



Toft Village Calendar

Produced and Distributed by St. Andrew's Parish Church

April 2021



DIARY DATES

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING



sadly still on the not yet list! When we do get back to having monthly coffee mornings, which will be fantastic, we will be looking for a new Coffee morning organiser. Not onerous – just asking for volunteers for each month and ensuring the venue is in the Calendar for that month. Arpi Johnson has run this rota for many years and would now like to hand it on to a 'keen' volunteer.

TOFT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

[Over 50s Club]. Still no meetings at present.

Sewing, Knit and Natter is still unable to meet.

The Parish Council - The the next PC meeting is at 7.00 pm on 12th April 2021 via Zoom. Details will be on the Village web site at least 3 days before the event.

New time for the **Internet Club** Zoom meetings.

We will meet on 5th and 19th April at **4pm**.

Do log in and join us if you can for a chat and any IT advice.

katherine@jameskj.plus.co
m and
jane@tebbitdesign.co.uk

EDITORIAL

"We were here." I said, moving the salt cellar a few inches across the table. The mess had put on a damn fine meal, all things considered, the port had circulated and the talk had turned, as it so often does, to campaigns past. "Over here, far side of the Channel," I continued, seizing a pepper mill, "was the enemy. Of course, we didn't have a clue to his true identity then, so we just called it 'Chinese-flu'. The official name - 'The Virus' - didn't come in to general use until later on. Gad, it was ages back, but I remember it as if it were yesterday." A suspicion of a tear formed in my rheumy old campaigner's eye but was quickly blinked away. Some of the younger element put their phones down for a split-second in disbelief. "What did you do?" they chorused. I settled in my chair. "I was in an outfit called 1/3 Cambridgeshire Heavy Anchorites." I explained. "We'd been formed earlier that year by a prescient government - this was before we became part of 7 Armoured PPE, of course, that was much later. The enemy gradually overcame resistance in mainland Europe, country after country toppling into the abyss with lightning speed. Soon, there was nothing between us and it but La Manche. Back then, we called this 'The Phoney Epidemic' - we were on permanent alert, but all the action seemed to be elsewhere."

The company considered this for a moment. "But - what did you actually do?" they demanded, with the impatience of youth. "Ah." I said. "Do? Well, that's the thing, you see. Our job - and it seems easy now, but it was anything but at the time, believe you me - was to do absolutely nothing. We lay low, each of us confined to his or her house. We didn't move, speak to anyone or open the front door from one week to the next. God, it was Hell. As far as Johnny Virus was concerned, it was a sort of scorched earth policy. He sought us here, he sought us there, that virus sought us everywhere, but, mostly, drew a blank." My audience considered this and then, for one especially percipient member, the scales dropped. "I see!" he exclaimed, "So, your job was to -" "- eat crisps and watch repeats of Inspector Morse?" I volunteered. "- precisely. But it wasn't plain-sailing. We were under strict orders not to yield our ground or shift our position under any circumstances and never, ever, to break cover, whatever the reason. You couldn't even pop down the road to see your barber at one stage. Luckily, we had an nigh-on impregnable position. To our left, The Beds And Bucks Hermits, whilst our right flank was covered by The Suffolks - The Old Reclusives, as posterity now knows them."

As I spoke, I could see one or two of them beginning to look at the old pink, lilac, green, white, blue, yellow, brown, turquoise, indigo and orange ribbon of the Pandemic Star on my left breast in a new, respectful, light. "In the end, of course, it turned out not so bad for our side." I told them. "Whilst we held the line, turns out our boffins had been working on a secret wonder-weapon. I still remember the Brigadier calling a meeting to tell us about it. He pulled himself up to his full height - or, at least, I think he did, you couldn't really tell on Zoom - and broke the news: The Jab had arrived. Pretty soon, The Virus would be toast and we'd be celebrating a great victory. He had a way with words, did the Brig. How did he put it, again? Oh yes, I remember: Now, this is not the end, he said. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

A better way from Cambourne to Cambridge?

