



Toft Village Calendar

Produced and Distributed by St. Andrew's Parish Church

March 2024



EDITORIAL

If you take a squint at page 6 of this month's *Calendar*, you'll find the results of the recent survey asking residents for their views on the adoption (or not) of a blanket 20 m.p.h. speed limit throughout the village. It shows that, of those who voted, a majority thought the idea was worth a try. But here's an interesting figure that it doesn't show: There are - according to the ONS - 230 households in Toft. Maths so simple that even I can do them show that just forty per cent of these households replied to the survey. Those who agreed with the proposal constitute a bit less than thirty per cent of the total, whilst the objectors number just under twelve per cent. I've rounded all these numbers for convenience and at the conclusion of this taxing exercise, we find that interesting figure I mentioned earlier. Approximately sixty per cent of the village didn't have an opinion - or not one they were happy to share, at least.

What are the adjudicators to make of this? Two arguments come immediately to mind. The first is that the non-voters have no objection to a change, otherwise they could have said so. The second is that, presented with an opportunity to alter the status-quo, they declined it. These two hypotheses have something in common. They are both nonsense. There is no way of knowing why people didn't vote, or how they would have voted if they had. Imputing motives is a non-starter. There's a decent case to be made that a change like this shouldn't happen without a majority in favour...but a majority of whom? Those that voted (a 'simple' majority), or the village as a whole (an 'absolute' majority)? And what about road-users? The people, after all, most directly and immediately affected, even though many of them don't live here?

I guess another way of approaching this might be to look at the evidence from elsewhere. But just sorting out 'evidence' from 'opinion' is a Promethean task on it's own. The Dept for Transport, whom we might hope to be both authoritative and impartial, says that it found that drivers' median speed fell by just 0.7mph in residential areas after a 20 limit was imposed. Moreover, it says, there is "no significant change in the short term in collisions and casualties in the majority of case studies", while reporting that the majority of residents "have not noticed a reduction in the speed of vehicles, and do not perceive there to be fewer vehicles driving at excessive speeds". Case closed, then? Not exactly. The same report tells us that there was a accident reduction of 21 per cent where a limit was imposed and that even "a 1mph reduction in average traffic speed is associated with a 5%-6% drop in injury-causing collisions." I'm not sure how all these statements can simultaneously be true ('no significant change' AND 'a 21% reduction'? Really?), but then, I'm not a statistician.

There's a Gordian knot to be unravelled here. It may well be that your Parish Council has ways and means of resolving issues like these, or has the option of seeking advice from some trusted independent source - it would be, as a wise man said, a consummation devoutly to be wished.

Do you love Ghost stories?



Do you love ghost stories and want to try writing one yourself? Or did you have a favorite ghost story or song that you would like to perform or see performed.

We are looking for potential writers, performers, and a creative team to start to build a body of work to perform in Toft Peoples Hall in the dark days of early November. The title of the evening to be :

Ghost Stories By Candlelight.

Do you feel inspired? Come and have a go...if you think you're scary enough.

If you are interested, curious, get in touch.

All ages are welcome to take part.

Please contact Jean Stewart for further information

email jcsasat53@gmail.com or Kat Holmes email: katrina_holmes@hotmail.com

DIARY DATES

TOFT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

[Over 50s Club]. 13th March 2.30 Toft People's Hall. Cyber and fraud prevention - what you need to know. The speaker is David York from Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

This may be of interest to a wider audience and Visitors always welcome

The Parish Council

The next meeting will be Monday 4th March 2024 at 7.00pm in The People's Hall. All Welcome.

Sewing, Knit and Natter

Our next meeting will be Wednesday March 27th in the Methodist Chapel, 10.30 -12.30. New members welcome. For further information please contact Lucy (262948) or Sally (262895).

