



Toft Village Calendar

Produced and Distributed by St. Andrew's Parish Church

September 2024



EDITORIAL

Spare a thought for NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, now more than two months into their eight-day mission to the International Space Station (ISS). They thought they were just swinging by to say Hello and maybe cadge a cup of tea. But that was before their Boeing Starliner (think Morris Marina, only with wings) blew a gasket or dropped a con-rod, marooning them on the Space Station until, they reckon, some time next year. So now they're stranded until the chaps at Mission Control can figure out what went wrong and can launch the interstellar AA van, or whatever they have in mind. For us, it's a consolation to discover that Greater Anglia and Whippet don't have a monopoly on failing to collect passengers on time - but at least their 'replacement service' usually turns up on the same day. I guess the couple could treat the whole thing a bit like lockdown, and decide to learn Finnish or master the oboe, if only they'd thought to bring one with them, but personally, I think this is a bit of a result for Butch and Suni. Imagine - whole months in which there are no pointless meetings to slumber through, no traffic jams to sit in, no lawns to mow, no bills to pay - and all on full salary, too.

What's not to like?

Well, it turns out that not everything in the garden is rosy. Without gravity to battle, your bones and muscles quickly fizzle away, meaning that when the Starliner finally does splashdown on Mummy Earth, it may just contain two large pools of blubber, each with a pair of little, piggy eyes atop, silently morse-coding 'Help!' in blinks. NASA have thought of that, so each day on the Station includes two hours - two - count them! - of compulsory gym workouts, something quite a few of us would probably swap for dozing through a Zoom call back home. And then there's the company. There's already a team on-board the space station, meaning there will be plenty of other people's old socks floating about in the capsule. And imagine how you'd feel if your weekend guests suddenly announced that there'd been a change of plan, and they'd actually be staying for the rest of the year. So budge up, everyone. Oh, and by the way: Looks like the powdered lasagne and coq-au-vin tablets are going to have to be spun out a bit longer than we thought. Another thing that's 'spun-out' is drinking water. That's made by simply 'recycling' urine. Not yours - everybody's urine. Down the hatch! It's OK, though, because that's done by means of a 'revolutionary new system' which, as we all know only too well, is tech-speak for: 'Caution: Catastrophe ahead.' Since they haven't actually got a mission to fulfil, the hapless pair might find time begins to drag a little, too. I'm guessing you can't stream Netflix in space and I don't know how many DVDs they pack on board, let alone whether any of them feature those three words everyone dreads ('Featuring Whoopi Goldberg' in case you're wondering) but I can sense time may begin to drag a little after orbit 36,753.

So, for all its faults, distractions, disappointments and setbacks, maybe the rest of us really are better off back here on Earth. As I said - spare a thought for Suni and Butch. They've got all this to come back to.



Arthur Rank Hospice Charity

How much can you multiply £50 to?

Who do you know who is up for a Money Multiplier Challenge? From 1 October - 31 December Arthur Rank Hospice Charity are giving organisations £50 to see how much they can grow it... all while having lots of fun of course!

Do you know an organisation that has what it takes to compete with local businesses to become the Ultimate Money Multiplying Team to support people in Cambridgeshire living with an advanced serious illness or other life-limiting condition and those who need end of life care? For more information visit arhc.org.uk/moneymultiplier

Volunteers Needed

Would you like to donate your time to Arthur Rank to help make every moment count for people living with an advanced serious illness or other life-limiting condition and those who need end of life care? The benefits of volunteering are immeasurable: helping and supporting others whilst growing and learning about yourself at the same time, developing new skills, making friends and sometimes stepping out of your comfort zone and discovering a new lifelong passion. Whether you would like to volunteer in their shops at the Hospice in Cambridge (near the Babraham Park and Ride), the Bistro or in the Community visit arhc.org.uk/volunteer or email volunteer@arhc.org.uk or telephone 01223 675872 for more information.

DIARY DATES

TOFT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

[Over 50s Club].

