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Ready for action over quarry plan

RESIDENTS are set to take action after hearing about a scheme to build a sand quarry near to their homes.

Northamptonshire County Council has put forward proposals for a sand quarrying site in Milton Malsor as part of their Minerals and Waste Development Framework (MWDF).

Wootton and East Hunsbury Parish Council has sent a letter out to the residents urging them to make their voices heard.

The proposals could mean excavated sand is transported over the railway bridge north of the site, via a haul road, built over green fields onto Towcester Road.

The council is worried about the impact on the 6,000 East Hunsbury residents. It also raises the concern of parents walking children to and from Simon De Senlis and East Hunsbury Primary Schools.

A spokesperson from Wootton and East Hunsbury Parish Council said: “As a parish council we feel we have a duty and a responsibility to raise awareness of the proposal and to present members of the public with the facts and enable them to make careful judgments and express their own views.”

The letter adds: “We are asking for your support to prevent this from happening, as there are two alternative sites in Stoke Albany near Corby, which are more suitable for sand quarrying because they are not near to any residential areas.”

A county council spokesperson said: “Northamptonshire County Council’s minerals and waste development framework (MWDF) was made open to public scrutiny for an eight-week period from January 15.

“The representations made will then be considered by an independent planning inspector before the documents are finalised.”

Holiday fun for the kids

CHILDREN enjoyed a free day of play during half-term.

Northampton Borough Council put on the event and gave youngsters the chance to get a feel for jungle fever.

Pictured are Priya Patel aged eight and Sejal Patel aged seven

BY LAURA CORCORAN

“‘The recommendations of the inspector will be binding on the county council. “The MWDF will be the land use planning strategy for minerals and waste-related development in the county. It will set out the strategy for investment in new waste and minerals development in Northamptonshire, and where in the county it should go to.”

“This is done because facilities are needed to manage the county’s waste, and sites for the extraction of minerals for new homes and roads, and it is the county council’s responsibility to do this.”

A public meeting is due to be held tomorrow at 6pm in Milton Malsor Village Hall. MP for Northampton South Brian Binley is set to attend.

He said: “I shall be going along to see what I can help with.”

Send your comments with a full name, address and contact number to laura.corcoran@hpnorthants.co.uk.

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One-star rating

A ‘FAIR’ one-star rating has been awarded to Northamptonshire County Council by the Audit Commission.

The council is said to have ‘promising prospects’ for improvement, according to the independent report released today.

On a scale from zero to three stars, the watchdog’s inspection team gave the council a ‘fair’ one-star rating.

It is said to be starting to focus on its customers and is working to improve access to its services.

The report also states the customer contact centre is helpful and provides an effective service and information is also available in libraries and on the internet.

But service standards are not available for all services and face to face contact is limited.

Weaknesses include gaps in the council’s understanding of customer needs, not carrying out a regular programme of mystery shopping and no comprehensive approach to diversity across all services.

Audit Commission senior manager Nigel Toms said: “Helpful contact centre staff provide information on a variety of services and ensure that problems are quickly resolved.

“The libraries also provide good access to council services throughout the country and information is also available on the council’s website.

“Overall we found that the council is improving residents’ access to its services but it needs to be more consistently responsive to their needs.”

NCC cabinet member for customers and communities, Cllr Andre Gonzalez De Savage, said: “There are clearly a lot of positives we can draw from this inspection.

“We recognised two years ago that we need to improve our customer service and I am particularly pleased that the inspectors have acknowledged how we have put customer focus as a priority across our services and how we provide value for money access to services.

“I am also pleased that inspectors have said we have promising prospects for improvement. We are working hard to offer customers a choice in the way they contact the council, whether face to face through libraries, on the telephone in our customer service centre or online through our recently re-launched website.

“It is vital we now continue our good work and make even more improvements to realise this potential.”

The report recommends involving residents in setting targets for customer satisfaction, promoting services and developing a way to evaluate the costs of providing access to services.

Copies of the report are available from NCC or the Audit Commission website at www.audit-commission.gov.uk/reports.

Two men injured in separate town centre attacks

A MAN has been treated for head injuries after an incident in Abington Square.

An altercation took place at about 3.45am yesterday outside the Monkey’s Head pub.

Police would like to speak to a man seen running from the scene. He was white, in his 20s, 5ft 10 and of athletic build. He wore blue jeans, a white t-shirt and a grey hooded top.

In a separate incident, a man had his wallet and mobile stolen and received facial injuries at about 2.40am yesterday.

The victim was discovered outside the Monkey’s Head but it is thought he received the injuries somewhere between Abington Square and Abington Street.

Police confirmed they were not linking the incidents at the moment.

Call (08453) 700700 with information.

A SPRING-clean themed Bicycle Bazaar will be held this weekend.

The event is due to take place on Saturday from noon to 4pm at The Fishmarket.

Sugar Skull Cycles have joined forces with Hoolala to put on the bicycle basket bazaar.

For more information visit www.bicyclebasketbazaar.com.

BY LAURA CORCORAN
laura.corcoran@hpnorthants.co.uk
I WOULD like to offer my support for Mr Austin who recently had tools stolen from his van at the B&Q car park. (H&P front page February 19).

A few years ago, I too was a victim of a similar incident (though not at B&Q). I heard my van alarm sound and rushed out of my house to find my van in theirs.

They had removed my tyre valve, presumably to prevent me giving chase.

I was able to get the number plate of the vehicle and good description of one of the thieves.

I dialled 999 and asked for assistance, none was forthcoming. After an hour or so of trying to calm down, I realised that I would need a crime incident number.

I called the police - (not emergency) to request a number. I explained the situation and they suggested I needed a visit from them.

They informed me that from the description and number plate I gave, they had a good idea of who the people were.

When I asked them if they would be following up this up they said, “We will not visit them because by the time we get there all evidence of my stolen tools would have been removed.” I could not believe it!

When I questioned this and suggested that the thieves had not had the time to move the tools I contacted my insurance company. That was that.

On another occasion, when the time at the B&Q car park, I was offered power tools to buy cheap from the back of a van.

I declined the offer and instead reported it to B&Q staff immediately.

Their response was a pathetically “this happens all the time, we can’t do anything about it.”

Traders have had some respite from this particular type of theft but the price of scrap metal was high, now it has slumped and the thieves will adjust their targets to suit.

Clearly the Police and B&Q need to work together to investigate these methods and our custom respectively, but traders can also help by not allowing themselves to be lured to the product visit sites paying their goods from the back of vans.

I believe you may think you are getting a bargain but the tools were very likely stolen from other traders and while they are on your site they are employing your own belongings too. You will very likely their next victim!

Name and address withheld.
A NEW construction centre at Northampton Academy has been given the thumbs-up by a local MP.

David Wilson Construction Centre opened this week.
Northampton North MP Sally Keeble believes it will build up the skills base for the future and provide training opportunities for young women as well as men.
Mrs Keeble said: "When the upturn comes we will need a calibre of young people with the skills to meet the challenge of building the new homes that are so desperately needed.

"This centre will give young people the basic building skills while they are still at school.
"Congratulations to Northampton Academy and everyone involved with the initiative.
"It provides a blueprint for the future of the construction industry and for education."

STAFF from the University of Northampton flipped pancakes in a bid to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care.
The University's annual staff Pancake Race was held on Shrove Tuesday.
Money raised from the event will go to the university's chosen charity for 2009.
Manager for the centre for community volunteering at the University Linda Davis said: "The chosen charity for this year is Marie Curie Cancer Care and that is chosen by staff.
"I think staff each year are very careful in the charity that they choose" Linda believes Marie Curie will have been chosen due to personal reasons by staff.
A prize was also handed out for the best dressed dasher.

Laying foundations

BY LAURA CORCORAN

A NEW construction centre at Northampton Academy has been given the thumbs-up by a local MP.

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"This centre will give young people the basic building skills while they are still at school.
"Congratulations to Northampton Academy and everyone involved with the initiative.
"It provides a blueprint for the future of the construction industry and for education."

Although based at Northampton Academy, the new construction centre offers training facilities to other schools in Northampton including Weston Favell School, Unity College, Thomas Becket, Northampton School for Girls, Duston School, Caroline Chisholm and Moulton College.
Mrs Keeble added: "Only a handful of young women get apprenticeships in construction and fewer than ten per cent of the workforce in the industry are women.
"This course can give girls experience of the industry while they are still at school and help close the gender gap in construction.
"Some people have complained about building jobs going abroad - this centre can make sure we have trained skilled local people to literally build our future."

Principal Peter Hullah said: "We are delighted to have been able to provide this facility at Northampton Academy.
"The construction centre will offer opportunities to students in East Northampton and find opportunities in work which otherwise they would not be able to find.
"Mr Hullah believes being an Academy has a lot to do with being able to offer students this type of facility, adding: "It is the first in the academy.
"The academy has been able to move fast to deliver the facility, supported by David Wilson and managed by our own staff. "I think we are able to move quickly to make change which is beneficial for our students."

