



# Toft Village Calendar

Produced and Distributed by St. Andrew's Parish Church

March 2021



## DIARY DATES

### MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING



sadly still on the not yet list! When we do get back to having monthly coffee mornings, which will be fantastic, we will be looking for a new Coffee morning organiser. Not onerous – just asking for volunteers for each month and ensuring the venue is in the Calendar for that month. Arpi Johnson has run this rota for many years and would now like to hand it on to a 'keen' volunteer.

### TOFT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

[Over 50s Club]. Still no meetings at present.

**Sewing, Knit and Natter** is still unable to meet.

**The Parish Council** - The the next PC meeting is at 7.00 pm on 1st March 2021 via Zoom. Details will be on the Village web site at least 3 days before the event.

New time for the **Internet Club** Zoom meetings.

We will meet on 1st and 15th March at **4pm**.

Do log in and join us if you can for a chat and any IT advice.

katherine@jameskj.plus.co  
m and  
jane@tebbitdesign.co.uk

## EDITORIAL

Great news! The end of lock-down is on its way. And, for those of you who are connoisseurs of wanton destruction, the news comes not a moment too soon because you wouldn't want to miss this: For, hot on the heels of the announcement that the Wreck Bourn development has now received the approval of South Cambridgeshire District Council (they're the people that represent you and me), comes news of another enlightened 'vision' planned for poor, harmless Barton. This one will despoil land which is currently Green Belt and will splurge its unlovely way from there up to the Madingley Road junction of the M11. It will have 'up to' 49 per cent of something called 'green infrastructure'. This might be thought to compare rather poorly with the 100 per cent of green 'infrastructure' that it currently has, but when there's this much easy dosh to be made, who cares? Especially when you learn that it will have green corridors - I think they mean 'footpaths' - and will 're-wild' the Bin Brook.

If you still have doubts, prepare to swallow them now. Because the 'vision' is brought to you by the same discredited conglomerate responsible for Eddington - that's to say, a bunch of colleges, their money-men and a shifty-sounding front-of-house organisation, presumably there to draw the flak from a disgruntled populace. In a display of tautology that does little for the reputation of Oxbridge, this body claims their plans are "extremely sustainable". Well, I guess there had to come a point where just being 'sustainable' didn't really mark you out from the crowd. You might have thought that anyone with the word 'Eddington' anywhere near their C.V. would by now have slunk away with a revolver and a bottle of Scotch to do the decent thing, but not so. Instead, a series of 'consultations' will be held with the public, so that their views can be fully taken into account. Anyone buying that? No, me neither. Not that it matters, because these are 'the houses we desperately need', apparently, albeit much of it will be student accommodation. Who 'we' represents and the little matter of the additional traffic, infrastructural strain and environmental degradation we desperately don't need are matters conveniently ignored at the time of writing. I expect they'll be fully addressed at the consultations.

Meanwhile, over at Bourn, it turns out that at least 500 houses - out of a planned total of 3,500 - are going to be shoved up regardless of the fate of the much-argued about Cambourne - Cambridge busway. A bit curious, when you think that the site was only included in the local plan on the understanding that the busway would mitigate traffic issues.

One of the colleges involved at Barton is Corpus Christi. Corpus is unique amongst the collegiate body in that it is the only college founded and funded by local people. So - here's a way it can repay us: It has what many would regard as an abundance of 'green infrastructure' in the shape of its courts and open spaces. Spaces they currently forbid the rest of us from even viewing, never mind walking over. Smack in the middle of town, too, thus providing, in a phrase they like to use, 'easy access to the centre of the city'. Why, you could chuck a few blocks of desperately-needed student flats up there in jig-time and still have room for a green corridor. Then, they could look out of their own windows at the environmental masterpieces they think everyone else should have to stare at and preen themselves on their fiscal perspicacity. It's a win-win situation, so how about it, Corpus?

Or, I suppose, we can just bow to the inevitable and start choir practice for a rousing rendition of 'Hail, The Concreting Hero Comes'.

## Work continues to repair Bourn Windmill



In December the four sails were removed and safely stored and the buck (body of the mill) is now supported and surrounded by scaffolding. This was vital work because it means that mill is no longer at risk of collapse.