11th September

2.30 Toft People's

Hall. Our Speaker

will be Mike

McCarthy - Having

Fun with English.

As usual everyone

is welcome.

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### The Parish Council

The Parish Council

will meet on Mon

2nd September. All

welcome

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Sewing, Knit and Natter

CHANGE OF VENUE AND TIME

Our next meeting

will be in the

People's Hall, 11.00

- 12.30. Do come

and join us, all

welcome. For more

information contact

Lucy (262948) or

Sally (262895).

MINISTRY TEAM**THE CHURCH IN TOFT**

St. Andrew's Parish Church

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

1st September 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) - Rev Prof. Michael Reiss

11.00 am Holy Communion - Methodist Church – Rev Robert Dolman

8th September 11.00 am Holy Communion, St. Andrew's – Rev. Barnabas Leeke

15th September 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) – Rev Priscilla Slusar

11.00am Morning Worship, Methodist Church – Rev Priscilla Slusar

22nd September 11.00am Holy Communion – St. Andrew's - Rev. Barnabas Leeke

29th September 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) - Rev Prof. Michael Reiss

10.30am Lordsbridge Team Morning Service – Haslingfield – Sarah Rittman and Rev. Claire Robertson

There will be morning prayer at St. Andrew's every Wednesday at 9.15 am (about half-an-hour)

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

Zoom services available at 11.00am
MEETING ID: 823 1147 3640



Once there were two brothers who both wanted to be artists. However, they came from a large, very poor family and they knew there would never be enough money to study.

One day Albrecht suggested to Franz that whilst one studied the other would work and then they would swop.

Franz agreed but insisted Albrecht study first as he was the better artist. So Albrecht studied and Franz laboured for them both until at last Albrecht finished his studies and told Franz it was his turn.

But Franz held up his hands, now gnarled and calloused and useless to an artist – he couldn't even hold a pencil. Albrecht was grief-stricken. 'There is only one way in which I can repay you. I shall draw a picture that will speak to people's hearts – a picture of these hands of sacrifice and love.'

Four hundred years later the picture Praying Hands is known and loved the world over and Albrecht Dürer became one of Germany's greatest painters, but his brother is almost forgotten.



THE CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY

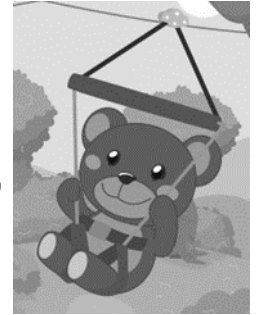
SEPTEMBER 7th

AUTUMN FAYRE in the churchyard 10.30 – 12.30pm

Please keep the date and come and join us. As many of you will know this fund-raiser is largely used to pay our insurance cover which is a significant amount for a listed, large building!

Refreshments will be served.

Teddy bears (or the like) will be invited to descend the wire from tower to earth! (11.00 – 12.00)



Cakes will be for sale; there will be children's activities, and stalls, a raffle, bottle stall, 'Clothes I Have Loved' and accessories – this is not Jumble but nearly new – that dress or skirt, shirt or trousers, piece of jewellery, handbag, hat worn perhaps only once that could go to a new owner and see a new life.

Contributions to any of these stalls gratefully received by
Ann Mitchell at 20 High Street.

A flyer has been delivered to every household in Toft

Congratulations!

John and Shirley Bullen, who live in High Street Toft, celebrate their **70th wedding anniversary** on the 4th September. They were both born in Toft and married in St Andrew's church. They have 4 daughters, 11 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. John will be 95 on the 12th September and only stopped working at Christmas. Well done and very best wishes to both of them.



Obituary: Ron Gouldstone (by Alison, his eldest daughter)

Our dad, Ron Gouldstone, died on 26th June 2024 at his home, Old Orchards in Toft. He is much missed by us, his daughters, and by our families including his grandchildren, Ben, Jemima, Jack and Archie, and by the Toft community of which dad and mum (Pat) were such a huge part.