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Heart Appeal Nurse – British Heart Foundation

The BHF has launched a £100,000 appeal to pay for a new Heart Failure Nurse in Northamptonshire. The nurses provide specialist care and advice to heart failure patients in their own homes, which decreases hospital re-admissions and improves patients’ quality of life. They are a fun and friendly organisation and are looking for dynamic and go-ahead volunteers to be part of their team and work with them in raising this amount and bringing their expertise and experience, in whatever field, to the BHF. Contact Northampton Volunteering Centre, 15 St Giles Street, Northampton, (01604) 637522 or info@northampton-volunteers.org.uk

A tough challenge for charity

I have just returned from an amazing six-day trek to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in aid of the Alzheimer’s Society.

This was the toughest challenge I have ever undertaken both physically and mentally as well as battling with altitude sickness, but I made it to the top.

I was one of 32 trekkers who took up the challenge and between us we have already raised over £101,350 for people with dementia and their carers. I would like to thank everybody from the South Northamptonshire area who helped me raise £3,000 towards that total.

I couldn’t have done it without your support and I am still looking to raise more so please log on to my web page www.andrewblunt.co.uk and follow the link to the just giving website.

I have also put up some pictures of my trek for all to see.

I would like to encourage others to have the experience of a lifetime by taking part in a fundraising trek for the Alzheimer’s Society.

You will not only have a fantastic time and create memories to treasure but you will also be raising funds for a very worthwhile cause. Please help make a difference to the lives of the 70,000 people living with dementia in the UK.

Find out more by logging on to www.alzheimers.org.uk/events or call 0870 417 0192 for an information pack. You won’t regret it.

Andrew Blunt

Don’t miss out on next year’s event

The Rotary Club of Northampton’s Young Musician of the Year Competition took place on February 15 at Northamptonshire Grammar School, Pitsford. Most of those taking part this year were aged between nine and 13 years, with the standard continuing to amaze.

Some, if carefully nurtured, have real potential for the future.

All participants were judged by an independent adjudicator, Andrew Forbes, director of music at Oundle School and received a certificate.

The winners of each section now go through to the Rotary District Semi-Final at Moulton School on March 8. Anyone aged between six and 17 years, who plays a solo instrument, are in a group, band or musical ensemble, are a solo vocalist or sing in a group or choir, are able to enter.

Those who missed out on this year’s competition but who would like better of getting into the 2010 event should contact Rotarian Chris Mahony on (01604) 416475 or e-mail: pat.mahony@btinternet.com Rotarian Caroline Morris Public Relations Officer Rotary Club of Northampton

Why all the negativity about balloon festival?

I have just read the article in the H&P about the Balloon Festival being at risk and I would just like to say that I am certainly willing to pay £3 (or more) per year as part of my council tax to enable the balloon festival to carry on year on year.

Indeed, it would be a very sad decision to scrap this festival as a lot of people, both local and countrywide, enjoy visiting the festival or just watch the balloons fly over their homes.

The balloon festival also helps put Northamptonshire on the map in all the tourist information brochures on Northants, which are obtainable world-wide on websites etc.

As Tim Hadland says in the article - “If they had any will they would find a way” - and I am a firm believer in this statement.

Tony Woods needs to find a way to put aside his negative thoughts about “not a sensible thing to do in the very deep recession at the moment” and start believing it CAN be done - for the enjoyment of thousands of people who look forward to seeing the balloons.

Name supplied by e-mail

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UNITY College is in special measures and staff and parents have been given a chance to have a say on whether turning it into an academy is the answer.

Only 22 per cent of students get five A*-C grades including English and Maths the school, making it one of the lowest performing in the country.

The consultation, run by the sponsors - lead sponsor Diocese of Peterborough, with Bishop Stopford School, Moulton College and Northamptonshire County Council as co-sponsors - of the new academy proposal ended on February 13.

The formal consultation for the closure of Unity College, including the publication of statutory notices has now begun.

Northamptonshire County Council will run a six week consultation.

At the end of this period the council’s cabinet will make a decision on whether or not to close the school and at the same time the Secretary of State for children, schools and families will make a decision about the opening of an academy.

Archdeacon of Northampton Christine Allsopp is representing the lead sponsor for the academy, the Diocese of Peterborough.

She said: “Northamptonshire County Council have to undertake a statutory consultation on whether to close Unity College - that process is now underway.

“Unity College is a Church of England school at present and we want to continue our involvement.

“The proposed academy will keep its Christian ethos and welcome students of all faiths and none.

“As the lead sponsor we are working in partnership with our co-sponsors.

“We are very excited by the work we are doing with our co-sponsors to develop the curriculum.

“Academy status will allow us to offer more vocational courses for 14-19 year olds but we will continue to offer academic courses as well.”

Academy status will allow us to offer more vocational courses for 14-19 year olds but we will continue to offer academic courses as well.

- Archdeacon of Northampton Christine Allsopp

Future of Unity College put in the spotlight

SPECIAL MEASURES: Staff and parents will have a say on whether to turn Unity College, above, into an academy.

Views sought on academy proposal

Academy status will allow us to offer more vocational courses for 14-19 year olds but we will continue to offer academic courses as well.

- Archdeacon of Northampton Christine Allsopp

Hunt is on for early morning attackers

A BLIND man fell to the ground after he was attacked on Northampton’s Abington Street.

Police are appealing for witnesses after the 54-year-old victim was attacked from behind as he walked along the street at about 1pm on Friday.

As a result, he fell to the ground and received minor injuries, grazing the back of his neck. The incident is believed to have taken place between Abington Square and the entrance to the Grosvenor Centre.

Call police on (08453) 700700.

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Call police on (08453) 700700.

TWO men in their 30s needed hospital treatment after an assault where one received a stab wound to the hand and the other was hit in the face.

The unprovoked attack happened at around 12.10am on Saturday in Northwood Road, Northampton.

The first offender was of mixed race, around 5ft 8 to 5ft 11 tall, with cropped dark hair, of slim build and around 18. The second offender was white, about 5ft 4, of slim build, about 17 to 18, with dark spiky hair and a fluffy goatee beard. The third offender was white and around 5ft 9.

All three men fled the scene in the direction of Lindsey Avenue.

Anyone with information should call (08435) 708700.

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Anyone with information should call (08435) 708700.
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- WDP War Disablement Pension must include the Mobility Supplement or Constant Attendance Allowance
- DPB Disablement Pension Benefit must include Constant Attendance Allowance
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<th>Normal Cost</th>
<th>You Pay</th>
<th>Max M²</th>
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<tr>
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<td>£400</td>
<td>£149</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3 Bed Semi Bungalow</td>
<td>£450</td>
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Loft Insulation Price Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Loft Insulation (all house types)</th>
<th>FROM £150</th>
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DETAILED plans for the regeneration of the Market Square have been revealed.

The scheme was unveiled last week and Northampton Borough Council now wants the public's views on what the market will look like in the future.

Last week a mobile van was on the Market Square manned with councillors from NBC answering questions on the exhibition.

At the moment the average number of stalls on the market is 174 on the busiest days of the week, Friday and Saturday.

But as well as stalls the council wants a more 'flexible' approach to the space using it as an open-airing eating area and for entertainment.

Portfolio holder for regeneration Cllr Richard Church (Liberal Democrat, Kingsthorpe) made the plans clear. He said: "There will be no reductions to the number of stalls. There will be a place for everybody currently trading on the market."

"By using demountable stalls, we can reduce or increase the amount of stalls depending on the number of traders.

"What we are trying to do is create an area that is flexible.

The council wants to be able to use the area to do 'different things'.

Cllr Church added: "We can have specialised markets or stalls selling specialty foods.

"We can have continental markets. We can have a stage where community groups put on performances or fun things for children."

Funding has been given to NBC from Northamptonshire Enterprise Limited. Cllr Church said: "We had a grant of £300,000 from NEL and we are putting in some of our own resources to make sure we have staff to run the events."

The whole idea to revamp the market came when the council saw the need to act fast to save the market.

Cllr Church added: "The idea has been running over the last 18 months because the number of stalls has been dropping for something like 15 years. With the number of stalls getting fewer and fewer we are determined to save the market."

"We have to do something."

■ Have you seen the plans for the Market Square? Send your views to laura.corcoran@hpnorthants.co.uk
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Entry forced at health centre

THERE was an attempted burglary at Brackley Health Centre in the early hours of Valentine’s Day.

Offenders forced entry to the property in Halse Road, Brackley, activating an alarm which appears to have frightened them off.

Officers would like to speak to anyone who may have witnessed this incident or have any information regarding it. Call (08453) 700 700.

Club break-in sounds alarm

OFFENDERS are believed to have made off with a small amount of cash after the Towcester Town Football supporters’ club was broken into last week.

It happened sometime between 11pm and 11.45pm on Monday, February 16, when the offenders forced entry to the club, activating the alarm.

They are believed to have made off in the direction of Watling Street East.

They are believed to have made off after the Towcester Town Football supporters’ club was broken into last week.

You can get all the news and sport from our website

www.northantshp.co.uk

Youngsters to take control of the stage

BY LAURA CORCORAN
lcocorcan@thestaritsnorthants.co.uk

A CHARITY helping youngsters in Northampton is set to benefit from a talent show hosted by youth for youth.

The Lowdown in Northampton is a youth counselling and support service and their importance has been noticed by the Northampton Becket Rotary Club.