A routine inspection last year found evidence of rot in the beams that support the 16th century mill. The windmill was closed to visitors and a project was started to secure it from collapse, establish the extent of the problem and then carry out the repairs so that the mill can be re-opened to visitors. This Grade I listed Ancient Monument is one of the oldest surviving windmills in the UK and has a rare feature whereby the whole mill is turned on a post in order to face into the wind.

CambridgePPF is very pleased that the first stage of this important conservation project is underway, but the preservation and repair of this ancient mill is likely to cost over £50,000. We are very grateful for a grant from Historic England which has enabled the project to get underway and we thank our local supporters who have donated nearly £4,000 so far, but we need much more.

We are continuing to appeal to the public to help raise more funds to continue this vital work and to protect this rare historic monument for future generations. To learn more about the project to Save Bourn Windmill or to support the Save Bourn Windmill Appeal please visit our website at: <https://www.cambridgeppf.org/save-bourn-windmill>

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

St. Andrew's Parish Church

Team Vicar:

Rev David Newton 01223 665654

Lay Minister: Barbara Preece Tel: 263466

Churchwardens:

Ann Mitchell 262516

John Quenby 263949

**Methodist Church**

Minister: Rev Alison Walker

01223 872862

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

Stewards:

Diana Tebbit 01223 263557

Stephen Acklam 264055

Mrs Pat Morton 264010

*The Church in Toft*

[As you know at the present time there is no Public Worship in St. Andrew's or the Methodist Church. The Calendar goes to press before the roadmap is indicated by the PM or a meeting of the PCC which might change things. So we publish the services in the hope that we will be able to meet in the church again but PLEASE be sure to check before assuming their resumption.]

**14<sup>th</sup> March** MOTHERING SUNDAY 11.00 am (might be outside) Morning Service - Rev David Newton

**21<sup>st</sup> March** 8.00 am Holy Communion, BCP, Rev Prof Michael Reiss

11.00 am Morning service, Rev Tricia Troughton

**28<sup>th</sup> March** PALM SUNDAY 11.00 am Holy Communion – outside Rev David Newton

**2<sup>nd</sup> April** GOOD FRIDAY 11.00am Journey to the cross (a trail from the Methodist Church to St. Andrew's for families particularly)

2.00 pm Prayers and Meditation outside - Rev Tricia Troughton

**4<sup>th</sup> April** EASTER 6.20 am Sunrise service on the drift – Rev David Newton

8.30am Holy Communion BCP – Rev. Prof Michael Reiss

11.00 am Family service with Holy Communion Outside – Rev David Newton

For the services outside please wrap up well. Chairs will be provided, but if you prefer your own, feel free to bring them with you.

We hope there will be morning prayer on Wednesdays at 9.15am. This is available on email 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 will continue at 11.00am every Sunday:

THE MEETING ID: 898 7070 2475

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89870702475>.

There is also online audio available.

There will be morning prayer on Wednesdays at 9.15am, also available on email. And 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>

A Lent course '**Consider the lilies**' is running locally on Zoom at 3.30pm on Wednesday afternoons beginning on February 24<sup>th</sup>. We are using paintings by Stanley Spencer as our inspiration. Please join us.

St Andrew's is open every day if you just want to drop in. For the present the Methodist Church will remain closed.

**D**ear Friends

It is Lent. I consumed an excessive amount of pancakes (in the spirit of "Fat Tuesday" although not really to eat up anything forbidden during this season of fasting and penitence). I do usually give something up during Lent but this year – I just can't. I'm just not going to make it all the way to Easter Day (4th April) without any salt and vinegar crisps and jaffa cakes (my vices of choice). It feels like we have given up so much over the last year, so that even these small things will be the straw that will break this camel's emotional reserves!

In all seriousness, I don't think this is the year for renunciation. Giving up something for Lent is supposed to remind you to enjoy it all the more later. The next time I can indulge in a trip to the theatre or a hug from my whole family will create a memory that I will never forget – I don't need reminding now to enjoy these pleasures later when we have missed out for so long already. Giving things up is also supposed to create mental space to focus on more important things, but I'm finding that hard. On the one hand, life is not as busy and so there should be less to think about anyway. On the other hand, my mental space and thoughts often feels too full up with grief for those who have died, with sadness for all that has been missed, with concerns for those making life-changes. Denying myself a treat hasn't made any difference to the direction of my thinking nor my praying.

