

Towcester Town Crier

Your FREE community magazine produced by Towcester Town Council



Issue 209

WINTER 2025

Town Hall, Towcester

Mycelium Magic!

This stunning cover image was submitted by Anne Gray of **Towcester Photographic Society** taken during a workshop with macro expert Andy Sands.
Page 23

TOWCESTER CHEESECAKE MAKES A COMEBACK!

Page 10

Christmas Toy Bank Seeks Volunteers

Page 31

WHAT'S ON THIS WINTER?

Christmas Concerts
Festive Fun
Church Services
Panto Pandemonium
Rotary's Santa on Tour

Also inside:

- + Ukraine Aid Update
- + Volunteer Opportunities
- + Community Group News
- + Support Services
- + and more...

COULD YOU HELP DISTRIBUTE THIS COMMUNITY MAGAZINE TO YOUR NEIGHBOURS?
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Types of stay		Permanent • Respite • Day Care



“

I have dedicated nearly four decades to caring for others, and I'm proud to lead the team at Brook House. Residents and their families can feel confident knowing I bring both professional expertise and a heartfelt commitment to creating a welcoming, supportive home.

”

Nicky

Nicky Cahill – Home Manager

0808 281 5107 | ariacare.co.uk

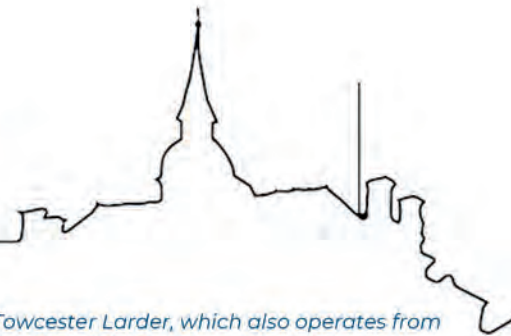
Water Lane, Towcester, Northamptonshire, NN12 6HR

BROOK HOUSE

✕ ARIA CARE



A WORD FROM THE MAYOR



After a warm and lengthy summer, I was thrilled to present a cheque for £4,000 in September. This amount was raised by the 2025 Towcester Midsummer Music Festival for my Mayor's charity, Towcester NMPAT. Rob Fleming graciously accepted the cheque and shared the wonderful news that the music school has successfully transitioned to their new Wednesday slot.

Additionally, the festival distributed £800 among several organisations that support young musicians or hosted fabulous music workshops at the event. These include:

- Rockschoools
- Nicholas Hawksmoor Primary School
- Sponne School
- Towcester Primary School
- Tove Benefice
- Aspire Arts Academy
- St Lawrence Society of Bellringers
- Stagecoach Buckingham & Towcester
- Noise Academy

I recently visited Inspiration FM and learned about the potential for Noise Academy to use a venue in Towcester, which would be an incredible opportunity for our youth. I look forward to updates on this initiative.



On 3rd September, I attended the open training session for the French national rugby team at Towcestrians Sports Club. It was a privilege to be close to a professional team, and an honour for the club to host them. I wished them luck in my best French for their upcoming match against South Africa, and it seems my encouragement paid off as they emerged victorious!

On 9th September, I participated in the flag-raising ceremony for Emergency Services Day in Northampton, honouring all those who work and volunteer within the NHS and emergency services. I have since received an invitation to join the Towcester Emergency Services Cadets for an evening in November, which I eagerly anticipate.



Towcester Foodbank held an open session at the Riverside Centre on the 19th, where I was warmly welcomed and treated to a talk, a tour, tea, and delicious cake. The Foodbank offers more than just food; it has partnered with the Community Law Service to provide essential free and confidential financial advice to the Towcester community.



Towcester Larder, which also operates from the Riverside Centre, continues to work collaboratively to help those in need while reducing food waste. With 1 in 5 of the UK population living below the poverty line, we are fortunate to have Towcester Foodbank, Towcester Larder, and the Towcester Fridge available to assist our community.

I supported this year's Heritage Open Days, starting with a talk on the 14th by the always entertaining Philomena Higgins at Towcester Mill Brewery. The topic, "Gunpowder, Treason and Sub-plot," explored Northamptonshire's deep connections to Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. The captivating talk was enhanced by the stormy night atmosphere!

On the 20th, I donned Elizabethan attire to support Towcester Museum's Heritage Day, which turned out to be a fun-filled family event and a resounding success! I eagerly look forward to assisting with their annual Victorian Christmas celebration in December.



With so many exciting events on the horizon leading up to the year's end, I am already looking forward to sharing updates in the next edition. In the meantime, you can follow me on my "Towcester Town Mayor" Facebook page.



Cllr Rachel Dando LOlive

Towcester Town Mayor 2025-6
Facebook @TowcesterMayor

Fundraising for:

NMPAT
Towcester



Towcester NMPAT Music School
Nicholas Hawksmoor Primary
4:15pm Wednesdays
Open to all aspiring musicians



Scan to donate



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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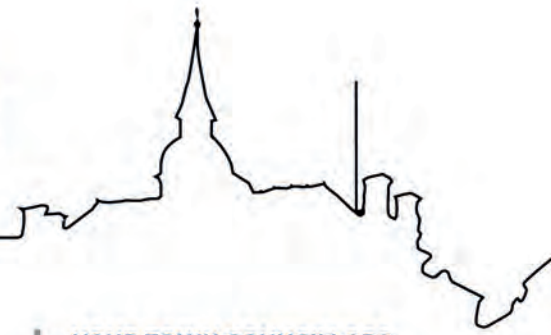
*Find
out more*



Anna
Northampton & Daventry



TOWCESTER TOWN COUNCIL NEWS



TOVE WETLAND POCKET PARK

Work is currently underway to address the accumulation of Canadian Pondweed in the balancing lake at Tove Wetland Pocket Park. Volunteers from the Tove Wetland Pocket Park Committee previously maintained this lake until the committee disbanded a few years ago. After consulting with the Northamptonshire Amphibian and Reptile Group and dealing with several unfulfilled quotations, the works could finally proceed. This initiative will restore the lake to its original purpose; enhancing the park's biodiversity, and offering local children opportunities for pond-dipping and bug sweeping. Works include:

- **Cutting and clearing vegetation from two inlets and headwalls** to facilitate access for a 360 excavator to help remove silt and create clearer channels to the rest of the pond and outlet, improving water flow and preventing future silt accumulation.
- **Coppicing and trimming** various willows and shrubs/trees around the balancing pond to ensure better access for ongoing work and aid future maintenance.
- Using a 360 long reach excavator to **remove silt and vegetation from the pond** while preserving small pockets that do not obstruct water flow or the pond's function.
- **Excavating** a deeper area near the outflow to create a 'silt trap' for easier future maintenance.
- **Neatly stacking silt and vegetation** around the pond's perimeter to allow invertebrates, animals, and water to re-enter the pond. This material will be landscaped around the edges, ensuring no waste is removed from the site.
- **Restoring any areas surrounding the pond as needed**, including topsoil application, seed leveling, and re-grading.

Scheduled for October and November, these activities minimise disruption to natural habitats and allowed for the coppicing of trees and other vegetation outside the bird nesting season. The Town Council apologises for any disturbances caused to residents during this work.

CA-WN PROJECT AT BRACKLEY ROAD CEMETERY



Towcester Town Council has recently engaged with Climate Action West Northants (CA-WN) to assess practical opportunities for expanding an existing area of the Cemetery that is managed for wildlife. The objective is to encourage a carefully controlled natural recovery that will allow wildlife to flourish. The proposal, in collaboration with the cemetery contractor and local wildlife enthusiasts, is to create a low maintenance grassland meadow feature that, in due course, will incorporate a wheelchair-friendly pathway. In the early stages of the project, temporary signs will explain the wildlife recovery process and, once the area has matured, a permanent interpretation board will be installed to highlight features of the area and identify the species of plants, invertebrates, mammals and birds that it supports. The Town Council and CA-WN are at the starting point of this project and further information will be included in the next edition of the Town Crier.

TOWCESTER TOWN COUNCIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FULL COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 10th November 2025
Towcester Town Hall

FULL COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 8th December 2025
Towcester Town Hall

FULL COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 12th January 2026
Towcester Town Hall

FULL COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 9th February 2026
Towcester Town Hall

All electors in the parish of Towcester are welcome to attend Town Council meetings. Agendas are published a few days before each meeting. Dates are subject to change. See our website for all committee dates, times, venues, agendas & minutes.

Towcester Town Council and staff wish everyone a
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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 Maggie Clubley
Cllr John Godwin
Cllr Martin Johns
Cllr Innes Macaulay
Cllr David Reed
Cllr Damian Reynolds
Cllr David Tarbun
Vacant Seat
Vacant Seat

Mill Ward

Cllr Peter Allen
Cllr Charles Askew
Cllr David Carmichael
Cllr Jim Lynch
Cllr Stewart Tolley
Cllr Miranda Wixon

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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86 Watling Street East,
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towncouncil@towcester-tc.gov.uk
www.towcester-tc.gov.uk

TOWN CRIER INFORMATION

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

Deadlines:

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

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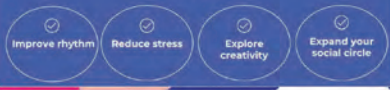


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Fun, Fitness
and Friends!

