



Toft Village Calendar

Produced and Distributed by St. Andrew's Parish Church

March 2023



EDITORIAL

I expect you've heard of ChatGPT? In case you haven't, let me explain. It's an example of artificial intelligence available to pretty much anyone from any computer or like device. It is supposed to be able to hold conversations, answer your questions, and generally act pretty much like a human conversationalist. Practically, this means that to use ChatGPT, you present it with a query or request by entering it into a text box. It then processes this request and responds based on the information that it has available. Sneaky students and school-kids have quickly worked out that this is a pretty neat way of getting rid of boring old essay tasks. Bang in the question and within seconds, ChatGPT spits out a passable answer which you can then, with luck, palm off as all your own work.

Setting aside the larger questions of morality and so on that this raises, it took but a nano-moment's thought to realise that this could be what we in the scribbling trade know as a boon. If I can't out-sneak a bunch of gauche teenagers at my age - what on earth have I been doing all this while? And if ChatGPT was really that good, it could satisfy both my inner layabout and the reading public of Greater Toft. I would get it to fill this space. A win-win situation. You get to read some intelligible stuff for a change, while I relax in front of some repeats of The Detectorists whilst nursing a few plant-based drinks. So I asked ChatGPT this question:

"Would you please compose a piece of work for a village magazine. The village is in Cambridgeshire, UK. The piece should be around 500 words in length, not unduly solemn, apolitical and, if possible, have some specifically local content or interest." Not too taxing, I thought. The 'Please' probably wouldn't mean too much to a computer but you never know and it couldn't hurt to get on its right side. Initially, ChatGPT behaved just like any other computer system. It was busy right now, it said, so I would have to 'be held in a queue'. It hoped not to be too long. Sure enough, after a couple of minutes, during which I felt sure I could hear the sound of thousands of wheels and cogs whirring away in the vast, digital distance, it produced the following reply: "I'm pleased you asked me this question. So that I can help more, could you tell me where 'UK' is? I cannot locate this place from my records." Entirely my fault, I replied. I didn't mean 'UK', I meant 'U.K.'. No luck finding that either, although it did (eventually) find 'United Kingdom'. There followed another pause in proceedings. I imagined ChatGPT frantically Googling 'Cambridgeshire' and wondering desperately which of the 5,473,968 results it should follow up. And then, just as I was thinking how much quicker it would have been to get on with this myself, it delivered its response. "I am truly sorry, but I cannot help with this. The question you asked may be too vague or imprecise, or the data I hold may be insufficient for me to respond appropriately. I am truly sorry and I apologise. I am constantly being updated. It may be worth you trying again shortly. Goodbye."

Well, that's that idea torpedoed amidstips. I mean, doesn't this thing realise I have deadlines to meet? On the other hand, might it be that I have just experienced a first? Has anyone else ever come across a contrite computer?



Do you have breathing difficulties?

Did you know singing can help?

Singing is a great way to improve the way you breathe and get the best from your lung capacity.

The **Cambridge Singing for Breathing** group is meeting online, using Zoom, on Thursday afternoons 2.30 - 4.00pm and we're looking for new members!

Kay Barrett, founder of the group, says:

"You don't need any singing experience to take part - it's all about what it feels like, not what it sounds like. The camaraderie of the group, the guided relaxation, the breathing exercises and the singing are so much appreciated by everyone and the health benefits transfer over into daily life."

Do I have to pay?

Those who can afford it are invited to give a £3.50 donation each week, but this is not essential - we want everyone to be able to come.

Do I have to come along every week?

We know that appointments, sickness, family commitments and such can get in the way! Just come along when you can.

How do I join?

Simply email singingforbreathingcambridge@gmail.com or call Mary on 07972645473 for more information and to receive the Zoom link each week.

You can find out more at www.singingforbreathing.wordpress.com

or on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/singingforlunghealthcambridge

DIARY DATES

TOFT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

[Over 50s Club]. 8th March, 2.30 Toft People's Hall. An illustrated talk

Life on a medical boat in Tanzania - Kathryn Shore.

Visitors (and new members) always welcome

Sewing, Knit and Natter

Our next meeting will be Wednesday March 29th in the Methodist Chapel, 10.30 - 12.30.

The Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 6th March. All welcome.

Toft Internet Club

The Internet Club will meet on Monday 6th March from 2pm - 4pm at The People's Hall.

Come and join us for tea, coffee, biscuits and tips to help you navigate the digital world.

