



First with the latest messages from Houlton, Rugby

# THE TUNING FORK OPENS!



**Bring the family, bring your friends, pull up a chair and make yourself at home. Houlton's fabulous new eatery is open for business.**

The Tuning Fork is being run by a local family, the Enticotts, who run the successful Chef's Kitchen at Hillmorton as well as the café in the town's new Hall of Fame. Mother and son team Elaine and James have been working closely with Houlton developers Urban&Civic over the past 12 months to ensure that every part of The Tuning Fork is of the highest quality. The name is inspired by the history of Rugby Radio Station and whilst there are hints of this heritage in the décor, it has a bespoke and contemporary style.



*The menus are seasonally inspired, locally sourced and just delicious!*



Whether you are after a full lunch and a glass of wine or a barista coffee and a homemade cake - The Tuning Fork will fulfil your appetite! There will also be plenty of offers over the opening period so we look forward to seeing you!

To see more photos from our opening events visit [www.thetuningforkhoulton.co.uk](http://www.thetuningforkhoulton.co.uk)



# CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF TRANSATLANTIC CALLS

At 1.45pm on Friday 7th January 1927, an historic event took place. The Secretary of the General Post Office, Sir Evelyn Murray spoke in person, across thousands of miles of ocean, to Mr. Walter S Gifford, President of the American Telephone & Telegraph Company.

That call originated in London and was transferred to Rugby via landline. From there, it was converted to a telephony radio signal and, thanks to Rugby Radio Station's powerful transmitter, was beamed west across the globe where it was received at the Houlton Radio Receiving Station in Maine, on America's East Coast.

Having opened to service the previous year, Rugby Radio Station was still brand new, but with this transmission and the launch of the first public transatlantic call service, it's fair to say that the world of communications – indeed, the world itself – was forever changed.

## TWO HOULTONS, CONNECTED

So that's where the name of Rugby's newest neighbourhood came from. That first call, all those years ago.

By choosing the name Houlton, Urban&Civic have found the perfect way to commemorate this milestone in communications, ensuring that Rugby and the small town of Houlton in Maine are forever connected in a meaningful bond of friendship.



## READ ALL ABOUT IT

Ex-Rugby Radio Station manager and local historian, Malcolm Hancock has spent years compiling a vast selection of documents, photographs, records and artefacts relating to the history of Rugby's famous radio station site.

With so much material collected, the obvious next step was to bring it all together in a book. A serious undertaking but, thankfully, a challenge that Malcolm was ready to accept.

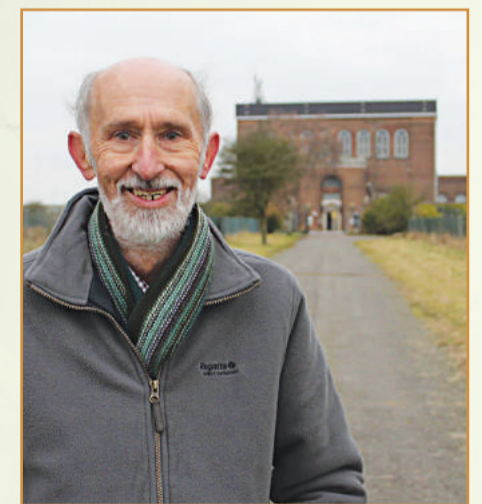
**The History of Rugby Radio Station** makes fascinating reading. As well as meticulously charting the major achievements of Rugby Radio Station, and being packed with a wealth of facts and technical details, Malcolm's book contains personal recollections and frames great events within a vibrant social history.

From top secret operations during the Second World War to a 24-hour charity Skittles Marathon in 1969, the design and operation of atomic clocks of incredible accuracy to

the genuinely moving eye-witness account of the demolition of the station's iconic 820ft masts. It's all here, a legacy to be appreciated by future generations.

