



CAMBOURNE CRIER

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www.cambournecrier.org

2024: A look back on Cambourne's anniversary year

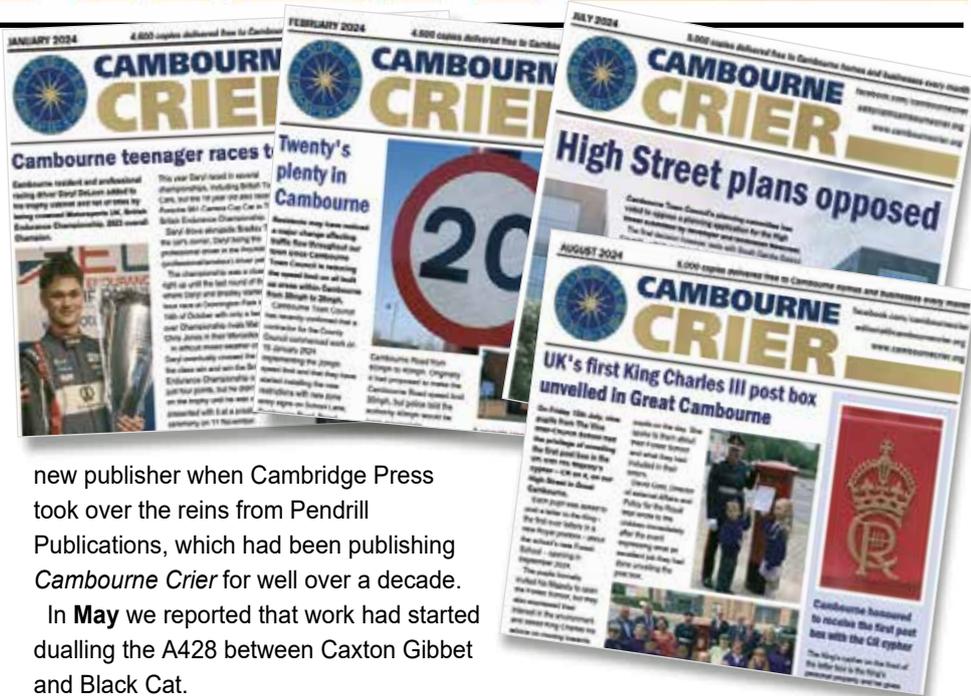
In October 2024 we reported that Cambourne was celebrating 25 years since the first residents moved in, so we thought we would take a look back at some of the defining events *Cambourne Crier* reported on during the anniversary year...

In **January** 2024 we were proud to announce that Cambourne resident and professional racing driver Daryl DeLeon won the coveted Motorsports UK, British Endurance Championship!

At the opposite end of the scale, in **February** we reported that Cambourne was slowing down when the Council decided to reduce the town's speed limit to 20mph. The move prompted a petition but the lowering of the limit went ahead.

In **March** we covered the news that a crowdfunding campaign by Cambourne Soul youth club had successfully raised money for a snack/coffee bar with a sink and fridge, as well as purchasing furniture and items to support art and sports activities in their weekly clubs.

Cambourne Crier rarely makes the news itself, but in **April** the team announced a



new publisher when Cambridge Press took over the reins from Pendrill Publications, which had been publishing *Cambourne Crier* for well over a decade.

In **May** we reported that work had started dualling the A428 between Caxton Gibbet and Black Cat.

June is a beautiful time of year in Cambourne and we listed no less than 17 gardens as being available to view as part of Cambourne Open Gardens.

In **July**, our front cover was the Town Council's decision to oppose the latest plan for our High Street. Meanwhile we also reported on the General Election, which saw our long standing Member of Parliament, Conservative Anthony Browne, lose his seat to Ian Sollow of the Liberal Democrat party.

Our **August** edition covered another nationally-reported event in Cambourne when nine pupils from The Vine Inter-Church School unveiled the UK's first post

box with His Majesty King Charles' cypher 'CR' on our High Street.

We updated you on the fantastic work done by Light up Cambourne in **November**, with their work now entering its 10th year, and also welcomed the new manager of the Monkfield Arms.

Finally, in **December** it was reported that Cambourne is one step closer to getting its own cinema thanks to a £10,000 donation and the sterling work of Cambourne Village College charitable trust. What a year it was!

We wish all Cambourne residents a very Happy New Year.

CamCare commended



Cambourne charity commended for its educational support

See page 26 for more...

Scouts go sledging



2nd Cambourne Scouts enjoy Christmas trip to the slopes

Read more on page 27...

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CAMBOURNE CRIER

Cambourne Crier is the only independent, non-profit publication delivered to all Cambourne residents each month. Any profits are distributed to the community through our Community Fund. Cambourne Crier is compiled entirely by volunteers.

This month's editors were:

Donavan Bangs, Paul Jobling, Paula Brown, Seema Achall, Andreea Mihalca, Max Bangs, Foram Patel, Martin H W Law, Ann Stephenson and Hannah Harris.

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Editorial submissions:

Submissions for the **February 2025**

Edition must be received by 9pm on

Sunday 12th January 2025. Please

email articles and photographs to

editorial@cambournecrier.org

You can also mail items to

Cambourne Crier

The Hub, High Street, Great

Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6GW

By submitting photographs you

confirm you have permission from

the photographer and anyone in the

photos for us to print them.

GET INVOLVED!

We are looking for volunteers. If you

would like to join our editorial team,

please get in touch on

editorial@cambournecrier.org

CRUER COMMUNITY FUND

Our community fund enables us to

make grants to local clubs, societies

or causes. Do you need new

equipment for your group? Do you

want to set up a new group and

need some funding to get going?

Contact pamhume1@gmail.com for

more information or download the

application form at

www.cambournecrier.org

CAMBOURNE TOWN COUNCIL

A look back at 2024

Cambourne Town Council wishes all our residents a very Happy New Year!

Despite another busy and challenging year, a lot has happened, and we would like to share some of the Town Council's achievements:

■ 20 mph Speed Limit

The County Council working with the Town Council implemented the 20mph speed limit throughout Cambourne.



■ Youth

Cambourne Soul has continued to be well used by Cambourne Youth Partnership. It has been great to see young people in Cambourne utilise this wonderful space for youth clubs and activities.

The Town Council has also supported Inclusive Developments working with the five schools in Cambourne, business and the community to address any concerns that may arise.



■ Facilities

We are working with the Netball and Tennis Clubs to resurface their courts which were opened in 2004 and have now

reached their end of use. Work is still ongoing on the refurbishment of all the play areas in Cambourne, which has been challenging due to the need for grant funding to meet the cost of the works.

The Town Council has been working with Cambourne Town Football Club to have the MUGA resurfaced with a 3G carpet.

■ Events

The Town Council hosted and supported numerous community events in 2024 including the Cambourne 10k, Community Clean-up Day, Cambourne Village College Eco Festival, Repair Café's, Fete, Big Squiggle's, Fireworks Night and Christmas Market.

