Also in this issue...

- Tough action on fly-tipping
- Latest on cinema development
- Spring events guide
- Bins service reaps recycling rewards

Parklife
Country Park set for major improvements
All the latest Council news and information online

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

Harvest Money (formerly Northamptonshire Credit Union)
Call 01604 250016 harvestmoney.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
You may recall from my previous Viewpoint that, in the light of the proposed restructure of Northamptonshire’s councils into two new unitary authorities, the Government would be asked to postpone the May 2019 local elections.

At the time of going to print, we still await a decision from the Secretary of State on whether the proposal to create the two new unitary councils will proceed, although a decision is expected this spring.

The Secretary of State has however since laid a parliamentary order that postpones this spring’s district and borough elections - these will now take place in May 2020 at which time, according to the current timetable and subject to government approval, the new West Northamptonshire Unitary should be in place.

This common sense approach will enable our council and others to avoid wasting public money and resources on elections that could effectively become obsolete a year later should the unitary authorities be created. Postponing parish council elections too until May next year is also a sensible move that will save our local communities money and keep all future polling days in sync with each other.

At the time of going to print, we still await a decision from the Secretary of State on whether the proposal to create the two new unitary councils will proceed, although a decision is expected this spring.

Meanwhile we must continue to press on with the unitary preparations due to the very demanding timelines for their creation if approved. We are working closely with our partners at Northampton Borough, South Northamptonshire and the county council on arrangements for a West Northamptonshire unitary council, with our councillors recently agreeing to set up a joint committee to steer this work forward. They have also considered what legal, governance and electoral arrangements we should recommend that the Government includes when it drafts legislation for the new unitary council.

The unitary issue may be brought to the fore, but it is not distracting us from our day job of delivering quality services at the lowest possible cost to taxpayers and pursuing our positive agenda to improve local facilities.

I am pleased to hear that our ambitious proposal to build Mulberry Place, a new cinema and restaurants in Daventry, has recently received planning permission.

We are confident that when the new development is completed later next year it will be a welcome boost to the town centre’s leisure offer and economy providing a great new socialising space to complement the local shopping experience.

To pave way for the scheme we are also helping the library service relocate to modern new premises in the nearby Abbey Centre, with new furnishings and equipment and improved accessibility for everyone (find out more on page 13).

Another major programme of work for us in the year ahead is over £750,000 of improvements at Daventry Country Park, which attracts thousands of visitors from across the district and beyond each year. The funding will be used for a range of things including resurfaced walkways, a new play area, better jetties and improved refreshments and toilets area for visitors (more details on pages 8 & 9).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their excellent efforts and support following the launch of the new 123+ waste and recycling collections service in June.

Within the first six months 63% more food waste had been recycled along with 14% more recycling collected from the blue bins, with rubbish also reducing by over a quarter at the same time. You can read more on page 10, along with details on how you could win prizes by recycling your food waste.

Finally don’t forget that if you are subscribed to garden waste collections you will need to renew it this spring if you wish to keep the service for the next year – you can find out more about how to do this on page 11.

Councillor Chris Millar
Leader – Daventry District Council

Contents

News: Read the latest news and updates from Daventry District Council.
Pages 4-6

Licence to spill? Find out how you can help the Council combat fly-tippers.
Page 7

Parklife: Read all about plans to enhance Daventry Country Park with a range of improvements.
Pages 8-9

Focus on bins: Discover how the new bin collection service is improving our recycling habits and find out how to renew your garden waste subscription.
Pages 10-11

Events guide: Find out what’s on where across the District this Spring with our Love Daventry events guide.
Pages 14-15
Spring date set to fully enforce new dog control powers

Dog owners are encouraged to take heed of new regulations designed to help keep dogs under proper control in public places.

The new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) came into force on December 1 last year and will be fully enforced from 1 April 2019.

The PSPO introduces a number of new regulations such as requiring dogs to remain on leads in cemeteries and near schools, while retaining all of the rules set out under the previous PSPO – including the need for dog walkers to carry the means to pick up after their pet.

Anyone in breach of the PSPO faces a £100 fixed penalty notice or potentially court action, which could result in a fine on conviction of up to £1,000.

