Midsummer Music 2013
Presentations to the Nominated Charities

At the Town Council Meeting held on Monday, 9th September, presentations were made by the Town Mayor to representatives of this year’s nominated charities. Each Charity received a cheque to the value of £1,000.00.

From left to right:
Paula Dawson from the Talbot Butler Ward at NGH, Peter Stratton from the Towcester & District Lions Club, Bethan Reed from the Talbot Butler Ward at NGH, David Powell – President of the Towcester & District Lions Club, Hugh Davenport from Towcester Centurions, Mary Taylor from Towcester Foodbank, Robin Slough from Towcester Centurions, Cllr Jim Lynch – Town Mayor of Towcester, David Reed from the Rotary Club of Towcester, Stuart Wilkins from the Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance and John Kimber from the Rotary Club of Towcester.
A Message from the Mayor

The Moat Lane development is now approved and is scheduled for completion at the end of next year.

As part of the development process at Moat Lane, an archaeological dig was required before the building work could begin. A team from Cotswold Archaeology has recently uncovered the remains of a Roman building to the rear of Michael Graham, Estate Agents. The substantial stone footings indicate that this may have been a 2-storey dwelling. The surface of a Roman street has been revealed alongside that would have linked the building to Watling Street. Many people from Towcester have taken the opportunity to see the building for themselves and talk to the archaeologists about their exciting discovery. Unfortunately, once building work begins, this graphic view of Roman Towcester could be covered up for, maybe, another two thousand years. Towcester and District Local History Society (see the Society’s news page and the Old Towcester article) has suggested that the finds could be preserved where they are or moved to a suitable local site for the benefit of the Town and as a visitor attraction. I think this would be very good idea if it is practical, especially if it can be incorporated into the new Civic Building. I have seen similar remains covered with a glass floor at the Acropolis Museum. Linking these remains with our new Civic Building would, I believe, help to make this new building much more a part of Towcester.

I have already noted in the March Town Crier in that there will be a severe shortage of car parking provision on the Moat Lane site to cater for users of the Civic Building and other users of the development. This is bound to impact on the Town Centre’s already limited parking spaces. What will make matters worse is a plan to reduce the number of parking places in the Market Square from 28 to 14. South Northants Council believes that this measure will reduce the level of nitrogen dioxide on the Watling Street to levels that will enable an EU Air Quality Directive to be met. The Town Council has already objected to SNC over the validity of the modelling and calculations used to reach this conclusion. We are waiting for further clarification from SNC.

The final act of this year’s successful Midsummer Music Festival was the presentation of cheques for £1,000 each to the three nominated local charities - The Towcester Foodbank, The Talbot Butler Ward of NGH and the Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance – at the September Town Council meeting. Next year’s Midsummer Music will be on Saturday 21st June 2014.

Also at the September Town Council meeting, we said goodbye to Cllr David Linney who is moving to Northampton. David served on the Council for 21 years and was Mayor on four occasions. He has made a significant contribution to the Town, not only as a Town Councillor but also as St Lawrence Church Warden and, with our young people, through his long-term support of the Towcester Coffee Shop. We shall miss David and Lynne but, with Northampton being so close, I’m sure we will be seeing them around the Town. David’s resignation from the Council brings about a vacancy for a Town Councillor to be filled by co-option. If you are interested in this vacancy please contact the Town Clerk for more information.
History really did come to life on Saturday 27th July when Towcester Museum was officially opened. The Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire Lady Juliet Townsend cut the ribbon and got the day’s events started. Over the course of the day several hundred people turned out to enjoy the activities on offer and view the museum.

Many characters from Towcester’s past attended including Queen Boudicca, Elizabeth Woodville (the White Queen), Sir Richard Empson (Henry VII’s evil tax collector), Katharine Parr, Prince Rupert (of Civil War fame), Nicholas Hawksmoor (architect of Easton Neston House), the landlady of the White Horse Inn, the Empress of Austria (for whom the racecourse was built), the Phipps sisters (who’s family owned the brewery and started the Studio Band) and Mr Grace (as of the ‘Grace Racecourse Stand’).

Also attending were Towcester Studio Band and members of the Roman Military Research Society. Entry to the museum was free for the day. Children took part in face painting and Roman games.

The museum is open each week Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am until 4 pm.

Martin Johns
Museum Trustee

www.towcestermuseum.co.uk
OLD TOWCESTER Part 2
WHITTON’S LANE, ROMAN BUILDING

The archaeological investigations undertaken in June and July by Cotswold Archaeology as part of the Moat Lane redevelopment have revealed foundations of Roman stone buildings in the rear garden of Michael Graham Estate Agents.