BENEFITS



For more information



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Marie Weller Primary School, NN12 6LZ





UKRAINE AID

HUGE CARE HOME WIN + 2 AMBULANCES

The Tove Benefice continue their work supporting Ukraine, donating 2 further ambulances full of medical and humanitarian aid, plus the contents of a 21-bedroom Care Home recently closed in Silverstone.

Always on the lookout for redundant or unwanted items that can support medical and rehabilitation institutions in Ukraine, in September, the Tove team joined forces with Milton Keynes based aid organisation, Help Ukraine BAMK UK, to remove and transport the Care Home contents to Ukraine's national eye hospital, The Filatov Institute, in the war torn south of Ukraine. This amazing achievement was only possible thanks to the generosity and trust of Care Home owner, Mr Popat, and over 30 volunteers who helped remove and load the contents into the huge articulated lorry. After loading additional aid from the MK team, and Towcester, the huge articulated lorry was full to capacity with over 8 tons of aid.



Silverstone
13 Sept '25

The team have also continued their delivery and donation of ambulances full of aid. In July, Alex Donaldson and Clive Sparling drove the 1350 miles to Lviv, replacing an ambulance for a community that is under partial curfew due to its close proximity to the frontline on the far east of Ukraine. The ambulance was funded by many generous donations, including that from Thomas Becket School in Northampton.



Silverstone
13 Sept '25



Then in October Alex Donaldson completed his 8th drive to Ukraine, with Steve Challen and Uliana Teslia, and members of Northampton Becket Rotary who delivered a second ambulance. The Towcester ambulance was donated to a military paramedic team in memory of Uliana's friend Maryna who was tragically killed alongside other paramedics in early August. Maryna was an art curator at the Chernihiv Regional Art Museum. In March 2023, during the offensive on Chernihiv, she volunteered and joined the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and became later a combat paramedic. She left a daughter aged 15.

The team would like to offer thanks to everyone who has once again supported the aid efforts this year, especially the incredible Towcester Rotary. Help Ukraine BAMK UK continue to seek donations of humanitarian and medical aid.

The group meet between 1pm to 4pm every Tuesday at Shenley Brook End Village Hall, Church End Road, Shenley Brook End, MK5 7AA, or they can be contacted at info@helpukrainebamk.uk | Tel. 07951658749



Cornhill Squash

Come and play squash and racketball
just 5 minutes north of Towcester
at our thriving little club.

- New players of all abilities very welcome
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- £3 per person (40 min game)
- Friendly or competitive games available
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cornhillsquashclub@outlook.com
for a joining form

www.cornhillsquashclub.co.uk



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Reg. Charity No. 1059631

A Message to the Residents of Towcester and District

As you read this, nearly half of the Rotary year will have passed. My first six months as President have been incredibly busy.

During the summer, our Club participated in the highly successful annual **Towcester Midsummer Music Festival**, which featured an exciting weekend of music and culminated in a spectacular fireworks display.

With a focus on engaging the younger generation, the Club also organised several events for our community:

In July, we sponsored a group of **Young Carers** for a day of sailing and rafting at Pitsford Reservoir. They had a blast getting wet, despite initially claiming they wouldn't!

We also treated another group of younger carers (ages 7 to 12) to a day of fun at Gulliver's World in Milton Keynes, giving them a much-deserved break from their responsibilities at home.

At the end of August, we supported the **South Northants Youth Engagement Activity Day** held on the Recreation Ground.

In early August, the Club sponsored an 18-year-old to attend the annual **RYLA Week** at Grafham Water, where they gained valuable life skills, built confidence, and made new friends.

As we approach the end of 2025, the Rotary Club of Towcester is gearing up for a busy period, including the **Cycle4Polio** event at the Towcester Leisure Centre on Saturday, 25th October. All proceeds will benefit Rotary's charity, **Purple4Polio**.

Additionally, we will host a **Musical Bingo Competition** at Towcester Mill Brewery on 13th November, along with the arrival of Rotary Santa.

Look out for the Naughty Elf on the Shelf competition and a special Farmers' Christmas Market on Friday, 12th December, with Rotary Santa making appearances at various locations around town—check out the What's On page for details.

With all this activity, it seems Rotary Santa is facing some issues with his Elves, as rumours suggest some have been escaping and causing mischief around town. Stay tuned for more updates!

Looking ahead to 2026, our Club will be managing the **Rotary Youth Competitions** for young people aged 7 to 17, encompassing various talents such as music, writing, painting, photography, and environmental initiatives. For more information, visit our website at www.towcester-rotary.org.uk and search for Youth Competitions.

On Sunday, 1st February 2026, we will celebrate the 12th year of the Rotary Club's **Last Night of the Proms** at Whittlebury Park. Keep an eye out for further details or visit the Rotary Shop on our website, or stop by Footworks on the high street for tickets.

Rotary in Towcester is very active!

If you would like to learn more or get involved, we welcome anyone over the age of 18, and we embrace diversity. Feel free to email us at secretary@towcester-rotary.org.uk or visit our website at www.towcester-rotary.org.uk

Finally, on behalf of the Rotary Club of Towcester, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for your support and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2026!

John Sidwick
President 2025/26
The Rotary Club of Towcester and District
Website: www.towcester-rotary.org.uk
Facebook: @TowcesterRotaryClub

Rotary
Towcester

44
ANNIVERSARY
1981-2025



Christmas Exhibition

Saturday 29th November, 10am - 4.30pm

Sunday 30th November, 10am - 4.30pm

TOWCESTER & DISTRICT

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YOUR MUSEUM NEEDS YOU *Treasurer Wanted*

Exciting things are happening at
Towcester Museum.

We are now looking for a Treasurer to join
our team of friendly, dedicated Trustees as
we embark on our plans to develop the
Museum to become a Community Hub.
This is a voluntary role, but an important
one to continue the success of the Charity.



**TOWCESTER
MUSEUM**

For more information contact Damian Reynolds:
Damian.Reynolds@towcester-museum.co.uk

Find us on Facebook and Instagram



TOWCESTER CHEESECAKE MAKES A COMEBACK!

Did you know that while Stilton is known for
its cheese, Melton Mowbray for its pies,
Bakewell for its tart, and Yorkshire for its
pudding, Towcester was once famous for its
cheesecake?

The Towcester Cheesecake originated in the
1940s, created by local baker Thomas Adams.
This delightful dessert, made with cheese curd,
currants, and breadcrumbs nestled in a puff
pastry shell, was sold at the Oliver Adams shop
on the corner of Park Street until it closed its
doors in 2017.



Now, Hobbs Coffee Bar has brought this
cherished local treat back to life, adding the
Towcester Cheesecake to its menu after
receiving numerous requests from devoted
customers eager to see this dessert return.



Local baker Kim, from Kim's Cakes, has eagerly
accepted the challenge and will supply the
Towcester Cheesecake, along with her
selection of other mouth-watering cakes, all
available at Hobbs on Swinneyford Road.





Over the summer, our EYFS outdoor area at Towcester CofE Primary School underwent an exciting transformation, thanks to the incredible support of our community.

Thank You

We're thrilled to share that the new space includes a sandpit beach area with a boat, a climbing wall, a tree swing, a water play area, and a brand new mud kitchen. These facilities are already inspiring curiosity and creativity in our children, greatly enhancing their play-based learning.

A huge thank you goes to the Rotary Club for their generous donation and for helping us collect over 100 tyres to form the sandpit walls. We're also very grateful to our staff, volunteers, and parents who dedicated their time to help bring this project to life.



Early Years Outdoor Area Transformed

Our outdoor space is carefully designed to complement classroom learning and provide children with a wide range of meaningful experiences. Including:



Encouraging Risk-Taking and Building Confidence:

Children have safe opportunities to try new things—climbing, balancing, and exploring—helping them to manage risks, overcome challenges, and celebrate their accomplishments.

Fostering Resilience and Independence:

Outdoor play helps children develop perseverance. When things don't go to plan, they learn to try again, building resilience and a sense of achievement.

Developing Communication and Social Skills:

Our outdoor activities encourage children to talk, listen, and work together. They practise turn-taking, share resources, and help each other solve problems, building strong friendships and teamwork skills.

Promoting Physical and Emotional Wellbeing:

Being outdoors gives children space to move, use their imaginations, and enjoy fresh air, supporting both physical health and emotional wellbeing.

The feedback from children and staff has been overwhelmingly positive – our outdoor space is now a hub of exploration and fun every day! Freya was asked what she likes best and she said 'All of it! I can't wait to come to school.' James said 'When I use the pump fast the water fills up the tray – it's lots of fun and splashes me!' Kit said 'I like the swing because it's round like a trampoline and I love spinning on it!'

Are you looking for a setting for your child for September 2026? Or perhaps you'd like more information about our EYFS provision or maybe you'd just like to see our school then please do get in touch!

