



Toft Village Calendar

Produced and Distributed by St. Andrew's Parish Church

March 2022



DIARY DATES

TOFT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

[Over 50s Club]. On Wednesday 9th 2.30 start – Barney McCullagh with a Cautionary Tale. Guests welcome

~~~~~

**Sewing, Knit and Natter** will meet again on the 23rd March, 10.30am at the Methodist Chapel.

~~~~~

The Parish Council - The next PC meeting is on **7th March at 7.00 pm.** It will be held in The People's Hall. All welcome subject to prevailing restrictions.

~~~~~

### The Internet Club

The internet club will meet on Monday 7th and Monday 21st March from 2pm to 4pm at the village hall. Please see our announcement on page 7 in this issue.

## EDITORIAL

Elsewhere in this issue of *The Calendar*, there is lots to read about the plans to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. And quite rightly, too. A working life of seventy years, with not even weekends or Bank Holidays off, is a shift most of us wouldn't want to put in. Here in Toft, of course, tradition dictates that this red-letter day will be celebrated with customary flair, imagination and aplomb. Because, as many will remember, there was a rare old knees-up just ten years ago, when the Diamond Jubilee was celebrated in style, so we have a bench-mark to aim at. More august residents may even recall the village pageant held in celebration of the present monarch's accession to the throne, back in 1953. I can't quite bring this to mind myself, but apparently it was a day to remember - and who can wonder at it, in a country still labouring under rationing and the long, baleful shadow of the war?

However, before the corks start popping, I wonder how many people actually know what a 'jubilee' is and why it is so-named? I certainly didn't, so I nosed around a bit and found out. And, to stop you having to do it yourself, here is the answer - plus a few other route diversions encountered along the way. Originally, the word "jubilee" has its origins in Judaism. Every seventh year, according to the Hebrew Bible, farmers were commanded to let their land lie fallow, and slaves were freed. The celebration of the Jubilee is the fiftieth year, that is, the year after seven Sabbatical cycles. More recently (well, not *that* much more recently, as it started in 1300 AD) in the Roman Catholic faith, a Jubilee is a special year of remission of sins and universal pardon. It maintains the tradition of being celebrated every fifty years, although occasional extra ones are added 'depending on need'. A jubilee is known as 'ordinary' if it falls after the set period of years or 'extraordinary' if it is proclaimed for some outstanding event. And it's on that basis - an extraordinary event - that we have adopted it into our modern usage. Our habit of associating a special metal with Jubilees - Silver, Gold etc - is comparatively recent. We have no idea, for example, how (or even if) Henry III celebrated his fifty years in post, but we do know that by the time George III clocked-up his half-century in 1811, a national rave-up was quite the thing. Probably a bit wasted on poor old George, though, as by then he'd rather lost the plot and his son had been appointed Regent.

We all know that Elizabeth II is the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee. But she's not the only ruler to do that. Amongst others, Louis XIV of France, King Bhumibol of Thailand and - you didn't think I was going to forget him, did you? - Sobhuza II of Swaziland have all made the cut. But what happens next? What if someone, someday, clocks up eighty years, or, more implausibly, ninety? What would that be called? The answer, it turns out, is that we don't know. No name for a jubilee beyond Platinum has been either suggested or agreed, largely on the grounds that it is considered vanishingly unlikely that we'll ever need to hold one.

For those of you already beginning to feel that all this is more than you ever wanted to know about Jubilees, I have some good news: Here Endeth The Lesson.

## Help improve health and care for local people

Do you have lived experience of being a family carer, have a learning disability, physical disability or sensory impairment?

Then local health and care champion **Healthwatch Cambridgeshire** would like to hear from you.

It's looking for new members for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Partnership Boards which work with local councils to improve health and care services.

If you have experience of using adult social care, or care for someone that does, please share what you know and help make care better for carers, disabled people and older people across our area.

You'll bring your knowledge and experience to meetings every two or three months and represent the views of other care users, helping to shape services and support for others.

You'll get training and support, including help with communications if you need it - such as a British Sign Language interpreter or information in Easy Read. We also pay out of pocket expenses.

### Get in touch

Like to make a difference? Have a chat with Graham Lewis, Healthwatch Partnership Development Manager. Tel: 07432 865996 or email [graham.lewis@healthwatchcambspboro.co.uk](mailto:graham.lewis@healthwatchcambspboro.co.uk)

### Read more

[www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/independent-member](http://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/independent-member)

**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***SERVICES OF WORSHIP***2nd March* 9.15 ASH WEDNESDAY service*6th March* 8.30am Holy Communion - Rev Prof Michael Reiss

11.00am Holy Communion, Methodist Church – Rev. Alison Walker

*13th March* 11.00am Morning Worship – St. Andrew's – Rev Robert Dolman*20th March* 8.30am Holy Communion – Rev Prof Michael Reiss

11.00 am Morning Service – Methodist church – Miss Joyce Goodall

*27th March* 11.00 am MOTHERING SUNDAY – St. Andrew's – Revd David Newton with Mrs Barbara Preece

There will be morning prayer at St. Andrew's every Wednesday at 9.15 am (about half-an-hour)

Also on Wednesday evenings at 8.00pm, via zoom a service of compline: ID: 899 215 191 or follow the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/899215191>Zoom services available at 11.00am  
MEETING ID: 823 1147 3640**D**ear Friends*Beyond Drama*

I was listening to The Today Programme a couple of weeks ago. It was the day that Sir John Major had given a speech that railed against the current government and spoke of how party-gate had eroded trust and lead to a huge loss of influence and respect for the UK on the international stage.