They will support the service by hosting a talent show called the Y Factor which will feature seven acts.

Chair of the concert, Rotarian Terry Atkinson, said: “It is Northampton’s youth at its best.”

Terry added: “We have supported The Lowdown for several years. They do fantastic work.”

Press officer for the club Dick Roberts said: “We think it is a very worthy organisation. We feel it is local and worthy. They deserve more support.”

Support worker Matthew Price from the Lowdown said: “We are extremely lucky to have such massive support from the rotary in all that we do.

“The Y Factor will be a great evening and provide a great leg up for the participants in the entertainment industry and the money raised will help go towards providing support services for the hundreds of young people who visit us each week.”

The event is due to be held on Saturday, March 7, at the Cripps Theatre, Northampton School for Boys. Doors open at 6.30pm performances begin at 7pm.

All proceeds from the event are set to go to The Lowdown.

Tickets cost £5 per person, available from Terry on 078011 83585 or by visiting www.myspace.com/yfactor2009

Talent: Kismet Yildirim, Pia Nielsen and Ellie Blackwell

The battle is on to find the best village

NOW’S the time to get your entries in for this year’s Village of the Year competition.

Villages have until March 29 to get their submissions in for the awards which are organised by Northamptonshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England).

Seven areas of rural village life are judged, including community, business, sustainability and communications.

The competition is about recognising and rewarding village communities which pull together to make the best of local opportunities.

Competition organiser Robert Herringsaid: “Last year’s winner was Creaton, which is one of our smaller villages, so you don’t have to be a large community to win.

“Additionally, the competition will continue to include the Newcomer’s Cup for those villages who have not entered the competition before.

“We know that Northamptonshire has lots of vibrant village communities, all of which are running excellent projects that improve life for villagers of all ages.

“The competition offers villages the opportunity to shout about their successes and the judging process often helps them to improve on current projects and learn from the experience of others.”

Entry forms can be requested from Robert on (01604) 825885 or by emailing him at Robert.herring@northantsacre.org.uk.

To find out more about the competition, visit the website at www.calorvillageoftheyear.org.

■ THE winning Northamptonshire village will have the added honour of being nominated to go forward and represent the county in the Calor Village of the Year for England competition 2009/10.

The winner in that competition then goes forward for a shot at the UK title.

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Top marks for Jessica

BY LAURA CORCORAN
laura.corcoran@hpnorthants.co.uk

A BIOMEDICAL scientist from Northampton General Hospital is set to receive a national award in recognition of her outstanding examination results.

Jessica Leads passed the Higher Specialist Diploma in Cytopathology, achieving the highest mark from around 100 entrants across the country.

As a result the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) is to present Jessica with the R J Lavington medal, diploma and a cheque for £750 at their annual general meeting in June.

Jessica said: “I downloaded all the past papers from the IBMS website and wasn’t happy to sit the exam until I could answer every question on every paper.

“I studied every night and every weekend from last June and took the exams over two days in September.

“I thought two of the four papers went really well but when the results arrived I was very surprised to have received top marks and overjoyed.

“It means I’m now a Fellow of the IBMS, which is a great vocational qualification to have.”

She originally started working in the NGH pathology reception area when she joined the hospital’s admin and clerical staff bank aged just 16.

She added: “Just before I graduated with my degree in human biology I saw an ad in the local paper for a trainee biomedical scientist here.

“I applied, got the job and started in 2001 and haven’t really looked back.

“I plan to stay here for the foreseeable future.

“I’m quite lucky that my study has been supported by the trust and the strategic health authority.

“NGH has been very good to me and they are very good at promoting continuing education, especially in this department.”

As Jade Goody hits the headlines in her battle with cervical cancer the issue of screening is highlighted furthermore.

Jessica’s role in the NGH cytology department is to analyse samples taken as part of the NHS cervical screening programme.

The programme helps to detect and treat early abnormalities which, if left untreated, could lead to cancer in a woman’s cervix.

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THE SOUNDTRACK to many people’s lives is skillfully captured by The Bootleg Beatles.

It would be fair to say the band has gone beyond being just a tribute group as they carry with them the fab four’s seal of approval for authentically capturing their music.

For the past 29 years, The Bootleg Beatles have been entertaining people across the world with their faithful recreation of The Beatles music.

The BBs were formed from the cast of the West End musical Beatlemania and have been together nearly three times as long as the original group.

They pioneered the ‘tribute act’ in the days before Stars in Your Eyes was even a glint in any TV executive’s thoughts.

The Bootleg Beatles will be taking their own version of the Beatles magic to Northampton next month when they appear at the Derngate on March 26.

Co-founder of the group is Neil Harrison who takes the role of John Lennon.

Speaking about how his role has changed during the years he said: “I have refined it more than when I started. When we first started we were not actors we were musicians. I think that to be able to do it now comes from experience.

“When I look back at some of our performances in the 1980s we looked very nervous but now it is more relaxing.

“My John Lennon sound has improved as I have bashed my throat so often it now has more of an edge.”

Neil rarely listens to the songs the group play in the shows but he does listen to the White Album and Revolver.

He said a lot of the songs associated with the Red (1962-66) and Blue (1967-70) albums he had analysed and taken apart so could not listen to them all the time.

Neil added: “I think the Beatles songs are amazing and very clever. Take a song like Penny Lane it starts off in the key of B but its chorus is in the key of A.

“The transition is seamless so when you listen to it you don’t notice.

“With modern music I can predict where the melody and chorus are going.

“But the Beatles songs they take you somewhere you didn’t expect.”

When The BBs do their show there is a lot for the audience to take in.

There is film footage on a big screen and on stage four characters go through a musical drama tracing the fab four from the Cavern Club through Beatlemania to Sgt Pepper and the Apple rooftop gig.

Neil said: “I think there is more and more pressure on us being The Bootleg Beatles as we have got to get it right as people have paid to come and see us.

“We are under more pressure than The Beatles themselves.”

He added: “People do get more and more emotionally gripped as they grew up with The Beatles music.

“As a result it brings back a lot of memories and they get emotional.”

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“As a result it brings back a lot of memories and they get emotional.”
Bells ringing out for appeal

BY LAURA CORCORAN
laura.corcoran@hpnorthants.co.uk

CHURCHES at risk in the Midlands chimed in time to mark the 40th birthday celebrations of the Churches Conservation Trust.

More than 70 were ringing for the Birthday Bells Appeal last Saturday, including St Peter’s in Northampton, which was handed over to the trust in 1998.

The Churches Conservation Trust’s 40th birthday highlights the importance of the 340 historic churches cared for by the trust and encourages people to visit them.

Audience development officer for the Trust Chana Bedfords aid: “Our churches are centuries old, each is unique and each has its own significance both historically and architecturally. “If cared for correctly they can also provide con-
temporary spaces for everyone to enjoy while also preserving and celebrating these great buildings for future generations.”

Trust chairman Loyd Grossman OBE said: “The appeal is just the start of our 40th year and I look forward to our celebra-
tions across England to raise awareness of the historic churches.”

Fruity fun for Fairtrade event

PEOPLE are being asked to go bananas in aid of this year’s Fairtrade Fortnight.

A world challenge to eat as many pieces of the fruit as possible is taking place on March 7. The aim is to eat one million in 24 hours.

In Northampton, the town’s Mayor Brian Markham will be joining the effort outside Sainsbury’s in the Grosvenor Centre at 10am.

Those who visit the stall can pick up a card and follow the Fairtrade trail around the town and have the chance to win two tickets to the Royal & Derngate theatres. Northampton became a Fairtrade town in 2006.

Oh yes it’s 80s night

DIG out your leg warmers for a night of 80s nostalgia as a special event is set to raise money for charity.

I love the 80s will have people dancing to ‘80s club tunes from the decade and proceeds from the event will go to Little Sensations, advanced music education for blind and partially sighted children.

Tickets for the event running from 7.30pm to midnight on Saturday at Cripps Hall, Northampton, cost £6.

For more information, call 07751 653954, 07766 961461 or e-mail it@80snight@live.co.uk

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That crazy little thing called love

BY LAWRENCE JOHN
lawrencejohn@hpnorthants.co.uk

At the end of a performance of Brief Encounter, Milo Twomey, who plays the role of Alec, is left physically and emotionally drained.

He has given his all in a non-stop performance covering two hours in which even when he is not on stage he is preparing for his next entrance or, like many of the cast, finds himself handing out sandwiches during the interval.

Brief Encounter can be seen for the two lead characters of Alec and Laura as a play of unrequited love, a passion which can never be fulfilled and a love which remains untouchable and unrecognised. As an actor, Twomey has brought his own passion to this production.

He said: “We opened on Friday, February 13 and we are all happily enjoying the play.

“It is still a challenge and I am enjoying it. We got cast last October and started rehearsals in January.

“So in November and December I had preparation time to think about it before I worked with the director.

“When you open it all up then it comes together and during the following days and weeks it all solidifies.

“As an actor what you have to do is keep it fresh.

“I did watch the film (1945 version directed by David Lean) again as I had seen it before. I like the film and it is iconic. When I watched Trevor Howard I thought I can’t do a Trevor Howard, no actor can do what another actor has done.