MINISTRY TEAM**THE CHURCH IN TOFT**

St. Andrew's Parish Church

Assistant Curate: Revd Barnabas Leeke 07787
800 888

Lay Minister: Barbara Preece Tel: 263466

Churchwardens:

Ann Mitchell 262516

John Quenby 263949

Methodist Church

Minister: Revd Charity Nzegwu

01763 241803

Stewards:

Diana Tebbit 01223 263557

Stephen Acklam 264055

Mrs Pat Morton 264010

SERVICES OF WORSHIP*3rd March* 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) – Rev
Prof Michael Reis11.00am Holy Communion, Methodist Church –
Rev Mike Wilson**MOTHERING SUNDAY***10th March* 11.00 am Holy Communion, St.
Andrew's – Rev. Clare Coates & Rev Barnabas
Leeke*17th March* 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) –
Rev Priscilla Slusar11.00am Morning Worship, Methodist Church –
Rev Rose Westwood**PALM SUNDAY***24th March* 11.00am Morning Worship – St.
Andrew's - Rev Barnabas Leeke**GOOD FRIDAY***29th March* 2.00pm Meditations at the Methodist
Church – Rev Robert Dolman & Cathy Michell**EASTER SUNDAY***31st March* 6.30am Service of Light led by Rev
Barnabas Leeke around a fire on the drift
at the top of Miller's Road.11.00 am Holy Communion at St. Andrew's led
by Rev Prof Michael Reis

There will be an Easter egg hunt for the children

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](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/899215191)

Zoom services available at 11.00am

MEETING ID: 823 1147 3640

What an excellent idea it was to use our redundant High Street telephone kiosk as a Seed Exchange Centre. Do take a look when you are passing.

A pleasure just now is browsing through seed catalogues. It is a source of amazement to think that tiny seeds can produce such a rich variety of plants: flowers of every size and colour to make gardens and hedgerows places of delight, a cornucopia of fruit and vegetables to fill our dishes and our stomachs, an array of attractive, tasteful herbs. The catalogues highlight the sheer diversity of nature's provision. To take at random, one catalogue offers seven sorts of basil, thirty-seven types of potato, and forty species of tomato, by no means all red and round. A specialist catalogue including heritage, local, and commercial varieties would of course hugely inflate those figures.

Observing nature and creating gardens are fundamental human activities with immense benefits. To slow down and look, and to handle soil are therapeutic in themselves. At a time when we are so concerned about mental health, gardening has a lot to offer; it creates a sense of wonder which can put our anxieties in perspective; when we exchange seeds, plants, tips and information we create a friendly community. And gardening may be the art form which satisfies your creative instincts. The Bible begins with the trusting of the earth to the 'dominion' of human beings.

Sadly, we have especially in recent centuries seen this in terms of domination rather than stewardship and have degraded and polluted the garden in which we all live. Looking after the garden is a prime responsibility. And exchanging seeds of life is a human vocation.

The writer Marcel Proust said, 'Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy, charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.'

- Robert Dolman



THE CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY

Walking in the Wilderness We invite you on Thursday mornings, 29th Feb; 7th, 14th and 21st March to join us at 24 Mill Lane from 10.30- 12noon, kindly hosted by Diana Tebbit, to come and explore some themes that are relevant to our lives today and to this season before Easter, known as Lent. A time to chat, to share, to try and make sense of the here and now. Everyone is very welcome



Cambridge Sustainable Food coordinates emergency food provision efforts in the city in partnership with **Cambridge Food Poverty Alliance**. The Alliance represents over 25 organisations working on poverty alleviation in the city.

Please keep giving into the boxes in the porch or in the shop and the food will go to CSF. There are some staple food stuffs in the boxes for anyone in Toft who needs them, PLEASE help yourself.



THE WARM HUB - EVERY MONDAY 10.30-12.30

At the Methodist Church

We will be stopping for the summer on Monday 25th March, back when the clocks change again in the autumn, all being well!

Can you Volunteer?

Did you know that Arthur Rank Hospice Charity has over 500 volunteers covering a wide range of roles based in Cambridgeshire including the Fens. Some may even suit you



Arthur Rank Hospice Charity

if you'd like to volunteer from home! Many volunteers say they get as much back as they put in. So, if you would like meet new people, enhance your CV, gain new skills or just give back to your community contact Arthur Rank Hospice Charity and become part of something special! Find out more at arhc.org.uk/volunteer or email volunteer@arhc.org.uk or telephone 01223 675872.



