotland at the Commonwealth Games, where they won the team event; she also came 7th in the U20s category; two years ago, Rachael was 6th in Poland at the U15s international and 6th in talent at the U14 international; in September in Geneva, she came 17th out of 91 and was number one seed after both rounds of the pools.

On top of this, in November, she was a finalist in the Northamptonshire County Sports Awards for the award of Young Sportswoman of the year.

Rachael is currently GB number 1 in the U17 rankings, and 4th for U20s. She came 3rd in the British junior U20s the day after she won the British U17s.

If this sounds busy, it is. "I am always fencing, with competitions planned until Christmas," she said.

The fencing season starts in September with the British Cadet

U17 championships, which Rachael won this September. She trains four times a week, including a fitness session on Wednesdays. Rachael also attends a British fencing two-day talent-training session in London every three months.

The young athlete enjoys the hours she spends fencing. "I do enjoy training and I really enjoy helping the younger ones improve too, that's really rewarding."

Rachael was drawn to fencing because of her brother's interest in the sport, and her own natural talent was noted early on. One might assume that fencing would be a dangerous sport, considering it involves swords, but Rachael confirms that she very occasionally acquires bruises, but nothing substantial enough to put her off.

Her coach, Chris Howser, is an ex-British champion who has won veteran Commonwealth medals and the Commonwealth championships. Chris has helped Rachael learn to coach herself, rather than needing him with her at all competitions, and has taught her to learn from her mistakes without his input. However, he will be accompanying her this season to ensure that she gets the results she wants.

Rachael received grants last

year from Persimmon Homes, however she does not have any ongoing sponsorship or funding from council, so she is self-funding. She explained that national

a person you are competitive against, but Rachael explained, "it is strange, because you are competitors on-piste, but off-piste you put your differences aside."



funding relies on winning medals at the Olympics, however "all the money for British fencing has been withdrawn because the man competing in Rio came fourth, despite losing to a man doping. They are reviewing how they do the funding but it has had a massive impact on how we are having to budget for everything."

Her next big competitions are in France, Germany and Denmark. "The main ones are the internationals. It's really cool to be able to travel so much."

Through all this travelling, Rachael has been able to make friends all over this country and from other countries as well. It might seem difficult to befriend

Rachael said her parents have been fundamental to her success. Her mother accompanies her all round Europe and takes her to training.

"If I'm feeling a bit down she'll encourage me to go to training; she pushes me to be better." Rachael acknowledges, "If she wasn't there, my life would be so much harder".

Rachael's ultimate goal is the Olympics. "Everybody wants to go to the Olympics but I need to be surrounded by the right sponsors and the right training environment in order to succeed." She explained that it is seriously hard to qualify, but feels confident it is an achievable goal.

## Tim Cardall signs with the Wasps

### Alfie Peterson

Former Prince William School rugby player, Tim Cardall has signed with Wasps in a move that advances his promising professional career.

the point where he signed a professional contract with the Saints in March 2015.

While attending Prince William School, Tim played Sunday rugby at OTRC. He said: "It had a



Tim began playing at Oundle Town Rugby Club when he was only five. He was scouted by the Saints development programme while playing for Oundle, where he progressed through the system to

huge role. Without Oundle Town I wouldn't be where I am now"

His time there earned Tim a spot in the East Midlands U16 trials, from where he was selected to the Midlands U16 squad, and

eventually a place on the England U16 squad.

Impressive performances for England U16s led to a place in the England U17s, and after notable performances, including a man of the match performance against France, he was placed in the England U18s trials.

At the time Tim was also playing on the Saints U18 team, where he was offered a professional contract after a string of good performances.

The following year Tim relocated to Nottingham Trent University where he then played for Nottingham Rugby Club in the Championship, as well as for the university. It was here that Tim impressed the Wasps, as shown by winning England student honours last season.

Tim signed with Wasps in January 2018. Tim said: "I was very, very shocked to hear that Wasps were interested in me. They are one of the best teams in Europe and having the chance to go and play and train here was an opportunity I couldn't turn down."

Tim is currently in the Senior Academy, and has made appearances for Wasps in the A League and the Anglo-Welsh cup. He is working to secure a position in the Senior Squad.

"I look to push on into the Wasps team and hopefully play a number of premierships and European games for them. I know there are aspects of my game that I am always trying to improve on."

# The new sport of walking football brings men back onto the pitch

## Jerry Li

In the last year, a new sporting initiative has developed down at Station Road where sporting enthusiasts gather regularly on Friday evenings.



Following the national trend for "walking football", Oundle Town Football Club now has a team for men over 50 who have a passion to play football, but cannot keep up with the same intensity of the game they played in their youth.

While some purists might question whether this qualifies as "proper football", Mark Rogers, an active participant, is in no doubt. "When you say 'proper football', we'll have this as 'proper football'! The other sport... You know, they run too much!"

