



Toft Village Calendar

Produced and Distributed by St. Andrew's Parish Church

January 2023



DIARY DATES

TOFT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

[Over 50s Club]. 5th
January Post
Christmas Lunch at
Toft People's Hall.

12.30pm for
1.00pm.

Guests always
welcome

Sewing, Knit and Natter

Our next meeting
will be Wednesday
January 25th in the
Methodist Chapel,
10.30 -12.30

The Parish Council

The next Parish
Council meeting is
scheduled for
Monday 9th January
at 7.00 pm. All
welcome.

The Internet Club
is back again at 2pm
in the People's Hall
on Monday 9th
January.

EDITORIAL

Dear Marge,

Next door's cat has bought my dog a Christmas present. There it was on the doorstep the other day, with a little note announcing both donor and recipient, just for clarity, to stop us other inhabitants falling ravenously on the rawhide treats within. It has raised, Marge, some nice issues of etiquette, not to mention a good deal of bafflement. How, for example, does the cat know it is Christmas? How does it know what dogs like and from whence does it obtain it's moolah? How, come to that, does it know how to write? But these are all by-the-byes. The real issue is: What am I supposed to tell my dog to do in return? On the mercifully few previous encounters they've had with each other, neither of these two allegedly domesticated pets has shown the other anything but bellicose disdain. Is it possible that the cat has discerned the philosophical concept of the Olive branch? And, if it has, what is the best way to school the dog in the matter of reciprocal courtesy?

Yours, Puzzled, Cambridgeshire.

Dear Puzzled,

I can't begin to tell you how many letters just like yours have come my way recently. You see, ever since we had those ghastly lock-downs, we've had to learn how to get on with our neighbours. So it's not surprising that cats, with their finely-tuned behavioural antennae and a pre-disposition to social-distancing, should have picked up on this new-normal. To be honest, dogs haven't got finely-tuned behavioural antennae, neither are they fully on-board with the notion of social-distancing and it is here that a discrepancy arises. It's too late now for your dog to buy the cat a present - that would just be like playing catch-up. Besides, as you rightly imply, dogs have little notion of the sort of gifts likely to melt a feline heart and you don't want yours to waste his money, do you? No, in this situation the personal touch is called for. Trot the dog round to next door's and tap on the door. The cat won't personally answer, of course - that would be silly - but, given their natural nosiness, it's my bet that it won't be long before it makes an appearance, if only to figure out who's letting all the cold air in. At this point, the two animals, reassured by their owners' mutual presence, will almost certainly realise that they are amongst friends and that a new and welcome entente cordiale is both desirable and inevitable. That's my bet, anyway.

Best, Marge.

Dear Madam,

Many thanks for your sagacious reply. Please find enclosed a pair of somewhat extortionate bills from our local vet. These, an examination will confirm, detail the surgery and medicines necessary to restore both my dog and next door's cat to something resembling full health following my adoption of your advice. My neighbour - or, to be more precise, my neighbour's solicitor - has also informed me that a further invoice for repairs to his front door, car and garden ornaments will shortly follow. I am afraid the *entente* you predicted proved somewhat less than *cordiale* and, to continue in a Gallic vein, seemed to be regarded by both parties as more of a *ruse de guerre*. Given that this sorry situation is, in large part, a result of our interventions, I wondered if you felt able to contribute towards defraying these costs? On the bright side, I am nationally insured, so the cost of the stitches etc I now sport need not be an issue between us. I await the favour of your reply.

Yours, Frazzled, Cambridgeshire.

Dear Frazzled,

You mean they fought like cats and dogs? Who'd have thought it? Still - no-one's right all the time. May I wish you a Happy New Year?

Best, Marge

Dear Marge.

You may. However, I have had to make other arrangements, thanks to you. I understand a new Covid variant may be in the offing and frankly, the sooner people like you are locked-down for good, the better. Happy New Year.

