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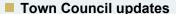


On Sunday 9th November the Act of Remembrance was held at Cambourne Church.

The occasion began with a large number of young people parading behind a marching band and immediately after the service, the new Memorial Garden was officially opened by Ian Sollom MP.

■ Full details and photos on p30-31





- Community news
- Cambourne Library
- Wildlife Trust
- Columnists
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- Schools & education
- Find a local business
- Sport



Thank you for Lighting Up Cambourne in 2025

See pages 26 & 27 for more...



New 5k Parkrun launches at Frank's Farm

Find out more on page 32...



Cambourne Crier is the only independent, non-profit publication delivered to more than 5,000 Cambourne homes and businesses each month.

Any profits are distributed through our Community Fund. Cambourne Crier is compiled entirely by volunteers. This issue's editors were: Donavan Bangs, Paul Jobling, Paula Brown, Seema Achall, Max Bangs, Martin H W Law, Ann Stephenson and Hannah Harris.

Distribution: John Panrucker

Finance: Pam Hume

Website & design: Tim Nash

To advertise please contact:

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Editorial submissions:

Submissions for the January
2026 edition must be received by
9pm on Sunday 7th December
2025. Please email articles and
photos to editorial@
cambournecrier.org
or post to Cambourne Crier,
The Hub, High Street, Great
Cambourne, 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!

If you would like to join our editorial team, please get in touch on editorial@cambournecrier.org

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 or download the application form at www.cambournecrier.org

TOWN COUNCIL

AGAR 2024/25

The Town Council continues to address the issues identified in the AGAR. Progress can be followed through the Council minutes. The Locum Clerk remains in post on reduced hours and continues to provide support. An interim audit will take place on 1st December 2025 to ensure the Council remains on track.

Staffing

The Council is pleased to confirm the appointment of the new Responsible Financial Officer, Gabby van Poortvliet. With this role now filled, significant progress is already being made.

Budget 2026/27

At the most recent meeting, the Council discussed several priority projects for the 2026/27 budget, including:

- Refurbishment or replacement of play parks
- Health and safety compliance improvements
- · Refurbishment of the Hub

Projects

- Memorial Garden: The new memorial garden is now complete please do visit. Located on the old Ark grounds, it was officially opened by Ian Sollom MP on Remembrance Sunday.
- Pop-up Shop: This project is currently awaiting planning approval and supplier confirmation. Potential uses include housing a foodbank and a possible Post Office service, subject to Council review and Post Office procedures.
- Cycle Shed Cambourne Soul: In partnership with Cambourne Youth

Partnership, a new green living-roof cycle shelter has been installed.

We look forward to completing the landscaping around the building.

Christmas Lights

All Christmas lights should now be switched on.

A huge thank-you goes to Light Up Cambourne for fundraising, and to the Grounds Team for their hard work installing them!

Cambourne Town Council wishes the residents of Cambourne a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



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

Members of the public are welcome to observe.

2nd December 2025

- Planning Committee
- Followed by Full Council Meeting

16th December 2025

- Planning Committee
- Followed by Finance and Policy Committee

20th January 2026

- Planning Committee
- Followed by Full Council

Cambourne Town Council Office:

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

Tel: 01954 714403

Email office@cambournetowncouncil.gov.uk
Town Clerk: clerk@cambournetowncouncil.gov.uk
www.cambournetowncouncil.gov.uk



MOBILE POST OFFICE:

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

BIN COLLECTIONS:

Check your collection date here: www.scambs.gov.uk/recycling-andbins/find-your-household-bincollection-day

Cambourne Community Gospel Choir

After a summer break Cambourne community gospel choir restarted in September, welcoming new members and learning new songs.

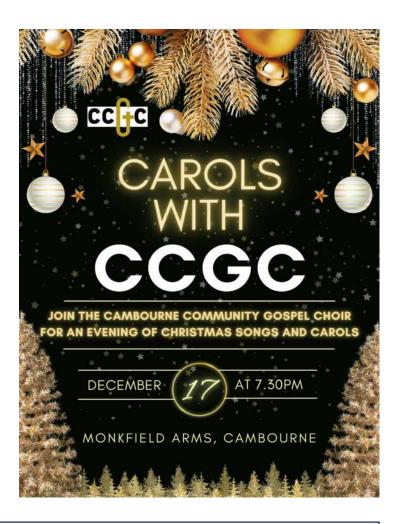
The choir has three commitments in the run up to Christmas...

13th December finds them performing in a joint concert with the Cambridge Jazz Choir at St Matthew's Church, St Matthew's Street, Cambridge. The concert starts at 7.30pm.

The Monkfield Arms is their second venue. Those of you who are familiar with previous Christmas performances can expect more of the same; the choir singing some of their favourite songs, together with the opportunity to join with some more traditional carol singing. Put the date in your diary for this popular event: 17th December, 7.30pm.

Carols feature in the final commitment before Christmas when the choir head to Gamlingay Baptist Church for their Carol service on Saturday 20th December at 4pm.

We look forward to seeing you at one or more of these events. For further information please contact cambournegospelchoir@gmail.com or find us on Facebook at facebook.com/cambournecommunitygospelchoir









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Cambourne Library expansion is back on track

We are pleased to announce that the expansion of Cambourne Library is now underway. Following a period of delay due to the need for additional expert advice and building-wide adaptations to meet updated regulations and compliance standards, construction work has officially resumed.

The newly refurbished library is scheduled to open in early 2026 and will offer a significantly larger and more versatile space.

Key features of the redevelopment include:

- A vibrant and engaging children's area designed to inspire young readers.
- A dedicated meeting room to support community and group activities.
- Brand-new furniture and equipment throughout the facility. In addition, the library will be home to Targeted Support services, offering children's activities and resources in collaboration with our partners.

To better serve the community, we will also be extending our opening hours through the introduction of Open+ self-service technology, aligning library access with the operating hours of the adjacent health centre.

We know that our libraries are hugely valued by the communities they serve. That's why as a county council we are investing in Cambourne Library, as part of our Library Plus programme, to ensure the library continues to meet the needs of residents and benefits the community for years to come.

We look forward to welcoming you to the new Cambourne Library in 2026 and thank you for your continued support and patience during this exciting transformation.

