

# ***Caldecote Journal***



*Ice Crystals in Caldecote*

***December 2023 – February 2024***

# Caldecote Journal

## December 2023 – February 2024

### The Caldecote Journal

Keeping the community informed of local issues, events, village activities and useful information. The Journal will also publish reports, short stories, poems and other material produced by members of the community, subject to available space. All contributions are welcome.

If you are a village organisation, please use the Journal to report your activities and inform the community of any meetings, events and functions. The deadline for the next Journal is the **8th February 2024**.

Please pass copy to the Editor by this date to: **Journal4Caldecote@gmail.com**

The Journal is financed by Caldecote Parish Council and issued quarterly to all parish households free of charge. The Journal can also be viewed online: [www.caldecote.gov.uk](http://www.caldecote.gov.uk).

### Caldecote, Dry Drayton & Hardwick Community Car Scheme



This Car Scheme is available for anyone requiring transportation to essential medical or social destinations and has no other means of transport. To **book a driver**, please contact one of our Co-ordinators below:

Gill Stott	07464 069 483
Lizzie Coe	07387 395 296
Derek Evans	07464 052 521

**Please call between 8.30am – 6.00pm, Monday – Friday only**  
(Please do not call on weekends and bank holidays.)

To enable a suitable driver to be arranged, please call at least 48 hours before your appointment. For each journey, passengers pay £3.50 for a local journey. For longer trips, 30p per mile is charged. Please pay **by cash**, our drivers cannot accept card payment.

After a period of ill health and a spell in hospital, Sheila has retired from the car scheme. We would like to thank her for her dedication to the scheme over the years and we wish her all the best for the future.

As you will be aware the car scheme is run entirely by volunteers who give their time freely, but expenses covered. There are many aspects of the car scheme that need help and to keep this valuable service going to support those in need in our local community, we are continually looking for volunteers. If you have some spare time in your week and enjoy engaging with people, then this friendly scheme may be of interest.

However, there are other areas you can help with too. As we are a charity, we would welcome support with organising fundraising or catering for the occasional events we hold.

If you feel like helping with this valuable local service, we would be delighted to hear from you.

## Diary Dates

Date	Event	For more info:
1st Thursday of ea. month	Parish Council Meetings, The Pavilion 7pm	<a href="http://www.caldecote.gov.uk/parishclerk@caldecote.gov.uk">www.caldecote.gov.uk/parishclerk@caldecote.gov.uk</a>
Every Tuesday	Community Hub @ The Pavilion, 9.30am - 3.30pm	
Opening 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	New Winter Lights Trail, Botanic Gardens	<a href="http://www.botanic.cam.ac.uk">www.botanic.cam.ac.uk</a>
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Candlelit Carol Service, St Michaels and All Angels Church</b>	
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Café Church Carols and Christingles, Village Hall 3-4pm</b>	
Now til 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Hansel & Gretel Christmas Show, Cambridge Junction	<a href="http://www.junction.co.uk">www.junction.co.uk</a>
Now til 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Mother Goose Family Pantomime, Cambridge Arts Theatre	<a href="http://www.cambridgeartstheatre.com">www.cambridgeartstheatre.com</a>
27 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> Dec	The Nutcracker Ballet, Cambridge Corn Exchange	<a href="http://www.comex.co.uk">www.comex.co.uk</a>
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Café Church, 3pm, Village Hall (every 3rd Sunday)	





## Caldecote Parish Council

Caldecote Parish Council is currently busy working on several projects which we hope will bring better use of the village facilities.

Work is continuing the upgrading the Pavilion. The current prefabricated building has now been demolished and the building work is commencing to accommodate the new Portakabin which will contain new toilets, changing rooms and showers.

Chris Fuller, our cricket and pitch supervisor has decided to retire, we are therefore liaising with St. Giles Cricket Club, who will be taking over the running and maintenance of the cricket pitch and boundary outfield.

Members are receiving regular updates about the proposed East West Railway from Councillor Nichola Pritchard. Currently there is not much to report, we are still awaiting the date of further consultations and an update on the proposed route.

We are still concerned about the change of flight path from Luton Airport we have made representations to National Air Traffic Services (NATS).

The weekly Community Hub for senior citizens is currently open on Tuesday mornings, we are pleased to report that the contract with Cambridgeshire Acre to provide the hub has been extended for a further 2 years. If you want company, warmth, and a cup of tea/coffee you will be made most welcome.

Finally on behalf of the Parish Council may I wish you all a joyful Christmas and a very happy new year.

Alan Melton  
Clerk to the Council

[parishclerk@caldecote.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@caldecote.gov.uk)

07771 524093

[www.caldecote.gov.uk/](http://www.caldecote.gov.uk/)





## District Councillor News

### South Cambs Magazine

Every household in district receives a copy of the quarterly SouthCambs magazine. The Winter edition should land on doorsteps from 20 November to 2 December. please email [scdc@smartdistribution.co.uk](mailto:scdc@smartdistribution.co.uk) or call 0800 6444 01 if it

does not get to you. The last edition is available online at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/the-south-cambs-magazine/>.

### Cambridge 2040

This is the Michael Gove grand plan to build 200,000 houses in the Cambridge area between now and 2040. Mr Peter Freeman (Homes England Chief Exec) whom he has selected to head the Cambridge Delivery (super)Group has started to have meetings with the main stakeholders in Greater Cambridge to understand the area better and the work that is already being done here. A Water Group has also been set up to look at the solution to the water challenge that the area faces. The Cambridge 2040 plan is going nowhere if the water issue is not resolved.

### South Cambs Hall Ground Floor Project

The District Council is converting an area of the ground floor space at South Cambridgeshire Hall into an attractive space for hire for use by individuals, businesses, and community groups who are looking for “meanwhile” desk, collaborative and meeting space. There will be facilities such as standard desk and meeting room space and a podcast room. The aim is to make this space into a hive of entrepreneurial activity which has support, collaboration and idea sharing at its heart. The work is well underway, and we expect the space to be open April 2024

### Visiting Support Team

The District Council offers a visiting support service to residents who are 65 years or older. It is a short-term support service providing confidential, emotional, financial and practical support and promoting independent living in the community. Referral can be through family or friends, GP or someone else in the community. They also support younger adults living in supported or sheltered housing providing assistance with managing money and health, helping tackle loneliness and social isolation, and staying safe. Here's a video explaining more <https://bit.ly/VisitSupportTeam> or call the Council on 01954 713000.