Parts of two buildings, or a building with a yard adjacent, were excavated and also a short stretch of roadway leading obliquely from Watling Street. Little survived of the structure furthest from Watling Street apart from a short stretch of wall with a buttress to give it support. The section of building nearest Watling Street was stone-built, narrow and had a half cellar or basement with walling surviving about 400mm above the Roman ground surface and extending over 1m in depth in the basement. Because of problems with ground water, the Roman builder went to extraordinary lengths to keep this basement dry. A thick clay layer was applied to both sides of the main external walls and the basement floor. To keep the internal layer of clay in position a thin stone wall with vertical slots (which presumably held timbers) was built against it on the inside of the basement. The last people to leave the basement accidentally, or on purpose, left a stacked pile of pottery close to the edge which the archaeologists discovered. Amongst the material thrown into the basement after the building was abandoned was a piece of quern-stone (which may have originated in what is now Germany) and numerous cattle skulls.

At present there are insufficient clues to assess what the building with the basement was used for. Basements similar to this are often found in 17th and 18th century farmhouses and more often than not were used as dairies but in Roman times dairies used for butter making are unlikely. It is, however, very likely that cheese was being made locally in the Roman period. Could this cellar have been built for maturing cheese? Hopefully when the report on the excavations is published by Cotswold Archaeology they will have reached some conclusions about this unusual building.

Brian Giggins
For regular snippets of Towcester history visit the Facebook “Towcester History and Photographs” site or http://www.flickr.com/photos/lactoduro/sets and click on ‘Towcester History’.
Towcester C of E Primary

You will have no doubt come across news about our school this year as we have been very busy in the press and local community.

This year has given us the opportunity to embed further what Mr Camp has brought to the school. Our international trips have increased and we are working on a big sports project with schools in Wolverhampton, Spain, Germany, Poland and Slovakia. Groups of children are visiting the different countries to learn and practise different sports events that will feed into a big Olympic-style event with all of the schools, here in Towcester, in the summer of 2014.

This year saw our second exchange visit to Germany and we have started an exchange programme with a school in Spain. Our Year 6 pupils had a week in South Wales at Stackpole exploring the countryside and wildlife on Skomer Island. Years 3 and 4 went to the Frontier Centre and our Years 1 and 2 went to Everdon. Some of our pupils have never been to a beach, been on holiday or been on a plane and it’s great that, as a school, we can offer these opportunities to all. Their increased confidence and outlook on life is impacting on their academic ability and our progress overall is very good.

In addition to our trips we have raised our attainment at school again. This July saw our best results yet with 93% of our children achieving National expectations in both English and Maths and 2 pupils achieving level 6 in maths. Whilst statistics are important to us; children being children, and us providing learning to meet their individual needs to become confident, happy and rounded citizens is very high on our agenda. We are a diverse school offering a diverse education to meet the society of today.

Our school has had some significant changes this year with a new roof on our Key Stage 2 building which has meant modernised ceilings and lighting. We now have two Learning Resource centres, one in each building, with increase use of tablets and Kindles. Our Site Supervisor, Mr Parker, has made us a Peace Garden in the school grounds and our woodland walk, amphitheatre and allotments continue to be used and developed, as we progress with our journey to become a Forest School.

Our links with the Church and local community continue to be strong and our Governing Body is full and proactive in raising the profile of the school yet further.

Our school community is a happy one – ask anyone who has been to visit recently. And if you haven’t, why not come to a celebration assembly held every Friday at 9.00 and see and feel for yourself what Towcester Primary is like now, all are welcome.
TOWCESTER ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

POPPIES AND REMEMBRANCE
This year poppies will be on sale in various shops, schools, pubs and offices around Towcester and Silverstone from Friday 25th October and outside Waitrose, Tesco, Aldi and in the Market Square from Saturday 26th. The dates of collection outside some stores/locations will vary depending on permission from the store but mainly on the availability of volunteers. The more volunteers we have the more we can do. If you would like to volunteer to sell poppies outside one of the 4 locations then please get in touch, see below for contact details.

A Garden of Remembrance will again be set up in the small garden at the side of St Lawrence Church vicarage, opposite the main door into the Church. A brief ceremony to dedicate the garden will take place at 10.00am on the morning of Saturday 26th October. Anyone who would like to lay a small cross of remembrance in the Garden in memory of a relative who served in the armed forces is welcome to do so. The small crosses are available throughout the town and at the ceremony itself.

We stop selling poppies on Saturday evening 9th November because Sunday 10th November is Remembrance Sunday this year. There will be services at various Churches in the area but if you intend to go to St Lawrence Church then make sure you allow plenty of time because the Church is always cramped to overflowing. Following the main service in the Church there will be a brief service and laying of wreaths at the Cemetery on Brackley Road.

POPPY CALLS
This is a service available to all people who have served, however briefly and their widows or dependants. Any small household repair or minor household adaptation could be sorted out by one of our trusted fitters. All fitters are also case-worker trained to assess a beneficiary’s needs to ensure they get the help and support they need. If you think you qualify and have a need then give them a call on: 0800 032 0306. If you would like more details, please contact me on the details given below.

