



Toft Village Calendar

Produced and Distributed by St. Andrew's Parish Church

May 2022



DIARY DATES

TOFT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

[Over 50s Club]. On Wednesday 11th May 2.30 start - our speakers are Cynan and Tricia Ellis-Evans who will transport us to the frozen south with Two views of Antarctica. Guests are always welcome; or if you are 50 or over, would you care to join us? Our programme for the coming year is now available.

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### Sewing, Knit and Natter

Sewing, Knit and Natter continue to meet and will be finalising at their meeting in May their Jubilee displays for the Chapel.

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The Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7-00 pm on Tuesday 10th May. All welcome.

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### The Internet Club

The Internet Club will meet on Monday 4 April. We will not be having a meeting on 18th April as it is Easter Monday

## EDITORIAL

I've been doing a spot of house-painting. Lots of people, of course, beat me to it during the Great Lockdown, but I spent most of that sizing up the job. You can never do too much planning, or, as it's known round here, 'prevaricating', I find. However, sooner or later even the most ingenious lazy-bones finds that brush must be put to wall, sandpaper to wood and ineradicable footprint to carpet. But before all that, you need to buy some paint. If you haven't done this for a while, you are in for a surprise - in fact, several. "These are £38.00." said the man in the shop, plonking an egg-cup sized tin on the counter. "Or, there's the DeLuxe range at £42.00." I paled. "How much?" He sighed. "Yeah, I know. It's Covid. Or Brexit. Or a world shortage. One of 'em, anyway." "Oh - right." I said. "So it's not the energy crisis, then? Or the climate emergency?" He thought for a moment. "Yeah - could be them, too. Anyway, you won't find cheaper; not round here. You thought about colours?" I had. And this, at least, would be simple. "Black." I said. His brow furrowed. "Now, black, we do not do. But we have got - " he reached behind him to the shelf - "Ebony, Midnight Charcoal, or Anthracite." He spread the tins out on the counter. I looked. "They're all black" I said. He gave me a pitying smile. "To the lay-eye," he said "they may be. But a subtle gradation enables the true expert to achieve exactly the right finish." I shut my eyes and put a finger on the first tin it encountered. "This one, then." I said. "Good choice, we sell a lot of this." he said approvingly. I stumbled out of the shop, poorer but wiser, but at least happy that a major hurdle had been overcome.

The happiness didn't last long. Back at Editor Mansions, I assembled what I thought I'd need: A step ladder. Some even older clothes. What I thought was a dust sheet, but later turned out to have been a pair of curtains awaiting re-hanging. Several brushes, some nearly clean from last time and, of course, to open the tin, a screwdriver. With which I gently pried at the lid. Nothing happened. I pressed a little harder. Still nothing. I moved round to the other side of the tin and took a firm grip on it. Then I leant heavily on the screwdriver. At first, nothing. Then - yes, it was definitely starting to budge. One last heave and it should come off. It didn't come off. Instead, it flew off with a loud ping, shot across the room and stuck itself, sticky-side down, to a wall. A white wall (or, as enquiries revealed, a Hint Of Arctic wall). Transfixed, I watched as it glissaded slowly down the wall and slid gently onto the floor, leaving a thick, glutinous trail behind it.

"Oh - here he is again." said the cheery sort in the paint shop, "the man who doesn't know Black from Anthracite. What can we do you for this time, squire?" I mustered as much sang-froid as I could manage. "I have no need of your persiflage, my good man." I told him. "What I want is emulsion, Hint Of Arctic, gallons of it. And no need to wrap it."

It all goes to show. You just can't over-do the planning. And if you want a good job doing, start it tomorrow - never today.



## Desperately seeking SCARECROWS!

After considerable badgering I now have 20 verbal promises from lovely 'Tofties' to create a scarecrow/effigy/ anything-visually-fascinating-and-amusing etc... for display within view of delighted passers-by wandering around Toft during the 4 day Platinum Jubilee Celebrations Thurs 2nd - Sunday 5th June... Plus 2 households have actually e.mailed me to confirm.

Marion817@btinternet.com

A decade ago Toft boasted 70 SCARECROWS.... Pease help me achieve a similar measure of success ... Should you not have the time, inclination or materials to create a ridiculous OTT 'Art Installation' like I intend to display in Toft Drift, a swede with a painted face impaled on a stick will do (I don't mean a member of Abba!). **Please e.mail me by 15th May.** Thank you in anticipation.

Marion Read 'Scarecrow Priestess' (not a very efficient one so far!).

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Parish Council Elections

A new Four Year Term for the Parish Council starts this May and we are looking for new Councillors to replace some of the existing Councillors who are stepping down. If you are interested the nomination papers can be found on the South Cambs District Council website under Election 2022.

If you would like to help support our community please consider applying. The work is not too arduous and can be interesting. Please speak to any of our existing Councillors and they will give you an understanding of what's involved or for a chat please call Martin Yeadon on 01223 263663.