### Cost of Living Support

South Cambridgeshire residents are being encouraged to ensure they take advantage of all the cost-of-living support they are entitled to this winter. As weather gets colder and more is spent on heating, the District Council is urging residents and organisations to make full use of assistance available. Apparently 25% of benefits are going unclaimed. Check what you are entitled to at <https://www.entitledto.co.uk/>. List of local foodbanks is at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/foodbanks>. Also get energy saving advice, find out about grants to improve home insulation to cut energy bills. More details on the council's webpage at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/>.

### Draft Homeless Strategy Consultation

The Council is consulting on its new draft Homeless Strategy (2023-2028) from now to 5th of January 2024. A review of homelessness within the district looked at the numbers and trends relating to homelessness as well as factors affecting this. The strategy sets out how the Council plans to respond to and tackle homelessness within the district over the next five year period and

how to provide suitable housing options. The consultation documents can be found on the council website <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/homeless-strategy> where you can also give your feedback.

### **Four Day Week Trial**

As I've stated in monthly reports, the District Council has been trialling a four-day week to try and resolve staff recruitment and retention issues. This area is very expensive to live in, and public sector pay and conditions cannot compete with the private sector. However, the Minister Lee Rowley took a dislike to the trial and continues to make over-reaching decisions instructing the trial be stopped because he "doesn't think it will work" without hearing the real facts. He has refused to accept the invitations of the Council Leader for a face-to-face meeting and issued "Government guidance" instructing councils not to take up 4DW. Furthermore, a Best Value Notice has been issued and Government now asking the Council to provide weekly report of every type of performance data and kitchen sink they could come up with. The trial results so far show performance is Council maintained, great savings is being made as council has filled 14 out of 23 hard-to-fill posts previously covered by agency staff, so slashing costs to the taxpayer by hundreds of thousands of pounds. Staff turnover has reduced by 36% and sickness levels down by a third. Staff motivation, health and wellbeing is boosted leading to fewer staff wanting to leave and greater consistency in service delivery to residents. The latest performance reports can be found on the council website for the recent Cabinet and the Staffing & Employment Meetings. The trial is continuing. South Cambs offices remains open 5 days a week, and the Contact centre is open longer hours than before the trial. The out of hours emergency response officers are available 24/7 and a new webchat service is available.

### **Weather Issues - Flooding advice and sandbags**

Following recent heavy rains, the Council is reminding residents about the importance of being prepared for possible flooding as we go into the winter months. This is especially the case for residents whose properties have flooded before. The flooding page of SCDC website at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/flooding> has a useful list of things residents can do in advance of rainfall, including signing-up for Flood Warnings, using the Government's Flood Information Service to check if a property is at risk of flooding and preparing a flood plan. It also has a list to ascertain what would need to be reported to which organisation in the event of a flood.

### **Tax-Free Childcare account**

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is reminding families to open a Tax-Free Childcare account to save on their yearly childcare bills. The scheme provides working families, with children up to the age of 11, or 16 if their child has a disability, up to £2,000 a year per child or £4,000 a year if their child is disabled. Go to <https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare> to register and start saving. The Tax-Free Childcare guide for parents is at <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/providers/guidance-and-resources/guidance-zone/parent-guide-to-tax-free-childcare>.

**Regular Updates** Don't forget to check out my monthly reports to the parish councils on my blog at [www.tumihawkins.org.uk/caldecote-ward/reports](http://www.tumihawkins.org.uk/caldecote-ward/reports) for full details on these and more. Follow my Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/itsCouncillorTumi/> where I post up regular public information posts from community groups and other local authorities.

**Here to Help You** so contact me if you need help with SCDC services (planning, housing, housing repairs, benefits, council tax, bin collection, environmental health, noise nuisance, etc) by phone 01954 210840 or 07802 323269, email [tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk](mailto:tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk), @CouncillorTumi on Twitter.

Wishing everyone a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2024.**

# County Councillor News

## Letter from your Councillor

Dear residents,

It's a busy time of year for the District and County Council, and I thought it might be helpful to update you on some of the work and projects going on.

The County Council recently ran a 'Quality of Life' survey involving over five thousand residents. The good news is that most of us feel happy and safe, well connected to their communities, and believe that this is a great place to raise children. However, more residents reported feeling lonely than the national averages, particularly 18-25 year olds, who were also the most likely to have struggles with their mental health. In terms of council services, Libraries and Waste Management had the highest levels of customer satisfaction, and Roads and Pavement Maintenance the lowest. We will be reflecting on these and other findings as we decide on the Council's priorities for the future.

I was delighted to see the first round of new 20mph schemes receive funding, including locally in Harlton – these new zones will help make our villages safer. A new round of funding will open in January and I hope many villages will again put forward proposals.

I know that our local bus routes are a vital lifeline for many residents, and I have been working closely with other local councillors and the Mayor's office to tackle concerns. We had a productive meeting with a representative from Whippet regarding the No. 18 service, and they have committed to improving the accuracy of the real-time displays, alongside a new website and app where you can check the progress of each individual bus. They also report that a new fleet of buses, and some successful recruitment, should reduce the number of cancellations. Please keep relaying any concerns to your local councillors so we can ensure the service improves.

Meanwhile, the District Council remains in the news as the trial of the four-day-week for staff continues. So far, the data I have seen suggests that Council has saved significant amounts of money through improved recruitment and retention, without a reduction in services nor an increase in complaints, so it seems sensible to me that the trial continues as planned, ahead of a comprehensive review in 2024. The UK Government seems to have taken an inordinate level of interest in what is, essentially, workforce planning at a small district council, but we will respond as fully as possible to their concerns.

Residents are welcome to contact me on any matter concerning them about local services. I wish you the best of health and in due course a merry Christmas!

Best wishes, Michael  
County Councillor – Hardwick Division  
District Councillor – Harston & Comberton Ward



## Team Caldecote 1st Caldecote Rainbows and Brownies

1<sup>st</sup> Caldecote Rainbows and Brownies had a great start to the Autumn term. Our first few weeks back were spent enjoying the September sunshine outside making our own bubble mix and bubble wands, creating paintings using water pistols, and going on an adventure walk and pond dipping experience in Cambourne, where we found some fascinating aquatic insects.



