



# Toft Village Calendar

Produced and Distributed by St. Andrew's Parish Church

November 2023



## EDITORIAL

You know the feeling. It's half-past four in the afternoon, but the sky is still cobalt-blue, the sun is a big, brassy gong and the sea is...well, what *is* that colour? Aquamarine? Turquoise? You settle for Lapis Lazuli, on the grounds that you're not quite sure what that is but it sounds suitably exotic. And as that second Pina Colada glides down your throat, an idea slowly bubbles into soft-focus. We could live here. No, seriously, we could. I mean, I could retire early. Or even just work from here. I'd only need a half-decent internet connection. And if we sold our place back home, which must be worth at least (insert preposterously optimistic figure here), we could buy one of these lovable little farmhouses and still have thousands left to live off. I could learn the language easily enough. I mean, I sailed through French GCE at school. How hard can it be?

It's the Holiday Dream, of course. But you rarely meet anyone imbecile/brave enough to follow through on it. Which was why I stood watching a neighbour packing all his worldlyies into an old Transit with some wonderment a few years ago. "That's it" he'd announced, "I'm done with this place - lousy weather, sky-high prices, nothing works anymore - well, you can keep it." Like the whip-smart investigative journalist I am, I sensed a story. "But what are you going to do?" I asked. "I mean, there's the kids to feed, the language problems - " "Not an issue", he said, dismissively. "I've put down a deposit on this old finca in Andalusia. Comes with a couple of dozen acres, too. And its own well. Needs a new roof and so on but I reckon I can easily sort that out myself." I'd seen some of his attempts at D.I.Y. and to be honest he wasn't safe with a pencil sharpener, but I didn't want to interrupt the flow. "You've still got to live" I demurred. He looked cautiously around and lowered his voice. "Got a plan." he said. "I'm going to grow lemons. They'll simply romp away in that climate. And all I have to do is sit and watch them ripen. It just can't fail."

As luck would have it, I've spent quite a bit of time in various Mediterranean countries over the years. And while I was there, I couldn't help noticing that lemons seemed to be pretty much their equivalent of crab apples or stinging nettles. Give them a square foot of unpromising scrub and up they'd pop, unloved, unwanted and, most of all, unsaleable. As diffidently as I could, I put this to my neighbour. He was having none of it. "This is my chance," he said. "if I don't go now, I'll never know. And if it doesn't work out - what's the worst that can happen?" Guessing that the extensive list that immediately occurred to me wasn't what he wanted to hear, I gave up trying. He crammed a few more items in the van, perched the children atop and with a wave, they were off to pastures barren.

He was a decent enough chap and I wished him well, even though I'd never heard a dafter plan. But I've sometimes wondered, in the years that have passed: Is it better to try and fail then never to have tried at all? Accepted wisdom says it is. I'm not so sure. Ask any retired politician.

## Here We Go Again...

Work is set to restart on plans to create a major shift away from car use and could ban through trips across Cambridge. The Greater Cambridge Partnership paused work on proposals that could lead to pedestrians and cyclists being given priority in some parts of the city centre. The current road classification in Cambridge has been in place since the 1980s and a review offers the chance to alter how people move around the city.

Work was paused on the road network hierarchy review to allow a decision to be made on plans for a road charge to fund public transport improvements. This proposition proved highly controversial, with demonstrations and petitions arranged by both supporters and opponents. Eventually, the scheme was abandoned, ostensibly due to lack of support from local politicians. Lynne Miles, GCP City Access director, said: "The road network hierarchy review was paused pending a decision on Making Connections.

"We will provide an update to members of the board in due course," she added.

Under the plans, which were subject to a consultation last year, access for motorised vehicles would be limited to certain times of the day and "to essential need". The operational principles of a new draft network would see priority access given for walking and cycling along with "extensive network permeability" for bus services, which include school and community transport.

All car trips would have the same level of network accessibility, whether by private car or taxi with none given access through network 'modal filtering points'. Commercial vehicles and coaches would be routed to maximise the use of distributor roads and minimise the use of other streets in the network.

There would be exceptions for vehicles used by blue badge holders "on a site-by-site basis on application".

Streets where vehicles are banned at certain times of the day could also be used by Blue Badge holders on application.