The full list of regulations under the PSPO is as follows:

- Anyone in charge of a dog must pick up after the dog
- Anyone in charge of a dog must carry the means to pick up after the dog
- Dogs must not enter fenced-off children’s play areas
- Dogs must be placed on a lead at the request of an authorised officer
- Dogs must be kept on leads in certain areas including graveyards, cemeteries, memorial gardens, near schools (on school days only) and in the café area at Daventry Country Park
- A maximum of 6 dogs can be walked by one person at one time
- No smoking is permitted in defined and fenced off children’s play areas.

Find out more at www.daventrydc.gov.uk/pspo

Local Plan continues to progress

The examination of Daventry District’s new Local Plan is expected to progress this year following the appointment of a Planning Inspector.

Daventry District Council (DDC) is in the process of preparing the Daventry Settlements and Countryside (Part 2) Local Plan – a major policy document which sets out where new homes and businesses could go as well as identifying areas which should be protected.

The Plan, which has been shaped through input from local residents and businesses, was submitted to the Government in December and the Planning Inspectorate has now appointed Gareth Wildgoose BSc (Hons) MSc MRTPI, to conduct an examination of it.

The examination will determine whether it complies with legal requirements and is ‘sound’ – meaning whether its policies are ‘positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy’.

As part of the examination, the Inspector will hold a series of public hearing sessions, which are expected to take place in late spring/summer 2019.

DDC has also appointed a programme officer, Ian Kemp, who is an independent officer of the examination and will act as the contact for any person who has an interest in the examination and as a liaison between the inspector, DDC and representors.

For more information about the process and to check for future updates, visit www.daventrydc.gov.uk/localplan
Local elections postponed as council reform is considered

Local elections scheduled for Daventry District this May have been postponed by the Government in the light of plans to restructure councils in Northamptonshire.

Secretary of State James Brokenshire made the postponement while considering a proposal to replace Northamptonshire’s eight existing local authorities – including Daventry District Council – with two new unitary authorities.

At the time of Daventry Calling going to print, the Government had yet to decide on whether to proceed with the proposal.

In May 2019 Daventry District Council was scheduled to hold elections for one-third of its seats, along with elections for 20 parish councils. District councillors that were due for re-election in spring will continue in their position for the extra year and parish councils will instead have their elections in May 2020.

The Secretary of State said: “Elections in such circumstances risk confusing voters and would involve significant costs that would be hard to justify. Accordingly, I have concluded that irrespective of whatever my future decision might be on the restructuring proposal, the right course is to postpone these elections.”

Councillor Chris Millar, Leader of Daventry District Council, said: “Postponing elections in Northamptonshire is a sensible move by the Government in the light of the continuing developments towards creating two new unitary authorities by May 2020.

“This will not only avoid any confusion and unnecessary election costs for our taxpayers but enable us to focus our minds on preparing for changes ahead of us in Northamptonshire.”

Hospital app aims to cut your waiting time

People can now access real-time information about waiting times at Northamptonshire’s NHS urgent care facilities – thanks to the launch of a new smartphone app.

The app, called WaitLess, enables those in need of urgent but non-life-threatening care to quickly see how long the wait is at both Kettering and Northampton General Hospitals and Corby Urgent Care Centre, meaning you can access treatment for your minor injury faster.

Developed by Transforming Systems, WaitLess uses real-time waiting time data from urgent care centres across Northamptonshire, aiming to reduce the pressure on the county’s urgent and emergency care services by spreading demand.

Search the app Store or Google Play for ‘WaitLess’ on your Smartphone.

The WaitLess service is designed for people seeking treatment for minor injuries and medical conditions requiring urgent but non-emergency treatment. 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

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 www.daventrydc.gov.uk/meetings, email governance@daventrydc.gov.uk or phone 01327 871100

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

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<td>Scrutiny &amp; Improvement Committee</td>
<td>Tues 2 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning Committee</td>
<td>Weds 3 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategy Group</td>
<td>Thurs 11 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate Governance Committee</td>
<td>Tues 16 April</td>
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<td>Planning Committee</td>
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<td>Council</td>
<td>Weds 15 May</td>
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Council support for road safety projects

Daventry District Council (DDC) will help drive forward much-needed road safety improvements for two village communities this year.