So this Lent, I'm not worrying too much about my diet. Instead I'm trying on some new habits and I'm refusing to take on any additional sense of pressure. I want my prayer life just to be time with God. I want to enjoy the pleasure of a walk with bird song and all the people I bump into on the way. For seven years we have lived in a village but previously in the middle of a noisy city taking a walk meant discovering new angles looking at familiar buildings, people-watching as the tourists went by and birdsong usually meant the coos of pigeons and the screaming of swifts in summer time. Wherever you are then this Lent, if you feel you cannot give anything else up, then don't. Perhaps instead dig deeper into who you are and where you are and rediscover the pleasures of being you and your place in our still vibrant world.

- Alison

**Sewing, Knit and Natter** - The ladies of Sewing, Knit and Natter are still not able to hold their monthly meeting but we are all working separately in our homes and looking forwards to normal service being resumed shortly.



## TOFT SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

We remain in the lengthy state of lockdown meaning that sadly social club activities remain on hold.

It is amazing to think that it was just over twelve months ago we were all getting together for the "Toft Seaside Special" - for many the only seaside we experienced in 2020.

It is pleasing to hear so many people are receiving their first dose of vaccine and there are suggestions that easing of the lockdown measures may be possible in the months to come.

In the mean time we aim to keep online activities going in an attempt to help members keep in contact with each other, test our knowledge and chat about all the things we have not been doing in the past weeks.

### SOCIAL CLUB ONLINE ZOOM QUIZZES

The online Zoom Quizzes continue on a two weekly basis. If you have not yet participated but would like to join in please log on to <https://www.toftsocialclub.org.uk/maillinglist.php> complete your details and you will then be added to our email circulation.

Dates of the quizzes will be circulated by email and included on the website

### A ZOOM MEETING GET TOGETHER

We like to keep in touch with members, to chat and share news on the online Social Club "Zoom" meeting get together. In the session members can join in video chats either in the main group or in a separate smaller group of people. We plan to do these as a monthly session; details of dates and times will be sent to members via email and included on the website.

### "TOFT DOES A ZOOM COUNTDOWN": SATURDAY 6th MARCH

We invite you once again join us for a Zoom Online Countdown. Compete against others and the clock in a battle of wits that tests both your lexical dexterity and numerical knowledge. Based on the popular TV show you have to find the longest word you can from nine letters randomly chosen.

Play as an individual or with a household partner. . All you will need is paper and pen.

Starting at 8 pm, login details will be circulated by email.

Information and updates on Toft Social Club activities can be found on the Website and Facebook pages

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

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

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

**Toft Parish Council**

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

30 West Drive

Highfields Caldecote

Cambridge, CB23 7NY Tel: 01954 210241

Councillors	Phone	E-mail
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**Chairman:**

Martin Yeadon	263663	cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk
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James Wrycroft	264427	cllr.wrycroft@tpc.toft.org.uk
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Elaine Miles	262255	cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk
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Tricia Ellis-Evans	263477	cllr.ellis-evans@tpc.toft.org.uk
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Andy Tall	07984796273	cllr.tall@tpc.toft.org.uk
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Lluis Borrell	264611	cllr.borrell@toft.org.uk
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Kaushik Popat		cllr.popat@tpc.toft.org.uk
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*The Council is your locally elected Council at the first tier of local government. Meetings are open to the public and are usually held on the first Monday of each month (excepting August) at the Toft People's Hall in School Lane starting at 7.00pm.*

*Notices of meetings and agendas are published on the Parish Council Noticeboard near the bus shelter together with minutes, which can also be viewed at [www.toft.org.uk](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 March 1st 7.00 pm (via Zoom)**

The PC held a meeting on Monday 1st Feb 2021.

The PC discussed the EWR proposals.

The PC agreed to pledge up to £5k to Cambridge Approaches Ltd in support of a judicial review of the decision should the EWR Co not adequately consider a Northern route for the railway. Cllr Tall presented proposals for signs and leaflets to raise

awareness of the EWR proposals in the area and the significant impact they would have on the village.

For the signage and leaflets the funding of c £200 was agreed.

The PC discussed the poor state of the verges by the church. One source of funding to improve these could be via the Local Highways Initiative but it would be several years before that would be available if indeed the CC would fund it. As a first stage, Cllr Tall took mto discuss the issue with the CC to understand how to get approval for the Parish to carry out work on what is CC land and also to get an estimate of the costs involved.

Cllr Tall agreed to issue data from the village speed cameras.

