



Toft Village Calendar

Produced and Distributed by St. Andrew's Parish Church

August 2022



EDITORIAL

Few things are more dependable than the reaction of the British press when the sun decides to come out.

"It's Costa del London!", I remember from one headline years ago. "Phew! What A Scorcha" became such a classic that it passed into Fleet Street folklore. Of course, in the old days it was knotted hankies on the head, rolled-up trouser-legs at the Serpentine or on the beaches and reminiscences from frazzled, thirsty veteran Desert Rats ("This is nothing. Musta bin 120 in the shade where we were...")

Usually, there was a shot or two of attractive young women in their skimpy sun-bathing in the park, now, sadly, deemed 'inappropriate' and a close-up of some Guardsmen who had swooned in their bearskins and lay like ninepins on the ground. Extroverted souls would cavort in public fountains. That was the cheery side. Soon would come reports of children and pets, asphyxiating in locked cars. Tarmac melting, railway lines warping, cricket cancelled... and usually someone in Shropshire served with a summons for using a hosepipe. Rumours of drought, rammed home by film of diminishing reservoirs. It was a script that wrote itself.

Nowadays, we like to think we've moved on. In many pubs, you can now actually get ice, rather than a puzzled frown. And even more cafes and restaurants make a point of putting tables and umbrellas outside on the pavement, so that people can eat in the traffic and flies and imagine themselves on some exotic boulevard.

But that's partly where the mystery of the British and the weather arises. Millions of us have long been accustomed to getting overseas for real, and absorbing the blazing rays of Cyprus, Portugal, Spain and Italy. There's nothing especially exciting about an extremely hot day in July or August: it's a commonplace, or at least it should be.

Moreover, a favourite British food and a favourite British drink - respectively curry and tea - were designed in India for hot-weather conditions. Curry preserves the meat and brings on a healthy sweat, while hot tea is far more thirst-quenching than lager. So it's not as if this national adaptability to torridity is all that recent. Much more than some people, we ought to be braced for a bit of a 'scorcha' every now and then. But when it happens, as it has recently, it takes people almost as much by surprise as snow in January, annually catching the railway authorities in a bending position and putting their timetables way out of whack. That's just official stupidity, of course, and bureaucratic inertia. You do get the odd headline when it's seriously cold - remember that damp squib they called The Beast From The East? - but it doesn't get people going in quite the same way.

So it's not a matter of its being hot. It's a matter of its being hot *here* - in London and Cambridge and Much Gripping in the Marsh. Hot where it shouldn't be. This challenges the natural order. If you want to be hot, go abroad. Then you can come back, fully expecting your birthright of drizzle and fog and cloud, and secure somehow in the confidence of it. So it's a bit of a shock to find yourself sweltering like Johnny Foreigner. You might have known that immediately after a public berating for failing to insulate our houses, a heatwave would render those who listened glistening, breathless zombies, gently poaching in their self-made pressure-cooker homes.

My own widely-derided theory is that there's a buried folk memory of August 1914, when a hot summer of legendary length and intensity came to a sudden terminus with the collapse of civilisation. Or maybe we're all frogs in that legendary pan of hot water and we've only just noticed. But even if we are, cheer up, then cool down. It could be worse. The malaria outbreak in Middlesbrough will be over in a flash and the hopfields of Kent will not fall victim to the locust. Or not quite yet, anyway...



A Plea

Toft Car Scheme has been running continuously since at least 1994. It ran throughout the covid pandemic. It now urgently needs a new co-ordinator. The village needs the Car Scheme. The Car Scheme needs a new co-ordinator. **Would somebody please volunteer.**

Toft Car Scheme is one of many similar schemes overseen by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. It provides an affordable means of transport to people in the village who would otherwise be unable to get to medical appointments, public transport being unsuitable for their needs. The Toft scheme typically provides transport to the local GP surgeries, hospitals, opticians, dentists, etcetera.

As I will soon be resigning **we are urgently seeking a volunteer** to become the new co-ordinator. The role involves receiving requests for transport from people living in the village and then finding a volunteer, from the group of willing drivers, who will be available at the time requested. There are various other administrative tasks. In the 6 months from last October to this March the scheme completed 55 trips.

The co-ordinator can also be a volunteer driver or can be someone who does not drive.

Would anyone interested in becoming the next co-ordinator **please contact me for further details.**

Colin Southgate. Tel: 262814

DIARY DATES

TOFT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

[Over 50s Club].
10th August at 2.30pm at the People's Hall There will be a talk on the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Visitors always welcome.

(See also P.3)

Sewing, Knit and Natter

Sewing, Knit and Natter are having a break in July and August and will meet again in September when we hope to resume with fresh Christmas ideas to make.

The Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 1st August.

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 ChurchMinister (1.5.22) Revd Charity Nzegwu
01763 241803

Stewards:

Diana Tebbit 01223 263557

Stephen Acklam 264055

Mrs Pat Morton 264010

*The Church in Toft***SERVICES OF WORSHIP**7th August 8.30am Holy Communion - Rev
Prof Michael Reiss11.00 am Holy Communion – Methodist
Church – Revd Charity Nzegwu14th August 11.00am Morning Worship–
St. Andrew's – Mrs Cathy Michell21st August 8.30am Holy Communion -
Rev Prof Michael Reiss11.00am Morning Worship,- Revd at
Methodist Church –

Revd David Blanchflower

28th August 11.00am - Holy Communion at
St. Andrew's – Revd David NewtonThere will be morning prayer at St.
Andrew's every Wednesday at 9.15 am
(about half-an-hour) – this may change to
9.30am during July so please check with
WardensAlso 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](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/899215191)Zoom services available at 11.00am
MEETING ID: 823 1147 3640

O ur clerical contingent are otherwise engaged this month, so instead - and for no other reason than that it is a particular favourite of mine and suits the season - we are reproducing Thomas Edward Brown's (1830 - 1897) lovely poem: My Garden

~~~~~

*A garden is a lovesome thing, God wot!**Rose plot,**Fringed pool,**Ferned grot--**The veriest school**Of peace; and yet the fool**Contends that God is not--**Not God! in gardens! when the eve is**cool?**Nay, but I have a sign;**'Tis very sure God walks in mine.*

~~~~~

- T. E. Brown

Revd David Newton was Instituted and installed as LORDSBRIDGE TEAM RECTOR on Friday 15th July by Bishop Dagmar of Huntingdon. We congratulate David on his appointment



THE CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY

On **9th August** anytime after 9.30 we plan a spring clean/ paint, sort day at the church - all help gratefully received.

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### **SEPTEMBER 3rd AUTUMN FAYRE** in the churchyard 10.30 – 1.00pm

Following last year's event, mixture much as before.

Please keep the date and come and join us. As many of you will know this fund-raiser is largely used to pay our insurance cover which is a significant amount for a listed, large building!

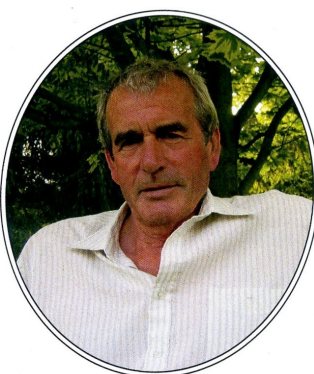
Refreshments will be served.

Teddy bears (or the like) will be invited to descend the wire from tower to earth! (11.00 – 12.00)

Cakes, hand-made articles and books will be for sale.

There will be children's activities, and stalls and a raffle and bottle stall. A flyer will be delivered mid-August with more details, offers of help gratefully received to Ann Mitchell (262516) or John Quenby (263949) or any member of PCC

### **TERRY OSBORNE 1939 - 2022**



Terry should have been born in Bermondsey but the outbreak of war saw his Mother, Nell, in Sussex and there he was born just after the war began. His father was killed in North Greece in 1941 and Terry came to live in Kingston with Oliver and Lil Collett in 1944. In 1945 he returned to London, and 'urban life' only to discover his Mother Nell had become engaged to Ralph Collett and they were to live in Toft. Easter 1947 Nell and Ralph married in the Methodist Chapel and Terry, later joined by Barry, Joe, Rosemary and Jacky, lived at No 1, Council House, High Street. Terry went to Toft School along with many cousins and settled into growing up in the country. Once old enough he joined his father Ralph doing odd-jobs around Ken Tebbit's farmyard – he loved harvest time.

His secondary education was at the school at the cross-roads in Comberton where he enjoyed team sports and the days they went to Bourn to do wood-work. On leaving school sundry jobs allowed him to go from a push-bike to a powerful motor-bike. Eventually he took a two week job at Payne's Farm in Kingston, stayed 25 years and married the boss's daughter Valerie. So he moved from Toft to Kingston where their two children were born. From Paynes Farm he moved to various jobs eventually becoming head caretaker at Hills Road sixth form college. He had many sporting interests; in particular football and cricket and especially Eversden Cricket Club, which he promoted on and off the field as player and coach with much success. He was a stalwart contributor to Toft Historical Society.

