

TOFT VILLAGE CALENDAR

December 2024



DIARY DATES

Toft Friendship Club

[Over 50s Club]

11th December

2.30 Christmas Tea
Party - Carols, panto,
chocolate raffle.

As usual, everyone is
welcome

The Parish Council

The Parish Council
will meet on Monday
2nd December

Simple Sewing Knit and Natter

There will be no
meeting in December.

For information
contact Lucy (262948)
or Sally (262895).

Toft Choir

A Spotless Rose
Christmas Concert
Saturday 14th
December 4pm at
St Andrew's Church

Toft Choir and Toft Session invite you to their

Christmas Concert



A Spotless Rose

Saturday 14th December at 4 pm

St Andrew's Church, Toft

No charge, no ticket needed

Music will last approx. 1 hour and will be followed by
refreshments

Donations welcome for refreshments, and any surplus will be put
towards repairs at Toft Chapel

SIMPLE SEWING KNIT AND NATTER

**Our sale in November raised over £400 for
the Arthur Rank Hospice.**

Many thanks to all who helped support the event.

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 December 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

Revd Prof. Michael Reiss

11.00 am Advent 1, Celebration of the LEP, Holy Communion – Methodist Church – Revd Charity Ngewzu

7th/8th December CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL WEEKEND

3.00pm St. Andrew's - **Christingle, Tree and Gift service** – Barbara Preece

15th December 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

11.00am Morning Worship, Methodist Church – Revd Charity Ngewzu

22nd December 4.00 pm **CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**

St. Andrew's – Revd. Barnabas Leeke

24th December There is no midnight service in Toft this year but services are being led at:

11.15pm Comberton - Revd Chris Westgarth

11.15pm Dry Drayton - Revd Sue Wyatt

11.15pm Hardwick - Revd Clare Coates

11.30pm Haslingfield - Revd Alexandra Clarke

CHRISTMAS DAY - 9.30am Methodist Church – A short service of celebration - Revd Priscilla Slusar

29th December No Service in Toft

9.30 Morning Prayer – Dry Drayton

10.30 Holy Communion – Team service – Barton

5th January 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) - Revd Prof.

Michael Reiss

11.00 am Covenant Service - Methodist Church - Revd Charity Ngewzu

There will be morning prayer at St. Andrew's every Wednesday at 9.30 am (about half-an-hour) – except Christmas Day

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

FROM THE EDITORIAL AND DESIGN TEAM

We have all become accustomed to the dry wit of Michael Walker's monthly editorial and the calm efficiency with which he puts the Toft Village Calendar together, all on a voluntary basis. However, he is now stepping back from his role as editor for health reasons. We are sure you will join us in wishing him well over the coming weeks.

Michael has edited the Calendar single-handedly for 20 years, a remarkable achievement. Apart from reporting the regular items of information emanating from the Church in Toft, the Parish Council, the Social Club, local organisations, etc. and coordinating useful information such as bin collection days and important telephone numbers, he has left his unique stamp on the front page and in his occasional reviews.

He is replaced now by a team – a stark recognition of the work involved in keeping Toft informed. We hope to continue to produce the Calendar on time every month and with the usual wealth of content. We rely mainly on our regular contributors, but we would love to receive contributions from any village resident, young or old. Maybe you have a creative talent you'd like to display, maybe you have some old photographs of Toft or old documents charting our long history, or just reminiscences of people and events, or a 'letter to the editor', or a recipe you'd like to share. We won't always have room for every contribution, and we will have to make editorial decisions about what we include. Details on how to contribute are given every month on the final page of the Calendar.

We hope you enjoy this issue and we wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.



CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY



COUNT DOWN TO CHRISTMAS

Songs of Advent Starting on Thursday 28th November at 24 Mill Lane, 10.30 – 12.00 for four Thursdays. Coffee, cake and conversation as we lead up to Christmas. Led by Barbara Preece and Barnabas Leeke
All Welcome

Everyone should have received a **Christmas is Coming** leaflet with details of all that is going on in the churches this Christmas. We look forward to your company. We hope to have lots of trees in the church over the 7th/8th and welcoming you to the service on Sunday at 3.00pm. when we will be collecting gifts once more for **CAMBRIDGE WOMEN'S REFUGE**. As most of you know we have supported the children and mothers in the Women's Refuge for more than 25 years. Gifts can be for a child, or for a Mother or to help with their festivities – the Refuge is always very full at Christmas. Presents do not need to be wrapped; if you decide to do so please put a removable label on the outside identifying the present so it goes to right person without being unwrapped. Please put under the tree in the church or leave on the doorstep of 20 High Street by 9th December when they will be delivered to the Refuge.

THE WARM HUB

*Every MONDAY
except 30th December
from 10.00-12.00 at the
Methodist Chapel.
Come and join us for
chat, games, friendship
and refreshment. The
scrabble board awaits!
We would love to see
you there*



You'll be sure of a warm welcome. Do bring a friend

Mary Baverstock 1947 – 2024



Mary came to live in Toft at Providence Cottage on Brookside with Miss White as a very little girl. She went to school at Toft School, and having passed her 11+ caught the bus daily in her brown uniform to Cambridge Grammar School for Girls. Following College, Mary went to work at Cheffins where she stayed all her working

life. Following the death of Miss White, in due time Mary moved from Brookside to her bungalow in Preston Close.

A few lines, but such a wonderful life of giving and service are hidden behind them. Mary was a lifelong member of Comberton Baptist Church serving in many capacities for that church. A deeply committed Christian, she was a member of their community team, attended house groups, led prayers, sang beautifully – including solos – and gave lifts to those who needed them especially in more recent years with her commitment to the Oasis Club. Renowned for her handbag – a source of many useful things like cough sweets and Paracetamol she also had a reputation of writing THE most detailed

of minutes of church meetings – word for word in her impeccable shorthand. Yearly she was committed to the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child – Christmas shoe boxes.

In Toft when needed, she was there: for over 15 years she was Tawny Owl to the 1st Toft Brownies with Joan Howard. She ran the Car Scheme and latterly was the Treasurer for the Friendship Club. She attended the Warm Hub,

and went to the community café..... She loved to cook and entertain her friends and to go to the theatre.

The very large gathering at her funeral and service of thanksgiving was sure witness to all she had meant to so, so many people. A Christian life, well led.



TOFT PARISH COUNCIL

	Phone	E-mail
Clerk		
Ben Stoehr	01954 210241	clerk@tpc.toft.org.uk
30 West Drive, Highfields, Caldecote Cambridge CB23 7 NY		
Councillors		
Chairman:		
Martin		
Yeadon	263663	cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk
Emma		
Darbyshire	07763 463234	cllr.darbyshire@tpc.toft.org.uk
Elaine		
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Sarah		
Tebbit		sarahilic01@gmail.com
Christine		
Watson	07730 941946	cllr.watson@tpc.toft.org.uk

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Monday 2nd December 2024 at 7.00pm in Toft People's Hall. All Welcome.

The Council met on Monday 4th November 2024 in the People's Hall.

There were no apologies for absence.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Regarding the grass cutting schedule in the village it has been agreed that we will not observe "no mow May" and reduce the number of cuts from 12 to 8 during the period mid-March to mid-November with an extra mower cut on the village green prior to May Day. The schedule tabled at the meeting is to be amended accordingly and approval sought by the Lot Meadow committee that 8 cuts will also be adopted.

A draft Action Plan on Toft's Biodiversity policy was tabled by Cllr Miles and accepted. It was suggested that this be published in the Calendar and on the website with a view to encouraging parishioners to become involved in areas of interest. (*see following page*)

Regarding the future of the Methodist Chapel, following a number of meetings, Cllr Yeadon reported that he had been informed that, were the Chapel to close, the process would take around 2 years and therefore there is no point in raising it as an Asset of Community Value at this stage. Cllr Yeadon has agreed with the Methodist ministry to keep the communication channels open.

