

Towcester Town Crier

Your FREE community magazine produced by Towcester Town Council

Issue 206

SPRING 2025

Town Hall, Towcester

Wild Garlic, Towcester. Photo credit: Lizz Buckle 2025



Bee Squared Project Page 5

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MEET THE
TOWN MAYOR



ABOUT THE
TOWN COUNCIL



VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES



GET TO KNOW
YOUR TOWN



MEET COMMUNITY
ORGANISATIONS



QUESTIONS &
ANSWERS



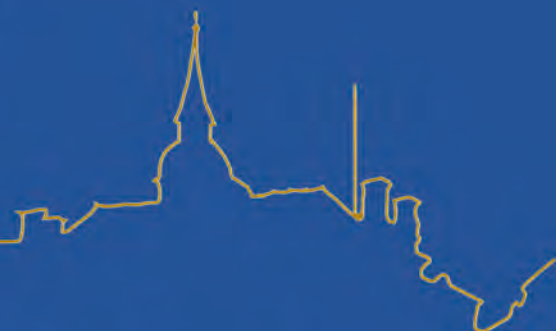
UPCOMING
EVENTS



BUILD COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE



SHARE
IDEAS



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

7 PM - 9PM

MONDAY 3RD MARCH 2025

WELCOME BY THE TOWN MAYOR
TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS
LOCAL POLICE REPORT
LOCAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTS
Q & A
NETWORKING & REFRESHMENTS

THE SAWPITS CENTRE
RICHMOND ROAD NN12 6EX
WHAT3WORDS///UNIT.HUTS.SOLUTIONS

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:
01327 350995 | ENQUIRIES@TOWCESTER-TC.GOV.UK



A WORD FROM THE MAYOR



As I write this, I find myself reflecting on the hectic past few months in my role as Towcester's Town Mayor.

In October, I had the wonderful opportunity to spend an evening with the **1st Towcester Scouts**. During our time together, we discussed the role of the mayor, the Town Council, and the significance of volunteer work in supporting our community.

Sam and I were grateful to receive an invitation from the **Rotary Club of Towcester** to listen to the **Cwmbach Male Voice Choir** perform at St Lawrence Church. It was an incredibly uplifting evening.

I also participated in the Annual General Meetings of the **Northamptonshire Scouts** and the **Women's Institute**. It is essential to support and champion the valuable contributions these organisations make to our local community here in Towcester.

One of the greatest privileges of serving as Town Mayor is the opportunity to represent the town during the annual **Remembrance Services** at St. Lawrence Church and the Towcester War Memorial. Both events are consistently well-organised by Reverend Paula Challen.

In December, I had the honour of turning on the Christmas lights at **Brook House** while indulging in the first mince pies of the festive season and joining in the carol singing.

Towcester Choral Society graciously invited Sam and me to a truly exceptional performance of Handel's Messiah. I wholeheartedly recommend adding any of their concerts to your 2025 "bucket list."

Despite heavy rainfall and a wind warning, I helped champion **Small Business Saturday** on December 7th by visiting several independent retailers throughout the day. This annual event highlights the significance of supporting our local businesses. By choosing to shop locally, we can contribute to the growth of a vibrant town centre.

As 2024 recedes, we eagerly anticipate what 2025 has in store for us. We are especially excited about the opening of an outstanding **new community centre** in the new housing development and the wonderful amenities it will offer (continue reading this issue for more details).

A personal goal I have set for myself in 2025 is to get in shape and shed a few pounds before Mayormaking in May. Excluding Christmas, I am making significant progress, thanks to my local personal trainer, Nathan Pickworth.

Local elections will be held in May for district, town, and parish councillors in Northamptonshire. Serving as a Town Councillor presents a fantastic opportunity to impact decisions that affect our local community and contribute to Towcester's success. Keep a look out for further details and events the Town Council will be hosting regarding this community role.

Happy
New Year
2025

Cllr Damian Reynolds

Towcester Town Mayor 2024-5
Facebook @TowcesterMayor

TOWCESTER TOWN COUNCIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All electors in the parish of Towcester are welcome to attend Town Council meetings. **Full Council meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at Towcester Town Hall**, usually at 7.30pm. See our website for all dates, times, venues, agendas & minutes www.towcester-tc.gov.uk

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

7-9pm, Monday 3rd March 2025

The Sawpits Centre, Richmond Road

Meet the Mayor, local councillors and other community organisations to hear about what we have achieved over the last twelve months and to put forward your suggestions.

BECOME A TOWN COUNCILLOR

7-8:30pm, Monday 17th March 2025, or

10-11:30am, Saturday 22nd March 2025

The Sawpits Centre, Richmond Road
Drop-in event

Find out more about the role of Towcester Town Council and its councillors, and how to apply to be a local representative of your town.

BECOME A TOWN COUNCILLOR

7pm, Monday 24 March 2025

Virtual Event

Find out more about the role of Towcester Town Council and its councillors, and how to apply to be a local representative of your town. Email enquiries@towcester-tc.gov.uk to register for this event

COUNCILLOR APPLICATION DEADLINE

2nd April 2025

Application packs will be available to download from West Northamptonshire Council's website. www.westnorthants.gov.uk/electoral-services/standing-candidate

LOCAL ELECTIONS

Thursday 1st May 2025

You must be on the electoral register to be eligible to vote in local elections. To register or to change your voting preference, please visit the WNC website:

www.westnorthants.gov.uk/electoral-services

Remember: You are now required to show photo ID when voting at your local polling station.

**TOWCESTER
TOWN MAYOR'S
CHARITIES 2024-5**



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MAKE A CHANGE

BE A TOWN COUNCILLOR

Towcester Town Councillors are the champions of the community who invest time in local projects and issues for the benefit of residents and the local community. Councillors attend to local needs of residents, local groups and businesses, make decisions on local services, collaborate with West Northants Council to identify local needs, progress vital projects to invest in the future of the community, and talk to the community about what the council is doing.

Councillors individually, can and should be very different in their skills base, experience and work status, all of which contribute to a good and balanced representation of the town. The ability to take the initiative, be creative and have time to give to the role are all very important aspects of being a good Councillor.

Interested in finding out more? Visit our website, come along to a council meeting, or pop in to one of our drop-in information events to meet current Town Councillors and staff, and to receive advice for submitting your candidate application form for the upcoming local elections on Thursday 1st May 2025.

Deadline for candidate applications:

4pm Friday 2nd April 2025 to the Returning Officer

www.westnorthants.gov.uk/electoral-services/standing-candidate

Become a Councillor

INFORMATION EVENTS

7 pm - 8:30 pm
Monday 17th March 2025

10 am - 11:30 am
Saturday 22nd March

The Sawpits Centre
Richmond Road NN12 6EX

7pm Virtual Event
Monday 24th March 2025

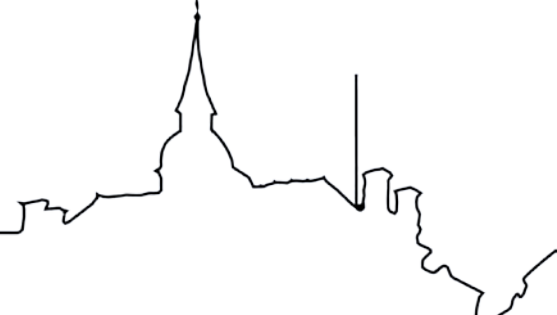
SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION:



[www.towcester-tc.gov.uk/
be-a-town-councillor](http://www.towcester-tc.gov.uk/be-a-town-councillor)



TOWN COUNCIL NEWS



BEE SQUARED PROJECT

The number of bees and other insects has greatly declined over recent years. They need a huge amount of energy to fly from their home to fields where they collect nectar and pollinate plants in the process, frequently travelling several miles and needing regular fuel stops en-route. New developments have increased the flight paths for bees and other insects, thereby reducing the opportunities for pollination.

"BEE SQUARED" is an exciting project, which was started by Hazlemere Parish Council, Buckinghamshire, in 2021.

Towcester Town Council is delighted to be trialling this initiative. The idea is to encourage members of our community to dedicate a one metre-squared area within their garden for the planting of wildflower seeds to support bees and other pollinators. Not only will this boost biodiversity, it also enhances and encourages more wildlife to your garden. If successful, we hope to repeat this project next year. Please join us in helping to create a thriving habitat for these vital insects.

The optimum time for planting is in the spring and the Town Council will have 1000 packets of wildflower seeds available from March on a first-come-first-served basis.

For more information on how you can support wildlife in your area, please visit www.wildlifetrusts.org



YOUR COUNCILLORS

Your Town Councillors are local residents democratically elected to represent the people of the parish of Towcester (which includes Caldecote and Wood Burcote). Towcester is divided into two wards represented by 16 councillors who are all volunteers from our community:

Brook Ward

Cllr Damian Reynolds (Town Mayor)
Cllr Rachel Dando L'Olive (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Maggie Clubley
Cllr Peter Conquest
Cllr John Godwin
Cllr Martin Johns
Cllr Innes Macaulay
Cllr Lisa Samiotis
Cllr David Tarbun
Cllr Miranda Wixon

Mill Ward

Cllr Peter Allen
Cllr Charles Askew
Cllr Klaus Bond
Cllr David Carmichael
Cllr Jim Lynch
Cllr Chris Wright

COUNCIL STAFF

Town Clerk

Elizabeth Cox

Communications & Events Officer

Lizzi Bucklow-Holt

Facilities & Operations Officer

Mark Onley

Office Administrator

Rhianna Francis-Tims

Contact details

Towcester Town Hall,
86 Watling Street East,
Towcester, NN12 6BS
01327 350995
towncouncil@towcester-tc.gov.uk
www.towcester-tc.gov.uk

TOWN CRIER INFORMATION

Towcester Town Council publishes the Town Crier. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Town Council or its members, and the inclusion of advertisements does not constitute an endorsement of any products or services. Further copies of the Town Crier are available from the Town Hall. PDF versions of all current and previous issues can be downloaded from the council website. For editorial contributions, advertising and What's On entries, please call 01327 350995 or email enquiries@towcester-tc.gov.uk

Deadlines:

SPRING (Feb, Mar, Apr) - 31st December
SUMMER (May, Jun, Jul) - 25th March
AUTUMN (Aug, Sep, Oct) - 25th June
WINTER (Nov, Dec, Jan) - 25th September

www.towcester-tc.gov.uk

Produced by R1 Print & Design

LOCAL FLOOD ACTION GROUP



Sadly, recent storms and heavy rain resulted in the flooding of a number of business and residential properties within Towcester, and the Town Council has been approached for its support to set up a Local Flood Action Group.

The aim is to bring together a group of volunteers, who will assist with developing and implementing a plan of action in response to future concerns over potential flooding.

In the first instance, the aim is to set up an initial meeting with those who have been directly affected by recent flooding and anyone who may be interested in joining the Group.

If you would like to become involved, please register your interest by contacting the Town Clerk on towncouncil@towcester-tc.gov.uk



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COMMUNITY CENTRE &
SPORTS FACILITIES

NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE IN TOWCESTER

Exciting news for our community! We are thrilled that a brand new community centre and sports facility in the new housing development on the south side of Towcester, will be available soon to provide spaces for sport, fitness classes, exhibitions, social gatherings and much more for everyone.

