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OFFICERS from Northamptonshire Police have been forced to close their twitter accounts on the recommendation of a Government review into their use of social media.

Four users who have been tweeting about their day-to-day policing jobs were told to stop on Tuesday, one because of a tweet sent a year ago. The Force acted on information received from Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), which undertook a review of all 45 accounts in the summer and highlighted ‘issues’ with some users.

A spokeswoman from Northamptonshire Police would not confirm the exact reasons for the accounts being closed but said that it ‘could be’ in relation to data protection, use of language, information sensitive to investigations or legal reasons.

Two of the police officers, @PCJase733 and @CharlieEcho468, took to the social media site to announce to their ‘followers’ that they were being forced to close their accounts – and made it clear it was not their decision.

It is thought that PC Lee Walker was also one of the casualties, using the name @PCWalker810, as his account can no longer be viewed.

The Herald & Post can also reveal that some officers may face ‘disciplinary action’ for their tweets. The Force would not comment on individual cases but that staff would be dealt with appropriately and on an individual basis.

‘Rudders’, aka @CharlieEcho468, announced on his new private account that the decision was made because of a tweet he sent 12 months ago when he was using the account in a personal capacity on a day out with his children but the HMIC inspectors thought it would ‘cause offence’.

He maintained that while using his account for his job he had ‘always been professional, polite and respectful’ and the feedback he had received had ‘all praise for good interesting tweets’.

While Jase Farquhar, a 24/7 Police Response Officer, said: ‘All, I have some very sad news. For reasons I cannot explain I have to close this twitter account. This is not my decision.

‘Take care in what you do/job/passion. Don’t let them get you down. 733 off duty.’

In August the Herald & Post revealed that an unnamed officer working in custody was also told to close his twitter account by management as his ‘boss thinks custody is not the place to tweet from – too live & personal’.

There are around 40 twitter accounts associated with Northamptonshire Police – some with thousands of followers.

Last December, a report entitled ‘Without Fear or Favour’ was produced by the HMIC which looked into use of twitter by forces across the country and how it should be monitored.

An HMIC spokesman said: ‘In Without Fear or Favour we said that we intended to revisit the matters highlighted in this report. We are currently in the process of carrying

Continued on page 2.

Gagged! Cops banned from ‘tweets’ on beat

BY SOPHIE SCOTT
sophie.scott@HPnorthants.co.uk

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Continued on page 2.
TRIBUTES have been paid to an victim of last week’s air tragedy in Nepal – which saw him and six other Brits tragically lose their lives.

Chris Davey, 51, from Moulton, was on a Sita Air flight which crashed by a river minutes after take-off from the capital Kathmandu’s airport on Friday, killing all 19 on board.

Mr Davey was part of a group heading to Lukla – the gateway to Mount Everest – due to start a trek which was expected to finish in a couple of weeks.

He was club secretary of the Nene Valley Rotary Club (NVRC) and worked for Caswell Research Centre near Towcester.

Mr Davey, who was single, was an avid explorer and had already taken on the moun- tain, as well as Mount Kilimanjaro.

NVRC President Alan Sutton said: “He will be greatly missed by all his colleagues at Nene Valley Rotary Club. The motto of Rotary is ‘service before self’ and he epitomised this in his attitude to the club.

“He was involved in the technology tournament which is a project where young people from the schools in Northamptonshire are encouraged to spend a day building a project from scratch.

“He was also involved in the lone parent holiday which is aimed at parents in need.

NVRCP resident Alan Sutton said: “He will be greatly missed by all his colleagues at Nene Valley Rotary Club. The motto of Rotary is ‘service before self’ and he epitomised this in his attitude to the club.

“He was involved in the technology tournament which is a project where young people from the schools in Northamptonshire are encouraged to spend a day building a project from scratch.

“He was also involved in the lone parent holiday which is aimed at parents in need.

Chris had recently become secretary of the club; a role which he was fulfilling with his usual enthusiasm.”

Neighbours described Mr Davey, as “polite” and “no trouble” and said he kept himself to himself.

One resident in Tarrant Way, Moulton, said that he had only seen Mr Davey a dozen times over the 15 year period he had been there but said he was “very polite and friendly” when they had seen each other in the street.

Investigations have now begun into the cause of the crash. Reports from Nepal have suggested pilot error may be to blame.

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A QUICK-THINKING store manager foiled an attempt to steal settees by some cheeky thieves.

In CCTV uploaded to YouTube, two men can be seen taking two leather seats from Sofa King on St Leonards Road, Northampton, at the weekend.

But eagle-eyed manager Justin Hallett spotted the action and managed to pull the stolen sofas out of the back of the white van as the would-be thieves drove off.

Store owner Mark Kypta said: “Justin was serving some customers and just assumed it was someone for collection but then he realised they were helping themselves.

“He went out and they were trying to drive off. It could have been nasty but he managed to get the sofas back. He was a bit of a hero really. In all my years this is the first time someone has tried this.”

To see the video visit: http://tinyurl.com/8msstzw

Anyone with information should call police on 101.

Wife ‘scared’ to go into house after gold theft

A FORMER Lib-Dem councillor believes his home was targeted by burglars as they knew it would contain Asian gold.

Sadiq Chaudhury, 40, of Broadmead Avenue, Northampton, returned to his property at about 2am on Tuesday to find around £20,000 worth of jewellery and cash had been taken.

After finding the windows had been forced open and the front door ajar, he entered the house to discover that his widescreen television and laptop had been stolen, including wedding rings, were gone.

Eggs had been thrown around the property covering the walls and pictures of his children. Mr Chaudhury said: “I do believe that the burglars picked my house as they knew it would contain Asian gold, and this is a widespread problem.