“I can’t do what he did, what he did was his own so I could not go there.

“We are doing a show, not a film so this is a different performance.

“It is true to Coward’s sentiments about love and it is wonderful how all the characters are in love.

“They are all trying to express love whereas Alec and Laura can’t as it is out of their reach.

“It is a passionate show.”

Many actors who play a role can in some cases draw on their own personal experiences to help them with a part.

It allows them to bring a depth and feeling to the role which it would otherwise be lacking.

Milo said: “I think every actor can draw upon things in their own lives.

“Every one of us has experienced love whether it is required or unrequited.

“I just try to feel the emotions which Alec and Laura are going through.

“The show is an incredible tribute to an emotional right.

“There is great enjoyment from the audience’s reaction.

“Asked if he thought the fact that Coward was gay helped him write a love story where people could never express their love for each other, he said: “I can’t help but think that.

“I have read his autobiography and it is more of a social diary rather than a kiss and tell. But if you read between the lines you see the conflict between this sophisticated, decadent party man in conflict with a suburban person from Teddington in Surrey.

“If you were gay and fell in love you could not express it, everything had to be repressed.”

Milo felt two of the things he had learnt while doing the play was how much of her heart and soul the director Emma Rice had put into the play.

And he added: “I love Noel Coward more than I did. I love the man’s sentimentality and humanity and very few writers could have summed up this universal feeling so well.”

• Brief Encounter is at the Royal Theatre until Saturday.

Tickets range from £10.50 to £26.50.

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- UL A
- R C
- C STRAIN

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**THE THINKER**

Across:
- 1. Think, heard, surprised, yelping apart, all in one (9)
- 5. Exposures for the family (5)
- 10. Mini-plant (5)
- 11. Broken in (4)

Down:
- 1. Muddle with a piece of rock (5)
- 2. Friend of a kind (5)
- 3. Plain manner of speech (4)
- 4. Transient, all too often (8)
- 6. Old person (3)
- 7. Feeling of anger (3)
- 8. Shape (3)

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CALLING all rugby fans - here's your chance to win an official RBS 6 Nations Championship rugby jersey and show your passion for the Northern Hemisphere’s premier rugby Tournament.

This year's competition is set to be a tightly contested affair.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group (RBS) is looking forward to sharing in all the excitement of the Championship with rugby fans everywhere.

The Herald & Post and RBS are offering you the chance to win an official RBS 6 Nations Championship supporters jersey to show your love for rugby.

There are ten shirts up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning one, all you have to do is answer the simple question below.

Who are the current RBS 6 Nations Champions?

Send your answer, along with your name, address, daytime telephone number and preferred shirt size to: RBS 6 Nations Competition, Herald & Post, Newspaper House, 9 Derngate, Northampton, NN1 1NN.

Entries must reach us by Friday, March 6. The first ten correct entries picked at random win.

There will be no cash alternative and the editor’s decision is final.

Preferred shirt sizes will be met subject to availability.

The winners’ details will be passed on to the competition organisers for the allocation of prizes.

This season RBS has developed RBS RugbyLink, a series of club, school and charity initiatives connecting fans with rugby and all its benefits. To find out more and to get involved visit www.rbs6nations.com/rugbylink.
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Herald & Post - Thursday, February 26, 2009 | 21
Figures predict 9 in 10 of today’s children risk being overweight or obese by 2050. Today we start a series of articles to help you get behind a new Government initiative to let families lead healthier lives.

How are the kids?

LIKE any organisation at the heart of its community, this newspaper wants the best for the people it serves. And that is why we are giving our unstinting and enthusiastic support to Change 4 Life, the government campaign to get us all to live healthier lives.

The advice is simple. Eat better. Exercise more.

And the need for changing our lifestyles is just as easy to grasp, with rising levels of obesity and the terrible diseases associated with an unhealthy diet and a lack of activity. That is true of every age group – but it is especially worrying when such a deadly tidal wave engulfs our young people.

Consider this. Official statistics predict that nine out of ten of today’s children could grow up with dangerous amounts of fat in their bodies.

That will leave them at risk from life-threatening conditions such as cancer, diabetes and heart disease.

In short, it will mean that some of the fresh-faced kids we see around us today will live lives that are cut unnecessarily short.

That is inexcusable in 21st century Britain. Yet the solution is not complicated. Small changes to the way we live can make a huge difference.

Over the next month the pages of this newspaper will carry advice on how our diets can be changed to help increase our chance of living long and healthy lives.

We will also be carrying tips on how we can get the exercise we need – not through punishing keep-fit regimes, but by adopting a fun, sensible approach to life.

There will be stories about ordinary people who have already Changed 4 Life.

We would like to hear from readers, too, who have turned round their lives and those of their children so their success can be celebrated on these pages.

The aim is to mount a campaign to inspire us all – and particularly to our children.

Make no mistake. Between us we can make a difference. We can ensure that people across the city live longer lives.

That is why we embrace this initiative. We would be failing our readers were to do anything else.

Waste no time. Change 4 Life.

Why Change4Life can help your family live healthier lives

TO help parents identify ways to make family life healthier, more than 11 million copies of the questionnaire, How Are The Kids? are being distributed throughout the country.

Here we explain why you should get your hands on a copy...

What is it? A simple questionnaire that will help you get the right advice for your family.

The questions are designed to give you a picture of a typical day in your child’s life, as far as eating and activity goes. For example, “What did you have for breakfast today? or “What did your kids do at playtime?”

What happens after I fill it in? Send your answers freepost back to Change4Life and you’ll receive a plan of action specially tailored to your family needs, full of handy hints to get your kids being more active and eating healthier food. They’re really easy to follow and are designed to fit into busy lives.

Where can I get mine? Millions of copies are being sent out to homes, schools, pharmacies, GP surgeries and post offices. You can also complete the survey online.

● To find out more search Change4Life online or call the helpline on: 0300 123 4567
5 ways to get them moving

Healthy eating recipe

Lentil soup

Serves: 1
Time: 35 min
This filling vegetarian soup is packed with protein and ideal on a cold winter's day

Traffic lights
Each serving contains:

- **LOW**
  - FAT 4.1g
  - SAT 0.5g
  - SALT 0.2g
  - SUG 6.5g

**INGREDIENTS**
- 1 tsp oil
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1 carrot, chopped
- 4 tbsp red dried lentils
- 450ml water
- chopped parsley (optional)
- freshly ground black pepper

**METHOD**
1. Fry the onion and carrot in a saucepan for about 3 minutes, until softened.
2. Add all the other ingredients and bring the soup to the boil, then lower the heat and simmer gently for about 25 minutes or until the lentils are soft. Add a little more water if needed.
3. If you like your soup smooth, blend it for 30 seconds in a food processor. Then decorate with chopped parsley and serve with wholemeal bread.

**NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nutrient</th>
<th>Per 100g</th>
<th>Per 362g portion</th>
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It can really help if you set a limit on how long your children can sit still in front of the TV or computer. One or two hours is a generous amount of time, depending on their age. Once screen time is up you need to hit the off switch. so they’re forced to play with other toys or go outside.

2) **Try to go feet first**
If you always ferry your kids to school or drive to activities at the weekend, think about leaving the car at home. As long as it's not too far, walking or cycling with the kids will benefit you both – and save money too.

3) **Join the club**
Parents often assume their kids must be shattered after a long school day - forgetting that they’re actually sitting down for most of the time! Rather than allowing them to flop in front of the telly, encourage them to relax after school by joining a club.

4) **Get up after eating**
Don’t let your kids rest for too long after meals - however tempted they might be! Half an hour to settle stomachs is fine then it’s best to get them up and about again. Go for a family walk and you can burn off any excess calories too.

5) **Make family time**
Families that are active together tend to be both healthier and closer. Try specifying one day at the weekend to be a family fun day when you all go on a bike ride, visit a local park, or explore a new area.

Tips for kids

- **Swim like a fish!**
  Go for a splash around at your local swimming pool - it's good for ALL your muscles.

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Tips for kids

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  Go for a splash around at your local swimming pool - it's good for ALL your muscles.
Calling all budding photographers

Would you like to have your images appear in the Herald & Post?

If the answer is yes and you have copyright-free images of Northamptonshire that you would be happy for us to use, then read on! We are looking for photographs of landscapes, buildings, events, statues, abstract images, etc. (no portraits please) to feature on our classified pages. All you need to do is email your images to the address below in JPEG format and include your name, location and a brief description of your photograph. So get snapping and we could be featuring your image!

email your pictures to:
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Sat 18 Apr  Port Canaveral, USA
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Mon 20 Apr  Cruising
Tue 21 Apr  Hamilton, Bermuda
Wed 22 Apr  St. Georges Island, Bermuda
Thu 23 Apr  Cruising
Fri 24 Apr  Cruising
Sat 25 Apr  Cruising
Sun 26 Apr  Cruising
Mon 27 Apr  Cruise to Azores
Tue 28 Apr  Cruise to Azores
Wed 29 Apr  Cruise to Azores
Thu 30 Apr  St. Georges Island, Bermuda
Fri 01 May  Cruising
Sun 03 May  Dover

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FREE!!!
ARGOS has opened its doors for business creating 33 new jobs and helping a charity at the same time.