Cambridge Past, Present & Future and other community groups have been campaigning for several years for public transport improvements between Cambourne and Cambridge that will vastly improve travel and respect the sensitive environment and local communities. They have just published a report demonstrating that this is possible and are urging the authorities to get on with it, instead of pursuing a very environmentally damaging scheme which has little public support. You can read their full report at: <https://www.cambridgeppf.org/blog/a-better-way-cambourne-cambridge>

Thank you

I'm sure I'm not alone in being delighted with the beautiful posy of spring flowers that was delivered to my door for Mothering Sunday.

Someone had taken a great deal of trouble to arrange the selection of pretty and fragrant blooms, which lasted for days, and have given much pleasure. On behalf of all of us recipients, I'd like to offer a grateful thank you to all those who were involved in creating and delivering them around the village.

- Katherine James

MINISTRY TEAM**THE CHURCH IN TOFT**

St. Andrew's Parish Church

Team Vicar:

Rev David Newton 01223 665654

Lay Minister: Barbara Preece Tel: 263466

Churchwardens:

Ann Mitchell 262516

John Quenby 263949

Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Alison Walker

01223 872862

alison.walker@methodist.org.uk

Stewards:

Diana Tebbit 01223 263557

Stephen Acklam 264055

Mrs Pat Morton 264010

The Church in Toft

Public worship resumed at St. Andrew's, all being well, on Palm Sunday 28th March with an 8.30 BCP and an 11.00am Holy Communion outside service.

SERVICES OF WORSHIP All services remain at St. Andrew's until Sunday 6th June

1st April MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.00pm OUTSIDE – St. Mary's Comberton, Holy Communion - Revd David Newton

2nd April GOOD FRIDAY

11.00 am OUTSIDE Easter Trail* in the churchyard, for all ages - Rev David Newton

2.00 pm An hour of prayer and meditation with pictures and music entitled *My Song is Love Unknown* - Revd Tricia Troughton

4th April EASTER SUNDAY

6.20 am Service of Light around a fire on the drift at the top of Miller's Road, led by Rev David Newton

8.30am Holy Communion - Rev Prof Michael Reiss

11.00 am OUTSIDE Family friendly Holy Communion at St Andrew's

Revd David Newton - there will be an Easter egg hunt

11th April 11.00am Morning Worship – Rev Robert Dolman

18th April 8.30am Holy Communion - Rev Prof Michael Reiss

11.00am Morning Worship – Mrs Cathy Michell followed by the

Annual Parochial Church Council and Election of Churchwardens

25th April 11.00am Holy communion – Rev David Newton

*The Easter Trail at 11.00am service on Good Friday is an interactive service, moving round the churchyard acting out the events of Good Friday. It explains to children the significance of the first Good Friday leading up to Easter Sunday – we welcome all families – please come and join us.

For the services OUTSIDE please wrap up well. Chairs will be provided, but if you prefer your own, feel free to bring them with you.

Morning prayer on Wednesdays at 9.15am. This is available on email . Also on Wednesday evenings at 8.00pm, via zoom a service of compline: ID: 899 215 191 or follow the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/899215191>

Zoom services will continue at 11.00am every Sunday:

THE MEETING ID: 898 7070 2475 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89870702475>. There is also online audio available.

St Andrew's is open every day if you just want to drop in. For the present the Methodist Church will remain closed.

Dear Friends

I read an article about street parties in Israel recently. Restaurants were heaving and many people were giddy; glasses were raised to 'Pfizer'. All this is in a nation that has spent more time in lockdown over the last year than any other.

Honestly, it gave me hope – that we (as in humans) do not easily forget how to be with people, how to celebrate, how to accept the normal risks of everyday existence and embrace life.

At some point – too fast? too slow? I don't know – such scenes, as well as the many more cosy scenes of life lived with others will return here too.

Yet it is worth pausing to ask two questions. Who might be missing from such scenes? Those whom we love and have lost over the last year – many of whom we were not able to see before they passed; those who are – for whatever reason – struggling to re-enter a world we once took for granted; and those who have stood outside the purvey of our communal vision for a long time, well before Covid. We must honour and cherish all these people as we look for a new dawn.