Walking football was developed in 2011 with a full set of competitive rules compiled by the Football Association. It has grown gradually and now has teams across the country. The Walking Football Association was established in 2016 and says that with over 40,000 players in the UK, walking football is the fastest growing sport aimed at over-50 year olds, with regional tournaments and even a national cup.

The Oundle club has participated in a series of friendlies and tournaments held in nearby towns. But according to Mr Chris Biggins, the part-time player-manager who is in charge of the team, this variation of football is not entirely about competition: "It is important that people who have played football earlier in life can keep playing. Ideally you would like to win your game, but not at all costs. It's about enjoyment."

Enjoyment is indeed a key feature of Friday evenings. Although there is a registration system, the organisation each

Friday evening is more or less ad-hoc, with new members joining every now and then. The team does not receive funding from the Club and is supported by the £3 dues

Mr Rogers said: "Walking football is a lot about getting fat old men off the settees and doing something, participating in a sport or something social. Men are not



players contribute each week.

Every member shows up ready for fun, and after an evening session of usually 6-a-side football, the team retire to the clubhouse pub to "recover".

particularly good at, for instance, going to the doctor and looking after themselves.

"A big part of this sport is to encourage men to exercise again."

## New lease offers opportunities for Football Club

### Jerry Li

Following a lengthy two-and-a-half year negotiating process, the Oundle Town Football Club Ltd agreed on a 30 year lease with Oundle School that will not only secure their current playing fields, but will create opportunities for new pitches as well. The football club will now go on to seek further funding.

Following the merger of the senior and junior football clubs, Oundle Town Football Club has already laid down an ambitious plan ahead of them. With this new lease, the lower pitch down at Station Road (the club's main playing fields), which the previous lease did not include, was added to the club's playing grounds; another addition is the South Road pitches. These expansions will no doubt boost the club's future development, as more of the club's teams will be able to train and play at the same time.

The club's honorary president Mr Malcolm Smith said that after the expansion the club would be able to serve "the whole community and the whole surrounding areas". The club has teams that range from under 5s to veterans and walking football, and will be looking for support from grant funding from the Northampton Football Association.

On this issue, Mr. Smith

expressed optimism about obtaining FA grant funding, council funding and investors who are keen on contributing to the community. Looking to the future, he said: "We would look for developed pitches licensed, a bigger clubhouse where we can cater for all ages and genders."

Mr Richard Tremellen, Director of Estates at Oundle School noted that in order to get grant funding, a secure tenure needed to be established, which was one of the reasons for the length of negotiations. He said that the lease had been agreed on "very favorable" terms for the club. "The school is very keen to support them as a sport in town."

He expressed hope that the club would be able to "redevelop their clubhouse, and reconfigure the playing fields and parking arrangements".

The club's directors and committee have produced a long term strategy to turn the club into a "community centre of excellence for Oundle and the surrounding area".

With these new terms in place, there is every reason to believe that the football club will attract greater participation and achieve wider influence in Oundle and the local area.

## Sports centre construction digs deep



Construction work in November saw completion of the pool box

With work having started on the Oundle School sports centre during the summer, its giant crane now dominates the Oundle skyline. Behind the green hoardings, GRAHAM Construction is steadily moving ahead with a huge amount of work.

The pool box is complete and will soon be tested with 1.61 million litres of water. The cross-laminated timber frame is expected to arrive at the end of January, which is when the project will rise up out of the ground and be visible above hoarding levels for all to see.

The Health and Safety Executive made a surprise inspection in November and provided very positive feedback, with no actions or issues

identified. The build is also part of the Considerate Constructors Scheme to encourage best practice beyond statutory requirements. Areas reported on include site appearance, respecting the community, protecting the environment, securing everyone's safety and valuing the workforce. The report was extremely positive, and the site was awarded all 8s and 9s, which is "excellent" and "exceptional".

Alongside the construction, the school is also currently working on a programme of activity and membership packages for community access to the sports centre. Details will soon be available at [www.oundleschoolsportscentre.co.uk](http://www.oundleschoolsportscentre.co.uk)

# Commemorating the Great War around the world

## Giovanni Bernardi

The First World War changed the world, bringing repercussions for generations. To mark the centenary of the War, countries around the world have held commemorations that have reflected on and retold not only the big stories about infamous battles, but also the human-scale stories about individual valour, sacrifice and loss.

## Oundle

Even a small town like Oundle had a big part to play in the First World War, sending many of its residents to join the Northamptonshire Regiment. After the war, over 500 memorials were built across Northamptonshire to commemorate the fallen.

The 1920 memorial in the centre of Oundle lists the names of the 68 men who died in the Great War. It was dedicated by the Bishop of Peterborough, and there is a service at the memorial every year to honour the men who died.

