



# Toft Village Calendar

Produced and Distributed by St. Andrew's Parish Church

February 2022



## DIARY DATES

### TOFT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

[Over 50s Club]. On Wednesday 9th 2.30 start – Simon Shore and Neville Tait are taking us on an illustrated, Quick Tour of South America. Guests welcome

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**Sewing, Knit and Natter**  
The next meeting will be held on the 23rd February, 10.30 at the Chapel

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**The Parish Council** -  
The next PC meeting is on **7th February at 7.00 pm**. It will be held in The People's Hall. All welcome subject to prevailing restrictions.

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**The Internet Club**  
The internet club will meet on Monday 7th and Monday 21st February from 2pm to 4pm at the village hall. Please see our announcement on page 7 in this issue.

## EDITORIAL

"Inflation's coming back!" blared the news. "Energy prices will soar." honked the papers. "We're all doomed!" shrieked the Internet. The internet always says that about everything (just Google 'slight cough' if you don't believe me) but nevertheless, it's a worry. Especially if, like me, you live in a house built to showcase every money-saving, corner-cutting bodge known to the building trade. Wondering if there was anything useful I could do to stave off this new evil, I thought maybe I should see what the experts recommend. And, Gosh - am I glad I did! Because it turns out they are full of great tips and advice that you would simply never have thought of yourself.

Here are some suggestions from consumer champion *Which?* - guaranteed to save you money: "Remember," they caution, "Some supermarkets are cheaper than others. It pays to shop around." Good Grief. Who knew? And, as if that wasn't enough, they urge you 'not to buy things you don't really need.' Genius, sheer genius. These people are worth their weight in gold. In answer to that age-old conundrum Can I Grow My Own Food?, they have unearthed the answer that has eluded so many of us for so long.

It is: Yes. Apparently you need a garden or, if you haven't got one, a window-box. The scales fell from my eyes. Now that you know, it seems so obvious, doesn't it?

If, despite your intensive gardening exploits, you remain a little chilly, don't worry because the Top Tips just keep on coming. Keeping warm air in and cold air out is a simple step to a cosy home, apparently. Easy when you know how, isn't it? And once you've warmed up, you can set about saving the seriously big bucks. Did you know, for instance, that you can save money by turning down heating in rooms you don't use much? And if you want to go the full hair-shirt, you can actually turn down the thermostat on your heating. You won't notice, because you can easily 'wear warmer clothes' as the temperature plummets. Honestly, you could have locked me up in a darkened room for a full five seconds and I'd never have thought of that. Elsewhere, a 'home economy expert' points out that it's cheaper to get your boiling water from a 'smart tap' made by Quooker than by putting the kettle on. Until, of course, you factor in the £1,150.00 that even the most basic Quooker will cost you. And don't, adds this same expert, bother with a wine fridge. During this cold weather, simply store your bottles outside. I admit, I preened myself a little at this last idea, because I'm ahead of the game in not actually having a wine fridge. Beginner's luck, I guess.

There are pages of this stuff, none of it remotely enlightening or novel. Except, that is, for a tip provided by an exasperated reader on one of the sites I looked at: He says: "Why not drill a hole - it doesn't need to be very big - in your fridge door, so you can check that the light really does go out when you shut it?" To which, some wag has jokingly (I hope) replied: "That's nothing. I shot my dog and saved a fortune on Vet's bills." All in all, it doesn't look as though the experts are going to save us from whatever fresh calamity is round the next corner but there's one saving none of them mentioned. You can save yourself an awful lot of time by not bothering to ask them anything.

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

St. Andrew's Parish Church

Team Vicar:

Rev David Newton 01223 665654

Lay Minister: Barbara Preece Tel: 263466

Churchwardens:

Ann Mitchell 262516

John Quenby 263949

**Methodist Church**

Minister: Rev Alison Walker

01223 872862

[alison.walker@methodist.org.uk](mailto:alison.walker@methodist.org.uk)

Stewards:

Diana Tebbit 01223 263557

Stephen Acklam 264055

Mrs Pat Morton 264010

*The Church in Toft***SERVICES OF WORSHIP***6th February* 8.30am Holy Communion - Rev Prof Michael Reiss

11.00am Covenant Service, Methodist Church – Rev. Alison Walker

*13th February* 11.00am Holy Communion – St. Andrew's – Rev David Newton*20th February* 8.30am Holy Communion – Rev Prof Michael Reiss

