



Toft Village Calendar

Produced and Distributed by St. Andrew's Parish Church

December 2022



EDITORIAL

Was I asleep, awake or dreaming? Or somewhere in that half-world between all three? Honestly, I couldn't tell you. But the house was still and silent as the grave. In the darkness and picked out by a feeble moonbeam I saw, swimming into focus, a congealing mist at the foot of the bed. As I stared, it coalesced into a shape that was at once half-human and, somehow... other. It raised the ethereal semblance of a hand and turned its hoary, terrible countenance in my direction. Horrified, I saw the blurred black hole where its mouth should have been begin to widen and in a rasping whisper, it spoke.

"Evening," it said. "Sorry to barge in like this. Ghost Of Christmas Yet To Come here. Didn't startle you, I trust?" By now, I'd begun to come a little more to my senses. "You can't be," I said "I'm supposed to get The Ghost Of Christmas Past and that other guy first, as I recall."

"Ah. Yeah. About that," said the apparition, limply. "There's been savage cuts, you see. And besides, we just can't get the people nowadays. No-one can."

I gawped. "You mean - you rely on volunteers?" I asked " - I mean, I never really thought about it, but -" The spirit seemed to sag a little. "Point is" it interrupted, "spirits have got a choice, haven't they? You can come out on a night like this, freezing cold and no-one exactly pleased to see you, however near Christmas it is or, you can stay in Heaven, lolling about on a cloud cushion in the warm and listening to harp music and the choir invisible and tucking into a nice bowl of ambrosia. No contest, really."

"So, how come you're here? You must have volunteered?" The spectre shook its head and clinked towards me. "Mind if I sit down?" it said, "These chains are a deadweight. " "Ha-Ha, yes - literally so in your case, I suppose." The ghost frowned. "Very droll, I'm sure. No - thing is, there's a lot of short-term seasonal work around this time of year for us denizens of the spirit-world. We were run off our feet this Hallowe'en. I fancied being a Herald Angel this year, but I hadn't got the voice for it. And I'm way too past it for a cherubim. Seraphim, mind, I thought I was in with a shout, but it's not what you know, it's who you know, innit?" I demurred. " "Whom you know" " I said. "What?" said the phantasm in a weary tone. "Whom you know. It's not Who you know, it's Whom you know." Its fiery eyes glared at me. "Whatever. Anyway, this was all that was left and I need something for my C.V., so here I am, anti-social hours notwithstanding."

"OK" I said. "so...I mean, now what?" The ghoul cleared what, in anyone - or anything - else, would have been its throat. "Well - I was going to show you what would happen to you if you didn't lighten up and get with the programme, behaviourally-wise. But times knocking on and I've got a lot of other calls to make tonight. So, take it from me: Mend ye ways... or you're toast." And with that and an accusatory wave of his bony, incorporeal finger, the phantasm began to dwindle slowly into the gloom.

I must have slept, for when I came to again, it was a bright, crisp Winter morning. I flung open the window and espied below a rosy-cheeked street urchin, busily trying to thief my bike. "Ho, there, lad," I cried, "Take this shiny new credit-card and buy me the biggest turkey in the shop!" I tossed down the card, which he deftly pocketed. "Right away, guv'nor" came the cheery response. And with that, he and it vanished down the road and I haven't seen either of them since.

Goes to show: If you want your spirits raising this Christmas, don't raise the same one I did.



Hospital early intervention team receives Carer Friendly Tick Award

The early intervention team at Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (CUH) has been awarded Caring Together's Carer Friendly Tick Award (Health), in recognition of their work to identify and support carers.

On behalf of Caring Together, a charity supporting people caring for family members or friends, a panel of carers assessed the submission from the Trust.

The panel were impressed by the range of work being carried out by the team, and the impact that this has on both carers and those they care for.

A member of the Caring Together assessment panel said, "It is clear that the early intervention team at the CUH is actively promoting the support of carers both in patient and staff settings and that they are succeeding in developing a 'carer friendly ethos' which can only have a positive impact on patient care.

The Trust was awarded the Carer Friendly Tick (Health) Award for reasons including:

Several staff within the team have volunteered for the role of carers champion.

A carer's agreement has been developed with input from the carers' forum.

Andy McGowan, head of engagement at Caring Together, said, "With three in five of us likely to be a carer at some stage in our lives we are very pleased to see the Trust working in partnership with carers to identify and support people looking after family members or friends within health settings. The work that they are doing makes a real difference.

Read more about our Carer Friendly Tick Awards and how your organisation can support carers at caringtogether.org/carers-friendly-tick.

DIARY DATES

TOFT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

[Over 50s Club]. 14th December 2.30 Toft People's Hall Our Christmas Party, carols with Jeanne McCarten and Mike McCarthy and friends, the chocolate raffle and a special tea. Guests always welcome

Sewing, Knit and Natter

We will be decorating our Christmas tree at the Festival on Saturday 3rd December. Our next meeting will be in January 2023.

The Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 5th December at 7.00 pm. All welcome.

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 (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***4th December* 8.30am Holy Communion - Rev Prof Michael Reiss

3.00pm Christmas Tree Festival Service at St. Andrew's – Christingles, presents for the women's Refuge, refreshments

11th December 8.00 am Holy Communion – St. Mary's - Rev Prof. Michael Reiss

11.00am Advent carols with Holy Communion at St. Andrew's – Rev David Newton

18th December 8.30am Holy Communion – Rev Prof Michael Reiss

11.00 am Lessons and Carols – Toft Methodist Church – Cathy Michel

21st December Wednesday at 6.00pm – Firelight and Starlight – Toft churchyard (see p.3)*24th December* 11.30 pm Midnight Holy Communion for Christmas Eve at St. Andrew's - Rev David Newton*25th December* – CHRISTMAS DAY – 9.30 at Toft Methodist Church – Rev Robert Dolman and Ann Mitchell*1st January* – said Holy Communion St. Mary's Comberton 9.30am: 11.00am Holy Communion Harlton Parish church; 5.30pm Evening prayer at Dry Drayton

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**Light**

This year, the Church in Toft has chosen to focus on the Christmas theme of 'Light'. Hopefully you will receive (or have already received) a little wooden star through your letter box, to remind you of that Christmas Light.

At the beginning of John's Gospel there are some of the most famous words of scripture ever penned: 'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it'. There is nothing more profound or simple as this message. It is the crux of faith itself.

I think of this line every time I look up at the night sky. I have been particularly enjoying doing so in recent weeks seeing Jupiter and Mars shine brightly. (Do look out for them in the South and East respectively with their usual bluey and orangey colouring). They – alongside the stary host – take me on an inward journey to the Christmas Star and the hope it brings.

May you know the light that shines in the darkness this Christmas.

*David***Simple Sewing, Knit and Natter.**

A huge thank you to everyone who bought from our stall on Wednesday 16th November and for the generous donations we received. All proceeds will go to The Arthur Rank Hospice. We will be discussing our next project in the New Year.

For further details please contact Sally (262895) or Lucy (262948).



THE CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY

You should all have received the details of Christmas events with a wooden star, as our theme this year is light. - But, a reminder:



3rd – 4th DECEMBER There will be a **Christmas Tree Festival**. We would like, and hope you will provide, as many trees as possible to decorate the Church which will then be open for you to visit and enjoy anytime over the week-end. On Sunday, in the afternoon, we will have a gathering to make Christingles and as is our custom to collect presents for the Women's Refuge.

PLEASE consider decorating a tree for us and of course, presents for the Refuge will be most welcome

Our Christmas Tree week-end is always a wonderful start to Christmas, so we look forward to you joining us.

WEDNESDAY 21st DECEMBER 6.00 pm

FIRELIGHT AND STARLIGHT

In the Churchyard, we will sing, listen to stories around a fire, with stars overhead and music!

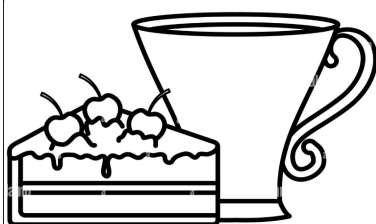
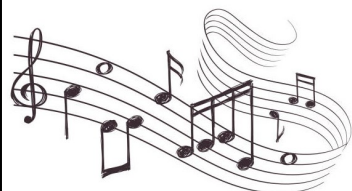
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on Saturday 10th December at 4.00 pm

Toft Choir and Toft Session at St. Andrews Church, Toft

The Variety of Christmas

An hour of music followed by mulled wine and mince pies. No charge, donations for the refreshments; any profit to St. Andrew's



LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRISTMAS

COFFEE, CAKE AND CONVERSATION

We are continuing with our weekly meetings, to which everyone is welcome, kindly hosted by Diana Tebbit, 24 Mill Lane, 10.30 – 12.00pm on Thursdays 10.30-12.00pm, around the themes of:

Birth - 1st December

Gifts - 8th December

Home - 15th December

All welcome!

Any questions: contact Barbara Preece on 01223 263466

Since the last edition of the Calendar three people have died who have their place in Toft's story.

PAT GOULDSTONE. Pat's funeral will take place at the Crematorium on Wednesday 30th November at 11.00am followed by a wake at Toft People's Hall. On Wednesday 7th December at 2.00pm at St. Andrew's Church there will be a short service in St. Andrew's followed by the burial of Pat's ashes in the churchyard. We will have a full obituary next month but Pat will be sadly missed by SO many people, whether as a former member of Toft Parish Council, serving refreshments in the church and so much more, or taking her turn at the community café. Our thoughts are with Ron, and her daughters Alison and Katy.

Mrs Jackie Downes, the widow of John Downes, who lived in Tyne Cottage before moving into Homemeadow.