Terry was at home talking to anyone, he had forthright opinions but was never unfair with a strong sense of right and wrong helping the underdog where he could. He was good company and there was much laughter in his life which had become that of a countryman based both in Toft and Kingston. As Barbara Preece ended her eulogy

*....the countryside and its people embraced him. The fields and meadows where once he roamed have lost a much loved figure in the landscape.*

## Toft Parish Council

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

30 West Drive

Highfields Caldecote

| Councillors       | Phone  | E-mail                      |
|-------------------|--------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Chairman:</i>  |        |                             |
| Martin Yeadon     | 263663 | cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk |
| Emma Darbyshire   |        |                             |
| Elaine Miles      | 262255 | cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk  |
| Stephen Collinson |        |                             |
| Christine Watson. |        |                             |

Cambridge, CB23 7NY Tel: 01954 210241

*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](http://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 1st August, 7.00 pm in The People's Hall . All welcome.**

It should be noted that while the Parish Council is set to meet on the 1st Monday of every month, with the exception of August, due to the inability to form a council after the May elections because of insufficient numbers, a further election was held in June and Toft is now fortunate to have a quorate council. This was the first Monday when the Parish Council could meet following the result of that election.

This was, therefore, the inaugural meeting of the new Toft Parish Council 2022-2026 where new roles are assigned and new members of the council appointed. Returning members to the Council were Cllr. Martin Yeadon and Cllr. Elaine Miles and a new member of the Council was Christine Watson. Cllr. Yeadon and Cllr. Miles were unanimously voted in respectively as the new Chair and Vice-chair of the council. Emma Darbyshire was co-opted onto the council and we have further members to be co-opted onto the council at the next meeting. This will take place on 1st. August 2022 due to the first Monday in July being only a week away. There will, therefore, be no meeting in July.

All members present delivered their Declarations of Acceptance of Office.

The minutes of the 4th April were approved by those who had been present at that meeting.

As is normal at the beginning of a term of office, it is necessary to review and formally accept all the procedures relating to the work done by the Parish Council such as standing orders, financial regulations, risk assessment arrangements and other interests. A full list of all aspects reviewed can be found on the Agenda for the meeting which is on the Parish Council

noticeboard and these were all reviewed and accepted with the exception of Risk Assessment which has been deferred to the next meeting.

After the formal work of setting up the new council was done, the meeting was opened to the general public and as is common at the opening of the meeting councillors are asked to declare any interests and written requests for dispensations are requested. None were put forward.

The date for the next Annual Meeting of the William Eversden's Charity which manages the allotments has been set to occur after the October meeting of the Parish Council. While it is usual to have this meeting every 6 months, because of the inability to form a Parish Council in May, all meetings have been delayed and it was felt that having one in October would reset this bi-annual calendar cycle.

The council had received 3 reports from Andy Tall. The first referred to a meeting he had had with Highways and Church representatives to discuss solutions to parking on the verge outside St. Andrew's Church and it was reported that the initial assessment indicates that this will be a significant project requiring capital investment that will run into "tens of thousands" of pounds. We are still waiting for a final figure but there is no commitment to proceed any further at this stage.

Regarding the speed limit being reduced between Toft and Comberton, following a meeting with a representative from Cambridgeshire County Council, Andy reported that the recommendation was to make the application as part of the next LHI bid which will take place later in the year if the costs involved are considered worthwhile.

The third report concerned the successful bid to reduce the speed limit on School Lane to 20mph and have a 2nd Mobile Village Activated Sign (MVAS) in the village. It was felt that this could be taken forward in conjunction with the Toft Speedwatch Team.

It was decided that the Council would not respond to two surveys which had been brought to its attention, namely CCC Transport Strategy Stakeholder Engagement Survey and the C2C Better Public Transport and Active Travel Project Public Consultation. However, parishioners can find these on the CCC website and respond to them should they wish to do so. The deadline for the latter is 11th July 2022.

The finance report was considered and it was agreed to raise the sum for the costs of the Jubilee tea from £250 to £300 given that the original number of participants expected had risen from around 150 to 250.

A review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control for the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 was carried out and deemed to be effective.

Regarding the recreation ground, an inspection had been requested by a parishioner regarding the safety of one of the climbing frames. The RoSPA report stated that the risk level was Low. However, while at the time of manufacture the apparatus complied with the existing standards (2008), it was felt that the apparatus should be upgraded to comply with the newer standards set in 2017.

It was noted that a number of maintenance jobs on village assets are outstanding and have not been able to be completed due to the retirement of Clive Blower who carried out the majority of such tasks. The Parish Council is now seeking a replacement for Clive and would like to thank him for the maintenance work he has done in the past.

It was reported that a tree which had been impeding the wooden footbridge near the Quenby's farm has been removed.