■ Volunteering and Community Groups

In September we organised a community litter pick alongside the Cambourne Community Clean-Up event in collaboration with SCDC. Over 50 volunteers came along to join in and help clean up Cambourne. We continue to support young people working towards their Duke of Edinburgh awards. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers in Cambourne for their hard work. It is the effort of the volunteers that help to make Cambourne such a pleasant community to live and work in.

BIN COLLECTIONS:

Cambourne now has different collection schedules for different parts of the town. Please check your collection date on the following link: www.scams.gov.uk/recycling-and-bins/find-your-household-bin-collection-day/

MOBILE POST OFFICE:

The Hub Car Park
Mondays: 1.30-4.00pm
Wednesdays: 12.30-4.00pm
Tel: 01480 464 757



The Town Council Office:

The Hub, High Street, Cambourne, CB23 6GW.

Tel: 01954 714403

or email office@cambournetowncouncil.gov.uk

John Vickery, Town Clerk: clerk@cambournetowncouncil.gov.uk

www.cambournetowncouncil.gov.uk

Facebook/Instagram: @cambournetowncouncil

CAMBOURNE TOWN COUNCIL

Continued from page 2....



Christmas Tree Recycling

Christmas trees can be dropped off adjacent to the Hub Community Centre car park, until Monday 20th January 2025. After this date they will be shredded and used as mulch around Cambourne. You are welcome to help yourself to use in your garden or allotment.



Cambourne 10K

Entries are now open for the Cambourne 10K and Fun Run taking place on Sunday 13th April 2025 at Cambourne Business Park. The event is organised by Cambridge and Coleridge Athletics Club and Cambourne Town Council.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2025

Council meetings are held in the Meeting Room at the Hub Community Centre at 7pm.

21st January 2025 Planning Committee Followed by Full Council

4th February 2025 Planning Committee Followed by Full Council



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COMMUNITY

Wildlife Trust update

Amphibians, like frogs, toads, and newts, play an important role in ecosystems both in ponds and on land. They feed on many different things (including garden pest species like slugs) and are eaten by many different things. This means they are a good indicator for the health of our wetlands. They are in decline for a variety of reasons:

Habitat loss and degradation: ponds are being filled in, drying up, or becoming polluted. **Habitat fragmentation:** amphibians often cross roads en masse during their spring migration and can get run over. New developments can make migration between hibernation spots and breeding ponds difficult.

Climate change: warmer winters affects hibernation, and erratic weather affects food availability. Droughts dry up ponds, and floods can spread fish to new areas.

Myth busting

- Common frogs and toads are around the same size. Girls (up to 13cm) are bigger than boys (around 8cm) in both species.
- Amphibians only spend a small proportion of their time in water, usually around breeding time. The rest of the time they hang out in damp places.
- Toads are especially good at surviving in drier habitats and may only spend a week a year at their breeding pond.
- Frogs do not say "ribbit"! Common frog males attract a female by making a noise more like a purr, and common toads chirp!

Toad patrol

The Wildlife Trust BCN coordinate volunteers in the Cambourne area to help amphibians get safely to their breeding pond on their spring migration. We looked after a known crossing point beside Bourn Airfield for several years, but sadly numbers have declined significantly, and we will be moving our focus to a new site in Papworth Everard in 2025.

How you can help

If you live in Papworth Everard, please get in touch about volunteering (please note, we will not be accepting volunteers from outside the village)

Please take care on the roads on warmer wet evenings in February and March; add water to your garden, even if it is just a damp area or an accessible water dish; connect your garden to your neighbour's; leave wilder areas in your garden for amphibian hunting grounds.

Upcoming events

An online Youth Rangers social for any young person aged 11-17 interested in local wildlife and global environmental issues, on the evening of Friday, 10th January

A social Nature and Natter walk around Cambourne Nature Reserve, followed by a cuppa, on Saturday 11th January.

A social Nature and Natter willow-weaving session at our head-office in Cambourne on the evening of Sunday 12th February.

Further information

Events: www.wildlifebcn.org/events

Volunteering: www.wildlifebcn.org/get-involved

cambridgeshire@wildlifebcn.org

[@wildlifebcn](https://www.instagram.com/wildlifebcn)

www.wildlifebcn.org



The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs, and Northants is a local wildlife conservation charity aiming to achieve bigger, better, and more joined up habitats for wildlife and people. We do this by working in partnership to conserve and enhance habitats and biodiversity, and through community work, helping people enjoy, understand, and take action for wildlife.



**Wildlife Trust for
Beds, Cambs
& Northants**

COMMUNITY



St John Fisher community

The St John Fisher Catholic community in Cambourne held many events and customs around the Christmas period. Throughout Advent, we lit our advent wreath and heard readings and gospels about the preparations for the birth of Jesus Christ. Our young people had four vibrant sessions led by our Seeds of Change group on the topic 'Make Room'. We also had carol singing and held a Christmas Eve Mass and Christmas morning Mass as we welcomed our Lord once again. Another tradition which was followed was the sharing of the Posada (a statue of Mary and Joseph showing their journey to Bethlehem [pictured]). This moves each day between houses where it spends the night on display. The next day that family take it to the next house and share prayers together and maybe a minced pie or two!

■ St John Fisher Catholic Community Mass times in Cambourne Church Centre: Mon-Wed 12:30, Thu-Fri 18:30, Sat-Sun 17:00. Contact Details: Tel: 01223 832397; Mobile: 07843 861719, Email: sjf.cambourne@rcdea.org.uk, Website: cambournerc.com

Mobile Warden Scheme

South Cambridgeshire District Council has approved the first tranche of funding for Mobile Warden Schemes across the district as part of the new 10-year programme for funding agreed earlier this year. The total amount of SCDC funding that will be provided across all schemes in 2025-26 is £122,658.

Members of the Council's Grants Advisory Committee at their most recent meeting (12 December 2024) endorsed the recommendations to provide funding for 16 schemes covering 49 parishes. In the meeting, Cllr Williams said: "People involved in mobile and community warden schemes, who are mainly volunteers, were getting discouraged because the financial constraints made it look like these schemes couldn't continue. However, these schemes can work and eventually stand on their own two feet."



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COMMUNITY

Cambourne Library

Opening Times:

Monday 9am-5pm, Tuesday 9am-1pm, Wednesday Closed, Thursday 1pm-7pm, Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9am-1pm, Sunday Closed

Happy New Year from Cambourne Library!

If your New Year's resolution is to live more sustainably – think Libraries! We're part of the circular economy, and a great place to find out about helping the planet. Here are ways to enjoy and support your library in 2025:

Join: it's simple and free – you can even join online!
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/libraries

Use: make use of your library. Borrow books from our shelves or download from our eLibrary; use our computers or printer; attend events and activities; explore online tools for work or research – including free access to "Ancestry" and "FindMyPast".

Volunteer: with your help we can offer even more activities. Although we are not currently looking for volunteers at Cambourne Library, there is a vacancy for a Rhymetime/ Storytime volunteer at Comberton Library. Please ask for details.

Donate: library services are free to use but monetary donations, small or large, help us provide more books and services.