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 (1.5.22) Revd Charity Nzegwu

01763 241803

Stewards:

Diana Tebbit 01223 263557

Stephen Acklam 264055

Mrs Pat Morton 264010

*The Church in Toft***SERVICES OF WORSHIP***1st May* 8.30am Holy Communion - Rev Prof Michael Reiss

11.00am Holy Communion, Methodist Church – Rev. Charity Nzegwu

8th May 11.00am Holy Communion – St. Andrew's – Revd David Newton*15th May* 8.30am Holy Communion - Rev Prof Michael Reiss

11.00am Morning Worship, Methodist Church

22nd May 11.00 am Morning Worship – St. Andrew's Church – Mrs Cathy Michell*26th May* ASCENSION 7.30pm St Andrews – Revd David Newton, Rev Lynda Taylor*29th May* 8.30am Holy Communion - Rev Prof Michael Reiss

10.30am 5th Sunday Holy Communion – Dry Drayton

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

At Easter Time I always seem to turn to poetry. Through making language strange, poetry somehow evokes the depth and richness of the Easter story better than anything I could ever say in prose. So here is a spring time (or Easter time) poem by the wonderful nature poet, Mary Oliver, (introduced to me by the also-wonderful Barbara Preece) entitled The Sun:

*Have you ever seen
anything
in your life
more wonderful*

*than the way the sun,
every evening,
relaxed and easy,
floats toward the horizon*

*and into the clouds or the hills,
or the rumpled sea,
and is gone—
and how it glides again*

*out of the blackness,
every morning,
on the other side of the world,
like a red flower*

*streaming upward on its heavenly oils,
say, on a morning in early summer,
at its perfect imperial distance—
and have you ever felt for anything*

*such wild love—
do you think there is anywhere, in any language
a word billowing enough
for the pleasure*

*that fills you,
as the sun
reaches out,
as it warms you*

*as you stand there
empty-handed—
or have you too
turned from this world—*

*or have you too
gone crazy
for power,
for things?*



THE CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

From May 1st, Revd Charity Nzegwu, who is based in Royston, will take over the lead of Toft Methodist Church from Revd Alison Walker who will be going to Kent in the autumn. In the next couple of months Alison will still be around but not in charge. We welcome Charity and look forward to working with her. We will greatly miss Alison who has contributed in so many ways to the life of the Church in Toft whilst she has been here. Her last service in Toft will be in July.

It is with great sadness we report the death of Dr Tim Rink; the Rinks have been in the village, living in the Manor and later in the Coach House between periods of living in the USA and France, for more than 40 years.



Queens Platinum Jubilee

A Brief Programme of Events



Thursday Jun 2nd

Scarecrow Trail around the Village
Erect your Scarecrow - morning

Lighting of the Beacon
Lot Meadow - 9 pm

Friday June 3rd

Sewing Knit and Natter Exhibition
Methodist Chapel - 10 am

History Exhibition
Methodist Chapel - 10 am

Jubilee Street Party - Bring & Share
Upper School Lane - 3 pm

Saturday June 4th

Exhibitions continue
Methodist Chapel - 10 am

Maypole Dancing training
St Andrews Church - 10 am

Decorating the Church/Well
St Andrews Church - 10 am

"Toft Voices" Videos/History talk
Toft Peoples Hall - 2.30 pm

Jubilee Barbecue
Toft Peoples Hall - 7:30 pm

Sunday June 5th

Parish Walk and Frog Hall Picnic
From Methodist Chapel - 10 pm

Maypole Dancing
The Village Green - 2 pm

Parading the Garland/Well Dressing
Church Road - 3 pm (approx.)

Service of Thanksgiving
St Andrews Church - 3:30 pm

Parish Tea (and Cake!)
Churchyard - 4:15 (approx.)

Social Club Jubilee Quiz
Peoples Hall - 8 pm



TOFT SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

We are exceptionally pleased to reveal that our **fund raising evening** in April raised £581.74 for the "It's On the Ball" charity, in support of David from Moongazer's Beer Barrel Push from Fakenham to St Bart's in London. In the end David had to push the barrel over 190 miles, and did a great job of raising awareness and funds for the testicular cancer charity. We would like to thank everyone who helped make the fund raising possible – by donating prizes for the draw, buying draw tickets, coming to the meal and giving donations. It is an amazing result and shows what a great place Toft is!

In April we had a successful **Food on Friday** serving "Bangers and Mash". For May, on Friday 6th we are providing a taste of the eastern Mediterranean, with Lamb Koftas (very tasty lamb kebabs) or Halloumi & Vegetable kebabs with rice and salad. Doors open at 7pm, with food just £5.00. We operate on first come, first served – so come early to avoid disappointment!

The Film Club will be earlier than usual in May, on the 14th i.e. on the second rather than third Saturday. We are planning to show the recent film "Belfast". Written and directed by Kenneth Branagh, Belfast is a poignant story of love, laughter and loss in one boy's childhood amid the music and social tumult of the late 1960s. Although set in the Troubles, this feel-good movie reminds us that no matter how far you go, you never forget where you came from. 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.

Carpet Bowls is on Friday 13th May, doors open at 8pm – why not come along and give this family friendly game a go.

Toft Art is on Thursday 5th May – new members are always welcome.