Kittens Poppy and Primrose join the family at Home Meadow

Sisters Poppy and Primrose are the latest residents to be settling in at Home Meadow Care Home in Toft,

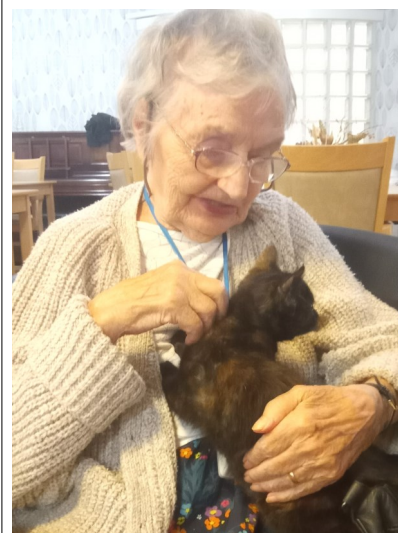
Somewhat younger than all of the other residents at home these nine-week-old kittens are already entertaining the staff team and finding their place within the family.

Named after two of the units at Home Meadow, Poppy and Primrose were part of a litter belonging to a member of staff and joined the family after a residents' meeting voted to adopt them.

Home Manager Leena Oni explained, "Home Meadow is registered with The Cinnamon Trust as a pet friendly home so many residents were keen that we should have our own pets. They have their own care plans the same as all of our residents to be sure we are doing all we can for them and are settling in very well.

"There will always be someone to make a fuss of them or play with them. We're very excited to have Poppy and Primrose here, they are a lovely addition to our family."

Leena added that the Christmas decorations are currently going up at the home so this would be an 'interesting' time with two playful kittens likely to be keen to help.



Many carers say they see characteristics of the resident that have not been apparent before when they interact with animals.

MINISTRY TEAM**THE CHURCH IN TOFT**

St. Andrew's Parish Church

Team Vicar:

Rev David Newton 01223 665654

Lay Minister: Barbara Preece Tel: 263466

Churchwardens:

Ann Mitchell 262516

John Quenby 263949

Methodist Church

Minister (1.5.22) Revd Charity Nzegwu

01763 241803

Stewards:

Diana Tebbit 01223 263557

Stephen Acklam 264055

Mrs Pat Morton 264010

*The Church in Toft***SERVICES OF WORSHIP***1st January* 9.30am Holy Communion (said)
– COMBERTON - Rev David Newton11.00am Holy Communion – HARLTON –
Rev Dr.C Hammond,

5.30 pm Evening Prayer – DRY DRAYTON

8th January 11.00am Covenant Service at
St. Andrew's – Rev David Newton*15th January* 8.30am Holy Communion –
Rev Prof Michael Reiss11.00 am Morning Worship – Toft Methodist
Church – Revd Robert Dolman*22nd January* 11.00 am Morning Prayer – St.
Andrew's - Barbara Preece*29th January* 8.30am Holy Communion –
Rev Prof Michael Reiss10.30 am Lordsbridge 5th Sunday Holy
Communion at COMBERTON –

Revd David Newton

There will be morning prayer at St. Andrew's
every Wednesday at 9.15 am (about half-an-
hour)Also on Wednesday evenings at 8.00pm, via
zoom a service of compline: ID: 899 215 191
or follow the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/899215191>

Zoom services available at 11.00am

MEETING ID: 823 1147 3640

Dear Friends

January: the two-headed god Janus looks backwards and forwards, giving us our name for this month that turns us to a new year. January is a difficult month for many, as the days remain short and the lights of Christmas are gone. In Toft, the likes of the Community Café and the Warm Hub will hopefully provide some good new year cheer.

I wondered what the poets had made of this turning of the year, and I stumbled across this. I rather liked the emphasis on the need for Winter to release the buds of Spring.

A Calendar of Sonnets: January*by Helen Hunt Jackson*

O Winter! frozen pulse and heart of fire,
What loss is theirs who from thy kingdom turn
Dismayed, and think thy snow a sculptured urn
Of death! Far sooner in midsummer tire
The streams than under ice. June could not
hire

Her roses to forego the strength they learn
In sleeping on thy breast. No fires can burn
The bridges thou dost lay where men desire
In vain to build. O Heart, when Love's sun
goes

To northward, and the sounds of singing
cease,

Keep warm by inner fires, and rest in peace.
Sleep on content, as sleeps the patient rose.
Walk boldly on the white untrodden snows,
The winter is the winter's own release.

Simple Sewing, Knit and Natter.

Our project for this month is to continue making heart-shaped cushions for women who have undergone breast surgery at Addenbrookes. We have several already started, they just need the filling added, which will be supplied. Come and have a cup of tea or coffee and a natter and join in. Please contact Lucy (262498) or Sally (262895) for more information.