The meeting was closed with the Chair thanking the previous councillors who have stepped down from the Parish Council.





## TOFT SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

Our **Annual Barbeque** at the beginning of July was a great success – a great turnout and excellent weather for the evening. Thanks to all those who came along and to those that helped at the event!

**Food on Friday** returns in August, on Friday 5th. We shall be serving Chicken or Vegetarian Fajitas, with potato wedges & salad garnish. Doors open at 7pm, with food just £5.00. We operate on first come, first served – so come early to avoid disappointment!

August's **Film Club** will be on Saturday 20th. We will be showing the 2021 film "**Operation Mincemeat**". Based on a true story, Operation Mincemeat was the bizarre real-life scheme cooked up by British intelligence in 1943 to fool Nazi Germany into thinking the allies planned to invade Greece and Sardinia, rather than their actual target, Sicily. Starring Colin Firth and Matthew Macfadyen as the two British Intelligence Officers who run the operation, this is a richly human story of the soldiers we seldom see, who fight a different kind of war in shadows and deception. 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 13th August we are holding our next **Open Mic / Music Night** – we plan to have a diverse range of acts. Do come along and enjoy some excellent entertainment. Doors open at 8pm and entry is free of charge.

**Carpet Bowls** is on Friday 12th August, doors open at 8pm. This is a fun evening for all the family, so why not come along and have a game – free entry.

**Toft Art** is taking a holiday in August, but returns again in September..

Our popular **Quiz Night** is on Thursday 11th August - teams of up to 6, just £1 per team member. Doors open at 8pm.

**Toft Bingo** will be on 25th August- all ages welcome! Doors open at 8pm.

**The Toft Beer and Cider Festival** takes place over the weekend of 2nd-4th September. We will have up to 15 real ales, local ciders and all our usual refreshments. There will be food all weekend - a mix of snacks and meals at different times, including roast dinners on Sunday lunchtime. We are planning to have live music on Saturday night. Full details are being updated on the website regularly.

We have **two music gigs** coming up in September and October – on Sunday 11th September we have the superb vocalists **Chris While**, and her daughter **Kellie**. Both have impeccable musical pedigrees as singers and instrumentalists - in this show they present a mix of self penned material and imaginative interpretations of other singer-songwriters' compositions.

On Thursday 13th October we welcome the return of **While and Matthews** - with 25 years of unrivalled musical partnership and gathering nominations, awards and critical acclaim along the way, British artists and singer-songwriters Chris While and Julie Matthews are out on an extensive Autumn tour this year.

Tickets for both events are just £16 and available here: <https://toftsocialclub.org.uk/tickets.php>

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), Sonia Cox (Secretary), Koran Collett, Ron Gouldstone, Liz Tomes, James Nairn, Brian Roberts and Angela Unsworth.

Keep up to date here:

[www.toftsocialclub.org.uk](http://www.toftsocialclub.org.uk)

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

## National Garden Scheme

Thank you to all those who supported The National Garden Scheme on July 3rd by coming to see the gardens and sampling our delicious cream teas.

Last but not least, thank you to the volunteers who manned the Schoolroom Café.



The total raised was a staggering £1420.44, made up of admissions £865, teas £530.44 and plants and greetings cards £25.

Total visitor numbers were around 172.

If you missed it this time, remember to put the date in your diary next year!

# *The* **SCHOOLROOM** *Community Café*

Our community café has been running for nine months now and has been a great success.

During the holiday period we are looking for volunteers to fill the gaps in our teams. Most teams have 4 or 5 people and jobs are allocated by team members choosing the jobs they feel most comfortable doing. It could be serving our customers or clearing tables and washing up, or making hot drinks or manning the cash and card reader payments or a mixture of these.

The hours on Wednesday are from 10.00 to 13.30 with breaks for lunch and coffee/tea and it would be every 4 weeks.

We would love to welcome some new recruits so if you think you would like to join us contact Gill Pugh [gill.ppugh@gmail.com](mailto:gill.ppugh@gmail.com) Jane Tebbit [jane@tebbitdesign.co.uk](mailto:jane@tebbitdesign.co.uk) or ask at the cafe any Wednesday.



## **Green Issues Working Group**

### **Repair Cafes are back!**

*Cambourne hosted its second Repair Café on Saturday, July 16 at the Hub Community Centre.*

Repair Cafes are community events that match people who need stuff fixed with people who like fixing things. These are free events to which you can bring along your broken item. Volunteer repairers will assess and then attempt to repair the item. If repair is not possible then they may be able to offer advice on where you can take the item for further assessment. There are no promises and no guarantees, but if something can be saved the repairers will give it their best efforts.

