



Toft Village Calendar

Produced and Distributed by St. Andrew's Parish Church

October 2020



DIARY DATES

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

Will not be taking place this month.

TOFT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

[Over 50s Club]. At our virtual AGM recently, Elizabeth Harrison was appointed as the new Chairman, and Mary Baverstock as the Treasurer. When we do meet again it will be the chance to thank Arpi Johnson and Joan Howard who have acted a Chairman and Treasurer for many years, Arpi since the Club reformed in 2000

Sewing, Knit and Natter is still unable to meet.

The Parish Council - The next meeting will be at 7-00 on Monday 5th Oct via Zoom. Details will be on the Village web site at least 3 days before the event.

The Internet Club continues to meet via Zoom on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. In October we will send out invitations to join us on 5th and 19th at 2pm. To add your name to our mailing list contact Katherine James at katherine@jameskj.plus.com Do join us - we're a small group at the moment, so it would be lovely to see more of the group joining us! We don't need to talk about technical stuff - but if anyone does have a particular query, between us we'll do our best to help. Hope to see your there!

EDITORIAL

The Government has stolen my birthday. It might have stolen yours, too, in which case you have my deepest sympathies. I mean, there I was, all ready to celebrate the passing of what used to be called another decade but is now, due to etymological inflation, called a 'milestone', when out-of-the-blue comes A Clamp-Down. Not every day a chap turns 30...or is it 70? Ends with an 'O', anyway, that much I do remember, and I had hoped to be spending the occasion with friends and family. Now, even someone as determinedly unlikable as me can rustle up more than five acquaintances ready and willing to sack and pillage what passes for a wine cellar here at Editor Towers. Why, now I start counting, I wouldn't be surprised if I could almost double that figure if I wasn't too picky. But it is not to be. Like a bunch of unruly school-children, we have been summonsed to the Arch-Beak's study and put firmly in our places.

'We trusted you.' sighs the Beak. 'We said you could go out in August. We even slipped you a few quid so you could afford it. And what did you do? You showed immaturity and recklessness. You chatted. You sat within the proscribed distance of another human being. Some of you, I'm afraid to say, even mingled. You let me down, you let the country down, but worst of all, you let yourselves down. For that reason, the lot of you get a detention of indeterminable length. You will go to your places of abode, draw the curtains, hand over your car keys and stay there until I decide otherwise. And woe betide any of you if you're caught fraternising in a group of more than six. And, nota bene, I shall be dropping your parents a line about this if there's even a suspicion of a repeat occurrence.'

It all seems rather unfair. It's not as if we're trying to make each other ill. Most people I know - and even those I have merely observed - are doing their best to observe the increasingly recondite (not to say incondite) rules and regulations surrounding Covid, whilst at the same time bending or ignoring them where their own common sense tells them to, or where circumstances dictate. And 'Following the science' is not really an option, given that even scientists can't agree on it.

So what now? Even as I write, the Arch-Beak is flexing his cane in a meditative fashion and mulling over the advisability of delivering a follow-up collective six-of-the-best to the rest of us. Meanwhile, anniversaries, weddings, funerals, high-days and holidays and great occasions of State come and go unmarked, uncelebrated and, perhaps most plangently, unrepeatable.

In years to come, as generations yet unschooled sift through the snaps of their long-gone parents lives, will they really be saying: "Oh, look - here's one of Mum and Dad's thirtieth wedding anniversary." "Really - what are they doing?" "Well...he's drinking cocoa...I think she's getting ready for an early night." ?

How sad. Of course, I'm writing this several days before you get to read it. Maybe there will have been a break-through, or yet another 'game-changer' by then. In which case, here's a word-puzzle to end with: Breath Holding My I'm Not.



STOPPING THE CO OP BUILDING A NEW SHOP IN TOFT PARISH

By now most of you will have heard of the Coop's planning application to build a new convenience shop on land next to the Bennel Farm estate and opposite the Village college. The land previously had planning permission for a house. Although a mile away it is within Toft Parish and we are concerned that this could result in Toft Shop losing it's 100% rate rebate as the only shop and essential service for the village. Please help us to fight this plan.

Any objections/comments must be about planning concerns (eg traffic, noise, pollution, access etc) and not on competitiveness or financial issues.

We have until 30th September to object!

You can:

Sign our petition in the shop objecting to the Coop plans.

Comment on the planning website (open to all). You will be able to see all documents and receive updates. Search for www.applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org The planning ref. no. is 20/03339/FUL

The Council is not dealing with post at the moment but you can email them at planning@greatercambridgeplanning.org

**The Coop will not care
about Toft's community -
but we do!**

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

Everyone is welcome to come and share in any of
our services

SERVICES OF WORSHIP**For the Present all services are at St. Andrew's**

4th October 8.30 am Holy Communion - Rev Prof
Michael Reiss

11.00am Outdoor HARVEST (see p.3)- Rev Alison
Walker

11th October 11.00 am Holy Communion – Rev
David Newton

18th October 8.30 am Holy Communion Rev Prof
Michael Reiss

11.00am Morning service - Rev Robert Dolman

25th October 11.00am Morning Service – Cathy
Michell

25th October it is hoped that there will be Bread
Church at 4.00pm either at the Methodist Church or
via Zoom

Morning Prayer 9.15am at St Andrew's every
Wednesday

St. Andrew's is open every day if you wish to drop
in and we are holding services there every week
BUT totally understand if you wish to remain at
home for the moment. We are, of course, observing
the guidelines for worship over social distancing,
use of sanitiser, wearing of masks and in the way
Holy Communion is administered.

We will continue to have an email version of
Wednesday morning prayer (if you wish to add your
name to this list get in touch with Tricia Troughton)
and the Zoom service is available at 1100 am

THE MEETING ID: 898 7070 2475 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89870702475>.

For the present the Methodist Church will remain
closed for services.

Dear Friends,

Faith, Hope and Love

'And these three remain... faith, hope and love.' Most of us will know these words from the bible even if we would run ten miles rather than pick up that strange book of books.