Towcester C of E Primary School | Islington Road | Towcester | NN12 6AU
Tel: 01327 350332 | Email: office@towcester.pdet.org.uk
Web: www.towcesterprimary.northants.sch.uk





South Northants Youth Engagement

Our Towcester Youth Clubs underwent a glow up over the Summer and since reopening in September we have welcomed lots of new young people. Our Junior Youth Club is a great place to meet new friends from other schools or even talk to some year 7's about the transition from Primary to Secondary.

Our Older Youth Club is a great place to catch up with friends or unwind after a busy day. Both clubs offer a safe and inclusive space for all young people, where they can also access support, learn new skills and ultimately have fun!

With our numbers growing, we are in desperate need of volunteers. One evening a month could really go a long way in supporting the young people of our community. We offer free DBS checks & Safeguarding training. Not to mention, volunteering has been proven to help boost your mental health! So please, email admin@youth-engagement.co.uk for details.

As always, we continue to thank Towcester Town Council for their support, and if you would like more information on what we do, please scan the QR code on the posters, or follow the link below to our social media.

For more information on our upcoming events, check out our social media pages:
<https://linktr.ee/snye>

Thank You!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN TOWCESTER



WE RUN 2 YOUTH CLUBS ON A WEDNESDAY EVENING:

9-12YRS = 5.30PM - 6.30PM
(VOLUNTEERING WOULD BE 5 - 7PM)

13-16YRS = 7PM-8.30PM
(VOLUNTEERING WOULD BE 6.30-9PM)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
ADMIN@YOUTH-ENGAGEMENT.CO.UK



TOWCESTER JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB

WEDNESDAYS

5:30PM - 6:30PM

9- 12 YEARS

YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE, ISLINGTON
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£2 ENTRY



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR OUR SOCIALS



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WEDNESDAYS

13 - 16 YEARS

7PM TILL 8:30PM

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£2 ENTRY



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR OUR SOCIALS



the
lowdown
supporting young people

**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

The MIND Building
The Barn
Bransons Lane
Towcester
NN12 6AX



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



**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.



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Join us on
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of every month!

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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.

To the Women of Towcester and surrounding villages...

Question:

Where can you experience 12 evenings out a year (that's once month) where you are entertained by excellent speakers on a broad range of subjects?; Meet and form strong friendship bonds with like-minded women?; Enjoy drinks (hot/cold) and cake, all for a subscription of £51 a year, with a voluntary donation of £2 a meeting to cover refreshments?

Answer: **Your local Towcester Evening WI!**

Also, we have 3 subgroups catering for members with interests in craft, gardening and skittles which meet in the daytime and/or evening. The TEWI is part of Northants County Federation. This very active organisation gives our members access to wider events such as teas, coffee mornings, lunches, walking groups and group trips, holidays and marches. There is always something going on somewhere to be involved with, if you are so inclined.

Many Towcester residents and visitors comment on the beautiful planters and shows of spring bulbs around our town. Our thanks go to our gardening team especially Sue Hamilton who leads this so passionately.

Our local Saracens Head Hotel deserve our heartfelt thanks for supporting us and hosting our coffee mornings and committee meetings FOC. Special thanks go to Kerry Dines and her lovely team.

Join us now

New members are always welcome so please come and see what we are all about. Meetings are at 7pm for 7.30 on the first Thursday of the month at The Sawpits Centre in Richmond Road. No charge for your first visit.

TOWCESTER EVENING WI

Towcester Evening WI is a flourishing community.

We meet every first Thursday evening of the month from 7:30pm to 9:30pm, usually at the Sawpits Centre, off Richmond Road. Our meetings feature inspiring speakers, WI business discussions, friendly conversations, and delicious tea and cake. If you feel this could be the right fit for you, please get in touch. New members are always warmly welcomed!

Upcoming Meeting Programme:

November - The agony and ecstasy of a Canal holiday boater

December - Women in blue

January - My Father's War by Andy Tennet

February - History of Towcester Pubs by Brian Giggins

For more details, please contact:

President - Sue Williams 07769967532

sue@williamsfarmingpartnership.co.uk

Secretary - Carol Merry carolmerry1221@gmail.com



A Thank You from Towcester Evening WI Gardening Team

Towcester was blooming lovely over the summer! Towcester Evening WI would like to take this opportunity to thank their sponsors of the WI floral planters and flower beds in the town. Their support enables the WI Gardening Team to keep the planters and flower beds looking colourful all year round.

We thank all our sponsors for their generosity and support:

- Andrew Gordon & Co Licensed Conveyancers
- D W Roberts Opticians
- John White Funeral Directors
- Michael Graham – Estate Agents
- Towcester Museum

We would also like to thank the Town Council for organising the watering of the planters during the summer months. We love the addition of the council's new planters too - Towcester was certainly colourful over the summer.





YOUR COMMUNITY BUS SERVICE



ABILITY is a not-for-profit bus service dedicated to providing safe, convenient, and reliable transportation across West Northamptonshire and North Oxfordshire. Our services welcome individuals of all ages, catering to our youngest passenger at just 6 months old, while our oldest is an impressive 102 years.

We provide a shopping service along with day trips, where our drivers pick up members from their homes or nearby bus stops, helping them load and deliver their shopping. Each year, we offer approximately 60 trips to popular destinations, including garden centres, nearby towns, and various places of interest.

Reflecting on our journey from the beginnings in 2018 to recent milestones is truly remarkable. We take immense pride in ABILITY's growth over the years. What started as a simple idea has blossomed into seven years of dedication and commitment to serving communities and connecting people with places.

We frequently hear how impactful our services have been, with many expressing that ABILITY is "not just a bus service" and has truly "changed my life." We aim to highlight these success stories to our funders and target audience, demonstrating that our organisation offers far more than transport; it fosters connection, independence, and community.

Saracens Head

Due to our substantial growth, ABILITY hosted "Celebrating Success" events in August, inviting our members to join us. The aim of these events was to unite our community and honour the ongoing achievements and expansion of ABILITY.

They offered a valuable platform for networking, meeting new people, and enjoying an afternoon in excellent company. We have been inspired by the wonderful stories of the difference we have made in our members' lives.

The Celebrating Success events took place at the Saracen's Head in Towcester over five days, attracting more than 250 attendees. Participants enjoyed an afternoon filled with delicious food, lively bingo games, and a few well-deserved glasses of wine.

These gatherings are crucial to ABILITY's continued growth. They provide an opportunity to gather insights and feedback, which are invaluable to the Motability Foundation. The foundation plays a significant role in ABILITY's success and development by providing essential funding.

Conclusion and contact

ABILITY's commitment and tireless efforts within the community are truly commendable and have not gone unnoticed. Our recent gathering at the Saracen's received heartfelt appreciation from attendees, who shared, "To everyone at ABILITY, thank you for the lovely time on Thursday. The enjoyable meal and good company were highlights, and your hard work throughout the year is greatly appreciated."

Our mission is to enhance lives by building connections with people and places. We are eager to welcome new members to join us!



www.abilitycic.org.uk

01327 604123 | admin@abilitycic.org.uk
Follow on Facebook: ABILITY Bus Service

ABILITY (Northants) CIC
Grafton Suite, Caswell Science Park, Towcester NN12 8EQ





We've moved to Riverside Centre

Since the last issue of Town Crier, your local Foodbank has moved to new premises just 50 meters along Islington Road into the Riverside Centre.

Our volunteers made an outstanding effort to shift all of the stock and prepare the site for the Foodbank to operate. Many thanks to all who gave their time to make it happen.

Did you know?

When Towcester Foodbank was originally conceived in 2012, it started operating from Riverside Centre.

Working together

We are now working closely with Towcester Community Larder, which is already established in the Riverside Centre. That means we can benefit from shared resources and offer some of the fresh produce being handled by the Larder to Foodbank guests. Now it's back to 'business as usual', but operating from much improved premises for both guests and volunteers.



We need your help

It's been a long fabulous summer, and we are now preparing for autumn and winter. This is the time when your Foodbank is most in need of your support. We need to keep our stocks up to ensure that no-one who needs our support goes hungry. All of the supermarkets in Towcester support the Foodbank, with clearly labelled donation bins located near the exit. Alternatively, you can make donations directly at Riverside during our opening hours.



Did you know that we don't just provide food, but also basic hygiene products such as washing powder, nappies, washing-up liquid, deodorant and shampoo? But stocks are running low, so please consider donating these items for the Foodbank during your weekly shop.

Thanks again to everyone who helps ensure the Towcester Foodbank delivers for our community.



01604 621038 Lines are open:
10am - 2pm Mon - Thurs
10am - 1pm Fri
enquiries@communitylawservice.org.uk

Towcester Foodbank Contact Details

Address: Riverside Centre, 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

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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01327 350995



Age UK Northamptonshire says thank you to Arnold Thomson, and clients from the charity's Leeson Court day centre went on a boat trip

In August, Jo Bird was thrilled to accept a generous donation from Paula Annetts of Towcester-based Arnold Thomson Solicitors. Paula said "We are delighted to have raised £400 for Age UK Northamptonshire in 2025 and thank all our contributors from the Blakesley Show raffle and people who have popped a donation in the goblet in our reception area at our Towcester office. All the money raised helps the charity support local older people which means a lot to us."

