



Toft Village Calendar

Produced and Distributed by St. Andrew's Parish Church

July 2024



DIARY DATES

TOFT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

[Over 50s Club].
10th July 2.30 Toft People's Hall.
Hedgehogs - Judith Long will be coming from Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital to talk to us. Visitors always welcome



The Parish Council

The Parish Council meeting will take place in The People's Hall on Monday 1st July 2024 at 7.00 pm. All Welcome.



Sewing, Knit and Natter

Our next meeting will be Wednesday July 31st in the Methodist Chapel,
10.30 -12.30. New members welcome.

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

EDITORIAL

The bar of The Three Jolly Brewers was filling up nicely that Friday evening in late 2024. So no-one noticed when a nondescript individual in a pin-stripe suit and a pair of rimless spectacles made his way to the bar, clutching his briefcase tightly. But he raised his voice and they stopped mid-slurp when they heard him speak. "My name," he announced, "needn't matter. But I am here tonight on behalf of your government. And I have one simple question for all of you. Which of you here, tonight, would like to be a G.P.? The money's not bad and you get to meet a wide-range of interesting personalities - no two days are the same."

A drinker broke the silence. "You're from the Press Gang?" he cried in an accusatory tone. The suited man waved a mollifying hand. "If you mean His Majesty's Impression Service, then - yes, I am." The room was stunned. "We know your sort" shouted another, "emptying bars and clubs of hard-working folk and carting them off to God knows where." The suit was emollient personified. He'd had the practice, after all. "Look," he explained, "before the election, every party promised there'd be thousands more G.P.s., so that you could all get on the local hospital's waiting list even sooner. But then, one of the parties went and won. And now, the Papers, the T.V. people, Twitter - everybody - wants to know where they are. It's most unfair. That's why my department was formed - to find them and get them in post. But there's a snag, one that HMG couldn't possibly have foreseen." A drinker snorted. "And what's that, then?" he asked, jeeringly.

"Umm -" the suit polished his glasses carefully, marshalling his thoughts. " - it turns out there aren't any. And apparently it takes years to train them. Who knew? But your government has a fully-costed strategy. Under our new Accelerated Development Programme, we're offering a six-month residential course, with full-pay, and, at the end of it, a government-recognised qualification as a G.P." He beamed around the room. "Now - do I have any takers?" The audience, in turn, marshalled their own thoughts. "Does the GMC recognise this so-called qualification?" shouted one voice.

"The department is currently discussing all aspects with relevant stake-holders," he responded, fluently.

"Don't you need, like, Biology A-level and stuff?" asked another. "This is a national priority," said the suit. "We're doing away with outmoded restrictions which only serve to disadvantage some - " The mood was growing ugly and his remaining comments were drowned out in a swelling welter of disapprobation.

"Listen," he shouted over the din, "I have the power to press you all if I have to, you know." A gang of thuggish types materialised at the door, clinking their manacles, licking their lips and awaiting the command.

"Why weren't we told any of this before the election?" screamed a distraught woman. He rolled his eyes. "For the same reason you weren't told anything else that was remotely true before the election," he snapped, the mask finally slipping. "All that matters is that you get persuaded to vote. It doesn't matter who for because, whoever it is, the Government will win."

The Way Is Clear...

The previously overgrown footpath that goes up past the bench and through Toft allotments has now been cleared.

Please may we encourage you to use this pathway as foot fall will help to discourage rapid re-growth. The intention is to keep this maintained so that it should be comfortable for all walkers to use throughout the year.



Ghost Stories by Candlelight

November 30th at 6pm with a simple supper afterwards.

To all potential writers, musicians, performers and anyone who is interested in getting involved in this event.

We are having another meeting on **Thursday the 4th of July** in Toft Peoples Hall Green Room at 7pm.

Proceeds of the evening will be in aid of the charity Headway <https://www.headway.org.uk/>

We look forward to seeing you there.