Which raises the second question of how we re-think and re-build in ways that are genuinely different and genuinely inclusive such that none of us live at the expense of another? I don't even know if that is possible, but it is surely the stuff hopes and dreams are made of.

With Love, Rev. David Newton

Sewing, Knit and Natter - The ladies of Sewing, Knit and Natter are still not able to hold their monthly meeting but we are all working separately in our homes and looking forwards to normal service being resumed shortly.



THE CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

This meeting is open to anyone who lives in the village will take place at the end of the Sunday service on 18th April. To elect a churchwarden, they must be nominated, and seconded in writing before the meeting takes place (forms available from the Church and Ann Mitchell). The election will be followed by the ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING at which all members of the Church Electoral Roll are eligible to be present.

DAHLIAS

If you know you would like a considerable number of dahlia plants this summer, please let Brian Mitchell know now, so that he takes sufficient cuttings in a few weeks time. Orders may be collected at a time suitable to both grower and producer. There will be the usual sale towards the end of May/early June. Contact details under Ann Mitchell, Churchwarden.



Hello. My name is Paula Rowley and I would like to introduce myself as the new Community Warden for Papworth, Hardwick, Caldecote, Comberton, Toft, Bourn and Wimpole. Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have been delivering these schemes for 27 years and with the funding support from South Cambridgeshire District Council we are pleased to be in a position to expand the scheme to those living within the above mentioned villages.



I have worked in the health and social care sector in the local area for 22 years and have extensive experience and knowledge of supporting older people in the community.

The Community warden service assists adults over 60 to continue to live independently and safely at home by providing daily contact (Monday to Friday) and support by a personal visit (COVID19 compliant) or a telephone call to ensure a sense of security and wellbeing. We can help you on a long or short term basis depending on your needs and wishes. An example of some of the things I can do to help you are;

Doing small amounts of shopping

Collecting prescriptions

Reading post and making phone calls on your behalf

Spend time with you to have a chat

Listen to any concerns and help you find a solution

You will receive a 2 week FREE trial and after that we ask for a small charge of £9 per week for a single person and £11 per week for a couple. Below are some quotes from people that use our service.



"During Isolation the telephone call and chat is a lifeline in such worrying times."

"That phone call every day to check on me gives me such a great deal of security. You can't believe what a phone call can mean at my age"

If you are interested and would like to know more, I would love to hear from you. Please call me on **07812495997** or email: paula.rowley@ageukcap.org.uk



TOFT SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

It is pleasing to see the continuing improvements in the UK coronavirus statistics very much due to the roll out of the vaccine programme and lockdown measures.

The Social Club Committee is watching closely the National lockdown situation and will work towards reopening the Social Club as soon as it is both practical and safe to do so for members and the volunteers who we rely upon to function.

ASSOCIATE AND FILM MEMBERSHIP

It is around this time of year we would normally be sending our membership renewals to Associate and Film Club Members. As the club has not been functioning over the last year the Committee wishes to inform you that all subscriptions paid in 2021 will be carried over to 2022.

ONLINE ACTIVITIES

We aim to keep online activities going in an attempt to help members keep in contact with each other.

SOCIAL CLUB ONLINE ZOOM QUIZZES

The online Zoom Quizzes continue on a two weekly basis. If you have not yet participated but would like to join in please log on to <https://www.toftsocialclub.org.uk/maillinglist.php> complete your details and you will then be added to our email circulation.

Dates of the quizzes will be circulated by email and included on the website

A ZOOM MEETING GET TOGETHER

We like to keep in touch with members, to chat and share news on the online Social Club "Zoom" meeting get together. In the session members can join in video chats either in the main group or in a separate smaller group of people. We plan to do these as a monthly session; details of dates and times will be sent to members via email and included on the website.