Knit, Sew and Natter Craft Group

The craft group meet every Tuesday 10am-12pm in Cambourne Church. Take along any portable craft you like. Please contact cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk while we are closed for more information.

Cambourne Lunch Bunch Book Group

If you would like to join in with this friendly group, please contact cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 17th December 12.30pm, meeting in the foyer of The Holiday Inn, Cambourne.

Rhyme time/Storytime

Our Rhyme time/ Story time sessions with our regular volunteers are on Fridays at 9.30am-10am in the Child and Family Centre Activity room, Sackville House (term time only). The last session of the year will be on Friday 19th December. Festive outfits encouraged! There will also be Christmas Crafts with Heather straight after the Rhymetime session. Please stay and have some crafting fun.

Our Digital Offer

Due to the refurbishment of the library public PCs and printing/copying facilities will no longer be available from the week beginning Monday 8th December 2025 and will remain unavailable until the library reopens in the new year. Alternative provision of public PCs and printers (A4 printer only) can be found at Papworth and Comberton Libraries.

Christmas and New Year Opening Hours

All Cambridgeshire Libraries will close at 1pm on 24 December. All libraries except Cambridge Central and libraries with Open+facilities will be closed between 25 and 26 December and 1 January. Normal opening hours will resume on 2 January. Cambridge Central and the Open+ service at Histon, March, Soham, Rock Road and St Ives libraries will operate as shown in the table below:

	Sat 27 Dec	Sun 28 Dec	Mon 29 Dec	Tue 30 Dec	Wed 31 Dec
Cambridge Central	10am-5pm	12-4pm	9.30am-5pm	9.30am-5pm	9.30am-5pm
Open+ Histon, March, Rock Road, Soham, St Ives	10am-4pm	10am-4pm	10am-4pm	10am-4pm	10am-4pm

Loan periods will automatically be extended to cover the longer break.

From all the staff at Cambourne Library, we wish you a happy and healthy festive period.

Contact Us

Tel: 0345 045 5225

<u>Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</u> <u>www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library</u>

Comberton Library

Monday: 10am to 5pm: Tuesday:10am-1pm:

Wednesday: 10am to 1pm,- 2.30pm to

5.30pm

Thursday: Closed Friday: 2:30pm to 5.30pm Saturday: 10am to 1pm Sunday: Closed

Closed on Bank Holidays

Papworth Library

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10am to 1pm,-

2pm to 5pm

Wednesday: 10am to 1pm Thursday: 2pm to 5pm Friday: 10am - 5pm Saturday: 10am to 1pm

Sunday: Closed

Closed on Bank Holidays

Cambourne

While the library is closed there will be a mobile library visiting The Hub car park, CB23 6GW in Cambourne on Saturdays 6th and 20th December from 10.00am to 4.00pm. All return dates will be extended throughout the closure period, however, items can be returned to any Cambridgeshire library, or mobile library, should you wish to do so.

COMMUNITY

Merry Christmas from Cambourne Crier



Twas the night before Christmas, with rooftops of white, Fairy lights twinkling through the long winter night. The Crier team gathers with biscuits and tea, Like elves in a workshop, the editorial team and me.

We sift through emails and write with delight, As snowflakes fall on Great Cambourne at night. With Christmas Carol patience and fairy light grace, We proofread each page like a marathon race.

Your articles pour in like stockings well-stuffed -Village news, club updates and essays unfluffed. Features of thanks, school concerts and cheer, All sprinkled with tinsel, to round off the year.

And Cambourne, dear readers this message is clear: Your stories are gifts we unwrap every year, From football, to robots to the Christmas tree high, We aim to create an issue that reaches the sky.

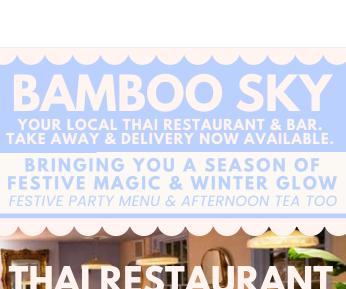
Without your submissions your stories, goodwill, The Crier would be quiet as snow on a hill. It's your pictures that make each issue so bright, With all parts of Cambourne so plainly in sight More holly, more jolly, more star-twinkling light.

Merry Christmas, dear readers from the Crier with cheer, And thank you for gifting your news every year!

From your Cambourne Crier Christmas Team The scribe of Christmas present: Donavan Bangs with Santa's little helpers: Paul Jobling, Paula Brown, Seema Achall, Max Bangs, Martin Law, Ann Stephenson and Hannah Harris.

Santa's Sleigh driver: John Panrucker Christmas pudding sixpences: Pam Hume

Christmas decoration design and wrappings: Tim Nash











BAMBOOSKY.CO.UK

COMMUNITY

Looking after nature through the winter

WILDLIFE TRUST BCN: Winter is a busy time for our nature reserve team. Here's some tasks they have been doing recently:

Tree checking: Our staff regularly check mature trees on our sites with dead or dying branches, where they might cause a problem for roads, buildings and paths. This is a much bigger job since trees have become more affected by ash die-back disease. On some sites where ash die-back has caused significant damage, we are removing the trees, and re-planting areas with other native species.

Coppicing: Coppicing is an ancient technique that was used in the past to create useful wood products like broom handles and charcoal. It involves cutting down trees, often hazel, in sections, on rotation. They are cut in such a way that the tree grows back with multiple stems. Conservationists now use the same techniques to create areas in our ancient woodlands with different light levels and vegetation density. This mimics the action of large herbivores under which our woodlands evolved, and make areas of diverse "edge" habitat.

Path maintenance: Our volunteer work party in Cambourne has been improving an area of the perimeter path in the SE of the nature reserve. Last year they raised the level of the path using limestone chips, and dug a drainage trench. This year they have dug a bigger trench to help reduce the amount of water on the path. On some of our woodland nature reserves, paths, or even whole sites, are closed to avoid damage to the sensitive path edges when they become muddy. To reduce damage, please consider visiting other sites, or sticking to areas which are less muddy. Wearing appropriate shoes for muddy conditions means you can walk through the mud, rather than spreading the erosion around the outside.

If you are interested in volunteering on our practical work parties, please get in contact.

