



Toft Village Calendar

Produced and Distributed by St. Andrew's Parish Church

November 2021



DIARY DATES

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING



No Coffee Morning this month, but you can always pop along to the Community Café any Wednesday..

TOFT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

[Over 50s Club]. met up again in October to a full house and a happy party celebrating a good number of members who had passed an '0' birthday since we had last met. We are definitely up and going again! **This month we have a short trip to Scotsdales on Wednesday, 10th November** arriving there about noon. If anyone would like to join us please contact Ann Mitchell 262516. .

Sewing, Knit and Natter will again be decorating with poppies for Remembrance the outside of the Chapel.

For the date of our November meeting contact 262144..

The Parish Council - The next PC meeting is on **1st November at 7.00 pm.** It will be held in The People's Hall. All welcome subject to prevailing restrictions.

The Internet Club

The internet club will meet on 1st and 15th November from 2pm to 4pm at the village hall. Drop in any time to see us, especially if you have any techy problems. Any computer buffs will also be welcome. We serve tea and biscuits as an incentive!

EDITORIAL

To lose one Christmas may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose two on the trot looks like er, well, an increasing probability, if the view from here is to be believed. No presents - they're all stuck in freight containers with no-one to drive them anywhere; no turkeys and no chance of a substitute leg of pork because there's no-one to see to the pigs. No veg, because there's no-one to pick them and even if there was, there'll be no way of cooking them because of our world-beating energy policy. Oh dear. And don't get me started on the lack of cardboard to box-up online purchases - not that they'll be delivered if there's another petrol panic.

On the other hand, maybe there's a bright side to all this? I mean, with the hard-won experience of last year to build on, surely we can turn things to our advantage? For a start, now that we all know how to use Zoom, there's no need for that dispiriting slog up the A1 to visit the in-laws - and you can hang on to that decent-looking bottle of red you'd have had to give them when, or if, you did get there. And I'm sure most gardens can provide enough veg to satisfy even the most edacious set of chops. They'd be locally-sourced, too - none of those appalling food-miles to worry about. And even if you've mysteriously failed to turn your patch over to sprouts and parsnips, there's plenty of time - start now and by Christmas you could be tucking into an egg-and-home-gown-cess sandwich. What's not to like? On home entertainment, the blessings come thick and fast. No more wrangling over the remote, no more sulking in the kitchen because everyone else wants to watch Morecombe and Wise's Greatest Christmas Hits (again) and you had your heart set on that Channel 4 documentary about the Bactrian Camel. Instead, mature this year's conkers in a dark dry place until the Big Day, then treat yourself and all the family to a marathon game using the string you saved on wrapping up gifts - it'll help you keep warm during the power cuts. And, when you find you can't get hold of a Christmas tree for love nor money, simply shred an old plastic carrier bag and drape the bits over the nearest conifer. It'll look just like those real trees you see lining the M11.

Of course, even these meagre treats could as yet fall under the rebarbative cosh wielded by the authorities. Even as I write, men in white coats are making disturbing noises about 'Plan B' or a return of everybody's Christmas favourite, Lockdown. This is scary stuff, especially to people like me, who hadn't even realised that there was a 'Plan A', let alone that it was wobbling on the cusp of failure.

Still, as the temperatures begin their seasonal plunge, there is one small, feebly-glimmering ray of hope. So far, no-one's told us to keep the windows open.

Your care home experiences wanted!

Do you, a loved one, family member or friend live in a Cambridgeshire or Peterborough care home?

Health and social care champion *Healthwatch Cambridgeshire** is calling out to local families to share their experiences of care homes over the last 12-18 months.

From communications and visiting restrictions to Covid testing and end of life care – they want to hear what it's been like for you.

What you tell Healthwatch will help local health and care services prepare better for the future.

If you're not online, get in touch and they can send you a paper questionnaire and a pre-paid envelope. Call 0330 355 1285.

Share your views at:

<https://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/care-home-survey>

* **Healthwatch Cambridgeshire** is your local health and social care champion. From Tydd St Giles to Linton and everywhere in between, we make sure NHS leaders and other decision makers hear your voice and use your feedback to improve care. We can also help you to find reliable and trustworthy information and advice.

