

**Dear All,**

In May 2007 I went to an exhibition of sculptures by the artist Anthony Gormley. The Angel of the North is one of Gormley's more famous works. There was one piece in the exhibition called Event Horizon that I found particularly absorbing.

Event Horizon consisted of 31 life-size casts of the artist's body that were placed around the rooftops and streets of London. These figures were viewed from the terrace of the gallery, some close at hand and others mere specks in the distance.

When Gormley was interviewed about this piece, he said, 'In encountering these presences and absences, we are asked not to be passive onlookers, but to become part of the work.' I realised as I looked around me that I was in the artwork, that the story was not only unfolding around me, it including me. I was as much a part of the artwork as the iron casts.

As we move through the season of Advent and Christmas we will hear the story of Christ's birth – a story that we might feel we know and are well versed in; a story that we can happily view from the outside as onlookers, interested but not part of the story, not part of the work.

The Christmas story celebrates the birth of Jesus, the Son of God – the point in history when God took on human form and entered our story. We remember when God became part of the work.

This Christmas and into the new year may we encounter God afresh in the story of Christ's birth and reflect upon his invitation to be part of the work.

Peace this Advent

*Revd Corin Redsell*

*Priest-in-charge, St Peter's Church & Curate, Lordsbridge team of churches*

## **Church News**

If any ex-parishioner would like to receive, or continue to receive, a copy of the Parish Magazine please send 10 postage stamps and address to Mrs Anne Coulson, 16, Roman Hill, Barton Cambridge. CB23 7AX

### **From the Church Registers**

**Marriage - 21<sup>st</sup> September:** Emma Louise Christmas & Toby William Rickett  
**Barton Baptist Church**

Thank you to everyone who took the opportunity to look round our refurbished premises on October 26<sup>th</sup>. If you missed it why not join us for a tea and chat. These are on Tuesday afternoons: December 10<sup>th</sup>, January 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> between 2.30pm and 4pm. Just drop in.

Once again the Advent Bible Studies are underway, the dates for December are Wednesdays 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. This year we are studying material prepared by the Parish Church entitled Call of the Kingdom.

Our Carol Service is on the Morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup> December and we will join with St Peter's for a Christmas Day Service at 10am. On 5<sup>th</sup> January we will again be joining with St Peter's for an Epiphany Carol Service.

*Brian West*

### **Barton Christian Fellowship – Carol Service – 3pm, 11<sup>th</sup> December**

Everyone is invited to our Carol Service in the Village Hall. It starts at 3pm (with Carols from the children of the School, we hope). The speaker will be Rev Corin Redsell and the offering will be for St Peter's Organ Fund. We finish by sharing a Christmas Tea.

In January we meet at 2.30pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> when we have an illustrated talk from Colin Osbourne of the Leprosy Mission.

*Mary West*

## **Parish Jottings**

### **Parking on Footways**

Please encourage any visitors by car to park on the roadway because parking on the pavement is both illegal and causes difficulty for those getting around the village on foot.

### **Dog pool!**

Please, dog owners, clear up when your dogs leave a mess. It is so unpleasant for others who encounter this nuisance. Current areas of concern are The Leys and Wimpole Road at Lords Bridge.

### **The Leys Project**

The field parking aspect of our application for funds has passed the first stage. However, final approval can only follow a detailed submission and

will not be known until mid-December. By this time we should also know the outcome of funding for the path element of the project.

***Tree stump at the village pond***

There was a lively discussion at the start of the Parish Council meeting about a possible tree sculpture. Views for and against were aired.

The Chair and Clerk had agreed to halt the process of removing the tree completely to allow time to discuss its future. Adrian Koe, who suggested the idea of a carved stump, has said that many villagers he had approached were most enthusiastic about a carving and he has already received pledges of money. However, some members of the public who attended the Council meeting were strongly opposed to the idea. They felt that it was inappropriate for such a beautiful and important location. They wish to see the stump removed completely, and a new tree planted, although a tree or trees could be planted regardless of what happens to the stump. Adrian Koe said that he had more people writing in support than against.

Councillors are undecided on the issue, so no decision has yet been taken. Adrian was thanked for the considerable work that he has done. The Chairman explained that any proposals would be discussed sensibly; opinion would be canvassed more generally via the Parish Council and advice taken on the practicality, the possible lifetime of the carving and the cost of producing a carved bird or figure.

