In this issue...

Festive waste and recycling arrangements
Find out about a new community lottery
Meet Father Christmas at country park

Season’s greetings to all of our residents
Daventry District Council provides a wide range of services including waste and recycling collections, street cleaning and grounds maintenance, Council Tax collection and benefits, elections, Homechoice lettings, economic development and regeneration, community safety, planning and development control and environmental health issues such as dealing with food safety, noise, pollution and environmental crimes.

Call: 01327 871100
Email: comments@daventrydc.gov.uk
Web: daventrydc.gov.uk
Write to: Daventry District Council, Lodge Road, Daventry NN11 4FP

Other useful contacts

Northamptonshire County Council (NCC)
NCC deals with various services including: roads, paths, street lighting and drainage, potholes, bus passes and bus services, Blue Badges, road gritting, social care, schools admissions, register of births, deaths and marriages, libraries, household waste and recycling centres.

Call 0300 126 1000
northamptonshire.gov.uk

Your town or parish council
Daventry District has 72 parishes and one town council covering services such as allotments, village halls and recreation grounds, grass cutting and street cleaning, cemeteries (outside of Daventry Town). To find out contact details for your parish, visit daventrydc.gov.uk/parishcouncils

Northamptonshire Police
Call 101 or visit northants.police.uk
Always dial 999 in an emergency

Northamptonshire Credit Union
Call 01604 250016
northamptonshirecu.co.uk

Futures Housing Group
Call 0300 4562531 futureshg.co.uk

Bromford Housing Association
0330 1234034

Job Centre Plus
Call 0845 6043719

Government services and information
gov.uk
As we approach the end of another eventful and positive calendar year at the District Council I would like to reflect on the changing face of how we communicate with our residents.

This more traditional quarterly publication has been going for many years and gets delivered to every household in our large District area.

However it is interesting to note that we have some 12,000 followers across our social media channels, which include our Daventry District Council and Love Daventry Twitter and Facebook accounts, as well as the very popular Daventry Country Park Facebook page. That number is growing all the time and is likely to continue doing so as people increasingly move away from more traditional forms of communication such as newspapers. The media evolves at a fast pace, so we are keen to ensure we evolve with it by finding engaging new ways in which to communicate with our residents.

We are due to launch our Local Lotto in partnership with Gatherwell Limited where tickets will cost £1, with half of the ticket price going towards local good causes. This is a very favourable comparison to the 20-30% typically handed out by many other lotteries. Apart from the weekly draw with a chance to win prizes, there are also a range of prizes for matching between six and two numbers, what I particularly like about this scheme is that ticket buyers can elect for 40p of the ticket price to go to their favoured group or cause, which will be displayed on the Local Lotto website.

Whilst last year we awarded more than £160,000 of grant funding to around 50 community and voluntary groups who are doing fantastic work throughout our District, there is unfortunately only so much to go around with other sources of funding shrinking, and it is inevitable that many groups miss out. However if the community gets behind this lottery then it will be a great way for more local groups to generate regular income as well as giving players a chance to win prizes.

With the Government’s determination to focus on increased housebuilding to match the growing national population, it is really good to see that so many of our Parish areas have been actively involved in developing Neighbourhood Plans to shape future housing growth in their locality.

As at the end of October, 26 neighbourhood areas have been designated across 25 parishes, and nine Neighbourhood Development plans having been adopted, with many more in the pipeline. I would encourage local residents to get involved in this process and help make a positive difference to the future of your area.

It was pleasing to note that our external auditors KPMG issued an unqualified audit opinion on the Council’s finances concluding that “in all significant aspects [Daventry District Council] has proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people”.

The report also recognised the Council’s strong record of meeting efficiency savings against a worsening national picture. Please be assured our focus is on continuing to offer value for money to our residents as we continue to maintain services while accounting for just 9% of your total council tax bill.

I thought this year’s annual Sports Awards, which have been running now for 15 years, were excellent and well done to all 13 category winners along with all those who were nominated by their peers. The awards were presented by former Team GB Paralympic skier Anna Turney, who was an inspirational special guest for all those present as we joined to celebrate the sporting achievements of so many people across our District.

There is plenty to look forward to in our District area in the year ahead and on that note I would like to wish all our residents and their families Seasonal Greetings and all the very best for 2018!

Councillor Chris Millar
Leader – Daventry District Council

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**Christmas bin collections:** Find out all you need to know about the arrangements for waste and recycling collections this Christmas.

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**Tunnel vision:** Find out about a project to transform a Victorian railway tunnel into a world-class vehicle testing facility.