Free Wills Service

Have you written a Will? Is it up to date? Write or update your Will for free with Arthur Rank Hospice Charity's Wills Service partners/ trusted solicitors. This can be done over the phone, online or face-to-face. The Charity also offers a free legal advice service. For more information please contact Rachael Brown, Future Gifts Manager on 01223 675881 or email r.brown@arhc.org.uk or visit arhc.org.uk/freewills



In it to win it!

Support Arthur Rank Hospice Charity by taking part in a weekly lottery draw - from only £1 a week - a fun and exciting way to support the charity while giving you the opportunity to win cash prizes! Your entry will go towards helping patients and their families in your community who live with an advanced serious illness or other life-limiting condition. All services are free of charge to patients and their families. Find out more at arhc.org.uk/lottery or email lottery@yourhospicelottery.org.uk or call: 0800 285 1390 or 01223 675888

Toft Parish Council

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

30 West Drive

Highfields Caldecote

Cambridge, CB23 7NY Tel: 01954 210241

Councillors	Phone	E-mail
<i>Chairman:</i>		
Martin Yeadon	263663	cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk
Emma Darbyshire	07763 463234	cllr.darbyshire@tpc.toft.org.uk
Elaine Miles	262255	cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk
Stephen Collinson	07521 912734	cllr.collinson@tpc.toft.org.uk
Christine Watson.	07730 941946	cllr.watson@tpc.toft.org.uk
Rebecca Harris	07796 176 333	njharris262@gmail.com

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

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

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Monday 4th March 2024 at 7.00pm in The People's Hall. All Welcome.

The Parish Council met on 5th February 2024 at 7.00pm. We are still looking to recruit another member to the Parish Council and if you are interested and would like to know more, please contact Cllr. Yeadon Tel: 263663 or email: cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk

A member of the public commented that in relation to Toft Parish boundary, when Comberton College was first mooted, Comberton had not wanted it within their boundary which is why it became built on Toft Parish land.

There were no apologies and reasons for absence.

Cllr. Darbyshire declared an interest in a planning application that had come through for consideration after the Agenda had been drawn up.

The resignation of Cllr. Collinson was noted and his roles were reassigned as follows:

Cllr. Yeadon – Speed camera

Cllr. Miles – Birdling liaison/noticeboard

Cllr. Harris – Green issues

The previous minutes were approved.

Cllr. Watson reported receipt of a quotation for installation of a new toddler climbing frame and removal of the current climbing frame which was unanimously agreed. It was also agreed that the music equipment,

which is in Cllr. Watson's safe keeping, will be installed once the weather has improved.

There has been a number of responses to the 20mph survey and Cllr. Derbyshire will be collating these and putting together a proposal for the next meeting. She will be writing a short summary of the outcomes for the Calendar in due course.

Regarding the Queen' Platinum Jubilee area, a quotation for fencing will be sought once the tree stumps have been removed. Cllr. Yeadon reported that the dead tree on the small green had been cut down and he has taken delivery of a Cherry tree which will replace this once its roots have been dug out. A provisional date of 18th of March has been decided for this to take place.

Cllr Miles reported that there had been a reasonable response to the Wildlife survey. The next stage is to acquire a map onto which this wildlife provision can be plotted. She pointed out that this is a work in progress so it is not too late for residents to send information to her. It is hoped that when the map is finally finished it can be laminated and publicly displayed. This, along with the Bourn Brook project will, hopefully, give us a clearer idea of the condition of our environment for wildlife and help us in improving provision where it is needed.

Following information received since the last meeting, the issue regarding horses riding on footpaths has been resolved. The Parish Council is grateful for the compliance of those involved.

Regarding the Community Governance Review, it was unanimously agreed that this important issue cannot be discussed without further information as to what the implications of changing a parish boundary could be. Cllr. Yeadon is to seek advice from a Planner and Ratings Officer and once the situation is clearer this information can be disseminated to a wider audience if it is decided to continue the debate.

The Finance report was considered and the payment of bills approved.

There were no play inspection reports to consider nor any matters which are urgent because of health and safety.

A decision on the date of the annual Assets Walk was deferred until the next meeting.

There were no comments on the planning applications on the agenda but the Parish Council responded to a planning application that had been sent after the publication of the agenda.

Cllr. Yeadon reported that he had ordered a replacement Perspex pane for the bus shelter.