The membership of the Towcester Branch is growing month on month, up to 44 now, but new members are always welcome. You don’t have to have served in the forces, or even have had a member of your family who has served. The Legion welcomes everyone who recognises the tremendous work that they undertake throughout the year. Most of the Legion’s efforts are directed towards currently serving personnel and their families, the injured and bereaved and those who have recently left the Services and need help to find a job or just ‘fit in’. Don’t forget, the money raised by selling poppies amounts to only 50% of the money the RBL spends on these efforts every year.

We meet at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of every month, usually in the Conservative Club. We do a bit of business or have an illustrated talk. We also go out and about throughout the year to some great places. Why not join us. The annual cost equates to just over £1 per month. Contact me and I will send you a membership form; you can pay by direct debit or cheque.

David Reed
Membership Secretary & Poppy Appeal Organiser
dreedsfm@sky.com / 07970 597044 / 01327 352414

Return of the Last Night of the Proms!

Early Notification
A Super Charity Event at the Luxurious Whittlebury Hall organised by the Rotary Club of Towcester

Featuring Kidlington Brass Concert Band and the award-winning Sponne School Musicians and Concert Choir

Sunday, 2nd February 2014

If you are a music fan you must put this date in your diary. Ticket sales will commence in November 2013. For enquiries and pre-booking, please contact Roy Bricknell on 01327 352524.
Malthouse Court 25th Anniversary

On a perfect summer’s day in July the Mayor and Mrs Lynch attended the 25th anniversary celebrations of Malthouse Court. They met residents, families and friends enjoying the warm sunshine in the gardens. Music from the Studio Band added to the festive atmosphere.

Mr Michael Moore, the Property Manager, introduced the guests who also included Cllr Chris Lofts and Mr Noel Shuttleworth, Life President of Cognatum. Mr Shuttleworth, who gave a short speech, pioneered, with a colleague, the concept of ‘independent retirement living’ in 1977 when looking for somewhere for his mother to live. They started English Courtyard Association and Malthouse Court was built 11 years later. The development was seen by Prince Charles who indicated his approval by including it in his book ‘A Vision of Britain’. The Association later joined up with Beechcroft to become Cognatum.

A special cake was cut by the two remaining original residents, Mrs Mary Wood and Mrs Megan Middleton and they were presented with baskets of flowers. A toast to the next 25 years brought the memorable afternoon to a close.

Thanks to Towcester Museum and Towcester and District Local History Society it was possible to have a display of photographs showing what is known of the history of the site - from Roman times to Phipp’s Victorian brewery and the present day. It now proudly stands within the Towcester Conservation area.

Photographs courtesy of Mr Dave Nash and Mrs Margaret Sullivan, clockwise from top:

Mr Michael Moore introduces the Town Mayor & Mayoress, Cllr Jim Lynch & Mrs Margaret Lynch

The guests with Mr Noel Shuttleworth (seated)

Mrs Mary Wood & Mrs Megan Middleton cut the cake
Towcester Town Junior Football Club and Silverstone Juniors came together once again this year in commemoration of Liam Ayres. All age groups participated from Under 7s to adults, and later, balloons were launched into the sky.

The Liam Ayres Memorial Tournament
Saturday, 7th September 2013

Towcester Town Junior Football Club and Silverstone Juniors came together once again this year in commemoration of Liam Ayres. All age groups participated from Under 7s to adults, and later, balloons were launched into the sky.

Photographs courtesy of J. Smith Photography / www.jsmithphotography.co.uk

Towcester Town Junior Football Club
Please come and support your Under 18’s Football Team on Sundays at Towcester Recreation Ground

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date / Time</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Opposition</th>
<th>venue</th>
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<tr>
<td>6th October, 2pm</td>
<td>Towcester Town F.C. U18</td>
<td>Black Panthers White U18</td>
<td>Islington Road, Tow</td>
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<td>Moulton Magpies U18</td>
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<td>Wootton St George F.C. U18</td>
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<td>Towcester Town F.C. U18</td>
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<td>Wooddale F.C. U18</td>
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<td>Bilton Ajax F.C. U18</td>
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<td>Drayton Grange FC U18</td>
<td>Towcester Town FC U18</td>
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BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION 2013

Winners of the Best Kept Garden Competition 2013

(Clockwise from right photograph)

1ST PLACE
Mrs Littlewood
Hunt Close

2ND PLACE
Mr & Mrs Buckingham
Shepphards Crescent

3RD PLACE
Mrs Davis
Bickerstaffes Road

Vacancy for a Town Councillor

Following the resignation of Cllr David Linney, the Town Council now has a vacancy on Brook Ward.