One key principle of a Repair Café is that you sit with the repairer whilst they attempt the repair. You can learn more about your broken item and the repair process.

Free tea, coffee and cake will be served!

You can take the following items for repair:

Electrical and mechanical items such as clocks, sewing machines, toasters, blenders, kettles, lamps, CD players, coffee machines, headphones

Sewing repair (clothing, bags, textiles)

Toys

Bicycles

Sharpening (e.g. garden tools, kitchen scissors)

Pottery gluing (must be in chunks, not smithereens)

Large appliances, microwaves, televisions, computer equipment and mobile phones cannot be accepted.

Find more information, cafes and venues at: <https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/repair-cafes/>





### Comberton Library

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

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

Tel: 0345 045 5225

· Opening hours:

· Monday: 10.00 am – 1.00 pm

· Wednesday: 10.00 am – 1.00 pm and  
2.30 – 5.30 pm

· Friday: 2.30 – 5.30 pm

· Saturday: 10.00 am – 1.00 pm

The **Gadgeteers Summer Reading Challenge** launched on 9th July but there's still time to take part. Join the Gadgeteers to discover the amazing science and technology behind the world around you! Read amazing books, collect awesome scratch & sniff stickers. Complete the Challenge and claim your own special Gadgeteers Medal and Certificate. Sign up for free at your local library. Mini challenge also available for our younger readers.

Alongside the reading challenge we will also be holding two events during the summer holidays. Tuesday 2nd August for Lego & Monday 15th August for crafts. The events will run from 10:30 – 12:00 keep a look out at the library for more details and information on how to book your spot nearer the time.

Our **Rhymetime** sessions will be taking a summer holiday but we will hopefully see you all again in September.

The Cambridgeshire Library service has just become the proud owner of two book bikes. If you are in Cambourne between 15th to 29th August you might be lucky enough to see Jessie the Jubilee bike. Jessie has mainly children's books, crafty materials and dressing up clothes for children. Our other bike Bessie will also be out and about over the summer visiting fetes and festivals, schools, playgroups, days centres, etc.

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](mailto:your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or call 0345 045 5225 to book an appointment. You are also welcome to just drop in, for renewals all you need to bring is your current bus pass.

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.



# Bored in the school holidays?

You can play table tennis, use our free Wi-Fi, have a cold drink and meet friends at The Schoolroom Café in Toft Peoples Hall.

We are open on Wednesdays for you from 11.00 to 13.30.



## Harvest your seeds now

Collect seeds from your gardens now for exchanging at the seed swap.

We will have lots of flower and vegetable seeds. Sow them now, in the autumn or the spring.

Seeds are available to everyone.



Yellow Aquilegia seed



toft\_telephone\_box\_seed\_swap

## Home Meadow officially opens new tearoom and sensory garden

A new sensory garden and a tearoom where visitors can rest and relax have been officially opened at **Home Meadow** care home in Toft, Cambridgeshire.

Both projects have come to fruition thanks to the staff team at the home who have been working hard to make the most of the lovely surroundings for residents, relatives and visitors to the home in Comberton Road.

The garden and 'The Teapot Café' were officially opened with a celebration and ribbon cutting recently. The sensory garden, designed with stimulating the senses of those living with dementia in mind, includes a water feature, windchimes and raised beds with colourful flowers and fragrant herbs. The tearoom provides a place for residents to take their relatives to catch up over fresh tea and coffee.

Home Manager Leena Oni said, "We are delighted that both these projects are now complete and ready for our residents to make use of. With the lovely weather we have had the garden has been well used already and everyone is enjoying it very much. It is a work in progress so we may well add additional features in the future.

"Both the sensory garden and the tearoom make the best use of the space and the large gardens which we have here at Home Meadow, providing the best care and activities for our residents." Being out in the fresh air is good for wellbeing and growing things can be a boost for health esteem. Research shows that people living with dementia benefit from all types of sensory stimulation - smelling, touching, looking and listening .

# Jubilee Trees

In 1977, we were celebrating the Queen's Silver Jubilee which included a colourful procession of floats, accompanied by an assortment of decorated bicycles, that paraded around the village amid much flag-waving. The Women's Institute, at that time a very active group, not only entered a float in the parade but, to further commemorate the Jubilee, also generously planted an ash leaf maple tree at the northern side of the village green, close to where the village dew pond was originally located earlier in the century.



*The WI group seems to include: Maureen Exton, Kath Roberts, Rose Preston(?), Mary Baverstock, Ralph Collett, Elsie Jacklin, Ivy Collett(?) planting, Sally Roberts, Arpi Johnson (?), Mrs Hudson, Gill Collett, Glen Noble.*

The site at the time was a grassy sward but, over the following decades, this area sadly became heavily overgrown, badly affecting the tree which was eventually lost to view.