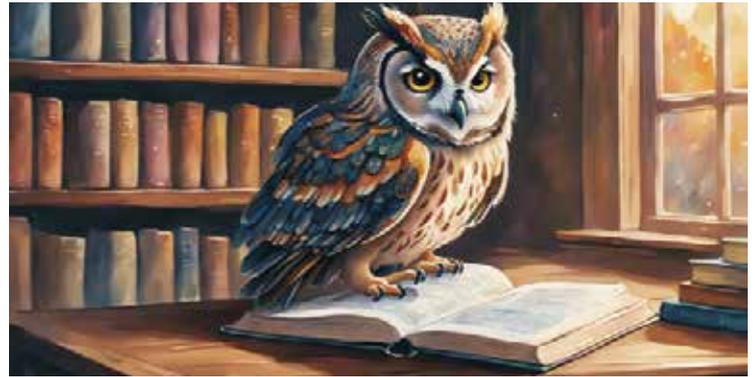
Spread the word: if you love your library, tell your friends and neighbours and encourage them to join! During these colder months, you will find a warm, friendly welcome at the library. Do drop in to relax and read a book, use the library computers or connect to our free public WiFi. We will also have tea and coffee available kindly donated by Hope. Refreshments available during these times: Mondays 10am-4pm, Tuesdays 10am-12pm, Thursdays 2pm-6pm and Fridays 10am-4pm.

Knit and Natter Group Tuesday mornings 10am-12pm

Bring a project of any portable craft and join with other like-minded crafters. Enjoy the company, swap ideas and of course refreshments will be available.

Cambourne Lunch Bunch: Would you like to join a friendly reading group meeting at lunchtime? Our library-based reading group meets once a month on a Wednesday, normally the third week of the month, at 12.30 pm. Please ask library staff for more information or come along to our next meeting, **Wednesday 15 January**. You will be very welcome!

Digital Assistance: Our computer buddy volunteers are available and ready to welcome you at Cambourne Library every Monday. If you, or someone you know, needs any help with using a laptop or tablet, has a 'how do I' question or would like help with a particular task such as a bus pass application, assistance will be available between 10.00 am – 12 noon and 1.00 – 3.00 pm. Drop in enquiries welcome or you can book a session. Please speak to a Librarian at the counter or contact us on the number/ email at the bottom



Rhymetime/Storytime - every Friday 9.30- 10.30am during term time

Rhymetime/Storytime followed by Duplo play session at 10 am. We will start back on **Friday 10th Jan 2025**

Contact Us

Tel: 0345 045 5225

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

Social Media

Facebook @CambridgeshireLibraries,, @CambsLibFamilies

Instagram @cambslib, X @cambslib

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The Big Squiggle

Big Thanks to all who helped make our Christmas Creative Fun such a happy and enjoyable arty event!

We are already looking forward to the Spring 2025 Big Squiggle

Organised by Cambourne Town Council and supported by volunteers

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COLUMNISTS



IAN SOLLUM

MP FOR ST. NEOTS AND
MID CAMBRIDGESHIRE
ian.sollom.mp@parliament.uk

Access to GP Services in Cambourne

Despite the cold, wet and windy weather, there was a warm and festive welcome at the South Cambs Indoor Christmas Market on 7th December.

Thank you to all who worked together to support this great event. I was pleased to be able to celebrate Small Business Saturday 2024 by speaking with (and sampling products from!) such varied and talented vendors.

The weather of course draws our attention again to concerns around healthcare provision, and I recently visited Addenbrookes Hospital who shared their plans for best managing the challenging peak winter period. Notably, the

winter vaccination programme now tackles RSV as well as COVID-19 and the flu, and you can find out if you're eligible at www.nhs.uk/wintervaccinations.

Whilst patients are waiting too long for acute care, primary care is also in a more precarious state than ever. The Prime Minister recently announced a 'Plan for Change' that targeted NHS waiting lists, but he neglected to set out a clear plan to improve access to GP services to ensure people can see a doctor when they need to.

Additionally, many local GPs have been in touch to share with me their concerns about the impact of rising Employer's National Insurance contributions on their services, a position I supported them on in a recent vote in Parliament.

The Government must ensure that GP services are at the forefront of any NHS reform, and I will continue to raise awareness of this in Parliament.



STEPHEN DREW

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
cldr.drew@scamb.gov.uk

A new year in Cambourne

As the new year starts I reflect on how fortunate I am to live in our wonderful town, Cambourne.

Over the last year I have had the chance to share time with so many fellow residents at events across the town.

Every time I meet fellow Cambourne residents, I am always struck by their strong sense of

community and commitment to making this a great place to live.

Whether it is in meetings working to provide services for everyone, or at public events held to bring the community together, or indeed if it is simply meeting and talking to people out and about, the sense of community is always strong.

I love talking to people beyond Cambourne about our town and all it has to offer for everyone who lives in it.

I look forward to a great 2025 in our town and working with you all to make our home an even better place to live. Happy new year!



CATHERINE PRICE

CAMBOURNE PARISH
NURSING SERVICE
nurse@cambourne
church.org.uk

Preventing leaks

Passing urine without meaning to is a common problem for many people.

This may be caused by pressure on the bladder, such as when laughing or coughing (stress incontinence) or connected with an urge to pee (urge incontinence).

There are several things that can help, including doing exercises to strengthen core muscles (such as Pilates); avoiding lifting (which puts pressure on the bladder); keeping a healthy weight (as fatty tissue causes pressure on the bladder); avoiding constipation (as straining weakens the pelvic floor muscles) and avoiding caffeine, alcohol and spicy or acidic foods.

Drinking 6-8 glasses of water each day is important unless a doctor has told you not to.

Exercising pelvic floor muscles everyday can make a huge difference. These are the muscles you squeeze to stop yourself peeing or passing wind. To exercise these muscles, squeeze them quickly and hold the squeeze for two seconds before relaxing. Do this 10 times and repeat every day, gradually increasing the length of the squeeze up to 10 seconds. As you get better at this, do a mixture of quicker and longer squeezes.

It may take a few weeks, but in time, doing pelvic floor exercises and making other changes can make leaks much less likely.

