

# The Village Viewpoint



## Magazine

Summer 2019

### Bluebells at Everdon Stubbs woods near Daventry

To all village residents:

Welcome to Northamptonshire ACRE's new look Village Viewpoint. I hope you find it useful and interesting.

If you have any issues affecting your parish, community or group, we are here to help! You can find contact details at the end of the newsletter.

Kindest regards, Elaine O'Leary

Chief Executive Northamptonshire ACRE.

## Content

**Northamptonshire ACRE News** including Bringing the rural to the town, our ambitious project for Hunsbury Hill Centre  
Our new agreement with Allied Westminster  
The Northamptonshire Village Awards

**Funding Opportunities** including Help for Community Pubs, Energy Saving Trust and Places to Ride Programme

**Local and national news** including Searching for the most inspiring rural community business with Plunkett Foundation  
ACRE argues for better rural connectivity  
Warnings of Post Office network closures  
Meet Northants Police Rural and Wildlife Crime team  
Village crime prevention toolkit  
Charity Commission updates

# The view from Northamptonshire

## ACRE



### Did you know...?

Northamptonshire ACRE (NACRE) is an independent charitable organisation that supports and promotes rural communities across the county on a wide range of topics, helping them to work towards a vibrant, sustainable future for everyone. Established for over 60 years, NACRE is dedicated to rural matters in Northamptonshire and we are in a unique position to provide bespoke support specifically tailored to meet the needs of Parish Councils in their work for their communities.

We were designated as a Rural Community Council by the government many years ago and are one of 38 RCCs across England. Together, with our national body, ACRE, we form the ACRE Network. Like all the ACRE Network members, we work tirelessly to make sure the rural voice of England continues to be heard at a national and local level. So if there are issues that vexing your community that you would like us to highlight, please let us know. Our contact details are at the end of this magazine.



### The Barns at Hunsbury Hill

We at Northamptonshire ACRE know we are lucky to be able to work in such a lovely environment as the Hunsbury Hill Centre and it seems many other people feel it is a lovely place to get married. We have a trading arm, **The Barns at Hunsbury Hill**, which runs events at the centre such as weddings, corporate and social meetings and wakes.

This year our Event Co-Ordinator Sarah Clarke, has done a brilliant job of encouraging couples to book at our venue and so far we have 85 weddings booked at The Barns for 2019. This is great news both for us and our members as any surplus funding generated from the trading arm comes back into the charity to support our work with rural communities across the county.

But it's not just weddings. If you are looking for a small meeting room with all facilities our Low Barn is perfect or for those larger corporate events why not try our High Barn. There is free parking and wifi, access and facilities for those with mobility impairment and we can provide all refreshments and food from sandwiches to sit down meals to a hog roast.

So if you know of someone looking for a great venue for a wedding or your group needs somewhere special to hold a meeting, The Barns at Hunsbury Hill is ideal. Contact our Events Co-ordinator Sarah Clarke at [info@HunsburyHillCentre.co.uk](mailto:info@HunsburyHillCentre.co.uk).

### Agreement with Allied Westminster Insurance Services

An agreement has been made between Allied Westminster and ACRE in which Allied Westminster will provide significant financial support for the ACRE Network's England-wide information and advice service for village halls over the next three years. Our vital advisory service, delivered by Frances Harris our Community Facilities Advisor, will be able to benefit from Allied Westminster's generous investment and we look forward to working with them.





The Home of VillageGuard® Village Hall Insurance



## **6** *Reasons Why VillageGuard® is the UK's Most Popular Village Hall Insurance Policy*

- 1. Designed exclusively for Village Halls, Parish Halls and Rural Community Buildings.**
- 2. Provides a FREE Property Valuation Report.**  
[Our highly detailed report protects against underinsurance and provides separate figures for buildings, car parks, play areas, tennis courts, etc. It's FREE to all clients who opt to take VillageGuard on a 3- or 5-year undertaking.]
- 3. FREE defibrillator cover up to £5,000 with NO EXCESS.**
- 4. Gives substantial discounts on premiums.**  
[Available to clients choosing a 3- or 5-year undertaking].
- 5. Backed by a personalised claims service - most claims are handled directly & rapidly at our HQ in Boston Spa.**
- 6. Undercuts competitors' rates in most cases and is underwritten by Aviva, the largest insurer in the UK.**

Allied Westminster specialises in Village Hall insurance. We are experts in the field, sponsors for training events at various Halls, and the main sponsor for ACRE's advice service for Village Halls. Why not join us?

**Call us for a quote on 01937 845245**

VillageGuard is available exclusively from Allied Westminster (Insurance Services) Ltd  
Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) - Registration Number 308386

## Bringing the Rural to the Town: The Hunsbury Hill Farm Project



The main farmhouse, that is used as the offices of Northamptonshire ACRE, built around 1770 by Edward Bouverie. Hunsbury was one of three farms in the area built to supply Delapré Abbey, also owned by Bouverie.

To this end, NACRE is embarking on an ambitious project that will include the restoration and development of the buildings and the improvement of the land so that Hunsbury Hill Farmstead will act as a hub for the local community, be an example of health and wellbeing excellence and a community green space.

The aim is to make the site a beacon for our members across the county and a centre for action with rural communities but also somewhere urban communities can come to find out about those experiences. We are calling the project 'Bringing the rural to the town'.

Northamptonshire ACRE owns the Hunsbury Hill Centre, a beautiful Grade II listed farmhouse and outbuildings standing in 13 acres of woodland, gardens and grounds on the outskirts of Northampton. This historic farm, once part of the Delapré estate, was built in the late 18th century by Edward Bouverie and is believed to be a rare extant version of an early 'model farm'. The charity is very fortunate to own the site yet it also has responsibilities towards its upkeep and use.



The view of the courtyard at the back of the Farmhouse. The farm was built as a model farm in an octagonal shape with the Farmhouse forming 3 sides, two barns on either side and a number of cattle foddering 'hovels' (sheds) forming the remaining sides at the bottom of the slope. You can see part of the 8.5 acres of woodland owned by the charity at the back of the hovels (now used as our bar and BBQ areas for events).

Some of the ideas we have for the site includes renovating the 'hovels' into offices and a meeting room, a community shop and café, developing a community orchard and allotments, using the woods for forest schools and outdoor rooms and even putting in accommodation in the farmhouse. We are open to ideas. But all of it should be underpinned by the best environmental practices and green technology.