The Diamond Jubilee in 2012 was an even larger undertaking, spread over several days and various locations around the village. Once again it was decided that a Jubilee tree (an oak) should be planted to mark another significant milestone in the Queen's reign. By this time the Toft Wood had been established and was chosen as an appropriate site for the tree. A commemorative plaque was designed and constructed by our resident village sculptor John McGill – *right-hand photograph*.

For the recent Platinum Jubilee celebrations, THS decided to commemorate the Queen's achievement by planting a new tree to replace the 1977 Jubilee tree. You may have noticed that the old tree was removed by tree surgeons in June. The site will now be cleared, to open up the area behind the existing green, before the new tree is planted there later this year. John McGill has again kindly agreed to design the commemorative plaque which will be unveiled at the planting ceremony this Autumn.



## Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants

### Wildlife Trust West Cambridgeshire Hundreds Update: Aug 2022

Late summer is a good time to enjoy watching bats. Sunset is not too late and both adults and juveniles are on the wing.

Did you know that a common pipistrelle bat (one of the most common bats in the UK) weighs around 5 grams and might eat 3,000 insects in one night? On a guided walk last year we saw them making use of the insect haven that is the sewage treatment works beside Waresley and Gransden Woods. The very rare Barbastelle bat, often associated with deciduous woodland, has also been recorded here on our formal bat surveys. On Cambourne Nature Reserve we regularly see Daubenton's bats which specialise in catching insects over water.

Bats may fly several kilometres from their roost to their feeding ground, which is why having a connected landscape is important. Bats will make use of hedgerows, gardens, river corridors, and verges to move around, so every piece of wilder space counts. In the West Cambs 100s (the area of land between Gamlingay, Cambourne and Comberton) The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants are working with partners to create a Living Landscape, making it easier for wildlife to move around. Landowners, farmers, residents and local councillors are all part of the solution to wildlife declines.

You can help bats in your garden by planting moth-friendly plants, like honeysuckle and jasmine for nectar, and stinging nettle and currants for caterpillar food. Leaving parts of your garden wild will also provide more habitat for insects and therefore food for bats.

The Wildlife Trust for Beds Cambs and Northants offer a variety of specialist walks through the year. I will be running night walks in Cambourne, and Waresley and Gransden Woods in August and September which will involve listening for owls, spotting nocturnal spiders, and listening for bats with special detectors. Further afield you can canoe with bats, or go on a family bat walk.

All of our events are on our website and most offer a discount for members.

<https://www.wildlifebcn.org/events>

Rebecca Neal, Communities and Wildlife Officer,  
The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants

E-mail: [rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org](mailto:rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org) Facebook:  
[@BeccaBadgerWTBCN](https://www.facebook.com/BeccaBadgerWTBCN)

BCN Facebook/Twitter: [@wildlifebcn](https://www.facebook.com/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.



*This grass snake, or slow worm, was spotted in a reader's garden recently*



## Toft Sports Day

Saturday 16th July



*Dan Farman receives the Golf prize.*

The marquees were up, the track made ready. There were gallons of water and squash, ice lollies and crisps to keep the contestants hydrated on this very warm sunny day.

Both children and adults competed in races and events.

The day ended with a rounders match and barbeque.

Thanks to Sarah and Xanthe Farman for keeping scores, those who erected the apparatus and prepared the field, Roger Thorogood who was master of ceremonies and to all who helped make the day such a great success.

The Sports Day has been a great tradition enjoyed by Toftes since the early 1900s.

Don't miss it next year. It's on the last Saturday before the schools' summer break.

Special thanks go to Mary Paxman for the use of her sunny meadow and Linda and Paul Hollow for the loan of their marquee which shaded us from the sun.



*Roger Thorogood presents the prize for the Round The Village Race*



*Max Tebbit with the Shield*





### A THANK YOU TO VILLAGERS FROM TOFT SHOP

THANK YOU, THANK YOU to the many customers and friends of Toft shop that support us, as your support helps us continue to provide vital services in these challenging times of rising costs and shortages.

**OUR AUGUST BREAK.** Toft shop will be closed this year from Thursday 22nd August to Wednesday 31st August. This is a longer break than last year (over August Bank Holiday) to give us all working in the shop a well earned rest.