A resident had complained about the number of bonfires being held in the village. The PC decided to take no action on this at present.

Cllr Poppat updated the PC on the Climate Change sub group with another meeting proposed for February. An article about the group has been published in the Calendar and the intention is to include regular articles about the Green agenda.

The PC discussed the County Broadband plans to bring fibre technology to the village. The PC has been approached by the company to fully endorse the proposals and also asked if the PC would issue letters to residents encouraging them to sign up to the project. The PC is supportive of efforts to bring fibre broadband to the village and has no specific reason not to support County Broadband but it felt that it wasn't in a position to fully endorse the proposals and that residents needed to decide for themselves.

There were no planning applications to consider.

Are you 16 to 25

and want a volunteer project to do

during lockdown,

or perhaps for your Duke of Edinburgh's award

or for a Scout or Guide badge?

If so, we'd like to hear from you, so please contact Linda Hollow

[linda.hollow@btconnect.com](mailto:linda.hollow@btconnect.com)

Tel. 07779918682

# You don't have to face Covid-19 alone!

## The Toft Volunteer Team is still here to help

You do not need to be isolated or lonely.

Ways we can help.... Collecting prescriptions, collecting shopping, phoning for a chat, going with you for a one-to-one stroll, helping you to get additional support or access food banks.

## How to contact the Toft Volunteer Team or offer help

- Call or text/email Linda Hollow – 07779 918 682 or [linda.hollow@btconnect.com](mailto:linda.hollow@btconnect.com)
- Message for help via 'Nextdoor Toft'. Contact Jackie Morton at [jem.wickets@btinternet.com](mailto:jem.wickets@btinternet.com) to join Nextdoor online.

Many Toft residents have now had a dose of the vaccination - which is fantastic.

They will still need to observe the rules of 'hands - face - space' along with the rest of us.

For more information about the vaccine roll out search the web link below.



<https://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/covid-19-national-vaccination-programme/>



HM Government



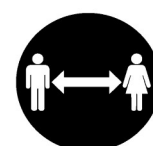
## We must keep protecting each other.



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

**STAY ALERT ► CONTROL THE VIRUS ► SAVE LIVES**





## Marquees for Hire: Summer 2021

Please email or phone for further information [bchtmarquee@gmail.com](mailto:bchtmarquee@gmail.com) 01954 210570 (Hardwick).

Proceeds to local Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Ranger Girl Guiding Units.

Prices for hire (£85 per marquee, or £40 to charities/good causes), pitching (add £90) or pitching advice (you pitch) (add £25) and transport (add £35).

Three sizes available for hire; frame marquee 5 x 8M (16 x 26 ft), classical rectangular marquee 6 x 9M (20 x 30 ft) and square marquee 6 x 6M (20 x 20ft).

BCHT Marquee operates as a charity exempt from registration under the provision of the Charities Regulations 1961. SI 1961 No 1044.

## Climate Change – Webinars

South Cambridgeshire District Council are holding a series of webinars to help people think about how to live more sustainably, reduce carbon emissions and, in turn, help tackle climate change. The following 3 webinars will take place during the first week of March.

### ***Greening your older home, tips and inspiration***

Tuesday 2 March, 1pm – 2pm

Meeting on Zoom. Meeting ID: 872 3228 0094. Passcode: 441253

This event will be recorded and made available on the Council's YouTube channel if you are unable to attend.

### ***Shrinking your carbon footprint***

Wednesday 3 March, 7.30pm – 8.30pm

Book your place (see link below)

### ***Food for our future workshop***

Thursday 4 March, 7.30pm – 8.30pm

Book your place (see link below)

### **All these events are free**

The link below will give full details on all webinars as well as the link to book your place.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/nature-and-climate-change/climate-and-environment-fortnight-2021-events/>

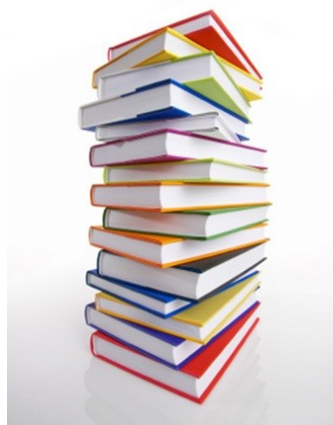
**Comberton Library****Tel: 0345 045 5225****(Old) Normal Opening Hours - but please see below:\***

Monday: 10am – 1pm, Wednesday: 10am – 1pm, 2pm -5pm,

Friday: 2pm – 5pm, Saturday: 10am – 1pm

**\*Current opening hours:** Monday: 10.00 am – 2.00 pm

Wednesday: 1.00 – 5.00 pm



As I write this, we are still operating under the lockdown restrictions; we are only open for the return of items, which will be quarantined for at least 72 hours before being removed from customer library accounts, and the collection of pre-ordered items. There are currently no overdue charges being levied. We are also offering public computer access for essential need only, with one 45 minute session per day per customer allowed.