Dad was through and through a Cambridge man. He was born in Adam and Eve Street, in what was the Kite area of Cambridge on 29th March 1933, the older brother of Christine and Tim. Dad's mum, Dorothy, was a wool dealer and later owned her own wool shop in Cambridge, and his father, Archibald, was a carpenter and joiner. We don't know a huge amount of dad's early life, but he did tell us how, during the war, he and his school friends used to find unexploded ordnance around Parker's Piece after bombing raids, taking it home and hiding it in the backyard. This was surely an early sign of dad's fascination with finding out how things work...although luckily at that time he did not attempt to dismantle what he had run home with!

In the 1950's dad did National Service in the RAF stationed around Lincoln and in Cardiff where he claimed to have seen a young Shirley Bassey singing in the clubs and pubs. After his two years working on Lincoln bombers, he returned to Trumpington where, at local Young Farmers' dances in Trumpington Village Hall, he met our mum, Pat. They married in January 1959 and moved to Station Road in Great Shelford where both Katy and I were born.

At that point dad was working at Addenbrookes Hospital "old site" - in the University Department of Radiotherapeutics where, under the tutelage of Professor Mitchell, he was given a major role in rebuilding an experimental 15 MeV Mullard linear accelerator, adapting it for cancer patient treatment. This was the start of his 37 years with Addenbrookes, working first for Cambridge University and then the NHS.

Dad's love of all things scientific and his talent for building things out of a tangle of wires and a soldering iron benefitted many people. In the 1970's he helped run Great Shelford Youth Club and designed a fantastic set of multi-coloured, flashing lights for the regular disco nights, and which we used for our summer and Christmas house parties. Dad's contribution to these parties was to happily agree to put together what we called Party Tapes. This involved hours and hours spent with tape cassettes, the Technics record player, and an eclectic mix of vinyl.

The soundtrack of our childhood home was dominated by "CQ, CQ, CQ, this is G3TAG calling...Golf Tango Alpha Golf." Dad's all-consuming hobby (and he would hate that word!) was amateur radio. He was a member of the Radio Society of Great Britain, a purchaser of many, MANY, second-hand radios and a skilled Morse key operator. Up in his Shack - as the radio room was politely referred to - dad would spend hours calling out across the airwaves to the global community of radio amateurs. There would be lots of hissing and crackling before what appeared to be a dalek responded calling in from Russia, or Norway, or Hull.

In 1991, after thirty years in Shelford, Dad and mum decided they wanted to find a new home. They found Toft, and Old Orchards in School Lane. It was soon apparent that they have made a wise choice. The strong village community made them feel very welcome, and soon dad was getting involved with the parish council, and with community projects including helping with the fireworks at the annual Guy Fawkes' Night extravaganza's. Dad's love of photography also meant he

became an unofficial recorder of all things Toft - from village BBQs, to open mike nights and New Year's Eve parties at the People's Hall. Up in his Shack - which moved with him to Toft - he would spend hours designing posters for the various social events, using his self-taught computer skills. In 1994, after his long service with the NHS, Dad retired. He loved his work, and was humble about his contribution to the cancer treatment so many people received. Known as "Mr Fix-It" because of his ability to get under the bonnet of the various treatment machines and wrestle with recalcitrant electron generating machinery, he was much missed by his friends and colleagues in the Oncology Department, some of whom joined us at dad's Celebration of Life on Friday 3rd August.

Our children, Ben, Jemima, Jack and Archie, loved visiting their grandparents in Toft and have many fond memories. There were Easter egg hunts in the garden, and BBQs where grandad encouraged the burning of skewers full of windfall apples. Grandad's computer meant they could play Lemmings all afternoon. As the years moved on, and the grandchildren grew up, dad and mum continued to enjoy their lovely village life in Toft. They celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary in 2019 and in the same year welcomed their first great-grandson, Elijah. Sadly, in November 2022, mum - Pat, who many Toft villagers will remember - died after a short and unexpected illness, and dad's life came to a turning point. Whilst Dad was not a man to show his emotions or wear his heart on his sleeve, it was clear that the space left in the house by mum's passing was having quite an impact on him, and his health gradually declined. Katy - who had moved back from Cornwall to live at Toft whilst mum was unwell - became dad's much-appreciated support, and her unending patience, dedication and practicality meant that dad could stay in the home he loved so much up until he died in the early hours of 26th June 2024 aged 91.