The Post Office is one of the most valued assets within local communities and Toft Post Office offers a wide range of services to the village and the wider community. It is important that villagers realise that for your post office to remain open and financially feasible, not just viable, its services must be used. Some of the products and services are listed below.

|                      |                                                          |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Sale of stamps       | - Handling of letters and parcels                        |
| Banking services     | - Cash withdrawals/deposits/cheque deposits (most banks) |
| Travel money         | - Insurances                                             |
| Broadband and Mobile | - Postal orders                                          |

We all know that village shops have an important part to play in villages – and sometimes it is useful to think about why this is the case.

**Social exclusion** – for some residents a visit to the shop is their only social contact all day. Often these are elderly people and the shop is an important, informal part of their support network.

**Enabling residence** – for some the shop could be the difference between remaining living independently and having to move into sheltered accommodation elsewhere. The shop enables the local purchase of groceries, access to financial services and can be crucial for some residents.

**Centre for community** – the shop offers a facility for everyone and is probably the place where everyone goes (different to a church, pub or village hall). It's a place where local news is often displayed and exchanged and neighbours meet.

**Convenience store** – gives people an opportunity to buy fresh items or items they may have forgotten during a major shop including newspapers, milk, bread, fruit and veg etc. When your child tells you at 5.45pm they need a list of ingredients for food technology class tomorrow – then it's great to know the shop is open until 6.00pm

**Post office and financial services** – these days the post office offers a wide range of mail and banking services. See if it can save you a trip to the bank!

**Green issues** – If residents are able to walk to their local shop then this reduces the number of car miles with obvious environmental benefits. Shopping locally reduces the overall carbon footprint.

**Business customers** – small business have access to postal and banking services as well as stationery and other requisites.

**Supporting local suppliers** – The shop is vital in helping customers to access local products and supporting small producers. We have a wide range of local products – homemade cakes, local jams, apple juice, fresh veg & fruit, fresh bread, milk, honey, greeting cards and many others.

**Source of local employment** – We continue to offer local young people an opportunity to gain work experience with paid employment. On a part time basis in the shop or delivering papers and have found that the experience is very positive for them.

*Once again, thank you to all our customers and best wishes for a lovely summer.*

**Wednesday 7th September**

**TRIP DOWN THE River Deben  
In Suffolk**

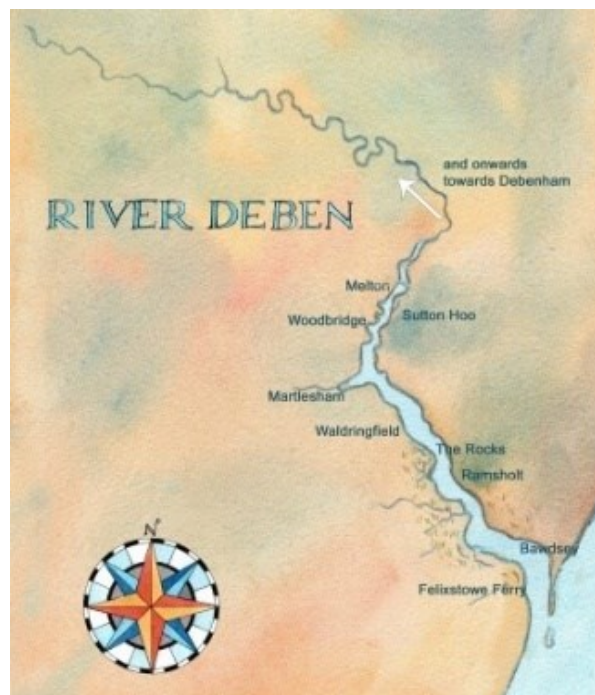


There is no village outing this year but the Friendship Club are taking a coach to Waldringfield for a trip down the River Deben to the mouth of the river, leaving Toft at 8.30am

Back on land we will drive to a local Inn for lunch. The coach and river trip will cost £30 (for non-members) plus lunch (up to each individual.)

There are some places available. If you would like to join us please contact:

Either Elizabeth Harrison 262832 or Ann Mitchell  
[ann@mitchella.ndonet.com](mailto:ann@mitchella.ndonet.com) First come, first served!



**Charity receives award in recognition of work to identify and support staff and volunteers who are carers**

Care Network Cambridgeshire has been awarded Caring Together's Carer Friendly Tick Award (Employers), in recognition of their work to identify and support carers who are part of their workplace.

The award was decided by a panel of carers who assessed the submission on behalf of Caring Together. Caring Together supports people caring for family members or friends across Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Norfolk.

Care Network, a charity that provides information and practical support to empower people and communities to improve independence, health and wellbeing, is supported by a team of volunteers working across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Their roles range from helping people settle back at home safely after a hospital stay, to offering Check and Chat support to people at risk of loneliness, isolation, and low mood. The panel of carers who assessed the submission were impressed by the range of work being done to identify and support staff who are caring for a family member or friend.

