

RUTLAND LIVING

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February 2026

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Snowdrops in Bloom: Barnsdale Gardens, Easton & Beyond
Education: A Look at Schools in Our Region
In the Spotlight: New Menu at The George Inn, Oakham

Coles For Fires

Recently arrived on Oakham's Mill Street is Coles For Fires – a family-run business providing installation and lifetime servicing for gas fires, wood-burning and multi-fuel stoves. **Amander Meade** spoke to founder and owner, Mike Coles, to find out more about this flourishing independent firm

HAVING SERVED a full apprenticeship as a gas engineer, Mike always had ambitions to run his own company, so, once fully qualified, he launched Coles For Fires in 1985. Eventually, both his sons, Michael and Matthew, served their own apprenticeships and joined him in running the company. When Michael's daughter joined her father, uncle and grandfather, it meant that three generations of Coles are involved in the day-to-day business. 'I'm delighted with how far the business has come over the years and also that many of our colleagues have also been with us for a very long time, making a team of 19 now,' comments Mike. 'I feel we are creating a real legacy here and am proud of the ethos we work to.'

SPECIALIST INSTALLATION & LIFETIME SERVICING

Coles For Fires supply and install wood, multi-fuel, gas and electric fires for customers all over the region. In their Northampton showroom, as well as their new base in Rutland, you'll find a wide range of premium and affordable, traditional and contemporary gas fires and wood-burning stoves by brands including Gazco, Flavel, Charnwood, Chesneys, Rais and Kinder. Coles also supply an impressive variety of fire surrounds, beams and companion sets to perfectly complement your new or existing fireplace. The team can help to transform your living space with expertly designed media walls – perfect for family film nights, gaming sessions or displaying your favourite artwork. 'We are a specialist installer, and our expert staff can help you with the complete process of planning, selecting, supplying and fitting of your new fire, allowing you to have full confidence in your choice. We aim to simplify the process of buying a new fire or stove and pride ourselves on our warm, friendly service. With almost 40 years' experience, our commitment to excellence is at the very heart of our business ethos and we value our reputation above all.'

SKILLED & REGISTERED

All Coles For Fires' engineers are Gas Safe and HETAS trained, registered, and skilled in providing safe and professional servicing for your appliances. 'By law all gas engineers must be on the Gas Safe Register (it replaced CORGI registration). It is generally a condition of your gas fire warranty that the appliance is serviced annually, which will include stripping, inspecting and cleaning the appliance, and, if required, we also issue annual Landlord's Gas Safety Certificates.' Coles offer a full chimney sweeping service too, including the maintenance and repair of chimney stacks priced from £60. 'We are registered members of NACS, The National Association of Chimney Sweeps, a professional trade association promoting high standards for the sweeping, inspection and maintenance of chimneys. Sweeping is recommended at least once a year to eliminate soot, bird nests, cobwebs and any other potential blockages. Regular maintenance not only enhances the performance of your chimney, but also significantly reduces the risk of fire hazards, improves the efficiency of some appliances and improves indoor air quality.'

A WARM WELCOME

Mike is delighted to have expanded the Coles offering into Rutland, fulfilling a long-term ambition to open a showroom there. 'Rutland is such a beautiful county, and Oakham's Mill Street is a great location for shopping. We certainly seem to be meeting a need here, as we have been so warmly received by other traders and customers alike. Customers are responding to our straightforward, honest, experienced advice and the fact that we offer such a wide range of products to suit all tastes and budgets. Our customer service is our priority, and installations are completed with the utmost courtesy and as little disruption to the customer as possible while leaving the site immaculate on departure, which is always appreciated and reflected in our

WHAT COLES' CUSTOMERS SAY:

'I would like to thank Coles on the installation; I absolutely love my new fire. The engineers were polite and courteous as well as tidying up after themselves. The girls in the office kept me up to date every step of the way. It was a delight to deal with them, from the survey through to installation. I would definitely recommend. Really happy.'
Northampton, June 2025

'Thank you Coles for my lovely new fire. The fitters were very knowledgeable and respectful of the property. I would definitely recommend.'
Northampton, December 2025





many glowing testimonials. We are welcoming customers old and new to the showroom and are very happy to chat through options for fires or stoves and advice on style, function and installation.' Coles also offer a free, no-obligation site survey in your home.

Mike would urge anyone considering a new fire this year to call into the showroom for a chat and to look at the ranges on offer. 'Gas and electric fires, as well as wood-burning stoves, have come such a very long way in terms of design and the right product will enhance any interior scheme, adding real soul, personality and a truly charming focal point to a room. Customers are sometimes surprised that wood-burning stoves can be installed in any kind of property – old or new, with or without a chimney. They are not exclusively for period or country homes and are increasingly popular, as they are so economical to run as well as pleasing to the eye.'



TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT COLES FOR FIRES, INSTALLING A NEW FIRE OR STOVE OR TO ENQUIRE ABOUT CHIMNEY SWEEPING OR REPAIR, CONTACT MIKE AND THE TEAM IN OAKHAM OR KETTERING, OR VISIT THE WEBSITE BELOW.

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