These three things (sometimes known as the three theological virtues) seem to me to summarise everything that I could want to stand for in these days.

Rowan Williams was at a Christian Climate Action protest a couple of weeks ago (the Christian wing associated with Extinction Rebellion), and he was asked, 'Why are you here? Why should Christians be here?' He answered that it was right for Christians to be there protesting because they are people of faith, which means simply that they believe that what they do can make a difference in the world. To have faith is to trust that my actions count, that what I do somehow matters.

Hope means to believe that the way things are is not the way they have to be. Hope sustains us through these low days. Hope pushes us to imagine new futures that are not just the re-construction of what was before the pandemic. Hope keeps me going.

And love underpins it all. Love seeks to unite people, (rather than – dare I say - dividing them by turning everyone into would be 'informants'). Love seeks to build people up, to enable each person to flourish, to find life in fullness.

Such things don't sound that 'theological' to me – they just sound basic. The foundations which keep me running in this season. May faith, hope and love, sustain us through to better days.

- David Newton

Sewing, Knit and Natter -
are not meeting at present.



THE CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

HARVEST (4th Oct): Weather permitting will be an outdoors service. As you know we have given harvest produce to the Women's Refuge for many years. They are greatly looking forward to our contributions this year either as dry goods (tins, packets of cereal, sugar etc) or as home-grown produce. If you happen to have any NEW (i.e. still wrapped) toys, books, cosmetics, these would also be gratefully received. They cannot at the present time take anything second-hand and this is proving difficult for them. The Refuge is very full, indeed has overflowed into other premises.

Please bring your harvest goods with you, or deliver them to the open church on Friday or Saturday before the 4th or to Ann Mitchell, 20 High Street.

AND during this service we intend to thank Justin and Jenny properly for all they have done to keep us going during the pandemic. As you will see from elsewhere we presented a pseudo cheque outside the shop on the 12th but the thanks were brief and this is your chance to really thank them. Jeanne and Mike and their musicians will play for us again that day.

CHURCHYARD WALL Thanks to the enormous hard-work of various volunteers we got further with the wall in the early summer than expected so we have made the decision to complete the repair to the damaged wall as far as the corner after which it seems to be in reasonable condition. So you will see our hardy workers once more on the job from early October.



JOHN DOWNES 1924 – 2020

John, who lived in Tyne Cottage (beside the Peoples Hall) from about 1974 died on his 96th birthday in June this year. He moved to Toft with his wife Penny and both of them played a major part in the community of Toft.

John will be remembered as the Chairman of the Peoples Hall when the refurbishment was done in 1999. Here he is seen at the re-opening.

He was a highly skilled man in many ways, an engineer, involved with optics; he spent nine years living and working in Rome and he could turn his hand to a wide range of things.

On the death of Penny he married Jacqueline, from Stapleford. He is survived by her and by his daughter Anne Lane. A son predeceased him.



TOFT SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF SOCIAL CLUB OPENING AND ACTIVITIES

The social distancing restrictions are still very much in place and with no real likelihood of circumstances changing in the imminent future the situation remains that we are unable to open the Social Club in a way which would allow members to socially distance and safely make the most of the facilities we offer.

All regular events remain on hold and the bar will not be open for its usual evening sessions.

ZOOM MEETING GET TOGETHERS

As promised we are intending to shortly resume the popular Friday evening "Zoom" video sessions which give members the opportunity to join in video chats together and catch up on local news.

These will be a monthly session; details of dates and times will be sent to members via email and included on the website once arrangements have been finalized.

ZOOM SOCIAL CLUB QUIZ

In order to test members little grey cells we are also going to resume the Zoom Social Club Quizzes.

These will be every two weeks on a Saturday night. Details of dates and times will be sent to members via email and included on the website once arrangements have been finalized.

WHILE AND MATTHEWS CONCERT EXCLUSIVE TO TOFT SOCIAL CLUB

Saturday 17th October 2020 19.30 to 21.30

One live event we were hoping to host in October was the fabulous duo Chris While and Julie Matthews. They are the undisputed queens of British folk duos whose 1st class songs are delivered with to die for harmonies, immaculate musicianship & melodies that lodge themselves in your brain.

Recognizing the need to adapt to the crippling restrictions imposed on live concerts, Chris While and Julie Matthews, along with the skill and expertise of their soundman Richard Harrison, have raised the bar on live streaming concert quality performances. They have offered, exclusive to Toft Social Club, to bring their tour to your living room where members and other regular concert goers can watch a unique performance.

So at last we are able to offer a live music event that you can experience safely and support Toft Social Club and The Arts. TSC will receive a percentage of the ticket revenue.

This unique live streamed performance for TSC is on October 17th 2020 from 19.30 to 21.30.

To purchase your ticket please go to www.whileandmatthews.com/virtualtour. Each ticket purchased will buy you a private YouTube link to the live performance which you will receive the day before the concert.

Tickets are offered on an 'honesty' basis so they kindly ask that if more than one family member is watching the concert on the same device that you buy tickets accordingly, one for each person, as you would if you were attending a concert together. Each ticket is priced at £15

You will receive an email acknowledging your payment with instructions of what to do to enable you to watch. The concert will be performed in two halves with a short interval in the middle.

We hope you agree that in these very strange and isolated times we have to find ways of still feeling connected and music is a link that binds us all, keeps our venues visible and goes towards filling the void that this year has found artists in, both creatively and financially. Chris and Julie are looking forward to sharing this unique experience with you.

Information and update can be found on our webpage. <https://toftsocialclub.org.uk/online.php>

Please follow any updates on the Website and Facebook pages detailed below.

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

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	cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk
James Wrycroft	264427	cllr.wrycroft@tpc.toft.org.uk
Elaine Miles	262255	cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk
Tricia Ellis-Evans	263477	cllr.ellis-evans@tpc.toft.org.uk
Andy Tall	07984796273	cllr.tall@tpc.toft.org.uk
Lluis Borrell	264611	cllr.borrell@toft.org.uk
Kaushik Popat		cllr.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. 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 October 5th, 7.30 pm (via Zoom)

The Parish Council met on 7th Sept 2020.