The results of last year's consultation have yet to be published, so we do not know what level of public support (or opposition) they command..

## DIARY DATES

### TOFT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

[Over 50s Club].  
**Wednesday 8th November.** For those members who wish, a trip to Dobbies Garden Centre in Huntingdon leaving mid-morning. If any member wishes to go on this visit, to shop and/or have lunch please contact Doreen Jacklin or Ann Mitchell. The morning trip will return in time for the afternoon at 2.30 pm as usual. For the meeting at Toft People's Hall there will be an illustrated talk by Ann St. George and England. Visitors welcome

### Sewing, Knit and Natter

Our **Christmas Sale**, Saturday 18th November, Methodist Chapel, 10.30 - 1pm see p. 10 for details.

Next meeting Wednesday 29th November.

### The Parish Council

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

**MINISTRY TEAM****THE CHURCH IN TOFT**

St. Andrew's Parish Church

Team Vicar:

Rev David Newton 01223 665654

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***29th October* 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) –  
Rev David Newton10.30 am Lordsbridge Team Holy Communion -  
Dry Drayton3.00pm All Souls. The service of all souls is for all  
those who wish to remember someone who has  
died, recently or indeed in the far past. A time for  
reflection and remembrance. Do join us.

The service will be followed by tea in the church.

*5th November* 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) –  
Rev. Prof Michael Reiss11.00am Holy Communion, Methodist Church –  
Rev Charity Ngezwo**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY***12th November* 10.45 Brief service of  
Remembrance outside Methodist church by  
Memorial, continued in Methodist Church led by  
Rev Charity Ngezwo & Revd Barnabas Leeke*19th November* 8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
– Rev David Newton11.00 am Morning Worship, Methodist church,  
Rev. Roert Dolman*26th November* 10.30 am West Cambridge  
Churches Ecumenical Service -  
Comberton Leisure CentreThere 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

In conversations this week I have been reminded of the words from Ecclesiastes (originally found in the Old Testament books of the Bible, but immortalised in the Byrds' 1960s international hit single), 'For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.' It is perhaps at this time of the year that we feel the turning of the seasons more keenly than at any other. As the clocks go back, the nights draw in, and the leaves fall from the trees, we feel the pull of hibernation and the death-like sleep that it represents.

Seasons in this context are obvious and, however we feel about each one, we march on through in the confidence of all the previous seasons we already have under our belts. Seasons exist in all aspects of our lives and our communities however, and that is really what the writer of Ecclesiastes is trying to say. It's well worth a look while you have your feet up in front of the fire this autumn, you could even have David Suchet read it to you from the free online audio bible!

It was conversations around the seasons of death and plenty in varied contexts that got me thinking about Ecclesiastes again. It can be difficult when we see things withering, falling or dying. It can be frustrating when the ground seems too hard and cold to plant anything. It can be exhausting when we don't seem to have enough light or energy to get things done. But the Christian faith is one of hope despite the darkness, there may be painful crosses and cold days in the tomb, but there will also be bright dawns of joyful surprise.

There is a time for everything, and whatever season you find yourself in now, I pray that you may also have the hope of our mysterious and conflicted biblical writer, that the seasons will turn and turn again.

God bless,

*Barnabas***Simple Sewing, Knit and Natter.**

Our **Mini Christmas Sale** will be held on **Saturday 18th November** in the Methodist Chapel. 10.30 - 1pm. Gifts, toys, tree decorations, cakes and plants for sale. Refreshments. All proceeds to the Arthur Rank Hospice. For more information please contact either Lucy (262948) or Sally (262895).



## THE CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY

**ADVENT COURSE** Starting on Wednesday 29th November at 24 Mill Lane, 10.30 – 12.00 for four Wednesdays. It will be loosely based round the four Advent themes - hope and faith, peace, love, and joy. All Welcome

**ANNOUNCEMENT** After 6 years , sad to say from our point of view, Rev. David Newton will be leaving the post of Team Rector at Christmas to become the Diocese of Ely Director of Ordinands. We congratulate him and wish him and his family well. There will be more detail next month but the announcement has just been made.