Evan Davis (or the producers) could have – off the back of that – given some snippets of what foreign medias were saying about the UK, to illustrate, complexify, or refute what Sir John had said. It would, after all, have been very interesting to hear of how our nation is currently being perceived throughout the world.

But they did not give us anything of the sort. Instead, there was only and purely ongoing chatter about the political implications of Sir John's intervention and how it might impact what Tory MPs did, to either support or try and oust the PM.

In other words, The Today Programme descended into sheer drama.

Since 2016 (and probably before) we have got used to politics becoming drama. But perhaps more significantly, the news cycles got used to it. Drama sells better than genuine political engagement – as Trump knew too well.


But our collective life, and the politics that enables it, is not a soap opera. It is an ongoing debate about and enactment of what it means to live well together, in a way that fosters justice and equity.

If nothing else, may the current drama of our gov't remind us all that we need something beyond drama, we need good and healthy politics (in every group and institution we are involved in, as well as in our national parliament).

**Sewing, Knit and Natter**

Sewing, Knit and Natter will meet again on the 23rd March, 10.30am at the Methodist Chapel.

Under Eve's direction 40 cushions and tote bags for the breast cancer surgery clinic have recently been made and taken by her to Addenbrookes.



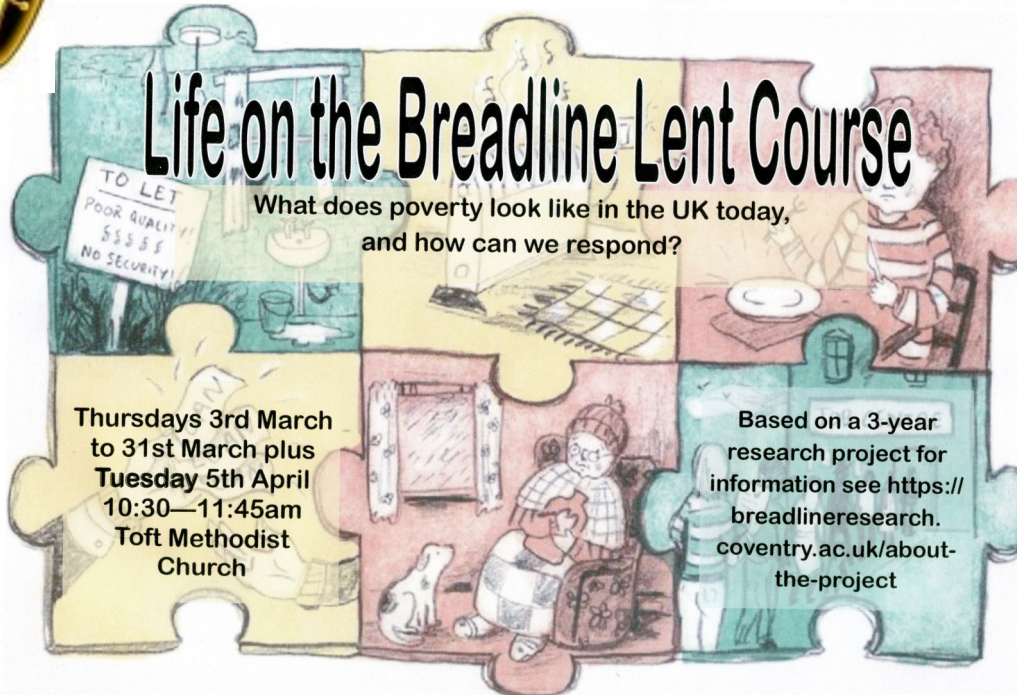
## THE CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY

# Life on the Breadline Lent Course

What does poverty look like in the UK today,  
and how can we respond?

**Thursdays 3rd March  
to 31st March plus  
Tuesday 5th April  
10:30—11:45am  
Toft Methodist  
Church**

Based on a 3-year  
research project for  
information see [https://  
breadlineresearch.  
coventry.ac.uk/about-  
the-project](https://breadlineresearch.coventry.ac.uk/about-the-project)



AND

A date for your diary – Maundy Thursday, 14th March. Methodist Church. There will be Community Bread-Making 10.15 – 2.00 pm – making bread & hot-cross buns. There will be home made soup – more details next month

We are sad to report the death of two long-time residents of Toft in the last month

### DON WINNING

who lived with his wife Pamela in Warboys Close for more than 50 years. Many of you will remember him, as pictured, dressed as the pirate for Church Fetes over many years

Also



Of JOAN HOWARD, whose husband Richard died just 9 months ago. They came to Toft in the early sixties. Joan played an active part in Toft life, a founder of 1st Toft Brownies, member of the WI, regular worshipper at St. Andrew's, cook of Dundee cakes for fund-raising, bell-ringer Treasurer. Friendship Club and so much more – at one time she worked in the shop and at the end of her working life at Homemeadow. Joan's funeral will be held at St Andrew's on 4th March at 12.15 pm







## TOFT SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

In February we continued the successful run of **Food On Friday** with a rather delicious Chicken / Vegetarian Tandoori Masala.

For March, on the 4th, we are pleased to offer a rather tasty Lasagne, with a meat or vegetarian option. Doors open at 7pm, with food just £5.00. We operate on first come, first served – so come early to avoid disappointment!