For more information contact

Jean Stewart : jcsat53@gmail.com
katrina_holmes@hotmail.com

MINISTRY TEAM**THE CHURCH IN TOFT**

St. Andrew's Parish Church

Assistant Curate: Revd Barnabas Leeke
07787 800 888

Lay Minister: Barbara Preece Tel: 263466

Churchwardens:

Ann Mitchell 262516

John Quenby 263949

Methodist ChurchMinister: Revd Charity Nzegwu
01763 241803

Stewards:

Diana Tebbit 01223 263557

Stephen Acklam 264055

Mrs Pat Morton 264010

SERVICES OF WORSHIP*7th July* 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) -
Rev Prof. Michael Reiss11.00 am Holy Communion - Methodist
Church – Rev Charity Ngewzu*14th July* 11.00 am Holy Communion, St.
Andrew's – Rev. Barnabas Leeke**21st July* 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
– Rev Prof. Michael Reiss11.00am Morning Worship, Methodist
Church – Mrs Cathy Michell*28th July* 11.00am Morning Prayer – St.
Andrew's - Mrs Ann Mitchell with Rev
Robert DolmanThere 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](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/899215191)Zoom services available at 11.00am
MEETING ID: 823 1147 3640***14th July** This will be Barnabas' first
service presiding at Holy Communion at
St. Andrew's – please come and join us
and him. As usual there will be
refreshments afterwards.

Every news bulletin at the moment contains the word 'manifesto.' Political parties angling for your vote in the General Election try to make 'manifest', totally clear, their own visions and objectives for the future of our country. They are often highly critical of other approaches. I find that the word 'manifesto' itself was first used in English in 1620. Since then it has featured in the titles of a number of pamphlets of a political or artistic nature. Probably the best known is the Communist Manifesto of 1848 in which Marx and Engels argued that there would inevitably be a revolution which would lead to a classless society where there would be common ownership of the means of production.

Did Jesus have a manifesto? Yes, and it can perhaps be summarised as his vision of 'the Kingdom of God.' For many people this soundbite itself is not very helpful; they reject the idea of monarchy, and traditional views of God are problematic. But if we look at the kind of social relationships Jesus envisaged then there might be a greater measure of consensus.

The Sermon on the Mount, and the Beatitudes in particular, have been an inspiration for people with all kinds of political and religious perspectives. Humility, meekness, mercy, singlemindedness and integrity, commitment to the making of peace and a longing to see justice prevail are qualities we can all value and share. There is bound to be controversy about the way forward in our political processes; this can be healthy, even enjoyable.

What is much less acceptable is the descent into the language of coarse personal abuse and the questioning of opponents' motivation and integrity. As for ourselves, a community much the size of the House of Commons, we can model mutual respect and make it manifest.

- Robert Dolman



THE CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY OASIS HOLIDAY CLUB

Oasis Holiday Club returns to Comberton for its twelfth anniversary:

- Friendship, chatting and relaxation
- Activities for all interests and abilities
- Interesting presentations and talks
 - Short time of Christian worship
 - Shared meal

Programme Thursday, 29th August

The day starts with coffee or tea and a quiz, followed by a choice of activities, ranging from the relaxing to the mildly energetic.

This is then followed by an entertaining, illustrated talk on our climate and the way it is changing.

After lunch there will be more activities and then a short time of Christian worship and a cream tea.

More details and a booking form at <https://www.c-b-c.org.uk/oasis>

Thank you for the Music



**Toft Choir and
Toft Session
invite you to**

**an exploration
of popular
music through
the ages**



**On Saturday 13th July at 4.30 pm at St Andrew's Church, Toft
followed by a glass of Pimms**

No charge – donations welcome. Surplus to St Andrew's Fabric Fund

Toft Parish Council

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

30 West Drive

Highfields Caldecote

Cambridge, CB23 7NY Tel: 01954 210241

The Council is your locally elected Council at the first tier of local

Councillors	Phone	E-mail
<i>Chairman:</i>		
Martin Yeadon	263663	cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk
Emma Darbyshire	07763 463234	cllr.darbyshire@tpc.toft.org.uk
Elaine Miles	262255	cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk
Sarah Tebbit		sarahilic01@gmail.com
Christine Watson.	07730 941946	cllr.watson@tpc.toft.org.uk

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Emma Darbyshire 07763 463234 cllr.darbyshire@tpc.toft.org.uk

Elaine Miles 262255 cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk

Sarah Tebbit sarahilic01@gmail.com

Christine Watson. 07730 941946 cllr.watson@tpc.toft.org.uk

government. Meetings are open to the public and are usually held on the first Monday of each month (excepting August) at the Toft People's Hall in School Lane starting at 7.00pm.. The Council's website can be found at: <https://tpc.toft.org.uk>

Notices of meetings and agendas are published on the Parish Council Noticeboard near the bus shelter together with minutes, which can also be viewed at www.toft.org.uk. 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 1st July 2024, 7.00pm in The People's Hall. All Welcome.