The proposal to move the bench at the northern end of the drift by the allotments to the end of the drift was deemed not to be feasible as it would be very heavy to move and it is a very low seat anyway. A quote for a new one is being sought instead and will be further considered.

Having attended an on-line event on the uses a parish can make of vacant buildings, presented by Plunkett UK,

Cllr Miles reported that the focus had been entirely on providing grants for creating a new business out of a vacant building and did not apply to refurbishment etc.

On Highways, Cllr Darbyshire reported that as we were not successful in our recent bid for 20mph throughout the village, she would resubmit the application in the next round. She will also submit an application to reduce the B1046 between Toft and Comberton from 50 to 40 mph if time allows. She is still awaiting a result on the request for road markings in the village to be renewed despite chasing up several times over 2 years. Regarding the 20mph sign in School Lane, Cllr Yeadon reported that the average speed down School Lane was 15mph with just 12% of motorists exceeding the 20mph speed limit. During a week day there are approximately 55 cars that travel down the road. A quote for solar powered batteries for the speed cameras is being sought.

It was agreed that the management group at the Birdlings should be approached to provide a community notice board.

The consultation on enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings was completed.

The request for agreement for road closures in School Lane next year for social events was granted.

The Finance report was accepted and there was no play inspection report or any urgent matters to be considered.

There were no comments on any of the Planning or Tree works applications.

We are awaiting two more quotes for the repair work of the bus shelter.

Regarding the Queen's Platinum Jubilee area, quotes are awaited for improving the grass area and new hedging.

Cllr Yeadon reported that the repairs to the well by St. Andrew's Church had been done.

Following concerns that landowners have no statutory obligation to publish a contact number in the event of any injury to livestock or damage to trees etc, Cllr Miles agreed to contact our local MP to see if this could be remedied. In the meantime, we will try to ascertain who owns what livestock and land etc in and around Toft.

Cllr Miles reported that the section of Bourn Brook running through Toft was in a very poor state and there were branches and vegetation that could potentially block the flow of water. The Clerk is to contact the Environmental Agency with a view to clearing it.

EWR is putting on a series of consultations and a poster listing these will be put on the PC noticeboards

The meeting closed at 9.53pm.

(This summary can be found on the Parish Council website: <https://tpc.toft.org.uk>)

LOCAL NATURE PLAN FOR TOFT

At the October Parish Council meeting we were presented with a government initiative encouraging all towns and parishes to create a Biodiversity Plan. When we examined the details, it became clear that Toft was already doing quite a bit already. The chart below shows some of the issues which the government suggests we could address, some of which we are already doing and others that need development. It is suggested that each area has a "Champion or Champions" either to lead the development of an initiative or be regarded as a source of information or advice on specific issues. There can be more than one Champion for any area, for example, we have the Lot Meadow Committee and the newly-formed Friends of Bourn Brook – but more Champions are needed (see below). If there is an initiative below

that you are interested in or have expertise in, or there's something you think may be missing, please get in touch with me by email (elainemiles3@gmail.com), or stop and chat to me when you see me out walking with my dog! We can then see how we might progress it or put like-minded people in touch. Please note that I have put myself down as a Champion for the Hedgehog Recovery Programme (numbers are down by some 80%, particularly in rural areas) not because I'm an expert but just to "kick-start" things. Over the winter, while the hedgehogs are hibernating, I hope to find out more about these shy and rapidly dwindling little creatures and organise a family fun "Hedgehog Day" sometime in Spring 2025.

