



Toft Village Calendar

Produced and Distributed by St. Andrew's Parish Church

April 2022



DIARY DATES

TOFT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

[Over 50s Club]. Friendship Club On Wednesday 13th April 2.30 start – This is our AGM. When we finish with the very brief business, Barbara Preece is going to encourage our memories, of things past, maybe the toys we played with, outings we had, things we saw or joined in with – what were you doing on 2nd June 1953 when the Queen was crowned? Or on 22nd November 1963 when Kennedy was killed? Or ??? Guests are always welcome; or if you are 50 or over would you care to join us? We plan to publish the programme for the coming year at the AGM.

Sewing, Knit and Natter

For the date of the April meeting, ring 262144.

The Parish Council - The next PC meeting is on **4th April at 7.00 pm**. It will be held in The People's Hall. All welcome subject to prevailing restrictions.

The Internet Club

The Internet Club will meet on Monday 4 April. We will not be having a meeting on 18th April as it is Easter Monday

EDITORIAL

Me and my Dentist enjoy a tolerable relationship. Every so often, when the nagging pain from a tooth - or any other source of nagging pain that happens to be present - becomes a nuisance, I slip along to his palatial chambers and sit, trembling and sweating, in the waiting room, waiting for my number to be up. You couldn't tell by looking at me, though. On the outside, I present an image of louché, insouciant cool. Imagine an amalgam of David Niven and Steve McQueen and you'll get an idea of the facade I hope to present to my fellow sufferers. Then, just as I'm concocting a theory that I've probably got the wrong day, or the dentist is Working From Home, they call my name and a woman with an implausibly fluorescent set of Hampsteads leads me up some shaky stairs to Dungeon Central. There, surrounded by the grisly chisels, pliers and hacksaws of his trade, sits the dentist, all smiles and bonhomie. Within moments, he diagnoses the issue ("B4 - Occluded!"), subjects me to the sort of barbarities that once left the courtrooms of Nuremburg in stunned silence and then relieves me of any cash that has been uselessly festering in my wallet. It's a tried and trusted system and it's been working well enough for decades now. All done on the NHS, you see, so we all knew where we were.

But suddenly, a spanner has clattered noisily into the works. A letter, addressed to 'Dear Patient', has arrived. Sorrowfully, it explains to me that the dentist is 'moving to an independent care system' and I better join it or else. It's OK, though, because this way, he'll be able to spend more time with me and focus on prevention. It doesn't explain why he apparently hasn't been focusing on this all along, or why he feels that an opportunity to spend more time with a dentist is anyone's idea of a great selling point, but that's where I feel grateful to have an expert on hand to point these things out to me - I'd never have thought of that myself.

I can easily imagine the meeting at which this decision was taken, with the dentist staring, chop-fallen, at some spreadsheet detailing next year's projected profits. "But - but, where's my next Tesla coming from? What do you mean, 'we might have to cut down to five holidays a year'?" Like any decent human being, I feel for the chap.

Under the 'independent care system', it turns out that one can opt for differing levels of independent care. There is the Gold plan. Or there is the Silver plan. Or, for us occupants of skid-row, there is the dispiritingly monikered 'Bronze plan'. If you just want to show off, there is the 'Platinum Care Plus' plan. Each of these comes with its own maze of discounts, add-ons, inclusions, exclusions and extras, so that puzzling out which option your own gnashers deserve demands a level of higher education far above any I have yet achieved. Of course, I came into this world subsisting on gruel and, By Golly, I could always go back to it, but something tells me I'm going to have to bite the bullet.

But if the chance comes my way, I can't guarantee I'm not going to bite the dentist, too, assuming he leaves me the wherewithal. Let's see how much extra time he wants to spend with me after that.



Scarecrow-Makers, don't be shy!...

Since my request in last month's Calendar 14 lovely locals (probably to shut me up) have already promised verbally to create a **Scarecrow** -

And display it outside their properties in view of delighted passers-by during the 4 day Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. **Thursday 2nd – Sunday 5th June.**

Please join in and make one (or more!!?)...

Just e.mail me:
marion817@btinternet.com

This will enable me to get an overall picture of where they're to be located. Ideally **SCARECROWS** of all shapes, sizes, themes (silly/inventive as you like!) would be fabulous gracing every Toft street and lane. I'd love to hear from Clubs, Groups, Societies etc. (A joint effort can be great fun) so that we have hopefully enough to display in People's Hall garden, on village green, in bus shelter, Toft Wood, at Toft Church and Chapel, outside Toft Shop and Home Meadow etc...