■ *Reference/ further information:*
www.nhs.uk : 10 ways to stop leaks



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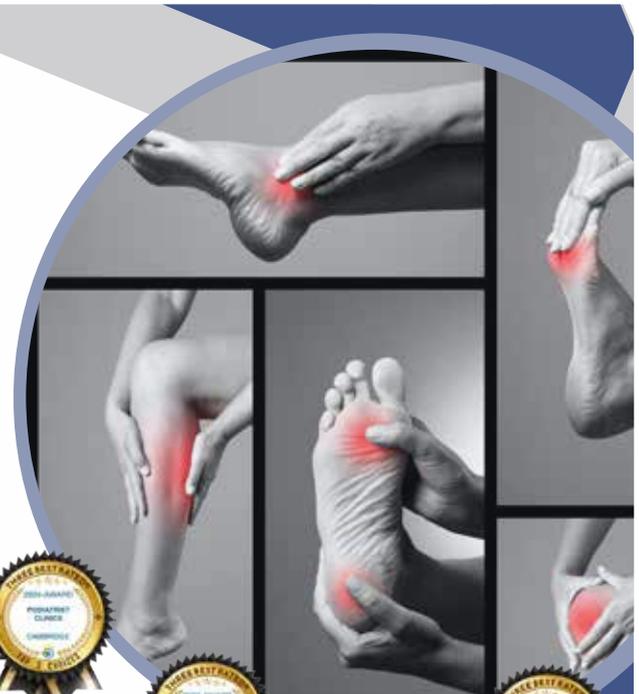
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CHURCHES

CAMBOURNE CHURCH

And so begins 2025. The century is one quarter over and if you can remember the Y2K bug, the first series of Big Brother, or Bob the Builder being Christmas No 1 you are, at the very least, inescapably a grown-up!

New years are a time for looking backwards and forwards. We welcome the midnight fireworks remembering 'auld lang syne?' and follow it up the next morning with our resolutions - I will do better this year. On one level, of course, this is all an illusion. There is no particular reason why 31st December should mark an ending or why anything should be different on 1st January. But humans need to mark the passing of time, stopping occasionally to both reflect and anticipate.

The Christian year is punctuated by such moments. Advent and Lent are times of anticipating a coming celebration while reflecting with penitence on the past. The tempo of high days and holidays inevitably bring something new along with the memory of years gone by. 'Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom' says Psalm 90 (KJV). The psalmist is looking back at the troubles of the past and hoping for the blessings of tomorrow. The truth is that it is much more likely that this year (like every year) will bear its fair share of both. Whatever lies ahead, then, we pray you will know God's comfort in the hard times and His joy in the good.

David Wadsworth, Writer in Residence

Services in January 2025



5th	10.00am	All-Age Service with Communion
12th	9.30am 11.00am	Worship Service Worship Service *
19th	9.30am 11.00am	Communion Service Communion Service *
26th	9.30am 11.00am	Worship Service Worship Service *

* Services with an asterisk have separate groups for children and young people

A partnership of the Church of England, Baptist, Methodist & United Reformed Church

www.cambournechurch.org.uk Twitter: @cambournechurch

Facebook: cambournechurch

Peacehaven Baptist Church: Pastoral Thoughts

Welcome to 2025.

A new year is here, and this could be a good thing. Despite the difficulties we may have faced in the past year, which for some were substantial, a new year, like a new day, is a chance for a fresh start. Yes, we always carry the scars of the past, but a scar is not a wound; it is a sign you survived. We bear them, but we must not let them limit us unnecessarily. Do not let your past entrap your future.

I have often thought of Lamentations this past year. When strength failed and hard times came, I found comfort in its words.

Lamentations 3:21 This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.

22 It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

24 The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

25 The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.

26 It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.



Pastor
Donavan Bangs

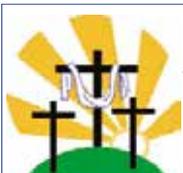
I encourage you to seek a better path this year. While we cannot change everything, we can change something, even if it is just one small step at a time. A little more time for others, a kind word when you might not feel the need to give it but someone else might desperately need it. Like physical therapy, small steps can lead to greater changes and bring strength where there once was none. This principle applies equally to

your mental and spiritual life.

Use the resources available to you. Seek help when needed, and gain knowledge. I know a really good book to start with: the Bible. It has been a bestseller every year since printing began. If you need a copy, let me know, I have spares.

We continue our services on Sundays here in Cambourne, and we hope to expand this year with new ministries. Only time will tell.

Pastor Donovan Bangs



PEACEHAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH.

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 10am Sunday school

11 AM Morning Worship

find links on Facebook for

Peacehaven Baptist Church or look for

Donavan Bangs on Youtube

At the Cambourne Community Centre, the Hub

Pastor Donovan Bangs 01954 710510

PeacehavenBC@aol.com peacehavenbc.org.uk





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COMMUNITY



Cambourne's 7th Repair Café

Cambourne Town Council hosted Cambourne's seventh Repair Café on Saturday 30th November at the Hub Community Centre.

Repair Cafés are free community events that match people who need something fixed with people who like fixing things. Volunteer repairers from the Cambridge Repair Café Network were joined by Cambourne resident repairers and organisers.

Around 35 items were seen on the day including many bicycles, a coffee machine, lamps, a slow cooker, sandwich maker, electric fans and hoovers.

Thanks go to all the volunteers that make this event possible - the repairers, those who helped run the event on the day and the Town Clerk.

Cambourne's next Repair Cafe will occur on Saturday 17th May as part of Cambourne Village College's Eco Festival.

Cambourne Repair Cafe is looking for local Cambourne residents who are interested in volunteering as repairers at our events.

Please contact cambournerepaircafe@gmail.com if you are interested.



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Monkfield Park enjoys festive plays and songs

Monkfield Park Primary: Magical star dust was very much in evidence as we hurtled towards the end of a very busy term.

The Reception children had been learning about traditional tales and imagining what it would be like to be one of the characters. They had made porridge, lots of props, learned how to dance at a ball and dressed up as characters from many of the well-known stories. The climax was a trip to the pantomime in Peterborough to see a real life performance of Snow White, which thrilled the kids.

Year 3 and Year 4 started the Christmas celebrations in school with their traditional Christmas concert. As the beautiful Christmas tree lit up the darkened hall their

voices welcomed in the spirit of the season with some traditional carols, festive songs and excellent musical performances.

In the final week of term Year 1 took to the stage to present their very modern take on the traditional nativity story. In 'Born in a Barn' the cows, sheep, pigs, cat and cockerel all learned about the special baby from the donkey that brought Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem. This beautiful telling of the Christmas story was full of very catchy songs, great costumes and some inspirational acting which captivated everyone. As 2024 draws to a close everyone at Monkfield Park wishes you all a very happy new year.



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EDUCATION

Jeavons Wood looking ahead to 2025

Jeavons Wood Primary School: Happy New Year to all from the children, staff and families at Jeavons Wood! How exciting to have a fresh year stretching out in front of us filled with the planned and the unexpected! Before we look ahead, we must take a moment to congratulate our wonderful Year 2s and our preschoolers.

The Year 2 students gave a fantastic performance of 'The Big Little Nativity', singing their hearts out and impressing everyone with their confidence. From the narrators' well-timed Kit Kat jokes to a star determined to steal the show (and quite rightly so!), and memorable solos from the wise men and camels, it was truly a delight. The performance was a wonderful way to get us all into the Christmas spirit. Well done, Year 2 – we are so proud of you! Down in preschool, our amazing Caterpillars performed a nursery rhyme pantomime of Cinderella for their families – oh yes they did! It's a scary thing to stand up and sing in front of a crowd when you are only 3 but they did it beautifully and we are so very proud!



Coming up over the next 2 terms we have so much planned: Young Voices, a residential, Egyptian Day, trips to the zoo, Sports Day and more events from our hard-working PTA. All this in addition to our exciting learning opportunities! Here's to a great 2025 at Jeavons Wood and for all in Cambourne.