“People know that Asian families will have gold jewellery in their homes, it’s a big part of our culture.

“With the rise of places where gold can be sold very quickly with no questions asked, I believe that Asian families are being targeted.

“I’ve been left feeling vulnerable and unsafe, my wife is scared to even come in the house, and I won’t have my children back here until the mess has been cleared up. More needs to be done to combat this issue.”

The raid comes a week after Northamptonshire Police said they are investigating a series of thefts where gold jewellery in particular has been targeted.

Detective Inspector Louise Fleckney said: “Due to the increase in the price of precious metals, gold has become a target for thieves across certain areas of the country.

“In particular Asian gold is seen as an attractive option for thieves. There have been a number of crimes that have similarities and as a result we are investigating these as a linked series.”

Officers arrested two people on September 21 – a 27-year-old man and a 38-year-old man – on suspicion of burglary where gold jewellery was stolen, but both were released pending further enquiries.

Tipu takes a pop at world record

The record for the tallest static poppadom stack will be tested in Northampton on Thursday.

More than 1,000 people are expected to see chef Tipu Rahman and his team take on the challenge at The Tamarind Restaurant

The current mark stands at 1.57 metres, containing 1,075 poppadoms, set at the Indian Ocean restaurant in Ashton-under-Lyne in 2011.

Tipu said: “We have been given permission by Northampton Borough Council to use the car park to stage the event and hope people will come along on the day to watch our attempt and, hopefully, see us set a new world record.”

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COUNCILLORS have agreed to allow the building of 625 houses on one of the town’s floodplains. At a meeting of Northampton Borough Council’s planning committee on Tuesday night, members unanimously voted for the plan to develop land at Pineham North. The proposals, put forward by developer Prologis, would also include a new primary school, community hub and ‘public space’. In 2000, the Secretary of State called in the original application in relation to the then recently introduced restrictions of building on greenfield sites and at a public inquiry the next year refused the application. Chairman of the Nene Flood Prevention Alliance and Lib Dem councillor Brendan Glynane said: “As this is just outline planning permission I hope something is put into the design to build into the houses which could take water out of the system and leave the land as greenfield land as it is now. I do think there are further things that need to be done before work is started. I do, however, always support anything that increases employment, new housing and shops in the town.” Environment Agency officials said they had put flood defences in place in Northamptonshire and Kislingbury after the floods in 1998. At the same meeting, the green light was also given for a new Marks & Spencer Simply Food store to be created in the closed JJB store at Sixfields. Documents show that it is thought it would create up to 70 jobs. Councillor Tim Hadland, Cabinet member for regeneration, enterprise and planning said: “All retail applications are evaluated to see if there would be a suitable location in Northampton town centre or in a local or district shopping centre. If no suitable location can be found other areas can be considered provided there is no adverse impact on the town centre.”

Controversial plan delayed

SUBMISSION of a planning application for a controversial development has been delayed. The Moat Lane regeneration project has come under fire from opposition councillors in Towcester and the council this week announced it would delay the proposal going to committee. It was due to be heard at this week’s South Northants Council meeting.

Firm’s go-ahead to build on floodplain

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Meeting over pupil boom

A MEETING took place last night to discuss proposals to increase the number of pupils at Boothville Primary School. The plans would see the number of students rise from 420 to 630, which has concerned both parents and residents. Representatives from Northampton County Council arranged the public consultation at the school premises on Booth Lane North.
The building of a new £43 million council office in the town centre is expected to boost Northampton's economy by £12m.

Northamptonshire County Council's business case – which will be discussed by cabinet next week – looks at centralising 2,000 staff to a new facility in Angel Street.

As part of the plans the council would look to move out of 12 of the existing stock of buildings in Northampton including John Dryden House, parts of the current County Hall, Riverside House and Century House.

It is thought over the next 30 years it would save maintenance costs of up to £54m.

The authority hope to award a contract for the build by next September, with a view to works starting in 2014 with completion due for 2016.

Cabinet member responsible for the project, Councillor Andrew Langley, said: "Put bluntly we simply cannot afford to remain in our ageing stock of buildings. The 12 buildings affected by this project cost £53,000 a week on running costs alone.

"What this business case shows very clearly is that a new 21st century building could be built on derelict land we already own, without putting one penny on council tax.

"This would be a building which would reduce our total floor space as an organisation, put our staff together to help lead to more efficient ways of working whilst also drastically reducing our energy and maintenance costs.

"The business case also shows very clearly that such a new development would bring an extra £12m spending power into the town centre over the next decade bringing a very real and tangible benefit to the town and therefore county as a whole."

Leader of Northampton Borough Council, Cllr David Mackintosh said: "The Northampton Alive agenda means major new developments are already beginning to happen in Northampton and we are emerging as a key regional business location.

"This is one more example of how local agencies are working in a co-ordinated way to drive forward our plans for Northampton.

"Liberal Democrat Cllr Brendan Glynn added: "We are pleased the county council is using its weight to boost the town centre, a longstanding goal of the local Liberal Democrats."

He added: "We will examine the proposals in detail and push for any concerns such as parking to be dealt with effectively, and any for a Green Travel Plan to be put in place to encourage environmentally friendly forms of transport."

If cabinet approve the paper-work on Tuesday the council will start putting together a detailed business case.

Runaway teacher's university claim dismissed

A TEACHER who is being held on suspicion of child abduction claimed he was a graduate of the University of Northampton when trying to get bar work.

Jeremy Forrest, who was using the name Jack Francis Dean, was handing out a fake CV in France when he was spotted in an English bar in the southwest city of Bordeaux.

The 30-year-old said he graduated with a 2:1 degree in Journalism from Northampton University in 2008 and had done work experience for magazines Kerrang, NME and Rock Sound.

