

Towcester Town Crier

Your FREE community magazine produced by Towcester Town Council

Issue 207

SUMMER 2025

Town Hall, Towcester



What's on this Summer?

VE & VJ Day 80th Anniversary
Junior Football Tournament
Women's Rugby World Cup
Youth Activity Day
& more...

Towcester Midsummer Music Festival 20-22 June 2025

A community fundraising event with
local musicians for local charities
Pull out programme inside

Community Services

Towcester Town Council
Ability Community Bus
Towcester Foodbank
Renew169 Wellbeing Cafe
Health & Wellbeing
Age UK Northamptonshire

Get involved

Rotary Club
Women's Institute
Towcester U3A
Music & Art
Youth Clubs
Local History
Support for Ukraine
Volunteering



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...and why we have chosen Towcester
for our newest office location.



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A WORD FROM THE MAYOR



My tenure of the role of Mayor of Towcester for the year 2024/25 is nearly at an end as I write this, and I wanted to reflect on the highlights of the last year and the role of Town Mayor.

It's a huge honour to be nominated by my fellow councillors to represent Towcester. However, the role of Town Mayor is more encompassing than the one we often see.

From handing out medals at the Annual Towcester Town Football Tournament to supporting our local WI at the county Annual General Meeting; spending an evening with our Scouts, to attending a concert in aid of Ukraine by Towcester Studio Band and ladies choir, the Songbirds. I have enjoyed every moment.

I have also really enjoyed representing Towcester and supporting its businesses and groups.

The role is also one of leadership. The Mayor chairs the Full Council Meeting each month and attends all sub-committees and working groups. As such the role is one of leadership and setting a positive example. It instils a confidence in the role of Mayor and Councillors and how we present ourselves as elected representatives of the Town.

Each year, the Town Mayor nominates charities to support and raise funds for them. This year I have been supporting South Northants Youth Engagement, Dogs for Good and Macmillan Cancer Support, and it has been a pleasure to present sizeable cheques to each.

I wish our incoming Mayor, Cllr Rachel Dando L'Olive all the best and know that she will be a fantastic ambassador for our town.

Cllr Damian Reynolds

Towcester Town Mayor 2024-5

Facebook @TowcesterMayor



TOWCESTER TOWN COUNCIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LOCAL ELECTIONS
Thursday 1st May 2025

**ANNUAL MEETING OF
TOWCESTER TOWN COUNCIL**
(Incorporating the Inauguration
of Town Mayor for 2025/26)
8pm, Monday 19th May 2025
Towcester Town Hall
By invitation only

FULL COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 9th June 2025
Towcester Town Hall

FULL COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 14th July 2025
Towcester Town Hall

AUGUST - RECESS

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

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



**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**



Scan to donate



West Northants set to welcome the Women's Rugby World Cup!

With the countdown underway for the Women's Rugby World Cup England 2025 kicking-off in August, excitement is sweeping across the host nation in anticipation of what will be the biggest and most accessible celebration of women's rugby ever.

Across six weekends from 22 August to 27 September, fans will have the chance to watch the world's 16 best teams and the biggest stars of the game compete at eight locations across the length and breadth of the country, culminating in a grand finale at the world's largest dedicated rugby union venue, Twickenham Stadium, London.

Fans from West Northants and beyond will have a golden opportunity to watch the world's number one ranked team and hosts, England, in action at Northampton's Franklin's Gardens on Saturday 30 August.

More than 400,000 tickets are available for the 10th edition of the pinnacle women's event with prices ranging from £5 to £95 across the tournament. Over 60 per cent of tickets are under £25 and children's prices are available for every match, including the knockout phase. Accessible tickets are also available for all matches.

Make sure you don't miss out on being part of England's sporting event of the year! For all the latest ticketing news and information Visit www.tickets.rugbyworldcup.com and keep your eyes peeled on the WNC website and social media channels for more announcements and events in the lead up to the main tournament!

WOMEN'S RUGBY WORLD CUP 2025 THIS ENERGY NEVER STOPS

**NORTHAMPTON MATCH SCHEDULE
FRANKLIN'S GARDENS**

IRELAND	V	JAPAN	SUN 24 AUG 12:00 BST
SOUTH AFRICA	V	BRAZIL	SUN 24 AUG 14:45 BST
ENGLAND	V	SAMOA	SAT 30 AUG 17:00 BST
IRELAND	V	SPAIN	SUN 31 AUG 12:00 BST
ITALY	V	BRAZIL	SUN 07 SEP 14:00 BST
FRANCE	V	SOUTH AFRICA	SUN 07 SEP 16:45 BST

Mountains & Music

Registered Charity No: 294354

In aid of **mnda**
motor neurone disease association

The Mountains

The National Three Peaks 24hr Challenge
11th-12th July 2025



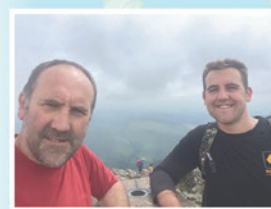
Local Walkers: Steven & Dan Smith
Remote Peaks: Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike, Snowdon
Walking: 23 miles & 3,064m ascent
Driving: 12 hours & 450 miles
Chauffeur Team: Paul McGregor & Ben Bucklow

The Music

Sunday 13th July 2:00 PM

Live music, charity raffle & food to celebrate the team's achievement and raise money for MND

The George Inn, Tiffield,
Towcester NN12 8AD



Support the Cause!

To sponsor, contact Steven Smith at Autotek Ltd, Blisworth
 01604 858853 or scan the QR code to donate.
 Thank you for helping us raise funds for MND



TOWN COUNCIL NEWS



MEET YOUR TOWN COUNCIL TEAM

ELIZABETH COX

Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

The Town Clerk's role is to ensure that the Council operates legally and that the decisions of the Council are carried out in an informed manner. As the RFO, she prepares the annual budgets, accounts for audit, and manages the Council's payroll, as well as providing regular financial updates to the Council on its income and expenditure.

Elizabeth joined the Town Council in 2003, taking over the role of Town Clerk in 2015. She is a crazy dog owner (Murphy the dog, not the Clerk!) and enjoys reading, going to the cinema, live music concerts and supporting the Northampton Saints Rugby Team. She can very easily be bribed with food! When asked what she loves about her role, she says, *"Having been born and raised in Towcester, with so many of my family and friends still living in the town, makes it an immensely rewarding role. No two days are the same and some can be very challenging but that's what makes it so interesting, and I very much enjoy working with the other members of our little team."*



LIZZI BUCKLOW-HOLT

Assistant Clerk, Communications & Events

The Assistant Clerk helps deliver Council projects and contributes to the development and implementation of Council strategy, and deputises for the Town Clerk in her absence. Recently, projects have included upgrading the website, WiFi, IT and telephony. She is also editor of the community magazine, the Town Crier, and coordinates planning of local events, including official functions and assists with Mayor's fundraisers.

Lizzi joined the Town Council in 2018. She is a keen artist and is currently Chair of the South Northants Arts group and is also a committee member of the British Polymer Clay Guild. She is also closely involved with the Towcester Midsummer Music Festival, assisting with planning and promotion. She says, *"I love creative problem-solving, whether that's trying to fit all the contributions into the Town Crier, finding ways to streamline processes or extracting a live bird stuck behind an old fireplace! Every day is different and often throws us a curve ball. I also think I should acquire a dog - it seems to be a requirement around here!"*



MARK ONLEY

Facilities & Operations Officer

The Facilities & Operations Officer role is to coordinate and work with the Town Council contractors and to carry out the management and maintenance of the Town Council's land, buildings and assets.

Mark says, *"I enjoy the varied nature of my role and I work with a great team. Having moved to the Towcester area 19 years ago when I fell in love with the town, I now feel lucky to work here and help improve as well as maintain, the buildings and facilities for the community. There are more buildings and land than you think!"*



RHIANNA FRANCIS-TIMS

Office Administrator

Our newest member of the team, Rhianna, joined the Town Council in 2024. She handles general enquiries, venue bookings and invoices and assists the rest of the team with any office admin tasks as required, including managing the Town Council's and Mayor's Facebook pages @TowcesterMayor and @TowcesterTownCouncil

Although the youngest member of the team, Rhianna loves the 1980's & 90's scene and is often sporting vintage fashion finds the rest of us remember the first time round! She says, *"I've lived in Towcester for 5 years and absolutely love it. Our small town has an incredible history and I feel very lucky to live here and work here. No two days are the same at the Town Council and I enjoy meeting the residents and getting to work with such lovely colleagues."*



WINSTON - Office Security

Winston is Rhianna's canine companion and is often on patrol midweek ensuring that visitors behave appropriately towards our staff and that a steady supply of tasty treats is available.



And not forgetting...

Suzanne, our brilliant caretaker; Pete our litter picker; the mobile VAS Team volunteers; and all the fabulous street volunteers who deliver the Town Crier!