It was a busy meeting with several significant issues discussed. The first item on the agenda was the planning application for a new Co-op Store opposite the Comberton Village College. The PC strongly objected to the application mainly because of the significant impact it would have on the Toft Shop and also on safety concerns due to congestion around the entrance to the school with the shop entrance being opposite. The second issue discussed was the proposals for the East West Rail and how best the PC should respond.

The current proposals would have a significant impact on Toft as the route would be either between Toft and Kingston, running along the south of Toft or between Toft and Comberton. The current proposal would have a station on the south of Cambourne towards Caxton. There is a lot of concern about that including from Cambourne Council who consider that a station on the north of the settlement would be better. There is also a lot of pressure to reconsider a northern route via Northstowe which Toft PC would support. It was agreed

that the PC would write to the Mayor and our MP to urge them to do what they could to get the northern route reconsidered. Also it was agreed to work with local District Councillors to coordinate a response from affected PC's.

At the next PC meeting the PC will consider what else it can do to influence the decisions. (The PC is represented on the Cambridge Approach Group however they are only considering the approaches to the Cambridge South Station within the current corridor, Toft is not really included in their considerations.) The PC did agree to make a small donation to the Cambridge Approach Group to support their efforts.

The next formal consultation from EWR will be regarding options for the route and this is expected at the end of 2020 or early 2021. Readers may also wish to see Page 7 for further information.

The PC has recently been communicating with the SCDC regarding s106 funding for projects, in particular relating to the application for 45 additional houses at Bennell Farm. While in no way changing our rejection of the proposed 45 extra houses at Bennell Farm, it was agreed, in principle, that in addition to some funding for improvements to the Peoples hall and improvement to the Play Equipment in the rec, support funding for the Comberton/Toft Cycleway would be requested.

It was also agreed to apply for funding to improve the cycleway between Toft and Comberton by applying for a grant from the "Zero Carbon Grant" fund.

A resident is proposing to produce a book to celebrate 25 years of Toft Wood and has requested funding to support the venture. The PC is pleased to fund the printing of the books with funds being returned to the PC when books are sold.

Two other planning applications were considered and responded to. (I only report our response to major applications, all responses can be viewed on the SCDC Planning web site).

The PC urges residents to report any concerns about road conditions in the village onto the CC website (CC website, highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk), it is very straightforward.

Cllr Tall reported that the broken glass has been replaced in the bus shelter. Cllr Yeadon reported that a delivery of play bark had been delivered and spread in the rec.

Martin Yeadon

Chair Toft Parish Council



Dear Neighbour,

Are you unable to leave your home because of Covid 19/Coronavirus? We're here for you.

We are a group of Toft residents who have come together during a time when some people may be finding it hard to access the help they need.

We would like to support the community that we live in and ensure that nobody is left isolated or without support. **We don't ask for anything in return**, we just believe in helping each other in a time of difficulty.

We are your Toft neighbours and not a professional body. We can only offer help within reason, and in ways so that we can also stay safe. If you need medical advice, use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service at **111.nhs.uk/covid-19**, or if you have no internet access, call **NHS 111** from your phone. In a medical emergency, dial 999.

NEED SUPPORT?

If you would like to speak to us, or want help,

1) please call, text or WhatsApp (at reasonable times),
Linda Hollow – 07779 918 682 or email: **linda.hollow@btconnect.com**

2) or, put a message asking for help on the 'Nextdoor Toft' site (contact Jackie Morton at **jem.wickets@btinternet.com** to join)

3) or, use the Toft Community Page on **Facebook**.

GIVE SUPPORT

If you would like to help support the community, please let us know via either Jackie or Linda (details above)

WAYS YOU CAN HELP



ARRANGING
DELIVERIES



PICKING UP
SHOPPING &
MEDICATION



A FRIENDLY
PHONE CALL



POSTING
MAIL



URGENT
SUPPLIES



HELP TOPPING
UP ELECTRIC
OR GAS KEY



OCCASIONAL
DOG
WALKING

20/03/20

East West Railway Route

You may remember earlier this year that "Route E" was selected as the preferred route for the Bedford to Cambridge section of the East West Rail (EWR) route, a route which when completed will provide a cross country passenger rail route connecting Oxford, Milton Keynes, Bedford and Cambridge (and then on to Ipswich and Norwich) as well as enabling a direct freight link between Felixstowe and the south west of England (<https://eastwestrail-production.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/public/Preferred-Route-Option-Announcement/44c1b64f41/Full-map.pdf>).

EWR has already identified the route corridor and are currently working on the specifics of the route alignment within that corridor. The route corridor is the large, defined area within which they plan to build the railway line. The corridor passes south of Cambourne via a new station between Cambourne and Caxton, and then heads south east into the Bourn Brook valley, past Toft and on towards the villages of Haslingfield and Harlton. At the point it passes Toft, the corridor is at its most narrow, less than 1 mile wide. The current plan is for this new railway line to pass within 500 metres of houses in Toft. It will either cross the fields from Hardwick Wood to the north of Toft and cut between Toft and Comberton or it will run alongside Bourn Brook near the golf course.

EWR expect to publish the route alignment (i.e. the specific location of the track) and go to public consultation in January 2021.

There is still some public debate whether Route E is the best route for the railway to follow. It was the most expensive of all of those proposed by EWR and there is also a possibility that a completely different route outside of their identified route corridor, involving a station to the north of Cambourne and following the A428 into north Cambridge is a better option for the city and the region (for example, it would provide better connections with the proposed Cambridge Autonomous Metro).

There are still a number of ways that residents can make their views heard individually before EWR publish the route alignment, although time is limited.