NEW MEMBERS

We are aware that there are several new residents who have moved to the village over the past year or so who may not have had the opportunity to become Social Club Members. Details of the club and its activities can be found on <https://www.toftsocialclub.org.uk/index.php> . If you would like to become a member you can do so by clicking on the membership link on the top of the home page.

NEW IDEAS AND HELP

It is hoped that we will soon be in a position to start planning for the reopening of Social Club activities later in the year. We would like to invite people to offer any ideas as to how the club can move forward to provide a setting which meets the future needs of members and the community. It is also essential that in order to keep functioning we need people to help with its many activities. If you can spare a little time and energy then we would be pleased to hear from you.

Please contact us on <https://www.toftsocialclub.org.uk/contact.php>

Information and updates on Toft Social Club activities can be found on the Website and Facebook pages

Your Committee is: Richard Fletcher (Chairman), Martin Sebborn (Vice Chairman), Gill Collett (Treasurer), Paul Hercus (Secretary), Koran Collett, Sonia Cox, Ron Gouldstone, Liz Tomes, Brian Roberts, Roger Thorogood and Angela Unsworth.

www.toftsocialclub.org.uk

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/ToftSocial>

Toft Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Gail Stoehr (clerk@tpc.toft.org.uk)

30 West Drive

Highfields Caldecote

Cambridge, CB23 7NY Tel: 01954 210241

Councillors	Phone	E-mail
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Chairman:

Martin Yeadon	263663	cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk
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James Wrycroft	264427	cllr.wrycroft@tpc.toft.org.uk
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Elaine Miles	262255	cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk
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Tricia Ellis-Evans	263477	cllr.ellis-evans@tpc.toft.org.uk
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Andy Tall	07984796273	cllr.tall@tpc.toft.org.uk
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Lluis Borrell	264611	cllr.borrell@toft.org.uk
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Kaushik Popat		cllr.popat@tpc.toft.org.uk
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The Council is your locally elected Council at the first tier of local government. Meetings are open to the public and are usually held on the first Monday of each month (excepting August) at the Toft People's Hall in School Lane starting at 7.00pm.

Notices of meetings and agendas are published on the Parish Council Noticeboard near the bus shelter together with minutes, which can also be viewed at www.toft.org.uk. Among other things, the Council considers local planning applications for the planning authority, the South Cambridgeshire District Council; provides the local recreation area, the People's Hall, litter bins, dog waste bins and the bus shelter; arranges for local verge cutting on behalf of the Cambridgeshire County Council and works with that authority to ensure the maintenance of local footpaths.

Next Meeting: Monday April 12th 7.00 pm (via Zoom)

The Parish Council met via Zoom on 1st March.

Cllr Tall reported on his discussions with the CC regarding the condition of the verges outside of the church. The CC confirmed that the verges do belong to them. The only process to secure CC funding for improvements would be via the LHI scheme where each year PC's can request funding for road improvements. The CC put aside a certain amount of funding for this but it is a competition and not all schemes are supported. This approach would take several years with no guarantee of success. The CC also said that the only solution that would be agreed would be by installing "concrete grass". Cllr Tall agreed to investigate costs for such an installation so that the PC can consider whether it should look for ways of funding such improvements.

The PC has already agreed to pledge £5k to support a judicial review should the EWR Co not fairly consider the Northern route for the railway. It was agreed how to fund the contribution in line with the strict rules that apply regarding such funding from PC's.

The EWR have written to the PC asking on what grounds a judicial review would be sought and offered to attend a PC meeting to discuss further. It was agreed that the PC would take the lead from Cambridge Approaches how best to respond to the request as it is CA who would lead the review on behalf of local PC's.

The PC has responded to the Greater Cambridgeshire Local Plan following their "Call for Sites" giving initial thoughts on the proposed sites in the Toft area.

Toft Social Club have approached the PC for support funding to pay for the licence for the Zoom used by the club. The PC agreed to the funding. The costs will come from the community funds that have been passed to the PC.

The PC agreed to post the South Cambridgeshire Development Survey from Anthony Brown onto "Nextdoor" as the survey is for individual residents to complete rather than PC's.