As the weather changed we spent more time inside and completed our Trefoil Guild 80 badge by making some tangram cards to send to a local nursing home. We then started our 'I am a Physicist' badge and had a great time trying out lots of experiments, including how to make a hovercraft out of an old CD and a balloon – we had fun finding out how this moved over different surfaces! We are very excited to be meeting a Physicist in the next few weeks, especially as we'll be carrying out some more experiments with her help!



We've also decorated pebbles with poppies for the Remembrance Sunday service in the peace garden, made pinecone decorations ready for the village Christmas tree, and kept active with indoor games such as balloon tennis!



A big congratulations to our Rainbows who have achieved their Rainbow Awards by completing interest badges at home as well as all the challenges and activities in our unit meetings: Myra for her Bronze award, Ivy for her Bronze and Silver awards and Hope for her Silver award!

1<sup>st</sup> Caldecote Rainbows and Brownies meet every Tuesday evening during term time. Rainbows is our younger section aimed at girls aged 5 to 7, Brownies is for girls aged 7 to 10. Our Rainbows and Brownies have fun making friends, trying new things, developing their interests and self-confidence. We try our best to help our community, be kind, and look after the planet.

To register your interest for your Rainbows or Brownies please visit:

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>

To find out more, or if you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Vicky and Emma at:

[1stcaldecotebrownies@gmail.com](mailto:1stcaldecotebrownies@gmail.com)



## Caldecote Book Group

A friendly little group, we meet monthly at each other's homes (hosting is strictly voluntary) to discuss our book of the month, which usually leads to discussions about much, much more!

We read a range of different genres from modern fiction to classics, biographies, travel etc. meeting on Thursdays at 7.30pm. Whenever possible we borrow sets of books from the public library. If you'd like to pop along and see what our meetings are like, please contact us to find out about the next one.

Forthcoming meetings: (dates subject to change)

Dec 14 <sup>th</sup>	Before the coffee gets cold / Kawaguchi
Jan 18 <sup>th</sup>	Underland / Robert Macfarlane
Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>	TBC

If you are interested in coming along to a meeting, please contact Hilary on 01954 210112 or [hil@manyfish.co.uk](mailto:hil@manyfish.co.uk) for further details.

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## Caldecote Community Hub @ The Pavilion Café

Warmly Welcomes You

Come along and enjoy a hot drink, social interaction, the occasional quiz, card game and chair exercise session.

It is all Free!

Every Tuesday  
9.30am to 3.30pm.

Free tea, coffee with biscuits with milk provided by Highland Group from the BP garage.

Help and advice available.



## Caldecote Village Hall, Furlong Way

The village hall provides a lovely setting and facility for village activities, events, clubs, parties, weddings, christenings, business meetings etc. It is set in its own grounds with plenty of grassed outdoor space for marquees, bouncy castles or just enjoying the fresh air, along with ample car parking. The hall is fully accessible to everyone, with separate male, female and accessible WC's and baby changing facilities. There is fully integrated PA system and hearing induction loop.

**The hall also now has full fibre Wi-fi installed, and we will shortly be installing a projector / soundbar facility for presentations, showing films etc ( hopefully up and running by the end November 2023 )**

### Facilities

Large Hall 10m x 8.5 m, accommodates up to 90 people

Meeting room 8m x 3.5m, accommodates up to 30 people.

Fully equipped kitchen, including some everyday crockery and cutlery ( excluding pots, pans and oven trays etc ) and with a server's hatch to the main large hall

Table and chairs included in hire charge

Matching set of event crockery, cutlery, wine & water glasses for up to 90 place settings available for a small additional charge

Commercial dishwasher with 4-minute wash cycle

Fully licensed for music entertainment and the sale of alcohol

Off road parking for up to 31 cars including 3 disable bays, and cycle rack.

Free 1 hour set up and 1 hour clear up time offered – we do not clean after every hire but ask hirers to respect the facilities provided and leave the hall clean and tidy and as found. This also helps us to keep hire rates to the minimum possible.

Please note the village hall organisation is a charity run entirely by unpaid volunteers for the benefit of the village and surrounding communities. Anyone who is willing to offer a small amount of their time and become a member of the hall committee will be very welcome.

Most of the current committee have been running the hall since it opened in 2001, and consider that, by now, they have done their bit and are looking to step back. Without anyone coming forward to help, the hall may have no option but to close. Please consider if you would be able to give a few hours a month to help out and run this great facility that would be a huge loss to the village. If you would be willing, please contact the committee via the booking email to find out more, speak to one of the trustees listed in the Village Directory at the back of this Journal.

Please come along if you would be interested in helping in any way.

## Current regular Village Hall classes and clubs.

### Monday

1.00 - 3.00pm	Crafternooners – social crafting get-together for all ages ( every other week )
4.00 – 6.00pm	Dreamcatcher dance for children
7.00 – 10.00pm	Dry Drayton Bridge Club

### Tuesday

9.30 -10.30am	Pilates
10.00 - 10.45am	Sweaty Mamas keep fit – mother & baby keep fit / exercise group
7.30 - 10.00pm	Womens Institute (3rd Tuesday of the month)

### Wednesday

9.30 – 10.30am	Pilates
6.00 – 7.00pm	Boogie Bounce – keep fit classes on individual mini-trampolines to music
7.30 – 9.00pm	Comberton Young Farmers Club ( most / not all Wednesdays ) – social group for ages 14 – 26. You don't have to be a farmer to come along !

### Thursday

6.30 - 7.30am	Pilates for all levels
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### Friday

4.00 – 5.00pm	Junior Art Club
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### Saturday

9.15 – 10.15am	Pilates for all levels
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If you are interested in any of the above, either contact Simon at the e-mail address below, and we will pass on your details to the class organiser, or pop along to the hall at the time of the class / club for more information.

To enquire about availability and pricing, look or book, contact Simon Gautrey on e-mail [caldecotevillagehallbookings@btinternet.com](mailto:caldecotevillagehallbookings@btinternet.com).

The Village Hall is run by Caldecote Village Institute Ltd, a registered charity, is independent, and receives no financial support from the Parish Council or South Cambs DC.

