



Toft Village Calendar

Produced and Distributed by St. Andrew's Parish Church

January 2022



DIARY DATES

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

No Coffee
Morning this
month, but you can always
pop along to the
Community Café any
Wednesday.

TOFT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

[Over 50s Club].
Friendship Club On
Wednesday 5th we will
enjoy our Christmas lunch
at Toft People's Hall.

Sewing, Knit and Natter
The Sewing, Knit and
Natter group hope to
resume on the 19th
January.

The Parish Council -
The next PC meeting is
on **3rd January at 7.00
pm.** It will be held in The
People's Hall. All
welcome subject to
prevailing restrictions.

The Internet Club

The internet club will meet
on Monday 17th January
from 2pm to 4pm at the
village hall. Please see our
announcement on page 8
in this issue.

EDITORIAL

Well, here's a silver lining! As I write this, lockdown 3 - or is it 4? - is breaking from its chrysalis and letting the sun warm its wings. Maybe it won't happen - surely they aren't wreck another New Year? - but if it does, it could solve a knotty problem. You see, I rather wasted the first lockdowns.

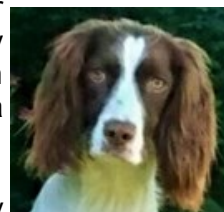
I didn't make anything out of sourdough. I didn't learn a new language. I still have no idea what 'facetime' is, nor Whatsapp, and I don't know anyone on Skype. I've never so much as tasted banana bread and Joe Wicks and I remain total strangers. I did toy with the idea of some self-improvement, but it seemed pointless to try and embroider the excellent job the Almighty had already made, so that didn't get off the ground. I even failed to follow the science. Not that I went walk-about without permission or anything, I just didn't get all the stuff about rising percentiles and anti-bodies. I mean, why are we so anti-body, anyway? And is there such a thing as a pro-body? And what happened to T-Cells? Are they still a thing? Like I say - I just didn't get it. I still can't play the guitar and my home-made marmalade remains home-unmade. I was going to go out one Thursday night and bang a saucepan about in the front garden, like two other people in my street, but I clean forgot and by the time I remembered, everyone else had turned in for the night. I suppose I could have put on a late encore, but you don't want to look silly, do you? And as for taking a holistic approach to my wellness - I did try, but I couldn't follow the instructions.

All in all, it's been an opportunity frittered away. But not this time. Because I can see two birds... and I've got a stone. The next lock-down, if it happens, is going to dovetail rather neatly with that grim point of the year when resolutions are made. And if my faltering inner strength begins to crumble, as it has done on countless previous occasions, reinforcements, supplied by the bullet-proof prognostications of SAGE and other august personages will surely make defeat impossible. I just need to wait till they tell us what they want us to stop, or start, doing, and then promise myself I'll do it. This, I have absolutely no doubt, is going to be the year I kept my resolution, backed-up by the threat of punitive fines or worse if I don't. Now - who said there wasn't much to look forward to?

Last year, I ended this column by hoping that we all had a Happy New Year. As implausible pipe-dreams go, it's turned out a winner. Nothing daunted, I was planning on repeating the exercise. But then I recalled the wise words attributed to Einstein: "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results". So, instead, let's all just keep our fingers crossed and console ourselves with that definingly British sentiment: Cheer up - it could be worse.

A Huge Thank You!

It's not everybody who can say, "How lucky am I?" having fallen down a rabbit hole, trying to stage an Alice in Wonderland panto and broken their arm - but I can! Following my accident, I have been overwhelmed by the kindness and support from friends and neighbours in Toft and consider myself truly lucky to live in such a wonderful community.



Getting my priorities right, my dog Maggie has had a team of walkers who have taken her for a good long walk every morning so special thanks to Paul and Theresa, Jean and Jake, Carol and Martin and others who have offered.

Also special thanks to Katherine who drove me to A & E following my accident and has taken Maggie and me a few times to walk at Wimpole and who has also valiantly held Maggie's lead on regular walks with me round the village. I am also very grateful to Colin for organising the car scheme and to the volunteers who make it happen, as well as knowing there is TPH and the local shop to pop into.

For my part, I have learnt the joys of ready chopped onions; that if you prick the skins on potatoes and pop them in the in microwave for a couple of minutes, they are easy to slice; home deliveries - I'm still working on patience. It has also made me think that if the world were made up of concentric circles of communities such as Toft, what a wonderland that would be.

Many thanks to everyone for all your kindnesses, great and small and apologies to anyone I have failed to name.

With love, Elaine and Maggie.