MAKE IT YOURS

To truly make this centre the best facility for the community, we would value your input! We invite all residents to share their ideas and suggestions on possible uses, activities, programs, and events that you would like to see take place here.

USER SURVEY

Scan the QR code or visit the link below to complete our user survey so we can plan the best uses for this fabulous new facility.

[www.towcester-tc.gov.uk/
sue-community-centre](http://www.towcester-tc.gov.uk/sue-community-centre)



To request a paper form, please contact us on:

 consultations@towcester-tc.gov.uk  01327 350995

Towcester Town Council, Town Hall, Watling Street, Towcester NN12 6BS

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TUESDAY'S 12.30 – 1.30 PM

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GENTLE MOVEMENT AND MOBILITY

SAWPITS CENTRE, TOWCESTER

WEDNESDAY 11.30 – 12.30

WI GIRLS GUIDES HALL (OPPOSITE WAITROSE) BRACKLEY

TUESDAY 11.15 – 12.15 PM

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Service above Self ROTARY CLUB OF TOWCESTER

What an eventful conclusion to 2024 for the Rotary Club of Towcester! The highlight in December was the visits from Rotary Santa, who made more appearances and stopped at more venues than in previous years. Along with visiting the three main supermarkets, he also went to three primary schools, participated in the Annual "Churches Together Carols in the Square" Service, visited Towcester Mill Brewery, and held two evening parades through residential areas of Towcester and surrounding villages. Rotary Santa extends his heartfelt gratitude to all the residents of Towcester and District for their generous contributions, which support local charities and other organisations in need of funding.



On Sunday, February 2nd, the Rotary Club of Towcester hosted its 12th annual "Last Night of the Proms" at the Brooklands Suite in Whittlebury Park, with generous support from the Whittlebury Park Hotel. The event featured performances by the Sponne School Orchestra and Singers, accompanied by the Kidlington Concert Brass Band. The concert showcased beloved classics along with several new pieces, some of which were composed by members of the school orchestra. A special thank you goes to Footworks, located at 134B Watling Street, for their assistance in selling concert tickets.



With the sleigh stored away, the reindeer grazing, and Rotary Santa hanging up his boots for the year, the Rotary Club is now focused on the future, particularly the upcoming Youth Competitions for ages 7 to 17. These Rotary-sponsored competitions provide a platform for young talent to showcase their abilities. The categories include Young Writer, Young Musician, Young Artist, Young Filmmaker, Young Photographer, Young Environmentalist, and Young Chef. Participants have the chance to compete for National Awards, and in past years, Towcester Youth has celebrated success with two national winners.

For more information, please contact: eoimartyn@towcester-rotary.org.uk

These activities serve as excellent illustrations of how we raise funds in Towcester, allowing us to assist local charities and organisations within the district that lack fundraising resources.

The Rotary Club is always on the lookout for new members who can offer fresh perspectives. In the last two years, the club has welcomed 14 new members, each introducing innovative initiatives and ideas for fundraising and supporting local charities. If you're curious about Rotary, especially in Towcester and District, feel free to reach out and join us for one of our meetings with no obligations. Rotary welcomes everyone aged 18 and above.

Rotary
Towcester



Email: secretary@towcester-rotary.org.uk
Website: www.towcester-rotary.org.uk



On behalf of Towcester Royal British Legion, I would like to thank everyone who helped to support the 2024 Poppy Appeal.

The final amount came in during January and you have raised a record total of **£27,034.12** which is fantastic!

David Reed - Poppy Appeal Organiser
dreedsm@sky.com



TOWCESTER TIDY UP

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED 15th & 16th MARCH 2025




Contact Rtn David Reed at dreedsm@sky.com for more details and to participate



Care from the heart

AT BROOK HOUSE

Our care home is located in the historic market town of Towcester, just a short drive west of Northampton. Our community offers the very best for those needing that extra bit of support in later life, as well as those to live well with dementia.

Life at Brook House begins with a warm welcome the minute you walk through the door into the bistro and lounge. Our stunning purpose-built home features a hair salon, cinema, private dining room, as well as a library. There are comfortable lounges for relaxation and entertainment, and plenty of spaces to receive visiting family and friends. Our beautiful accessible patio gardens enjoy a lovely sunny aspect, and for those keen to venture out there are regular trips to the local shops, cafés and nearby places of interest.

Types of care | Residential • Dementia

Types of stay | Permanent • Respite • Day Care



“ One of the best things about my job is knowing that our residents are living their best

life, seeing their smiles, and knowing we are looking after them. Everything we do at Brook House is from the heart and it is not a job, but a passion. We are building a home together - team and residents. ”

Rhianne

Rhianne Crofts, Home Manager

ACH1079

0808 281 5107 | ariacare.co.uk

Water Lane, Towcester, Northamptonshire, NN12 6HR

BROOK HOUSE

✕ ARIA CARE

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Amazing Donors

A massive thank you to everyone who donated food, toiletries, pet food, time or money to help us over the Christmas period. The support we had from residents and businesses in Towcester and surrounding villages was fantastic. The friendly Foodbank elves worked hard sorting stock, making up bags, giving out goodies and serving cups of tea, coffee and an occasional mince pie.

People sometimes question whether an affluent area like ours needs a foodbank, well it does. If you look at our stats, the number of people we have been feeding has continued to increase since we started in 2012. Then Towcester Foodbank was the only social food provider in South Northants; there is now a network of Food Clubs, Larders and Foodbanks covering this area and yet our numbers keep increasing – quite shocking.

In the year ending September 2024, we gave out over 24 tonnes of stock, worth about £64,000, supporting 2734 people of whom 1144 were children.

Someone came in the other day from one of the local villages. Their income had been significantly reduced by illness and they didn't know where to turn. After their day's work they cycled in, several miles, to load up their bicycle and pedal home.



Asking for charity isn't easy...

It takes guts to stand in front of a stranger and admit that not only do you have no food in the house, but also you can't afford to buy any for your family/children/pet. Disbelief has been expressed that in this day and age people can't possibly be unable to afford food. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has stated that *"Universal Credit - our system for supporting people in hard times is, for the vast majority, simply not providing enough to cover the cost of core essentials like food, hygiene products or electricity."*

Edna came in some distress. Her disabled husband had died and without his disability benefit she couldn't afford to carry on. Not only was this elderly lady dealing with the grief of bereavement but also she faced a significant loss in income to which there was no obvious solution. After a cup of tea and support from our friendly volunteers she left with dry eyes and bags of food and supplies.

Sometimes people still fall through the holes. If you have a disabled child you are entitled to additional payments through Universal Credit, but these stop at 16 and overnight there is a significant income loss. Not everyone is in a position to plan for this. Whenever you make a benefit claim, even if successful, there is always a waiting period before it comes through, so the financial need remains with no support. At times like these a few weeks' of food parcels can get a family through. We can tide people over until the crisis has passed, and give them the support of Citizens Advice who are with us every session to help to improve the financial situation of our guests.

Thank you for supporting your Foodbank, Together we can end Hunger.

Towcester Foodbank Details:

Address:	St. John's Ambulance, Islington Road, Towcester NN12 6AU
Telephone:	07724 832043 (during working hours)
Opening Times:	Tuesday 12 – 2pm, Friday 10.30 – 12.30pm
Website:	www.towcester.foodbank.org.uk
Email:	info@towcester.foodbank.org.uk
Facebook:	www.facebook.com/towcesterfoodbank
Instagram:	www.instagram.com/towcesterfoodbank/

Towcester Foodbank is registered charity number 1157338. Registered in England & Wales





We meet every Sunday at 10.30am at the
Tove Valley Centre, Northampton Road NN12 7AH

You can also watch the service or catch up later
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For more about our church, visit tvbf.co.uk, where
you can access our recorded sermons, resources,
and more, or contact secretary@tvbf.co.uk

We would love to meet with you!



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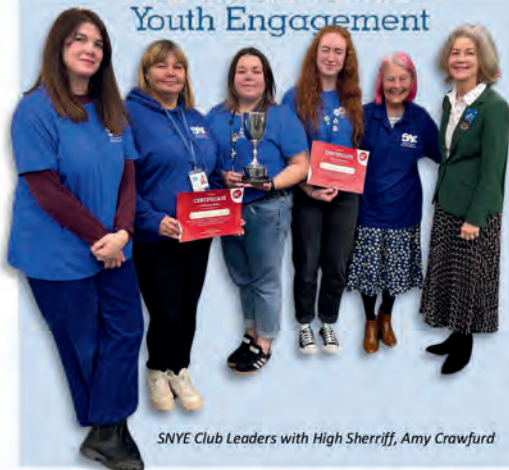
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South Northants
Youth Engagement



SNYE Club Leaders with High Sherriff, Amy Crawford

Our Junior Wednesday Night Youth Club opened its doors back in September, and on our opening night, we welcomed 14 young people aged 10 to 12. There are young people from a wide variety of schools including Sponne, Towcester CE Primary and Nicholas Hawksmoor Primary School, which is fantastic! Since that opening night, numbers have slowly risen to 20 young people on our books, and they have all really settled in.

As for our Older Wednesday Night Youth Club, back in November they celebrated their 1st birthday. That's a whole year of supporting young people aged 13 to 16. Numbers are increasing, with 23 young people now on our books and a couple of those members have recently begun volunteering at our Junior Youth Club to gain experience towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Both youth clubs continue to have the support from other organisations such as NAYC (Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs) and Northamptonshire Police.

The Junior Youth Club was also visited by The High Sheriff of Northamptonshire, Amy Crawford who was impressed by all we had achieved here in Towcester. It was also the High Sheriff's Initiative Fund who helped kick start our Junior Youth Club.

We are also appealing to any of you reading this who want to get involved in supporting the young people of Towcester. Both our Wednesday Night Youth Clubs need adult volunteers to help run the sessions. If you could spare, even just one evening a month please get in touch via admin@youth-engagement.co.uk

Ultimately giving young people, a safe and inclusive space is what we here at SNYE (South Northants Youth Engagement) strive to provide, and we believe we are fulfilling that. We want to extend our thanks to Towcester Town Council and Cllr Damian Reynolds for their continued support. We also want to invite you all to our annual Towcester Play & Activity Day, which will take place in August. For more information please visit our social media pages.

Thank You!



PROBUS LADIES LUNCH CLUB

We are an organisation for retired women that meets on the first Thursday of each month at the Saracens Head in Towcester for lunch, followed by a guest speaker.

We aim to foster fellowship and connection while learning from the diverse range of speakers we invite.

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

If you're interested in experiencing our lunches, you can attend as a guest initially.

For more information, please reach out to:

- President, Denise Rowe at serendipity.rowe@yahoo.co.uk
- Vice President, Bron Kenny at bronnenny@gmail.com



FREE Out There Youth Groups in Towcester for school years 7-13
Bringing LGBTQ+ young people together to connect, have fun and access support

Every Tuesday (term time)

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The Barn
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For more info, contact:

lgbtqsupport@thelowdownnorthampton.co.uk
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www.thelowdown.info



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Towcester Writers' Group



All are welcome to join us.

We meet in the Oak Room at the Saracen's Head at 7pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month. (This may change in the Winter)

Our aim is to explore ways of encouraging creativity, while making writing an enjoyable and life-enhancing pastime.