The PC decided not to respond to the consultation on the Draft Local Validation Checklist or the new Housing Policies.

The PC wanted to thank Daniel Forester and his mother Sarah for volunteering to clean the play equipment in the rec. It is a good job done.

Cllr Tall reported on the six current items listed on the CC website for reporting highway issues including some breaking up of the road surface on School Lane and the flooding from the manhole on Brookside.

Cllr Miles was congratulated for her work in putting together an updated Welcome Pack that is given to new residents in the village.

Once complete it will be printed for distribution.

Cllr Popat reported that the Climate Change Working party had been active with attendance at the forthcoming seminars hosted by the DC as well as compiling articles for the Calendar.

You don't have to face Covid-19 alone!

The Toft Volunteer Team is still here to help

You do not need to be isolated or lonely.

Ways we can help.... Collecting prescriptions, collecting shopping, phoning for a chat, going with you for a one-to-one stroll, helping you to get additional support or access food banks.

How to contact the Toft Volunteer Team or offer help

- Call or text/email Linda Hollow – 07779 918 682 or linda.hollow@btconnect.com
- Message for help via 'Nextdoor Toft'. Contact Jackie Morton at jem.wickets@btinternet.com to join Nextdoor online.

Many Toft residents have now had a dose of the vaccination - which is fantastic.

They will still need to observe the rules of 'hands - face - space' along with the rest of us.

For more information about the vaccine roll out search the web link below.



<https://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/covid-19-national-vaccination-programme/>



HM Government



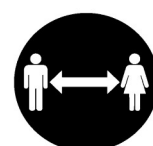
We must keep protecting each other.



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

STAY ALERT ► CONTROL THE VIRUS ► SAVE LIVES

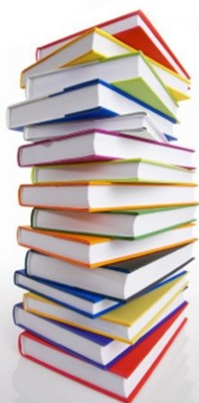


Lockdown cheer in the heart of Toft



The Simple Knit and Natter group and friends brought cheer, warmth and colour to the village green on the coldest weekend of the current lockdown, in celebration of St Valentine's Day. Many thanks to all who created and installed the decorations.





Comberton Library

Tel: 0345 045 5225

(Monday: 10.00 am – 2.00 pm

Wednesday: 1.00 – 5.00 pm

As you may know, step 2 of the Government's roadmap out of lockdown includes libraries. If all goes to plan this should mean that we will be in a position to offer managed browsing again in our open sessions, hopefully, from mid-April. However, please do check the website and the Libraries social media platforms for the exact dates and arrangements.

Managed browsing will give customers the opportunity to browse the shelves again and to issue their own books. Numbers in the building will be limited to ensure everyone's safety, and we will be required to comply with the Government Track and Trace protocol. As you enter the library, we will ask you to scan the displayed QR code on the NHS Covid 19 app, if you have this on your phone, or, alternatively, we can take contact details, which we will keep for 21 days.

We know from our previous brief experiences of managed browsing that many of our customers welcomed the opportunity to choose and issue their own books. However, we are also aware that some customers may prefer to continue to drop off and collect pre-ordered books. We will continue to offer our free 'Select and Collect' service, together with our usual reservation system, currently 50p per item for adult library users and free for children with their own library cards.

Our online services are also available as normal, but our e-books, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, and eComics have now moved to Overdrive. All new borrowing will be via Overdrive on a pc and the Libby app on a tablet or phone. If you have not already done so, and you use a tablet or phone, please download the Libby app from your appstore. Further information is available on the Library pages of the County Council website.

The library will be closed on Easter Monday, 5th April, but will be open again on Wednesday 7th April from 1.00 – 5.00pm, under the current lockdown protocol.

We look forward to seeing you at Comberton Library, and hope that, as we move from Spring to Summer, the restrictions will continue to ease. We wish you all a Happy Easter.