YOUR TOWN COUNCILLORS

Your Town Councillors are local residents democratically elected to represent the people of the parish of Towcester. Towcester is divided into two wards represented by 16 councillors who are all volunteers from our community.

Brook Ward

Cllr Rachel Dando L'Olive (Town Mayor)
Cllr Kevin Adams
Cllr Maggie Clubley
Cllr John Godwin
Cllr Martin Johns
Cllr Innes Macaulay
Cllr David Reed
Cllr Damian Reynolds
Cllr Lisa Samiotis
Cllr David Tarbun

Mill Ward

Cllr Peter Allen
Cllr Charles Askew
Cllr David Carmichael
Cllr Jim Lynch
Cllr Miranda Wixon
Vacant seat

TOWN COUNCIL STAFF

Town Clerk

Elizabeth Cox

Communications & Events Officer

Lizzi Bucklow-Holt

Facilities & Operations Officer

Mark Onley

Office Administrator

Rhianna Francis-Tims

Contact details

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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

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**SAWPITS CENTRE, TOWCESTER
WEDNESDAYS**

MOVE & GROOVE

**LOW IMPACT FUN EXERCISE TO MUSIC , NO FLOORWORK
10.30 – 11.30 AM**

**STANDING BALANCE, FLOW & FITNESS PILATES
GENTLE MOVEMENT AND MOBILITY
11.30 – 12.30**

SEATED EXERCISE

**BRINGING FUN TO FUNCTIONAL MOVEMENT
12.45 – 1.45 PM**

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GOOD THINGS HAPPEN WHEN THE COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER



The first half of 2025 continued to be busy for the Rotary Club of Towcester. In February, the **Last Night of the Proms** took place at Whittlebury Park, featuring the talented **Sponne School Orchestra and choir**, along with the **Kidlington Concert Brass**. Half of the funds raised were donated to the school's music department to support the ongoing development of the students' musical ambitions. A 'door collection' also raised £750 for **Towcester NMPAT**, an organisation which provides instrumental lessons and music reading skills to primary school children. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to this wonderful event.



During March, **The Towcester Tidy-up** was organised (pictured above), concentrating on two specific areas in the town. This bi-annual event highlights Rotary's support of saving the environment and keeping Towcester tidy.

Also in March, we proudly donated £6,000 to Steve Challen of Tove Benefice, aiding his ongoing efforts to provide medical equipment and **ambulances for Ukraine**. This generous contribution allowed Steve to acquire another pre-owned ambulance, equip it with essential supplies, and deliver it, filled with medical resources, to paramedics in Eastern Ukraine. The funds came from the Club's participation in the 2024 F1 event at Silverstone.

The Rotary Club continues to manage the monthly **Farmers' Market** at Sponne Arcade. The market showcases an excellent variety of local artisan food producers and has received strong support from the community. **Towcester Evening WI** surprised customers with a 'Flash Mob' performance of Jerusalem for their 'Show the Love' climate awareness campaign in February. There are limited stall spaces available for rent. For more details, please email marketmanager@towcester-rotary.org.uk.

20th to 22nd June sees the annual **Towcester Midsummer Music Festival** which the Club proudly supports with organisers and volunteers.



As we look ahead to August, the Club remains committed to supporting the local youth community by hosting several duck races during the **SNYE Activity Day on August 29th** at the Recreation Ground on Islington Road.

The Club is highly engaged in the community and extends its gratitude to the residents of Towcester for their ongoing support. As one of the fastest-growing clubs in the District, we are always eager to welcome new members and supporters who bring fresh ideas and a desire to contribute to the community. In addition to our general members, we proudly have five Corporate members: **Whittlebury Park, Brook House Care Home, The Mill Brewery, Able Assist**, and our newest addition, **Specsavers-Towcester**. Together, they exemplify their dedication to the local community by supporting the Rotary Club of Towcester.

For further information visit the Club's website www.towcester-rotary.org.uk or send an email to secretary@towcester-rotary.org.uk

Rotary
Towcester





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 • Nursing
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.

”

Rhannon

Rhannon Crofts, Home Manager

ACH1177

0808 281 5107 | ariacare.co.uk

Water Lane, Towcester, Northamptonshire, NN12 6HR

BROOK HOUSE

✂ ARIA CARE

Colour and hope in an uncertain world

Isn't it great after the long dreary days of winter to see the bulbs coming up, bringing with them a bit of colour and hope in our rather uncertain world. At the risk of sounding a bit cheesy, that's what we try and do at the Foodbank.

Angela finds the Foodbank a lifeline for herself and two boisterous children. She has a chance for a cup of tea and an adult conversation whilst her children run around. She leaves with a bag of food, 'without which we wouldn't be able to eat', and a smile on her face.

Before Covid we used to have regular visits from Tenancy Support Officers and members of the Money Advice and Welfare Benefits Teams who would collect a food bag to deliver to a tenant who needed their help and advice. Now the teams have moved out of Towcester and are largely home-based so there are fewer boots on the ground when it comes to seeking help. But the Foodbank is still here on Islington Road, and many people use us as a first point of contact when they are in need. We will have a chat over a hot drink and signpost our guests to the support they need using our contacts in the local community, whether that is Renew Café, help finding a job, or the Council Teams. We are now the triage point for people in need in Towcester.



Signposting to extra support

Sinead said she had to come to the Foodbank because it was so expensive for her son to get to college in Northampton. A friendly volunteer was able to show her how to apply for assistance for transport costs through WNC. She hasn't visited us since.

Our Citizen's Advice worker can help with most things, and if not should be able to signpost you to someone who can. During the last year to October 2024 we were able to help 194 guests improve their financial situation by a total of £244,000, representing a significant gain for the local community – all free of charge.

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.

None of this would be possible without the help, smiles and commitment of our volunteers. Despite all their other commitments, whether it is work, college, care duties for the generation above or below, enjoying their free time, or anything else more attractive than sorting stock in a cold garage, they reliably turn up twice a fortnight to fulfil their session on the rota, or perhaps weekly, collecting donations from around Towcester and delivering them to our warehouse.

We are so grateful to all you do for us, THANK YOU.

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
on our TVBF YouTube channel.

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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TOWCESTER TOWN FC JUNIOR FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

7 & 8 JUNE 2025

TOWCESTER RECREATION GROUND




towcestertownfc.co.uk

Kick Off Summer and support Towcester Town FC's Junior Six-a-Side Spectacle 2025

Towcester Town FC is hosting its annual six-a-side tournament at the Recreation Ground, located on Islington Road, Towcester, on 7th and 8th June 2025. The event regularly attracts over 100 teams from Northamptonshire and surrounding counties, who come together for a weekend of grassroots football action.

The event features non-competitive football for Under 7s and 8s, with all other age groups taking part in Cup and Plate competitions. Matches for U8, U10, U12, U14, U14 girls, U16 and U16 girls will be held on Saturday, followed by U7, U9, U11, U13, U13 girls, and U15 on Sunday.

Brad's Banquets will again be serving up a range of BBQ food for everyone to enjoy, and there will also be a tombola with an array of prizes.

Lisa Samiotis, Chair of TTFC, said: "Preparations are well underway to ensure our tournament once again delivers a fantastic grassroots football experience for children of all ages, whether they are just starting their football journey or have been playing for years."




If you would like to get involved in the club or are a potential sponsor, please contact clubchair@towcestertownfc.co.uk




Make Friends

10-11am
Every Saturday during term times
Towcester Leisure Centre Astro pitch
£5 per week
Please Contact to register:
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Start your child's football journey today with Towcester Town Football Club's

MINI KICKERS



Ages 4-6 years

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Towcester Leisure Centre Astro Pitch

For more information please email:
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VE AND VJ DAY FOR TOWCESTER: A RECOLLECTION

85 Years ago, on September 1st, 1939, the Second World War began. With German troops marching into Poland, Britain and France saw no other option but to declare war on Hitler's ever-expanding Reich. Five years later, Berlin was in ruins, and Hitler was dead; it would be another year until Germany's last ally, Japan, surrendered. From the bocage-ridden pastures of France to the humid Burmese Jungles, the war stole lives in the millions. Man, woman, and child, both military and civilian, all suffered through unimaginable pains, trials, and loss. It is this sacrifice that unifies so many countries of this world, and it is for this sacrifice that we commemorate those two vital days that ended the conflict: VE and VJ day.

Northampton and its surroundings were not immune to the drums of war. As early as 9th August 1940, the news reported that Private Arthur Ralph Rickard had gone missing. The mentioned news article stated that Rickard, "should have completed his studies at Culham College, Oxford, before taking up teaching in June this year". Instead he, like so many other young men, boldly enlisted into the British Expeditionary Force, and fought to defend France from invasion.

Towcester had the war brought to its very doorstep. Multiple archival sources confirm that fundraisers were held by figures such as Lord Hesketh to support various wartime causes. One picture even shows an Elephant visiting Towcester's streets to promote Red Cross donations!



