



Toft Village Calendar

Produced and Distributed by St. Andrew's Parish Church

December 2023



DIARY DATES

TOFT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

[Over 50s Club]. The December meeting will be on **13th December** at Toft People's Hall at 2.30. It will be our Christmas Party with a special tea and special entertainment and the usual chocolate raffle. Everyone is most welcome. If you plan to come bring some chocolate, any size, any value, wrapped up.

This leads to our post Christmas lunch on January 4th. If you would like to join us at that event, please get in touch with Doreen Jacklin (262789) by mid-December

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### Sewing, Knit and Natter

Our next meeting will be on 31st January at 10.30 in the Methodist Chapel.

For further details please contact Sally 262895 or Lucy 262498

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The Parish Council

Next Meeting: Monday 4th December, 7.00pm in The People's Hall. All Welcome.

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### Friends Of Bourn Brook Meeting

Saturday 2nd December at 3.00 pm in the People's Hall - All welcome.

## EDITORIAL

Anyone here know the way to the nearest Booths Supermarket? No, me neither. Which is a pity, because I should like to favour them with the benefit of my esteemed custom. My mate Google reckons it's in Knutsford, Cheshire, which seems a bit of a stretch and a bit of a shame, too. But I might just make the effort. Because Booths, God bless them, have decided to do away with self-service check-outs. And, where they have blazed a path, might not more blinkered competitors eventually follow? These miserable machines have blighted our lives for far too long. They may well be "convenient". But not for customers. Only for supermarket bosses. They used to have to pay staff to man the checkouts. Now they've got customers doing the job free of charge. What next? Would they like us to de-frost the freezers, while we're at it? Re-stock the Celebrations Special Offer in aisle five?

Of course, we've had 'self check-out' for ages. Way back when, it was called shop-lifting. But once stores began to ditch their staff in favour of robotic martinets barking orders at you, the writing was on the wall. You don't count - only your money does. This might have been true forever, but in the past there was at least some pretence that it wasn't. Now, all I get is one-sided conversations along the lines of:

*Machine:* Unexpected item in the bagging area.

*Me:* Ok - sorry.

*Machine:* Stand up straight.

*Me:* Sorry again, I just -

*Machine:* Do you wish to see this week's special offers?

*Me:* No, thanks, I'm in a bit of a hurr -

*Machine:* An item has been removed from the bagging area. Re-insert your card now.

At which point there is nothing left for it and the Traffic Light Of Doom starts flashing above me, a store-wide advert which might as well say "Look, everyone! Dolt in the queue." In fact, given the likelihood of this happening, I don't know why they don't go the whole hog and just have AI identify me on the way in so the human assistant can be ready and waiting for me when I foul-up. And it's not just that I miss the human touch. I mean - how are other customers going to be able to notice those pretentious items I've bought, the ones that identify me as the sort of highbrow epicurean who listens to The Kitchen Cabinet on Radio 4 and makes their own horse-radish sauce from locally-foraged horses?

In September, shoppers at Sainsbury's said staff had searched their bags after they'd used the self-checkouts. A precaution - and an expense - that would of course be entirely unnecessary, if all the tills were manned by human beings - who could ensure every customer pays the right price for every item. And, I'd bet, leaving them with some pretty purse-lipped customers, to boot.

Well, we're on the cusp of The Great Christmas Shopping Nightmare. There's just time for a few competing operations to bite the bullet, give a few ex-CEOs ten million quid to clear off and announce that they, too, intend to make this a truly Happy Christmas by sending their own machines to fulfil an entirely nobler purpose. Landfill comes to mind. Are they listening? Not a chance.

Merry Christmas, all.

## toft historical society

## Toft Celebrates

Toft has a long tradition of enthusiastically celebrating events large and small.

Documenting these celebrations offers a reminder of village community life up to the present day and provides valuable insights to the circumstances and attitudes of earlier times.

The Historical Society is currently planning to organise an exhibition and an audio-visual show on the theme of "Toft Celebrates".

These will be held at the **Methodist Chapel** and the **People's Hall** on **Saturday, February 3rd, 2024.**

We will be approaching villagers for information, photographs and memorabilia to include in the event over the next couple of months.

*Please save the date.*

**MINISTRY TEAM****THE CHURCH IN TOFT**

St. Andrew's Parish Church

Team Vicar:

Rev David Newton 01223 665654

Assistant Curate: Revd Barnabas Leeke 07787 800 888

Lay Minister: Barbara Preece Tel: 263466

Churchwardens:

Ann Mitchell 262516

John Quenby 263949

**Methodist Church**

Minister: Revd Charity Nzegwu

01763 241803

Stewards:

Diana Tebbit 01223 263557

Stephen Acklam 264055

Mrs Pat Morton 264010

**SERVICES OF WORSHIP****3rd December** 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) – Rev Prof Michael Reiss

11.00am Gather at St. Andrew's for short service then move to the Methodist Church

for a Communion service followed by lunch.