[Comberton Library is situated in the Village College campus, with car parking available and is Wheelchair-friendly and fully accessible for all.]

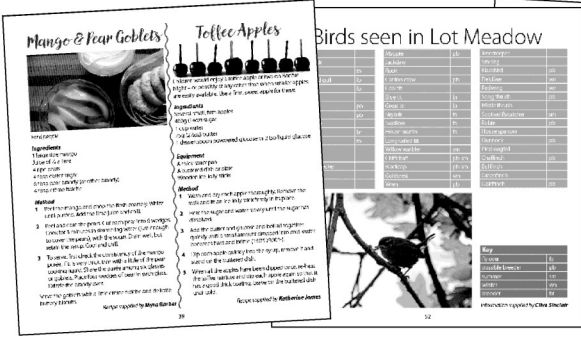
A Message from Alison...

Dear Friends,

The church offers its ministers a wonderful gift that is almost unheard of outside the church and some lucky academics – a sabbatical, meaning paid time off for an extended period, to rest, reflect, do things you can't normally do, learn and experience something different and perhaps new. I am taking my second sabbatical this year in two blocks, from 5th April to 11th May and then July and August. We hoped to walk the 'Via Francigena' from Canterbury to Rome, and managed a head start as far as Dover last year. This looks increasingly unlikely so instead I'm searching out UK alternatives including local footpaths. There don't seem to be any paths that connect Haslingfield and Toft, which as a shame as that would be a perfect round trip.

One of the many great things about being the 'Church in Toft' is that the temporary disappearance of one minister really doesn't matter – David will be here and members of the Methodist staff team will also provide back-up if you need. Hopefully by the time my sabbatical ends we will be through the worst of the pandemic having enjoyed a beautiful British summer and looking forward to autumn life with minimal restrictions.

With best wishes, Alison



Recipes & Reflections from Lot Meadow

Our beautiful book of recipes, artistic reflections and photographs is back on sale.

With contributions from the people of Toft, it makes great gift for friends and family at Easter.

Available from: Tricia Ellis-Evans on
Tel. 263477 Mobile: 07896 525800 or email
tricia@paceprojects.co.uk

Price £7.50

Proceeds from this second edition will go to St Andrews Church

On The Buses...

As part of the Devolution Deal in 2017 that established the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA), responsibility for Transport Authority functions transferred from Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) and Peterborough City Council (PCC) to the CPCA. One of the areas that a Transport Authority is responsible for is any provision of public transport services, including contracted local bus services, community transport and concessionary travel. Since 2017, although the CPCA have been responsible for public transport they have delegated that responsibility to CCC and PCC to carry out the day-to-day delivery on their behalf. However, in October 2020 the CPCA notified both Council's that it intended to operate the day-to-day delivery directly. From 1st April, therefore, the current public transport functions will transfer from CCC and PCC and will be provided direct by the CPCA. The current provision of bus services, community transport and concessionary travel scheme arrangements will continue from 1st April and the public should see no change, apart from some contact details, to the services they use. Contact details are being finalised and those directly affected will be written to shortly.

RE-BUILDING OUR VILLAGE HUB

When we are all able to socialise again we would like to make The People's Hall a great place to meet friends and a venue for all kinds of events and activities.

Help us by filling out the RE-BUILDING OUR VILLAGE HUB questionnaire and tell us what you would like to have in a newly refurbished hall and how you can help.



toft historical society

'They also serve'

Most well-off and prominent people in the past would have several servants carrying out various roles in the household. In the late nineteenth century in our area, the wonderfully entitled *Cambridge Chronicle and University Journal*, *Isle of Ely Herald*, and *Huntingdonshire Gazette* published many advertisements seeking suitable servants. In 1890, Mr F. W. E. Beldam placed two such advertisements in the paper. 'The Rectory' here refers to what we now know as Toft Manor.

Wanted, thorough GROOM-COACHMAN,--
Apply, Mr. Beldam, Toft Rectory, near Cambridge.

(Feb 21, 1890)

The *Oxford English Dictionary* gives the following gloss of 'thorough': 'Designating a servant who undertakes all kinds of domestic work. Now rare.'