The Council has earmarked money from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – financial contributions from housing developers towards improving local infrastructure – so that a new cycle and footbridge can be built on the A428 at Crick and for a pedestrian crossing on the busy A5199 in Chapel Brampton.

For many years, concerns have been raised by Crick residents about the narrow footpath on the A428 bridge over the Grand Union Canal, requiring people to step into the road to get across. The route also links the village to the site of the Crick Boat Show, which attracts around 25,000 visitors every year.

DDC will bridge a funding shortfall of £113,000 so that proposals by Northamptonshire County Council highways to build a separate bridge for pedestrians and cyclists can progress.

Both projects were included in the Council’s Medium-term Financial Plan and budget for 2019/20, which were agreed by councillors in February.

Councillor Alan Hills, Community, Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder said: “It is important that funding from developments, such as CIL money, is spent on making improvements at the heart of our communities and these two projects are prime examples of this.

“The hazardous conditions that residents in Crick and Chapel Brampton are facing on these two busy roads are all too apparent and we’re pleased to be able to work with our partners and provide funding support to help these safety schemes become a reality.”

Disability grants available

People with a disability who need help to improve or adapt their home are urged to contact Daventry District Council for a grant.

Disabled Facilities Grants of up to £30,000 are available to help fund the cost of a range of adaptations, from converting a ground floor room to a bedroom, to creating a walk-in shower room, widening doorways or installing ramps or stair lifts.

The Council’s Care & Repair team offers support and advice on any work required and can recommend trusted traders to carry it out, eliminating any stress.

To find out more:
• give them a call on 01327 871100
• email careandrepair@daventrydc.gov.uk
• or visit www.daventrydc.gov.uk/careandrepair

New look website for Love Daventry

A campaign which aims to showcase Daventry District as a place to live, work and visit has given its website a fresh new look.

The website at www.lovedaventry.com features a range of information about the District’s many historic houses, country parks and walks, places to stay and other things to do and see.

There is a comprehensive local events guide, information about shopping, and a directory of local schools and sports clubs.

Businesses, meanwhile, can find links to local sources of support and funding, and commercial property opportunities.

Councillor Wayne Howard, Daventry District Council’s Access & Communication Portfolio Holder, said: “The aim of the Love Daventry campaign is to showcase our beautiful District, and the website features lots of information which we hope will be of benefit to visitors and residents alike.

“So whether you’re a local searching for new ideas for days out, or a first-time visitor looking forward to exploring Daventry District, please visit the website at www.lovedaventry.com and find out just how much this wonderful area has to offer.”
People are being warned to steer clear of rogue traders offering cheap rates to take away household rubbish – which they then dump in the countryside.

These so-called ‘Facebook fly-tippers’ typically advertise their services on social media. And while they can seem like a cheap solution, their criminal methods leave us all counting the cost.

The annual cost to taxpayers of clearing up fly-tipping is more than £50 million – leaving less money to be spent on other public services.

Councils also have the power to fine people up to £400 if they hand their rubbish to an unlicensed firm which goes on to dump it illegally – a power which Daventry District Council has used on a number of occasions in recent months in its bid to stamp out fly-tipping.

One resident was fined £400 after rubbish they had paid someone to dispose of was found left by the side of a lane between Whilton and Little Brington.

Another £400 fine was issued to someone after their neighbour offered to take their old fridge freezer and a number of other unwanted items to the recycling centre – but dumped them in a field near Church Brampton instead.

And a plumber was issued with a £300 fine after paying two men in a van £80 to dispose of trade waste which ended up thrown in a field near Draughton.

The Council is also prepared to bring prosecutions where necessary, with a builder ordered to pay more than £4,000 in fines and court costs earlier this year after he allowed three tonnes of rubble to be tipped over a road near Moulton.

Councillor Richard Auger, Environmental Health and Housing Portfolio Holder at Daventry District Council said: “Councils and other agencies are doing all they can to target criminals who illegally dump waste, but residents can play a role in this too, by ensuring they only use licensed, responsible operators.

“Many unlicensed waste operators target people via social media, offering cheap rates to remove unwanted furniture, white goods and other bulky items – but I would urge people not to be taken in – if the collection and disposal price is very low, it is likely the contractors are not paying for the waste to be properly disposed of, and will simply dump it instead. In addition to blighting the land, this practice also undermines the operation of legitimate licensed waste contractors.