You can contact

the Mayor of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, James Palmer, on james.palmer@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk

the county councillor, Lina Nieto (Lina.Nieto@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

our district councillor, Grenville Chamberlain (cllr.chamberlain@scambs.gov.uk)

and/or write to our MP, Anthony Browne (Broadway House, 149-151 St Neots Road, Hardwick CB23 7QJ) or email him at anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk

Toft Parish Council has opposed Route E from the outset and has written to both the Mayor and the Member of Parliament urging a rethink and for them to lobby for the alternative northerly route which is outside of EWR's route corridor.

The Parish Council will be discussing the proposed rail route at **the next Parish Council meeting on October 5th**, and seeking how best to represent residents' views in a collective and collaborative manner, as well as how best to work alongside neighbouring parish councils to amplify the message, so do please attend that meeting if you can or contact one of the Parish Councillors ahead of the meeting.

Energy saving offer for Cambridgeshire residents

Households across Cambridgeshire will soon have the opportunity to club together to buy and install solar panels at a reduced price. The County Council and District Councils have joined forces with Solar Together as part of the initiative to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.

From **1 September** households and small and medium-sized enterprises can register for free and without obligation for the group-buying scheme, by visiting www.solartogether.co.uk/cambridgeshire. When they register online for their complete solar PV system, applicants will be asked questions about their house, roof, and electricity usage. The County Council will then arrange an auction with pre-vetted installers on **6 October**. The auction is a reverse auction, meaning the lowest bid wins. The winning bid sets the price for all solar systems and battery systems. All installers are pre-vetted and must comply with certain criteria to guarantee the quality of the offer. After the auction applications will receive a personal recommendation based on their registration details. They then have six weeks to decide if they want to take up the recommendation and proceed with an installation.

Solar panels turn sunlight into electricity. In order to use this energy, the panels mounted on a roof need to be connected to an inverter using cables. The Solar Together offer is for a complete service, including all equipment, survey, installation, monitoring and warranties. Afterwards households or businesses will automatically generate their own electricity from the panels on their roof. Households that already have solar panels installed can also register to have battery storage added to their existing solar panels to maximise the benefits of their system.

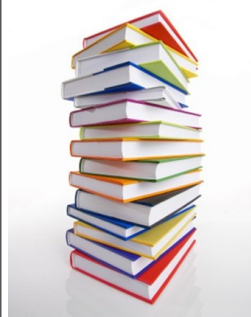
Householders with queries about the scheme can find out more at solartogether.co.uk/Cambridgeshire or email cambridgeshire@solartogether.co.uk or call 0800 048 8259.

Comberton Library

Normal Opening Hours - but please see below:*

Monday: 10am – 1pm, Wednesday: 10am – 1pm, 2pm -5pm,

Friday: 2pm – 5pm, Saturday: 10am – 1pm



As I write this article, we are still working to our revised opening times, 10.00am until 2.00pm on Mondays and 2.00pm until 6.00pm on Wednesdays. The following outlines the service we are providing currently, but please do check the Library pages on the County Council website and the Library Service media platforms for any changes, as these will be publicised as soon as they are known. Although our current service is not what we are used to, Comberton Library staff still look forward to seeing you as you return and collect your books, or use the IT facilities.

There is still no browsing of the shelves, and in order to maintain a safe environment for both our customers and staff we are operating a queueing system, as necessary, outside the library, to maintain social distancing. You are able to return books and collect items, which will have been issued already to your library card. Specific titles can be reserved online from home in the normal way, although reservations for picture books have been suspended. Our Select and Collect Request Service enables you to request a selection of books based on your preference. Staff will choose books based on the information provided and the stock available in the library. Please use the online form, available via www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library to make your requests. If you do not have internet access, you can call Customer Services on 0345 045 5225, and the staff there will forward your request to the library. We will contact you to let you know when your items are available to collect.

Access to the IT facilities is available by appointment only, with a limit of one 45 minute appointment per day per customer. Again this is to allow safe access and time for cleaning between customers. Printing and photocopying are available, but, as there is no cash handling, you will need change to drop into the photocopier coin box, 20p per page of A4 black and white and 75p per colour page. Printing costs are the same and can be paid for by dropping the change into the library's donation box.

We are delighted to announce that there will be an Autumn season of The Library Presents 'In Your House' beginning this month. Included will be outdoor performances, interactive installations in library windows, a radio play and plenty of fantastic performances and workshops to enjoy online. There will be theatre, music, dance, comedy and magic, and workshops will be for both adults and families. Full details of what's on offer will be available on The Library Presents page of our website, where you can also sign up to receive The Library Presents newsletter, or, if you use social media, like and follow @TheLibraryPresents on Facebook or Instagram. As the nights draw in, we hope that you will find plenty to keep you informed and entertained.

[Comberton Library is situated in the Village College campus, with car parking available and is Wheelchair-friendly and fully accessible for all.]

From Jean Stewart

Re: my Cancer Research UK Cycle 300 challenge.

I would like to thank all the people who sponsored me and who sent warm words of encouragement and it is still not too late to donate at <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/jeans-cycle-300-fundraising-page-3> to this fantastic cause if you have not already done so.

I thought I would share the routes and some of the highlights of the trip with you all.

My idea was to stay local due to the current circumstances and also knowing I would be able to get back in an emergency. I managed to do the 300 miles over six days rather than the original plan of seven days. I was joined by my friend and ex-colleague Anne Saucier throughout the week and we also had a couple of volunteer cyclists from our regular cycling group, they helped us keep up a good pace, throughout.

The weather was glorious throughout this week, bright chilly mornings and beautiful sunny afternoons. We only had one downpour on the 3rd of September but luckily, we were able to shelter from the worst of the rain. We chose a different route each day and I have come to appreciate the lovely countryside of Cambridgeshire, Essex, Bedfordshire and Huntingdon.

The routes

Our first day took us over towards Saffron Walden and a lovely lunchtime spot at The Woodman Inn in Nuthampstead. This is a really good inn and also has an excellent museum of war time memorabilia as the pub is next to an aerodrome that was used by both RAF and American air force. Distance 60.60miles at an average speed of 12mph, maximum speed 29.1 mph.