11.00 am Morning Service – Methodist church – Mrs Cathy Michell

*27th February* 11.00 am Morning Worship– St. Andrew's – Rev Robert Dolman

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**D**ear Friends

Candlemas, officially the very last day of Christmas, takes place at the very beginning of February. There are quaint legends associated with Candlemas, St Brigid, also known as St Bride. She's an Irish patron saint, born in 451 AD, but according to legend, she was the midwife to Mary and foster mother to Jesus, and she carried lighted candles in front of Mary as she went up the steps of the Temple and although it was a windy day, the candles didn't blow out! (The legend sadly doesn't say how an Irish woman in the 5th century made it to 1st century Palestine but legends do not have to make sense!).

1st February is the first day of Spring according to Celtic thought; the snowdrops should be out, little drops of shining light and green growth sometimes called Candlemas bells or Mary's taper, they also resonate with symbolic significance. There was an important Celtic goddess, also called Brigid, who was the goddess of spring, fertility, healing, poetry. There are lots of miracles associated with Brigid. Understandably there has also been discussion over whether she really existed – perhaps she is a Christianisation of the goddess, or the chief druidess of the goddess. Surely there must have been a midwife for Mary and we shouldn't assume that people didn't travel across the world so it is possible for someone to move from Ireland to Israel even way back in history. Perhaps though she really was a nun who founded a monastery at Kildare in 480, that alone would make her an interesting and memorable woman.

Candlemas celebrations should involve bringing all your new candles to the church to have them blessed. Thus, your year's supply of light has been sanctified and ready to light your home and cast out physical and metaphorical darkness. We could bring all our spare lightbulbs, but modern ones are supposed to last longer and lack the romance of sacred candlelight. We should make a candlelit (torchlit?) procession to the church and recall how Simeon and Anna were waiting in the temple until the moment when they recognise the infant Jesus as the Messiah. I wonder if we could reinvigorate the old tradition – it would be the last chance to sing Christmas carols, to gather in frosty air and sparkling lights before we turn our faces with hope to the increasing daylight that signifies spring.

I'm leading the service on 6th February in the Methodist Church – if you turn up with candles and lightbulbs, I'll know what to do.

With best wishes, Alison

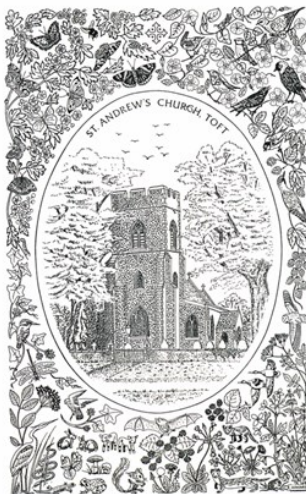
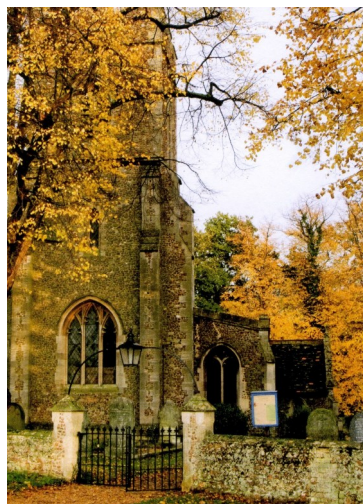
**Sewing, Knit and Natter**

held their first meeting in January and, forming a socially distanced sewing conveyor belt, made a total of 30 cushions for the breast cancer surgery clinic at Addenbrookes. The next meeting will be held on the **23rd February, 10.30 at the Chapel**, when we will attempt to make a similar amount of tote bags to accompany the cushions.



## THE CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY

REMINDER that the beautiful St. Andrew's T-towels are for sale from the shop, or a churchwarden, £5, with the church in the centre surrounded by the wild-life of Toft, as drawn by Richard Howard.