The Bishop of Peterborough also consecrated the School Memorial Chapel which was built to honour 228 men from Oundle School.

At St Peter's church there is a stone plaque with the names of 64 men who died. It reads: "To the glory of God and in memory of the men of this parish who gave their lives in the Great War 1914-1918. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Oundle School had a four-year programme of commemoration. Major Andrew Mansergh, Contingent Commander of the Oundle School CCF said: "In November 2014 we marked the start of WWI with a Drumhead Service on Armistice Day. Four years later we marked the end of the War with another whole school event. In between we have marked the 100th anniversary of the death of every Oundelian in services in the Cloisters.

"On the annual Somme trip we have also had the opportunity to visit some of the graves of those OOs. It is fitting that we have marked the end of the war appropriately, and that we have remembered solemnly and with dignity a generation who made such a sacrifice on our behalf."

## The United Kingdom

The Government released the First World War Centenary Programme in 2014: "The First World War is a local story as well as part of our nation's history. Every city, town and village was touched by it: by the soldiers who fought, the people who stayed behind, and the

businesses that helped with the war effort."

The UK centenary commemoration began in 2014 with an unforgettable installation of a red river of 888,246 poppies at The Tower of London, which more than five million people went to see. The poppies represented all of the British or Colonial servicemen who were killed in the War.

14-18 NOW was a five-year

While the losses and tragedy of the Second World War are commemorated, one example being the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin, there are far fewer memorials for WWI.

Defeat in the Great War was overwhelming for Germany. The misery caused by the consequences of the war, including starvation, makes German people less likely to visit the graves of the war dead. With defeat, the German people



Photo by Giovanni Bernardi

programme of arts experiences connecting people with the First World War. Working with arts and heritage partners across the UK, they commissioned artworks from leading contemporary artists, musicians, designers and performers, inspired by the period 1914-18. Over the four years, 30 million people, including 7.4 million young people, experienced their projects, inspiring them to think about the experience of war and its impact on the world.

To mark the conclusion of the centenary commemorations, Shrouds of the Somme was installed at the Tower, where 73,396 miniature corpses individually wrapped in calico were laid to represent the soldiers whose bodies were not recovered in the Battle of the Somme.

## Germany

During the centenary, Germany did not organise any memorial events to commemorate the war and the losses that were suffered.

feel that they should not look back to remember their mistakes, but rather look forward to the future.

However, Sevim Dagdelen, a member of parliament for the Die Linke party said: "I still think that's scandalous, that the role Germany played in WWI, as the aggressor, as the cause of WWI, was consciously denied."

## France

In contrast to Germany, France's approach to the remembrance of WWI was all about commemorating the lives of the country's fallen soldiers.

In 2003, the French state put online a database of the 1.3 million men who died in France, to enhance people's connections to past events.

The government also made available the Departmental Archives of the Somme, which allows an online search of all documents such as books, photographs and postcards digitized by the Archives.

Over 200 memorial events took place over the four years, with the last one held in Villers-Bretonneux on the day of the Armistice.

French President Emmanuel Macron made a week-long tour of World War I battlefields and held commemorative events with British Prime Minister Theresa May and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, before convening a ceremony of world leaders at Paris's Arc de Triomphe.

## Belgium

Very much like England, Belgium had a program of commemorative events called 'be14-18', identifying three themes to highlight: collective remembrance; working together for a peaceful future; solidarity and partnership.

Ceremonies commemorating the battles that occurred within its borders had an international scope, including Mons, Ypres and Passchendaele. On 11th November, thousands gathered at the Menin Gate for the last post to honour the more than 54,000 soldiers who died at Ypres and who have no known grave.

## New Zealand

Over 100,000 New Zealand soldiers served in the war with the Allies, and just under one-fifth died. There are over 500 WWI memorials across the country, reminding people of an important part of their history. The memorials are designed to arouse emotional responses, reflecting the country's deep connection to those who sacrificed their lives in the War.

Anzac Day marks the first major involvement of New Zealand and Australia in the First World War. On 25th April, memorial services are held across the country to commemorate those who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations.

## The United States

WWI has made less of an impression on American national identity. The US entered the war three years after its start. It suffered no direct damage to communities and lost just one percent of its population to the war. President Wilson proclaimed the first Armistice Day on November 11, 1919. It became a national holiday in 1938, but in 1954 was designated Veterans Day to honour veterans of all US wars.

After the First World War, Americans commemorated their role by erecting community monuments and memorials, such as parks, and although there is as yet no national memorial to the War, plans have been approved to build one in Washington by 2020.

# Commemorating a centenary of Remembrance 1918-2018

Photos from Oundle School Archive



Photos by Lily Wolfson



Window paintings at Beans by Annie Welton