

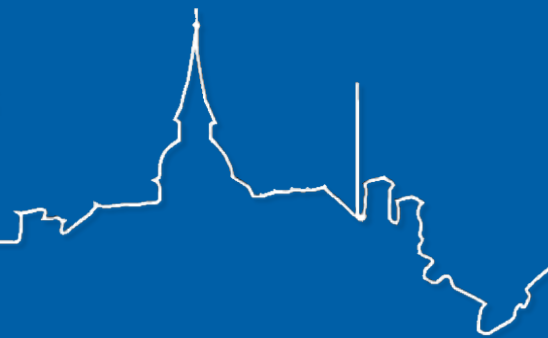
Towcester Town Crier

Your FREE community magazine produced by Towcester Town Council

Issue 211

SUMMER 2026

Town Hall, Towcester



Inside:

- + Updates from your Town Council
- + Community News
- + Environment & Wellbeing
- + Music & Entertainment
- + Schools & Youth Services
- + Sports & Social Events
- + Interest Groups
- + Church news
- + What's On this Summer

TOWCESTER TOWN COUNCIL & ROTARY CLUB PRESENT

24th Towcester
Midsummer
MUSIC
Festival
18-21 JUNE 2026

WWW.TOWCESTERMIDSUMMERMUSIC.CO.UK



@towcestermusic

Registered Charity No.1174494

COULD YOU HELP DISTRIBUTE THIS COMMUNITY MAGAZINE TO YOUR NEIGHBOURS?
WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS, PARTICULARLY FOR NEW HOUSING ESTATES
PLEASE CONTACT enquiries@towcester-tc.gov.uk

From the Watermeadows to your home

Turning little moments into lasting artwork



The places you walk, play and laugh together become the backdrop to your family's story. Those everyday moments, captured with care, don't fade as the years quietly move on.

Whether outdoors in the Towcester Watermeadows or within the calm of our studio, we create relaxed portrait sessions that turn these days into lasting artwork.

Artwork your family lives with.

Artwork your children grow up beside.

Spring sessions now booking.

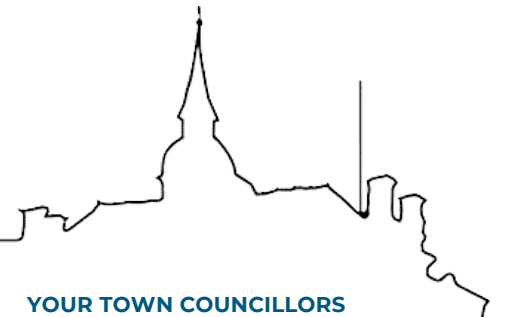
MIRANDA WALTON
PHOTOGRAPHY

3rd Floor Towcester Mill | Chantry Lane | Towcester NN12 6YY
01327 228553 | hello@mirandawalton.co.uk





A WORD FROM THE MAYOR



Cllr Rachel Dando LOlive

Towcester Town Mayor 2025-6
Facebook @TowcesterMayor

It has been a genuine honour to serve as the Mayor of Towcester over this last year and to be able to represent our town both here and further afield.

In that time, I have had the privilege of meeting some wonderful local groups, organisations and volunteers and to sing the many praises of our great town and its people, at the varied events I attended. I was invited to the opening of several new businesses in the town and was impressed by the enthusiasm of the business owners and their desire to be so much part of our growing community. I wish them all every success.

And it is very much a growing community. In this last year, the Town Council has become keenly aware that it needs to adapt and expand to reflect the significant growth in the population and all the accompanying needs that come with that growth. That change is already under way and will continue, to provide the very best service for all Towcester's residents.

Sadly, world events are never far away.

Last May, I was proud to host Ruth Herbert as she stopped overnight in Towcester, on her intrepid walk from Cumbria to Turkey, raising funds for Medical Aid for Palestinians. She successfully completed the 4000 mile trek, raising over a staggering £58,000 (and still counting) for the charity. I am grateful to everyone who has donated so far.

This March, I was equally proud to help Steve Challen of the Tove Benefice and The Rotary Club of Towcester, load a lorry bound for Ukraine with much needed supplies and medical equipment. Our town's continued support for the Ukrainian people proves that no matter how far away, our common humanity spurs us to help all those in need.

Music continues to be great love of mine and to reflect that, my chosen charity this year was Towcester NMPAT; a charity very close to my heart. I am delighted that the donations it received during the year have helped ensure they can continue running the music school here in Towcester and I hope long into the future; providing all our children with the chance to discover the joy of music and performing.

My Mayoral year has certainly been marked by fond farewells, sad goodbyes and warm welcomes on the council and I cannot begin to thank our wonderful council staff, past and present, whose professionalism, hard work and dedication ensure the council runs smoothly. Thank you all for supporting myself throughout the year. The councillors and the Mayor could not do what we do without you.

With summer fast approaching, I am really looking forward to our annual Midsummer Music Festival in June. I hope you all support this very special event, have a wonderful time and that the sun shines throughout.

Finally, I would like to wish our New Town Mayor, Cllr Maggie Clubley, a successful and enjoyable year ahead.

Fundraising for:



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 Maggie Clubley (Town Mayor 26-27)
Cllr Sam Cann
Cllr John Godwin
Cllr Martin Johns
Cllr Innes Macaulay
Cllr Theo Morris
Cllr Charlotte Panter
Cllr Rickie Patton
Cllr David Tarbun
Vacant Seat

Mill Ward

Cllr Charles Askew
Cllr David Carmichael
Cllr Mark Jones
Cllr Jim Lynch
Cllr Stewart Tolley (Deputy Mayor 26-27)
Cllr Miranda Wixon

TOWN COUNCIL STAFF

Interim Town Clerk

Deborah Jewell

Deputy Town Clerk

Lizzi Bucklow-Holt

Facilities & Operations Officer

Mark Onley

Finance Officer

Dawn Gatehouse

Interim Office Administrator

Fiona Burns

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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 articles and 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

Produced by R1 Print & Design



TOWCESTER TOWN FC JUNIOR FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

13 & 14 JUNE 2026

TOWCESTER RECREATION GROUND

Towcester Town FC is excited to host its annual six-a-side tournament at the Recreation Ground on Islington Road, Towcester, on 13th and 14th June 2026.

This popular event regularly brings together more than 100 teams from Northamptonshire and neighbouring counties for a brilliant weekend of grassroots football.

In a departure from previous years, this year's tournament will be competitive for all age groups, including the U7s and U8s. After an initial group phase, teams will compete in either a cup or plate competition on a knockout basis.

Saturday's schedule will feature matches for U8, U10, U12, U14, U14 Girls and U16 teams. Sunday will see U7, U9, U11, U13 and U15 teams take to the pitches.

Brad's Banquets will be back once again, serving a fantastic selection of BBQ favourites, and hot drinks and snacks will also be available.

Visitors can also try their luck at the tombola, packed with great prizes, and – new for this year – a Beat the Goalie competition.

Lisa Samiotis, Chair of TTFC, said:

"Preparations are already in full swing to ensure this year's tournament continues to provide a fantastic grassroots football experience for children of all ages, whether they're taking their first steps in the game or have been playing for many years."

TTFC would like to thank the tournament sponsors Towcester Homes, Towcester Racecourse and Towcester Town Council for supporting the event.

If you're interested in getting involved with the club or exploring sponsorship opportunities, please contact clubchair@towcestertownfc.co.uk



towcestertownfc.co.uk



24th Towcester Midsummer Music Festival

18-21 JUNE 2026

MUSIC, COMMUNITY, AND GOOD VIBES!

Fundraising for:
Friends of....



MARIE WELLER
PRIMARY SCHOOL



Towcester Midsummer Music Festival Returns for 2026 with Bigger Community Impact

Get ready to boogie!

The Towcester Midsummer Music Festival returns from June 18-21, 2026, with four days of music, community vibes, and fundraising magic at the heart of Towcester's summer event.

Celebrating its 24th year, the festival is organised by volunteers from the Rotary Club of Towcester and Towcester Town Council.

Since 2003, it's been a stage for young maestros, school bands, community choirs, and local stars. With classical, jazz, rock, pop, and contemporary beats, audiences will dance at venues like Town Hall, St Lawrence Church, and Towcester Mill Brewery. The grand finale? A fireworks display over The Watermeadows!

Powered by the Community

The festival is made possible through the dedication of volunteers and the support of local sponsors, and a wide network of businesses and organisations.