Also, available from the church we have cards showing

the church in autumn – cost for a packet of ten £5 or 60p each

the icon of St. Andrew – cost £1 each

**QUEEN'S**

## PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Plans are now underway for the village to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this June (2nd-5th); this will take the place of our usual Spring Bank Holiday Feast. If you would like to help us with this, in any way, please get in touch with Mike McCarthy [mactoft@btinternet.com](mailto:mactoft@btinternet.com) or Ann Mitchell 262516 [ann@mitchella.ndonet.com](mailto:ann@mitchella.ndonet.com)

## Defibrillator Training Session

It is now over 4 years since we had the defibrillator installed outside Toft People's Hall and we had our first training session in January 2018. The Parish Council felt that we could all do with a refresher course so we have arranged a session on Zoom with the Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT). It is essential that you register first and the CHT will email you the link to attend the Zoom meeting, which is on:

**Tuesday, 8 February at 19:00** You must register by visiting this website:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpdvvpzMoHteFs5iJoIWeN0CwO1C\\_Uwr](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpdvvpzMoHteFs5iJoIWeN0CwO1C_Uwr)

Any queries or problems please contact:

Tricia Ellis-Evans - Email: [cllr.ellis-evans@tpc.toft.org.uk](mailto:cllr.ellis-evans@tpc.toft.org.uk) Mobile: 07896 525800



**Introducing the Anne Robson Helpline** - If you or someone close to you is dying, you can talk to us.

At the Anne Robson Trust we aim to be there to listen to anyone who is struggling with the imminent death of someone they care about. We know that facing the end of life can leave you isolated and alone.

Calls are free and confidential – Call us on 0808 801 0688

Being able to access support whilst a loved one is dying is really important for a number of reasons. Gaining knowledge of what may happen towards the end and having a sense of 'preparedness' helps both the person dying and their family gain as much control as possible.

Please visit [www.annerobsontrust.org.uk/helpline-service](http://www.annerobsontrust.org.uk/helpline-service) to find out more.





## TOFT SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

A number of our members had a great evening seeing the New Year in at the Club, and we followed that up with a successful Food on Friday, plus all our regular events.

For February, on the 4th, **Food on Friday** will be Chicken or Vegetarian Tandoori Tikka Masala, served with pilau rice & flatbread, this is a delicious, aromatic rather than hot dish. Doors open at 7pm, with food just £5.00. We operate on first come, first served – so come early to avoid disappointment! We are looking for volunteers to get involved with Food on Friday – so if you fancy helping out, please get in touch via [admin@toftsocialclub.org.uk](mailto:admin@toftsocialclub.org.uk)

On Saturday 19th the **Film Club** will be showing “Wild Rose”, starring Jessie Buckley. This 2019 BAFTA nominated film tells the story of a Scottish woman, fresh out of prison, who juggles her job and two children while pursuing her dream of becoming a country music star. She soon gets her chance when she travels to Nashville, Tennessee, on a life-changing journey to discover her true voice. Doors open at 8pm and the film starts promptly at 8:20. Film Club membership is due for renewal in January and is £10 for the year, or evening membership is £2.50. The Film Club is looking at running an occasional second film a month, showing foreign language or art house style films – if you are interested in helping with this, please get in touch via [admin@film.toft.org.uk](mailto:admin@film.toft.org.uk)

On Thursday 17th February we will be holding our **Annual General Meeting**, starting at 8:10pm. Details on the meeting, how to submit motions and nominations, etc are all on the website and notices posted at the Club.

**Toft Art** is on Thursday 3rd February – new members are always welcome.

**Toft Quiz Night** is on Thursday 10th February - all welcome in teams of up to 6, just £1 per team member. Doors open at 8pm.

The ever popular **Toft Bingo** will be on 24th February.

After a trial Thursday evening, the **Toft Photo Group** (TPG) is returning to a Friday evening slot – the February meeting will be on Friday 18th February, starting at 8pm. Anyone interested in taking photos, or who wants to get more from their camera are very welcome to this informal, friendly group.

The postponed “**Music Night**” will now be on Saturday 26th February – this will be an evening of music, words and comedy! We have a number of performers lined up but if you would like to take part, please let us know ([admin@toftsocialclub.org.uk](mailto:admin@toftsocialclub.org.uk)) – it promises to be a fun night for everyone!

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

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

Keep up to date here:

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

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

**Toft Parish Council**

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

30 West Drive

Highfields Caldecote

Cambridge, CB23 7NY Tel: 01954 210241

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

*The Council is your locally elected Council at the first tier of local government. Meetings are open to the public and are usually held on the first Monday of each month (excepting August) at the Toft People's Hall in School Lane starting at 7.00pm.*

*Notices of meetings and agendas are published on the Parish Council Noticeboard near the bus shelter together with minutes, which can also be viewed at [www.toft.org.uk](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 7th February 7.00 pm in The People's Hall . All welcome subject to social-distancing guidelines**

The Parish Council met on 10th Jan 2022. Cllr Lluis Borrell was absent due to illness.