MINISTRY TEAM**THE CHURCH IN TOFT**

St. Andrew's Parish Church

Team Vicar:

Rev David Newton 01223 665654

Lay Minister: Barbara Preece Tel: 263466

Churchwardens:

Ann Mitchell 262516

John Quenby 263949

Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Alison Walker

01223 872862

alison.walker@methodist.org.uk

Stewards:

Diana Tebbit 01223 263557

Stephen Acklam 264055

Mrs Pat Morton 264010

*The Church in Toft***SERVICES OF WORSHIP***31st October* 8.30am Holy Communion - Rev Prof Michael Reiss

NB 10.30am Holy communion hosted by St. Helens, Little Eversden

3.00pm St. Andrew's – Service of All Souls* – Mrs Barbara Preece, Mrs Cathy Michell

7th November 8.30am Holy Communion - Rev Prof Michael Reiss

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

14th November ** REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

10.50 Gather outside Methodist Church, followed by service - Mrs Ann Mitchell

21st November 8.30am Holy Communion – Rev David Newton

10.30am Churches Together at Comberton Leisure Centre. Speaker :Brother Samuel the retired head of the Franciscans

(There will be no zoom service)

28th November 11.00am Morning Worship to celebrate the anniversary of our Local Ecumenical Partnership at St. Andrews –

Rev David Newton & Rev Robert Dolman followed by light lunch at Methodist Church

Morning prayer on Wednesdays at 9.15am. This is available on email

Also on Wednesday evenings at 8.00pm, via Zoom a service of compline: ID: 899 215 191 or follow the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/899215191>

Zoom services available at 11.00am every Sunday:

NEW MEETING ID: 823 1147 3640

* ** Please see Page three for details

Dear Friends**Autumn**

By the time this reaches you we will be beyond the Autumn equinox. Those warm days of late September a distant memory; the clocks change and suddenly we plunge into dark evenings.

I have a good friend from Texas who, on living over here for a year or so, could not believe how much we talk about the weather. She'd heard the stories of strange English folk but was shocked to then find the reality!

But, the shifting of the seasons happens in ways that Texas does not know, and there has always been something quite special I think about those liminal seasons of spring and autumn which we have in a far more drawn-out way than places nearer the equator. Gradually, imperceptibly even, the days shorten and temperature drops. The leaves turn red and slowly fall.

We lose something of ourselves when we lose our connection to the rhythms of the seasons. The rhythms speak to us of deep truths, of the importance of sleep, even of the place of death, of the baroness of "Winter" (however we take that metaphor) and the never failing hope of the coming "Spring".

With Love, Rev. David Newton

Sewing, Knit and Natter

will again be decorating with poppies for Remembrance the outside of the Chapel.

For the date of our November meeting contact 262144.



THE CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY

** REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The uniformed British Legion Remembrance Service will be at St. Mary's Comberton this year.

* ALL SOULS on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31st

An invitation

Seeking Solace

We would like to invite you to a service of quietness, words and music, where we remember 'Those we Love but See no More'

and the losses we all shared in the last two years.

There will be refreshments following the service.

We look forward to welcoming you.

With love from Barbara Preece and Cathy Michell, who will lead the service.



[Solace is a beautiful glass sculpture in the Lady Chapel at Ely, made by Lance Rowe, of angel wings – hence the name of this service]

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**WOMENS REFUGE** were very grateful for all the food we delivered to them after Harvest this year. The need, sadly, is ever increasing, and our help is greatly appreciated.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**NOVEMBER 27TH** St Andrew's Christmas Fayre – Toft People's Hall – 10.30 – 1.00 More details will be circulated on a flyer nearer the time.

**4th - 5TH DECEMBER** Instead of a Christmas Tree Service, as of old, we plan to have a **Christmas Tree Festival** this year. We would like, and hope you will provide, as many trees as possible to decorate the Church which will then be open for you to visit and enjoy anytime over the week-end. On Sunday in the afternoon, we will have a gathering to make Christingles out of doors and to collect our usual presents for the Women's Refuge.

**PLEASE** consider decorating a tree for us. A flyer will be delivered in mid-November with instructions on how to take part, what you need to do etc.

Our Christmas Tree week-end is always a wonderful start to Christmas, so we look forward to you joining us.





## TOFT SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

Things have continued well through October with a very successful *Food on Friday* at the start of the month, and the return of Toft Photo Group to the Club. We also took part in the Open Day on the 16th October.