THE CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY

The Christmas Tree Festival was a wonderful beginning for Christmas at the church which was 'dressed up' in its usual delightful way. We were overwhelmed with the variety and generosity of gifts for the Women's Refuge, two car loads! They were, as ever, so grateful and send everyone a BIG THANK YOU and good wishes for 2023.

Toft Calendars We still have a number of our Desk and wall calendars left to sell. Illustrated with wonderful photographs taken by Ann Miles. Cost £5 and £4 available in the church or from Claire Nicholson or Ann Mitchell

Tree cutting You may have noticed that the tree to the right of the gate is a shadow of its former self. Sadly it could no longer sustain its enormous height having been struck by lightning many years ago. Around the churchyard are 12 lime trees, planted around 125 years ago to stand for the disciples. We have only had to replace one.

Christmas Fayre Our thanks to Claire Nicholson and her team for running a lovely event, and our thanks to all of you who came – Over £1000 was raised for the church funds – used for sustaining the fabric, insurance and so on.

FIRESIDE January 20th 7 for 7.15 at Toft Methodist Church

The Speaker will be Dr Daniel Field (University Museum of Zoology), whose talk is entitled "New fossils clarify the origins of modern birds". Dan, a world authority on bird evolution, will discuss the discovery of two new fossil bird species that illuminate the earliest stages of bird evolution, 67 million years ago. Please put the date in your diary.

For those new to the village Fireside, which has been in abeyance during the pandemic, began in Toft in 1950. In its original form, a group of people met weekly in the winter months to hear a speaker on a huge variety of subjects. In the 1990's the format changed to two meetings a year, November and March; we began with supper and had a distinguished after supper speaker. Now we continue with two meetings a year that begin with the talk, then a break for puddings, coffee and tea, followed by questions.



THE WARM HUB - DROP IN

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

We'll meet every Monday, beginning January 9th, from 10.30 to 12.30 at the Methodist Chapel, Toft.

We would love to see you there, you'll be guaranteed a warm welcome.

Feel free to bring a friend.



PAT GOULDSTONE 1936-2022

Pat was born in Barton and grew up in and around Cambridge with brother Brian and sister Julia. Pat and Ron were married in 1959 and had two daughters, Alison and Katy, now increased to four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Most of her working life, some 40 years, she spent at the National Extension College as a staff member or volunteer. She joined the National Extension College from the Advisory Centre for Education in 1967.

(NEC is a pioneer of online and distance learning, existing to transform lives through education. Their mission is simple: NEC seeks to widen learning opportunities for learners who want flexible delivery of excellent and innovative courses. They help students to open doors to their futures, through life-changing learning. In particular they offer educational opportunities and second-chance learning to people for whom attending regular classes at school or college would not be possible. For more than 55 years they have forged a reputation for the highest quality learning materials and innovation in distance learning, alongside a deep commitment to providing exceptional support to their learners at every stage of their learning experience). Among a number of positions she held Pat was head of customer services and then head of operations but probably she will be best remembered as the facilities manager who oversaw the move from Brooklands Avenue to Purbeck Road when they outgrew their Brooklands Avenue office. She officially retired in 2003 though returned as a volunteer in 2011 to see the NEC through a difficult patch.

Once retired Pat turned her abundant energy to serving the needs of Toft, as a Parish Councillor from 2011 to 2016, during which time she was deeply involved with the recreation ground, giving out welcome packs to newcomers, looking after the Notice Boards and much more. As the PCC representative on the Hall Committee - and because she was Pat - she did much to support events at the Hall, to welcome people who needed a key to get in and when the Community Café launched she, of course, became a member of one of the Wednesday teams and of course she was to be seen daily on her walks around the village

But it was to St. Andrew's and the whole Church in Toft that she probably gave more service than anywhere else. Opening Church – it was Pat who offered and often manned the Church on Saturday when we began to want it open more than just for services - and of course, it was Pat who opened and closed two and three times a week when we turned to daily opening.

It was because Pat was willing that we began to serve coffee after every 11.00am service; she was always a willing helper at the summer/autumn fayre, the Spring Feast week-end and any other major event requiring feeding and watering.