Each day we remember things that dad taught us - how to prune roses, how to identify star constellations, a love of nature, and an appreciation of science...even if we never quite got to grips with physics sorcery! We will all miss dad / grandad enormously, and wish that he could have been here for longer to get to know Theo, his second great-grandson, and welcome to the world his third great-grandchild due in November.

On behalf of us all, I wanted to thank the people of Toft for making dad and mum such a part of the village, and to thank in particular all the Toftians who supplied fabulous homemade cakes, ran the bar, laid on a wonderful spread and generally supported us as we celebrated a life well-lived live earlier this month at his Celebration of Life. It was heart-warming to join you all in Toft Peoples' Hall, a place that dad helped bring into being, and where he spent many nights at the bar talking to village friends and enjoying a Jura whiskey or a pint of beer.

These words below are from the Addenbrookes Newsletter when dad retired. I think they are a good summary of his character.

"Ron is a 'back room boy' in every sense of the word, always on hand in a crisis, never seeking the limelight...As a result of Ron's efforts countless patients...have been spared the trauma and inconvenience of being sent home without their treatment when equipment failed. As a colleague, Ron has always maintained the highest standards of professionalism - friendly, polite to everyone, always prepared to go the extra mile to be helpful, and a ready wit....Ron will be a hard act to follow".

For us, he will indeed be a very hard act to follow.

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
Sarah Tebbit		sarahilic01@gmail.com
Christine Watson.	07730 941946	cllr.watson@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.. 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. 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: There was no meeting in August. The next meeting will be Monday 2nd September 2024 at 7.00pm in The People's Hall. All Welcome.

**TOFT SOCIAL CLUB NEWS**

It's the **Toft Beer and Cider Festival** over the weekend of **Friday 6th to Sunday 8th September**, and will feature 14 real ales, at least 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, on

Friday we are planning "oriental wraps", there will be a curry on Saturday night and finally our famous Sunday Roast dinner. Tickets for the Curry and Sunday Roast 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 on Saturday 21st and we will be showing 2023 film "The Holdovers", starring Paul Giamatti, Da'Vine Joy Randolph and Dominic Sessa, it tells the story of a curmudgeonly instructor at a New England school who remains on campus during Christmas break. He soon forms an unlikely bond with a brainy but damaged troublemaker, and with the school's cook, a woman who just lost a son in the Vietnam War. Doors open at 7:30pm and the film starts at 8:00pm.

Open Mic / Music Night is taking a break in September - there'll be music at the Beer & Cider Festival, **Toft Art** is on Thursday 5th, **Toft Quiz** on Thursday 12th, **Carpet Bowls** on Friday 13th, **Table Tennis** on Thursday 19th and **Toft Bingo** on Thursday 26th.

We are open on every Thursday and Friday, and most Saturdays – see the website (<https://toftsocialclub.org.uk>) for full details. To keep up to date why not sign up for our weekly "What's On" emails via the website: <https://toftsocialclub.org.uk/mailling.php> or keep in touch via our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ToftSocial>

www.toftsocialclub.org.uk

Ripening Fruit in Lot Meadow & the Lot Meadow Cookbook

LOT MEADOW ORCHARD LAYOUT

Info Board

	Discovery (apple)	Arthur Turner (cooking apple)
Bench	Willingham Gage (plum relative)	
	Egremont Russet (apple)	
	Chivers Delight (apple)	
	Conference (pear)	
	Beth (pear)	
	Czar (plum)	Lord Lambourne (apple)

Beacon

Discovery – pick in August, doesn't keep so should be picked and eaten.

Egremont Russet – pick in October.

Conference Pear – pick in October/November.