Ordering of items can be made through our 'Select and Collect' service, which enables customers to request a selection of books, which will be put together by staff from the stock available in the library and based on customer preferences. Please use the online form, available via [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library) to make your requests. If you do not have internet access, you can call Customer Services on 0345 045 5225, and your request will then be forwarded to the library. We will contact you to let you know when your items are available to collect. The reservation system is also available, with a 50p per item request charge for adult library users. The service remains free for children and young people with their own library card. We will continue to issue all items to customers' library cards before collection, but, in a slight change to the process, if these are not collected before the pick-up date given in the original email notification, we will remove the items from your library account. This is to ensure that all our customers have timely access to the Library Service stock.

Have you heard of Library Live, [www.library.live](http://www.library.live)? This is a digital service offered by Cambridgeshire Libraries in partnership with Civic, a not for profit organisation specialising in community building and place making. Library Live is designed to provide a virtual experience of the physical library, including 'Ask a Librarian', for the answers to those library questions you may have. You are also able to search for events and activities.

If you are an entrepreneur, inventor or owner of a small business please do take advantage of our wonderful Business and IP Centres for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, part of the British Library Business and IP Centre national network. Although the Centre, based at Cambridge Central Library, is closed during lockdown, the local team are available to help you to take the right steps to start, protect and grow your business, and can be contacted by email at [BIPC@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:BIPC@cambridgeshire.gov.uk). Again please do follow the link on our website for more information.

Do check the Library Service pages of the County Council website and the Libraries social media platforms for any changes to the service we are able to offer. Keep safe and stay well and we look forward to seeing you at Comberton Library in the near future.

[Comberton Library is situated in the Village College campus, with car parking available and is Wheelchair-friendly and fully accessible for all.]

### A Litter-Free Toft ...?

*... it ain't – but it could be ... if everyone mucked in to help.*

In response to a note in last month's Calendar, one Toft Litter Fairy (TLF) describes a day in the life ...

Today, on the daily walk around the village and some distance beyond, this TLF collected yet another large plastic bag of rubbish – as on most days. So what was today's haul?

- Numerous small bits of brightly coloured plastic and metallised packaging (attractive to birds)
- Drinks cans – these have a small aperture which could trap a small creature, especially if the can fills up with rainwater
- Two discarded face masks (yuck)
- Various tissues (yuck again)
- One empty dog-poo bag (forgive-able – perhaps it was accidentally dropped from the owner's pocket)
- One full dog-poo bag, strung from a branch (unforgiveable: what does the owner think will happen to that bag and its contents?)
- Several half-size wine bottles (empty), all collected down Church Road – what does go on down there...? (Feed your own imagination!)
- One pair of muddy but perfectly good running socks (eh?)

Someone could write a novel around this stuff. The sad thing is: anyone could go out tomorrow and fill another bag, and another, and another...

The roadsides are the worst. With the field paths now so soggy and treacherous, walking along the roads, which are at least less busy than usual, is the safest option. But passing motorists fling their bottles, cans and used takeaway packaging at will from their windows as they drive by. The roadside ditches are full of rubbish, but unless it can be reached easily, for the moment it stays there (the risk of personal injury is too great under current circumstances). Still, surely anyone can pick up items that are accessible, clearly not a part of the natural environment, and which are small enough to carry away in a plastic bag? (Of course, even better if they never got there in the first place – but that's another story...)

*Why should our village be litter-free?*

- Birds and other creatures may mistake a scrap of litter as food and try to give it to their young, or to eat it themselves.
- It could choke them or they may get entangled in it.
- They could become trapped inside bottles, tins and bags, or entangled in pieces of metal or plastic.

- They could pick up germs and become carriers of disease, to themselves and possibly to people too.