Revd Dr Brian E Beck, (1933-2022) an extremely distinguished Methodist Minister, in many important roles, as an author and a preacher of inspiration and skill, who is the signatory of the Local Ecumenical Partnership between St. Andrew's and the Methodist Church and who most recently honoured us with his presence when we celebrated the 10th Anniversary of that signing.



THE WARM HUB - DROP IN

on Monday mornings, anytime between 10.30 & 12.30

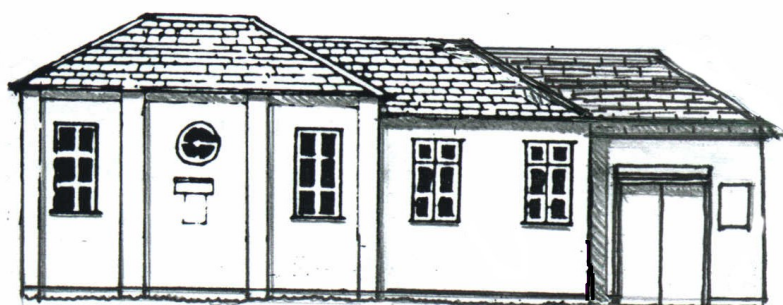
- Starting on January 9th

Toft Methodist Church in the High Street

Coffee and tea and biscuits,



a chance to chat with
friends, play games, even
charge your phone!



No charge - All Welcome

Toft Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Gail Stoeher (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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Emma Darbyshire	07763 465234	
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Elaine Miles	262255	cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk
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Stephen Collinson	07521 912734	
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Christine Watson	07730 941946	
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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 5th December, 7.00pm in The People's Hall. All Welcome.

- The Parish Council met on 7th November 2022 at 7.30pm preceded at 7.00pm by the William Eversden Charity AGM at which a number of allotment tenants were present and following discussions it was agreed that:
- permission for the planting of perennial plants need not be sought in future;
- it would not be compulsory to remove any perennial plants at the end of a tenancy unless on the express wish of the new tenant;
- espalier supports for bushes/trees which would remain at approximately 2 metres height was permissible;
- in addition to the present permission to erect a small hut of approximately 1² x 2 metres high, low-level roof-style erections over water butts to maximise the collection of rain water would also be permitted.
- It was reported that the work on the water bore was on-going but delayed due to the bore-making equipment having broken on a couple of occasions because of large rocks underground. The Chair is to seek further information in order to assess the feasibility of the project.
- Finally, it was agreed unanimously that the allotment rents would be increased to £15 per annum beginning in 2023 in order to cover administrative costs. The meeting closed at 7.40pm.
- The Parish Council Meeting followed immediately afterwards and there were no declarations of interest or written dispensations.
- It was noted that there are still two vacancies on the Parish Council to be filled and volunteers would be welcome. Please speak to any Councillors or call Martin Yeadon on 263663 if interested.
- Regarding Climate Change and Green Issues, Cllr Collinson agreed to contact the SCC representative to see what suggestions /projects were possible for a small village such as Toft and will report back at the next meeting.
- Discussions are on-going regarding the erection of a noticeboard on the Birdlings site.

- Following previous canvassing of residents at the Birdlings resulting in many declining to receive a paper version of the Calendar, it was felt that the best way forward would be to ensure that the Calendar was published promptly on the village website and this was more widely known.
- The update from CCC regarding the matter of parking outside the Church was discussed and it was felt that given the enormous costs involved we could not progress this issue.
- The matter of EWR was discussed and Cllr Yeadon was able to report that at 2 meetings he had attended issues such as freight, traction and the Northern route were raised but there is no further information and no decisions have been made. The results of the existing EWR consultation should come out in the new year.
- Regarding the Recreational Play area, following suggestions to investigate "percussion-play" equipment at the last meeting, Cllr Watson tabled two descriptions of equipment that would be suitable. It is hoped that if she can find grants, the Parish Council will match- fund to support the purchase of these.
- Cllr Watson also brought to the meeting a design of a new noticeboard for the playground. She also confirmed that she had tidied up the area and twigs and branches have been piled into a corner ready for removal.
- Community Gritting volunteer. Cllr Watson is to explore what is involved and may take on the role if not too arduous.
- Information regarding the CCC Transport Strategies 2022 can be found at <https://consultcambis.uk/engagement/hq.com/>
- It was confirmed that the Toft Shop has been added to the Assets of Community Value.
- The ditch adjacent to the Recreation ground which has been blocked for some time has now been cleared by the landowners.
- The Finance report was approved.
- There were no play inspection reports nor urgent matters to discuss.
- A planning application was presented and the Parish Council had no comment to make.
- Cllr Yeadon reported that the village maintenance work needed following the annual assessment had been carried out satisfactorily by the new person appointed.
- New requests for 20-mph have been put on hold as LHI is currently looking at new initiatives regarding a more comprehensive policy on 20mph zones in the county. The 20mph zone for School Lane is going ahead as planned.
- It was agreed that Cllr Darbyshire and Cllr Miles would explore other ways in which traffic could be slowed down on entering the village via the B1046 in both directions.
- Cllr Watson reported that the Village Hall committee is planning to move the entrance door to the front of the building to facilitate ease of access for wheelchair users and exploring the possibility of extending the kitchen which is now too small.
- Footpaths are currently free from damage but it should be noted that SCC has informed us that there is no funding left in the current budget for repairs to gates.
- Further information is awaited on the plans at Birdlings for visitor parking, dates for start/end of build and other matters.
- Cllr Darbyshire reported that Whippet have taken on the running of the No. 18 bus following the removal of this service by Stagecoach. While this is very welcome, it is currently erratic with buses cancelled at very short notice. She reported that Whippet try to keep information up-to-date via Twitter.
- Cllr Miles agreed to represent the Parish Council on the ORB group which has been formed to plan for Toft's celebration of the coronation of King Charles III.
- It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council invites the Cambridge Nature Network to speak about how to use the Nature Network Toolkit. The aim of CNN is to double the amount of nature rich habitats by 2050 and Toft Parish sits within this network and specifically within the Boulder Clay and Woodlands Priority Area.
- Finally, Cllr Yeadon reported the successful planting of a Purple Beech tree to commemorate the late Queen's Jubilee celebrations and the erection of a plaque commissioned by local artist, John McGill. These have been positioned on a newly-cleared area of the verge on the corner of Mill Lane opposite the village green.