The sun shone and there was only a slight breeze on Monday 8th September as 15 older people and four members of staff boarded a boat at Northampton Lock in Becket's Park in Northampton. Day Centre Co-ordinator Aimie Boyd had arranged for clients from the charity's day centre at Leeson Court in Towcester to enjoy the day cruising gently along the River Nene with Crusader Community Boating.

"We had a delicious picnic lunch on the boat and everyone joined in the riverside-themed activities I had put together for the occasion. Later in the afternoon we had tea and cake whilst listening to a river-themed playlist," said Aimie.

David (pictured above with Maggie) said "It was a lovely boat and we had a very nice lunch."

Age UK Northamptonshire's Towcester day centre celebrated its first anniversary this month and it is thanks to Towcester Waitrose that clients and several residents at Leeson Court were able to enjoy the memorable and relaxing boat trip. "We went to the garden centre the following week and we hope to have many more trips together in the future," adds Aimie.

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



Northamptonshire
age UK
Let's change how we age

Registered Charity No.1059995
www.ageuknorthants.org.uk

Live your life to the full during retirement

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

Retirement can feel a bit daunting if you're looking for new ways to fill your time and make new friends. If this is the case, Towcester u3a could be for you. It offers opportunities to meet others to learn for fun, take part in new activities and enjoy the company of like-minded individuals.

Whether you're looking to take up new interests; spend more time doing something you already enjoy; keep active and fit; or get out and about on visits to interesting or beautiful places, there's plenty of choice available. From pickleball to pétanque, badminton to birdwatching, the range of interest groups offers exercise for the body and the mind.



u3a
Towcester
Registered charity number 1155428

Our monthly meetings bring members together to enjoy entertaining speakers and the chance to socialise over a cup of tea. Being a member also gives you access to many on-line workshops and talks – there's sure to be a topic which interests you.

November
21

New Members Meeting

10am-12noon, Friday 21 November at Towcester Town Hall

We warmly welcome you to join us for a coffee and a chat and find out more about the groups and activities on offer.

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

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

01327 604123

ABILITY

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

Don't sit at home, join today.....

Membership from as little as £1.25 per month
Concessionary Bus Passes accepted

In 2024 ABILITY vehicles

- made 37,000 trips
- and travelled 425,000 miles

Registration is easy

To use the services simply register either online at www.abilitycic.org.uk or call 01327 604123

www.abilitycic.org.uk

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Rotary
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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!

Sign up for
our newsletter



eeouf.com/m4esq



facebook.com
/Renew169



justgiving.com/RenewWellbeingCafe

Head to
our website



renew169.org.uk



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Northants
NN12 6BX

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



We are here for Everyone

The renew169 Wellbeing Café, located in the heart of Towcester on Watling Steet, is now in its seventh year and the services and support we provide are needed now more than ever.

We are 'A quiet shared space in Towcester where it's Ok not to be Ok' but what does that mean and what do we do to help and support the local community?

For a start, we have drop-in sessions every Monday to Thursday, 10.00am – 3.00pm, where anyone can just pop in for a chat with a friendly face over a cuppa and cake, no booking necessary – just come as you are!

In addition to our drop-in service, we offer a range of scheduled activities and sessions throughout the week.

Tuesdays are busy, with a session at the Community Garden at The Tove Valley Centre on Northampton Road, from 10.30am – 1.00pm, Lunch club at the Café at midday where visitors are assured of something tasty followed by an afternoon crafting session starting at 1.00pm.

On Wednesdays we have Stroll and Soup at 12.00pm where we get outside in the fresh air and have a wander around the Watermeadows or local parks before heading back to the café for a warming bowl of homemade soup.

There is another session at the Community Garden on Thursday from 10.30am – 1.00pm and a Sandwich Club at midday for lunch at the Café.

On Friday we offer a Grief, Comfort and Coffee session, from 10.00am – 11.30am for anyone going through bereavement and loss, who needs to talk and we have a qualified, professional grief counsellor to provide comfort and understanding.

In addition to the weekly activities, Renew169 has a few monthly events such as the "Creative Nights" craft evening on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 7.00–9.00pm, where people are invited to bring their crafts and creativity for a roundtable session with likeminded people and share their skills and knowledge. This could be all forms of needlework and sewing, wood whittling, painting and drawing, etc.

The Repair Café is held on the Last Saturday of each month from 10.00am–12.00pm. Bring along your faulty domestic appliances, electronics, ripped clothes, or broken furniture and homewares and we will take a look and fix them then and there if we can, or if it needs more detailed investigation, our team of volunteers will take them home and look at it in time for the following months session.

Renew169 is a small, local charity and we could not operate without our amazing team of volunteers, who give up their time to support the community at the café and help with fundraising events, such as the Cream Tea, Craft and Produce Fayre back in September and the Big Quiz at Towcester Mill on 12 November.



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



renew169

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

Registered Charity Number: 1196631



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JOIN FOR THE MUSIC... STAY FOR THE GIGGLES!

The Songbirds have been singing together for over 14 years now... we asked our members why they joined, but also why they've stayed...

Why we joined...

"After intense years as a stay-at-home mum I was looking for something fun ... I was terrified to sing out loud, but soon swept up in the fun of joining in!"

"I wanted to try something new and, after watching the Songbirds perform, I decided to give it a go."

"I had always wanted to sing but wasn't confident. So this was perfect."

"My partner persuaded me to give it a go... he knew it would be good for my wellbeing."

"I was at an event where the Songbirds were singing... they were having such a good time. I felt it was 'meant to be'."

"As a busy wife and mummy I needed some space to be me! And I wanted to share my love of singing with some buddies."

"I liked the repertoire – fresh and modern without 'choir clichés'."

"I'd moved to the area, and it seemed like a good way to make friends. They were way more approachable than I expected."

"I was missing singing in harmony... Kat is so approachable and passionate – everyone is welcome."

... why we stayed

"I'm proud to be part of such a lovely group: non-judgemental, wholly supportive – where joy and a sense of belonging matter just as much the harmonies."

Liz, member for 2 years

"No matter what's happening in my life, singing with this wonderful group lifts me up. I love the singing, but most of all I love the laughter."

Ciaragh, 10 years

"It's a supportive environment, with the uplifting benefits of singing."

Manny, 12 years

"I absolutely love being part of such an inspiring, supportive and uplifting community."

Izzy, 3 years

"I love seeing us all grow in confidence. It doesn't matter whether you've sung before or can read music. If you love singing and having fun, Songbirds is for you!"

Sharon, 10 years

"We're a fantastic group of friends that genuinely enjoy time together. I leave with a smile on my face and a spring in my step!"

Lisa, 13+ years

"It's a highlight of my week... we have a big range of ages but plenty in common. And we sound amazing!"

Abi, 18 months

"It's the best bunch of women. And there's more laughing going on than singing!"

Nicola, 18 months

"The friendships, support and laughter are a massive part of why I've stayed. It's a very special place, where we genuinely care about each other."

Annemarie, 10+ years

Fancy trying us out?

- Come along to Nicholas Hawksmoor Primary, Thursdays 7.45pm (term time)
- Message us on Facebook or Instagram – search for @SongbirdsTowcester
- Email kat@katstephens.com



Wildlife on our doorstep

by Peter Warden

Trichomonosis

I make no apologies for revisiting the issue of Trichomonosis, a disease affecting birds caused by a microscopic protozoan parasite. The population of Greenfinches, the species most severely impacted by this disease, has been declining since c.2005, with an alarming 57% drop between 2012 and 2022. In 2021, conservationists elevated greenfinches to the Red List category in the Birds of Conservation Concern report due to this significant decline. Chaffinch populations have also started to fall, losing 39% between 2012 and 2022.

Changes in Bird Feeding Practices

Our methods of feeding birds have evolved over the years; for instance, we no longer use mesh bags for nuts. By collaborating, we can make a meaningful impact.

- If you notice signs of ill health in garden birds, please report your observations to gardenwildlifehealth.org.
- If you see sick birds, refrain from putting out food for two to four weeks. Gradually reintroduce feeding while closely monitoring the birds. You might need to pause feeding again for an additional 2 to 4 weeks if more diseased birds appear, or for 3 to 6 months if issues persist.
- Regularly cleaning bird feeders at least once a week can help slow or prevent the spread of various diseases. I personally use a diluted solution of white vinegar.

The RSPB has ceased selling bird tables and the plastic feeders that attach to windows, as these "trays" have been identified as areas where the disease spreads.

Observations of Local Wildlife

The house developer responsible for the layout of Silverstone Brook Open Space seems to have favoured alder trees in their planting scheme. While a substantial number of the planted trees are alders, they may not be our native variety. Nevertheless, siskins enjoy feeding on the seeds found in the small cones.

Siskins typically breed further north, but in certain years, flocks migrate south in search of food. They do not appear in Towcester every winter, but when the weather turns cold and food sources are depleted up north, they tend to move southward.