Charity number:1114201, Registered in England & Wales, company number 5736926



## Comberton Library

Monday: 10.00 am – 1.00 pm (excl. bank holidays)

Wednesday: 10.00 am – 1.00 pm & 2.30 – 5.30 pm

Friday: 2.30 – 5.30 pm

Saturday: 10.00 am – 1.00 pm

Comberton library is a warm and friendly place to visit to relax and read, borrow/reserve books. The library also offers free Wifi and computer use, if you need to borrow a laptop for home use, ask about our free LendIT service (advance reservation required). Borrowing laptops and tablets is free of charge, you can borrow for up to 7 days.

### Comberton Library Events:

**Knit and Natter** group continue to meet in Comberton Library, 10.30am and 11.30am. **December** dates: 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. **January** dates: 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. **February** dates: 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. **March** dates: 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> and then every other Monday.

Come and sing a long, **Rhymetime** (10.30am – 11am) for children age between 0-4 years of age. **Dates: November** dates: 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. **January** dates: 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. **February** dates: 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. **March** dates: 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Its Lego Time** with Duplo - come and have fun creating! Dates to be confirmed. Every Saturday between 10.30am – 11.30am. All children accompanied by an adult.

There is also the season “for the love of books” as there is Cambridge Literary Festival between **16th – 19th November**.

Our first **coffee morning** will start **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December** at 10.30am – 11.30am. All are welcome! Come and meet your neighbours for a chat.

**What is E – resources?** Libby, Borrow Box. Did you know that these resources are available If you would like to know more about these resources, come and find out on **January 22<sup>nd</sup>** at 11.30 – 12.30. All are welcome!

Last minute! Book Sale: Adult books 30p and Children books 20p.

Happy Christmas and New Year!

Tel: 0345 045 5225

Email: [your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library)

# Merry Christmas





Dear Friends,

Christmas is a wonderful time of year. A special time for families and friends to meet up and spend time together. To have fun and enjoy each other's company. Of course, this has been particularly difficult for us over the last couple of years, and not always possible to meet in person; many spend Christmas alone. We may have neighbours and friends in this situation – why not invite them to join with your celebrations? We warmly invite you to join with us during this Christmas time, and there's lots going on! Our annual Carols by candlelight is on Sunday 10 December, at 4pm, followed by seasonal refreshments: the perfect way to start the Christmas season! Café Church will be meeting the following Sunday, 17 December, from 3-4pm in the Village Hall, for carols and Christingles. And on Christmas Day, all are most welcome to join us for a family Communion at 11am in Childerley Chapel, Childerley Hall.

Jesus's birth was a moment of great wonder, beauty and joy in uncertain and difficult times. We too are living in such times. Many are continuing to suffer from financial anxiety as a result of the cost of living crisis. The world feels a far more dangerous place, with the ongoing war in Ukraine and the recent outbreak of war in Israel and Gaza. But even in the worst of times, we have seen an unbroken tradition, celebrating Jesus's birth. The Christmas story reminds us however afraid and worried and anxious we may feel, we can all experience a renewed sense of hope and joy that our saviour Jesus has been born. Jesus was the greatest gift ever given! A gift of unconditional love and forgiveness, and hope for a better tomorrow. God sent His son as a tiny, vulnerable baby into an ordinary family, at a difficult and dangerous time, to help us find our way home to Him. Jesus is the living hope that God is with us, no matter what.

I pray that you and your family a very joyful, happy and peace filled Christmas and a very happy New Year.

God Bless,

Clare

*Revd Clare Coates,*

*Lead Minister for Caldecote with Childerley, Dry Drayton and Hardwick*

[clarecoates@lordsbridge.org](mailto:clarecoates@lordsbridge.org)

[07818 618 795](tel:07818618795)

Our website:

[Caldecote Church – The little church with a big vision](http://www.caldecotechurch.org)

*Follow us on:*

*Instagram:* [@lordsbridge\\_team](https://www.instagram.com/lordsbridge_team)

*Facebook Page:* <https://www.facebook.com/LordsbridgeTeam>



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## Holiday Hamper Schemes

Caldecote Church partners with Sitwells Trust and our local primary school to offer a supermarket voucher to families who might appreciate some help through both the Summer and Christmas holidays. If you would like to donate to this scheme, please use on the url link below:

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/94ebc8e8-74f3-48f2-99a9-ea93433f5381>

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## Sitwell's Charity & Town Lands

Our charity receives a small income from agricultural land in Caldecote just south of Carrara Farm. The aim of the charity has always been to provide some assistance to those members of the parish most in need. In recent years we have contributed to the Christmas and summer hamper schemes and helped with the cost of school trips for pupils at the Primary School.

If you know of an individual, family or good cause that might benefit from some modest financial assistance, please contact Revd Clare: [clarecoates@lordsbridge.org](mailto:clarecoates@lordsbridge.org)

Donations are also most welcome and can be made at [Sitwell's Charity and Town Lands - JustGiving](#)

## Services December 2023 to February 2024

We are delighted to be offering three services a month: the first Sunday is a service of Holy Communion at 11am in the Church; the second is a service of Morning Prayer at 11am in the Village Hall; and the third Sunday, our all age Café Church service between 3-4pm in the Village Hall. All are most welcome to join us!

Date	Time	Service	Place
3 December	11am	Holy Communion led by Revd Clare	St Michael and All Angels Church
10 December	4pm	Candlelit Carol Service, followed by seasonal refreshments	St Michael and All Angels Church
17 December	3-4pm	Café Church Carols and Christingles, with Revd Clare and Fiona Whelan	Village Hall, Highfields Caldecote
25 December	11am	Christmas Day Family Holy Communion led by Revd Clare	Childerley Chapel, Childerley Hall
7 January 2024	11am	Holy Communion led by Revd Clare	St Michael and All Angels Church
14 January		Morning Prayer, with Fiona Whelan	Village Hall, Highfields Caldecote
21 January	3-4pm	Café Church with Revd Clare and Fiona Whelan	Village Hall, Highfields Caldecote
4 February	11am	Holy Communion led by Revd Clare	St Michael and All Angels Church
11 February	10:5am	Morning prayer Fiona Whelan	Village Hall, Highfields Caldecote
18 February	3-4pm	Café Church with Revd Clare and Fiona Whelan	Village Hall, Highfields Caldecote

## Online services continue

On zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/89870702475> (ID 898 7070 2475). *Every Sunday at 11am.*

## Other Services



Join in with other churches across the team. [www.lordsbridge.org](http://www.lordsbridge.org)

We have 2 new services in the village. Both held in the Village Hall.