The PC discussed the first items on the agenda concerning dog bins, litter bins and litter problems in the village. The dog bin by Toft Wood regularly gets overfilled and of course it is good that it is used. Cllr Miles has investigated getting a larger dog bin however the policy with SCDC is to replace dog bins with normal waste bins at a cost of £414 plus an additional charge of £3.00 a week for emptying the bin. The PC also considered a letter from a resident complaining that the bins in Church Road and Brookside also get over full and litter ends up coming out of the bin. If these two bins had more capacity it might also ease the

problem of littering in the vicinity. After some discussion the PC agreed to fund three new enclosed bins and the weekly collection of the Toft Wood bin.

Cllr Ellis-Evans reported on the progress with online training on the Defibrillator (which will be happening soon) and the rota for the weekly maintenance checks. Please check the Toft Village Calendar for details.

It was reported that the bridge on the west end of Lot Meadow has been repaired and a new Post has been erected for the NW gate on Long Meadow. A number of other faults with a number of gates have been added to the CC reporting website.

The PC reviewed the specification for the grass cutting contract. Cllr Ellis-Evans presented her proposals which will mean no cutting during May and less cutting of some verges during the season. The PC does carry out some of the verge cutting on behalf of the CC and so Cllr Ellis-Evans is to check that the CC are OK with the proposals before going out for tender for the contract.

The PC set the budget for 2022/23. There were a number of increases that needed to be included. Electricity costs for street lighting is expected to significantly increase, insurance costs have increased this year and there are a number of significant projects that the PC may want, or need, to progress including a possible "fighting fund" depending on the next set of proposals from EWR and costs associated with the PC election this May. The budget was set with these issues considered. The PC has not increased the individual households annual precept charge for many years however this year there will be an increase.

The PC considered two planning applications.

James Wrycroft (aided by his family) was thanked for replacing the notice board by the bus stop, and for doing an excellent job. Material that can be used with drawing pins is to be attached to the board over the next few weeks.

Please read the official minutes for the definitive outcomes from the meeting.

**Putting the (Pampas) record straight...**

In the '70's when I still lived with my parents in the bungalow I've returned to retire to, my Mum was extremely proud of her garden especially the prolific display of pampas grass that, now I'm the Chatelaine, I try to eradicate every year to no avail. The beige seeds shed all over whatever I'm wearing, creep stealthily down my wellingtons and the leaves, sharp as Gillette, cause me to shed blood on a seasonal basis so I've given up and left it alone. I mean how can this massive clump still be thriving when my Mum died at 52...SO WRONG!...

En route from Toft Shop I was collared by an utterly charming Barbara Preece with a convincing sales pitch, hence I promised to donate a Christmas tree to St. Andrews Festive Tree Display. What with the mounting veterinary bills while my latest beautiful black cat's life ebbed away on the day before I had agreed to decorate and erect my tree, I still hadn't purchased a tree, or my own for the house a: Because December's pension had all been dedicated to the cat and b: Because I'd been too busy hopelessly syringe-feeding my failing Familiar in what was not a great festive atmosphere Up The Drift, more a cat hospice....

Thence appeared an imaginary Guardian Angel who urged me to create a snowy pale tree out of pampas grass. This I did, loading masses of severed giant pampas stems, metal tree-stand, a plethora of silver baubles, silver fairy and cool white lights and a stepladder into my Rover Metro, (a task in itself and which while I write this is still ankle deep in shed pampas seeds) trundled to St Andrews, designed, decorated and heaved what I thought was an original creation into my allocated position in record time and just made it to vets, to be told I may have to take cat back the following day to be 'put down'. My cat died and I went to church to say a little prayer for him and admire all the Christmas trees.

Somehow my tree looked ethereal and I was told by Ann Mitchell that some very creative ladies from 'Simple Sewing, Knit and Natter' thought it amazing and delightful. Therefore a minor miracle, although failing to save my cat, had at least worked magic on my tree....