On Saturday 19th the **Film Club** will be showing “The House of Gucci”. Directed by Ridley Scott, this film tells the story of Patrizia Reggiani, an outsider from humble beginnings, who marries into the Gucci family. When her unbridled ambition begins, it unravels their legacy and triggers a reckless spiral of betrayal, decadence, revenge, and ultimately...murder. Doors open at 8pm and the film starts promptly at 8:20. Film Club membership is £10 for the year, or evening membership is £2.50.

As mentioned last month, the Film Club is looking at running an occasional second film a month, showing foreign language or art house style films – if you are interested in helping with this, please get in touch via [admin@film.toft.org.uk](mailto:admin@film.toft.org.uk)

**Toft Art** is on Thursday 3rd March – new members are always welcome.

**Toft Quiz Night** is on Thursday 10th March- all welcome in teams of up to 6, just £1 per team member. Doors open at 8pm.

The ever popular **Toft Bingo** will be on 24th March.

**Toft Photo Group** (TPG) meets on the third Friday of the month - the March meeting being on Friday 18th, starting at 8pm. Anyone interested in taking photos, or who wants to get more from their camera are very welcome to this informal, friendly group.

One of our friendly beer suppliers is pushing a full barrel of beer from their brewery in Norfolk to St Barts London, (that's 75kg, 147 miles) raising much needed awareness & funds for testicular cancer charity On the Ball. We are planning to hold a **fund raising meal** on Saturday 9th April to support this – see the website for details.

And don't forget - we are open every Thursday and Friday evening from 8pm – come along to chat and meet friends.

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

Keep up to date here:

**[www.toftsocialclub.org.uk](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 |
|-------------|-------|--------|
|-------------|-------|--------|

**Chairman:**

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

|               |  |                               |
|---------------|--|-------------------------------|
| James Howells |  | cllr.lhowells@tpc.toft.org.uk |
|---------------|--|-------------------------------|

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

|                    |        |                                  |
|--------------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| Tricia Ellis-Evans | 263477 | cllr.ellis-evans@tpc.toft.org.uk |
|--------------------|--------|----------------------------------|

|           |             |                           |
|-----------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Andy Tall | 07984796273 | cllr.tall@tpc.toft.org.uk |
|-----------|-------------|---------------------------|

|               |        |                          |
|---------------|--------|--------------------------|
| Lluis Borrell | 264611 | cllr.borrell@toft.org.uk |
|---------------|--------|--------------------------|

|               |  |                            |
|---------------|--|----------------------------|
| Kaushik Popat |  | cllr.popat@tpc.toft.org.uk |
|---------------|--|----------------------------|

*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 7th March 7.00 pm in The People's Hall . All welcome.**

The Parish Council met on 7th Feb 2020.

The contract for the grass cutting is due for renewal and the PC discussed the responses to the request for tender that has been issued. Unfortunately none of the quotations accurately covered the scope of work issued and the pricing layout made it difficult to precisely compare the quotations. It was agreed that the companies would be asked for clarity regarding certain issues and to ensure that the figures quoted could be fairly compared. The decision regarding the contractor will be made at the next meeting.

The EWR Co has invited representatives from affected Parishes to become part of a focus group to discuss proposals and issues associated with the proposed East-West Rail. Cambridge Approaches (the group set up to ensure the proposals minimise the impact on South Cambridgeshire), are also

proposing a meeting with the same representatives to assist in coordinating responses, giving supportive information etc. It was agreed that Cllr Yeadon would be the representative on both of these groups. It's worth noting that EWR made it clear that there will be no route proposals on the table at the first meeting as they are still reviewing the feedback from the consultation.

SCDC have asked for somebody to act as a contact to publish urgent or time sensitive messages that could affect the community such as flooding or missed bin collections (these are the two examples given) so that the messages could be disseminated in the most effective manner throughout the village. Cllr Yeadon agreed to take on this role.

The PC agreed to continue with it's £10 membership for the Cam Valley Forum. The group is involved in the upkeep and welfare of the Cam and it's tributaries.

The PC agreed to the finance statement.

The PC discussed the Appeal that has been lodged with the Secretary of State for the proposed Co-Op store in Toft parish opposite the Village College. The PC agreed to make a submission to the Appeal mainly challenging of the case made by the appellant and emphasising the concerns about the risks to the viability of Toft Shop should a Co-Op store open and challenging the profile of the shop written by the SCDC Planning Officer. The submission would also support the Village College's concern about safety and congestion at the start and finish times at the school.

Cllr Tall reported on his presentation to the CC for funding and agreement to make the speed limit on school lane 20mph. This is part of the Local Highways Initiative where PC's can make representations for road improvements in their Parishes. Cllr Tal is still trying to arrange a meeting with the CC to discuss ideas for improving the car parking outside of the church.

Cllr Ellis-Evans has arranged a refresher course for CPR and the use of the defibrillator for residents. Cllr Popat reported that the Climate Change group had met (virtually) to discuss proposals for future articles for the Calendar and other initiatives.

Cllr Ellis-Evans reported that an initial meeting had been held with residents organising events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. (More information on this will follow.)

# THE BIG TOFT BREAKFAST

## The People's Hall Sunday 15 May 9.00 -12.00

On Sunday 15th May the Toft Big Breakfast will return after a gap of 2 years and 2 months.