**The Elephant out the Room:
Towcester fundraising for the Red Cross.**

The town was also involved militarily. Articles reveal that Towcester's very own racecourse was requisitioned by the military. During this time, the racecourse mainly appears to have stored military ordnance. It even stored the battlemaps for the famous Battle of Arnhem: The operation which the 1977 film "A Bridge Too Far" was based upon.

Calamity was also felt during this time. An American glider, one of many used for the unreliable deployment of troops behind enemy lines, detached from the plane towing it and crashed into farmland near Tiffield. It serves as a sobering reminder that this was not a stagnant war, it was innovative finding new ways to kill, and many men died due to these new, often unreliable, developments.

Multiple locals have all shared their recollections of VE day in Towcester. A great celebration was held at the Market Square, which involved singing, dancing, holding hands, waving flags and more. Each account varies with their own distinct character, at least two both note they were bedridden with illness and consigned to watching the festivities from afar. However, they all made it very clear that the pubs weren't at risk of going out of business that night!

Whilst the war in Europe was over, the battles still waged on far to the East. Campaigns against the Japanese in Burma, now Myanmar, had not stopped. One Towcester soldier, Bill Causebrook, had laboured as a prisoner for over three years under the brutal supervision of the Japanese Army. He was forced to construct the infamous "bridge over the River Kwai", through which he bore the squalor and inhumanity of his captors. He was witness to countless comrades perishing under such conditions and very nearly risked execution, had the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki not forced an end to Japan's war..

Cont...

Unlike those returning from Europe, those men who endured the campaigns in Asia did not receive a Hero's welcome. They became the "Forgotten Army": men who are so painfully overlooked for their contributions to the war. Mr. Causebrook, however, did find welcome in Towcester as the church bells rang out to celebrate their safe return.

A news article dated August 17th, 1945, confirms that a night of commemoration was indeed held in Towcester. A night of church services were begun by Rev. G Roper. A floodlit town square then saw the whole town come together to sing and dance. Merriment and jubilation were in abundance, which lasted all the way until midnight.

The next day, a fancy dress event, judged by Lord Hesketh among others, paraded from the square to the Sponne playing field. There were three winners: One costume embodying peace, another personifying the victorious British Empire, and the final belonging to a young boy covered in old wartime memorabilia nicknamed, "Goodbye-To-All-This"! Smiles and laughter can be seen all around in the associated picture of the article. It's a fascinating summary of the three things that the town was happy to see prevail with the end of the war. After the fancy dress competition came a gymnastics display from St John's school, followed by a judged baby show which concluded the events over the Grammar School playing field.

That evening, the community concluded events with a torchlight procession through the streets of Towcester from the market square to the recreation ground. There, everybody gathered to celebrate under the glow of a burning bonfire, the flash of fireworks, and the sound of music which they danced to. All of which is proof of one thing: Towcester had not forgotten or overlooked the war in Asia, and were no less overjoyed to see an end to it as to the end in Europe.

As I finish, I am drawn to think of more recent news. Only recently, on March 17th, the world lost Group Captain John Hemingway. With him, Britain has lost its last surviving airman who fought in the Battle of Britain. It is a saddening reminder that the Second World War is fast fading from a lived memory of this world, to a matter consigned to archives and books. I therefore urge every reader to not just remember the end of the war, but also the brave souls, from Towcester and beyond, who made that victory worth cherishing. Have an excellent VE and VJ day.

Article written by Thomas Harvey,

Towcester Museum Rep. for the Towcester and District Local History Society Committee



A sandbagged police station, drenched in water, proves that Towcester's flood problem doesn't stop, even in wartime!



TOWCESTER AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Forthcoming Talks

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.

Charles Rennie Macintosh and the Bassett-Lowke Family

by Rob Kendall

**Wednesday 11 June 2025
at The Sawpits Centre**

78 Derngate was famously re-modelled by Charles Rennie Mackintosh in 1916 for his client, Northampton model engineer, W.J Bassett-Lowke. Purchased for Bassett-Lowke by his father as a wedding present, the house had originally been constructed 100 years previously. This talk tells of the restoration of 78 Derngate with an overview of the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and also the life of Bassett-Lowke, who commissioned him to complete the work in 1917.

Members Guided Walk

Guide - Brian Giggins

**Wednesday 9 July 2025
7.30pm outside The Sawpits Centre
(weather permitting)**

A guided walk, restricted to members of History Society, looking at the buildings and archaeological sites at the northern end of the town. The walk is about 1 mile in length and expected to be about an hour in duration.

Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month (except August) at 7:30pm at The Sawpits Centre, Towcester. All are welcome, and there is a small fee for visitors. Members can also access the meetings by Zoom.



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Thursday Evenings

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Beginners - 7:45pm

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VE Day 80 - Order of Events

8th May 2025

Towcester



- 8am** VE Day Proclamation (*Online*)
- 9am** VE Day flag unfurled on the Town Hall and sounding of the "Last Post" by Mark Limbert on Bury Mount
- 6:30pm** St Lawrence Church quarter-peel of bells. Act of Remembrance & wreath laying at War Memorial, Brackley Road Cemetery
- 7:30pm** "After VE Day" talk at Towcester Mill Brewery by Philomena Liggins (*Ticketed - see below*)
- 9:30pm** RBL rep official reading of Tribute and Lighting the Lamp of Peace with the sounding of "Sunset" from the top of Bury Mount performed by Mark Limbert



After VE Day

The Wartime Secrets Behind Famous Faces

Join Philomena Liggins for a fascinating insight into the surprising secret war-time work undertaken by some very famous stars. 7:30 pm Thursday 8 May 2025. Advance tickets £5.00.



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The Royal
British
Legion

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NN12 6YY
2025

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COLLECTIVE

10am-3:30pm
SATURDAY

24 MAY 2025
28 JUNE 2025

Towcester Town Hall

SAVE THE DATES

Towcester Handmade Fayre

2025

10AM - 4PM
AT THE TOWN HALL

SATURDAYS

- 8TH FEBRUARY
- 8TH MARCH
- 5TH APRIL
- 3RD MAY
- 7TH JUNE
- 12TH JULY
- 6TH SEPTEMBER
- 4TH OCTOBER
- 1ST NOVEMBER
- 6TH DECEMBER

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Intergenerational Joy: World Book Day Brings Young Readers to Leeson Court

Every year schools all over the country enthusiastically join in World Book Day which is a celebration of authors, illustrators, books and the joy of reading.

This year, clients at Age UK Northamptonshire's day centre at Leeson Court were delighted to be visited by children from Nicholas Hawksmoor Primary School, as their Thursday 10am to 3pm session coincided with World Book Day 2025 on 6th March.

"The children read their poems to us and we had great fun discussing our favourite books together."

Aimie Boyd, Day Centre Coordinator

"It was a brilliant morning. I really enjoyed the children's company and my favourite costume was the Oompa Loompa - it made me smile and laugh."

Terry (pictured)

Terry also said the children were very well mannered, intelligent, with great imaginations. Aimie agreed, saying "We are very much looking forward to their next visit. Thank you to everyone who helped make this visit possible."

If you would like to come along to Age UK Northamptonshire's day centre in Towcester on a Monday or Thursday, please get in touch on 01604 611200.



Are you retired or thinking about what to do with your time when you finish work?

Whether you are looking ahead or already have some time on your hands, joining your local u3a is a great way to find and develop new interests and make friends in a relaxed environment.

What is the u3a?

It is a UK-wide network of learning groups, run by and for its members. In Towcester we have a thriving u3a providing a wide range of interest groups, as well as monthly meetings with interesting speakers, and opportunities for picking up old skills, learning new ones and developing friendships.



u3a
Towcester

Registered charity number 1155428

What are the benefits of joining?

For a modest annual fee you can:

- Stay active, keep learning and have fun.
- Meet other people with similar interests.
- Learn new things, pick up old interests or share your skills.
- Enjoy theatre or garden visits and trips to interesting places.
- Hear from a variety of speakers at our monthly meetings.
- Access online learning, training and resources to inspire you.

Visit our website for more information or come along to one of our New Member Meetings where you will enjoy a warm welcome from existing members.

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

Does your child struggle with reading?

If your child:

- struggles with reading and is falling behind at school
- complains of headaches or words moving about
- reads letters incorrectly or omits them
- follows the text with their finger

We may be able to help!

Schoolvision is a successful programme that identifies and treats early sight problems, often missed in a standard sight test, that can make reading and writing very difficult for some children.

Benefits of Schoolvision:

- improved classroom behaviour and attention
- increased reading speed and concentration
- increased self esteem & confidence
- reduction in headaches / migraines
- better school performance



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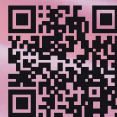
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**Towcester
Town Crier
Quarterly
Community Magazine**

**AUTUMN ISSUE
Out AUGUST 2025**

**Submissions Deadline
25th JUNE 2025**

Thank you to our Sponsors & Supporters

We believe in the power of community collaboration, and that's why we appreciate the incredible sponsors who make our event a reality. Our sponsors unwavering support has fuelled our vision and allowed us to showcase the musical talent we have among us.

