



Toft Village Calendar

Produced and Distributed by St. Andrew's Parish Church

September 2023



DIARY DATES

TOFT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

[Over 50s Club]. The September meeting for the Club is on 9th August, 2.30 pm start. Following on from Ann Miles challenge on how well we knew Toft, there will be a talk on *Toft School 1833-1959* by Ann Mitchell. As restoration of the old school house (Tyne Cottage) nears completion it seems appropriate to look back on its former life! Visitors always welcome

Sewing, Knit and Natter

Our next meeting will be Wednesday Sept 27th in the Methodist Chapel, 10.30 - 12.30.

The Parish Council

The next meeting will be on Monday 4th September 2023 in the People's Hall at 7.00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

September 2nd
AUTUMN FAYRE in the churchyard
10.30 – 1.00pm

EDITORIAL

Anyone remember Voyager 2? Unless you're over 50, chances are you don't. And even those on the mature side of that milestone might be scratching their heads a bit - I certainly was. Voyager 2 departed this mortal coil in August 1977, its 46-year (and counting) mission to boldly go where no man, or anything else, had gone before. And all this time, it has been gamely chugging through the cosmic vastness, occasionally emitting the faintest of despairing digital yodels to let its bosses back here know it's still ploughing its lonely furrow. I had long ago supposed - assuming I gave it any thought - that Voyager 2 had joined the great scrap-heap in the sky and the only reason I now know it hasn't is because, just a couple of months ago, it suddenly gave up the ghost. Which is a pity, because it had taken, as it nosed about other planet's backyards, some interesting snaps of places like Saturn and Jupiter and recorded lots of data about stuff like heliospheres and interstellar mediums which fascinate plasma physicists and leave the rest of us feeling pretty dumb. As a result, we have made some progress. We used to think we knew very little about the outer reaches of our universe. Whereas now, we know for a fact that we know very little about them.

But what I liked most of all about Voyager 2 is that it contained a gold-plated audio-visual disc - in the event that it is ever found by intelligent life-forms from other planetary systems. I do vaguely remember this disk, filled as it was with hieroglyphics and weirdo diagrams impenetrable even to me, a fellow-human, never mind some three-headed, tentacled oddball from the planet Zog. Voyager pre-dates such things as CDs, so what we have sent into the furthest reaches of the illimitable unknown is basically an L.P. An L.P., moreover, that for some reason includes a recording of Chuck Berry singing 'Johnny B. Goode'. And the notion that a civilisation capable of retrieving interstellar interlopers like Voyager from its meanderings and bringing it safely back down to - er - whatever they call their Earth, that they are, at the same time, still dicking around with gramophones is - well, rather touching, really.

Voyager is now getting on for thirteen billion miles from this planet and heading...who knows where? That sounds - and indeed is - impressive, but it will still be another 296,000 years until it reaches (if it does) the star Sirius. By that time it will be nothing more than an interstellar ParcelForce mechanism bearing a Chuck Berry record for anyone who is still a fan. Right now, though, it's still burping the odd tid-bit of info back to the Mother Ship. When you consider the colossal emotional, intellectual and financial commitment necessary to get Voyager where it is now, it must have been heart-breaking for the team involved when it suddenly committed what we Windows users know and love as a 'fatal error' and went off-line. It was, after a frantic couple of week's brow-beating, kick-started back into life by a bunch of frazzled engineers. Despite the care, attention, resources and person-power lavished on it, its near-death experience had been brought about by that most predictable of events - some goon in the control room clicking the wrong button.

Just goes to show: You can have all the brain-power and all the computerised heft you like at your disposal. You can perform near-miracles of engineering. But you won't stop a determined human from lousing things up. I hope the guys on Zog weren't watching.

More ripening fruit in Lot Meadow

It would appear that my article on fruit in Lot Meadow, in the August



edition of *Toft Village Calendar*, was not written in vain as all the plums disappeared very quickly and there were no apples left on the apple tree called 'Discovery' within days of the Calendar being distributed.

The pear tree called 'Beth', bottom of the 2nd row, should be ready to pick by the end of August. You will need to wait a few days for the pears to ripen. As these pears will go over very quickly only pick what you can eat.

The two apple trees in the row nearest the gate should be ready in September. The tall tree with a lot of light green apples is a cooker called 'Arthur Turner'. The only other tree in this row is called 'Lord Lambourne' and it should be ready to pick mid-September. It doesn't have a lot of fruit on it as it is the one tree that we have had to replace.