MINISTRY TEAM**THE CHURCH IN TOFT**

St. Andrew's Parish Church

Team Vicar:

Rev David Newton 01223 665654

Lay Minister: Barbara Preece Tel: 263466

Churchwardens:

Ann Mitchell 262516

John Quenby 263949

Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Alison Walker

01223 872862

alison.walker@methodist.org.uk

Stewards:

Diana Tebbit 01223 263557

Stephen Acklam 264055

Mrs Pat Morton 264010

*The Church in Toft***SERVICES OF WORSHIP***2nd January* 8.30am Holy Communion - Rev Prof Michael Reiss11.00am Covenant Service, Methodist Church
– Rev. Charity Nzegwu*9th January* 11.00am Holy Communion – St. Andrew's – Rev. Dr Jeremy Morris*16th January* 8.30am Holy Communion – Rev Prof Michael Reiss11.00 am Morning Service – Methodist church
– Mrs Cathy Michell*23rd January* 11.00 am Morning Service – St. Andrew's – Rev Robert Dolman*30th January* 8.30am Holy Communion – Rev Prof Michael Reiss

10.30 am Holy Communion - Haslingfield – Bishop Stephen

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 first three Sundays and Christmas day:

MEETING ID: 823 1147 3640

Dear Friends**Radical Uncertainty**

I've just bought a book by Mervyn King that came out last year called 'radical uncertainty'. My interest in what he had to say peaked when I heard that he was pulling strings on the edge of COP26 as he sought to get serious private investment commitments for green technology. I haven't read the book yet, but the basic premise seems to seek to distinguish between risk – as something that is broadly measurable – and uncertainty, which is not!

The distinction is, I think, particularly helpful for our days. As I write we are in a moment of extreme uncertainty. When might infections peak? What will happen to hospitalisations? What will ministers decide to do? What will the social, educational economic consequences of stricter measures be? What will the public reaction be to doing something, or nothing? Do we need to re-think self-isolation given the impact it is having on NHS capacity, and if we do, what might the impact be? Even the first two simpler questions of this list are nearly impossible to answer right now.

We want everything to be a calculable risk. That way it is all controlled and assessable. But life does not work like that; there are too many variables and too much contingency. If uncertainty exists at the national level which can use large statistical averages, how much more it exists at the personal level. But learning to live with radical uncertainty is difficult. To do so, I think, requires us to have some rock bottom certainty in our lives – for me, that means trusting that the whole world and each of us are held and sustained by the Love that brought the universe into being.

As we start 2022 may our feet stand on firm ground, even as we are buffeted by the winds around.

- David

Sewing, Knit and Natter

hope to resume on the 19th January. We plan to make again for the breast cancer surgery clinic the special cushions in tote bags which are given out to their patients. The Methodist Chapel is our venue from 10.30 - 12.30.

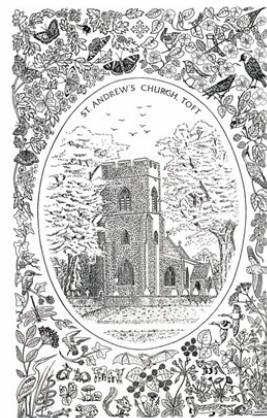
In the meanwhile we wish everyone a happy and safe new year.



THE CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY

Womens Refuge Thanks to your generosity I took a car and a half of presents, food, party things and money to the Refuge before Christmas – as ever they were SO grateful and it has made Christmas at the Refuge a much enhanced one – thank you. - ALM

A 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.



Sadly two long-time residents of Toft died before Christmas.

RITA BATES 1933 -2021

Rita was the second daughter of a successful butcher. She attended a convent school and trained to be a shorthand typist on leaving school. By 1964 she was living in Powell Close with her three children, Tony, Gary and Laura as a single Mum. Whilst working as a school assistant and looking after her family she passed the necessary exams by a correspondence course to get into Bedford College, where she qualified to become an infant school teacher – a job she had, and loved for many years especially teaching young people to read. Subsequently she worked in the University Library for some years. Forming a strong friendship with her neighbour Elizabeth Harrison, they went on many exciting holidays together and enjoyed visits to the ballet, theatre and shared a deep interest in literature. In due course she became a grannie ten times over and she was clearly a much loved and loving grannie to them all. She has resided in an old peoples home near her family for the last few years but returned, as she wished, to be buried in Toft.

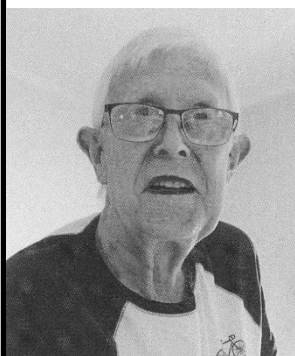


PAUL JACOBS 1937 - 2021

Paul spent his youth in Cambridge and was educated at the Perse School before studying Psychology at the University of Hull. He completed his training to be a teacher at Norwich, He taught at Netherhall School in Cambridge and for twenty seven years at Cottenham Primary School..