- Morning prayer on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month at 11:00
- Church Café on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month at 3pm

We'd love to have your feedback about how we could make these more inclusive – what would you like to see from your Church? Please do come along to a service, give us your feedback, and help us evolve as a living Church for everyone.

<b>Time:</b>  Do the current times make it difficult to attend.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No	If no, what time would you prefer	Morning Prayer.....  Café Church.....
<b>Volunteering:</b>  Would you like to volunteer to help with either of the services?	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments <input type="checkbox"/> Art activities <input type="checkbox"/> Craft Activities <input type="checkbox"/> First Aider?	Do you hold a current DBS certificate?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Location:</b>  Are you able to get to the village hall?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No	If no, would you like us to try and arrange a lift to either service for you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Age group</b>  Do you know that the Café Church is for all ages, not just children?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No		

Name

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Email / Phone

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Please drop your responses through the door of 1 Parsonage Close (1<sup>st</sup> turning on the right at the top end of Clare Drive)



# Brownies

1st Caldecote  
Rainbows and Brownies



# Volunteer with us



We open up a  
**world of possibilities**  
for girls from 4-18-years  
-old, one where they  
can do anything.

**It's totally flexible,**  
you can help as much  
or as little as you want.

Join us for nonstop fun,  
learning and adventures.

**Your local Brownie group needs:**

Volunteers to help at our meetings held  
on Tuesday evenings, term time only.

For more information contact Vicky and  
Emma (unit leaders) at:  
1stcaldecotebrownies@gmail.com



**Register  
today**



[girlguiding.org.uk/volunteer](https://girlguiding.org.uk/volunteer)

Registered charity number: Excepted  
from registration

## Pennies for St Michael's Church – Our Oldest Building!

It has been a good while since I was able to put an entry into the Journal regarding our penny collection for the Church. As a reminder last Christmas was very exciting as by a few pounds (approximately £3 !) we managed to reach our far distant target to collect in, by just those few pounds, the amazing sum of £3,000! Since then, even a few more small and larger bags of coins have come in and our latest total of pennies and small coins collected and counted is now £3,040.70. That means roughly an extra £37.00 in small coins and pennies have been delivered to me. It may not seem a lot of money but it all adds up. That in itself is equal to 3,700 pennies and believe me the bag was indeed heavy!

Since that count a few more pennies have still come in. Coins are less readily available now due to more people shopping online and card payments being frequently used. However, if you do have any coins that you are able still to collect and save - please do so. The Church fabric will always be grateful for them.

I must confess that due to a current hospitalised bout of Covid our last count has been delayed. However, it will be done soon and our latest figure should be in the next journal. Pennies are still coming in and the box where I keep them feels heavy! So please do keep adding to it!

Every penny goes to maintain our village's most historic building – the Church. There are no admin costs. It is all collected and banked voluntarily. Keeping our oldest building properly maintained is an ongoing task and we do need villagers support to achieve this. There is no other financial support from anywhere else other than the village.

Please do help us increase that magic total of £3040.70. If you are starting to think of Christmas and presents, please think of the Church!! Another 6,000 pennies or small coins will take us the next hundred!!!!

### The Future

Unbelievably having achieved our £3000 where do we go on from there? I talked to the treasurer Simon, and both he and I felt it was still worth continuing collecting. The need for Church maintenance never ends!

### SO PLEASE DO HELP

When you have any pennies or bigger coins or notes to hand in please contact Sheila Stephenson Tel. 01954 210638, email: [sheila1pc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sheila1pc@yahoo.co.uk).  
Or simply call round to my door at 1 Porthmore Close, Highfields Caldecote CB23 7ZR.  
If we are not in at the time please leave them by the milk crate to the side of the front door.

With many thanks to all of you who are collecting and contributing!

Sheila Stephenson



# Gardening Tips for the Winter

## by National Trust's expert gardeners.

### Prune your roses

Most types of roses should be pruned in January or February before the leaves start to emerge. Modern roses can be cut back hard while the older types should be pruned more gently. Always remove any dead, damaged or diseased stems.

### Planting and pruning fruit trees and bushes

Bare-root trees and bushes can be planted between November and March if the soil is not frozen. You can also prune apple and pear trees, gooseberries and currant bushes. Remove dead or rubbing branches, shorten new growth a little and try to keep an open centre to the tree or bush.

### Herbaceous perennials

Don't be tempted to be too tidy. Leaving some growth on your perennials will provide a winter habitat for the wildlife that uses in your garden. Some dry stems to hide in will make the winter months easier for many insects.

### Look after wildlife

Leave out bird feeders and water baths or gently melt the ice on your ponds. This will allow garden birds to get a drink. A healthy garden ecosystem also needs insects so why not make a simple bug hotel with wood and sticks? Fill the gaps with hollow plant stems and pine cones to make a welcoming place for bugs to hide.

### Protect outside taps

Drain outside taps and isolate them if you can. This will prevent burst pipes and a damaged tap in frosty weather. If you can't isolate your garden tap then insulate exposed pipes and fit a tap cover to protect it from the cold weather.

### Protect tender plants

Move tender plants in pots to a sheltered place or cover them with fleece, hessian or straw. Keeping the roots dry will greatly increase the plant's chances of survival through winter.

To read more go to: ~

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/discover/gardening-tips/gardening-tips-for-winter>

# Gardening Thoughts

It is often said that this is the time of year when we “put our gardens to bed,” nothing happens. Well, it is a time for planting bulbs, but it is also a time for making leaf mould.



We gather our leaves and chop them up with a mower, it just helps break them down and put them in the large green bin, this is just a standard composting bin without a base. We also fill 3 nets, so the initial volume is 3 times that of the large green bin.

Gradually they naturally break down and we transfer the leaves from the nets into the green bin. It's important that the leaves are kept moist, so if we see it is drying out too much, we just put a can of water in the top, it just aids the decomposition.

Next autumn we will transfer the contents of the green bin, which after a year will be about half full, into the small black bin to finish maturing. This is just a standard dustbin with holes drilled in the side.

The following spring it will be ready to use. It will now be a sweet-smelling crumbly mixture, low in nutrients, which we use to blend in with our peat-free potting compost. A typical mixture would be 2 parts peat-free, one part grit and one part leaf mould but it depends what conditions your plant needs to thrive.