TOFT SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

We are very pleased to announce that **Alfie Moore**, star of BBC Radio 4's comedy show "It's a fair Cop" is coming to Toft in February. This is quite a coup for us as Alfie doesn't normally play venues of our size. Former policeman, turned comedian, has included us in his latest tour – "Fair Cop Unleashed" which is based on a dramatic real-life incident from Alfie's police casebook. Tickets are on sale now, priced £18 – you can find out more and book your tickets here:

<https://toftsocialclub.org.uk/alfie-moore.php>

Be sure to book soon as this gig will sell out fast.

We have a busy December starting with a Christmas themed **Open Mic / Music Night** on Saturday 3rd December – come along and enjoy a festive mix of music. Doors open at 8pm and entry is free.

Our famous **Christmas Dinner** takes place on Saturday 10th December – you can expect the usual wonderful 2 course Christmas dinner, with coffee / tea and mince pie. Tickets are on sale now at the Club priced £10. Doors open at 19:30.

December's **Film Night** is Saturday 17th, we are showing the 2021 film "Respect" – the film follows the rise of Aretha Franklin's career from a child singing in her father's church's choir to her international superstardom, "Respect" is the remarkable true story of the music icon's journey to find her voice. Doors open at 8pm and the film starts promptly at 8:20. Film Club membership is £12 for the year, or evening membership is £2.50.

Toft Art is on Thursday 1st December, and **Toft Quiz** is on Thursday 8th - we promise there will be no Christmas questions! Doors open at 8pm.

Carpet Bowls is on Friday 9th December, doors open at 8pm. We are planning a knockout tournament for January – so this will be a good opportunity to get some practice in!

Toft Bingo is early this month - on 15th December – doors open at 8pm.

Please note – there will be no Food on Friday in December.

The **Annual Christmas Draw** is underway – please see the board at the Bar. There are lots of prizes to be won, and the Draw will take place on Christmas Eve - we will be open from 8pm, so why not come along and welcome in Christmas.

We will be open on Thursday 29th and Friday 30th December as normal – on Thursday we will be showing an extra film - "**TopGun Maverick**" – the 2022 sequel to the 80's Top Gun movie. Set 30 years after its predecessor, it follows Maverick's return to the United States Navy Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor program, where he must confront his past. Doors open at 8pm as normal.

Then we will be welcoming in 2022 with a **New Year's Eve Party** – full details on the website.

We are planning to show some of the **Football World Cup** on our big screen throughout December, including the final on December 18th – see the website for details of which matches.

After the success of the last one, we are holding another **Table Top sale** on 14th January – details next time.

Finally, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Your Committee is: : Martin Sebborn (Chairman), Roger Thorogood (Vice Chairman), Gill Collett (Treasurer), Sonia Cox (Secretary), Koran Collett, Ron Gouldstone, Liz Tones, 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>



Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants

Wildlife Trust BCN West Cambridgeshire Hundreds Update: Dec 2022

The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants has sustainability at our heart. With this in mind, I'll be at a few different places over December doing some festival drop-in

crafts that families and adults will enjoy. Ever wondered how to make a beautiful hand-made gift using sticks, left-over wool, and some orange peel? Visit me at one of these events to find out, and hopefully it will spark your own ideas:

Our annual Christmas Fair is back! We'll be opening the doors of our headquarters in Cambourne for mince pies and sparkles. This is free to enter and has local hand-made craft stalls, books, gifts for the wildlife enthusiast, and a raffle. Friday 2nd Dec 3-7pm

Join me for some drop-in sustainable craft sessions aimed at families with children aged 5+ (adults will also enjoy them). These are donation-only events so can be free to join in.