The Parish Council met on 3rd June 2024 at 7.00pm.

Apologies were received from Cllr Watson who was out of the Parish.

There were no declarations of interest nor written requests for dispensations.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved except for 12.8 which should read "not to write to Comberton College."

Cllr Yeadon reported that the new fence had been erected at the back of the new Queen's Jubilee area and it was agreed that it looked very appropriate to the rural nature of that space. The area will be cut once the new contractors are appointed.

Regarding grass cutting in the village, the previous contractors had been having difficulties due to the ill health of the owner. The Parish Council was saddened to hear at the last meeting that the owner had recently died and a new contractor had to be approached. We are pleased to announce that a new quotation was unanimously approved and we are hoping that the verges and other areas in the village will be cut soon under the supervision of Cllr Harris.

Referring to new signage for Lot Meadow, Cllr. Miles reported that she had been in touch with Reverend Barnabas Leake as he has been instrumental in starting up a Men's Shed in Comberton. Rev. Barnabas has replied saying he

was sure that this would be a project the group could get involved in and that he would take it to the next meeting on 5th June. We are looking at a fingerpost to be attached to the existing bus stop sign with a small sign on the actual gate to Lot Meadow. We are awaiting the Reverend's reply and hope that this is a project that this local group can become involved in.

The Finance Report was considered and outstanding bills were approved.

There were no other play inspection reports apart from the RoSPA report which is dealt with later. It was mentioned that a resident had commented that the new music equipment was a bit noisy but that no further action was needed at this time.

There were no matters which were considered urgent because of health and safety.

It was unanimously agreed that an effective system of internal control had been in place during the year under review (1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024).

This was followed by the considering and approving of the Annual Governance Statement which was prepared and approved by resolution and the Accounting Statements (Section 2 of the Annual Return) were also considered and approved by the Parish Council. Cllr. Yeadon who was presiding at the meeting signed and dated the Accounting Statements.

The RoSPA report was considered and it was agreed that most of the minor matters such as re-painting and securing items had already been carried out. The more major matter of the small climbing frame is also in hand as this is due to be replaced shortly.

There were no items under Planning or Tree Works and the Parish Council made no comment on a late application for a single storey side and rear extension.

There were no matters relating to village maintenance and we are awaiting a response from the police regarding the damage to the bus shelter. Cllr Yeadon is to replace the missing panes after he has returned from holiday at the end of July.

There was nothing to report regarding Highways, though Cllr Derbyshire said that as the No 18 bus is due to be diverted shortly due to road works in Comberton she would be writing to Whippet to obtain information regarding the route of the diversion and the time delays likely to be involved. Once she has this information she will post it on the village website and put a notice in the bus shelter.

Cllr. Miles was pleased to report that she had had a very positive reply regarding the fallen Willow tree which has damaged the bridge over the brook and that work to remove it was in hand. (Please note that at the time of writing, the bridge has been secured. It is possible to access it but care must be taken climbing over the trunk. This is due to be removed along with the branches which have fallen over and into the brook itself and the kissing gate at one end of the bridge which is leaning over, though functioning, is to be mended.)

Cont....

There was nothing to report regarding the defibrillator.

The new Parish Council noticeboards, one of which is for the Birdlings estate, are due for delivery any time now. Once this is in situ on the Birdlings estate, information will be posted on this in the same way it is posted on the PC noticeboard by the bus shelter.

It was agreed to buy a new battery for the Speed monitor. Cllr. Yeadon pointed out that the batteries only last for 2 weeks so having spares meant continuous monitoring could take place.