Leaf mould makes an excellent soil conditioner for our notoriously heavy Cambridgeshire clay, and it's free!

If you just want to try making leaf mould, you can fill a plastic sack with leaves, providing it has some holes in the side, and just leave it, that will work just as well.

We use bins because we make as much leaf mould as we can, as it's such wonderful stuff.

Enjoy your gardens.  
Julie & Graham Southon  
West Drive.

## Free Online Talks hosted by a local wildlife and farming charity.

Taking place on the first Wednesday of every month at 7pm until the end of March:

### Saving farmland birds

Wednesday 6th December | 7pm-8pm

Discover how nature-friendly farming is helping many endangered farmland birds and other wildlife. Hear the steps we can take to support species in decline, creating habitats and providing vital food sources, at this fascinating online talk by farming and wildlife expert Nicholas Watts.

<https://www.thecrt.co.uk/Event/saving-farmland-birds>

### How to photograph British wildlife

Wednesday 3rd January | 7pm-8pm

Learn how to get the very best from your camera and achieve incredible wildlife photography. From butterflies in your back garden to ospreys catching trout at breakneck speed, you need to strike the perfect balance between the main subject and its environment. Find out how, by joining this inspiring talk by professional wildlife photographer Andrew James.

<https://www.thecrt.co.uk/Event/how-to-photograph-british-wildlife>



### The wonderful world of hazel dormice

Wednesday 7th February | 7pm-8pm

Delve into the fascinating world of hazel dormice at this delightful online talk with conservationist Ruth Moss. Learn about their ecology and behaviour, as well as ways in which their population is monitored. Find out how you can help the elusive and endangered hazel dormouse, whose biggest threat is suitable habitat loss.

<https://www.thecrt.co.uk/Event/the-wonderful-world-of-hazel-dormice>



### Wildflower meadows - restoring biodiversity

Wednesday 6th March | 7pm-8pm

Discover how we can help restore biodiversity by using native wildflowers to create new meadows, at this compelling online talk, with national expert and CRT Chair, Sue Everett. From an area of your garden to a large field or farm, we can all make a difference and help reverse the impact of having lost so many wildflower meadows from Britain's countryside.

<https://www.thecrt.co.uk/Event/wildflower-meadows-restoring-biodiversity>

# Seasonal Food

Increasingly people are trying to eat more sustainably, In Britain we're lucky enough to grow some fantastic fruit and vegetables, but do you know what's in season over December to February?

## Vegetables to harvest or buy

### December

Apples  
Cranberries  
Pears  
  
Beetroot  
Brussels Sprouts  
Carrots  
Celery  
Chestnuts  
Chicory  
Jerusalem Artichokes Kale  
Leeks  
Mushrooms  
Onions  
Parsnips  
Potatoes  
Pumpkin  
Red Cabbage  
Swede  
Swiss Chard  
Turnips  
Watercress  
Winter Squash

### January

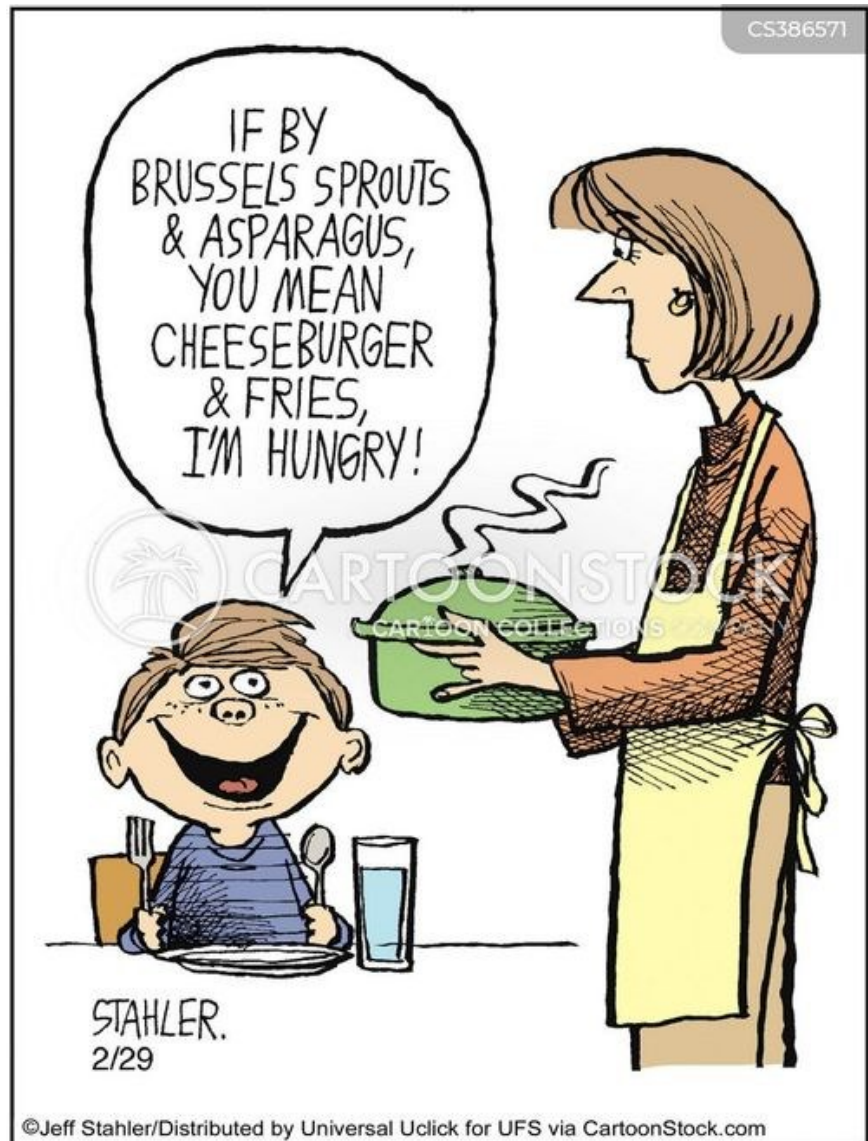
All of the above, with the exception of Cranberries, Chestnuts and Potatoes

*Now In Season:* Cabbage, Spring Greens, Spring Onions

### February:

Same as January, but Turnips no longer in season.