If you think you may be interested and would like to find out more information on the work of the Town Council please telephone the Town Clerk, Mrs Dianne Isaacs on 01327 350995 or email: towncouncil@towcester-tc.gov.uk.
TOWCESTER EVENING WI

The photo collage of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee event held in Towcester, put together by Towcester Evening WI, continues on its journey round the town. In August it was on view at the Towcester Leisure Centre and made an appearance at the St Lawrence Flower Festival and the Allotment Produce Show. It will be on view at the Riverside Resource Centre in September before moving to the Sure Start Children’s Centre at the end of the month. In October it can be seen at South Northants Homes and the Vision Youth Café.

Members of Riverside Centre with the Diamond Jubilee collage

For full details of other community projects that Towcester Evening WI is involved in then please check out their blog: http://towcesterwi.blogspot.co.uk

Tove Wetland Pocket Park

The newly formed Tove Wetland Pocket Park in Towcester is a great area to visit. Located next to the Belle Baulk estate, and already widely used, it has many different aspects including an abundance of wildlife, 2 ponds, open space, an adventure play area, and the River Tove passing through it. The aim of the pocket park committee, made up of local people and with the support of Towcester Town Council, is to retain this area for the enjoyment of residents of, and visitors to Towcester.

Grant funding from a variety of sources has been obtained to help maintain and improve the area, but it is also important that the area is supported by the local people. The management of the pocket park aims to maintain and improve the biodiversity of the area whilst retaining all of the features the existing park has to offer.

To do this, it is vital that people help out with certain activities. Whether it is simply cleaning up after your dog, disposing of your litter in the waste bins provided, or volunteering to help out with organised events such as hay raking and seed sowing.

If you have any comments about the pocket park proposals, want further information, or wish to volunteer your help, please get in touch with the Chair of the Management Committee, Nick Holder (nickholder@btinternet.com or 01327 352637), or the Town Council who can provide some guidance.
The Rotary Club of Towcester
Senior Citizen’s Summer Tea

Following a very successful senior citizen’s tea to celebrate the Queen’s Jubilee Year, the Rotary Club of Towcester, in partnership with the W.I. and Leeson Court (Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association), repeated the event on 30th June 2013. With the Rotary Club providing the funding and the organisation, Towcester WI the excellent home made refreshments and Leeson Court providing the purpose built premises this was an excellent partnership arrangement.

After enjoying a glass of sherry (or two), entertainment was provided by young musicians from Nicholas Hawksmoor Primary School, Royston the local magician with community singing led by Ray Rowden on the keyboard. A jolly afternoon for all; characterised by the three organisations working in partnership.

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TOWCESTER EVENING WI

Towcester Evening WI is pleased to announce that they have found a sponsor for the planter bicycle racks sited in Sponse Arcade - Andrew Gordon & Co Licensed Conveyancers of Watling Street, Towcester.

The bike racks were recently purchased through the Northamptonshire County Council’s Empowering Councillors & Community Scheme and Andrew Gordon & Co has agreed to fund the cost of the plants through the coming year. WI members have been kept busy over the hot summer keeping the planters looking colourful.

For full details of other community projects that Towcester Evening WI is involved in then please check out their blog:

http://towcesterwi.blogspot.co.uk

Bernice Gordon (plus mascot Archie) from Andrew Gordon & Co with WI members and local cyclists
NCT Towcester & District branch
Nearly New Sale – bag a bargain!

The Autumn Nearly New Sale of clothes, toys and accessories for mums-to-be, babies and toddlers will take place on Saturday 16 November at the Empress Suite at Towcester Racecourse from 10am-11.30am. With more floor space and free parking, the branch is confident this new venue will prove to be a great opportunity for sellers to sell more and buyers to bag more bargains!

Sarah Tattersall, Chair of the Towcester & District branch of the NCT, said: “Our Nearly New Sales have for, many years, been our biggest events and our aim is to ensure they continue to be a huge success for everyone. For the sellers wanting to free up some loft space, buyers wanting a bargain and for the charity to raise funds, we know how important these events are to so many people. This autumn will see some exciting changes which we hope will make our sales bigger and better than ever!”

The branch runs its Nearly New Sales twice a year, offering parents the chance to buy everyday necessities for their children at a fraction of their retail price. Items for sale include clothes, non-fitted shoes, toys, games and equipment, books, CDs, DVDs, bicycles, electronic toys, prams and pushchairs and nursery equipment. Everything is virtually new or in very good condition and excellent value for money!

Entrance to the sale is free for NCT members and sellers and just £1 for everyone else. Anyone interested in selling at the sale should email nscoordinator@nct-towcester.org or check out the branch’s Facebook site at Facebook / Towcester NCT.

New mum? Time for tea?
The NCT branch runs a NCTea event on the first Thursday of every month at the Bell Plantation café on the A5 from 10am-11.30am. If you are a new mum and want to meet other new mums and have a chat over tea and cake then please come along! Warm welcome guaranteed.