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*5th March* 8.30am Holy Communion – Rev Prof Michael Reiss

11.00am Holy Communion – Methodist Church – Rev Stephen Burgess

12th March 11.00am Morning Worship – St. Andrew's – Revd Robert Dolman*19th March* Mothering Sunday

8.30am Holy Communion – Rev Prof Michael Reiss

11.00 am Morning Worship – Methodist Church – Revd David Newton

26th March 11.00am – Morning Worship – St. Andrew's - Revd David Newton

Mrs Cathy Michell

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**W**elcome to Lent.

Traditionally Shrove Tuesday marked the day when all the goodies in the house were used up. Pancakes were made and filled with all sorts before the season of abstinence began. Now, it seems the secular Lent has moved to January as people embrace Veganuary or Dry January and so on. Fair enough – although if I'm honest January is hard enough without making it harder still. Abstinence in the Spring time seems a rather more hopeful prospect to me.

There are many reasons people might abstain from certain activities or foods. But the principal goal in the Christian Tradition is to help with the discipline of prayer. The point of abstinence is to find God in the blank space, the 'hole' that is opened up by hunger, or a very plain diet, or forgoing some activity. It is about stripping back in order to hear the silence at the centre of things, when so often that silent mystery is crowded out by the modern world.

Whether religious or not, most of us search for the transcendent, for something 'beyond', that cannot be grasped, or touched. We naturally search after whatever it is that lies behind Life. And in Lent we might want to create a bit more space to listen to that sound of silence, and paradoxically so hear the rhythm of Love that pulsates through us. Maybe try it; see what happens.

- Rev. David Newton.

Sewing, Knit and Natter.

In January we managed to make and stuff 40 pillows which were delivered to Addenbrooke's at the beginning of February. We may be asked to make some more in March/April. Recipients who have had surgery are very grateful for their soft pillows. For more information please contact either Lucy (262948) or Sally (262895).



THE CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY

THE WARM HUB – DROP IN CONTINUES!

IS OPEN EVERY MONDAY, 10.30 – 12.30 at the Methodist Church

COME AND JOIN US FOR A CHAT,
A GAME, A COFFEE OR TEA

We would love to welcome you
Transport can be provided.



MAY 6TH



MAY 7TH

Toft will celebrate the
Coronation Of King Charles III

Plans are well under way for a Family Tea, a Ceilidh and a Coronation Supper,

a walk, maypole dancing, a Coronation Tea and more –

see the green A4 insert.

More details next month but

KEEP THE DATES FREE

THE WARM HUB - DROP IN

This is such fun – around 20 to 30 people each week, the youngest so far 5 years old and the oldest into their nineties, gathered around tables doing jigsaw puzzles, *-Culzean Castle, Scenes of England* and *Lapland Girls* so far - playing scrabble, just chatting – looking and learning about their family history, places and people from all around, and of course putting the world to rights and drinking LARGE quantities of coffee and tea and getting through a good few biscuits and even some home-made cake – it has been fantastic. Two of our regulars have penned their observations....

Poem, Scrabble, warm hub, last day of January

A wren, a dingo,

Join the line of animals. Defate this Remix!

Is this accord?

Or are the wren and dingo bunking off

With gaiety in halves?

Two fibs in the corner of the board.

- Bhanu Kapil (all italicized words appeared in an epic scrabble game won by Barney McCullagh at 11.15 a.m.)

Warm Hub Virgin.

I was a 'Warm Hub Virgin'

This was my first time,

Maree said 'Marion venture in,'

(We can forgo red wine)!

I smiled at 'Sin' and 'Vice' and 'Hell'

Created on a Scrabble board,

Then I shrugged and thought 'Oh well,

They'll be forgiven by Our Lord.

Because the players were Angelic,

These good ladies, the ones –

Selfless givers, evangelic,

Tireless raisers of Church funds -

By knitting and embroidery,

Arranging concerts, baking cakes,

Pouring time and energy

Into countless village fetes.

Supplying soup for walkers

During Toft Spring Fest,

Fascinating talkers,

All simply the best.

Toft gents. were present also

Convivial as can be,

Brandishing a domino,

Over custard creams and tea.

The Warm Hub drew us in

From the chilly winter weather,

All of us within felt snug and drawn together.

Newcomers and Natives

Solos, Wounded-Hearted,

Stoic Village Elders

Mourning dear-departed.

All ages, creeds, a diverse crew

Bonded and united,

Huge thanks are due to those who drew

Us there, we're ALL delighted!