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Under the existing regulations, landlords must have a HMO licence if their property:

- Is rented to five or more people who form more than one household
- Has shared facilities like a bathroom or kitchen
- Is at least three storeys high (including basements and loft conversions).

However the Government is proposing to remove the three-storey rule, making licensing mandatory for all properties with five occupants or more from two or more households (with the exception of purpose built flats).

It is also planning to introduce new rules surrounding the minimum space standards on habitable rooms.

Landlords and tenants of HMOs with any questions about the legislation or the proposed changes should contact the Environmental Improvement Team at DDC on ehcustomercare@daventrydc.gov.uk or by phoning 01327 871100.

Daventry District Council is also looking at how it will use new enforcement powers under The Housing and Planning Act allowing it to impose fines of up to £30,000 on landlords who fall foul of the regulations.

Councillor Richard Auger, Environmental Health and Housing Portfolio Holder on Daventry District Council, said: "These proposed changes are designed to protect private tenants from rogue landlords. We will not hesitate to act if tenants are being failed, so if the proposed changes affect you, please familiarise yourself with them and the current legislation."

Be aware of housing licence changes

Landlords and tenants are being advised of possible changes to the licensing of houses of multiple occupation (HMOs).

It is an offence to fail to apply for a licence for a HMO if one is required, while tenants living in an unlicensed HMO may also be able to claim back a proportion of the rent they have paid.

Daventry Sports Park is being transformed in a £695,000 project to improve its pitch and changing facilities.

A new 3G pitch will replace the old sand-dressed artificial turf, improving playability in all weathers and making it more suitable for playing FA league games.

One side of the changing block will be refurbished to provide accessible changing facilities and a classroom, and the reception area will also receive a complete upgrade.

The work should be completed in time for the New Year.

The scheme to upgrade the Browns Road facility has been developed by Everyone Active and Daventry District Council (DDC) in partnership with the Premier League and The FA Facilities Fund, which is funding 65% of the total project cost.

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Why are bin collections changing next summer?

Daventry District cannot afford to carry on with the same waste and recycling collections, both environmentally and financially. When the Council’s current waste and recycling contract with Enterprise/Amey ends after seven years on 4 June 2018, the cost of the service will rise considerably – if changes to collections are not made, their cost would increase by around £1.25m a year.

The rise in waste and recycling costs is also partly due to a considerable drop in prices for recycling materials, such as aluminium and plastic, which is unlikely to change in the near future.

The law’s also changing to make it more important that we recycle what we can, so DDC is trying to ensure that at a minimum 45% of our waste is recycled. The new collections aim to encourage more households to recycle as well as changing some parts of the current service which are not popular with many people, such as the recycling boxes.

Under the new 1-2-3 collection service, food waste will be collected weekly, a two-weekly wheeleie bin collection for mixed recycling will replace the weekly box collections of sorted recyclables and the black bin will be collected every three weeks. Households will also be able to opt in to a fortnightly garden waste service for an annual fee.

The new-look service was agreed by the Council in July 2016 following a wide-ranging review of options and public consultation on the preferred option.

DDC is now working with Norse on preparing the new service and more details on how collections will change for households will be available early next year.
Charities, community groups and similar organisations from across Daventry District are being encouraged to join up to a new online community lottery launching this spring to help boost good causes.

Daventry District Council is teaming up with lottery organisers Gatherwell for the new Local Lotto, a weekly draw with a £25,000 jackpot and half of the ticket sales going directly back to local good causes.

From sports clubs, scout and Brownie groups to charities, voluntary organisations and village hall committees, a wide range of local good causes can sign up for free to the scheme and ticket buyers can elect for 40p of the £1 ticket price to go to their favoured group or good cause.

A further 10p from each ticket sale will supplement the Council’s community grants budget so it can be distributed to local good causes.

Of the remaining 50p of each ticket sale, 30p will go in the prize fund, 17p will go to the lottery managers Gatherwell, and the remaining 3p is the VAT on the operator’s charge, which will be recovered by DDC and used to cover the cost of running the scheme.

Based on community lotteries operating in other districts, the Council estimates it could make 50,000 annual ticket sales each year, netting £25,000 for local good causes.

Voluntary and community groups that join the scheme do not have to pay anything and will receive their own web page and marketing help to promote their cause.

Councillor Alan Hills, Community, Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder at Daventry District Council, said: “Last year we awarded more than £160,000 of grant funding to around 50 community and voluntary groups who are doing fantastic work in our district. But unfortunately there is only so much to go around and, with other sources of funding shrinking, it is inevitable that some groups miss out on occasion.