### THE WARM HUB WILL BE BACK

*Monday, 30th October*

*Come and join us for chat, games, friendship and refreshment, all for free.*

*We'll meet every Monday, beginning October 30th, from 10.30 to 12.30 at the Methodist Chapel, Toft.*

*We would love to see you there, you'll be guaranteed a warm welcome. Feel free to bring a friend*

### **KATHLEEN 'KATH' CURTIS née PRESTON 1937 -2023**

Born in Toft and educated at Toft School, Kath worked in various places including as a photographic processor at Boots and in Matthews. Later she was a bedder at Selwyn. She met Pete when a teenager and in 1958 they married in St. Andrew's, living first in Toft and then in Quy before returning to Toft and School Lane. Here she looked after first her grandmother Elizabeth Coxall and then her mother Rose and gave a helping hand to Violet Bone. Kath and Pete took up part time work as cleaners at Comberton Village College.



Kath was an avid watcher of all sports on TV especially wrestling She was talented at knitting and crocheting, passing the skill on to her nieces. She had a vast collection of owls and a living room full of clocks, perfectly synchronised. Before her mobility declined she loved to walk round the village. A member of the Friendship Club, a regular at the community café, she will be much missed.

**St. Andrew's  
CHRISTMAS FAIRE  
SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

**10.30 – 12.30  
TOFT PEOPLE'S HALL**



**All the usual STALLS, GAMES &  
REFRESHMENTS – tea, coffee, mulled wine, soup**

**We would welcome donations, cakes, decorations, gifts,  
plants, raffle prizes, bottles and cans or small prizes for games  
Please bring to the Hall at 9.30 am on the day,  
or to Claire, 3 Farmers End; or Ann, 20 High Street, beforehand**

DO Come and Hear This - read By its Author, Marion, At the

**HARVEST SERVICE OCTOBER 1st 11.00am outside in the CHURCHYARD**

Gifts of Food, if you care to bring some. Fresh or packeted for the Women's Refuge

*Rhyming couplets it is said*

*As Toft Brook flow free in poet's head,*

*Those gathered here may well recall A prime example;  
Fred Bestall.*

*Though somewhat underestimated*

*His Rupert bear odes fascinated,*

*Much less famous by a mile*

*This Toft Bard emulates his style!*

*And neither of us can compare*

*To the mastery of John Clare*

*On rural life, his legacy*

*Nature's beauty, scenery, Badger, deer, birdsong aloft*

*All in abundance here in Toft.*

*Meadows, lanes and harvest bounty*

*We're blessed to dwell here in this county.*

*The short sharp bark of muntjac deer,*

*Neath mackerel sky or azure clear*

*From humble golden aconite*

*To towering oak of ancient might.*

*Autumn's scent sharpens our senses*

*Free to us all with no expenses,*

*Modern poet or long-dead bard*

*Would pause in awe in Toft Churchyard*

*Would touch, inhale and feast their eyes*

*On nature's wonders God provides,*

*Why not just sit beneath a tree*

*In this world of wars and wokery,*

*Learn lessons from the olden times*

*The rich, slow pace of John Clare's rhymes?*

*Once Mother Nature's joy has found us*

*There's bounteous beauty all around us.*

*Our Lord said, 'Seek and ye shall find',*

*So, reap this harvest, fill your mind*

*Prince or pauper, any colour, creed*

*Let's share our world. Thanks Marion Read.*

*...and*

*Thank you to the great John Clare*

*I am very well aware,*

*Applaud your craft with humble heart*

*YOU are the Master of this art!*

**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](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 6<sup>th</sup> November, 7.00pm in The People's Hall. All Welcome.**

The Parish Council met on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 at 7.35pm preceded at 7.00pm by the William Eversden Charity Meeting (Allotments Charity). There were no apologies for absence or declarations of interest or written requests for dispensations for either of the two meetings. (A report on this meeting is on p. 7)

The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September were approved.

The proposal to purchase owl/bat boxes is being looked into by Councillor Darbyshire. She reported that following various meetings and discussions it may be that there are other birds which need support and this will be investigated. Suitable places will then be sought for siting bird boxes around the village.