We are still early in the stages of what will be a very long term project, but as a start we have formed a working group that consists of two Trustees of the charity, the Chief Executive of NACRE, the Director of the Delapré Abbey Preservation Trust and the Interpretation and Community Engagement Officer from Nenescape. We are very grateful to everyone involved in the working group for their help and expertise.

## Bringing the Rural to the Town: Our Mission Statement

Our working group is already developing a number of documents including a detailed Vision Statement, Business Plan, a Stakeholder list and Statement of Significance for the site. Once we have all the necessary documents in place, we will be going out to tender for an accredited conservation architect who will develop a detailed feasibility study of the site for funding purposes.

This is our Mission Statement for the project:

### Our Mission Statement:

The project proposal is to develop and enhance the site of Hunsbury Hill Farm. All decisions in the design and execution of this project are taken in the best interest of the Charity and are guided by the principle of protecting and enhancing the site's historical and ecological assets. The Project has three interweaving strands:

- \* It will support and showcase the work that the Charity carries out with rural communities
- \* It will develop the use of the green space to bring in the community from both the town and the rural areas
- \* It will enhance the wedding business to supply a sustainable income generation to support the work of the Charity

All three strands will embrace green technology, environmental sustainability and recycling.

Do you have experience of working on large scale conservation projects? We are keen to hear from anyone who may be interested in working with us on any part of the project.

Maybe you have knowledge of running a large project that you could share with us, know about green technology, have an environmental background, would like to be part of one of the working groups or interested in becoming a Trustee of the charity, then please contact Elaine O'Leary, call 01604 825881 or email: [elaine.oleary@northantsacre.org.uk](mailto:elaine.oleary@northantsacre.org.uk). We would love to hear from you.



**If you are interested in hearing more about the project, or would like to be involved in some capacity, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Elaine O'Leary on 01604 765888 or email [elaine.oleary@northantsacre.org.uk](mailto:elaine.oleary@northantsacre.org.uk)**

# Northamptonshire Village Awards



## A great way to showcase your village!

What are the Northamptonshire Village Awards? They are an annual competition whereby groups or parish councils can enter their village to win cash prizes in different size categories of village (Small, Medium or Large).

Residents are able to showcase what they like about their village, why they are proud of it and why they feel it's such a great place to live. Each entrant is visited by a number of judges who have a wide range of criteria to mark against such as:

- \* What are the regular activities and events that take place in your village. How do you welcome new residents.
- \* What information is available e.g. is there a newsletter, a notice board, do you have an active social media presence
- \* Do any local charities provide support to the village. Do you operate any kind of community transport.
- \* What crime prevention measures are in place for all residents
- \* What are the employment opportunities like there and are any villagers involved in running any village services.
- \* How do you cater for the younger age group in the village as well as the older people who are there.
- \* What conservation or environmental activities go on in or around the village and are there any community projects run by the village to reduce its carbon footprint.

And many more!

Many villages that take part find the Awards are a great way to increase social cohesion and community spirit because if done properly, then everyone should be involved, young or old and not just a few or the Parish Council. Plus going through what your village offers is a great way to do an audit of village life and find out what there is and possibly what is missing.

The awards are open to any group within a village, it does not need to be your Parish Council who enters. If you are interested in entering your village for next year's awards or would like to find out more about the competition, then the judges would be very happy to meet you to discuss further. Please contact [elaine.oleary@northantsacre.org.uk](mailto:elaine.oleary@northantsacre.org.uk) or 01604 765888.

## With a new name

You may be wondering what happened to the Northamptonshire Best Village Competition that has run in previous years. Well the Northamptonshire Village Awards is the new name for the competition. Why have we renamed the competition? Because from 2019 we have a new sponsor, CPRE Northamptonshire and having listened to your comments from previous years, it seemed the perfect time to review the competition to see how we could make it even more encompassing of rural achievements.

For 2019 we changed the application process to make it easier for villages to enter and for 2020 we will be looking at making further changes including possibly new awards (see P8). We will issue further details soon!

# Northamptonshire Village Awards: new sponsor



## Welcome to CPRE Northamptonshire - new sponsors plus their Litter Awards

Northamptonshire ACRE is delighted to welcome CPRE Northamptonshire as our new sponsors of the Northamptonshire Village Awards. Like us, the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) recognises the importance of community involvement, as well as the care for the natural and built environment, which creates not just an attractive village but also a vibrant community. Together, we want to encourage initiatives by the village community and the provision of facilities for all the population. We feel we have a lot of values in common and it is great to be working with them.



In addition, CPRE's long-established Litter Heroes Competition has been incorporated within the Village Awards and, thanks to the support of our Lord Lieutenant, as President of both Northamptonshire ACRE and CPRE Northamptonshire, will be known as the 'David Laing Litter Awards'.

Awareness is growing about something many of us have been concerned about for years: we cannot just throw and dump packaging and other detritus of our 21st century way of life, anywhere we choose. Litter is big news. CPRE's litter campaign strives to increase awareness and to encourage a change in behaviour, with the aim that litter never reaches the great outdoors in the first place. Below are some of this year's winners.

### Litter Awards Prize Money

This year there was a total of £2,000 awarded to a number of groups with additional prizes for children and young people from schools and youth groups.



Blisworth



Warmington



Little Houghton



Ecton Brook



Tiffield



Hinton-in-the-Hedges

### The David Laing Litter Awards

How to enter the David Laing Litter Awards:

- ◇ Motivate a team of pickers in your village, town, school or community group
- ◇ Choose a picking date
- ◇ Email CPRE Northamptonshire your planned picking date: [info@CPRENorthants.org.uk](mailto:info@CPRENorthants.org.uk)
- ◇ After the picking, email your best three or four picking photographs with a short report to CPRE

You can find more information about the awards at: [www.cprenorthants.org.uk/campaigns/view/litter-heroes-are-now-set-to-win-even-more](http://www.cprenorthants.org.uk/campaigns/view/litter-heroes-are-now-set-to-win-even-more)

# Northamptonshire Village Awards 2019



## Winners of this year's competition

### Glaphorn named Overall Best Village 2019



Residents from Glaphorn receiving their award for Overall Best Village 2019 from David Laing, Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire.