This year focuses on fundraising for Towcester's primary schools. Past festivals have raised thousands for local causes, keeping music alive for young talents. Festival Chair, David Reed, says, "*The festival highlights the power of the community working together to make a lasting impact on local young musical talent, with strong backing from volunteers, sponsors and local businesses.*"

Organisers are now calling for additional sponsors, volunteers, and creatives - particularly in marketing, photography and videography - to help make the 2026 event "bigger and bolder" than ever before. With its unique blend of grassroots music, community spirit and charitable impact, the Towcester Midsummer Music Festival continues to grow as a highlight of the summer season.

Tickets on Sale NOW!

Ticket sales this year will raise important enrichment funds for our local primary schools. Tickets are free for children's performances at the Town Hall and St Lawrence Church, but donations are welcome.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS without whom we could not put on this event:

Towcester Park Grant Fund
Arnold Thomson · **Bee More Design**
CED Accountancy · **GoFloorIt**
Essendon Accountancy & Tax
Hartwells Butchers
and Towbury Court Deli
Jackie Oliver & Co · **John White Funerals**
Loughran Bros · **Lumentum**
Ron Green Antiques
Rotary Club of Towcester
Shepherd & Co Solicitors
Specsavers · **Tove Accountancy**
Towcester Business Club
Towcester Mill Brewery
Towcester Town Council
Town Centre Manager

COMMUNITY ACTS:

CHOIRS & STRINGS

7:30pm Thursday 18th June 2026
£8 pp* - Town Hall

SPONNE LUNCHTIME CONCERT

12:30 pm Friday 19th June 2026
FREE - St Lawrence Church

YOUNG MUSICIANS

5pm Friday 19th June 2026
FREE - St Lawrence Church

NATASHA THOMPSON & Co SWING STEPS BIG BAND

7 pm Friday 19th June 2026
£10 pp* - Town Hall

Have-a-go music workshops

Saturday 20th June 2026

YOUNG MUSICIANS ROCK!

5 pm Saturday 20th June 2026
FREE - Town Hall

FEAST OF FIDDLES CEILIDH

8 pm Saturday 20th June 2026
£12 pp* - Town Hall

FIREWORK FINALE

10:30pm Saturday 20th June 2026
FREE - Bury Mount

*Under 16s FREE (Ticket still required)

Plus a range of ticketed community performances hosted by official festival partner Towcester Mill Brewery
www.towcestermillbrewery.co.uk

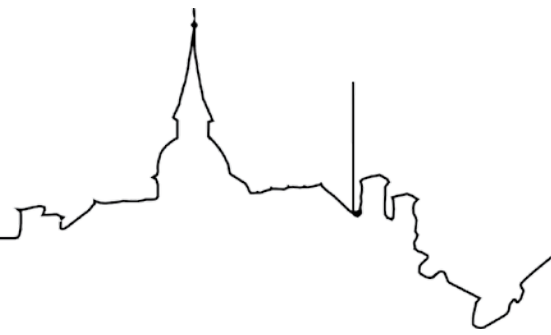
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REGISTERED CHARITY NO.1174494





TOWN COUNCIL NEWS



NEW FACES AT TOWCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

Towcester Town Council co-opted three new councillors at its meeting held on 13th April, and is delighted to welcome **Cllr Mark Jones**, **Cllr Charlotte Panter** and **Cllr Rickie Patton**. The Council also welcomed **Cllr Sam Cann** at its meeting on 18th May.

At the Annual Town Council Meeting held on Monday 11th May, members voted unanimously to elect **Cllr Maggie Clubley** as Towcester Town Mayor and **Cllr Stewart Tolley** as Deputy Mayor. We wish them both a fulfilling year ahead in their term of office..

We are also delighted to welcome **Alison Coomber** as our new Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer. Alison joins us with a strong background in the local government sector and brings valuable experience in managing a larger town council. Previously, Alison worked as Town Clerk and RFO at Brackley Town Council leading a team of 12 staff, supporting the Council in its aims and objectives. **Dawn Gatehouse** also joined the team full time in April as Finance Officer. Please join us in welcoming them both.

Also at the Annual Town Council Meeting we bid farewell to outgoing Town Mayor, Rachel Dando L'Olive. The council recorded a vote of thanks for her years of service to the community and for her dedication to the role of Town Mayor.



If you would like to represent the interests of Towcester electors there is currently one vacant seat. It is a voluntary role, but if you would like to be a part of continuing to make the town a better place to live, work and visit, please get in touch with the Town Clerk or find out more on our website at <https://www.towcester-tc.gov.uk/be-a-town-councillor/>

TOWN COUNCIL OBJECTION TO REVISED PARKING PROPOSALS

At its meeting on 12 January 2026, Towcester Town Council resolved to object to West Northamptonshire Council's proposals to increase parking charges across its car parks.

The proposed changes would affect all Market Towns across West Northamptonshire, including Towcester. The Town Council expressed concern that these increases could have a negative impact on the town centre by discouraging visitors and reducing footfall for local businesses. The Council also emphasised that higher charges may lead to more vehicles being displaced into already congested residential areas, potentially making access more difficult for emergency services.

Following the significant number of objections received, West Northamptonshire Council rescinded its original plans. However, it has since put forward a revised proposal to revoke existing off-street Traffic Regulation Orders relating to predominantly short-stay car parks.

This new proposal would affect Sponne Arcade and Tove short stay car parks, introducing a charge of £5 per hour for vehicles parked beyond the initial three hours of free parking.

Towcester Town Council, at a special meeting on 6th May, resolved to object to these proposals, citing the potential impact on the town centre, including the effect on local businesses, accessibility for residents, and overall traffic and parking availability for residents during off-peak hours.

LATEST NEWS ON THE TRANSFER OF THE COMMUNITY ASSETS

Many of you are wondering why the new community centre, sports pitches and new allotment site on the southern side of Towcester are still not open for public use.

Towcester Town Council understands the community's eagerness to see these facilities in use. We are working closely with the relevant partners to complete the transfer and ensure that everything is in place for a safe and successful opening.

Once the transfer is finalised, the Town Council will take on responsibility for managing the site and will share further details about opening dates, bookings, and how local groups and residents can make use of the facilities.

We appreciate your patience and look forward to welcoming the community to these much-anticipated new amenities very soon.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

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 council meeting dates, times, venues, agendas & minutes.

Monday 8th June 2026
RESOURCES & PLANNING
FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 22nd June 2026
CEMETERY & ALLOTMENTS
RESOURCES & PLANNING

Monday 29th June 2026
RECREATION & LEISURE
PREMISES

Corrigendum

We apologise for including an article in our previous issue that contained political content. The page has been removed from the online publication. It did not reflect the neutral and community-focused approach we aim to uphold. We remain committed to keeping our magazine a balanced and welcoming space for everyone.



"The Tombles"

Towcester Primary School's Community Litter Initiative

For the third consecutive year, pupils at Towcester C of E Primary School have taken to the streets of Towcester as environmental champions, collecting litter and teaching their community about caring for the local area through their "Tombles" initiative.

This whole-school project combines hands-on environmental action with education, helping children understand their role in protecting the planet whilst making a tangible difference to their town.

How It Works

Each spring, pupils from across the school work together in mixed-age groups to clean key locations around Towcester, including the Churchyard, the Mound, the Leisure Centre and the Recreation Ground. The week begins with a special assembly led by the Tombles team, where children learn:

- What litter is and where it comes from
- How long different materials take to decompose
- Why protecting the environment matters
- How to stay safe whilst litter picking

Pupils are then equipped with the tools they need to make a difference in their community.



"I think this is a fantastic initiative that the school are doing to raise awareness in their students about litter. These activities have a positive effect on the students in creating pride in their local communities and hopefully for future generations. Hopefully, this will encourage people to use the bins provided in local areas and discourage littering. Well done to all students, staff and everyone else involved."
 Dan Johnson – Street Cleaning Supervisor, West Northamptonshire Council



Community Partnership in Action

The initiative, which launched three years ago, has grown thanks to strong support from local organisations who share the school's commitment to environmental responsibility.

Key partners include:

- **Towcester Evening WI** – providing volunteers and encouragement
- **Local Councillors** – supporting the initiative year after year
- **Towcester Rotary Club** – supplying equipment and volunteers who work alongside the children
- **Towcester Specsavers** – donating high-visibility jackets to keep pupils safe
- **West Northamptonshire Council's Street Cleaning Team** – providing bags, signage, waste removal and weighing services

"What a fantastic effort by the children of the Towcester CofE Primary School in their Tombling campaign. The children are being taught one of the major life skills in keeping the environment clean and tidy and protecting the wildlife around Towcester."
 President John Sidwick – Rotary Club of Towcester

Impressive Results

Rain or shine, pupils and teachers venture across Towcester collecting rubbish, which is returned to school for weighing and proper disposal. The impact has been remarkable: Over three years, the school has collected more than 171kg of rubbish – roughly the weight of a male tiger.