The Food on Friday in November will be on **Friday 5th** – on offer is slow cooked pork with roast potatoes and red cabbage. The vegetarian option is falafels with roast potatoes, red cabbage and tahini sauce. Price is just £5; children under 5 are £3. Doors open at 7pm and food is on a first come, first served basis, so don't be late!

The **Film Night** in November is earlier in the month than usual, on **Saturday 13th**. This month's film is ~

"The Father", the Oscar winning film starring Anthony Hopkins and Olivia Coleman, about a man who refuses all assistance from his daughter as he ages, and as he tries to make sense of his changing circumstances, he begins to doubt his loved ones, his own mind and even the fabric of his reality.

The Film Club shows a film every month, usually on the third Saturday of the month. Membership is £10 per year, or evening membership is £2.50.

On **20th November** we are excited to be welcoming **Mitch Benn** to Toft. Mitch is well known on Radio 4 for his appearances on shows such as the "Now Show", and for his column in the New European. Mitch spreads insight and laughs in equal measure. Join the "country's leading musical satirist" (*The Times*) as, with six string in hand and a head full of silly rhymes, he identifies the problems and proposes (semi-serious) solutions. Tickets are £12 and available here:

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

This is sure to be a great evening!

And some advance news – we are planning to hold our famous **Christmas Dinner** on **Saturday 11th December** – numbers will be limited this year in order to meet pandemic guidelines – ticket details next time or on the website nearer the time

We are also in the process of updating our website – check it out soon.

Don't forget - we are open every Thursday and Friday evening from 8pm. Keep up to date here:

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

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

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

**Toft Parish Council**

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

30 West Drive

Highfields Caldecote

Cambridge, CB23 7NY Tel: 01954 210241

| Councillors        | Phone       | E-mail                           |
|--------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Chairman:</i>   |             |                                  |
| Martin Yeadon      | 263663      | cldr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk      |
| Vacancy            | -           | -                                |
| Elaine Miles       | 262255      | cldr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk       |
| Tricia Ellis-Evans | 263477      | cldr.ellis-evans@tpc.toft.org.uk |
| Andy Tall          | 07984796273 | cldr.tall@tpc.toft.org.uk        |
| Lluis Borrell      | 264611      | cldr.borrell@toft.org.uk         |
| Kaushik Popat      |             | cldr.popat@tpc.toft.org.uk       |

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

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

**Next Meeting: Monday 1st November, 7.00 pm in The People's Hall . All welcome subject to social-distancing guidelines**

Toft Parish Council met at 7.00p.m. on 4<sup>th</sup> Oct in the Peoples' Hall.

There were several contributions from residents regarding a planning application.

Also Steve Pugh thanked the Parish Council for its support for the New Cafe. The Chair thanked Steve for his efforts in getting the Cafe up and running.

During the month councillors had carried out their annual Assets Walk when the various assets around the village are inspected and any maintenance issues are considered. Most of the benches need treatment as well as the youngsters' multiplay equipment in the recreation ground. The village sign also needs some attention. It was decided that the best time to address these issues was in the spring and it was agreed to hold the repairs until then. It was agreed to refit the posts on the village green and to

replace the reflective tape around them asap.

The PC has been urged to respond to the Oxford to Cambridge Arc Vision Consultation by the District Council. This had been previously considered and it was agreed that, as a PC, we wouldn't respond although individual Councillors, of course, may.

The PC has received a request for support funding for MAGPAS. There was also a proposal to make a donation to the Woodland Trust (the owners and maintainers of Toft Wood). Both are good causes. The PC has limited funds for charity donations but this year we did budget £200 for a donation and it was agreed that we would make a donation to the Woodland Trust recognising the pleasure that Toft Wood has given many residents over the years and particularly during the pandemic.

A Planning Application was considered. (As usual planning applications from residents are not commented on in this report although they are recorded in the minutes.)

It was agreed to make an application for LHI funding to reduce the speed limit in School Lane to 20mph. Some speed limiting measures would be included in the application but details of these are yet to be decided following consultation with residents. Recently, Cllr Tall has relocated the speed monitor onto School Lane and he was able to report that while there were occasions when the 30mph limit was exceeded, the average was below 30. Cllr Tall agreed to relocate the monitor to capture the speed of vehicles in the opposite direction over the next few weeks. He has also had a good and positive response to his mail drop in School Lane to the proposal to reduce the limit on the road.