- *Marion Read (Solo Native).*



B. Preece, M. Carter and others enjoying life at The Hub



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 465234	
Elaine Miles	262255	cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk
Stephen Collinson	07521 912734	
Christine Watson.	07730 941946	

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

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

Next Meeting: Monday 6th March, 7.00 pm in The People's Hall . All welcome.

The Parish Council met on 6th February 2023 at 7.00pm.

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

The minutes of the previous minutes were approved with no matters arising.

A parishioner raised the problem of faded road markings in the village and was assured that this had been raised by Cllr. Darbyshire . Another parishioner raised the problem that now the wooden posts have been removed from the village green, vehicles are damaging the edge of the green, possibly due to the fact that people sometimes park outside the Chinese restaurant. These problems were discussed in more detail later in the meeting.

Cllr. Yeadon reported that, following sending a letter regarding co-option onto the Parish Council to every household in High Street and every business in the village, to date there had been no responses.

We are yet to receive the intended visit from Natalie Lambert to inform us of the work being done by Cambridge Nature Network.

Cllr. Collinson tabled a draft outline of Toft Parish Council Environmental Policy which was discussed and following amendments will be made public at a later date.

Cllr. Collinson talked the Council through the various options available for a noticeboard at Birdlings and subject to the developers agreement, a wall-mounted noticeboard was voted for as this would be cheaper and require less maintenance. Cllr. Collinson is to seek

approval and report back at the next meeting.

It was agreed that the two new multi-play pieces of equipment sourced by Cllr. Watson for the Recreation Playground would be fully funded by the Parish Council out of S106 monies. It was also agreed that once costings had been ascertained the PC would fund a new toddlers' climbing frame.

Regarding the alterations of Toft People's Hall, the Parish Council is happy to support this but is still awaiting a fully funded application from TPH Committee.

There was no correspondence received from the last meeting requiring the Council's attention.

The finance report and outstanding bills were approved for payment.

There were no play inspection reports or any matters which were considered urgent because of risk to health and safety.

It was agreed that the dates of the PC meetings following the March one would be 3rd April and then 15th May. The May meeting has to be delayed by a week due to 8th May being a new Bank Holiday due to the coronation of King Charles III.

A number of tree works applications were considered.

With respect to the damage to the village green, it was agreed that Cllr. Yeadon would explore the costs of having natural boulders positioned along the western edge of the green to prevent further damage from vehicles.

Cllr. Darbyshire reported that she is pursuing the issue of potholes and the faded road markings in the village. Regarding the latter, confirmation is awaited for a possible county-wide initiative to improve road markings generally.

Cllr. Darbyshire reported that she has been monitoring the frequency of the new Whippet buses and that the early morning buses seem to be running reasonably well and on time, given that this new service now comes from St. Neots and can be delayed due to traffic. She would appreciate any feedback from people who use the bus during the day time regarding its reliability as there have been reports that the 10.10 bus has either been very late or does not turn up at all. It was felt that the appearance of the bus shelter needs some attention.

Cllr. Darbyshire reported that there are telephone wires in trees along Brookside that could potentially be a problem. It is the responsibility of the owner of the land to cut back the trees, but the PC was informed that the owner was reputed to be either dead or living abroad, but in any event, was unknown. Cllr. Darbyshire said she would try and find out the ownership through Land Registry.

Cllrs Darbyshire and Miles reported that they had both received confirmation that the damage to the finger post on School Lane indicating the public footpath going across the field had been noted by SCDC and would be repaired but that this was unlikely to be before Autumn 2023. In the meantime, Cllr Yeadon has arranged for it to be temporarily fixed in an upright position.

Cllr Miles is to investigate whether the land owner would allow a permissive footpath which would be parallel to Comberton Road and go from Hardwick Road to the back of Birdlings in an attempt to make a stronger link between these two parts of the village.

Following the generous offer by Mr and Mrs Harris of the loan of a large marquee for the King's Coronation event obviating the need to spend £2,000 on the hire of one Cllr. Miles tabled a request on behalf of the Orb Committee to use this money for a variety of other requirements and this was unanimously voted for.