Around 70 people attended the 2019 Northamptonshire Village Awards Presentation Evening on 16th July at The Hunsbury Hill Centre to hear who had won the different awards. This year the competition is sponsored by CPRE Northamptonshire and the awards were presented by David Laing, Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire and President of both Northamptonshire ACRE and CPRE Northamptonshire.

Congratulations to Glaphorn who not only won the Overall Best Village 2019 but also the Newcomer's Cup and the Best Small Village. A fantastic achievement that they had prepared well for. The winners of all the categories are as follows:

#### Newcomer's Cup

Glaphorn

#### Best Small Village

Glaphorn

#### Best Medium Village

Braunston

#### Best Large Village

East Hunsbury



Winner of Best Medium Village Braunston



Winner of Best Large Village East Hunsbury

Congratulations to all our winners, the standards were very high. The judges very much enjoyed their visits to all the villages and were very impressed by the variety of activities taking place in them, the involvement and community spirit that was shown by all and how welcome they made the judges feel.

## Thoughts for next year's competition

For 2019, we greatly simplified the application process and form for the new Northamptonshire Village Awards but we are still evaluating how we can improve even further the competition. So we (NACRE and the judges) are looking at different ways to run the competition with suggestions including having Gold, Silver or Bronze levels with all entrants achieving one of the levels instead of Small, Medium or Large, possibly a most improved village award or one that looks at how a village is dealing with lessening isolation among their residents.



We are keen to hear from you about any thoughts you have on the awards, so if you have any comments please email [elaine.oleary@northantsacre.org.uk](mailto:elaine.oleary@northantsacre.org.uk) before September 14th. We will be announcing the new entry form and format in late September. So look out for the press release!



# Northamptonshire Village Awards 2020

Celebrating your village life...



**We are not looking for the prettiest village, we want to see  
community spirit and interaction  
Any group can enter their village  
Celebrate your individuality  
And win prizes!!!**

**It's not the assets you have,  
it's the way you use them!**



Want to know more? Would you like us to visit your village or group to tell you more? If so contact Elaine for more information on:-



01604 765888



[Elaine.oleary@northantsacre.org.uk](mailto:Elaine.oleary@northantsacre.org.uk)



[www.northantsacre.org.uk](http://www.northantsacre.org.uk)



# Future Training and Events



## Our Popular Social Media Training

9th October 2019

10am for 10.30am to 1pm

Low Barn, Hunsbury Hill Centre, NN4 9QX

Cost: £35 members / £45 non-members



Is your Parish Council or committee new to social media? Or do you just want to make better use of it? If so, this workshop will provide you with a great introduction to using various social media outlets to promote your facility or council:

- ◆ What is social media and why should a Parish Council or Village Hall use it?
- ◆ Breaking down the myths and explaining the jargon
- ◆ A practical look at creating and using a Facebook page
- ◆ Twitter – what is it and when to use it
- ◆ Other social media – Instagram, Snapchat, Pinterest, LinkedIn
- ◆ Thinking about other digital tools such as Dropbox, Youtube, Eventbrite, Wooclap

The workshop is limited to 15 places and payment is required before the training to secure your place. To book, please contact Frances Harris. Email: [frances.harris@northantsacre.org.uk](mailto:frances.harris@northantsacre.org.uk), Tel: 01604 825888 (direct) or 01604 765888.

## Community Facilities Members coffee mornings

And if you are a Community Facilities member you won't be missing out. Our Community Facilities Advisor, Frances Harris, will be running more of her successful Community Facilities coffee mornings over the year. Please contact Frances for more details. Tel. 01604 825888 or email [frances.harris@northantsacre.org.uk](mailto:frances.harris@northantsacre.org.uk)

Many thanks to all of you who came to the networking and coffee morning to help celebrate Village Halls Week in January. Our guest speaker, architect—Steve Wolstenholme, gave an excellent presentation about managing a major building project.



Future seminars for village halls will focus on:

- ◆ Know your village hall governing documents
- ◆ Incorporating your village hall
- ◆ Health and hygiene in a village hall
- ◆ Licensing – alcohol and music
- ◆ Licensing— music

Please contact Frances Harris (details above) for further information and dates.



# Spotlight on...

## Deafconnect's new Hard of Hearing Service

Linda Mitchell, Volunteer Co-ordinator Hard of Hearing Service, writes...

### Hard of Hearing Service



Deafconnect is a Northampton based charity providing a wide range of services to hard of hearing and deafened people across Northamptonshire, at the centre (below) or in their own home.



The Hard of Hearing Service, Deafconnect,  
Spencer Dallington Community Centre, Tintern Avenue,  
Northampton, NN5 7BZ.

T: 01604 589011 M: 07817 006817 W: [www.deafconnect.org.uk](http://www.deafconnect.org.uk)

Deafconnect is delighted to welcome you to their new Hard of Hearing Service, which will provide support and advice to over 100,000 hard of hearing and deafened people across Northamptonshire, at the centre or in their own home. It is being funded for 5 years by the National Lottery Community Fund. 1 in 6 people in the UK are hard of hearing or deafened. We are supporting the NHS who recognise that isolation and loneliness has a detrimental effect on mental health and wellbeing. We aim to:

- ◆ Provide support and guidance to people with new hearing aids to get the most out of them to promote independence, health and wellbeing.
- ◆ Provide information and advice on assistive equipment and lip reading classes to maintain quality of life.
- ◆ Provide coping tactics and strategies for everyday life to reduce isolation and loneliness and gain confidence.
- ◆ Visit care homes to help support the use of hearing aids and promote deaf awareness.
- ◆ Promote deaf awareness to family and friends to maintain and improve communication.
- ◆ Support family and friends to learn how to keep in contact via Next Generation Texting, use of equipment etc.
- ◆ Set up self help support groups across the county.

If you would like to book an appointment with the service, please call 01604 589011, text 07817 006817, email [hardofhearing@deafconnect.org.uk](mailto:hardofhearing@deafconnect.org.uk) or visit us at the Spencer Dallington Community Centre.

### Could you be a volunteer for us?

Volunteers will be crucial to help run the service— even if you can only spare an hour a week, every little helps. If you would like to volunteer please contact us at the Spencer Dallington Community Centre (contact details above) or call 01604 589011.