“The Local Lotto will be a great way for local groups to generate a regular income as well as giving players a chance to win prizes. Hopefully the community will really get behind it when it launches next year.”

Community and voluntary groups wishing to apply for the Local Lotto should contact the DDC’s Community Development Co-ordinator at communitygrants@daventrydc.gov.uk

Come along to a committee meeting at civic offices

All the meetings listed right start at 6.15pm and take place at the civic offices in Lodge Road, Daventry.

All meetings are open for the public to attend. For more information visit daventrydc.gov.uk/meetings, email governance@daventrydc.gov.uk or phone 01327 871100.

To listen to an audio recording of a meeting, visit daventrydc.gov.uk/audiorecordings

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How to be in it to win it

When Local Lotto launches in spring, residents will be able to buy tickets for a weekly draw on a new lottery website (currently under development).

Tickets will cost £1, with half of the ticket price going towards local good causes – a favourable comparison to the 20-30% typically handed out by many other lotteries.

There will be a weekly draw with a jackpot of £25,000 for matching the sequence of all six numbers. Players who match five numbers will win £2,500, and there will be a £250 prize for matching four numbers, £25 for three and £5 for two. A range of additional prizes will also be added to drive ticket sales at certain times of the year.

Further details on how to take part will be available in the new year.

www.local-lotto.co.uk
Residents are being encouraged to help to thwart fraudsters whose actions could cost Daventry District taxpayers tens of thousands of pounds a year.

Daventry District Council (DDC) has a zero tolerance approach to fraud, bribery and corruption, putting in place a range of measures to reduce the issues. Among these is taking part in the National Fraud Initiative, which matches electronic data between organisations to help prevent and detect fraud. Yet despite these ongoing efforts, opportunities for cheats remain in Daventry District and residents can play a key role in helping the Council to stop them.

Resident fraud
People paying less Council Tax than they should – for example an empty property that's actually occupied, a single person discount when more than one qualifying adult is living there, claiming student discount when no students are living at the property.

Business Rates fraud
Businesses not paying non-domestic rates either in full or part – for example, not declaring that a property is being used for business purposes, falsely claiming a rates reduction, or stating a property is no longer in use when it is.

Procurement and contract fraud
A person or organisation not buying or providing goods or services in line with the Council’s rules – for example, price-fixing between contractors or suppliers or collusion to submit false bids, bribery or corruption between contractors and council officials.

Employee fraud
A Council employee who abuses their position to make a fraudulent gain for themselves, such as claiming false expenses, falsifying job qualifications or failing to declare a criminal conviction.

Grants fraud
A group or organisation not using a community grant awarded to them by the Council for its intended purpose – for example, using the funding for personal purchases, providing inaccurate or false information to obtain a grant.

A person who receives a Home Repair Assistance Grant or Disabled Facilities Grant for work to their home but does not declare any or all of their savings, their income or change in circumstances.

Housing benefits fraud
People receiving housing benefits who are not entitled to do so – for example, failing to declare that they are working or living with someone who is, not declaring that they own a property or have savings and investments, using a false identity to claim. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) carry out these investigations – visit gov.uk/report-benefit-fraud or contact the National Benefit Fraud Hotline on 0800 854 440.

Fraud investigated by the Council ranges from people falsely claiming Council Tax discounts or Business Rates reductions to issues such as procurement fraud, employee fraud and grants fraud.

Since January this year, DDC has identified around 80 cases of potential fraud totalling more than £40,000, including instances of error and overpayments where people have failed to declare changes in their circumstances.

Councillor Chris Millar, Leader of Daventry District Council, said: “When someone commits fraud against the Council, they’re stopping money and services getting to those people in our community who really need them. “We have done a lot of work within the Council to develop a strong anti-fraud culture among staff, but we also need the public’s help to tackle the issue. If you think someone you know is abusing the system, whether it’s another resident, a business, council employee or councillor, please tell us and we’ll investigate. Any information received will be treated in strictest confidence.”

If you think you’ve spotted a cheat...
- Please don’t ignore your suspicions – if you have reason to suspect fraud, bribery or corruption, we want to know.
- Don’t try to investigate the matter yourself. The Council has established procedures for investigating cases of suspected misconduct. Any unofficial investigation could compromise the Council’s investigation or any further disciplinary or criminal action.
- Don’t alert the person you suspect of your concerns. This will give the Council a better chance of proving that misconduct has taken place so that appropriate action can be taken.
- Don’t discuss your suspicions or concerns with others. This is to ensure fairness and to protect the reputation of the individuals and Council against unfounded claims.
- For more information please visit the Council’s fraud page daventrydc.gov.uk/fraud.