TOWCESTER
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A new fridge magnet and leaflet has been produced by Towcester Neighbourhood Watch thanks to a Big Lottery grant.

The leaflet tells residents about Neighbourhood Watch and our website where reports and comments can be made. Especially important is the information on the police non-emergency phone number 101.

Although 101 is an easy number to remember, we have produced a simple and effective fridge magnet as a permanent reminder of the number. Stick the magnet on your fridge or microwave so you don’t forget!

Call 101 as timely as possible if you notice suspicious activity or anti-social behaviour or scenes of potential violence; have concerns about cold-callers, or suspicious circumstances or people behaving in a suspicious manner; i.e. tampering with cars; climbing fences, walls or roofs; looking through letterboxes; trying doors or windows; loitering near cash point machines, etc.

Also contact us via our website to receive email Watch Outs! They include valuable alerts on local criminal activity, crime prevention and other Neighbourhood Watch matters.

Our leaflet and magnet has more information and will be delivered to every household in the town. If you haven’t had your copy in the next couple of weeks please let us know via our website – www.safetowcester.com
Towcester Rotary Club
Were does the money go?

Each year the Rotary Club of Towcester raises money for charitable use. Some of the money is applied to overseas projects and initiatives and some to help organisations and individuals in the UK, normally in the Towcester area. Readers may have an interest in knowing roughly how the money is raised and what it is spent on.

In the Rotary year 2012 to 2013, (the Rotary year runs from the 1st July in one year to the 30th June the next), the Club started the year with £13,000 allocated to charitable expenditure and a small amount in reserve. Of this figure the majority of the income had been raised by the provision of volunteer courtesy drivers at the British Grand Prix. The balance comes from the organisation of local events and collections.

In terms of expenditure, less than £3,000 was applied overseas and related to the Rotary Foundation, (Rotaries own charity), the eradication of polio, support for the education and accommodation of a teenage girl in India via the Joe Homan Trust and support for provision of a motorcycle ambulance for use in Africa. Money is always held for the application of relief in disaster areas and the expenditure varies related to requests received.

Of the cash applied in the UK, all the expenditure related to a local service, charity or individual person. Not all of the allocated funds were spent due to a lack of take up in some areas. Yes, it really sometimes is difficult to spend the money in the current year due to late applications and late billing. Here are the areas that were budgeted for.

- Support for Young Carers, (see previous articles) £850
- Support for Senior Citizens £500
- Fishing Experience, a facility for children with school difficulties £100
- Carols and refreshment in residential homes £200
- Rotary Young Leaders Award, a residential leadership week £600
- Support for families where a member has dementia £1,616 inclusive of a grant
- Sailability, sailing for local disabled people £200
- Fireman’s Benevolent Fund £200
- Life Education, a mobile health and life style education facility for primary children £2,500
- Rotary Competitions for young people, e.g. musician, designer etc £600
- Music tabards for Sponne school £300
- Mentoring Students £100
- Add hoc donations £1,100

We do not normally publish any details about people who have been assisted directly, but on this occasion we have received specific permission to share the following with readers.

Sarah Veness of Pattishall was presented with a laptop by Towcester Rotarians and wrote:

“As someone who suffers from short term memory loss I will be using it to raise awareness to the problems that this can cause and how to find help and support. It will also be used to help people and the carers of those suffering from dementia to create memory books which are designed to show the person’s life history as an aid to understanding the person as a whole and for their personal enjoyment.

In November 2013 I will be having an exhibition of photography at Towcester Library, which will be for both fundraising and raising awareness of social issues and how to get help. Money raised will be divided equally between The Alzheimer’s Society (registered charity no: 296645) and Heartcry Compassion in Action (registered charity no. 1091912). For further info, or help, please visit http://creativesarah.weebly.com”

We hope this helps people to understand where the money goes.
Towcester Rotary Club gives Young Carers another day to remember

As reported in the last edition of the Crier the Rotary Club of Towcester has for several years now given groups of Young Carers the opportunity to have a break from their support duties. Working with Social Services, a variety of day outings have been organised, such as canoeing and funfairs.

Recently a group aged between 12 and 16 were taken to Frontier Land near Wellingborough for a few hours of adventure. This included climbing a variety of obstacles, a hair-raising ride on a giant swing and a raft building task. The latter involves 2 teams building a raft out of drums, rope and logs. The finished “works of art” are then launched in the nearby River Nene for a series of competitive games which results in everyone getting very wet!

The Rotary team put on a BBQ which was consumed with gusto by the hungry participants. The sausage rolls and chocolate cakes were the first to go....

The weather was good, time passed quickly and the day was all too soon over. But from the smiling faces and newfound friends it was a lot of fun for everyone involved - and that included the Rotary Club.