We are looking forward to welcoming you as customers and helpers.

Our aim is to have a jolly, sociable time whilst at the same time helping farmers and producers get a fair deal for their work. There will be a basket to make your donations to Fairtrade and Farm Africa.

This year, with our date in May, we are hoping to benefit from good weather so that people who still don't feel comfortable socialising indoors can sit at our new outdoor tables under the shade of our lovely orange parasols (kindly donated by our favourite Toft company, the Cambridge Design Partnership) and still enjoy the party atmosphere. We want this event to be as much fun as before, if not even better than ever.

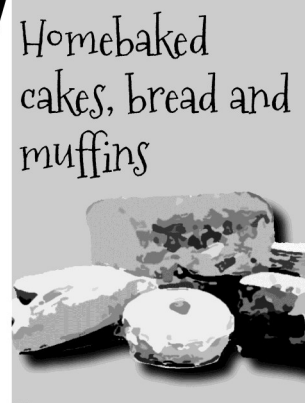
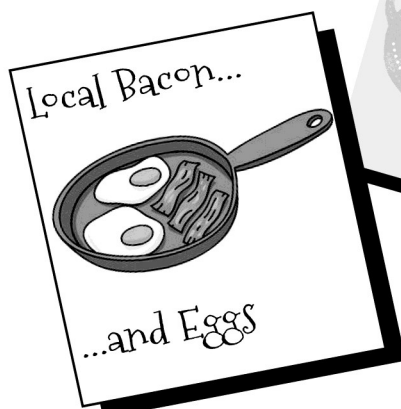
Please get in touch with one of us if you would like to be involved, in organising, helping on the day by cooking, serving, setting-up, meeting and greeting, clearing and washing up, or by baking cakes or providing suitable produce for us (e.g. buying fairtrade fruit).

Email contacts:

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

[jane@tebbitdesign.co.uk](mailto:jane@tebbitdesign.co.uk)

[carol@sebborn.com](mailto:carol@sebborn.com)



## Come, eat and enjoy a great big breakfast that does you good...and does good to others

Organised by the Women of Toft. Proceeds divided between Fairtrade and Farm Africa



## Bedfordshire Cambridgeshire Northamptonshire

Wildlife Trust BCN West Cambridgeshire Hundreds  
Update: March 2022

Throughout the year, The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants deliver guided walks, events, and family sessions to help you learn more about nature, and how you can help look after wildlife on your doorstep. In the West Cambs Hundreds, the area between Gamlingay, Cambourne and Comberton, there are themed walks focusing on things like spring wildflowers or bird song, and some more general walks looking at seasonal wildlife. Family sessions run over the school holidays. Across our three counties, we also run Wildlife Training Workshops, some online, which provide more in-depth information.

Thanks to funding from Comberton Adult Education, there are some programmes where the costs of running the sessions have been covered, so they can be offered free to participants:

*Wildlife for Beginners:* a series of three guided walks focussing on common wildlife

*Little Bugs:* a series of five weekly sessions for toddlers

*Wild Babies:* a series of five weekly sessions for parents or carers of pre-walking babies

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

Please get in touch if you are looking for a speaker for your community group, would like to invite us to attend an event, or have an idea for a wildlife-related activity. In March, look out for oxlip in Hardwick, Hayley, Gamlingay and Waresley and Gransden Woods. This

rare flower looks similar to primrose. Amphibians are migrating to their breeding ponds and starting to spawn now, so please take care on the roads, especially on Broadway near Bourn Airfield where many animals cross on warmer wet evenings. You may come across our toad patrol volunteers here.

It is still muddy in our woodlands, (although much better than last year) so please take wellies when visiting, and stick to the middle of paths to avoid trampling plants and compacting soil on the edges. You can keep up-to-date about reserves with restricted access on our website:

[www.wildlifebcn.org/explore/reserve-updates](http://www.wildlifebcn.org/explore/reserve-updates)

Our 2022 competition for photos taken of wildlife and wild places in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire is still open for entries, sponsored this year by Canon UK in association with Campkins Cameras and supported by Opticron. The competition is open to all ages and the theme this year is 'Nature from every angle'. The deadline for entries is noon on 17th May.

[www.wildlifebcn.org/photo-comp](http://www.wildlifebcn.org/photo-comp)

You can contact me on

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

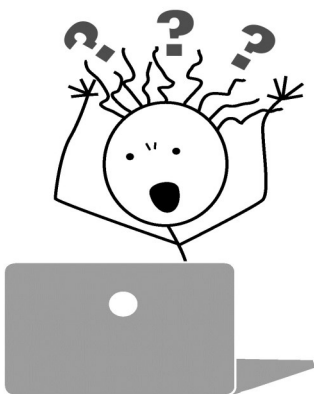
Facebook: @BeccaBadgerWTBCN

BCN Facebook/Twitter: @wildlifebcn

Visit: [www.wildlifebcn.org](http://www.wildlifebcn.org)

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

## Internet Club – join us to improve your skills



The Internet Club will be meeting on Monday 7th and 21st March in the Toft People's Hall, 2–4pm.

We have a steady flow of attendees, and we hope they all feel that the guidance and support is helpful. Those of us running the group have certainly learnt plenty of useful tips over the last couple of years, and we're hugely grateful to our more technically minded members who have come along to share their expertise.

We may not be able to help you with all your problems but we can put you in touch with someone who can.