Cllr Elaine Miles



Hedgehog Recovery: Champion: Cllr Elaine Miles

- Survey the village to find out who has seen/has a hedgehog living nearby or in their garden
- Make available key information and websites
- Map hedgehog sightings on the map at Hedgehog Highstreets
- Make parish council land accessible to hedgehogs and, where possible, install hedgehog homes
- Ensure planning applications receive a comment about hedgehog access being built into all boundary fencing
- Organise a "Hedgehog Day" in 2025

Nest Boxes: Champion: Cllr Emma Darbyshire

- Survey village to find out where there are nest boxes already and to find where there are gaps in provision
- Identify species which would benefit from nest boxes
- Commission The Men's Shed to build a variety of bird boxes and identify areas in the village where these could be placed
- Promote nest boxes within the community
- Liaise with Kingston parish re: land next to Bourn Brook/B1046

Lot Meadow: Champion: Lot Meadow Committee

- PC land managed to create an open space for village events to take place in
- Fruit trees already planted
- Wild flower border -work in progress

Bug Hotels: Champion: Parish Council

- Build a bug hotel on PC land – e.g. Lot Meadow
- Approach others in the village to see if they would permit the building of a bug hotel on their land – e.g. St. Andrew's Church, Home Meadow Care Home, Businesses etc.

Wildlife flower Planting: Champion: Currently vacant

- Develop a plan for where wild flowers could be planted on PC land or verges
- Work with farmers to see if we could "adopt" a field edge to plant with wild flowers to increase numbers of insects, bees etc which would help the farmer. Also provide habitat and food for hedgehogs

Monitor populations of butterflies, moths and other insects etc. Champion: Currently vacant

- Work with other groups to improve the conditions for these to thrive

Improvement of Bourn Brook: Champions: Friends of Bourn Brook (FOBB)

- Riverfly surveys to monitor stream health
- Water quality testing; removal of Himalayan Balsam

Tree Planting: Champion: Currently vacant

- Identify PC land on which trees could be planted
- Work with local agencies to ensure there are sufficient "bird highways"

Work with local agencies – e.g. Farmers, Woodland Trust, Wildlife Trust: Champion: Currently vacant

- Explore ways in which we can work together to improve wildlife – flora and fauna - in the local area

TOFT Social Club



TOFT SOCIAL CLUB CELEBRATES 25 YEARS SINCE ITS FOUNDING

Toft Club News

We had a marvellous celebration for our Silver Anniversary – there was lots to see and enjoy! Many thanks to all those who came along to help us enjoy this landmark date! We have plenty more stuff coming up to keep you entertained!

Club Christmas Dinner Saturday 14th

The world famous Club Christmas Dinner is on Saturday 14th – there may still be some tickets left by the time you read this! Price held at £10 – available from the bar.

Christmas Eve Draw

The Annual Christmas Draw is underway – please see the board at the Bar. There are lots of prizes to be won, and the Draw will take place on Christmas Eve, when we will be open from 8pm, so why not come along and welcome in Christmas with us.

New Year's Eve Party

We are having a party and dinner on New Year's Eve to welcome in 2025. The evening will start with a three course meal prepared by Amy and Ollie, tickets are £18 and on sale now at The Club. Then from 10pm, the music will start to welcome in the New Year.

Two Films in December

As has become a tradition, we are showing 2 films in December – for our normal film evening, on Saturday 21st, we are going back in time and will be showing the Oscar winning 2005 release "Sideways" starring Paul Giamatti. Two men reaching middle age with not much to show but disappointment embark on a week-long road trip through California's wine country, just as one is about to take a trip down the aisle. Doors open at 7:30pm and the film starts promptly at 8:00pm. Then on Saturday 28th December, as a prelude to showing the recently released sequel next year, we are showing the Oscar winning 2015 animated film "Inside Out". Growing up can be a bumpy road, and it's no exception for Riley, who is uprooted from her Midwest life

when her father starts a new job in San Francisco. Like all of us, Riley is guided by her emotions - Joy, Fear, Anger, Disgust and Sadness. The emotions live in Headquarters, the control centre inside Riley's mind, where they help advise her through everyday life. As Riley and her emotions struggle to adjust to a new life in San Francisco, turmoil ensues in Headquarters. 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.