Toft Quiz Night is on Thursday 12th May - teams of up to 6, just £1 per team member. Doors open at 8pm.

The ever popular **Toft Bingo** will be on 26th May.

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

Advance notice:

The Club will be supporting various activities over the **Jubilee Weekend** at the start of June. We will be open as normal on Thursday 2nd June, so why not join us for a drink and chat before or after the beacon has been lit. The Club will be open during the Friday Street Party and the Saturday Village Barbeque, and we will be running a **Jubilee Quiz Night** on Sunday 5th June.

We are also starting to think about the **Beer Festival** for this year (to be held over the weekend of 2nd - 4th September) – it's early days but the weekend relies on volunteers, all of whom have a great time helping at this incredibly popular event. If you are interested in helping out, then please call in at the Club or drop us an email at admin@toftsocialclub.org.uk or see the website for details.

Your Committee is: : Martin Sebborn (Chairman), Roger Thorogood (Vice Chairman), Gill Collett (Treasurer), Paul Hercus, 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 Parish Council

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

30 West Drive

Highfields Caldecote

Cambridge, CB23 7NY Tel: 01954 210241

Councillors	Phone	E-mail
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Chairman:

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

Notices of meetings and agendas are published on the Parish Council Noticeboard near the bus shelter together with minutes, which can also be viewed at www.toft.org.uk. 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 Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7-00 on Tuesday 10th May. There will be no further Parish Council meetings until another election has been held to recruit enough Councillors to form a new Parish Council.

The Parish Council met on Monday 4th April. Craig Larter attended the meeting and gave an update on the County Broadband project. He reported that the network installation across the village will be complete by the end of April. Connections to houses will start in June, he expected that to take about 6 weeks. The process is that individual households will be contacted to agree routes and the end points of the cables (which can be different to the existing locations). Once connected the household will be operating on the fibre optic system. County Broadband will allow up to 12 months for your existing contracts to expire before they start charging.

Some residents expressed their concerns about speeding through the village. Cllr Tall responded explaining the efforts the PC has made to improve the situation including trying to make it a 40mph limit between Comberton and Toft. The PC committed to revisiting that issue as there is

now a 40mph limit all the way between Comberton and Barton. It also committed to contacting the police to encourage them to do more speed checks. Information from the speed monitor gives clear evidence of the problem.

The planning application for the additional houses at Bennell Farm is going for appeal. The PC were able to reconsider the s106 demands as part of the process and did so by making the requests for funds to improve or replace play equipment in the Rec and for upgrades to the hall.

Cllr Yeadon reported that a tree had fallen in the Rec. Fortunately nobody was injured. It was noted that the trees are inspected annually to ensure they are secure. Peter Johnson has kindly offered to remove the tree. Cllr Yeadon also noted that he had received an email from a resident expressing concern about the younger child's climbing equipment as it has two sides of its platform that are open with the possibility of a child falling. It was noted that there is an annual inspection by ROSPA and they hadn't commented on it but that the PC will seek a comment from them.

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Meeting of the PC which will be the first meeting of the new PC following the possible elections in May. It was agreed to hold these two meetings on Tuesday (yes Tuesday) 10th May at 7-00. It was agreed that the APM will consist of reports from the District and County Councillors and from the Chair of the Parish Council.*

Cllr Tall reported that Covid had caused delays in meeting the CC regarding the car parking outside the church but that it was planned for early April. Cllr Tall also agreed to have an initial discussion regarding potential speed reduction measures with the representative from the CC.

A resident has kindly offered to repaint the PC's notice board, an offer the PC gratefully accepted.

Cllr Elis-Evans gave an update on the Jubilee celebrations, specifically regarding the beacon. The existing pole supporting the beacon in Church Drift is badly damaged and it has been decided that a new pole would be erected to display the commemorative plaque in Church Drift, possibly with a display board noting the historic occasion of lighting the beacon on the millennium. A new pole will be installed in Lot Meadow for the new beacon.

The meeting was closed with the Chair thanking the District Councillor and the Parish Councillors for the work and contributions supporting the community over the last 4 years.

*** Election Update**

Unfortunately only two residents have stood for election to the Parish Council for its next four year term. This is not enough to form a new Council and so there will be another election after the May election date. We need up to 5 residents willing to stand. If you have any inkling to offer please contact Martin Yeadon on 01223 263663 to discuss. This does mean that the First PC meeting of the year scheduled for 10th May will not happen although the Annual Parish Meeting will take place.

Climate Change & Green Issues Working Group

THE E-WASTE MOUNTAIN

Did you know?

Waste from electronics and electricals is the world's fastest-growing domestic waste stream. A policy paper back in 2019 by Green Alliance revealed that the UK generates the second-highest amount of e-waste per person annually, with only Norway faring worse, and the majority of this e-waste is not recorded as recycled. According to the UN's global e-waste monitor, a record 53.6 million metric tonnes of electronic waste was generated globally in 2019, with the waste stream having increased by more than one-fifth since 2014 – a disastrous trend.

Half of this e-waste is personal devices such as computers, screens, smartphones, tablets and laptops. The remainder is made up of domestic appliances such as dishwashers, washing machines, washer-dryers, dryers, fridges, freezers, televisions, microwaves and cookers and industrial electrical items.