Contacts: [jane.tebbit@icloud.com](mailto:jane.tebbit@icloud.com) or [jameskatherinej@icloud.com](mailto:jameskatherinej@icloud.com).



## Toft Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

June 2nd – 5th 2022

Plans are emerging to mark the Queens' Platinum Jubilee and we intend to combine this event with Spring Feast activities which would normally be in May. As this goes to press we are still approaching groups/individuals for ideas for activities, including those that involve children, over these four days. Here are some activities already firming up, but we are actively seeking more. This is only a first outline of events and next month there will be much more detail.

- |                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Thursday 2nd June</i> | Alongside the rest of the country we will be lighting our village beacon, with accompaniments, to mark the Jubilee and launch a long weekend of celebrations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <i>Friday, 3rd June</i>  | The main event will be a 'bring and share' Street Tea Party in School Lane, supported by exhibitions, banners, music and scarecrows(!). Everyone in Toft is invited.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <i>Saturday 4th June</i> | In the morning, workshops with a royal theme to 'dress the well', decorate the church and learn maypole dancing.<br><br>In the afternoon, a unique audio/visual presentation summoning up memories                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <i>Sunday 5th June</i>   | The traditional Spring Feast Sunday activities    A short service outside the Methodist Church, before the traditional village walk to Frog's Hall for a picnic lunch.<br><br>Maypole dancing to music on The Green.<br><br>Parade to St. Andrew's to draw water from the well accompanied by local musicians and singers.<br><br>A Service of Thanksgiving marking the Queen's 70 years of service and we |



For now: - Keep the dates



Remember we will need help with these events so, please get in touch with myself, Ann Mitchell, Barbara Preece, Tricia Ellis-Evans or Mike McCarthy as we can offer tasks great and small, at home and on the day; skilled and unskilled; active and sit down!

*Cynan Ellis-Evans – Chairman, Events Committee (contact [cynan.toft@gmail.com](mailto:cynan.toft@gmail.com))*



# toft historical society

## Football stars

Toft had a thriving football team in the 1950s and were proud Cambridgeshire League Division 4 champions in 1957-58. Many thanks to Terry Osborne (now of Kingston), one of our great local historians, for this photograph, in which Terry himself appears, while Albert Constable (Mill Lane) holds the cup in the bottom photograph.





# Meridian Primary School

*Learning for life – striving for  
excellence*

Greetings Neighbours,

We have had a fantastic first half term this year. We ended the half term with our talent shows – holding three talents shows for different ages. Children took to the stage individually, in groups, in pairs and performed to entertain us all and we were so proud of the huge variety of talent that we have at Meridian.

The Year 3 children went on an exciting trip to Wimpole Hall in early February to become Rangers for a day. The children took part in outdoor activities, learning about looking after the environment. They also learnt about the importance of trees and having biodiverse habitats. Every child was able to locate a piece of land to dig and plant their tree. The children impressed the Wimpole leaders with their wildlife knowledge and were great Meridian ambassadors.

We have been visited by some sports clubs - Little Scrumpers who teach rugby came into Meridian and completed some rugby activities with KS1 and Cambridge United visited Meridian to deliver an important assembly to KS2 about diversity and inclusion. This was an important message, for sports and for life.

You may have seen more children around Comberton on bikes in January and February. We had a number of Year 3/ 4 children take part in the Level 1 Bikeability course on our site. They did really well and all have received certificates and badges from Outspoken training for completing the course.

We still have an ongoing outdoor projects for the school to improve our outdoor environments for the children. Thank you for supporting our ongoing Habitat and Wellbeing garden project. We have set some actions in order for the Easter holidays. If you wish to support this, please visit our JustGiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/meridianpta> Equally, if you can help to clear, paint or generally lend a hand, we would love to hear from you! Thank you for your kindness.

Kind regards,

Mrs C. Etchie  
Headteacher

# *The* **SCHOOLROOM** *Community Café* **NEW VOLUNTEERS WELCOMED!**

We will always need new volunteers - male and female! - to replace those who move away, go on holiday, etc. If you know anyone who might be interested, or you would like to do more shifts yourself, please ask the team leader at the café.

We'll provide any necessary training, and you can choose the roles you'd feel most comfortable with.



**The main tasks are:** cake baking, soup-making (both can be done from home); setting up at the start; meeting and greeting; preparing and serving food and drink; taking money; clearing tables; clearing up at the end.

## **As a volunteer you will:**

- Meet people
- Receive full training
- Have a say in how the café is run
- Help maintain a community resource
- Feel part of the team and the wider community
- Learn new skills



## **WANTED URGENTLY:**

Could you be a regular or occasional soup-maker? Due to popularity of our home-made soup we find that we need help to keep up with demand. This task might appeal to someone who can't be around during the daytime but would still like to be involved in the café. Expenses would be reimbursed.





*Gill Pugh*

# **Open the box!**







You will find seeds to sow now..

## **Vegetables**

-  Chillies
-  Tomatoes
-  Beans
-  Beetroot

## **Flowers**

-  Cobaea
-  Impatiens
-  Cornflowers
-  Eryngium

**...and lots more seeds to make  
your garden bloom and provide you  
with produce this summer**



toft\_telephone\_box\_seed\_swap

*It's been a decade since our last SCARECROW TRAIL! Let's do it again for -*



# TOFT PLATINUM JUBILEE FESTIVAL

from Thursday 2nd - Sunday 5th June



Calling all Tofties: Families, Individuals, Clubs, Groups and Societies... ALL are invited to let your imagination run riot and display your crowd-pulling SCARECROW seated, propped, (or in my case last time collapsed at your front gate), on your roof or up a tree (do take care!)...