- Strong sunlight – when that, and the hope of summer, return once more – shining on glass could cause a fire (unlikely just now, but rubbish will still accumulate in the months to come).

- Litter is just bad for the environment – and it wastes our natural resources.

- It's dirty, unsightly, causes pollution and, potentially, disease.

*You could help.* After all, there are hordes of us now walking around the village, along the field paths and tracks, and even along the roads. If everyone collected just one piece of rubbish (or two, or three, or even more ...) on each walk, we could have that litter-free Toft. Wouldn't that be a great community effort? And after all, while we are all obliged to remain so local, many of us have the time, and the opportunity to make time, to stop just for a moment to pick up even a small fragment. As individuals we may not be able to change the planet – but we can make our own environment a good place to be.

*How to do it*

1 As you leave the house, pick up a large plastic bag, ideally one with handles, and a pair of gloves – either disposable ones, or ones that you can wash later (rubberised garden gloves are ideal).

2 As you walk, look around, in puddles, hedges, ditches (see cautionary note above), and collect anything 'manageable' (I declined to lift the car tyre, complete with central hub, dumped along the Kingston–Eversden Road this morning...).

3 There are a total of 12 waste bins scattered around the parish (and that's not counting the dog-bins). There's no excuse for anyone not to use them (they're emptied every Monday). Either drop your 'collection' into one of these, or take it home and put whatever can be recycled into your blue bin (and at the same time give heartfelt thanks to our wonderful refuse collectors).

4 Discard or wash your gloves. Plastic bags can be re-used, but perhaps best to leave them outside to dry off and 'decontaminate' until your next walk.

Obviously, don't put yourself at risk in any way – but gathering up that crisp-bag caught on a branch, or the unbroken glass bottle glinting in the hedge, is not going to be harmful to the person.

Surely we all want a clean and beautiful environment, for ourselves, our children, and for our self-respect? We're a merry band, us TLFs (though we can transmogrify into grumpy elves at times...). Can you, will you, join us TLFs, and help to make our village the cleanest in Cambridgeshire – and to keep it that way?





## Toft Church Institute

At the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Toft had no public buildings other than the Church and the Methodist Chapel as there was no Village Hall to provide an appropriate venue for all the various village activities. The Toft Church Institute was therefore built in School Lane, just below the School (now the Peoples Hall) to help address this shortage of public venues and to support Church activities and it was very regularly used by village groups in the first half of the century.



The Toft WI, first established in 1948, held its meetings in the Church Institute as did the Toft Brownies who were founded in 1966. The Friendship Club was launched at the Institute in 1963 meeting twice a month with club membership set at a princely sum of 1 shilling per annum. A cup of tea at the meeting cost 4d whilst raffle tickets were priced at 2d. The Parish Council of course held all its meetings in the Institute until the People's Hall became available. The pictures below show a lively Christmas party underway for the village children in 1957.



However, the Institute did have its shortcomings and as early as the 1930's there were discussions being held to consider replacing it with a new hall. The main criticism was that it was a Church Institute and so the local Rector set the rules for the Institute. Village dances and parties had to finish before midnight and events there on Sundays were very constrained. There is an article by Ken Tebbit (see the Toft Village Website about how the Peoples Hall got its name) where he recalls there "was one Rector who would not allow dancing between men and women at the Institute. He had obviously never been to a village 'hop' where traditionally, the men all stood at one end and the girls danced with each other!"



The Institute was poorly constructed and insulated and therefore rather cold in winter, with the only heating an inadequate stove (see above), later replaced by a rather noisy industrial fan heater that made giving a talk a real challenge.

Post-War a fund was set up to build a new hall free of restrictions. Over time this raised a goodly sum of £300 which was eventually put in the care of the Parish Council towards building a future Hall. When the School closed in 1959, the Parish Council duly acquired the building and converted it to what we now know as the People's Hall. The Church Institute continued as a venue for some years but by 1985 most activities had transferred to the more spacious People's Hall. At that point in time St Andrew's Church was in dire need of refurbishment and the purse was empty. The then Rector, John Beer, suggested that the sale of the Church Institute could help support the Church repairs. The sale of the Institute raised £29,500 which became the core of the Church Restoration Fund, allowing all the required repairs to be made at that time. The Fund continues to this day to help maintain the splendid current appearance of St Andrews. The Institute was in due course demolished and is now the site of a private home.