Our Church linen was clean and white and our silverware polished by Pat and with other 'holy dusters' she weekly cleaned the church. She was a long-serving and faithful member of the PCC, first elected in 2006. She was a Sidesman, a reader and a flower arranger.

Some years ago she took on the administration of the advertisers in the *Toft Calendar*, chasing up possible subscribers, collecting the money and helping to keep the Calendar financially above water AND when printed she took her share of delivering them every month, as well as delivering anything else that was asked of her.

When we had open gardens as part of the Summer Fete –Pat and Ron opened their glorious garden; which brings us to School Lane and her neighbours – on both sides of her they changed over the years and she was a good neighbour, helpful, friendly and caring.

She will be greatly missed, she was an inspiration, dynamic, willing, a hard worker, a lady with a ready smile an infectious laugh, well-loved, a great family person but above all our Friend.



JENNY COLLETT 1936 - 2022

Jenny came from a large family of eight children. Due to difficult family circumstances, much of the upbringing of her younger brothers and sisters fell on her. She went on to raise six children David, Jayne, Heather, Ann, Sue and Tracey. Life was not easy for Jenny, and she made many sacrifices to ensure that the children were well looked after and had many happy Christmases. Everyone agrees that Jenny was a brilliant mum.

When she married Peter Collett, her second husband, she found someone who loved her deeply and made her and all her family happy. Jenny's family were central to her life and at her death she had nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

The headteacher of Ditton Lodge Primary school wrote: "I did not know Sarah's Nan, Cameron's and Ryan's great nan personally but I am lucky enough to have been on the receiving end of her fabulous talents. She was a talented crafter and as a school, we received the most beautiful handmade bears that were the prize that everyone wanted in the Christmas pass the parcel and brought so much happiness to the children of Ditton Lodge Primary School. We were also really blessed to receive some gorgeous handmade felt animals, crocheted swans and delicate doilies. As someone with very little ability in the sewing department, I am always in awe of the talent and skill of sewing and will forever be grateful for receiving these gifts that were created with such love and care and had such an impact on the pupils of Ditton Lodge."

When St Andrew's decorated the church with pompoms on one Spring Feast weekend, Jenny was responsible for no less than 100 of them!



Internet Club

After a successful resumption of the Internet Club in November and December 2022, we will be continuing our regular meetings into 2023. Please note the dates planned for the first couple of months are **Monday 9 January** and **Monday 6 February**. We will be meeting at our usual time, 2-4pm, in Toft People's Hall.

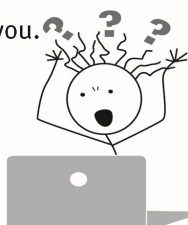
All are very welcome. Do bring along your phone, tablet or laptop and we will aim to help with any problems you may be having. We can also, between us, offer some useful tips for better working. During the session we discuss issues that may be affecting all of us in our use of the tech world.

Even if they don't have the answer, so often someone else does – and it might just be one of us! And the printer should be available if anyone needs to make copies of documents or photographs.

We look forward to seeing you.

Katherine and Jane

Any questions, please contact:
jameskatherinej@icloud.com
janetebbit@icloud.com



BUS STOP!



Who's that waiting for the bus?

The number 18 bus is still running but is not reliable. Sometimes it doesn't arrive on time and sometimes it just doesn't turn up at all.

Be kind! Stop and ask your neighbour or friend if they need a lift when you see them waiting for a bus.

Toft Parish Council

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

30 West Drive

Highfields Caldecote

Cambridge, CB23 7NY Tel: 01954 210241

Councillors	Phone	E-mail
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Chairman:

Martin Yeadon	263663	cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk
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Emma Darbyshire	07763 463234	
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Elaine Miles	262255	cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk
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Stephen Collinson	07521 912734	
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Christine Watson	07730 941946	
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The Council is your locally elected Council at the first tier of local government. Meetings are open to the public and are usually held on the first Monday of each month (excepting August) at the Toft People's Hall in School Lane starting at 7.00pm.

Notices of meetings and agendas are published on the Parish Council Noticeboard near the bus shelter together with minutes, which can also be viewed at www.toft.org.uk. Among other things, the Council considers local planning applications for the planning authority, the South Cambridgeshire District Council; provides the local recreation area, the People's Hall, litter bins, dog waste bins and the bus shelter; arranges for local verge cutting on behalf of the Cambridgeshire County Council and works with that authority to ensure the maintenance of local footpaths.