For details contact Mike Gascoigne
michaeltgascoigne@gmail.com



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TOWCESTER AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Writing for the 'spring edition' of the Town Crier in what has been quite a grey and damp December, makes me look forward to days getting longer, warmer sunshine and the garden coming alive again with snowdrops, primroses, tulips etc. Recently I have enjoyed reading extracts from the observations on both weather and the life of the Rev. Evans William, curate of Clipston Church*, some 24 miles north of Towcester, from just over two centuries ago.

His entry for the 23rd January 1795 records that the frost was so harsh that large rivers froze hard enough for anyone to safely cross. This frost lasted about ten weeks with the cold proving fatal *"to a great many old people"*.

The following winter was totally different. On the 18th January he recorded how there had been no wintery weather :

"the weather is mild and the fields exhibit a verdure unparalleled in the memory of man. Yesterday the sun was all unclouded and birds of all sorts chauntered their vernal lays".

How different the winter of 1798-99 was. That May he wrote :

"The last winter has been the longest and most severe ever remembered and very destructive to the animal and vegetable kingdom."

Sheep losses had raised the price of mutton to 7d a pound, beef was 8d, hay 6 -12d per cwt, scarce potatoes were 6d a gallon and greens 6s per pound. At that period the average labourers weekly wage was about 11s (55d) per week. He finished that entry with :

"War still rages with unremitting violence on the continent while we are spared".

Whatever the weather is like next spring, the members of Towcester & District Local History Society can look forward to some interesting talks at our monthly meetings at the Sawpits Centre either in person or on Zoom. If you like seeing photos of old Towcester, knowing about The Knight's Templar's or discovering about the impact of Plessey's business on the town then why not come and join us? We meet at the Sawpit Centre on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm. These talks are free to members and £5 for visitors. Doors open at 7:10pm and the meetings start at 7:30pm. Parking available nearby.

Find out more about Towcester and District Local History Society on our website :

www.mkheritage.org.uk/tdlhs/tdlhs/AboutUs

Brian Giggins
TDLHS chair



Forthcoming Talks

Queen Eleanor of Castile – a cycle through history

by Andy Tennet

Wednesday 12th February 2025

A presentation regarding the life and influence of Queen Eleanor of Castile, her links to Northampton and her impact on many of the things that we take for granted in our everyday lives. The talk ends with Andy telling of a charity cycle ride he and his wife and I took part in which followed the route of the Queen Eleanor crosses erected in her memory.

AGM & More photos and stories of old Towcester

by Paul Howard

Wednesday 12th March 2025

Paul, a renowned local photographer, makes a return visit with more photos of old Towcester. Come along and share your memories of the town over the last 40 or so years.

The Quest for the Knights Templars in Northamptonshire

by Jackie Hibbert

Wednesday 9th April 2025

For two centuries, The Knights Templar were an established order in England, then overnight it all came to an end, leading to legends of secret tunnels, treasure and intrigue. This journey takes us around some of the buildings they have left behind and tells their story (without the fictitious embellishments.)

The rise and fall of Plessey and its impact on Towcester, 1970 to 1990

by Tony Howard, Plessey Research Caswell

Wednesday 14th May 2025

From 1940 to 1989 the Plessey Company expanded from just a handful of researchers working in a farmyard to being the largest employer in and around the town with a research centre and three manufacturing sites developing and producing a wide range of high-tech state-of-the-art products. The talk describes the growth of the company and its impact on the expansion of Towcester.

[* Dorothy Davies, 1995, Observations of Clipstone Curate. The Rev Evan Williams 1752 to 1824]

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**Towcester
Town Crier
Quarterly
Community Magazine**

**SUMMER ISSUE
Out MAY 2025**

**Submissions Deadline
25th MARCH 2025**

Wildlife on our doorstep

by Peter Warden

I have started compiling a list of all the plants, animals and fungi that I can find at Malthouse Court where I live. So far I have only recorded 150 species but I am sure that this will increase exponentially once I really get started.

I read a book a few years ago now, written by Jennifer Owen who had spent 30 years studying and recording wildlife in her suburban garden on the edge of Leicester. She recorded 2,673 species. I don't have 30 years left unless I make a world record for longevity but I will give it my best shot!

Already I have some interesting species on my list. Do you know what this is?



It's a harvestman called *Dicranopalpus ramosus*. Sorry no English name but you will perhaps know its more common cousin the Daddy Longlegs. These can be seen in the Autumn walking around looking like a blob on long legs. All Harvestmen are included in the Arachnids along with spiders and mites. This particular harvestman was found only recently (1953) in this country having spread across Europe from Morocco.

I first came across this animal when Nick Holder showed me one that he was photographing in the Tove Wetland Pocket Park. The creature was sitting on a slender branch with its legs splayed out sideways along the branch. It needed close searching to find it. But the one above I found in a porch the walls of which were painted white, so there are often moths clinging to the walls but this is the first harvestmen I have seen in this situation.

Among the other unusual records that I have for Malthouse Court is a Brown long-eared bat. It was clinging to the rear wall of one of the units that back on to the Silverstone Brook.



Even while I have been writing this article I have been able to add a further species to my list. The picture shows a candle snuff fungus growing on a tree stump in the wildflower area at Malthouse. It lives up to its name with the white tips to the branches at the top of the fungus. This is the third species of fungus I have seen feeding on the stump but I have not yet been able to identify the two that appeared in November. Eventually fungi will break down the whole stump and the nutrients created will feed the soil but some will also possibly feed nearby trees but that is another story.



Stop Press: One more species added to the list. This fungus, called Rayed earthstar, popped up in our alpine bed. Usually found in broad-leaved woodland, how it turned up at Malthouse Court is a mystery!



Retired? Stay active, stay fit, stay happy!

If you're no longer in full time work and want to make more of your spare time, Towcester u3a could be for you.

There are plenty of opportunities to meet others to learn for fun, enjoy company and friendship. The movement promotes health and wellbeing as we age (both physical and mental), and the u3a in Towcester is no exception. From walking to talking, petanque to politics, badminton to birdwatching, the range of interest groups available to members is diverse - offering exercise for the body and mind.

Our monthly meetings, held at Towcesterians Sports Club, bring members together with entertaining speakers covering a diverse range of topics. Micro-art; neolithic settlers in the Nene valley; a career as a TV 'extra' and life on the road with Genesis are just some of the talks members have enjoyed recently.



Being a member also gives you access to many on-line workshops and talks – there's sure to be a topic which interests you. We extend a warm welcome to you and look forward to seeing you at future u3a events and activities as part of your healthy future.

Our next New Member Meeting is the ideal opportunity to learn more. and will be held at The Sawpits Centre, Richmond Road, Towcester, 2-4pm Wednesday 5th March.

Find out more about how to **Live, Learn and Laugh** at: www.towcesteru3a.co.uk or contact membership@towcesteru3a.co.uk

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Historic Opportunity: Towcester Museum Seeks Chair of Trustees

Towcester Museum is a charming, community-focused museum nestled in the heart of Towcester. Dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich history of our town, the museum is entirely volunteer-run and thrives on the passion and dedication of its team.

Key Responsibilities:

- Provide strategic leadership to the museum.
- Chair Board meetings.
- Act as an ambassador, building relationships with stakeholders, supporters, and the wider community.

What we're looking for:

- An interest in local history and community engagement.
- Leadership and organisational skills.
- Experience in governance, fundraising, or non-profit management is desirable but not essential.

What we offer:

- A chance to lead a much loved community institution.
- The opportunity to enjoy working with a dedicated team of volunteers.
- The satisfaction of making a tangible difference in preserving Towcester's heritage.

How to Apply:

If you're interested in this exciting opportunity to contribute to Towcester's cultural heritage, please send a brief expression of interest to jojudd26@gmail.com

TOWCESTER MUSEUM



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END OF AN ERA FOR TOWCESTER & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

The Lions Club held their annual Christmas dinner at The Saracens Head on 4th December, which was well attended by existing members, former members and their partners. As it turned out this was to be their last social event before The Club was disbanded, but the membership and their partners have agreed to continue to meet regularly on an informal basis for the foreseeable future. On the day Club President Alan Walgate was presented with the Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship award in recognition of his services to Lions and the wider community over the past 37 years.

The member's final business meeting was held 2 weeks later to bring down the curtain on over 50 years of the Lions Club Members serving the community of Towcester and the surrounding villages. Two of the original Charter members, John Giddings and Roger Pye were still involved with Lions Club activities into the final few months and their 50 years of serving the community has certainly been a milestone for the Club.

The member's last acts were to agree on the final distribution of The Club's Charitable funds which have been divided amongst 20 different charitable causes, with 17 of these being locally based charities, including this year's Town Mayor's appeal. This sad day unfortunately became inevitable following recent retirements due to ill health and the advancing age of our dwindling membership.

In the weeks prior to closure of the Club they were able to implement a formal handover of the administration of the monthly Farmers Market to The Towcester Rotary Club. The market has grown significantly since the relocation to Sponne Arcade car park in December 2023 and as the ongoing management is now secured the town will continue to benefit, not only from the shopping experience but also from the charitable income that is generated from it.

Whilst the Towcester & District Lions Club has now closed, some of the Lion's activities in the town will continue to be covered for some time by members of other nearby Lions Clubs who live locally.

These include the collection of used spectacles for recycling and distribution to poor countries and the provision of the 'Message in a Bottle' emergency packs will be on going as they are still available at Doctor's surgeries in the town and surrounding area.

The Lions Club membership would like to thank the residents and businesses of Towcester and the surrounding area for their invaluable support over the past 50 years and we believe that the spirit of Lionism will continue to be felt in the locality for some time yet.

Alan Walgate

**Former President
Towcester & District Lions Club**



Age UK Northamptonshire's day centre at Leeson Court in Towcester is proving so popular with local residents that, having initially opened on just Mondays and Thursdays, the local charity is now hoping to add a third day each week.

Over the past four months clients have taken part in a range of stimulating activities, from enjoying a Country and Western-themed day to making their own seasonal crafts. These are all activities that are often more fun in a group and which people would not necessarily have the resources to do at home. "We have been making our own personalised tree decorations and were also given some beautiful tree decorations by local businesses," says day care manager Aimie. "We are so grateful to Truva Lounge, Andrew Gordon & Co, R & R Aesthetics and Cherry Lane Rowan Way garden centre for their support."

In December the day centre clients were thrilled to have a visit from Nicholas Hawksmoor Primary School students who wowed them with a performance of Christmas songs. The children also read out a selection of their own poems. Everyone said how much they appreciated the children staying for a chat and joining in the group exercise with brightly-coloured scarves afterwards. "By the end of the day we were all buzzing," says Aimie.

Arnold Thomson Solicitors has supported Age UK Northamptonshire as their Charity of the Year for the past two years throughout 2024 and they also visited the day centre at Leeson Court in December. Rhianna, Ben and Sam (pictured above with Eddie and Jan) said they wanted to spread more festive joy and had generously brought a gift bag for every day care client.

Coming to the day centre has made a huge change to my life. For the first time since my health deteriorated I have something to look forward to and a reason to get up. My daughter is really happy that I have somewhere I enjoy going and sees it as very beneficial to my wellbeing."

