



Toft Village Calendar

Produced and Distributed by St. Andrew's Parish Church

June 2023



DIARY DATES

TOFT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

[Over 50s Club]. 14th June 2.30 pm at Toft People's Hall. Our Speaker is Vibeke Haslam on Guide dogs for the Blind in Training. Visitors always welcome.

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### Sewing, Knit and Natter

Our next meeting will be Wednesday June 28th in the Methodist Chapel,  
10.30 -12.30.

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The Parish Council

The Council next meets on Monday 5th June, 7.00pm in The People's Hall. All Welcome.

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### No 18 Bus Service

The current time-table can be downloaded from this link: <https://www.go-whippet.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/20230320-18-timetable.pdf>

## EDITORIAL

Stop what you're doing! (Well - don't, of course, otherwise you won't read the rest of this...). But I have something to share and like it or not, you're going to be the person I share it with. A couple of months back, as dutiful readers will recall, I tried asking ChatGPT, the allegedly intelligent computer system, if it could fill this space. At the time, it was at least smart enough to know a bitter lemon when it saw one and sensibly declined the opportunity. But it did say (and I quote): "I am constantly being updated. It may be worth you trying again shortly."

So I did.

Exactly the same question, which, in brief, was: "Would you please compose a piece of work for Toft village magazine. The village is in Cambridgeshire, UK. The piece should ... if possible, have some specifically local content or interest." This time, instead of telling me to buzz off while it solved global warming or brought about world peace - something more suited to its giant intellect - it responded. And, for your delectation, here is - word for word - what it said:

*"Hello, dear readers! Today I want to share with you my experience of visiting Toft, a charming village in Cambridgeshire. You might be wondering why I chose this destination for my weekend getaway. Well, the answer is simple: I love cheese. And Toft is famous for its cheese-making tradition, dating back to the 13th century.*

*I arrived at Toft on a sunny Saturday morning, and was greeted by the friendly locals who invited me to join their cheese festival. There were stalls selling all kinds of cheese, from mild cheddar to spicy stilton. I sampled some of the local delicacies, such as cheese scones, cheese pies and cheese soufflés. They were all delicious, but my favourite was the Toft cheese cake, a rich and creamy dessert that melted in my mouth.*

*After stuffing myself with cheese, I decided to explore the village and learn more about its history. I visited the Toft Manor, a beautiful Tudor house that belonged to the Toft family for centuries. The manor was full of antiques and paintings, and had a lovely garden with roses and lavender. I also saw the Toft Church, a medieval building with a tall spire and stained glass windows. The church had a plaque commemorating the Toft Cheese Riot of 1643, when the villagers rebelled against the high taxes imposed by the king on their cheese production.*

*I ended my day at the Toft Inn, a cosy pub that offered more cheese dishes and local beers."*

Well. I never knew that. A lot of people say we're in great danger from this stuff. Too big for its boots and all that. But I reckon we're a while away from all being forced into the nearest digital dole queue. Artificial intelligence is a genuine three-pipe problem and it looks to me as though we've only half-cracked it. And on this evidence, the half we've cracked is the 'Artificial' bit.

## THE BIG TOFT BREAKFAST

We raised a grand total of

# £1191

That's £595.50 for Fairtrade and £595.50 for Farm Africa.

Both charities acknowledged our donation have sent you their profound thanks.

A great time was had by all... helpers and diners.

Let's do it all again next year!

### A Thank You

*I received this highly appreciated email from a happy resident who'd like to say 'thanks' to all the folk who put in such a lot of hard work to make the Coronation celebrations special:*

Dear editor,

I hope that you might print this expression of my appreciation, and that of my family, for all those who contributed to the magnificent Toft celebrations for the Coronation of King Charles III.

Our youngest squealed with delight at the Childrens' party; we strolled among new friends in our beautiful surroundings; we enjoyed so much hearty food; and we danced (both with ribbons and in the mud) till our feet hurt. A wonderful weekend!

We recognise the tremendous amount of work that went in to organising these festivities and, as Toft newbies, we consider ourselves so very fortunate to be part of a community that comes together in such a creative and enjoyable manner. We hope we can contribute, in our small way, to the continuity of these splendid Toft traditions.