Deafconnect is a company limited by guarantee No.6423466, registered charity No.1124196.

# Funding news

## Help for community pubs



**More than a Pub** is making £2.2 million available to support community groups in England taking on the ownership of their local pub with the aim of running it to benefit their community.

Funded by Power to Change and administered by the Plunkett Foundation, the More than a Pub programme offers a flexible package of financial and business-development support to help communities to save their local pub through the purchase or long-term lease of the premises, and to grow the range of services they offer to help local people.

The loan and grant funding is for capital costs only. More information here: [https://www.snvb.org.uk/news/the-community-pub-business-support-programme-opens-to-applications/?dm\\_t=0%2C0%2C0%2C0%2C0](https://www.snvb.org.uk/news/the-community-pub-business-support-programme-opens-to-applications/?dm_t=0%2C0%2C0%2C0%2C0)

The loan and grant funding is for capital costs only. More information here: [https://www.snvb.org.uk/news/the-community-pub-business-support-programme-opens-to-applications/?dm\\_t=0%2C0%2C0%2C0%2C0](https://www.snvb.org.uk/news/the-community-pub-business-support-programme-opens-to-applications/?dm_t=0%2C0%2C0%2C0%2C0)

## UK Theatres Small Grants Scheme

This is a capital fund that awards up to £5,000 to theatres across the UK run by charities and not-for-profit groups that can clearly demonstrate the value capital improvements to their theatres would make to their work in local communities. It offers grants for projects that:

- \* Address urgent building repairs.
- \* Improve operational viability.
- \* Introduce environmental improvements.
- \* Enhance physical accessibility.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate that they run a regular theatre programme of professional, community and/or amateur work, presenting no less than 30 performances a year, and that the funded improvements will add value to the organisation's work in the local community.

**The next deadline for applications is 2 September 2019 (midday).** More details here: <http://www.theatretrust.org.uk/uk-theatres-small-grants-scheme>



## The British Heart Foundation: Public Access Defibrillators

If you run a village hall or centre, you can apply online to the British Heart Foundation (BHF) for funding to have a Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) and Call Push Rescue Training kit community package in your village hall or centre. The funding doesn't cover the cost of a cabinet and successful applicants are required to make a £600 donation towards the cost of the package.

The BHF recommends that you speak to your local NHS ambulance service for advice about an appropriate PAD model and location before making an application. Refer to the BHF website for more information:

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/defibrillators/applying-for-a-public-access-defibrillator>.

[If you're installing a defibrillator, don't forget to tell your insurer!]



And if you have a redundant telephone box in your village, why not consider adopting it? A number of villages have done that and many use them for defibrillators, libraries, even small cinemas! The possibilities are endless. It only costs £1 to adopt a box. More information at: <https://business.bt.com/campaigns/communities/adopt-a-kiosk/>

# Funding news cont...



## John Warren Foundation

Grants are available for charitable organisations undertaking restoration projects on small churches in Bedfordshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire.

The locally-based scheme is intended to support churches in undertaking building repairs, or religious advancement: <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/john-warren-foundation>

## Esmee Fairbairns Collections Fund

Grants of between £20,000 and £120,000 are available to museums and galleries in the UK for time-limited projects that demonstrate the significance, distinctiveness and power of collections to people.



Eligible projects can be up to three years in duration and must:

- Work with an existing collection or collections to improve understanding of them and increase their use; and
  - Through that collection work, involve, inspire and have value for people, communities and audiences.
- Projects are expected to be innovative, outward-looking and seek change, in the context and scale of the museum. This might include leading practice that influences the whole sector or creating a replicable model of working for the applicant organisation itself.

Grants can be used towards a wide range of engagement activities outside the scope of an organisation's core resources including co-curation, research, digitisation, conservation, documentation and exhibition costs. The next deadline for applications is 11 September 2019 (5pm).

More details: [www.museumsassociation.org/collections/18022011-esmee-fairbairn-collections-fund](http://www.museumsassociation.org/collections/18022011-esmee-fairbairn-collections-fund)

## Waitrose Community Matters

Each month every Waitrose & Partners branch donates £1,000 (£500 in Convenience shops) between 3 local good causes that you choose. Shoppers are given a green token at the check-out and are asked to place the token in the box for the cause they would like to support. The money is then divided according to the number of tokens received by each cause. In order to nominate a good cause, you need to go in-store and obtain a nomination form. More details: [https://www.waitrose.com/content/waitrose/en/home/inspiration/community\\_matters.html](https://www.waitrose.com/content/waitrose/en/home/inspiration/community_matters.html)

## Warburtons Families Matter Community Grants Programme

Warburtons offers small grants to support charitable organisations that require a small amount of money to help them deliver a broader activity. The aim of the small grants is to support projects, activities and organisations that will be of real direct benefit to families and have a direct and tangible social impact on people's lives. Quarter 1 opened on 14 August 2019. <https://www.warburtons.co.uk/corporate/sustainability/financial-giving> and closes 11 November 2019.

## WH Smith Community Grants

Community Grants are generated from WH Smith donating proceeds from the compulsory carrier bag levies to charitable causes. Registered or exempt charities, voluntary/community groups (constituted) and schools and pre-schools are eligible to apply (but not religious or political organisations or individuals). Grants of up to £500 are available. More details: <https://blog.whsmith.co.uk/community-grants-application/>

# Funding news cont...



## Energy Redress Scheme – Energy Saving Trust

**energy  
saving  
trust**

Energy Saving Trust has been appointed by Ofgem to distribute payments from energy companies who may have breached rules. The funds can pay for anything from making a home more energy efficient, to providing advice that helps consumers keep on top of their bills.

Energy Saving Trust has developed an open application process for charities seeking funding from the Energy Redress Scheme. Successful projects will be selected with input from an independent panel of experts and could cover a range of locations across England, Scotland and Wales.

The amount of funding available through the scheme varies throughout the year and will be reviewed on a quarterly basis in October, January, April and July. Eligible charities that have registered interest in the scheme will be notified when funds become available.

The minimum grant that can be requested is £20,000 and the maximum amount is the lesser of £2 million or the total value of the current fund. The scheme can fund projects lasting up to two years, can fund 100 per cent of the project cost and can cover revenue and capital measures. <https://energyredress.org.uk/apply-funding>

## The Places to Ride Programme

The Places to Ride programme will fund the development of new or the improvement of existing cycling facilities in communities across England.