Cllr Miles confirmed that everyone in the village had received a leaflet regarding the D-Day commemoration and Cllr Yeadon stated that, given the short notice,

everyone involved was to be congratulated at the speed and efficiency with which this event had been organised. It was agreed that the PC would make a financial contribution to support this.

Cllr. Miles reported that she had received suggestions that there should be yellow lines opposite the entrance to the new Co-Op store. It was agreed that this should be monitored but that we should wait to hear from either the College or the Co-Op regarding this matter.

It was agreed that Cllr Miles would submit information to the Calendar regarding the documentation required for voting in the general election which will take place on 4th July.

The meeting ended at 8.20pm

Voting in the General Election – are you ready?

You can still use your ID even if it has expired as long as the photo on your ID looks like you.

You'll need one of the following types of **photo ID** to vote:

- a UK or Northern Ireland photocard driving licence (full or provisional)
- a driving licence issued by an EU country, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Isle of Man or any of the Channel Islands
- a UK passport
- a passport issued by an EU country, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein or a Commonwealth country
- a PASS card (National Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- a Blue Badge
- a biometric residence permit (BRP)
- a Defence Identity Card (MOD form 90)
- a national identity card issued by the EU, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein
- a Northern Ireland Electoral Identity Card
- a Voter Authority Certificate
- an Anonymous Elector's Document



You can also use one of the following **travel passes** as photo ID when you vote:

- an older person's bus pass
- a disabled person's bus pass
- an Oyster 60+ card
- a Freedom Pass
- a Scottish National Entitlement Card (NEC)
- a 60 and Over Welsh Concessionary Travel Card
- a Disabled Person's Welsh Concessionary Travel Card
- a Northern Ireland concessionary travel pass

(Source: <https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need>)



TOFT SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

The Club is holding a **Gin Experience Evening** on Saturday 27th July.

During the evening there will be a variety of gins to try, including Dry, Traditional, International and Infused/Flavoured Gins. There will be different tonics and fruits to see just how you may prefer your gin, which is often seen as England's traditional spirit. There is no admission charge, you will only pay for the drinks you have. The most popular gins from the evening join our gin top shelf!

Film Night is on Saturday 20th and we will be showing 2023 film "**Wonka**", starring Timothée Chalamet – with dreams of opening a shop in a city renowned for its chocolate, a young and poor Willy Wonka discovers that the industry is run by a cartel of greedy chocolatiers. Doors open at 7:30pm and the film starts at 8:00pm.

Our **Annual Barbeque** will be on Saturday 3rd August – tickets just £9, on sale at the Club.

Toft Art is on Thursday 4th, **Toft Quiz** on Thursday 11th, **Carpet Bowls** on Friday 12th, **Open Mic / Music Night** on Saturday 13th, **Table Tennis** on Thursday 18th and **Toft Bingo** on Thursday 25th.

We are open on every Thursday and Friday, and most Saturdays – see the website (<https://toftsocialclub.org.uk>) for full details. To keep up to date why not sign up for our weekly "What's On" emails via the website: <https://toftsocialclub.org.uk/mailling.php> or keep in touch via our Facebook page.

www.toftsocialclub.org.uk

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

Ready...Set GO!

Toft Sports

Saturday 13 July at 2.00 pm
in the meadow next to the Church

(No glasses in the meadow please, as they are a danger to livestock.)

**Lots of races and events including: Wheelbarrow ♦ Obstacle
 and Sack Races ♦ Tossing the Hay Bale ♦**

Slow Bike Race (bring your bike!) ♦ Spud & Spoon ♦

Throw the Welly ♦ Race round the village ♦ Tug o' War

Followed by

6.00pm Village rounders match & BBQ

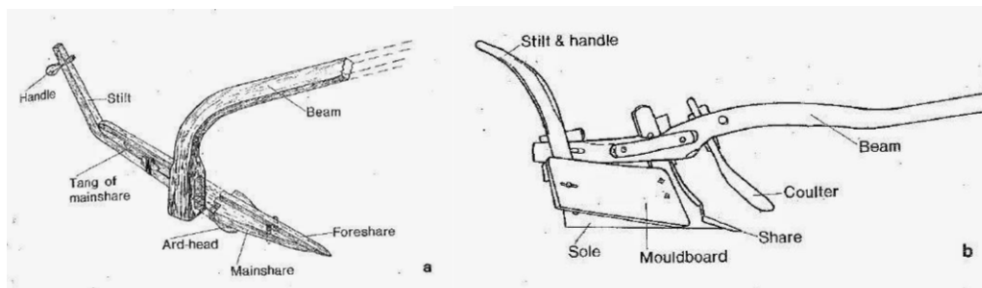
(Bring your own food, we supply the heat)

The history of Toft Sports goes back over a hundred years. Come and join in on 13th July. All welcome.