Start saving old newspapers for stuffing now! and don't worry if your **Scarecrow** collapses/comes apart at the seams as mine did a decade ago. That'll be all the more rustic and endearing!

Eagerly awaiting your contact.

Marion Read
'Scarecrow Priestess'

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***SERVICES OF WORSHIP***3rd April* 8.30am Holy Communion - Rev Prof Michael Reiss

11.00am Holy Communion, Methodist Church – Rev. Robert Dolman

10th April PALM SUNDAY

11.00am Holy Communion – St. Andrew's – Dagmar, Bishop of Huntingdon

14th April MAUNDY THURSDAY 10.15 - 2.00pm at the Methodist Church for all the family - come and make Bread and hot cross buns, stay for a home-made soup lunch and short service or not, as you will.*15th April* GOOD FRIDAY 2.00pm Meditations at the Methodist Church led by Revd Alison Walker*17th April* EASTER DAY 6.00 am Service of Light led by Rev David Newton with Rev Chris Westgarth around a fire on the drift at the top of Miller's Road.

8.30am BCP Holy Communion, St Andrew's

11.00 am Holy Communion at the Methodist Church led by

Rev Robert Dolman with Ann Mitchell. There will be an Easter egg hunt for the children

24th April 11.00 am Morning Worship – St. Andrew's Church – Mrs Cathy Michell

12.00am Followed by the Election of Churchwardens and

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (see p.3)

There will be morning prayer at St. Andrew's every Wednesday at 9.15 am (about half-an-hour)

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 available at 11.00am

MEETING ID: 823 1147 3640

Dear Friends

“God bless those who suffer from the common cold.

Nature has entered into them;

Has led them aside and gently lain them low

To contemplate life from the wayside;

To consider human frailty;

To receive the deep and dreamy messages of fever.

We give thanks for the insights of this humble perspective.

We give thanks for blessings in disguise. AMEN.”

From ‘The Prayer Tree’ by Michael Leunig © 1991

Michael Leunig is an Australian cartoonist, poet and philosopher, whose poem/prayer came to mind when I was “gently lain low” with all the symptoms of the common cold. I wish I had spent the time ‘contemplating and considering’ but my brain power only extended to daytime television! Nonetheless, if your illness is brief and if you can take some time off, then a few days to gather your duvet around you and allow the world to drift past you until you recover does make life sweeter. For some people recovery from illness is slow, and it is hard to find the “blessings in disguise” when you are still unwell. The same virus but different outcomes brings different perspectives.

There was a recent Guardian article about the positive power of a sick note. The interviewee, a doctor, has written a book subtitled “The lost art of convalescence”. I suspect that many minor illnesses take a bit more time to get over than we realise and this art needs more practise. For those now dealing with long Covid and post-viral conditions this realisation is tough, the way ahead uncertain and modern medicine does not yet have the answers. Convalescing involves giving each other permission to do a bit less, and remove any pressure from each other that we can, until our minds and our bodies hopefully return to full-power.

So when you are ‘lain low’, Leunig’s words may help you. Here is another one of his poem/prayers.

“God rest us.

Rest that part of us which is tired.

Awaken that part of us which is asleep.

God awaken us and awake within us. AMEN”

*With best wishes, Alison***Sewing, Knit and Natter**

are busy making lots of bunting and some special 1952 decorations for the Chapel for when the village celebrates the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. For the date of the April meeting ring 262144.



THE CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

This open meeting will take place on Sunday, 24th April following morning worship. To elect a churchwarden, they must be nominated, and seconded in writing before the meeting takes place – forms available from the PCC Secretary, Mrs Elizabeth Dolman.

The election will be followed by the ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL at which all members of the Church Electoral Roll are eligible to be present.

community bread-making

Thursday 14th April 2022

10:15–2pm

Join us to make bread

and hot cross buns

includes home-made soup lunch

at Toft Methodist Church

No age limit nor requirement!



Coton Bowls Club is opening in May for anyone who would like to come and play. You can find us on the recreation ground in Coton, opposite The Plough pub. Anyone with a pair of trainers (or flat soled shoes) can play, so why not come along for a friendly game and a cup of tea or something a little stronger afterwards? Parking available.