*Now In Season:* Purple Sprouting Broccoli





## Bedfordshire Cambridgeshire Northamptonshire

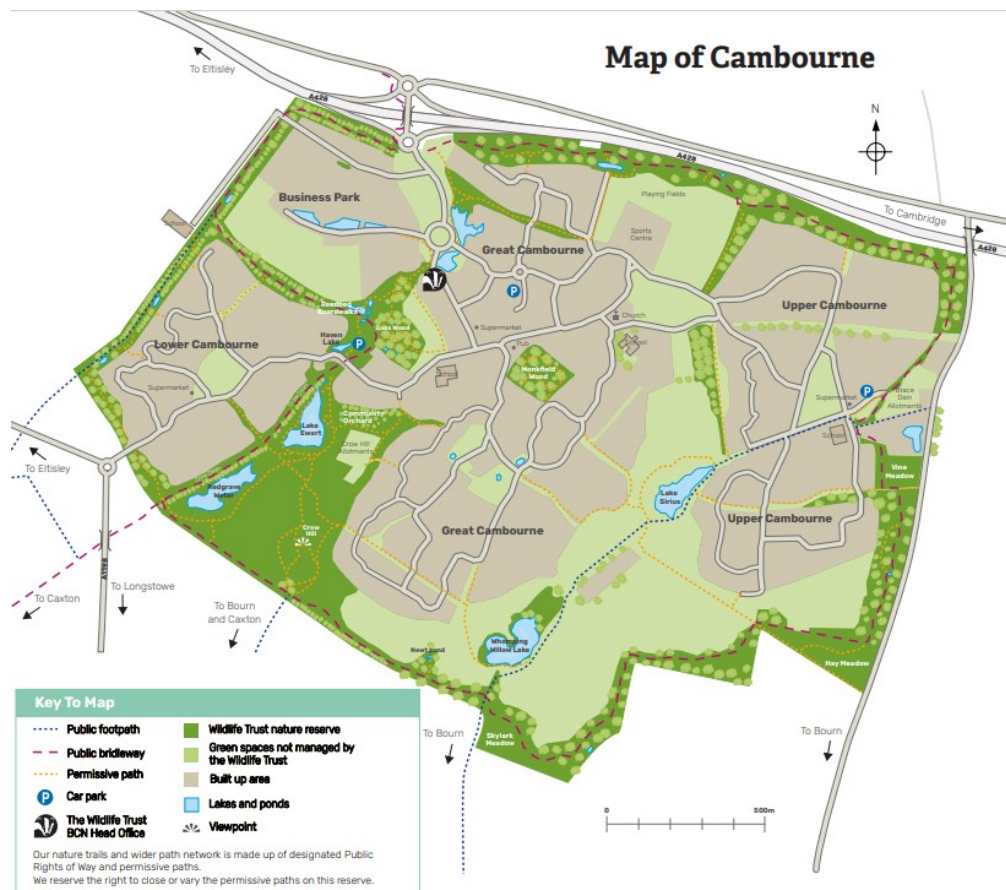
### Wildlife Trust BCN West Cambridgeshire Hundreds Update: Dec 2023

You may not think it, but something that seems innocuous, like a muddy path, is actually quite destructive. Most of the damage to our woodland reserves happens in winter when the paths are at their most vulnerable. Over time, due to wetter winters and higher visitor numbers, paths are getting wider, and plants like oxlip, bluebells and violets, that enjoy the sheltered but sunnier areas on the edges of paths, are retreating. Please do consider walking elsewhere when paths are muddy.

If you have not visited Cambourne Nature Reserve, there are lots of paths to explore and some are surfaced. You are welcome to contact me for a recommendation of a route. In the colder months, look out for the winter migrant birds like fieldfares and redwings which feed in large flocks on hedgerow berries, and invertebrates on farmland. They are common around Cambourne.

Over the winter period I plan most of my events and activities for all ages, for the following year. Please get in touch if you have any suggestions, or would like me to come and give a talk to your group, or attend your event.

If you are interested in volunteering, please get in touch. Hardwick Wood has a regular work part that undertakes essential habitat management over the winter.



Email: [rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org](mailto:rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org)  
Facebook/Twitter: @wildlifebcn

Facebook: @BeccaBadgerWTBCN  
Events: [www.wildlifebcn.org/events](http://www.wildlifebcn.org/events)

# VILLAGE DIRECTORY

Please help to keep this directory up to date. If you are aware that any information is incorrect or if your group is not represented, please inform the Editors: [Journal4Caldecote@gmail.com](mailto:Journal4Caldecote@gmail.com)

## **1st Caldecote Rainbows & Brownies**

Tuesdays @ the Pavilion (term time only)  
Emma Hall & Vicky Rees (Unit Leaders)  
[1stcaldecotebrownies@gmail.com](mailto:1stcaldecotebrownies@gmail.com)

## **Age UK Community Warden**

Kirsten Monk - 07812 495997

## **Catholic Church**

Melanie Ward - 212714  
[melanie@scotsdowne.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:melanie@scotsdowne.fsnet.co.uk)

## **Cambridge News**

Keep them informed of what's going on.  
News Desk - 01223 632251 or 632259  
[newsdesk@cambridge-news.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@cambridge-news.co.uk)

## **Caldecote Book Group**

Monthly meetings  
Hilary Spargo - 210112

## **Caldecote Community Primary School**

Head Teachers: Karen Stanton & Becky Snelling - 210263  
School Secretary: Lesley Whitehead -210263  
[office@caldecote.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@caldecote.cambs.sch.uk)  
[www.caldecoteprimaryschool.org.uk](http://www.caldecoteprimaryschool.org.uk)

## **Caldecote Facebook Group**

[www.facebook.com/groups/caldecote/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/caldecote/)  
Admin Email:  
[caldecotefacebookgroup@gmail.com](mailto:caldecotefacebookgroup@gmail.com)

## **Caldecote Journal**

All contributions welcome.  
Email: [Journal4Caldecote@gmail.com](mailto:Journal4Caldecote@gmail.com)

## **Caldecote PreSchool**

Meets Monday to Friday, from 8.00am - 5.30pm (with lunch from 12.00-1.00)  
Website:  
[caldecotepreschool1.wordpress.com](http://caldecotepreschool1.wordpress.com)  
Telephone: 01954 210841  
Manager: Steph Taylor:  
[caldecotepreschool@outlook.com](mailto:caldecotepreschool@outlook.com)

Admissions: Anesta Cooper

[admissions.caldecotepreschool@outlook.com](mailto:admissions.caldecotepreschool@outlook.com)

Trustee Chair: Jemma Hoban

[chair.caldecotepreschool@outlook.com](mailto:chair.caldecotepreschool@outlook.com)

Secretary: Helene Stewart

Treasurer: Farah Clark

Trustee: Louisa Joyce

## **Caldecote School Governors**

Please contact school directly if you have an issue you'd like to raise with the Governors.