Bourn Valley Fields (3)

THS articles in two earlier Calendars have described the evolution of the rural landscape of Bourn Valley. During prehistoric times, a regular system of land division was developed running as a series of bands across the valley profile. This system would eventually be entirely replaced by the “common field” farming system during the Medieval Period but research by Susan Oosthuizen (Cambridge University) revealed a previously unrecognised intermediate stage in the Valley. She called this “proto-common field cultivation” in which several communities in the Bourn Valley cooperated to work the “best” arable land in long strips running broadly parallel to the Brook. This helped address the demands of the then ruling kingdom of Mercia for more crop production.

This novel “proto-common” field system in Bourn Valley eventually broke down towards the end of the Anglo-Saxon, or Early Medieval, period (700-900 AD) as demand for ever more production continued to ramp up. Individual villages instead expanded their arable land further up the valley sides and the system of two, or three, large areas of common field cultivation per parish developed. Toft had two big fields (East Field and West Field) and a smaller third field was later created that is still evident in the centre of the village.



Ard or Scratch Plough

Heavy Plough

The creation of these big fields was justified largely through the rediscovery of the Heavy Plough design, originally developed centuries earlier by the Romans. This could work the heavy clay soils of Bourn Valley in a single pass - well beyond the capability of the traditional Iron Age “scratch” plough. The ability to readily break up these fertile soils transformed arable crop production during 900 – 1300 AD. Coupled with warmer summers over much of this period, virtually all the Bourn Valley came under big field production with most village families involved. Each year a third of the big field area was usually given over to wheat cultivation, another third to barley, and a final third set aside for communal grazing. The fields were managed on a rotational basis, with the characteristic ridge and furrow ploughing of the subdivisions of the great fields also helping to facilitate better drainage on the heavy clay of the Bourn Valley. The ridge and furrow fields in and around Toft are seen as some of England’s best remaining examples.



Comberton Library

your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Tel: 0345 045 5225

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

Come rain or shine, or with a rainbow, Comberton Library will be open with a variety of activities throughout the summer.

If you are new to Comberton or the surrounding area, membership is free. If you believe your library card has expired, come along, and re-join; there is no cost. We look forward to seeing you! There is also free access to books, ebooks, eAudiobooks, library computers, and other resources.

Coming Up!

Remember, **June is National Crime Readers Month**. Comberton Library has a huge range of crime fiction and if you want to interact with

solving a mystery, come, borrow, and solve a crime jigsaw puzzle. Also, we are always ready to help you solve your next mystery read.

Great Big Green Week, 8 – 16th June. A national celebration. Comberton library will continue to show a planet friendly display of Summer.

June is **Pride Month**, celebrating LGBTQ+ diversity. Join us and add colour to a rainbow to display on our board.

Saturday July 13th – Saturday 10th August start signing up for the **Summer Reading Challenge**, Marvellous Makers. Plus, SRC Treasure Hunt in the library.

Mobile Library will be outside Comberton Library from 10.30am – 1pm on **Monday 15th July**. Come, browse, and see what a mobile library looks like.

Green! Big! Outdoor Games! **Friday 26th July**. Outside the library between 3pm – 5pm.

Monday 29th July at 11.00am – 12.30pm CD Clock and Fan making. Free Event.

Drop-in and enjoy board games on **Friday 16th August**, 3 – 5pm. Free event!

Marvellous Makers, Creative Arts – **Summer Reading Challenge** free event. **Wednesday 21st August** at 10.30am – 12.30pm.

Celebrating Summer Reading Awards Ceremony, **Friday 13th September** at 4-5pm with refreshments.