Our Bowls for All open sessions will be on:-

Monday 2 May 2-4pm

(bank holiday)

Thursday 5 May 6-8 pm

Sunday 15 May 2-4 pm

Tuesday 24 May 6-8 pm

If you would like any further information do contact Alyson on tel: 07958 444047,

email: opensessions@cotonbowlsclub.co.uk, or check out our website: www.cotonbowlsclub.co.uk



TOFT SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

It's a busy month coming up in April! Read on to find out more.

We held our **AGM** in March and are pleased to announce that James Nairn has joined the Committee. Martin Sebborn and Roger Thorogood are now Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

In March we had a very successful and enjoyable **Food on Friday** with a rather splendid Lasagne. For April, on the 1st, we are pleased to offer "Bangers and Mash" - a trio of quality sausages with creamy mashed potatoes and onion gravy – there will be both meat and vegetarian options. Doors open at 7pm, with food just £5.00. We operate on first come, first served – so come early to avoid disappointment!

Saturday 9th April sees the return of our "**Saturday Food Night**" – this time we are supporting one of our beer suppliers who is raising funds and awareness for a testicular cancer charity called "It's On the Ball" by pushing a full barrel of beer from their brewery in Norfolk to St Barts London, (that's 75kg, 147 miles)! On the evening we will be serving canapes, followed by main course and a choice of desserts. There will be a raffle - you can buy "squares" at the Club any night we are open up until the 9th. Tickets for the Food Night are £12 each, with all the profits from the food going directly to the charity. We hope you can support us!

On *Saturday 16th* the **Film Club** will be showing "*West Side Story*". Produced and directed by Stephen Spielberg, with a script by screenwriter and playwright Tony Kushner, *West Side Story* is an adaptation of the 1957 musical, the film tells the tale of forbidden love and the rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks, two teenage street gangs of different ethnic backgrounds. Doors open at 8pm and the film starts promptly at 8:20. Film Club membership is £10 for the year, or evening membership is £2.50.

On *Saturday 23rd April* we are holding our second **Open Mic / Music Night** – the first one in February was very popular and featured a mix of music, comedy and poetry. We expect to have a diverse range again in April – so come along and enjoy some excellent entertainment. Doors open at 8pm and entry is free of charge.

In March we held our first **Carpet Bowls** evening since lockdown, and this will now be a regular monthly event, on the second Friday of the month – Friday 8th April is the next one.

Toft Art is on *Thursday 7th April* – new members are always welcome.

Toft Quiz Night is on *Thursday 14th April* - teams of up to 6, just £1 per team member. Doors open at 8pm.

The ever popular **Toft Bingo** will be on *28th April*.

Toft Photo Group (TPG) usually meets on the third Friday of the month – but for April it will be a week later due to Easter, so the meeting will be on *Friday 22nd April*. Anyone interested in taking photos, or who wants to get more from their camera are very welcome to this informal, friendly group.

And don't forget - we are open every Thursday and Friday evening from 8pm – come along to chat and meet friends.

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

Keep up to date here:

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
<i>Chairman:</i>		
Martin Yeadon	263663	cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk
James Howells		cllr.lhowells@tpc.toft.org.uk
Elaine Miles	262255	cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk
Tricia Ellis-Evans	263477	cllr.ellis-evans@tpc.toft.org.uk
Andy Tall	07984796273	cllr.tall@tpc.toft.org.uk
Lluis Borrell	264611	cllr.borrell@toft.org.uk
Kaushik Popat		cllr.popat@tpc.toft.org.uk

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 4th April 7.00 pm in The People's Hall . All welcome.

The Parish Council met on 7th Feb 2022.

Cllr's Elaine Miles, Cllr James Howells and District Cllr Grenville Chamberlain were absent due to Covid infections.

Some residents raised their concerns about the flooding that occurs outside of Beldams Close and speeding along the High Street. Cllr Tall explained the efforts that the PC have put into resolving the flooding situation, which is a County Council issue, and committed to raising the issue again with them.

Equally with speeding the PC have made efforts to reduce speeding in the village. Cllr Tall committed to relocating the speed monitor closer to Beldams Close for a period as this does reduce the speed of traffic generally.

It was agreed to accept Buchan's quotation for the grass cutting contract in the village. Cllr Ellis-Evans

has drawn up a fairly complex specification to ensure that there will be an opportunity for wild flowers to flourish on the verges whilst maintaining a reasonably tidy appearance.