Only 20% of global e-waste is recycled each year, which means that 40 million tonnes of e-waste are either placed in a landfill, burned or illegally traded and treated in a sub-standard way. The value of items wasted in 2019 was estimated to be more than \$57bn (£43.5bn) but, more important, is the effect that it has on the environment and on the people who are involved in these practices.

Most of the e-waste that is shipped is sent to China, Ghana, Nigeria, Pakistan, India, and Vietnam - countries which do not have safety or environmental regulations in place to protect their people or the environment. Toxic materials such as lead, mercury, cadmium and arsenic, leach into the environment and expose workers to high levels of contaminants which can lead to irreversible health effects, including cancers, miscarriages, neurological damage and diminished IQs.

What can we do?

We can recycle our domestic appliances and electronic equipment through Waste Disposal Sites such as the one at Milton or Thriplow. If the item is too bulky for you to transport, South Cambs District Council provides a service for collecting large electrical items. Phone 01954 713000 or visit the website:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/recycling-and-bins/bulky-item-collection-service/>

Recycle our electronic equipment either through companies such as:

Cambridge Computer Recycling, 3 Mount Farm, Babraham, Cambridge CB22 3AX

<http://www.cambridge-computer-recycling.co.uk> Tel: 01223 473875

or via the social network, "Nextdoor". Keep an eye out for Mike Nettleton who offers regular pick-ups of personal electronic equipment.

Cambridge 721366 / 07905 356468



CLAIRE AND ANTOINETTE CANN

International Duo-Pianists

HARLTON CHURCH, CB23 1EN

Saturday 7th May, 6pm

Concert for Ukraine on Two Pianos
A sparkling programme to include:

Liszt - Hungarian Rhapsody No 2
Lutoslawski - Paganini Variations
Schubert - Fantasia in F minor D940
Infante - Ritmo
and the Ukrainian National Anthem

Tickets £ 20, £ 5 (under 19's)

Available after 7th April from:
Hare and Hounds pub, High Street, Harlton
and after Sunday parish church services in
Harlton, Coton, Barton and Haslingfield
also available from: johnhelmsing@outlook.com

A concert in aid of the Disasters Emergency Committee - Ukraine

LET'S GROW AND SHARE



Please donate your spare seeds and seedlings to the seed swap. Thank you.



[toft_telephone_box_seed_swap](https://www.instagram.com/toft_telephone_box_seed_swap)



**Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire**

Wildlife Trust West Cambridgeshire Hundreds Update: May 2022

May is an amazing time in nature, and is the best time to go on an early morning walk to listen to the birds because the summer migrants and resident birds are in full song. In Hardwick Wood Nature Reserve, listen for the willow warbler who has arrived from Southern Africa with its musical down-the-scale song. This bird especially likes the bushy re-growth areas of coppiced hazel. You will find bluebells, early purple orchids, and wild garlic in the woods. Thank you for sticking to the middle of the official paths.

We are able to offer more funded sessions this year, thanks to Comberton Adult Education Centre covering costs. One programme on offer is a Wildlife for Beginners short course on the accessible Cambourne Nature Reserve. This is a series of three guided walks in a small group, where we will focus on identifying common wildlife. A similar programme is being offered at Waresley and Gransden Woods and Gamlingay Wood Nature Reserve. These are offered free to participants in return for a commitment to attend the sessions and complete some paperwork. There are other funded sessions running in Cambourne, for toddlers (Little Bugs), and parents or carers of pre-walking babies (Wild Babies). Besides these funded sessions, I also have a programme of paid-for stand-alone family sessions during the school holidays, and guided walks for adults throughout spring, summer and autumn, including three seasonal walks in Hardwick Wood. Supporting our events gives you an opportunity to ask questions about our reserves, and helps us continue to share our love of nature. Wildlife Trust BCN members get a discount on most events.

www.wildlifebcn.org/events

In May, I'll be delivering a pack of resources to each primary school in the area to help them get ready for our annual campaign 30 Days Wild. Free resources are also available online for families, care homes or individuals. Throughout June, this campaign encourages people to connect with nature by doing something wild every day.

www.wildlifebcn.org



A Willow Warbler

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

You can contact me on:

E-mail: rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org Facebook: @BeccaBadgerWTBCN

BCN Facebook/Twitter: @wildlifebcn

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



With the Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants

Spring 2022

Guided walks in the West Cambs 100s

Join Communities and Wildlife Officer Rebecca Neal for a sociable gentle stroll looking for common wildlife on these special nature reserves

- Booking is essential to manage group size
- Suitable for beginners
- £4 for Wildlife Trust BCN members, £6 for non-members (plus booking fee)
- Walks are 2-3 miles
- Book online at wildlifebcn.org/events or scan the QR code below

Waresley & Gransden Woods	21 st April	10-12
Waresley & Gransden Woods	26 th April	6-8pm
Hayley Wood	10 th May	10am -12ish
Gamlingay Wood	24 th May	10-12.30ish
Hardwick Wood	26 th May	12.30-2.30pm

More specialist walks are also available this spring, themed around bluebells and identifying bird song



Explore more events online: wildlifebcn.org/events

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire, The Manor House, Broad Street, Cambourne, CB23 6DH Tel: 01954 713500 Email: cambridgeshire@wildlifebcn.org Registered charity No. 1000412
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Toft Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

June 2nd – 5th 2022



Keep the dates – the organisation of the Jubilee and the Spring Feast continues and promises to be an enjoyable weekend for the village.