Argos unveiled its third Northampton branch on February 19, at Sixfields Retail Park. The store’s opening was officially performed by finance director Matt Smith and a mascot from the British Heart Foundation to mark Argos’ seven month partnership with the charity which has raised £350,000 to date. Funds raised will go towards placing new defibrillators in communities where they are needed most.

A POLICE officer was assaulted twice by two men while carrying out inquiries in Gold Street.

The incident took place around 2.45am on Sunday. The male officer had been talking to three men when he went to restrain one of them. He was then assaulted by the other two men, who made off along Gold Street. The officer chased the men but when he caught them, he was punched and they made off again. The three men were all white.

One was five foot, 11 inches tall, broadly built with short brown hair and wore a long sleeved blue top. The second was around five foot ten inches tall and wore a white t-shirt with writing on the chest, while the third wore a brown jumper.

The police officer suffered cuts and bruising as a result of the assault.

Anyone with information should call police on (08453) 700700.

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COWARD AT HIS GLITTERING BEST

in Noel Coward's
A Song at Twilight

Taking on Coward again

BY JODIE PARSONS
jodieparsons@johnnorthants.co.uk

Aida’s your chance to share the spotlight

IF YOU’VE ever fancied being on stage here’s a chance to fulfil that dream. Ellen Kent and Amphitheatre Productions will be performing Aida at Northampton’s Derngate on March 20 and are looking for people to be slaves and soldiers. The parts include the Royal family who have been enslaved by the conquering Armies of Egypt and there will also be roles as Egypt’s soldiers in the Triumphal March. Aida tells the story of an Ethiopian princess who is a slave girl in Ancient Egypt. She falls for the Egyptian hero Radames and their love affair unfolds on stage with passionate and shattering consequences. Everyone over 18 years old is welcome to register as an extra in this production. Extras will not be paid and spaces are limited.

To sign up, call (01634) 820226 to leave a message or email marketing@ellenkentinational.co.uk and they will return your call. Extras do not need stage experience, just enthusiasm to go on stage.

Costumes and a rehearsal will be provided on the day of the performance.

Hear the film hits
MUSIC from the Movies will be on offer in a concert from Northamptonshire Orchestral Winds.

The band will be playing musical film favourites this Saturday at 7.30pm at St Michael’s Church in St Michael’s Mount, Northampton. Hear pieces from Star Wars, Harry Potter and Mamma Mia.

Tickets are £8 and £4 on the door. For more information visit www.nowonband.co.uk

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Twists and turns of Hornby thriller

BY JODIE PARSONS

DUSTON Players are back to entertain with a play by Ian Hornby who they hope will be in the audience.

They will be performing the thriller A Dish Served Cold at the Duston Community Centre, Pendle Road, Duston, at 7.45pm from Wednesday, March 4 to Saturday, March 7.

It is the third Ian Hornby play tackled by the group in recent years following The Price to Pay in 2005 and last year’s Late of This Address.

Like all good thrillers A Dish Served Cold has unexpected twists and turns and centres on jealousies arising from the use of an internet chat room.

When the group performed The Price to Pay they were delighted to have the writer and his family travel from Cheshire to see it and give them a very favourable review.

Hornby has expressed a desire to see this production and the Players are hopeful to be able to welcome him to Duston again.

Director Richard Varley has cast a mixture of new and familiar Duston Players’ faces with John Myhill and Faye Gibson, pictured, taking on the roles of Duncan and Lynn.

Tickets are available from the Duston Players box office on (01604) 753897.

Join Tiger for tea

THERE will be fun in store for children as the Tiger returns for more tea.

Following last year’s tour the live stage production of The Tiger Who Came To Tea is back on the road and heading to Milton Keynes Theatre.

Based on the award winning picture book by Judith Kerr, this family show is packed with fun and can be seen from March 12-14. To book tickets call (0870) 060 6652 or visit www.ambassadortickets.com/miltonkeynes

Sound the drums

WITH the African Soul Rebels on their way to town people are invited to pick up a drum themselves.

Their concert is at Royal & Derngate on March 11 and to coincide with it free drum circle events have been organised.

The first was last week but there is another today at the Romany Pub on Trinity Avenue, Northampton, from 7pm-9pm. People can also have a go at the Picturedrome, Kettering Road, Northampton, on March 4, from 7pm-9pm. Contact 07789 373889 for details.

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Bone Idol search is on

Theatre looks for Corgi to join the cast of The BFG...

WORKING with animals over Christmas can't have put Royal & Derngate off as they are preparing to do it all again by starting a new search for a dog to tread the boards.

This search follows the huge interest from Northamptonshire dog owners after Royal & Derngate appealed for canines to audition for the part of Toto in their Christmas show The Wizard of Oz.

And now it's Bone Idol once again as the theatre looks for a corgi from the area to appear in their forthcoming production of Roald Dahl classic The BFG. In this walk-on role the corgi will appear on stage accompanying the Queen of England in the second half of the play.

The show runs from Thursday, March 12 to Saturday, March 28 and the winning dog — would be featured in two performances during the run.

Company stage manager Meryl Couper said: “We’ll be putting the dogs through some simple obedience tests and making sure they are happy to be handled by other people.

Pellow’s horny devil delights his fans

THERE’S never really any doubt about the main attraction of The Witches of Eastwick, and the curtain-call whoops and whoops by Mr Martin Pellow merely serve to confirm the fact.

The Wet Wet Wet frontman leads the touring company in the role of the devil, here known as Darryl Van Horne, as he wreaks his special brand of randy havoc in stage adaptations of Nora Ephron’s American community of Eastwick.

Inspired by the film which was based on the John Updike novel, this version has all the required elements of a proper Broadway musical — would be featured by Celia Sawyer (Wedge), Zoe Henry (Dempsey), and a well-drilled staging of the, “Lo, the angels ring...”

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Be dazzled by a week of opera

A WELSH flavour will be on offer when the Welsh National Ballet Opera take up residence in Milton Keynes for one week this spring.

Forbidden love, mistaken identity and a love potion feature in a trio of passionate operas taking to the stage from March 31 to April 4.

The Marriage of Figaro is a dazzling new production of Mozart’s classic comedy.

Drawing inspiration from the elegant 1930s this co-production with Gran Teatre del Liceu, Barcelona, opens WNO’s week in Milton Keynes on Tuesday, March 31, with a second performance on April 3, at 7.30pm.

A quack doctor with a line in dodgy love potions lies at the heart of The Elixir of Love in this revival of Donizetti’s romantic tale. It can be seen on Thursday, April 2 and Saturday, April 4 at 7.15pm.

And Salome, Andre Engel directs the revival of his original work and is joined by a strong cast.

It takes to the stage on Wednesday, April 1, at 8pm.

For more information or to book tickets call (0870) 060 6652 or visit www.miltonkeynesetheatre.com
STRIVING to protect landlords should be the prime concern of any letting agent worth his salt and Scott Pinkham Lettings adapt their priorities to changes in the property market trends.

As the recession bites there is a likelihood of more and more redundancies which will inevitably mean some tenants finding difficulty in paying their rent.

For the past twelve months, Scott Pinkham have been paying the first premium on behalf of landlords to create a rent guarantee scheme through their agents Rentshield, this basically means that if a tenant is made redundant and is not able to pay his rent, it is paid through an insurance policy.

This obviously ceases the moment a tenant finds alternative employment or comes to the end of his assured short hold tenancy. In the past the policy normally comes to the end after six months during which time the tenant has usually proved that he is capable and able to pay the rent but, as the credit crunch continues to worsen, Scott Pinkham Lettings are now trying to endeavour to persuade the landlords to keep the insurance policy running throughout the period of a tenancy.

For a premium as little as £60 - £65 for the full six months period, landlords are now choosing this option and obviously now have peace of mind.

Anne Crilly, senior marketing manager at Scott Pinkham Lettings, explained that a high percentage of their landlords have mortgage obligations to meet and simply cannot afford not to receive their rent promptly and on a regular basis.

She added however quickly they may move to help a landlord when rent arrears occur, an eviction order cannot be obtained until the tenant is at least two months in arrears.

This, coupled with court hearing delays, means a landlord could be out of pocket by three months or more which causes great hardship. This can all be avoided with a Rentshield rent guarantee.