December events

(book at wildlifebcn.org/events)

Cambourne, 3rd December 6.30-8.30/9pm : Willow wreath-making workshop for adults

Cambourne, 13th December 9.30-12.30: Youth Rangers Christmas social and practical tasks in the wildlife garden for young people aged 11-17

Trumpington Meadows, 18th December: 1.30-2.45pm: Seasonal stroll for adults

Local enquiries

Rebecca.Neal@wildlifebcn.org
Facebook: @BeccaBadgerWTBCN
TrumpingtonMeadows@wildlifebcn.org

Facebook: @TrumpingtonMeadowsNatureReserve

General enquiries

cambridgeshire@wildlifebcn.org
@wildlifebcn and www.wildlifebcn.org





DEAR CONTRIBUTORS

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR ARTICLES FOR THE JANUARY EDITION OF CAMBOURNE CRIER

NOW

THE DEADLINE IS

7 DECEMBER

Addiction recovery

On Wednesday, January 7th, Peacehaven Baptist Church will be starting the second round of its addiction recovery ministry, "Twelve Weeks To Freedom."

One of the men who came to the first round said that he thought that he would sit around a table with a lot of other addicts and tell stories about their lives of addiction. He was surprised to find us in a

classroom setting, dealing with the roots of addiction, helping people find freedom from guilt, anger, and, in time, helping addicts find joy.

Not only do we have classroom time, but we also have two men and one lady offering counselling to anyone

who needs it during the week. The classroom helps uncover the roots of addiction, whereas the counselling helps dig out those roots.

The second round of Twelve Weeks to Freedom will take place at the Hub, in the meeting room, every Wednesday from January 7th, to April 8th. There is no charge, and it's open to anyone looking for help.



CamSight Peer Support

CamSight runs monthly groups across Cambridgeshire for adults living with low vision and blindness, their carers, and their family members.

The Bourn group (including Cambourne and nearby villages) meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10.30 - Noon, at the Hall Close Community Room, 72 Hall Close, Bourn CB23 2SN. The next few meeting dates are: 19th Nov, 17th Dec 2025 and 21st Jan, 18th Feb and 18th March 2026.

Members enjoy a range of different activities from guest speakers, entertainment, quizzes, and light refreshment. Members are kept updated on the newest equipment and support available from CamSight and other local and national organisations. The group provides a reassuring space for people to discuss their daily challenges and share ideas on how to manage them. By sharing tips on how to do things differently and helping one another, great friendships are formed. For details phone: 01223 420033 or email info@camsight.org.uk



As a locally-owned and operated family business, we take immense pride in serving our community with high quality property maintenance solutions. Some of our services:

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- Garden maintenance
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 - · Small tiling projects
 - · Flat-pack furniture building

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beepropertymaintenance@gmail.com

Petition update for Arthur Rank Hospice

Since my last column, I have received countless messages from constituents concerned about cuts to funding at our local Arthur Rank Hospice.

Having written to the Secretary of State, Wes Streeting, alongside my Cambridgeshire colleagues, Charlotte Cane and Pippa Heylings, and visited the hospice itself, we then launched a petition to show the Government just how much the service means to people locally. Our petition gained over 10,000 signatures in its first 24 hours, and at the time of writing, over 16,000.

On 3rd November, I joined my constituent Vivien from Fen Drayton, whose husband was supported by Arthur Rank before he died from a rare cancer in November 2024, to deliver the petition to 10 Downing Street.

We called on the Prime Minister to restore the Arthur Rank Hospice, funding deficit to:

- ensure all 23 beds at Arthur Rank Hospice remain open;
- provide long-term, sustainable funding for the hospice's palliative care services;
- properly roll out nationally the move from hospital to community care, with hospices and GPs at its heart.

Thank you to everyone who signed the petition and continues to support our campaign

I will continue to share any updates on its progress on my social media pages.



IAN SOLLOM MP for St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire ian.sollom.mp @parliament.uk



SHROBONA BHATTACHARYA District Councillor Cllr.Bhattacharva@

scambs.gov.uk

A Christmas message and community update

I receive many emails, messages and conversations from residents and I often feel like they come from members of my own extended family here in Cambourne. I take each issue seriously and continue working hard to resolve as many as I can.

Over the past months, I have raised several important matters on your behalf at both Town and District Council meetings.

These include:

- · Establishing a zebra crossing between Uplands Place and the Monkfield Arms Pub
- · Providing a card reader machine for Cambourne Library;
- · Installing a permanent bus shelter on Broad Street opposite Morrisons, along with

improved bus shelters across Cambourne;

- · Introducing school-zone and "Drive Slowly" signage on Swansley Lane;
- · Securing additional indoor community space to support our growing population;

Recently, I met with the Police Commissioner for Crime and requested that a public consultation be held in the new year, giving residents the opportunity to raise concerns directly and help shape local policing. Priorities.

I wish all the residents of Cambourne a truly wonderful Christmas with their families.

This is the most beautiful time of the year and every resident of our town deserves moments of joy, peace, and togetherness.

Is it better to give than to receive?

As we approach Christmas, you might hear the phrase 'it is better to give than receive' and think this is an excuse for having to put up with bad gifts.

However, if we choose to live with a mindset that gives thanks and feels and expresses gratitude, it can have a significant effect on our emotional (and physical) wellbeing.

The idea of 'counting our blessings' has clearly been around for many years but more recently this has formed the basis of many research studies. These have shown that practicing gratitude (more than just having an 'attitude of gratitude') can improve wellbeing and sleep and reduce stress.

Even just making a note of three things you are grateful for each day can lead to an improvement in wellbeing within a few weeks. These should vary everyday and can be small things such as enjoying a coffee, a conversation, noticing the smell of cooking or hearing birds singing.

The techniques of mindfulness or 'taking notice' of your surroundings can be useful to help identify small but wonderful things.

Unlike Christmas presents, gratitude doesn't cost anything and as David Steindl-Rast said 'it is not joy that makes us grateful, but gratitude that makes us joyful'.