Gamlingay Eco Hub on 13th Dec 3.15-5.15

Cambourne Library on 15th Dec 4-6pm

These events are a good chance to meet staff and ask questions about the work of the Trust directly. All of our events are on our website: www.wildlifebcn.org/events

Quick reminders

We often have to restrict access to our woodland reserves over winter, either due to forestry work and heavy machinery, or muddy conditions which can damage sensitive wildlife.

Thank you for respecting the signs which we post on the official entrances; this means you are not prolonging the closures. You can keep up-to-date with the situation on our website: wildlifebcn.org/explore/reserve-updates

How you can help care for your local reserve in the winter:

Please wear appropriate footwear so you can stick to the middle of the paths if they are muddy, or consider exploring elsewhere

Please let us know if a fallen tree is blocking the path

Consider finding out more about the management of our reserves by joining a practical work party. These happen nearby at Gamlingay, Hardwick and Waresley and Gransden Woods every couple of weeks over the autumn and winter, and at Cambourne Nature Reserve monthly throughout the year.

E-mail: 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.



Comberton Library

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

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

Christmas Opening Hours:

Comberton Library will be open as usual on Christmas Eve and Saturday 24th December before closing for Christmas. We will re-open on Wednesday 4th January 2023.

Thank you to everyone to helped create a wonderful Autumnal display in our library – what a lot of lovely leaves, pumpkins, poppies and fireworks! But can you spot the ghost and the witch on her broomstick?

The Reading Agency is promoting the Winter Reading Challenge for children again this year between 1st December and 16th January. The challenge encourages children to keep up their reading habits over the winter holidays, and they will receive rewards and incentives for reading and reviewing books. For more information and to sign up your children please visit: <https://readingagency.org.uk/news/media/join-the-winter-mini-challenge.html>



You will always find a warm and friendly welcome in our library – so please do drop in to relax and read, choose some books or use one of our library computers or our free WiFi.

We are starting a **Knit and Natter group** in Comberton Library so why not dust off those knitting needles and join us on Monday 9th and 23rd January from 10.30 am – 11.30 am.

The **Rhymetime** dates (10.30 am to 11.00 am) for children aged 0-4 years over the Christmas and New Year period will be 12th December, 16th January, and 30th January.

Our latest *What's On* magazine will be out in January and will list all the amazing events scheduled to take place Cambridgeshire libraries during the winter months, and you can also visit our families facebook page on: <https://www.facebook.com/CambslibFamilies/> to see what we have planned.

Comberton library would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all again in 2023 – where does the time go?

If you have a concessionary bus pass and need help renewing it, or if you are applying for a pass for the first time and would like some help with your application, then we can help at the library. You can renew a bus pass six weeks before it expires, and we will take your photo for the application. We can also help with replacing the ferules on walking sticks, so if you would like some help with either of these services please book an appointment, call us on 0345 045 5225, or pop in to see us at Comberton Library. We look forward to seeing you in the library very soon.

Recent former villager Mark Catley writes a fond...Farewell

It was over 33 years ago that we came to 5 Farmers End with our three young children, Anna 9, Laura 6 and Jonathan 3 following a move involving Mark's work.

We soon found this little village of around 600 souls in approximately 200 dwellings to be the most welcoming of places. We were delighted to find places for the children in the Meridian School and later at the Village College (in the eastern hemisphere!): they settled in very well and have been happy in their subsequent careers having had the excellent benefit of a good grounding in this beautiful spot just 6 miles west of Cambridge.

We were delighted to have seen them all married in the glorious setting of St Andrews Church – all of them under the watchful eye of Mike Booker our, then, Rector.

When our girls were in their teenage years there were the regular moans of “nothing ever happens in Toft” and we were, like so many parents, providing taxi services, ferrying them here, there and everywhere.

Once they moved away and found their spouses, they were forever coming ‘home’ to the village they simply adored with the phrase, “why did we ever find this place boring?” Of course, it has never been boring and it's when folk look back, that they appreciate this gorgeous village for what it really is: kind, generous, busy and fascinating.

We have been delighted to have placed our girls under the expert tutelage of the Brownies and Guides' leadership teams, and Jonathan under the local Cub and Scout leaders: they have been all over the world with various groups and have all benefitted from coming back to the warmth and security of Toft.

With Molly, our (now departed) Golden Retriever, the children so enjoyed the country walks around the village, which, in Jonathan's case, became so much longer than a local trek

and many a time ended up with the dog being lost (who always seemed to return sodden and bedraggled hours later on our doorstep having been ‘trusted’ off her lead).

We have enjoyed, without exception, the fabulous neighbours in and around Farmers End and beyond – kindness unstifled and overflowing. We have loved the energy of the local church, the Club, Parish Council, IW and, of course, Toft Village Choir (providing the twice -yearly concerts of exceptional breadth and quality) – so much going on in such a small place.