There are still a few places available at the Towcester day centre, so do contact Age UK Northamptonshire on 01604 611200 for more details or visit www.ageuknorthants.org.uk

BREAKING NEWS



NEW BUSES FOR LOCAL ORGANISATION

ABILITY has recently taken delivery of four new buses two of which will provide extra services for residents within West Northamptonshire and two of the new buses are for vehicle replacement.

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←←← day trips service

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Life After VE Day: 1945

By Philomena Liggins

In the spring of 1938 Hugh Sinclair, the Head of the British Secret Intelligence Service, bought Bletchley Park mansion and 25 acres of gardens for £6,000. His aim was to use it as a war-time headquarters. Initially he sent Section D's research & development sabotage team there to develop pencil fuses and products in which his agents could conceal explosive devices.

However, in July 1939 members of the Government Code & Cypher School moved from their London offices in Broadway to Bletchley Park where they were joined by recruits from Oxford and Cambridge Universities. On the outbreak of war the codebreakers and their staff numbered just short of 200. That number would steadily increase to nearly 10,000 when Bletchley Park became General Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) processing thousands of intercepted enemy messages 24-hours a day, 7-days a week.

However, in July 1939 members of the Government Code & Cypher School moved from their London offices in Broadway to Bletchley Park where they were joined by recruits from Oxford and Cambridge Universities. On the outbreak of war the codebreakers and their staff numbered just short of 200. That number would steadily increase to nearly 10,000 when Bletchley Park became General Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) processing thousands of intercepted enemy messages 24-hours a day, 7-days a week.

Everyone who worked at Bletchley signed the Official Secrets Act and they all kept zipped lips! **So what happened to those people after the war?**

Most of them slipped seamlessly back into the tapestry of post war life taking their war-time secrets with them. Of the estimated 2,500 Foreign Office female typists some returned to their desks in London, whilst the majority were given just one-weeks' notice.

Whilst some codebreakers were given the task of writing the official history of their work at Bletchley, others returned to their pre-war careers. One of them was 'Bryn' Newton-John who had been an administrator at Stowe School in Buckinghamshire and in 1946 was appointed headmaster of Cambridgeshire High School for Boys. In 1954 he moved to Australia with his wife Irene, and their three children Hugh, Rona, and Olivia ... but that's another story.



1950's Spirella Bomb advert

Members of the Women's Royal Naval Service who had operated the 300 Bombe machines - designed by codebreakers Alan Turing and Gordon Welchman and built in Letchworth by Harold 'Doc' Keen and his team from the British Tabulating Company - began to disassemble all but ten of the machines.

Meanwhile, the ladies from the Spirella factory in Letchworth, whose nimble fingers had assembled component parts and platted thousands of miles of cables for the Bombe machines returned to their own machines and continued to make corsets. (Few of those ladies would ever know the important part they had played in helping to decypher enemy Enigma codes.)



Brinley Newton-John with his daughter, Olivia Newton-John



Construction of the Spirella Bomb

After VE Day

Talk by Philomena Liggins

In this talk 'After VE Day' we look at some of the famous faces including politicians, actors, authors, and even spies who kept their war-time work a secret.

Location: Towcester Mill Brewery

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Time: 7.30 pm

Ticket Price: TBC

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2024 was yet another busy year for our team – helping to make Towcester a green and pleasant place to live and work in and visit. Our planters and Richmond Road corner looked colourful in the summer and have now been filled with winter bedding and bulbs

We added more daffodils along the end of Brackley Road, kindly sponsored by the Wharf Distillery, and Year 3 children from Towcester CoE Primary School helped us plant bulbs at Sawpits Green. We always enjoy working with the children, they are so enthusiastic and knowledgeable, so we were delighted to accept their invitation to help plant some donated daffodil bulbs in their school grounds before they broke up for Christmas. Each child at the school planted a bulb or a lavender plant.

We are looking forward to all the spring flowers and we hope they are enjoyed by everyone in our town.



Flower planters have been upgraded to enhance the welcoming atmosphere for customers visiting the Sponne Shopping Centre and Towcester Town Centre. The new planter, generously provided by ASH Chartered Surveyors and all the businesses within the Sponne Shopping Centre, has been filled with winter plants by dedicated WI volunteers. The Town Centre Manager supplied the compost and assisted site caretaker Mark Herring in preparing a new planter for its new floral display. The WI volunteers will continue to maintain both planters, refreshing the plantings twice a year. Many thanks to Andrew Gordon & Co Conveyancers of Towcester for sponsoring the plants for the new planter. Also thank you to the Town Council watering team for keeping the planting healthy in hot weather.



Y3 children from Towcester CoE Primary School planting spring bulbs at Sawpits Green

Show The Love

Towcester Farmers Market 14th February 2025

Towcester Evening WI will be at Towcester Farmers' Market on Friday 14th February to promote Towcester Evening WI and to share the **Show the Love Campaign** which is all about combating Climate Change. Join them at 11am for a surprise!

With thanks to our sponsors for 2024/2025:

- Andrew Gordon, Conveyancers
- DW Roberts, Opticians
- John White, Funeral Directors
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TOWCESTER TOWN CENTRE HOSTS POPULAR FREE FAMILY TRAIL EVENT



During December and early January, Towcester Town Centre was abuzz with local families participating in a free family trail event. The challenge was to identify 'Odd Objects' in shop windows across 14 locations. Participants spotted unusual items like teaspoons, hats, and Christmas puddings that are not typically part of window displays.

Nearly 50 families submitted their entries for the prize draw, with 26 correct worksheets making it to the final draw. Generous donations from local businesses allowed for the creation of two prize hampers, showcasing the diverse range of goods and services available in Towcester Town Centre.

Congratulations to our winners and a heartfelt thank you to all the participating businesses for their generous contributions. This event highlights the community spirit and the wonderful offerings of Towcester Town Centre.

First Prize Winner: Noah and family

Hamper prizes kindly provided by:

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Second Prize Winner: Michael Grieve and family

Prize hamper kindly provided by:
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For more information, please contact:
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MY STORY - by Polly Feeley

I may be static, inanimate, but I enjoy a varied and exciting life you know. I separate my garden from the field. It is winter now. My palings are glued by a wall of snow, each topped with a soft white hat sporting footprints of sparrow, robin and blackbird. Swirls of snowflakes tumble and drift across the watery sunshine by day and shimmer in the pale moonlight by night.

Then suddenly, one day, the snow is gone and the tiny diamonds of glistening frost melt from me with the first breath of spring. Snowdrops bow their tiny white faces, offering obeisance to the vivid saffron yellow and royal purple crocuses which surround my legs and crowd the pushing spears of daffodil, hyacinth and lily leaves, forcing them to wait their turn to bud and flower at my feet.

Pale green leaf buds decorate the chestnut in the field behind me like so many fairy lights, as the morning dew sparkles when the sun's rays drift across them. I am made from chestnut. I am strong and I shall live forever surrounding and protecting my garden.

Gentle breezes carry the scurry and buzz of newly woken insects as they crawl in my nooks and crannies and the melodic call of the blackbird serenades me as it pecks at these crevices for food. In the field, close by me, nettles vie for space with tiny white flowered chickweed, sunshine yellow celandine and purple blooming ground ivy while the spikes of winter wheat begin to grow.

April brings the bustle of parent birds frantically working to feed their newly hatched chicks. They rest on me, checking for predators. The fragrance of lilac and new mown lawns sweeps through me.

Spring melds into summer. Bees buzz excitedly from flower to flower. The wheat behind me grows tall, while delicate white bloomed hedge parsley, spears of butter coloured agrimony and beautiful rosebay willow herb are tickling my limbs as they climb higher than my wire and peep into my garden.

My border glows with a kaleidoscope of colour. Vermillion tulip petals lie browning at my feet while tiny, colourful pansies smile coquettishly at me. Boisterous scarlet geraniums jostle for space with magenta and cream fuchsias and cobalt blue lobelia. Vibrant orange nasturtiums clamber up my legs and sunflowers, taller than I, turn their golden faces to the white hot sun in the azure sky. The delicate blooms of the mock orange blossom, in my garden, infuse me with their exotic perfume and the glorious song of the blackcap serenades me, hidden by the pink candelabra of the chestnut tree.

The wild and wet west wind, hurtling through my palings, heralds the approach of autumn. I am covered by tumbling and swirling leaves in shades of gold, rust, copper and claret. After a downpour the sodden mass clings to my legs, crushing and smothering my marigolds and Michaelmas daisies. Silver trails of slugs and snails thread their paths across my soggy carpet.

Dew-dropped webs form lace curtains across me and blackbirds perch, searching for blood red berries on the holly and pyracantha.

The low slung sun sends my limbs gliding across the lawn to pluck at the crimson leaves of the Virginia creeper on the house. Mist covers my garden with a translucent glow in the moonlight. It clings and soaks my palings and soon, I know, it will be winter once more. The flowers will be gone, the insects will be few and the birds will perch upon me, hoping for nourishment from the feeders in my garden.

But spring will come again and I shall be here to welcome it. I'm glad I'm a fence. I see, hear, touch, smell and know so much more than the men who made me.



Towcester Writers' Group

All are welcome to join us.

**We meet in the Oak Room at the
Saracen's Head at 7pm on the
fourth Wednesday of the month.**
(This may change in the Winter)

Our aim is to explore ways of encouraging creativity, while making writing an enjoyable and life-enhancing pastime.

For details contact Mike Gascoigne
michaelrgascoigne@gmail.com

How do you meet people and make real friends?



Do you look back at your school days and remember lunchtimes and after school time filled with hockey club, orchestra practice, choir, Brownies, Guides and art club. It seemed easy to make friends when you were at school and there was so much to be involved with, so many common interests shared.

These days, many people are working from home and with online social networking it can seem difficult to actually meet up with new people. Perhaps you have recently moved to Towcester and want to find a way to meet new people. Some of us, perhaps, see our young adult children struggling to actually get out and meet people. Maybe they have returned from University to start job hunting or perhaps they are studying an Open University course and we worry about their mental health and social isolation. How do we persuade them to get out and about and meet new people?

Songbirds could be just the way for you or your daughter (or both) to make new friends. It's a really sociable singing group for women of all ages. We meet every Thursday evening in term time, at Nicholas Hawksmoor School and sing a wide variety of music from current pop songs, classic ballads and show tunes. We also have great fun. Kat, our talented and enthusiastic Musical Director is always trying to get us to behave!

In the run up to Christmas, we sang at 185 Watling Street, John Lewis in MK, The Saracen's and Bell Plantation. All were great fun and we really enjoyed being together as a group, sharing our passion for singing. In the Spring we have a Valentine's themed event and will also be singing to celebrate International Women's Day.

If you want to get out and make real friends, do come along and give us a try. Perhaps bring your daughter and hopefully you will both remember the fun and friendship that can be found by being part of a group. You'll definitely receive a warm welcome.

SONGBIRDS
Singing for the Soul

Find us on Facebook or Instagram
@songbirdstowcester

PAULERSPURY PLAYERS

Present their 35th Pantomime...