Festival website by Bee More Design

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Aspire Performing Arts

Towcester Rock School

Towcester Studio Band

Studio Stompers!

Stagecoach Performing Arts

Heart & Music Community Choir

Tove Benefice

St Lawrence Church Bellringers

South Northants Youth Engagement

Good Time Project (Silent Disco)

Lincoln Noel Jazz Trio

Lucie Wickham Drumming

Towcester Museum

South Northants Volunteer Bureau

St Johns Ambulance First Aiders

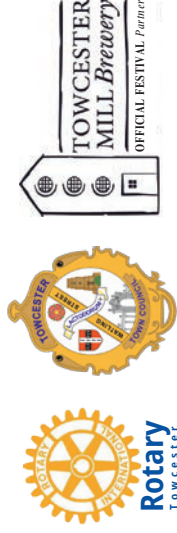
Towcester Farmers Market

Town Centre Pubs & Retailers

... and YOU!

Tell us what you think!

Your feedback is really important to us and helps us with future community grant funding applications to keep the festival going to support young people into music. Please do tell us what you enjoyed about the music festival and how we could improve it in the future. Scan the QR code to complete the questionnaire or send us a message via the website. If you take photos during the weekend, remember to tag us on social media using [#towcestermidsummermusic](https://www.towcestermidsummermusic.co.uk)



23rd Towcester Midsummer Music Festival

20-22 JUNE 2025
MUSIC, COMMUNITY, AND GOOD VIBES!

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Registered Charity No.1174494

Fundraising for:



Changing lives of children and young people,
through music and the arts

First edition - April 2025



Towcester's 23rd Midsummer Music Festival, which is presented by the Rotary Club of Towcester, Towcester Town Council and supported by Towcester Mill Brewery, brings live music of all varieties to the heart of the town.



The festival is a community event, providing a platform for the musical talents of local primary and secondary schools, performing arts school, community choirs and orchestras, music students, brass bands, local artistes and more, including our regular headline act, the Lincoln Noel Jazz Trio.

The main event is organised by volunteers from the community and supports local charities. Whilst not officially part of the festival, over the years, town centre pubs have joined in the atmosphere by putting on their own free entertainment.

Tickets on sale 1st June 2025

Our website will be regularly updated with all the latest information and the full community programme.

Tickets, starting from £2 per person, are on sale via the festival website and at Towcester Museum, for performances at Towcester Town Hall and St Lawrence Church and for the SNYE Silent Disco at the Community Centre.

Tickets for acts at the Mill are available direct from www.towcestermillbrewery.co.uk. Tickets may be sold on the door, subject to availability. Other venues are free of charge or may charge a small charitable door entry fee. All venues welcome additional donations to the music festival's charities.

Meeting Point

If you have lost children, friends or relatives, or require first aid, please visit The Chantry House which will be staffed throughout the evening performances and will act as a meeting point and Help and Information Centre.

Food & Drinks

There will be an on-site bar in the Town Hall for attendees of evening performances with drinks provided by Towcester Mill Brewery and served by Rotarians. The Mill has booked its popular food trailers for its customers throughout the weekend.

Parking

Free parking is available in Richmond Road, Waitrose, Sporne Arcade, and car parking sites along Northampton Road.

Get Involved!

Volunteers are needed to help with organisation and stewarding. Get in touch via the website for further information and to subscribe for updates.

www.towcestermidsummermusic.co.uk



Scan for website

Find us on   
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www.towcestermidsummermusic.co.uk

NMPAT Towcester



Changing lives of children and young people, through music and the arts

Supporting young people into music

Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust was established as an Independent Charitable Company in 2012, after 40 years trading as the former Local Authority Music Service. Its core values are to 'inspire, nurture and excel' through providing young people with musical and artistic opportunities.

Towcester NMPAT is one of 11 Saturday Music and Performing Arts Centres in the county. The centres are open to everyone to provide an educational and fun environment for any young person interested in the Arts.

A highly talented team of teachers provide teaching on musical instruments and offer a full range of instruments and musical styles in 'First Access' - whole class instrumental lessons or small groups. There is also an extensive programme of concerts and events throughout the year.

Northamptonshire, and in particular, Towcester, is renowned for the high standard of its ensembles, with over 1,000 young musicians involved in award-winning County Music and Drama Groups.

Making a donation will enable Towcester NMPAT to continue providing music and performing arts opportunities for children and young people, many of whom go on to further their music education and musical careers. Many of our favourite local bands started out at NMPAT.

Please show your support by donating to this fabulous organisation.



DONATE HERE



OTHER TOWN CENTRE EVENTS



Various establishments around the Town Centre are also joining in the musical atmosphere by putting on their own free entertainment over the same weekend as the Midsummer Music Festival.

Many of the musicians performing started their musical journey with the support of organisations like Towcester NMPAT. Look out for Festival Volunteers who will be visiting these venues and show your appreciation by donating a pound or two to the official Festival charity: Towcester NMPAT.

Towcester Farmers' Market - 9am to 1:30pm Friday 13th June
A select group from **Towcester Studio Band** will perform during the morning to entertain customers and to promote the Music Festival alongside the Rotary Club of Towcester.

The Saracens Head

FRIDAY 20 JUNE

7:30-10pm **Identity Crisis**

SATURDAY 21 JUNE

2-3:30pm **The All Fab Beatle**

4:30-6:30pm **Donna Keen Stevie Nicks**
& *Fleetwood Mac* tribute act

7:30-10pm **Stomping Crew**

SUNDAY 22 JUNE

Sun 3pm **Listen to Francis (Alex)**

The Plough

FRIDAY 20 JUNE

6-8pm **Joe Cullen Acoustic Set**

8-10pm **Sgt Fury Classic Rock**

10pm-midnight **DJ Steve**

SATURDAY 21 JUNE

6-8pm **Kyle Boswell Acoustic Set**

8-10pm **The MLC3 Classic Rock**

10pm-midnight **DJ Sammy**

The Watling Street Village

FRIDAY 20 JUNE

8:30pm **Music from the '00s DJ Set**

SATURDAY 21 JUNE

12:30pm **Diverse Sounds DJ Set**

1:30-4pm **Scallywags Trio**

4-6pm **DJ Lee Romang Club Classic**

6-8pm **Hi Jinx Soul, Funk & Disco**

8pm to close **Diverse Sounds DJ Set**

Also in town:

Look out for street musicians in the lead up to the Festival and visit the Town Centre retailers giving their shop windows a musical theme.

Please note: Events and activities published are subject to change and were correct at the time of going to print. Please visit the festival and venue websites and social media pages for the latest updates and for further information.

FRIDAY 20



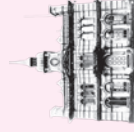
St Lawrence Church

1 - 2:30pm

SPONNE MUSICIANS

A selection of varied musical performances from Sponne School students.

Tickets £2 per person



The Geoffrey Iley Stage
@ Towcester Town Hall

5 - 7pm

YOUNG MUSICIANS

Performances from under 12s students from Towcester CE Primary School, Nicholas Hawksmoor Primary School, Aspire Arts Academy and Towcester NMPAT.

Tickets £2 per person

Evening Concert (times to be confirmed)

TO BE CONFIRMED

A performance by a local musical group.

Tickets £8 per person

7:30 - 10:30pm

STUDIO STOMPERS!

We are thrilled to welcome this offshoot from Towcester Studio Band. These merry musicians from Studio Stompers will get you on your feet with music with a 'Bierkeller' vibe like you've never heard before! On-site bar. Don't miss it!

Tickets £8 per person



6 - 11pm

CRAIG LIVE

Craig will be singing and playing guitar to hits from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s.

DOWN SOUTH

Strut your stuff from 8:30pm with this five-piece rock and classic pop band playing music from the 80s to 2020s

Tickets £5 per person

Available direct from the Mill website
www.towcestermillbrewery.co.uk





Vicarage Garden &
St Lawrence Church

Morning (times to be confirmed)

HAVE A GO : HAND BELLS

Join the St Lawrence Bellringers in the Vicarage Garden (or at St Lawrence Church if indlement) to try handbells and learn about bellringing.

Free



Morning (times to be confirmed)

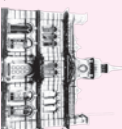
HAVE A GO : AFRICAN DRUMMING

Get your heart and drums pounding with local music teacher, Lucie Wickham.

Free



The Geoffrey Iley Stage
@ Towcester Town Hall



10 - 11am

HAVE A GO : BRASS BAND

Towcester Studio Band invite kids to have a go at blowing their own trumpet!

Free



(To be confirmed)

HAVE A GO : MUSICAL THEATRE

Stagecoach Performing Arts will run a taster session for children aged 4-18 years.

Free



Children under 13 must be accompanied by a responsible adult

Towcester Youth &
Community Centre
Islington Road



Afternoon (times to be confirmed)

FAMILY SILENT DISCO

Get down and boogie with the team from Towcester Youth Club. Dance to the beat of your own choice of music. Tony's Ice cream van will also be on site (tbc).