Wanted, immediately, a STABLE-BOY, able
to ride and drive. -- Apply, F. Beldam, Esq.,
Toft Rectory, near Cambridge.

(Dec 12, 1890)

The Beldams were extensive landowners and held the Manor of Toft from 1846 to 1920, when the Manor passed into the hands of Mr G. M. Mcfarlane-Grieve. The village has Beldam's Close among its street names.

How can Cambridgeshire County Council help you?

Dear resident,

My name is Cllr Lina Nieto and I represent you at Cambridgeshire County Council. We are starting to work on what post-pandemic recovery looks like. I would like to know what you think the council should do for you, what services to focus on, how services should be delivered, what is the best way of talking to you...

If you are going through a difficult situation, how can your council assist you to overcome it? Please e-mail me your views: lina.nieto@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or call/text me 0740 2351 821

Thank you for taking the time

Take care, Lina



Climate Change Working Group

Have you heard about the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Future Parks Accelerator Project?

Its vision is to secure a sustainable future where our green spaces can thrive, helping people lead happy, healthy lives for generations to come. Type in your browser: **Future parks accelerator project** and you will see listed: Cambridge and Peterborough Future Parks Accelerator. If you click on this it will take you into the website where there is a wealth of information on green issues. Below is an example taken from this project.

Engaging young people.... building a future... and opening a Hedgehog Café!

We all know that what we do now will impact directly on our children and future generations, so it's important to arouse the enthusiasm of young people and engage them in projects and good attitudes to wildlife and the importance of "green issues" as early as possible. So, why not develop their entrepreneurial skills and create a family project ...



[This Photo](#) by

Find a safe place for your café. It can be on your patio, or it can be hidden in a sheltered spot. Of course, hedgehogs need to be able to get in and out of your garden to start with, so if that isn't yet the case, make holes at the bottom of fences (check with your neighbours) and let some areas of your garden and lawn become overgrown for these and other shy creatures.

Get a sturdy box (wood or plastic) with a removable lid for your feeding station. It needs to be big enough for a hedgehog to fit in - a plastic storage box is a popular choice. You can also install a tunnel to prevent cats or foxes stealing the food.

Create a hedgehog-sized hole at the base of one of the sides of your box. It should be about 13cm square so the hog can get in and out safely. If your box is wooden, you'll need a saw. If your box is plastic, carefully use a sharp knife. Cover the edges of the hole with duct tape to make sure there are no sharp bits that could hurt your hedgehogs.

Add your grub. As the sun goes down lay shallow dishes of hedgehog-friendly food and water inside the box. Hedgehogs will eat wet cat food or dog food or cat biscuits, as well as, "Hedgehog Food" which you can buy from pet shops. Make sure you don't put out too much food, as it's not nice to have leftovers lying around, and just remember that what we provide is supplementary to their natural diet, so do not overfeed your 'hogs. Never feed hedgehogs milk or bread as they can't digest them and it upsets their stomachs. Also, be aware that putting any food out will attract all sorts of wildlife, not just hedgehogs – this includes predators.

Add your roof. Put the lid on top of the box and place a brick or two on top of the lid. This will stop a fox – or your own dog or cat - tipping the box up or dragging it away.

Clear away any leftovers in the morning and refill your dishes every evening, or for as long as the food is being eaten. Make sure to wash your hands and thoroughly wash the feeding dishes, as hedgehogs have been known to spread diseases.

Don't worry if a hedgehog doesn't move in right away – they are so scarce these days that it may take time. And remember that you won't see any activity between October and March or April, when they're hibernating.

Time to watch. Very quietly as the sun goes down, go out and sit somewhere within view of the box and hopefully you'll be rewarded with a view of this snuffling, grunting little beauty.