Paulerspury Players are performing their 35th annual Pantomime "Dick Whittington" in Paulerspury Village Hall, Towcester, NN12 7NA from **Wednesday 19th February 2025 to Saturday 22nd February 2025.**

Dick Whittington is a traditional pantomime full of songs, jokes, slapstick and the odd inflatable palm tree. Dick is joined by all the traditional characters you would expect; Fairy Bowbells, the Fitzwarren Family, the Alderman, Dame Flossie, Alice and Idle Jack. They are up against the evil Queen Rat and her henchmen. Which role will the Pirates play, good or evil? All we can say with confidence is that this adventure will take you from London to Morocco and that you will have loads of fun, laughs, music and dancing along the way. Will good or evil win? Dick and his Cat need your help to make sure the right side win - we need your cheers for the good guys and your boos for the bad guys.

But is Panto just for kids... oh no it isn't, Panto is for everyone! There is something for all ages, an enjoyable evening of fun is guaranteed and not to be missed!!

Tickets are available NOW through our website
www.paulerspuryplayers.com or from our
Box Office 0845 833 4910

About the Paulerspury Players:

Paulerspury Players are a well-known local amateur dramatics group that raises money for local good causes. Formed in 1988 we were almost exclusively drawn from Paulerspury Parish with one or two from neighbouring villages. Over time our Membership expanded such was the attraction of our shows and our reputation for 'having fun raising funds'. There are still many cast and chorus from Paulerspury in current productions, with the rest coming from miles around! It is a testament to our sustainability and the hard work and enthusiasm put in by our Members. It is rare that an amateur dramatics group survives this long, let alone produces successful shows and profits as we have. Our shows have benefited so many young people and adults since our beginnings in 1988, not only from money raised but the experiences of taking part in community shows. We now see some of our early child actors grown up, married and with children of their own. Long may The Players flourish and maintain our well-established traditions!

About our Fundraising

All of our proceeds go to support local causes in and around Paulerspury and in addition for 2024/25 we are contributing to the following Charities:

- Towcester Town Mayor's chosen charity - **South Northants Youth Engagement (SNYE)** which was set up to support youth provision in South Northants. to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.
- Northampton Town Mayor's charity of the year - **The Lewis Foundation**, who source, package and hand deliver free gifts and support packs to adult cancer patients in hospital every week.

Dick Whittington

By Tracey and Alec Wagner

Paulerspury Village Hall - Feb 19th to 22nd 2025

Tickets on Sale from December 1st, 2024

Box office: 0845 833 4910 or 01327 811 578

www.paulerspuryplayers.com

All profits to local causes





South Northants
Youth Engagement



Towcester
Youth Engagement



South Northants
Youth Engagement



Towcester
Youth Engagement

WEDNESDAYS

**TOWCESTER
JUNIOR YOUTH
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JUST DROP IN **£2 ENTRY**

10 - 12 YEARS **5:30PM TILL 7PM**

YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE, ISLINGTON RD, TOWCESTER.
NN12 6AU

WEDNESDAYS

**TOWCESTER
YOUTH CLUB**

JUST DROP IN **£2 ENTRY**

13 - 16 YEARS **7PM TILL 8:30PM**

YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE, ISLINGTON RD, TOWCESTER.
NN12 6AU











Shingles Vaccination

Who's eligible?

If you have had chickenpox,
your chances of developing
shingles is one in four.

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weakened immune system.

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Getshinglesready.co.uk



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Wednesdays 12pm-2pm at Towcester Mill Brewery

Towcester Farmers Market 2nd Friday of every month

See website or social media for additional locations.





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Meet new friends and have fun

Bingo - Prizes

Raffle - Outings

**2-4pm, 3rd Thursday
of each month**

**Sports & Social Club
(opposite medical centres)**

Contact:
Carol (01327) 352564



Towcester & District Photographic Society

Spotlight on Kevin Adams

Kevin has progressed dramatically since joining TDPS, with particular interest in aviation and wildlife. He has invested in various items of Canon equipment, most recently mirrorless cameras, in which he has invested significant time mastering panning and motion sensitive techniques necessary to capture stunning images of his favourite subjects. He has been generous in sharing his learnings with the wider group – a real benefit of being part of a society such as TDPS.

He recently entered the Canon UK, Canon Club bokehlicious beauty challenge with the image shown and ended up in second place out of 251 entries by just one vote. As a result of this his image made the top 100 images from all the challenges, normally one per month and currently sits in 6th position in the top 100. He has every reason to be chuffed!

We have a terrific programme of varied subjects lined up. By the time this edition goes to print we will already have welcomed in 2025 Society Member Pyers Tucker on Hummingbirds, Wildlife Stories and Managing his Photos from a recent trip to Costa Rica, guest speaker Mick Mansfield on Aviation Photography, we will have selected images to represent TDPS in the national "GB Cup" competition for UK Clubs and we will be busy creating images for the theme of "Winter" for subsequent review.

As your local camera club, we enjoy the fun and camaraderie of in-person meetings every other Wednesday evening – good friendships form through membership of TDPS. We aim to provide 'something for everyone' – an interesting and varied programme that mixes guest speakers; member presentations; practical and technical sessions; workshops and events; themed challenges; and active image making and image sharing. The TDPS Whatsapp group has also proven itself to be a valuable resource for information and location sharing, plus to invite others along for informal meet-ups to encourage practicing what we have learned out in the field in a variety of locations. We are also planning some workshops in 2025, with the first (Osprey hide) on the calendar. We are happily welcoming new and returning members, all of whom are made very welcome within a friendly group and less experienced members are well supported. Why not come and join us?

www.towcesterphoto.co.uk

Follow us on Facebook too

www.facebook.com/groups/717208911681719/

Date	Event	Details
Weds 5th Feb	Rob Bonfield Butterflies, Dragonflies; and Sri Lankan Wildlife	Rob is a widely travelled and experienced photographer. A member of Woking Photographic Society, his presentation this evening will be in two parts: – Firstly he will show us his images of butterflies and dragonflies and explain how he goes about photographing them. – In the second half he will transport us to Wilpattu National Park in Sri Lanka, showcasing the wildlife to be found there.
Weds 19 Feb	Review of bi-monthly challenge: "Winter"	Different takes on the same theme – sharing and discussion of images presented
Weds 5 March	Jonathan Vaines "The Little Print Show"	This talk comes with artistic approach to photography, stepping out of the club mainstream. Along with individual images we see motivational benefits of working with Projects, Sets and Groups of image. Most of my images are created using "in camera" techniques and the focus of the evening is about "Thinking Inside The Box". The talk is primarily a print talk but presented via PowerPoint with 60 prints to display.
Weds 19 March	Keith Millard "Image Creation – Inspired by the Impressionists"	Keith is inspired by the paintings of Turner, The French Impressionists Movement including Monet and has adopted their impressionistic style in his photographic images. He will talk about his influences and explain how he goes about creating his own images, which have been very successful in competitions.

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crl.co.uk/watling-lodge


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Sponne School PFA hits fundraising target!

The Sponne School Parents and Friends Association have been fundraising for a new minibus for Sponne School since January 2023, and in December they smashed their fundraising target, raising over £35,000! But they are not stopping there, keen to raise the remaining money for the minibus and help the school.



The PFA put on regular events and raffles to raise money and have recently received donations from local businesses & organisations to help them reach their target. Notably Waitrose, Drax Corporation, Barclays match funding, Silverstone Schools Parking and Greens Norton Village Hall Trust have helped us achieve our original target.

A cheque for £13000 was handed over to the new school headteacher, Mr Forbes, at the recent Christmas Concert at the school, making the **total raised for the minibus fund a staggering £35,500**. This has allowed the school to place the order for a new minibus, and teachers and pupils are looking forward to more trips outside of school in a reliable bus.

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The total cost of the minibus will be circa £40-45k, so the PFA will continue fundraising to raise the rest of the money into 2024. The Sponne PFA Minibus Appeal is currently one of the chosen charities you can vote for in the Co-op Local Community Fund. If you are a member of the Co-op, please consider choosing them as your local cause. They are also currently in the Tesco Stroger Starts project, so make sure you add your blue tokens to vote for them the next time you are shopping in Tesco in Towcester!

If you know of a company that would like to support our fundraising or you have a good fundraising idea, email sponnepfa2@gmail.com with details.

Sponne School



Thank you!



When Cllr Damian Reynolds was elected Town Mayor of Towcester in May 2024, we were honoured and thrilled to have been chosen as one of his charity partners.

Towcester Town Mayor's Charity

Our representatives, Jan, Darren and puppy in training, Truffle, attended the Mayor Making ceremony where they got to meet so many interesting people and came away energised and excited about the planned activities to raise funds and awareness – beginning with the Town's iconic annual Towcester Midsummer Music Festival in June – and what an event it was – blue skies, music and community spirit in abundance!

A huge thank you goes to the wonderful team at Towcester Mill Brewery who invited us to set up our charity stand in their outdoor area giving us the perfect opportunity to engage with their patrons. People were fascinated to learn more about our work and what volunteering opportunities we have available. We're always keen to expand our volunteer family and information can be found on our website.

What surprised many people was finding out that we are totally reliant on donations to fund our work so we're immensely grateful for the generous donation of £1,300 awarded to us following the Music Festival which will help us continue with our vital work in the community.

For anyone wanting to find out more about Dogs for Good, then we invite you to come along to one of our Engagement Mornings in 2025. Details can be found on our website: www.dogsforgood.org



An exciting opportunity has arisen for someone to join the 1st Towcester Scouts as Group Lead Volunteer (GLV). Formerly known as the Group Scout Leader, the GLV provides support and direction for the group, both as an Ex-Officio member of the Trustee Board, and through support for the volunteers in the group.

No prior scouting knowledge is needed for this role – just a willingness to learn and to get involved. There is a comprehensive induction programme in place for new GLVs and handover with the current post holder will be part of this process. Some management experience would be desirable. A full job description is available.

We are committed to flexible volunteering and are happy to discuss how you could do this as a 'job-share' arrangement.

1st Towcester Scouts provides a range of experiences for all young people aged 6-14, supported by almost 30 adult volunteers in a variety of roles. For an informal chat about the role if please contact Michele, the current Group Lead Volunteer by email on gsl@towcesterscouts.org.uk

Group Lead Volunteer, 1st Towcester Scouts

Role Purpose

To manage and support 1st Towcester Scout Group, ensuring it runs effectively and that scouting in the group develops in line with the rules and policies of the Scouting Association.

Skills and Qualities

We are looking for someone with the following skills and qualities to join 1st Towcester Scouts as the Group Lead Volunteer:

- Strong leadership and organizational skills
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Commitment to the values and principles of Scouting (no previous scouting experience is needed)
- Management experience is desirable

Key Responsibilities

Leadership and Management

- Provide leadership and support to the Group's adult volunteers
- Ensure the Group has an effective programme of activities and events
- Oversee the recruitment and induction of new leaders and volunteers

Programme Development

- Ensure that the Group's programme is balanced and meets the needs of all members
- Support section leaders in planning and delivering activities as required
- Promote the development of young people through Scouting

Administration

- Support the Chair as required to ensure regular meetings of the Trustee Board
- Ensure good communication across sections and between sections and the Trustee Board
- Organize and chair meetings for section leaders



LET'S GROW TOGETHER



Horticultural Therapy

Come join our professional therapist every week for either group or 1-1 horticultural therapy sessions. Our aim during the sessions is to offer you dedicated time, a space to be heard, and support with your mental health. All whilst learning how to grow your own food, on your own allotment.