Friday Food in January

We are planning to hold our first Food on Friday of the year on Friday 3rd January – details will be on the website nearer the time.

Murder Mystery Dinner in January

There will also be a Murder Mystery Dinner at the end of January.

Regular events in December

- All our regular events are taking place in December,
- Thursday 5th Toft Art Club. Talk about art or practice your skills
- Saturday 7th A Christmas themed Open Mic/Music Night
- Thursday 12th Toft Quiz
- Friday 13th Carpet Bowls
- Thursday 19th Bingo
- The Club is always open every Thursday and Friday evening from 8pm, plus many Saturday evenings and there is always a warm welcome where you can meet up with friends and enjoy a drink.
- *Keep up to date here:*
- Website: <https://toftsocialclub.org.uk>
- Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ToftSocial>



20mph Application update

I am sorry to report that our bid to make Toft a village wide 20mph zone was unsuccessful. Cambridgeshire County Council Highways and Transportation Committee met in October to review 91 applications. From this, 8 schemes were successful in receiving the funding.

Toft came 46th in the ranking table. The Parish Council will now discuss options for a plan 'B', and whether to submit another application in 2025. Other ways of helping to reduce the average speed of vehicles travelling through Toft will be considered and discussed over forthcoming PC meetings. We very much welcome your ideas and opinions, so please do come to the meetings to have your say.



Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Toft People's Hall Management Committee will be held at the People's Hall on

Tuesday 10th January 2025 at 8.00pm

All residents of Toft are invited to attend

If you have any items you wish to be added to the Agenda give them in writing on or before Monday 7th January to the Secretary or Chairman.

Please note - no Agenda items may be accepted after 7th January

Secretary

TPH Management committee is urgently seeking a **secretary** to attend the bi-monthly meetings, create and distribute meeting minutes and agendas. They hold meeting records, all records have been digitised, and finally organise the Annual general Meeting.

The majority of correspondence is made by email so the ideal person must have reliable internet access.

If you are interested please contact either:

gifford.graham@gmail.com

or jake@tebbitdesign.co.uk

Toft People's Hall management trustees are governed by the trust deed (1964) and must comply with Charity laws

Graves in Priory Field

In the 1883 Annual Report of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, there is reference to the imminent publication of a book by Charles C. Babington, a professor of botany at Cambridge University, but also a keen archaeologist and a founding member of the Society. The book, entitled *Ancient Cambridgeshire, or an Attempt to Trace Roman and other Ancient Roads that Passed through the County of Cambridge* includes mention of Toft and, in particular, the Priory Field which is situated just below Priory Cottage in Church Lane.

"... Toft church, near which remains were found at a place called Priory Field, not far from the Brook, in December 1851, by some labourers digging gravel. At about three feet below the surface they found seven skeletons. Six of the bodies had been placed side by side with their feet towards the west, and the seventh laid across their legs. Fragments of Roman pottery, a portion of a lamp and pateræ were found close by the skeletons."

The presence of Roman pottery, a lamp and pateræ (broad shallow saucer or dish) suggest that the burials occurred during the period of Roman occupation of Britain or in the immediate aftermath. There are Roman roads to the south (the A603) and west (Ermine Street) and several Roman era sites exist in nearby parishes including a Roman villa/bathhouse and a settlement just south of Comberton. There was clearly a Roman presence across the Bourn Valley but no evidence has been found to date of any established settlement in Toft during the Roman period.

The Time Team's "All our Stories" 2012 study of Toft's history mentions a Roman era Hod Hill style fibula (brooch, example above), being found by a metal



detectorist, as well as a couple of votive (religious) items in fields just east of Priory Field. Our "Big Dig" also found Roman sherds in some of the pits. The Time Team report attributes the graves to the Roman era rather than to the Anglo-Saxon (Early Mediaeval) period which is when settlement in Toft probably started.

