

# 75 Years of your NORTHAMPTON Chronicle & ECHO



■ **CHAMPIONS OF EUROPE:** The moment Saints skipper Pat Lam and the inspirational Tim Rodber held aloft the biggest prize in northern hemisphere club rugby. The Saints beat Munster 9-8 in 2000 on an incredible May day at Twickenham watched by tens of thousands of supporters from Northampton who matched a huge Irish contingent song for song



■ **WEMBLEY WINNERS:** More than 40,000 Northampton Town fans travelled to Wembley for the Cobblers' first ever appearance at the great old stadium in the 1997 Division Three play-off final. In the third minute of extra time the goalless deadlock was broken by an incredible John Frain free-kick. The goal won promotion



■ **WEEDON RAIL CRASH:** A Chronicle & Echo reporter was the first on the scene of the county's worst ever public transport disaster on Friday, September 21, 1951. The stop press section of that day's paper reported that ten people were believed to have been killed after a London to Liverpool express train derailed just south of Weedon and plunged down an embankment



■ **DIANA MOURNED:** The world turned to Northamptonshire and the Althorp estate following the tragic death of Diana Princess of Wales in 1997. Tens of thousands of floral tributes were left at the gates of Althorp as the county and the nation mourned its princess

# Every picture tells a story...

**W**HEN the big local stories happen the *Chronicle & Echo* has always been there. Here we show just a few from our files which we believe represent some of the most important news and sport events in the *Chron's* recent history. The extraordinary scenes which accompanied the death of Princess Diana put the county at the centre of world attention. For people in Northamptonshire Diana's death was even more poignant as she spent much of her youth in the county and our picture (left) shows the scale of the floral tributes left at the gates of the stately home. Sport has always figured prominently and the celebrations which accompanied two of the greatest days in county sport were followed by fantastic scenes in the town centre. The Cobblers' famous victory at Wembley in 1997 was followed by a town centre open-top bus parade. The European Cup winning Saints team of 2000 capped their victory by travelling back to the club's Franklin's Gardens home where all the players and staff partied on the pitch with thousands of fans later into the night. An open-top bus parade also accompanied England's Rugby World Cup victory with Saints stars Paul Grayson, Matt Dawson, Steve Thompson and Ben Cohen, along with physio Phil Pask, given a heroes' welcome. The terrible floods of Easter 1998 left whole areas of the town under water and tragically two people lost their lives in the disaster. The full extent of the flooding and the damage it caused was graphically illustrated in the picture (right) taken from a helicopter.



■ **World Cup winners:** The whole of Northampton stopped to cheer on the town's World Cup stars Ben Cohen, Matt Dawson, Steve Thompson and Paul Grayson as England faced Australia in the final of the Rugby World Cup on November 22, 2003. The *Chron* produced a special late edition with special coverage of a titanic final in which England beat Australia 20-17. Cohen (pictured above being congratulated by his wife after the match), Thompson and Dawson all played in the final with Grayson on the bench. Along with Saints physio Phil Pask who was also part of the England back-room staff the players were welcomed home to Northampton in an open-top bus parade cheered on by thousands of fans



■ **EASTER FLOODS:** The floods of Easter 1998 saw much of Northampton's town centre left devastated in one of the worst natural disasters ever to hit the area