**The History of Rugby Radio Station is available to order online at [rugbyradiostation.co.uk](http://rugbyradiostation.co.uk) with all proceeds being donated to The Air Ambulance.**

**The book is also available from Hunt's Bookshop in Rugby, the Tourist Information Centre in Rugby and The Visitor Centre at Houlton.**



**Starting as an apprentice, Malcolm's career at Rugby Radio Station spanned 38 years and culminated with him becoming Resident Engineer/Station Manager. He retired from the post in 2002.**





## DAVIDSONS HOMES ARRIVE AT HOULTON – SALES CENTRE NOW OPEN

*For more information, go to  
[www.davidsonshomes.co.uk/  
developments/davidsons-homes-rugby](http://www.davidsonshomes.co.uk/developments/davidsons-homes-rugby)*

**Home-hunters in the Rugby area are one step closer to finding their dream home this spring.**

Davidsons Homes will be bringing a superb range of 3, 4 and 5 bedroom homes to Houlton; beautiful designs, built to the high-quality specification that Davidsons has become known for.

The marketing of these characterful quality homes began on Saturday 8th April at Dollman Farm. Details of how to get to Dollman Farm are on the back page of this edition of The Houlton Signal.

For a flavour of the homes being built at Houlton's Dollman Meadow site, head to YouTube and search for **Dollman Meadow, Rugby Development Fly Through**.

Sales Director for Davidsons Homes, Stephanie King, said: "It is fantastic to be part of this landmark development in Rugby, and we're excited to be able to give buyers a sneak peak at the first homes we will be building here."

"We've been inundated with enquiries about the homes at Houlton ever since we announced our plans to build here. There's a wide variety of high-quality homes on offer at the development, including homes which are ideal for first-time buyers and large executive-style homes as well. We're planning to release the first homes for sale at Houlton in late March, and we're sure that the homes will prove popular with buyers."



## DOLLMAN FARM OFFICIALLY OPENS

**We're delighted to announce that after months of dedicated preparation work, Dollman Farm is officially open to the public.**

Dollman Farm will become a welcoming, vibrant community hub for the whole of Houlton and the wider Rugby community. The courtyard is made up of three key aspects: The Visitor Centre, The Barn and The Tuning Fork eatery.

First and foremost, Houlton's stylish new Visitor Centre is the place to go to find out about the exciting future of the development. Across the way you'll find Dollman Farm's old barn which has been given a brand new lease of life. The Barn is now a swish, welcoming space, ideal for Houlton's community events and gatherings. The courtyard is completed by the arrival of a stylish new eatery, The Tuning Fork. Run by Rugby locals Elaine and James Enticott, you should definitely have it on your 'places to go' list. Fine food, a friendly location... perfect for getting together with friends.

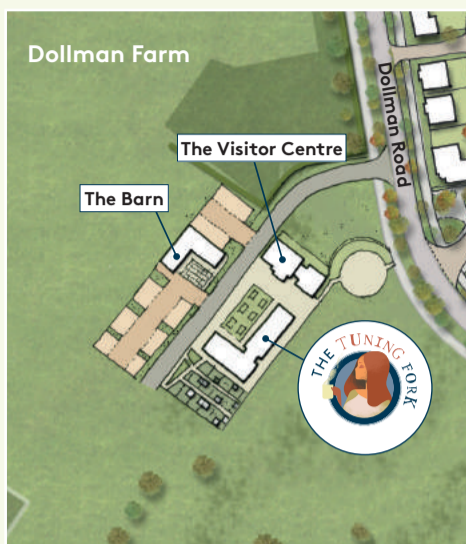
Dollman Farm is one of the properties that pre-dated the building of the old Rugby Radio Station. A working farm of 267 acres, it was owned by TW Cockerill and was purchased in the early 1920s when Rugby became the Wireless Telegraphy Commission's final choice as the site for the construction of the new Government Imperial Wireless Station.

**As you can see, as well as promising an exciting future there's plenty of history at Houlton. So come along and explore this new community space.**