>Please protect yourself by taking a few simple steps to check that the person you are giving your waste to is licensed to dispose of it properly, and lets work together to tackle these criminals.”

Anyone who witnesses fly-tipping or suspects a firm of carrying and dumping waste without a licence is urged to report it to the Council at www.daventrydc.gov.uk/online or by calling 01327 871100.
Daventry Country Park is set to receive an exciting programme of improvements over the next year which will aim to enhance it for visitors of all ages.

More than £750,000 will be spent improving paths, installing new play equipment, building new walkways and jetties, and improving the café area and toilets at the Green Flag Award-winning Park.

Councillor Alan Hills, Portfolio Holder for Community, Culture and Leisure at Daventry District Council, said: “We are very proud of Daventry Country Park, which has been a well-loved feature of Daventry for more than 40 years.

“It draws in many thousands of visitors from Daventry and the surrounding area each year, so it’s important we continue to improve and enhance it for the benefit of everyone.

“Many of the improvements focus on making the Park safer and more accessible, which is very important to us. It’s the biggest set of improvements at the park in more than 20 years, but we have phased the programme of work in order to minimise disruption.

“These improvements will benefit visitors for many years to come, and I’m very much looking forward to seeing the work progress over the next twelve months.”

People can keep up with the improvement work via the Country Park’s Facebook page www.facebook.com/daventrcountrypark

**Revamp for refreshments area**

The Reservoir Café offers the perfect spot for a cup of coffee and a slice of cake after a relaxing walk around the Park. It will be completely refurbished, with extensions planned to both the kitchen area and the outside refreshments area.

The courtyard will be repaved and a new canopy installed over the covered seating area. New windows and shutters will also be installed.

**Coming:** Autumn/winter 2019 (estimated)

**Toilets**

The toilets will be fully refurbished and will benefit from improved water efficiency. The disabled toilet will also be extended and fitted with an access ramp.

**Coming:** Autumn 2019

**New-look play area**

A castle-themed fort with slides, a net bridge, a climbing wall and more will be the centrepiece of the new-look play area.

A variety of different swings, swinging carousels a spring-mounted jeep ride and a smaller fort for toddlers are among the other new items of equipment set to be installed.

The design, by Swedish manufacturer HAGS, was chosen after proving the most popular from eight submissions which were put to a public vote.

The new equipment will be installed in the southern end of the existing playground, where it will be joined by a refurbished zip wire. The climbing rhino and hippo from the old play area will also remain.

**Coming:** Spring 2019
Planned for Country Park

**Improved jetties**

The pier outside the Visitor Centre offers fantastic views over Lovells Bay and is the perfect place to go and feed the ducks.

The existing pier outside the Visitor Centre will be replaced with a new structure with improved access.

Across the bay a new jetty will be installed, providing a safer spot from which to view wildlife, as well as offering a staging point for water sports.

**Coming:** Late spring/summer 2019

**Resurfaced paths and walkways**

The Park’s reservoir walk is popular with dog walkers, those who fancy a relaxing stroll, and the weekly Parkrun, and most of the Park’s paths and walkways will be resurfaced over the course of this year to improve accessibility.

**Western footpath**

The first phase of this work will see more than 1km of path on the western side of the reservoir filled and resurfaced. This will include paths within the sensory garden, as well as those leading to Lovells Bay, and to the educational ponds. The two timber footbridges near the southern entrance will also be replaced.

**Coming:** Late spring/summer 2019

**Marsh Walkway**

The walkway marsh on the west side of the reservoir is a 50m section of timber walkway built by the Ranger service and volunteers in 1995. The walkway has undergone a number of repairs over the years but has come to the end of its useful life and will be replaced with a new structure.

**Coming:** Autumn 2019

**Eastern footpath**

The footpaths on the eastern side of the reservoir and the dam will be resurfaced, from the Visitor Centre down to the Southbrook entrance at the southern end.

**Coming:** Autumn 2019

**Signage**

New signage and way marking will be installed throughout the park to help new visitors find their way.

**Coming:** Autumn 2019

**Investment plans for historic Borough Hill**

Borough Hill will also undergo improvement work this year, with its car park due to be levelled and resurfaced.