"I have loved being involved in this wonderful initiative for all the Tombles three years. First as a Mayor, then as a parent and now as a West Northants Councillor. I look forward to being involved again next year with this wonderful initiative that ensures the next generation grow up with vital knowledge of the importance on our environment and pride in their local area."
 Cllr David Tarbun West Northants Councillor for Towcester Ward

Recognition and Rewards

The project's success has inspired several pupils to apply for and receive Green Blue Peter badges, awarded to children who demonstrate exceptional passion for protecting nature and the environment. This year, a new competitive element has been introduced: trophy awards for the classes that collect the most litter. The unique trophies, donated by West Northamptonshire's Street Cleaning Team, feature mini wheelie bins mounted on recycled wood – a fitting symbol of the initiative's environmental message.

The "Tombles" initiative continues to grow each year, demonstrating how schools can partner with their local community to create meaningful change. By combining education with action, Towcester C of E Primary School is helping pupils develop both environmental awareness and community pride – skills that will serve them throughout their lives.



Keeping Hope Alive Through Your Kindness

Spring has brought significant success to the Tove Benefice Ukraine aid team, amid great sadness of increased attacks on home cities of friends from Kyiv and Lviv, the latter previously thought to be a safe haven in the west for aid deliveries.

In March, a donation of £750 was made towards the efforts “Driving Aid to Ukraine Team”, based in North London, for making a special journey to Towcester, collecting 2.1 tons of aid; much of which had been in store since before Christmas awaiting an available lorry. The aid also included furniture donated by the Larder and Food Bank from the Riverside Centre.

Thanks to generous donations from across the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton, an ambulance along with specified aid items was purchased for the Tove Team to deliver to Ukraine. An amazing £3,500 was also generously donated locally to help cover the purchase of additional aid, and transport costs.

Over the Easter holidays, Alex Donaldson and Alan Gilbert drove the 2000 miles to the capital Kyiv, over a period of 4 days, handing the ambulance over to Ukraine aid volunteer Tetiana Rudnik, founder of the charitable organisation Ukraine-Mother.

The ambulance left Towcester with over 500kg of aid, consisting of the purchased items and physical donations from local medical practices and residents. The majority of contents consisted of life saving and medical treatment items for frontline paramedics and medical stabilisation facilities, plus a huge amount of baby items donated by Northampton based charity, Baby Basics.

The drivers safely returned home via overnight train to Poland, before taking a flight to Luton. The ambulance, having been transferred to frontline military paramedics, helping save lives in Sumy, in the North East of Ukraine.

The Tove aid team will be taking a break for the summer. Any humanitarian and medical donations should be directed to Help Ukraine BAMK. 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

Thank you, Towcester, for your generous and thoughtful support. We all continue to stand with and pray for the people of Ukraine.



Supported by:





Towcester Youth Clubs: Updates, New Timings & Exciting Experiences

SNYE Towcester Youth Clubs continue to be a vibrant and welcoming space for young people in our community, with plenty of activity, connection, and growth happening each week.

One important update for 9 – 12 year olds: the **Junior Youth Club has a new time slot**. Sessions are now running from **6:00pm – 7:00pm**, making it easier for younger attendees to join in the fun while fitting around evening routines. The club remains a great place for young people to build friendships, take part in games and activities, and develop confidence in a supportive environment.

Older Youth Club, for 13 – 16 year olds, remains a popular safe place for chilling out with friends, getting creative with arts & crafts, having fun in the sports hall and learning something new.

For older members, our **16+ group, known as NextGen**, continues to go from strength to strength. The group provides a space tailored to young adults, focusing on independence, life skills, and social connection, while still keeping things relaxed and enjoyable.

Recently, members from SNYE had the fantastic opportunity to visit **Towcester Fire Station** which proved to be a real highlight. Young people were able to meet firefighters, learn about fire safety and get an up-close look at the equipment and vehicles used in emergency situations. It was an engaging and educational experience that sparked plenty of curiosity—and excitement!

With growing groups, and memorable trips like this, SNYE Towcester Youth Clubs continue to play an important role in supporting and inspiring local young people. We look forward to seeing both familiar and new faces at upcoming sessions!

To find out more, check out our fantastic new website www.youth-engagement.co.uk

The new site has been designed to make it easier for young people, families, and partners to access up-to-date information about our clubs, projects and opportunities.

Visitors to the website will be able to:

- Explore details about current clubs and projects
- Learn more about the Youth Engagement team
- Access helpful signposting information and resources
- Discover the “Meet the Team” section
- Find out how to become a volunteer and get involved
- Learn about our active Youth Council

The launch of the website comes at an exciting time for SNYE. This year, the organisation has secured three years of funding from the Big Lottery Fund, Reaching Communities programme, helping to ensure long-term stability and enabling SNYE to remain at the forefront of providing opportunities for young people in South Northamptonshire.



This is particularly important following many years without a dedicated youth service, ensuring young people once again have safe, supportive places to go.

The website launch marks a significant step forward in improving communication and accessibility, ensuring the local community can stay informed and connected with the charity's work.

Supporters and visitors are encouraged to subscribe via the website to receive the latest updates and news about upcoming projects and opportunities.





NORTHAMPTON CROQUET CLUB

Open Days: Sundays 17th May & 7th June

Try Croquet at Northampton Croquet Club – Open Days This May & June

Curious about croquet or looking for a new outdoor activity? Come along to the **open days at Northampton Croquet Club** and discover this enjoyable and sociable game for yourself.

Two open days are being held this spring:

Sunday 17th May and Sunday 7th June, starting from **10:30 am**. Admission is **free**, and **everyone is welcome**, whether you're a complete beginner or simply interested in watching and learning more.

Visitors will have the chance to try croquet on the club's beautiful lawns, meet friendly members, and learn the basics of the game. It's a great opportunity to enjoy some fresh air, have fun, and see what the club has to offer. You're also very welcome to **bring a picnic and make a morning or afternoon of it**. We provide all the equipment, the only thing you need to do is **wear flat soled shoes or trainers**.

Finding the Croquet Lawns

The croquet lawns are located **behind the Bowls Club in Roade**, only a 15min drive from Towcester.

- After entering the site, **please park on the grassed area on the left**.
- **Please don't park on the hard standing in front of the bowls clubhouse**.
- Cross the drive and follow the sign that takes you **to the right of the Bowls Club clubhouse**.
- Keep right and continue along the path until you **arrive at the croquet lawns**.

Come along, give croquet a try, and enjoy a friendly welcome at Northampton Croquet Club. No experience is needed – just bring yourself and a sense of fun!



It might only be May, but for Towcester Christmas Toy Bank it's Christmas all year round.

Behind the scenes the Elves continue to work hard to ensure that every child in Towcester will experience the magic of Christmas this December and there are various ways that the local community can support us.

Ways you can help:

- We're looking for local events that we can attend and support to help fundraise for the Christmas 2026 gift bags, let us know if you are holding any events that we can attend.
- Businesses can donate toys or items to help with Santa's deliveries such as boxes or gift bags. Or you can provide a drop off point for donations.
- Members of the community can also donate new and unused items aimed at children aged 3 - 16 including toys, soft toys, books, games and arts and crafts.
- You will find us Towcester C of E Primary School's Summer Fete on 6th June and also at the St Lawrence Church Summer Fete on 28th June.
- Volunteers are always needed in November (and sometimes other times during the year) for packing gift bags and to organise deliveries, follow our social media to find out how you can sign up to be an Elf!



We've been supporting families in Towcester and the surrounding area since 2020 and each year referrals for our services have increased. Last year we filled over 319 gift bags and helped over 170 families. We expect this number to rise again this year.

The Towcester Christmas Toy Bank is already supported by many wonderful local businesses including Tesco Towcester who hosted a donation trolley in February this year. Thank you to Tesco for the trolley and to everyone who donated.

We want to continue to make a difference in local people's lives and we can't do so without support from the community. Anyone interested in supporting us or finding more about what we do can email towcesterchristmastoybank@gmail.com or follow @towcesterchristmastoybank on Facebook or Instagram for updates.