In early Roman Britain cremated bodies were placed in a funeral urn and later interred. Over time inhumation (which means body burial) became the more common practice. The Romans buried the poorest citizens and enslaved people in mass graves called "potter's fields" and the small Toft cemetery may fall under this description.

The exact location of the graves is not known but the top half of Priory Field shows evidence of ridge and furrow so the graves were probably located at the south end of Priory Field close to the Brook.



Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants

Supporting people to connect with wildlife is one of the main aims of the Wildlife Trust movement. In December and January, the Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants join other Trusts across the UK to encourage people to take part in the 12 Days Wild challenge. The idea is to do something wild every day from 25th December until 5th January, to help keep nature in mind through the midwinter period. Your wild acts might be about connecting directly with local wildlife, or perhaps an environmental action. You can sign up on our website and tag us in social media (@wildlifebcn, #12DaysWild).

Here are a few ideas:

- Visit the Wildlife Trust BCN website and find a new nature reserve to explore nearby
- Go star gazing (our Great Fen project has accredited dark skies)
- Spot tracks and signs of wildlife like feathers, burrows, and footprints (you can post photos on our Monitoring and Research Facebook page if you are not sure what it is)
- Try a volunteer work party
- Submit a wildlife record (visit the website of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre find out how)
- Refresh yourself about what you can put in the recycling bin
- Go fungi spotting

A few fungi that you might spot over winter are:

Jelly ear (sometimes called wood ear): a pinkish brown gelatinous bracket fungus, that looks a bit like a group of ears! They grow on decaying branches, especially elder.



JELLY EAR FUNGUS

Turkey tail: a colourful bracket fungus with a leathery texture, that grows in tiered layers, with rings of brown, cream, red, grey, and sometimes green in older specimens

Candle snuff: a small greyish fungus with a branching-antler appearance. Found on fallen branches and tree stumps

Trooping funnel: pale, with a funnel shape and raised area in the centre. These are often found in rings or arcs on woodland floors.

Further information

- Path and site closures:
www.wildlifebcn.org/explore/reserve-updates
- cambridgeshire@wildlifebcn.org
- @wildlifebcn
- www.wildlifebcn.org

The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs, and Northants is a local wildlife conservation charity aiming to achieve bigger, better, and more joined up habitats for wildlife and people. We do this by working in partnership to conserve and enhance habitats and biodiversity, and through community work, helping people enjoy, understand, and take action for wildlife. 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.

What does goes in my blue bin?

Paper, newspapers, magazines and envelopes	Empty aerosols
Cardboard	Greetings cards
Cartons (e.g., Tetra Pak)	Wrapping paper (no metallic plastic)
Empty plastic bags (except black bin bags)	Tinfoil and foil trays
Non-metallic plastic packets or wrappers, for example: bread bags, pasta bags	Biscuit and sweet tins
Plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays (excluding any black plastic which cannot currently be recycled)	Glass jars and bottles
Food and drinks cans	Shredded paper (must be bagged in a paper or clean plastic bag)
	For a more comprehensive list see webpage below

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish-a-z>



www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

Tel: 01223 264277

As the clocks turn back, the cosy evenings are approaching. Here are a few reminders about upcoming activities and something to look forward to.

Coming Up!

Warm space, your space, is here again at Comberton Library. Every Wednesday: 2.30pm – 4pm. There will be tea/coffee and biscuits. A place for you to wait for an activity after school, read/borrow or a place to keep warm. Donations welcome.

Board games, such as chess, drafts, dominoes, or even scrabble, are played every **Wednesday** between 10.30 and 12.30. Coffee and tea will be available.

Christmas Treasure Hunt will start on Friday 6th December.