Tickets £8c per person

- all proceeds to SNYE



The Sawpiis Centre
off Richmond Road



9.30am - 12 noon

HAVE A GO : TOWCESTER MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS (NMPAT)

Open the door to NMPAT and find connection, creativity and opportunity. Join the Centre Head, Rob Fleming, and team to try a range of musical activities. Learn more about this fabulous music school right in the heart of Towcester.

Free



St Lawrence Church

3 - 5pm

HEART & MUSIC

A wide and eclectic range of vocal music from musical theatre classics to traditional songs, folk to pop, choral to original, and unusual pieces too that will make you smile!

Tickets £8 per person



OFFICIAL FESTIVAL Partner



1 - 6pm

NHPS YEAR 6

The musical stars of the future, Year 6 will launch the afternoon at 1pm by performing their favourite tunes.

COMMUNITY CHOIRS

Join in with uplifting and popular songs from the **NN12 Choir** (1.45pm), **Rock Choir** (2.30pm) and **Songbirds** (3.15pm).

TOWCESTER STUDIO BAND

From 4pm, march along to the beat of our much-loved local brass band.

Afternoon tickets £3 per person available from www.towcestermillbrewery.co.uk

7 - 11pm

COOL JAZZ COLLECTIVE

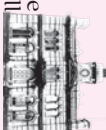
Enjoy songs from the Great American Songbook by this fabulous local jazz quartet.

THE DILEMMA

From 9pm, this lively four-piece band who apply their unique style to a range of well-known tracks.

Evening tickets £5 per person available from www.towcestermillbrewery.co.uk

The Geoffrey Iley Stage
@ Towcester Town Hall



6 - 6:15pm

TOWN MAYOR & TSB

Towcester Studio Band will give a short performance in the Market Square before the official address by the new Towcester Town Mayor for 2025-26, Cllr Rachel Dando LOlive

Free

6:30 - 8pm

YOUNG MUSICIANS ROCK!

Hear great music from Towcester's home-grown young talent from Towcester Rock School.

Tickets £2 per person

8:30 - 10:30PM

LINCOLN NOEL JAZZ TRIO

Get down and boogie with the ever popular Lincoln Noel and his band. Requests taken!

On-site bar for ticket holders.

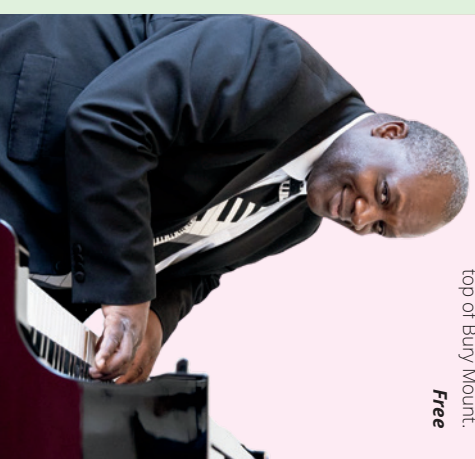
Tickets £8 per person

10:30 - 11pm

GRAND FIREWORK FINALE

The 2025 Midsummer Music Festival climaxes with a fireworks spectacular on The Watermeadows. Best viewed from the top of Bury Mount.

Free



A Force For Good In The Community



Towcester Evening WI participated in a "flash mob" at the Farmer's Market in February to raise awareness about climate change as part of the Show the Love Campaign. They performed the song Jerusalem, incorporating additional verses addressing climate change, written by WI member Petra Giffen. Joining them were local councillor Maggie Clubley, WNC Vice Chair Alison Eastwood, NCFWI County Chair Chris Carr, MP Sarah Bool, NCFWI Vice Chairs Heather Smith and Jean McLeish, WNC Leader Adam Brown, and WI members from the South Northants area.

A tribute from the WI Gardening Team

Margaret was one of the founding members of our WI Gardening Team which was set up 23 years ago, in 2002. Community meant a lot to Margaret and having lived all her life in Towcester she took a pride in the town and was determined to improve the environment and make Towcester "a green and pleasant town." And at 91 Margaret was still gardening with us. In fact, she planted up the new planter in Sponne Arcade on a cold winter's day in December.

A week before Margaret died, she ordered snowdrops for the WI to plant in the town. These have now been planted under a tree on Sawpits Green and amongst the daffodils in the flower bed at Sawpits Centre car park.

We couldn't stand still on Margaret's watch - her favourite trick was to point her walking stick to where a weed needed pulling out and occasionally we found the stick prodding us! But Margaret's knowledge and skill was invaluable to our team and she was behind every project we undertook.

After the WI Gardening Team revamped the Garden of Remembrance in 2018 to commemorate the end of WW1, it was Margaret's inspiration that we should approach the local schools to see if they could create some art work to be placed alongside the poppy cascade and what a triumph that turned out to be!

Margaret was awarded a Citizen of the Year award by the Town Mayor in 2022 for her work with our Gardening Team and she accepted the award for Volunteer Team of the Year from SNVB on our behalf in 2023.

Age never deterred Margaret in taking an active part in all the aspects of the WI organisation - she was with us at our "flash mob" singing of Jerusalem at the Farmer's Market in February.

Margaret has left a great legacy to the town - each year we will see her flowers blooming around the town and we will be able to bear witness to her inspirational art boards at the Garden of Remembrance.

We will always remember Margaret with deep affection - she was, indeed, a truly inspiring woman. We shall miss her dearly.



Margaret Knowlton 1933-2025

In the lead-up to International Women's Day, WI member, Sue Hamilton, visited Marie Weller Primary School to share insights with Year 1 pupils about the Suffragette after whom the school is named. Marie Weller, a resident of Towcester, was an active participant in the Suffragette movement and is laid to rest in the town's cemetery, alongside her Holloway brooch and a certificate presented to her by Emmeline Pankhurst. The children were highly engaged and eager during Sue's presentation, and parents have expressed heartwarming feedback, appreciating the valuable lessons their children have learned!



COMMUNITY CAMPAIGNING FRIENDSHIP LEARNING FUN!

Could you benefit from one evening a month where you can escape the demands of family and home for a couple of hours and just be yourself??

At Towcester WI, our programme is varied: You will be entertained by informed speakers, forge lifelong friendships and become part of a large national women's group. We meet on the first Thursday evening of the month, and as well as our monthly meetings, we have subgroups to suit different interests, such as gardening, skittles, and craft. The County Federation also offer us coffee mornings, organised walks, day trips and even short holidays. Here's just a taste of this year's programme:

- June - Quinton Rectory Gardens
- July - Codebreakers of Bletchley Park
- November - Agony and Ecstasy of a canal boater

So, come along to see what you think and you will be very warmly welcomed. There is absolutely no obligation to join and the first visit is free.

For more details, please contact:
President - Sue Williams 07769967532
sue@williamsfarmingpartnership.co.uk
Secretary - Carol Merry carolmerry1221@gmail.com

Cornhill Squash

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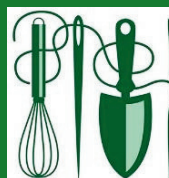
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Sing Your Heart Out: Join the Songbirds' Summer Serenade

At the end of March, Songbirds provided the entertainment at an event organised by Tove Valley Baptist fellowship. We received a very warm welcome and we really did 'sing for our supper.'

Over the last few months we have been practicing hard on the repertoire for our next gigs which includes a range of songs:

🎵 The Rose 🎵 All I know so far 🎵 Easy on me
 🎵 Rule the world 🎵 Sitting on the dock of the bay
 🎵 Girls just wanna have fun 🎵 Fight song

As you can see, we sing all sorts of songs and there really is something for everyone.

As we head towards summer and, hopefully, some good weather, Songbirds will also be looking forward to performing at several events around the town.

We will be singing at The Mill on Saturday the 21st of June for Towcester Midsummer Music Festival and also at the St Lawrence Church Fete. Both of these events are real favourites with the group and we hope to have some new songs to showcase.

Look out for us at these events and keep an eye on Facebook and Instagram @songbirdstowcester for updates. Don't be shy about coming up to say hello, particularly if you are considering joining us.

If you do want to join Songbirds, you don't have to have an audition or be able to read music, all you have to do is be brave enough to walk through the door! Lots of our members are very nervous about joining, saying that they worry about not being 'good enough,' but all we really want from members is the ability to sing in tune and an enthusiasm for singing. You'll definitely get a warm welcome.



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, please contact Michele, the current Group Lead Volunteer by email on gsl@towcesterscouts.org.uk

Would you like to join a team that has been shaping young futures since 1915?

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



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

Shingles Vaccination

Who's eligible?

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

Over 50s with a severely weakened immune system.

65s and over.