The work includes:

- Open and honest conversations as part of staff induction and supervision, supported by "carer-friendly" policies
- Holding carer awareness training sessions for all staff, with special focus given for line manager training
- Work with carers to develop a new carer statement.

Jill Nooj, carer awareness and voice coordinator at Caring Together, said "As one of our partner organisations, it has been a real pleasure to help Care Network Cambridgeshire develop ways in which they can identify and support carers who are part of their staff. We are delighted that their passion and commitment to supporting employees who are looking after family members or friends has now been recognised with our Carer Friendly Tick Award – Employer."

"We know that when employers offer the right support it has such a positive impact on staff members who are juggling work and caring responsibilities."

Read more about our Carer Friendly Tick Awards and how your organisation can support carers. [www.caringtogether.org/professionals/carers-friendly-tick-award](http://www.caringtogether.org/professionals/carers-friendly-tick-award)

**Wheelie Bin Collections For August**

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

**Black Bin:**

Weds 3rd Aug

Weds 17th Aug

**Thurs 01st Sept (Changed date)****Blue/Green Bin**

Weds 10th Aug

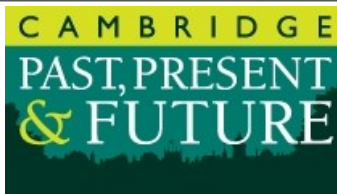
Weds 24th Aug

**Notice to Advertisers**

**Advertisements** are published quarterly. Copy for inclusion in the next available edition of the Calendar **must** reach us by 17th October 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: [calendaradstoff@gmail.com](mailto:calendaradstoff@gmail.com) to discuss their requirements.

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 Anglian Water (for sewage): 08457 145 145  
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 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

**Work starts to Save Bourn Mill**

Local communities and mill volunteers in Bourn, Cambourne and Caxton

were excited to see work starting onsite at Bourn windmill. The immense timbers have been delivered and these will be used to replace the rotten timbers that are supporting the mill. If you would like to be part of saving the UK's oldest windmill you will be in good company, as Lord Norman Foster, who studied the mill in 1958 says:

"In an age when we are reminded that innovation and design are key to a critical need to reduce the effects of climate change, it is only right that we are afforded the ability to look back to an age when we were undoubted leaders in such innovation. The repair and preservation of Bourn Mill today will ensure that privilege for generations to come."

We are very grateful for grants from Historic England and National Lottery Heritage Fund but we still need to raise a further £7,500 to reach our target. Thank you to everyone who has generously donated so far. You can support the project by donating to it on our website

Next month you will be able to come and see the work underway and learn about the complex restoration work for yourself. **We are offering four tours all taking place on Aug 2 between 4.30pm and 7.15pm.** The tours are free and donations towards the project are very welcome. Please book on our website: <https://www.cambridgeppf.org/save-bourn-windmill>

**T**he 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 August**. Many thanks to all who contributed to this edition. Email: [calendareditor@toft.org.uk](mailto:calendareditor@toft.org.uk) Post: 33 Egremont Road, Hardwick, Cambridge CB23 7XR Telephone: 01954 211346



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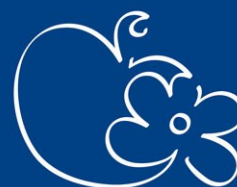
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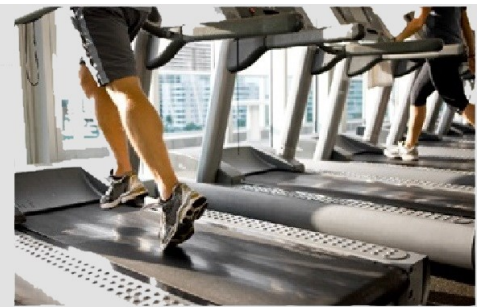
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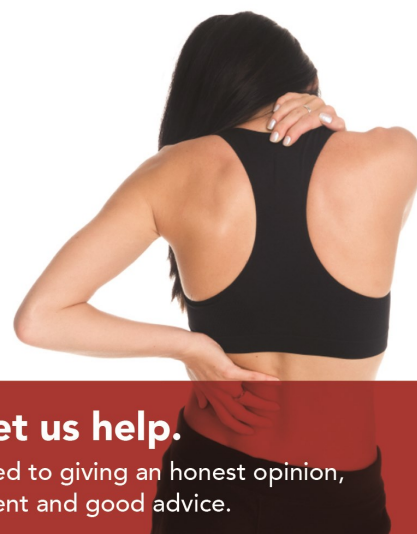
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