With many thanks,

- New neighbours in Toft

**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: Revd Charity Nzegwu  
01763 241803

Stewards:

Diana Tebbit 01223 263557

Stephen Acklam 264055

Mrs Pat Morton 264010

**SERVICES OF WORSHIP***4th June* Trinity Sunday8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) – Rev  
Prof Michael Reiss11.00am Holy Communion, Methodist  
Church – Revd. Charity Nzegwu*11th June* 11.00am Holy Communion  
St. Andrew's – Revd Prof. Michael  
Reiss*18th June* 8.30am Holy Communion  
(BCP) – Rev Prof Michael Reiss  
11.00am Morning Worship, Methodist  
Church – Revd. David Newton*25th June* 11.00am Morning Worship,  
St. Andrew's, Revd 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>Zoom services available at 11.00am  
MEETING ID: 823 1147 3640**J**une 2023

It was such a joy to join in with the Toft Coronation Festivities. The children's entertainer and tea party was a marvel, despite the rain. I hear the Ceilidh was glorious, even as grass turned to mud.

And the Sunday celebrations – in full sun – were wonderful, as many from the community came together in the biggest bring-and-share extravaganza I have ever been a part of. May Pole Dancing and the proto-feminist story of Queen Etheldreda was also a real treat.

For the church, it is good to be able to welcome my Methodist colleague Charity Nzegwu, back amongst us, having been off for a few months.

June would normally bring the annual Fete, but with the Coronation we have decided to once again move it to early September, to coincide with the annual Beer Festival. Later this month is the Toft Choir Concert (Sat 24th June) which is always a real joy.

June also marks the start of 'Ordinary Time' in the Church calendar. It is a season where we remember God in the mundane, the ordinary, everyday things of life. God of hearth and home, and not just of cross and crown.

- David Newton

**Sewing, Knit and Natter.**

Please come and join us if you are interested. For more information please contact either Lucy (262948) or Sally (262895).



## THE CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY

We are delighted to welcome Revd Charity back after prolonged sick leave. It is good to see her looking so much better.

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the Toft celebrations for our new King's Coronation – to those who planned, carried, transported, pitched and struck, cooked (recipes next month!), moved bottles, cutlery, china, delivered information, played music, trained maypole dancers, ran services, set up electricity and so on, and so on—but above all a

### **VERY BIG THANK YOU**

to the Harris family for the use of Firs Farm  
and to Cynan Ellis-Evans and his Committee for the hours of planning, telephoning, running around etc.

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We report with sadness the death of **Alan Armstrong** just before the Coronation week-end after a long illness. He had been a resident in Toft for many years but had strong Dry Drayton roots.

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'CORONATION' LOST PROPERTY – I have a lovely chopping board, a tray and several containers left over from the Sunday celebrations. Please do claim them –

Ann Mitchell, 20 High Street, 262516

*By Popular request another Community Outing to Woburn Abbey*

*The Toft Flyer is ready to go, are you?*



**Village Outing in collaboration with Toft Friendship Club**

**12<sup>th</sup> July,**

**leaving Toft in time to get to Woburn for coffee and early lunch, guided tour around the Safari Park and return early evening.**

The cost, including coach and safari park guided tour is £45

Please apply to Mike McCarthy for seats:

*mactoft@aol.com* tel: 262523

## 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 |
|-------------|-------|--------|
|-------------|-------|--------|

### Chairman:

|               |        |                             |
|---------------|--------|-----------------------------|
| Martin Yeadon | 263663 | cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk |
|---------------|--------|-----------------------------|

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

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

|                   |              |  |
|-------------------|--------------|--|
| Stephen Collinson | 07521 912734 |  |
|-------------------|--------------|--|

|                   |              |  |
|-------------------|--------------|--|
| Christine Watson. | 07730 941946 |  |
|-------------------|--------------|--|

|                |               |                       |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Rebecca Harris | 07796 176 333 | njharris262@gmail.com |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|

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

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

**Next Meeting: Monday 5th June, 7.00pm in The People's Hall. All Welcome.**

The Parish Council met on 15th April 2023 at 7.00pm.

The meeting opened with Toft Annual Parish Meeting

Cllrs. Collinson and Harris sent their apologies as they are out of the parish. Cllr. Christine Watson sent her apologies that she would be about 15 minutes late.

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish meeting were approved and there were no matters arising.

Cllr Martin Yeadon read the report of the Parish Council for the year which was warmly received and on which there were no comments.

The Parish Council's audited accounts, ending 31st March 2022, were presented and accepted.