To report fraud, email fraud@daventrydc.gov.uk. Alternatively you can contact Expolink on 0800 731 6202.
Households are encouraged to find out more about arrangements for waste and recycling collections over Christmas and New Year.

All collections
Collections over Christmas and New Year will take place on their usual days, including Boxing Day and New Year’s Day, except for Christmas Day. There will be no collection on Christmas Day (Monday, 25 December) and instead ONLY those households affected will receive a collection on Christmas Eve (Sunday, 24 December).

Black bins will continue to be collected as normal on their fortnightly cycle. Please make sure you recycle as much as possible, as side waste and bins with raised lids will not be collected.

Brown bins will be suspended for two weeks from Christmas Eve until Saturday, 6 January inclusive. This will enable crews to focus on collecting extra recycling. Please refer to your collections calendar as to when your brown bin will be collected next.

Recycling boxes and food bins will continue to be collected weekly for all households on their usual collection day. Large cardboard will be collected for two weeks from Christmas Eve until Saturday, 6 January inclusive.

If you have large cardboard and it won’t fit in your recycling box, please flatten it as much as possible and place next to your boxes on your collection day.

Please do not place it inside another cardboard box.

Extra recycling can also be put out for collection over Christmas.
If you have more recycling than your boxes can hold, please continue to sort your items and place them into clear or white bags next to your boxes (not black or green sacks).

Don’t forget that you can recycle a range of festive items, including Christmas cards, wrapping paper, sweet tins and drinks bottles.

Real Christmas trees will be collected on your scheduled brown bin collection day when the service resumes (w/c Monday, 15 January 2018 for the majority of homes in Daventry District).
Please break it up and put it into your brown bin or place the tree next to your brown bin or recycling boxes. Alternatively take it to your local household waste recycling centre – you can find your nearest at daventrydc.gov.uk/recycling

There are no communal collection points for real Christmas trees and they are only collected from households, not businesses or other premises.

Check your collections calendar - You can check your bin collection dates up to June 2018 on your waste and recycling calendar issued in autumn last year. You can also check online by searching for your postcode on our website at daventrydc.gov.uk/recycling or by calling us on 01327 871100.

Reporting a missed bin over Christmas and New Year
Daventry District Council’s offices and Contact Centre will be closed from Saturday, 23 December, reopening on Tuesday, 2 January. During this time waste and recycling services will continue and you can report a missed bin collection on our website at daventrydc.gov.uk/recycling.

Drinks bottles are among the many things you can recycle this Christmas

Remember wrapping paper can be recycled too

Your Council
Festive arrangements at Daventry District Council

Daventry District Council will be closing its offices over Christmas and New Year from 23 December until 2 January.

Essential services, such as waste and recycling collections and street cleaning, will continue over Christmas and arrangements will continue to be in place in the event of an emergency.

Daventry District Council's offices will close as normal at 4.30pm on Friday 22 December, reopening at 9am on Tuesday, 2 January.

The offices in Lodge Road will still be open to visitors of Jobcentre Plus and Northamptonshire County Council's Children's and Young People's Service, which will each operate different working hours over Christmas.

Daventry Leisure Centre, which is owned by DDC and operated by Everyone Active, is not included in the above Council closure arrangements. For centre opening times, visit everyoneactive.com/daventry or call 01327 871144.

Daventry Market will take place on Friday, 22 December and Friday, 29 December. There will be no market on Tuesday, 26 December.

The Abbey Resource Centre in St John's Square, Daventry, will be closed for Christmas from Saturday, 23 December. When it re-opens on Wednesday, 27 December, through until Friday 29 December, it will close at 5pm each day. The Abbey will also be closed from Saturday, 30 December until Tuesday, 2 January.

Over the Christmas period, a range of services will continue to be accessible on the Council’s website daventrydc.gov.uk/online

This includes checking waste and recycling collections, viewing planning applications and reporting a range of issues including missed bin collections, fly-tipping, dog fouling, noise complaints and anti-social behaviour.

The website also includes an interactive mapping service, allowing people to see the latest planning applications in their area, check on local conservation areas and tree preservation orders and to see local facilities and amenities including schools, shops and leisure services.

Online customer accounts allow residents to keep up to date with their Council Tax, housing benefit information and Business Rates, while payments can be made online or over the phone out-of-hours by calling 01327 302303.
How you can help conserve our history and protect our future

People across Daventry District are being encouraged to get involved in a wide-reaching review of its conservation areas.