RoSPA have carried out their annual safety inspection of the play equipment in the Recreation ground with only minor comments. There was a loose fitting on the toddler swing which Cllr Watson reported has been secured. The recommendation that the wooden equipment be re-painted was acknowledged and a local handyman is being sought. **Please note: If you are interested in doing paid handywork jobs around the village please contact**

**Martin Yeadon on 263663.**

The new bench outside St. Andrew's Church, which has kindly been donated by Mrs Warton of Priory Cottage, has been purchased and will be installed in the next week or two.

Cllr. Watson reported on her findings for new musical play equipment for the playground and it was agreed that we should go ahead with three new pieces of equipment – a large babel drum, five rainbow sambas and a T-rung outdoor xylophone. Cllr Watson will table the final quote for the cost of these items and the installation at the next meeting.

Cllr Watson also agreed to provide quotes for the replacement of the small climbing frame.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would fund the purchase of a new music system for the People's Hall.

Cllr. Collinson provided quotes for the purchase of two new Parish Council noticeboards – one for the Birdlings estate and one to replace the rather dilapidated one by the bus shelter in Toft. One quote was much more favourable than the other and offered a 5% discount and it was agreed to go ahead with this.

The finance report was considered and approved.

Play inspection reports had already been considered.

There were no matters deemed urgent due to risk of health and safety.

The insurance renewal quote was agreed.

The External Audit was considered.

There were no issues arising from Planning or Tree Works.

Under Members' items:

Cllr. Darbyshire confirmed the reporting of hedgerows which were impeding the visibility along Brookside/Church Road. The re-lining of the B1046 is scheduled to happen in this financial year, and it will include the "Keep Clear" by the Toft shop, as well as the "Give Way" markings around the village green and at the Hardwick/Comberton Road junction.

Cllr. Watson reported that TPH committee had discussed whether, in addition to an extension to the kitchen, other modifications and improvements might be worth considering. Cllr. Darbyshire suggested that, given events such as the Beer Festival and various musical events are proving so popular, there is an argument for extending the bar area.

Following the reporting of the fallen tree in Green Lane by both Cllr Yeadon and Cllr Miles, the tree has now been cleared away. Cllr. Miles is to follow up the request made earlier this financial year for repairing 3 gates– the one entering the long meadow from Miller's Road, the one entering Ann Mitchell's field from the High Street and the fencing at the gate opposite St. Andrew's church.

Cllr Watson reported that she had placed an article in the Calendar informing residents of the Defibrillator Training that is to take place on 22<sup>nd</sup>. November at 6.30pm. There will be a professional trainer, manikins to practice on and refreshments. Please make an effort to attend as you could save a life! If you are planning to attend, please contact Cllr. Watson on [cllr.watson@tpc.toft.org.uk](mailto:cllr.watson@tpc.toft.org.uk) or 07730 941946 so equipment and refreshments can be organised.

**The meeting closed at 8.35pm**



## TOFT SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

Thank you to everyone who supported the fund raising and those who came along to our **Charity Sunday Roast** in support of David of Moongazer Brewery's Beer Push – pushing a full barrel doing 7 marathons in 7 days. Thanks to your support and people's generosity we raised an astonishing £750 for the charity, "It's On The Ball", a charity raising the awareness of, and helping victims of testicular cancer. A brilliant result!

**Film Night** is Saturday 18th, and we will be showing the 2023 film "The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry" starring Jim Broadbent and Penelope Wilton. Broadbent plays Harold who is an ordinary man who has passed through life, living on the side lines, until he goes to post a letter one day...and just keeps walking. Doors open at 7:30pm and the film starts promptly at 8:00pm. Film Club membership is £12 for the year, or evening membership is £2.50.

**Toft Art** is on Thursday 2nd – if you would like to find out more, either pop along or contact us at [art@toftsocialclub.org.uk](mailto:art@toftsocialclub.org.uk). Doors open at 8pm.

This month's **Food on Friday** is on the 3rd, and will be slightly different! We have a "food wagon" coming along, which is operated by Amy, the god daughter of one of our committee members! Amy writes "Food will be a beef and autumn vegetable stew; Veggie option to be a mushroom, chestnut and autumn veggie stew. Portions are large!" Price remains £5 per person, and food will be on a first come, first served basis. Doors open at 7pm – don't be late for what will prove to be a very popular evening.