"Change and adapt" is the theme for Friday, March 7, Science Week. More information will be provided soon. Also, in March, Shakespeare Week with quotations recited and even a quiz. In April, there's the Easter Hunt during the Easter Break.

Weekly activities

Knit and Natter group continue to meet in Comberton Library, 10.30am – 11.30am November dates: 19th.

December dates: 2nd, 16th and 30th January 2025 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. November dates: 9th and 23rd. December dates: 7th and 21st and January dates: Then every other week. Also, come and join the **First Steps Library Club**, aged 0 – 4 years. Free event.

Please get in touch with Cambourne.referral@gov.uk if you are interested in volunteering to join our Rhymetime team at Comberton Library.

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

Open December 23rd is the last day before Christmas, and it will reopen on January 3rd, 2025. Remember that the Spydus app is a great tool for reserving or renewing audio books and e-books. We can help you if you need any help navigating this on your tablet or phone.

From the archive: This Month in (Toft Village Calendar) History

We thought it would be interesting to revisit Toft Village Calendars of yesteryear to see what was happening this month in Toft in previous years. What is perhaps remarkable is that many of the activities you see in this month's Calendar were also happening in times past, but here are some highlights.

In 2007 the Christmas Fayre was reported to have raised a 'record' £745. Peter Johnson's sponsored walk to 68 historic churches and chapels in Cambridgeshire raised £392. The Christmas Tree, Christingle and Gift service was held on 9th December and the Festival of Lessons and Carols on the 23rd, as was Carol singing round the village after dark.

Christmas dinner tickets were a mere £7.50. [At £10 in 2024, that looks like good value -Ed!] However, tickets had sold out by the time of the December issue. [Have you got yours this year?]

Other village wide events included a children's party

on 9th December, a talk on the history of recorded music by David Wherel at Toft Friendship Club, a coffee morning at the Mitchells' on December 28th and a showing of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory on December 29th. Last but not least, the New Year's Eve disco on the 30th was advertised.

The late Pauline Jacklin took bookings for Toft People's Hall.

The Parish Council invited people to join a Steering Group for the Toft Parish Plan project and was also looking for volunteers to maintain the allotments. Footpath Leaflets were advertised as on sale at the shop (£10 for 25).

A village resident alerted us to commercial companies giving the impression of being charities and leaving plastic bags for clothes collection. Marion Read wrote *An essay on friendship and neighbourliness*. Something which we have aplenty in Toft.



THANK YOU!

2024 has been an incredibly challenging year, with the new Co-Op shop in Comberton opening in April, the break-in during September and continued price increases. So a huge thank you for all the tremendous support and encouragement from customers and friends. This is much appreciated.

NEW! CHRISTMAS TABLE GOODIES

There's still a lot of shopping days to Christmas, but here at Toft Shop, we will be helping you to get into the Christmas spirit all through December. The Toft-famous "Christmas table" has been set up with a brand new range of Christmas delights as well as your old FAVOURITES. THERE'LL BE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.

CHRISTMAS ESSENTIALS

We'll have Christmas cards, wrapping paper and gift bags. Not to forget sellotape and stamps.

All practically on your doorstep.

POST OFFICE

 Opening hours during this time are :

Monday	8.30am – 5.00pm
Tuesday	8.30am – 5.00pm
Wednesday	8.00am – 1.00pm
Thursday	8.30am – 5.00pm
Friday	8.30am – 5.00pm
Saturday	8.00am – 1.00pm

Post early, especially if posting overseas. Christmas stamps on sale. Please check in post office for key posting dates for international destinations as well as local.

CHRISTMAS TREES, WREATHS & ORDERS

If you're yearning for a lovely blazing fire over Christmas, don't forget that we also sell coal, logs and kindling. Let us know your requirements so we can be sure to have plenty in stock.

Nearer Christmas we will be taking orders for Christmas trees and wreaths, as well as Christmas orders (Fruit & Veg, milk, meats, mince pies, bread and creams & yogurts). Orders can be placed at the counter in the shop.