Cllr Yeadon reported on his meeting with EWR and his two meetings with Cambridge Approaches. EWR are setting up focus group meetings with representatives from Parish Councils along the proposed route and this month saw the first of these. Cllr Yeadon reported that the discussion was mainly about the structure of future meetings. EWR reported that they are still going through the consultation data and will not be reporting on any outcomes before the summer. The PC agreed to endorse a letter written by Cambridge Approaches to the Transport Secretary encouraging him to get EWR to produce a business case for the railway as soon as possible, as yet a case has not been produced.

Last Autumn the PC did an assets walk around the village looking at the condition of the PC's assets. At that time it was agreed that the work would be held until after the winter. At the meeting it was agreed to progress the various jobs highlighted including staining/repainting several benches, refurbishing most of the playground equipment, repainting the telephone kiosk, replacing some of the posts on the green and repairing the surround on the village sign.

Cllr Ellis-Evans discussed several items relating to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. A proposal to relocate the Beacon to Lot Meadow was supported. It was agreed that a budget of £200 was allocated to Cllr Ellis-Evans and the clerk to fund items for the street party.

The PC agreed to fund and organise the removal of the dead Maple that was planted as part of Silver Jubilee celebrations but has not survived. This is located adjacent to the Green and this is considered a good place to plant a new tree to celebrate this Jubilee.

It was agreed to renew the "Asset of Community Value" designation of the Toft Shop which expires this year.

Cllr Miles has taken on the role to liaise more closely with Bennell Farm residents to incorporate them into the village.

Please refer to the official minutes for the definitive outcomes from the meeting.

Following the recent water leak in Miller's Road,
please note the **Emergency Reporting
Number: 01223 706050 - option 3**

The Toft Big Breakfast Sunday 15 May

We are looking forward to welcoming you to have a great big breakfast with us at The Peoples Hall on Sunday 15 May from 9.30am - noon. Thank you to all who have volunteered to help on the day, provide produce and bake for us.

Anyone can join our work party - men and women - young and old so if you want to help contact Linda Hollow: linda.hollow@btconnect.com or Carol Wilmot: carol@sebborn.com or Jane Tebbit: jane@tebbitdesign.co.uk

Sustainable Gardening



At last the green shoots and blooms of spring are emerging, the days growing longer, and anyone with a small plot of ground, or even a small terrace, can begin to think about a spot of gardening. Even better if we can do that 'sustainably'.

There are three vital elements: soil, water, planting. Four if you count 'attracting wildlife' (as of course we should and must).

SOIL is precious. Under average conditions it can take a hundred years to create just 1 inch (2.5cm) depth of soil. The soil holds carbon – and we all know we need to reduce the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Be organic, don't use chemicals – they kill soil organisms. So ...

- avoid deep digging – this releases carbon
- when you pull up any plants or weeds, shake off as much soil as you can
- cover the ground with plants as much as possible, ideally perennials because their roots hold the soil in place, and the carbon with it
- don't mow the grass too often, or too close-cropped: longer grass has stronger roots to hold the soil
- cover any bare soil with mulch or compost – don't bother to dig it in: the worms and other earth organisms will do that for you, and hold the carbon.

WATER too is precious, especially during the drier summer months.

Aim to connect as many external downpipes (from gutters) to a water-butt as possible. They're simple to connect – lots of different types available at garden centres or online. Then use the stored water (the butts will quickly fill whenever it rains) during dry periods. Rainwater is always best for plants (no added chemicals) and it saves water needed elsewhere – reduces your water bill, too!

PLANTING Your choice of plants can make a significant difference.

- Look at gardens nearby to see what grows well here, on our generally heavy alkaline clay soils.
- Check out which plants grow best in sunshine or in shade. 'Native' species obviously grow best in their 'home' environment.
- Make sure to have plenty of flowering plants for our bees and other pollinators.
- When buying plants, or potting on, always go for peat-free compost: peat is one of the best of all carbon stores and it's vital we preserve our peatlands.
- Thinking of erecting a fence or hedge? Consider planting fast-growing native species, like hawthorn or field maple, if necessary behind a fence – that can be removed later when the hedge has grown. Conifers and evergreens may create an almost instant screen but they're unusable by wildlife.
- Is your garden paved? Why not pull up just one slab and replace it with low-growing scented plants – so much better for so many reasons (holding water, enriching the soil, attracting insects...).
- And of course – aim to grow at least a few fruit and vegetables: the benefits of the home-grown are numerous: no chemicals, freshly picked, better tasting, known provenance! Even if you have no garden, they can still be grown in pots, boxes or any suitable container.