For further information on letting your property, please visit their website at www.scottpinkham.com or speak to Anne Crilly or Niki Brown for an initial consultation entirely without obligation.
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- £475 pcm

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- £695 pcm

## East Hunsbury
- **3 Bedroom Semi Detached**
- 2 Double bedrooms, 1 Single, Lounge, kitchen/diner, Driveway and double garage
- £695 pcm

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- **3 Bedroom Property**
- Hall, lounge, kitchen, Family bathroom plus ensuite to master, Downstairs WC, Must seen
- £750 pcm

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- **One Bedroom Apartment**
- Lounge, kitchen, 1 Double bedroom, Central location
- £675 pcm

## Abington Vale
- **Semi Detached Property**
- 2 Double bedrooms, 1 Single, Lounge, Kitchen/diner, Garage and driveway
- £595 pcm

## Thorplands
- **3 Bedroom Terraced**
- Spacious living accommodation, Neutrally decorated throughout, Great value
- £575 pcm

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- **3 Bedroom Bungalow**
- Large lounge, dining room, Fully fitted kitchen, Village location viewing highly recommended
- £695 pcm

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- **5 Bedroom Barn Conversion**
- Tastefully decorated, Viewing highly recommended
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## East Hunsbury
- **4 Bedroom Detached Property**
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- **Semi Detached**
- Hall, Lounge / diner, Kitchen / 2 Double Bedrooms, 1 Single, Garage
- £695 pcm

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- Available 5th April

Northampton Town Ctr
- One Bedroom
- Sixth Floor Apartment
- Town Centre Location
- Concierge Service
- Private Fitness Suite
- Secure Parking
- Unfurnished
- Available 26th March

Northampton Town Centr
- Two Bedroom
- Top Floor Apartment
- Two En suites
- Cloakroom
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Neutral Decor
- Unfurnished
- Available 1st March

Thorplands
- Three Bedroom
- Terrace House
- Downstairs W.C
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Neutral Decor
- Furnished
- Available now

Abington
- Fabulous Three Bedroom
- Terraced House
- Working Open Fire Place
- Separate Dining Room
- Large Kitchen & Basement
- Must Be Viewed
- Unfurnished
- Available End of March

Hannington
- Four Bedroom
- Cottage
- Separate Dining Room
- Communal Garden to Rear
- Downstairs W.C
- Utility Room
- Unfurnished
- Available Now

East Hunsbury
- Modern Three Bedroom
- Semi Detached House
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking
- Bathroom with Shower
- Lounge/Diner
- Unfurnished
- Available 4th May

Duston
- Three Bedroom
- Detached House
- Study
- Downstairs W.C
- Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Un/Furnished
- Available Now

Duston
- Stylish Two Bedroom
- Large Basement Apartment
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower
- Neutral Decor
- Double Bedrooms
- Unfurnished
- Available Now

St James
- Large Three Bedroom
- Semi Detached House
- Separate Dining Room
- Downstairs W.C
- Shower
- Bathroom with Shower
- Double Bedrooms
- Part Unfurnished
- Available Now

Southfields
- Four Bedroom
- Detached House
- Garage
- Off Road parking
- Downstairs W.C
- Bathroom with Shower
- Unfurnished
- Available 19th April

Grange Park
- Two Bedroom
- First Floor Apartment
- En Suite
- Secure Parking for 2 Cars
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Fitted Wardrobes
- UnFurnished
- Available End of February

Kingsthorpe
- Three Bedroom
- Semi Detached House
- Lounge/Diner
- Rear Garden
- EnSuite
- Utility Room
- Unfurnished
- Available Now

The Billing Arbours
- Three Bedroom
- Detached House
- Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Downstairs W.C
- Bathroom with Shower
- Unfurnished
- Available 6th May

Northampton Town Ctr
- Large Two Bedroom
- First Floor Apartment
- En Suite
- Close to Town Centre
- Fitted Kitchen
- Neutral Decor
- Unfurnished
- Available Mid March

Overstone Lodge
- Stylish Three Bedroom
- Lodge
- Stunning Views
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- All Double Bedrooms
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- Furnished
- Available Now

East Hunsbury
- Large Three Bedroom
- Detached House
- Downstairs W.C
- Dining Room
- En Suite
- Utility Room
- Unfurnished
- Available 23rd March

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Walgrave  £750 pcm
Stylish detached period stone barn conversion Lounge with vaulted ceiling, two bedrooms Kitchen/breakfast room with appliances To let unfurnished, available mid April

Abington  £575 pcm
Three bedroomed Victorian town house 2½ lounge/diner with exposed floorboards Modern beech kitchen with appliances To let unfurnished, available mid May

Far Cotton  £499 pcm
One bedroomed first floor apartment Modern fitted kitchen with appliances Shower room, communal gardens and parking To let unfurnished, available late March

East Hunsbury  £460 pcm
Modern ground floor apartment Open plan living area, kitchen with appliances Two bedrooms, bathroom, decked garden To let unfurnished, available now

Derngate  RENT REDUCED  £500 pcm
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Steeple Claydon

Taylor Estate Agents are delighted to offer for sale this four bedroom semi detached property, situated in the popular village of Steeple Claydon. The property briefly comprises of entrance hall, WC, lounge, kitchen, dining area, conservatory, study, double garage and parking for two cars. The property also has the benefit of being double glazed and gas to radiator heating.

Brackley

Taylor Estate Agents are delighted to offer for sale this very well presented three bedroom semi-detached family home pleasantly located in the popular village of Marston St Lawrence. The property briefly comprises of entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, utility room, w.c., three double bedrooms and a family bathroom. The accommodation also benefits from double glazing, gas to radiator heating and off road parking.

Towcester

Taylor Estate Agents are pleased to offer for sale this very well presented three bedroom semi detached property situated in the popular village of Gawcott. The property briefly comprises of entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, utility, two double bedrooms and a family bathroom. The accommodation also benefits from double glazing, gas to radiator heating and off road parking.

Great Horwood

Taylor Estate Agents are delighted to offer for sale this 3 bedroom semi detached property pleasantly located in the popular village of Great Horwood. The property briefly comprises of entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, recently upgraded bathroom, study, double garage and off road parking. The property also has the benefit of being double glazed and gas to radiator heating.

Buckingham

Taylor Estate Agents are delighted to offer for sale this very well presented four bedroom detached property pleasantly located on a elevated plot in the popular village of Page Hill. The property benefits from front and rear gardens, double glazing, gas to radiator heating, four receptions rooms, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, utility, shower room and family bathroom. The accommodation also benefits from off road parking for up to four vehicles and a single garage. The accommodation briefly comprises of entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, utility room, four double bedrooms and family bathroom. The accommodation also benefits from double glazing, gas to radiator heating and off road parking.

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No 8. Bridge Street, Northampton
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Sales & Lettings under one roof

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Features</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abington</td>
<td>2 Bedroom</td>
<td>- New Kitchen</td>
<td>£625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Refitted bathroom</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Large Garden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Crispins</td>
<td>3 Bed end terrace</td>
<td>- Fitted kitchen</td>
<td>£750</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Lounge/diner</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Downstairs cloakroom</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southside/close to town</td>
<td>Only few mins walk from town center</td>
<td>- 2 bedrooms</td>
<td>£600</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Garden</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Plenty of room</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>St James</td>
<td>Close to town</td>
<td>- Fantastically spacious</td>
<td>£600</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- New Kitchen</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Sort after area</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kingsthorpe</td>
<td>3 bedrooms</td>
<td>- Semi detached</td>
<td>£675</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>- Very good value for money</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- off street parking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anglers Rest</td>
<td>3 &amp; 4 bedroom homes</td>
<td>- off Farnborough Drive, Middlemore</td>
<td>£166,950</td>
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<td>- Daventry NN11 8AL</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- 2 Bedrooms</td>
<td>£125,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Close to town</td>
<td>£90,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Just sold</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Ideal first time buy</td>
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<td>- Viewing a must</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southside</td>
<td>3 bedrooms</td>
<td>- Off street Parking</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>- Lounge/diner</td>
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<td>- Good family home</td>
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<td>Close to town</td>
<td>2 Bedrooms</td>
<td>- Close to town</td>
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<td>- Ideal first time buy</td>
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<td>- Viewing a must</td>
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<td>3 bedrooms</td>
<td>- New Kitchen</td>
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<td>- Large plot</td>
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<td>- Good development</td>
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<td>- We need more</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sold</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Very close to town</td>
<td>3 bedrooms</td>
<td>- New Kitchen</td>
<td>POA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Very large upstairs bathroom</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Must be seen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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For informal enquiries please contact Kaye Foster on 01908 254992.

Ref: 50017268/MKN

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16 hours per week job share
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We are looking for an experienced, enthusiastic, Chartered librarian to manage and develop the libraries at Newport Pagnell, Olney and Woburn Sands. You will be responsible for promoting the libraries and their stock to the local community and helping to plan the future development. This post includes a particular responsibility for children’s stock and activities in all the branch libraries around Milton Keynes.

For informal enquiries please contact Garry Mitchell on 01908 372797.

Ref: 50011620/MKN

Business Administrator
£15,524 - £18,217
You will provide all administrative support to the Milton Keynes Registration Service, ensuring the efficient organisation of the office and the smooth running of all administrative procedures. Organised, calm, efficient, and methodical, you will have administrative experience in a customer-facing role within a diverse community.

For informal enquiries please contact Sharon Taylor or Kim Cumming on 01908 372101.

Interview date: 1st April 2009.

Library Assistant Bletchley
£13,382 - £15,849
In this varied role, you will answer enquiries, assist customers with ICT, undertake counter duties, and deliver story sessions to young people. Qualified to GCSE or equivalent in English and maths, you will have strong customer care and communication skills, a flexible approach, and an interest in library work.

For an application form, email: jobs@milton-keynes.gov.uk or call on 01908 253344 or 253462 (24 hour answerphone).

Closing date: 1st April 2009.