Next Meeting: Monday 9th January 2023, 7.00pm in The People's Hall. All Welcome.

The Parish Council met on 5th December 2022.

There were no apologies for absence or declarations of interest.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved with slight amendments and are available on the Parish Council noticeboard.

It was noted that there are still two vacancies on the Parish Council to be filled. There is a notice regarding this on the Parish Council noticeboard and the Council would welcome volunteers. *Please speak to any Councillors or call Martin Yeadon on 263663 if interested.*

A visit which had been expected from a representative from Cambridge Nature Network did not take place.

Regarding Climate Change and Green Issues, it has been decided that, given the small size of Toft, the best way forward would be to take advice from the Environment department at South Cambridgeshire District Council on the projects that as a village or county-wide we might get involved in. Cllr. Collinson is

to investigate.

Cllr Collinson reported that the developers at The Birdlings have agreed for a noticeboard to be erected so we can post information about PC matters and events taking place in Toft village. The noticeboard is to be placed along a footpath close to the recreation area.

The purchase of 3 frames for moving speed equipment around was agreed at a cost of £50 each.

Regarding the CCC LHI scheme 2023-2024 it was agreed that the issues of speeding along the High Street and the dangerous junction at Hardwick Road/ Comberton Road were worth pursuing. Cllrs Darbyshire and Miles are to liaise and Cllr Darbyshire will consult with Highways for possible solutions before progressing these issues.

Regarding the offer of 6 free trees from SCDC as part of the Net Zero Carbon by 2050, Toft Parish Council has no available land. Cllr Yeadon has written to CC regarding the new cleared area opposite the green where the Queen's Jubilee tree was planted with a view to planting a further tree there and also to the school to see if there is space for a tree there. In addition, he will investigate the possibility of planting one or more trees along Church Drift and on verges. Another possibility is on The Birdlings and Cllr Collinson is to investigate.

The finance report was considered and payment of bills was approved.

Play inspection reports were not tabled but presented orally by Cllr Watson who reported that the equipment was all in good working order and that she had carried out a general tidying up of branches and weeds. The Clerk is to clarify the issue of the final grass cut which has not been carried out.

There were no outstanding Planning or Tree Works applications or SCDC decision notices to be considered.

Under Members Items it was reported by Cllr Darbyshire that some of the Highways issues which have been reported are being carried out and that she will keep a check on those still to be completed; Cllr Watson will be organising a training session for the defibrillator in the new year.

The meeting closed at 20.11



TOFT SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

A very Happy New Year from The Club. We have a growing programme of events set for the forthcoming year – please keep an eye on the website for details, or why not join our mailing list: <https://toftsocialclub.org.uk/mailling.php>

The popular **Open Mic Music Nights** are now monthly, and the first of 2023 will be on Saturday 14th January. These are very popular and entertaining evenings with a talented range of musicians and performers. Entry is free – doors open at 8pm.

Earlier in the day on the 14th January we are holding our second **Table Top Sale** from 11am to 2:30pm. This is a chance to sell your unwanted items or to come along and find a bargain, or that elusive item you have been searching for! You can book a table for just a fiver, which will be donated to charity. The bar will be open from 11am, with tea and coffee also available. Lunches will be served from 12:30. Free entry – contact us via the website to book a table (<https://toftsocialclub.org.uk/table-top>)

Food on Friday will be Friday 13th – we'll have Sausage and Mash with Onion Gravy - a trio of top quality sausages with creamy mashed potatoes and homemade onion gravy. Doors open at 7pm, with food just £5.00. We operate on first come, first served – so come early to avoid disappointment!

January's **Film Night** is Saturday 21st, showing the recently released film "The Lost King". Starring Sally Hawkins and Steve Cougan, the film tells the story of amateur historian, Philippa Langley, who defies the stodgy academic establishment in her efforts to find King Richard III's remains, which were lost for over 500 years. Doors open at 8pm and the film starts promptly at 8:20. Film Club membership is £12 for the year, or evening membership is £2.50.

Toft Art is on Thursday 5th January, and **Toft Quiz** is on Thursday 12th. Doors open at 8pm.