The car parking issues outside the church were discussed. Cllr Tall agreed to progress with obtaining costings for the new surfacing via the CC. It was recognised that this project would not be appropriate for progressing via LHI funding, mainly as it would have no impact on safety nor the residents of Toft as a whole, considerations which are pre-requisites.

Cllr Popat reported that another article had been written in the Calendar by the Climate Change Working Group.

Please see the official minutes for the definitive outcomes of the meeting.



# The Cinnamon Trust

The National Charity for the elderly, the terminally ill and their pets

Pets can positively benefit the well being of owners

The Cinnamon Trust offers a service to elderly and terminally ill pet owners

DOG WALKING

CARE - day to day pet care the owner cant manage

SHORT TERM FOSTERING - for pet owners who face a spell in hospital

REGISTER of Pet Friendly Care Homes and Sheltered Housing

[www.cinnamon.org.uk](http://www.cinnamon.org.uk)

Tel 01736 757 900

Registered charity number: 1134680



## Funtime for Little Ones

Bring your pre-school Little Ones to Funtime at Toft People's Hall.

Enjoy singing songs and rhymes, playing instruments and listening to stories together.

It is a half hour session but you can stay afterwards and socialise with your friends and neighbours over coffee and cake in The Schoolroom Community Café.

Our little ones seem to have fun so do come and join us in the Schoolroom from 10.30 on Wednesdays.





Toft Social Club is proud to present:



# MITCH BENN

## Ten Songs To Save The World

One broken world and ten funny songs to fix it. From BBC Radio 4's "Now Show" to his column in the New European, Mitch spreads insight and laughs in equal measure. Join Mitch with six string in hand and a head full of silly rhymes, he identifies the problems and proposes (semi-serious) solutions.

'The country's leading musical satirist'  
The Times

'Well crafted lyrics, well sung, his songs are just plain funny'  
The Guardian

'Britain's answer to Tom Lehrer'  
The Swindonian

mitchbenn.com  
@mitchbenn

**Tickets only £12.00**

**Toft People's Hall  
Sat Nov 20, 2021  
Doors open 7.45**

**Tickets available from the Social Club, Toft Shop or  
online at: <https://www.toftsocialclub.org.uk/venue/tickets.php>**

**mitchbenn.com**

# Beekeeping

If one visited any of the villages of the Bourn Valley over the centuries you would have regularly seen beehives associated with these villages. Honey was a valuable source of sweetness for many country folk before the arrival of sugar cane and sugar beet and is still much appreciated for its distinctive taste and use in baking. In Toft, older residents will recall the beehives maintained by Bernie Ward, and later his son George, in the orchards along Brookside. Some will remember, as kids, being sent to purchase honey. Beekeeping, albeit mainly as a hobby, has continued in Toft up to the present day.

Throughout human history honeybees have been highly prized for the honey and beeswax they produce. As well as a much appreciated food source, honey is the key ingredient of the alcoholic drink mead which, in the Middle Ages, was a very popular tippie in the countryside. The antibiotic properties of honey have resulted in its' use in healing wounds whilst beeswax from honeybee colonies has long been used as a polish, a preserver of leather goods and, notably, in candle-making. Tallow candles used by the poor in earlier times were cheap but smoky and smelly. In contrast beeswax candles burn with a bright clear flame and virtually no smoke, so were popular with the better off and monks were great candlemakers as religious buildings had paintings, statuary and drapes to keep clean.

Wild honeybees seek out cavities, particularly in trees, to safely establish and defend their colonies. Documented evidence suggests that ancient civilisations initially hunted for wild honey in the wider landscape but eventually switched more to keeping (farming) honeybees close to hand. Beekeeping was already well established in Britain when the Romans arrived, but these invaders spread good practice methods which have, in large part, persisted to modern times.



The value of honeybees to communities in the past is illustrated by the establishment in Anglo-Saxon times of laws referring directly to the ownership of honeybees. If a swarm left a hive and the hive's owner followed the swarm as it moved to its new home it remained their property. If the owner lost sight of the swarm, then it was considered to have reverted to being wild and could be collected and owned by anyone else who found it. The picture left shows enterprising folk banging pots and pans to try to attract a swarm to their empty hives.





## Bedfordshire Cambridgeshire Northamptonshire

Ash die-back is a fungal disease brought to the UK through

imported trees and wind-blown spores from Europe. It received a lot of press a few years back so you may be forgiven for thinking the problem has been solved, but it is an ongoing and serious issue. Only ash trees are affected, but across the UK, ash makes up a large proportion of trees, and over the next few years most of these will succumb to the disease or secondary infections. Infected trees can be dangerous to fell due to the risk of falling branches, so it is good-practice to manage them before they become too damaged.