I (Mark) loved being part of TBQ (Toft Barbershop Quartet) so thank you Jake Tebbit, Cynan Ellis-Evans and Brian Elsdon (who has now, very recently, left Toft) – your humour, musical ability and fellowship for 16 wonderful years, will be indelible in my memory.

I (Julia) will miss the weekly Morning Prayer at St A's, the village café, the joy of knowing so many lovely Toft residents, the many and varied wonderful walks in and around the village, singing carols on the village green, concerts and events in the People's Hall and unforgettable village celebrations, to mention but a few.

We have moved, temporarily, to Welland, near Malvern, to be nearer to our families who have, or soon will be, moving to the West of England, and until we can find our permanent home.

Thank you all for being so lovely and we look to you to share Toft's kindness with Jan & Paul McCarthy who have bought our home.

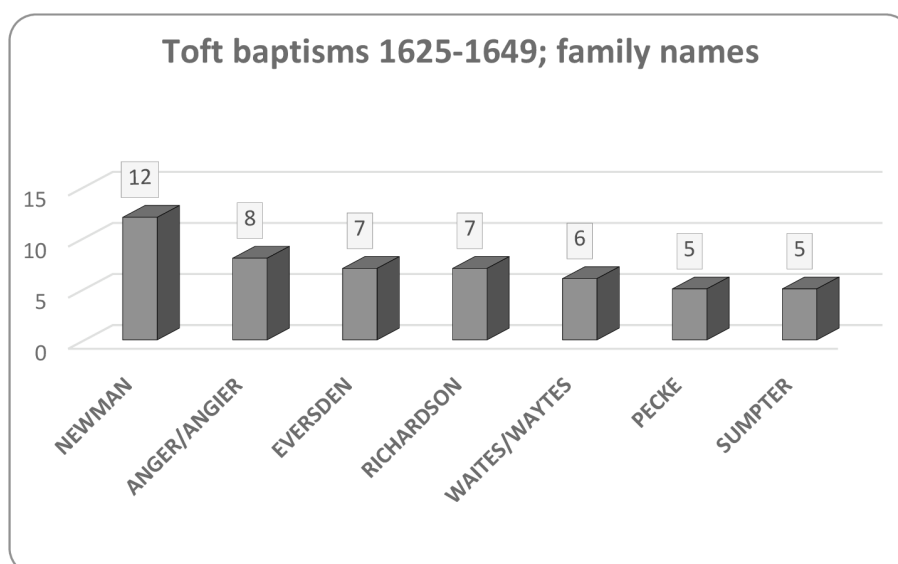
Much love

Mark & Julia Catley

toft historical society

Toft's first Caroleans

As we've illustrated in previous issues of the *Village Calendar*, Toft has wonderful early manuscript and later printed church records of baptisms, marriages and deaths going back to the reign of King Henry VIII in 1539. This month, since we have a new King, Charles III, we recall the reign of Charles I (1625-1649) and look at what family names were most common in the baptism records of St Andrew's church during the first Carolean era. The graph shows names occurring five times or more, in descending order of frequency.



Last month, we showed some of the family names that occurred frequently in the Toft baptismal register during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Some of those names were still around during Charles I's reign: *Newman*, *Anger*, *Eversden*, *Waites* and *Pecke*. As in Elizabeth I's time, spelling was not fixed. *Anger* alternates with *Angier*; *Waytes* was recorded in the Elizabethan record variously as *Waytes*, *Waits*, *Wayts* and *Wayttes*. In Charles I's time, we find it spelt *Waites* and *Waytes*. *Pecke* was written as *Peck* in the Elizabethan record.

In both Elizabeth I's and Charles I's time, the records were handwritten by individual vicars who would adhere to personal spelling styles, and it is quite likely that families had little or no fixed notion of how their names should be spelt. Variations in the spelling of family names persists to this day (e.g., Clark/Clarke, Sparks/Sparkes) a vestige of earlier times.

The Final Platinum Jubilee Event

The last act of Toft's Platinum Jubilee celebrations has been the planting of a commemorative Purple Beech and a bronze plaque which was designed and constructed by our local sculptor, John McGill. In years to come the tree will become a striking tall purple column set against the background greenery. The location, adjacent to the Village Green, was originally a village pond but was now heavily overgrown. The Parish Council organised a working party to clear the area ahead of planting the tree and installing the plaque. Further clearance work is proposed by the PC for next year which will help to further expand the area of our Village Green.



Installing the plaque



A good turnout for the event on a damp day



PC Chair Martin stylishly planting



Sculptor John McGill



The plaque unveiled



This final event of the Platinum Jubilee was supported by funding from the Parish Council and Toft Historical Society, as well as a grant from the District Council CHEST fund and a donation from Cambridge Design Partnership. Many thanks.

Thanks also to all the volunteers who worked so enthusiastically to clear the site of the old dew pond and prepared the area for the tree and the plaque.