The Hill has a rich history dating back to the Iron Age and today is maintained as a country park by Daventry District Council, offering spectacular views of the surrounding area as well as providing a haven for local wildlife and a popular spot for dog walkers.

The £165,000 improvement project should be complete in late spring/summer 2019.
Residents across Daventry District are recycling more and throwing away less since the launch of the new bin collection service.

A total of 1,393 tonnes of food waste was collected for recycling between the launch of the 123+ service in June 2018 and the end of December 2018 – a 65% increase on the same period last year.

At the same time people also recycled 4,585 tonnes of cans, glass, paper and other dry recyclables in their new blue lidded bins, which is 20% more than the same period last year.

There has also been a 28% reduction in the amount of rubbish being put in the black bins – from 9,959 tonnes down to 7,129 tonnes.

The 123+ waste and recycling collections were introduced on 4 June 2018 and are run by Daventry Norse – a joint venture between Daventry District Council and Norse Commercial Services.

Under the service, residents receive a weekly food waste collection, a fortnightly mixed recycling collection in a blue-lidded wheelie bin, and a general waste black bin collection every three weeks.

There is also an optional fortnightly garden waste service, which more than 20,000 homes - or around 56% of the District - signed up to receive. You can find out how to sign-up or renew a subscription on the next page.

The Council also launched a new mobile app which allows people to see at a glance which bins are due to be collected next, as well as set reminders to put their bins out. The app is available for free by searching for Daventry District in the Apple and Google Play stores.

Daventry District Council’s Environment Portfolio Holder, Councillor Jo Gilford said: “These are extremely pleasing results and I would like to thank all of our residents for adapting to these changes so quickly and supporting us in our efforts to increase our District’s recycling performance. The new service is proving more convenient for residents and more beneficial for the environment.

“The increased uptake of our weekly food recycling service stands out in particular, and hopefully it goes to show how making individual adjustments to our recycling habits can add up and make a huge difference.

“Introducing this new collection service was an enormous undertaking and we worked hard in order to make the transition as smooth as possible. We are already seeing huge benefits from our joint venture, which is very encouraging.”

People can find out more about waste and recycling collection services in Daventry District at www.daventrydc.gov.uk/recycling

Daventry District residents can win prizes – simply by recycling their food waste.

The Northamptonshire Waste Partnership’s ‘In to Win’ scheme gives residents the chance to win monthly prizes as an incentive for recycling their food waste.

Everyone who signs-up at www.feedyourcaddy.co.uk is sent a registration pack including an ‘I’m In’ sticker for their outside food waste caddy and a leaflet reminding them of all the things that can be put in it.

Then all they need to do is put their food waste out for recycling each week. One winner is chosen every month from each of the five council areas taking part across Northamptonshire, and can choose from a range of prizes or donate the cash equivalent to their local food bank.

Prizes range from theatre tickets to shows at Royal & Derngate, to vouchers for restaurants and cafés. People can view a full list on the website.

Even better, recycling food waste also helps the environment, as it is used to create renewable energy – saving money which can be used on other services.

The Northamptonshire Waste Partnership is a partnership of all Northamptonshire councils and was set up to improve joint working arrangements on waste management matters.

Another key objective is to improve the effective delivery of waste services across the county.

For more information, including tips about what to put in your food waste caddy, please visit www.feedyourcaddy.co.uk
How much does the service for 2019/20 cost and how often is it?

The service costs £36 per bin, which runs from June 2019 until the end of May 2020. Collections take place fortnightly with a small break over Christmas.

How do I renew or sign up?

You can pay the annual charge for the service online using your debit or credit card. Subscribe via the link at www.daventrydc.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Yes Please
✓ Grass cuttings and weeds
✓ Cut flowers and plants
✓ Leaves and bark
✓ Prunings and hedge trimmings
✓ Twigs and small branches
✓ Straw

No Thanks
✗ Food waste
✗ Cardboard and paper
✗ Soil, mud or rubble
✗ Large logs or wooden planks
✗ Plant pots
✗ Dog and cat waste

What happens if I don't decide to renew my subscription?

If you do not wish to continue with the garden waste service, your last garden waste collection will take place during the week beginning 27th May. If you change your mind in the future, you can sign up to the service any time on our website.