On day 2 we cycled over to Newmarket via Quy,Lode, Reach, Burwell, Exning, Newmarket, Stetchworth, Dullingham,Swaffham Bulbeck,Bottisham and finishing at Newmarket Park and Ride. The highlight of this day was cycling through Newmarket, seeing where all the horses are stabled and spying some beautiful horses on the gallops.

Distance 36.5 miles at average of 12.6mph and max 25.3 mph

Day 3 we headed out towards Huntingdon. The route took us through Knapwell, Conington, Hilton, Gravely, Toseland and a pint of soda water and lime at The Eight bells in Abbotsley. A nice pub and friendly staff. The menu looked good too but we had decided to pack food as a lot of places are closed and we didn't want to find ourselves without vital grub. After the pit stop we cycled on to Waresley through the Gransdens, Bourn and on to Cambridge to make up the miles down Madingley hill and back via Barton and Comberton.

Distance 56.8 miles Average 12.8 mph at max speed (down hill) 27.7mph

Day 4 was one of my favorite rides heading into Essex down towards Littlebury and home through Duxford, Ickleton and the Shelfords to Haslingfield, Harlton and back through the Eversdens.

Total 53.2 miles average speed 11.7mph max speed (downhill) 44.5mph

Day 5 a lovely cycle into town and out via Quy to Wicken fen and then

following the Sustrans route 11 along the river to Ely. Highlights of this day were to see the wild horses on Wicken Fen and a pair of red Kites that were hovering above us for part of the journey.

Total 56.2 miles average speed 12.7mph no hills.

Day 6 - the last day. Our route started at Shelford station and went to Newton, Harston, Haslingfield, Orwell, Wimpole, Arrington, Gamlingay, Waresley Gransden and back to Toft.

A slight technical hitch. I knew I had 37 miles to complete the 300 mile challenge that day and I had been using an app called Strava to record the mileage etc. Due to human error on this last ride the app only recorded 10 miles and then stopped. It must have been nudged when I was cycling so my record showed I was 27 miles short. So after a cup of tea I decided there was nothing else for it but to go out again even though I had people who were with me I needed to see the mileage recorded on the just giving page. Jake volunteered to accompany me to do the 27 miles cycling across to the Shelford's and back along the DNA route round the back of Addenbrookes and up Madingley hill to home. Unfortunately this effort too was not recorded but I managed to record the much needed miles manually. Total miles covered on this day 64miles.

Many thanks to all and especially to my brilliant husband for great meals ,technical support and general cheerfulness and my cycling buddy Anne who despite severe toothache managed to stay cheerful throughout.

I am now off on Sunday for a cycling holiday to Northumberland. No recording required! Oh – and I nearly forgot: **I've raised £1830.00 so far!**



THANK YOU TO VILLAGERS FROM TOFT SHOP

THANK YOU THANK YOU, to the many volunteers that came forward during the COVID 19 lockdown, assisting us at Toft Shop in meeting community needs in a time of crisis. As vulnerable shoppers in local communities were increasingly cut off by the strict requirements to limit the movement of people and the spread of coronavirus, we felt we had to do something to help. Thank you to the many customers who continued to use Toft shop. Whether occasionally popping in, using the pick-up service or the home delivery scheme. Special thanks go to Olivia Cassidy and her family who we have all come to know, and who were just awesome in taking on the orders and deliveries no matter how small or big. They were with us for six months and their untiring willingness and smiles were appreciated by us and many customers. Thanks too to young Ruth Wrycroft and her mum who took on the daily delivery of newspapers. Also Max Tebbit (with a bit of help from his parents) who delivered the heavy weekend papers - there have been many older residents that greatly appreciated this service. Thanks too to Elizabeth Dolman who helped refine our delivery system and whose ideas were invaluable. Also Marion Read who crafted the signs displayed with Governments guidelines, and Keith Jacklin who constructed the amazing counter screen that keeps us safe. Thank you too, to Esther Wrycroft and Elizabeth Hicks whose unwavering support and chatter helped so much, especially on those days when energy flagged.

These last six months have proved unprecedented as we have all faced challenges and have made adjustments for what has become the 'new normal'. We are thankful that Toft shop has continued to be a hub and heart of the community. Everyone has rallied round and we have seen that when faced with a crisis the villages locally have come together, and have formed strong networking bonds. The generosity and support shown to Jenny and myself by people in surrounding villages like Eversden, Kingston and Comberton has been amazing. Then on Saturday the 12th we were surprised and astonished when a large group of Toft residents gathered outside the shop and we were presented with 25 'thank you cards' and a 'cheque of £2200.00' as a thank you for our commitment within the village. We think this shows just what a special, caring community Toft is, and exceedingly generous. We thank you all very, very much.

A few changes have been made in the shop due to Covid in line with Government guidelines, and as recommended by Post Office Ltd and the Small Business Association. We ask that customers respect the changes that have been made to ensure everyone remains safe and feels comfortable shopping at Toft.

It is a requirement that masks be worn in the shop unless customers are unable. We request customers maintain the 1m to 2m distancing rule. We have placed hand sanitiser at entrance, post office counter and main counter for customers use. We are



operating a one-way system and the floor has been marked with arrows for guidance, please adhere whenever possible.

The Post Office is one of the most valued assets within local communities and Toft Post Office offers a wide range of services to the village and the wider community. It is important that people realise that for the post office to remain open and financially worthwhile, not just viable, its services must be used. Some of the products and services are listed below.

Sale of stamps	- Handling of letters and parcels
Banking services	- Cash withdrawals (most banks)
Savings	- Credit cards
Travel money	- Insurances
Broadband and Mobile	- Postal orders

We all know that village shops have an important part to play in villages – and sometimes it is useful to think about why this is the case

Social exclusion – for some residents a visit to the shop is their only social contact all day. Often these are elderly people and the shop is an important, informal part of their support network.