NEXTDOOR TOFT

The Nextdoor logo is displayed in white lowercase letters on a solid green rectangular background.

We'd like to wish all the members of Nextdoor Toft a merry but peaceful festive season and all the very best for the New Year !

You may be interested to know that during the past 5 years, the social media site of Nextdoor Toft has grown to number about 220 people, which equates to nearly 60% of all households in the village. It is always delightful when new members join Nextdoor and we have, over the past 18 months or so, been able to welcome a number of Birdlings folk who, although seeming to live in Comberton, actually live within the Parish boundary of Toft.

To all the good folk who are part of Nextdoor Toft, we would like to say a big, 'Thank you !' for your contributions, support and neighbourliness.

This past year has seen conversations about:

- lost pets, keys, mobiles, bicycles and remote-controlled aeroplanes
- 'heads up' about suspicious activity within the village
- notification of upcoming Toft and nearby events
- recommendations for tradespeople
- concerns about local issues such as the East/West Railway and, more recently, the losing / takeover of our precious No. 18 bus service
- and sometimes, lovely photos of our area or just sharing nice news or information.

The newsfeed created by Tofties (and others in surrounding villages) is always interesting, informative and helpful.



If you are new to the village, or you have lived here for some while, everyone who can access it is more than welcome to join our online community. Just drop an email to: jem.wickets@btinternet.com saying that you'd like to join and leave the rest to us.

Again, our thanks and good wishes to you all. Here's to 2023, here's to you and here's to our wonderful village of Toft !

Jackie Morton

Linda Hollow

Nextdoor Toft Leads (Administrators)



Meridian Primary School

Learning for life – striving for excellence

Greetings Neighbours,

We have been pleased to be able to hold regular class assemblies to people from outside the school for the first time in over two years. It has been so lovely to see parents and carers visiting Meridian and we look forward to so many more during the academic year.

The children have also enjoyed being visited by people from outside the school – Y6 and Y4 benefitted from lessons from a Professor of Volcanology at the University of Cambridge and KS2 singing assemblies are now being led by the Lordsbridge Singing Project and children will have the opportunity to join community wide projects this year.

The aim of the Lordsbridge Singing Project is to enjoy singing out shared values and bring together the school and church community once each half term. Elements of vocal technique and musical understanding will be embedded into assemblies with aspects of the school's values also covered.

We held a special Remembrance Assembly focusing on all the animals that have helped servicemen and women in conflict and the children fundraised for the British Legion by buying poppies.

Our open morning at the end of November for prospective reception pupils was successful and well attended.

We welcome a new visiting teacher into school one afternoon a week to deliver lessons on the trumpet to Y4s. This is part of our music curriculum enrichment opportunities and free to access for all Y4 children. We are also pleased to welcome a new teacher into the school to teach violin to individual pupils.

Two Y6 Meridian netball teams attended a tournament at Comberton Village College and did really well which means they are both through to the next round which will be held in March. Selected children from Y3-6 took part in a cross country competition at the end of November.

We are pleased that we are now able to transport children from our families in Toft to school on the school bus that travels from the Eversdens. Although this is at an additional cost agreement with our coach provider, this solution is not only helpful to the families but friendly to the environment.

As part of our Anti-Bullying Week, we encouraged all our children to come to school in odd socks –this was a great way to encourage our children to respect our community, celebrate their individuality and uniqueness.

We have a number of events organised for December – a Santa Dash fun run, an EYFS/KS1 Nativity performance, KS2 Christmas Carol singing, a special Christmas lunch with Christmas jumpers, a School Carol service at St Mary's Comberton and busking in our playground with our musicians and choir.

We wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas, however you are celebrating.

Please do have a good, restful and enjoyable season.

Kind regards,

Mrs C. Etchie, Headteacher

TOFT Social Club


ALFIE MOORE

FAIR COP UNLEASHED

"...offbeat, revealing and very funny"
Daily Mail

"Brilliantly funny... genuinely hilarious"
David Mitchell

"...lots of well-crafted jokes and a large dash of police gallows humour"
Telegraph



Toft Club is thrilled to present

ALFIE MOORE

performing his brilliantly funny show

FAIR COP UNLEASHED

Toft People's Hall

on Friday 17th February 2023

Doors open: 19:30

'Fair Cop' Alfie Moore's latest stand-up comedy show is based on a dramatic real-life incident. Enjoy the thrilling ups and downs of the night a mysterious clown came to town and more than one life ended up in the balance. It was no laughing matter – but this show certainly is!

It'd be a crime to miss it!

Tickets £18.00 on sale now at the club website
<https://toftsocialclub.org.uk/alfie-moore.php>

Former resident Val Sinclair updates us on her move to deepest Shropshire...

Greetings from Shropshire

It's hard to believe that we left Toft almost 2 years ago, the time has absolutely flown! However, we're no longer the 'new kids on the block' here and are now feeling part of the community, but we really do miss our dear friends 'back home'!