Usually, they arrive in January and prefer the trees at the far end of the Open Space, away from the town centre. Once the seeds there are consumed, they will shift to the trees closer to the leisure centre. Keep an eye out; they prefer to feed near the tops of the trees but are not shy and will often remain in view while you observe.



Photo credit: © Nick Holder

Early Spring Flowers

Spring flowers are expected to bloom in spring, yet increasingly, many are flowering in early winter, likely due to milder winters and the absence of prolonged frost periods. Primroses can be seen blooming at Malthouse Court before Christmas, while snowdrops and winter aconites typically flower in January. Keep an eye out for these early bloomers, along with other plants I may have overlooked, as they can attract insects on warmer winter days.

Following these early spring flowers, the stunning lesser celandine will emerge. This lovely yellow, buttercup-like flower provides an eye-catching display during the dim days of late winter and offers abundant nectar for early insects.

Fascinating Observations of Ant Behaviour

A friend recently shared a video of ants navigating an olive tree and wondered why they kept bumping into each other. What a remarkable observation, one not many might notice! Having read the insightful book "Ants" by Richard Jones (Book 11 in The British Wildlife Collection published by Bloomsbury), I knew the answer. Richard explains that "the most likely species to attack an ant nest would be another species of ant." He further elaborates that "it has long been believed that each species, or even colony, has a distinct odour." Thus, the ants on the olive tree were likely checking the scents of any ants they encountered as a defence mechanism against potential intruders in their territory.

The Midlands Columbarian Society (MCS) Annual Show

The MCS Annual Show is the year's highlight, drawing breeders from across regions to showcase their finest birds. Alongside local Northamptonshire members, we welcomed exhibitors from Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Hampshire, Kent, Cambridgeshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Berkshire, and Warwickshire.

This event is a fantastic social gathering, reconnecting with friends and meeting new ones. Early Sunday morning preparations saw 142 pens set up at the Youth & Community Centre, ready for the 10:00 a.m. start on October 5th. By 11:00 a.m., 142 pigeons were displayed for judging.

Awards began at 1:30 p.m. Jonathan Wooff from Nottinghamshire won the 'Best in Show' (MCS Adult Bird Cup) for his Blue Chequer Dragoon. [Top right]

Les Petty from Northamptonshire received 'Reserve Best in Show' (MCS Challenge Coronation Salver) and the (MCS Robin Pratt Memorial Trophy) for his Show Pen Racer. [Bottom right]

Visitors enjoyed guided tours, learning about our hobby and various pigeon breeds. After presentations, we packed up, ending another successful show. We made a small profit to aid the 2026 Annual Show.

Thanks to Towcester Town Council, our judges, tea ladies Sheila and Jill, and all exhibitors.

For more on this hobby, join our meetings. Contact Secretary Ken Goodman at kenorsheila367@yahoo.co.uk





Adonis Blue



**Towcester & District
Photographic Society**

The fabulous summer we have enjoyed has given ample opportunity for wonderful image making. This has included opportunities for members to group together for some successful Osprey photography at a tried and trusted location in Rutland; on location at Campbell Park, Milton Keynes for modernist sculptures at the western end to the Grand Union canal and the Gyosei art trail at the lower, eastern end; examples of nature photography from various nature reserves from East Anglia to Worcestershire; and a technical macro workshop with the excellent Andy Sands.

Two groups of members benefitted from time in the field with incredible naturalist and macro expert Andy Sands, who wowed us with a presentation earlier in the year. The subject of these autumn workshops was fungi, with a particular emphasis on focus stacking for razor sharp representation of subjects front to back. This technique requires a bit of trial and error and understanding the capability of your kit, plus some processing technique for those without in-camera auto-stack functionality, but results can be very pleasing. This 39 image stack of the Bleeding Fairy Helmet Fungi has been stacked using Zerene Stacker.

The sunniest spring and hottest summer ever recorded in the UK provided good weather conditions for butterflies after 2024's record-breaking lows. However, the results from the Big Butterfly Count show that it was definitely not a bumper summer for our beleaguered butterflies. Between July 18 and August 10, over 125,000 citizen scientists got involved in the Big Butterfly Count – more than ever before – and recorded 1.7 million butterflies and moths, with the top five species being Large White, Small White, Gatekeeper, Red Admiral and Meadow Brown.

A few TDPS members were enthused by events offered by Butterfly Conservation, particularly the regular butterfly walks offered throughout the summer, with some of the rarer UK species happily captured as shown.

In terms of the regular programme, a couple of upcoming programme speaker highlights are listed below:

Reality is Overrated
by Catherine Knee
12 November 2025

Joint Image Review
With Natural History Society
26 November 2025

We have been delighted to welcome some new and returning members, all of whom are made very welcome within a friendly group and less experienced members are well supported. Why not come and join us?

As your local camera club, we enjoy the fun and camaraderie of in-person meetings every other Wednesday evening – good friendships form through membership of TDPS. We aim to provide 'something for everyone'.

The Society is always happy to answer any enquiries via the website contact page.



Clouded Yellow



Bleeding Fairy Helmet Fungi



Silver Studded Skipper

[Images by Anne Gray]



**Towcester & District
Photographic Society**
www.towcesterphoto.co.uk



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



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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Towcester Town Crier
Quarterly Community Magazine

SPRING ISSUE
Out FEBRUARY 2026

Submissions Deadline
1 JAN 2026



Aerial view of the former workhouse (2025)



TOWCESTER AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Behind the Walls: Life in Towcester Workhouse

Workhouses played a pivotal role in shaping the social and economic landscape of English country towns during the 19th and early 20th centuries. These institutions were established as part of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, aimed at providing relief to the destitute and unemployed. Workhouses were often the last resort for those who could not support themselves, offering shelter and food in exchange for their labour.

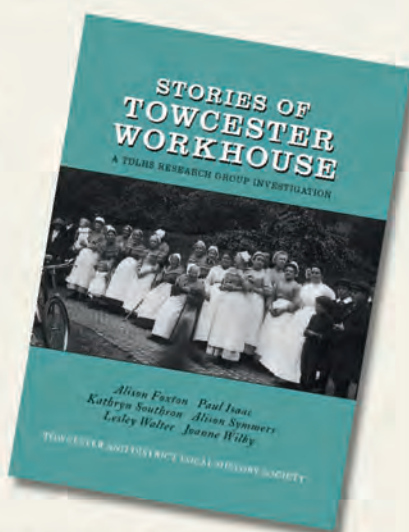


The presence of workhouses provided a safety net for the impoverished but many imposed a strict regime that reflected the societal attitudes towards poverty and work ethic. The conditions within workhouses were deliberately harsh to deter all but the most desperate from seeking assistance, thus reinforcing the stigma associated with poverty. Consequently, workhouses became a symbol of both relief and repression, shaping the community's perception of poverty and social responsibility.

In addition to basic provisions, workhouses also offered education for the children of inmates, ensuring that they received some form of schooling despite their circumstances. This was an important aspect as it aimed to break the cycle of poverty by equipping children with the skills needed for future employment. Furthermore, medical care was provided to the inmates, addressing their health needs and preventing the spread of diseases within the institution. They were run by a Board of Guardians, who were responsible for the administration and management of the workhouse, ensuring that it operated according to the regulations set forth by the Poor Law.

"Stories of Towcester Workhouse" is a new book by the Towcester & District Local History Society Research Group. It is 64 pages long and comprises:-

- A Timeline of the Workhouse
- Floor plans
- What was a Victorian Workhouse
- The Construction and George Gilbert Scott
- The first Board of Guardians
- First impressions of Towcester Workhouse
- Recollections
- A day in the Workhouse
- What can a census tell us?
- The stories of a few people from the Workhouse
- Punishment in the Workhouse and the particular case of Jane Adams
- Master Suttie: the fall from grace of the Master of the Workhouse
- The Workhouse in the Press
- The cholera epidemic and the Workhouse
- The Former Workhouse



Copies priced £5 are available at meetings of the History Society, Towcester Museum and Humbugs.

Brian Giggins,
Chair, Towcester & District Local History Society

Visit the Towcester History and Photographs Facebook group at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/128512377223461>

Forthcoming Talks

The Notorious Culworth Gang

by Richard Blacklee

**Wednesday 12 November 2025
at The Sawpits Centre**

The Gang, a band of highwaymen, roamed the roads of Northamptonshire robbing, pillaging and being generally nasty. Four of them were executed on 3 August 1787 on the Racecourse, Northampton, one of whom, William Bowers, was a distant relative of Richard Blacklee.

A Medieval Christmas

by Michael Brown

**Wednesday 10 December 2025
at The Sawpits Centre**

Michael is the creator of the medieval gardens at the Prebendal Manor, Nassington, Northamptonshire. From this talk presented in 14th Century clothing we shall learn about the Christmas traditions, myths and plants of the medieval period, with music played on early instruments.

Keeping Faith at the Front during the First World War

by Helen Frost

**Wednesday 14 January 2026
at The Sawpits Centre**

Helen returns, this time to explore the varied role of Army Chaplains, Reverends and Padres at "The Front" during WW1. Looking at the work these men did in dreadful conditions and who went far beyond their "calling" to comfort, help and assist the dying and wounded.