CATHERINE PRICE Cambourne Parish Nursing Service nurse@cambourne church.org.uk

COMMUNITY

Free monthly bike repair service - exclusive to West **Cambourne residents**

Smart Journeys, in partnership with Taylor Wimpy/Vistry, provide FREE monthly bike repair services, delivered by Outspoken Cycles and available to West Cambourne residents only. These sessions have been put in place to encourage and incentivise the West Cambourne community to be more active and travel more sustainably. The next session will be held on Saturday, 6th December 2025, then Saturday, 3rd January 2026. These will be on a booking basis in advance only. Thereafter, sessions will be held on the first Saturday of the month, between 10.30am-1.30pm, for up to six months until 6th June 2026, when the service will be reviewed for continuation.

Please visit www.outspokencycles.co.uk/cambourne-dr-bike/ to book a place. For more information about this free service, please contact westcambourne@smartjourneys.co.uk.

Smart Journeys Travel Plan

Smart Journeys are the Travel Plan coordinators for West Cambourne, providing sustainable travel initiatives and incentives for the West Cambourne community to support in reducing the number of vehicle trips made, encouraging more sustainable and active travel in the local area.



If you have any questions or need any travel advice in your local area, please contact: westcambourne@ smartjourneys.co.uk For general enquiries, please contact info@smartjourneys.co.uk.



smartjourneys



CAMBOURNE CHURCH



Learning to make space

Nativity plays include a cast of familiar characters - obviously Mary and Joseph, but also angels, shepherds, wise men, and innkeepers, plus a host of animals and on-lookers. It is the inn-keeper who has got me thinking. The Bible simply tells us that "there was no guest room available" for Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, and that as a result the new-born Jesus was "placed in a manger" - an animal feeding trough. Over the years popular imagination has filled in the details. No Nativity play is complete without at least one inn-keeper saying that there is "no room" before another leads or points the couple to make-shift accommodation among the animals.

Saying "no room" protects our space, but making space for others can bring unexpected blessings. A few years ago, before we moved to

Cambourne, some family friends borrowed camp-beds and sleeping bags as they hosted dozens of family members for Christmas in their modest home. I could not imagine where everyone was going to fit. I would have said that there was no more room before trying to squeeze in half that number, but their family members slept in every available space, including under the dining table. It challenged my attitude.

In Cambourne we know of people who have been involved in hosting Ukrainian refugees, in offering supported lodgings to teenagers in need, and in hosting international students. Maybe on an individual level, and on a national level, some of us have got too used to saying "no room" while others keep finding space for the stranger in need.

Revd Bill Miller

SERVICES IN DECEMBER 2025

Sunday 7th December, 10.00am Sunday One All Age Christingle Service

Sunday 14th December 9.30am Communion Service 11.00am Communion Service with groups for children and young people

Wednesday 17th December, 7.30pm Carols with the Gospel Choir (Monkfield Arms)

Sunday 21st December 10.00am All Age Nativity Service 4.00pm Blue Christmas (Annexe)

Wednesday 24th December 7.00pm Community Carol Service 11.30pm Watchnight Communion Service

Thursday 25th December 10.30am All Age Christmas Celebration

Sunday 28th December 10.00am Walk and Talk Service

PEACEHAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastoral thoughts: The first christmas gift

This Christmas we will be having our usual celebration. As a church we get together and pray and praise as we do every Sunday.

But we will also be having a meal that Sunday at the hub with whatever we happen to cook up. There is plenty of fellowship and food each year.

We get together that day specifically to celebrate the birth of Christ. Not that he was actually born on December 25th as the date was not recorded. In actuality Jesus never told us to celebrate his actual birthday. We are supposed to remember his death and resurrection as we do in baptism and the Lord's supper.

So If it is not commanded to celebrate

why do we? Simply the fact that he was born as prophesied in the right place and from the right heritage and all the prophecies fulfilled is amazing.

Couple that with the angels announcing his birth. It was the coming of the redeemer in the flesh. The perfect lamb of God, God the Son dwelling in flesh to pay the price for sin. This was the first Christmas gift.

It was not from man to man or from the wise men to the family of Joseph and Mary. This gift was from God to mankind in the form of this tiny, yet perfect one who would go on to shed his blood for us. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that

whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have

everlasting life. This was the gift and as the angels said Luke 2:10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ

So this Christmas it is still good tidings of great joy that the Saviour came and gave Himself for us. So stop by for the service and find out some more.



Donavan 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 Donavan Bangs 01954 710510 PeacehavenBC@aol.com peacehavenbc.org.uk Charity number 1204927

people.



CHURCHES

ST JOHN FISHER

Remembering and giving thanks for those we love

During the month of November, we remembered those who have died and departed the earthly realm now to rest in the glorious kingdom of heaven.

After each of our Saturday and Sunday Masses we had a table set up with orders of services and photos of our loved ones.

This lovely act of remembrance helps show they are never forgotten and give support to those who have lost people in our community and their families and friends.

We are delighted to announce our Christmas Mass times when we look forward to seeing our regular parishioners



and welcoming new faces at the special time of year.

The times are:

Christmas Eve (Wed 24th Dec) 15:30 Christmas Day (Thu 25th Dec) 08:00, both in the Cambourne Church Centre. 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: sif.cambourne@rcdea.org.uk

Website: cambournerc.com





EDUCATION

Learning beyond the classroom and **building Confidence** at Monkfield Park



As always at this time of year, the preparations for Christmas are well under way in school. The children in Year 1 and Year 2 are learning their lines and the songs for their forthcoming production of 'The Angel Who Nearly Missed it All' and Year 4 are rehearsing for their traditional Christmas musical extravaganza.

Meanwhile, across every year group learning continues at a great pace. Year 6 have been studying the First World War and to mark Remembrance Day they visited the Great War Huts near Bury St Edmunds to learn what life was like for soldiers fighting in the trenches in Northern France. In addition to exploring the trench systems the children were able to try on replica uniforms and handle genuine

artefacts and equipment to gain an insight into the everyday lives of the soldiers and the impact the conflict had on them, their families and communities.

As part of our work on resilience and growth mind-set we were delighted to welcome Terry Price to deliver an assembly to the whole school. Terry is a world Champion scooter rider who not only thrilled everyone with his incredible stunts, including his record breaking back flips, but spoke passionately about how he has overcome many challenges in his life and career. The children then enjoyed workshops throughout the day, learning to build their own confidence as they challenged themselves to develop a whole range of new skills.