A report was presented by the County Councillor, Michael Atkins which covered a number of topics. The topic which provoked comments from the public was that of public transport. Questions were asked regarding the feasibility and fairness of the proposed congestion charge for entering Cambridge given the poor bus services that are in operation in many villages, including Toft. Cllr. Atkins reported that while the proposal was not being scrapped, there were likely to be changes to the current scheme regarding its boundary. He informed the meeting that a contract for an improved bus service had been negotiated with Stagecoach but that this would be only for one year. He also informed the meeting that EWR were to make a statement about the preferred route at the end of May.

The Annual Parish meeting closed at 7.40pm and the monthly Parish Council meeting began. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 5th June 2023 at 7pm in the People's Hall, Toft

The first business of the meeting was to elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Cllr. Martin Yeadon was nominated as Chair and Cllr. Elaine Miles as Vice-Chairman Both councillors accepted these roles.

It was agreed that there would be no changes in the roles carried out by the other members of the Parish Council.

It was agreed that the current Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment were all in order along with Assets, Insurance Policy and fidelity guarantee.

A report on the extension to the kitchen of Toft People's Hall was presented by Stephen Pugh along with drawings of the proposal. Funding is now to be sourced and an application for this building work is to be presented to the authorities.

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensations from PC members.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

There were no resolutions to consider from the Annual Parish Meeting.

In the absence of Cllr. Stephen Collinson, the consideration of the revised Environmental Policy to be presented by him was deferred to the next meeting.

It was also agreed to defer any decisions on three boulders on the village green until other options had been explored.

The Finance report was presented and approved.

Regarding the Play area, Cllr. Watson reported that the new information sign was now in place but that the information regarding the Key holders needed updating. She also commented on the amount of litter that she had had to clear at the back of the site and that she had spent some considerable time clearing this up and removing a lot of thistles across the site.

There were no urgent issues to be considered.

The RoSPA report on the Play Area was considered and apart from minor issues of grass repairs and other minor repairs it was generally well-received. It should be pointed out that the Toddler Playframe has some issues and while it would not be acceptable for installation now, it was of the required standard at the time of its installation and therefore passed the inspection with one or two minor repairs required.

The system of internal control was reviewed and deemed to be effective.

The following documents were approved and signed: The Annual Governance Statement (Sections 1 and 2); the Accounting Statements. It was agreed that there was no need to sign the AGAR certificate of exemption 2022/3 Part 2.

There were no planning or tree works applications.

Under Members Items, Cllr Emma Darbyshire reported that the 20mph sign in School Lane would be in place within 6 weeks. She reported that she has had a very useful meeting with Highways to discuss possible traffic calming measures for the village and will investigate the costs involved and report back to the PC. An application for a village-wide 20mph is to be presented.

Regarding the suggestion of a new public footpath between Toft and the Birdlings, a letter was written to the landowner but the meeting was told that it had been forwarded by the Clerk to the wrong address and it has been re-issued.

Cllr. Miles reported that the celebrations for the King's coronation had surpassed expectations and many residents had commented on it being a tremendous success. A strong opinion from residents was how much it had reflected the wonderful community spirit that exists in Toft and that any occasion to reinforce this was welcome. Cllr. Yeadon expressed heartfelt thanks to the organisers who had put in a huge effort and amount of time in making this event so successful. Thanks were also expressed for the loan of the land and the marquee by the Harris family which were invaluable in making this happen.

Cllr. Darbyshire spoke on the issue of "Toft Nature" a scheme to find ways in which more bird boxes and plants could be provided around the village that would support birds, butterflies, moths and insects as well as enhancing our environment. Ways are to be sought to involve residents in this initiative.

Cllr. Yeadon confirmed that a second speed camera has been positioned in School Lane and will be in operation shortly.

A report from EWR is expected at the end of May.

Negotiations are under way with Highways regarding a request for tree works in Pinfold Well Lane.



## TOFT SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

We had a great night with Charlie Dore at the end of April – she wowed the audience with an array of songs and wonderful lyrics. The combined prowess of Charlie and her musical partner Julian Littman made for a great evening. We have more live music coming up later in the year – the amazing **Megson** are performing on Saturday 14th October, and the brilliant **Martyn Joseph** on Thursday 16th November – tickets are on sale now: <https://toftsocialclub.org.uk/tickets.php>

**Food on Friday** returns in June on Friday 2nd – we will be serving the classic Greek delicious dish of Lamb Moussaka, along with a vegetarian version. Doors open at 7pm, with food just £5.00. We operate on first come, first served – so come early to avoid disappointment!