Cllr. Watson reported that Steve Pugh was stepping down as Chair of the People's Hall and that there is, therefore, a vacancy for this role. She also reported that a new dishwasher is being purchased for the kitchen at TPH.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm



TOFT SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

Food on Friday is on the 1st, we will be offering Normandy Pork with a cream sauce, roast potatoes and red cabbage, along with a vegetarian option. Just £6! Doors open at 7pm. We operate on first come, first served – so come early to avoid disappointment!

Film Night is on Saturday 16th and we will be showing 2023 film “*Oppenheimer*”, directed by Christopher Nolan and starring Cillian Murphy, it is a dramatization of the life story of J. Robert Oppenheimer, the physicist who had a large hand in the development of the atomic bomb, thus helping end World War 2. We see his life from university days all the way to post-WW2, where his fame saw him embroiled in political machinations. **Please note:** as this is a 3 hour film, doors open at 7:00pm and the film starts very promptly at 7:30pm.

We will be holding our AGM on Thursday 21st – please send any items you would like added to the agenda to secretary@toftsocialclub.org.uk and let us know if you would like to join the committee!

Toft Art is on Thursday 7th, **Carpet Bowls** on Friday 8th, **Open Mic / Music Night** on Saturday 9th, **Toft Quiz** on Thursday 14th, **Table Tennis** on Thursday 21st and **Toft Bingo** on Thursday 28th.

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

Keep up to date here:

www.toftsocialclub.org.uk

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

Save the date for

THE BIG TOFT BREAKFAST

At The People's Hall on Sunday 2 June

9.00am-12.00 noon

**Fairtrade, local produce
and homebaked goodies**

Would you like to help? Please email your details to linda.hollow@btconnect.com if you can help by baking, cooking, waiting, setting up or clearing, making drinks etc. We'd love to include you in this fun event.



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

Proceeds will be divided between Fairtrade and Farm Africa



Toft Speed Limit Survey

Toft Parish Council would like to thank everybody who kindly completed and submitted their Survey. We received a total of 95 responses: 68 in favour and 27 against a blanket speed limit of 20 mph for the Village.

We sincerely appreciate everyone's comments, which will now be reviewed, and a report on the feedback will be delivered at the next Parish Council meeting in March. The Parish Council will then consider the next course of action.

- Councillor Emma Darbyshire

2024 Governor Elections - champion the voices of the Cambridge University Hospitals local community and drive positive change

Become a patient or public governor to represent the diverse voices of our local community to the board of directors, ensuring their needs are heard and contribute to important decisions to improve the future of Cambridge University Hospitals (CUH).

Nominations open: **Monday 26 February**

Nominations close: **Monday 25 Mar, 5 pm**

Positions available: Three patient and public governor vacancies, all with a three year term of office.

The full elections timetable can be accessed on the CUH website.

The elections are run by Civica Election Service (CES), our independent electoral scrutineers, who will be providing the nomination forms and official guidance from Monday 26 February at www.cesvotes.com/cuh2024.

The voting process will begin from Monday 22 April, when CES will begin distributing ballot papers to your work email address or home address. Please be assured that your data is secure and is being passed to our independent election administrators under the strictest information governance rules in order that they may send you your ballot papers. To opt out of the balloting process, please email cuh.foundation@nhs.net by **Monday 25 March at 5pm**.



There will be a meeting open to **all villagers** at 8.00pm on Thursday 21st March, where ideas for future developments / improvements of the Toft Peoples Hall will be discussed.

Please come and have your say and determine the future of our community hall.

Schoolroom Community Cafe, Toft

Wanted: new Treasurer

Main tasks:

? Deliver and collect cash box and float to and from the Cafe each week

? Reimburse volunteers' expenses each week from the petty cash

? Keep records of Cafe takings and outgoings

No qualifications needed, just reliability and honesty. Sorry, no salary either, just plenty of cake!

For more details or any queries, please contact:

Gill Pugh (Administrator) on gill.pugh@gmail.com

or Teresa Taylor (Chair) on pct.taylor@btinternet.com



Comberton Cricket Club is looking for new members for the 2024 season. Whether you are new to the sport, an experienced player or would like to get back into cricket after some time away from the game our club welcomes you!