The programme has been made possible through a new £15million commitment from Government and will be delivered over the next three years through a partnership of British Cycling, Sport England and the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS). The aims of the programme are as follows:



- Encourage more people from a range of different backgrounds regardless of gender, age, ability or ethnicity to engage with cycling in all its forms. We want to provide more opportunities for people to enjoy riding in an accessible and inclusive environment; focusing especially on provision that responds to the needs of women and girls and people with a disability.
- Invest in opportunities that connect local communities and address barriers to engaging with cycling. Recognise the wider benefits of riding a bike to enable societal benefits such as community cohesion, reducing social isolation and promoting health and well-being through prevention.
- Ensure the delivery of a lasting legacy of active environments that provide high quality and affordable opportunities to engage with cycling now, that will continue to be deliverable in the future.

Applications can be made at any time and the closing date is 15 January 2021.



# Spotlight on...

## Mick George Community Fund And Sports Fund

Grants of between £10,000 and £50,000

### **Mick George Community Fund:**

**Location:**

Parts of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Milton Keynes, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Rutland, Suffolk, Warwickshire

**Total Grants Available:**

£800,000 (approximately) per year

**Fund Provided by:**

[Mick George Limited](#) through the Landfill Communities Fund



The Mick George Community Fund provides grants of between £10,000 and £50,000, although it is unlikely that individual grants over £35,000 will be made. Unless by invitation, organisations can only apply for a grant if their total project cost is more than £10,000 and less than £100,000.

The Fund supports projects located in proximity to Mick George Ltd and recently acquired Frimstone Ltd landfill sites and other waste treatment sites situated throughout the East Midlands and Anglian regions. You can find out if your village is within the eligible funding area by visiting their website: <https://www.grantscape.org.uk/fund/mick-george-community-fund/> and clicking on the eligibility map.

There are four funding rounds each year. The next closing date is 4th September 2019 with a decision by early November 2019. The next closing date is 8th January 2020. The fund uses an online application process only and applications in any other format are not accepted. <https://www.grantscape.org.uk/fund/mick-george-community-fund/>

### **Mick George Sports fund:**

Mick George Ltd also provide the Mick George Sports Fund, run in association with Living Sport, Northamptonshire Sport and Leicester-Shire & Rutland Sport – organisations that specialise in improving the health and well-being of people, through participation in sport and physical activity. More information here: <https://www.mickgeorge.co.uk/about-sport-fund>

Individual grants are available between £500 and £1,500, for capital community sports projects or developments, which are open to the general public.



## PCC grant funding:

A new range of grant funding is now available and open for applications through the office of Northamptonshire Police Fire and Crime Commissioner Stephen Mold: **Making Northamptonshire Safer Fund** (total of £100,000); **Northamptonshire Road Safety Community Fund** (total of £150,000) and **Tackling Hate Crime Fund** (total of £11,000). Next round opened on 22nd July 2019. More information at: <https://www.northantspcc.org.uk/community-grants/>



## Grant funding for community initiatives from Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

Three grant schemes are now open for applicants, offering funding opportunities for community groups, charities and other voluntary organisations.



1

### Making Northamptonshire Safer Fund

Grants of between £3,000 and £10,000 for initiatives that support the aims of the Police and Crime Plan:

Intervening early and preventing crime; enforcing robustly to fight crime and protect people; putting victims at the heart of justice  
Reducing reoffending



2

### Northamptonshire Road Safety Community Fund

Supported by the Northamptonshire Safer Roads Alliance, grants of between £500 and £5,000 for initiatives that support the Northamptonshire Strategic Road Safety Plan:

Speed reduction; anti-social road use; distraction driving, drink or drug driving; road victims and their families; use of seatbelts; child restraints and seats; educational initiatives leading to positive behaviour change.



3

### Tackling Hate Crime Fund

Provided by the Northamptonshire Hate Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Delivery Group, a pot of £11,000 open for bids of between £1,000 and £11,000 for initiatives that:

Support victims of hate crime or hate incidents; support confidence in reporting; support work with offenders to successfully change behaviour

Full details at [www.northantspcc.org.uk/community-grants](http://www.northantspcc.org.uk/community-grants)

For help, please email [funding@northantspcc.pnn.gov.uk](mailto:funding@northantspcc.pnn.gov.uk) or telephone Sam Ward on 01604 888113

Northamptonshire  
**NSRA**  
Safer Roads Alliance

**safer**  
**northants**

# Local and National News



## Search for the most inspiring rural community businesses of 2019



National charity [Plunkett Foundation](https://www.plunkett.co.uk) has announced details of its seventh national awards ceremony that showcases the most inspiring enterprises owned and run by rural communities across the UK.

Applications are sought from all types of community businesses, from shops and pubs to groups managing woodlands for the benefit of local residents.

There are seven award categories this year which celebrate different types of achievement including, 'Strengthening the Community', 'Investing in Local People' and, new for this year, 'One to Watch' which will recognise a community business that is close to, or has recently opened its doors for trading.

The awards are being supported by partners that value Plunkett's commitment to achieving resilient, thriving and inclusive rural communities by encouraging people to work together to find solutions to their needs through community enterprise. Some of this year's partners include The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Hastoe Housing Association, BCRS Business Loans, The Retail Mutual and Suma Wholefoods.

The awards are the highlight of the community business calendar, giving recognition to the efforts of volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure their communities retain vital services which often have wide-ranging benefits such as boosting the local economy, improving wellbeing and reducing loneliness, and negating the need for journeys to be made elsewhere. Plunkett works with over 1,000 such enterprises, of which over 600 are currently trading.

Last year's winners included:

- \* Slapton Community Shop – for the efforts of volunteers who used 4x4s to keep the shelves stocked when the 'Beast from the East' cut off access to and from the community
- \* Hampstead Norreys Community Shop – for aiming to become plastic free
- \* Dunbar Community Bakery – for the successful turnaround of the enterprise following a period of hard times
- \* Talking Shop in Oxfordshire – for creating a welcoming and friendly space focused on combating loneliness and isolation



The 2019 Awards Ceremony will be matched with a celebration of Plunkett's centenary year and take place on **Wednesday 27 November 2019 in London**. Details of the 2019 community business awards can be found online: <https://plunkett.co.uk/awards/>

**Applications can be submitted online until 18 October.**

# News cont...



## ACRE argues for rural connectivity as 6 cities receive 5G

In February this year, Rural England published the State of Rural Services 2018 report. The report found that more than half (58%) of rural homes could not access 4G compared with just 17% in cities; cities that will now receive 5G.