And why not create a beetle bank of twigs in a quiet corner, and buy or make a bee hotel – websites tell you how. They also give loads of detailed advice generally: just Google 'sustainable gardening'.

Oh, and as you're passing, don't forget to check our very own 'Seed Exchange' in the Toft telephone box for the latest additions.

Sustainable gardening is good for the environment – and good for us all, wildlife included. So why not get out there, soak up the sunshine and just enjoy the moment?



Bedfordshire Cambridgeshire Northamptonshire

Wildlife Trust West Cambridgeshire Hundreds Update:
April 2022

Did you know that on your doorstep, you have access to one of the most amazing wildlife spectacles in England?

The UK has nearly half the world's population of common bluebells, and they grow here in greater densities than other parts of their range, creating amazing displays in our older woodlands. Since we accommodate such a large number, it is important that we look after the places where they are found. When you support The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants you help us stand up for wildlife, and protect and manage the habitats where bluebells live.

Bluebells are not immune to the impacts of climate change and habitat destruction. Protecting precious sites such as these is our top priority, enabling wildlife to thrive and ensuring people can continue to enjoy this spectacle. We do face challenges in achieving this on some of our reserves. Milder, wetter winters have led to muddy conditions underfoot, path encroachment results and this then causes damage to plant life. Our native Bluebells are also at risk of hybridising with a garden escape, the Spanish bluebell and to add to this, we have also sadly seen some visitors to our reserves illegally harvest bulbs. Here are ways you can help:

Please do not pick bluebells. They are a protected species and it is an offence to pick the flowers or dig up the bulbs.

Please stay on official paths when visiting nature reserves. Even in winter when you can't see plants growing, you can compact soil, making it harder for shoots to push through, or for roots and bulbs to access oxygen. In early spring, you can damage leaves, which reduces the energy they store for next year. When in full bloom, you can damage the flowers, reducing food for bees and other pollinators, and affecting the experience for others.

Please buy your garden bulbs from a reputable source, and buy common (sometimes called English) bluebell, rather than Spanish bluebell

Please dispose of your garden waste responsibly to reduce the risk of spreading non-native invasive species

Climate change is affecting the flowering of plants so it can be tricky to predict when bluebells will be at their best, but it is usually mid to late April. The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants are running spring flower guided walks in Gamlingay Wood, and Waresley and Gransden Woods, as well as at other woods across our region. You can book these on our website. Staff members will be on-hand over weekend busy periods at this time. You can also find bluebells at nearby Hayley and Hardwick Woods, and there are a few on Cambourne Nature Reserve on the northern boundary parallel to the A428.

Parking is very busy, restricted, or not available at many of our nature reserve, so please check our website page, 'know before you go' before you visit, and park respectfully.

<https://www.wildlifebcn.org>

You can contact me on:

E-mail: rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org Facebook: @BeccaBadgerWTBCN

BCN Facebook/Twitter: @wildlifebcn

The West Cambridgeshire Hundreds are a group of nature reserves owned and/or managed by the Wildlife Trust for Beds Cambs and Northants: Hardwick, Gamlingay, Hayley, and Waresley and Gransden Woods, Buff Wood, and Cambourne Nature Reserve.



The common English Bluebell - look, don't pick!



Toft Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

June 2nd – 5th 2022

Plans continue to develop for our grand event in June, despite some interference from Covid!

Thursday 2nd

The Scarecrow Trail will launch Thursday morning. **Don't forget to contact Marion (marian817@btinternet.com) before May 1st to register an entry.**

In the late evening we want to **light our Village Beacon** in a new permanent location - Lot Meadow. We will have music, refreshments and fireworks.

Friday 3rd

The Methodist Chapel, decorated inside and out by the Knit & Natter group, will host a **Historical Society** exhibition in the morning.

In the afternoon School Lane will be the venue for the 'bring and share' **Street Tea Party**, open to all, with further exhibitions in the Peoples Hall.

Saturday 4th

In the morning, we will be **dressing the well, decorating St Andrews Church** and **organising a maypole dancing workshop** in the churchyard. Take this opportunity to hone those moves for Sunday's public performance!