EVERYONE VERY WELCOME see p.3

**10th December** 11.00am Morning Worship, St. Andrew's – Rev David Newton & Rev Barnabas Leeke**16th/17th December** CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL WEEK-END see p.3

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP) – Rev Prof Michael Reiss

3.00pm Carols and Christingles and FAREWELL to David Newton

led by Barbara Preece

**22nd December** 4.00pm Firelight and Starlight – in the churchyard we will sing carols, listen to stories around a fire, with stars overhead! Rev David Newton and Rev Barnabas Leeke**24th December** 11.30 pm Christmas midnight Holy Communion at St. Andrew's – led by Rev David Newton – This will be his last service**25th December** 9.30am A Short Christmas morning service

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

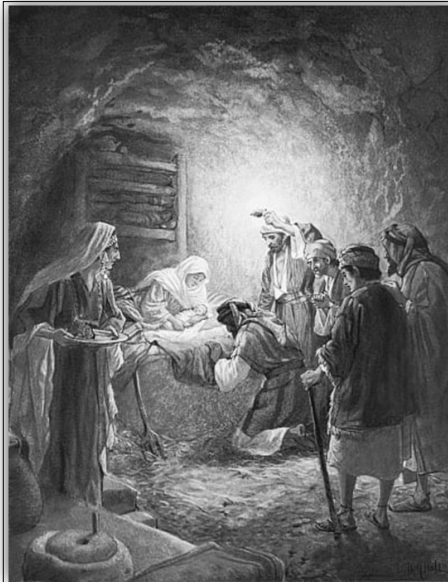
**Goodbye from the vicar**

David Newton, who has been vicar of St Andrew's Toft for the last six years, is moving on to a new post. His last service with us is Midnight Mass (Christmas Eve). He will be taking up a post with the Diocese of Ely, with responsibility for all those exploring ordination and training for ordination.

He writes, "It has been a wonderful privilege to be the vicar in this village for the last six years. It has been a joy working as part of the ecumenical Church in Toft and to be involved in its life and ministry to the whole community. I have met many wonderful people and I will miss the church and this village very much."

Rev. David Newton

Team Rector of The Lordsbridge Team, Lead Minister for Comberton and Toft

**Christmas Concert**

Saturday 9th December at 4 pm

St Andrew's Church, Toft

No charge, no ticket needed

Music will last approx. 1 hour and will be followed by refreshments

Donations welcome for refreshments, and any surplus will be given to the charity *Zarach*, which provides beds for children in poverty to help families in crisis rise up from surviving to thriving so children can Eat, Sleep and Learn. They Partner with schools to give Every Head a Bed. Supporting families to make every house a home. All items are brand new so we can guarantee quality and longevity. A complete Zarach Bed Bundle is worth £500 but thanks to our sponsors and donations each Bed Bundle costs just £150. (So, a donation of £12.50 a month will give one head a bed each year.)

**Simple Sewing, Knit and Natter.**

We will be entering a tree for Christmas Tree Sunday on 17th December. If you would like to help, please contact Sally or Lucy for when it will be dressed. Our sale was held on Saturday 18th November, thank you to all who helped and came to buy on the day. Our total for Arthur Rank Hospice is over **£400**, but final sums not in as the Calendar goes to press



## THE CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY

### COUNT DOWN TO CHRISTMAS

Coffee, Cake and Conversation Starting on **Wednesday 29th November at 24 Mill Lane**, 10.30 – 12.00 for four Wednesdays. We will talk about our Christmas Traditions and their meaning. Led by Barbara Preece and Cathy Michell All Welcome

**20TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP** In December 2003 St. Andrew's Church and Toft Methodist Church entered into a formal, ecumenical partnership. Those of you who have lived in Toft for more than 20 years will know that before that time both churches met at 11.00am, worshipped, entertained did nearly everything independently. Since then Sunday by Sunday we meet in each other's Churches, we run things together like the Warm Hub, and the Count down to Christmas and where appropriate use the building most suited to an event like the Christmas Tree Festival. To have successfully done this for 20 years is quite a landmark and in addition to the service, as noted above, we would like to share our birthday by asking you to give us a present – well, not us, but to *Cambridge Sustainable Food*. There will be a container outside both churches and in the shop the 'birthday' week-end ready to receive a tin of beans, some flour, or.....

<https://cambridgesustainablefood.org/>

Cambridge Sustainable Food coordinates emergency food provision efforts in the city in partnership with Cambridge Food Poverty Alliance. The Alliance represents over 25 organisations working on poverty alleviation in the city.

CSF works together with these agencies to ensure that people have access to food during the cost of living crisis: It runs a signposting service for people in need of food; establishes community food hubs around the city where people at risk of food poverty can access food for free, and makes sure meals are delivered to those who need them, including holiday lunches and holiday hunger provision.

CSF looks for and accepts food donations from local businesses, churches, community organisations and growers to support community food hubs such as the one at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Arbury. The community farm 'Co-farm' and some allotments in the city are growing extra this year to help with supporting the hubs. If you know an organisation with surplus food to spare, or you can encourage your local allotments to grow extra, please refer them to the form on the website here or ask them to contact CSF directly to donate produce or money.

Last but not least, if you have any ideas about food and resilience in your communities, or opportunities for the future, CSF would love to hear from you. Many thanks for your support.

- Cathy Michell

**CAMBRIDGE WOMEN'S REFUGE** – a lot of asking for your help but as most of you know we have supported the children and mothers in the Women's Refuge for more than 25 years. This year, because our Christmas Tree Festival is so late we are asking for your gifts by **10th December**. They can be for a child, or for a Mother or to help with their festivities – the Refuge is always very full at Christmas. Presents do not need to be wrapped; if you decide to do so please put a removable label on the outside identifying the present so it goes to right person without being unwrapped. Please put under the tree in the church or leave on the doorstep of 20 High Street.