Sessions take place on Mondays and Thursdays within our bespoke therapy allotments and gardens. Situated on the Northampton Road in Towcester.

Group sessions are free with GP referral.



Monthly Guided Mindfulness Walks

Our Monday morning walks offer the opportunity to connect to yourself, the season and the nature surrounding us.

FIND OUT MORE
& CONTACT US

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A quiet shared space in Towcester
where it's OK not to be OK

THE 5 WAYS TO
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Available for anyone struggling
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justgiving.com
/RenewWellbeingCafe

Head to
our website



renew169.org.uk



LITTLE
BORROWERS
PLAYTIME

Little Borrowers Playtime, formerly known as Towcester Toy Library is a voluntary-run community group holding play sessions for you and your children aged under 5. We offer a spacious environment, a wide selection of toys, sit- and ride-ons, and a dedicated area for babies. All our toys are also available for hire for a small charge.

Towcester Youth & Community Centre
Islington Road, Towcester, NN12 6AU
Every Thursday from 9.30am – 11.30am
throughout the year including school holidays
Entry fee is £2.50 per family
which includes drinks for you and your children.

Please view our new website at:

www.littleborrowersplaytime.co.uk

A warm welcome awaits.



West
Northamptonshire
Council



Northamptonshire
Community Foundation
Giving back to our county



COMMUNITY
FUND



169 Watling Street
Towcester
Northants
NN12 6BX

Affiliated to Renew Wellbeing Nationally
Being Present - Being Prayerful - Being in Partnership
registered charity no. 1196631



A huge thank you to you and your kind-hearted 'donators' and supporters in all that you do to make Christmas a happier time for so many children'
~ Social Worker

I have received 2 big bags of lovely toys, books and games for my 2 boys and just wanted to thank you for making our Christmas so special as I would have felt too proud to let others know that I would struggle over Christmas, by asking for help.
~ Parent



TOWCESTER TOY BANK FOUNDERS THANK THE COMMUNITY ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN IN NEED FOR THEIR GENEROSITY

Towcester Toy Bank (TTB) was set up in 2020 by mother and daughter, Annie Simpson and Katrina Harris, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that left many families struggling to provide gifts for their children due to job losses and/or illness, for example

Following the continued increases for families in the cost of living, we have decided that the Christmas Toy Bank will be an annual event, this being our fifth year. This year the Toy Bank supported over 100 families who were referred by local schools, churches, social workers and Family Centres, and we filled 250 children's gift bags, almost triple the number completed in our first year.

Once again, we have been overwhelmed by the support we have received from our amazing local community, without which we could not have achieved this. We would like to say a huge 'Thank you' to all our supporters for your continued help and generous donations:

Whittlebury Hall – for providing our elves workshop this year

Towcester Community Larder

Towcester Rotary Club

Towcester Toy Swap

Popsy and Peanut

Andrew Gordon & Co.

Towcester Tesco

Jackie Oliver Estate Agents

Towcester Methodist Church

Radio Northampton

Amazon Community Support Team/MK

Last but certainly not least, we wanted to thank all of you in our community who donated your time and/or money, whether volunteering to be an elf to pack the gift bags, donating the lovely toys, buying a Towcester Community Larder raffle ticket or by donating to the JustGiving page.

Thanks must also go to the volunteers managing the collection points, and to all those busy staff in our local schools, Family Centres and Children's Services who 'played Santa' in ensuring that all the gift bags reached their destination in time for Christmas Day.

We have appreciated you all, as have the families for whom you have 'made a difference'. We are proud to be a part of this amazing community and wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Annie & Katrina | Facebook: @towcestertoybank | Email: anniesimpson2957@gmail.com

Three cheers for our beginners brass!

You will be pleased to hear that our beginners are making amazing progress. We are so proud of them. Did you hear them at the Christmas concert? Well done Beatrix, Benji, Billy, Elizabeth, Ella, Farrah, Florence, Jack, Jacob, Lawrence, Leo, Orlaith, Penny and Taras.

Later this year they will be progressing into a development group, and we will start a new set of beginners. There are no dates yet, but please get in touch on **07377809187** or at **towcesterstudioband@gmail.com** if you would like to register an interest for a child (7-8 years) who would like to learn a brass instrument.

We really look forward to seeing you at our concerts this year.
Music is best when it's shared!



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
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TOWCESTER PRETTY PARKS TRAIL

Northamptonshire offers a surprising variety of landscapes from the rolling hills in the north, to the scenic vistas and amazing woodlands in the south. If you add the Grand Union Canal with its many towpaths and quaint little villages, that are secreted in history, it is no wonder that they call this county the "Hidden Cotswolds".

The Route

Turn left into your first little pocket park which is located at the bottom of the Shires Estate. Did you know that all of the street names on the Shires are named after F1 racing drivers? Go over the small bridge and make your way into the second part of the pocket park, you are now heading towards Tesco's.

Crossing the A5 into your second park of the day. Enjoy the Tove Wetland Nature Reserve as you weave your way through this very pretty area. Cross the wooden bridge that goes over the River Tove and weave your way through the park and perhaps have a little bit of extra exercise on the multi-gym equipment. We exit the park and continue up through Belle Baulk.

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Follow signs for the Leisure Centre along Springfields. Following the photo instructions you will discover an off road section which takes you over some wasteland and touches the Grafton Way briefly. We then work our way back through multiple pocket parks until we reach Waitrose Car Park. Here, we turn right, go over the bridge and keep Silvertone Brook (the small stream) to your left. We cross Watling Street, turn left and then keep an eye out for Church Lane. Suddenly the world is peaceful as you discover the church yard and a gorgeous little thatched cottage.

This dog friendly walk has something for everyone. A nature reserve, fabulous pocket parks, deer are often spotted, thatched hidden cottages, a brewery, coffee shops and a mini mountain that is literally covered in history. Please note that parking is free at the Tove Short Stay Car Park on Northampton Road. Limit: 2 hours

Distance:	3.4 miles / 7180 steps
Duration:	Approx 1hr 10mins
Difficulty:	Flat/Easy
Surface:	Varied, not pram friendly
Dog friendly:	Yes

With the car park behind you, turn left and make your way up Northampton Road, with Watermeadows on your right.
what3words.com/haunt.premature.riches

Download this walk, complete with turn-by-turn photos at: www.adventuregeek.co.uk/ag1030
Photo turn-by-turn instructions and GPX files are available in the map download.

For each Adventure Geek walk we challenge you to take a photo and share it to social media using the hashtag #AGPhotoChallenge
Your challenge is to take a photo of a dead tree, find four geocaches and snap a good angle of the church in Wicken.



Check out our latest guided walks: www.adventuregeek.co.uk/events
Download more self-guided walks: www.adventuregeek.co.uk/walks-to-download
Contact: Julia Doherty – 07855 522027 or email julia@adventuregeek.co.uk for more information



renew169

A quiet shared space in Towcester where it's OK not to be OK

TOWCESTER REPAIR CAFE

Going from Strength to Strength

Started back in September 2022, the Towcester Repair Café is now a regular fixture on the fourth Saturday of each month, from 1000-1200, at Renew169 Wellbeing Café on Watling Street.

2024 was a very busy year for the Repair Café, which saw 63 volunteers giving 126 hours of their time to repair 150 items for 99 customers and raise £1000 from donations towards the running of Renew 169.

The team can turn their hands to just about anything and can repair small electrical/kitchen appliances, radios, CD and DVD players, vacuum cleaners, toys, clocks, woodworking and furniture, sewing and clothes repairs and bicycles in the warmer months.

The Repair Café concept started in Amsterdam back in 2009, with the simple idea we should not be throwing things away that could be repaired to prolong their life. But it is now difficult to find places that can carry out repairs and often they are more extensive to fix than to buy a new item.

But it is now difficult to find places that can carry out repairs and often they are more extensive to fix than to buy a new item. That's where the Repair Café comes in, bringing together volunteers from the local community who can share their technical and craft skills to breathe new life into damaged and faulty household appliances, clothes and furniture.

There are now over 2500 Repair Cafés worldwide. Besides the Netherlands, there are Repair Cafés in Belgium, Germany, France, here in the United Kingdom, the United States and in dozens of other countries around the world. Repair Café has even made its way to India and Japan!

Repair Cafes work on many levels that are relevant to today – they extend the life of products that would otherwise be thrown away and save the owners the cost of replacement. There is no charge for us to look at faulty items and the team will access and fault-find to determine if it is repairable. If it is, then we only ask for the owner to cover the cost of any spare parts if needed - all the labour is free and provided by the volunteers and many customers leave us a donation that help with the running costs.

So, if you have any broken or faulty items that you would like us to look at, please bring them along to one of our regular repair sessions that we have coming up on 22 Feb, 29 March, 26 Apr, and 31 May.

If you would like to volunteer and become a repairer, we are always looking for people with the skills and knowhow to support the Repairs Café. Come along, check out the Renew169 Facebook page or drop us an email at Trustee@renew169.org.uk

-  **Main Opening Hours**
Monday to Thursday 10am - 3pm
-  **Stroll & Soup in Watermeadows**
Wednesdays from 12 noon
Meet at the viewing platform
-  **Renew169 Walking Football**
Fridays 6-7pm at Silverstone UTC
john@idps-ltd.co.uk
-  **Repair Café**
Last Saturday of the month
10am - 12 noon.
-  **NEW Grief & a Cuppa**
1st & 3rd Monday of the month
10-11am at Heart of England Coop
-  **Art for Wellbeing**
9:30-11:30 Fridays
10th, 17th & 24th November
12th, 19th, 26th January
-  **Greeting Cards**
Beautiful handmade cards
available for sale to raise funds
for the café.
-  For information, to access support or to find out about volunteering, please email manager@renew169.org.uk or info@renew169.org.uk or call **07761 041203** (Mon - Wed)



MIRANDA WALTON
PHOTOGRAPHY

Mother's Day

MINI PORTRAIT SESSIONS



When was the last time
you appeared in a
photograph with your
family?

Not just a selfie.

A beautiful portrait that
you're proud to share and
that your children will
cherish as they get older.



If your answer is anything other than 'very recently' get booked onto our Mother's Day Mini Portrait Sessions today! Please scan the QR code or go to www.mirandawalton.com/mothers-day-mini-sessions for more information. Spaces are limited.

Gift certificates also available for fully bespoke family sessions (including multi generational portraits), which would make the most perfect Mother's Day gift.



TOWCESTER MILL STUDIO | CHANTRY LANE | TOWCESTER | NN12 6YY
HELLO@MIRANDAWALTON.CO.UK | 07725 084976

PROMOTING LIVE MUSIC IN TOWCESTER

This sublime concert will feature two different takes on the Requiem Mass. John Rutter wrote his 'Requiem' in 1985, formed of seven sections it uses a personal selection of texts taken from the Requiem Mass, the Book of Common Prayer and the Psalms. Rutter is known for composing instantly memorable tunes, and nowhere is this more evident than in this glorious work which is a firm favourite with choirs and audiences around the world. It is upliftingly optimistic and the performance in Towcester is sure to be one not to be missed.

Now we look forward to our next concert on Sunday 13th April at 5.00 - please take note of the day and the time (both different from usual).