Enabling residence – for some the shop could be the difference between remaining living independently and having to move into sheltered accommodation elsewhere. The shop enables the local purchase of groceries, access to financial services and can be crucial for some residents.

Centre for community – the shop offers a facility for everyone and is probably one the place where everyone goes (different to a church, pub or village hall). It's a place where local news is often displayed and exchanged and neighbours meet.

Convenience store – gives people an opportunity to buy fresh items or items they may have forgotten during a major shop including newspapers, milk, bread, fruit and veg etc. When your child tells you at 5.45pm they need a list of ingredients for food technology class tomorrow – then its great to know the shop is open until 6.00pm

Post office and financial services – these days the post office offers a wide range of mail and banking services.

Green issues – If residents are able to walk to their local shop then this reduces the number of car miles with obvious environmental benefits. Shopping locally reduces the overall carbon footprint.

Business customers – small business have access to postal and banking services as well as stationery and other requisites.

Support local suppliers – The shop is vital in helping customers to access local products and supporting small producers. We have a wide range of local products – home made cakes, local jams, apple juice, fresh veg & fruit, fresh bread, milk, honey, greeting cards and many others.

Source of local employment – We offer young local people an opportunity to gain work experience with paid employment. We employ 3 young students on a part time basis and have found that the experience is very positive for them.

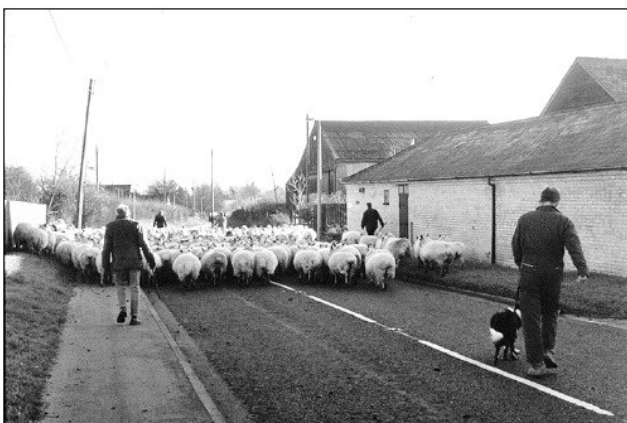
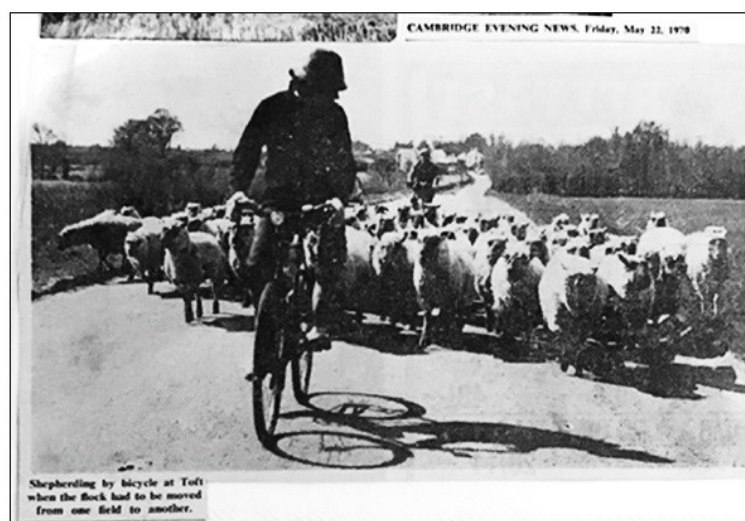


toft historical society

Sheep and the Toft economy

Sheep have always been an important feature of the East Anglian economy and Toft and its surroundings are no exception. Flocks are still regularly grazed on the Home Meadow in Toft and also around Great Eversden. One of the features of traditional farming of livestock is the movement of herds from pasture to pasture and finally to market, hence the presence in Toft of two 'Drifts' (from the verb to 'drive' animals), the Mill Lane Drift leading from Mill Lane to the Toft allotments and the Church Drift leading from Saint Andrew's church towards Comberton. 'Drifts' are mentioned in 16th-century documents in the reign of Henry VIII.

The late Mr Clifford Tebbit used to drive sheep through Toft along the main road to pasture in Comberton, a practice he continued up until about 1990. Many native- and long-term residents of Toft remember seeing the flock moving through the village at its own steady pace, despite the traffic. Efforts were made by Mr Tebbit to move the animals early in morning to avoid too much disruption. The first photograph was published in the *Cambridge Evening News* in 1970 (with thanks to Diana Tebbit for providing the copy). Clifford Tebbit was often seen on his bicycle. The other two (courtesy of Ann Mitchell) were taken around 1990, during one the last drives.



Clifford Tebbit is seen on the left here



The flock negotiating the crossroads at Comberton



Meridian Primary School

Learning for life – striving for excellence

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. Our first few days have started really well and the children are very excited and enthusiastic about being back at school. All the children have settled in well, re-establishing friendships and making new ones and looking really smart in school uniform. It is a good feeling to be back together again. Well done to all our children!

Years 4 and 5 started the academic year with an Outdoor Adventurous activity day where they worked together in groups with their teachers and teaching assistants. The children had a lot of fun taking part in activities such as moving the duck, saving the teddies from a toxic swamp, cracking codes and travelling through a midnight crossing. Since then they have also had an Ancient Greek learning day when they came dressed up in costume.

We have been in touch with the Lisa Kent Trust who give practical and educational support for children in Busumbala in The Gambia. Every year, we have a designated time to reflect, learn and offer our support to the school through the Lisa Kent charity. In particular, we have sponsored two children for many years by paying their fees to enable them to attend school. Due to us not being able to have a special donating day in the summer term, our Year 6 school class will be organising a non-uniform fundraising day this term.

Children from Years 3 and 4 participated in the Bikeability scheme in September. The scheme works to enable more children and young people to cycle safely and develop a lifelong love of cycling.