All the woodland reserves in the area, owned and managed by Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants, have a large percentage of ash. We continue to monitor the progress of ash dieback and carry out the appropriate management (felling, thinning or leaving to provide valuable deadwood habitat). Some trees will require expensive work by specialist contractors to ensure they don't damage property or cause road accidents. We manage over 100 reserves so the cost of this work is tens of thousands of pounds.

Here are some things that could keep you safe with the increasing risk of falling branches:

Please show caution when considering visiting woods during windy conditions

Please respect signs on our reserves. We may close the whole site, or part of it, if there are trees at risk of falling, or we are felling

Please only use official entrances where we can post information regarding closures. Using unofficial entrances can damage soil and plants, create disturbance to wildlife, and compromise your safety, and that of forestry workers

Please report fallen trees blocking or hanging above a path, including a photo if possible. They may be passable but not safe.

Find out more about ash die back on our website:

[www.wildlifebcn.org/ash-dieback](http://www.wildlifebcn.org/ash-dieback)



A (Healthy) Ash Tree in leaf

The Wildlife Trust BCN rely on volunteers to increase the impact of our work. There are several different opportunities to help near Hardwick.

some sites like Hardwick Wood have practical work parties over the autumn and winter if you visit a specific reserve regularly, you could be our eyes and ears and report back problems, or help solve simple issues if you are a people person, you could help with community activities  
you could save amphibian lives on the spring toad patrol near Bourn airfield

Please get in touch to find out more, or visit our website:

[www.wildlifebcn.org/get-involved/volunteer](http://www.wildlifebcn.org/get-involved/volunteer)  
I'm Rebecca Neal and I work with communities surrounding our West Cambs 100s reserves, delivering events and working with all ages.

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

**Facebook:** @BeccaBadgerWTBCN

**BCN Facebook/Twitter:** @wildlifebcn

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

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



## Comberton Library

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

Tel: 0345 045 5225

*Monday: 10.00 am – 1.00 pm*

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

*Friday: 2.00 – 5.00 pm*

*Saturday: 10.00 am – 1.00 pm*

The longer autumn and winter evenings make this an ideal time to read a novel or teach yourself a new skill.

We have a wide selection of fiction and non-fiction available for you to browse at Comberton Library, and if we don't have the book you are looking for, it is very easy to reserve a title, which will be delivered to the library for you to collect. Reservations for adults are just 50p per item and free for children and young people with their own library card.

If you are not already a library member, it is very easy to join, either in the library or online at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library).

Library membership is free and open to all.

Please note that we have now reverted to a three week loan period, with up to three renewals permitted. Overdue charges have been re-introduced for late returns, but only for adult loans – there are no late charges for children's books. It now costs only £1 to borrow a DVD or audiobook for 3 weeks. Free services are available if you are housebound or visually impaired.

Do ask library staff for more information about our charges and concessions.

We are delighted to announce that the Autumn programme for The Library Presents is available now with events in libraries and online scheduled until the end of December.

The Library Presents brings quality arts activities into towns and villages across Cambridgeshire. The programme is run by Cambridgeshire County Council working in partnership with Babylon ARTS and is funded by Arts Council England.

You can find out more by visiting [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/arts](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/arts), or ask the library staff for more information when you are next visiting.

As part of The Library Presents programme, Cambourne Library will be hosting a Ceramics Workshop for children aged 4-10 years on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00 pm. Tickets are £3 per child, accompanying adults free. Spaces are limited, so early booking is advised. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.library.live/the-library-presents](http://www.library.live/the-library-presents) or in person at Cambourne Library. The staff at Comberton Library can help if you need any further details about this event.

We look forward to seeing you at Comberton Library very soon.



### Thankyou!

Thank you for all the tremendous support, encouragement and advice from customers and friends of Toft shop during the Covid pandemic and during 2021.

### **NEW! Christmas table goodies**

There's still a lot of shopping days left till Christmas, but here at Toft Shop, we will be helping you to get into the Christmas spirit all through November and December. The Toft-famous "Christmas table" has been set up with a brand new range of Christmas delights as well as your old favourites. There'll be something for everyone.