For stuffing start saving newspapers, scrunched up old tights and rags, or grass cuttings (plentiful in June) if you can't get straw.... Browse Amazon for masks of Royalty, Rockstars, Celebrities, Politicians, Historical Figures, Cowboys, Cats and Corgis...party wigs etc... It's all available, affordable and THERE ARE NO RULES!... The Charity shops have re-opened for cheap 'unusual' clothes, hats, footwear, bags, baubles and bling... then raid your shed for that old broomstick, bit of wood, metal rod, reel of garden wire/string/gaffer tape that we all save 'for a rainy day' and your masterpiece will happen!

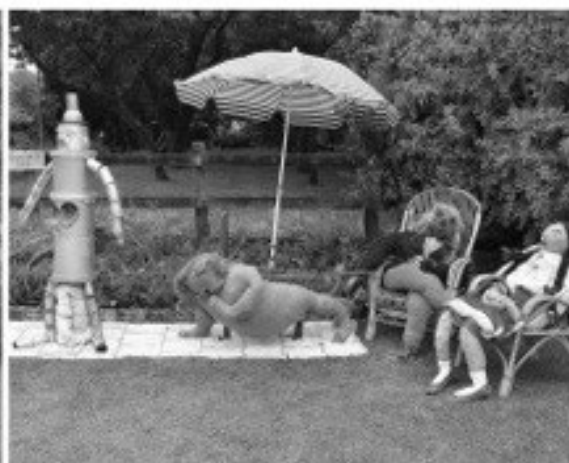
A regal theme would of course be appropriate but our last magnificent off-beat, 'Community Art Installation', as well as the entire Royal Family, featured Miss Piggy, The Vicar, Madonna, A Midwife, Two Prone Drunks, Harry Potter, The Flowerpot Men, Sailors, Musicians, the cast of The Wizard of Oz etc, etc...and what

a magnificent crazy, colourful sight they made gracing our unique village for all to admire and enjoy!

Should you feel inclined to dress for the occasion and sit with your scarecrow at a garden table and offer tea/coffee and a biscuit to passing admirers that would be a generous gesture too!

Rumour has it there'll be a prize for the 'Best Under 14's Scarecrow' and a prize for 'The Best of The Rest' (we're all kids at heart) and this is a great opportunity to be as silly and frivolous as we like!

SO!... Please put Thursday 2nd June - Sunday 5th June in your diary NOW... It'd be perfect if you would kindly email me BEFORE May 1st with your name and location if you are willing to create and display a SCARECROW... This will give me time to create and distribute a location map but If I don't, apologies in advance (I'll likely be busy weaving the usual plethora of traditional willow garlands etc etc...) Feel free to simply explore Toft during the 4 day Festival and you never know what glorious surprise SCARECROW you may happen upon! Mine, last time, caused Koran & Gill's dog Max to growl and bare his teeth...sorry! I'll tone it down this time!.... maybe...



Contact Marion Read (Scarecrow-Priestess) email: [marion817@btinternet.com](mailto:marion817@btinternet.com)





### Comberton Library

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

Tel: 0345 045 5225

*Monday: 10.00 am – 1.00 pm*

*Wednesday: 10.00 am – 1.00 pm and 2.00 – 5.00 pm*

*Friday: 2.00 – 5.00 pm*

*Saturday: 10.00 am – 1.00 pm*

The Cambridgeshire County Council Libraries Team has been awarded our Carer Friendly Tick Award (Communities), in recognition of their work to identify and support carers.

The libraries team was awarded the Carer Friendly Tick Award for reasons including having a dedicated carers champion, more than 100 library staff attending Caring Together's carers awareness sessions and their promotion of national and local carers campaigns in their e-newsletter to 30,000 Cambridgeshire residents. After attending the

awareness sessions, a number of library staff identified themselves as carers. The panel was also pleased to see that a reference copy of the Caring Together Carers magazine is held in each library with extra copies for people to take away and take their time to read at home.

Cllr Tom Sanderson, chair of Cambridgeshire County Council's communities, social mobility and inclusion committee, said "I am so proud of our dedicated libraries team who thoroughly deserve this award. Our team always put the needs of others first and love to find ways to go the extra mile for the communities in which they work. Libraries have informal contact with residents which can lead to a recognition that they may need more support. All library staff have had awareness training and are approachable and empathetic. Additionally, all our libraries provide carers with a place to find information about the help and support available to them by hosting displays, meetings and events.

"Being a carer is a challenging and often lonely life, so it is absolutely essential that the hub of local communities – libraries – are a place carers turn to for support and information and a friendly ear. Libraries hold regular events which carers can attend locally, giving them the chance to socialise, meet people and take part in activities. "Our staff take great pride in always being there for others and this recognition will mean so much to all of them."

Andy McGowan, head of engagement at Caring Together, said, "Libraries play an important role at the heart of communities. Many users may well be carers, but unaware of the support available to them if they are looking after a family member or friend.

"The work the libraries are now already doing is really valued in helping make more people aware of what it means to be a carer. We are already talking to Cambridgeshire Libraries about ways we work to ensure more people are identified as carers and supported in their roles.