Conservation areas are places considered worthy of preservation or enhancement because of their special architectural or historic interest.

Designation as a conservation area puts in place tighter planning controls to help maintain that special interest.

Currently there are 24 conservation areas in Daventry District, covering more than 35 parishes.

But with many of them designated more than a decade ago, Daventry District Council has a statutory duty to review them, to make sure they are still offering the appropriate protection.

The review is looking at whether existing boundaries should be changed and whether further controls should be introduced within them. It is also looking at the possibility of designating new conservation areas.

Residents living in the areas being reviewed can comment on any proposals put forward, in order to help shape the final appraisal and management plan, which sets out the location and details of each conservation area.

Daventry District Councillors must then vote on whether to accept the final plan, so that they can be adopted as supplementary planning documents, giving them an official status to help in the determining of planning decisions.

Existing conservation areas in Harlestone, Moulton, Daventry town centre and Brixworth have already been reviewed and modified, and proposals for new designations at Weedon and Flore are being explored. Further reviews will take place in 2018 (see panel below).

Councillor Alan Chantler, Strategic Portfolio Holder on Daventry District Council, said: “We are very fortunate in Daventry District to boast some of Northamptonshire’s most picturesque villages, and the Council is committed to protecting and enhancing them for future generations.

“Designating conservation areas plays a key role in this process, and we are keen to work in partnership with communities across Daventry District to ensure the necessary controls are in place in order to protect and preserve their identity and heritage.”

Planning controls

In conservation areas there are stricter controls, meaning you may need to apply for permission to:

- Demolish a building or wall
- Carry out work to trees
- Add cladding to a building
- Build an extension or outbuilding
- Alter roofs and windows or install a satellite dish/antennae.

Article 4 directions can also be put in place on buildings or parts of buildings, adding further controls for features which are particularly important to the character of the conservation area. Proposals for Article 4s are being considered as part of the review, in consultation with the owners of any properties concerned.

If you are in any doubt whether you need permission for works, call the Council on 01327 871100.

Don’t miss out on your chance to have a say

Daventry District Council has a number of reviews planned in the coming year:

- Boughton & Kilsby – early 2018
- Braunston & Crick – spring 2018
- Pitsford & Long Buckby – late spring/summer 2018
- Everdon & Woodford Halse – early autumn 2018

Villagers in each of these parishes will have a chance to comment on the draft proposals for their respective conservation areas, as well as candidates for a register of structures of special local interest, known as a ‘Local List’, during a publicised six-week period.

The draft plans will be published online and made available from local outlets such as libraries and shops. Public exhibitions will also held, giving residents an opportunity to find out more from Council officers.

Look out for information on upcoming consultations in your area at daventrydc.gov.uk/ConservationAreas or follow DDC on Twitter @DaventryDC or on Facebook.com/DaventryDistrict
The wheels are in motion on a unique project to build a world-class aerodynamic testing facility in a Victorian-era railway tunnel in Daventry District.

Northamptonshire-based firm Aero Research Partners (ARP) want to remodel the perfectly straight, 2.7km-long tunnel, installing a smooth asphalt roadway with automated turntables at either end to create the perfect environment for testing the performance of vehicles.

The only facility of its kind available for hire in the world, it is expected to attract interest from customers across the globe, ranging from cycling and race car teams to major vehicle manufacturers.

The site will also house a 4.5 acre science park with offices, workshop units, and a research facility, creating around 50 new jobs.

Planning permission for the Catesby Aero Research Facility was granted in February 2017 and work on creating suitable access to the tunnel began in November. It is hoped the tunnel could be opened for testing as early as the summer of 2019.

The project has the backing of the South East Midlands Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP), which awarded it £4.2million of funding from the £59million awarded to the region earlier this year through the Local Growth Fund.

Daventry District Council (DDC) is also supporting the delivery of the project and intends to acquire the tunnel from Highways England, so it can lease it to ARP and enable the scheme to go ahead.

Dr Rob Lewis OBE, managing director of Brackley-based TotalSim, which is part of ARP, said: “The Catesby Tunnel will allow full scale vehicle testing in constant conditions due to the naturally stabilised environment generated from being underground.

“We hope it will become the world’s premier benchmark for aerodynamic testing, capable of providing accurate and affordable full scale aerodynamic performance data, with the accompanying science park a worldwide centre for aerodynamics and vehicle development.