We have a Saturday team playing in a local league and are also planning some Sunday friendlies. The season runs from May to September and we will be holding pre-season indoor nets from February onwards.

If you would like to find out more please contact Oscar Swift on 07794 381211 or o.swift@ucl.ac.uk or take a look at our website: <https://comberton.play-cricket.com>



Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants

Wildlife Trust BCN West Cambridgeshire Hundreds Update: Mar 2024

One of our charitable aims is to enhance everyone's enjoyment and understanding of wildlife. Our events programme is quieter over the colder months, but now spring has arrived, here's a snap-shot of some things on offer over the next few months in our West Cambs

100a area between Gamlingay, Cambourne and Comberton. You can find events from a wider area, and more details on our website: wildlifebcn.org/events

Sit and chat in nature:

These sessions are designed for those who want to enjoy nature on our reserves, alongside a sit down and a cuppa (we won't walk far!). They are running in Gamlingay Wood (21st and 25th April 10-12ish) and on Cambourne Nature Reserve (13th June and 4th July 10-12ish).

Walks for adults

My spring wildflower strolls are 2-3 mile walks around our four local woodland reserves in the West Cambs 100s:

Hayley 17th April 10am-12

Gamlingay 20th April 10am-12

Hardwick 24th April 6-8pm

Waresley and Gransden Woods 27th April 8-10am

Cambourne Nature Reserve is an accessible reserve with paths suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. You can enjoy a not-quite dawn chorus on 5th May, and an evening summer stroll on the 4th June. There's a longer walk from Cambourne to Bourn Windmill on 22nd June, for those confident on more uneven terrain.

Millbridge Brook Meadows

I'll be celebrating the 10 year anniversary of this greenspace in Gamlingay with an adult walk focussing on common wildlife identification on 6th May, and a family session on 30th May.

Wilder home-school

These child-led outdoor sessions in Cambourne are for home-school families with children from ages 5-13. They happen Wednesday mornings during term-time from April to October

Wild in the Woods

These are family sessions for primary-aged children with a variety of themes on Wednesday mornings during school holidays.

Little Bugs

These pre-school sessions involve a nature walk and story with a wildlife theme. We do simple outdoor activities and talk about whatever wildlife comes up! They run Friday mornings, April- Oct.

Youth Rangers

These monthly sessions are for secondary-school age young people who are interested in local wildlife and environmental issues. They run all year around on Fridays during school holidays and Saturday mornings in between. We do practical activities, walks, talks, surveys and socials.