Why not drop us a line here at *The Calendar* telling us what you thought of the fruit?.

- Tricia Ellis-Evans

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 888Lay Minister: Barbara Preece Tel:
263466

Churchwardens:

Ann Mitchell 262516

John Quenby 263949

Methodist ChurchMinister: Revd Charity Nzegwu
01763 241803

Stewards:

Diana Tebbit 01223 263557

Stephen Acklam 264055

Mrs Pat Morton 264010

SERVICES OF WORSHIP*3rd September* 8.30am Holy Communion
(BCP) – Rev Prof Michael Reiss11.00am Holy Communion, Methodist
Church – Revd. Charity Nzegwu*10th September* 11.00am Holy
Communion St. Andrew's – Revd David
Newton & Revd Barnabas Leeke*17th September* 8.30am Holy
Communion (BCP) – Rev Prof Michael
Reiss11.00am Morning Worship, Methodist
Church – Mrs Cathy Michel*24th September* 11.00am Morning
Prayer, St. Andrew's, Revd David
NewtonThere will be morning prayer at St.
Andrew's every Wednesday at 9.15 am
(about half-an-hour)Also on Wednesday evenings at
8.00pm, via zoom a service of compline:
ID: 899 215 191 or follow the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/899215191>Zoom services available at 11.00am
MEETING ID: 823 1147 3640**W**here does your year start and end?

As we move into September and the start of another academic year, I'm reminded that there are many different annual rhythms that don't always follow the usual pattern. The harvest is almost all gathered in as I write, is that the end of the farming year before the cycle of ploughing, sowing and reaping starts again? I have also just raided my long-suffering bee hives, collecting a few jars of that amber nectar that they have carefully prepared for their year-end. Others will be much more wedded to the calendar year, perhaps keenly waiting for their annual leave allowance to be refreshed now the summer holidays are over! For others the oddly timed financial year will be their turning point. This is an interesting quirk of history that encompasses an older tradition of new year being the religious festival of the Annunciation of Mary on the 25th March (nine months before Christmas), as well as the change from a Julian to a Gregorian calendar to better manage leap years and keep in step with the sun.

All this means we can feel somewhat adrift as we are pounded by passing milestones, some of them more or less important for us and those who surround us. The church's year, odd as it no doubt is, starts on the first Sunday of Advent, four Sundays before Christmas and out of step with almost every other part of our culture. It's early to think about that just yet, and the point is really that it doesn't matter. The beauty of the church's annual rhythm is that you can join it at any point and find that it is speaking into whatever 'season' we find ourselves in.

The current season for the church is called Creationtide, a time to give thanks for all that the world has to offer and look more closely at our impact on it and role in sustaining it. A timely theme indeed! St Andrew's will be using special forms of service to do just this, and anyone is welcome to join us, as Jesus said to some of his first disciples, 'come and see'. Yet within this seasonal variation there are also the timeless themes of new beginnings, good endings and the call to an ongoing rhythm of life that is sustainable and enlivening. So whether your year is starting, ending or somewhere in the middle, I pray that you will find joy and peace in this season.

God bless, Barnabas

Sewing, Knit and Natter.

We are planning our **Christmas Sale** to be held in November, further details next month. For more information please contact either Lucy (262948) or Sally (262895).



THE CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY

REMINDER We look forward to welcome you on **September 2nd** to the
AUTUMN FAYRE in the churchyard 10.30 – 1.00pm

Don't forget to bring Teddy or any other cuddly friend for the descent from the tower
11.00 – 12.00

CORONATION RECIPES As promised, the other recipe.

SWEET POTATO & COCONUT CURRY (6 good servings)

VEGAN, DAIRY, GLUTEN & NUT FREE NB: Freezes well

2½ tblsp Vegetable oil

1½ tsp Cumin seeds

2 med Onion chopped finely

3 tsp Garlic crushed or paste

6 tsp Ginger grated or paste

400g Tinned or chopped fresh tomatoes

1½ tsp Salt

1½ tsp Nigella seeds (optional)

1½ tbs Mild curry powder

750 gms Sweet potato chopped into chunks

600 ml Coconut milk – any

60 gms Frozen peas thawed

400g Tin chick peas including the 'juice'

Lime juice to taste

Sizzle cumin seeds in oil for a minute. Add onion & cook for 7 to 8 mins until starting to colour. Add garlic and ginger and cook for about 1 minute. Add salt and curry powder followed by the sweet potato & mix well. Stir in the coconut milk, bring to the boil & then reduce heat to a simmer for about 20 mins until potato has softened. Add peas & chick peas (including 'juice') & cook for a few minutes more to ensure heated through. Add lime juice before serving just enough to 'lift' taste.

