



ONE BIG DO!

Fri 5 - Mon 8 June 2026

Your guide to taking part in
Northamptonshire

Resources, ideas, and funding opportunities from
Northamptonshire Community Foundation





What's happening in Northamptonshire?

Northamptonshire Community Foundation is excited to be supporting The Big Help Out again this year, working with our local charity partners and The Lord-Lieutenant's Office.

In previous years, we have helped promote your activities and joined volunteer organisations across the county to experience the volunteering opportunities they can offer local residents; we built Moses Basket start packs for new parents with Baby Basics, attended The Hope Centre's drop-in sessions, and lots more!

This year, The Big Help Out will align with Volunteers' Week, taking place from Monday 1st - Sunday 7th June.

The Big Help Out is an opportunity for local residents of any age and stage to connect with their local community, build friendships, skills and experience and give back to our county.

Rose of Northamptonshire Awards

The [Rose of Northamptonshire Awards](#) shine a light on the amazing volunteers making a difference across Northamptonshire.

Launched by Northamptonshire Community Foundation in partnership with West Northamptonshire Council and North Northamptonshire Council, the 2026 awards mark the Foundation's 25th anniversary and will take place at Wicksteed Park during this year's One Big Do. The awards celebrate individuals and organisations who go above and beyond to strengthen their communities.

It's a fantastic opportunity to recognise the everyday champions behind local projects, neighbourhood support, and community action - perfectly reflecting the spirit of the Big Help Out and helping inspire even more people to get involved.





What is One Big Do?



As the UK's annual get-together for neighbours and communities, since 2009 The Big Lunch has been bringing millions of people together to share friendship, food and fun.

Whether it's cake with a few neighbours, a bite to eat with a local community group or a party for the whole town, for those that join in, The Big Lunch helps to boost wellbeing, sparks community action and grows local connections – doing wonders for community spirit.



The Big Help Out is a weekend dedicated to encouraging everyone to lend a hand, get stuck in, and have a go at volunteering in their local communities. Since starting in 2023, tens of thousands of organisations and millions of people have taken part.

The idea - to make volunteering accessible, fun and enjoyable, showing that even small acts can make a big difference. By joining in, people can meet others, develop skills, and help create stronger, more resilient communities – all while being part of a shared national moment of positive action.



This year The Big Lunch and The Big Help Out are teaming up on 5-8 June for a weekend of friendship, food, fun and action. It's a chance to meet, eat and lend a hand locally as part of the UK's biggest celebration of community.

What will you do?

You might decide to bring people together to share food and grow connections at a Big Lunch, or you could invite people to have a go at volunteering and join in with The Big Help Out. For many communities and organisations it will be a bit of both!

A cuppa with neighbours, a party in the street, a litter pick around the park, a friendly chat at a care home, or inviting people to a taster session to try something new – there's no right or wrong way to join in, each Big Lunch and Big Help Out will be different, just like the communities they're part of.



Let's plan a do!

Resources

→ Your guide to putting on a Do!

The Big Do website has lots of helpful resources to help you both plan and promote your volunteering activities. Visit <https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-do/plan-your-do> to download an information pack, posters, invitations, social media assets and more.

→ Promoting your activities

Add your activities and volunteering opportunities to the national map [here](#).

Plus, don't forget to email Northamptonshire Community Foundation on enquiries@ncf.uk.com with a short description of what you're up to, plus dates and times, so that we can help promote what's happening locally in Northamptonshire.

→ Funding opportunities

Do you need funding to help put on your volunteering activities?

Northamptonshire Community Foundation may be able to help. Visit the [grants page](#) on our website to see what's available and find out how to apply.



How to make a party hat

You'll need

- ✓ An A4 sheet of thick paper or card
- ✓ Coloured pencils, crayons or felt tips
- ✓ Extra decorative bits like pressed flowers, leaves, a pom pom, tin foil, tissue or patterned paper
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Glue
- ✓ Ribbon or string
- ✓ A stapler or hole punch



<p>1</p> <p>Use the template or draw the shape onto a piece of card.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Use pens, pencils or crayons to colour in, or decorate your hat.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Cut out, roll it up to create a cone and secure in place with glue or tape.</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Use ribbon or string to create a chin strap.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Attach any extras - like pom-poms or leaves.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Ta da! You've got your own party hat.</p>



You're Invited!

Join us for:

All you need to know:

See you there!

The Big Lunch and The Big Help Out are teaming up to bring friendship, food, fun and action together in the UK's biggest celebration of community!

Find out more at TheBigDo.com



For more activities and ideas, visit TheBigDo.com