*Just for once, Climate Change is a laughing-matter, thanks to this brilliantly observed portrait of Toft by local artist Robert Longhurst.*

### **Comings and goings at the 'Toft Telephone Box Seed Swap'**

The seed swap has been a hive of activity. You will find loads of seeds to sow and grow now that the weather is warmer.

Take a look, swap your seeds and, if you see something you would like but don't have anything to swap, you could make a donation to Farm Africa, either online or by putting some change in the box at Toft Shop.



Many thanks to all who are contributing to the seed swap. Enjoy the excitement of your new seedlings emerging!

*Cobaea Seedlings* (seen left, here) will scramble over fences or up supports and have beautiful big cup and saucer flowers (seeds available at the Toft Telephone Box).

**Wheelie Bin Collections For March**

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

**Black Bin:**

Weds 3rd Mar

Weds 17th Mar

Weds 31st Mar

**Blue/Green Bin**

Weds 10th Mar

Weds 24th Mar

**Notice to Advertisers**

**Advertisements** are published quarterly. Copy for inclusion in the next available edition of the Calendar **must** reach us by 17th April 2021 at the *very latest*. Advertisements will **NOT** be published unless full payment has been received in advance. Please note: *We are currently unable to accept PDF file types*. Quarter-page adverts **MUST** be Portrait-style, half-page adverts **MUST** be Landscape-style. In the first instance, advertisers should contact **Pat Gouldstone** at: [calendaradstoft@gmail.com](mailto:calendaradstoft@gmail.com) to discuss their requirements.

**✂ USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS**

Alcoholics Anonymous: 0845 769 7555

Anglian Water (for sewage): 08457 145 145

Ashcroft Veterinary Surgery: 01954 210250

Bourn GPs' Surgery: 01954 719313

Cambridge AIDS help-line: (01223) 508805

Cambs County Council: 0345 045 5200

Cambridge Dial a Ride 01223 506335

Cambridge Water: 01223 706050

Care Network Cambridgeshire 01954 211919.

Citizens Advice Bureau: 0844 848 7979

Comberton GPs' Surgery: 01223 262500

Comberton Village College: 01223 262503

County Councillor: 07402351821

CVC Community Education: 01223 264721

District Councillor: 01954 210040

Household Waste/Pest Control: 0345 045 0063

Lifespan Health Care, Family and Child Team: 01223 264460

Member of Parliament: Phone 01223 830037

Meridian Primary School: 01223 262423

Police: 101 (Emergencies: 999)

(Local Beat Officer is PCSO Sam Kennedy)

Road/Pothole Reporting: 0345 045 5212

Street Lighting: 0800 7838 247

Street Cleaning: 03450 450 063

South Cambs District Council: 03450 450 500

South Cambs Fire and Rescue: 01480 444 500

Toft Car Scheme: 262814. If no reply 262708

Trading Standards: 0345 0455206

UK Power Networks (Emergencies): 0800 31 63 105

Sharon Chandler writes to say:

*I would like to thank those from Toft Sewing and Knit and Natter who thought of, made and delivered articles to those in single occupation households just before Christmas - sorry for the rather belated thanks!*

*I was very touched and it brightened my day having just re-organised my plans resulting in staying at home in Toft on my own for Christmas due to the covid restrictions.*

*The articles were beautifully made and enjoyed.*

*Heartfelt thanks for this kind thought.*

**Home-Start Is Here For You**

**Royston & South  
Cambridgeshire**

Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire are reaching out to local families with children aged 9 or under, who might want some extra support to reduce anxiety and loneliness, through the uncertainty of this pandemic.

Home-Start is able to offer:

Regular supportive phone, video or face-to-face contact from a member of staff or trained volunteer;

Information about other services that might be able to provide help and assistance;

Access to our family support groups where you and your children can meet other people, make friends and build a network of support;

Ideas for activities to support your child's learning and development.

You can ask for help by:

emailing us - [admin@hsrsc.org.uk](mailto:admin@hsrsc.org.uk)

making contact via our website [www.hsrsc.org.uk](http://www.hsrsc.org.uk)

calling us on 01763 262262

**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 or non-attributable 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 March**. Many thanks to all who contributed to this edition. Email: [calendareditor@toft.org.uk](mailto:calendareditor@toft.org.uk) Post: 33 Egremont Road, Hardwick, Cambridge CB23 7XR Telephone: 01954 211346