***Barton-Grantchester Cycleway: a path for all seasons.***

Detailed proposals have been put forward to the Parish Council and others for improving the cross-country path between Barton and Grantchester, particularly the 650 metres on the Barton side of the motorway bridge.

The key aim is to make cycling on that route much easier in all seasons. This is by constructing a firm-based path, with a smooth, fine granular surface and of a consistent 2 metre width: however, there is concern this may appear too urban and be costly. The Parish Council is trying to be representative of all users, including walkers and equestrians, as well as achieving a path which is fit for purpose by cyclists using that route to Addenbrookes and South Cambridge, or simply between Grantchester and Barton. Users of the route are encouraged to contact the Clerk with their views, as it is necessary to support any application for grants to meet the cost of the works.

***County Councillor Report:***

At the last meeting Stephen Frost told us that the County Council, in particular its depot at Whittlesford, has geared up for gritting and winter maintenance operations with 10,000 tonnes of salt stockpiled. He was pleased to report that the refurbished Central Library has celebrated its

fourth birthday; in that time almost two million items have been loaned out and there have been over 400,000 hours of PC use. The County was encouraging healthier living through the promotion of pedestrian and scooter training in local schools. He reminded us of an advertising scam about a bogus County business directory. He also mentioned that eventual improvements to Broadband can be checked on [www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk) .

***The Quarter to Six Quadrant:***

Francis Burkitt has continued to be involved at meeting on 14 Oct to maintain liaison among the four villages of Barton, Coton, Grantchester and Madingley. Our Barton representatives have joined him in looking at future areas of collaboration.

***Did we get it right? – The Cambridgeshire Health & Well-being Board***

The Board has been reviewing local pharmaceutical services – services that help you get and use medicines or medical equipment safely. Our views about these services are written up in the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment. We want to know if you agree with what we have written.

We are asking for your feedback during 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013 – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014. You can give us your thoughts by completing a questionnaire, either at your local pharmacy, dispensing doctor surgery, or online at [www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/JSNA/PNA](http://www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/JSNA/PNA)

***Stay independent, safe and well this winter***

If you or someone you care for needs advice about keeping independent, safe and well this winter, the County Council's adult social care websites Your Life, Your Choice [www.yourlifeyourchoice.org.uk](http://www.yourlifeyourchoice.org.uk) and AskSARA online advice and equipment guide [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/asksara](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/asksara) provide information about keeping warm, preventing falls and the help that may be available to older and vulnerable people if they are unable to get out and about. If you are unable to access the Internet staff and volunteers in the library can help you to find the information you need or you can contact adult social care customer services on 0345 045 5202.

***You can now 'AskSARA' about daily living advice for disabled children too!***

Since it launched in February last year, AskSARA Cambridgeshire's online guide to advice and equipment has been visited by nearly 4,500 people looking for information and advice to enable them, or someone they care for, to remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

After the success of AskSARA for adults, a children's version has recently been launched. AskSARA for children is a quick online guide for finding information about products and services to help children with daily activities

in the home and when they are out and about. Information and advice about funding, equipment and carer support is also provided. To visit the children's site, use the link at the top of the web page at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/asksara](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/asksara)

**Adult social care needs YOU! Homecare workers required**

More older and vulnerable people are requiring homecare to ensure they feel safe, happy and independent. To achieve this, the County Council is recruiting compassionate and caring people to start a career in care through a unique apprenticeship programme that enables them to 'earn while they learn' by supporting them to get a job with a local homecare provider whilst being paid the standard rate of a care worker.

If you want to make a positive difference to people's lives and would be interested in a career in care, contact Emma Laskey-MacRae, Apprenticeship Project Coordinator on 07917 615360,

[Emma.Laskey@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Emma.Laskey@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) Your age and background doesn't matter, if you are looking for a career in care somewhere in your community there's a job you can do to help others.

**Notice board and website**

Official notices and full minutes of meetings can be seen on the notice board outside Conkers or on our website. <http://www.barton-cambs.org.uk>

**Next Council meetings:** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 7.30pm in the Village Hall

*Patrick De Backer 07771 923710 bartonpcclerk@btinternet.com*

**Village News**

**Thank You**

I would like to thank everyone for their lovely cards and kind messages of congratulations which I received on the occasion of my 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

Thank you also to Patrick De Backer for his wonderful tribute which appeared in the November magazine.