**Open Mic Music Night** is on Saturday 3rd June – as usual there will be a mix of performers offering music and words. Free entry – doors open at 8pm.

**June Film Night** is on Saturday 17th, after a run of serious films, we thought we'd go for something lighter this month! So we are showing the Oscar nominated "**Fantastic Mister Fox**" – the 2009 animated feature film by Wes Anderson based on the book by Roald Dahl. Starring the voices of George Clooney, Meryl Streep and Bill Murray, it tells the story of an urbane fox who cannot resist returning to his farm raiding ways and then must help his community survive the farmers' retaliation. Doors open at 7:30pm and the film starts promptly at 8:00pm. Film Club membership is £12 for the year, or evening membership is £2.50.

We have our regular events throughout the month, with **Toft Art** on Thursday 1st, **Toft Quiz** on Thursday 8th, **Carpet Bowls** on Friday 9th, and **Toft Bingo** on Thursday 22nd. Everyone is welcome along to these fun evenings – doors open at 8pm.

Advance notice – the Club **Annual Barbeque** will be on Saturday 15th July – details are on the website (<https://toftsocialclub.org.uk/events.php>), and tickets (£8) will be on sale from mid-June.

Please note: we had advertised a possible **Wine Evening** in June on the website – we will now hold this in October – details nearer the time.

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

The Club is keen to attract a few more **volunteers** to help with running the bar and events. Whilst the role is unpaid, it is a fun thing to do and supports the local community. If you would like to discuss helping, please contact us via [admin@toftsocialclub.org.uk](mailto:admin@toftsocialclub.org.uk) or ask at the bar on any night we are open.

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

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



# TOFT CORONATION WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS



*Special thanks to our talented photographers, Sabina Hurley and Ron Gouldstone, for these two pages of reminders of the Coronation weekend.*







## That Coronation Weekend

Any outdoor event is subject to the weather but recent Coronation events seem to have been particularly unlucky. Both the Queen's Coronation in 1953 and her father's in 1937 were wet affairs and, as we now know, it also rained on Charles's Coronation. Toft's Coronation celebrations in 1953, which included a street parade, were certainly rain affected and with rain dominating the weather forecasts throughout April ahead of Charles's Coronation we were relieved that we had taken the precaution early on of having several marquees that could give people cover from the elements. In the event it was those folk getting things set up on the Thursday and Friday who benefitted most from dodging downpours and overall Toft came off very lightly over the weekend.



**The Social Club** kicked off the celebration weekend by opening the People's Hall on Saturday morning for villagers to watch the Coronation together on TV. Later in the day the main marquee (artfully decorated by Jane Tebbit and her team) provided the venue for 50 children and 60 adults who were treated to an energetic and entertaining Kids Party, a maypole dancing practice and a Celebration Tea. All these children were presented with a Coronation pin badge as a memento of the historic day. Come the evening, over a hundred people enjoyed a two-course supper, and the Social Club bar, whilst the impressive Dancing Yew Ceilidh Band (including local resident Colm Sheppard) entertained and organised the dancing.

On the Sunday, the sun appeared as we began the traditional **Spring Feast Programme**. As a part of coordinated nationwide celebrations of the Coronation, the bells of St Andrews Church rang out as villagers began walking the bounds. A picnic was taken at John and Margaret Quenby home, Frog Hall, and energetic maypole dancing was enjoyed on the Green to tunes by Toft Session senior and junior. The Toft Garland was then processed down High Street to Firs Farm before a short service celebrating the King's Coronation as well as a performance telling the story of St. Etheldreda, an Anglo-Saxon Queen, who established the first religious building in Ely 1350 years ago. The weekend finale, the **Coronation Party in the Field**, organised by Tricia Ellis-Evans, was a 'bring and share' party for around 200 people, young and old, entertained by a soundtrack of British popular music from across the decades. The warm sunny afternoon of socialising reminded one of the lazy summers days that will hopefully be with us soon and the Party was a perfect way to end the weekend.

Organising a weekend of events such as this takes a lot of planning and organisation. At the national level this planning was referred to as Operation Golden Orb so our small planning group in Toft, involving several of the usual suspects, became the Orb Committee. The Parish Council actively supported our early plans and provided essential financial assistance from the outset. Nick and Becca Harris generously offered the field behind Firs Farm as a venue as well as the use of their large marquee which then allowed our plans to evolve further.