Paul made his first fleeting acquaintance with Toft when he was nine as a wolf cub at a meeting in the field adjacent to the Old Rectory. He married Jennie in 1965 and they moved to Cannors Close where together they brought up their sons Jeremy and Simon.

He was a very creative man playing the organ at St. Andrew's week on week for nearly 30 years; he was a fine photographer recording changing Toft as buildings came and went; he was a voracious and intelligent reader, particularly of classic English literature. He was always ready for a chat on a wide variety of subjects but I guess for many of us we will remember him most as he filled the church with Bach and Beethoven at the end of services. He will be much missed.





TOFT SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

The year end is a time for reflection on the year just ending – and The Club is proud to have been open since July, putting on a varied program from regular events such as the Quiz, Bingo and Art, to gigs from the likes of While & Matthews and Mitch Benn, all delivered as safely as possible.

We had a very enjoyable **Christmas Dinner** in December, pulled together by a team of helpers. We would like to thank all those who helped, and came along to the meal. And thanks to those who have run the very successful Food on Fridays during 2021.

Now, as this is being written in late December, it is very hard to forecast what will be happening in January, so everything listed here is going to be “subject to” the situation at the time – please check our website or Facebook page to find out what is happening. You can also join our mailing list which will keep you regularly updated – visit <https://toftsocialclub.org.uk/mailling.php> to sign up.

We are moving **the Quiz** to the second Thursday of the month, so it will be on 13th January - all welcome in teams of up to 6, just £1 per team member. Doors open at 8pm.

Toft Art will now be on the first Thursday, and the first meeting of the New Year will be on 6th January. This popular evening attracts a wide variety of people of all ages – all are welcome!

Bingo will be on 27th January.

Toft Photo Group is planning to meet monthly, on the third Thursday of the month (20th January) – the Group is aimed at those interested in photography at all levels, whether you have a fancy digital camera or take photos on your phone. Why not come along in January to find out more?

Food on Friday in January will be on 7th January – see the website for details.....

On Saturday 15th the **Film Club** will be showing “The Courier”, starring Benedict Cumberbatch. The film is based on the true story of a British businessman unwittingly recruited into one of the greatest international conflicts in history – the Cuban Missile Crisis. 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.

We are looking at a new date for the postponed “**Music Night**” – please check the website / Facebook for details.

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

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



Thank you to all those who participated in the Christmas Greetings. Through your lovely messages you have raised **£452** for St Andrew's.

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
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Chairman:

Martin Yeadon	263663	cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk
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James Howells		cllr.lhowells@tpc.toft.org.uk
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Elaine Miles	262255	cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk
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Tricia Ellis-Evans	263477	cllr.ellis-evans@tpc.toft.org.uk
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Andy Tall	07984796273	cllr.tall@tpc.toft.org.uk
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Lluis Borrell	264611	cllr.borrell@toft.org.uk
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Kaushik Popat		cllr.popat@tpc.toft.org.uk
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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 3rd January, 7.00 pm
in The People's Hall . All welcome subject
to social-distancing guidelines**

Your Parish Council met on 6th Dec. Unfortunately Cllrs Andy Tall and Elaine Miles were not able to attend.

The PC discussed the First Proposals for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. This follows an earlier "call for sites" when landowners and others could make proposals for possible development areas, that resulted in 900 potential sites.

This has now been whittled down to 19 sites none of which are in Toft, in fact the closest is at the northern end of Caldecote. Generally the new developments are extensions of existing newer developments such as Cambourne and Northstowe.

Although the plan proposes 48k new homes 37k are already planned within the current Local Plan meaning about 11k additional homes are proposed. The PC responded saying that it supported the strategy where the new homes were added to the existing new developments that have the transport links and infrastructure to support them.

For sometime the PC has been trying to source a material for the front cover of the village noticeboard that is weatherproof and is able to take drawing pins. Cllr Howells has managed to source such a material and it was agreed to purchase a sheet.

A committee is being put together to organise how the village will celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next June. Cllr Ellis-Evans has agreed to represent the Council on this committee.

Cllr Ellis-Evans reported the recommended frequency for the 5min maintenance check on the defibrillator is weekly. The Council would like to thank Kevin Gathercole for carrying out these checks over the past 4 years. We are now moving to carrying out the checks on a rota system. If you are interested in joining the rota please contact Cllr Ellis-Evans.

Cllr Yeadon agreed to represent the PC at the CVC Community Governors meeting.

The PC considered two planning applications.

Cllr Yeadon reported that the SCDC Community Chest had increased the funds available for a single application to £2k. This is money that can be applied for by the PC, other organisations, or individuals for projects aimed at improving the "community". Details can be found on the SCDC website.