Getshinglesready.co.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

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For more details contact:

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01327 350995



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



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2-4pm, 3rd Thursday of each month

Sports & Social Club (opposite medical centres)

Contact:

Carol (01327) 352564



Brass banding bringing music and joy to the community

Towcester Studio Band is buzzing with exciting news and events this season, offering something for musicians and music lovers alike. Whether you're looking to join a laid-back daytime brass group, enjoy a lively 'Oompah' night with the Studio Stompers, or celebrate the achievements of our talented beginners, there's no shortage of opportunities to engage with our vibrant community. With our Spring Concert just around the corner and new initiatives welcoming musicians of all ages and skills, Towcester Studio Band is the perfect place to nurture your love for music. Dive into our latest updates and find out how you can be a part of music-making magic.



Bronze Award for Beginners Band

Our beginners' band, who only started learning last September, teamed up with Olney Beginners at the Milton Keynes Festival of Arts recently and won a bronze award. What a great achievement. Congratulations to Jack, Leo, Penny, Elizabeth, Billy, Florence, Ella, Taras, Beatrix, Farrah, Benji Jacob and the Olney beginners. We are so proud of them; they have made amazing progress. We will be starting a new beginners' band this coming September for players aged 7-11. Tuition and instruments are provided free of charge. Go to our website for details of how to register your interest now.

Introducing the Studio Stompers!

Did you know Towcester has its very own 'Oompah' band? Come along to our next night of singing, dancing and carousing on Friday 20th June when the Town Hall will be transformed into a Bierkeller as part of the Towcester Midsummer Music Festival. This will be a fun night of hearty music with appropriate refreshment and plenty of entertainment. And, of course, the festival is raising funds for the musical charities so you will be supporting some great causes.



Daytime Brass – Open to All

Towcester Studio Band now has a new informal daytime group. It is open to all brass and percussion players. Playing music in a group is great for boosting wellbeing and this band is all about the joy of making music with friends. There's plenty of time for a chat and a laugh, and we go for lunch afterwards if that takes your fancy! Perfect for anyone who is free during the day, the band meets on Friday mornings from 10.30 to 12.30 at the Band Hall in Branson Lane (NN12 6AX) Towcester. We meet every week, but you are free to come when it suits you. There is no pressure at all. If this sounds like just the thing for you, and you play an instrument or want to re-ignite a passion for playing, why not get in touch and come along? We would love to see you.

Website: www.towcesterstudioband.co.uk

Email: towcesterstudioband@gmail.com

Facebook: [@towcesterstudioband](https://www.facebook.com/towcesterstudioband)



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Spring Concert

7.30pm Saturday 17th May

St Lawrence Church, Towcester

Adults £10, accompanied children free.

www.towcesterstudioband.co.uk



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PLAY & ACTIVITY DAY

EVERYONE WELCOME

ALL FREE!

WHEN Friday 29th August 2025 from 11 - 3 pm

WHERE The Recreation Ground, Islington Road, Towcester

FOOD
ICE CREAMS
MUSIC
GAMES
SPORTS
ARTS



SAVE THE DATE



South Northants
Youth Engagement

Summer is here, finally, and at SNYE, things have been very busy, with more amazing things still to come!

Back in January, we brought a new Nintendo Switch for the Youth Clubs, which has been a fantastic addition to our list of activities. In March/April, our young people had the opportunity to practice some First Aid skills with the wonderful team at St John's Ambulance, Towcester.

They were also introduced to new sports such as Frisbee Golf and Toukball by Harry from Sport4Fitness. Alongside those sessions, the young people have been enjoying movie nights, quizzes, and, of course, our new Nintendo.

Our Towcester Youth clubs continue to grow, with young people joining us from not just Towcester but the surrounding villages, too. So if you are aged between 10 and 16, why not check our our social media pages at <https://linktr.ee/snye>



Both youth clubs continue to have the support from other organisations such as NAYC (Northamptonshire

Association of Youth Clubs) and Northamptonshire Police.

We would also like to announce that our annual Play & Activity Day is back for 2025! The event will take place on Friday 29th August from 11am to 3pm, on the Recreation Ground in Towcester. All the activities are free, and everyone is welcome. Again, for more information, please check out our social media pages for more details.

Finally a big thank you to everyone who supports us, including Towcester Town Council

Thank You!




WEDNESDAYS

TOWCESTER JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB

JUST DROP IN £2 ENTRY

10 - 12 YEARS 5:30PM TILL 6:30PM

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





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)

6:30-8:00pm

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Towcester
NN12 6AX



For more info, contact:
lgbtqsupport@thelowdownnorthampton.co.uk
or call 07585 737482
www.thelowdown.info

Do you need transport?
or Fancy a trip out somewhere?
then give us a call

01327 604123



NEW BUSES FOR LOCAL ORGANISATION

Spring is here, time to get out and about!

We have just taken delivery of four new buses, taking the fleet size to 14 buses.

So if you are in need of a bus service, please call 01327 604123 office hours 9-2pm.

Providing 4 great services in your area

Providing a regular shopper service, taking passengers to their local town on specific days of the week, give us a call to find out more.

shopper service

Pre-bookable day trips, visiting places of interest, including garden centres, retail parks, larger towns and pub lunches.

day trips service

Group Hire for community groups, hire a bus with a driver and take your group on a day trip of your choice.

group travel

Our latest service is a car service, available to take you to your own destination, funerals, medical appointments etc

car service

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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.



renew169

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



Our drop-in service is open every
Monday-Thursday 10am – 3pm
No booking necessary
– just come as you are!



In addition to our drop-in service,
we offer the following sessions each week

Tuesday
Lunch Club 12.00pm
Craft session 1.00pm

Wednesday
Knit and Natter 10.00am
Stroll and Soup 12.00pm

Thursday
Sandwich Club 12.00pm

Friday
Grief, Comfort and
Coffee 10.00am–11.30am

Monthly Events

Creative Nights – Every 3rd Wednesday from 7.00pm–9.00pm
Repair Café – The last Saturday of every month 10.00am–12.00pm

Come in and have a chat or take part in an activity!

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our newsletter



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renew169

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



Focus on Fundraising

The Renew169 Wellbeing Café is a quiet shared space where it is OK to not be OK.

The Renew169 Wellbeing Café is a safe space, located in the heart of Towcester, where people with emotional or mental health difficulties are welcomed, with an aim to reduce loneliness and isolation.

Visitors can be assured of a warm welcome and someone to listen. Attendees have the opportunity to take part in hobbies, crafts and activities, guided by the 5 ways to wellbeing, and enjoy the café space. Renew169 Wellbeing Café is open to those of no faith or any faith, any gender, any ethnicity, all are welcome.

We are a registered charity and have been lucky to obtain grants and some lottery funding to cover the start-up costs of running the café, paying the building rent and staff costs, but we know we need to be more self sufficient and this is where we need your help.

During 2025 we want to Focus on Fundraising and there are several ways in which you can support and help: -

- We will be holding a number of fundraising events throughout the year, like the popular Easter Afternoon Tea in April, where people enjoyed delicious sweet and savoury treats and bottomless tea and coffee. Keep a look out on our Facebook page for news of future events.
- We have teamed up with Towcester Mill Brewery and we invite any cyclists who would like to ride in the Towcester Mill Brewery Sportive on 24th May 2025 to ride for us and raise money through sponsorship. It will be fantastic day of cycling - starting and finishing at the Mill Brewery and taking riders through the beautiful Northamptonshire countryside over either a 38 or 60 mile route.
- We are planning a fund-raising Quiz evening towards the end of the year so keep a look out for news as we firm up the details.
- We welcome personal donations either as a one off or as a regular monthly payment. Simply scan the QR code to take you to our Just Giving page.



The Renew169 staff, volunteers and most of all our visitors really appreciate your support.

For more information about Renew169 please drop in or email Manager@renew169.org.uk

To give you an idea of how we will use the money raised:

- £2.50 will provide lunch in the company of others for someone lonely or isolated.
- £5.00 will gift 5 cups of kindness to someone in desperate need of a coffee and a chat.
- £12.00 will enable someone struggling with grief or loss to access in house counsellor support at Renew169.
- £47.00 will help train and equip a Renew169 volunteer with the skills needed to support our visitors.
- £115.00 will help cover our weekly overheads/utilities so we can continue to provide a safe space for people suffering with poor mental health or isolation.





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[‡]This illustration is based upon a person aged 75 purchasing a Homewise Home for Life Plan at a 30% reduction on the lowest value one-bedroom apartment. Price relates to Penrith. The cost may vary depending on the customer's circumstances, and property criteria. Homewise terms and conditions apply, visit homewise.co.uk/information or call 0800 084 1150.



TWO CHOIRS ONE GREAT EVENING

Make sure you've got your tickets in good time for Towcester Choral Society's summer concert on Saturday, 28th June at 7.30pm in St Lawrence's Church Towcester.

This concert will feature two choirs - our own TCS plus the renowned voices of the Oxford Welsh Mens' Voice Choir. Both choirs will be under the direction of Helen Swift and accompanied by Rowena Gibbons.