Something different for **Carpet Bowls** this month – it is moving to the last Friday (27th) of the month and we are holding a knockout tournament – entries from all ages welcome. Full details on the website (<https://toftsocialclub.org.uk/carpetbowls>).

Toft Bingo is on Thursday 26th January – doors open at 8pm.

In January 2020 we held our last revue – **The Seaside Special**. We would normally have shown a video version of the show a few months later, but that was scuppered by lockdowns! So we are now finally going to show the video - on Saturday 28th January. Doors open at 7:30pm and we will start the screening at 8:00pm promptly – free entry.

If you are having a "dry" January, don't forget we stock a wide range of soft drinks and zero alcohol beers, ciders and wine.

Advance notice: We will be holding our second **Animation Festival** in early March – a celebration of all things animated. We would like to feature locally produced animations – so as well as running a stop motion training session at the festival, we will be holding a training session in January – please see the website for details on how to submit your animation and the date and time of the training session. (Details: <https://toftsocialclub.org.uk/animation>)

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

Keep up to date here:

www.toftsocialclub.org.uk

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



The very last Open-Mic night of 2022



Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants

The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants has a wide programme of activities for all ages. Ensuring people enjoy, care about, and are empowered to take action for wildlife, is one of the Trust's main aims.

Our Communities and Wildlife team work in specific areas across our three counties. I cover the West Cambs 100s area between Gamlingay, Cambourne and Comberton. My

plan for activities for 2023 includes some short programmes funded by Comberton Adult Education which will run between April and July and can be booked now. The costs for these are covered by our funder so they are FREE to participants in return for completing some paperwork.

- Wildlife for Beginners
- Bird Song (across a few different nature reserves)
- Little Bugs (for parents/carers with their toddler)
- Wild Babies (for parents/carers of pre-walking babies)
- Inner Child Series (for adults to do all the fun outdoor stuff mostly reserved for children)

Every school holiday I run outdoor family sessions and sometimes some indoor activities also. Over Feb half term on Wed 15th, we'll be working with saws and sticks in Cambourne to create simple things from wood using hand tools. I also run regular strolls around our reserves, and more specialist wildlife walks.

I am keen to work more closely with community groups in 2023 so if you are interested in a talk or a guided walk for your group, please get in touch.

You can keep up to date with events, including some online, on our website: www.wildlifebcn.org/events

E-mail: rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org Facebook: @BeccaBadgerWTBCN

BCN Facebook/Twitter: @wildlifebcn

The West Cambridgeshire Hundreds are a group of nature reserves owned and/or managed by the Wildlife Trust for Beds Cambs and Northants: Hardwick, Gamlingay, Hayley, and Waresley and Gransden Woods, Buff Wood, and Cambourne Nature Reserve.

TOFT Social Club

ALFIE MOORE

FAIR COP UNLEASHED

SOLD OUT

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

"...a lot of fun, a few jokes and a large dash of police gallows humour"
Telegraph

QR code

Toft Club is thrilled to present

ALFIE MOORE

performing his brilliantly funny show
FAIR COP UNLEASHED

Toft People's Hall
on Friday 17th February 2023
Doors open: 19:30

'Fair Cop' Alfie Moore's latest stand-up comedy show is based on a dramatic police incident. Enjoy thrilling ups and downs of a night of mysterious clowning to tell you more than one life entered the building. It's no laughing matter, this show certainly is!

It'd be a crime to miss it!

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

toft historical society



Wassailing

At this year's Toft Choir Christmas concert, both the Choir and Toft Session performed wassailing songs. Wassailing is an ancient tradition associated with the festive season and particularly the early New Year. It is thought to have been established in the British Isles some time before Christianity spread across UK from around 600 AD onwards. No records exist of wassailing in Toft but as it was a regular annual event in several surrounding villages until the early 20th century it is possible that Toft also wassailed in the past.

House-wassailing involves local people singing door to door in their community, offering good wishes, songs and an alcoholic drink (mulled wine, ale or spiced cider) which was presented in a wassail bowl, often made from field maple, in exchange for gifts or coin. Wassails generally happen post-winter solstice, as days get longer, and whilst most will occur around the new (Jan 5th or 6th) or old (Jan 17th) Twelfth Night, some take place around the second full moon of the year.