### **Christmas essentials**

We'll have Christmas cards, wrapping paper and gift bags. Not to forget sellotape and stamps. All practically on your doorstep.

### **POST OFFICE** Opening Hours during November and December

Post early, especially if posting overseas. Christmas stamps on sale from 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021.

|           |                                    |          |                 |
|-----------|------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Monday    | 8.30am – 5.00pm                    | Tuesday  | 8.30am – 5.00pm |
| Wednesday | 8.00am – 1.00pm                    | Thursday | 8.30am – 5.00pm |
| Friday    | 8.30am – 5.00pm                    | Saturday | 8.00am – 1.00pm |
| Sunday    | 8.00am – 12.00pm (during December) |          |                 |

Please check in post office for key posting dates for international destinations as well as local.

### **Christmas trees, wreaths and orders**

If you're yearning for a lovely blazing fire over Christmas, don't forget that we also sell coal, logs and kindling. Let us know your requirements so we can be sure to have plenty in stock. Nearer Christmas we will be taking orders for Christmas trees and wreaths, as well as Christmas orders (Fruit & Veg, milk, meats, mince pies, bread and creams & yogurts). More details about Christmas ordering will follow in the December issue of the Calendar or any orders can be placed at the counter.

### **TOFT Shop annual closing dates**

**Closing 6.00pm Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 and reopening 7.00am Tuesday 4th January 2022.**

We are grateful for the young people of Toft, working in the shop, Liz Hicks, Libby Cox, Ester Wrycroft, Ruth Wrycroft and Carla Henderson. And those delivering daily newspapers around the village, Rosie Cooper, Freddie Phillips, Douglas Mitchell, Daniel Forrester, Jake Tebbit and Alfie Cox.

Looking forward to seeing you in Toft Shop soon.

**Jenny & Justin and our fantastic team of young assistants.**



## Greener heating for Comberton VC

11th October 2021

An innovative project to give Comberton Village College greener heating has been agreed.

The year-long scheme, due to start later this month, which will replace the college's oil-fired boilers with ground source heat pumps has been agreed between The Cam Academy Trust, of which Comberton VC is a member, Cambridgeshire County Council and renewable and efficient energy company Bouygues E&S Solutions.

The decarbonisation project will see heat pumps replace the aging oil boilers in the college's main plant room. These heat pumps will extract heat from 68 boreholes, each 198m deep, in the college car parks.

The new heating system is set to reduce the college's carbon emissions from heat by 66% - 233 tonnes - in the first year. As the electricity from the grid is further decarbonised this will see the reduction in emissions rise to 89% after 20 years. It will also save the college around £40,000 a year compared to operating and maintaining oil heating.

The Trust and the Council have secured £1.9 million of grant funding from Government towards the £3 million capital cost of the project, from Phase 2 of the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.

The balance of capital investment is coming from Cambridgeshire County Council.

The heating upgrade follows from earlier work to add solar panels and install LED lighting around the college.

The next phase of the work will see the various boiler rooms around the site linked back to the main plant room by a series of pipes. Work on the boreholes is due to start in January.

More details can be found here; <https://www.mlei.co.uk/projects/schools-programme/school-renewable-heating-projects>



**A little bird says that it is time to send your Christmas greetings via our Village Calendar.**

**It costs £15.00 and raises much needed funds for St Andrew's Church.** (cheques payable to: Toft PCC)

**Email your own message** (size 42mm x 92mm) **or ask us to design one for you.**

**For information telephone 262309**  
**or email: [jane@tebbitdesign.co.uk](mailto:jane@tebbitdesign.co.uk)**

**Spaces are limited so please book early.**

# The **SCHOOLROOM** Community Café

We are so excited that *The Schoolroom Community Café* is up and running.


Pop in for a coffee or tea and sample our delicious cakes or stay for lunch and try our warming homemade soup of the day or a crispy cheese toastie.

Grab one of Mr Pugh's savoury sausage rolls before they sell out.

You can eat inside, outside or take-away.

We open on Wednesdays at The People's Hall, Toft at 10.30, when little ones can enjoy Funtime (see our separate feature), and close at 13.30.

Have a look on the website for our menu <https://cafe.toft.org.uk/> and find us on the Toft **Facebook** page.

Check out what we are offering on the day by looking at **Instagram**  ***theschoolroomcafetoft***





# Meridian Primary School

*Learning for life – striving for excellence*

Greetings Neighbours,

We were very pleased to welcome back all our families and the many new families who have joined the school and are new to the village and surrounding area in September. The children have been very enthusiastic about being back at school and we have had a very busy half term.