**Toft Quiz Night** is on Thursday 9th - teams of up to 6, just £1 per team member. Cash prizes! Doors open at 8pm.

**Carpet Bowls** is on Friday 10th, doors open at 8pm – why not come along and give this family friendly game a go.

The ever popular **Open Mic Music Night** is on Saturday 11th, with a mix of performers offering music and words. Free entry – doors open at 8pm. If you are interested in performing at one of these evenings, please contact us at [openmic@toftsocialclub.org.uk](mailto:openmic@toftsocialclub.org.uk)

**Toft Bingo** is on Thursday 23rd – cash prizes – all welcome, doors open at 8pm.

**Table Tennis** is later this month and will be on Thursday 30th – come along and get some exercise and fun!

The Club is always open every Thursday and Friday from 8pm, and many Saturday evenings. There is always a warm welcome where you can enjoy a drink and meet up with friends.

We are welcoming the talented **Martyn Joseph** this month on Thursday 16th – this event is sold out.

Finally, tickets for the world-famous **Club Christmas Dinner** (which is on 9th December) will go on sale in early November – please check the website for details.

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

Keep up to date here:

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

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

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

Reminding all Toft residents that it is time to send your friends and neighbours a **seasonal greeting** in next month's Village Calendar.

You can send me your own message 95 mm x 45 mm either landscape or portrait or send me the words and an idea of what you would like and I will design it for you. Messages cost £15 and all the money goes to St Andrews upkeep. Info of how to pay will be sent to participants

Space and time are limited so please send soon to: [janetebbit@icloud.com](mailto:janetebbit@icloud.com) or tel. 01223 262309

### **Schoolroom Community Café** Every Wednesday, 10.30-1.30pm



- Come and join us!

**Can you spare a couple of hours once a month to help out with washing up and clearing everything away at the end of a Wednesday Café session?**

Our busy Café relies solely on volunteers to provide a regular place to meet and enjoy delicious home-made cakes and soup, and to meet or make new friends. It's a great way to get to know people if you're new to the area. We welcome men and women of all ages as helpers. You can help where and when it suits you most – setting out furniture, serving coffees, baking cakes, washing up etc.

**We also need someone prepared to take responsibility for co-ordinating one shift on a rota basis – ensuring you have enough helpers and food, (we can help point you in the right direction), and that all your helpers are happy, healthy and know what to do.** Maybe you've recently retired and are looking for a worthwhile and fun outlet for your spare time and energy? Or you have been volunteering for a while already and feel able to take on a bit more? **If you'd like to also become part of our small Café management committee, usually meeting once every 2 months, you'd also be very welcome.**

If you might be interested in either of these roles, please speak to any of the team on a Wednesday, or email Gill at [gill.ppugh@gmail.com](mailto:gill.ppugh@gmail.com).

### **The William Eversden Charity Meeting (Allotments Charity). Report of the Annual Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the William Eversden Charity held on 6th March 2023 were approved. There were no tenants present.

The borehole has been completed and a pump installed but unfortunately it is not working at present. The person who installed it is looking into the matter and it is hoped the problem will be remedied soon.

It was agreed that until there was water available at the allotments the rent would remain at £15 per annum.

It was agreed that the public footpath through the allotments had become very overgrown and needs clearing all the way through to the western side so that the bench, donated by the Ramblers, can be accessed. It was also agreed that as this bench is positioned on a rise, rustic steps leading to and from it would also make it more accessible.

The next meeting will be at the beginning of May 2024, exact date tbc. There was no further business and the meeting closed at 7.35pm and the Parish Council meeting began.