COME FOR COFFEE
IT’S FOR MACMILLAN
IN THE CHANTRY HOUSE, TOWCESTER
ON FRIDAY, 11TH OCTOBER 2013
FROM 10.00am – 12.30pm
ORGANISED BY THE INNER WHEEL OF TOWCESTER
Church News…..

Harvest
We all like it when someone says thank you.

I am sure that God is the same. After such a wet spring, we have been blessed with a glorious and memorable summer. The land has again produced and the farmers have worked faithfully through their many hardships.

May we stop and give thanks. Come to one of the many services in our Benefice churches

Saturday, 5th October at 6pm - St Mary’s Church, Easton Neston
Sunday, 6th October at 9.30am – St Lawrence Church, Towcester
Sunday, 6th October at 11am – St Bartholomew’s Church, Greens Norton
Sunday, 13th October at 9.30am – St Michael’s Church, Bradden

It is the anniversary of the opening of the Foodbank in Towcester, all donations of suitable food is welcome. Any fresh produce we will try to share at the Hope Centre.

I believe that God who gives himself to us so freely and willingly wants nothing more than thankful hearts and voices that are willing to praise him and point to him, as well as lives which are generous and merciful in response to him.

If we never mention him in our hearts or homes or to our friends He will never be known or named. May we encourage each other to risk doing this. Please invite your friends to church, perhaps to one of our discussion events or Harvest

Thank You

May I say a sincere thank you to everyone who offers their gifts and talents, time and/or money to keep our Church and town life going. We don’t half need God and we also need each other. Life would be pretty miserable just on our own.

I wish you a fruitful autumn.

With my prayers

Reverend Ben Phillips

Farewell:
Lynne Linney is retiring and leaving her post as Warden at Moor Field. We give thanks for all that she has been there. We will miss her and David as they will not be living here. We pray for them as they move to Northampton with all the hard work that involves as they settle in. However, it is not far so we hope to see a lot of them both. We hope we can soon announce Lynne’s successor and welcome them.

The Civic Service has Moved
Our Rector is Chaplain to the District Council and has discussed with them various ways to freshen up the service and bring it to wider audiences. This year’s Chairman, David Harries, is from Bugbrooke so the service will be held there this year. The Chief Councillors will be doing a dramatised reading of the riot in Ephesus in Acts Chapter 19. Please come along, support and pray for all our council members and staff; Ben will happily give a lift (01327 350459). The Civic Service will take place on Sunday, 13th October at 6pm.
Churches Together in Towcester
Thank God our churches work well together. The CTT (Churches Together in Towcester) are having a service of unity followed by the AGM at 6pm on **Sunday, 6th October** at St Thomas More Church. Everyone is welcome.

Craft Fair
St Bartholomew’s Church, Greens Norton, is hosting a Craft Fair on **Saturday, 19th October** from 10.30am to 3.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Commemoration of the Departed
This year All Soul’s Day is on **Saturday, 2nd November**. We will be holding a Benefice celebration that day at 6pm at Easton Neston Church. Everyone is welcome and there will be the opportunity of lighting a candle to remember a loved one. There is also a list in the Benefice Office and in St Lawrence Church for names to be read out if you cannot be there. This will be a Holy Communion Service.

On **Sunday, 3rd November** a similar service will be held at 6pm at St Bartholomew’s Church, Greens Norton but without Holy Communion.

These are very special services and give us time to reflect and give thanks for the love we have been given.

Advent thoughts and being prepared...

Put in your diary our benefice **Advent Carol Service at 6pm on Sunday 1st December at St Bartholomew’s Church, Greens Norton.** A memorable service starting in complete darkness and then candlelight fills the church.

We plan to have **advent candles** with a prayer card available this year; an ideal gift for God Children or for yourself. These will cost £3. They provide a means to make you stop and be still each day in December leading up to Christmas

Alternatively, for the sweeter toothed, we have a sign up list for anyone wishing to buy a chocolate **advent calendar**, a Christmas booklet and giving a gift to charity. Please sign up for the chocolate advent calendar in church by 3rd November and make your payment of £4 each to Ben.

Where is God in the Big Questions?

**What’s God got to do with it...?**

**20th October:** in St Bartholomew’s Church, Greens Norton
**Sexuality – What does God Want...?**

**17th November:** in St Mary’s Church, Easton Neston
**The Antarctic – Should We Go There...?**

Continuing a series of evenings to discuss some of life’s questions

6pm leading to drinks at 7pm
Autumn Meeting Programme
All meetings will be on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Saracens Head Hotel.

The Summer Programme was very well received. The trips to Storton Pits Reserve, with the bird ringing demonstration, and to Preston Bissett Nursery were both enjoyed by all those who attended.