FOR YOUR DIARY The Warm Hub will return on Monday mornings when the clocks go back!

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It is with sadness we report the death of **THELMA DRIVER** of Beldams Close who lived in the village from the early 1990s. Thelma was a Cambridge girl, educated and trained as a secretary in the City she worked for several well known Cambridge employers meeting Tony whilst working for the University. Tony and Thelma married in 1955; lived, as was often the case at that time, with the in-laws for some years until with two sons they had their own home in Chesterton. Thelma was an enthusiastic sports fan, supporting Tony in his football and cricket and giving opportunities for sport to both the boys. Towards the end of their working lives they decided to leave the City, to their friends amazement, and they

came to live in Toft where they settled happily, joining Toft's social scene. Thelma was an excellent cook. For the last few years, thanks to mobility problems Thelma had to live in a care home in St. Neots. She had a rich and full life combining a successful working career with a happy family, two sons and four grandchildren. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her and especially her family.



**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     |
| Emma Darbyshire   | 07763 463234  | cllr.darbyshire@tpc.toft.org.uk |
| Elaine Miles      | 262255        | cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk      |
| Stephen Collinson | 07521 912734  |                                 |
| Christine Watson. | 07730 941946  |                                 |
| 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.*

*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:** The next meeting will be on **Monday 4th September 2023** in the People's Hall at 7.00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### Say "Hello" to Toft's latest luxury accommodation, for bugs!

On 19th August Toft residents gathered in Lot Meadow to build a marvellous mansion, to help house our local creepy-crawlies, and any other creatures which might like to drop by. Made completely from reclaimed materials, all generously donated by the people of Toft.

Huge thanks goes out to Peter Barker for his expertise leading the build, along with the team of fabulous assistants. We are very grateful to Tricia Ellis-Evans for letting us loose on Lot Meadow, and we hope this is just the beginning of more local projects to help wildlife in Toft.



Here's a photograph of the finished haven, which we hope you will agree looks amazing. And, perhaps it will inspire you to build your own version at home! Do go along to Lot Meadow to take a look.

Thank you Tofties!

*Emma Darbyshire  
and Elaine Miles, on  
behalf of Toft Parish  
Council.*



## TOFT SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

The Toft **Beer and Cider Festival** takes place over the weekend of 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> September, and will feature 15 real ales, 4 ciders plus our usual wide range of gins and wine. There will be food throughout the weekend – snacks will be available at most times, with a curry on Saturday night and our famous Sunday Roast dinner. Tickets for these will be available by the time you read this. There will be live music on Saturday evening. Full details on the Club website.

**Film Night** is Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>, and we will be showing the 2018 film “Out of Blue” directed by Carol Morley and starring Mamie Gummer, Toby Jones, Bri Collins & Patricia Clarkson. When Detective Mike Hoolihan is called to investigate the shooting of leading astrophysicist and black hole expert, she is affected in ways she struggles to comprehend. As the investigation deepens, a darker world is slowly revealed and she must use all of her skills and experience to piece together fragments of a wider conspiracy that lies behind the murder. 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.

For **September only**, we’ve swapped Art and the Quiz, so **Toft Quiz Night** is on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> - teams of up to 6, just £1 per team member. Cash prizes! Doors open at 8pm. **Toft Art** is on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> – as usual, new artists and sketchers are always welcome.

**Table Tennis** continues in its new regular spot of the third Thursday of the month – this time on 21<sup>st</sup>. Come along and join a growing band of enthusiastic players.

**Toft Bingo** is on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> – back after a short summer break. Cash prizes – all welcome, doors open at 8pm.

The ever popular **Open Mic Music Night** is on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>, 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)

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

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

*Please note:* there is no Food on Friday in September, but there will be delicious snacks available at the Beer Festival!

We have 2 music events coming up in the Autumn – we are welcoming **Megson** back to Toft in October - comprising Debs Hanna (Vocals, Whistle, Piano Accordion) and Stu Hanna (Guitar, Mandola, Banjo). Megson have been described as as “the most original duo on the British folk scene” by *The Guardian*.