We will be running a Harvest Festival week during the week of 19th October and we shall be asking for food donations from our families. All food donations will be sent to Jimmy's, Cambridge. Jimmy's work with local people, communities, organisations and partners to deliver 24/7 emergency help, support and accommodation 365 days a year for those who would otherwise be sleeping rough.

I am privileged to work with a great group of people on our Governing body and over the next twelve months we will be looking for a new Chair of governors as our current Chair will be moving on to pastures new. Please see the advert below for further details and we'd love to hear from you should you wish to find out more.

I wish to thank all our school staff, volunteers, and governors who have helped in recent months to re-open the school and who will continue to work hard over the coming months.

I would also like to thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards,

Mrs C. Etchie, Headteacher

Are you enthusiastic about education?
Do you have leadership experience – or ambitions?

Do you have some time to invest?

You may be just the person we need!

Meridian Primary School is a Local Authority school of around two hundred pupils. We are a friendly, active school with children who achieve much and are enthusiastic learners. The Chair of our governing body will be finishing his term of office during the next twelve months, and we are looking to recruit a governor to join our team, to prepare to move into the Chair position. At our last Ofsted inspection, we were judged to be Good. Ofsted commented, "leaders share the passion, ambition and drive of the headteacher to make the school the best that it can be", and said that the governing body "has been highly successful in ensuring that the school remains focused to achieve its ambitious aims." They also commented on our "enthusiastic and skilful teaching" and noted that "pupils show high levels of respect and care for each other." You will be joining a vibrant and enthusiastic group of twelve governors from a wide range of backgrounds and experience. For the right person, this is a role that is rewarding, challenging and interesting.

What is the Role of the Governing Body?

The Governing Body can be best described as a group of 'critical friends'. The Governors provide a framework which helps the Headteacher deliver the aims and vision of the school through a balance of support and challenge. There are three core functions:

Setting the Strategic Direction - championing our vision, values and

ethos and supporting the Head Teacher and Senior Leaders in setting priorities for school improvement

Holding to account - the Headteacher and Senior Leaders for the quality of teaching and learning, levels of achievement, behaviours and safety

Ensuring good financial governance - by setting and overseeing the budget and ensuring that resources are allocated to the agreed school priorities and needs

What is expected of the Chair of the governing body?

The Chair's role is to lead and manage the governing body in holding the Headteacher to account for the running of all aspects of the school - the role is strategic, not operational and partly defined by statutory duties.

You will attend meetings of governors, liaise regularly with the Headteacher and other governors and undertake visits to the school in pursuit of the provision of high quality education to all pupils and excellent stewardship of resources.

Supported by a Clerk, you will chair six meetings of the Full Governing Body each year, and be part of two sub-committees – Standards; and Finance, Premises and Personnel;

There is scope to contribute to many other Governor-related activities as they arise dependent on your experience, areas of interest and expertise. If you have read this and think it might be for you (or someone you know), please contact Jude Brown, one of our parent governors, on governor8@meridian.cambs.sch.uk. She would be happy to talk to you in person or answer your questions by email.

I've related this tale to a few of you and have been encouraged to write it as a piece for the calendar.

Last year, Clive and I were to spend a week's holiday in Somerset with our son James (some of you will remember him as Jamie), and his wife Norah. They live in Ireland and when they arrived after travelling on the ferry, James was clearly in pain - he'd had a herniated disc for some time but had managed it quite well, until he arrived in Somerset! So, for three days we tried everything to ease the pain but it got to the point where he clearly needed some help. James works as an advanced paramedic/first responder so would only choose to go to A and E if absolutely necessary, but ultimately an ambulance was called. James was in a dreadful state by the time it arrived and it took a rather large dose of morphine before he could be moved into the ambulance.

Our cottage was an hour away from the nearest hospital so Norah and I said we would wait awhile before going, in order for him to be 'processed' etc. When we arrived, a nurse took us to his cubicle and we were horrified to see that his hair and beard had been shaved off. Norah's first thought was that he was being prepared for brain surgery and that something seriously neurological had been diagnosed. I was shell-shocked and said "why have they shaved your hair and beard off sweetheart", Norah was rubbing his arms and I was hugging him but he just lay there with his eyes closed.

After about 5 minutes he opened his eyes and smiled and I thought "those teeth don't belong to my son"! It was the wrong man". This poor chap had two unknown women fawning over him, cuddling him, suggesting he was about to have brain surgery, asking where his hair and beard had gone - he'd probably never had a beard in his life!! How traumatic for him. We left the cubicle shouting, "it's the wrong person" and were rushed away by a nurse as we seemed to be in some kind of resuscitation unit!

People keep asking me how we didn't realise that it was the wrong husband and son. Well I've not seen James without any hair or beard for years; he was laying down so you couldn't see how tall he was, his eyes were closed and it was the right shaped face. And the nurse had said it was him in the cubicle!

We've since realised that the poor man whom we had terrorised had no tattoos, but James has a Celtic one on his arm and we still didn't 'cotton on'. When we finally found him, the morphine was wearing off and James was obviously in chronic pain again. The duty doctor had given him a Tramadol, and said we could take him home! 'WHAT?' I said.

By this time I was a mother on a mission. I actually had huge sympathy for the doctor who had a string of patients to see, statistics and targets to meet etc, and me, about to wrestle him to the ground unless he kept my son in, which he finally did. The upshot was that a neuro surgeon saw James, and made a cocktail of drugs to enable him to get back to Ireland to see his own consultant.

So they left the following day and when asked how he got back from the UK, James said "on the ferry with the help of drugs". His consultant said he should have been airlifted because an inch of the herniated disc had actually broken off and he needed surgery straight away. He then had an 8 month recovery period before going back to his paramedic job - just in time for COVID-19.

Does a mother ever stop worrying?!! And I wonder whether the other poor soul of mistaken identity ever recovered from us suggesting that he was having brain surgery - he may well have only sprained his ankle!!