We held a non-uniform day towards the education fees for two children in The Gambia via the Lisa Kent Memorial Trust. The children learned about how their support and care has had a huge impact on Pa and Oumie who have now completed their schooling. The money we raised will now go towards the year fees for two children called Ba Kemo and Bintou.

We were so pleased to hear that we have been nominated by Cambridge Music to receive the Music Mark. This is in recognition of our commitment to providing high quality music education and the promotion of music within the school. We continue to offer a wide range of instrument lessons as well as music clubs and singing assemblies. Instrument lessons currently include: recorder, flute, cello, drums, piano and violin.

We were happy to accommodate The Comberton Allotments and Garden Association 68<sup>th</sup> annual show here at Meridian in September. This community event brought together members of the community for the first time since the pandemic. It was a successful day and the sunshine was an added bonus on the day which meant the outdoor areas could also be used.

There is still a lot of planning work going on behind the scenes for the habitat garden. Thank you for all the generous donations we have received from the community so far. Our habitat garden was a project initiated by our pupils to ensure they had a quiet calm, sensory and nature area to enjoy within the school. Our Just Giving page has been set up with the PTA to help us raise funds for our habitat garden and outdoor spaces. <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/meridianpta> We hope to complete this project this year.

All the children took part in our fundraising 'Fun Run' in October. The children started their running route on the recreation ground and ended up on the school field and all the money raised will go towards the habitat garden. The determination and resilience of all the runners was outstanding and it was a wonderful atmosphere with every one cheering each other on. We were so proud of all our children.

The children are learning some songs including a song in Swahili in time for our special harvest festival which will include a time of reflection for all those who work in the food industry. We will be creating a harvest display of foods and these will be given to Jimmy's Shelter.

Mrs Ann Webb retired from the school office in July after 22 years and sent the following message:

*'I would like to thank families past and present for their lovely messages and their generosity for the retirement gifts that I received at the end of term. I was very touched by your kind thoughts. I have visited lots of National Trust properties over the summer with the membership and have signed up for some sewing classes to help me get the most of my machine. The garden vouchers will wait for the Spring. I have many happy memories of all the families that I got to know over the years at Meridian and I look forward to seeing many of you again as I walk around the village in my free time!'*

May I take this opportunity again to thank again all the staff, children, families and governors for all their hard work. As always, thank you for your support and keep well.

*Kind regards, Mrs C. Etchie, Headteacher*

**Wheelie Bin Collections For November**

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

**Black Bin:**

Weds 10th Nov

Weds 24th Nov

Weds 29th Sept

**Blue/Green Bin**

Weds 3rd Nov

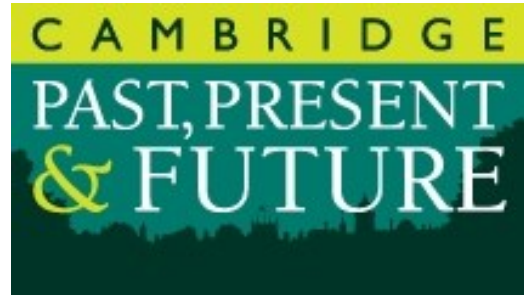
Weds 17th Nov

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 Comberton Village College: 01223 262503  
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 Member of Parliament: Phone 01223 830037  
 Meridian Primary School: 01223 262423  
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You can also get involved with hands-on conservation by coming along to one of our friendly volunteer work parties which take place every Tuesday, 10.30-1pm. Go to: <https://www.cambridgeppf.org/volunteer-outdoor-work-parties> for details.

**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 November**. 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

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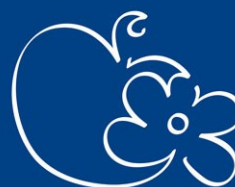
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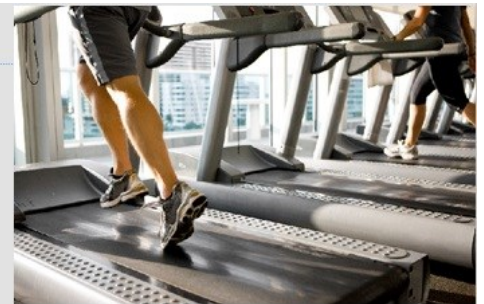
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