

# TOFT VILLAGE CALENDAR

January 2025



## Editorial

It seems that Anglian Water and the Environment Agency are openly critical of Cambridge Water - the company that supplies all our drinking water. In particular, the Environment Agency considers that Cambridge Water has mismanaged chalk aquifers by simply increasing the flow of water from them to meet growing demand without adequate oversight of these requests or consideration of alternative solutions.

The population growth rate is now set to further accelerate, with much increased housebuilding planned in and around Cambridge. Such development will make greater demands on water supply in a region already recognised as the driest in the UK. Existing supply levels have already dangerously depleted the aquifers, our chalk streams are running dry and our rivers are also subject to abstraction.

*The Environment Agency curtailed development permission for 9,000 homes and 300,000m2 of commercial space in the Cambridge area on the grounds of water supply.*

Excess river water is available in the winter, but it needs to be stored to better balance availability over time. No new reservoirs have been constructed locally for decades and, as a result, East Anglia faces more frequent future water restrictions.

This situation was predictable long ago but the necessary steps may finally be in train with a plan, led by Anglian Water, to build a reservoir in Fenland (between Chatteris and March), which the government seems prepared to support. The reservoir would be filled using river water during winter periods, allowing abstraction from the aquifers to be reduced and enabling the chalk streams to recover.

An infrastructure project of this size is unlikely to be fully online before 2039! In the meantime, a new connection from Grafham Water into the Cambridge network will also be constructed. Interestingly, the link will be made at the water network facility located on Madingley Hill, near Madingley Mulch. For various reasons this connection will not be up and running until 2032 but it will then be available until 2040, hopefully ensuring a water supply for Cambridge Water until the Fens Reservoir is fully available. When the Fens Reservoir opens, the Environment Agency can then reduce the caps on abstraction licences, meaning even less water is removed from the aquifers. This should build resilience in the water supply and further protect and enhance local biodiversity as well as help minimise risks from drought and flooding.

So that's the plan but nevertheless, we are clearly going to have problems with water supply over the next 5-6 years. Let us hope for another wet year or two but prepare for an onslaught of water saving directives!

## Home Meadow care home welcomes its new Manager



The Healthcare Homes Group have recently announced the appointment of Mr. Noby Jacobs as the new Care Home Manager at Home Meadow. He brings over a decade of experience in nursing and healthcare to this role. Home Meadow holds a "Good" rating from the Care Quality Commission and its new manager aims to build on its reputation as a place where people feel valued, cared for, and respected.

## Ghost Stories by Candlelight (30 Nov)

Spooky tales and chilling songs presided over by two long dead school mistresses, with the lights off in the People's Hall to add to the ghostly atmosphere! But anyone chilled by the stories was soon warmed up by the delicious one-pot dinner served afterwards, and a great evening was had by all. Huge thanks go to the authors and narrators of the stories, many of whom were Toftees, and the musicians, who provided appropriate tunes and songs on guitar, fiddle, viola, concertina and recorder. The event raised £248, which was made up to £300 by the Social Club, for the charity Médecins sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders).

## DIARY DATES

### Toft Friendship Club

[Over 50s Club]

Tuesday, 7th January – our Annual Christmas lunch – 12.30. at the People's Hall. All are welcome but you must have booked and you will need to pay. Get in touch with Ann Mitchell 262516.

### The Parish Council

The Parish Council will meet on Monday 6th January.

### Simple Sewing Knit and Natter

There will be no meeting in January. For information contact Lucy (262948) or Sally (262895).

### Toft Shop

Toft Shop will re-open on Monday, 6th January.

## 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

### 5th January

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

11.00 am COVENANT SERVICE, Holy Communion,  
Methodist Church – Rev Charity Ngewzu

### 12th January

11.00 am Holy Communion, St. Andrew's - Revd  
Barnabas Leeke

### 19th January

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP) – Rev Prof. Michael  
Reiss

11.00 am Morning Worship, Methodist Church – Rev  
Priscilla Slusar

### 26th January

11.00 am Holy Communion, St. Andrew's - Revd  
Barnabas Leeke

There will be morning prayer at St. Andrew's every  
Wednesday at 9.30 am

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 on Sundays  
MEETING ID: 823 1147 3640

## 'It is never too late ...'

Dr Johnson, the dictionary maker, used to take his New Year resolutions very seriously. He would spend considerable prayerful time in reflecting on his way of life and deciding where amendments were called for. He also grew tired of resolving because only too often his resolutions were soon broken.

Probably most of us have the sense of making a fresh start as January 1 approaches and as we contemplate the regrets and the failures, the stains and grubby patches on our CV for the year that is passing. Here comes the opportunity to evaluate the things that matter to us and write a better narrative on the blank pages before us.

The areas where we might want to do things better, both trivial and important, are almost without number. Some require specific action; others challenge at a deeper level. So, we might want to make this the year when we finally tackle our expanding waistline, do something about the garden, declutter the attic, take up a new hobby or sport. Others might mean making up after a quarrel, becoming more patient with the person we find so irritating. The list is endless. Perhaps we just want to be a better and a nicer person. G K Chesterton said the object of a New Year was not that we should have a new year but that we should have a new soul.