We are particularly fortunate in Toft to have a number of people with experience in organising activities in the village or with resources and the necessary skills that they willingly share with the community. We are also fortunate that many of the newer families and individuals that have made a home in Toft over the past decade or so are generously stepping forward to contribute to village events. These newer members of the community helped considerably in making the Coronation weekend a success and, collectively, it augers well for the future of the village. **Thank you all.**

*If any village children have, for some reason missed out on receiving a Coronation pin badge over the celebration weekend, please contact 01223 263477 as we still have some badges. Also, if you misplaced a compact umbrella or a Le Creuset mug over the weekend, again contact the above number.*

The Orb Committee – Cynan Ellis-Evans, Mike McCarthy, Elaine Miles, Ann Mitchell, Barbara Preece



## Help with the Cream Teas at The People's Hall Toft Sunday 18 June

Have you ever thought about doing a bit of community volunteering? It's rewarding and lots of fun.

I am hoping to put together a team to serve cream teas at The People's Hall in aid of the National Garden Scheme on Sunday 18 June. The NGS raises money for many health charities including Marie Curie, Macmillan Cancer Support and Parkinson's UK.

No experience is required. We shall be serving scones with cream and jam (already in plastic pots and tiny jars courtesy of Rodda's Cornish clotted cream), cheese scones with butter and chutney, and tea, coffee and cordial to drink. Nothing to be cooked, prepared or cut up. If you helped out last year you would be very welcome to join us again and show any newcomers the ropes.

There will be two shifts, each requiring at least 4 people: 2 in the kitchen, 1 clearing, and 1 to take the money.

The shift times are from 12 noon to 14.30 and from 14.30 to 17.00. This should give everyone time to visit the gardens.

If you would like to help on the day or could bake us some delicious scones please contact me by email [jane@tebbitdesign.co.uk](mailto:jane@tebbitdesign.co.uk) or tel. 262309.  
*Jane Tebbit*



## Sunday 18 June Toft Gardens open for the National Garden Scheme



Three gardens will be open: Colm Shepherd at 21 Comberton Road, Jane and Jake at The Gig House in The Old Horse Yard and Mary Paxman at Manor Cottage opposite St Andrew's Church.

We have all been busy in our gardens over the past year so there will be lots to see.

Last year the NGS donated £3.11 million to nursing and health charities.

Admission is just £5 for all three gardens. Cream teas will be served at The People's Hall from 12.30 to 4.30.

### TOFT TELEPHONE BOX SEED SWAP



Seed sowing has slowed down a bit but there is still time to sow veg. Beans, beetroot, carrots, fennel, coriander and more can all be sown now and will be ready for the autumn harvest.

If you have any spare seedlings please think about donating them to the seed swap.

Happy gardening!

P.S. If you lost a lot of plants in the winter frosts, as I did, why not fill the gaps with new ones. Arrington Garden Centre has some really healthy home-grown perennials, bedding and veg. Take a look!



**Bedfordshire  
Cambridgeshire  
Northamptonshire**

Wildlife Trust BCN West Cambridgeshire Hundreds Update: June 2023

Thank you for those people who keep their dogs on a lead in our special woodlands in the West Cambs Hundreds area. Keeping dogs on leads is the default for our reserves, including Gamlingay Wood (and Sugley Wood), Waresley and Gransden Wood (and Brownes' Piece) Hayley Wood and Hardwick Wood. There are a few exceptions, which can be found on our website. We are looking to improve signage, but temporary signs are easily removed, and more permanent signs are expensive. In Waresley and Gransden Woods we have a new volunteer who walks the woods regularly and chats to people about the reserve and how to use it sustainably. If anyone is interested in doing something like this in Gamlingay Wood, please get in touch.

Here are some reasons why we want dogs on leads and on the paths

The presence of a dog can disturb wildlife at the time (like basking reptiles, fledgling birds, or small mammal) and their scent can deter wildlife after they have left

Dogs with topical flea treatments can poison water

Dogs disturb sediment which covers leaves of oxygenating plants in water. This affects life at all levels (and we do love our tadpoles!)