If you do not wish to renew and originally paid by direct debit, please contact us to cancel - email GW@daventynorse.co.uk or call 0345 218 5215.

Re-subscribe or sign up online at www.daventrydc.gov.uk/gardenwaste
Good Neighbours scheme sets its sights on expansion

People in Daventry are being asked for their support in setting up a scheme to support elderly, vulnerable and isolated members of our community.

Daventry District Council (DDC) and Northamptonshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) are looking into the possibility of bringing a Good Neighbours scheme to the town.

The aim is to link local people who need support with those who are able to give it – whether it’s helping with a spot of gardening, picking up a prescription or showing someone how to send an email.

Volunteer co-ordinators match the people who need help with those that have volunteered to lend a hand.

DDC and Northamptonshire ACRE work closely with DACT (Daventry Area Community Transport) and the Daventry Volunteer Centre’s Happy at Home Partnership on the scheme.

Successful schemes have already been established in Crick, Moulton and Welton, with a number of other villages in the District also in the process of setting projects up.

Now people in Daventry are being asked whether they would support a scheme for the town – whether as a volunteer, a recipient of help, or both.

Councillor Alan Hills, Portfolio Holder for Community, Culture and Leisure on DDC, said: “The aim of the Good Neighbours scheme is to help local residents maintain a good quality of life and remain in their own homes independently.

“The pilot scheme in Moulton is going from strength-to-strength, and a number of other villages in our District are getting their schemes off the ground, so it would be great to roll this out across Daventry.

“I would ask you to please fill in the questionnaire so we can gauge interest in extending the scheme to the town and help more vulnerable people.”

People can find out more and complete the questionnaire online by visiting www.daventrydc.gov.uk/goodneighbours

Making a difference to Moulton’s residents

Moulton’s Good Neighbours scheme has helped dozens of people since it was established in April 2017, providing volunteers ready to offer lifts, pick up medication, help at local community events and meetings or just offer a cup of tea and a friendly ear.

One of those volunteers, Lesley Doyle, visits Denis every Monday as part of the befriending scheme.

Denis enjoys the company, and an opportunity for a cup of tea and a chat, while volunteering has enabled Lesley to increase her confidence and self-esteem.

The friendship they have built is just one example of how the Good Neighbours scheme is bringing the community closer together.

The scheme in Moulton is run by Mary-Jane Brown, a Community Connector who is working alongside Moulton Parish Council and Moulton Surgery to improve health and wellbeing in the village and its surrounding area.

She said: “Denis and Lesley have made such great friends and I feel really happy for them because they made a connection and it has really enhanced both of their lives.

“The Good Neighbour scheme is a great way to strengthen ties and build a stronger sense of community and it’s been really pleasing to see the positive impact it has had here in Moulton.”
Go-ahead for cinema build to boost town’s leisure choice

Planning permission has been granted to build Mulberry Place, a four-screen cinema with two restaurants, on land north of High Street.

The decision by Daventry District Council’s (DDC) Planning Committee means that design and build contractors Willmott Dixon will be able to start work on site once Daventry library has relocated to modern new premises in the Abbey Centre at nearby St John’s Square in April 2019.

The demolition of the old library is expected to start in May, with work on the foundations and new cinema’s structure to follow later in the summer.

The Council has also now shortlisted cinema operators for the scheme with a view to appointing a preferred operator shortly.

Councillor David James, DDC’s Economic, Regeneration and Employment Portfolio Holder, said: “The plans for a new cinema and eateries are a popular choice among residents and it’s great to see progress towards delivering this.

“In the challenging retail climate, many town centres are adapting and evolving into thriving leisure destinations and this development will provide a new venue for people to socialise with their friends and family in the heart of Daventry.”

To find out more about the proposals, visit www.daventrydc.gov.uk/cinema

Library almost ready to move

Daventry Library will be opening the doors to its modern new base in the town centre next month.

The LibraryPlus service is relocating a short distance from its current premises in North Street to the ground floor of the Abbey Centre in nearby St John’s Square.

The move helps to pave the way for the new cinema and restaurants to be built on land north of High Street.

Library users of all ages will benefit from the improved facilities, which include all-new fittings, furnishings and technology.

