

YESTERDAY'S WEB VIEW

Backtrack over buggy safety kit: 'How about a simple leaflet just saying "please do not be stupid enough to let your child anywhere near the buggy when you are folding or unfolding it?"'

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YESTERDAY'S TOP STORIES

1. Fire forces evacuation of family
2. BMX bikers town centre protest
3. House price rise after shortage
4. Mourners line the streets for soldiers
5. 'Use it or lose it' warns trader

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TOMORROW

All the reaction to the weekend sport as Cobblers look to exploit Grantham Town's weaknesses at Sixfields and Saints face Saracens at Franklin's Gardens!



All the news from your community – written by those living in your community



Streets cordoned off as six fire engines tackle fire at hairdressers

Investigators find the cause of salon blaze

By Laura Corcoran

Chronicle Reporter

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A HUGE blaze which brought parts of Northampton town centre to a standstill was caused by a faulty water heater, fire investigators have confirmed.

The fire destroyed Bonds Beauty Salon, in The Drapery, when it broke out just after 8am yesterday. At one point six fire engines were at the scene. Passers-by described seeing smoke billowing from the salon above Johnsons Dry Cleaners as police diverted buses and taxis away from the busy thoroughfare.

Eyewitness, Natalie Bartosiak, said: "About 8.40am I was on my way to



■ Firefighters cordon off The Drapery to the public while tackling the blaze in Bonds Beauty Salon, inset, the property above Johnsons Dry Cleaners

CE pictures by KELLY COOPER 091113KC

“There was black smoke coming out of the building and there were lots of fire engines – Eyewitness Natalie Bartosiak

work and it was cordoned off. They wouldn't let me walk down The Drapery, I had to walk around by the market square.

"There was black smoke coming out of the building and there were lots of fire engines."

Firefighters were called to salon at about 8.15am. Crews entered neighbouring properties to stop the fire from spreading and cordoned off The Drapery to members of the public.

A spokeswoman for the fire service said: "At 8.15am we were called to reports of smoke in the area of a hair-

dressers in The Drapery. It was a salon above the dry cleaners.

"We had six appliances at the scene – one from The Mounts and Mereway, two from Moulton, one from Wellingborough and one from Long Buckby.

"We also had an aerial platform

and the incident command unit from Daventry.

"We requested a visit from fire investigation officers."

A spokeswoman for Northamptonshire Police said officers were called to the fire to help the fire service keep

the road clear. Taxis and buses were diverted away from the scene.

Head of operations for Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service Phil Pells said officers expected to remain at the scene for most of the day.

He said no-one had been injured as a result of the blaze.



■ Asda store in Kingsthorpe

Man denies threatening staff with machete

A MAN has appeared in court charged with threatening supermarket staff with a "plastic machete".

David Harvey, aged 43, from Yelvertoft Road, Northampton, pleaded not guilty to a charge of threatening staff at the Asda superstore in Kingsthorpe.

Yesterday Northampton Mag-

istrates' Court heard Harvey was in the supermarket with his wife at about 3pm on October 11.

Prosecuting, Colin McGregor told the court staff at the supermarket challenged Mr Harvey because they thought he was about to steal goods.

He then left the shop but returned with a "large machete"

in his hand. Mr Harvey claims the weapon was a plastic children's knife he had in the back of his car.

He was bailed and ordered not to return to the Asda superstore in Harborough Road, Kingsthorpe.

The case was then adjourned and will be heard by magistrates at a later date.

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