“The goal is to keep the tunnel open for the automotive industry in Britain, Europe and the rest of the world, rather than it being used exclusively by a single manufacturer. Without this testing facility, the structure would have been lost, along with a unique opportunity. We are very grateful to the Highways England Historical Railways Estate for believing in our project and supporting us for the last six years.”

Councillor Colin Poole, DDC’s Economic, Regeneration and Employment Portfolio Holder said: “The Council is proud to support this unique project to revitalise a piece of our industrial heritage to create a facility of international importance.

“It’s a privilege to be involved and we are fortunate to have the only tunnel suitable for this facility located in our District.

“The Catesby Aero Research Facility will provide a real boost to our local economy, creating new jobs in this high-tech industry, providing opportunities for local contractors and suppliers, and further cementing our District’s place within ‘Motorsport Valley’.

Stephen Catchpole, Chief Executive at SEMLEP, said: “SEMLEP is committed to supporting key sectors in the Government’s Industrial Strategy that will secure the future prosperity and economic growth of our wider area, including Daventry. “The Catesby Aero Research Facility is increasingly known for our expertise and innovation in testing facilities, vital in supporting advanced technology developments and commercialisation of innovation in high value and high growth sectors. We are pleased to support this project as part of our £265M Growth Deal, particularly as the project is utilising an existing railway tunnel and is raising the majority of the funds privately which offers excellent value for money to the public purse.”
It’s time to get smart on your energy use

Free smart meters for gas and electricity are being rolled out to all homes in Britain in a process which will be completed by 2020.

The meters will also send energy readings to people’s energy suppliers, removing the need for estimated bills and making the process of billing far simpler for everyone.

People can refuse to have a smart meter, but they have a lot of advantages over the existing meters. Trained installers will fit the smart meters and will carry identification. Please check their ID before inviting them into your property and phone your supplier if you have any concerns.

For more information visit smartenergygb.org

There are lots of other ways to be smarter with your energy usage. Follow these top tips to reduce your energy bills this winter:

**Save money on heating**
- Turning your room thermostats down by just 1°C could cut up to 10 per cent off your fuel bill.
- Heat your home with cooking. Leave the oven door open after cooking to let the heat warm your kitchen. The oven might give off enough heat for you to adjust your thermostat.
- Consider fitting a new lagging jacket around your hot water tank – if your current one is old it could make a big difference.

**Kitchen efficiency**
- When boiling vegetables, use just enough water to keep them covered. Keeping pan lids on will also help to reduce the amount of energy needed.
- Use a kettle that has a water level gauge to ensure you don’t waste energy heating too much water.
- Keeping your fridge and freezer full means they don’t have to work as hard and use a lot of energy. Empty space in your fridge or freezer wastes not only space but energy too.

- If your cooker has a small ring, use a small pan. Using a pan that is too small for a ring and using a pan that is too large for a ring both waste energy.

**Shrink bills, not clothes**
- Did you know 90% of a washing machine’s energy expenditure is spent on heating the water? By washing your clothes at 30-40°C you stand to make a good saving.
- Consider air-drying your laundry rather than putting it in the tumble dryer. If it has to go in the dryer, take your clothes out before they’re completely dry – they will iron much quicker and you will use less energy.

**Save electricity**
- Make sure you don’t leave any electrical items on standby. Some electricity providers may offer power down sockets that can help. On average UK households waste £30 per year powering appliances on standby.
- Draw curtains at nightfall to stop heat escaping and to reduce draughts and open curtains when the sun is out to bring in heat.
- Installing low energy lightbulbs can save around £7 per bulb per year as they can last up to 15 times longer than a normal lightbulb.

**Stop heat escaping**
There are many simple yet effective ways to insulate your home which can reduce heat loss while lowering heating bills.

Insulating your roof and loft, wall cavities, tanks, pipes and radiators, floors as well as putting in draught-proofing measures can all have a big impact.

Some energy firms will even offer certain types of insulation free provided you meet eligibility criteria. Find out more at energysavingtrust.org.uk

**Get on the right deal**
If you haven’t switched energy providers for a while, the chances are you will be able to find a better deal elsewhere.

Daventry District Council’s Big Switch scheme uses collective purchasing power to secure better energy deals for residents. The sign-up process is quick and easy, with just an annual bill or indication of annual energy usage required. Find out more at daventrydc.gov.uk/BigSwitch
A service which helps elderly and disabled people make improvements to their homes will soon be celebrating its 20th anniversary.

Care & Repair Daventry District has enabled thousands of people to live safely and securely in their own properties since it was first set up in 1998.