Ref: 50012968/MKN

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AUDI is once again producing a five-cylinder powerhouse and the TT RS will be unveiled to the world at the Geneva Auto Show.

Its turbocharged 2.5-litre engine produces well above 300PS.

It also delivers explosive acceleration, driving delight, and unrivalled sound.

A legend is reborn. After all, powerful five-cylinder gasoline engines have a long legacy at Audi.

And the turbocharged direct-fuel-injection engine in the TT RS is the new torchbearer of this dynamic tradition. It enables the TT RS to perform extraordinary feats.

For example, it needs nowhere near five seconds to reach 62mph; overtaking is child’s play; and it has the limited top speed only on paper.

The quattro permanent all-wheel drive system, a sophisticated chassis, and brakes keep a tight rein on the power.

All in all, the compact TT RS — with its lightweight and largely aluminium body constructed as per the Audi Space Frame principle — is a driving machine to be reckoned with.

---

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07/07 Mondeo 1.8 Edge Estate, 5 Speed, Full Spec, Air Con, ABS, 9,000 Miles £7,995
07/07 Mondeo 1.8 Edge Estate, 5 Speed, Silver, Full Spec, Air Con, ABS, 17,000 Miles £7,295
07/07 New Shape Galaxy 2.0 Ghia, 5 Speed, Silver, Full Ghia Spec, Climate Control, ABS, Full Electric Pack, 12,000 Miles £13,995
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07/57 Nissan Micra 1.6 CC Sport, 5 Speed, Light Metallic Blue, Air Con, ABS, Full Electric Action Hood, Alloys, 6,000 Miles £7,795
06/06 Street Ka 1.6 Ice Convertible, 5 Speed, French Blue, Air Con, ABS, Leather Interior, Alloys, 8,000 Miles £9,995
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2000 W VW BEETLE 2.0, alloys, silver, a/c, e/w, e/s roof, FSH, front fogs...SOLD
04 53 HONDA ACCORD 2.2 CTDi Executive Manual, full black leather, alloys, a/c, e/w, e/...£4,499
07 57 MERCEDES E220 Cdi TIPTRONIC Auto, 1 owner, black leather, climate, air con, many more extras...£22,995
05 FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCi Ghia, 1 owner, FSH, silver, climate, air con, CD player...£3,995
05 FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCi Ghia, 1 owner, FSH, silver, FSH, alloys, CD, e/w, e/m, a/c...£3,995
02 52 MERCEDES C270 CDi Elegance Auto, FSH, 1 owner, climate, air con, beige leather, many extras...£8,499
04 FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCi 100 BHP Estate LX / Zetec, silver, alloys, a/c, 1 owner, FSH...SOLD
05 55 VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.2 5 Door Auto, low miles, FSH, alloys, a/c, e/w, e/l...£4,995
52 CITROEN XSARA PICASSO 1.6 LX, full Mot, silver, e/w, e/m, VSC, 72k, s/h...£1,995
02 02 SUZUKI Liana 1.6 GL 5door, silver, e/w, e/m, taxed + Mot, VGC...£1,799
04 54 VW GOLF TDI, met black, 1 owner, FSH, e/w, e/m, s/h, 5 door, VGC...£4,795
01 FORD GALAXY 2.3 Zetec 7 Seats, FSH, e/w, e/m, a/c, excellent condition, alloy wheels...SOLD

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97 T FORD FIESTA 05 1.3 TL, FSH, brand new Mot, 5 doors, met red, superb condition, e/sunroof...£995
99 T FORD FIESTA 06 1.4 SX, full Mot, 5 door, met red, excellent condition...£2,295

4x4s
07 07 RANGE ROVER Vogue SE Auto V8 TD 3.6, black, cream leather, TVs, DVDs, Sat Nav, many more extras...£39,995
02 52 FORD RANGER XL T DOUBLE Cab Carryback Top, a/c, e/w, e/m, alloys...£4,995 Inc. VAT
06 06 NISSAN NAVARA DCI Adventure, 1 owner, FSH, black with black leather, alloys, CD, Sat Nav...£8,995-VAT
04 54 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY TD5 Pursuit, 1 owner, FSH, 3 seats, Oxford blue with black interior, climate, air con, e/w, e/m, alloys, front fogs, facelift model...£8,995

VANS
07 57 VAUXHALL VIVARO 2900 6 speed CDI, excellent condition, 1 owner, FSH, low mileage, SLD - CD player, e/w, e/m, c/l, e/s...£8,995
07 57 VAUXHALL VIVARO T35 TDI 85 PS, 1 owner, 22k, FSH, excellent condition, huge saving on new price...£7,995-VAT
56 V7 VW CADDY 2.0 5dr, white, 32k, FSH, 1 owner, SLD, PAS, c/l, excellent condition...£6,695-VAT
06 55 MERCEDES SPRINTER 313 CDI 100 BHP LWB 3hp Top 4.2, 1 owner, FSH, low miles, PAS, CD player, excellent condition...SOLD
2000 W FORD TRANSIT SWB SW Top T5 Doors, 79k, FSH, full Mot, PAS, VGC...£2,795 NO VAT
03 52 FORD TRANSIT SWB 2.0 TDCi SLD, full test, PAS, c/l, e/s, e/w...£3,695
05 55 VAUXHALL VIVARO 2.0 JTD, 2 owners, 60k, SWB, ply lined, 3 seats, VGC...£3,995-VAT
02 CITROEN BERLINGO 600 LX, FSH, PAS, Diesel, ply lined...£1,695 NO VAT
05 55 IVECO DAILY 3513 HPI 2.3 TD LOW EMISSIONS JUMBO LWB VAN, 47k high top, SLD, full Mot, 10 months tax...£3,995-VAT
06 06 VAUXHALL COMBO 1.2TD CDI, 1 owner, FSH, tax & Mot, side loading door, excellent condition...£3,495 NO VAT
01 FORD ESCORT 1.8 DIESEL 75 VAN, PAS, Mot, sold rear doors, roof rack, white, S/H...£1,695
03 CITROEN BERLINGO 2.0 HDI L2 HDI 600 FACELIFT MODEL SLD, silver, e/w, FSH, c/l, tinted windows...£2,295
06 VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3 CDI 75DL, side loading door, ply lined, 1 owner, FSH, PAS, c/l, excellent condition...£2,295
03 CITROEN RELAY LWB H/TOP SLD HDI, ply lined, full Mot, PAS, e/w, e/m...£4,295-VAT

MINI BUS
03 55 LDV Convoy Mini Bus 17 Seats LWB High Top, full Mot, 1 owner, 2 TD, excellent condition...£4,995-VAT

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04 54 FORD RANGER 1 TON PICK UP TRUCK 4X2, 1 owner, met blue, single cab, e/w, e/m, PAS, full MOT excellent condition...£3,795-VAT
04 04 LDV CONVOY 400TD LWB DROPSIDE TRUCK W2X72 ALLOY BODY, 1 owner, 47,000, VGC, tax & Mot...£3,995
05 55 UNECO DAILY 35C13 3500kg Flat Bed Truck MP Long, 1 owner, excellent condition, TD...£6,995-VAT
2000 V FORD TRANSIT Crew Cab Tipper 3500kg 2.5 Diesel, Mot & tax, bowbar, VGC...SOLD
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2005 WY05 VQG Golf 1.4 Sd £1075 with Air Con, Steel grey metallic, side impact protection, Curtain airbags, radio/CD, ABS, electric windows and mirrors, engine immobiliser, height and reach adjustable steering, remote central locking – 26,886 miles

2006 KV05 OOD Golf SE 1.9 Turbo Diesel Sd £9975 with Air Con, Reflex silver metallic, side impact protection, PAS, electric windows & mirrors, ABS, curtain airbags, alloy, trip computer, radio/CD, remote alarm, height and reach adjustable steering, alloy wheels, 72,206 miles

2006 L505 SVY Eos 2.0 Sport turbo diesel £19975 with Air Con, Silver essance metallic side impact protection, elec/win and mirror, trip comp, ABS, front fog lights, radio CD, 4 airbags, height and reach adjustable steering, rear parking sensors, xenon/alum, alloy wheels, 39,660 miles

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2008 KV05 DWK Touran SE 1.9 TDi 140 7 Seat £18,875 with Air Con, Reflex silver metallic, side impact protection, PAS, electric windows & mirrors, ABS, curtain airbags, remote alarm, trip computer, radio/CD, cruise control, multi function steering wheel, alloy, centre armrest – mileage 8,137 miles

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RUGBY UNION

Northampton Heathens 19
Huntingdon 2nd XV 10

After the two-week break enforced by the weather, Heathens returned to action in the Directors League of the Wells Bombardier Merit tables and managed to reverse the defeat suffered earlier in the season away at Huntingdon.

In glorious conditions on The Racecourse, Heathens put in a solid display to earn the victory.

Heathens opened strongly with a well worked try when Laurence Knowles appeared on the left wing to cross for an unconverted try after 11 minutes. The visitors responded on 17 minutes with an unconverted try of their own for the Artizan-based Heathens to retake the lead when Pete Evans crashed over from close range for a try that was converted by Dan McCollan.

With five minutes of the half remaining, visiting team Heathens were awarded a penalty try.