Dogs off a lead disturb ground or near-ground-nesting birds (like meadow pipits in Sugley Wood, skylarks in agricultural fields, willow warblers which are declining in our region, wrens, robins and blackbirds)

Dog mess is unpleasant for people visiting and affects soil nutrient levels

Dogs can trample plants on the woodland floor

Here are some reasons why we ask this even from the most perfectly behaved dog:

When people see others with their dogs off the lead, they think it is ok, but not all dogs stay close to their owners

Some people including some children, are scared of dogs, regardless of how they behave. It is reassuring for those people when a dog is on a lead.

These sites are owned by the Wildlife Trust BCN, and are managed for wildlife with permissive access for people. We want people to enjoy the woods and we want to keep them special for generations. The more we treat them with respect, the more likely it will be special for future generations.

We really appreciate all those people who use our sites sustainably, and those that go the extra mile by to care for these woods by doing things like picking up litter, and reporting issues.

*Rebecca Neal, Communities and Education Officer, Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants*

Events: [www.wildlifebcn.org/events](http://www.wildlifebcn.org/events)

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

**Comberton Library***[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library)*

Tel: 0345 045 5225

*[your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)*

Opening Hours (excluding bank holidays) are:

Monday: 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

Wednesday: 10.00 am - 1.00 pm &amp; 2.30 pm - 5.30 pm

Friday: 2.30 pm - 5.30 pm

Saturday: 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

We are beginning to think ahead to the School Summer Holidays when we will be running our Summer Reading Challenge for children again and the theme this year is Sports – Ready, Set, Read! As usual the challenge will be to read six books over the summer, as well as collecting weekly activities and stickers. There are two sign up dates for the challenge: **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July** and **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July**

from 10.00 am – 1.00 pm. We look forward to seeing you then.

If anyone has some spare time over the summer holidays and would like to help out as a Summer Reading Challenge volunteer we would love to hear from you. Volunteers need be over 12 years old - more information can be found in the library or by accessing the following link:

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-&-culture/libraries/library-news/summer-reading-challenge/](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-&-culture/libraries/library-news/summer-reading-challenge/)

Upcoming Comberton Library Events:

Ariel is back by popular demand and will be showing us how to create wonderful **paintings** using traditional Chinese watercolour brushes and paints, and the next sessions will be on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June** from 10.30 am – 12.00 pm. Please book in advance.

**Dino Day** – a day for all dinosaur lovers! Why not pop along and discover lots of dinosaur games, puzzles and stories on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August** from 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm. You may even get to meet a T Rex too.

On **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August** we will be having an **outside games event** from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm – open to all.

Come along and complete some **jigsaw puzzles** with us on **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August** from 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm. There will be puzzles suitable for adults and children.

The **Knit and Natter** dates for the summer are: **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June, Monday 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> in July and Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August** from 10.30 am – 11.30 am. Please come and join us.

Our popular **Rhymetime** sessions will be on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June and Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July** from 10.30 am to 11.00 am, and although they will stop for the summer we will restart the sessions again in the Autumn.

For more information about these and other events due to be held in Comberton and other Cambridgeshire Libraries, please pick up our latest What's On brochure or check the library website, Cambridgeshire Libraries Facebook page, posters and literature in the library - or simply ask our friendly librarians for further details.

We look forward to seeing you in the Library very soon!





**Cambridge  
University Hospitals**  
NHS Foundation Trust

### New phone app to help Addenbrooke's and Rosie patients navigate hospital

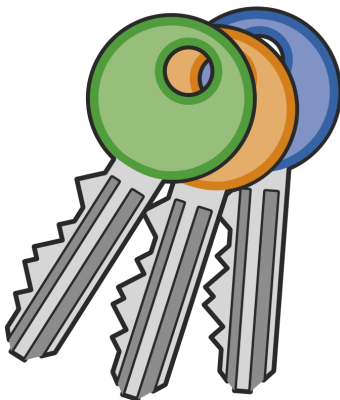
Patients have led the way in a project to make it easier to find your way around Addenbrooke's and the Rosie hospitals.

The new CUH Directions app was developed by patients for patients and was the idea of hospital volunteer Mike, a member of the hospital's Outpatient Experience Group, who led on the project with hospital staff.

The app maps out your route from your start to end point in a series of images and words, showing you the shortest route through the hospitals.

Visit the App Store or Google Play Store and download to your mobile device.

Find out more at: <https://www.cuh.nhs.uk/news/new-cuh-directions-phone-app-helps-patients-find-the-way/>



### Can You Help?

Long-time *Calendar* lensman Ron Gouldstone would like some help. He writes: "Some time ago a person or persons borrowed the keys to the Peoples Hall notice boards from me. These have never been returned.