"With three in five of us likely to be a carer at some stage in our lives we are seeing more and more organisations in our communities recognising the importance of identifying and supporting carers of all ages.

"We are very pleased to see Cambridgeshire Libraries now having their work to identify and support carers recognised by the Carer Friendly Tick Award (Communities). We want to congratulate them on this and thank them for the work that they are doing which makes a real difference to carers.

"We hope that other communities, schools, colleges, universities and health organisations, will follow in this good work. They can develop their own ways to identify and support carers, and we are here to help them do this. As the number and awareness of carers grows this will be an ever more important part of making sure carers are given the recognition and help, they deserve."

Read more about our Carer Friendly Tick Awards and how your organisation can support carers.  
[www.caringtogether.org/professionals/carers-friendly-tick-award](http://www.caringtogether.org/professionals/carers-friendly-tick-award)



## Recycling Responsibly

What can we do to reduce the amount of household waste going to landfill and to maximise our recycling?

- Of course, our bins help us to recycle as much as we can, with the Black Bin being the place of last resort.
- The Green Bin is the least complex, taking cooked and uncooked food, untreated wood and garden waste.
- The Blue Bin is less straightforward, taking paper and cardboard, tins, glass bottles, and plastic pots and bottles.

The following is a list of trickier items showing which bin they should be placed into.

### Blue bin

- Bread bags
- Bubblewrap and clingfilm
- Cereal liners
- Cheese, fish and meat wrappings
- Delivery bags
- Frozen food bags
- Multi-pack wrappings
- Plastic carrier bags
- Black bin
- Baby food, pet food, detergent and cleaning pouches
- Crisp and sweet bags
- Plastic film lids
- Salad, pasta and rice bags
- Toilet roll wrapping
- Biscuits and chocolate wrappings (non-foil Blue Bin, foil Black Bin)

However, all of these items can be recycled at certain local recycling centres.

The Co-op in Upper Cambourne and Tesco at Bar Hill each have recycling bins at their entrance that will take a range of soft plastic items. (While some of these may be placed in our Blue Bins they may not necessarily be recycled, but rather used to generate electricity.)

Note that there are also recycling points:

- for clothes and shoes at both Tesco and Morrisons
- for batteries and water filter cartridges at Sainsbury's and Tesco
- for medical blister packs at Superdrug (Sidney Street and Fitzroy Street).

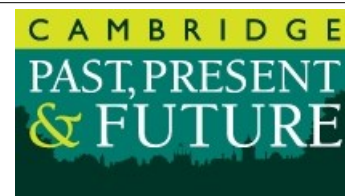
Plus, of course the main recycling centre at Milton.

On the South Cambs District Council website there is a definitive list of many items showing how they should be recycled or disposed of. Please note that items need to be clean to enable recycling.

The South Cambs website is here: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/recycling-and-bins/what-goes-in-which-bin/>

Maybe we can all increase the amount we recycle, which can only be a good thing.

## **Nature Recovery gets underway in Cambridge**



A Grant award of £425,000 from Natural England Nature Recovery is made to the Cambridge Nature Network.

Funding is for projects that will increase the amount of nature and help to demonstrate how the Nature Recovery Network can be realised.

18 Projects are being delivered by a wide range of organisations. Projects will be completed in 2022.

Nature in Cambridge has received a boost thanks to a grant award of £425,000 from Natural England's Nature Recovery Programme. The grant is to support the delivery of the Cambridge Nature Network which was launched in May. The funding will pay for 18 projects that will increase biodiversity.

The Cambridge Nature Network identifies opportunities to double nature and increase access to natural greenspace in Cambridge and the surrounding countryside. The aim is to halt the decline in biodiversity improve climate resilience and enable nature to recover, while benefiting public health, wellbeing, and the economy.

The grant is being managed by local charity Cambridge Past, Present & Future. Their Chief Executive, James Littlewood is thrilled, "the Cambridge Nature Network vision is for significant areas of downland, fens, meadows and woodlands, where nature can recover and thrive and where people can experience a wilder countryside and nature on their doorstep. Each of these projects will create new or better habitats for nature and they range from converting 150 acres of farmland in the Gog Magog Hills, to expanding country parks and nature reserves, to small projects on school grounds in the city. The range of organisations and people involved in these projects is really inspiring, as well as Natural England it includes local charities, local councils, community groups, local landowners, schools, contractors and individual people helping to plant trees and sow seeds."

The grant is supporting a wide range of projects including:

- ◇ Restoring 58 veteran Willow Trees at Sheep's Green in Cambridge (Cambridge City Council).
- ◇ Planting trees to create a new woodland belt next to Logan's Meadow Nature Reserve in Cambridge (Cambridge City Council).
- ◇ Creating 20 acres of meadow and planting 2,000 trees as part of an expansion of Wandlebury Country Park to the south of Cambridge (Cambridge Past, Present & Future).
- ◇ Planting 2,000 trees to create 4 acres of woodland between Coton and Madingley on the western edge of Cambridge (Cambridge Past, Present & Future).
- ◇ Planting 400 trees to create a new area of woodland at Coton Countryside Reserve on the western edge of Cambridge (Cambridge Past, Present & Future).
- ◇ Creating 10 acres of new meadow on farmland near Barton (Wild Farms Trust).