**Bedfordshire  
Cambridgeshire  
Northamptonshire**

Wildlife Trust BCN West Cambridgeshire Hundreds Update: Nov 2023

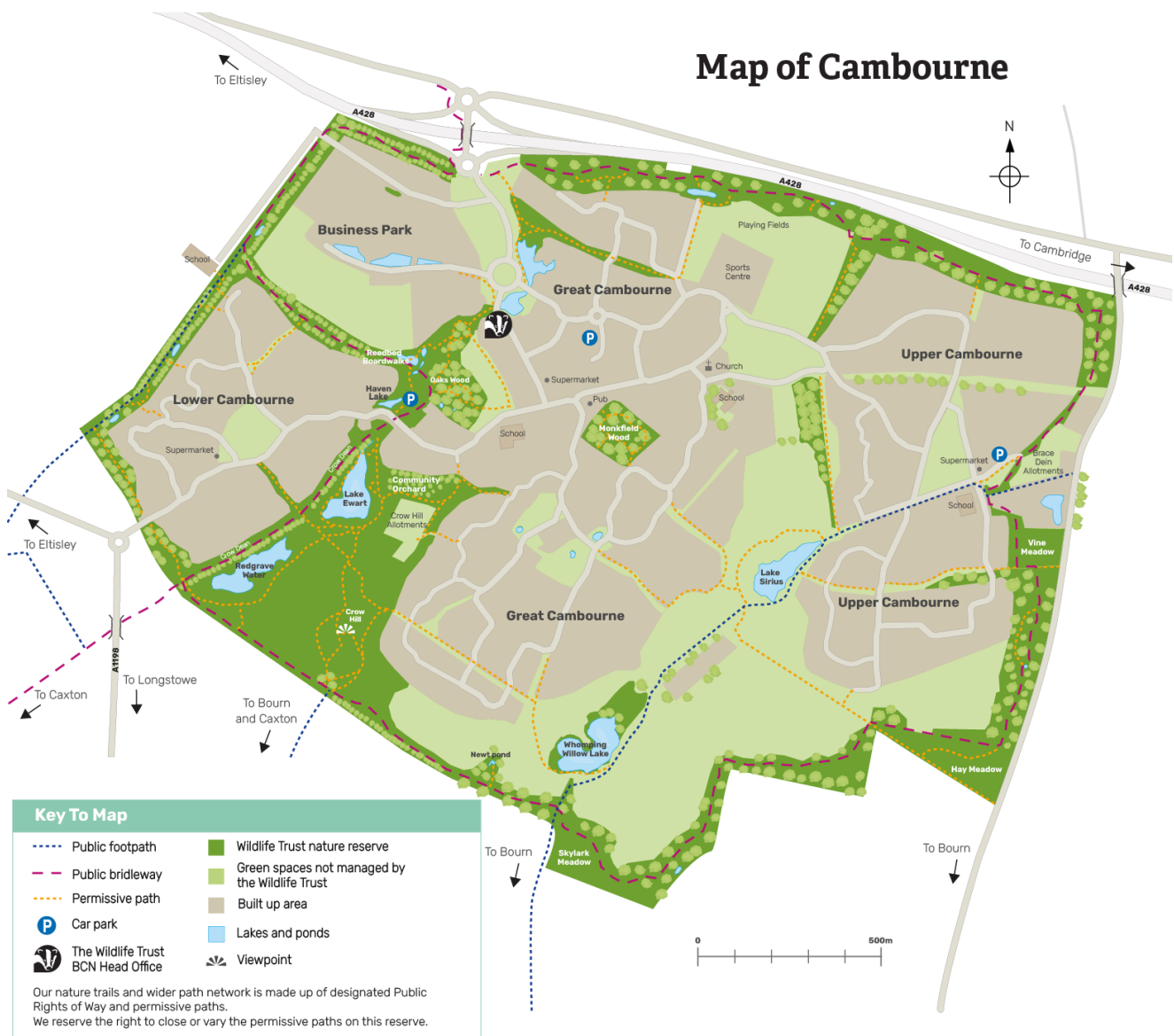
You may not think it, but something that seems innocuous, like a muddy path, is actually quite destructive. Most of the damage to our woodland reserves happens in winter when the paths are at their most vulnerable. Over time, due to wetter winters and higher visitor numbers, paths are getting wider, and plants like oxlip, bluebells and violets, that enjoy the sheltered but sunnier areas on the edges of paths, are retreating. Please do consider walking elsewhere when paths are muddy. If you have not visited Cambourne Nature Reserve, there are lots of paths to explore and some are surfaced. You are welcome to contact me for a recommendation of a route. In November, look out for the winter migrant birds like fieldfares and redwings which feed in large flocks on hedgerow berries, and invertebrates on farmland. They are common around Cambourne.