To avoid the extreme disappointment to those calling at my door in need of unlocking the notice boards, would you please put a note in the calendar which might jog the guilty parties memory."

## \*\* Treat Your Garden \*\*

Brighten up your beds this year with some of Brian Mitchell's justly-famed Dahlias.

They'll be on sale—in support of church funds—on the village green on **Thursday, eighth of July**, from 4.30 pm to 6.00 pm.

Strictly 'first-come, first-served' - so don't be late!



# toft historical society

## Toft history - in a different form

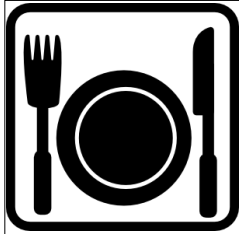
This month's history item comes in an unusual form: a poem. Written by Marion Read (Mill Lane), the first part traces the history of the People's Hall and (in the next instalment), Part II narrates the creation of the village social club. Marion is a native of Toft and grew up in Mill Lane. She attended school at what is now the People's Hall.

**Consider Toft pre-World War Two,**  
There really wasn't much to do,  
"There was a pub, it took your lolly",  
Said Roly's wife, the good Aunt Dolly.  
"Drunk farm folk will fall in the hedge,  
Toft Methodists should take the pledge".  
Ex-Regimental Sergeant Major  
Jack Jakins was Toft's social saviour,  
He entertained the local lads  
With Tizer, sweets and Woodbine fags.  
In the back of his bike shop  
In the days pre-village hop.  
Tame times to today's hi-tech youth  
Good memories for Toft's long of tooth.  
In School Lane, the Church Institute  
Was not a place of ill repute,  
One rector said his congregation  
(He had a stuffed shirt reputation)  
Could dance only if segregated,  
Ironical concept, not outdated  
He, unaware, girls of the day  
Danced round their handbags anyway!  
Jack Jakin's bike shop, it was here  
Where hatched the germ of great idea.

Toby Morling, railwayman,  
Helped evolve a radical plan  
It was an embryo committee  
But, if Sid Badcock sang a ditty  
And village talent took their turn,  
This could be a means to earn  
Funds towards a People's Hall,  
A meeting place for one and all.  
"Henery the Eighth" was all Sid sang  
Nobody really gave a damn,  
So steadily raise funds they did  
A fortune then, three hundred quid.  
Years on, Jack foiled the council lobby  
"You'll get the cash o'er my dead body  
Unless you all agree to call  
This meeting point "The People's Hall".  
So Jake and Toby's Revolution  
Ensured there'd be no institution.  
Eventually, in fifty-nine,  
Toft School closed, it was the time  
Metamorphosis was slow  
The eighties brought all systems go,  
The notice board proclaimed to all  
'Toft presents their People's Hall.'



Toft schools



## ForkTalk

Conington's never really been on my radar before. Somewhere you saw a sign-post to on your way to somewhere else. But word was that *The White Swan* there, under new management for the last few months, was worth a visit. And off to it, therefore, we trundled on a late April Sunday. A Bank Holiday weekend, too, so my guess was we'd see *The White Swan* at it's stressy worst. Sure enough, the sizeable car-park was bulging to overflow, so we parked down what I took to be a side-road but which turned out to be the village high street. From the outside, *The White Swan* is nothing special. In a country packed with achingly quaint village pubs this one barely warrants a second glance. Opened in 1765, they say - although what you see looks a lot like Victorian red-brick - it is a contented-looking, double-fronted four-square establishment with a roomy garden and calming pastoral views on all sides. Said garden was also, on this day, pretty full of determined-looking trenchermen and their helpmeets, not to mention a fair few hyped-up children, buzzing around on a cocktail of natural exuberance and tartrazine. Happily for the sanity of all, these were mostly cannoning lethally about in the grounds, amusing themselves on a couple of swings and slides.