The Vine reflects on a busy December

The Vine Inter - Church Primary: Wow, what a busy time we've had throughout December! The pupils made Christingles and learnt about what they mean as part of a whole school learning day. Whole school house cross country competition took place which was won by Falcon House.

Our Year 6 team went off to Hilltop for their four day residential, having a fabulous time and great adventures, climbing, archery, caving and a beach visit.

Year 4 had an exciting Roman Day, where they did an archaeological dig, dressed as Romans and they learnt some Latin!

Year 2 have worked tirelessly on perfecting their performance of 'The Angel who nearly missed it all'. Incredible costumes and a few strange props (who knew the wise men wore sunglasses!) meant that Jade and Emerald Classes certainly looked the part.

Countless hours of singing practice alongside many rehearsals meant that all the children were ready to wow a large audience. There were laughs at Natalie's innkeeper joke and 'ahh's' at the beautiful singing during 'we've got a feeling'.

The Angel Gabriel kept us all in line and

as for that Late Angel - thank goodness she made it for the performance! The team is so incredibly proud of the amazing talent in our cohort - who have earned their Christmas break!

Parents also came along to see the EYFS Singing, the Year 1 Singing, and our Carol Concert (Y3-6), what a wonderful way to enthuse the Christmas Spirit to everyone.

Not forgetting to squeeze in the Santa Dash, Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Dinner, Movie and Craft evening and the staff Christmas door decorating competition.

Wishing everyone health and happiness for 2025 and a much-needed restful January!



COMMUNITY

"Yes we Cam" campaign to save our chalk streams



Cambridge Water has launched the "Yes We Cam" campaign to support and protect our local chalk streams.

Following the remarkable success of last year's award winning "Can for The Cam" campaign, which achieved daily water savings of 940,000 litres during the peak summer months, Cambridge Water is excited to announce the launch of a new, ambitious initiative, "Yes We Cam".

Yes We Cam aims to save 2 million litres of water a day, which would reduce local water use by over 4% and keep that water in the local chalk streams, as well as saving the carbon emissions to pump and treat that water.

This comprehensive water conservation campaign aims to foster a community-wide effort to save water, adopt more sustainable water usage practices and work together to protect our precious and unique local chalk streams.

Protecting our unique chalk streams

Cambridgeshire is home to many of the world's rare chalk streams, including the River Cam. They are often referred to as England's Amazonian rainforest or Great Barrier Reef. They are rarer than the Bengal Tiger.

These streams are irreplaceable, and their health is directly tied to reduced water consumption. As 100% of Cambridge's drinking water is sourced from the same underground sources that feed these chalk streams, it is crucial to maintain their ecological balance to help support their native plants and wildlife.

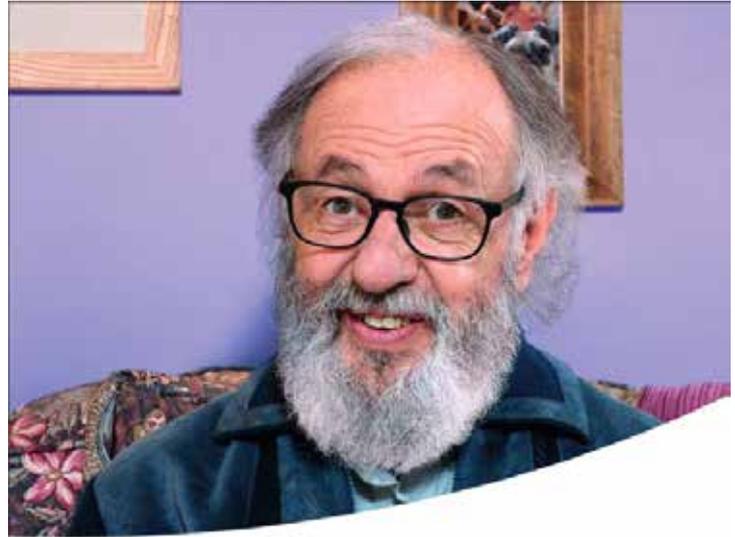
Through "Yes We Cam", Cambridge Water aims to ask residents to make one small change to their everyday water habits. By choosing one easy water-saving pledge, everyone can play a crucial part in Cambridgeshire's biggest ever water-saving action. Simple yet effective measures.

"Yes We Cam" seeks to reduce current water demand by encouraging people to get involved by taking simple yet effective measures. Residents can sign up to one of six individual pledges, such as taking shorter showers, turning off the tap whilst brushing teeth and using the eco-mode on appliances.

Join in!

Cambridge Water invites all residents to join the "Yes We Cam" campaign and become part of the solution by making one or more of these simple pledges.

■ For more information and to make your pledge, go to www.yeswecam.co.uk



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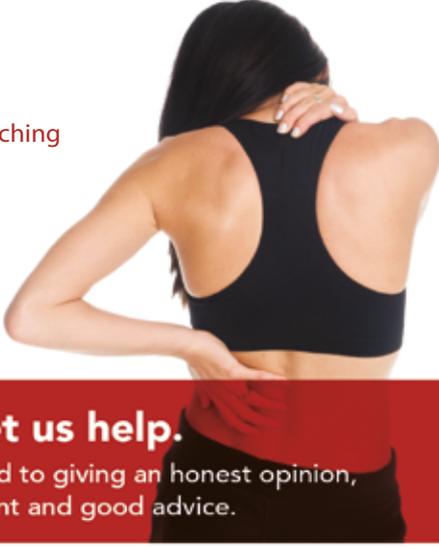

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District Councillors for Cambourne:

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Cambs Tai Chi Club:

www.cambs-taichi.org.uk

Cambourne Tae Kwon Do:

stephenlacey73@gmail.com

Cambourne Karate School (AKS):

07929 100 612

www.karateschools.co.uk

Cambs Chargers Volleyball Club:

cambschargers@gmail.com

Cambourne Balkan Dance Club:

cam.balkan.dance@gmail.com

Cambourne Air Cadets:

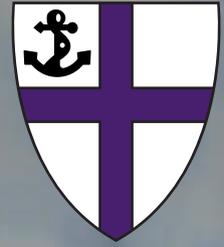
105@aircadets.org

Cambourne Army Cadets:

www.cambsacf.com

Cambourne junior parkrun:

www.parkrun.org.uk/cambourne-juniors/



Kimbolton School
Cambridgeshire

LAUNCHING SEPTEMBER 2025

Introducing a daily bus route from Cambourne.

An independent school nestled in picturesque countryside - now just 30 minutes from Cambridge via our new bus route.

One school. One family.

Find out more:



kimboltonschool.com
#oneschoolonefamily

COMMUNITY

STEM education in Cambourne

A group of Cambourne parents who are scientists and engineers in their professional lives provide STEM education for the First LEGO League competition on each Sunday afternoon at Cambourne Soul.