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 of £5 for visitors. Members can also access the meetings by Zoom.

One Year of Memories at TOWCESTER MILL

This month marks a wonderful milestone for our town – one year since Miranda Walton Photography opened its doors at the historical Towcester Mill. In that time, Miranda has welcomed many local families, new parents, children, and much-loved pets into her studio, creating portraits that will be treasured for generations.

In an age where so many photos sit hidden away on phones, Miranda is passionate about bringing those memories to life in print. From maternity and newborn to growing families, Miranda helps you hold onto the moments you never want to forget and turns them into artwork you'll never want to take down.



With 17 years of award-winning experience, Miranda knows how to make every session special. Her Towcester Mill studio provides a relaxed, characterful indoor space, while the nearby Watermeadows offers stunning outdoor backdrops. Families love the variety, but even more so the way Miranda puts everyone at ease – her sessions are relaxed, child-led, and full of laughter, resulting in natural, genuine portraits.

Clients often say it's not just the photographs that make the experience memorable, but the journey itself – from planning the session right through to choosing their favourite photographs. Miranda's five-star reputation comes from her warmth and attention to detail, making each family feel looked after every step of the way.

As she celebrates her first year at Towcester Mill, Miranda is also unveiling something extra special for the festive season – her luxury 'Santa Experience'. Families will be invited into a magical Christmas setting, where children can enjoy a story-led visit with Santa, time in beautifully styled sets, and leave with stunning photographs that capture the wonder of the season. With limited sessions available, it's set to be a highlight of Christmas in Towcester.

With a successful first year behind her and the Santa Experience ahead, the focus remains the same: helping families celebrate their story with portraits that last a lifetime.



Miranda Walton Photography | Towcester Mill | Chantry Lane | Towcester | NN12 6YY
01327 228553 | hello@mirandawalton.co.uk | www.mirandawalton.co.uk



CHRISTMAS CHEER at the Mill

Starting to think about Christmas shopping?

Then why not gift some award-winning locally brewed real ales to that special someone in your life!

Here at the Mill we can offer a wide range of gifts that might be just the answer. Whether you want to shop online from the comfort of your home, or pop into the Tap Room and browse our pop up shop, the choice is yours! You can choose from:

- Christmas beer crackers
- 3 bottle Christmas tree gift packs
- 4 bottle Christmas gift packs
- 6 bottle jute bags
- 12 bottle mixed case or NEW festive case
- Branded bottle openers, hoodies, NEW pint glasses, NEW pens and NEW dog bandanas
- Gift vouchers, brewery tour vouchers and Comedy Night tickets

The Christmas shop will be back in the Snug, from Saturday 22nd November and will be in there every weekend until Christmas Eve. During the week you can still pick up all gifts and bottled beers from the Tap Room. We will also be open on Monday 22nd December. Christmas Cheers all round!



AUTUMN BEERFEST

Our annual mini Autumn BeerFest takes place again between 6th - 8th November, featuring eight guest ales and six ciders in the Festival Turbine Bar, plus all the usual beers in the Tap! Starts at 5pm Thursday and runs through until 10.30pm on Saturday. We will also be raising funds for the Poppy Appeal.



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Don't forget our Christmas Fayre on Sunday 30th November! With a hog roast from Brad's Banquets, mulled cider from Saxby's and 20 fabulous stalls selling all manner of Christmas gifts and crafts, it's not to be missed! Free entry, from 12pm-4pm, and there may even be a visit from the big man himself. More info online...

WHAT'S ON AT THE MILL

Thursday 6th - Saturday 8th November
MINI AUTUMN BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL
Free entry

7:30pm Wednesday 12th November
RENEW 169 CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT
Tickets £5pp

8pm Thursday 27th November
LIVE COMEDY AT THE MILL
headlining Nick Page & George Zach
Tickets £16pp

12pm-4pm, Sunday 30th November
CHRISTMAS FAYRE AND HOG ROAST
Free entry

8pm Saturday 13th December
FESTIVE VINYL VIBES PARTY NIGHT
Tickets £5pp

5pm Sunday 14th December
A CHRISTMAS CAROL
by Don't Go Into The Cellar
Tickets £15pp 16+

2pm Sunday 21st December
A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
with Towcester Studio Band
Free entry

10pm Wednesday 24th December
CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS IN THE TAP

8pm Tuesday 30th December
LIVE COMEDY AT THE MILL
headlining Terry Alderton & Matt Stellingwerf
Tickets £16pp

CHECK OUT ALL OUR FESTIVE EVENTS ONLINE AT
WWW.TOWCESTERMILLBREWERY.CO.UK



Come and visit us!

Click & Collect this Christmas
Local deliveries available

GIFT PACKS | BOTTLE BAGS
BEER CRACKERS | MIXED CASES

www.towcestermillbrewery.co.uk

Towcester Mill Brewery, Chantry Lane, Towcester, NN12 6YY
tel 01327 437060 | info@towcestermillbrewery.co.uk

BAR | BREWERY | SHOP | EVENTS |



CHRISTMAS @ THE MILL

CHRISTMAS REBUS PUZZLES

Challenge your family this festive season. Try our fun and brain-boosting activity.
Can you work out these Christmas themed puzzles from the clues?

1

Christmas
Christmas
Christmas
Christmas



2

Winter



Wonderland

3

donkey



donkey

4

NIGHT

5

WISH



6



7

YYY MEN

8

Christmas



9



10



11

CHRISTMAS

12



13



14



15



16



17

Night Christmas

18



19



20





Rotary Santa on Tour



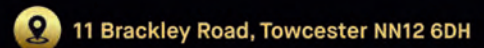
Email your letters to santa2025@towcester-rotary.org.uk
All proceeds to local Rotary Charities Charity No.1059631

L'ATELIER 11



Art space • Special events • By appointment
Original artwork, ceramics and art materials

L'ATELIER11.UK



DANCE *Towcester*

Adult Ballroom & Latin Classes

Whether you're looking to learn something new, get active, or meet great people, our Beginners Adult Ballroom & Latin Dance Classes are the perfect choice! Join us every Thursday at Towcester Town Hall. Individuals and couples welcome - no experience needed. Our classes run from September to July, private lessons are also available - just email for a slot.

Thursday Evenings

Beginners - 7pm

Next Steps - 8pm

Towcester Town Hall, 86 Watling Street, NN12 6BS

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Taster

julie.holland@mac.com Call 07956 116303
www.dancetowcester.co.uk



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Towcester NN12 6BT
www.picture-shop.co.uk

Towcester Toy Bank seeks Volunteer Elves to help continue support for local families this Christmas

The Towcester Christmas Toy Bank was established by mother and daughter duo, Annie and Katrina, in response to the financial strain many families in our local community have faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the ongoing pressures from rising living costs, we anticipate that more families than ever will require our support this Christmas. **Can you help?**

Over the past five years, we have been truly grateful for the overwhelming generosity from our wonderful local community. Thanks to the kindness of individuals and local businesses, last year the Elves proudly completed their 1,000th gift bag since the Toy Bank's inception in 2020.

You can support the Toy Bank in several ways:

 **Volunteer** your time as an Elf to help pack gift bags

 **Donate** new toys

 **Contribute** to our JustGiving page, where every penny goes towards purchasing new items for the children's gift bags, including items for children with additional needs, such as toys that enhance fine motor skills or cater to sensory development.

As in previous years, we will provide gift bags for **children aged 3 to 12**.

A JustGiving page for 2025 has been created for those wishing to donate, accessible at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ttb2025>

Additionally, a collection trolley will be available at our local Tesco store until 7th December, where Clare and her colleagues will gladly accept donations of new children's clothing and toys, including those purchased elsewhere. Jackie Oliver & Co (01327 359903) will also be accepting donations of new toys once again.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone in our community who has supported us in various ways since the project's inception. Your generosity means so much to us and will have a positive impact on the children and families we serve. A special thank you to:

 **Towcester Rotary Club** for their ongoing advice, support, toy storage, transport, and Elves who help pack the gift bags.

 **Whittlebury Park** for providing a spacious venue for the Elves Workshop, along with Elves and delightful refreshments to keep everyone energized during this busy season.

 **Towcester Community Larder** for their toy donations and funds raised from their Christmas Raffle.

 And of course, **Tesco** for their annual donation trolley and staff toy collections.

This year, the Elves Workshop will be operational from Monday, November 10th to Friday, November 29th, with morning, afternoon, evening, or weekend shifts available—a fun way to volunteer and support our local community. Please follow us on Facebook for updates or contact Annie with any questions regarding donations or to sign up for the Elf Rota.

Annie & Katrina

Facebook: @towcestertoybank

Email: anniesimpson2957@gmail.com



Get ready for a revitalised fitness experience at Towcester Leisure Centre!

We're thrilled to announce a comprehensive renovation project designed to significantly upgrade your workout environment.

The works will involve the extension of the current gym into the existing studio + . The extension will provide additional new fitness stations and free weight space, increasing the overall capacity of the gym.