Czar – pick in August and now finished. Very popular with everyone as fruit flew off the tree!

Willingham Gage – pick in August. The few fruits we've had on this tree always disappear before they ripen!

Chivers Delight – This tree is laden with fruit but not ready to pick until October.

Beth – pick by end of August but this year it has had hardly any fruit.

Arthur Turner – pick late August to early November. A sweet cooker which requires little sugar.

Lord Lambourne – pick mid-September.

Lot Meadow belongs to the village and so do the fruit trees. Please help yourselves but do please leave some for other residents. Why not do a good turn and pick some for an elderly neighbour who is unable to visit Lot Meadow.

"Recipes & Reflections from Lot Meadow" – our very own cookbook filled with favourite recipes of residents of Toft. This is no ordinary cookbook as it is also filled with poetry, songs, photos, interesting titbits of information and much more all contributed by the People of Toft. It is a must for every household and we still have a few copies left. The cost is £7.50 and all monies after printing expenses will be donated to St Andrew's Church. Copies are held by me – see contact details below or catch me at the Autumn Fayre in the churchyard on Saturday, 7 September.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who help to look after Lot Meadow. A lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes and many people give freely of their time. There are quite a lot of you so I am not mentioning any names for fear I will miss someone, but I am very grateful for your support over the last 10 years.

Tricia Ellis-Evans, 65 High Street; tricia@paceprojects.co.uk; 07896 525800



The Mill Lane Dew Pond

Until the mid-20th Century Toft was predominantly a village focussed on agriculture and several ponds were located around the village providing water supplies for the local farmers. Villagers would have used water drawn from springs around the village for drinking purposes but surface run-off dew ponds provided drinking water for the many village horses at that time. The picture below, taken in March 1933, shows the large dew pond that existed in Mill Lane just above the location of our modern-day village Green. The picture also includes the barn where, in the 17thC, John Bunyan is said to have preached and had his “barney in the barn” with a Cambridge University theologian.



The picture shows that the water surface in winter was 2-3 feet below the track that existed in Mill Lane at that time. In summer, the shallow pond may well have dried up at times. It was still present during the Second World War but with the move away from farm horses to using tractors after the War the pond fell out of use. At some point the area was filled in as Mill Lane had a tarmac road by the 1970's. A tree was planted on the site in 1977 by members of Toft Women's Institute to mark the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II but over the decades the area became overgrown and the commemorative tree had died by the time the site was cleared in 2022. The Parish Council is now managing the area for the village and a new tree has been planted, together with a commemorative plaque, that marks our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee..

Comberton Library***your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk*****Tel: 0345 045 5225*****www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library***

Summer is an excellent time to read, so don't miss out on the Summer Reading Challenge. Read SIX library books by the end of the summer. Remember all children who complete the Challenge will receive a certificate and a medal.

Membership in the library is free. If you believe your library card has expired, come on over and register or re-join; there is no cost. We are very excited to see you!

There are also free resources like computers in libraries, e-books, e-audiobooks, and books.

Coming Up!

Summer Reading Challenge TREASURE HUNT is still on. Come drop in and enjoy the trail, searching for the Marvellous Makers characters.

Drop-in and enjoy a selection of board games on Friday 16th August 3 – 4.30pm. Free event!

Wednesday 21st August at 10.30am – 12.30pm. Marvellous Makers, Creative Arts – Summer Reading Challenge. Free event.

Celebrating Summer Reading Awards Ceremony, Friday 13th September at 4-5pm with refreshments.

Weekly activities

Knit and Natter group continue to meet in Comberton Library, 10.30am – 11.30am
 August dates: 19th. September dates: 2nd, 16th and 30th October dates: 14th and 28th. Then every other Monday onwards. Newcomers are always very welcome to complete your own projects or participate in group activities.

Come sing along and have fun, Rhymetime, 10.30am – 11.00am (except during the school holidays) for children between 0 to 4 years of age. September dates: 9th and 23rd. October dates: 7th and 21st. Then every other week. Also, come and join the First Steps Library Club, aged 0 – 4 years. Free event. Please contact Cambourne.referral@gov.uk, if you possess the necessary skills to join our Rhymetime team.