Mr Forrest took off with his student 15-year-old Megan Stammers on September 21.

A University of Northampton spokeswoman said there was no record of him or his pseudonym ever studying there and he had no connection to the establishment that they were aware of.

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Trevor makes very sure his customers are looked after right from the first time Cloudy2Clear arrive at the house. All our staff arrive in uniforms so the customer knows who they are and I insist that they wear plastic over-ears to protect the customer's hearing.

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WHEN Richard Simmonds sees the yellow helicopter of Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance (WNAA) overhead, he pauses for a moment to think about how lucky he is.

If it was not for the lifesaving chopper and its crew, Richard would not have been able to see his grandchildren grow up.

From car accidents to horse riding incidents, heart attacks and sports injuries, the types of accidents the lifesaving helicopter attends are varied.

WNAA’s philosophy is to attend any incident where the patient may benefit – bringing their excellent pre-hospital skills and rapid mode of transport to ill and injured people across the counties.

Richard is one of the many patients that have benefitted from the lifesaving service. Just over two years ago he was repairing a forklift at work when the metal frame fell on him – crushing him to the ground and leaving him with life-threatening injuries.

WNAA was called to the scene and he believes that it is thanks to them that he is still here today. He said: “Thanks to the treatment from WNAA on the scene of the accident, and the incredible speed in which they got me to a hospital equipped to deal with my injuries, I am still here today. Without them I would not have survived and I will be forever in their debt.”

Richard isn’t the only life that WNAA has saved. Since the charity was formed in 2003, the Air Ambulance has attended more than 13,000 lifesaving rescue missions – a remarkable figure given that the charity receives no Government or National Lottery funding, meaning that each of these rescues has been funded entirely by generous donations from members of the public. Taking on average just six minutes to attend an incident, the speed at which WNAA can get a casualty to the most appropriate hospital is absolutely vital.

WNAA paramedic, Gav Alexander, said: “Transporting a casualty by air ambulance ensures that they can get the best possible treatment for their injuries and illness as soon as possible.

“For example, car accidents can often result in serious trauma injuries such as internal bleeding and head injuries. We can take the casualty to the near-

BY SOPHIE SCOTT
sophie.scott@HPnorthants.co.uk

The Herald & Post is an innovative brand, based in the market town of Northampton. We offer the very best local advertising platform, which in turn is fully supported by professional creative and editorial teams. If you have a story to tell, the Herald & Post is your paper!

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est major trauma centre which will have specialist teams dedicated to treating such injuries, potentially making the difference between life and death."

But it’s not only speed that WNAA bring to the scene of an accident. They also bring their clinical skills and expertise, which means that the patient can get the very best pre-hospital treatment immediately.

The true value of WNAA’s presence in the county was shown on September 21 when the service was called to a horse-riding accident in Long Buckby. A 52-year-old female had fallen from her horse, injuring her back and leg and WNAA was called to the scene just after 11am. They immobilised the patient to prevent any further injury and administered pain relieving drugs and anti-sickness medication.

The Air Ambulance doctor then accompanied the patient to University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire in a land ambulance.

This isn’t the only time that WNAA has potentially saved a life in Northamptonshire this year.

From January to August, WNAA had attended 180 incidents in the county, and there is no doubt that they will continue to make the difference at accidents from Daventry to Wellingborough to Kettering and beyond over the next few months as the nights begin to draw in and the roads become more treacherous with the worsening weather.

To donate, call 08454 130 999 or visit www.wnaa.co.uk/donate

Richard Simmonds
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WITH THIS VOUCHER 45p PER KILO
Facebook aids Joanna police

By Sophie Scott
sophie.scott@HPnorthants.co.uk

Adverts targeted at social media subscribers are being used to appeal for information into a manslaughter case.

Northamptonshire Police last week said that the death of Joanna Smith, 32, in a road crash on the A45 nearEarls Barton in April, was caused by vandals deliberately slashing one of her tyres the previous night.

Now, the force is directly appealing to Facebook users to help. It has taken out adverts on the site which are targeted at people of a certain age and who have said they live in Northamptonshire.

The adverts will cost the police at most £350 and

have so far reached more than 69,000 people. Police believe young people may hold the key to who was involved in damaging the Irchester pharmacist’s tyre, which was parked behind her house in Wilks Way, Grange Park, as well as damage to three other cars the same night.

Detectives say they have had a ‘fantastic’ response from the public.

A police spokeswoman said: “Officers investigating the manslaughter of Joanna believe that young people living in the Grange Park area may have information about who was involved in damaging the tyre on her car, and so we have placed an advert on Facebook.

“When people click on to the advert it will take them through to the press release on our website, appealing for information from witnesses.

“The advert has reached 69,339 people in Northampton, aged between 13 and 50, and has so far cost the force £86. A maximum budget of £350 has been set aside for it.”

Council to review Eagle Drive land lease

A COUNCIL has today advertised its intention to review the lease of land at Eagle Drive. In a public notice in this paper, Northampton Borough Council has put forward plans to dispose of the land with the intention to look at leasing it for sports use.

There are plans in the pipeline for the land off Eagle Drive to be turned into a training ground for Saints Rugby Club and a football pitch in memory of Northampton-born footballer Richard Butcher who died last January.

Read the notice on p49.
‘Zero tolerance’ is stuff of myth and legend

By coincidence, your article “Zero tolerance pledge from Jim”, which heralds proposals to “instruct the Chief Constable to have his officers prioritise responses to, and have zero tolerance of, violent crime and anti-social behaviour”, was published on the same day that the audience at a Police and Crime Commissioner election hustings in Raunds was informed why “zero tolerance” is an unworkable myth.