**FAREWELL TO REV DAVID NEWTON** As you know from the last Calendar and from elsewhere in this one David is leaving us for a Diocesan role. We want to him wish him, and the family, all things good for the future and plan to have rather more than simple refreshments after the 3.00pm Christmas Tree Service to say

THANK YOU & GOD SPEED.

Do come and join us



**THE WARM HUB is back**  
**EVERY MONDAY 10.30-12.30**

*At the Methodist Church*

*Come and join us for chat, games, friendship  
and refreshment, all for free.*

*We would love to see you there, you'll be  
guaranteed a warm welcome. Feel free to bring a friend*

And now for the sad bits: since the last edition of the Calendar there have been several deaths.

*Tony Driver* of Beldams Close, short months after his wife Thelma's death. He had lived in the village for more than 20 years and was part of the Warm Hub, Friendship Club and the Community Café. His funeral will be in mid-December.

*Ken Jones*, who with his wife Lisa moved into School Lane a few years ago. He was Rebecca Howling's Father. He had been unwell for some time and there was a private funeral.

*Breige Marsden*, the wife of Dr. David Marsden for many years our local GP.

*Tim Burns*, who ran Cambridge Electron Beam. Tim has been part of scientific Toft for many years and will be remembered especially by the dog walkers, as he would take his dog out frequently every day.

*John Barrett*, longtime member of Toft Methodist Church with his wife Hilary. On retirement moved to King's Cliffe near Stamford.

**AUDREY COLLETT**

Born in Toft, at 11 High Street, the youngest of Arthur and Ivy's 6 children, Audrey had a country childhood, playing in the Bourn Brook, scrumping the orchards at the bottom of School Lane, mucking about by the railway line! She went to school in Toft, and then to the secondary school on Comberton cross-roads, now the nursery school.

Audrey was always a hard worker, early fruit picking, then at Pye's in Cambridge, the greenhouse company in Comberton and finally, for forty-one years, as a Ward Assistant on the Rehab.ward of Addenbrookes Hospital.

In 1998, following the death of her brother Peter, Audrey moved to St. Andrew's cottages. After retirement she created a wonderful communal garden there, walked round the village regularly, joined the Friendship Club and the Warm Hub, attended events at the Social Club – a stalwart member of the Andrew Sisters Quiz team; played carpet bowls, very well, and enjoyed bingo and scrabble. She volunteered at the community café. She loved to travel, going to the USA and into Europe and on holiday with her neighbour Liz - when she could be persuaded to try all sorts of things.

Audrey had forthright views, an easy smile and a ready smile. In latter years she was involved in so many ways, in so many places as was witnessed by the attendance at her farewell tea party on the Sunday following her funeral. She would have been amazed at the number of people there, and the quantity of food (!) consumed, for which a big thank you to all of you who provided it. She will be greatly missed by so many of us but especially her team in St. Andrew's cottages.

*Her family write:* "The family of the late Audrey Collett would like to thank all those who came to her funeral on Thursday 16th November at Cambridge Crematorium. The service was just Audrey and how she wanted it to be.

- Thank you"





**Toft Parish Council**

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

30 West Drive

Highfields Caldecote

Cambridge, CB23 7NY Tel: 01954 210241

| Councillors       | Phone         | E-mail                          |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Chairman:</i>  |               |                                 |
| Martin Yeadon     | 263663        | cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk     |
| Emma Darbyshire   | 07763 463234  | cllr.darbyshire@tpc.toft.org.uk |
| Elaine Miles      | 262255        | cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk      |
| Stephen Collinson | 07521 912734  | cllr.collinson@tpc.toft.org.uk  |
| Christine Watson. | 07730 941946  | cllr.watson@tpc.toft.org.uk     |
| Rebecca Harris    | 07796 176 333 | njharris262@gmail.com           |

*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.. The Council's website can be found at: <https://tpc.toft.org.uk>*

*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 4<sup>th</sup> December, 7.00pm in The People's Hall. All Welcome.**

The Parish Council met on 6th November 2023 at 7.00pm. We are still looking to recruit another member to the Parish Council and if you are interested and would like to know more, please contact Cllr. Yeadon Tel: 263663 or email: [cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk](mailto:cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk)

A member of the public enquired about replacing the dead tree on the small green and was informed by Cllr Yeadon that a meeting was to take place on 7th November to discuss its removal and replacement.

The County Councillor & District Councillor, Michael Atkins joined the meeting and answered questions on various issues in his report which had been sent beforehand to the members of the Parish Council.

There were no absences or declarations of interest or requests for dispensations.

The minutes of the previous minutes were approved with no matters arising.

Cllr. Darbyshire is looking at ways to support wildlife throughout the village and tabled ways in which this could be done:

- parishioners putting up bird, bat or hedgehog boxes (see Men's Sheds UK for cheap boxes. Website- <https://menssheds.org.uk/find-a-shed/>) and planting flowers and shrubs in their gardens that support birds, butterflies and moths.
- The PC providing boxes on various trees and buildings in the village. (The PC organised the building of a bug hotel in Lot Meadow during the summer).
- Other projects might involve improving green areas in the village, such as planting bulbs in the verge along Church Road. (See also the report on Bourn Brook at the end of this summary).