Over the winter period I plan most of my events and activities for all ages, for the following year. Please get in touch if you have any suggestions, or would like me to come and give a talk to your group, or attend your event.

Email: [rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org](mailto: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.





# Shooting, Coursing, and Ferreting

In a recent Calendar we described the rural tradition of “rough shooting” of various birds, notably sparrows and pigeons, which farming communities considered as pests. However there has also been a long tradition of game shooting, involving hares and the likes of partridge, woodcock, snipe, duck and pheasants. Landowners and farmers either as individuals or as a group, organize shoots with a team of beaters, (often farm workers or village boys in the past) driving birds towards the line of guns. There are set seasons when shooting is permitted for specific birds. Our county of Cambridgeshire was renowned in the 1930's for the quality of the partridge shooting available there. The English, or grey leg partridge, now somewhat rare, were at that time relatively abundant.

Within Toft this type of shooting and the etiquette and social life associated with it has largely died out in the last century, although it remains a significant business on large estates where substantial numbers of pheasants, in particular, are reared each year for the shooting season. Clay pigeon shooting, where clay discs are launched from a trap and contestants score points by shooting them using 12 bore shotguns, has also been popular locally. Toft has produced several successful participants over the years, notably Mark Warton, a Cambridgeshire Shooting Team champion.

Fox hunting in this area by the Cambridgeshire Hunt has also been described in a recent Calendar and was seen by many farmers as the management of a threat to farm animals. It also represented an exciting rural field sport with cross-country horse riding and dogs following a fox scent. A related hunting sport is hare coursing, using sight hounds which chase the hare by sight, not scent. This sport was originally restricted to landowners and the nobility in England and was particularly popular in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Both fox hunting and hare coursing are, since 2004, banned blood sports, though coursing is still a legal and regulated sport in countries such as Ireland and the USA. In flat farmland such as Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire, illegal hare coursing continues to this day and has been actively investigated by local police forces.

Ferreting has long been pursued in rural communities such as Toft, usefully providing meat for the family pot or an item for sale. A purse net is placed over each rabbit hole in the warren or burrow and a ferret put into the burrow chasing a rabbit into a net from where the ferreter can then dispatch the animal. At least two or three people are usually needed and there can be a lot of digging involved if ferrets become lost in the warren. Rabbit (or Coney) was a very popular meat in the past with both rural and urban communities. However, periodic myxomatosis outbreaks from the 1950's onwards has deterred many in the general public.



Toft

“Simple Sewing Knit & Knatter Group”



Invites you to Our Christmas Sale



On Saturday Nov 18<sup>th</sup>



10.30-12.30



In Toft Methodist Chapel



Refreshments Available



**All Proceeds to Arthur Rank Hospice Charity**

## Meeting to discuss Bourn Brook on Saturday 2 December at 3.00pm at The People's Hall, Toft



*Bourn Book c.1983*

- Did you know that a part of Bourn Brook, which passes through our parish, is designated as a chalk stream?
- Do your children play and paddle in the Brook?
- Have you seen kingfishers swooping under the bridge at Brookside?
- Does the state of our countryside and rivers matter to you?

If you are interested in hearing about our river, come on **Saturday 2 December** at 3pm for a short presentation by **The Cam Valley Forum** and a discussion about the Brook's future.

We would like to monitor the water quality, observe the wildlife and investigate the ways that pollution is getting into our river.

Whether you want to join us by pulling on your wellies and investigating the water, by sitting at your desk to make sense of the data, or would just like to know what's happening, you will be very welcome.

## Comberton Library

*your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk*

Tel: 0345 045 5225

*www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library*

*Library News November 2023*

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



As the nights draw in and the weather cools, find a warm welcome at your library! Come in to browse the shelves, join in with activities below, have a chat and enjoy a cuppa throughout the winter months.

Did you know that you can download thousands of books, audiobooks, newspapers and magazines in digital form from the library, for free? You just need a library card (also free) – you can even sign up online. To find out more, ask in the library or find details online. Search for Libraries - Cambridgeshire County Council

The library also offers free Wifi and computer use. If you need to borrow a laptop for home use, ask about our free LendIT service (advance reservation required).