The Oxford Welsh Choir was formed in 1928 by Welshmen who had come to Oxford looking for work at William Morris's car factory and Pressed Steel. Today the choir is more mixed but still very proud of its Welsh heritage. The choir sings in the traditional 4-part male voice style (1st & 2nd Tenor, Baritone and Bass) and about a third of the repertoire is in the Welsh language.

The programme for this wonderful evening will be a selection of songs from around the British Isles, and further afield. There'll be songs old and new and we'll be hoping for a delightfully warm summer's evening in which to transport you all on a musical adventure!

Your ticket price will, as always, include your programme and refreshments. Please buy your tickets in advance from our online ticketing facility at <http://towcester-choral-society.sumupstore.com>

Tickets are £15 for adults and £7.50 for under 18s

Please note our concerts can be oversubscribed, so we cannot guarantee that you will be able to obtain a ticket on the day.

It's going to be a fantastic evening, and we hope to see you there.

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

www.towcesterchoralsociety.org.uk

Towcester Choral Society presents

Songs around the British Isles

with guests
The Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir

MD Helen Swift
Accompanist
Rowena Gibbons

7.30pm Saturday
28 June 2025
St Lawrence Church
Towcester NN12 6YY

Proud members of



Admission: £15 adult, under 18 £7.50 including refreshments
Advance sales www.towcesterchoralsociety.org.uk
or on the day (entry on the door not guaranteed)



Tove Valley Baptist Fellowship is excited to announce the launch of Messy Church!

Messy Church offers a welcoming environment for everyone. We encourage adults of all ages to participate in activities, worship, and learning alongside the children. (Please note that all children must be accompanied by an adult.) A simple meal will be provided each month.

Join us on Sunday, May 4th, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM at the Tove Valley Centre, Northampton Road, and on the first Sunday of each month (excluding August) at the same time.

For more information, please reach out to: youth@tvbf.co.uk.



Messy Church

tvbf
Tove Valley Baptist Fellowship
REBUILDING LIVES FOR JESUS

Join us on the first Sunday of every month!

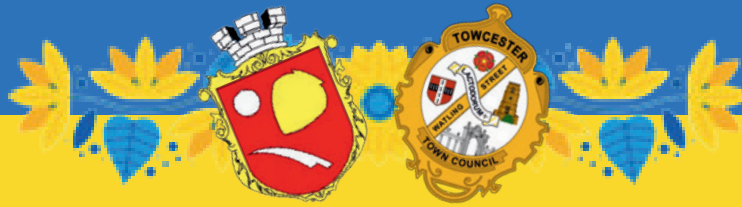
A place to be creative, chat, celebrate, eat and explore faith the messy way.

3pm - 5pm
Tove Valley Centre

Admission is completely free!

Find out more at tvbf.co.uk/messychurch, or contact youth@tvbf.co.uk

All ages welcome.
Children must be accompanied by an adult.



Tove Benefice Team Delivers Sixth Vital Ambulance and Medical Supplies to Ukraine



On 25th March, the St Lawrence Church (Tove Benefice) team arrived in Ukraine with the 6th local ambulance donation, which was packed full of donated hospital and emergency equipment, including amongst other items donated by Oxford NHS Foundation Trust, 15 Portable Children's Ventilator systems. In addition, life saving bleed control packs were purchased using funds raised. Fundraising for this trip started just over a month ago with Towcester Studio Band and The Songbirds dedicating their "All You Need Is Love Concert" to the 3rd Anniversary of the full invasion of Ukraine. The ambulance itself was then paid for by the Towcester Rotary branch, and driven the 1350 miles to Lviv by honorary member Steve Challen, and Alex Donaldson - Alex's 6th drive to Lviv! Steve and Alex personally covered all transport and travelling costs.



As part of their journey, the team visited the Ukrainian town of Zhydachiv, which twinned with the town of Towcester in January 2024. There, they were met by the local Mayor, Volodymyr Levko, and on behalf of Towcester Town Mayor, Cllr Damian Reynolds, handed over a signed gift and Rotary flag from the town. In return, Steve and Alex received a Zhydachiv flag for Towcester, and some personal gifts. Steve and Alex also collected twinning documents to bring back to Towcester for signature. During the visit, Steve and Alex were invited to speak on local radio about how they came to support Ukraine over the past three years.



The team then returned to Lviv to meet local members of two local Rotary groups before handing over the vehicle and its huge contents, to Tetiana Rudnik, founder of Ukraine aid organisation, Ukraine-Mother. Tetiana's husband, Artur Rudnik, who was recently conscripted to the army, was released for two days to help with the onward 335 mile drive to Kyiv. Here, Tetiana will distribute the contents to various hospitals, paramedic teams, and individuals in need. The ambulance will then be given to military paramedics treating casualties in the far east of Ukraine.

If you would like to assist with ongoing support for Ukraine, please contact the Tove Benefice Office, Chantry House, 88 Watling St. or call 01327 350459.



Did you know that 49% of Grade I listed buildings are churches? One of them is St Lawrence Church.

We receive no funding from the government or central Church of England for upkeep or clergy. While we gratefully benefit from local charity support, much of our funding and maintenance comes from generous donations from church members and volunteers.

Help us preserve the heritage of St Lawrence Church

We are proud to keep the church open daily for locals and visitors of Towcester to enjoy. Many towns have to keep their churches locked, but St Lawrence remains open from 9:30 AM to at least 5 PM. We hold services every Wednesday at 10:15 AM and Sundays at 9:15 AM — a little early, but it leaves the rest of the day free!

St Lawrence is truly a treasure, full of historical significance. Some highlights include the Roman floor tiles, William Sponne's cadaver tomb, and medieval wall paintings. It's more than a venue for baptisms, weddings, and funerals; many people in Towcester consider it their place of rootedness and faith.

The clergy and Church Council (PCC) are eager to make the building more welcoming, not just for congregation members, but also for the many civic events we host throughout the year — from Remembrance Sunday and Christmas to local concerts by Towcester Choral Society, Towcester Studio Band, and the Cwm Bach Choir, as well as school services. It's essential that our welcome extends beyond smiling faces, ensuring the space is warm and fit for purpose.



When was the last time you visited St Lawrence Church?



As I sit in the church, I often reflect on the generations who have worshipped here and the place it holds in the hearts of many. Looking ahead, the Church Council has recently met with the Diocese Advisory Council (DAC) to discuss potential improvements to the building. We have three key projects in mind:

- **Heating:** Our gas boiler is outdated, and despite our efforts, the church remains cold during the winter months. After an extensive feasibility study, we are looking to install radiant heaters at an estimated cost of £70,000.
- **Visual Equipment:** We hope to install a fixed projector and screen to enhance our Family Worship and expand the church's use for concerts, film showings, and other events at an estimated cost of £13,000.
- **Flexible Space:** We would like to remove some pews at the front to create a more usable space for social events, children's groups, and community gatherings. This will also involve repairing the wooden parquet flooring. The wood flooring repairs are estimated to cost £12,500

Together, we can help bring this vision to life.

If you are interested in supporting our projects or offering your time and talents to the church, please contact Revd Paula Challen at 01327 350459. And if you haven't visited for a while, why not start your day with a visit to St Lawrence?

As it is written in the Bible, *"Where there is no vision, the people perish"* ~ Proverbs 29:18





Dear friends, quite some time ago, the Holy Father, Pope Francis announced the intention that 2025 should be a Jubilee Year for the Catholic Church; a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years. You will have no doubt noted the logo for the Jubilee Year, containing the words reflecting its theme, "Pilgrims of Hope".

But what does this mean, especially given the many and varied current global challenges facing us today: ongoing conflict in many parts of the world; natural and other disasters causing widespread devastation and destruction of peoples' lives and homes; Domestic and International governance and words causing fear and tension; and Pope Francis himself became very seriously ill, and only now at the time of me writing this article in mid-March, is on a slow and fragile road to recovery. Has the church become disconnected with the world around us?

These thoughts are understandable, but from the very beginning, Pope Francis urged pilgrims (and by association all people of goodwill) to embrace Hope as "a divine strength that enables new beginnings"

Speaking to the many pilgrims gathered inside the Vatican's audience chamber at the beginning of the year, the pope emphasised that hope is not merely a nice character trait but rather a theological virtue that represents "strength to be asked for" from God. He went on to say, "Many of you are here in Rome as 'pilgrims of hope'. Indeed, the Jubilee is a new beginning, the possibility for everyone to start anew from God."

With the Jubilee we start a new life, a new phase." The pope highlighted how the Latin word "virtus" means strength, explaining that hope, therefore, comes as a gift from God to bring us an inner grace-filled strength, rather than existing as a mere habit or personality trait. Well, here we are in the middle of 2025 – how things are globally or even locally, I can only guess. I hope and pray you are doing ok.

Christian hope is one of the three theological virtues – along with faith and charity – which God pours into the hearts of the faithful. Do not let your heart despair! Trust in God still! Such a positive encouragement I carry with me each day – whatever the "weather of life". Will you join me in this hope – you'd be most welcome!