Then in November we welcome **Martyn Joseph** – he is a completely unique and mind blowing artist. For one man and a guitar he creates a performance with a huge far-reaching sound that is energetic, compelling and passionate. Tom Robinson on Radio 6 says of him “One of the most charismatic and electrifying performers in Britain today...tough and passionate”.

Tickets are on sale via the website – note that *tickets for Martyn Joseph are selling fast*, so don’t leave it until the last minute as the gig looks as though it will sell out!

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 and Jean Stewart.

Keep up to date here:

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

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



## Bedfordshire Cambridgeshire Northamptonshire

## Wildlife Trust BCN West Cambridgeshire Hundreds Update: Sept 2023

The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants is a local wildlife conservation charity. We are part of a network of charities across the UK, connected by our umbrella organisation the Wildlife Trusts. Our job is to achieve bigger, better, and more joined up habitats, for wildlife and people. This means tackling both the biodiversity crisis and climate chaos, by working in partnership locally and nationally. We manage over 100 nature reserves, advise landowners how to manage their land better for wildlife, carry out research and monitoring to advise our work and increase scientific knowledge, and work with communities to connect people with nature, educate, and inspire action.

If you walk regularly on one of our nature reserves, please consider contributing to the costs of keeping it safe and healthy. Here are our most local sites, all within 12 miles of our head-office in Cambourne:

Cambourne Nature Reserve  
Hardwick Wood Nature Reserve  
Gamlingay Wood Nature Reserve  
Waresley and Gransden Woods Nature Reserve  
Hayley Wood Nature Reserve  
Trumpington Meadows Nature Reserve  
Overhall Grove

People become a member of the Trust for a variety of reasons, here are a few:

- If you love seeing birds in your garden, are lucky enough to be visited by a hedgehog, or like spotting butterflies, then you can help us help them, by supporting our movement
- You can contribute towards reducing the impact of the climate crisis and therefore create a better environment for future generations. On our website, you can find out more about our Great Fen project, which is restoring peatland habitat and locking up carbon.
- Your money could support the management of the local nature reserve that you visit
- Members get discounted tickets to events like walk, talks, family activities and workshops
- Donations directly support our work inspiring and teaching children and families
- Our members magazine can help you learn more about local wildlife
- You can get a discount on joining the Cambridge University Botanic Gardens

Money isn't everything, there are other ways to support us and our cause, for example:

Becoming a volunteer, or getting your work involved by coming on a Wild Work Day

Applying for a Wildlife Gardening Award

So, if you are looking for a way to take action on climate change, entertain your children outdoors, get some exercise, learn more about local wildlife, give something back to your community, or improve your garden for wildlife, then please join us!

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

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



### Foxton Scarecrow Festival - Saturday 7 October, 12.00 to 5.00.

Buy a programme on the day and find all the film-themed scarecrows around the village. Children's and adult's quizzes, tombola, raffle and games. Stop at various venues for refreshments (bacon butties, home-made soup or tea and cakes) and enjoy live music and a 'Maker's Market' at the Village Hall. Vote for your favourite scarecrow! This fun event for all ages will finish with prize giving and a performance by Foxton Singers.

Fund-raiser for St Laurence Church, Foxton School and Pre-School.

For further information, email [foxtonscarecrow@gmail.com](mailto:foxtonscarecrow@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook.



# Sparrows and Sparrow Clubs

Sparrows have long been living alongside humans and are amongst the most numerous of birds in both rural and urban areas, consistently topping the annual UK Garden Birds Count. Sparrows feed mainly on grains, seeds, fruits, insects, worms, and spiders in rural areas, whereas in urban areas they have to be more opportunistic, including eating our discarded food. In the 1970's their numbers were estimated at around 12 million pairs and in earlier times these numbers could have been even higher. However, a steady decline since the 1980s, has left current UK numbers at approximately 5 million pairs. Increasing urbanisation and nest predation and changing farming practices are amongst the modern pressures now thought responsible for this significant decline in sparrow numbers, and many other bird species.

Landowners and farmers have always battled the consumption or destruction of their crops by the local wildlife and the Preservation of Grain Act (1532) addressed this by permitting the culling of a large variety of species of wildlife to counter the supposed damage they caused. In the 18th century sparrows were so prolific that bounties were paid to sparrow catchers to tackle the problem. In the 19<sup>th</sup> and early years of the 20th century, Sparrow Clubs were set up in parishes across the UK to cull sparrows. Millions of these birds (and their eggs) were culled and the practice continued up until the start of the Second World War though research suggests the practice probably had relatively little impact on numbers.