There is also a new secure outside play area for young library visitors plus a modern new base for Daventry Registration Office.

Work on the new library is due to finish at the end of March and is due to be open to the public by mid-April. Closure of the existing library of approximately one week may be required to enable the relocation and further details will be available nearer the time.

To check opening times visit www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/libraries
What’s on this Spring

Saturday 30 March
NCT Nearly New Sale at The Parker E-ACT Academy from 10am-midday. Your chance to buy and sell quality pre-loved maternity, baby and children’s equipment, clothing, toys and books. Entry is £1 per adult.

Friday 5 April
Village Voices Choir Spring Concert at St Andrew’s Church in Old at 7.30pm. Tickets £12 (under 14s £6). Visit www.village-voices.org.uk for tickets.

Sunday 7 April
Full English Breakfast at Pitsford Village Hall. On the first Sunday of every month the village hall is open for breakfast from 10.30am-12.30pm. Each meal costs £4.50 including refillable hot drinks and toast. All proceeds go to the village hall and there is no need to book in advance.

Thursday 11 April
Edward Lear’s Stuff and Nonsense interactive performance by Don’t Go Into the Cellar Theatre Company at Daventry Museum at 2pm. Allow Mr Lear to entertain you with tales of his own unique philosophy of life. The show is written for young families, suitable for ages 5+ and free to attend. Places are limited, to book call 01327 301246, pop into the museum or email museum@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk

Friday 12 April
Spring foraging course at Daventry Country Park. See page 15 for details.

Saturday 13 April
Daventry’s Classic Car Show organised by Daventry Town Council at The Hollows in the town centre from 10am-4pm. The free event will feature a variety of classic vehicles including cars, vans, tractors and military vehicles as well as local traders, entertainment and refreshments. If you would like to showcase your vehicle, visit www.daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk

Good Friday 19 April
Easter trail at Daventry Country Park. See page 15 for details.

Easter Sunday 21 & Monday 22 April
Antiques and Vintage Fair at Lamport Hall over the Easter weekend. From 10am-4pm each day there will be a range of furniture, books, military memorabilia and jewellery on show. Refreshments will be provided by Sauls of Spratton and there will be an opportunity to see the spring bulbs in the gardens and explore the hall. Visit www.lamporthall.co.uk for more information.

Friday 26 April
Fashion Show at Barby Village Hall. Grab a bargain and shop all your favourite high street brands from 7.30pm. All proceeds will go to the Barby Church Trust Taps and Toilet fund. Call Jan Middleton on 01788 891968 for tickets.

May Bank Holiday Saturday 4 & Sunday 5 May
Walgrave Open Gardens from midday to 5pm both days. There will be a range of larger, smaller, cottage and family gardens to explore as well as Heritage Tomato plants on sale and cakes and teas provided by the WI. Entry is £4 per adult, children go free and all proceeds will go to the Walgrave Village Hall fund.

Sunday 6 – Monday 7 May
Hardy Plant Society Plant Fair at Holdenby House, 10am-5pm both days. The event will be part of the new Home, Garden & Food Fair featuring stalls, falconry displays, food and drink and the opportunity to tour the gardens. Entry £6 per adult (children go free).

Saturday 18 May
Spring foraging course at Daventry Country Park. See page 15 for details.

Friday 10 – Sunday 19 May
Brixworth Music Festival is a 10 day event featuring a range of performers from vocalists and instrumentalists to large choirs, brass brands and baroque groups. Tickets are £12.50 or a festival pass is £27 and 16s and under go free with a paying adult. For the full festival programme and tickets visit www.brixworthmusicfestival.co.uk

Saturday 11 & Sunday 12 May
Althorp Food and Drink Festival designed to champion and showcase the finest food and drink available, the event features talks, tastings, demonstrations and live music for people of all ages to enjoy. More at www.spencerofalthorp.com or on 01604 770107.

Sunday 12 May
Jazz Lunch at Barby Village Hall featuring a two course meal and traditional jazz music from noon-3.30pm. For more information call 01788 891091.