TEWI Gardening Club Recognised in National WI Magazine, WI Life

Members were filled with pride to see the 3-page spread in the March edition of the WI's national magazine, WI Life, featuring our wonderful Gardening Team.

The article gave a very full account of the work the WI Gardening Team has done over the past 20 plus years and was a lovely tribute to our founder, Margaret Knowlton, who died last year.



And the team is still busy....

The Foundation Class from Towcester CofE Primary School came along and helped the Towcester Evening WI's Gardening Team plant snowdrops at St Lawrence Churchyard.

The snowdrops were planted with great enthusiasm by the children! They are along the bank behind the church wall at Chantry Lane and everyone is hoping for a good show next year in early spring.



'What motivates me is having
pride in our town'

FOR MANY YEARS, A DEDICATED WI GROUP HAS LED THE WAY IN MAKING THE HISTORIC TOWN OF TOWCESTER A GREEN AND PLEASANT SPACE FOR EVERYONE WHO LIVES THERE

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN
Registered Charity No. 1034548

TOWCESTER EVENING WI

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

You will be entertained by informed speakers, forge lifelong friendships and become part of a large national women's group.

Five words sum up WI :

COMMUNITY
CAMPAIGNING
FRIENDSHIP
LEARNING
FUN!

As well as the monthly meetings we have subgroups to suit different interests, for example: Gardening, skittles, Craft. The County WI Federation also offer us coffee mornings, monthly organised walks, day trips and even short holidays. Our programme is varied. Here are some examples of this year's talks:

- June - Call of the Kingfisher
- July - Life as a London bus driver
- September - Pink Wellies Farm Flowers demo

Towcester WI meet on the first Thursday evening of the month. If you want something for YOU come along to a Meeting you will be warmly welcomed, see what you think, no obligation to join, first visit is free.

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

Moments That Matter

Age UK Northamptonshire's Handyperson Service recently fitted a key safe for a Towcester resident who was struggling to answer the door when his Domestic Care Worker and the Community Nursing Team visited. He wanted to explore the possibility of having a key safe but was worried that it would be on show at the front of the property and he did not want to attract opportunist thieves.

Richard A'Court, Age UK Northamptonshire's Handyperson Team leader, explained that he and his team only supply and fit key safes that are police approved and carry the SBD (secure by design) logo. He says "We managed to fit the key safe in a position where it would be visible to those needing to use it, but out of sight to passers-by, which was reassuring to the client. Having a key safe on the outside of his home means our client no longer gets distressed trying to answer the door in time. Those who care for the client can now attend to his needs, and if he feels it is a cold caller at his door, he can ignore them."

Day Care Co-ordinator Aimie and her team at Age UK Northamptonshire's day centre in Towcester always dress up for World Book Day because it cheers everyone up. It also means people attending the day centre can join in something their grandchildren might be talking about and they can feel connected to the local community. Linda, Aimie and Elaine [pictured] took their inspiration from the Gangsta Granny books and organised plenty of book-themed activities on Thursday 5th March.

Contact Age UK Northamptonshire on 01604 611200 if you'd like to join us on Mondays and Thursdays or visit www.ageuknorthants.org.uk



A Thoughtful Space on Towcester High Street: The Slow Life

Tucked away on Towcester High Street, The Slow Life offers something a little different from the everyday shopping experience. Created as a calm and welcoming space, the shop invites visitors to slow down, browse, and discover carefully chosen pieces for the home and thoughtful gifts.

Founded by local shop owner Cecile Harris, The Slow Life focuses on quality over quantity – with a curated selection of vintage homeware, ceramics, home fragrance, and meaningful gifts. Each item is chosen with intention, reflecting a quieter, more mindful way of living.

The shop has recently been named a Finalist in the UK Small Business Awards 2026 in the category Best High Street Business, recognising its contribution to the local high street and community.

"I wanted to create a space that feels different," Cecile explains. "Somewhere people can step in, take a breath, and find something they truly love – whether it's a small gift or something for their own home."

Since opening, The Slow Life has become a familiar stop for both locals and visitors, especially those looking for something more personal than the usual high street offering. The shop regularly updates its collection with seasonal pieces, making each visit a little different from the last.

More than just a shop, The Slow Life reflects a growing desire for slower, more meaningful shopping experiences – right here in Towcester.

You can find The Slow Life on Towcester High Street, open Wednesday to Saturday.

“What’s the difference between the Towcester Foodbank and Towcester Community Larder?”



A Community Larder is for everyone

Established in 2021, Towcester Community Larder exists to prevent food going into landfill. It operates a membership scheme that provides surplus groceries at heavily discounted rates. The Larder works closely with local supermarkets, and other organisations to distribute surplus food and reduce food waste. Anyone can become a member and enjoy the benefits.

Towcester Foodbank is for emergencies!

Towcester Foodbank is for those in crisis who are struggling to afford food. Since 2012 our volunteers have provided emergency food supplies when times are hard. When Local people in crisis are referred to the Foodbank, we provide a minimum of three days’ nutritionally balanced emergency food.

Our free advice service helps people improve their financial situation such as managing finances, dealing with housing issues and accessing appropriate benefit entitlement so they will no longer need to come to the Foodbank.

Part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, and supported by The Trussell Trust, we are simply working to beat hunger.

Who pays for the Foodbank?

Your Foodbank is staffed only with volunteers. All of our food is either donated by local people like you, or by local businesses and community groups. Two thirds of our donations come from three local supermarkets. Any money donated is used to buy additional foodstuff to supplement donated items.

We are now fundraising to continue providing our free advice service; the only free advice available in Towcester. If your business can help or if someone you know operates a local business and wants to support the community, please get in touch!

Where can you donate food?

Every supermarket in Towcester supports the Foodbank with donation boxes located near the exit.

Your Foodbank also provides basic hygiene products such as washing powder, nappies, washing-up liquid, deodorant and shampoo, but stocks are running low. Please consider donating some of these items during your weekly shop.

Your help makes a BIG difference!

Donations, however small, through our ‘Just Giving’ page allow us to restock those items that people need.

Please help us when you can at www.justgiving.com/charity/towcesterfoodbank or simply click on the QR code with your smartphone.



Did You Know...

2/3 of our donations come from the baskets in three local supermarkets.

Thank you for making a difference.

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



© Alisdair McLean "Knots Rising"

TDPS Returns to Towcester!

Towcester & District Photographic Society (TDPS) was founded in the year 2000 but has spent most of its existence at venues outside Towcester. TDPS began life as 'Towcester Camera Club' and met at Towcester Town Hall before moving to Towcester Scout Hut in 2001. The Scout Hut at that time was fine in warmer weather but in winter was very cold, the only heating being from a couple of wall mounted fan heaters, which were so noisy that they had to be turned off to hear what speakers had to say!

The Scout Hut base was short-lived – it was destroyed by fire in around 2002. At this point we needed somewhere to meet in a hurry, and one of the members at that time secured a room at Towcester Working Men's Club until we could find somewhere more suitable. We couldn't find anywhere in Towcester, so the next move was to the Methodist Hall in Greens Norton until the hall was closed in 2013. This was such a vast difference from the Scout Hut: it was warm and comfortable and had better kitchen facilities, although parking did become a bit of a problem in later years.

Since 2013 TDPS has met at St Michael's Church Rooms in Silverstone, a very good venue, being a fully refurbished, bright, warm hall with good facilities. It has served us well, but for years we have sought a venue in Towcester – our vibrant and growing local centre, with opportunity for residents to 'walk in' and with good parking provision for those driving in. Our quest to find a venue of the right size, light-tight and suitable for projected images, affordable and available on our traditional Wednesday meet date had drawn blanks.

Now, though, we are delighted that we have secured a return to Towcester and from April will have been meeting at The Chantry House, opposite Towcester Town Hall – the place where it all started!

The name change in April 2021 from 'Towcester Camera Club' to Towcester & District Photographic Society was seen as an opportunity for the club to recognise that photography in the 2020s means more than cameras. Indeed, latest generations of mobile phones can match the resolution of high end SLR cameras, producing impressive photography.

So here we now are – your local camera club, a friendly, respectful group with interests in different genres, some wildlife, some aeronautics, some landscape or macro or abstract or architecture. The whole range. We enter the odd competition or meet for a friendly head-to-head for a bit of fun and to feel the range of work being produced around us. It's good to be inspired by the work of others to try out new subjects or techniques. Here we showcase a selection of images that represented TDPS in the recent Central Club Challenge.