Cllr. Miles proposed running a survey with a view to making a map showing where parishioners already make provision for wildlife. This

will enable us to see both the strengths of local wildlife provision in the village and where there might be gaps that can be filled. In time, this map could be extended to cover the wider parish.

Cllr Watson reported on the new playground equipment and it was agreed to go ahead with the purchase of the musical equipment and a new climbing frame for toddlers.

Cllr Watson reported that she has yet to receive any quotations for the refurbishment of some of the playground equipment.

Cllr. Watson reported that the TPH were still discussing the scope of the hall improvement project before they make a planning application and they hope to decide on that at their next meeting.

There were no comments on the SCDC Polling District Review.

There is still a vacancy for a volunteer to do Winter Gritting in the village. A gritter machine and protective clothing are provided along with the CCC designated route. Please contact Cllr. Yeadon (see above) if you are interested.

The Finance report was considered and the payment of bills was approved.

Cllr. Watson reported that, other than awaiting quotations for re-painting some of the playground equipment, there was nothing to report.

Cllr. Miles reported there were branches of a fallen tree encroaching on the entrance to the meadow at Green Lane. (Note: at the time of writing these have been removed).

It was agreed that there would be 4 signatories on all bank accounts pertaining to the Parish Council.

There were no comments on any Planning applications.

Cllr. Yeadon reported that the new bench outside the church is now in situ. A formal letter of thanks is to be written to the benefactor, Mrs Wendy Warton.

There was nothing to report on Toft People's Hall or footpaths. Cllr. Miles informed the meeting that she had reported the light on the corner of Mill Lane/Glebe Close and Miller's Road.

Cllr. Watson reported that despite having put a notice in the Calendar informing people of the training session for the Defibrillator on Wednesday 22nd. November at 6.30pm in TPH and requesting confirmation of attendance, she had received very few replies. It was generally hoped that, irrespective of this, people would turn up as the turnout last time had been very good and this is a crucial life-saving benefit to Toft residents.

There was nothing to report from the Birdlings.

Correspondence from a parishioner has been received regarding Bourn Brook, a designated chalk stream, pointing out that it is in dire need of improvement and that many parishioners will remember that this once ran freely and had fish in it. This, sadly, is no longer the case but we have the opportunity to start restoring the brook. There will be a presentation on Bourn Brook on Saturday 2nd December at 3pm - see p11 for details.

Cllr Miles reported on the Small Grants for Nature initiative. Grants of up to £5,000 can be applied for where there is a community-led project for nature and endorsed by the PC. If anyone has a proposal for a Nature initiative in our village please send it through to Cllr. Miles so it can be put on the agenda for discussion. The deadline for the next round of bidding is 1st May. More information can be found at <https://www.cambscf.org.uk/fund-for-nature>.

Cllr. Miles presented a short summary of the main aspects of the Woodland Trust Plan for Toft Wood 2023-28. The full document is not yet available on either the Woodland Trust site nor Toft website but a pdf version can be obtained by emailing [elainemiles3@gmail.com](mailto:elainemiles3@gmail.com)

Regarding blocked drains, Cllr Harris pointed out that following the recent heavy rain, flooding of drains was exacerbated not only by fallen leaves, but by large amounts of hay falling off vehicles removing bales from the fields. It was agreed that she would write to Cllr. Michael Atkins with a view to having the roads swept and whether there was any way that the company involved in moving the hay could be approached with regard to the financing of the cleaning up process in future. The meeting closed at 9.05pm. For the definitive outcomes from the meeting, please refer to the official minutes.



## TOFT SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

### oft Social Club News

We've had a couple of fabulous evenings of live music to sell out crowds at the Club recently, with Megson in October and Martyn Joseph in November. We are planning a series of gigs for 2024 – keep an eye on the website for details: so far we have booked the **Galliard Trio** in March and **Smith & Brewer** in May.

The **Annual Christmas Draw** will be underway by the time you read this – 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 with us.

We are showing **2 films** in December – for our normal film evening, on Saturday 16h, the film will be the 2023 release “**The Great Escaper**” starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson. The film tells the true story of Bernard Jordan who in 2014 escapes from his care home to attend the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings in France. Doors open at 7:30pm and the film starts promptly at 8:00pm.

Then on Saturday 30th December, by popular demand, we are showing the 2023 film “**Barbie**”. Starring Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling, it tells the story of Barbie suffering a crisis that leads her to question her world and her existence, and heading out into the real world! Doors open at 7:30pm and the film starts promptly at 8:00pm. Film Club membership is £12 for the year, or evening membership is £2.50.

There is **no Food on Friday** in December as we have the Christmas Dinner on Saturday 9th. **This is sold out**, but if you would like to go on the waiting list, then please get in touch via the website.

The regular **Open Mic Music Night** is on Saturday 2nd, with will feature a mix of performers offering music and words; there may even be a Christmas song or two to join in with! Free entry – doors open at 8pm.

**Toft Art** is on Thursday 7th – a fun and educational evening; why not pop along to find out what it's about. Doors open at 8pm

**Carpet Bowls** is on Friday 8th, doors open at 8pm – come along and give this family friendly game a go.

**Toft Quiz Night** is on Thursday 14th - teams of up to 6, just £1 per team member. We promise there won't be many Christmas questions! Cash prizes! Doors open at 8pm.