Fr James
St Thomas More
Catholic Church
on behalf of



Wildlife on our doorstep

by Peter Warden

Last August, I wrote about dogs' impact on the environment. At that time, I didn't know the chemical used for flea treatment in dogs was a neonicotinoid, harmful to insects like bees. In rivers, mayfly and dragonfly larvae are especially vulnerable, affecting fish, birds, bats, and others up the food chain.

The Government's response is slow, but you can help. Below is a guide to dog grooming that I recommend to you :

Green Guide to Dog Grooming

Use flea treatments only when necessary and consider chemical-free alternatives:

- Brush regularly to remove eggs and larvae, and use a fine-toothed comb for adult insects.
- Bathe with herbal shampoos containing neem oil, lavender, and rosemary.
- Buy a flea collar with natural ingredients like cedar wood and eucalyptus.

Recent research shows insecticides on pet fur, collected by birds for nests, are harmful. Neonicotinoids were found in all Blue Tit and Great Tit nests studied, with more dead chicks or unhatched eggs where chemical levels were higher.

Since my last article in the Town Crier, I've noted three new species at Malthouse Court: One was a Scarlet Tiger larva, which was unexpected at this time of year. This moth, recorded in Northamptonshire in 1885, is likely establishing due to global warming. Its adult form is stunning, with striking forewings and scarlet hind wings. The other new species were the Daddy-long-legs spider and the Small Black Ant, both common. The spider's increase is linked to a decline in House Spiders.

By now, many migratory birds have arrived. The whitethroat, a warbler, is not common but lives in hedgerows and scrub. I heard a male singing in Tove Wetlands Pocket Park on 27th April 2020. By 15th June, I noted four males, though only two were singing. No nests were found, but two singing males suggested nesting. In 2021, I recorded three singing males but have not seen any recently. This might be due to dense scrub or disturbances.

Please stick to footpaths and keep dogs leashed so as not to disturb nests and please don't put dog fur out for nesting if your dog has been treated for fleas.



BADBY WOODS AND FAWLSEY CIRCULAR 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".

A Carpet of Bluebells: Discover the Magic of the Badby Woods & Fawsley Loop Walk this May

There's something truly magical about May in Northamptonshire, especially if you find yourself in Badby Woods, where the forest floor becomes a breathtaking sea of bluebells. It's a scene straight out of a fairytale, and the best way to experience it? On foot, of course!

This 4.5-mile circular walk through Badby Woods and the Fawsley Estate is one of the most enchanting routes in the county, and May is undoubtedly the time to go. Whether you're walking solo, enjoying a peaceful dog walk, or catching up with friends, the scent of spring and vibrant colours will lift your spirits.

As you step into Badby Woods, you'll be greeted by endless swathes of violet-blue flowers stretching beneath the ancient oaks and beech trees. It's hard not to stop and stare, or snap a dozen photos! The bluebells here are some of the best in the region and create a peaceful, almost otherworldly atmosphere.

But the beauty doesn't stop there. As you continue along the trail, you'll spot: The Dower House, hidden in the trees – a haunting relic of the past; Gentle hills and sweeping countryside views across open meadows; A visit to the historic Fawsley Church, open during summer for quiet reflection; A glimpse of the grand Fawsley Hall and its glistening lake, pure postcard material! One field along the route may contain cows, so do take care if you're walking with a dog.

The return path winds back into the bluebell woodlands and if you didn't get enough photos the first time, now's your chance. Keep an eye out for quirky landmarks like the "fairies' meeting place", crooked kissing gates, and mossy tree stumps. It's a woodland wander you won't forget.

Good to Know:

The route includes a few hills and uneven paths, comfy walking shoes are a must. After rainfall, the woodland paths can be muddy (and atmospheric!). Bring a flask and a snack – there are plenty of lovely spots to pause. Dogs are welcome, but must be under control near livestock. Keep your camera at the ready – the bluebells are simply stunning.

So, if you're looking for a spring walk that ticks all the boxes – peaceful woodland, open views, historical charm, and one of nature's greatest floral displays – this Badby & Fawsley Double Loop is calling your name. Get out there, breathe it in, and let May work its magic.



Distance: 4.5 miles / 17.72 km
Duration: Approx 2 hours
Difficulty: Moderate



Download this walk, complete with turn-by-turn photos at: www.adventuregeek.co.uk/ag05
Turn-by-turn instructions and GPX files are available with the map download.

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

MIRANDA WALTON

PHOTOGRAPHY

MATERNITY | NEWBORN | FAMILY | PETS

PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO REQUEST MORE
INFORMATION OR CALL 01327 643201

STUDIO ON THE 3RD FLOOR AT TOWCESTER MILL, NN12 6YY





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



MAY 2025

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

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

Fri 2nd & Tue 13th: **MILL BREWERY TOUR**

3:00pm, Towcester Mill Brewery

Tickets £15 inc pint of beer, cheese box extra

www.towcestermillbrewery.co.uk

Mon 5th: **EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY**

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

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

7:30pm, Towcester Mill Brewery

Tickets £5 Proceeds to RBL

www.towcestermillbrewery.co.uk

Sat 10th: **FORTIES BASH VE80 WEEKEND**

Bar, pig roast, dance & Towcester's Songbook Singers

7:30-11pm, Pattishall Parish Hall

Tickets £15 Proceeds to SSAFA

Barry Evans sixpencesheep@aol.com 07790041494

Sun 11th: **FOLK AT THE MILL**

Afternoon at Towcester Mill Brewery

Free

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

Wed 14th: **COMEDY NIGHT**

Headlining Hal Cruttenden

8:00pm, Towcester Mill Brewery

Tickets £18

www.towcestermillbrewery.co.uk

Sat 24th: **MILL BREWERY CYCLE SPORTIVE**

Half Pint: 62km (38miles) or Full Pint: 96km (60miles)

Circular ride through Northamptonshire countryside

From £30

www.letsgovelo.co.uk/sportives

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

Wed 28th: **VINYL NIGHT**

Be your own DJ at this turntable takeover! BYOV

6:00pm, Towcester Mill Brewery

Free

Thu 29th: **COMEDY NIGHT**

Headlining Scott Bennett & Ben Norris

8:00pm, Towcester Mill Brewery

Tickets £16

www.towcestermillbrewery.co.uk

JUNE 2025

Sat 7th - Sun 8th: **JUNIOR FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT**

Recreation Ground, Islington Road

Wed 11th: **CHARLES RENNIE MACINTOSH AND THE**

BASSETT-LOWKE FAMILY

Local History Society Talk

7:30pm The Sawpits Centre

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

Thu 12th: **DON'T GO INTO THE CELLAR!**

Will Sherlock Holmes solve the case? Original one-man show.

8:00pm, Towcester Mill Brewery

Tickets £12

www.towcestermillbrewery.co.uk

Fri 20th - Sun 22nd: **MIDSUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL**

See programme on page 18 - 22 for more information



Thur 26th: **COMEDY NIGHT**

Headlining Matt Bragg & Geoff Norcott

8:00pm, Towcester Mill Brewery

Tickets £16

www.towcestermillbrewery.co.uk

Sat 28th: **SONGS AROUND THE BRITISH ISLES**

7:30pm St. Lawrence Church

See page 33 for more information

Tickets: £15.00 and £7.50 for under 18's

<http://ltowcester-choral-society.sumupstore.com>

JULY 2025



Did you attend

Towcester Grammar School?

If so, we would like to invite you to:

Founder's Day Service

7pm 1st July 2025

St Lawrence's Church

conducted by

The Reverend Paula Challen

The service will be followed by refreshments at

Sponne School, by kind permission of the

headmaster, Graham Forbes.

Donations towards the costs would be very

welcome.

For further details, please email:

Ronjohnson1951@outlook.com

Wed 9th: **TOWCESTER DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY GUIDED WALK**

Local History Society Talk

7:30pm The Sawpits Centre

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

Sun 13th: **MOUNTAINS AND MUSIC**

Charity Event in aid of MNDA

2pm, The George Inn, Tiffelfield, NN12 8AD

See page 4 for more information

AUGUST 2025

Sun 24th: **UKRAINE INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Mon 25th: **AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY**

Fri 28th: **SNYE PLAY AND ACTIVITY DAY**

11am - 3pm, Recreation Ground, Islington Road

Free Entry

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

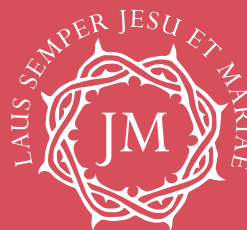
AUTUMN issue out August 2025 - Deadline for submissions - 25th June 2025

enquiries@towcester-tc.gov.uk

WHOLE SCHOOL OPEN MORNING

Saturday 27th September 2025
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

THORNTONCOLLEGE.COM



THORNTON
Pre-Prep/Prep/Senior/Sixth Form

Thornton College is a leading independent day and boarding school for girls aged 3-18 years. 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, 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**