A couple of days later a double page spread appeared in The Daily Mail featuring half a dozen similar efforts to mine, informing me that each stem of pampas currently sells in florists at up to 14 quid! and the whole new trend of pampas Christmas trees is considered tasteless because (to quote Daily Mail): *'Popular in the 1970's, pampas grass fell out of fashion thanks to an urban myth suggesting plants in urban front gardens were a code signalling the residents were up for wife-swapping'...*

a: I'd like to announce here that this does NOT apply to me, (especially with my track record in the divorce courts)... b: I genuinely thought my surprisingly lovely thrown-together pampas tree was another of my many crazy original creative bright ideas (albeit to save buying two traditional real trees from Blue Diamond).... and c: I am now observing my pious, Methodist Mission Secretary Mother in a completely new light...go Girl!!

Marion Read

Sadly, the **Toft Big Breakfast** has been postponed until **May 2022**.

We hope by then that the atmosphere will be more relaxed.

Besides the usual tables and chairs inside the People's Hall we hope to use our new outdoor seating area and create a festive feel to enjoy this event in safety.

Looking forward to seeing you at **The Big Breakfast** in May.



## Bedfordshire Cambridgeshire Northamptonshire

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

Spring is on the horizon! In February, you can spot early signs in the hedgerows: blackthorn flowers, willow and hazel catkins, and hawthorn and elder leaves. You can also hear our resident birds like blackbirds, chaffinches and yellow hammers singing their territorial songs. In Hardwick Woods you will see bluebell, primrose and oxlip leaves coming up, and you could even hear a great spotted woodpecker drumming. It will be very muddy, so please take wellies, and stick to the middle of paths to avoid trampling plants and compacting soil on the edges. Some nearby reserves have restricted access in winter, so visit our website before you go:

[www.wildlifebcn.org/explore/reserve-updates](http://www.wildlifebcn.org/explore/reserve-updates)

The Wildlife Trust BCN have been trialling work parties on Cambourne Nature Reserve and we want to extend a huge thank you to volunteers who have come along to help. So far, the tasks have included: cutting back overhanging vegetation near Oaks Wood, removing fly-tipped rubbish, carrying out footpath maintenance on Crow Hill, and improving habitat for wetland birds by removing scrub around Whomping Willow Lake. These work parties have encouraged people to step forward to be rangers, so there are now more volunteers reporting problems, recording wildlife, and litter-picking.

If you are interested in joining the work party at Cambourne, the next is Sat 12th Feb. Feel free to contact me about other volunteer opportunities including Bourn toad patrol which will be starting up

near the end of February, and weekend work parties at Hardwick Wood.

My Wild in the Woods family session is on Wed during half term, and these sessions will continue throughout the year during school holidays. We'll be looking for signs of spring on Cambourne Nature Reserve.

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



*New Hawthorn Leaves*

You can contact me on

E-mail: [rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org](mailto:rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org)

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

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

Visit: [www.wildlifebcn.org](http://www.wildlifebcn.org)

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, plus Cambourne Nature Reserve.

### Internet Club – join us if you want to improve your skills

The Internet Club will be meeting on **Monday 7th and 21st February** in the Toft People's Hall, 2–4pm.

The Internet Club has been running regularly now for more than three years.

While numbers coming to the group have never been huge, we have generally had a steady flow of attendees, and we hope they all feel that the guidance and support they've been offered over the years has been helpful. Those of us running the group have certainly learnt plenty of useful tips, and we're hugely grateful to our more technically minded members who have come along to share their expertise.

If you feel that perhaps there is no longer any need for the group, and/or that everyone knows all there is to know about technology, we would appreciate any comment or feedback that you may have.

If there is a clear need or demand for the group, then of course we'll be happy to continue.

Contacts: [jane.tebbit@icloud.com](mailto:jane.tebbit@icloud.com) or [jameskatherinej@icloud.com](mailto:jameskatherinej@icloud.com).

**Dear Readers,**

This is a quick thank you and goodbye! I arrived in Toft just over four years ago, and now I'm on my way once more. Despite the challenges, it has been a peaceful and happy time. Folk have been as friendly as they are allowed to be in the current circumstances, and there are all sorts of gatherings that I have enjoyed being part of.

I've enjoyed the peaceful, undulating countryside, and so have my dogs! And I have enjoyed making friends with a number of folk – and certainly hope to keep in touch.

I wasn't expecting to be under 'lock up' for over a year of course – none of us were – and I do hope it's not going to keep happening. Compensations were the 'zoom' church services enabled by David Newton, and facilitated by all sorts of folk; learning the cello (well starting a process that will take the rest of my days); becoming part of a 'bubble' with very dear friends; and escaping from time to time (within the 'rules'!) in the little red van – to Cornwall to collect Lily (small, white, cheeky Jack Russell puppy) and to Scotland to visit a brave friend who, aged 80+ has moved from Yorkshire to the Isle of Mull.