In the meantime:



Think Scarecrow. The closing date (May 15th) for Scarecrow Trail applications to Marion Read (marion817@btinternet.com) is coming very soon so do not miss out.



Think Exhibition. The Historical Society needs your help as we create our Jubilee exhibition, “Seven Decades of Change in the Second Elizabethan Age”.

During the Queen’s long reign Toft has always marked the Queen’s jubilees. Over the years many of us will have individually acquired various mementos of these and other royal occasions. **We want to create an exhibition of these royal memorabilia – mugs, plates, coins, books, magazines, tea towels, invites to garden parties, photographs, whatever.**

We also want to develop a timeline of what was happening, both locally and in the wider world, in each of the seven decades of the Queen’s reign. For example, in 1953, the Queen was crowned and Hillary & Tenzing conquered Everest but there were only three televisions in Toft then to watch these events. By the 1960’s the village school had closed, but the Village College had opened, Beatlemania had arrived and astronauts had landed on the Moon. **We want your photographs, stories, and anything else that illustrates significant events, changes in fashion, music, education, work, holidays, etc., through these decades.**

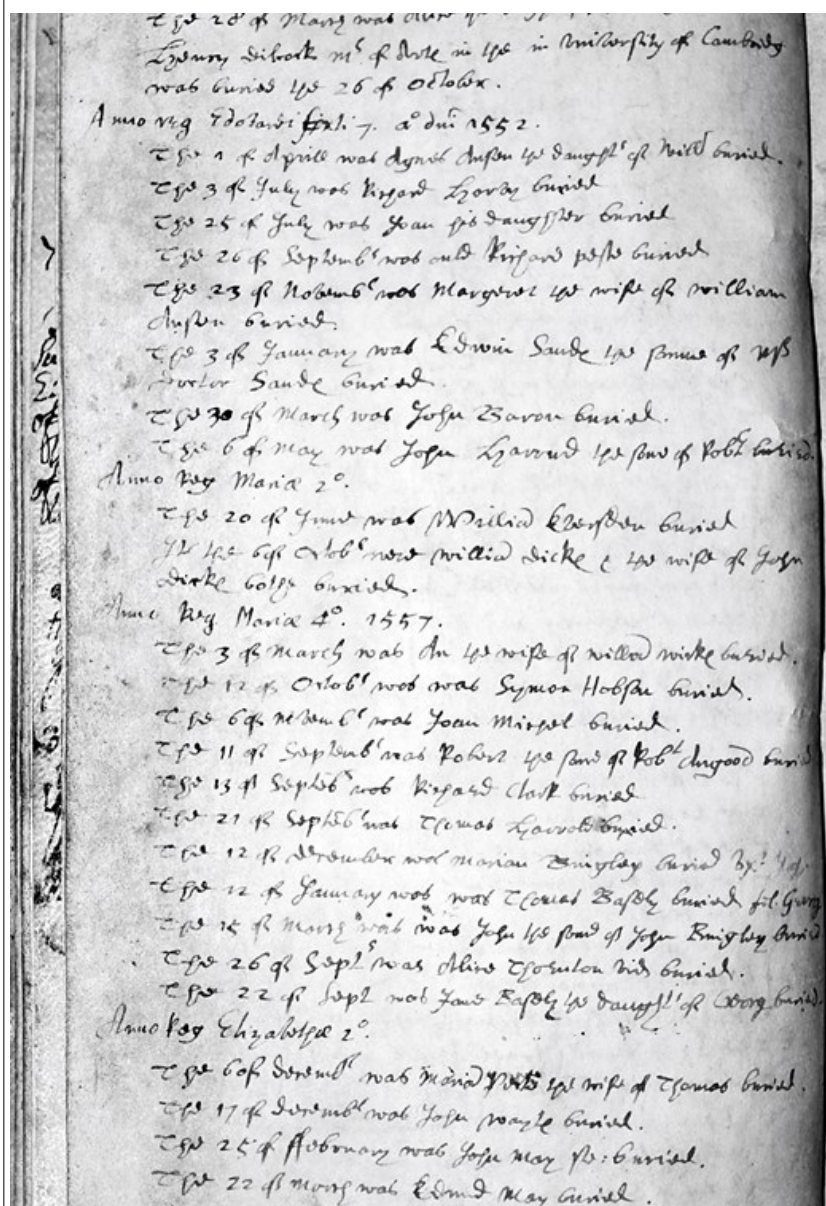
We invite you to bring your items to the Methodist Chapel between 9am and 1pm on May 14th where we can then assemble these into an exhibition in time for the Jubilee weekend.