“Zero tolerance” is a phrase that appeals to our basest instincts – it has a frontier justice style of appeal – however, unless justice should restore harmony, zero tolerance smacks of revenge, which is a purely selfish motive.

Zero tolerance does not permit any distinction between the persistent law-breaker and a momentarily silly or unusually law-abiding citizen with no previous criminal record.

Police officers must be left with the discretion to deal with any situation they are asked to attend and to respond to the circumstances in a manner that is reasonable, proportionate, legitimate and necessary. This is the “use of force continuum” which is one of the many tools of policing in a manner in which the police interact with the public.

Taking that discretion away from Police officers paves the way for responses that could subsequently be judged by a Court of Law to be unreasonable, disproportionate, non-legitimate and unnecessary.

It is the role to erosion of public confidence in the role of the police and trust in which the Police are held by the majority of society and to undermining the contract between the Police and the public which underpins policing by consent. In my manifesto, I propose extending the existing discretionary powers of police officers to include Restorative Justice approaches towards some forms of crime and anti-social behaviour.

With the agreement and involvement of the victims, this would enable Police officers to confront offenders on the spot with the impact and consequences of their actions and to determine a solution. It is a “just” approach which is reasonable, proportionate and legitimate.

I am also proposing to embed Restorative Justice across every level of Northamptonshire’s criminal justice system and I would also work with the education authority to introduce restorative practices in schools, to deal with issues of bullying, intimidation, hate crime and other anti-social behaviour.

My proposals will put the interests and opinions of the victims first, not leave them as a helpless spectator while the judicial system takes control, often at the risk of re-victimising the victim.

Regrettably, Restorative Justice lacks the cachet that accompanies the phrase “zero tolerance” and garners a headline. Restorative Justice is, however, extremely effective! In parts of the country where, for the past seven years, Restorative Justice has been embedded into the local criminal justice system, reoffending rates have been cut by up to 97 per cent. It also saves the taxpayer money, with Restorative Justice costs in those areas costing just £168 per case compared with a minimum of £500 for community sentencing. Restorative Justice is the thinking person’s approach to effectively reducing crime and antisocial behaviour.

Where crime harms, justice must heal. The public has the choice whether to support the concept of zero tolerance, which is an undeliverable pipe dream, or to back my proposals for a proven approach to reducing crime.

Paul Varnsverry (pictured)
Prospective Liberal Democrat candidate for Northamptonshire Police & Crime Commissioner

Recycling is a matter of practice

In answer to the letter ‘Food bin is turning my stomach’ (Herald & Post September 27), I am sorry for the lack of collection. Our bin was only missed once and we just threw the tiny bit of scraps in the household waste wheelie bin.

But those bins do make us think of not to waste food and not to make us feel so guilty when we do waste some time to unserveable. Some weeks we don’t use the bin at all. It is insane the amount of food some people throw away.

To us the idea of recycling bins is to show us how we can cut down on all the packaging and waste.

We are a family of five adults and only need to put our black wheelie out almost empty, some times not at all.

We have a compost bin at the end of the garden but if the weather is really bad then we do use the brown bin for uncooked veg and peelings. So far no flies and only a tiny bit of smell even in the summer.

I just think what would happen if we did not have this service. I have lived in places where I needed to sort it out all on my own or pay extra for the service.

The collection guys have a complicated job with all these bins and do a really great service, can you imagine having to deal with those food bins like they have to?

It just needs a bit of common sense, we are not clever or possessious about recycling but we have worked out the best way our home can cope. We find our biggest recycle is paper and plastic which we try to cut down on.

But supermarkets need to support this and try not to use any if possible, farm shops are about the same price and the market is valuable for money.

Get the children of the family involved they just love sorting recycling out, it can be a great game for them and so much better than the often totally confused adults.

One thing that does drive most householders crazy is the amount of plastic charity bags put through our doors. I use the bags for recycling or take them back to charity shops but if you leave them out for collection unfulfilled they just are left.

I wonder how much this costs the charity, also to hire the collection Van? How many clothes do they think we throw away?

Susan Dotan
Northampton

In search of my bus companion

I WONDER if you can help me to find the woman I met at the bus stop at Weston Favell?

I told her I lost my wife in 1981 and she asked me if I would get married again.

She told me she lives in Blackthorn and we got on the same bus at Weston Favell and we shook hands as I got off at my stop.

I would very much like to see her again. Could you please tell me who I would have to get in contact with to help her again?

Mr Simpson
Northampton

Join me in bid to help strays

IT has been brought to my attention about the plight of some stray cats on the Eastfield estate in Northampton.

We all know how important it is to control the numbers by spaying and neutering cats. I am asking for a kind responsible person to feed them. If you can help me sort this problem out please contact 01604 361822.

Stop the unwanted being born.
Maureen Cook
Northampton

letters policy

LETTERS, which should be a maximum of 300 words, must include your full name and address but these can be withheld upon request. They should be sent to the email or postal address at the top of the page.
Lee tackles Ed on police funds

BY SOPHIE SCOTT
sophie.scott@hpnorthants.co.uk

A MAN standing for a top policing role has met with the Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer to ensure future funding for crime fighting is ‘ring fenced’. Lee Barron, the Labour candidate for the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner, had a personal meeting with Ed Balls MP at the Labour Party Conference in Manchester.

Mr Barron last week announced his plans for getting young people back to work including the introduction of an apprenticeship into the office of the Commissioner.

He said: “An incoming Labour Government will have some tough decisions to make on spending. Ed has rightly set out today that he will have a very strict test on what taxpayers’ money is spent on. ‘That strictness must ensure that spending on our police and fighting crime is not reduced. It must be protected and ring fenced.’