**Table Tennis** is on Thursday 21st – come along and get some exercise and fun!

We will be open as normal on Friday 22nd and Friday 29th.

**Toft Bingo** is on Thursday 28th – cash prizes – all welcome, doors open at 8pm.

We will be welcoming in 2024 with a **New Year's Eve Party** – full details on the website.

The Club is always open every Thursday and Friday from 8pm, and many Saturday evenings. There is always a warm welcome where you can enjoy a drink and meet up with friends.

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, Angela Unsworth, Jean Stewart and Katrina Holmes.

Keep up to date here:

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

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

## Toft People's Hall – The Future

Our village hall is a fantastic venue for all sorts of events and occasions, and plays a key role in our community spirit. There are many ways that the people of Toft can gather to socialise and make new friends whether this is at the varied Social Club evenings, the weekly cafe, or the many clubs that meet at the Hall. In recent years we have also been able to attract many excellent performers to sell out audiences.



The Hall has the potential to be even better and the management committee would welcome ideas on how we might extend and improve the building, for instance we would like to make the Hall more welcoming and accessible, enhance the facilities and embrace new technology to improve its sustainability.

The needs of the village are key to this process – so we would like to involve Toft residents in these plans. If you have never been inside the Hall, pop along on a Wednesday morning to the cafe, or a Thursday or Friday evening to the Social Club.

We are keen to get as many ideas as possible, and will hold an open meeting in early in the New Year to get villagers ideas – please see the next Calendar and village website for the date of this meeting.

In the meantime if you have any ideas you would like to put forward, this either email us at [hallupdate@toft.org.uk](mailto:hallupdate@toft.org.uk), or use the contact form on the website (<https://toft.org.uk/hall-improvements>) by 10th January 2024

We are also very keen to get a project team together to collate and manage the project – if you would like to be part of that, please contact us at [hallupdate@toft.org.uk](mailto:hallupdate@toft.org.uk) by 10th January 2024.

## THERMAL IMAGING FOR A COSY HOME

Dear Toft Resident,

Cambridge Carbon Footprint are once again delighted to offer to residents, and organizations, across Cambridge and South Cambs the opportunity to borrow and learn how to use a thermal imaging camera, for free, to help create more cozy and efficient homes. Learn how to interpret thermal images, to discover draughts, gaps in insulation, heating problems, etc. Having this information is great for deciding on home improvements, and making fixes, both for homeowners and renters.



“a really useful tool for assessing the home's heat loss and for planning improvements” - Borrower

The Project also encourages individuals or organizations to undertake training to survey multiple homes. In 2022 a Heydon Parish Councillor borrowed a camera and undertook a survey of 20% of the Village's homes and intends to do more this year.

### Training Sessions:

Four free training sessions will take place online from 7:00-8:30 pm on: Wed 1 Nov, Thu 14 Dec, Mon 22 Jan, Thu 29 Feb

### Camera Borrowing:

We only lend cameras to people already trained. Bookings for cameras will open on 1st Nov, after the training session. Free Loans of 14 cameras will start on Fri 3rd November, till early April:

**Each loan:** Fri pm to Mon am, or Mon pm to Fri am, from 14 volunteer camera hosts around South Cambs and Cambridge City. See Map.

“An excellent scheme - very much appreciate the opportunity to borrow the camera -thank you!”

More information, and Interviews with experts, volunteers and organisers can be organised on request. Contact Fran Sutton: [fran@cambridgecarbonfootprint.org](mailto:fran@cambridgecarbonfootprint.org) 07713841391 or Tom Bragg: [tom@cambridgecarbonfootprint.org](mailto:tom@cambridgecarbonfootprint.org) 01223 844291, 07990 548755



**Bedfordshire  
Cambridgeshire  
Northamptonshire**

Wildlife Trust BCN West Cambridgeshire Hundreds Update:  
Dec 2023

The Wildlife Trust BCN volunteers meet most Saturdays in Hardwick Wood over autumn and winter, to carry out essential habitat management. The sessions are run by our knowledgeable wardens who have looked after the wood for many years. The biggest winter task is coppicing which involves cutting down hazel trees in order to open up areas to light. This does not kill the tree but encourages it to grow back with multiple stems. Coppicing is done on rotation in sections, so there is always a diversity of habitat from open, to dense regrowth. To keep out the deer who would browse the new shoots, we fence off the most recent coppiced areas. Please do pop down to see the team to chat about the products, as sometimes there is enough for local people to use (for example as bean poles), in exchange for a donation.

If you are interested in joining the work party please get in touch. There are also other local volunteer opportunities we can discuss, and a new group for secondary-aged young people to attend independently.

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It's that time of year again! We would love to invite you to the annual Christmas Fair at our head-office on Broad Street on Friday 1st Dec 3-7pm. There'll be handmade crafts and jewellery for sale, plus gifts, a raffle, some drop-in kids activities, and a chance to "try before you buy" some Opticron binoculars. Why not pop over for a mince pie and a chat with local staff members?

Email: rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org

Facebook: [@BeccaBadgerWTBCN](https://www.facebook.com/BeccaBadgerWTBCN)

Wildlife Trust BCN main 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, and Cambourne Nature Reserve.

Where is the Wildlife in our Village?