Cllr Tall is continuing to work with the PCC and CCC to develop proposals to improve the parking area outside of the church.

Please see the official Minutes of the Meeting for the definitive outcomes of the meeting.



EVERSDEN BRASS BAND

Community Band is a friendly group with people
of all ages and levels

We meet on Sundays at 4 pm in Eversden Village Hall
CB23 1HP

Complete beginners are welcome – we can lend you an instrument and show you how to play it.

Covid permitting, our first rehearsal in the New Year will be on 9th January

Contact us: eversdenband.org.uk
enquiries@eversdenband.org.uk

Do you need a support with your or your family's cancer diagnosis?

At Maggie's we can help. We provide free practical, emotional and social support to people with cancer, their family and friends, from diagnosis throughout living with the affects after cancer.

Maggie's has been providing high quality, evidence-based support since 2013 in the local area. We help over 8,000 people a year to achieve the best possible state of psychological and physical health during diagnosis, treatment and throughout their cancer journey. People across Cambridgeshire and beyond can come to Maggie's at any stage, for as long or as little as they like. We believe that the built and natural environments in which people are cared for have a direct impact on wellbeing and how a person responds to the challenge of cancer.

Our Centre is staffed by Cancer Support Specialists, Benefits Advisor, Nutritionist, Counsellors, and Psychologists who can support people in whichever way is best suited to their needs. Maggie's is a place to find practical advice about benefits and eating well; a place where qualified experts provide emotional support; a place to meet other people or simply to sit quietly with a cup of tea.

You don't need an appointment - just come in for a chat to find out more about the support offered to them. Our centre is open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

Find us at:

21 Milton House, Puddicombe Way, Addenbrooke's, Cambridge CB2 0AD

T: 01223 249220

E: cambridge@maggies.org

Facebook: [@maggiescentrecambs](https://www.facebook.com/maggiescentrecambs) Instagram: [@maggiescambridge](https://www.instagram.com/maggiescambridge)

Twitter: [@maggiescambs](https://twitter.com/maggiescambs) Website: www.maggies.org



MAGGIE'S

Everyone's home of cancer care



Green New Year Resolutions

It's that time again when many of us aim to make New Year resolutions – even if most of them are broken within the month!

Still, if we all made just one or two small changes, what a difference it would make to the planet. Below are just a few suggestions.

- * The car – is my next journey within walking or cycling distance, or could I take the bus instead?
- * Switches and plugs – how many lights or stand-bys really need to be on in the house at any one time?
- * Wardrobe is looking tired – could that shirt be mended, those trousers dyed to a new colour, that dress be 'accessorised' to create a new look, instead of buying new?
- * Meat-free meals – can the family aim to have at least one meat-free day in the week? (There are plenty of plant-based recipes online.)
- * Who does the shopping? Look for the seasonal fruit and veg – they're cheaper, and haven't had to be transported any great distance (look out for local farm shops or markets).

And if none of these appeal, check out these websites for more ideas:

- www.hubbub.org.uk/Listing/?CategoryTitle=impactful-actions-you-can-take-for-the-environment&SubsiteTitle=make-our-move
- <https://biofriendlyplanet.com/eco-friendly-tips/12-small-changes-to-make-your-home-more-eco-friendly/>
- <https://blueandgreentomorrow.com/features/10-ways-make-home-eco-friendly/>
- www.familyhandyman.com/list/11-ways-to-make-your-house-greener/
- www.theartofsimple.net/tips-to-go-green-at-home/

Climate Change Working Group



The **SCHOOLROOM** Community Café

The Café is due to open again at The People's Hall, Toft on 12th January at 10.30am. Please look on Nextdoor, Facebook and our website www.cafe.toft.org.uk for updates. We wish you a happy new year and look forward to welcoming you back for lunch or coffee and cakes.





Bedfordshire Cambridgeshire Northamptonshire

The West Cambs Hundreds is one of our Living Landscape areas stretching south of the A428 between Gamlingay and Comberton, and encompassing nationally important ancient woodlands as well as the more accessible Cambourne Nature Reserve. Within this area, we don't just manage reserves, we also work with volunteers, residents and landowners like farmers and councils, to make the space in between better for wildlife.

One project we are involved in is toad patrol. Depending on the weather, sometime between mid-February and late March, amphibians emerge from hibernation and migrate to their breeding areas. Toads in particular stick to ancestral ponds, and when their habitat is fragmented by roads, they are often run over. Our volunteers patrol known crossing points on warmer wet evenings, collecting toads from one side of the road, and carrying them in buckets to a safer area on the other side. Toads specifically, and amphibians in general, are in serious decline.