TOFT SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

We had a great time with **Alfie Moore** in February – he kept two full houses laughing the whole evening. We return to music for the remaining gigs this year – we are delighted to be welcoming **Charlie Dore** on Saturday 29th April – Charlie is a well known singer-songwriter, who had a major hit in 1979 with the song “Pilot of the Airwaves”. Later in the year we are pleased to be welcoming the brilliant **Megson** back to Toft, and then in November we have the amazing **Martyn Joseph**. Tickets and full details on all these gigs on the website, here: <https://toftsocialclub.org.uk/events.php>

We are holding our second **Animation Festival** in March – Friday 10th and Saturday 11th - a celebration of all things animated. Over the weekend we are showing a mix of local, national and international animations, from shorts to full length movies. The programme is nearly finalised – keep an eye on the Animation Festival website: <https://taf.toft.org.uk>

The postponed “*Stop Motion*” training session will take place at 2pm on Saturday 11th March. All welcome- no need to book! Just bring a camera (or phone) and some means of fixing the camera, ie a tripod or the like – there will be some equipment available to borrow. Bring along anything you fancy animating – there will be things available to try. The results will be shown in the evening at the Animation Festival.

Food on Friday is 3rd March – the return of a favourite - Cottage Pie made with prime beef and vegetables in a rich gravy topped with creamy mashed potatoes. As usual there will be a vegetarian version. Both served with baked tomato & mushroom. Doors open at 7pm, with food just £5.00. We operate on first come, first served – so come early to avoid disappointment!

The very popular **Open Mic Music Night** is earlier than normal in March - on Saturday 4th.. These are very entertaining evenings with a mix of musical and spoken styles – almost certainly something for everyone! Free entry – doors open at 8pm. If you are interested in performing at one of these evenings, whether it be music, poetry, a recital or comedy, please contact us at openmic@toftsocialclub.org.uk.

March **Film Night** is Saturday 18th, showing the multi BAFTA Award winning film “*The Banshees of Inisherin*”. Set on a remote island off the west coast of Ireland, the film follows lifelong friends Padraic (Colin Farrell) and Colm (Brendan Gleeson), who find themselves at an impasse when Colm unexpectedly puts an end to their friendship. A stunned Padraic, aided by his sister Siobhan (Kerry Condon) and troubled young islander Dominic (Barry Keoghan), endeavours to repair the relationship, refusing to take no for an answer. But Padraic's repeated efforts only strengthen his former friend's resolve and when Colm delivers a desperate ultimatum, events swiftly escalate, with shocking consequences. Please note the new start times: 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 2nd, **Toft Quiz** on Thursday 9th, **Carpet Bowls** on Friday 17th, and **Toft Bingo** on Thursday 23rd. Everyone is welcome along to these fun evenings – doors open at 8pm.

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

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

Keep up to date here:

www.toftsocialclub.org.uk

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

TOFT SEED SWAP

Great News Seeds of Italy

Franchi Seeds of Italy have donated seeds to our Toft telephone box seed swap.



Please help yourself to only what you need and bring back the surplus seeds for others. Thank you



Franchi seedlings growing now from last years seed.

we ♥ the TOFT BIG BREAKFAST

Open for breakfast
09.00 - 12.00 on
SUNDAY 30 APRIL

We are hoping for:

- ☉ Lots of you to come and eat and enjoy it!
- ☉ Donations of Fairtrade or local produce
- ☉ Bakers to make bread, cakes and pastries
- ☉ Volunteers to join our happy helpers
(there are two shifts 8.00–10.30 and 10.30–1.00)
- ☉ Donations for Farm Africa and Fairtrade