The other candidates are:

- Adam Simmonds (Conservative)
- Paul Varnsverry (Liberal Democrat)
- Jim MacArthur (UKIP)
- Matt Stockdale (Independent)
- John Norrie (Independent)

The last stand for axed Authority

THE Police Authority has held its last ever meeting. The watchdog is to be abolished when the county’s Police and Crime Commissioner is elected next month. There will be an interim period where members will liaise with the commissioner for the ‘handover’. The election is on November 15.

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AS PORTS chain in Northampton was closed this week resulting in the loss of almost 30 jobs.

Administrators KPMG announced on Monday that JJB Sports at Riverside retail park was to be one of 133 stores to close at the end of the day.

Twenty-eight people were made redundant, with one person being kept on to assist the administrators. The store at Sixfields closed earlier in the year.

Following their appointment, the administrators completed an agreement to sell part of the business to Sports Direct International.

Sports Direct has acquired 20 of JJB’s stores, the brand and website, securing around 550 jobs in the UK (including the staff at the company’s warehouse).

Richard Fleming, UK head of restructuring at KPMG, said: “Successive attempts to restructure the business, both financially and operationally, have not been enough to prevent the company falling into administration. Unfortunately a buyer could only be found for 20 stores on a going concern basis.

“All staff made redundant as a result of store closures have had their arrears of wages and holiday entitlements paid in full. Our team of employment specialists will be supporting staff on completing redundancy forms and putting them in touch with job seeker services.

“We will now be reviewing what options are available for the remainder of the business, such as selling leasehold interests.”

A 24-hour helpline for employees is available on 0845 3022536.

BY SOPHIE SCOTT
sophie.scott@HPnorthants.co.uk

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At the prize draw evening, Casino Royale will literally come to life with glamorous Bond girls, a rather dashing Daniel Craig lookalike and a lavish selection of cocktails. The best part is...it’s free (over 18s only).

To celebrate Aspers’ exciting promotion we have linked with the casino to offer one lucky reader the chance to be treated to the ultimate 007 experience!

Your day will start with an amazing Aston Martin experience, where you will receive your licence to thrill and take pleasure in several laps of uninterrupted racing, pushing the Aston to its limits courtesy of Silverstone.

You will then travel to Aspers where you will enjoy a fabulous three course meal in Clary’s Restaurant before moving to Tanzibar for cocktails, shaken not stirred of course.

To be in with a chance of winning simply answer the question below:

What is the name of the latest Bond film which is set to hit cinema screens next month?

Email your answer, along with your name, address and daytime telephone number, to competitions@HPnorthants.co.uk

Entries must reach us by 9am on Thursday, October 18.

Don’t forget, all over 18s are welcome at Aspers to try their luck at winning at Monte Carlo. Simply turn up and play your scratchcard to reveal which prize you have won – everyone will win something – that’s guaranteed!

On Monday, October 22 each entry will be put into a draw to win an amazing range of prizes, including the five-star trip. Good luck!

Terms and conditions apply – Aspers takes responsibility for the management and organisation of the above prize. Prizes are not transferable or redeemable for cash. The recipient must be 21 years of age or above and hold a full UK driving licence for a minimum of three years. Dates and cars available for the experience are subject to change. Height and weight restrictions apply.
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The Village is open 7 days a week 9am to 6pm Monday to Saturday and 10.30am to 4.30pm on a Sunday. Customers can be assured of friendly, efficient and personal service in a village with a real family atmosphere among the shop-holders. Please see our website for individual shops:

www.billinggardenvillage.co.uk

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- The Yellow Shack
- Carpet and Flooring
- Card Designs
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- Pippa’s Blinds
- Flowering Basket
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The Trading Post

is a unique collection of shops, boutiques and independent traders. Situated at the front of Billing Garden Village, this collection of shops and businesses has something for everyone.

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Hi-ho, hi-ho it’s off to the panto we go

**PANTOMIME**

**SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS**

Deco Theatre, Abington Square, Northampton

December 15 - 27

Hi-ho, hi-ho it’s off the Deco we go – for this year’s pantomime offering of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

And two well known TV stars have been lined up to play the lead roles in this action packed performance of a festive favourite.

Lucie Jones, known to millions from the sixth series of The X Factor, will be playing Snow White while heartthrob and former model Kurtis Stacey – otherwise known as Alex Moss from Emmerdale – will be playing the Prince.

Other stars to feature include Kim Taylforth, Marilyn Fenner from ITV’s Bad Girls, as Wicked Queen and Ross Mullan, the Numbermaker from CBeebies hit children’s TV show Numberjacks, as Henchman.

The supporting cast also includes hilarious impressionist Andy Fleming as Muddles and the UK’s No1 Dame, David Rumelle as Dame Dotty Doughnut.

Show director Guy Pascall said: “It’s going to be great fun for all the family. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs is the country’s best loved pantomime, especially since Disney sprinkled their magic touch on the story.

“After the huge success of The Wizard of Oz this Easter we can’t wait to get started with our Christmas production.”

Enchanted Entertainment are spending tens of thousands of pounds to ensure the panto is as spectacular family production, bringing together a top cast, amazing costumes, fantastic dance routines and plenty of popular songs to please all ages.

Tickets, priced from £8, are on sale now and already selling fast.

To book, call 01604 622 749 or visit www.decotickets.co.uk
Group marks 80 top years

THEATRE
CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF MASQUE THEATRE
Royal & Derngate
Sunday at 4pm

NORTHAMPTON'S longest running amateur drama group is marking its 80th birthday by performing at Royal & Derngate.