During this time there's been time to think about the future, and whilst none of us know what that will mean, I came to the conclusion that I need to live somewhere where I can walk to amenities of all sorts, join in as much music-making as possible, and be part of a church community where I can give and receive with joy and freedom.

I hadn't planned to move so quickly, but with the aid of Rightmove a little place appeared and beckoned strongly. A few months later and the deal is signed and nearly sealed.

Thank you to the choir and the social club for making me so welcome, thank you to my neighbours in School Lane who have been kind and gentle and full of cheerful greetings.

God bless the village, and all of us as we journey on..... life's a rich and sometimes scary adventure..... but it's not over yet!

*With love, Tricia Troughton*

**Support available for people looking after family members  
or friends**



*Do you care for someone who would find it difficult to cope without that support?*

This could be looking after a family member, partner or friend because of their illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction.

If this sounds like your situation, then your role means you are recognised as a carer.

Caring Together are a local charity who last year supported more than 17,000 carers of all ages and their families across Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, and Norfolk. Carers can be any age and have a wide range of situations.

Whether you are new to your caring role, have seen your role evolve as the person you care for has needed more support over time, or have lost a loved one you cared for, Caring Together are there to help you. They can offer a range of advice, information and support, and help you, and the person you care for, access services that are helpful to you.

Their services include:

- a dedicated carers telephone where trained advisors can give you information and advice that will support you in your caring role, such as carers assessments, emergency planning and welfare benefits;
- homecare services, where a care worker looks after the person you care for, including to enable you to have a break;
- face-to-face and online carers hubs, where you can meet other carers in a similar situation;
- a monthly newsletter to keep you informed and updated.

To find out more call them on 0345 241 0954 or email them at [hello@caringtogether.org](mailto:hello@caringtogether.org).

You can also visit their website: [www.caringtogether.org.uk](http://www.caringtogether.org.uk)



## The Sawmill



*Sawmill belonging to James Warboys & Son. From L-R: James Warboys (then owner), a young Joe Warboys, Joe Sparks and Frank Sparks.*

In the late 1800's there was a small sawmill located in the area of what is now The Mount commercial centre behind the Village Shop. It was owned and operated by the Warboys family and continued as a business into the 1900's offering a variety of timber products and, notably, were also the local coffin makers.

The sawmill would have provided an alternative employment to farm labouring for the village men. This included Bert Sparkes, one of the Toft men commemorated in the Thankful Village memorial who survived the fighting of World War One, and whose first job as a young man was at the sawmill where he made coffins. He used to tell a story of being distracted from his work one day when he spotted a strange object in the sky and followed it up the road towards Hardwick. It proved to be the first aircraft ever seen by people in Toft.

After watching it land near Hardwick he returned, very excited, to work only to be very severely reprimanded as he was now late to finish a coffin needed that day for an important village funeral.

The sawmill unfortunately made the local newspapers in Feb 1911 when Joe Warboys (seen as a youngster in the picture above and now apparently running the business) was reported as having been found guilty by safety inspectors of operating an unguarded sawmill

*(Mike Petty Newspaper Archive: Toft Scrapbook).*



# Meridian Primary School

*Learning for life – striving for  
excellence*

Greetings Neighbours,

Happy New Year to you all, we hope that you have all had a good start to 2022.

You may have seen children around the village on bikes in January – the children were participating in the Bikeability scheme. The scheme works to enable more children and young people to cycle safely and also to develop a lifelong love of cycling.

We will be looking forward to our 'talent show' this half term. This always proves to be an important event on our calendar and last year this was virtual. This year we will be having live performances for the children to share their talents in front of their mixed year groups.

In March, we will be having a special 'Art' week. If you are a local artist or you have any art pieces you would like to share with our children, please do make contact with the school office.

Thank you for supporting out on going Habitat and Wellbeing garden project. Our JustGiving page is <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/meridianpta> This has been driven by our School Councillors and we are hoping to have it shaped by Easter this year. If you can help to clear, paint or generally lend a hand, we would love to hear from you.

We are looking to appoint a Caretaker/handy person for mornings only, 6:45-11am. For more information on the role and how to apply, please visit our school website [www.meridianprimary.co.uk](http://www.meridianprimary.co.uk) or contact the school office on 01223 262423.