Contact Linda on: linda.hollow@btconnect.com
or Jane Tebbit on tel.262309

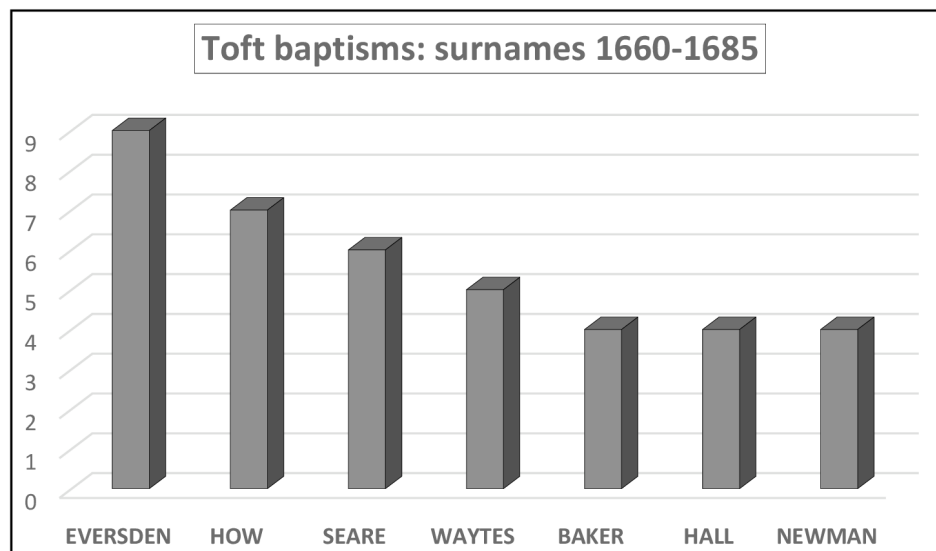


Honesty box payment – proceeds divided between Fairtrade and Farm Africa
**Come, eat and enjoy a great big breakfast
that does you good...and does good to others**

toft historical society

Toft's first Caroleans (contd.)

As we've illustrated in previous issues of the *Village Calendar*, Toft has wonderful early manuscripts and later printed church records of baptisms, marriages and deaths going back to the reign of King Henry VIII in 1539. This month, following on from our piece on King Charles I, we recall the reign of Charles II (1660-1685) and look at what family names were most common in the baptism records of St Andrew's church during the second reign of the first Carolean era. The graph shows surnames occurring four times or more, in descending order of frequency.



In an earlier issue, we showed some of the family names that occurred frequently in the Toft baptismal register during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Some of those names were still around during Charles I's reign: *Newman*, *Anger*, *Eversden*, *Waites* and *Pecke*. Here in Charles II's time, we see *Newman*, *Eversden* and *Waytes* persisting as local names.

As in Elizabeth I's and Charles I's time, spelling was not fixed. *Seare* alternates with *Seyr*; *Waytes* was recorded in the Elizabethan record variously as *Waytes*, *Waits*, *Wayts* and *Wayttes*. In Charles II's time, we find it spelt *Waites*, *Waits* and *Waytes*.

In all those earlier times, the records were handwritten by individual vicars who would adhere to personal spelling styles, and it is quite likely that some families had little or no fixed notion of how their names should be spelt. Variations in the spelling of local names persists to this day (e.g., *Clark/Clarke*, *Sparks/Sparkes*) a vestige of earlier times.



Charlie Dore

with Julian Littman

The Short Circuit Tour



Saturday 29th April 2023

The multi award-winning songwriter has 10 albums' and 4 EPs worth of material to draw from but realised that there were dozens of favourite songs in her catalogue that had hardly ever been performed live - some never...

Tickets on sale from Now - £16.00.

Tickets available online from:

<https://toftsocialclub.org.uk/tickets.php>



Bedfordshire Cambridgeshire Northamptonshire

Wildlife Trust BCN West Cambridgeshire Hundreds Update: March 2023

Bluebell season will soon be here! Just before they are out, you can look for some other species that flower early in our woodland:

lesser celandine: low-growing, with heart-shaped leaves and bright yellow flowers

wood anemone: white flowers with six petals with deeply divided leaves

dog's mercury: grows in large numbers, has leaves in opposite pairs and inconspicuous small green flowers

oxlip: a rare relative of primrose with multiple pale yellow flower heads on a tall stalk

If you want to know more about spring wildflowers you can join me on a guided walk. You'll find other walks, family sessions, and short courses (some funded) on our website, and you'll see staff members out and about more in our bluebell woodlands throughout April. Events are a great opportunity to learn more about what we do, and to ask questions about why we do it! It also supports the Trust financially and enables us to manage reserves for wildlife and people. The funded programmes include Wildlife for Beginners, Bird Song, and Wild in the Woods: Inner Child (for adults to experience some fun outdoor activities normally for children). There are also programmes for parents/carers with toddlers and babies.

Bluebells are vulnerable to climate change and are under threat due to habitat loss and degradation, and hybridisation. You can help keep the spectacle fantastic in your local woods by:

- Sticking to the permissive paths: every year we find trampled paths through the woods where people have been searching for the perfect photo. It can take years for bluebells to recover
- Keeping your dog on a lead
- Disposing of your garden waste responsibly
- Not picking flowers or digging up bulbs
- Not building dens in woodland nature reserves (these can cause large areas of trampled ground and compacted soil which make it difficult for plants to grow)

Events: www.wildlifebcn.org/events

E-mail: rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org Facebook: [@BeccaBadgerWTBCN](https://www.facebook.com/BeccaBadgerWTBCN)

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

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

Buying Speechly's Farm...