National ACRE was pleased to present evidence to the Rural Broadband and Digital Only Services Inquiry held by the EFRA Committee on Wednesday 12 June. Jeremy Leggett, ACRE's Policy Adviser attended to represent the rural voice.

Not being able to have access to mobile connectivity in a world that is being built on technology including fundamentals like healthcare, banking and education will be catastrophic for those living in unconnected areas and it is ACRE's firm belief that no one should be unreasonably disadvantaged by where they live.



Jeremy said "The divide between urban and rural has the potential to get much worse and the government's intervention seems to have lacked effectiveness. Indeed, as fast as digital connectivity moves forward, and society's dependence on it deepens, the divide in access to the benefits between rural and urban areas becomes greater."

The fundamental barrier for rural areas is not technological, but rather economic and political.

## Sub-Postmasters warn of network closures

We always thought post offices had a special value for rural communities with more than half the UK's 11,600 post office outlets in rural locations. A report, '*Rural Post Office Use*,' published by Citizens Advice at the end of 2017 confirmed that:

- \* Rural consumers still use post offices significantly more often than urban consumers and they are more likely to use many of the services offered.
- \* Post offices remain embedded in rural life, providing a range of community and retail services. These include offering local information, informal support and a place for meeting fellow residents.
- \* Rural small businesses rely on post offices more than their urban counterparts.
- \* The more rural a community, the more important its post office. 6 in 10 remote rural residents describe the Post Office as 'very' or 'extremely' important to them.

Therefore it is concerning to hear what the National Federation of Sub-postmasters is warning: <https://nfsp.org.uk/news>

A survey by NFSP in 2019 found that 22% of post offices intend to scale back or shut branches in the next year with those in rural locations most at risk. Many of its 8,000 members have reported significant drops in income that up to 2,500 sub-post offices are at risk of closure. The federation wants ministers to guarantee a continuation of subsidies to branches beyond 2021, the return of some Government services to post office branches, and the development of a broader range of banking and other financial products for them to offer.





# Spotlight on...

## New WaitLess App

Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership

New smartphone waiting times app helps patients locate NHS services in Northamptonshire

**NHS**

**If you get a minor injury, don't wait!**

# WaitLess

WaitLess combines up-to-the-minute travel information with live waiting times at Northampton and Kettering General Hospitals and the Corby Urgent Care Centre, meaning you can access treatment for your minor injury faster.

Don't wait for the unexpected to happen. Download WaitLess.

Powered by Transforming systems

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

#Northantsdigital

### The WaitLess App:

It is now possible to access real-time information about waiting times in Northamptonshire at the county's NHS urgent care facilities – thanks to the launch of a new smartphone app from Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership.

The WaitLess App is designed for people seeking treatment for minor injuries and medical conditions requiring urgent but non-emergency treatment. It will even factor in journey times using live traffic and travel information to help them choose the most appropriate treatment location for their condition or injury.

The app has been developed by Transforming Systems and aims to reduce the pressure on the county's urgent and emergency care services by spreading demand and helping patients to make an informed choice about where to go for treatment. It shows the waiting times for minor injuries at Corby Urgent Care Centre, Kettering and Northamptonshire General Hospitals.

The app is available for smartphones or tablets running Android or iOS operating systems and can be downloaded by going to the Apple App store or Google Play for 'WaitLess' for your smartphone.

For life-threatening emergencies, people should continue to dial 999.

Urgent NHS medical advice is also available by calling 111 or online at [111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk).

**Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership** (NHCP), formerly known as the Northamptonshire STP, consists of key health and care providers in the county. It is not a new organisation but a new way of working in partnership to improve health and care for people living in Northamptonshire.

You can find out more information about NHCP and its work at [www.northamptonshirehpc.co.uk](http://www.northamptonshirehpc.co.uk), where you can also find out about Northamptonshire's Digital Programme. This is part of the NHCP and ensures local Health and Care organisations are making best use of information and technology available.

# News cont...



## Postal Stamp Fraud



The Charity Commission has recently issued a warning about stamp fraud in relation to fundraising by charities.

Stamp fraud involves the preparation, distribution and sale of previously used stamps for reuse. Usually these stamps are sold online, at a lower price than the standard postal service rate. Anyone knowingly collecting, preparing, distributing, reusing or selling used stamps to avoid paying full postal fees may be committing a form of fraud.

A number of charities collect used stamps as a means of fundraising. Although the Charity Commission does not believe that charities are knowingly profiting from the collection and sale of used stamps, some are inadvertently enabling this form of fraud by selling packages of used stamps, commonly referred to as 'kiloware'. The majority of these stamps are then prepared and fraudulently re-sold as if they were valid postage. The money being made by criminal gangs from this type of fraud is significant, and can be used to fund further and wider scale criminal activity. Fundraisers may believe they are selling stamps to collectors but this is rarely the case as these stamps have little collectable value.

Charities should avoid engaging in this activity unless they are certain that the stamps collected and sold are genuinely being bought by collectors, and are not being used for fraudulent purposes. Royal Mail has also issued advice about stamp fraud and how to spot used or counterfeit stamps.

[https://personal.help.royalmail.com/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/14308/~what-is-stamp-fraud%3F](https://personal.help.royalmail.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/14308/~what-is-stamp-fraud%3F)  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/alert-for-charities-fundraising-and-postal-stamp-fraud>

## New charity code from NCVO



The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) has developed a new charity code. To help charities recognise and resolve ethical issues and conflicts, NCVO has identified four essential ethical principles:

- Beneficiaries first
- Integrity
- Openness
- The right to be safe.

The new code is designed to be complementary to existing codes such as the Charity Governance Code for Small Charities. Read the new code in full <https://www.ncvo.org.uk/policy-and-research/ethics/ethical-principles>

# News cont...



## Rural crime in Britain hits seven year high

A report by the insurer, NFU Mutual, has found that Rural crime has hit a seven-year high, costing the UK £50m in 2018 in its annual study of offences against farmers and rural businesses, the insurer NFU Mutual found rural crime in 2018 was up 12% on the previous year.