Anglo-Saxon tradition dictated that at the beginning of each new year, the lord of the manor would greet the assembled house-wassailers with the toast *waes hael*, apparently a derogation of an Old Norse term of greeting meaning "be well" or "be healthy". His followers would then reply *drinc hael*, meaning "drink well", and so celebrations would start. The practice of house-wassailing continued in England throughout the Middle Ages where the wassail came to be portrayed as a mutual exchange between feudal lords and their peasants and very different to common begging. This is illustrated in the song "Here We Come A-wassailing", when the wassailers inform the lord of the house that:

"We are not daily beggars that beg from door to door

But we are friendly neighbours whom you have seen before."

This wassail tradition is still practiced in parts of UK but has largely been displaced by modern carolling.

Orchard-wassailing is a similarly ancient (originally pagan) winter custom primarily associated with the cider-producing areas of England. Groups of people, often in fancy dress and led by a wassail king and queen, visit orchards to "wake up the trees" with singing, incantations, making a "hullabaloo" by banging pots and pans, and feeding the apple trees with cider. These actions are to ward off bad spirits and promote a bountiful harvest for the coming year. The revellers would usually be rewarded with some alcoholic refreshment by the orchard owner. Again, this is a fading tradition but it is still practiced each year in some areas of England.

Whilst wassailing is one of several house-visiting UK traditions associated with the festive season it was, arguably, one of the most extensively observed. "First Footing" is another, still very popular in parts of Scotland and Northern England. On a more local level, up until the early 20th Century, many old people, (particularly widows and widowers) in Cambridgeshire villages, made a round of more prosperous houses and farms on "Gathering or Mumping Day" (December 21st) to solicit money or small gifts for Christmas.

On the whole, wassailing can be seen as a very good-natured community activity, but some rowdy behaviour certainly occurred at times. This is illustrated in the popular song "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" where you will recall lyrics reference demands for "*figgy pudding*" in one verse and a more threatening "*And we won't go until we've got some, so bring some out here*" in the following verse.



Revellers tuck-in at this year's Christmas Dinner

Wheelie Bin Collections For January

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

Black Bin:

Fri 6th Jan

Weds 18th Jan

Blue/Green Bin

Fri 30th Dec (Blue Only)

Thurs 12th Jan

Weds 25th Jan (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 2023 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: 07402351821
 CVC Community Education: 01223 264721
 District Councillor: 01954 210040
 Household Waste/Pest Control: 0345 045 0063
 Lifespan Health Care, Family and Child Team: 01223 264460
 Member of Parliament: Phone 01223 603677
 Meridian Primary School: 01223 262423
 Police: 101 (Emergencies: 999)
 (Local Beat Officer is PCSO Sam Kennedy)
 Road/Pothole Reporting: 0345 045 5212
 Street Lighting: 0800 7838 247
 Street Cleaning: 03450 450 063
 South Cambs District Council: 01954 713 000
 South Cambs Fire and Rescue: 01480 444 500
 Toft Car Scheme: 07790 171710
 Trading Standards: 0345 0455206
 UK Power Networks (Emergencies): 0800 31 63 105

You may have read in the Press or elsewhere that gas-boilers are to be phased out for domestic users from 2035 onwards. This doesn't directly affect Toft, of course, as the village does not have a mains gas supply. However, not so widely publicised is another measure contained within the Government's 'Heat and Buildings Strategy' document which will have a very definite effect.

From 2026 - that's just three years' away - households will be banned from replacing liquid petroleum gas or oil boilers with equivalent models, and will instead be expected to move to an air-source heat pump or some approved equivalent. As of now, there are no proposed exemptions to this measure. Normally, replacing an oil boiler on a 'like-for-like' basis will cost the average home-owner around £2,000- £3,000, but heat pumps, according to a report by the Energy Utilities Alliance, a trade body, can cost anywhere between ten and fifteen thousand pounds, dependant upon the type and state of the property. At present, this cost must be borne by the house-holder in its entirety as there is no provision for Government financial support in the proposals. It should be stressed that at present these are merely proposals - the Government has held a consultation on the issue as part of its Heat and Buildings Strategy but has yet to publish a response.

You can find the Heat and Buildings Strategy on-line at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/phasing-out-fossil-fuel-heating-in-homes-off-the-gas-grid>. Comments are not permitted but if you have concerns unanswered by this document it is suggested that you contact your local M.P.

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 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