Email: rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org

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

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

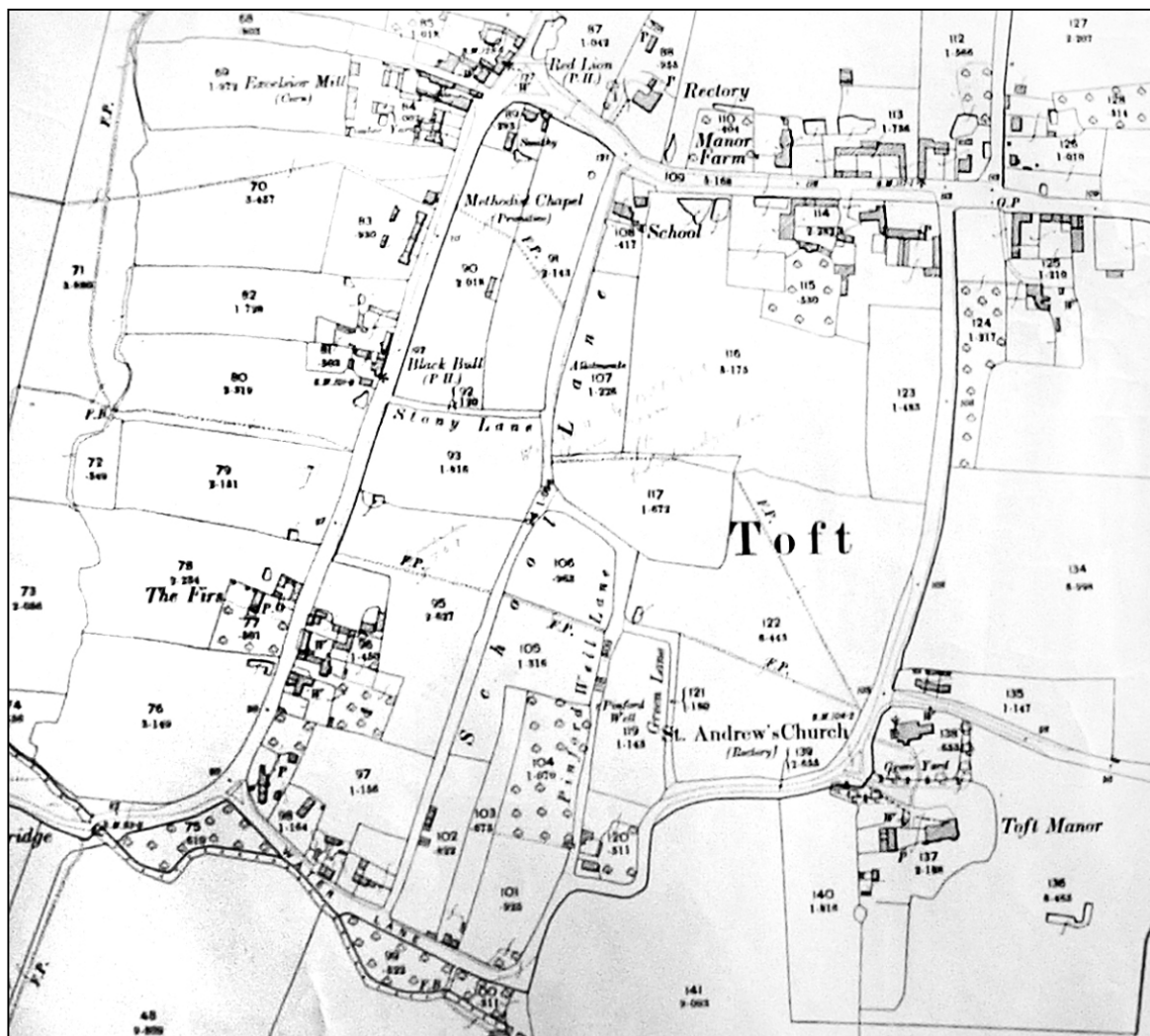
The West Cambridgeshire Hundreds are a group of nature reserves owned and/or managed by the Wildlife Trust for Beds Cambs and Northants: Hardwick, Gamlingay, Hayley, and Waresley and Gransden Woods, and Cambourne Nature Reserve.

**toft
historical
society**

Mapping change in Toft

We are fortunate in Toft in having a number of old maps which tell us much about the shape of the village and how it has changed over time. The 1950's onwards was a period when Toft expanded significantly and THS fortunately also has air photography images which complement the maps over that time.

The 1902 map, below, shows how the High Street and School Lane were sparsely populated at that time. School Lane boasted only the schoolhouse and the Johnsons' cottage, with the rest being farmland and allotments. The High Street and Brookside featured the larger houses and cottages which still exist, along with the Black Bull pub. The village green and Comberton Road area was a busy hub, with the Red Lion pub and nearby houses, the Old Rectory and several farms on either side of the road. Although the High Street and School Lane have since been built up, Toft largely retains its rural character, and a number of meadows survive in the heart of the village.



Toft People's Hall & **Toft Social Club** are proud to present

Toft People's Hall Saturday 23rd March 2024 at 6pm

The Galliard Trio



*An evening of Classical Music
including a light supper*

Tickets £15 including Light supper, Lasagne Alfredo or Lasagne Verde (vegetarian).

Doors open 5.30 pm Concert starts 6.00 pm Meal follows at c.7.00 pm

Coming to Toft People's Hall in 2024

SMITH AND BREWER

<https://smithandbrewer.com/>

May 3, 2024

All tickets available online from December 1:

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



Comberton Library

your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Tel: 0345 045 5225 [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/
library](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library)

Our opening hours (excluding bank holidays etc.)