... encourages fen
wildlife to thrive

Great Fen Landmark Appeal

Donate
now

Comberton Librarywww.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

Tel: 0345 045 5225

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 & 2.30 pm - 5.30 pm

Friday: 2.30 pm - 5.30 pm

Saturday: 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

Why not Spring into some new reading at Comberton Library? Drop in to see what's new in our displays (what have those penguins been up to?), ask staff for recommendations - or suggest your own favourite titles for us to share with other readers.

March is *Women's History Month*, which includes International Women's Day, so we'll be highlighting some of our best titles by and about women around the world. Please also keep an eye out for events during *British Science Week* (10th – 19th March) as well as Shakespeare week (20th – 26th March).

We are very excited to welcome Ariel to Comberton library. Ariel is offering an Oriental calligraphy and watercolour cherry blossom painting session using traditional Chinese brushes and plant-based ink, on Wednesday 22nd March from 10.30 – 11.30 am. The session is suitable for adults and children aged 3 and over.

Come and *Guess the Object* on Monday 27th March and Wednesday 29th March. We will be borrowing a box of Victorian objects from the Museum of Cambridge – can you work out what they might be?

Our *Knit and Natter group* is proving to be popular – thank you to everyone who attends. We meet from 10.30 am – 11.30 am and our next sessions will be on Monday 13th and 27th in March, Monday 17th in April and Monday 15th in May (my what a lot of bank holidays!)

Rhymetime is a chance for children aged 0-4 to meet for a sing song, so come along and join in with the fun. Our next sessions will be on Monday 20th March, Monday 24th April and Monday 22nd May, between 10.30am – 11.00 am.

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.

Are you a new arrival to the UK and Cambridgeshire, or do you know someone who is? Cambridgeshire Libraries website has a page with lots of useful information and support. Search for 'Libraries of Sanctuary – Cambridgeshire County Council' to find out about housing, internet access, learning English and more.

We now have the Cambridgeshire Guide to Independent Living 2023 in the library, so come and pick up a copy if this sounds useful for you. The library is a great place for anyone looking for information on all kinds of local services, events and activities – we'll be pleased to help you.



[Care Together](https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/care-together-a-proposed-2.9m-catalyst-for-a-fairer-and-more-caring-cambridgeshire) (<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/care-together-a-proposed-2.9m-catalyst-for-a-fairer-and-more-caring-cambridgeshire>) is a programme led by Cambridgeshire County Council in collaboration with our partners and local communities. The aim is to help more older people to remain living independently and happily in their own home for longer. It will change the way care and support for older people in the community is commissioned and delivered.

To ensure that it is helpful for you, we would like your participation in answering an [online questionnaire](https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/36MHL6/). (<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/36MHL6/>)

If you do not have access to the internet, please call 01954 286 002 or 07771 545 674 Monday – Friday between 9am – 2pm to request a paper copy or if you prefer to answer the questions over the telephone instead of on paper or online. Please leave a contact number if asked to do so. Outside of these hours paper copies can be requested via the email care.together@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

In some communities there will be central collection and return points for printed questionnaires, so please check with your local library or Parish Council office for this option.



SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE TO ACCESS THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON A SMARTPHONE



Arthur Rank Hospice Charity

**Help us reach our 300-team target
for Chariots of Fire**

One of Cambridgeshire's largest charity events, Chariots of Fire, takes place on

Sunday 19 March. More than 260 teams have already signed up and there is still time to get involved and help us reach our 300-team target.

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity is the event organiser HCR Hewitsons Charitable Trust's chosen partner. The event is set to raise £71,000 to help fund the expansion of their Charity shops.

Donna Talbot, the Charity's Communications and Income Generation Director, said: "Each team is doing so much more than helping us to reach our ambitious fundraising target. They are ensuring we can generate money at the till of a new shop whilst doing something great for our environment by recycling pre-loved items, providing volunteering opportunities and creating new jobs. We're incredibly grateful to all those joining us on 19 March."