- ◇ Creating 150 acres of new meadows, scrub and woodland at Lower Valley Farm in the Gog Magog Hills to the south of Cambridge (Cambridgeshire County Council).
- ◇ Working with five schools in Cambridge to improve their school grounds for nature (Cambridge On the Verge).
- ◇ Creating 7 acres of new meadow next to Fulbourn Fen Nature Reserve to the southeast of Cambridge (Wildlife Trust BCN).
- ◇ Improving habitat in the Bin Brook and its ditches near Coton to the west of Cambridge (Norfolk Rivers Trust).
- ◇ Improving habitats in and around the villages of Histon & Impington (Histon & Impington Parish Council).
- ◇ Habitat improvements on the Roman Road and encouraging landowners to help nature at Roman Road, Devils Dyke and Fleam Dyke to the southeast of Cambridge (Cambridgeshire County Council).
- ◇ Two community projects in Cambridge parks and open spaces (Natural Cambridgeshire).

Added to another seven projects which are being funded by the government's Green Recovery Challenge, there are currently a total of 25 nature recovery projects underway in the Cambridge area. Further information about all the projects can be found at [www.cambridgenaturenetwork.org/current-projects/](http://www.cambridgenaturenetwork.org/current-projects/)

Work on some of the projects has been taking place over the winter and 2,000 trees have already been planted by volunteers .

A partnership of organisations is supporting the Cambridge Nature Network including Wildlife Trust BCN, Cambridge Past, Present & Future, National Trust, RSPB, Cambridge Sport's Lakes Trust, Magog Trust, Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge University Botanic Garden.

The Cambridge Nature Network is one of 6 large scale nature networks seeking to recover nature for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough which are being promoted by Natural Cambridgeshire.

**Wheelie Bin Collections For March**

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

**Black Bin:**

Weds 2nd Mar

Weds 16th Mar

Weds 30th Mar

**Blue/Green Bin**

Weds 9th Mar

Weds 23rd 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 2022 at the *very latest*. Advertisements will **NOT** be published unless full payment has been received in advance. Please note: *We are currently unable to accept PDF file types*. Quarter-page adverts **MUST** be Portrait-style, half-page adverts **MUST** be Landscape-style. In the first instance, advertisers should contact **Pat Gouldstone** at: **calendarad-stoft@gmail.com** to discuss their requirements.

**✂ USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS**

Alcoholics Anonymous: 0845 769 7555  
 Anglian Water (for sewage): 08457 145 145  
 Ashcroft Veterinary Surgery: 01954 210250  
 Bourn GPs' Surgery: 01954 719313  
 Cambridge AIDS help-line: (01223) 508805  
 Cambs County Council: 0345 045 5200  
 Cambridge Dial a Ride 01223 506335  
 Cambridge Water: 01223 706050  
 Care Network Cambridgeshire 01954 211919.  
 Citizens Advice Bureau: 0844 848 7979  
 Comberton GPs' Surgery: 01223 262500  
 Comberton Village College: 01223 262503  
 Community Warden (Age UK CAP) 07812 495997  
 County Councillor: 07402351821  
 CVC Community Education: 01223 264721  
 District Councillor: 01954 210040  
 Household Waste/Pest Control: 0345 045 0063  
 Lifespan Health Care, Family and Child Team: 01223 264460  
 Member of Parliament: Phone 01223 830037  
 Meridian Primary School: 01223 262423  
 Police: 101 (Emergencies: 999)  
 (Local Beat Officer is PCSO Sam Kennedy)  
 Road/Pothole Reporting: 0345 045 5212  
 Street Lighting: 0800 7838 247  
 Street Cleaning: 03450 450 063  
 South Cambs District Council: 03450 450 500  
 South Cambs Fire and Rescue: 01480 444 500  
 Toft Car Scheme: 262814. If no reply 262708  
 Trading Standards: 0345 0455206  
 UK Power Networks (Emergencies): 0800 31 63 105

**Young volunteers take on fundraising challenge**

A group of teenage volunteers are taking on a fundraising challenge to help support victims of serious road traffic collisions in the county.

Members of **Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Volunteer Police Cadets** will be completing a marathon distance throughout February to support the Road Victim's Trust (RVT).

The cadets and their leaders can choose how they complete the distance, whether it's a mile a day or ambitiously going for the 26.2 miles in one go.

The charity provides support for the bereaved and people otherwise affected by road death or life changing injuries.

The cadet scheme aims to encourage the spirit of adventure and good citizenship amongst its members. The cadets are aged 13 to 18, with groups currently running in Cambridge City, East Cambs, Fenland, Peterborough, untingdon and St Neots/Cambourne.

PC Emma Wilkinson, who is cadet coordinator, said: "I've been really inspired by the enthusiasm the cadets have shown for this challenge. "When they learnt more about the work of the Road Victims Trust they were keen to support them in any way they could.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to raise money and awareness for the Road Victims Trust. The work they do is incredibly important, and all donations will be gratefully received!"

Mark Turner, Chief Executive of the Road Victims Trust, added: "The RVT work in partnership with the collaborated Roads Policing Units across Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. We enjoy a tremendous working relationship with all officers, staff, and volunteers.

"This fundraising initiative by the police cadets is a wonderful example of how young people can give support to a charity, who in turn, support so many local people whose lives have been devastated by a road death.

"We are extremely proud and privileged to receive the friendship and help from Cambs police cadets".

You can support the cadets by visiting their fundraising page.

**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 March**. 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