Wheelie Bin Collections For April

(N.B. This schedule may be subject to change)

Black Bin:

Thurs 15th April

Weds 28th April

Blue/Green Bin

Fri 9th April

Weds 21st April

Notice to Advertisers

Advertisements are published quarterly. Copy for inclusion in the next available edition of the Calendar **must** reach us by 17th April 2021 at the *very latest*. Advertisements will **NOT** be published unless full payment has been received in advance. Please note: *We are currently unable to accept PDF file types*. Quarter-page adverts **MUST** be Portrait-style, half-page adverts **MUST** be Landscape-style. In the first instance, advertisers should contact **Pat Gouldstone** at: calendaradstoft@gmail.com to discuss their requirements.

✂ USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Alcoholics Anonymous: 0845 769 7555
 Anglian Water (for sewage): 08457 145 145
 Ashcroft Veterinary Surgery: 01954 210250
 Bourn GPs' Surgery: 01954 719313
 Cambridge AIDS help-line: (01223) 508805
 Cambs County Council: 0345 045 5200
 Cambridge Dial a Ride 01223 506335
 Cambridge Water: 01223 706050
 Care Network Cambridgeshire 01954 211919.
 Citizens Advice Bureau: 0844 848 7979
 Comberton GPs' Surgery: 01223 262500
 Comberton Village College: 01223 262503
 Community Warden (Age UK CAP) 07812 495997
 County Councillor: 07402351821
 CVC Community Education: 01223 264721
 District Councillor: 01954 210040
 Household Waste/Pest Control: 0345 045 0063
 Lifespan Health Care, Family and Child Team: 01223 264460
 Member of Parliament: Phone 01223 830037
 Meridian Primary School: 01223 262423
 Police: 101 (Emergencies: 999)
 (Local Beat Officer is PCSO Sam Kennedy)
 Road/Pothole Reporting: 0345 045 5212
 Street Lighting: 0800 7838 247
 Street Cleaning: 03450 450 063
 South Cambs District Council: 03450 450 500
 South Cambs Fire and Rescue: 01480 444 500
 Toft Car Scheme: 262814. If no reply 262708
 Trading Standards: 0345 0455206
 UK Power Networks (Emergencies): 0800 31 63 105

If you're a parent of school-aged children, then there's a chance you might be waiting to hear about school places right now. Whether it's pre-schoolers facing their first time in an education setting or the rite-of-passage that is Reception, it's a nail-biting wait.



Starting school is a big event in every family, and as a parent there's always that worry: are they ready? Have we done enough to help them? What do we do if they're not ready?

If these questions resonate with you, then maybe you'd be interested in our school readiness project, "Getting Ready For School."

"Getting Ready For School" is designed to help families prepare for school, making sure that children have all the skills they'll need from day one; but also making sure that parents are ready too, and are able to help their children prepare for the big day.

Here at Home-Start we recognise that starting school can be frightening and stressful, for the parents as well as the children, which means that no one enjoys the experience.

Our highly-trained volunteers use lots of fun activities to help children get ready to get the best out of nursery, pre-school or school. Which leaves parents free to enjoy watching their children thrive.

"Getting Ready For School" is a completely free service that we offer to families in our area. If you would like to know more about what's involved, then please get in touch: admin@hsrsc.org.uk or 01763 262262.

Let us help you to love getting ready for school.

The Calendar is always pleased to receive contributions from readers, advertisers and fund raisers. We reserve the right to edit, amend, abridge or otherwise butcher any submissions to accord with technical or editorial requirements, or sometimes just on a whim. We do not normally accept anonymous or non-attributable contributions or those using pen-names.

Contributors are asked to note that all text formatting is removed from items on receipt. Consider **plain text files** as your first choice where possible. **Please avoid proprietary file types (e.g. PDF, PUB, DOCX, XLS etc) unless you feel it essential. Graphics (if you must) are best submitted as PNG files.** Many thanks.

And, finally...

Please remember that contributions for the next issue of the Calendar **must** reach the Editor, Michael Walker, **by 20th April**. Many thanks to all who contributed to this edition. Email: calendareditor@toft.org.uk Post: 33 Egremont Road, Hardwick, Cambridge CB23 7XR Telephone: 01954 211346