Vignesh Venkatraman, the Coach for Deep Sea Savers team said, "Each session is a dynamic mix of strategy, innovation, and hands-on robotics as the team tackles robot missions, collaborates on their Innovation Project to explore solutions to real-world problems. It's incredible watching how Deep Sea Savers turn their curiosity into confidence and their ideas into impactful achievements is a truly rewarding journey".

Maulik Patel, coach for Ultra Marine team said, "As a mentor for the First Lego League, I work with children aged 8 to 14, guiding them through weekly sessions focused on tackling robot missions with a FLL theme of Submerged i.e. under the ocean. The experience is both educational and enjoyable, fostering creativity, teamwork, and critical thinking in a fun and engaging environment."

Coach Kevin said, "This is my first time coaching a First LEGO League team, and I see

it as a unique opportunity to learn alongside the children while sharing my knowledge and experience.

"Our goal is not only to build robots but to create an environment where each child can grow according to their individual strengths. Some may develop leadership skills, while others benefit from gentle guidance or encouragement to explore new ideas".

Coaches Ronald Schokker and Krishna of Shark Attech said, "We aim to help them embrace perseverance, adaptability, and teamwork while understanding that mistakes are just stepping stones to success. Together, we're not just building robots but also resilience, creativity, and the confidence to take on any challenge".

Team Sharks and Hammer Heads Coach Christian Lautenschlager mentioned, "70 children will be participating for First Lego Robotics this year in 2025 where many war-displacement children of Ukraine will also take part.

■ Please email shrobona@gmail.com or contact Dr. Shrobona Bhattacharya to join STEM activities in CERC, Cambridge Electronics and Robotics Club.



COMMUNITY



Cambourne's Annual Christmas Art Exhibition: 2024

The Cambourne Christmas Art Exhibition 2024 was held on Sunday, 1st December, at the Hub Community Centre. This annual event showcased a vibrant collection of paintings, art, and crafts created by talented local artists.

The exhibition served as a platform for artists to express their creativity and for residents to appreciate and support local talent. With the festive atmosphere of Christmas, the event celebrated community spirit and highlighted the diversity



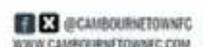
JOIN US FOR AN
Out of this World Quiz
20TH JANUARY 2024 | 8:00 PM | AT THE DUGOUT

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO COMPETE FOR WONDERFUL PRIZES IN...

THE 2023 REVIEW QUIZ

PLACES ARE £1 PER PERSON. CHILDREN VERY WELCOME.

BOOK VIA THE CTFC SQUARE SITE
[HTTPS://CAMBOURNETOWNFC.SQUARE.SITE/](https://cambournetownfc.square.site/)



COMMUNITY



Cambourne Charity is Highly Commended

On 10th December 10th, Cambourne charity CamCareUK was acknowledged and celebrated as Highly Commended for their Educational Support for future generations on an international platform, among leading global industries and renowned research institutions at the iconic IET London: Savoy Place situated by the beautiful banks of the Thames River.



CamCareUK was also invited to be the proud charity partner to the prestigious Elektra Awards, hosted by the global magazine *Electronics Weekly*.

This recognition, along with other industrial partners like Panasonic Industry and Micron, was inspiring to continue pushing the boundaries of STEM education, innovation, and community impact.

Burns Night Barn Ceilidh Cambourne Church 25th January 2024



Join us for an evening of lively dancing, delicious Scottish canapés, and great fun!

Tickets: £15
(£10 for children under 12)

Doors open at 7:30pm
Licenced bar available on the night.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Book tickets at
office@cambournechurch.org.uk



Cambourne & District u3a



Monthly meetings
Third Friday of the month
10.30 at The Hub
Cambourne CB23 6GW
Speakers, coffee and chat

INTEREST GROUPS

- Allsorts
- Art Appreciation
- Book Clubs
- Bridge
- Classical Music
- Dance Fitness
- Darts & Pool
- Gardens Galore
- Genealogy
- Intermediate French
- iPad interest
- Out to Lunch
- Singing
- Study Trips
- Table Tennis & Badminton
- Theatre
- Walking
- WWII

Come and join
us at The Hub in
Cambourne

u3a is a very
welcoming
organisation

Meet new friends
Find new interests
Lots going on!

u3a Come and reimagine your retirement!

Guests are welcome to attend a meeting to find out more about us!
<https://u3asites.org.uk/cambourne/welcome>



Scouts get sledging!

All three of 2nd Cambourne Scouts' sections ended the Autumn Term with Christmas celebration trips. The Beavers and Cubs had evenings at Eat N Bowl St Neots, where they enjoyed competing at ten pin bowling.

Meanwhile, the Scouts went to Snozone Milton Keynes for a sledging experience. The real snow slope provided much fun as they (and Leaders) tried challenges such as fastest down, and making caterpillars joining as many folks together with legs held on! As we end 2024, we are grateful for the enthusiasm of our young people and the help of all the adults who are involved. We look forward to new experiences and friendships in 2025. Contact: info@2ndcambournescoutgroup.org.uk



Cambourne Community Minibus seeks volunteer drivers

Cambourne Community Minibus regularly takes the senior members of the community to the local cafes, garden centers, and Christmas markets for group shopping, or a cup of tea. Currently, Kerry Gorman, a lead nurse at Royal Papworth Hospital is helping the seniors of Cambourne as many of them do not drive anymore.

Chair of CamCareUK, Dr Shrobona Bhattacharya said, "We are fortunate to have Kerry for her volunteering service in Cambourne. Having a few more volunteer drivers who can help the charity, we could make a few more trips for the seniors".



COMMUNITY



Light Up Cambourne: past and future

Back in 2013 Light Up Cambourne (LUC) was formed by a small number of people who wanted to provide the then village of Cambourne with some Festive Period lighting as at the time no finances were available to do so from elsewhere.

The pioneers' original idea was to raise money throughout the year for Christmas lights to be bought for the council to install, with a switch on event being held to bring the village together for an evening of free entertainment. Money was gradually raised during the first years and eventually enough was raised to light all the trees in Broad Street and also fund the first of what would become yearly switch on events at the square outside Morrisons. Over subsequent years this became the format, money was raised yearly to cover the cost of any repairs/maintenance to the lights and a switch on event.

This continued until 2019 when the last switch on event was held. COVID then reduced the number of volunteers to well below that needed to run an event which was attracting over 500 people.

The LUC committee/volunteers, now just six people, decided to change tack, with the emphasis now on raising money to increase the number of lights around the town. For a while it looked like LUC would

have to fold due to lack of volunteers, but thanks to their determination and the amazing people of Cambourne who continued to support our events and make donations, LUC survived!

Two years ago we raised enough money to have 15 sockets installed on lamp posts around the town. Lamp post locations were chosen so more people arriving in the town would see them.

Last year a second-hand cherry picker became available of the type/size the council need to put the lights up, this was purchased by the council, the agreement being that LUC will pay the council back as fundraising allows. We have also been able to purchase the first tranche of lights for the lamp posts around the town and the trees on Broad Street.