*Fred Thompson*

**The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Collection**

Very many thanks to all who gave so generously to the 2013 Poppy Appeal. The Barton Village Collection from the Collecting Tins amounted to £967.68 The amount collected with the Gift Aid envelopes was £248.89

In addition we had some Permanent Collection Tins in businesses around the village throughout the year, and the amount collected in these was £47.94

The total collected for this year's Royal British Legion Appeal is £1,264.51

Once again thank you for your strong support for such a worthwhile cause.

To all our door-to-door collectors, the owners of establishments who gave up much-needed counter space to the static boxes, and the valiant band who counted the collection – a very big *Thank You* for your kindness, generosity, help and support.

*Roger Clemo*

**Barton Lunch Club** Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December and 3<sup>rd</sup> January 12.30 for 1pm in the village hall. For reservations/cancellations/offers of help etc. please contact Anne Coulson. C-262666.

***Healing Hearts Appeal – Auction of Promises***

Thank you very much to everyone who supported our Auction of Promises in aid of Addenbrooke's Healing Hearts Appeal. We have been overwhelmed by Barton residents' generosity, both from those who were able to attend the event, and others who either donated promises and/or money! A special thanks must go to our next-door neighbour, Millie Welsh, who decided to do a sponsored silence and raised £170! Thank you too to Barton School for allowing us to use the Hall and for donating a hamper to be auctioned, to Barton Playgroup for helping with so much printing, to Barton Gardeners, Barton Bowls Club, Barton Hair and Beauty, Wallis and Sons, Cozzi & Boffa and Dragonfly Spa for their promises, to The Larder and Leech's & Sons for their raffle prize, to Tim Deer at The White Horse, to Richard Sockett at Conkers, and of course to JezO himself for squeezing us into his incredibly hectic schedule and for making the evening so much fun!! We have raised an amazing **£4,112.65!!** Thank you all!

*Wendy, Gareth, Thomas and Charlie Guest*

***Singles Supper – New Year***

I have booked The White Horse for the next Singles Supper on 3<sup>rd</sup> January for a New Year's celebration. Please let me know if you wish to be there & I will give you more details nearer the time. Barbara C-262692 or barbaratomes@aol.com

***Tea At Three – February***

Come and enjoy Tea at Three in early 2014 to start the year in style! It will be held on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> February, in Barton Village Hall. Booking in advance essential. To reserve your place, please contact one of us: Margaret (262353), Ruth (262985), Alison (264985), Marjorie (262592). £11 per head. Any profit will go to a Cancer charity.

*Margaret Winterbourne*

***Neighbourhood Watch***

Crime levels are remaining higher than normal, but burglaries are thankfully still down. Thefts from cars and from buildings remain the major issue in

Barton and surrounding villages.

There have been a number of suspicious callers operating in the village. Thank you to those people who reported them to me. One suspect even asked if any jewellery was kept in the house, as he claimed to be buying jewellery for cash. The police have been treating these reports very seriously and coming to Barton to check, to ensure that they are not known criminals.

Please use the non-emergency 101 telephone number if see anyone acting suspiciously. The police will not be upset with you if it turns out to be a false alarm – better safe than sorry. Only use 999 for serious crime, or if a crime is currently in progress.

*Keep safe, Bev Edwards*

### **Barton Playgroup**

The children will be celebrating Christmas by making decorations for home and Playgroup, and learning about the Christmas story.



On the last day of term there will be a party for the children and their siblings with a visit from Santa (if they're good - ho, ho, ho!) The children will then perform the highlight of the year, their annual Christmas play, to parents, with proceeds going to Addenbrooke's Healing Hearts Appeal.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at Playgroup!

For more information about Barton Playgroup or if you would like to see the fun things the children get up to, please have a look on our website [www.bartonplaygroup.co.uk](http://www.bartonplaygroup.co.uk)

*Wendy Guest*

### **Barton WI**

Our November meeting was a great beginning to the Christmas Season. Vic Botterill, a former police inspector, gave us a very entertaining presentation entitled *A Christmas Cracker*. It included amusing stories, myths and legends, and miracles associated with Christmas. We learned about the origin of Father Christmas and the Christmas Tree, and the legends of the Christmas spider and mistletoe.

*Holly Dubocq*

### **Barton Friendship Club**

First of all we extend our thoughts and sympathies to Bryan Rule and Family at the loss of Wendy who was a Member of our Group.

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December the Christmas Lunch will be held in the Village

Hall at 12.30pm for Members, and entertainment will be given by Kate who goes under the name of *Beatrix Songs*. There will be NO Meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> December.

Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2014!