TOFT SHOP ANNUAL CLOSING DATES

We will be CLOSED from 23/12/24 and REOPEN 06/01/25
During December our normal hours apply.



MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Looking forward to seeing you in Toft Shop soon.

Jenny & Justin and our fantastic team of young assistants.

EWR Update

Dear Resident,

I wanted to give you an update on the East West Railway (EWR).

They have just started another non-statutory consultation which will be open until 24th Jan 2025. This will be followed by the final statutory consultation next year. There are a number of roadshows being planned so that members of the public can view the plans and talk to experts from EWR. The two closest roadshows to us are at the Cambridge Belfrey in Cambourne on 3rd Dec 2pm until 7pm and at Comberton Village Hall on 10th Jan 2pm until 7pm. Having said that there is a lot of information on line at "eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation" including a virtual consultation room where you will be able to see all the information that's at the live event.

There have been some significant changes to the overall scheme but the most interesting one for us is the fact that they have decided to run the railway under the A428 rather than the planned viaduct, they are also using a 1.5km tunnel where the railway passes the edge of Caldecote near the Bourn airfield. The effect of that is that the railway generally will be lower in the ground in our area and most of the local railway will be in cuttings. They are also using a tunnel through Chapel Hill at Haslingfield. There are a number of options for people to comment on in the scheme, for example where the station should be at Tempsford but none of these options affect the plans for our local area.

The other important announcement is that they are proposing trains that are powered by electricity and batteries. This means that they do not need to install electrical infrastructure along the entire length of the railway. (I'm not sure what is proposed for freight trains.)

A slightly scary aspect is just how much land is to be taken over for the operation and construction of the railway including a large area east of the Hardwick Road and a large area behind the village college (the extent of this can be seen on the interactive map in the virtual consultation room).

I might say there is no information on timings but looking at the stages that need to be followed it will be around 5 years before we see anything happening on the ground.

The web site is fairly easy to navigate and there is a lot of information on it. I encourage you to take a look and give feedback to EWR if you feel it's appropriate. I'm sure the PC will be responding.

Martin Yeadon

www.eastwestrail.co.uk

BIN COLLECTIONS FOR DECEMBER

Black Bin:

Thursday 12 December

Blue and Green Bin:

Thursday 5 December

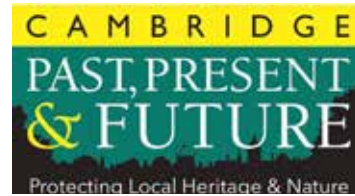
Thursday 19 December

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Advertisements are published quarterly. Copy for inclusion in the next available edition of the Calendar must reach us by 17th January 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: calendarads@aol.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



HRH the Duke of Edinburgh Helps Celebrate Wandlebury's 70th Anniversary



On Tuesday 05 November HRH the Duke of Edinburgh visited Wandlebury Country Park to help mark the occasion of 70 years since the charity acquired Wandlebury and turned it into Cambridge's first country park.

The Duke planted a tree as part of a new project to transform farmland into a wildlife habitat.

Wandlebury donors and supporters will be able to bid to plant the two other trees that will eventually reside next to the Duke's tree. Please contact Milly Iturra to sponsor one of these very special trees, development@cambridgeppf.org

The Duke then cut a special memorial cake to mark the 70 years of Wandlebury Country Park, which was shared with signatories, visitors, staff, volunteers and school children.

The Wandlebury 70th birthday appeal is live on the Cambridge PPF website, <https://www.cambridgeppf.org/wandlebury-70th-birthday-appeal>

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CALENDAR

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 or JPEG files. Many thanks.

And, finally...

Please remember that contributions for the next issue of the Calendar must reach the Editor by 18th December.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this edition.

Email: calendareditor@toft.org.uk

Post: The Gig House, The Old Horse Yard, Comberton Road, Toft CB23 2RY