Alongside this we will perform Sarah Quartel's 'Sanctum'. This Canadian composer is known for her fresh and exciting approach to choral music. 'Sanctum' is a captivating setting of four movements of the Requiem text, inspired by the landscape of the west coast of Canada. Each movement depicts an aspect of Vancouver Island (the water, mountains, wind, and sky), exploring landscape as a place of healing and sanctuary. The combined effect is some of Quartel's most atmospheric and dramatic writing to date.

The choir will be joined by an orchestra and soloists, all under the baton of our Musical Director Helen Swift.

Tickets are priced at £15 for adults and £7.50 for under-18s, and include a programme and refreshments. Get your tickets as soon as possible through the website www.towcesterchoralsociety.org.uk. Tickets may also be purchased at the door, unless the concert is sold out - so book ahead to be sure!

If you're keen to support TCS why not become a patron? For a small annual payment you will be entitled to one free concert ticket, and, among other benefits, reserved seating at all concerts. For further information contact treasurer.jane.tcs@gmail.com

Towcester Choral Society
presents


Requiem Sanctum

John Rutter
Sarah Quartel

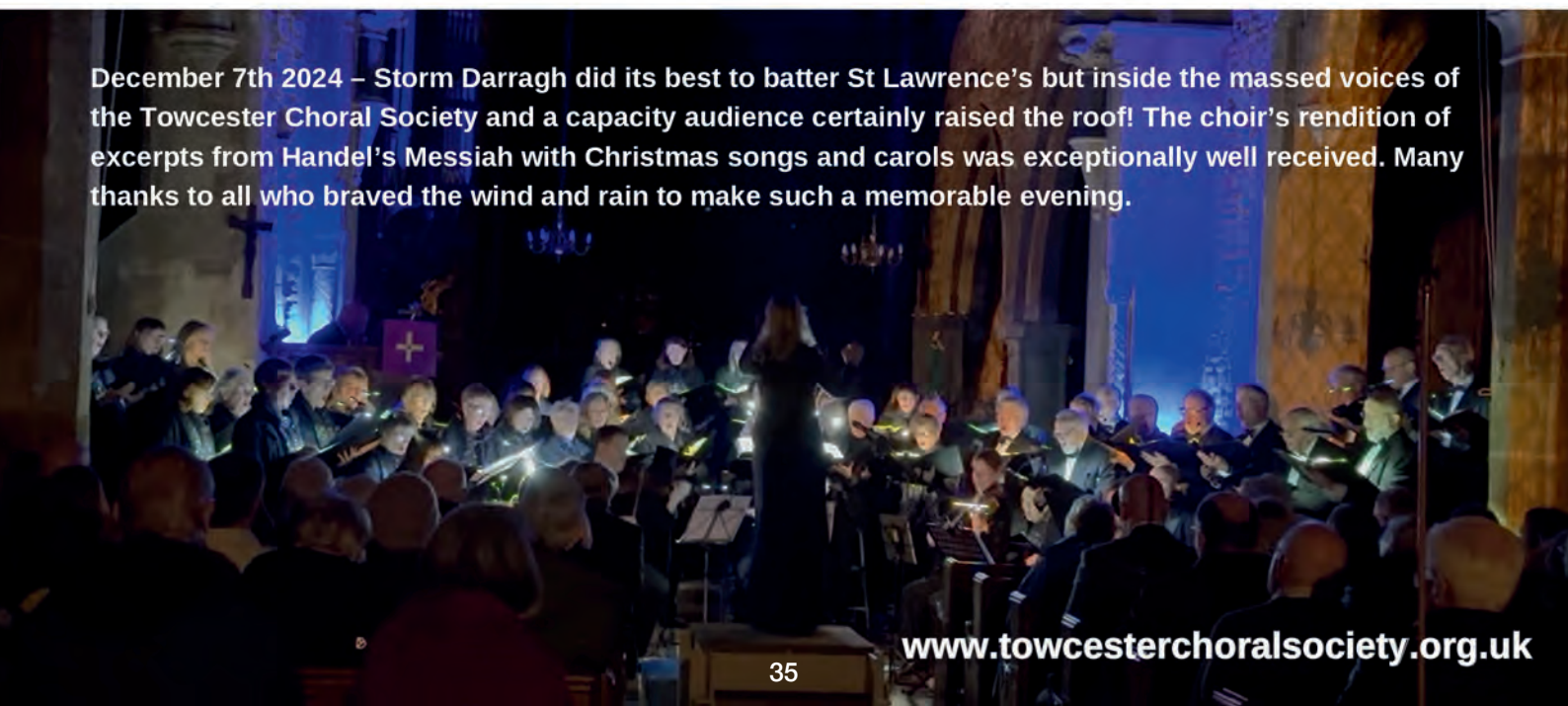
Directed by Helen Swift
Rowena Gibbons
Orchestra and soloists

5pm Sunday
13 April 2025
St Lawrence Church
Towcester NN12 6YY

Admission: £15 adult, under 18 £7.50 including refreshments
Tickets from www.towcesterchoralsociety.org.uk




December 7th 2024 – Storm Darragh did its best to batter St Lawrence's but inside the massed voices of the Towcester Choral Society and a capacity audience certainly raised the roof! The choir's rendition of excerpts from Handel's Messiah with Christmas songs and carols was exceptionally well received. Many thanks to all who braved the wind and rain to make such a memorable evening.



Towcester Remembers

Ukraine Full Invasion 3rd Anniversary



It will soon be three years since the full scale illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia on 24th February 2022

Since the start of this war, Towcester and the surrounding villages have proactively supported the people of Ukraine. Together they have hosted and aided many families who had to quickly leave their homes, often with just one or two holdall bags. Many of these families still remain in Towcester, having now gained employment and made their own homes here until it is deemed safe for them to return to Ukraine.

Collections led through St Lawrence Church and the Tove Benefice of churches has delivered huge amounts of humanitarian and medical aid into Ukraine. It all started on 1st March 2022 when over a period of 4 days volunteers sorted over 20 tons of aid donations, by default acting as the West Northants collection hub. These donations were then passed to lorries in Northampton which were destined for Ukraine cities that had been subject to heavy bombings.

Since this time, members of St Lawrence Church and the Tove Benefice have continued their efforts in support of Ukraine.



Aid delivery to the Skycamp refugee centre in Poland



Welcoming, connecting, and supporting families seeking refuge locally



Fundraised to support ambulances being prepared by the team at Skycamp



Helping to fill with aid and deliver to Ukraine, a significant number of vehicles, including the donation of 5 ambulances to Ukrainian frontline paramedic teams



Working with the West Northants Council, NHS and Medical Practitioners, alongside other UK aid operations to fill lorries trailers and vans with surplus medical care and rehabilitation equipment to help restock hospitals, paramedic teams, and help build new rehabilitation facilities in Ukraine



Sponsored Ukraine charity, NGO Metta, to deliver two mountain wilderness therapy trips for veterans / bereaved families to help start their emotional recovery.



In January 2024 Towcester Twinned with Ukraine town Zhydachiv - a symbol of solidarity and recognition of the aid effort of Ukraine national, Oleh Naida. Oleh came to Towcester in July 2022 to rejoin with his wife and 3 young children who had fled to the safety of Towcester a few months earlier. Oleh has since assisted / completed over a dozen local aid drives, working closely with trusted volunteer groups in Ukraine, thus ensuring aid reaches those who need it most.



We thank all those who have supported, and prayed for all those affected by war around the world. The Tove team continue their aid activities, along with inspiring and assisting others wishing to help Ukraine. All enquiries / offers of assistance can be made by calling the Tove Benefice Office on 01327 350459.



All you need is love

7.30pm Saturday 15 February 2025
St Lawrence Church, Towcester
Raising money for Ukraine Aid



Tickets £10

Raffle, refreshments and gift sales on the night



All You Need Is Love Fundraising Charity Concert



Join us for a very special Valentine's concert on **Saturday 15th February** to help raise funds for the people of Ukraine. This is a joint initiative between **Towcester Studio Band**, **Songbirds** ladies choir, and **St. Lawrence Church**.

It will be a musical celebration not only of romantic love, but of the power of love and compassion in times of difficulty. Come along with your loved ones and help share the message.

The concert will start at 7.30pm with an interval. **Tickets are £10** and can be bought via www.towcesterstudioband.co.uk or on the door. Ticket income will be shared between the Studio Band and the Tove Benefice fund to support delivery of further aid to Ukraine. The Church will also hold a raffle and provide refreshments to raise additional funds for **Ukraine Aid**.

Listen out for a piece we are playing by the Swiss composer Oliver Waespi and let us know what you think. We will be performing this at the Brass Band Entertainment Contest in Witney on 22nd February and the Midlands Area Brass Band Championships in Bedworth on 15th March. Competitions are serious affairs. We spend hours polishing our performance not to mention our instruments.

Why not spur us on by following our progress on social media:
Facebook www.facebook.com/towcesterstudioband
Instagram www.instagram.com/towcesterstudioband

Please come and join us for an enjoyable evening, and help raise funds for these important causes.

We would love to have your support



Worship with us

every
Sunday
9:15am

St Lawrence Church

Benefice Office 01327 350459
www.tovebenefice.org.uk
@ToveBenefice



ST LAWRENCE CHURCH GRAND FETE & CRAFT FAIR

SUNDAY 29TH JUNE

**CRAFT AND TABLE
TOP SELLERS
INVITED**

Bookings call Steve
07593700754
or pop into the
Chantry House office



All Proceeds to St Lawrence Church, Towcester.
Registered Charity no. 1130077

What are the seasons of life?

Just as the trees communicate the changing of seasons, from warm autumn leaves falling to being buried alive under the harsh winter snow, nourishing the damp dirt in the spring to allow for flourishing in the summer.. so do our lives, and especially our leadership, cycle through similar seasons.

With its cold bitterness, winter often feels like a demanding and empty season. It's a time many of us approach with trepidation, forgetting the ample invitations it extends for us to slow down and rest. Yet, winter, with its seemingly barren landscape, is when the autumn seeds are buried underground, out of sight. The seeds of autumn are covered and protected, preparing for the vibrant rebirth of spring! The thing about winter that many miss, primarily because of its paradoxical nature, is that winter is a season of stillness that brings clarity. The distractions of the warmer months fade away, leaving behind eyes to clearly see who you are, who God is, what matters, and what does not.

Spring is a time of hope. It is a time of hope. Just as the earth bursts forth with new life, so too can we find renewed energy and purpose. The beauty of spring is gracious and never-ending, for in the spring, growth begets growth. One small sprout leads to another, and soon enough, an entire field is covered in blossoms. This transformation is a powerful reminder that even the most challenging seasons of life—those that feel muddy and messy—can give way to incredible growth and as we navigate through these seasons, both in our personal lives and our leadership roles, let us remain open to the lessons they offer. Let us embrace the beauty and growth that each season brings, finding strength and inspiration in the rhythms of life. In doing so, we not only enrich our own spiritual journey but also empower those we lead to navigate their own seasons with grace and faith.