If you cannot make the 14th, contact Cynan Ellis-Evans (cynan.toft@gmail.com) Ann Mitchell or Mike McCarthy and we will make other arrangements to pick up your display items. If your items are fragile we can scan or photograph them and return the original – but remember to label each item so that they go back to the right person!

toft historical society

TOFT & ENGLISH MONARCHS (2)

This month, as we approach the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II, we continue our look back on the history of Toft and the reigns of previous monarchs as recorded in the parish records of St Andrew's church. Perhaps the most remarkable page in the records gives the details of burials in the years 1552 to 1558, for they occurred, on one and the same page, during the reigns of no fewer than three monarchs, Edward VI, Mary Tudor and Elizabeth I.



Edward VI reigned for one just one day short of six years, from 1547 to 1553. He was followed by Mary Tudor, Henry VIII's daughter by Catherine of Aragon. Mary reigned for only five years, from 1553 to 1558. Mary tried to turn back the tide of the English Reformation, earning herself the title of 'Bloody Mary'.

Then came Elizabeth I, who reigned from 1558 to 1603, a long reign during which England became established as a major trading and military power, and the English language flourished and expanded its vocabulary to become something like our language of today.

These three monarchs reigned in succession when this extraordinary page of Saint Andrew's Church records was completed.

Family names that feature in Toft burials on this page include Clark, Wickes, Eversden, Dicks, Austen, Hobson, Bingley, Basely, Harvy and Thornton.

HURRAY IT'S MAY! TIME FOR THE BIG TOFT BREAKFAST

On Sunday 15th May from 9am to noon we shall be serving the Big Toft Breakfast 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.

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 (e.g. buying fairtrade fruit) please get in touch.

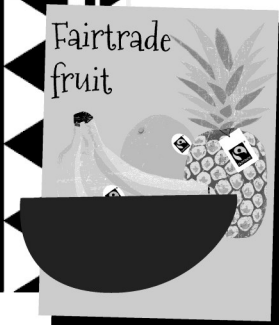
Email contacts:

linda.hollow@btconnect.com

jane@tebbitdesign.co.uk

carol@sebborn.com

Fairtrade
fruit



Local Bacon...

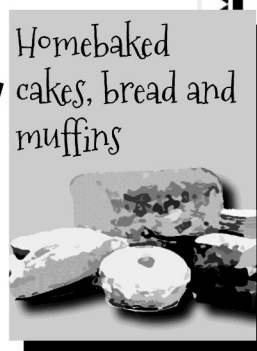


...and Eggs

Fairtrade tea &
coffee



Homebaked
cakes, bread and
muffins



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



Comberton Library

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

We are delighted to announce that Comberton Library have restarted rhymetime, our next session will be on the 9th May from 10:30 until 11:00am. The sessions run every other Monday during term time.

Queen's Jubilee Storytime and Craft

Monday 30th May 10.30 -11.30 am

Come along and hear some stories and make a crown to take home, £1 per child

Would you like to join the library but never find time to visit? Sign up online and start downloading free eBooks, eMagazines and more straight away! We have recently introduced card-free membership – find out more by visiting www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library Of course, you are also still welcome to come into the library and join in the traditional way.

Bookings are open for the Spring/Summer Library Presents events and there are some great events to choose from: <https://www.library.live/the-library-presents-events>

16-22 May is Dementia Action Week. The library has books and information about dementia, to help everyone better understand the condition and find support if needed.

Please remember we do still have a computer available for use, you can book online or just pop by to see if it's free. Book online here: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/visit-a-library>

Is your Bus Pass due to expire soon or are you newly eligible? If you or someone you know needs help renewing or applying for their pass we can assist them at the library, you can renew your pass up to six weeks before it expires. Please contact us at: your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or call 0345 045 5225 to book an appointment. You are also welcome to just drop in, for renewals all you need to bring is your current bus pass.

Please help us raise awareness that Cambridgeshire Libraries are safe spaces for domestic abuse victims. All libraries have contact details for appropriate support agencies. Our computers are free to use, and your search history can't be tracked.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

"Bring & Share" Street Party

When: Friday, 3rd June 2022

Time: 3.00 - 5.00 p.m.

Where: Just below Toft People's Hall

Invitations will shortly be given to all residents of Toft and their families

FUN FOOD AND MUSIC

Children - please come in fancy dress, Royal or otherwise!!!

There will be music from the last 7 decades

Toft Social Club Bar will be Open

School Lane will be closed to through traffic from 11.00am - 7.00pm
(The village Car Park will be accessible from Comberton Road and lower School Lane from Brookside)

Toft Internet Club

The group is currently taking a 'review break', but our intention is to start up again in the autumn, when we shall be following a slightly different format – see below, and watch this space!

The Internet Club first met in spring 2018, initially in Home Meadow, but we soon moved to Toft People's Hall, which has a better wifi connection. Later that year, with the invaluable help of the late Nick Nicholson, we applied to the Cambridge Community Fund and were granted an amount that enabled us to purchase several items, including a printer which is available for use by anyone in Toft on request (see the panel below).

While numbers have fluctuated, on average we see about 8–10 people each session, including our helpful 'experts' who between them are able to solve most problems. We have a mix of Apple and Android users, so maestros in both are always in demand.