In the afternoon, the Methodist Chapel will host an authentic **audio/visual presentation of Toft Voices** and a **history talk** followed by tea and cake.

Sunday 5th

The traditional **Spring Feast Sunday** activities:

The Parish walk to Frog's Hall for a picnic lunch. Maypole dancing on the Green and parading of the Toft Garland to St Andrews Church to draw water from the well. Finally, a Thanksgiving service marking the Queen's 70 years of service followed by the Parish Tea in the churchyard.



The Historical Society needs your help in creating this years' exhibition. The Queen has been on the throne for 70 years. During this time there have been various royal jubilees/weddings and we are looking for royal memorabilia, photographs, anecdotes to illustrate these events.

We also want to document what was happening in each of the past seven decades. Did you know there were only three televisions in Toft in 1953 when the coronation occurred or that our Oxford-Cambridge railway link closed in 1968? We want your photographs, stories, and other items to illustrate significant events and changes in fashion, education, work, holidays, etc., through these decades.

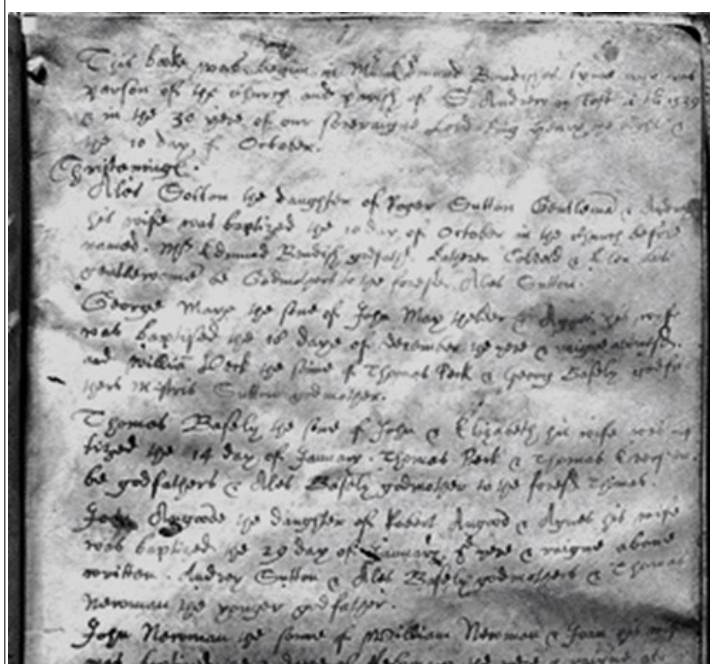
Please bring your exhibition items to either Cynan Ellis-Evans (65 High Street), Ann Mitchell (20 High Street) or Mike McCarthy (11 Mill Lane)

toft historical society

TOFT & ENGLISH MONARCHS

In this year of the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II, we look back on the history of Toft and the reigns of previous monarchs as recorded in the parish records of St Andrew's Church.

The first records of births, marriages and deaths in Toft were recorded in the reign of Henry VIII (1509-1547). The first page of the records (reproduced here) tells us the year was 1539.



The text begins:

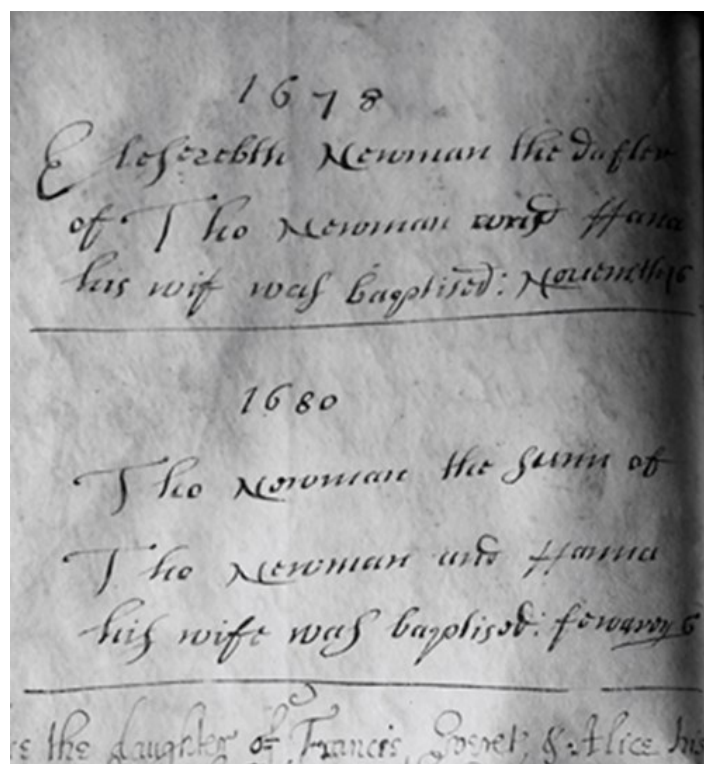
... in the 30th year of our Sovereign Lord King Henry VIII, 10th day of October.