The insurer said farmers and country people were having to deal with “repeated thefts by gangs who take advantage of farms’ isolated locations to steal machinery, raid tool stores and even butcher sheep in the fields”. The report says the sharp rise was driven mainly by the theft of tractors, quad bikes and other farm vehicles, which was up 26% in 2018. The cost of agricultural vehicle theft claims to NFU Mutual rose by 26% to £7.4m in 2018.



Recently Northamptonshire Police have been dealing with a spate of illegal sheep killings across the county with many of the animals being killed and professionally butchered in the fields where they are grazing. Not only is this very upsetting for the farmers to have their animals killed in such a way but it also has financial repercussions for them. To help in their work, the force has been using a drone as part of its night patrols and has distributed 150 warning signs to farmers and landowners, as well as urging people living in rural parts of the county to remain vigilant.

If you think a rural crime has been committed you can report it online here: <https://www.northants.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/> or by calling 101. If it is already happening then call 999.

## Northamptonshire Rural and Wildlife Crime team



Northamptonshire ACRE is one of the Rural Action Group partners working together to deliver the Rural Crime Strategy. More inside the newsletter.

Northamptonshire Police has a Rural and Wildlife Crime Team which consists of PC Chloe Gillies, PC Abbey Anstead, PC Chris Bird and Co-ordinator Katrina Heath. You can find out more about their work in the first edition of the new Northamptonshire Rural Matters newsletter, which can be downloaded at: [https://www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk/images/site\\_images/48120\\_Northamptonshire\\_Rural\\_Matters\\_Spring\\_Summer\\_2019.pdf](https://www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk/images/site_images/48120_Northamptonshire_Rural_Matters_Spring_Summer_2019.pdf)

The group have other officers across the force that support the team in protecting rural communities and tackling crime. The RWC team review all incidents relating to wildlife, domesticated/farm animals and rural crime that are reported and offer specialist support and advice to officers. You can follow them on Twitter: [@NorPolRural](https://twitter.com/NorPolRural) for the latest information.

The newsletter has plenty of other information relating to rural matters, including an article on the Rural Action Group, a partnership of organisations that work together to tackle rural crime, a fly tipping campaign that has been launched and the new police 101 triage system that is now available.

## Village crime prevention toolkit



Northamptonshire Police is trialling a toolkit for villages to help prevent crime in their area. The toolkit contains a wide range of security items including high security key and access card safes, security cameras and floodlight systems, motion sensing padlock alarms, PIR home security kits, heavy duty anchor locks for bikes and break beam sensors. Part of the kit is a CREMARK lacquer and pen set that is used to mark tools with your postcode or house details. All items are high quality and police approved.

The toolkit can be borrowed from the force by the Parish Council and items lent to residents in your village, perhaps while they are away. It will give residents an idea of what can be done to protect their property and themselves and then if wished, they can purchase similar items. Alternatively villages can purchase the full toolkit from the Police, who will then replace it with another for other villages to use.

If available, the Rural and Wildlife Crime Team can attend a village event to demonstrate the equipment, carry out marking of equipment with CREMARK or just provide advice to residents on the best crime prevention methods for their homes, tools and equipment. If you would like to know more about the toolkit or are interested in having someone visit your community event, please contact PC Abbey Anstead of the Rural and Wildlife Crime team: [Abigail.Anstead@northants.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Abigail.Anstead@northants.pnn.police.uk). They also have a mobile trailer with pop-up stand that can be brought along to the larger events. Look out for them at forthcoming events such as Rockingham Castle's Vikings of Middle England on the 25–26 August or the Harpole Scarecrow Festival from 7–8 September.

## Community Speed Watch

Is your village having problems with speeding traffic? If so you might want to consider joining Community Speed Watch, a volunteer programme run by Northants Police and Northants County Council. The program aims to increase the awareness of the dangers of speeding through education.

The current format consists of six groups with up to 12 communities in each. Groups are trained and operate roadside for a six-week period, week on week off, with a speed gun device.

Before and after this period there is a week of speed data collection. There is then a planned programme of interactive signage (VAS), visits from



the Speed Indicator Team (SID), speed awareness signs and police support with enforcement. The programme runs between April and November (Groups 1-5), then February to March (Group 6).

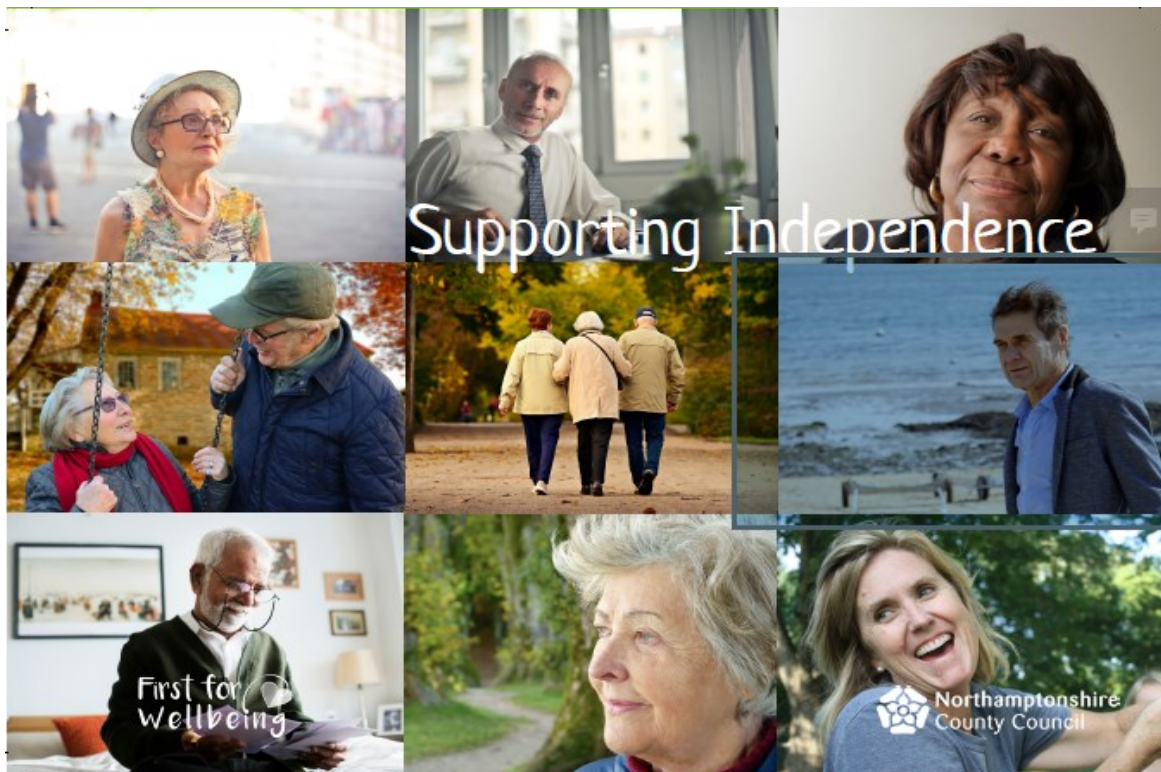
More information about the programme can be found on the Northamptonshire Police website: <https://archive.northants.police.uk/simple/page/community-speed-watch>