Masque Theatre's first ever show was held in October 1932 at St Michael's Hall, Northampton. And four score years on its 392nd production will see a 50-strong cast celebrate the people, the places and the plays that have been performed over its lifetime.

Among those who have been past members of Masque Theatre and have subsequently become well known professional actors are Alan Carr, Marc Warren and Lesley Joseph.

Joseph, best known for the role in Birds of a Feather, was a member of Masque in the 1960s.

She said: “I hold Masque somewhere very special in my heart, as it was here with this group that I first appeared in a play in front of an audience.”

Joseph is now the president of Masque Theatre and says the 80th anniversary is a “fantastic achievement for an amateur theatrical group.”

The celebration will include a display of archive photographs.

Tickets are £12, which includes a celebration drink and birthday cake, from 01604 624811 or www.royalandderngate.co.uk.

For more about Masque Theatre, visit www.masquetheatre.co.uk

Olé! Orchestra’s planning to put Spain in spotlight

MUSIC
SPANISH CONNECTIONS
Abington Avenue, UK Church
October 4th 2.30pm

THI autumn offering from the Northampton Concert Orchestra (NCO) will have a strong Spanish connection.

Special guests Tomás Jiménez and María José García (flamenco guitar, dance and castanets) are returning by popular request following their memorable performance in concert with the NCO in June last year.

Their varied programme will include pieces which are energetic, light and fun, sensitive and soulful. They are known for their relaxed interaction on stage and their simple uncomplicated and sincere expression of this quintessentially Spanish music from Andalucia.

The NCO will be performing various Spanish compositions, along with others with a flavour from the country.

Tickets are £6, from St Giles Music in St Giles Terrace, Northampton, and will be available on the door on the night.

Be dazzled on night with Des

EVENTS
AN EVENING WITH DES O’CONNOR
The Castle, Wellingborough
Saturday at 7.30pm

PERFORMER and comedian Des O'Connor will be live on stage this weekend.

The much loved entertainer, who has just completed a sensational season in a West End musical, was recently awarded a CBE for his services to Entertainment and Broadcasting.

This one-man show will include laughter, song and music. Tickets are £22.50, from 01933 270 007.

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**2003 03**
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The Academy of Central Bedfordshire
Range L17 – 23
Subject to negotiation depending on qualification and experience

A unique opportunity has arisen for an inspirational leader as Head of the Academy of Central Bedfordshire. The Governing body of the Academy of Central Bedfordshire wish to appoint a Headteacher Designate for April 2013. The person appointed will work alongside the project management team and the Executive Headteacher to ensure the successful opening of the Alternative Provision Free School in September 2013. The Academy will initially provide for 70 pupils in years 7 – 11, rising to 140 pupils by 2014. The Academy will be located across two separate sites which will be significantly remodelled to create a state of the art bespoke curriculum provision.

The successful candidate will have:
• the ability to provide inspirational and effective leadership and management
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• extensive teaching, leadership and management experience
• exceptional interpersonal and communication skills
• a proven track record of leadership and management
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How to apply:
The application pack can be obtained from Lou Ellis at ellislou@bedsced.org.uk or telephone 01234 404774. For an informal discussion of further information please telephone 01234 404774 and ask for the Headteacher’s PA. All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

The Academy of Central Bedfordshire is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Closing date: Monday 29th October 2012

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Tel: 01234 364251 • www.biddenham.co.uk

Rushmoor School
Independent Day School
(11+ pupils: 13+, 14+ (matriculation: 2-18)
Head’s PA & Admissions Secretary
Required for November 2012
Salary: £19,453 pro rata (RUC Point: 20)
A self-motivated, proactive and adaptable person is required to work as a Personal Assistant to the Head Teacher and to manage the admissions process.

The post holder will be required to provide all secretarial and administrative support. The successful applicant will have first class office skills and written communication skills, have excellent IT skills and be prepared to work with children and families. They should be able to work to deadlines, work under pressure and have good decision making and problem-solving skills.

For further information and to apply please visit: www.rushmoor.co.uk and closing date: 14th November 2012

General Catering Assistant
Salary: £5,185 p.a. (RUC Point 4)
We have an immediate vacancy for a General Catering Assistant, starting 10th November 2012. The post is 17.5 hours per week, Monday to Friday, term time only plus 3 training days.

For further details please contact Mrs Susan Duff, Business Manager, on 01234 350101 or by email at susan.duff@rushmoor.co.uk

For both posts, closing date for applications: Monday 5th November

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Telephone 01908 314659
Email: greenleys@milton-keynes.gov.uk
Headteacher: Sue Harrington

Teaching Assistant
Required to start 1st November 2012
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Level 2, MK Grade 4, Permanent Position (£15,725 to £18,453 pro rata depending on experience)

Would you like to be part of a dynamic team?
We are looking to appoint a highly motivated, committed and enthusiastic teaching assistant with excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

This post is initially to support a Year One class.
The previous experience of working within a Key Stage One environment and relevant additional qualifications would be desirable.

You will be coming to a school that is due to move in to a new building in the next academic year. We can offer you a good work environment and the opportunity to work in a friendly and supportive school.

Applications are invited from Greenleys staff as well as from outside for this position.

Closing date: Wednesday 21st November 2012

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CMG Rescue Services
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Central Control Operators at our Milton Keynes Head Office
Required criteria:
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Closing Date: 10th October 2012
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Telephone: 01908 314659
Email: greenleys@milton-keynes.gov.uk
Headteacher: Sue Harrington

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This is a hands-on position, where you will be able to utilise your mechanical engineering theory in practice. There will also be the opportunity to develop within the company to take on extra responsibilities for basic design, utilising 2D software and providing first level support.