The first record is the christening of Alice Sutton, daughter of Roger Sutton and Audrey, his wife.

Henry reigned for 37 years, a relatively short time compared with our Queen. He was succeeded by his son Edward VI, who only reigned for six years. His successor, Mary Tudor, lasted five years. She was followed by Elizabeth I, who achieved an impressive 44 years on the throne.

The second record reproduced here is from the reign of Charles II (1660-1685), when the monarchy was restored following the Commonwealth period. It records the christening of two siblings of the Newman family, Elizabeth and Thomas, in 1678 and 1680, respectively.

Apart from Victoria, who reigned for 63 years, few monarchs have reigned for a period anything like the present one, and some reigned only briefly, such as Richard III, who lasted a mere two years.





Meridian Primary School

Learning for life – striving for excellence

Greetings Neighbours,

We celebrated the 25th Anniversary of World Book Day at the beginning of March. In the morning we held special assemblies and during the day, classes joined in with live stream interactive sessions with World Book Day book authors, they took part in author and illustrator academies and they wrote book reviews with illustrations of their favourite stories.

We had a fantastic Art week looking and appreciating different types of arts and crafts as well as developing our knowledge and art skills. Thank you to the local artists who visited us. The children especially loved the focussed creative approach that we had during the week and they produced some excellent pieces which we displayed around the school.

The children are enjoying playing sport competitively again – in March, our football team represented Meridian against Hardwick Primary School and two of our netball teams have been invited back to play in the final of the South Cambridgeshire Schools Netball Tournament after a tournament at CVC in which our A team came 2nd and our B team came 5th. The final is at the end of April.

The children came to school in non-uniform to celebrate Red Nose Day on 18th March. A big thank you to our families as we raised over £350 for Comic Relief!

Kind regards,

Mrs C. Etchie, Headteacher

Escape to the Hebrides... with an Ellen MacCorrie Murder Mystery

Feeling like a break from Toft? Lovely though our village is, you have to admit, it is a bit lacking in seas and mountains. And as for murders... well we're way behind Grantchester in that department. So why not escape to a Hebridean island this Easter with an Ellen MacCorrie murder mystery? For FREE!

All three Ellen MacCorrie mysteries will be **FREE** for Kindle download from Good Friday to Easter Monday. So whether you just want to relax with something new, or you've missed one and want to complete the set, head over to Amazon this Easter weekend.

Written by a longtime Toft resident using a pen-name, just look on Amazon for one of these:

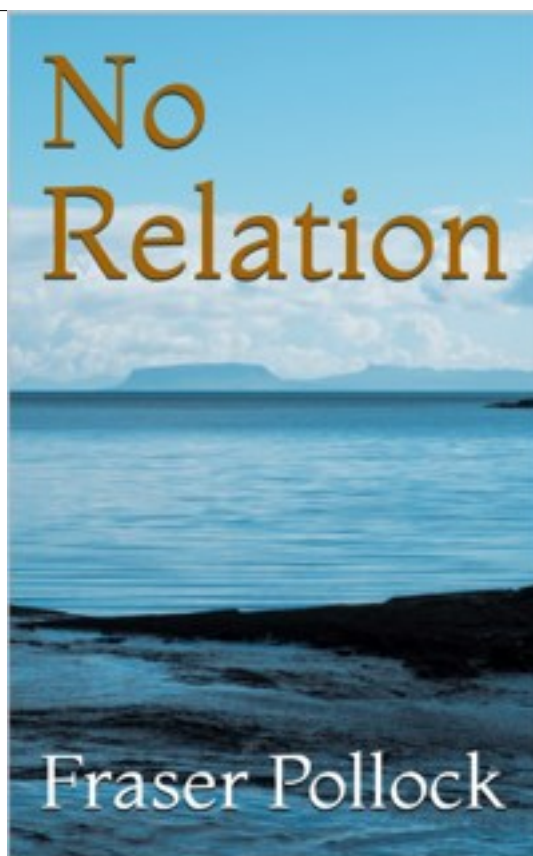
"No Relation", "The English Poet" or "A Man of Peace", all under the name of Fraser Pollock.