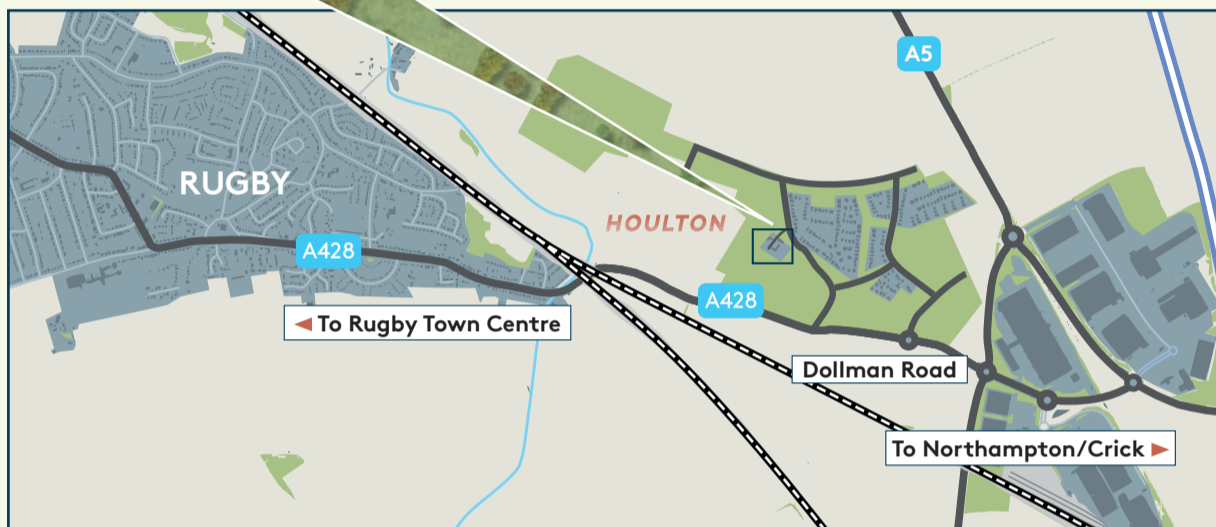


# WHERE'S HOULTON?



Lots of you have asked us this question recently so we wanted to make sure you know! Houlton is the new development taking place on the former Rugby Radio Station site at the east of the town. Or "the old mast site" as many of you remember it!

You will find us on the left off the A428 Crick Road as you leave Hillmorton and pass underneath the railway bridges. Our postcode is CV23 0AB but as we're a new development, your sat nav might not get you to our door, so use the postcode and then look out for the new signs and flags that will welcome you in.



## Messages

### CRICK ROAD PROGRESS

A huge 'thank you' to all of you for bearing with us during the work on the Crick Road over the past six months. We encountered many challenges underneath the ground when we were digging up the old road and, whilst these are fairly common for these kinds of projects, they did lead to delays. The great news is that we're finished now and the new stretch of road is open.

### ON YOUR BIKE

The dedicated footpath and cycleway running alongside the newly-aligned Crick Road is also complete. So those who prefer two feet or two wheels for travelling will also find the journey more pleasant and safe! The new cycleway runs from Hillmorton (as you pass underneath the railway bridges) and runs along the Crick Road to the new roundabout.



### CALLING ALL LOCAL CLASSES/CLUBS/GROUPS

The Barn at Dollman Farm offers the perfect setting for group activities and get togethers. From 'keep fit' to cub scouts, Weight Watchers to bird watchers, if you're looking for a place to gather in comfort and style, The Barn is waiting for you. Email [galina.bardarska@urbanandcivic.com](mailto:galina.bardarska@urbanandcivic.com) if you're interested in booking some space.

### LOOKING TO BUY A HOME?

Davidsons Homes will begin sales for the first homes at Houlton in early April. If you are interested in buying a new home, please register your interest at [www.davidsonsgroup.co.uk](http://www.davidsonsgroup.co.uk)

### LINK ROAD – CONSTRUCTION STARTS SOON

Engineers are currently preparing the land for construction of the new link road from Houlton to Butlers Leap. As you can imagine, a 2km stretch of single carriageway road running from Crick Road to Butlers Leap is a huge operation. The actual construction work is due to start in April.

We'll be sharing more information at a special roadshow event in Clifton in April, so look out for details on the website and across our social media channels.

## Did you know?

As well as building roads and homes, the first phase of Houlton has seen the creation of extensive planting and wildlife habitat. Check out some of these facts which might surprise you.

Over the past year we have created or retained:

- Three acres of wildflower grasslands
- Three km of hedgerows
- 15 acres of bespoke wildlife habitat (for great crested newts, curlews and owls)
- 508 trees in phase one, five of which are very large semi-mature trees in Dollman Common
- An additional 215 orchard trees over and above those in phase one
- Two willows in Dollman Common around the pond, that were the largest available in Europe
- Over 300 more trees being planted in the coming months - over half of which are semi-mature stock

We've even planned for a large preserved area of medieval 'ridge and furrow' farming land.