I managed to see just a few of you when I had to return to Cambs in March for some surgery and was so grateful for the support and care I had while staying in Toft for those few days. Since then, we've kept up-to-date with village happenings, and it was lovely to receive so many photographs of you all enjoying the Queen's jubilee.

Our village of Pontesbury is very busy with all sorts of activities, including a thriving U3A and a great music scene. My first major concert here was due to be held in September but had to be postponed due to the Queen's passing, so it's now happening in December. It's a very rural area and many people's lives are changing with the current financial challenges and two local churches have had to form the Rea Valley Foodbank along with 'heat-hubs' in various locations every day of the week. It's hard to believe this is so necessary but I'm really enjoying volunteering with the foodbank.

It's so good to be able to see more of our family now and we've continued to welcome many visitors to our home here, most of whom fall in love with Shropshire and our stunning surroundings. Please don't hesitate to book in, along with your walking boots and well developed calf muscles!!

We send our love and warm wishes for Christmas.

Val and Clive



Thankyou!

Thank you for all the tremendous support and encouragement from customers and friends of Toft shop during 2022.

NEW! Christmas table goodies

There's still a lot of shopping days left till Christmas, but here at Toft Shop, we will be helping you to get into the Christmas spirit all through November and December. The Toft-famous "Christmas table" has been set up with a brand new range of Christmas delights as well as your old favourites. There'll be something for everyone.

Christmas essentials

We'll have Christmas cards, wrapping paper and gift bags. Not to forget sellotape and stamps.

All practically on your doorstep.

POST OFFICE Opening Hours during November and December

Post early, especially if posting overseas. Christmas stamps on sale from 3rd November 2022.

Monday	8.30am – 5.00pm	Tuesday	8.30am – 5.00pm
Wednesday	8.00am – 1.00pm	Thursday	8.30am – 5.00pm
Friday	8.30am – 5.00pm	Saturday	8.00am – 1.00pm
Sunday	8.00am – 12.00pm (during December)		

Please check in post office for key posting dates for international destinations as well as local.

Christmas trees, wreaths and orders

If you're yearning for a lovely blazing fire over Christmas, don't forget that we also sell coal, logs and kindling. Let us know your requirements so we can be sure to have plenty in stock. Nearer Christmas we will be taking orders for Christmas trees and wreaths, as well as Christmas orders (Fruit & Veg, milk, meats, mince pies, bread and creams & yogurts). Orders can be placed at the counter in the shop.

TOFT Shop ANNUAL closing dates

Closing 6.00pm Wednesday 21st December 2022 and reopening 7.00am Monday 9th January 2023.

Wishing everyone a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Looking forward to seeing you in Toft Shop soon.

Jenny & Justin & Libby and our fantastic team of young assistants.

Wheelie Bin Collections For December

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

Black Bin:

Weds 7th Dec

Weds 21st Dec

Blue/Green Bin

Weds 14th Dec

Fri 30th Dec (Changed day)

Notice to Advertisers

Advertisements: Please note we are unable to accept further advertising at this time. Please re-visit this space from month to month as this situation may change in the future.

✂ 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: 01954 713 000
 South Cambs Fire and Rescue: 01480 444 500
 Toft Car Scheme: 07790 171710
 Trading Standards: 0345 0455206
 UK Power Networks (Emergencies): 0800 31 63 105

For many of us, Christmas really begins when they hear that famous first line of 'Once In Royal David's City' sung by a solo choirboy from the chapel at King's College. Here are a few tit-bits you might not know about the service and its origins.

- The first Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was held on Christmas Eve in 1918. During World War I the dean, Eric Milner-White, had served as army chaplain in the 7th Infantry Division and he was worried that the anguish of the "Great War" had hardened attitudes against religion. He introduced the service to King's as a means of attracting people back to Christian worship.
- The service was originally directed not by a conductor or choir-master, but by the organist, one Arthur Henry Mann, who continued this tradition until 1929.
- The well-known opening hymn (and treble solo) was not part of the original performance. It was introduced the following year, 1919.
- Although already popular and well-known in the Cambridge area, it was not until 1928 that the service was broadcast on the BBC, a tradition they have maintained to this day with one exception: It was not broadcast in 1930 - no-one seems to know why.
- During World War Two, all the stained glass was removed from the chapel for safe storage and the building was left unheated and open to the elements. Nevertheless, the choir and congregation sang on, although for 'security reasons', the name "King's" was not mentioned during wartime broadcasts.
- The broadcast is heard world-wide. In the US, a 1954 service was put into the National Recording Registry by the Library of Congress in 2008.
- During the more recent Covid lock-down the public were barred from attendance. Nothing daunted, the choir sang and the lessons were read to an empty chapel. That year's broadcast was a pre-recorded version, complete with congregation.

This year, as always, the service will be broadcast on BBC Radio 4 and the BBC World Service on 24 December at 3pm. And - also as usual - there are no tickets left for this year's performance.

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 December**. 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