Inside, there's a polished brick floor, a noticeably low bar and - a bit of a rarity - a rack of beer barrels from which the life-enhancing fluid is drawn direct. This place is a Free House - meaning that the landlord is free to serve whatever he or she likes and to charge whatever they think fit. The incumbents have chosen Adnams brewery as their supplier of choice right now, and it's fair to say the beer has weathered the trip over the County border very well. Not only that, but despite the general hum and buzz, service was both prompt and personable. They might not have meant it, but they at least looked as if they were pleased to see us. The main eating area - to which we were promptly shepherded - lies off to a side-annex. I had the impression this place welcomed and valued drinkers as well as diners, an increasing rarity in our gastro-conscious times. Maybe a Sunday lunchtime wasn't the best test of this, but the plethora of tiny notices announcing quiz nights, darts matches and the like certainly gave that indication. If so, well done to them. Drinkers may not provide the big bucks

anymore, but they can keep a place ticking over on a wet February weekday evening, something too many places have forgotten, to their loss and shame.

So now to what we'd come for - the food. Well...it was a Sunday and it was lunchtime, so what's a chap to do? Unsurprisingly, we all went for the roasts and, carnivores to a person, I'm unable to provide any feedback on the veggie offerings, save to say there are a couple. Choices were nothing if not traditional: Lamb, Beef, Pork or Chicken. We managed to knock off three of these four. Before that, however, I indulged myself with a warm duck salad. As is the habit nowadays, the meat was shredded (or 'pulled') . It was fine, but this really is the cheat's way of serving duck, which deserves to be sampled as the Good Lord intended - all of a piece, so you can judge the chef's skill in crisping the skin without over-searing the flesh. I've said the place was busy, which it was, but we suffered no delays and had the attentions of a helpful and competent waitress throughout. Clearly, the management had worked hard on this and given the number of places staffed by people who are either harassed or hopeless - or sometimes both - it's a credit to them.

Main courses were, to delicately understate things, more than adequate. Don't come here unless you're seriously ravenous. Yorkshire puddings the size of rugby balls, tray on tray of vegetables, all of them fashionably al dente - stuff just kept piling up till there was scarce room on the table. The meat itself was tender, well-cooked ('well' as in 'skilfully') and plentiful. In short, this was a Sunday roast it was hard to fault. Personally, at the end of this marathon chomp-fest, I was stuffed. But a couple of our party were made of sterner stuff and had been enthusiastically conning the desserts menu as they dumper-trucked their way through the roast. Voted Best In Test was the Swan's approximation of an Eton Mess, wherein the customary strawberries had been replaced with raspberries, adding a piquantly tart contrast to the mix.

If I had to choose one word to sum up *The White Swan*, it would be 'slick'. This is not fine-dining, but it is very definitely is extremely good pub-grub served by people who know what they're doing and how to do it. It's not the cheapest you'll find, but it is well-worth its money and the ten-miles or so drive. And if that's what you're looking for - this is where you'll find it.





*And,  
finally—a  
few  
Coronation  
pictures you  
might not  
have seen...*





**Wheelie Bin Collections For June**

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

**Black Bin:**

Weds 7th June

Weds 21st June

**Blue/Green Bin**

Thurs 1st June (Changed Day)

Weds 14th June

Weds 28th June

**Notice to Advertisers**

**Advertisements** are published quarterly. Copy for inclusion in the next available edition of the Calendar **must** reach us by 17th July 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 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

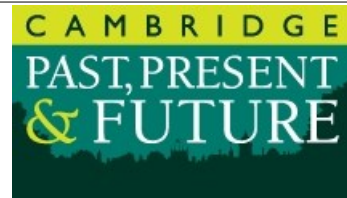
South Cambs District Council: 01954 713 000

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

**Cambridge Nature Festival 2023**

After a very successful first year the Cambridge Nature Festival is back from Friday 26 May to Sunday 2 July across the city and aims to get us all more in touch with the nature on our doorsteps! Voted as one of the best free festivals in the UK last year, the Cambridge Nature Festival will include over 80 events and activities with something for all ages, abilities and interests at various venues.

There will be sonic pond dipping, hands-on creative activities, nature walks, live music, bat punt safaris, BioBlitzes, wildlife workshops and much more. Most of the events will be free or affordable and will take place in Cambridge and the surrounding countryside.

The Festival will kick-off with Wildlife Day at Wandlebury on Bank Holiday Monday 29 May from 11am-4pm A drop-in event with free activities for all ages, including hands on activities like pond dipping, sweep netting and nature walks. You can also learn about small mammals and marvellous moths, with the chance to see some of these fluffy creatures on the day! There will also be sonic pond dipping sessions to listen to the mysterious underwater world.

**T**he 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 June** Many thanks to all who contributed to this edition.

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