We enjoy the fun and camaraderie of in-person meetings every other Wednesday evening – good friendships form through membership of TDPS. We're a friendly group and we aim to provide 'something for everyone'. Our mission is to **"Promote the art and science of photography in the South Northants area and assist the membership in improving their standard of photography."** Why not come and join us?

Our website gives a flavour of who we are and what we do, and we are always keen to answer enquiries via our website contact page <https://towcesterphoto.co.uk/contact/>



© Steve McGill "Kite with Chick"



© Pyers Tucker "Guillemot Butterfly Stroke"



© Kevin Adams "Swordfish"



© David Brenchley "Sopwith Camel Moon"


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



Big News for Towcester Community Garden

Towcester Community Garden continues to grow as a welcoming green space for local residents, volunteers, and visitors, offering opportunities to learn about gardening, sustainability, and community wellbeing. Located in the heart of Towcester, at the Tove Valley Centre, the garden has become a hub where people of all ages can come together to grow food, share knowledge, and enjoy nature.

Renew169 Wellbeing Café started looking after the garden in May 2025, have brought it back to life in the first season and have great plans to make it flourish this year.

One of the highlights of the year will be the Towcester Community Garden Open Day on 13 June, when the garden will open its gates to the public. Visitors will be able to explore the growing areas, see what has been planted this season, and meet the volunteers. The event will also include bacon butties in the morning and cream teas in the afternoon, craft stalls, plant sales, and a VIP unveiling of our new sign at midday. Whether you are an experienced gardener or simply curious about community growing projects, everyone is welcome to attend.

As the garden continues to expand, the team is keen to welcome new volunteers. Helping in the garden can involve a wide range of activities, from planting and watering to looking after the plots and poly tunnel and harvesting produce that is used to make lunches at the Wellbeing Cafe. No prior gardening experience is necessary —just a willingness to get involved and enjoy working outdoors with others.

The garden is also pleased to announce its support partnership with Bell Plantation Garden Centre. The support from Bell Plantation will contribute toward plants, materials, and resources needed to maintain and expand the garden. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to encouraging community engagement, promoting wellbeing through nature, and supporting local initiatives that make a positive difference.

With the Open Day approaching and new volunteers always welcome, Towcester Community Garden looks forward to another productive and community-focused season.

For more information on volunteering and the Open Day, please email manager@renew169.org.uk or look at our Facebook page Renew169.



Please note: Our Creative Nights session in May, (usually on the 3rd Wednesday of the month), will be moved to the 13th May (2nd Wednesday), in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Week.



renew169

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

Registered Charity Number: 1196631

For more information and to see our range of events and activities, please check out our new website by scanning the QR code or visiting www.renew169.org.uk



Scan this QR code to donate directly to our JustGiving page. The Renew169 staff, volunteers and most of all our visitors really appreciate your support.





WHAT'S ON AT THE MILL

8pm Thursday 28th May
LIVE COMEDY AT THE MILL
 headlining Finlay Christie & Christian Reilly
 Tickets £16pp

Fri 19th - Sun 21st June
MIDSUMMER MUSIC AT THE MILL
 Tickets from www.towcestermillbrewery.co.uk

8pm Thursday 25th June
LIVE COMEDY AT THE MILL
 headlining Silky & Gerry K
 Tickets £16pp

12 noon onwards Sunday 26th July
10TH ANNUAL CRAYFISH FESTIVAL
 Free entry

GOING 'BEHIND THE SCENES' at the Mill!

Did you know that Towcester Mill Brewery offers a 'behind the scenes' brewery tour? If you want to find out a bit more about Towcester's only brewery, then this might be just the thing you're looking for!

When Towcester Mill Brewery took over the mill in Chantry Lane in 2013, it brought commercial brewing back to the town for the first time in well over 100 years. It opened its doors in May 2014, and brews the equivalent of c130,000 pints a year.

So, how do we brew the consistently perfect, award-winning pint?

Find out on the tour! Tours are hosted by our brewery director, John Evans, who will share with you information about the history of our Grade II listed Mill, give you the chance to learn more about the malt and hops used in brewing and show you around our five brewers barrel brew plant.

Each tour starts in our ground floor Snug where you will receive your complimentary pint of Towcester Mill beer on arrival. Once you have been shown behind the scenes, the tour will then conclude with a beer tapas board, which includes three different thirds of Towcester Mill's core beers - Bell Ringer, Black Fire and Mill Race. Tours costs £15pp, and there is the option to add a cheesebox to your tour as well, which is perfect for sharing alongside the beer tapas.

Next tour takes place on Saturday 27th June.
 To book online, please visit the Mill's website www.towcestermillbrewery.co.uk
 Brewery Tour e-vouchers also available!




TOWCESTER MILL Brewery

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www.towcestermillbrewery.co.uk

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

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10TH ANNUAL CRAYFISH FESTIVAL! 26 JULY



Towcester Choral Society presents...

The Colours of the Rainbow

7:30pm Saturday 27 June 2026 | St Lawrence Church

This summer, the Towcester Choral Society invites the community to experience a vibrant evening of music with its upcoming concert, *The Colours of the Rainbow*, taking place on Saturday 27 June at 7.30pm in the beautiful surroundings of St Lawrence Church.

Tickets £15 adults, £3.50 children including refreshments.

Inspired by the rich palette of musical colour found in choral and jazz traditions, the programme brings together much-loved modern classics that sparkle with energy, rhythm and emotion.

At the heart of the concert is *Mass in Blue* by Will Todd, a thrilling fusion of the traditional Latin Mass with the sounds of jazz. Since its premiere in 2003, this joyful and uplifting work has become a favourite with choirs and audiences alike. With its soaring melodies, blues harmonies and irresistible swing rhythms, it offers something for everyone —from moments of serene beauty to passages bursting with exuberance.

Complementing this is the iconic *Rhapsody in Blue* by George Gershwin, performed on the piano by Jonathan French. Famous for its sweeping melodies and dazzling virtuosity, this beloved masterpiece blends classical music with jazz influences, creating a sound world that is both sophisticated and full of sparkle. Its instantly recognisable themes have delighted audiences for generations.

These works, together with other pieces sung by the choir, create a musical “rainbow” of colour and mood - from deep blues and glowing warmth to moments of brilliant musical sunshine. Set within the historic atmosphere of St Lawrence Church, the concert promises to be an inspiring and memorable evening for music lovers across Towcester and the surrounding area.

We will also be holding a Choral Workshop on Saturday 30th May 2026 in Towcester Town Hall from 10am – 4pm to sing through Will Todd's *Mass in Blue*, so why not come along and have a go? These days are hugely enjoyable and we all come away having learned, laughed and eaten lots of cake. Cost £14.75 including loan of a score.

Tickets for both available via our website www.towcesterchoralsociety.org.uk

Towcester Choral Society
present

COLOURS OF THE RAINBOW

featuring Will Todd's
**Mass in Blue and
Rhapsody in Blue**

Musical Director Helen Swift
Piano soloist Jonathan French



Saturday 27th June 7.30pm
St Lawrence Church Towcester NN12 6BS
£15 adults £3.50 children
with refreshments



Tickets available via www.towcesterchoralsociety.org.uk



Wildlife on our doorstep

by Peter Warden



Banded White-tailed Bumblebee: © Harriet Emma

Bumblebees are stirring earlier

I saw my first bumblebee in February. It seems our warming climate is allowing some queens to survive winter and emerge early to establish their nests. Bumblebees most commonly seen emerging early are the Tree Bumblebee and Early bumblebee, but it was a White-tailed Bumblebee that startled me first. They are not aggressive and unlikely to sting except in an extreme threat situation. Their survival depends on there being flowers to feed them. You can help by planting cowslips, small daffodils, violets and grape hyacinth (muscaria).



Surveying at Boddington: © BCN Wildlife Trust

Visit Boddington Meadow

May brings warmer days and plenty of buzzing insects. If you'd like to experience a lowland hay meadow - now sadly rare - then do pay a visit to Boddington Meadow, where you may see devil's-bit scabious, yellow rattle, meadowsweet and oxeye daisy, alongside butterflies, bees and flies. The reserve lies next to the west side of Boddington Reservoir, just off the Daventry to Banbury Road (NN11 6UD). While you're there, walk around the reservoir too: the grassland flowers attract damselflies and dragonflies. If you enjoy the trip, please consider joining the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust, which looks after 100+ reserves, including the beavers by the Lakes shopping centre.