The Vine remembers the fallen heroes & veterans

The Vine Inter-Church Primary: In Year 5, we have been learning a lot about poppies and what they symbolise in preparation for Remembrance Day. In recent weeks, we have been making clay poppies, including sculpting, painting and glazing them. We have also helped the Cambourne community by making recycled poppies out of plastic bottles to line the Remembrance parade. In addition we met a real army veteran who talked about her experience in more recent wars (Iraq) and helped us to understand the importance of our military services. By selling poppies for the Royal British Legion in our school, we helped to raise money for the veterans who have served in previous wars.

On Tuesday 11th November, Year 5 led the Remembrance worship where the focused was on the brilliant animals who helped us through WWI and WWII. Did you know they have their own purple poppy to symbolise the work that they did? These studies have helped us to understand more about our Global Value of Conflict and Peace, and our courageous



advocate, Anne Frank. We now acknowledge the importance of honouring the people who died in the wars to make sure they are not forgotten. Anne Frank once said, 'Think of all the beauty still around you and be happy.' This means even though there are still wars taking place today, we should never give up on the hope of peace and let the light shine through the darkness.











Celebrating our



Christmas in Cambourne

Wishing all our clients
- past, present and future a Happy Festive Time

Connect with us on 07734 478398. malcolm@malcolmsproperties.co.uk www.malcolmsproperties.co.uk

SCOUTING

"What I learned as a scout"

BY LUKE AND KRISHIV

As I finish my time at scouts, I wanted to reflect on the things I have learnt over the 4 years I have been a scout.

At first I was reluctant to join and was forced by my mum. However after the first meeting I realised how fun it actually was. I have definitely learnt the main two rules of being a scout which were "don't be on fire" and "don't bleed to death"!

The main ways I have come to learn things is through camps where I learnt things like teamwork (with things like box building), resilience (when we have to walk for miles on end) and leadership (like leading a team to build a raft).

Scouts doesn't just teach soft skills but also skills like learning how to start a fire and how to properly use an axe - both for cutting logs for the fire and for throwing at targets.

We also learn skills such as knots - like the bowline, clove hitch and the square knot - and important first aid techniques like CPR and how to properly use a defibulator.

Leadership in Scouts

In Scouts there are 3 types of leadership roles that you can get. The first one being Assistant Patrol Leader (APL), second being Patrol leader (PL) and Senior Patrol Leader (SPL).



Assistant Patrol Leader

This person stands towards the left of the patrol (during flag break) and mainly assists the PL with the task that has been given.

The APL will also will lead patrol in case the Patrol Leader's absent, focuses on other patrol members if the PL is busy or helping someone else and set a good example to the rest of the patrol.

Patrol Leader

This person is on the right of the patrol (during flag break). They will typically relay the message of the leader to the rest of the patrol. Other activities that they might do are tidy at the end of the night, assist new scouts, take lead and

help Troop leader and come up with activities during a PLC (Patrol Leaders Council) for the Troop to do during the evening.

Senior Patrol Leader

The SPL stands near the Troop leader (during flag break). They have a key leadership role; they are responsible for overseeing troop activities and meetings. Their 'Patrol' is the APLs and PLs.

Deciding how meeting will be run and are basically the 'bridge' between the leaders and the scouts.

They are the main example for scouts, it is the highest rank that you can get in scouts as a young person.



From campfires to fire stations...

2ND CAMBOURNE SCOUT

GROUP: Our three sections have been enjoying Autumn with various fun and challenging activities.

At Beavers, we had a construction night (with Lego, spaghetti and marshmallows), a visit to Cambourne Fire Station, a campfire evening, and a games night. Cubs had a late Halloween party with dangling donuts,

Remembrance Day crafts, and a session called Armpit Fudge!

Our oldest group, Scouts, went on light-up disk hunt around Cambourne to practice grid references, also did some campfire cooking, and visited Huntingdon Fire Station.

We now look forward to moving into the winter and the build up to Christmas.





Cambourne Electronics & Robotics Classes - CERC

The FIRST LEGO Robotics sessions, the new BBC Micro: Bit Beginners batch and CAN Satellites started in November 2025 in the Cambourne Church annexe. The young minds of Cambourne continue to learn from creativity and problemsolving projects that demonstrate how technology can transform lives and create real-life solutions to making nano satellites in Cambourne. Please email shrobona@gmail.com or send a message to 07852 753216 to join these courses.









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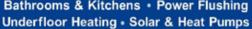
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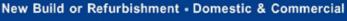
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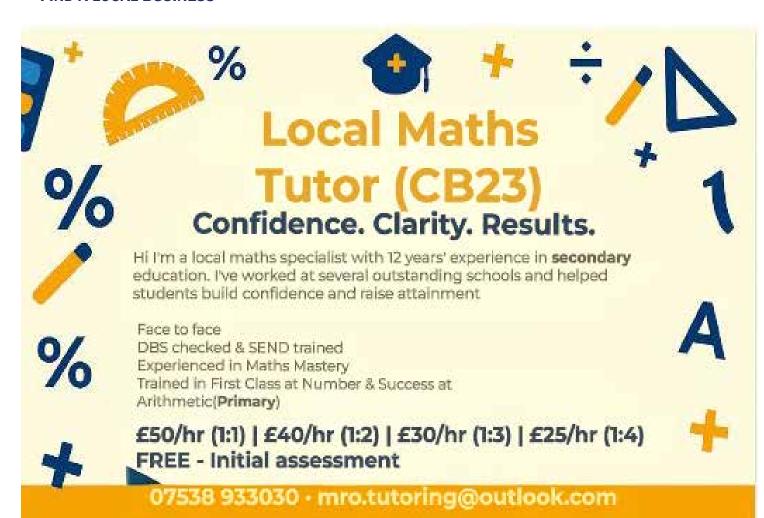
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Building a sustainable future: Hope Farm fundraiser and Taste of Hope launch

Helping communities to be free from poverty

Fundraiser for Hope Farm

We recently launched a fundraising campaign to raise money for our farm in Girton, Cambridgeshire - thanks to the Aviva Community Fund!