Or email [Gary.Wright@Northants.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Gary.Wright@Northants.pnn.police.uk) who runs the programme for more details.



# Spotlight on...

## Supporting Independence First for Wellbeing



## Supporting Independence

Have you noticed any recent changes in your health?  
Do you have difficulty walking or need help moving about?  
Are every day tasks such as shopping becoming more difficult?  
Do you need someone to help you on a regular basis?  
When you need help, do you sometimes feel lonely or isolated?

If you have answered "yes" to any of the questions above, we may be able to help you. Call on 0300 126 1000 to make an appointment with one of our team.

Lines are open from 8am-6pm Monday to Friday.





# Charity Commission Updates



## Change of email address

From Monday 25 February, Charity Commission email addresses no longer include "gsi" – so, for example,

[inboxname@charitycommission.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:inboxname@charitycommission.gsi.gov.uk) is now [inboxname@charitycommission.gov.uk](mailto:inboxname@charitycommission.gov.uk).

The old gsi addresses can be used until 31 March, but after that will not be delivered.

## Updating your charity's details:

The questions you'll be asked and how to answer them...

The Charity Commission has produced useful guidance about what questions you will be asked when updating your charity details and how to answer them. You'll find the guide here: [https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-your-charity-details-improved-service-coming-soon?utm\\_source=e138930a-9eb4-47d3-bca6-ace5ed910380&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=daily](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-your-charity-details-improved-service-coming-soon?utm_source=e138930a-9eb4-47d3-bca6-ace5ed910380&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily) on the Gov.uk website. Click on "this guide explains what information is covered by the service".

## Wrongdoing Lessons for Trustees

Every year the Charity Commission publishes a report outlining the lessons and warnings that trustees might usefully draw from some of the casework the Commission has handled over the previous 12 months. This year the Commission has organised its report under six headings:

- \*Insider Fraud
- \*Safeguarding
- \*Counter Terrorism
- \*Reporting Serious Incidents
- \*Data Protection
- \*Military Charities

Read the report in full <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dealing-with-wrongdoing-and-harm-2017-18/dealing-with-wrongdoing-and-harm-lessons-for-trustees>

## Display of Trustees Details

### Display of Trustee Legal Names on the Charity Register

From the 1 April 2019 the name of all charity trustees will be displayed to the public on the charity register, unless in special circumstances, a dispensation has been granted by the Charity Commission. The Commission can grant a dispensation if displaying an individual's name could put the relevant person or people in personal danger.

### Display of a charity contact address on the register

Every charity needs to provide a contact address which is displayed to the public. The Commission does not show trustees' addresses on the charity register, unless the address has been provided as the public contact address for the charity. The address shown to the public does not need to be the physical location of the charity, but must be an address which is administered by the charity in respect of receiving communications in a timely manner.

[https://www.gov.uk/guidance/addresses-and-trustee-names-in-your-charitys-public-details?utm\\_source=94d561e7-8710-4c42-8b92-4849afddaec6&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=daily](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/addresses-and-trustee-names-in-your-charitys-public-details?utm_source=94d561e7-8710-4c42-8b92-4849afddaec6&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily)

## Enquiry Form

You can now make an online enquiry to the Charity Commission via their website at: <https://forms.charitycommission.gov.uk/enquiry-form/>

## Charity Commission News: Issue 62

Read the latest edition of the Charity Commission News issue 63: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charity-commission-news-issue-63>

# Contact Details



## Who to contact for...

### General Enquiries:

Northamptonshire ACRE  
The Hunsbury Hill Centre  
Harksome Hill  
Northampton  
NN4 9QX

T. 01604 765888 (switchboard)

E. [acre@northantsacre.org.uk](mailto:acre@northantsacre.org.uk)

W. [www.northantsacre.org.uk/](http://www.northantsacre.org.uk/)

T. @NorthantsACRE

### Village Hall Enquiries:

Frances Harris  
Community Facilities Adviser  
Northants ACRE

01604 825888 (direct)

01604 765888 (switchboard)

E. [frances.harris@northantsacre.org.uk](mailto:frances.harris@northantsacre.org.uk)

W. [www.northantsacre.org.uk/village-halls-critical-asset](http://www.northantsacre.org.uk/village-halls-critical-asset)

T. [twitter@CommunityHalls](https://twitter.com/CommunityHalls)

To read Northamptonshire ACRE's Privacy Notice and Data Protection Policy, click [here](#).

### The Barns at Hunsbury Hill:

Sarah Clarke  
Events Co-Ordinator  
The Barns at Hunsbury Hill

T. 01604 702444

E. [info@HunsburyHillCentre.co.uk](mailto:info@HunsburyHillCentre.co.uk)

W. [www.HunsburyHillCentre.co.uk](http://www.HunsburyHillCentre.co.uk)

F. HunsburyHillCentre

If you have something you would like to share with our readers, including whether you'd like to be one of our Spotlight sections in a future edition, please send your items to: [acre@northantsacre.org.uk](mailto:acre@northantsacre.org.uk)

All items for the next edition should be received by 25th October 2019

### Next Edition:

## Winter 2019