Bird ringing: © Michel Viard

Bird Migration Patterns

Bird ringing in Britain began in 1909, with schemes run by the editor of British Birds and by Aberdeen University. The aim was simple: to find out where our summer visitors spend the winter, and where our winter visitors breed. Now coordinated by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), the scheme still reveals remarkable movements and lifespans.



Barn Owl: © Tom Haley

Three examples in BTO news caught my eye. A Barn Owl ringed in Suffolk in 2022 was found later that year alive and well in Northumberland - over 400 km away. That is striking when UK Barn Owls disperse, on average, only about 8 km from where they hatch, though occasional long-distance travellers do occur.

The second case was a Black-tailed Godwit caught by the Wash Wader Research Group in November 2025, which proved to be the oldest known in Britain and Ireland. Ringed as a juvenile at Holbeach, Lincolnshire in August 1996, it was 29 years old; typical life expectancy is around 18 years.

Seabirds can be long-lived and well-travelled too. A Kittiwake ringed on the Isle of May (Outer Firth of Forth) in 2023 was later recovered in Greenland - 2,752 km away. Ringing data suggest this is not unique: the BTO holds 199 UK-ringed Kittiwake records from Greenland, where the birds are routinely taken for food.



Black-tailed Godwit: © Kunal Chakravertti

Live, Learn and Laugh in your retirement!

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

Whether you're fully or partially retired, or just thinking about it, take a look at Towcester u3a as a way of making more of your free time.

As a group we offer a wide range of opportunities to come together to learn for fun, as well as friendship and good company.

If you want to stay active, then get out in the fresh air with one of our walking groups. Or if sports are your thing, try the increasingly popular Pickle Ball; or how about tennis, table tennis or badminton.

For those with a creative bent we offer painting, poetry, reading, creative writing and crafting. Start digging into your family history or learn more about science.

For those who like to get out and about, London Visits takes you off the tourist trail, whilst Garden Visits enjoy renown gardens and for anything mechanical, 'Boys Toys' fits the bill.

Regular coffee mornings and monthly meetings bring members together, with entertaining speakers covering a diverse range of topics. Being a member also gives you access to many on-line workshops and talks - there's sure to be a topic which interests you.

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

u3a
Towcester

Registered charity number 1155428



Who are Rotary in Towcester?

Over the past year, the Rotary Club of Towcester has increased its presence on Facebook, prompting many to ask: *What is Rotary, and what does it offer?* In short, Rotary provides meaningful friendship within a global organisation of more than 1.4 million members, while remaining firmly rooted in Towcester and the surrounding district. It also offers extensive opportunities to support those in need, both locally and internationally.

In 2026, the Rotary Club of Towcester marks its 45th year as part of a 121-year-old international organisation. Locally, the Club is well known for a range of events and initiatives, including:

- **Last Night of the Proms** at Whittlebury Park – a celebration of music featuring the **Sponne School Orchestra** and the **Kidlington Brass Concert Orchestra**.
- **Towcester Farmers' Market** – held on the second Friday of each month, supporting local traders.
- **Rotary Santa** – December collections at major supermarkets, selected residential areas, and the annual High Street Carol Service.
- **Rotary Youth Competitions** – showcasing the talents of young people aged 7–17 across Towcester and District.
- **Young RYLA and RYLA** – leadership development programmes designed to build teamwork and self-confidence in young people.
- **Community and environmental support**, including the 'Towcester Tidy Up' and collaboration with groups such as the Towcester CE Primary School "Tombles."
- **Musical events**, including the **Midsummer Musical Festival**, the **Cwmbach Male Voice Choir**, and the **Roselle String Quartet**.

Alongside its service projects, the Club maintains a strong culture of fellowship, welcoming partners and friends to many of its activities.

The Rotary Club of Towcester also supports a range of local causes, including the **RBL Poppy Appeal**, the **Christmas Toy Bank**, **Food Banks**, **SNYE** and **NMPAT**. Local businesses are encouraged to participate as well; the Club currently has six Corporate Members who contribute their expertise and assistance.

If you would like to learn more or explore how you can contribute to the community, we would be pleased to hear from you. The Club meets weekly, although attendance is flexible.



For further information, contact secretary@towcester-rotary.org.uk, visit www.towcester-rotary.org.uk, or call 0758 3561034.



ALL TOGETHER NOW:

5 reasons why joining a choir might be exactly what you need right now...

As summer starts, you might be thinking that you'd love to join in with some of the brilliant community events happening around Towcester. But it can be daunting making that first move...

If you've been suffering from FOMO, our friendly, welcoming choir is a fabulous cure. Here are five fab reasons to join:

1. Singing is proven to be good for your mental health

More and more research is showing how singing together improves mental health – and that's exactly why lovely Kat started our group to begin with. Research has shown that singing decreases your stress hormones and gives you a dopamine hit, and also that people with mental health conditions including anxiety and depression have improved their mental health after joining a singing group.

2. You can plug in to a ready-made community

A singing group like Songbirds is a ready-made social network, all set to welcome you in. There's no ice to break, as we warm up and sing together from the start. And as well as a chat and a giggle at rehearsals, you'll always find someone happy to join you for a coffee. In fact, **researchers at Oxford University found that singing together creates bonds between people faster than most other shared activities.**

3. You don't need to perform (but it can boost your confidence if you do!)

Some of our members come along to rehearsals but prefer not to perform. **There's no pressure to perform at all – that's not what the group is about.** However, if you feel ready to step on that stage, it can really boost your confidence – you might find it's the lift you need.

4. Friendship and support that sticks

Unlike an exercise group, where people may be too puffed to chat or desperate for a shower, a choir is a great place to start new friendships. And **because you see each other weekly, those friendships tend to stick.** Many of our members have moved to the area from elsewhere, and have built new, lasting and supportive friendships.

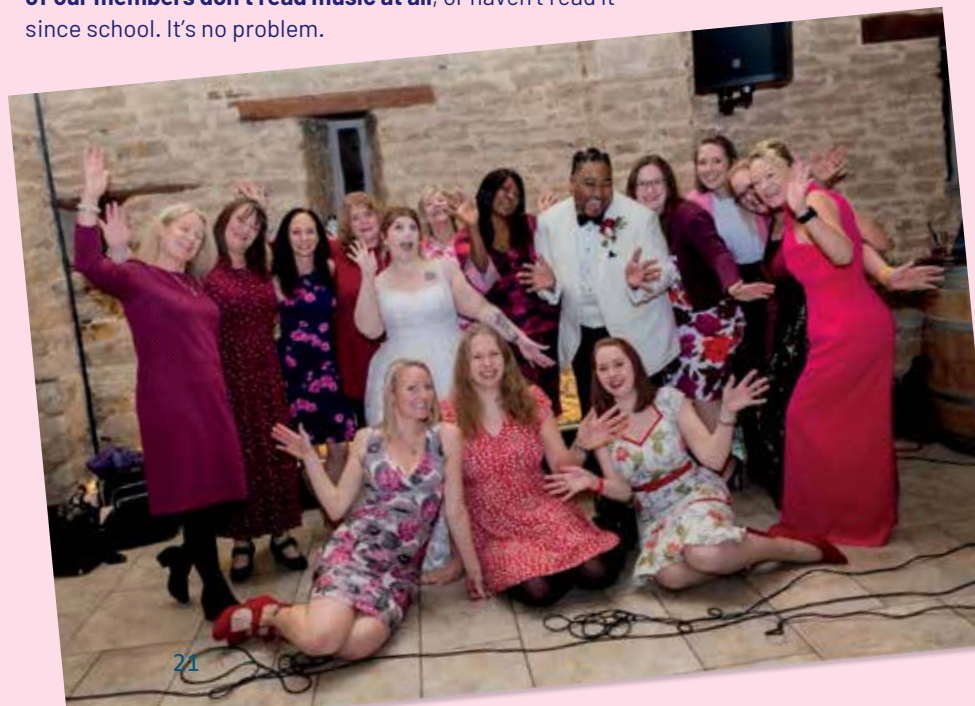
5. You don't need to read music!

Last but not least – no musical training necessary! We learn our repertoire by listening to the vocal tracks – **many of our members don't read music at all**, or haven't read it since school. It's no problem.

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

Our favourite gig – singing at the wedding of our beautiful Maya and gorgeous Jon last year!





A SUCCESSFUL CONTEST SEASON FOR TOWCESTER STUDIO BAND

Towcester Studio Band enjoyed two podium successes from two contests under the baton of their new Musical Director, Ian Knapton.