The Aviva Community Fund is providing live match funding for donations up to £250. This means if you donate £50, Aviva will match this - a total donation of £100! Help us reach our target of £30,000. Any donation you can make will help make a difference.

The funding will help us to complete vital infrastructure and 18 months of delivery at our farm. We are seeking funding to help cover the costs of the following:

- · Accessibility (including improvements to the car park, wheelchair-friendly paths, shaded seating area)
- · Irrigation, ponds, and rainwater systems
- Equipment and machinery
- Biodiversity projects (wildlife areas, hedgerows, native planting)
- Programme delivery and staffing, community workshops and education, Monitoring, outreach and evaluation

Taste of Hope

In October, we launched Taste of Hope - the cafeteria at South Cambridgeshire Hall.

This new venture will help to create a sustainable income stream to support our other projects.

We hosted an opening ceremony and tasting for staff in South Cambs Hall, with Cllr Bridget Smith (Leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council) officially opening the

Since opening Taste of Hope, we've been taking an average of around 50 orders a day and have received great feedback so far. Our menu offering includes: toasties, jacket potatoes, granola pots and smoothies.

Throughout the month, we will also be offering themed lunches, such as Sri Lankan food - with curries and traditional dishes on the menu. Fresh produce grown on our own farm in Girton will be used where possible, bringing nutritious and locally sourced food straight to our lunch menu.

We also offer work experience placements and volunteering opportunities.





COMMUNITY

Cooking in Cambourne

An 11-year-long Cambourne community project, the Cambourne Cookery Club is welcoming new members to join for 2026.

Many new residents who recently moved to Cambourne have joined the club. One new member said: "The Cookery Club is very welcoming, especially when you do not know anyone in the community after moving to a new town.

"We make new friends, which is a great assurance to stay connected with the community and to have friends around in a new place like Cambourne".



This year, the cooking theme is Oriental. To join Cambourne Cookery Club, please email shrobona@gmail.com or message 07852753216





Christmas lunch for the elderly

CamCareUK has organised a Christmas Lunch on 10th December at Sheene Mill, nestled in the idyllic landscape by the River Mel in Royston, Cambridgeshire, for the senior members of the Cambourne community.

The trip was made possible through the Community Minibus, which regularly supports our elderly residents. Cambourne residents Kerry Gorman, Archie Black and Chuang Kee kindly volunteer their time to support the community minibus service for seniors in Cambourne. Their dedication helps keep our older residents active, connected, and engaged with the wider community.

The community minibus runs one or two trips each month, taking seniors to garden centres, cafés, and group shopping outings. If you would like to join future trips, please contact shrobona@gmail.com or send a message to 07852 753216.





Monkfield Medical Practice: Open later - open longer

Cambs GP Network provides our patients with GP, Nurse, HCA & Phlebotomy appointments.

This is an extension to our service and takes place at weekends and evening at various hub locations across Cambridgeshire, Royston and surrounding villages.

You can book an appointment through our GP receptionist here at the surgery. These appointments are for non-urgent, routine appointments only. If you feel you need to be seen urgently on that day, please ask your own surgery to arrange to see you.

You will be given a choice on when you would like to book your appointment and information on where to go depending on what is available.

Services offered include:

- GP Consultations
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- Health Care Assistant appointments offering wound care, blood test, etc
- Phlebotomy: Routine blood tests are available within our Enhanced Access Clinics
- Cervical Screening

These appointments may be sooner than at the practice so if you are able to travel please do consider the flexibility these appointments may offer you in being seen.

Please note that your consent for our clinician to view your medical record will be required in order for an appointment to be booked for you.

MMP Art Group is back!

The Monkfield Medical Practice Art Group is re-opening on 7th January 2026 and we'd love for you to join us!

Open to everyone, this relaxed group is a great way to meet new people, unwind, and share your love of art. Whether you're a complete beginner or an experienced artist, all are welcome.

We meet every two weeks on a Wednesday from 2pm-4pm at Monkfield Medical Practice. Tea and coffee are provided, just bring yourself and your creativity.

Come along, make friends, support each other and let your imagination flow! Let us know through the 'contact us' page on our website.



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Thank you for lighting up Cambourne in 2025!

Where did 2025 go? It doesn't seem very long ago that the LUC committee were thinking about our aims for the year back in January.

These were, subject to funds allowing:

1) The completion of the lighting to all the trees in Broad Street. Last year we only had funds to get the trees lit from School Lane to De La Warr Way after the existing lights had been removed from the trees as they were expired. 130 sets of lights were ordered and delivered.

2) To increase the number of lights on lamp posts on the main routes into and out of Cambourne. We chose these locations so the maximum number of people pass the lights on their journeys to, from and around Cambourne.

As we are all aware plans are afoot to develop a High Street and therefore a central area for Cambourne, until this takes place the best locations are the main roads in the town. We have been able to install power supplies to the remaining lampposts along School Lane from the entrance to the town from the A1198 to the junction with Swansley Lane and ordered more lights to create an increase of 10 motifs.

3) To install all the required power supplies to the remaining lampposts on the Broad Street and Morrisons roundabouts and purchase the additional lights to go with them, meaning that there

will now be 10 light motifs on the Broad Street roundabout and eight motifs on the Morrisons roundabout.

It's incredible to be able to say that all these objectives have been achieved and if all goes to plan Cambourne will see a marked increase in the number of Christmas lights over the festive period.

A huge thank you to the town council staff both in the office and those who do the putting up and the taking down.

The biggest thank you must go to the people who support us by coming to our events or giving donations as none of the above would be possible if you didn't show up and weren't so generous.

If you want to help, please attend our events or get in touch if you have any suitable items you would like to donate for our event raffles and stalls. Our email is lightupcambourne@gmail.com

What is Light Up Cambourne?

This time of year seems a good opportunity to clarify who we are and what we do. LUC are a small voluntary community group who raise money for festive season lights in the town. The lights we purchase are installed by the council. Our finances remain separate from the council and for the avoidance of doubt the current difficulties that the town council are facing have no impact on anything that LUC do. LUC do not provide the Christmas trees in the town; these are

arranged by the town council. We provide the lights for the trees in Broad Street and on various lamp posts around the town.