Weekly activities

Knit and Natter group continue to meet in Comberton Library, 10.30am – 11.30am. June dates: 24th. July dates: 8th and 22nd. August dates: 5th and 19th. September dates: 2nd and 16th Then every other Monday onwards. Newcomers are warmly welcome.

Come sing along and have fun, **Rhymetime**, 10.30am – 11.00am (except during the school holidays) for children between 0 to 4 years of age. June date: 17th. July dates: 1st and 15th. September dates: 9th and 23rd. Then every other week. Also, come and join the **First Steps Library Club**, aged 0 – 4 years. Free event.

Its Lego Time with Duplo. Every Saturday Come and have fun building and exploring your imagination. All children accompanied by an adult. **It is a free event.**

Opening hours (excluding bank holidays etc.)

Monday	10am – 1pm	Wednesday	10am – 1pm and 2.30pm – 5.30pm
Friday	2.30pm – 5.30pm	Saturday	10am – 1pm

Friends of Bourn Brook – Latest news on our monitoring activity

In 2022, citizen science volunteers from Cam Valley Forum (CVF) discovered that the Sewage Treatment Works (STW) on the Drift at the top end of Bourn was intermittently releasing effluent into the Bourn Brook. Anglia Water were subsequently taken to court by the Environment Agency, fined and instructed to upgrade the Sewage Works bio-bubble equipment before the end of 2024. We have taken on the monitoring work for Bourn Brook and will be supplying our data to CVF as part of their larger study of the River Cam Catchment, of which Bourn Brook is a tributary. Following CVF methodologies, we have been monitoring orthophosphate-phosphorus as an indicator of nutrient enrichment in the Brook as well as assessing the presence of the bacterium E.coli, an indicator of faecal contamination (poo). We will be uploading all our data to the Friends of Bourn Brook webpage on the village website but, for simplicity here, we will utilise the EU Frame Directive categories for lowland waters to indicate the water quality at our study sites. The five quality levels for nutrient status are High, Good, Moderate, Poor and Bad.

Lowland streams tend to be associated with areas of agriculture, industry and settlements and so are usually far more subject to polluting influences than upland water bodies. In the Bourn Brook upstream from where the STW drainage channel enters the Brook the orthophosphate

concentrations we measured fall into the Good category and provide the baseline for our study. Downstream of the STW drainage channel site all the Bourn Brook samples fell into the Poor category on the days these were sampled demonstrating the impact of even intermittent STW effluent release. Orthophosphate levels recorded immediately downstream varied by a factor of 10 over a 24-hour period with the status changing from Bad to Moderate when there was no effluent release.

Concentrations of orthophosphate in the Brook decreased steadily downstream from the confluence with the STW channel due to dilution by the stream but were still within the Poor category at our last site where the stream passed into Comberton parish. Interestingly, drainage channels entering the Brook within Toft parish (such as that passing Lot Meadow) were all rated Good to Moderate, indicating that orthophosphate in runoff from arable fields was not a significant source at this time of year.

We have also been making counts of E.coli bacteria in the Bourn Brook as an indicator of faecal contamination. Potential sources can include effluent from sewage works, leaks from septic tanks, livestock in fields or livestock buildings (such as chicken farms). Highest counts of faecal bacteria were recorded immediately below the STW discharge point and these counts varied considerably

between when the STW was discharging or not discharging. Using bathing water standards, as a rule of thumb, counts above 1000 per 100 ml can be considered a source of potential concern for river bathing if the water is ingested. Upstream of where STW discharge entered the Brook counts were lowest. All the Bourn Brook sites downstream of the STW drainage channel yielded E.coli counts somewhat above this threshold. Cattle were in Priory Field and either side of the Brook on both sampling occasions and a measurable spike of higher counts was recorded downstream of the fords where the cattle cross.

Lowland streams such as Bourn Brook will not be entirely pristine but our data confirm that stretches of the Brook are currently still being compromised by discharges from the Bourn STW. This may, to some extent, be reflected in the somewhat limited numbers and diversity of stream invertebrates observed in our Spring Feast weekend River Fly survey but that requires further investigation.

Our monitoring work is in its early stages so we will be regularly sampling and surveying to collect more data to better understand the Brook. We expect to see a significant improvement in water quality once the promised STW updates are delivered and we will be assessing how well Anglia Water delivers.