Thursday 23 May
Speakers Corner at Ravensthorpe Village Hall will feature an intriguing talk on the story of Wallis Simpson and the abdication crisis of 1936, delivered by Roy Smart. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start and tickets cost £5 on 01604 770482. Visit www.ravensthorpe.me.uk/the-village-hall

Spring Bank Holiday Saturday 25 – Monday 27 May
Crick Boat Show at Crick Marina. See page 15 for details.

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.
Plenty happening at Country Park this spring

From hunting down Easter eggs, to foraging for fungi, there are plenty of events taking place at Daventry Country Park in the coming months:

Easter trail
Youngsters are invited to join Daventry Country Park’s free Easter Eggsplorer Trail and Bonnet Competition this Good Friday (19 April).

The event runs at the Park’s Visitor Centre between 10am and 11.30am when children are invited to complete a trail and meet the park’s Easter Bunny Wiggles for a special Easter treat.

Children are also invited to design colourful bonnets and bring them with them for a chance to win prizes in the Easter Bonnet Parade, which starts at 10.30am.

Find out about foraging
People can learn about edible plants and fungi at a series of foraging courses taking place at the Park.

The courses will show people how to identify commonly growing foods to forage for, how to avoid poisonous lookalikes, and hints on where to look.

There will be tips on harvesting and correct identification and recipe ideas, as well as an opportunity to sample pre-made wild food tasters and preserves.

Kerry Bowness, of the Foraging Course Company, said: “My love of foraging is borne from a lifelong passion for natural history, being outdoors and gardening.

“I love sharing this knowledge, and that is why I created The Foraging Course Company. The courses aim to inspire people to look at plants and fungi differently, and to encourage them to ‘rewild’ edible species in areas such as gardens and allotments. People are often surprised to discover that some of the ‘weeds’ they are chucking on the compost heap are actually tasty edibles.”

The courses take place on 12 April, 18 May and 9 June and all run from midday to 3.30pm, at a cost of £35 per person.

They are run by the Foraging Course Company, and tickets can be booked on their website at www.foragingcoursecompany.co.uk

Crick Boat Show
Britain’s biggest inland waterways festival returns to Crick Marina this Spring Bank Holiday Weekend, with a three day show from 25-27 May.

As well as showcasing the inland waterways industry with more than 280 exhibitors, the show offers a fantastic day out for all the family.

With dozens of boats to look round (pre-booking may be required), free boat trips, live music, children’s activities, a real ale marquee, and a large variety of food and drink stalls, visitors will have plenty to do. Parking is free and dogs are welcome.

Daventry Calling readers are being offered a two-for-one deal on tickets to the show on Monday 27 May 2019. Children aged 16 and under go free, so a family of four could get in for the price of a single adult ticket.

To take advantage of this offer, cut out the voucher below and present it on the day.

Visit www.crickboatshow.com or call 01283 742970 for more information.

2-for-1 at Crick Boat Show
This offer is valid on tickets bought on the gate at Crick Boat Show on Monday 27 May 2019 for entry to the Show that day only. Not valid for tickets bought in advance of the Show. On-the-gate admission price is £16 for adults and £14.50 for concessions. Lowest priced ticket will be free. This voucher must be handed in at the ticket office when purchasing tickets. Children aged 16 and under go free on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Only original voucher will be accepted, no photocopies. Voucher has no cash value. Media Code: DC2019
Residents are joining together to save money on energy bills

The Big Switch is a collective energy switching scheme that uses people power to try and secure cheaper energy bills for residents.

Since its launch it has helped over 1,000 homes in Daventry District save an average of £232 on their energy bills - and many have saved far more!

4 easy steps to switching energy provider in our Big Switch auction:

**Step One**
Register for free
Anyone who pays a household energy bill can register and it’s an easy process, but you will need a copy of a recent energy bill or annual statement to complete the process.

**Step Two**
Sit back, relax
Once registration has closed, our switching partner iChoosr will invite energy companies to offer their best tariff to everyone in the scheme in a reverse auction process.

**Step Three**
Consider the offer
You will receive a personal offer tailored to your household on the new tariff secured by the scheme. Whether you save money depends on your current tariff.

**Step Four**
Make a decision
You will have until the end of the auction round to decide if you want to switch or not. There is no obligation to accept the offer and no fees or charges.

Register for FREE (you will need your annual electricity and gas bills)
www.daventrydc.gov.uk/bigswitchdaventry or call 01327 871100