The closest known crossing point to Toft is on Broadway, the road that runs beside the airfield to Bourn. Please watch out for volunteers in high-vis vests, and toads, in February and March on this stretch of road, when it is above 5 degrees and wet.

How you can help:

- Volunteer on a toad patrol

- Slow down on the roads when amphibians (and volunteers) might be crossing
- Register amphibian crossing points (where you find multiple animals dead on the road) through the Froglife website
- Let us know if you see animals early in the season as this helps us know when we need to start patrolling
- Make your garden better for amphibians by providing water, log piles and compost heaps, and wilder areas where they might hunt.

You can read more about toads and how to help, on our website: www.wildlifebcn.org/blog/rebecca-neal/why-you-should-love-toads-and-other-amphibians

If you want to help make Cambourne Nature Reserve better for people and wildlife, you can come on our trial work parties. The next ones are Saturday morning 22nd Jan and 12th Feb. Other volunteering opportunities are available in nearby reserves.

You can contact me on

E-mail: rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org

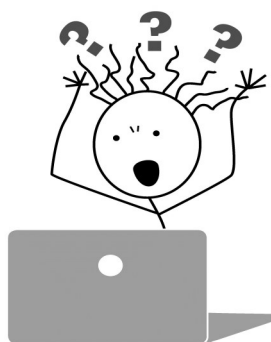
Facebook: @BeccaBadgerWTBCN

BCN Facebook/Twitter: @wildlifebcn

Visit: 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 – *if you want to improve your skills join us now*



The next meeting of the Internet Club will be on Monday 17th January in the Toft People's Hall, 2–4pm.

The Internet Club has been running regularly now for more than three years. We were fortunate, in the early stages, to receive a substantial grant from the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation. With these supporting funds we

were able to buy a printer* and a number of other items that were useful for the running of the group.

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.

However, perhaps because during the various lockdowns people have been forced to learn about technology the hard way, on their own – the surge in Zoom and other forums is certainly evidence of that – our numbers have recently dropped off. We feel that perhaps there is no longer any need for the group, and/or that everyone knows all there is to know about technology (?). In any event, we are now, with some regret, seriously considering bringing the group meetings to an end in the near future.

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.

Katherine James & Jane Tebbit

* The printer is stored in the Hall, and is available for anyone in the village to use, by request and under supervision. It has the capability to print A4 and A3 papers, and photographs in various sizes. If you would like to use it, then please contact either jane.tebbit@icloud.com or jameskatherinej@icloud.com.



Happy New Year from Comberton Library!

We hope you'll support us in 2022. Here are five ways:

1. Join: it's simple and free! Everyone can be a member of the library - even babies.
2. Use: make use of your library. Borrow books (in person, or download to a device), use a computer, attend events and activities, access online tools to help with work or research.
3. Volunteer: we can offer even more programmes with help from volunteers. Could you be our next Storytime reader, event helper, Library@Home book bringer or Digital Buddy?
4. Donate: library services are free to use but monetary donations, small or large, help us provide more books and services.

5. Spread the word: if you love your library, tell your friends and neighbours and encourage them to join! The more members we have, the stronger we are.

Change to opening hours:

From **5th January** Comberton Library will be open:

Monday 10am – 1pm

Wednesday 10am – 1pm and 2:30 – 5:30pm

Friday 2:30pm – 5:30pm

Saturday 10:00am – 1pm

Please help us raise awareness that Cambridgeshire Libraries are safe spaces for domestic abuse victims. All libraries have contact details for appropriate support agencies. Our computers are free to use and your search history can't be tracked.

When you visit, please note that we continue to follow the latest government COVID-safety guidelines.

The email address for general library enquiries: your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

A big **thank you** to those in Toft who are helping to jab, marshal queues and generally volunteer during these worrying times.

No names - but they will know who they are and that we are grateful for their care for us all.

BIRTH OF A COMMUNITY CAFÉ

In the Winter of '21, there was no sun, we saw no-one, we met no-one.
We walked around the village again and again, we'd escaped getting ill but we felt others' pain.
We were pleased when lockdown eased, but felt our community lacked an opportunity.
The Social Club's a great evening hub, but
What we needed was a daytime place, a friendly face, a morning coffee and a bit of cake.
Talking to others – they were willing to bake...
Perhaps it was lunacy, there was certainly negativity, but in Toft there is community.
And we proved the doubters wrong.

Liz mustered helpers, recruited leaders; Jane bought teapots, wrote procedures;
Steve found sponsors to part with some cash, Sally sewed aprons with a logo'd sash;
Carol fixed training for our new team leaders; Jane ordered cushions and wrote more procedures.
Steve bought picnic tables, parasols, and high chairs; Jane bought thermometers and rewrote procedures.
Perhaps it was lunacy, there was some negativity, but in Toft there is community.
And we proved the doubters wrong.