Heathens were later awarded a penalty during the second half against visitors to the area final of the national triples competition at Desborough on Sunday. The penalty was given by the Wellingborough triple of Neil Rees, Neil Corbyn and Neil Coralby. McCke will have to wait until Sunday for this chance to reach the final of the singles competition. He was due to face Northampton & District’s Andy Smith last Thursday but was unwell so the area final, also at Desborough, had to be postponed.

ROWING

Three members of Northampton Rowing Club will be attempting to break international distance world records for a 24 hour period on Thursday March 12 in aid of Cancer Relief.

A team of three, coxswained by Andy Rankin, will be rowing 20,000m in an attempt to break the current record for a 24 hour period on a rowing machine with a 200,000m target approximately equates to losing 2,040 calories and 15 plus litres of water for each rower.

In addition, Webb is also hoping to break the record for the farthest distance ever rowed in a 24 hour period, which currently stands at 307.68km.

Club captain Chris Sentance said: “This is a phenomenal test of each person’s ability, requiring huge amounts of endurance, confidence and self-belief. Twenty four hours on a rowing machine with a 200,000m target approximately equates to losing 2,040 calories and 15 plus litres of water for each rower.”

The event takes place at the Nene white-water centre starting at 10am. Anyone who would like to sponsor the group should visit www.myrednoseday.com/24hourrowingchallenge to make a donation.

Any additional support by way of nutritional and psychological advice, physio help or just being there to cheer them on would also be appreciated.

Email will_japp@hotmail.com for more information or to offer any support.

SCHOOL RUGBY

Northampton School for Boys are making their final push for the semi-final of the Under 15 RBS Daily Mail Schools Cup on Saturday.

The side reached the last four with a win over St Ambrose College, Altrincham, and play Kent’s Judd School at Broadstreet RFC near Coventry.

The side will also be staying overnight in a hotel after travelling on the day last time and losing to Sherborne School.

NSB’s new in charge of rugby Mark Lee said: “That was the decision of the coaching team at the time. But we think that a Daily Mail semi-final is a special occasion and staying in a hotel is a special event for 14 and 15-year-old boys.”

Lee is happy for his side to have the underdog tag going into the game. He said: “We are playing underdogs and we are taking nothing for granted. But we probably start as underdogs against Judd and I am happy that we start as underdogs.

We have done our homework, we know that Judd have a good side to them but we can’t afford to lose confidence.”

But despite not being the favourites, Lee believes NSB have what it takes to make it to the final.

He said: “If you look at the results of the other teams there is no stand-out side, they have all been beaten by somebody somewhere along the line.”

NSB against Sherborne kicks off at 11am, with the winner facing either Millfield School or Barnard Castle School in the summer conference takes place at the same venue starting at 1pm.

NORTHERN COMMAND RUGBY LEAGUE

National Championship mixed fours competition, held on theirown turf last week.

Dominic Graham and Chris Bland began against Ambrose College, Altrincham, and play Kent’s Judd School at Broadstreet RFC near Coventry.

These championships are 9.30am for the morning sessions and 1.45pm for the afternoon sessions. Admission is by programme.

Swimmers aged between nine and13-years-old for girls and 14-years-old for boys will be competing for the BACats (British age group categories) and individual junior categories. Elimination will be challenging for youth and senior versions. Swimmers have had to achieve a national standard to be able to participate.

These championships will feature individual sprint, middle and long distance events as well as team relay events.

The results will be posted on the BACats website.
EAGLE BITTER UNITED
COUNTIES LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION (SATURDAY)
A PAUL Doherty double helped S&L Corby on their way to a 4-1 win at home against Corby Town. Tom Mills and Paul Caswell were also on target as the Foundrymen continued their push for the title.

Northampton Spencer won by the same scoreline away to Raunds Town. Alfie Taylornetted twice for The Foundrymen continued their push for the title.

Northampton Spencer went one-up against local rivals Corby Town on Saturday at Lings Forum Leisure Centre.

The Foundrymen have now found themselves with a real relegation fight with just six games remaining of the regular season. They are now three games adrift from safety ahead of another tough fixture this Saturday away to Corby Town.

The Northampton team started well on Saturday against the Wasps as they led the first half 18-16 from after two goals from Mark Spatcher, Cachla Reynoso and Francis Tebo put the homeside in front.

In the second quarter Northampton gave several silly turnovers after trying to throw the ball long off rebounds. The Neptunes rotated Alex Wilson into the line to stop the right attacks as the hosts then began to find their shape at both ends of the floor.

The Neptunes looked to be taking control of the game as they built a nine point lead, but unfortunately this was soon to be clawed back as the Neptunes side could only manage three points in the final six minutes of the first half. Northampton starred brightly as they ended the half 4-1 in front.

The second half, player/coach Mark Spatcher picked up his fourth foul which saw the Neptunes bring in Niall Beckett and Shaifiz Omar. Northampton then trimmed the lead back to two points before a small burst of inside scores for Leicester which saw the away side take the biggest lead of the game at the end of the third quarter 63-50.

The fortunes swung in and kept the game close in the fourth quarter before eventually going down 67-41.

NORTHERN LIGHTNING 27 NOTTINGHAM WILDCATS 41

Going into the last ten minutes of this low scoring affair, the Northants Lightning junior women were holding a narrow 28-24 lead in what had been a defence dominated game.

In the final quarter Nottingham scored almost as many points as they had in the rest of the match to take a four points win.

NORTHANTS THUNDER 52 CITY OF BIRMINGHAM 78

NORTHANTS Thunder cadet men were well trained and well organised City of Birmingham team but could look back on a game where they were competitive for three of the four quarters.

MOLTON COLLEGE 70 SUTTON COLDFIELD COLLEGE 77

THE Moulton College A team went down to West Midlands champions Sutton Coldfield in a British College’s Elite League game last Wednesday. This means that Sutton Coldfield have completed the double over Moulton, who will now have to wait until the National Championships next month to gain revenge.

Pair get England call up for Six Nations clash

RUGBY UNION

Continued from back page

against Wasps, while Gray is on the bench. Sean Lamont was one of the side again but will be playing for Scotland A against Italy, while Roger Wilson and Neil Best are both likely to be available after not being included in the Scotland squad.

Dylan Hartley and Ben Foden will also be international duty for England this weekend against the Irish at Croke Park.

Hartley was a doubt after he sustained an injury in Sunday’s game but has recovered in time to retain his place on the replacement’s bench.

Foden was not named in the 22 man squad but will travel with the team to Dublin as a reserve.

One England player who will be available for Northampton is under-20 international Courtney Lawes. The second row forward impressed on his debut for the under-20s but has yet to earn a recall for the side.

Northampton director of rugby Jim Mallinder has told the former Northampton Old Scouts youngster up as an example of the Saints youth policy this week.

He said: “Developing an effective Academy system takes considerable time and effort and requires plenty of patience.

“Young players come into the set-up in their mid-teens and it takes several years for them to be ready for the rigours of the Guinness Premiership and A League.”

“One of the foundation points of a winning culture is
Akinfenwa’s red card triple blow

BY MARC BAZELEY
mrbazeley@theequalizer.co.uk

NORTHAMPTON Town will have to face their relegation dogfight without top striker Adebayo Akinfenwa.

Akinfenwa and Brighton’s Adam Virgo were both sent off after 65 minutes of the Cobblers’ 1-1 League One match with Brighton on Tuesday night.

They received straight reds and Akinfenwa now has a three-match ban starting with Saturday’s must-win clash against bottom side Cheltenham.

He is also out of next Tuesday’s visit of the MK Dons to Sixfields and the home game with Tranmere Rovers on March 7.

After being made to pay for not taking their chances in last Saturday’s 2-0 defeat to Walsall, the Cobblers failed to cash in against the Seagulls.

Ryan Gilligan had given Northampton a first-half lead just before the break, only for Tommy Rowden to equalise with 22 minutes remaining.

Northampton will also be looking to avenge the 1-0 defeat at stadium:mk in August.

The Dons also have a former Cobbler in their ranks, with goalkeeper Nathan Abbey currently serving as back-up to Willy Gueret.

Akinfenwa’s red card triple blow

SAINTS buoyed by Wilkinson’s absence as Falcons fly into Franklin’s Gardens

NEWCASTLE Falcons are the visitors on Saturday as Northampton Saints look to bounce back from Sunday’s narrow defeat to Wasps.

The Saints were beaten 9-5 at Adams Park as Danny Cipriani landed three penalties to give the defending Guinness Premiership champions the win.

Ben Foden’s try ensured Northampton a losing bonus point, although it could so easily have been their first away win of the season had Stephen Myler not missed his four attempts at goal and John Clarke’s try not been ruled out for a forward pass by Bruce Reithana.

As well as protecting their unbeaten home record this weekend, Northampton will also be looking to avenge the 32-22 defeat at Kingston Park.

On that occasion Jonny Wilkinson kicked the Falcons to victory with 22 points, but the talismanic fly-half will not be playing due to a long-term injury.

With the Six Nations returning this weekend, the Saints will be without the Scottish duo of Euan Murray and Scott Gray. Murray was named in the starting XV for the Scots’ game against France after making his comeback from injury Continued on page 59

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