From reviews:

"An enjoyable read."

"A delight!"

Hope you enjoy them!





Comberton Library

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

Tel: 0345 045 5225

Monday: 10.00 am – 1.00 pm

Wednesday: 10.00 am – 1.00 pm and 2.00 – 5.00 pm

Friday: 2.00 – 5.00 pm

Saturday: 10.00 am – 1.00 pm

Easter Opening Hours:

Good Friday 15th April - closed

Easter Saturday 16th April - open 10am - 1:00pm

Easter Monday 18th April - closed

We are delighted to announce that Comberton Library have restarted rhymetime our next session will be on the 25th April from 10:30 until 11:00am.

School Holiday Craft Event: on Monday 11th April from 10:30 - 12pm please join us for an Easter themed craft session. (The session will be dependent on covid restrictions.) Look out for the posters, which give you more information.

As the weather slowly starts to improve come and see our selection of spring books here at the library. We have a great selection for adults and children waiting to be taken home to hopefully bring some sunshine to your day.

We love getting feedback on the books you've been reading, so if you've loved a book please let us know when you return it, it's great to be able to share with other members of the library the must reads.

Please remember we do still have a computer available for use, you can book online or just pop by to see if it's free. Book online here: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/visit-a-library>

Is your Bus Pass due to expire soon or are you newly eligible? If you or someone you know needs help renewing or applying for their pass we can assist them at the library, you can renew your pass up to six weeks before it expires. Please contact us at: your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or call 0345 045 5225 to book an appointment.

The libraries team have produced a handy What's On guide, listing events taking place at our 33 libraries across the county from mid-February to the end of April. You can pick up your copy from your local library now. Please help us raise awareness that Cambridgeshire Libraries are safe spaces for domestic abuse victims. All libraries have contact details for appropriate support agencies. Our computers are free to use, and your search history can't be tracked.

Parish Council Elections

A new Four Year Term for the Parish Council starts this May and we are looking for new Councillors to replace some of the existing Councillors who are stepping down. If you are interested the nomination papers can be found on the South Cambs District Council website under Election 2022.

If you would like to help support our community please consider applying. The work is not too arduous and can be interesting. Please speak to any of our existing Councillors and they will give you an understanding of what's involved or for a chat please call Martin Yeadon on 01223 263663.

Applications need to be in by 5th April and if elections are necessary, they will be in early May.

Wheelie Bin Collections For April

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

Black Bin:

Weds 13th Apr

Thurs 28th Apr

Blue/Green Bin

Weds 6th Apr

Fri 22nd Apr

Notice to Advertisers

Advertisements are published quarterly. Copy for inclusion in the next available edition of the Calendar **must** reach us by 17th April 2022 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: **calendarad-stoft@gmail.com** to discuss their requirements.

✂ USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Alcoholics Anonymous: 0845 769 7555
 Anglian Water (for sewage): 08457 145 145
 (Emergency number for burst water pipes: 01223 706050)
 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 603677
 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

FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM

One of the most influential artists of our time, **David Hockney** (b.1937) takes over Cambridge this spring and summer with an exhibition across The Fitzwilliam Museum and The Heong Gallery, Downing College.

Through both traditional and cutting-edge ways of making art, the exhibition explores Hockney's obsession with how we see the world, and how our world of time and space can be captured on the surface of a flat picture.

In his use of cameras, digital drawing, the iPad, and digital film, Hockney follows a tradition of creative experiments with optical devices that goes back from Ingres' proposed use of the camera lucida to Canaletto's camera obscura and to the birth of Renaissance naturalism in the 15th century.

In The Fitzwilliam Museum's picture galleries, Hockney's drawings, paintings and digital artworks are shown in a series of provocative encounters with works by artists including Claude Monet, John Constable and Andy Warhol.

The display at The Heong Gallery charts Hockney's pioneering modern experiments from the 1960s to the present day in bringing hand, eye, and optical instruments together, with the iconic Grand Canyon I (2017) among the many glorious and daring works on display.

Exhibition run: Tuesday 15th March 2022 to Monday 29th August 2022 - and it's FREE!

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 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