When we meet again, the plan is to have more structured sessions, each to include a short group tutorial on a specific topic, for example:

- Technical jargon in simple terms
- Email how-tos (and how-not-tos)
- Security issues
- Photos – taking and editing
- Facetime and Zoom

We aim to use the TPH projector, linking it to the instructor's tablet, phone or laptop, which will allow more people to see what goes on on the screen.

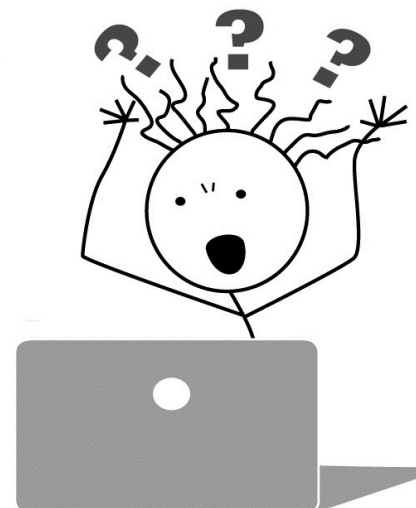
There's so much that technology can do – but learning in this group is in small steps: instruction, followed by practice, practice and more practice!

Some advantages of using the internet

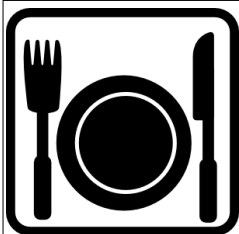
- Allows you to communicate with friends and family.
- Saves time and money (if you order a new bus pass, passport or driving licence online it will arrive within days; if by post, it can take weeks).
- You can find an answer to almost every question you might ever want to ask!
- Many goods are cheaper to buy online.

Of course there are downsides – concerns about security, dependency on screen use, cost of the hardware – but on balance life is easier, and cheaper, if you are online and know how to access what you need.

Do think about coming along when we start up again. We'll give plenty of notice in the Calendar as to when that will be.



The printer in the TPH is available for anyone to use, under supervision. Paper is available in A4, A3 and photo formats, and in different qualities. There is a charge per sheet. It will be available, on request, at any Community Café session run by 'The Dinnerladies' (Jane's team). At other times, please contact Katherine (jameskatherinej@icloud.com) or Jane (jane@tebbitdesign.co.uk).



ForkTalk

"The Ickleton Lion?" suggested someone. The rest of us looked puzzled. "The Red Lion at Ickleton, do you mean?" ventured someone else.

"Ah! Used to be." said the first someone. "But now, it's been re-named and re-opened. Thought it might be worth a try." Thus inspired, an unseasonably balmy April day found us wandering through the by-roads of Duxford towards the compact village of Ickleton (pop: 709). The pub isn't hard to find, being situated prominently on what I would imagine is the village's High Street, although it goes by the name of Abbey Street. There's been a pub on this site for at least a hundred and fifty years and the present building looks as if it dates from around that period - a solidly built, four-square example of rural Victorian architecture. Having closed a year or so back, it's now been taken over, re-vamped and re-opened by a couple called Mike and Claire. They - or someone in their backer's design department - have decided it should be coated in battleship-grey paint and that, instead of a pub sign, it should have the name jauntily stencilled down all and any visible elevations. Doesn't work for me, but each to his own.* There's a car-park to one side of the pub, but it's not overly massive and if you visit on a busy day, you'll need to find a space on the street. Luckily, we managed to squeeze in.

And so to the bar, which acts as a sort of ante-room to the main dining area. Now, I should say at this point that I am extremely well-disposed to anyone who takes on running a pub in the current climate, especially one which, we must suppose, has already failed once on the same site. They deserve our support, not to say applause; it's not a job I'd relish. So I was hoping to find much to praise with the Ickleton Lion. And indeed, first signs were promising. Bar offerings included the ambrosial Tribute from St Austell's Cornish brewery, aided and abetted by a muscular Landlord bitter from Timothy Taylor. Both of these, I happen to know, were served in tip-top condition, as were the house red and an exotic-looking lime cordial - and with little hanging-about, so full marks there. The landlord - or I assume it was he - is a bluff, sizeable cove, well-suited to front-of-house duties and we were shown to our table after a very bearable few minutes looking around. And it was here, I'm afraid to say, that matters began to deteriorate.

We sat. We chatted. We looked at the menu. We chatted some more. We re-examined the menu, in case some piquant viand had escaped our notice first time around. Finally, a youngish chap arrived and asked us what we wanted, in much the same tone as you might employ on discovering a cat-burglar in your spare room. He disappeared with our order and we settled down to a

further twenty minutes of conversation. In mitigation, I will say that the place was comfortably full, although it cannot have come as a complete shock to the owners to realise how many covers the restaurant could hold. They, after all, had taken the bookings. But you hear much of the way in which the hospitality trade is suffering from labour shortages now, so my sympathies remained with the pub, whose inadequate staff were clearly doing their limited best. The trouble with this situation is that the customers, with nothing much else to do, decide to have another drink. And another. And then they became a little vociferous, hailing passing waitresses with an 'Excuse me!' in that very slightly crisped tone which denotes an English man or woman approaching the end of their tether. Unhappily, when the food finally arrived it was, to put it charitably, nothing to write home about. My prawn cocktail, for example, took me straight back to a bad night at a Berni Inn, circa 1981. Cheap supermarket shrimps, watery iceberg lettuce and a rosemarie sauce fresh from the jar. Not even a sophisticated slice of lemon to liven things up a bit. Still, I did get to tour the area looking for a spoon with which to eat it. There then followed a longeur of just under an hour during which, we assumed, the kitchens were busy locally-sourcing ingredients - or at least, that's what they say they do.