Many people get a huge amount of pleasure from seeing the various birds, bats, butterflies and other wildlife in our gardens and around the village but we are all aware that, due to a variety of reasons, wildlife is under threat everywhere.

Support is already provided by folk in the village through the provision of birdfeeders, boxes, ponds etc. and the Parish Council would like to know where this support exists. We can then create a map and try to provide provision where there is a lack.

Please, keep your eyes open for a simple survey which will be delivered to your door in the New Year and which we would greatly appreciate being filled in by residents.

**toft
historical
society**

Land for sale in Toft ... as was

Past announcements of pieces of land for sale and the prices they fetched offer a window into our village history. Not only do we have records of sales of land in and around Toft, the documents also take us back to the old systems of measurement (still in use for things such as the renting of allotment plots) where land was measured in acres (A.), roods (R.) and perches (P.).

An acre is equal to half of a football pitch, it was made up of four roods, which in turn consisted of 40 perches.

The first image announces an acre and 30 perches of land for sale in Toft in 1886 "on the Drift-way to Hardwick Wood", while the second image shows the bidding from £10 onward and the fact that it finally went for £20.

MILTON, HARDWICK & TOFT,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

Particulars and Conditions of Sale
OF VALUABLE

FREEHOLD PROPERTIES

IN ALL
5 A. 2 R. 5 P.,
COMPRISING

A PUBLIC HOUSE,
WITH
1a. 2r. 33p. OF PASTURE,
AT HARDWICK,
2A. 2R. 22P. OF SOUND PASTURE LAND,
IN THE HOLT, MILTON,
AND
1a. 0r. 30p. of ARABLE LAND, in Toft;
ALL LET,
At Rentals producing £25 5s. per Annum.

MESSRS. BIDWELL

Are instructed to Sell the above by Auction,
AT THE LION HOTEL, CAMBRIDGE,
On **SATURDAY, the 25th of SEPTEMBER, 1886,**
AT 4.30 O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON PRECISELY.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. WILKINSON, BUTLER & WILKINSON,
Solicitors, St. Neots; to Mr. PETER PURVES, Land Agent, Huntingdon; or to
Messrs. BIDWELL, Land Agents, Ely, and 12, Mill Lane, Cambridge.

PRINTED BY T. A. HILLS AND SON, MINSTER PLACE, ELY.

PARTICULARS.

Lot 1.
ALL THAT
Close of Capital Freehold Pasture Land,
THE HOLT, MILTON, ADJOINING THE RIVER, & OPPOSITE THE HUNTINGSEA DOCKS,
Containing 2a. 2r. 33p. more or less.
It is bounded North by lands of Mrs. Anne; South, Mr. W. Banyard; East, the River; and
West, Mr. J. W. Prior.
This lot is let to Mr. C. Arnold, a yearly tenant, at £10 per annum, who pays all outgoings.
Title Dees. Land Tax &c.

Lot 2.
ALL THAT
CLOSE OF FREEHOLD ARABLE LAND,
Containing 1a. 0r. 30p. more or less,
Numbered 27 on the Parish Map, situate abutting on the Drift-way to Hardwick Wood, close to
the Drift Farm, in the Parish of Toft, and occupied by Mr. Matthew Radford, a yearly tenant, at
£1 6s. 0d. per annum, who pays all outgoings.
It is bounded North and West by lands of Mr. W. Huntall; South, the Drove; East, Mr. J. Hodges.
Appointed Title 1a. 1d.

Lot 3.
ALL THAT
FREEHOLD
HOUSE AND OUT-BUILDINGS AND PARTS
PUBLIC HOUSE,
KNOWN AS THE "BLUE LION,"
SITUATED WITHIN
A Close of Capital Pasture and Good Garden,
Containing in all 1a. 2r. 33p. more or less,
Situate fronting the Street, in the centre of the Village of Hardwick.
The House contains Tap-room, Parlor, Office, Pantry, Wash-house, and 3 Bedrooms; there
are also adjoining the house a brick and pasture Stable and W.C. and 2 timber and pasture
Piggeries.
This lot is let to Mr. W. Baxter, a yearly tenant, at £14 per annum, who pays all outgoings,
and sub-let by him to Mrs. Cooper.
Appointed Title 7a. 0d.

Many thanks to Mr Jake Tebbit for providing Toft Historical Society with these fascinating documents. If you have any documents, maps, photos or other images relevant to the history of Toft that you are willing to share, the society will gladly receive them. Contact details on left.

THS contacts:

Cynan Ellis-Evans - cynan.toft@gmail.com,

Mike McCarthy - mactoft@aol.com,

Or Ann Mitchell - ann@mittchella.ndonet.com.

Letter from your Councillor (Michael Atkins is both County and District Councillor for Toft)

Dear residents,

It's a busy time of year for the District and County Council, and I thought it might be helpful to update you on some of the work and projects going on.

The County Council recently ran a 'Quality of Life' survey involving over five thousand residents. The good news is that most of us feel happy and safe, well connected to their communities, and believe that this is a great place to raise children. However, more residents reported feeling lonely than the national averages, particularly 18-25 year olds, who were also the most likely to have struggles with their mental health.

In terms of council services, Libraries and Waste Management had the highest levels of customer satisfaction, and Roads and Pavement Maintenance the lowest. We will be reflecting on these and other findings as we decide on the Council's priorities for the future.