We owe a massive thank you to all the volunteers and committee members past and present who have brought LUC through the tough times. During the last year Tim gradually handed over the reins, having been Chairperson for the last 10 years. Jo, a committee member/volunteer since the early days, has also stepped down - thank you both for all your efforts over many years.

A new Chair and committee have now been appointed and hit the ground running. We have also been joined by an influx of volunteers who help run our events throughout the year - so thanks to Clare, Donal, Eamonn, Fintan, Idalina, Joanne, Kerry, Michaela, Sheila and Suzie for joining us. If you fancy joining us please get in touch - we are always grateful to those who want to get involved.

If you would like to see more lights around the town and fancy an evening out, then please support us by coming along to our events, they are very popular and a lot of fun, we even have regulars attending our events from Cambridge - the more money we can raise the more lights we can purchase for the town council to put up.

We have already started planning our fundraising events for 2025 with an evening of bingo scheduled for 8th March and we are also planning something rather different for September!!

As always keep a look out for our regular articles in *Cambourne Crier* for the latest updates and notices of forthcoming events, further information is available on our Facebook page and for event bookings please email lightupcambourne@gmail.com

Thanks are due to the companies and individuals who very kindly donated prizes for our event raffles during 2024, including Greens Coffee Shop, The Monkfield Arms, Fish'n'Chicken, Cambourne Fishing Club, Morrisons, Cambourne Town Council, Upper and Lower Cambourne Co-op, Vicky Arnill, plus thanks to our event attendees, the LUC committee members and Caxton House Management for their annual donation.

If you are a business or individual who would like to get involved by donating raffle prizes or cash, then please get in touch, you will be assured of a mention in *Cambourne Crier* and the joy of receiving LUC's never-ending gratitude and that of the residents of Cambourne!

Bus passengers will continue to travel for just £2 in 2025

Cambridgeshire's biggest bus operator has confirmed that it will take part in a new £2 fare cap scheme, which will mean that adults will continue to pay no more than £2 for a single trip – and under-25's can pay just £1!

Stagecoach East has opted in to the Mayor's £2 fare cap, even when the national cap is raised to £3 in the new year. This local fare cap scheme covers places such as Cambridge, Peterborough and St Ives and is funded separately by the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority. This runs alongside the £1 Tiger Bus Pass, available to under-25's in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, which mean a single trip costs just £1 for anyone with a pass.

The £2 fare cap applies across all of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.



South Cambs to double Council Tax on second and vacant properties

Plans to bring empty homes back into use will see Council Tax double on second and long-term vacant properties in South Cambridgeshire from April 2026.

The aim is to encourage people to sell or rent their properties to tackle a national housing shortfall - which is particularly acute in the area.

The proposal to double Council Tax on empty and second homes was approved in a meeting of November's Full Council.

Cllr John Williams, Lead Cabinet member for Resources at South Cambridgeshire District Council, said: "We want to see empty or second homes brought back into use, whether as rentals or properties for sale. This initiative will not only help address housing demands but also bolster local businesses and economies by making better use of available housing. Leaving homes empty for extended periods wastes a critical resource, especially when housing demand is at record highs and social housing waiting lists are growing. Moreover, unmanaged and neglected empty homes often lead to vandalism, social issues, and decay, which can harm the well-being of neighbouring residents and communities. It's vital we act to

maximise the potential of our existing housing stock."

Council estimates suggest there are around 2,640 empty homes in the district, and a further 360 second properties.

Empty properties have an increased likelihood of arson, theft, damage, squatting and fly tipping. Overgrown brambles, trees, foliage and ivy can cause damage to shared fencing, roofs and gardens. Rodent and vermin infestation is also a risk, particularly if there is a readily available food source.

The owner of the empty home is losing potential rental revenue and will have to pay costs for rubbish and garden clearance, graffiti removal or boarding up the home. They will also pay increased insurance for an empty or dilapidated property.

In some circumstances property owners will be able to claim an exemption from the premium. These include:

- Homes being actively marketed for sale or let for a period of up to 12 months.
- A dwelling which has undergone probate for a period of up to 12 months after the grant of probate.
- Dwellings which are periodically occupied in certain job-related

circumstances. For example, a pitch occupied by a caravan, or a mooring occupied by a boat. Or where a planning condition prevents permanent occupancy.

- A property undergoing major work to make it habitable, or structural alteration, for a period of up to twelve months.

Council Tax for a band D property in South Cambs is currently £2,303 per year. Under the new policy for second or empty homes, this would increase to £4,606 and be due after one year, rather than two, as is currently the case.

The increase will include second homes because currently, Council Taxpayers choose to furnish empty properties to classify them as second homes. This allows them to avoid the empty homes charge, even though the property remains unoccupied. This practice, aimed at reducing Council Tax bills, does not contribute to increasing the availability of housing. It is expected the new policy will reduce the incentive for such behaviour.

It's thought the change will generate an additional £100,000 a year in income for South Cambridgeshire which will help front vital frontline services.

There's already a raft of support available from the District Council to bring empty homes back into use. In 2023/24 the Council's Empty Homes Officer helped bring 26 homes back into use. If you are a private homeowner and would like further help and support contact env.health@scambs.gov.uk

COMMUNITY



HAPPY NEW YEAR CAMBOURNE

The team at *Cambourne Crier* would like to wish all our readers and advertisers a very happy new year. We all live and work together so let us do what we can to keep our little corner of the world a good place to grow and thrive in.

Ice Ice Safety

When it's too cold, too cold.

As winter settles in, it brings with it frosty mornings, icy roads, and shorter daylight hours. While the season can be beautiful, it also presents various challenges to our safety. Here are some practical tips to help you stay safe during the colder months:

1. Keep pathways and parking spaces safe

Icy and snow-covered paths can be hazardous. To reduce the risk of slips and falls regularly clear snow and ice from walkways and driveways using a shovel or broom. This should be done with salt or sand to improve traction. There are some grit bins around for problem public areas. Wear sturdy, non-slip footwear with good grip to reduce your chances of falling.

2. Road safety during winter

Driving conditions can become treacherous with frost, ice, or snow. To ensure safe travel:

- Check your vehicle's tyres, brakes, and lights before setting out.
- Keep an emergency kit in your car, including a blanket, torch, de-icer, scraper, and extra snacks.
- Drive slowly and maintain a greater distance between vehicles, as stopping distances increase on icy roads.



- Avoid driving unless necessary during severe weather conditions.
- Pedestrians should also exercise caution near roads: wear bright or reflective clothing to ensure visibility during dark mornings and evenings. Use designated crossings where possible and stay alert, as vehicles may take longer to stop in icy conditions.

3. Prepare for power outages

Winter storms can sometimes lead to power cuts. Be prepared by:

- Keeping portable lights and batteries in known locations.
- Charging mobile devices in advance and having a power bank available.
- Stocking up on blankets, non-perishable food, and bottled water.

4. Look out for vulnerable neighbours

Elderly or vulnerable individuals may struggle more during winter. Check in with them regularly to ensure they're warm, have enough food, and can safely access essential items.