We haven't forgotten about West Cambourne, but we have to wait until the new roads (and lamp posts) have been adopted by the appropriate authority. We are always looking at ways to increase the number of lights, but this is dependent on the amount of money we can raise.

We have one source of funding, and that comes from the people who attend our events and/or give donations. 100% of the funds raised are spent on the Christmas light displays in the town, be that access equipment for putting them up and taking them down, the power supplies and timers, the lights themselves and any ancillary items required to get the lights to work. We are separate from other community groups and clubs in the town.

We are very excited to be receiving support from Ruta at RJPhotoworld who takes fantastic photos of the lights and at some of our fundraiser events for us. We will have posted the photos taken at our













latest bingo evening on our Facebook page by the time you are reading this worth a look.

We are indebted to Morrisons. Cambourne Fishing Club, K crafts & more, Dexterpt, The Monkfield Arms, FISH'n'CHICK'n and RJPhotoworld for providing vouchers and items as raffle prizes at our latest bingo event.

It's great to receive donations like this from our brilliant local businesses and clubs.

2025 has been a very exciting year for LUC, from nearly folding at the end of 2024 we are now in the strongest position we can remember, with a fantastic team of event helpers and a very active committee.

As well as achieving our aims for the year and holding our very popular bingo and quiz events we also held Cambourne's first Scarecrow competition, which proved very popular and is something we are looking to repeat and expand on next year.

By the time you read this we will also have held a Paint and Sip evening, another first for us. We also held soft tov and tombola stalls and have been bowled over by the support we have received.

We will be holding a another Tombola and soft toy stall at the South Cambs' Christmas Fair on 7th December and our first event of the new year is a Murder Mystery evening at the Hub on 28th February. Come along and see if you can figure out Who Dunnit! Tickets will be on sale soon.

We have plenty more ideas for events in 2026. As always, keep an eye on Cambourne Crier and our Facebook page for details.

A Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year from all at LUC, we hope you enjoy the lights!!







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SPORT

Cambourne Town FC recognised for excellence by **Cambridgeshire FA**

I am delighted to acknowledge the formal announcement that Cambourne Town Football Club has been awarded the Cambridgeshire FA Club of the Year 2024 and - demonstrating our sustained excellence - has also received the Cambridgeshire FA Highly Commended Club 2025 status.

Cambourne Town Football Club has rapidly established itself as a leading example of best practice in grassroots football, evidenced by an unprecedented series of regional and national awards.

This recognition reflects the club's unwavering commitment to inclusive provision, strong governance, and community engagement across all age groups and abilities. To be continually recognised at the highest levels both regionally and nationally is a powerful testament to what this club has become. We are no longer simply a local team; we are an acknowledged benchmark for how community football should be governed and delivered, embodying passion, professionalism and community spirit.

The success we share is the product of countless hours of dedication and a direct reflection of the commitment shown by every single person connected to Cambourne Town FC.

My sincere gratitude extends to:

- · Our volunteers: your tireless work, often unseen and unpaid, is the foundation of our success.
- · Our parents: your crucial support, positive encouragement and commitment to ensuring our players thrive in a supportive environment is invaluable.
- · Our players: your enthusiasm, sportsmanship and joy you take in the beautiful game are the ultimate rewards for all of us.

• The wider community: your partnership, attendance, and encouragement create the vibrant

atmosphere that defines our club.

CAMBOURNE TOWN FC

 Our sponsors: your continued support and backing of our teams allow for us to continue to provide access to grassroots football and all of the benefits that brings to our 2000+ members.

Thank you for helping us establish a culture of excellence and community focus. It is your dedication and support that transforms a football club into a true asset for all involved in grassroots football on and off the pitch.

We look forward to continuing this journey with you all and celebrating many more successes together in the future.

With best wishes and heartfelt thanks, Myles Hadley, Co-Chairman, Cambourne Town Football Club

Running for Cambourne over the Atlantic

Orthopaedic surgeon Daniel T Rajan, resident of Cambourne, ran his 151st marathon in New York on Sunday the 2nd of November.

The New York City Marathon's gruelling 42.2 kilometres meanders between the city's skyscrapers to end in Manhattan's Central Park. This year the New York City Marathon enjoyed a new global record of 59,228 runners crossing the finish line. Daniel said he trains for his marathons and ultras using routes along Cambourne, Madingley, Cambridge and a few trails in Hinchingbrooke.

He has been using his 151 marathons for fundraising and has raised about £60,000 for national and international charities across the globe. Daniel said the atmosphere was fantastic and he felt good to represent Cambridge across the Atlantic, in New York. Completing 151 marathons was as joyful as the first one and it was incredible to have the Big Apple as the backdrop for this one. His marathons include the Leh Ladakh race which, set in the Himalayas, is recognised as the



highest on the globe, the Galilee Marathon recognised as the lowest marathon below sea level and the Tromso Marathon, which is the northern most marathon on earth and is in the freezing temperatures of the Arctic Circle.

Christmas time again at the tennis club



Cambourne Tennis Club: The annual Christmas Awards afternoon for our junior members has returned. On Sunday December 7st 12.30-3pm, we will host a fun games session with Toby and his assistants on the courts, followed by an awards ceremony where we will have lots to eat, drink and music too. If you would like to join us, please contact Toby: Email: toby@gamesettennis.co.uk, Phone: 07972 149874.

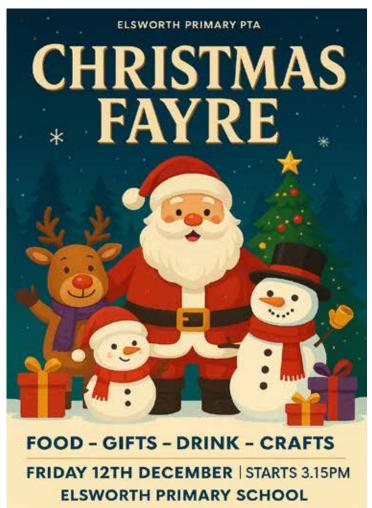
Adult Christmas events: Our adult Christmas Dinner will take place on Saturday December 13th at Chutney Joe's. We will also run a potluck tennis party around the social tennis mix in session on Wednesday, December 10th, from 7 pm (RSVP to Arif on 07854 741308 by Dec 7th if you would like to attend.) We look forward to these events with our members while reflecting on another great year for the Club.