During that time the service, which originally served south Northamptonshire as well, has grown from a staff of two, to a very busy team of six handling hundreds of cases each year.

And while lots of things have changed over the last 20 years, the team’s commitment to its clients has remained constant.

Care & Repair Daventry District aims to help vulnerable people to continue living independently and safely in their own homes for as long as possible.

Its friendly team of caseworkers offer practical advice, guidance and potential solutions to people who need a range of improvements and adaptions, including:

- Home adaptations, such as level access showers and bathroom solutions
- Access solutions, such as ramps, handrails, lifts, hoists, the widening of doors, and driveway and parking solutions
- Conversions, including ground floor bathroom and bedroom adaptions and garage conversions
- Repairs to leaky roofs and guttering and replacements for draughty and rotten windows and doors
- Essential minor repair works
- Central heating repairs and installation.

The service recognises that organising jobs like these can be stressful, so its caseworkers go out of their way to make things as simple and straightforward as possible.

They will advise on any grants and funding that might be available (see panel), assist in gaining estimates from trusted contractors and then manage the job to make sure it’s done to everyone’s satisfaction.

And you don’t have to be eligible for a grant to take advantage of their services – Care & Repair is also able to manage privately-funded projects for a nominal fee of 12.5% of the total cost of the works.

Richard Auger, Environmental Health and Housing Portfolio Holder at Daventry District Council, said: “This service is all about improving the quality of life for elderly and disabled people living in the District and, as we all begin to live longer, it allows us all to stay in the homes we love.

“I’m so proud of the team, and this 20 year landmark is the perfect opportunity to recognise their invaluable work and thank them. It’s also a perfect opportunity to encourage those residents who feel they might be eligible to get in touch.

“We realise there may be those who feel hesitant about applying, but may I encourage you to just ‘do it’! The Care & Repair team really do want to help and will do their best to make the experience as stress-free as possible.”

For more information, including full details of eligibility criteria, testimonials from satisfied clients and more, please visit daventrydc.gov.uk/careandrepair or call the team on 01327 871100

Home Repairs Assistance Grants can provide up to £5,000 to fund a range of work including the replacement or repair of central heating boilers and radiators, new security measures, replacement windows and doors, roof repairs, and much more.

To apply for a HRA grant you must be a homeowner over the age of 18 and be living in the property as your main residence. You must also be in receipt of an income-related benefit.

For work costing more than £5,000, eligible homeowners can also access a further £5,000 in the form of an interest-free loan, repayable only when the property is sold.

Disabled Facilities Grants can provide up to £30,000 to help people with a disability pay for a range of necessary improvements and adaptations to their home, such as the widening of doors or the installation of ramps or level access showers.

To apply for a DFG you or someone living in the property must be disabled. A disabled person under the age of 18 is entitled to the maximum £30,000, but if you are 18 or over the amount you can apply for will depend on your income and savings.

The Hardship Fund offers grants of up to £500 in any 12 month period to assist disabled, elderly and vulnerable applicants who are facing financial hardship, to help them make minor repairs and improvements.

You can apply if you are in receipt of a means tested benefit, you have no family members living locally, you are disabled, vulnerable or aged 60+, and you have been a permanent resident within Daventry District for the last 3 years.
What’s On this Winter

**December 5**
Daventry Photographic Society
meets at Mayfield Sports Club
from 7.30pm with a guest speaker.
The society comes together every Tuesday. People of all abilities are welcome. For more information visit daventryphotographicsociety.co.uk

**December 8**
Daventry Spirit of Christmas
event in Daventry town centre from 3pm.
Featuring fairground rides, festive stalls, donkey rides and a chance to meet Father Christmas. It's followed by a lantern parade at 6.30pm. Find out more at daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk or on 01327 301246.

**December 10**
Lilbourne All Saints Church Christmas Fayre at Lilbourne Village Hall from 6pm. Featuring stalls, turkey rolls, prizes and a visit by Father Christmas.

**December 10, 16 & 17**
Christmas Extravaganza in Moulton Public Gardens from 2pm. Featuring a range of stalls, Santa Scramble, mince pies, mulled wine, a performance by Moulton 77 Brass Band and a special visitor to turn on the Christmas lights.

**December 17**
Christmas Celebration at Kelmarsh Hall. See page 15 for details.

**December 22**
Santa Stop at Daventry Country Park. See page 15 for details.

**December 24**
The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a celebration of Christmas with Northamptonshire’s premier chamber choir, the Swarbrick Singers. The free event is at St Andrew’s Church, Old from 6.30pm.