In the Summer of '21, 28 people said they'd come to plan for a new Café.
They were willing to bake, to brew, to serve, and clear up at the end of the day.
Some were Tofties well known to us all; some had never stepped inside the Hall.
Some were keen but not so nifty, some were even under fifty.
Perhaps it was lunacy, there was a bit of negativity, but in Toft there is community.
And we proved the doubters wrong.

In the Autumn of '21, we registered our business with South Cambs.
We did our risk assessments, devised our stock controls,
Got ourselves a cashbox, milk jugs and soup bowls.
We couldn't pay a Manager but we got ourselves a Treasurer.
We worked out a menu which didn't include much meat
And Marion wrote it out for us, beautifully neat.
Jane and Katrina, the Pugh's and Teresa,
Trained their teams and made their soups and invited folks to eat.

On October the 6th the big day arrived.
Flyers were flown, cakes were baked, and folks packed the Hall to see if we'd survived.
'Funtime for little ones' launched with a song; old folk and young ones all came along.
We ate Libby's flapjacks and Steve's sausage rolls, gluten free brownies and soup in bowls.
It definitely was lunacy, but there was real community
And we proved the doubters wrong!

One month later, as our workers cleared away,
The inspector called, to check on our Café.
Katrina wowed him with our documentation
And he gave us top marks for our impressive creation.

Three months on, and the Café's going strong.
Thirty volunteers have faced their fears, and now feel like they belong.
We've learned a lot and gained a lot
And (Covid permitting) we welcome you along.

toft historical society

Of Vikings and Preachers

Recent arrivals in Toft may wonder what our delightful village sign is all about. The photograph shows Koran Collett (Mill Lane) in 1994 holding the recently painted sign prior to its being put up.



The sign shows a scene of a preacher in a barn on one side and a Viking warrior on the other. The name Toft is of Old Norse origin, meaning the site of a house (surviving as tomt in modern Swedish). The Vikings colonised the east of England and brought their laws and customs with them. They were almost certainly in this area. It is to be hoped that the people of East Anglia were not as terrified by omens of the

arrival of the invaders as were the inhabitants further up the English coast in Northumbria. The Viking invaders struck fear into the locals along the English east coast. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for the year 793 AD describes the terrible omens of the invasion:

"Here were cruel omens come over the land of Northumbria, and miserably terrified the people: there were immense sheets of lightning, and fiery dragons were seen flying in the sky. A great famine soon followed these signs ..."

The Vikings left their mark on our language, giving us words such as dike, sick and skin, and in place names such as Scunthorpe, Bishopthorpe, Countesthorpe, Ingoldisthorpe, Mablethorpe.

The other side of the sign depicts the infamous 'parley in the barn', an incident which took place in 1659 in the old barn on Mill Lane. John Bunyan, author of *The Pilgrim's Progress* was preaching in the barn when in walked Thomas Smith of Cambridge, Lecturer at Christ's College and Keeper of the University Library. Bunyan told his congregation that he knew many of them to be unbelievers and Smith challenged Bunyan as to what right he had to say that of people he hardly knew. Bunyan was uncharitable, and therefore unfit to preach. Bunyan replied that when Christ preached from a ship to his hearers on the shore, he challenged them, and so Smith was in effect saying that Christ was not fit to preach the gospel.

The village sign captures two significant periods in Toft's history: the Viking era and the age of puritanism associated with Oliver Cromwell and the Commonwealth.



Just a few of the wonderful Christmas trees decorating St Andrew's earlier this month.

healthwatch
Cambridgeshire**healthwatch**
Peterborough

Have your say on health and care services!

Toft residents are invited to have their say about local health and care services.

What do you think about local GPs, pharmacists, hospitals, dentists and social care services?
Are they working well or do they need improving?

Share your experiences and ask questions on **Wednesday 2 February** at Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Health and Care Forum.

It's an online public meeting run by health and care champions Healthwatch Cambridgeshire. And brings together local people and health and care decision makers.

If you've got a concern or a compliment, Healthwatch wants to hear it!

Book a place via the Healthwatch website at <https://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/event/2022-02-02/cambridge-and-south-cambs-health-and-care-forum>

Call: 0330 355 1285

Text: 0752 0635 176

Email: enquiries@healthwatchcambspboro.co.uk

Live captions will be available but do say if you need need information in a different format, such as Easy Read, or a British Sign Language Interpreter.