To enter a team, visit chariots-of-fire.co.uk before 5pm on 15 March

If you don't wish to enter, but would like to get involved, please come and watch the race and visit our pop up shop or visit the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity's JustGiving page [justgiving.com/campaign/ chariotsoffire2022](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/chariotsoffire2022)

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### **Sparkle at this year's Star Shine Night Walk!**

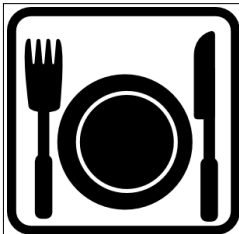
Arthur Rank Hospice Charity's flagship event Star Shine Night Walk is back again! Join in and make the streets of Cambridge glow green on **Saturday 13 May.**

The 10km fundraising walk has long held a special place in the local community's heart, with many returning year after year to walk in memory of loved ones.

Starting and finishing at the Cambridge Rugby Union Football Club, in Grantchester Road, walkers can look forward to a celebratory and uplifting atmosphere during this accessible route around Cambridge.

Registration opens in March at [arhc.org.uk/ssnw](http://arhc.org.uk/ssnw) - where you can also sign up to volunteer to make the iconic event a sparkling success.





### ForkTalk

Do you enjoy a Ruby? I speak of course of the popular Asian cuisine immortalised by the late, great Arthur Daley, referring to the equally late, great chanteuse, Ruby Murray.

Despite its ubiquity, not everyone does, but that hasn't stopped pretty much every erstwhile pub or ex-corner shop rematerialising as an 'Indian Restaurant'. Some are good, some are bad and most of the others are in-between. One or two even claim to be 'authentic', although whether that's true is beyond my ability to judge. We do, however, have one of the latter pretty much on our doorstep in the shape of **The Lalbagh** curry house in Bourn (formerly, as many will remember, The Duke Of Wellington Public House). So, reckoning ourselves - entirely without foundation - as pretty knowledgeable curry scoffers, the ForkTalk team descended on to The Lalbagh one grim January evening to give it the once-over. We'd heard good things - were they true? To make it a real test, the squad included a vegetarian, an insatiable carnivore given to choosing the most exotic-sounding dish on any menu out of sheer nosiness and, for good luck, someone who 'wasn't really that fond of curry'. The Lalbagh would have to go a bit to satisfy this particular collection of oddballs.

But first, a bit of scene-setting. The Lalbagh is easy enough to find and I'm guessing most readers will know where it is. If you don't, then just turn into Bourn from your preferred direction and keep driving down the main drag (Alms Hill) until you see it, perched on a small embankment and surrounded by nothing much. The car park - adequate but not huge - is immediately to your right as you approach the building. As you enter, you find yourself in the bar/reception area, beyond which is the dining section. Not huge; I'd say around a dozen tables each sitting four comfortably, or maybe six at a pinch. These were about half-occupied on our visit - enough to give the place a homely buzz but without the feeling of being shoe-horned in that you might get on a busy Saturday.

The decor and general ambience of The Lalbagh is hard to put a finger on. It's very definitely not your typical curry-house - not a speck of flock wall-paper to be seen and an absence of irritating sitar music droning away in the background. Nevertheless, there are discreet hints of 'eastern-ness' here and there in the arches and ornaments. Altogether, it's a pleasing environment and tastefully done. 'Classy without ostentation', as one of our party described it.

Attentive waiters quickly had us seated and browsing the menu. The - to me - impenetrable name of some of the dishes wasn't a problem, since a helpful management had appended useful descriptions to each item. All the

old, familiar favourites were there - the bhajis, vindaloos and kormas of sacred memory - plus a whole bunch of stuff I'd never heard of. What, for example, was a Burigana Chingrie, or a Kala Ghust? Luckily, our waiter was both helpful and knowledgeable and well able to supplement the menu's descriptions and our own ignorance. After a just-right pause while we munched a few papadoms and tried various pickles and chutneys - all good - our food began to arrive. I won't attempt to



describe any of these dishes in detail, especially since you probably won't order what we did anyway, but I can and will give an overall verdict: This food is sublime. If you have preconceptions about curry - or suspiciously 'foreign' food in general - prepare to fix a brick round their neck and find the nearest well. For anyone accustomed to the standard fare offered by most Indian restaurants - which, I suspect, is most of us - the Lalbagh will blast the scales from your eyes. If I tell you that they even managed to transform the humble naan bread into a work of art, you may get an inkling of the inspired cheffing going on behind the scenes. Even the person who 'wasn't really that fond of curry' wondered when we could return.

In case you're thinking that maybe I'm just a teensy bit too fulsome in my praise, or that they've promised me a free lunch in exchange for a decent write-up (not true, sadly) then I will mention one minor caveat. By the standards of most Indian eateries, The Lalbagh is not cheap. Four of us paid a bit over 150.00. However, this did include three courses apiece, plus drinks and gratuities. For food of this quality, that's not exactly extortionate. 'Lalbagh', incidentally, apparently means 'enchanted garden'. I'd second that and, to end as we began on a quote from the screen, "I'll be back".