Beyond simply adding more equipment, this expansion also presents an opportunity to redesign the existing fitness space. The aim is to create a more user-friendly layout, optimise traffic flow, and implement designated zones within the fitness area to cater to the diverse needs and preferences of our valued customers.

We will also be improving the existing indoor cycling studio and creating a multi purpose studio space that offers much more than just indoor cycling, this studio will offer the fantastic classes that previously took place in Studio+ such as Yoga, Pilates etc. This will mean even more members will be able to benefit from these classes.

The Gym will remain open during the works, there will be minimal disruption for a day whilst hoarding is erected in a small section of the functional space on the right hand side as you enter the gym. Studio + will permanently close the week commencing October 20th. However, the Indoor Cycling Studio will continue to operate with an updated timetable. This will change to a multi use studio from W/C 10th November 2025.

We have also extended our opening hours - 06:00-22:00 Monday to Friday. The Swimming Pools, Changing Village, Sports Hall will be completely unaffected and will remain open as usual.

We are confident that these enhancements will significantly improve your experience, and we eagerly anticipate welcoming you to our newly upgraded facilities. Thank you for your continued support and patience during this exciting period of growth and improvement!



LEISURE CENTRE

TOWCESTER

www.leisurecentre.com

**PAULERSPURY
LAYERS**

proudly presents ...

Looking for a magical night out Feb 2026?

Aladdin and the rest of the Twankey family are flying back to Northamptonshire - and they're bringing a genie, a lamp and a whole lot of laughs. From toe-tapping tunes, dazzling costumes and jokes for all the ages, it's the perfect family night out during half-term.

Whether you're six or sixty, there's something for everyone - and it's one of the most affordable nights out around.

Tickets on sale from 1st December

Wednesday 18 - Saturday 21 February 2026
Paulerspury Village Hall
£10 Adults / £7.50 Concessions

Evenings at 7:30pm | Saturday matinees at
12pm and 5pm

Aladdin

by Alec & Tracey Wagner

And your ticket does more than just entertain

Every ticket sold helps support vital local causes. This year, proceeds will go to:

- **Towcester Food Bank**, helping families in need across our community
- The Towcester Mayor's chosen charity, the **Northamptonshire Music & Performing Arts Trust**, supporting music and arts for young people in the local area.

So when you laugh, cheer and shout "He's behind you!", you're also giving back. Now that's a happy ending.

Call **01327 811 578** or **08458 334 910**,
or visit **www.paulerspurylayers.com**





HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?

Calling all gents & lower voices!



Have you ever thought about singing with a choir? It might seem a daunting prospect but be assured that it is not all formal choral works and straight faces as you can see from the photos. The informal one is a few of the chaps singing at our summer Pimms and Puds social with a bit of gentle ribbing of the Musical Director and Chair! The other one is the same tenors and basses at our summer concert belting out some sea shanties with corresponding actions (note, of course you don't have to be a chap to sing tenor, lady tenors also very welcome).

Towcester Choral Society isn't just about singing formal choral works, we also have great fun singing popular music from films, folk, jazz, swing and songs from all over the world. We will be holding another of our very popular singing workshops led by our amazing MD Helen Swift on 31st January 2026 at Towcester Town Hall from 10am - 4.30pm £15 singing through Puccini's beautiful Messa di Gloria – there is also always cake! Please email ticketing@towcesterchoralsociety.org.uk to book

We are also a sociable bunch and organise events such as our recent Pimms n' Puds where there was a chance to chat as well as singing (of course) and plenty of puddings to choose from!

If you'd like more information or to arrange to come along, do pop an email to Amanda on membership1@towcesterchoralsociety.org.uk (NB: we currently have a small waiting list for Sopranos and Altos). We meet on Tuesdays at the Sawpits Centre in term time and our subs are less than £5 per evening including all music and orchestral accompaniment at concerts.

We have now begun preparations for our Christmas concert The Glory of Christmas on Saturday 13th December St Lawrence Church 7.30pm and are thrilled to announce we shall be singing Vivaldi's Gloria, Vaughan Williams's Fantasia on Christmas Carols, a couple of Will Todd's jazz carols and of course lots of favourite traditional Christmas carols for the audience to join in with. The church will look a treat with the Christmas tree, and we will be offering wine and mince pies included in the ticket price of £15 (£3.50 for children).

Tickets are available online through our website Events page.
www.towcesterchoralsociety.org.uk

TCS
TOWCESTER
CHORAL
SOCIETY

THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS

PRESENTS

7.30pm 13 Dec 2025
St Lawrence Church
Towcester NN12 6YY

FEATURING
VIVALDI,
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
AND TODD

£15 adult, under 18 £3.50 including refreshments
Advance sales www.towcesterchoralsociety.org.uk
or on the day (entry on the door not guaranteed)



Towcester Hub Church



follow us



10:30am every Sunday

We are a family friendly, charismatic Church who would love to welcome you any Sunday morning.

 admin@towcesterhubchurch.org.uk  [07968 375023](tel:07968375023)  towcesterhubchurch.org.uk



The Sawpits Centre
Towbury Lane, Richmond Road, Towcester, NN12 6EX

Christmas Rebus Puzzle Answers

1. Last Christmas
2. Walking in a Winter Wonderland
3. Little Donkey
4. Holy Night
5. Wish Upon a Star
6. Rocking around the Christmas Tree
7. Three Wise Men

8. Dreaming of a White Christmas
9. Chestnuts roasting on an open fire
10. Happy Christmas, War is over.
11. Blue Christmas
12. Jingle Bell Rock
13. Santa Baby
14. Fairy Tale of New York

15. Silver Bells
16. Home Alone
17. Night Before Christmas
18. Mistletoe and Wine
19. Frozen
20. Snowman



Strike Up the Band for Christmas Cheer!

There is nothing like the Towcester Studio Band's Christmas concert to get your festive celebrations off to a wonderful start and what better place than in the glorious surroundings of St. Lawrence Church, Towcester? It's going to be a great night of seasonal music.

With performances from our competition band as well as our two junior bands, this really will be a night for all the family. The youngsters can't wait to perform for you and, if you joined us last year, you will know that they put a smile on everyone's faces!

Get your tickets early. Last year's concert was a sell out and we expect it to be the same this year.

New Year's Resolution: Get Back to Playing Music

Did you used to play a brass instrument? Would you like to start playing again? Our Friday morning band could be just the thing for you. It's a friendly, no pressure place to play.

Why not make a resolution this January to come along and get back into music.?

Full details are on our website. Email or give us a ring if you want to chat it through. We'll be very pleased to welcome you.



Website: www.towcesterstudioband.co.uk

Email: towcesterstudioband@gmail.com

Facebook: @towcesterstudioband



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Starts. *Every little helps*



**LESSONS AND CAROLS
SERVICES BY CANDLELIGHT**

St Lawrence Church, Towcester

Saturday 20th December

4pm

St Bartholomew's Church

Greens Norton

Sunday 21st December

4pm



Christingle

Saturday 6th December

4pm St Mary's Easton Neston

Sunday 7th December

4pm St Lawrence Towcester

Sunday 14th December

4pm St Bartholomew's

Greens Norton

Come and hear about "the
light that shines in the darkness"

Donations from these services
go to support the work of
The Children Society





God and Chips and Christmas

When I think of Christmas, my mind doesn't just go to tinsel, presents, or turkey with all the trimmings. What I picture most vividly is people gathered together. Families and friends around tables, sharing food, laughter, and stories. That image of togetherness is at the very heart of the Christmas story itself.

At the birth of Jesus, we find a family in an unlikely setting. Mary, Joseph, and the baby lay in a manger because there was no room at the inn. But before long, shepherds came from the fields and wise men travelled from afar, all drawn to that simple stable. Different people, from different walks of life, gather around one child. That's the very first God and chips night, if you like, ordinary people gathered in the presence of something holy, sharing in the wonder of what God is doing, or perhaps what he is not doing, depending on your opinion.

For most of the year, our lives don't look like that. We can feel scattered, busy, and often quite isolated. Community can seem like something we talk about but rarely experience. Yet, deep down, we all long for it. We long for a place where we can sit down with others, feel welcome, and know we belong, which in turn frees us to speak our hearts.

That's why our "God and Chips" evenings have struck a chord. They're wonderfully simple: we meet, we eat, we talk, we laugh. But in that simplicity, something profound happens. Over plates of scampi and chips, conversations flow. People open up, share questions they might never dare ask anywhere else, and find that they're not alone in their doubts or their hopes. In time, strangers become friends, and friends start to feel like family.

It's not about having all the answers. It's more a sharing of opinions. It's about giving of ourselves, our time, our attention, our compassion. It's about listening as much as speaking, and discovering that in the sharing of our stories, God shows up.

And isn't that what Christmas is all about? God showing up. Not in grandeur or spectacle, but in the ordinariness of a baby born in Bethlehem. God gave himself, not from a distance, but up close, in the mess and muddle of real life. And he still does. Every time we gather in love, every time we make room at the table, every time we risk honesty with each other, he is present. For some of us, that means we have a profound experience, for others, it means thinking of things in a new way, hearing opinions that we may take away to ponder and explore.