The first Meeting in January 2014 will be held on the Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>, when we will be holding a Games afternoon of Hoy and Beetle Drive.

Members £2; non-members £2.50 (includes tea/coffee/biscuits).

**New Members most welcome.**

*Roma Patman-Wallis*

**The Barton Gardeners Mince Pie & Coffee Morning**

*Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December - 10am to Noon - Village Hall*

Come and enjoy a seasonal get-together and browse the exciting assortment of stalls, plus a Great Raffle heaving with prizes

*Everyone is welcome to join us. Free entry*

*Sue Edwards*

**Wednesday Women WI**

November's meeting was another fun crafty evening as our very own member Grace Howell-Walker showed us how to create beautiful flower buttonholes.

December's WI meeting is our Christmas Party! To celebrate the WI *Save the High Street* campaign we are meeting at Cozzi & Boffa Wines, Burwash Manor on the 18<sup>th</sup> for an evening of cheese and wine, lead by the proprietor himself. You'll pick up some interesting tips and definitely enjoy some wonderful samples! All members are welcome; if you'd like to bring a guest please do just check in advance as we may need to limit numbers due to space. As always WWWI members are free but guests incur a fee! Email [wednesdaywomenwi@live.com](mailto:wednesdaywomenwi@live.com) for more information or call Claire on 07921166102.

January's meeting will hopefully set us up for a healthy New Year as speaker Vivien Honeybourne-Martins looks at *Feet – what can be cured and what must be endured* with some (optional!) audience participation!

WWWI members free, guests £4. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 6.30pm in The White Horse Pub, Barton. **Please note December's meeting will be at Cozzi & Boffa wines at Burwash Manor starting at 6.30pm as usual.**

*Elise Fielder*

**The Grantchester Boxing Day Barrel Race**

\*\*\* roll up, roll up \*\*\*

**12noon on Boxing Day, 26 December**  
**Start & finish by the *Rupert Brooke Pub***

Join 80 rollers and over 1,000 spectators to watch this traditional and slightly-mad sport and support Barton as they challenge Coton, Grantchester and Madingley for The QTSQ Cup! Barton won The Cup last year (as it has for quite some years!) – but can it retain it this year?!

*Francis Burkitt*

***Antiquarian Society – Comberton Village Hall, Green End – 8pm, 28<sup>th</sup> January***

*Toft School by Ann Mitchell*

***Comberton Sport and Art Centre – December Events***

**4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Odyssey** Doors 2&7pm £6&7, Cons £4&5

An epic musical epic based on Homer's classic [www.combertonsa.org](http://www.combertonsa.org)

**7<sup>th</sup> Comberton Village College Christmas Bazaar** 11am - 2pm.

If you would like to run a stall then you can complete an online form or download a booking form from our website

(<http://www.combertonvc.org/christmassbazaar>) or collect one from the college reception. Stalls cost £12 and are allocated on a strictly first-come, first served basis.

Corporate or personal donations of confectionary, cakes, mince pies, Christmas puddings, bottles, produce, toiletries, books or raffle prizes are, as always, extremely welcome. Please could they be left at the school reception from 22<sup>nd</sup> November for the attention of Sean Sycamore.

**10<sup>th</sup> CVC Music Concert** Doors 7pm £6/£4 cons

Music concert with carols and readings [www.combertonvc.org/](http://www.combertonvc.org/)

**13<sup>th</sup> Custard Comedy** Doors 7:45pm £10 adv / £12 Door

Three comics and a compere tbc [www.combertonsa.org](http://www.combertonsa.org)

**22<sup>nd</sup> Icen Boxing** Doors 7pm Icen ABC Hardwick - amateur boxing tournament [www.iceniabc.co.uk/](http://www.iceniabc.co.uk/)

***January Events***

**10<sup>th</sup> Custard Comedy** Doors 7:45pm £10 adv / £12 Door

Three comics and a compere tbc [www.combertonsa.org](http://www.combertonsa.org)

***Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust's First Rudolph Run – 1<sup>st</sup> December***

The 5km fun run around the Hospital site starts at 10.30am and is open to all – walkers, fun-runners or serious runners. There is also a 3km route for children, infants in pushchairs and those with limited mobility. Sprint, jog, speed walk, skip, hop or trot – however you complete it, just have fun while

raising money for a very special cause!

Registration at 10am. Fee is £10 for adults; suggested minimum sponsorship £100; £5 under-16s, suggested minimum sponsorship £50.