### Things you may not know about playing bowls at Comberton Bowls Club:

- ◇ The green is open to all members for seven days a week during the season, which starts in April and ends at the end of August.
- ◇ Playing bowls at Comberton is about more than playing bowls – it's about getting out in the fresh air with like-minded people and having fun.
- ◇ Lawn bowls is a very low-impact exercise which improves your well-being and stress levels.
- ◇ Many people also find it therapeutic, helping them improve their co-ordination and confidence
- ◇ Playing at Comberton Bowls Club can be as competitive or non-competitive as you like.
- ◇ There are four internal club competitions to play in, as well as the opportunity to represent the club in various Cambridge and District competitions.
- ◇ The club also competes in three different leagues. So, if you don't fancy playing in the evenings and would rather play in the afternoon, then the Foxton League's for you!
- ◇ We are known throughout the different leagues we play in as a very friendly club, which is something we take pride in.
- ◇ There are social events planned throughout the year including quizzes, an end-of-season barbecue, Christmas meal and – believe it or not – the working parties organised to prepare the green before the season starts and at the end of the playing year.
- ◇ Many members live within a mile or so, but more importantly, just one phone call away from making enquiries!
- ◇ Like all bowls clubs, we are not exclusive and welcome people of all ages and abilities.
- ◇ The last thing you don't know about playing bowls at Comberton is that you won't know you like it until you've tried it.

*Go on – make it happen!*

Call Irene, our President, on 01223 262084 / 074745 01472 or email Beryl at: [berylhankin@aol.com](mailto:berylhankin@aol.com)

### Busway Petition Passes 2,000

*Cambridge Past, Present & Future* is campaigning for a better route for a bus road being planned between Cambourne and Cambridge. The bus road will destroy wildlife habitats and countryside but it doesn't need to be that way because there is an alternative route that would be much less damaging.

Cambridgeshire County Council will vote on 21 March whether to submit the bus road to the government. We will be presenting them with a petition asking them not to destroy the Coton Orchard and instead to consider the alternative route. The petition already has over 2,000 signatures. Please go to <https://www.change.org/p/save-the-green-corridor-cambourne-to-cambridge-bus-lane-not-busway> to add yours

If the politicians won't listen, then we will need a fighting fund to argue for the alternative route at a public inquiry later this year. The fund will pay for expert advice to provide evidence and to make your views heard at public inquiry. Many thanks to the generous donors who have given to the fighting fund in recent weeks, we have raised £34,000 towards our target of raising £50,000 by May. Please give what you can at:

<https://www.cambridgeppf.org/Appeal/save-the-coton-green-corridor>





**Wheelie Bin Collections For March**

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

**Black Bin:**

Weds 1st Mar

Weds 15th Mar

Weds 29th Mar

**Blue/Green Bin**

Weds 8th Mar

Weds 22nd 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 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

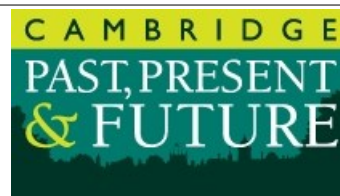
South Cambs District Council: 01954 713 000

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



### Young people help to tell the story of Bourn Windmill

As part of our project to Save **Bourn Windmill** we are improving the information about the mill, including a new interpretation board. Cambridge Past, Present & Future is working in partnership with Cambridgeshire ACRE on this aspect of the project.

We want to make sure the information on the board is appealing, so a mock-up of the board was recently taken to Cambourne Soul Youth group. Rachael Brown (Cambridgeshire ACRE), Kate, Sharon, Clare, and Steve (Mill volunteers) had a great time talking to 30 young people aged 11-14, over three sessions about the content of the board, the young people also made muesli and ground wheat in a quern. Levels of interest were high with one young person confessing "I'm actually quite enjoying this"! Several good ideas were put forward about the photos, text, and layout, and a bright, new, engaging board will be in place when the mill opens again this spring.

A big thank you to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for funding this work and Cambourne Soul, Cambridgeshire ACRE and the Mill Volunteers for making it happen.

**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](mailto:calendareditor@toft.org.uk) Post: 33 Egremont Road, Hardwick, Cambridge CB23 7XR Telephone: 01954 211346