- Val Sinclair

TOFT Social Club is proud to present at last...

...a live music event that you can experience safely!

Help support The Arts and the fabulous duo, Chris While and Julie Matthews and help Toft Social Club make some money!

Here is the date for your diary.

October 17 2020 from 19.30 to 21.30

You can buy tickets to see and hear a unique live streamed performance from the comfort of your own home.



photo: Bryan Ledgard

This is what to do...

To purchase your tickets for Toft Social Club performance on October 17th, 2020 please go to:

<https://www.whileandmatthews.com/virtual-tour>

and follow the instructions.

Each ticket purchased will buy you a private **YouTube** link to the live performance which you will receive on Oct 16.*

Tickets are £15.00 each. TSC will receive a percentage of the ticket revenue.

** Chris While and Julie Matthews are planning to offer a half hour 'meet and greet' for ticket holders to take place after the gig...more info about this will be sent direct to ticket purchasers.*

Home-Start's Hug in a Mug Campaign

What is the thing you miss most at the moment?

Before lockdown, there were all sorts of things we took for granted: popping into a shop on a whim; sitting in a café and enjoying a cup of coffee; seeing a friend and giving them a hug.

It's a touchy subject

Touch is the first of the five senses to develop: embryos start to be aware of touch at around the 8th week of pregnancy and it's the key sense in survival - young animals and humans instinctively pull away from discomfort and move towards things that feel good. Touch also affects the mental and physical development in children: research shows that a lack of physical contact from birth will have a severely detrimental effect on a child's development which carries on into adulthood.

Touch is also a powerful communication tool: it's the easiest way to say to someone that we care about them. As author Mimi Novic says, "Laughter with those that understand us is music for the soul. A hug at the right moment and a kind shoulder to lean on, is the sprinkle of magic that keeps us walking towards hope." Receiving and giving hugs helps to relieve stress, reduces blood pressure and releases the happiness hormones oxytocin, dopamine and serotonin: in short, hugs are good for you.

In fact, hugs are one of the key tools our volunteers use when helping a family facing crisis.

We also use tea.

"While there is tea, there is hope."

In Britain, offering a cup of tea during times of stress or distress is second nature.

Of course, with the current COVID-19 lockdown, sharing hugs and cups of tea (or coffee) are an increasingly rare commodity. Which is why Home-Start have created our "hug in a mug" campaign. You might not be able to hug friends during these stressful times, but you can donate the cost of a cuppa to help us provide virtual hugs to families in crisis. And, while we're also missing real hugs right now, we are providing the next best thing: a cup of tea, and hope.

If you'd like to support our Hug in a Mug campaign you can text HOMESTARTHUG to 70085 to donate £3 (or HOMESTARTHUGNOINFO if you'd rather not be on our mailing list).

And you can take a look at our Hug in a Mug campaign video, which is live on our website: www.hsrsc.org.uk



**Royston, Buntingford &
South Cambridgeshire**

Supporting parents when it matters
because childhood can't wait

Registered Charity No. 1105385

Getting ready for winter

As the colder months draw in, we begin using our fires, burners and chimneys once again to warm our homes. Chimney Fires continue to be a common occurrence in home fires in the winter months.



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**

To ensure you keep your home safe from fire, follow our top tips below:

Whatever fire you have or fuel you burn it is vitally important to have your chimney swept to avoid a build-up of ash and soot

Avoid burning resinous woods (that quickly build up soot)

Only burn fuels suitable for your burner (e.g. never burn anything other than wood in a wood burner)

Do not bank fires too high and remember to let them burn out well before you go to bed

Check the hearth, floor and furnishings near the fire for hot sparks/embers

Do not place objects on or over the mantelpiece which cause you to stand too close to the fire in order to reach them

Use a fire/spark guard to prevent accidental fires and make sure it has the kite mark or conforms to British/ European standards

Inspect your chimney breast, particularly the roof space. Make sure it is sound and sparks/fumes cannot escape through cracks or broken bricks.

Most importantly, always fit a smoke alarm and test your alarm weekly, and ensure a Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarm is installed in the room where the burner is.

For more information log on to www.cambsfire.gov.uk, follow us on social media or call 01480 444500.

Wheelie Bin Collections For October

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

Black Bin:

Weds 14th Oct

Weds 28th Oct

Blue/Green Bin

Weds 7th Oct

Weds 21st Oct

Notice to Advertisers

Advertisements are published quarterly. Copy for inclusion in the next available edition of the Calendar **must** reach us by 17th October 2020 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.

✂ USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Alcoholics Anonymous: 0845 769 7555

Anglian Water (for sewage): 08457 145 145

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

County Councillor: 07402351821

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 830037

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: 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

NATURE TRAILS

My name is Jennifer Martin and I am part of Comberton Parish Council.

We wanted to open up and share this competition with Toft Residents and would appreciate if you could flag it up in any newsletters or to any youth groups that you have.



We are hoping to design some explorer trails (for different age groups, interests and people) to keep people active, over what may continue to be a difficult period.

Please feel free to share this as wide as you're willing and please - feel free to direct people to me for more information.

Best wishes

Jen Martin

Contact me at: jen_martin@hotmail.co.uk

We'd like to remind readers that this edition - and many previous ones - are available to download from the village website at: <https://toft.org.uk/calendar.php>.

These have been testing times and we seem to be entering Lockdown 2.0. Everyone here at *The Calendar* hopes this edition finds you in rude health and that future editions do the same. As we have so far, it is our intention to keep publishing on our usual schedule. If, for any reason, this becomes impossible then we will still provide *The Calendar* as a download at the location shown above. And if, in future, you become aware of people who aren't able to take advantage of this - please feel free to print one off and push it through their letter-box.

Till next time...

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 or non-attributable contributions or those using pen-names.

Contributors are asked to note that all 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, JPG, PUB, DOCX, XLS etc) unless you feel it essential.** Many thanks.

And, finally...

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