At long last, just as we were on the point of forgetting why we were there, our main courses materialised. I often think a good question to ask of yourself in restaurants is: Could I have cooked this any better at home? Unless you are A Star Baker, if the answer is 'Yes', then it's cause to worry a little. I'd opted for a roast goose breast. Now, there is a bit of a knack to getting this right, but nothing that should be beyond any half-capable chef. So it's disappointing to note that it's a knack this particular chef has yet to acquire. I wouldn't say it was actually send-backable, but the word that kept coming to mind throughout our experience was 'ordinary'. The assorted meats were ordinary. The accompanying veg likewise. Word is, the Lion is big on fish, but there was nothing on the menu on our visit which allowed us to confirm this rumour. Puds followed surprisingly quickly (a mere quarter of an hour or so) and again, 'ordinary' was the verdict. All in all, I found the Ickleton Lion a bit of a disappointment. Flattered to deceive, is, I think, the right phrase. Underneath all this, though, is a good pub struggling to emerge. They're doing a lot of things right, but a few - and, unfortunately for them, major - things wrong. Sort out the staffing problems, give the kitchen the time and space to show what it can do and this place could yet become what its own publicity says it is: "a great pub with good food near Saffron Walden." But there's a way to go yet.

*Other genders are available.

Wheelie Bin Collections For May

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

Black Bin:

Weds 11th May

Weds 25th May

Blue/Green Bin

Thurs 5th May

Weds 18th May

Notice to Advertisers

Advertisements are published quarterly. Copy for inclusion in the next available edition of the Calendar **must** reach us by 17th July 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: calendaradstoft@gmail.com to discuss their requirements.

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 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
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 District Councillor: 01954 210040
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 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

The Fen Rivers Way

The Fen Rivers Way is a 48-mile walk between Cambridge and Kings Lynn following the Rivers Cam and Great Ouse. The main route mainly follows the rivers' western banks, although there is an eastern alternative available between Cambridge and Ely. The route is mostly flat, with very little ascent or descent.

It is best to walk the trail from south to north, mainly because for the last 5 miles into Ely you get to see Ely cathedral rising above the Fens like a ship ahead of you, the towers seeming like masts. It also follows the river downstream, which seems like a natural way of following a river.

Since the Cambridge to King's Lynn railway follows the river all the way up to Kings Lynn, it is easy to walk short stretches and catch the train back to the starting point.

The Fen Rivers Way makes quite a nice and easy amble on a warm summers day, and there are a few pubs in which you can have a wayside drink. However, on a windy day the raised banks beside the river can feel very exposed as the wind sweeps in from the Fens. On the other hand, if you pick a nice summer's day to do the walk then the opposite problem can occur, with lack of water being a problem.

An Apology

Following the editorial in last month's issue, I have received an anonymous letter of complaint. Editorials are merely my thoughts on the ways of the world and are not written with the intention of causing offence. I therefore apologise for any offence that my editorial caused, particularly to people who actually suffered under the Nazi regime and, of course, to dentists everywhere.

- Ed.

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 May**. 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

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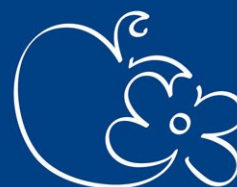
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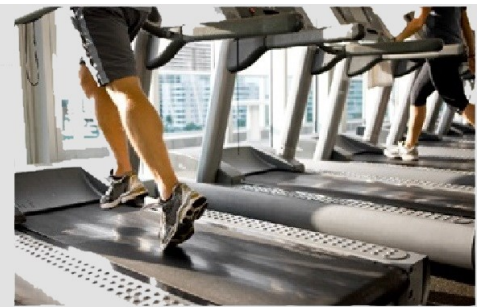
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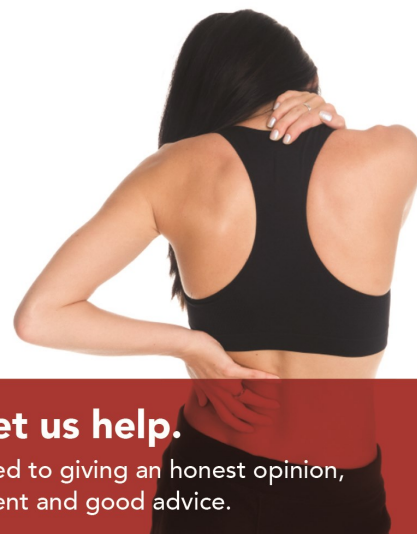
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