So as Christmas approaches, and as we gather with family or friends around our tables, let's remember there are others who long for that same warmth of belonging. Maybe we can extend the table a little wider, leave a chair open, and offer the gift of time and conversation. That's the spirit of God and chips, and it's the heart of Christmas too.

Blessings
Revd Nigel



TOVE
BENEFICE





Carols in the Square

Thursday 18th December at 6:30pm with Towcester Studio Band



St Lawrence Church (Church of England)
Chantry Lane, Towcester NN12 6YY
www.tovebenefice.org.uk

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

Saturday 6th December	4pm	Christingle
Christmas Eve	6pm	Christmas Communion
Saturday 3rd January	6pm	Epiphany Communion

St Lawrence, Towcester, NN12 6YY

Sunday 30th November	4pm	Advent Carols
Sunday 7th December	4pm	Christingle
Saturday 20th December	4pm	Lessons & Carols
Christmas Eve	4pm	Crib Service
Christmas Eve	11pm	Christmas Communion
Christmas Day	10am	Family Communion

St Augustine, Caldecote, NN12 8AG

Sunday 21st December	6pm	Carol Service
Christmas Day	11:15am	Christmas Communion

St Thomas More (Catholic)

Meeting Lane, Towcester NN12 6JX
www.stthomasmore.org

4th Sunday of Advent Mass

Saturday 20th December	5:30pm	4th Sunday Advent Mass
Sunday 21st December	11am	4th Sunday Advent Mass

Monday 22nd December	9:30am	Mass
Tuesday 23rd December	9:30am	Mass

Christmas Eve

Wednesday 24th December	5pm	Children / Family Mass
	8pm	Nativity of the Lord: "Midnight Mass"
	11:30pm	Midnight Mass at Northampton Cathedral

Christmas Day	11am	Christmas Day Mass
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Note: No public Mass Friday 26th December

Feast of the Holy Family Mass

Saturday 27th December	5:30pm
Sunday 28th December	11am



Tove Valley Baptist Fellowship
Tove Valley Centre,
Northampton Road NN12 7AH
www.tvbf.co.uk/christmas

Sunday 7th December	3pm	Messy Church Advent*
Sunday 14th December	10:30am	All-ages Nativity Service
Sunday 21st December	10:30am	Traditional Carol Service
	7pm	Christmas Carol Concert
Christmas Day	10am	All-Ages Service

* Book ahead at info@tvbf.co.uk

Towcester Methodist Church

Brackley Road, NN12 6DH
www.towcestermethodist.org

Sunday 7th December	10:30am	Toy & Gift Service
Sunday 21st December	10:30am	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	4pm	Crib Service
Sunday 28th December	10:30am	Sunday Service



COMMUNITY SERVICES IN TOWCESTER

TOWCESTER COUNTRY MARKET

9-11:30am, Every Thursday (Except Jan)
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 FOODBANK

12noon-2pm Tuesdays
10:30am-12:30pm Fridays
Riverside Centre, Islington Rd

TOWCESTER COMMUNITY LARDER

4:15-7pm Wednesdays
10-11:15am Thursdays
Discounted & free surplus food
£10 annual membership
Riverside 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
10-11:30am Grief, Comfort & Coffee
10am-12 Repair Café last Sat of the month
7-9pm Craft Club third Weds of the month

TOWCESTER YOUTH CLUBS (SNYE)

Wednesdays term time
5:30-6:30pm Ages 9-12 £2pp
7-8:30pm Ages 13-16 £2pp
Towcester Youth & Community Centre

OUT THERE YOUTH GROUP

Tuesdays 6:30-8pm term time
LGBTQ+ club for ages 11-16
The Barn, Bransons Lane

TOWCESTER BUSINESS BUZZ

10am-12noon Fourth Thursday of the month
Steam Room, Towcester Mill Brewery



What's On in Towcester AND NEARBY



NOVEMBER 2025



Sat 1st : **TOWCESTER HANDMADE FAYRE**

9:30am-4pm Towcester Town Hall

Thu 6th : **CONFESSIONS OF A CANAL BOATER**

7:30pm The Sawpits Centre
Towcester Evening WI Talk

Mon 10th : **FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

7:30pm Towcester Town Hall

Wed 12th : **NOTORIOUS CULWORTH GANG**

7:30pm at The Sawpits Centre
Towcester & District Local History Society Talk

Wed 12th : **REALITY IS OVERRATED**

Photo Society Talk (Silverstone village) - see page 23

Thu 13th : **CHARITY MUSICAL BINGO CHALLENGE**

7 for 8pm start at Towcester Mill Brewery
Rotary Club of Towcester - £10 for 3 games

Fri 14th : **FARMERS MARKET**

9am-1:30pm Sponne Arcade Car Park

Sat 15th : **JINGLE JAMBOREE CHRISTMAS FAIR**

10am-2pm Towcester Library

Fri 21st : **U3A NEW MEMBERS MEETING**

10am - 12noon Towcester Town Hall

Sat 22nd : **CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE**

10am-4pm The Saracens Head

Sat 22nd : **TOWCESTER CRAFT COLLECTIVE**

10am-3:30pm Towcester Town Hall

Sat/Sun 29th/30th : **ART EXHIBITION**

10am-4pm Towcester Town Hall
Towcester & District Art Society

Sun 30th : **CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE**

12-4pm Towcester Mill Brewery

DECEMBER 2025



Thu 4th : **WOMEN IN BLUE**

7:30pm The Sawpits Centre
Towcester Evening WI Talk

5th, 6th & 7th : **ROTARY SANTA** at ALDI

Sat 6th : **TOWCESTER HANDMADE FAYRE**

9:30am-4pm Towcester Town Hall

Sat 6th : **VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS AT THE MUSEUM**

10am-4pm Towcester Museum, White Horse Yard

Mon 8th : **FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

7:30pm Towcester Town Hall

Wed 10th : **MEDIEVAL CHRISTMAS**

7:30pm The Sawpits Centre
Towcester & District Local History Society Talk

Fri 12th : **CHRISTMAS FARMERS MARKET**

9am-1:30pm Sponne Arcade Car Park

Fri 12th : **ROTARY SANTA ON TOUR**

Towcester Racecourse Estate

12th, 13th & 14th : **ROTARY SANTA** at Waitrose

Sat 13th : **TOWCESTER CRAFT COLLECTIVE**

10am-3:30pm Towcester Town Hall

Sat 13th : **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

7:30pm St Lawrence Church - £15 Adult £3.50 Child
Towcester Choral Society (See page 33)

15th : **ROTARY SANTA ON TOUR**

Leisure Centre - Residential Areas - Brook House

17th : **ROTARY SANTA** at Leisure Centre

Wed 17th : **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

7:30pm St Lawrence Church - £10pp
(Kids free with two paying adults)
Towcester Studio Band (See page 35)



DECEMBER 2025 cont...

19th, 20th & 21st : **ROTARY SANTA** at Tesco

22nd & 23rd : **ROTARY SANTA** at Waitrose



JANUARY 2026

1st : **TOWN CRIER DEADLINE FOR ISSUE 210**

Wed 7th : **NORTHANTS POLICE BEAT BUS**

11am-12noon Towcester Leisure Centre

Thu 8th : **MY FATHER'S WAR**

7:30pm The Sawpits Centre
Towcester Evening WI Talk

Mon 12th : **FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

7:30pm Towcester Town Hall

Wed 14th : **KEEPING FAITH AT THE WWI FRONT**

7:30pm The Sawpits Centre
Towcester & District Local History Society Talk

Sat 31st : **CHORAL WORKSHOP FOR ALL**

10am-4:30pm Towcester Town Hall - £15pp
Towcester Choral Society (See page 33)



FEBRUARY 2026

Sun 1st : **LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS**

Feat. Sponne School & Kidlington Brass Bands
7pm Whittlebury Park - £20pp
Rotary Club of Towcester (See page 18)

Wed 4th : **NORTHANTS POLICE BEAT BUS**

11am-12noon Towcester Recreation Ground

Thu 5th : **HISTORY OF TOWCESTER PUBS**

7:30pm The Sawpits Centre
Towcester Evening WI Talk

Mon 9th : **FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

7:30pm Towcester Town Hall

18th-21st : **ALADDIN PANTOMIME**

Paulerspury Village Hall - £10 Adult £7.50 Conc
Paulerspury Players (See page 32)



You are warmly invited to:

*Churches Together in
Towcester
Carols in the
Square*

this year led by the Methodist and Tove Valley Baptist

**Thursday 18th
December at 6:30pm**

Mulled wine, soft drink and mince pies
served afterwards in the Town Hall
St Lawrence Church will be open till 9pm
for their Christmas Tree Festival

**SAVE
THE DATE**

Towcester
Midsummer
Music
Festival

19th to 21st
June 2026

Dates & events may be subject to change. Share your event with the community.
SPRING issue out February 2026 - Deadline for submissions - 1st January 2026
enquiries@towcester-tc.gov.uk

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