[www.act4addenbrookes.org.uk/rudolphrun](http://www.act4addenbrookes.org.uk/rudolphrun)

C-349805

***Countryside Restoration Trust – Christmas Reindeer Event***

3<sup>rd</sup> December, 6pm - 8pm Scotsdales Garden Centre, Gt. Shelford, CB22 5JT

Christmas shopping event with the unique Cairngorm reindeer, Father Christmas, music and entertainment. FREE admission.

[www.CountrysideRestorationTrust.com](http://www.CountrysideRestorationTrust.com)

C-262999

***The QUEST SINGERS are looking for new members.***

Enjoy singing? Would you like to sing with others? If the answer is “YES!” to either of these questions, then come along to the **QUEST SINGERS**, where together we can have a great time, sing some music, and make new friends too! Even if you’ve never sung in a group before, this is the ideal place for you. No ability to read music needed, and no audition required.

Rehearsals take place on Wednesday evenings during term time at

**St James Church, Wulfstan Way, 7.30pm – 9.30pm.**

Interested? Call **John** on **07969 884326**

***Community Lifeline Service by SCDC***

This is the push-button alarm fob worn round the neck to provide help when you most need it. Costs are £20 for installation by experienced local staff and £4.26 a week rental (prices valid until March 2014).

Lifeline on [scams.gov.uk](http://scams.gov.uk)

0345 450 500

***NHS – Choose Well this Winter Campaign***

Please make the most of services offered locally by your GP and NHS and help to relieve the strain on A&E – remember, if somebody is unwell, it is often best to call first for advice.

For instance, **pharmacies** can help with bugs and viruses, skin conditions, allergies, pregnancy testing; **GPs** can help with back ache, ear aches, painful coughs, mental health conditions and any illness or injury that won’t go away. Cambridgeshire has an out of hours GP service that can be accessed via your GP, so have the number handy.

Our nearest **Walk-In Centre** is at the Addenbrooke’s site on Robinson Way.

It can deal with minor burns and scalds, bites and stings, strains and sprains and minor eye or ear problems. It is open 24 hours.

Be sure to stock up your medicine cupboard so you can deal with the day-to-day coughs, colds, bumps, bruises – and headaches – over Christmas.

### ***NHS 111 Non-emergency Service – Important Information***

If you need medical assistance or advice urgently, a call to 111 will get you through to a team of fully trained call advisers, who are supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. They will ask questions to assess your symptoms, and give you the healthcare advice you need or direct you to the right local service.

The NHS 111 team will, where possible, book you an appointment or transfer you directly to the people you need to speak to. If they think you need an ambulance, they will send one immediately – just as if you had originally dialled 999.

For immediate, life-threatening emergencies, you should continue to call 999. It is likely that the 0845 46 47 NHS Direct number will be closed down in the near future subject to approval from NHS England.

### ***Healthwatch Cambridgeshire; your Champion for health & social care.***

Healthwatch Cambridgeshire launched in July 2013 and works to ensure that people’s voices are heard in making important decisions about local NHS, social care and public health services.

We make sure we feed this information back where it matters to the people buying, providing and regulating local care services.

- **Tell us about your health & social care experiences** – the good and not so good, as this feedback can help improve care for everyone.
- **Join our Consultation Network**, which will connect you with organisations that should know about your experiences and opinions of care in Cambridgeshire.
- **Get problems resolved...** We can make sure you know where to go if you need to sort out a problem with a local care provider. We can give you information about how different complaints systems work and who can help you get your complaint resolved.
- **Find out about local care.** We are developing a Signposting & Information Service, to help you find out about your choice of health & social care services.

[enquiries@healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk)

[www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk)

01480 420628

## **Cambridge Fire & Rescue Service Bulletin**

IT is the time of year when we're enjoying a tipples with friends, cooking heaps of delicious food and decking the halls.

The fire service has these messages to make sure your festive cheer doesn't go up in smoke:

- Kitchens are a fire hotspot, so take care while cooking your Christmas dinner. Never leave cooking unattended and turn off appliances when not in use.
- Switch off fairy lights and unplug them before you go to bed or leave the house. Make sure they conform to the British Standard and never overload plug sockets.
- Be careful when drinking alcohol while smoking or cooking.
- Finally, make sure you have a working smoke alarm which is correctly fitted and works. And NEVER take the batteries out to power presents!