LET'S GET RID OF THAT INFERNAL HIMALAYAN BALSAM IN BOURN BROOK



Himalayan Balsam was introduced here in 1839. It is now an invasive weed of riverbanks and ditches, where it prevents native species from growing.

To conserve our brook we need help in clearing the Himalayan Balsam. Join us in this activity on Sunday 7 July at 10.30 am at Toft Bridge on the main road towards Kingston.

There are some sections that need chest waders (these will be provided but do let us know your shoe size a couple of days beforehand) and others where just wellies and nettle-proof clothing are sufficient. If you fancy doing some good conservation work in the July sunshine come and help. Contact: janettebbbit@icloud.com

**SUNDAY 7 JULY
10.30AM TOFT BRIDGE**



Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants

Wildlife Trust BCN West Cambridgeshire Hundreds Update: July 2024

These are not just any woods...

The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northant's large local woodlands like Hardwick, Gamlingay, Waresley and Gransden, Hayley, and Brampton Woods, are not just nice places, they are also a nationally important part of our natural heritage which we have a legal and moral responsibility to look after and keep special for future generations of people and wildlife. Most are mentioned in the Domesday book, so are more than 900 years old. To put this into perspective, they were already established around the time Ely Cathedral and the Tower of London were built. The woods had existed for at least several hundred years before Wimpole Hall was built. We hold our historic buildings in high regard and understand why they need to be treated with respect. These are buildings that we expect to be open to the public but understand why access is sometimes restricted. The same should be true for our natural heritage.

These woods are special because:

They are ancient. This means they contain an assemblage of species only associated with soils that have not been disturbed, like a bluebell carpet, wild service trees, and wood anemone. They are very different, from an ecological point of view, to plantation woods, or even woods of a couple of hundred years old.

They cannot be replaced. It takes hundreds of years to make an ancient woodland ecosystem. Our older woods are often isolated arks; if they are lost, they may not return.

They are large. In a landscape denuded of big areas of woodland, these are some of the largest in our county which means they contain high numbers of common species.

The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants is a charity with two clear aims: to conserve and enhance habitats and biodiversity, and to improve people's enjoyment and understanding of wildlife. This means we take seriously our responsibility to balance the needs of wildlife with the interests of people. Thank you to the vast majority of local people who help by:

Respecting closures: our sites are sometimes closed to protect wildlife (often late winter), and sometimes to protect people (often early autumn)

Keeping dogs on a leads: to minimise disturbance to wildlife, and ensuring everyone can enjoy the site

Sticking to the middle of the paths: to minimise trampling and soil compaction

Using official entrances: to minimise trampling and spot safety signs

Coming to an event is a great way to ask questions about our work. Over the summer you can join home-school sessions, come on family activities for toddlers or primary-aged children, or send your teen on a Youth Ranger event. wildlifebcn.org/events

Email: rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org

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

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

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

The Big Toft Breakfast is great fun for us and a huge benefit for those struggling to feed their families all over the world



Wow - what a huge success the Toft Big Breakfast was!! Helped by the lovely sunny weather we were able to put on a fabulous event which was brilliantly supported by people of all ages and which also raised awareness of important issues, provided fabulous tasty breakfasts, a chance to socialise and make friends.

It is always hard to be certain how many people attended as some people made the most of the sunny weather and sat outside and others came for multiple helpings of breakfast!! Our policy of

just asking for donations from people - rather than 'charging', proved to be fabulously successful yet again. After the costs were deducted we can now announce that we raised an amazing.... £1150.00 for charity. We have donated £575 to 'Fairtrade' and £575 to 'Farm Africa'.

Huge thanks to all who helped and also to those who tucked in and donated.

We have received letters of thanks from Farm Africa who also shared with us the total raised over the years from 2016 - 2024 which is £3,680.50. When we include our donations to Fairtrade this makes a grand total of £7,361.00 which deserves another 'WOW'.

Here's to the Toft Big Breakfast 2025!



Bourn Windmill is an open trestle post mill which was standing in 1636 and potentially before that. It is a Grade I Listed building and a Scheduled Monument. The mill ceased work commercially in 1927 and was preserved in 1932. In November 2021, it was placed on the Heritage at Risk Register as being in danger of collapse.