On 28th February they competed in the Oxford & District Brass Band Association Contest 2nd Section in Witney and were awarded first place against bands from the West Country and Home Counties. The Band's solo euphonium, Peter May also won the award for best instrumentalist, and they also took the award for best percussion section of the day.



Building on this success they went to the Midlands Area Regional Brass Band Championships in Bedworth on 15th March. Having only been promoted to the 2nd Section the previous year, the Band were absolutely delighted to be awarded third place, only just missing out on an invitation to the National Finals by one place! In addition, the trophy for best soloist of the day was won by the Band's principal cornet Matt Atkinson. Band Chairman Chris Stevens commented:

"These are fabulous results for the Band and are a reflection on the hard work put in by both the players and our new MD, Ian".

The Band is now looking forward to a busy Summer of engagements, and the future is looking bright with the continued progress of both the Beginner and Development bands under the expert tuition of Dai Rose.

Towcester Studio Band is also very fortunate to have a flourishing Friday Daytime Band, which is open to players of all ability who want to play in a relaxed atmosphere with coffee and biscuits provided!

For further information please contact Chris Stevens by email towcesterstudioband@gmail.com



Website: www.towcesterstudioband.co.uk
Email: towcesterstudioband@gmail.com
Facebook: [@towcesterstudioband](https://www.facebook.com/towcesterstudioband)



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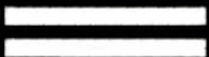
admin@towcesterhubchurch.org.uk



07968 375023



towcesterhubchurch.org.uk



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



St Lawrence Church

"church is what we do together"

9:15am every Sunday

also 10:15am via Zoom | 11:15am at St Bartholomew's Greens Norton

St Lawrence Church, Chantry Lane, NN12 6YY

Tel: 01327 350459

Email: tovebeneficeoffice@gmail.com

@tovebenefice

<https://tovebenefice.us10.list-manage.com/subscribe>



To keep up to date sign up for our weekly mailing

Pet Service | All Welcome

9:15am Sunday 7th June | St Lawrence Church

The idea of a pet service started with a simple conversation. A couple asked me if they could bring their dog to a funeral service. I was happy to agree, and the dog sat with them in the front pew. He wore a small neckerchief, so was as smartly dressed as everyone else. The dog provided much needed comfort, and afterwards, enjoying pats and strokes, he made people smile.

Subsequent conversations with dog-owning friends made me realise how much they would appreciate the opportunity to bring their dog to church for a special service. People who don't usually come to church, also told me they loved the idea of bringing their much-loved pet for a service of thanksgiving.

Pet Services have been a regular occurrence in many churches and cathedrals for a number of years, but it is a first for St Lawrence Church in Towcester. Some of you may remember the 1994 episode in the BBC series the Vicar of Dibley when Rev Geraldine Granger, played by Dawn French, holds a very successful pet service with a goat, a pig and an owl arriving as well as more traditional pets! Who knows what animals we might see in St Lawrence!

The service is taking place on Sunday 7th June at 9.15 am. What can you expect if you and your pet decide to come along? The service will be relaxed - I'm sure the animals will want to join in and make their voices heard from time to time. The service will last about thirty to forty minutes, everything you need will be on a screen, so you won't be juggling hymn books and dog leads or cat baskets.

To ensure all the pets feel safe and happy, we ask that all dogs are on leads, and there will be designated areas for different animals - not every rabbit wants to sit next to a dog! Whilst all animals are most welcome, you know your pet best, and if you think they would be nervous or anxious with other animals, in unfamiliar surroundings, you might prefer to bring a photo or something else that reminds you of them; the service is for you to bring all that you love about your pet before God - and you can do that even when your pet is happy and safe at home.

We are known as a nation of pet owners. Between us we own around 36 million pets! To animal lovers' pets are part of our family. Exotic pets, the humble hamster, cuddly bunnies, our feline friends and of course man's best friend - the dog, share our homes and our lives. This is an opportunity to give thanks for the gift of animals and ask God's blessing on all his creation.

Everyone is welcome; if you no longer have a pet or have never owned one, you are all warmly invited to join this service of thanksgiving for the gifts of creation.

Please come and join us for a morning of fun, fur, feathers, fins (and photos), and after the service enjoy a walk around our lovely big churchyard and get to know your fellow pet lovers.



Genesis Chapter 1 verse 25: God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.



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FONHS: A BIG-TERM OF FUN, FUNDRAISING & EXCITING PLANS AHEAD

It's been a brilliant term at Nicholas Hawksmoor, with pupils enjoying the Warrior Challenge, an in-school Winter Wonderland, and our much-loved Gift Sales where children chose presents for their loved ones. We also launched a monthly luck shop — an instant hit with the children — and introduced pre-show drinks for families, alongside a hugely supported raffle.



Hallett Brown
YOUR BEST ACCIDENTS & INJURY

UTS



Next term, we're kicking things off with a brand-new adults-only FonHS Disco & Auction on Saturday 21st March, followed by our first ever mini music Festival, HawksFest on Saturday 6th June. Thanks to early backing from Live Nation UK and SJM, we've started fundraising with real momentum.

We're now seeking local business sponsorship for these upcoming events.

If you'd like to support your community school, we'd love to hear from you.

A huge thank-you to Towcester Homes, UTS, and Hallett Brown for their generous sponsorship this term.



TOWCESTER HOMES

LIVE NATION



Interested in supporting any of our upcoming events? Please contact us using:

Fonhs@nhps.thlt.academy

follow us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/FriendsOfNicholasHawksmoorSchool

Become a Trustee!

Join the Sponne & Bickerstaffe Charity

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Support our Towcester community

Share Your Skills



Use your experience & knowledge

Work Together



Help guide our charity's future

We're Looking for Volunteer Trustees

Friendly & Enthusiastic? **We Need You!**
Help us manage the local Towcester Almshouse



Get  Involved!

Interested? Get in Touch!

✉ clerk@sponneandbickerstaffe.org
☎ 01327 351206

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

<p>Tuesday</p> <p>Lunch Club 12.00pm Craft session 1.00pm</p> <p>Thursday</p> <p>Sandwich Club 12.00pm</p>	<p>Wednesday</p> <p>Knit and Natter 10.00am Stroll and Soup 12.00pm</p> <p>Friday</p> <p>Grief, Comfort and Coffee 10.00am-11.30am</p>
--	--

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



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renew169.org.uk



West Northamptonshire Council



Northamptonshire Community Foundation
Living with the Community



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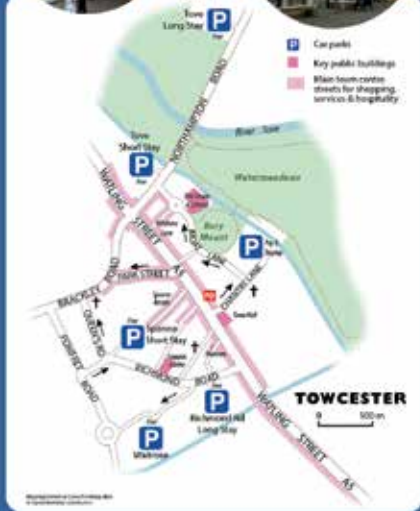
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CRIME PREVENTION & COMMUNITY EVENT

THURSDAY 4TH JUNE
12PM-4PM
SAWPITS,
TOWCESTER NN12 6EX

HOSTED BY OFFICERS FROM THE
TOWCESTER NEIGHBOURHOOD
POLICING TEAM

WITH OTHER AGENCIES
IN ATTENDANCE



Supporting Unpaid Carers and those
living with long-term health
conditions

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We Need Volunteers

- Who live in Northamptonshire
- Who want to make a difference within their community
- On a monthly or weekly basis days, evenings weekdays or weekends
- Have lived or professional experience or an interest supporting Carers or specific health conditions
- 18 years or older

Northamptonshire Carers provides free support across the county, volunteers help us to meet the needs of individuals and communities.

Current Roles

- Pumped Up!** Heart health group support
 - Adult Carer** Walk & Talk, Wellbeing & information support
 - Memory Hub** Dementia group support
 - Community Companions** befriending home visits
 - Community Companions** telephone befriending
 - Young Carers** group & admin support
 - DISC** Youth activity/sport group support
- If you have other skills you would like to share we would be delighted to hear from you*



Why Join Us ...