The George at Babraham, pre-paintjob. See article, following page



ForkTalk

"They say there might be another lock-down on the way." gasped one of the gang at ForkTalk HQ. "What's our plan?" The plan, it turned, was stunning in its simplicity:

Get Scoffing. Thus motivated, we lost little time in deciding on a venue and date. Which is how, on a dreary December Sunday, we came to fetch up at The George in Babraham. This place has been a popular hang-out ever since I can remember. Not surprising, really, since it first opened its doors in the mid - 1700s as a coaching inn. Which of the several possible Georges it honours with its name is a moot point but considerations of this angels-on-a-pinhead nature hadn't deterred the paying public, it seemed. The place was heaving. It had also changed, externally at least, a fair bit since my last visit. Gone was the old green-and-cream livery which bedecked so many Greene King establishments for so long. In its place was a coat of hugely on-trend battleship-grey, upon which someone has stenciled, in an arty, cursive script, the legend "the George". I can't help thinking this is a bad move. After all, if you've set your heart on a visit to a traditional pub, then what you want, as much as anything, is tradition. However, I guess all traditions have to start somewhere, so maybe we were merely in at the start of a new one. Another, very noticeable, alteration was the addition of a large, wood-cladded extension to the original building which extends the dining-area by a good deal. The George (sorry - 'the George') still has plenty of car park and beer garden left, so all has not been sacrificed to building works, but they now have space to cater for a pretty wide range of activities - business meetings, wedding receptions and so on - and, in the run-up to Christmas, an influx of determined merry-makers. Which was lucky, because that was what they'd got on this particular day.

Moving inside, The George still looks reassuringly familiar. Familiar, that is, to anyone *au fait* with English coaching inns. Plenty of beams, horse-brasses, collections of old andirons and gin-traps - that sort of thing. We'd booked, and if you'll take a tip, so will you. Even with its new, extended seating, the place was virtually full. Nonetheless, they were staffed for it. No huge, restive queues at the bar and no waiting for a table either - the folks we encountered were both friendly and efficient. As a GK pub, the beers and other drinks were those you'd expect, although they did offer one 'guest' beer - the admirable Wadworth's 6X, which was pronounced Best Of The Bunch by my knowledgeable colleagues. Our table was clean, laid and waiting and roomy enough to spread ourselves a little. However, if you're hoping to be able to read the

menu, bring a torch. There's a fine line between subtly intimate lighting and stygian caliginosity and the George have got this wrong. The place is gloomy and the light bulbs could do with a ten-watt boost all-round. No-one was actually walking into walls, but it's something they need to look at. Once we'd got our specs on and done a bit of blinking, we could see that the menu offered not just the traditional Sunday roasts but the full a la carte offering. Tempting though it was to sample such esoteric dishes as 'plant-based Italian style meatballs', I wasn't feeling terribly adventurous, so opted for a couple of old favourites - breaded whitebait as a starter followed by roast lamb. Most of my compatriots went for a roast, too, with one trying the soup of the day beforehand. This was a butternut squash affair, something I always imagined to have been invented solely to solve the problem of what to do with butternut squash apart from compost it. However - a sly taste of this changed my mind. Hearty, silky and deeply savoury with a hefty belt of - at a guess - miso, this literally slid down a treat. The whitebait wasn't bad, either, and there was plenty of it. Just as well, as it turned out everyone else fancied sampling it. I said the George was busy, and it was, but I must say our table service was difficult to fault, so they get points for that. Indifferent or inadequate service can really ruin a meal just as surely as an unlooked-for caterpillar in the cabbage, so it's not to be under-estimated. Busy or not, the kitchen was coping well and we didn't need to wait long for our mains. Even if we had, they were worth waiting for. This is comfort food with a capital C and although it's not the hardest culinary trick to pull off a Sunday roast, doing it under pressure from a horde of ravenous and demanding souls must be a tricky operation. We needn't have worried. Melt-in-the-mouth meat (sorry, veggies, we didn't sample your options) just-right vegetables and an honourable mention for a Yorkshire pudding the size of Mount Etna. One daring soul did deviate a little by opting for salmon with a white wine and dill sauce and wolfed it down with every appearance of delight.

Then it was onto the puds. And these can best be described as adequate. None were actually show-stealers but they were all more than sufficient, both in quality and quantity. If I had to pick a winner, I'd plump for their cherry crumble. Juicy, fruity and - well, crumbly.

Coffees all round - these get an honourable mention, too - and then it was time to settle up. We paid around 150.00 for four of us, but this did include three courses and drinks. Would I rush back? The food's good, the service is good, the ambience is fine. I just need a new pair of reading glasses first.



Arthur Rank Hospice Charity

Palliative Care Hub wins 'Primary Care Innovation of the Year'!

The Palliative Care Hub, which is a free out of hours phone service for anyone who needs specialist palliative care advice or support across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, has won 'Primary Care Innovation of the Year' at the annual Health Service Journal (HSJ) Awards.