As elsewhere, sparrows were considered a major pest around Toft and its farm buildings in particular. The photograph below shows the accounts of the Toft Sparrow Club, which first met (In the old School Room) on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1903. Renumeration rates for culling sparrows were 3d per dozen birds and 1d per dozen eggs. In continental Europe, sparrows, and other small songbirds, are still prized as delicacies today and, historically, sparrows were also on the menu in the UK. Sparrow pie was a popular dish eaten in both rural and urban Britain up until the 1950s and often consumed at Sparrow Club annual meetings.

| Toft Sparrow Club                                                                                             |  |                                                            |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| First meeting held in<br>School Room Monday<br>evening Feb 2 1903                                             |  | Amounts promised<br>towards Sparrow Club<br>at the meeting |     |
| Sparrow Club formed                                                                                           |  | Mr Hawke p                                                 | 50  |
| Mr B. Canner &<br>Mr Hawke &<br>managers of same                                                              |  | Mr Sam Clark p                                             | 26  |
|                                                                                                               |  | Mr B Canner p                                              | 26  |
|                                                                                                               |  | Mr J Worboys p                                             | 26  |
|                                                                                                               |  | Mr J Dixon p                                               | 10  |
|                                                                                                               |  | Mr B Canner p                                              | 26  |
|                                                                                                               |  | Mr J Worboys L p                                           | 10  |
|                                                                                                               |  | both on supper p                                           | 16  |
|                                                                                                               |  | Mr J Chapman p                                             | 10  |
|                                                                                                               |  | Mr J Radford p                                             | 10  |
|                                                                                                               |  | Mr J. L. Whit p                                            | 26  |
|                                                                                                               |  | Mr J. L. Whit p                                            | 50  |
|                                                                                                               |  | Mr B. Whit p                                               | 10  |
|                                                                                                               |  | Mr P Radford p                                             | 10  |
|                                                                                                               |  | Mr P Radford p                                             | 10  |
|                                                                                                               |  |                                                            | 110 |
| Rate of payment<br>old birds 3 <sup>d</sup> per dozen<br>young do 2 <sup>d</sup> do<br>Eggs 1 <sup>d</sup> do |  |                                                            |     |
| Feb 11/1904<br>120 birds Paid to 6 dgs                                                                        |  |                                                            |     |

**Wheelie Bin Collections For September**

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

**Black Bin:**

Weds 13th Sept

Weds 27th Sept

*Thurs 31st Aug (Changed Date)***Blue/Green Bin**

Weds 6th Sept

Weds 20th Sept

**Notice to Advertisers**

**Advertisements** are published quarterly. Copy for inclusion in the next available edition of the Calendar **must** reach us by 17th October 2023 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:

**calendaradstoft@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

**Toft Community Café**

Our friendly, busy Schoolroom Café is open **every Wednesday** between 10.30am and 1.30pm, providing delicious, low cost refreshments to anyone in the local community and around, and a chance to catch up with friends or make new ones.

**Funtime for Little Ones:** We also have half an hour of rhymes and play for little ones and their carers from 10.30-11am. It's free, just turn up.

**Scrabble** and **table tennis** are also usually available from around 11.30am.

*Changes from 1st September 2023*

We're delighted that the Café has become very well used. However, it relies solely on the hard work and goodwill of its volunteers, and we need to make a few changes in order to lighten the load upon them, keep our prices low, and make the Café sustainable into the future. So, with effect from 1st September 2023:



- We shall still be serving the usual supply of drinks and cakes, however our lunch offering will be soup with bread only.



- We shall no longer be offering free refills. Instead, we will have a loyalty card offering a free hot drink for every four purchased.

- We need volunteers in order to keep going! We especially need someone willing to lead a small team once a month, co-ordinating the helpers and the food supplies. You don't need any experience or qualifications – we can soon bring you up to speed. Without helpers we can't survive!!

*5 easy ways You could help your community Café:*

- ◇ Bake a cake
- ◇ Make a batch of soup
- ◇ Help serve in the kitchen on a Wednesday
- ◇ Layout the furniture the night before or before 10am
- ◇ Help clear up/wash up

If you're interested or would like to know more, please contact Gill Pugh at [gill.ppugh@gmail.com](mailto:gill.ppugh@gmail.com).

*And, finally...*

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