To find out if you are eligible for a free home fire safety check, call

0800 917 99 94

[www.facebook.com/cambsfrs](http://www.facebook.com/cambsfrs)

@cambsfrs

**Cambridgeshire Future Transport (CFT)** is a programme that is working with communities to design local transport solutions.

The solutions could include reviewing the bus routes & times, community bus schemes, car sharing schemes, etc.

We will soon be coming to your area to hear from you, because a subsidised bus service runs through or near your parish.

### ***What can you tell us?***

- how you travel e.g. by public bus, dial-a-ride, etc
- what kind of transport solutions we can develop together that best suit the local community needs

Please keep an eye out for when we will be in your area during Dec / Jan.

We will let you know using posters & flyers in key community locations, parish websites, our CFT website, and [shapeyourplace.org](http://shapeyourplace.org).

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

[cft@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cft@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

0345 045 0675

### ***Foster Carers Needed – Cambridgeshire County Council needs your help***

Every year in Cambridgeshire more than 425 children and young people find themselves unable live with their own family. If you can offer stability,

security and the positive experience of a loving family, we urge you to get in touch, as we have a shortage of Foster Carers which means that some children have to be placed outside the county or in children's homes.

Every child is different, so we need Foster Carers from all different kinds of backgrounds. It may be that you have your own children or you may have worked with children before. You may have no experience of children or are possibly retired or considering a career change?

We offer generous allowances including a start-up package, 24 hr support and full training.

[fanda@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:fanda@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Freephone 0800 052 0078

### ***Advice from Trading Standards – Buying a secondhand car?***

At Trading Standards, the most frequent type of consumer complaint we receive relates to the purchase of secondhand cars.

#### ***Check before you buy***

- Check the validity of the MOT on VOSA's website ([www.gov.uk/check-mot-status](http://www.gov.uk/check-mot-status)) and check the car's details are correct on the MOT certificate. If it states there were advisory points, make sure you see the details so that you know what work is likely to be needed before the next MOT.
- Check the VOSA website to check the vehicle has not been recalled.
- Check its service history. How often has it been serviced, and has it been serviced in line with the manufacturer's recommendations?
- Carry out an HPI ([www.hpi.co.uk](http://www.hpi.co.uk)) check to make sure there is no outstanding finance on the car that could lead to it being repossessed by the finance company. An HPI check will also tell you if the car has been written off or if it is stolen.
- In terms of physically checking the car, carry out a walk around check and test drive the car. If you are not mechanically minded we would also strongly recommend you have the car checked by an engineer.

#### ***Your rights against the seller***

If you buy from a private seller, the car must be 'as described' but other than that, it is up to you to find fault with it: your rights are limited if you find a fault with the car after buying it.

If you buy from a trader, again they must have title to the car and it must be 'as described' but in addition it must be of satisfactory quality, taking into account its age, mileage, condition etc. Where a fault occurs which is not due to wear and tear that might reasonably be expected due to the stated age and condition of the car, you may be able to seek a repair by the trader. instance.

These rights are in addition to any rights you may have under a warranty. If you need advice on any of the above, or any other consumer issue, please contact Trading Standard's advice partner, the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline:

[www.adviceguide.org.uk/consumer](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk/consumer)  
0845 4040506

***Plagued by nuisance calls? Trading Standards offers advice***

Firstly, register with the Telephone Preference Service. The service is free and can reduce the number of unsolicited marketing calls you receive from UK companies.

[www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk)  
08450 700707

Secondly, speak to your telephone service provider to ask what call blocking technology is available, particularly for overseas calls. There may be a charge involved for such a device.

Thirdly, if you need to give your phone number to a business, make sure you opt out of receiving promotional information from them and third parties by ticking the relevant box on their website or clearly stating this if you are dealing with them on the telephone.

Fourthly, become ex-directory as some businesses use directories to compile marketing call lists.

Never divulge personal details such as your bank details to a cold caller, regardless of who they claim to be (Police, your bank etc) and never agree to any loans or credit over the phone.

***Dealing with cold callers***

Tell the caller you are not interested and ask them not to contact you again. If they ignore your request, report them to the Information Commissioner (ICO). You can also report automated pre-recorded calls to ICO. If possible make a note of the business name, the number they called from, the date and time they called and what they were trying to 'sell' eg. PPI, accident claim, credit. You should also make the ICO aware of any distress, damage or loss you suffered as a result of these calls.

[www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)  
0303 1231113

If you need advice on anything you have bought or agreed to as a result of such a cold call, contact our advice partner, the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline, on 0845 4040506.