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Please apply in writing, including CV, to:
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TwilTEX Ltd
Amphitheatre Road
Bedsford MK42 8RD
v.hughes@twiltex.co.uk

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NO AGENCIES

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FIRST AID CO-ORDINATOR with additional administrative duties (Part Time)
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The post is term time (which includes 5 training days), 30 hours a week, starting at 8.30 am with half an hour lunch.

For an application pack please visit our website. Alternatively contact Mr. Sowden at the college on (01234) 290000 or email lorelaim@ hastingsbury.beds.sch.uk for an application form and further details.

Closing date: 12th October 2012

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46 | HERALD & POST - Thursday, October 4, 2012
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Murphy and de Lange win contract extensions

CRICKET

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE have extended the contracts of wicketkeeper David Murphy and spin bowler Con de Lange ahead of the 2013 season.

Murphy became a regular for the club this year after taking over behind the stumps during Niall O’Brien’s spell out due to injury.

In total, he featured in ten LV-County Championship matches as well as making 13 limited overs appearances and has now been handed a two-year deal.

“I’m delighted to be staying at the County Ground,” said Murphy, who is one of a group of players at Northants that have progressed through the Academy in recent years.

“A lot of the younger players are signing up and hopefully we can all progress in the coming years, where we all want to work hard and bring success to the county.”

With Irish international O’Brien recently being told he was free to look for a new club, Murphy now looks set to take on a greater role next season.

Last week also saw him called up to the Scotland side to tour South Africa this month and the 23-year-old qualifies for them by virtue of his mother being from the country.

Meanwhile, de Lange has been given a one-year contract after impressing for the Steelbacks in both of the one-day competitions during the 2012 season.

The South African slow left armer was the leading wicket taker in the Clydesdale Bank 40 with 12 victims at an average of 25.60. He also took eight wickets at an average of 18.80 in the Friends Life T20.

Head Coach David Ripley said of the pair: “Con’s one-day form was very consistent and his professionalism around the squad is a valuable asset to us.

“David took his opportunity when it was presented to him earlier this season.

“He has shown great skill up to the stumps and a knack of building important partnerships down the order.”

RUGBY

PAUL Doran Jones has hailed the codebreak heroes

BY MARC BAZELEY
marc.bazeley@HPnorthants.co.uk

PAUL Doran Jones has hailed the codebreak heroes that he believes have helped the pack maintain the edge on their Aviva Premiership rivals.

These days, every top flight club has its own department of analysts who travel through hours of video footage in darkened rooms.

They are trying to pinpoint any weaknesses in opponents which they can exploit, and find areas for improvement.

Their role in the intricate workings of a professional sports team is perhaps slightly unglamorous, but it is a vital function nonetheless.

With Northampton’s forwards once again dominating their opponents, prop Doran Jones is in little doubt that at least part of that success is down to them.

“We’re always looking for an edge, doing our analysis on different teams and tailoring what we do on the weekend to fit the opposition,” he explains.

“Guys are working non-stop with the cameras and calls – it’s like Alan Turing back there because they’re trying to break everything down.

“It’s a science, in a way, and a lot of what the guys do behind the scenes is unseen. But let’s be fair, there is a lot of work to prepare us for the weekend and that probably gives us a little bit of an edge.”

Few teams have been able to crack the enigma of the Saints pack’s strength in recent seasons.

Of course, there is no substitute for good old fashioned hard graft on the training ground either, according to the 30-year-old.

But with Mujati struggling due to injury in recent weeks, the 27-year-old has been trying to make the most of the opportunity, playing the full 80 minutes against Worcester Warriors and again starting last Friday at Northampton defeated London Wasps 24-6 at Franklin’s Gardens.

That saw them make five wins from five and go two points clear of defending champions Harlequins at the top of the table.

“His role in the intricate workings of a professional sports team is perhaps slightly unglamorous, but it is a vital function nonetheless.

“We’re working together but he takes his opportunity, the pressure is on him and they’ve been unlucky on a couple of occasions to have not turned a loss into a victory.”

Northampton have a tremendous recent record at the Madejski with three wins on their last three outings, and a late Ben Nutley try secured a 30-23 victory for Saints in their last league visit in February.

If the in-form visitors can buck the trend with a similar outcome on Saturday, they will head into the Aviva Premiership playoff, due to the Heineken Cup starting next weekend, on a high.

With involvement in three competitions this campaign, Tonga’uiha knows that rivalry for playing time will be fierce and is happy to fight for his place.

He said: “It’s going to start from the front row all the way back. We’ve got to make sure that we quash that desperation early on.

“We’re working together but we always want to be the best and make sure our performance is up there.”

Rugby

Soane: Don’t be complacent

BY TOM SHARP

SOANE Tonga’uiha is naturally thrilled with current life at Northampton but is avoiding complacency in the run-up to their next Aviva Premiership showdown away to London Irish on Saturday.

The giant Tongan, currently in his sixth season with Saints, has been a regular fixture at prop for the league leaders this campaign and hopes the side can maintain their impressive start.

“I’m enjoying playing at the Saints, things are going well and we have had a great start. We have five wins from our five games so we cannot complain about that. I just hope we can carry it on,” he said.

Despite London Irish’s poor early league form, Tonga’uiha and Saints are wary of the threat they pose to their 100 per cent record and know it will be a tough encounter at the Madejski Stadium.

“They have got a lot of great individuals in their team,” the 30-year-old said. “They have the likes of [Saliosi] Tagicakibau, [Toppy] Ojo and [Jonathan] Joseph so if you give them a chance to get their tails up, it will be hard work.

“We need to go down there and have the mentality of winning the game, putting them under pressure and not being complacent. If we can do that then we will come up with another win but it is not going to be easy.