I was delighted to see the first round of new 20mph schemes receive funding, including locally in Harlton – these new zones will help make our villages safer. A new round of funding will open in January and I hope many villages will again put forward proposals.

I know that our local bus routes are a vital lifeline for many residents, and I have been working closely with other local councillors and the Mayor's office to tackle concerns. We had a productive meeting with a representative from Whippet regarding the No. 18 service, and they have committed to improving the accuracy of the real-time displays, alongside a new website and app where you can check the progress of each individual bus. They also report that a new fleet of buses, and some successful recruitment, should reduce the number of cancellations.

Please keep relaying any concerns to your local councillors so we can ensure the service improves.

Meanwhile, the District Council remains in the news as the trial of the four-day-week for staff continues. So far, the data I have seen suggests that Council has saved significant amounts of money through improved recruitment and retention, without a reduction in services nor an increase in complaints, so it seems sensible to me that the trial continues as planned, ahead of a comprehensive review in 2024.

The UK Government seems to have taken an inordinate level of interest in what is, essentially, workforce planning at a small district council, but we will respond as fully as possible to their concerns.

Residents are welcome to contact me on any matter concerning them about local services. I wish you the best of health and in due course a merry Christmas!

Best wishes, Michael

County Councillor – Hardwick Division

District Councillor – Harston & Comberton Ward

matkinslibdem@gmail.com

Friends of Bourn Brook Meeting

Saturday 2 December at 3pm

The People's Hall Toft - doors open 2.30pm

Here in Toft we have a beautiful little stream where generations of children have played and beside which walkers have enjoyed peace and tranquillity.

Recently there has been a lot of media coverage concerning the pollution around our coasts and waterways. Is this a problem effecting our brook? Over the last few years, while we were immersed in a pandemic, have we taken our eyes off what is happening to our river?

On Saturday 2 December representatives from The Cam Valley Forum and The Wildlife Trust are going to tell us about the state of the water in our Brook today, the flora and fauna it supports and what we can do to preserve it for the future.

We would like to monitor the water quality, observe the wildlife and investigate the ways that pollution might be getting into our river.



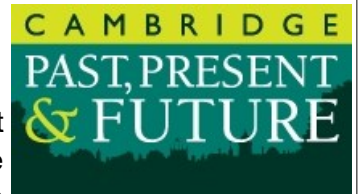
In 1983 children could play safely in our Brook

There will be an opportunity to ask questions and give your opinions.

Whether you want to join us by pulling on your wellies and investigating, by sitting at a desk to make sense of the data, or would just like to know what's happening, please come – everyone is welcome.

Charity asks for help to create A Wilder Coton

Local charity Cambridge Past, Present & Future has launched a new project called A Wilder Coton at Coton Countryside Reserve to transform arable farmland on the western edge of Cambridge into new habitats that are rich in nature, help to mitigate climate change and improve community wellbeing. The new greenspace that will be created will provide free public access to nature via paths, open access and viewing areas. The project is part of a larger vision to help nature recover in and around Cambridge, called the Cambridge Nature Network, which aims to double nature by 2050.



A Wilder Coton will be achieved through a series of new habitat creation projects which are delivered as funds are raised. The first of these projects will transform 27 acres of arable fields into a mix of wetland, woodland and meadow at Coton Countryside Reserve. Local people will help as volunteers by planting trees and looking after A Wilder Coton.

The charity is hoping to start work in autumn 2024 if it can raise £30,000 and the project has just been chosen by Aviva Community Fund who will match every public donation of £250 or less. The crowdfunding campaign starts on 20 November until 1 January. Be part of helping to create a wilder future in Cambridge for nature and everyone in the city to enjoy - Donations can be made at <https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/p/a-wilder-coton>

James Littlewood, CEO of Cambridge Past, Present & Future, said "I really hope that the people of Cambridgeshire can support this exciting project to create new greenspace on the city's doorstep for everyone to enjoy. Donations will enable us to buy wildflower seeds, trees and aquatic plants, prepare the ground and then plant them out with the help of the local community. This is part of our charity's long-term vision to transform 300 acres of farmland into a large-scale area of 'wild-belt' at Coton, serving the city and beyond for generations to come."



Comberton Library

your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Tel: 0345 045 5225

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

Library News November 2023

Opening hours (excluding bank holidays etc.)

Monday 10am – 1pm

Wednesday 10am – 1pm and 2.30pm – 5.30pm

Friday 2.30pm – 5.30pm

Saturday 10am – 1pm

Hello, welcome!

Comberton library a warm and friendly place to visit to relax and read, borrow/reserve books.

The library also offers free Wifi and computer use, if you need to borrow a laptop for home use, ask about our free LendIT service (advance reservation required). Borrowing laptops and tablets is free of charge, you can borrow for up to 7 days.

Comberton Library Events:

Knit and Natter group continue to meet in Comberton Library, 10.30am and 11.30am.

December dates: 4th and 18th. January dates: 8th and 22nd. February dates: 5th and 19th. March dates: 4th and 18th and then every other Monday.

Come and sing a long, **Rhymetime** (10.30am – 11am) for children age between 0-4 years of age. Dates: November dates: 13th and 27th. January dates: 15th and 29th. February dates: 12th and 26th. March dates: 11th and 25th.