It's Lego Time with Duplo. Every Saturday, come and have fun using your imagination. All children must be accompanied by an adult. This is a free event.

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

FREE OLDER DRIVERS (65+) WORKSHOP in TOFT

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service run Older Driver workshops at Cambridgeshire Fire Stations and other venues. It has been arranged for them to run such a workshop for the residents of Toft

at The People's Hall.

Tuesday, 17th SEPTEMBER from 1p.m. - 3p.m.

The workshops are free sessions designed for those over 65 and currently driving, to help them keep driving safely for longer.

Are you interested in attending the session ? There is a limit of 20 people per workshop. Toftees only, please.



We will discuss how driving can become more challenging as we get older, and what simple checks we can do at home to keep ourselves fit to drive. Participants aren't going to be tested on their individual driving capabilities, either in person at the workshop or in their cars.

This interactive, two-hour session covers the following topics:

- Age-related changes when driving
- Eyesight and driving
- Conducting a vehicle check
- License renewal
- Signs to be aware of
- Alternatives to driving

There will be a break about halfway through and refreshments will be provided.

If you wish to attend, please let Gill Pugh or Jackie Morton know as soon as possible - either by email (preferred) to **Gill** at gill.ppugh@gmail.com or by 'phone on 01223 853395. or in person, or **Jackie** by email (preferred) at jem.wickets@btinternet.com or by 'phone on 01223 264010 or in person.

The cut off date for enrolment will be Friday, September 6th. The maximum number is only 20, so if you are interested, please get your name(s) down as quickly as possible.

Please note: In the first instance, this is a Toft resident only event.



**Wildlife Trust for
Beds, Cambs
& Northants**

**Wildlife Trust BCN West Cambridgeshire
Hundreds Update: Sept 2024**

Late summer/early autumn is the time when forestry work often starts. This is in the increasingly small window between the end of bird-breeding season, and the wetter weather that can increase damage caused by heavy machinery.

In many of our local woodlands, coppicing continues by hand through the winter. Please get in touch if you are interested in volunteering, it's a great way to find out about the work of the Wildlife Trust BCN. There are weekend opportunities in Hardwick, Gamlingay, and Waresley and Gransden Woods. Coppicing is a traditional method of woodland management that has been co-opted for conservation means. It mimics the natural process that would have opened areas to light carried out by now-extinct animals. Our woods are more diverse when coppicing is carried out.

Some woodlands require management on a larger scale. When machinery is involved, we have to close sites for the safety of visitors, and the efficiency of contractors. We often work on multiple areas at once, and the machinery requires a large safety zone. In Waresley and Gransden Woods for example, we are reprofiling a section of the main ride, as well as coppicing the edges of the ride, removing brash left from last year, and felling trees with ash die-back disease.

Thank you for staying away when our sites are closed, this means we are more likely to get the work completed, and they will be closed for as short a time as possible.

You can keep up with site restrictions on our website: www.wildlifebcn.org/explore/reserve-updates

Coming up we have events on Cambourne Nature Reserve for pre-schoolers and home-educating families. There are also opportunities for teenagers with our monthly Youth Ranger group.

Website: www.wildlifebcn.org

Email: cambridgeshire@wildlifebcn.org

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.



ForkTalk

I can't honestly remember why or how we found ourselves anywhere near The Weeping Willow, a self-styled gastro-pub. Neither can I come up with a plausible reason why you should find yourself anywhere near it either. But - just on the off-chance - here's what we found on a visit back in July. And, who knows, it may be useful to someone, sometime...