Comberton Library is hosting the following events in November: a chance to get together.

**Knit and Natter group** continue to meet in Comberton Library, 10.30am and 11.30am. Dates: October 23rd, November dates: 6th and 20th. December dates: 4th and 18th. Tea and coffee available.

Come and sing a long, **Rhymetime** (10.30am – 11am) for children age between 0-4 years of age. Dates: October 30th. November dates: 13th and 27th. December dates: 11th

**Its Lego Time!** – starts on the first Saturday 4th November. Come and have fun some creating! Every Saturday between 10.30am – 11.30am. All children to be accompanied by an adult.

There is also the **Cambridge Literary Festival**, which runs from the 16th - 19th November and is a season 'for the love of books'; check online for ticket availability,  
*www.cambridgeliteraryfestival.com*

**Wheelie Bin Collections For November**

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

**Black Bin:**

Thurs 2nd Nov

Thurs 16th Nov

Thurs 30th Nov

**Blue/Green Bin**

Thurs 9th Nov

Thurs 23rd Nov

**Notice to Advertisers**

**Advertisements** are published quarterly. Copy for inclusion in the next available edition of the Calendar **must** reach us by 17th January 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](mailto: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

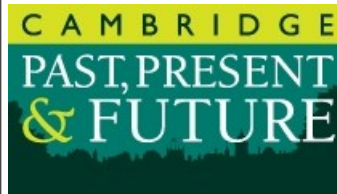
South Cambs District Council: 01954 713 000

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

**Lack of water causes planning permissions to dry up**

Our rivers and streams are emblematic of the environmental pressures facing our area. They rely on water from springs that come from underground aquifers, but the underground water is declining because of climate change and because too much is being used by a rapidly growing population (all of Cambridge's water comes from underground). This means that in summer our streams are reduced to a trickle or dry up, and in turn this means that any pollution entering them from sewage works and drains is not diluted and pollution levels are therefore higher. On the other hand, we face more intense flash flooding which adds yet more pollutants. In the drought of 2022, on a site visit to our Coton Reserve, we showed Lucy Fazer MP that 100% of the water in the Bin Brook was coming from Coton sewage works.

The situation has reached crisis point, with the Environment Agency objecting to any further large-scale development in the Cambridge area until there is evidence that these developments won't be detrimental to rivers and streams. In planning for how much development is going to be built in the next 20 years, Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire councils have said that the number of houses is dependent upon a sufficient supply of water so that the environment is not harmed. The Local Plan is being delayed until more is known about future water supply. New reservoirs are planned to be built in the fens, but they won't be ready until after 2035 and any new water pipelines from elsewhere also won't be ready until the 2030s.

Wading into this situation (or rather walking on a dry river bed) is Michael Gove MP, the Secretary of State for Housing, who wants to see Cambridge grow even faster than it has done and has proposed building a new suburb in the greenbelt, which would be in addition to 44,000 houses that were already being planned for. Gove has set up a 'Cambridge Delivery Group' to advise him, and they will have to find a solution to the lack of water if they want to recommend any kind of growth.

CambridgePPF will continue to argue that our environment should not be sacrificed for excessive short-term growth.

**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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*Saturday - 9.00am to 11.00am*

*Sunday - 10.00am to 11.00am*

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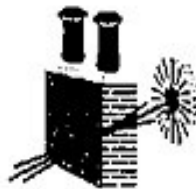
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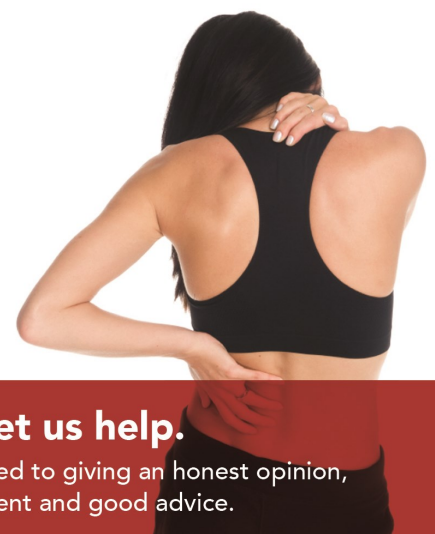
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