Its **Lego Time with Duplo** - come and have fun creating! Every Saturday between 10.30am – 11.30am. All children accompanied by an adult. It is a free.

Just a reminder, there is the season “for the love of books” as there is **Cambridge Literary Festival** between 16th – 19th November.

Our first **coffee morning** will start Wednesday 6th December at 10.30am – 12noon. All are welcome! Come and meet your neighbours for a chat.

What is E – resources? Libby, Borrow Box. Did you know that these resources are available If you would like to know more come and find out on January 22nd at 11.30 – 12.30. All are welcome!

There is a last minute! **Book Sale:** Adult books 30p and Children books 20p.

Happy Christmas and New Year!

Toft People's Hall & **Toft Social Club** are proud to present

Toft People's Hall Saturday 23rd March 2024 at 6pm

The **Galliard Trio**



*An evening of Classical Music
including a light supper*

Tickets £15 including Light supper, Lasagne Alfredo or Lasagne Verde (vegetarian).

Doors open 5.30 pm Concert starts 6.00 pm Meal follows at c.7.00 pm

Coming to Toft People's Hall in 2024

SMITH AND BREWER

<https://smithandbrewer.com/>

May 3, 2024

All tickets available online from December 1:

<https://toftsocialclub.org.uk/tickets.php>



Thank you!

Thank you for all the tremendous support and encouragement from customers and friends of Toft shop during 2023. This is much appreciated.

NEW! Christmas table goodies

There's still a lot of shopping days to Christmas, but here at Toft Shop, we will be helping you to get into the Christmas spirit all through 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 this time are :

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		

Post early, especially if posting overseas. Christmas stamps on sale from 3rd November 2023. 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

We will be on our annual holiday and will be closed as follows:

During December our normal hours apply, then we will be closed on Sunday 24th December 2023 and reopening 7.00am Wednesday 3rd January 2024.

Wishing everyone a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Looking forward to seeing you in Toft Shop soon.

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



**Wildlife Trust for
Beds, Cambs
& Northants**

Christmas Fair at Cambourne

Friday 1 December

From 3pm-7pm

Enjoy a glass of festive mulled wine, a mince pie and browse our fabulous array of Christmas gifts including:

- **Amazing wildlife art, drawings, paintings and prints.**
- **Opticron Binoculars - try before you buy and speak to an expert about your optics requirements**
- **Handmade jewellery, Christmas cards, calendars & books**
- **Fantastic bird boxes and insect houses**
- **Hand carved wooden gifts**
- **PLUS Fun children's activities, a Christmas raffle ...and a whole lot more!**



Free entry

The Manor House, Broad Street,
Cambourne CB23 6DH

Car parking is limited at the Manor House with priority for disabled access, Please park at Morrisons around the corner

Contacts: Sarah Aikens and Olivia Tullett:
membership@wildlifebcn.org

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire, The Manor House, Broad Street, Cambourne, CB23 6DH Tel: 01954 713500 Email: cambridgeshire@wildlifebcn.org Registered charity No. 1000412

Wheelie Bin Collections For December

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

Black Bin:

Thurs 14th Dec

Fri 29th Dec (Changed day)

Blue/Green Bin

Thurs 7th Dec

Thurs 21st Dec

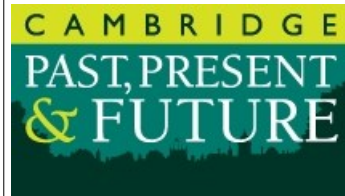
Notice to Advertisers

Advertisements are published quarterly. Copy for inclusion in the next available edition of the Calendar **must** reach us by 17th January 2024 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 **Jean Verney** at:

calendaradstoft@gmail.com to discuss their requirements.

✂ USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Alcoholics Anonymous: 0845 769 7555
 Anglian Water (for sewage): 08457 145 145
 (Emergency number for burst water pipes: 01223 706050)
 Ashcroft Veterinary Surgery: 01954 210250
 Bourn GPs' Surgery: 01954 719313
 Cambridge AIDS help-line: (01223) 508805
 Cambs County Council: 0345 045 5200
 Cambridge Dial a Ride 01223 506335
 Cambridge Water: 01223 706050
 Care Network Cambridgeshire 01954 211919.
 Citizens Advice Bureau: 0844 848 7979
 Comberton GPs' Surgery: 01223 262500
 Comberton Village College: 01223 262503
 Community Warden (Age UK CAP) 07812 495997
 County Councillor 07968 264637
 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



Cheap (by Cambridge standards) parking for Christmas!

Thanks to Cambridge South Rotary Club, Cambridge PPF is going to be amongst other charities who will benefit from funds raised by Cambridge's Christmas shoppers, who will be able to enjoy cheap all-day car parking in the city centre.

For a donation of £7 shoppers can park all day at Downing Site on Tennis Court Road from 8.30am on Saturdays and 10am on Sundays until 7pm and at the University Department of Chemistry on Lensfield Road from 10am on Saturdays and 11am on Sundays until 5pm on weekends during the period 2 – 24 December and from 27 - 31 December. See the *Cambridge Rotary South Facebook* page for more info.

The Rotary Club need car park volunteers to make this fundraising event possible, so please consider if you could give a couple of hours this festive season to help local charities, including Cambridge PPF.

Please sign up on the rota and then please contact Rotarian Alan Edwards to let him know and he will send further instructions and safety information.

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