5. Stay warm indoors

Cold temperatures can pose health risks, especially for older adults and young children. To maintain a warm and safe home environment:

- Insulate windows and doors to prevent drafts.
- Wear layers of clothing, which help trap body heat more effectively than a single thick layer.

6. Plan ahead for outdoor activities

If you're venturing outside for exercise or errands:

- Check the weather forecast and dress appropriately.
- Carry a fully charged phone in case of emergencies.
- Avoid taking unnecessary risks, such as walking on frozen ponds or lakes.

Winter can be a challenging time, but with a little preparation and vigilance, you can navigate the season safely. By following these tips, you'll not only protect yourself but also contribute to the safety and well-being of your community. Stay safe and enjoy the beauty of winter!

Tennis Club celebrates a great year

In December, we celebrated the end of another great year for the Tennis club. Our members have been enjoying the new clubhouse, and we have seen some fantastic successes for our junior and adult league teams.

To celebrate the year, on 1st December we held our annual Christmas Social & Awards session. Despite the strong winds, we played fun Christmas-themed tennis games on the courts, before moving to the Great Cambourne Cricket Pavilion for hot drinks, cakes, cookies, pizzas and our annual awards presentation.

Awards were handed out for: Players of the Year (Alexander Whitehorn and Anna Byron), Most Improved Player (Patrick Whitehorn), Future Stars (Juliana Hassay and James & George Gates), Most entertaining player (Adrian Saric), Fighting

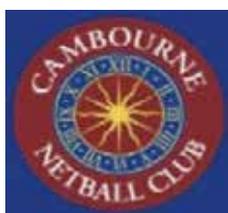
spirit award (Jayden McWilliams), and Assistant Coach of the Year (Alexander Whitehorn). Well done, everyone! A special 'Volunteer of the Year' award was presented to Tijmen Euser, for helping out with court- and clubhouse maintenance.

On 13th December we had a Tennis Club Christmas dinner at Pizza Express Cambridge which was well-attended by our members.

Coaching news: Spring Term Tennis Lessons for all ages and abilities can now be booked. Sessions run from January 6th to April 5th (12 weeks). Prices start from just £57.50 for the term! Sign up via www.gamesettennis.co.uk or email toby@gamesettennis.co.uk. Please see the club website for more information on our activities and on how to join: clubspark.lta.org.uk/CambourneLTC



Cambourne Netball Club: well positioned for 2025



Cambourne Netball Club is heading into a few weeks of well-earned rest over the Christmas period after a busy start to both the Senior and Junior winter leagues. The first half of the season has seen Cambourne get some great results and position ourselves well heading into some exciting games in the New Year.

Cambourne 1 have had some very close matches and worked hard to be in joint third in the County Premier League, with everything to play for being only 4 points behind the top two teams. Cambourne 2 are sitting comfortably in mid table in Division 1 and Cambourne 3 have had a fantastic start to the season, currently sitting top of the 2nd Division. Cambourne 4 are neatly placed just 1 point behind top spot in the 5th Division, and Cambourne 5 have made a great start to their first ever competitive season with some close results.

A huge thank you to all of our junior players who are regularly

competing in the senior leagues and contributing to the club's success.

The junior teams are continuing to thrive and we can see the standard of our girls improving year after year. The U16A team is currently in second place of the top division, while the U16B team is just 4 points off the top spot in the B division. Our U14A and B teams have seen some tough matches in very competitive divisions but secured a couple of great victories. The U14C team (made up completely of U13s) has had an amazing start and currently stand undefeated at the top of the C division. We are very excited for our U12 teams to get their seasons underway in the New Year after they had some fantastic results with lots of goals scored in their pre-season tournament.

For any ladies out there thinking they might like to give netball a try or get back into netball after a break (even if you haven't played since school) we'd love to hear from you. All ladies 16+ of any ability are welcome to come and have two sessions for free - please contact us at cblee1978@hotmail.co.uk

SPORT

Cambourne Town Football Club celebrates growth, success & community

CTFC is thrilled to announce significant developments and achievements this season, underscoring our commitment to football and community engagement.

■ Refurbished MUGA Boosts Community Activities

Following a successful Football Foundation grant Cambourne Town FC was pleased to have contributed £25k to the refurbishment of the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). Now refurbished, it is a thriving community space that hosts a variety of activities, including Team James Bootcamp (teamjamesbootcamp@gmail.com), our U9 Girls' training sessions, Monday Walking Football, Papworth Blasters' winter training, and adult kickabout groups.

■ Youth All-Stars Shine

Our Youth All-Stars pan-disability team has had an incredible debut season, winning every game and the league! The team is led by Mark and Louise King, who also manage our adult pan-disability team. Interested in joining? Email us at pan-disability@cambournetownfc.org.uk.

■ Wheelchair Football and SEN Support

With sponsorship from SEN Legal, we continue our Wednesday wheelchair football sessions and have affiliated with two SEN schools. In partnership with Cambridgeshire FA, we host a monthly Disability Schools Festival, bringing joy to schools across the county.

■ On the Pitch Success

Our Saturday Men's team remains undefeated and topped their table. The Ladies' team is holding strong in Division Two, and we've added two new Sunday Adult teams alongside our first

Sunday U12 Youth team. Several of our teams have also progressed to the quarter and semi-finals of cup competitions—congratulations to all!

■ Expanding Girls' Football and Volunteer Opportunities

We are actively growing our girls' football program and plan to add a second U12 team next season. If you're interested in coaching, email Matt at girlssec@cambournetownfc.org.uk. We're also seeking U7 Boys' team coaches; contact Dan at minisec@cambournetownfc.org.uk. Full training and support will be provided.

■ The Dugout: A Hub for the Club & Walking Football

Following a summer refurb, including a new kitchen funded by Howdens and England Football, The Dugout remains the heart of our club. It's a welcoming spot to warm up with a drink after matches or Walking Football on Friday mornings (open to those 50+). For details, email Stuart at walkingfootball@cambournetownfc.org.uk.

■ Commitment to Respect and Development

In December we funded the training of 13 new youth and adult referees and purchased 12 "Respect" barriers for our pitches. These initiatives align with the FA's Play Safe Campaign, promoting respectful play and sportsmanship. Join Us!

■ Get involved

Soccer School (ages 4-7): Sundays, 9-10 am on the 3G pitch. Contact Adam at ctfc.eyo@gmail.com.

Football Centre: Tuesdays (ages 8-10) and Wednesdays (ages 11-14), 4-5 pm. Email clubsec@cambournetownfc.org.uk.

Boys (ages 12-17): Contact Jane at coltssec@cambournetownfc.org.uk.

Adults (18+): Email Rhys at adultssec@cambournetownfc.org.uk.

Girls (ages 8-17): Contact Matt at girlssec@cambournetownfc.org.uk.

■ *Cambourne Town FC is proud to support football for all and continues to reinvest in our players, facilities, and community. Whether you're a player, coach, or fan, there's a place for you in our club. Get involved today! Keep an eye on our Facebook/X/Instagram for upcoming events in the New Year*