Monday 10am – 1pm

Wednesday 10am – 1pm and 2.30pm – 5.30pm

Friday 2.30pm – 5.30pm

Saturday 10am – 1pm

A warm space with free wifi, good quality resources, computer access and more, with tea and coffee provided, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3pm, (warm space, your space). All are welcome.

Coming Up!

Astronomy Event at Comberton library on Friday 23rd February, 3.00pm – 3.45pm. An astronomer and author Dr. Matt Bothwell from the Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge will be coming to give a talk. An opportunity to know about the stars and galaxies and answer questions on astronomy. Suitable for all ages. Tickets at £2.00 and refreshments will be provided.

The **Festival of Stories** event will take place on Monday 26th February, 10.30am – 11am. Rose Feather is a storyteller, who will share stories with your children, from 0 to 2, as well as their parents and carers. Places are limited. The occasion is to celebrate National Storytelling Week.

Science Week event on Wednesday 13th March, 3.00pm – 4.30pm. Come along and discover what Comberton Library is doing in Science week? A chance to explore science in a fun way.

Weekly activities

Knit and Natter group continue to meet in Comberton Library, 10.30am – 11.30am. February dates; 19th. March dates: 4th and 18th and then every other Monday onwards. Newcomers are warmly welcome.

Come and sing along, **Rhymetime**, 10.30am – 11.00am for children between 0 to 4 years of age. February dates: 12th and 26th. March dates: 11th and 25th. Also, come and join the First Steps Library Club, aged 0 – 4 years.

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

Comberton library a warm place with free Wifi, good quality resources, computer access and more. We look forward to seeing you there.

Wheelie Bin Collections For March

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

Black Bin:

Thurs 7th Mar

Thurs 21st Mar

Blue/Green Bin

Thurs 14th Mar)

Thurs 28th 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 2024 at the *very latest*. Advertisements will **NOT** be published unless full payment has been received in advance. Please note: *We are currently unable to accept PDF file types.* Quarter-page adverts **MUST** be Portrait-style, half-page adverts **MUST** be Landscape-style. In the first instance, advertisers should contact **Jean Verney** at:

calendaradstoff@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

Tyger, Tyger, burning bright...

The works of William Blake will be showcased in a new exhibition in Cambridge with more than 90 pieces. The display at the Fitzwilliam Museum is designed to offer fresh insights into the British poet and printmaker's life and runs from 23 February to 19 May 2024.

Named '*William Blake's Universe*', the exhibition will delve into Blake's connections with contemporary European artists, drawing parallels to work from his mentors and peers. Blake, who died in 1827 at the age of 69, is recognised as a notable figure in the Romantic movement.

This exhibition has been organised with German art museum the Hamburger Kunsthalle and will feature several loaned works. Visitors can expect to see pieces by the German Romantic artist Philipp Otto Runge, whose works have rarely been seen in the UK.

Among the borrowed items from the Hamburger Kunsthalle will be Runge's *The Large Morning* (1808-1809). This fragmentary oil painting is generally regarded as one of his most impressive works. He completed this piece before his death at age 33.

Blake's Universe is the largest ever display of work from the Fitzwilliam's William Blake collection. In a joint statement, the exhibition's curators, David Bindman and Esther Chadwick, said: "This is the first exhibition to show William Blake not as an isolated figure but as part of European-wide attempts to find a new spirituality in face of the revolutions and wars of his time.

We are excited to be able to shed new light on Blake by placing his works in dialogue with wider trends and themes in European art of the Romantic period."

You can book your place at: <https://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/plan-your-visit/exhibitions/william-blakes-universe> Entry is free but donations are both encouraged and welcome.

The Calendar is always pleased to receive contributions from readers, advertisers and fund raisers. We reserve the right to edit, amend, abridge or otherwise butcher any submissions to accord with technical or editorial requirements, or sometimes just on a whim. We do not normally accept anonymous contributions or those using pen-names.

Contributors are asked to note that all text formatting is removed from items on receipt. Consider **plain text files** as your first choice where possible. **Please avoid proprietary file types (e.g. PDF, PUB, DOCX, XLS etc) unless you feel it essential. Graphics (if you must) are best submitted as PNG files.** Many thanks.

And, finally...

Please remember that contributions for the next issue of the *Calendar* **must** reach the Editor, Michael Walker, **by 20th 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