First, a bit of scene-setting and a brief geography lesson. The Weeping Willow ('TWW' from now on) is in the village of Barrow. And Barrow is in Suffolk. You reach it by chugging east along the A14 till you're about five miles this side of Bury St Edmunds, at which point you'll see a road sign directing you off that road and on towards your destination, which you'll reach a couple of miles or so along a minor road mysteriously called Coalpit Lane. It's a middlingly attractive village with, as usual, the interesting bits fairly central and the customary huddle of dispiritingly anodyne modern additions gummed thoughtlessly to the fringes. Pretty central lies TWW, a very plain looking building of indeterminate age. If pushed, I'd say early twentieth century - but you can take a guess yourself from the photo. Visually, there's nothing much to tempt the passing punter inside, but that's no deterrent to our intrepid team on a hot Summer's day, so in we trooped.

And inside is where the surprises start. The interior is startlingly of-the-moment. Chrome, artful lighting, high-mount bar-stools, polished copper, exposed and bleached brick, straight-line minimalism everywhere the eye swivelled. You could imagine yourself in some cutting-edge hipster joint in Clapham. Yes, they had a table for us and yes, as it was such a nice day, of course we could sit in the garden. So off we trooped, past the acreage of stripped scandi-pine and brass railings to a table for four with what turned out to be some highly uncomfortable metal seats and their more than inadequate cushions. So far, it's fair to say, I was on the slightly unimpressed side of the fence with TWW. However, there were pluses in store. The place was ticking over comfortably in terms of customer numbers, but we didn't have to wait for menus to appear, delivered by an eager-to-please young woman

who fussed around us for a while and was happy to point out the day's specials and generally fetch-and-carry in a helpful manner. It was mid-summer, lunchtime and hot, so we all chose from the 'light-bites' menu. Which means I can't give you a verdict on TWW's main meal offerings - save to say, they're not cheap. I could, however, give you an opinion on the beer. But I think the kindest thing I can do for the brewers, a Norfolk-based outfit called Barsham, is not to bother. 'Nuff said. Back to the nosh. We'd ordered a selection of filled breads - chicken, beef and so on - and these came surrounded by plentiful salad and spot-on perfect chips. Dry, light, crisp, fluffy - they were the stars of the show, although the meats themselves provided some useful competition. It was a pity we had to repeatedly ask for such basics as salt, knives and so on but our waitress dealt with these minor hiccoughs in an engagingly disarming fashion. The portions weren't huge, but they were quality offerings and just about right for the time of day and the weather.

We lingered over coffee, inspecting the rather curious 'lodges' speckling the grounds, where you can spend a night or two if you want to explore the area more thoroughly. The lodges themselves look a bit like tepees re-imagined by Apple and I hope they are not the victims of style-over-substance. We didn't meet anyone staying in one, so we never found out. All in all, our trip to The Weeping Willow was a bit of a curate's egg - good in parts.

I'd give it good marks for the food and they've made the best of the location, too. Brush up on the drinks side of things and maybe try to make sure the staff know their onions a little bit better and they could have a winner here.



The Weeping Willow, Barrow

Wheelie Bin Collections For September

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

Black Bin:

Thurs 5th Sept

Thurs 19th Sept

Blue/Green Bin

Thurs 12th Sept

Thurs 26th Sept

Notice to Advertisers

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calendaradstoft@gmail.com to discuss costs and 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

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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

Bournopolis Gets The Go-Ahead

Planning permission for around 3,500 homes at Bourn Airfield has now been issued following a three-year delay amid concerns over water supply. There isn't actually any more water than there ever was, but the Government - not sure which one - has set up a 'Water Scarcity Group' to look into things. So that's OK, then.



Ron Gouldstone, whose obituary appears on page four of this edition

The Calendar is always pleased to receive contributions from readers, advertisers and fund raisers. We reserve the right to edit, amend, abridge or otherwise butcher any submissions to accord with technical or editorial requirements, or sometimes just on a whim. We do not normally accept anonymous contributions or those using pen-names.

Contributors are asked to note that all text formatting is removed from items on receipt. Consider **plain text files** as your first choice where possible. **Please avoid proprietary file types (e.g. PDF, PUB, DOCX, XLS etc) unless you feel it essential.** **Graphics (if essential) 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 September**. 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