**January 9**
Daventry Ukulele Society (DukesUkes) meets every Tuesday from 7pm at The Working Mens Club, Daventry and welcomes players of all levels. The evening is spent playing a variety of songs. Visit dukesukes.co.uk

**January 13**
Sports and Leisure exhibition at Daventry Museum. Explore Daventry’s sports and hobbies of the past and present. The exhibition runs until 27 April. Find out more at daventrymuseum.org.uk

**January 14**
East Haddon School of Dance presents The Nutcracker at the Royal & Derngate Theatre in Northampton. Tickets from royalandderngate.co.uk/whats-on/east-haddon-school-dance/

**February 10**
Pancake Day races hosted by Daventry Town Council in Sheaf Street, Daventry. Local retailers will be flipping away in a series of races. Find out more at daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk

**March 10**
British Science Week celebrations at Daventry Museum from 10am-4pm. A free, fun and family friendly science event. Visit daventrymuseum.org.uk

If you would like to include forthcoming events in the District in Daventry Calling please email news@daventrydc.gov.uk

Please note that due to distribution schedules, some areas of the district may receive Daventry Calling later than the date of some featured events.

Discover more days out at lovedaventry.com/whats-on
Meet Father Christmas at Daventry Country Park

Santa will be making a special stop at Daventry Country Park to meet children in the run-up to Christmas.

He will be flying in from the North Pole on Friday, 22 December to meet youngsters at the park’s visitors’ centre, off Northern Way, Daventry from 10am to 12.30pm.

Santa’s Stop has been arranged with the help of Daventry District Council, the Rotary Club of Danetre and the Friends of Daventry Country Park. Meeting Father Christmas is free and each child who sees him will receive a free gift.

Councillor Alan Hills, Daventry District Council’s Community Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder, said: “Santa has really enjoyed visiting the country park over the last few years and he’s really looking forward to returning this Christmas to meet even more youngsters, so come along and enjoy the fun.”

Families visiting Santa’s Stop are reminded to make sure they wrap up in warm clothes and that youngsters are accompanied by an adult.

Due to the increasing popularity of the event in recent years and to limit queue times, parents are asked to book their children into time slots in advance by calling 01327 871100.

Visitors to the Country Park over the festive period are also urged to look out for the annual ‘Wassailing’ event in early January.

Discover more days out at lovedaventry.com/whats-on

Half-term activity camps at leisure centre

Youngsters can join in with activities at Daventry Leisure Centre during the February half-term holidays.

Daventry District Council’s leisure partner Everyone Active has organised activity camps at the centre in Lodge Road, Daventry, from February 12 to 16.

The camps are aimed at children aged 5 to 16 years and cost £14 per day.

Youngsters taking part in the camps can also book a place in the Connections Club, which offers a variety of games and activities from 8.30am to 10am before the start of the activity camp or at the end of the day from 3pm to 5pm. It costs £2.40 per am or pm session.

For more information phone 01327 871144 or visit everyoneactive.com/daventry

Celebration at Kelmarsh

Kelmarsh Hall will be opening its recently restored servants’ quarters and laundry for an exclusive Christmas preview on Sunday, 17 December.

It will see more than a dozen new, interactive rooms open to the public for the first time, exploring the lives and work of the servants ‘below stairs’.

Upstairs will play host to a Santa’s Grotto as well as a mini Christmas market selling jewellery, cards, chocolate and homemade gifts.

This exciting new history experience was supported by a Heritage Lottery grant and will open permanently on select weekdays in Spring 2018.

Entry to the event, which runs from 11am-4pm, is free for National Lottery ticket holders and £2 for an adult ticket. More at kelmarsh.com
Save time... Do it ONLINE

There are lots of things you can access on Daventry District Council’s website 24/7:

- Check your bin collections
- View and search planning applications
- Check Council Tax or benefits payments
- Report a missed bin or ask for a new one
- Apply for a licence or parking permit
- Report problems in your neighbourhood like noise, litter, dog fouling or fly-tipping
- Use our handy webmap to find local facilities near you

... plus much more!

visit daventrydc.gov.uk/online

We’re on the lookout for landlords

- Are you looking for the security of a long-term let?
- Fed up with paying management fees to lettings agents?
- Would you like to receive guaranteed rent in advance?
- Would you like us to manage the tenants?

Daventry District Council is developing a new private sector leasing scheme and would like to hear from local landlords with properties in our area.

To find out more, call us now on 01327 871100 or email landlords@daventrydc.gov.uk