Training and expenses provided

It revives me, I leave with my spirits lifted
I make a difference in my community
I feel valued

01933 877907

volunteering@northamptonshire-carers.org

www.northamptonshire-carers.org



Northamptonshire Carers is a registered Charity No. 1061417

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH FETE & CRAFT FAIR



SUNDAY 28TH JUNE

AMAZING CAR SHOW
30+ SELLERS / STALLS



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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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- Improve balance
- Increase energy levels
- Reduce stress

For more information
07909 966695 | dance@gaynabrown.co.uk

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ADULT TAP

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Towcester Town
Hall

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and Friends!

BENEFITS

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- Reduce stress
- Explore creativity
- Expand your social circle

For more information
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Thursday Evenings

Beginners - 7pm

Next Steps - 8pm

Towcester Town Hall, 86 Watling Street, NN12 6BS

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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 bronkenny@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



Meet new friends and have fun
Bingo - Prizes
Raffle - Outings
2-4pm, 3rd Thursday
of each month
Sports & Social Club
(opposite medical centres)

Contact:
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Towcester Town Crier
Quarterly Community Magazine

AUTUMN ISSUE
Out **AUGUST 2026**

Submissions Deadline
25 June 2026



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POTTERSPURY HIDDEN BOXES 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 Walk with a Twist of Adventure

If you're looking for a walk that's a little bit different, something that blends fresh air, local history and a touch of playful adventure, then the Potterspurty Hidden Boxes Trail might just be your next outing.

Created by local walking group, Adventure Geek, this 3.3-mile circular route (around 7,000 steps) starts and finishes at Potterspurty Sports & Social Club and offers far more than your average countryside stroll.

A village steeped in story

Potterspurty is one of those villages that quietly holds onto its past. As you wander through the High Street and along Woods Lane, you'll pass charming cottages before arriving at St Nicholas Church, a real focal point of the village. Here's a little nugget to impress your walking buddies: the church tower was originally built to hold a spire... but the spire was never added. No one quite knows why, but it's these little quirks that give places their character. Just beside the church once stood a working watermill, a reminder of how important the local stream would have been to daily life in centuries gone by.

From Village Life to Hidden Paths

The route gently leads you out of the village and into open countryside, following hedgerows, fields and quiet footpaths. There's a real sense of "escape" here, one minute you're in the heart of Potterspurty, the next you're surrounded by big skies and birdsong. Then, just when you think you've settled into a peaceful ramble... the walk adds a twist.

A Treasure Hunt Along the Way

This isn't just a walk, it's an experience. Hidden along the route are three secret "treasure boxes" (geocaches) waiting to be discovered. The idea is simple: find them, take a photo, and carefully return them for the next explorer. It's a brilliant way to bring out your inner child, whether you're walking solo, with friends, or introducing little ones (or big kids!) to the joy of exploring.

Potterspurty Hidden Boxes Trail

As the trail continues, you'll pass into nearby Yardley Gobion, which was once part of a royal forest. And this wasn't just any woodland, in medieval times, hunting here without permission could cost you far more than a fine... you could lose your life! Thankfully, these days the only thing you'll lose is track of time as you wander through this peaceful village and back towards Potterspurty.

The Adventure Geek Feel

What makes this walk special isn't just the route, it's the spirit behind it. Adventure Geek is all about getting people outdoors, connecting with others, and rediscovering what's right on your doorstep. There's no pressure, no competition – just friendly faces, a bit of laughter, and maybe a dog or two leading the way. And yes... the dogs absolutely love the woodland section (especially the stream!). Ready to Give It a Go? Whether you're new to walking or a seasoned rambler, this easy-to-follow route is perfect for a relaxed morning or afternoon out. So, next time you fancy a little adventure, why not try something a bit different? You never know what you might find...

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



Distance: 3.3 miles / 7000 steps
Duration: Approx 2hr
Difficulty: Easy (can get muddy)
Dog friendly: Yes



Join the #AGPhotoChallenge

Each walk comes with a photo challenge – for this one, look out for three hidden boxes and tag us on social media using #AGPhotoChallenge.



Download this walk

www.adventuregeek.co.uk/Product/AG110
Turn-by-turn photos, instructions and GPX files are available with the map download.



Welcoming You Back to the Heart of Local Racing



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Join us every Friday and Sunday afternoon for live racing at Towcester Racecourse. Our relaxed, family-friendly fixtures offer spacious viewing areas, on-site food and drink, and stunning Northamptonshire scenery, perfect for a weekend outing.



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Whether you're planning a celebration, corporate event, or group day out, Towcester Racecourse offers flexible spaces for any occasion.



The Derby Returns - Follow Every Race to the Finals

We're delighted to welcome back the Towcester Derby, with general admission available throughout the entire series.





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

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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
6-7pm Ages 9-12 £2pp
7-8:30pm Ages 13-16 £2pp
8:30-9:30pm Ages 16-19 £2pp
Towcester Youth & Community Centre

OUT THERE YOUTH GROUP

Tuesdays 6:30-8pm term time
LGBTQ+ club for ages 7-13
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



MAY 2026

Wed 27th : **FREE BIKE MARKING**
2-4pm Towcester Recreation Ground

Thu 28th : **LIVE COMEDY AT THE MILL**
Headlining **Finlay Christie & Christian Reilly**
8pm Towcester Mill Brewery £16pp
www.towcestermillbrewery.co.uk

Sat 30th : **CHORAL WORKSHOP FOR ALL**
10am-4:30pm Towcester Town Hall
Towcester Choral Society

JUNE 2026

Thu 4th : **COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION EVENT**
12noon-4pm The Sawpits Centre

Fri 5th : **SNVB VOLUNTEER FAIR**
10am-3:30pm Towcester Town Hall

Sat 6th : **TOWCESTER HANDMADE FAYRE**
9:30am-4pm Towcester Town Hall

Sat 6th : **FOTOPS SUMMER FETE**
Fundraiser for Towcester CE Primary School
11am-3pm Towcester CE Primary School

Sat 6th : **HAWKFEST**
Fundraiser for Friends of Nicholas Hawksmoor School
12-4pm Nicholas Hawksmoor Primary School

Sun 7th : **PET SERVICE**
9:15am St Lawrence Church

Sun 7th : **CROQUET CLUB OPEN DAY**
From 10:30am Behind Bowls Club, Roade
//user.ratio.bump

Fri 12th : **FARMERS MARKET**
9am-1:30pm Sponne Arcade Car Park

Sat 13th : **COMMUNITY GARDEN OPEN DAY**
10:30am-3:30pm Tove Valley Centre

Sat/Sun 13th/14th : **JUNIOR FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT**
Towcester Recreation Ground

Thu-Sun 18th-21st : **MIDSUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL**
At venues throughout the Town Centre
www.towcestermidsummermusic.co.uk

Thu 28th : **LIVE COMEDY AT THE MILL**
Headlining **Silky & Gerry K**
8pm Towcester Mill Brewery £16pp
www.towcestermillbrewery.co.uk

Thu 25th : **DEADLINE AUTUMN TOWN CRIER**

Sat 27th : **TOWCESTER CRAFT COLLECTIVE**
10am-3:30pm Towcester Town Hall

Sun 28th : **CHURCH FETE & CRAFT FAIR**
12:30-4pm St Lawrence Church & Vicarage Garden

Sat 27th : **COLOURS OF THE RAINBOW**
7:30pm St Lawrence Church, Adults £15 Child £3.50
Towcester Choral Society Concert

JULY 2026

Sat 4th : **ANTHONY HARRIS ART EXHIBITION**
10am-4pm Towcester Town Hall

Fri 10th : **FARMERS MARKET**
9am-1:30pm Sponne Arcade Car Park

Sat 11th : **TOWCESTER HANDMADE FAYRE**
9:30am-4pm Towcester Town Hall

Sun 16th : **ANNUAL CRAYFISH FESTIVAL**
From 12 noon Towcester Mill Brewery **FREE ENTRY**
www.towcestermillbrewery.co.uk

AUGUST 2026

Fri 21st : **SNYE PLAY & ACTIVITY DAY**
11am-3pm Towcester Recreation Ground

Fri 21st : **SPORTS IN THE PARK**
WNC Summer of Sports Roadshow
Towcester Recreation Ground

TOWCESTER TOWN COUNCIL & ROTARY CLUB PRESENT

24th Towcester Midsummer Music Festival

18-21 JUNE 2026

WWW.TOWCESTERMIDSUMMERMUSIC.CO.UK
REGISTERED CHARITY No.1174494



Dates & events may be subject to change. Share your event with the community.
AUTUMN issue out August 2026 - Deadline for submissions - 25th June 2026
enquiries@towcester-tc.gov.uk



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