Co-Chairs: Kate Duncombe and Pippa Smith

[Chair@caldecote.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:Chair@caldecote.cambs.sch.uk)

Clerk To Governor: Katie Tween

Vice Chair: Mary-Anne Claridge

Emma Hall

Vicky Miles

Joanna Skiba-Szymanska

Jay Surti

Shweta Tripathi

## **Cambourne Village College**

01954 284000

## **Care Clubs**

Nichola Church - 01954 212636

[careclubs@caldecote.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:careclubs@caldecote.cambs.sch.uk)

Caldecote Primary School

## **Comberton Village College**

01223 262503

## **Community Car Scheme**

Gill Stott 07464 069 483

Lizzie Coe 07387 395 296

Derek Evans 07464 052 521

Other helpful agencies to contact for help;

Panther Taxis - 01223 715715

Cambridge Country Cars - 01954 211742

Age UK - 0800 055 6112

Silverline - 0800 470 8090

Care Network - 01954 211919

**County Councillor**

Michael Atkins – 07968 264637  
matkinslibdem@gmail.com

**District Councillor**

Tumi Hawkins - 210840 or 07802 323269  
clir.hawkins@scambs.gov.uk &  
tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk  
Blog: www.TumiHawkins.org.uk  
Twitter: @CouncillorTumi  
FB page: @itsCouncillorTumi

**Doctors**

Bourn Surgery  
Emergencies - 01954 719313  
Appointments - 01954 719469  
Repeat Prescriptions  
Fax - 01954 718012

Comberton Surgery  
Appointments/Emergencies -  
01223 262500  
Repeat Prescriptions - 01223 262399

**Evangelical Church**

Rev. Kate Gaze - 01954 211900 /  
07484 866966  
minister.hechurch@gmail.com

**Hardwick and Caldecote Cricket Club**

Chris Fuller – 211226

**Local History Group**

Sue Day – 210655  
caldecoteLHG@aol.com

**Monday Crafternooners**

cb23.crafternooners@gmail.com  
Facebook: @cb23.crafternooners

**MP**

Anthony Browne – 020 7219 8089  
anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk

**Parish Council**

1st Thurs ea. month, 7pm @ The Pavilion  
Chair: Cllr Polly Anne Field - 212230  
Vice Chair: Cllr Helen Cartwright  
Cllr John Barker  
Cllr Nicola Pritchard  
Cllr Sharon Pedley  
Cllr Priya Nair

Cllr Mary-Ann Claridge

Clerk: Alan Melton - 07771 524093  
parishclerk@caldecote.gov.uk  
www.caldecote.gov.uk

**Petcare Circle**

Care for small pets while owners away.  
New members welcome  
Sarah Bell - 210892  
sbell2008@btinternet.com

**Police**

Cambourne Police Station, Sackville Way,  
Great Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6EG.  
Call 101.  
cambourne.npt@cambs.pnn.police.uk  
In case of emergency, phone 999

**Crimestoppers**

Call in confidence, you do not have to give  
your name. 0800 555 111

**Pre-School Music Group**

Tuesday 9.15am  
Friday 9.15 to 9.45am in the Village Hall  
Deborah Speed - 01954 211438

**PTA**

Parents are welcome to come along to all  
PTA meetings.  
Chair: Rachael Goad  
Secretary: Katy Reeves  
Treasurer: Jo Place  
Caldecoteschoolpta@gmail.com

**Social Club**

Chair: Russell Beresford  
Secretary: Claire Dowse  
Treasurer: Simon Waters  
Club - 210791  
caldecotesocialclub@gmail.com

**South Cambs District Council**

www.scambs.gov.uk  
Road Repair – 03450 455212  
Street Light Failure – 0800 253529

**Sports and Social Pavilion**

Available for hire.  
Bookings: Helen Cartwright  
Enquiries:  
pavilionbookings@caldecote.gov.uk

**St Michael and All Angels Church,**  
**Caldecote with Childerley,**  
one of the Lordsbridge team parishes  
[www.caldecotechurch.org.uk](http://www.caldecotechurch.org.uk)

#### **Vicar**

Rev. Clare Coates - 07818 618795  
[revdclare.coates@gmail.com](mailto:revdclare.coates@gmail.com)  
Churchwarden:  
[www.caldecotechurch.org.uk](http://www.caldecotechurch.org.uk)

#### **Vets**

Ashcroft, Hardwick – 210250

#### **Village Hall**

Chair: Tom Footman - 210318  
Company Secretary: Saskia Dart  
Treasurer: Saskia Dart - 210526  
Bookings: Simon Gautrey  
[caldecotevillagehallbookings@btinternet.com](mailto:caldecotevillagehallbookings@btinternet.com)  
Jan Roberts  
Michael Johnson  
Simon Gautrey  
David Phillips

#### **WI**

Meets every third Tuesday of the month.  
New members welcome.  
President: Hazel Steel - 01763 269955  
Secretary: Lynda Gilchrist – 211448

#### **Mobile Library – Route C11**

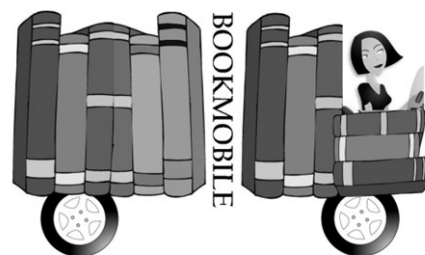
Nr 117 Highfields Road, Caldecote Highfields  
The 2nd Thursday of the month, 2:30 pm - 3:00 pm  
Caldecote Primary School  
The 2nd Thursday of the month, 3:15  
pm - 4:00 pm

#### **Village Defibrillators**

In the wall by the shops,  
Furlong Way. CB23 7ZH

&

One at the Pavilion



# Happy Holidays!