In August we joined up with the Rotary Club of Towcester and had a fascinating visit to Hazelborough Woods, which included a look at the brilliant contents of a Moth Trap, which was set up in advance of our visit by members of the Butterfly Conservation Society and a talk by a chap who has a contract with the Forestry Commission to manage part of the wood. Both of the speakers were experts and it was an excellent evening. We will repeat this next year as either the June or the July outdoor visit.

Monday 16th September 2013 – Ecology of Crayfish: Mark Lees, Licensed crayfish trapper

Monday 21st October 2013 – Waders of the upper Thames: Charlotte Kinnear of the RSPB

Monday 18th November 2013 – Life of the Badger: Peter Edwards of North Northants Badger Group

There will be no meeting in December.

Please bring along any guests, all are welcome, you don’t have to be a member to attend. Indoor meetings will start at 7.30pm. Donations of £2 per adult will be gratefully accepted, children under 16 free.

Watermeadows Management Group
In the last issue of the Town Crier I outlined the plans for SNC to set up a “Project Board” to oversee the development of Moat Lane and then act on an ongoing basis as “Managers” of the developed site. The Watermeadows will be brought under their control as part of the Moat Lane overall site. This was not unexpected, as the reason for SNC and WNDC and others to provide the money to buy the Watermeadows from Lord Hesketh in the first place was to provide a public access/space element to the site as a whole.

At the end of May I was told that the SNC Councillors and Officers who are part of the Watermeadows Management Group would meet with the new Project Board members and decide what they could and could not do with regard to future environmental development of the meadows in terms of public access and improvement of biodiversity. At that point we and the Town Council reps would be invited to join them.

I also mentioned the ongoing battle with SNC re the Graziers interpretation of the Grazing Licence instructions and their (SNC and their Agents Bidwells) apparent lack of control. I asked a number of questions of SNC on this and associated matters over a period of weeks.

At the time of writing I have received no answers to any of my questions but I have been told that they hope to arrange a meeting in early October, so yet again we watch this space.

New Equipment for youth groups
We have pond dipping and bug sweeping equipment and lots of ID charts for Schools and youth groups to use. The equipment is available for use now and the charge, (to cover general wear and tear), is £1 per head. The Beavers, Brownies and Scouts all took advantage of using the equipment before the Schools broke up and one of the School Holiday activity groups used the equipment during August and a great time was had by all during all of the sessions.

If you are interested in any of the above, or would like to know any other details about our Local Group then get in touch with David Reed on 01327 352414 or dreedsfm@sky.com
TOWCESTER COUNTRY MARKET

The current recession plus television programmes such as ‘The Great British Bake-Off’ and ‘The Sewing Bee’ have made fashionable all things home baked or home crafted. At Towcester Country Market these things never went out of fashion. We have been supplying Towcester with home baking, home grown and home crafted items for 42 years.

Towcester Country Market started in September 1971, originally as Towcester WI Market, with a weekly market held at the Community Centre. Following several moves, and a name change to Towcester Country Market, we now hold a weekly market every Thursday morning in the Chantry House. We have been in the Chantry House for 10 years but customers still come in and say “I didn’t know you were here.”

Being affiliated to the national organisation, Country Markets Ltd means that we follow strict rules and also enables us to join in with the parcel/gift hamper scheme. Customers are able to order a gift hamper to be delivered to relatives or friends for any occasion and the market nearest to the recipient will compile a hamper with goods of your choice and deliver if for a small charge.

All products sold at Towcester Country Market are made by members themselves in their own kitchens, grown in their own gardens, or crafted in their own homes. We stock a huge range – Betsy had 16 flavours of jam available in the summer; Len’s soft fruit and vegetables, often picked the same morning, are very popular; Pam can knit a jumper in your size within weeks and Nick’s bees provide us with honey and their wax is made into candles.

If you would like a certain type of cake our bakers can probably bake it for you, but if you produce or make anything that we don’t currently stock, would like to sell it and are happy to work co-operatively, then come and join us.

We can help time-pressed households at Christmas by making your mince pies, Christmas cake and pudding. In addition, our craft items make lovely individual presents and are all reasonably priced. And if you are really stuck for time, or unable to get to Towcester Country Market, we are happy to take orders and deliver, within walking distance, during the duration of the market.

Find us on Facebook or email maggie@towcestercountrymarket.co.uk or telephone 01604 717648.

Get involved at the archives! Help us preserve and share our history

Get Involved with Archive and Heritage!

Northamptonshire Record Office is undertaking a monumental project to improve the accessibility of all the records we hold for the county. We are looking for skilled volunteers with an interest in our work to help catalogue and preserve all of our historical assets so that they can be listed digitally. This will make it possible to make our archives accessible online, as well as much easier to locate at the Record Office itself.

Volunteers play an important role for the Archive and Heritage Service. Their work supports and complements that of our paid staff. We try to match our volunteers’ skills and interests to the activities we have on offer, and provide training for the roles.