The mill may date to the first quarter of the 16th century. We know that the tree that forms the main post of the mill was felled at some point after 1515. The earliest record of the windmill at Bourn is in a deed of 1653, stating that John Cook had sold the mill to Thomas Cook in 1636. The 1653 deed conveyed the mill from Thomas Cook to William Smythe, a blacksmith from Caxton. In 1779, the mill was leased by John Butler, a farmer in Bourn. He bought the mill in 1799. Smythe died in 1832, leaving the mill to his niece Mary Heywood, of Huntingdon, and her husband Elieze. They sold the mill in 1836 to **Joshua Hipwell, of Toft** for £550. Hipwell died in 1866 and the mill passed to his son, William. It was then sold to a Mr. Papworth but had been sold again to Zaccheus Papworth by 1874, later passing to William Papworth and then George Papworth. The mill worked by wind until 1924, when an oil engine was installed as auxiliary power. It ceased working commercially in 1927. The mill is the oldest surviving windmill in the United Kingdom.

Today, after extensive restoration and repair works, the mill is back in full working order and can be visited by members of the public. Normal visiting hours can be found on the CPPF website at:

<https://www.cambridgeppf.org/>

Wheelie Bin Collections For July

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

Black Bin:

Thurs 11th July

Thurs 25th July

Blue/Green Bin

Thurs 4th July

Thurs 18th July

Notice to Advertisers

Advertisements are published quarterly. Copy for inclusion in the next available edition of the Calendar **must** reach us by 17th July 2024 at the *very latest*. Advertisements will **NOT** be published unless full payment has been received in advance. Please note: *We are currently unable to accept PDF file types*. Quarter-page adverts **MUST** be Portrait-style, half-page adverts **MUST** be Landscape-style. In the first instance, advertisers should contact **Jean Verney** at:

calendaradstoft@gmail.com to discuss costs and their requirements.

✕ USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Alcoholics Anonymous: 0845 769 7555

Anglian Water (for sewage): 08457 145 145

(Emergency number for burst water pipes: 01223 706050)

Ashcroft Veterinary Surgery: 01954 210250

Bourn GPs' Surgery: 01954 719313

Cambridge AIDS help-line: (01223) 508805

Cambs County Council: 0345 045 5200

Cambridge Dial a Ride 01223 506335

Cambridge Water: 01223 706050

Care Network Cambridgeshire 01954 211919.

Citizens Advice Bureau: 0844 848 7979

Comberton GPs' Surgery: 01223 262500

Comberton Village College: 01223 262503

Community Warden (Age UK CAP) 07812 495997

County Councillor 07968 264637

CVC Community Education: 01223 264721

District Councillor: 01954 210040

Household Waste/Pest Control: 0345 045 0063

Lifespan Health Care, Family and Child Team: 01223 264460

Member of Parliament: Phone 01223 603677

Meridian Primary School: 01223 262423

Police: 101 (Emergencies: 999)

(Local Beat Officer is PCSO Sam Kennedy)

Road/Pothole Reporting: 0345 045 5212

Street Lighting: 0800 7838 247

Street Cleaning: 03450 450 063

South Cambs District Council: 01954 713 000

South Cambs Fire and Rescue: 01480 444 500

Toft Car Scheme: 07790 171710

Trading Standards: 0345 0455206

UK Power Networks (Emergencies): 0800 31 63 105



Rembrandt, Rubens, Van Dyck

Drawings by Dutch and Flemish masters - at the Fitzwilliam Museum until 04 August.

Discover rarely displayed drawings by many of the greatest Dutch and Flemish artists including Rembrandt van Rijn, Peter Paul Rubens and Anthony van Dyck.

Mostly dating from the late 1500s and 1600s, these delicate chalk, pen and ink studies for altarpieces, history and landscape paintings capture both the scenery and people of the Netherlands, from iconic windmills and sand dunes to musicians, street sellers and fishermen.

Transport yourself to the atmospheric scenes of the Dutch Golden Age and explore lively taverns, dappled woods, night-time bonfires and more.

Admission is free - but donations are always welcome!

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 July**. 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