Remember, we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses who have gone before us. We are held in the hand of our loving Father. We are guided by the Spirit who keeps us, convicts us, encourages us, and points us to the life and model of the one who saved us, Jesus. This journey is not one we walk alone; we are part of a larger body of faith, knit together by shared experiences, trials, and triumphs. It is in this very journey, that we find a sense of belonging and purpose, knowing that our steps are directed by Him who loves us beyond measure and has called us to partner with Him, to see His glory released all over the Earth.

Love and prayers, Revd Sara
Superintendent Minister, Towcester Methodist Church



Churches Together in Towcester Services for Holy Week and Easter

Walk of Witness

10am, Good Friday, 18th April 2025

Our **Walk of Witness** gathers outside Chantry House/Town Hall through the town.*
Hot cross buns/refreshments afterwards at Tove Valley Centre. Open to all.

St. Mary's, Easton Neston, NN12 7HS

Saturday 19th April

6pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday 20th April

3pm Easter Egg Hunt

St Lawrence, Towcester, NN12 6YY

Palm Sunday 13th April

9:15am Communion with Procession of the

Palms and Passion Reading

Tuesday 15th April

7:30pm Healing Service

Maundy Thursday 17th April

7:30pm Holy Communion

with Foot washing & Night Watch

Good Friday 18th April

2-4pm Family Craft Session

Easter Sunday 20th April

10am Easter Communion

St Augustine, Caldecote, NN12 8AG

Easter Sunday 20th April

11:15am Holy Communion

Methodist Church, Brackley Road, NN12 6DH

Please see website for details
<https://www.towcestermethodist.org/>

Tove Valley Baptist Fellowship, Northampton Road, NN12 7AH

Easter Sunday 20th April

10:30am Easter Day Service

St Thomas More RC Church, Meeting Lane, NN12 6JX

Saturday 12th April

5:30pm Vigil Mass for Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday 13th April

11am Mass for Palm Sunday

Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th, Wednesday 16th

9:30am Holy Week Mass

Maundy Thursday 17th April

11am Chrism Mass at Northampton Cathedral

7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday 18th April

3pm Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

6pm **Stations of the Cross** – open to all!

Easter Saturday 19th April

8:30pm Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday 20th April

11am Easter Day Mass



For those with mobility or health difficulties the service will run concurrently in
St Lawrence Church from 10am * If wet weather we will be in St Lawrence



REGULAR EVENTS IN TOWCESTER

TOWCESTER COUNTRY MARKET

9-11:30am, Thursdays

Local produce from bakers, growers, and makers, plus refreshments.

The Sawpits Centre, Richmond Road

LITTLE BORROWERS PLAYTIME

(Formerly Towcester Toy Library)

9:30-11:30am, Thursdays

Under 5s £2.50 per family

Towcester Youth & Community Centre

AGE UK WALKS

11am, Mondays

Gentle 30-minute walk & friendly chat around The Watermeadows

Meet at The Forum

TOWCESTER FARMERS' MARKET

Second Friday of the month

Outdoor market of independent local stalls and producers.

9am-1:30pm Sponne Arcade Car Park

TOWCESTER FOODBANK

12noon-2pm Tuesdays

10:30am-12:30pm Fridays

St John's Ambulance Hall, Islington Rd

TOWCESTER COMMUNITY LARDER

4:15-6pm Wednesdays

10-11:15am Thursdays

Discounted & free surplus food

£10 annual membership

Riverside Resource Centre, Islington Rd

TOWCESTER COMMUNITY FRIDGE

10am Mondays & Wednesdays

4pm Fridays

FREE surplus food rescued from local supermarkets & businesses

Towcester Methodist Church

RENEW169 WELLBEING CAFÉ

Open 10am-3pm Mon to Thu

10-12 Repair Café last Sat of the month

TOWCESTER HANDMADE FAYRE

Saturday, 8 Feb, 8 Mar, 5 Apr, 3 May

Artisan craft fayre. Products made and sold by local artists and makers.

9:30am-4pm Towcester Town Hall

TOWCESTER CRAFT COLLECTIVE

Saturday, 22 Feb, 22 Mar, 26 Apr, 24 May

Craft and gift fair

10am-3:30pm Towcester Town Hall

TOWCESTER YOUTH CLUB (SNYE)

Wednesdays term time

5:30-7pm Ages 10-12 £2pp

7-8:30pm Ages 13-15 £2pp

Towcester Youth & Community Centre

TOWCESTER REPAIR CAFE

10am-12noon Last Saturday of the month

Renew169 Wellbeing Café

TOWCESTER BUSINESS BUZZ

10am-12noon Fourth Thursday of the month

Steam Room, Towcester Mill Brewery

OUT THERE YOUTH GROUP

Tuesdays 6:30-8pm term time

LGBTQ+ club for ages 11-16

The Barn, Bransons Lane

What's On in Towcester AND NEARBY



FEBRUARY 2025

Wed 12th : **QUEEN ELEANOR OF CASTILE**

Local History Society Talk

7:30pm The Sawpits Centre

www.mkheritage.org.uk/tldlhs/tldlhs/AboutUs

Fri 14th : **WI SHOW THE LOVE AT FARMERS MARKET**

Climate Change Campaign by Towcester Evening WI

9am-1:30pm Sponne Arcade Car Park

Sat 15th : **ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE CHARITY CONCERT**

Tove Benefice, Towcester Studio Band & Songbirds

7:30pm St Lawrence Church

Tickets £10pp available on the door or Band website

All proceeds will go to Ukraine Aid

Wed 19th : **"WINTER" CHALLENGE**

Towcester & District Photographic Society

7:30pm St Michael's Church Rooms, Silverstone

www.towcesterphoto.co.uk

Wed-Sat 19th-22nd : **DICK WHITTINGTON**

Paulerspury Players Annual Pantomime

Paulerspury Village Hall

www.paulerspuryplayers.com

Box office: 0845 8334910 or 01327 811578



Thu 27th : **LIVE COMEDY NIGHT**

Headlining: Andrew O'Neill and Martin Mor

8pm, Towcester Mill Brewery Tickets £16.00

www.towcestermillbrewery.co.uk

March 2025

Throughout March : **BEE SQUARED PROJECT**

See page 7 for more details

Mon 3rd : **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

Hosted by Towcester Town Council

7:00pm - 9:00pm, Sawpits Centre

Weds 5th : **U3A NEW MEMBERS MEETING**

See page 17 for more details

2:00pm - 4:00pm, Sawpits Centre

Wed 5th : **THE LITTLE PRINT SHOW**

Towcester & District Photographic Society

7:30pm St Michael's Church Rooms, Silverstone

www.towcesterphoto.co.uk

Wed 5th : **ROTARY CLUB OPEN EVENING**

Towcester Mill Brewery

Free entry

www.towcestermillbrewery.co.uk

Sat & Sun 15th & 16th : **TOWCESTER TIDY UP**

Contact Rtn David Reed at dreedsfm@sky.com for more details and to participate

Sat 15th : **MIND, BODY, SOUL SPIRITUAL FAIR**

10:00am - 6:00pm, Towcester Town Hall

See www.deerspirit.co.uk for more information

Mon 17th : **BECOME A COUNCILLOR**

Drop in session for anyone interested becoming a Town Councillor

7:00pm - 8:30pm, Sawpits Centre

Fri 16th : **CAMRA BEER TASTING EVENT**

3:00pm, Towcester Mill Brewery

Tickets £15.00

www.towcestermillbrewery.co.uk

Wed 19th : **IMAGES INSPIRED BY IMPRESSIONISTS**

Towcester & District Photographic Society

7:30pm St Michael's Church Rooms, Silverstone

www.towcesterphoto.co.uk

Sat 22nd : **BECOME A COUNCILLOR**

Drop in session for anyone interested becoming a Town Councillor

10:00am - 11:30am, Sawpits Centre



Sun 23rd : **RECORD FAIR**

Towcester Mill Brewery

Free entry

www.towcestermillbrewery.co.uk



Mon 24th : **BECOME A COUNCILLOR**

Virtual session for anyone interested becoming a Town Councillor. Register via enquiries@towcester-tc.gov.uk 7:00pm Online

Tue 25th : **TOWN CRIER DEADLINE**

Submit your advertising and articles by the deadline to feature in the Summer edition, out May 2025

Sat 29th : **CLAIRVOYANCE WITH CLAIRE EVANS**

7:00 to 9:00pm, Towcester Town Hall

See Claire Evans Psychic Medium and Spiritual Advisor on Facebook for more info

Sun 30th : **CLOCKS FORWARD 1 HOUR**

Sun 30th : **MOTHERS DAY**

April 2025

Wed 2nd : **ELECTION CANDIDATES DEADLINE**

4pm deadline to submit nomination papers

Wed 9th : **THE QUEST FOR THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

Local History Society Talk

7:30pm The Sawpits Centre

www.mkheritage.org.uk/tldlhs/tldlhs/AboutUs



Sun 13th : **REQUIEM SANCTUM**

Towcester Choral Society Concert

5pm St Lawrence Church

Tickets £15 / £7.50 www.towcesterchoralsociety.org.uk

Fri 18th - Mon 21st : **EASTER WEEKEND**

Fri 25th - Sun 27th : **ST GEORGE'S BEER FEST**

Towcester Mill Brewery

www.towcestermillbrewery.co.uk

May 2025

Thu 1st : **LOCAL ELECTIONS IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

Elections for West Northants Councillors as well as Town and Parish Councils (where contested)

Mon 6th : **EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY**

Thu 8th : **LIFE AFTER VE DAY 1945 TALK**

7:30pm, Towcester Mill Brewery

Tickets £TBC Proceeds to RBL

www.towcestermillbrewery.co.uk

Sat 19th : **PSYCHIC FAIR**

10:00am to 5:00pm, Towcester Town Hall

See Claire Evans Psychic Medium and Spiritual Advisor on Facebook for more info

Wed 14th : **THE RISE AND FALL OF PLESSEY AND ITS IMPACT ON TOWCESTER, 1970 TO 1990**

Local History Society Talk

7:30pm The Sawpits Centre

www.mkheritage.org.uk/tldlhs/tldlhs/AboutUs

Mon 26th : **LATE MAY BANK HOLIDAY**



Dates & events may be subject to change. Share your event with the community.

SUMMER issue out May 2025 - Deadline for submissions - 25th March 2025

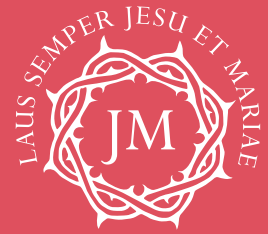
enquiries@towcester-tc.gov.uk

OPEN MORNING

Saturday 8th March 2025

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

[THORNTONCOLLEGE.COM](http://thorntoncollege.com)



THORNTON
Pre-Prep/Prep/Senior/Sixth Form

Thornton College is a leading independent day and boarding school for girls aged 3-18. Awarded 'Excellent' and 'Outstanding' in recent inspections, the college provides a world of opportunity to ensure all girls thrive.

Set in a delightful 25-acre estate on the Bucks/Northants border, Thornton is one of the most successful non-selective schools in the UK and offers a warm and nurturing educational environment alongside a rigorous and exciting curriculum.



“Excellent”

ISI Inspection Report October 2022

“Outstanding”

CSI Inspection Report May 2024



To register please scan
the QR code or email
admissions@thorntoncollege.com

WHERE GIRLS THRIVE