Anyone interested in helping us to preserve and share our county’s history can find out more about the specific roles on the web address below or by asking at the Record Office.

www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/getinvolved
The recent discovery of the walls of a substantial Roman building in the heart of the Moat Lane development area in Towcester has started a campaign to keep them visible to the public that has already found support from across the world.

When the Society urged its members to contact South Northants Council to express their views, members Barrie Ayres and Phil Lord, respectively from Australia and the United States were among the first to respond.

Society chairman John Morris says: “I have been involved with Towcester all my life and have always been told about its Roman history, but until now have never seen an actual sign of it. It would be a tragedy if these walls are simply recorded and then buried again when just a little imagination could lead to their retention. Of course that will come at a cost but the sight of Roman remains so near to the new Civic Building, soon to be built, will be a genuine attraction for the town. I urge anyone who agrees to contact SNC either through Council leader, Cllr Mary Clarke, or their local councillors.”

**WINTER PROGRAMME**

**Wednesday 13th November**
**The Railway Families**
Peter Stratton
Peter will deal with the arrival of the railways to Towcester during the Victorian era and expand on the way in which it affected local people, in particular those who worked for them. In addition he has many stories to tell related to the development of a network that changed the whole country.

**Wednesday 11th December**
**Christmas social night for members and their guests**
Some might say the same old mix of readings, music, quizzes and fun….but there is always something different to be added. Then, there is an excellent buffet and a glass (or two perhaps) of wine to help the evening along.

**Wednesday 8th January**
**Living at a National Trust Property**
Jonathan Ingram
Jonathan, now living in Greens Norton and a member of the Society’s committee, spent 15 years working as a Property and Estate Manager for the National Trust. He will talk about the early history of the Trust, his own role as a property manager and a little about the history of his property – The Vyne-in-Hampshire where he lived, worked and got married.

**Wednesday 12th February**
**Roman Artillery**
Juris Trede
The Romans were the first army in the world to use organised and effective artillery. They were never noted for inventing things themselves, and so it was with artillery. However, they were masters at seizing good ideas and developing them for their own use. Uris, an expert on Roman Britain, will give us an illustrated look at their machines, their origins in ancient Greece and the way they implemented them. So effective were their methods that they left a legacy evident well into the Middle Ages, particularly in Byzantium.

Monthly meetings are held at the Riverside Resource Centre in Islington Road, Towcester, at 7.30pm (£2 entrance for non-members). For more information please contact John Morris on 07725 839795 or David Wilcock on 01327 351782.
As usual, the show was held on Bank holiday Monday and, once again, proved to be a great success. Overall, the quality of the entries was high and the judges were impressed by the efforts made by all exhibitors. The vegetable and flower categories attracted some fine specimens, well worthy of the prizes awarded, whilst the home produce, craft and children’s classes demonstrated the skill and effort put in by the competitors.

Our thanks go to the Deputy Mayor, Cllr David Bain, for presenting the trophies and announcing the raffle prizes. Grateful thanks also to the many sponsors including Peter Cowan, Robin Dunn, Loughran Bros Ltd, Paynes Nurseries and Salisburys. In all the show raised over £300.00 for the Towcester & District Allotment Society.

TOWCESTER PRODUCE SHOW
Bank Holiday Monday, 27th August 2013

Photographs courtesy of Vie Spence

Towcester Town Junior Football Club
Chartered Standard Club of the Year 2013

Mini Kickers
Do you have a footie-mad youngster?
If so, bring them down to mini-kickers
9am, Saturday mornings at Towcester Centre for Leisure

Now Recruiting for:-
Under 11’s Players (current Year 6)
Girls aged between 7 and 17
For more information, please contact:-
Towcestertownfc@secretary.net
Date for your Diary…….

The Mayoress of Towcester, Mrs Margaret Lynch, will be hosting a Ladies Valentine’s Night in the Town Hall on the evening of Wednesday, 12th February 2014.

Please keep this date in your diary. Further information will be included in the December issue of the Town Crier.
Towcester Tidy Up in October

The Towcester Tidy Up sessions organised by Towcester Rotary Club over recent years were very successful with lots of volunteers involved. Unfortunately, the last two sessions in October 2012 and April 2013 were not quite so well attended and therefore less successful. We want the next session to be the biggest and best yet so, if you think you can help, please put the following dates in your diary.

Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th October 2013

As before, the weekend will be split into 4 separate, 2 hour sessions so that we can make the best use of the equipment that we have available; litter pickers, bags, gloves, high visibility jackets and specialist equipment will be provided, you just need to dress for the weather. Everyone who has helped in the past did a great job and we did make a real, very visual difference. For a while, at least, Towcester was a lot cleaner.

If you, or an organisation of which you are a member, wish to get involved in October, please forward your details to me - Rotarian, David Reed – Tel: 01327 352414 / 07970 597044 Email: dreedsfm@sky.com