Having launched in April 2021, the Palliative Care Hub – which can be accessed by calling 111 and selecting option 3 to speak to a Clinical Nurse Specialist - is available to anyone who needs specialist palliative care advice or support across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The remarkable impact of the phone service is illustrated by the fact that in its first 7 months (between April and October 2021) 1,489 calls were taken for 705 patients not already known to the service, preventing 109 avoidable hospital admissions.

The service is commissioned by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and is operated by Arthur Rank Hospice Charity in partnership with HUC (Herts Urgent Care) who provide the local NHS 111 service and the East of England Ambulance Service Trust.

An awards ceremony took place on Thursday 18 November at Evolution in London, where representatives from the service including Pip Munk and Hannah Donald - Clinical Nurse Specialists from the Palliative Care Hub - who were guests of the CCG, were delighted to accept the prestigious trophy. Matron of Clinical Services at Arthur Rank Hospice Charity, Carly Love, comments:

"Winning this award is testament to the importance of collaboration in making services like this a true success. It's about putting the patient first and each of the partnership organisations involved is passionate about creating the best possible outcomes for people with incurable illness and supporting those who care for them."

To find out more about the Palliative Care Hub visit arhc.org.uk/pall-hub. Current hours of operation: Monday to Thursday 7.00am-2.00pm, then 5.00pm-12.30am; 24

Fancy a bit of Cookery over the holiday period? The nice people at ARHC have sent us one of their favourite recipes, for a Chocolate Berry Marble Cake. So here it is...

Ingredients

225g butter, softened
225g Caster sugar
4 large or 6 medium eggs
225g self-raising flour
3 tbsp milk
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 tsp baking powder
2 tbsp cocoa powder
40g of fresh or frozen mixed berries (NOT strawberries)
1 wooden kebab skewer or similar.
Baking parchment.

Method

Heat oven to 180c/fan 160/gas 4.
Grease a 20 cm cake tin and line the bottom with greaseproof paper.
Beat together the sugar and butter in a mixing bowl. Then add a little of the flour/baking powder and mix in. Whisk up the eggs and milk and add a little to the mixture.
Repeat the process until all the eggs and flour are mixed in.
Split the cake mix between two bowls and sieve the cocoa into ONE of the bowls and mix in.
Take two large spoons and starting with the cocoa cake mix do a chessboard pattern, then switch to the other cake mix and fill in the gaps to form a checkered pattern.
Take the kebab skewer and point it down into the cake mix. Do a circular motion across the cake mix to make the cocoa mix swirl into the other mix.
Sprinkle the berries evenly over the top of the cake mix and pop it into the oven.
Bake the cake for 30-50 mins. or until a skewer inserted into the middle of the cake comes out clean.

Wheelie Bin Collections For January

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

Black Bin:

Sat 8th Jan

Thurs 20th Jan

Blue/Green Bin

Fri 14th Jan

Weds 26th (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 January 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: calendaradstoft@gmail.com to discuss their requirements.

✂ USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Alcoholics Anonymous: 0845 769 7555
 Anglian Water (for sewage): 08457 145 145
 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 830037
 Meridian Primary School: 01223 262423
 Police: 101 (Emergencies: 999)
 (Local Beat Officer is PCSO Sam Kennedy)
 Road/Pothole Reporting: 0345 045 5212
 Street Lighting: 0800 7838 247
 Street Cleaning: 03450 450 063
 South Cambs District Council: 03450 450 500
 South Cambs Fire and Rescue: 01480 444 500
 Toft Car Scheme: 262814. If no reply 262708
 Trading Standards: 0345 0455206
 UK Power Networks (Emergencies): 0800 31 63 105



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE MUSEUMS & BOTANIC GARDEN

Cambridge University Botanic Garden has a host of adult courses and workshops throughout 2022 that are now ready to book via its website.

There are seven categories on offer: basketry, creative and wellbeing, botanical art, garden history, science and ID, horticulture and photography, from a range of expert tutors from the garden and beyond.

The course length varies from two-hour evening slots to five full days.

All courses for 2022- from January right the way through to December are now open for booking.

Take a look at the full course list on our website and book via www.botanic.cam.ac.uk/education-learning/courses.

Gold of The Great Steppe (28 September 2021 – 30 January 2022) displays an archaeological sensation, hundreds of outstanding gold artefacts recently discovered in the extraordinary ancient burial mounds built by the Saka people of East Kazakhstan.

The Fitzwilliam Museum,
 Trumpington Street,
 Cambridge
 CB2 1RB

Switchboard: +44 (0)1223 332 900

Box office: +44 (0)1223 333 230

tickets@museums.cam.ac.uk

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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 January**. 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