“Tonga’uiha said. “I don’t think the results from the first five games demonstrate what type of team they are and they’ve been unlucky on a couple of occasions to have not turned a loss into a victory.”

Northampton have a tremendous recent record at the Madejski with three wins on their last three outings, and a late Ben Nutley try secured a 30-23 victory for Saints in their last league visit in February.

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He said: “It’s going to start from the front row all the way back. We’ve got to make sure that we don’t take any things that you can slip up on so we’ve got to make sure that we don’t take anything for granted and make sure our performance is up there.”

Penny’s pride

BADMINTON

PENNY Watson claimed an unprecedented 20th ladies’ doubles title at the Northamptonshire County Championships over the weekend.

The Northampton badminton player teamed up with Maria Fomenko to win this year’s crown and continue her domination of the tournament.

Watson’s success dates back to when she and Carol Parker defeated their former coaches, Wendy Hall and Linda Warren.

They had won the ladies’ doubles titles nine times in a row, before Watson and Parker eclipsed that achievement with 11. Watson has since gone on to win a further nine county doubles titles with various partners.

The veteran was also winner of this year’s mixed doubles championship along with Brixworth’s Alex Munns.
FOOTBALL
BY MARC BAZELEY
mar.bazeley@thetelgraph.co.uk

As SPECTACLES go, it was almost more entertaining than the game itself.

Gillingham manager Martin Allen could barely keep still on the sidelinestheir pursuit of the top four in the League Two table. Indeed, Boothroyd
was clearly agitated with what had transpired.

"I thought it was a game we threw away," was his blunt assessment in the immediate aftermath. "You create chances, you hit the bar, you put them on the back foot, you're against the wind in the first half, and then one punt down the middle of the pitch, the centre halves misjudge it - one goes for it and misses it, the other gets done - and it's a simple goal.

"You see that at any park on a Sunday, you don't see it in professional football - which is difficult for me to understand because the pair of them have been absolutely outstanding. But these things happen and you have to bounce back, but I didn't think we did."

"It was very disappointing, very average and although I don't get too upset too often I'm very irrat-
eted by that." Neither would he make any excuses, including Northampton losing Luke Guttridge after just nine minutes due to injury and possibly joining fellow central mid-fielder Ben Harding for a spell on the sidelines. Although the manager did reveal he expects to have someone in on loan before the weekend.

Adebayo Akinfenwa pulled one back for the hosts in the 82nd minute, while Gillingham also had Charlie Allen sent off in added time after collecting two bookings for reckless tackles.

It is not known whether or not the son of the manager was promptly sent to bed early without any dinner and made to think about what he had done. Boothroyd's priority now is putting things right for Saturday's trip to Bristol Rovers and while he admits his side are still very much a work in progress, he does not see any reason why they could not be competing with the League Two front runners.

He said: "We've seen what the top of the league looks like and it didn't
frighten me. "It shouldn't frighten anyone else and that's what we should aspire to. Every single season, we want to be successful and we want to do well."

"These things happen, but you don't cry about it; you get annoyed, in the cold light of day I'll sit down, we'll regroup and we'll get a positive result against Bristol Rovers."

"These things happen and we have to learn from them, and it's an easy thing to say for a coach or a manager but we have to. We're not a team that is the finished article, we're a team that is growing and getting better, and we're a team that is going to take blows like injury and suspensions, and it is going to hurt us."

"But that's life and you have to ride those punches, and that's why we've got what we have got. We'll get on with it and we'll learn the lesson from this because it is one of those things that you have to take positives from."
AS HE emerged from the tunnel clutching the Man of the Match champagne for the post-match press conference, Ben Tozer admitted he would not be drinking it.

Firstly, because he doesn’t like it anyway, and secondly because the award was pretty meaningless for him after Northampton Town had lost to Gillingham.

“It feels like it doesn’t mean anything at all, and the result is much more important than individual accolades, obviously,” said the midfielder in the wake of the 2-1 home defeat against the League Two leaders on Tuesday.

“It’s just so frustrating and we’ve got to bounce back from it on Saturday. It’s difficult to be upbeat about it now.”

The manner of the loss was particularly galling for both the Cobblers players and manager Aidy Boothroyd.

Deon Burton had put Gillingham in front at Sixfields on the stroke of half time after catching the hosts unawares following a long goal kick forward from Stuart Nelson. Then the 35-year-old went from scorer to provider after playing in Jack Payne in the 55th minute.

Adebayo Akinfenwa did pull one back for Northampton late on, heading home from one of Tozer’s trademark long throws. But while no equaliser was forthcoming, the 22-year-old did not feel the gulf between the home side – now 13th in League Two and 12 points behind the Gills – was that vast.

He said: “I didn’t think they were that good, to be honest. I don’t know how they’ve played in the other games, but if that’s top of the league then why can’t we be top? It is inconsistency and sloppy goals that stops us, I suppose.

“We’ve got to bounce back and I’m sure we will; we’ve got good character, very good team spirit this year. We will bounce back from this, without a doubt, and I’m not just saying that to try and pick people up – I truly believe we will.”

Bristol Rovers, who were way down in 22nd ahead of their home game with Cheltenham Town last night, provide the opposition for Northampton on Saturday at the Memorial Stadium.

After now assisting three goals so far this season with his throws, Tozer is hoping he can also get on the score sheet. However, the priority is getting back to winning ways against Mark McGhee’s men.

“I don’t think they’ve had a very good start to the season. The manager is under pressure and we can go there and get a result and put more pressure on them,” said Tozer.

“More important for us is getting those three points, and build on that for the next league game. We need to start with a clean sheet and then win the game.”

And possibly even your first goal of the season, Ben? “Definitely,” he replied. “If not, another assist.”

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