In 2025 we resurfaced two of our courts and repainted the other three. With these facilities and our Clubhouse in such good shape, there has never been a better time to join. Finally we are very proud that over the years, we have been able to keep our membership prices very affordable, keeping tennis accessible to all in Cambourne.

We wish all of you a great festive break and hope to see many of you on the courts in 2026. More information on how to join can be found here:

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REMEMBRANCE

Large turnout as Cambourne honours Remembrance Sunday

The Act of Remembrance at Cambourne Church on Sunday 9th November began with young people from the Air Cadets, Army Cadets and local scouting and guiding groups parading behind a marching band on the new parade route along the High Street.

Revd Bill Miller, minister at Cambourne Church, officiated at the service, during which many wreaths were carefully laid at the foot of the cross by a wide range of groups including community groups, uniformed organisations, councillors, faith groups, veterans and many others.

Two minutes' silence were observed at 11am after the sounding of the Last Post.

We were delighted to

welcome The Rt Hon the Lord Lansley CBE PC DL and Ian Sollom MP to the event who both laid wreaths.

Immediately after the Act of Remembrance, the new Memorial Garden on the corner of Eastgate and Jeavons Lane was officially opened by Ian Sollom MP.

After the service, Cambourne Church served hot drinks and cakes inside the church building and later The Monkfield Arms hosted a formal toast to absent friends.

It was lovely to welcome an ever increasing number of our community to this event. Thank you so much to all those who were involved – in both seen and unseen ways.













GUIDES were delighted to take part in our very first Remembrance Day parade on Sunday 9th November.

Five of our girls proudly turned out in full uniform to mark this important occasion, joining the Cambourne community in marching the newly extended route to the church. It was a meaningful and moving experience for all of us, and we felt an immense sense of pride seeing our guides represent the guiding movement with such respect, confidence, and enthusiasm. They were excellent ambassadors throughout the event, honouring the spirit of Remembrance with dignity and care.











Veterans plant shrubs and trees at Cambourne's new Memorial

Located at the Eastgate / Jeavons Lane junction, the new Memorial Garden in Cambourne offers a green, inclusive space and is designed to be a lasting civic asset which enhances the town centre, brings the community together and honours those who have served.

In a powerful show of community spirit, local veterans planted flowers and shrubs in the garden on Wednesday 22 October. Their involvement reflects the deep personal significance of the project and the strong ties Cambourne has to its military heritage.

The project means the town now has a permanent war memorial, as well as memorial benches, pathways, flower beds, and planting. The Memorial Garden will serve as the central location for Cambourne's annual Remembrance

Parade and ceremony, while also commemorating historic national events.

Cllr Helene Leeming, a district councillor for Cambourne and a member of Cambourne Town Council. said: "Cambourne is 25 years old, but unlike lots of towns and villages, we didn't have a war memorial. There are many people who live here and want to show their gratitude. There are also lots of veterans in our community who want to pay their respects to their colleagues. So, we are very grateful to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for this funding, and to Cambourne Town Council and the veterans for all the work that they've put in to bring this about."

Cambourne Town Council received £20,000 funding for the scheme from the Government's Shared Prosperity Fund grant. The Cambridgeshire and

Peterborough Combined Authority is the lead authority for delivery of the Fund, while the District Council is responsible for grant scheme delivery and allocation.

Paul Bristow, Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough said: "I welcome the creation of this new Memorial Garden in Cambourne, where residents can come to reflect on the sacrifice of our armed services and honour the fallen. Green spaces play a vital role in enriching our communities, as does an understanding of our shared history."









New 5k parkrun launches at Frank's Farm

It's been more than four years since the launch of Cambourne Junior Parkrun and this year a renewed effort was made to bring an adult parkrun to the town. Early in the year, Philip Abel then Co-Event Director of the junior parkrun - began searching for a suitable location.

A potential course was identified, consisting of two and a bit laps around Sirius and Whomping Willow lakes. A proposal was prepared and presented to the Town Council in April, gaining their support. With the Council's help, approval was also secured in May from the developers' consortium, which remains the landowner. Unfortunately, Parkrun itself rejected the course because one section of path was considered too narrow. With all other viable Cambourne locations already ruled out, the project stalled.

That's when Frank's Farm in Elsworth, just three miles from Cambourne,

stepped in and offered both to host and fund the event. A scenic 5k course was quickly mapped out, and detailed preparations began. The venue is ideal, with wide views across the countryside and excellent facilities including parking, a café and farm shops. A core volunteer team was recruited from the local community and trained at both Huntingdon parkrun and Cambourne Junior Parkrun.

Disaster struck eight weeks before launch when Philip suffered a brain haemorrhage. Preparations paused briefly, but local Parkrun ambassador Alison Ainsworth stepped in to keep the project moving.

The inaugural event took place on 15 November, with 212 participants running or walking the course in the fog - and many more expected in the weeks ahead.

Philip says: "It was the culmination of a lot of work to be Run Director at the





inaugural event, and we've been overwhelmed by the positive feedback about the event, the course and the post-event social atmosphere, with many staying to enjoy the café and shops.

"We look forward to welcoming more people from Cambourne, Papworth and the surrounding areas to run or walk our 5k course every Saturday morning."

More details:

www.parkrun.org.uk/franksfarm

Come and join Cambourne Runners

It has been lovely to welcome lots of new members to Cambourne Runners this year. You will see us out running around Cambourne and local villages in our new running shirts which have been a big hit in the club!

Recently, some our club runners tested out the new Parkrun course at Frank's Farm and a few of our runners have been successful in Endure 2025 and the Chicago marathon. The rest of us enjoy running together, talking and having a post-run coffee.

Here is a little bit about us...

Cambourne Runners is made up of a group of runners of all abilities and ages (minimum age 16). We cater for everyone. We are a friendly group who run on a Wednesday evening and a Saturday morning.

On a Wednesday we usually meet at The Hub and the run could be efforts or a steady run. On Saturday we have a longer steady run and usually start at Greens Coffee Shop. At the end of our run, we have a hot drink and a cake. Membership is only £2.00 a year.

If you would like to join us, please email: cambournerunnersarc@gmail.com