Kind regards,

Mrs C. Etchie, Headteacher

## Upcoming Events

*Heritage Open Day* 6 Feb 1.30pm – 3.30pm at Cambridge's Leper Chapel

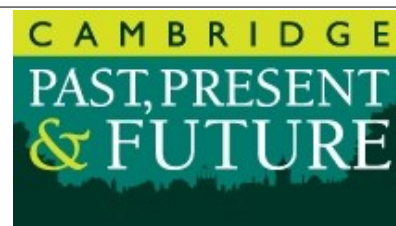
Your chance to see inside one of Cambridge's oldest buildings, which is not usually open to the public. This is the first event of 2022 and the Chapel will be open to visitors on a number of dates throughout the year.

*Holiday Bushcraft* for children aged 5-12 years old from 14 – 18 Feb 8.30am-4pm at Wandlebury Country Park

Half term holiday fun is run by experienced qualified teachers from Wild Thyme & Embers, who will inspire children and share their knowledge and skills of surviving in the wild.

*Volunteer Work Parties* every Tuesday alternating Wandlebury and Coton

Help care for green spaces and their wildlife - get active, meet others and enjoy learning rural practices at the same time.



**Wheelie Bin Collections For February**

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

**Black Bin:**

Weds 2nd Feb

Weds 16th Feb

**Blue/Green Bin**

Weds 9th Feb

Weds 23rd (Blue Only)

**Notice to Advertisers**

**Advertisements** are published quarterly. Copy for inclusion in the next available edition of the Calendar **must** reach us by 17th April 2022 at the *very latest*. Advertisements will **NOT** be published unless full payment has been received in advance. Please note: *We are currently unable to accept PDF file types*. Quarter-page adverts **MUST** be Portrait-style, half-page adverts **MUST** be Landscape-style. In the first instance, advertisers should contact **Pat Gouldstone** at: [calendarad-stoft@gmail.com](mailto:calendarad-stoft@gmail.com) to discuss their requirements.

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 Cambridge Dial a Ride 01223 506335  
 Cambridge Water: 01223 706050  
 Care Network Cambridgeshire 01954 211919.  
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 Comberton GPs' Surgery: 01223 262500  
 Comberton Village College: 01223 262503  
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 CVC Community Education: 01223 264721  
 District Councillor: 01954 210040  
 Household Waste/Pest Control: 0345 045 0063  
 Lifespan Health Care, Family and Child Team: 01223 264460  
 Member of Parliament: Phone 01223 830037  
 Meridian Primary School: 01223 262423  
 Police: 101 (Emergencies: 999)  
 (Local Beat Officer is PCSO Sam Kennedy)  
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 Street Lighting: 0800 7838 247  
 Street Cleaning: 03450 450 063  
 South Cambs District Council: 03450 450 500  
 South Cambs Fire and Rescue: 01480 444 500  
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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 February**. Many thanks to all who contributed to this edition. Email: [calendareditor@toft.org.uk](mailto:calendareditor@toft.org.uk) Post: 33 Egremont Road, Hardwick, Cambridge CB23 7XR Telephone: 01954 211346



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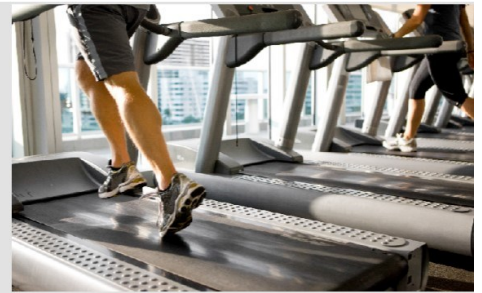
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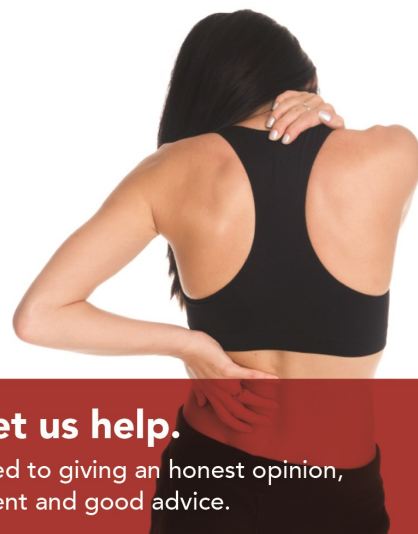
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