An unfashionable word is repentance. It doesn't mean beating yourself up about your failures so much as changing your mind. A little end of the year self-examination might reveal both where we need forgiveness and how we might dream dreams. Like Dr Johnson we shall fail again but take heart for, as the novelist George Eliot wrote, 'It is never too late to be what you might have been.'

*Robert Dolman*



# CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY



There has been a most interesting Advent Course on Songs for Advent. We are most grateful to Diana Tebbit for hosting these and Barnabas, our curate, for co-ordinating them.

BIG THANK YOU to everyone for their support of the Christmas Fayre on St. Andrew's Day; to our incredible workers and to our wonderful shoppers. The profit of something over £1,100 plus the magnificent donation of £265 from the sale of the Lot Meadow Recipe books is a welcome injection into the Church accounts. Thanks to good husbandry, the quinquennial report on the fabric of St. Andrew's has not revealed any massive expenses. However, it is a medieval/Victorian building and any repairs will get into four figures, plus fewer weddings and smaller congregations mean our annual income is greatly reduced. So THANK YOU once more for all you do to support both church buildings.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL with the CHRISTINGLE AND GIFT SERVICE The Church looked stunning: ten trees of different sizes and inspiration, real and artificial, decorated in traditional and glorious variety, home-made most skilfully and with love and care. On the window sills candles shining and over the chancel arch PEACE ON EARTH; beneath the Parish tree an enormous heap of presents for the Women's Refuge. Barbara Preece and Cathy Michell had crafted a lovely service, and ten musicians had gathered under the 'baton' of Jeanne McCarten – and .....Rain and wind (and mud) made venturing out to be avoided, so our congregation was only about 50 instead of the 100 plus we usually have. It was, nevertheless, a beautiful service with that magic moment, with the electric light switched off, of the Christingle candles lighting up the faces and the hundred plus candles flickering as the musicians played – a happy and peaceful Christmas to all we prayed.

a new vicar: at the last round of advertisements there were no applicants so we will not have a new vicar in post before Easter. The post is being re-advertised in January.

## THE WARM HUB



*Every MONDAY 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.*

### **Toft mentioned in Parliament**

During the Great British Energy Bill debate in the House of Commons on 29 October 2024, Pippa Heylings, MP for South Cambridgeshire, said:

*'This Bill has the power to transform lives, but also to protect lives. Warm hubs are becoming too familiar in my constituency of South Cambridgeshire: Comberton, Duxford, Melbourn, Meldreth and Toft are just a few of the village hubs run by amazing volunteers in the local community that provide warmth to those who have to make the heartbreaking choice between heating and eating.'*

A search of Hansard shows this to be the only recorded mention of our village in the House of Commons. The Calendar is grateful to Jane Gifford for bringing this to our attention.

## TOFT PARISH COUNCIL

	Phone	E-mail
<b>Clerk</b>		
Ben Stoehr	01954 210241	<a href="mailto:clerk@tpc.toft.org.uk">clerk@tpc.toft.org.uk</a>
30 West Drive, Highfields, Caldecote Cambridge CB23 7 NY		
<b>Councillors</b>		
<b>Chairman:</b>		
Martin Yeadon	263663	<a href="mailto:cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk">cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk</a>
Emma Darbyshire	07763 463234	<a href="mailto:cllr.darbyshire@tpc.toft.org.uk">cllr.darbyshire@tpc.toft.org.uk</a>
Elaine Miles	262255	<a href="mailto:cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk">cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk</a>
Sarah Tebbit		<a href="mailto:sarahilic01@gmail.com">sarahilic01@gmail.com</a>
Christine Watson	07730 941946	<a href="mailto:cllr.watson@tpc.toft.org.uk">cllr.watson@tpc.toft.org.uk</a>

The Parish Council met on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 at 7.00pm and held The Meeting of William Eversden's Charity (Allotments). The next meeting of the William Eversden's Charity will be on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025. This meeting was followed by the meeting of Toft Parish Council. The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

We are still short of a Parish Council member. If you would like to join, please contact Cllr Martin Yeadon on 01223 263663 / [cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk](mailto:cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk)

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Sarah Tebbit and Cllr Christine Watson, who was out of the parish.

### **William Eversden's Charity**

It was noted that the path through the allotments had been kept open thanks to the strimming and clearing done by Sharon Chandler.

We are still hoping that we will have a volunteer to put in two or three steps leading up to the bench at the western end of the allotments. If you feel this is something you could do, please contact Cllr Martin Yeadon on 01223 263663 / [cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk](mailto:cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk)

The meeting closed at 7.15pm

### **Toft Parish Council**

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensations and the minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Quotes have been sought for the new grass cutting contract and will be presented at the January meeting.

Regarding a new bench at the eastern end of the allotments, Cllr Yeadon received a quote from the company who had supplied the new bench outside the church, for the same price and it was agreed to go ahead with this purchase. This bench will be placed further along the drift at the junction of the footpaths and will afford a very pleasant view and will be at a more reasonable height than the current one which is very low.

Cllr Darbyshire confirmed that she will be re-

submitting the bid for village-wide 20mph for the January deadline, along with a new bid to reduce the speed limit of the B1046 between Toft and Comberton down from 50mph to 40mph.

Regarding a further noticeboard at the Birdlings to display social events, Cllr Yeadon confirmed that he had written to the management of the estate but was awaiting a reply.

Cllr Yeadon has received 2 quotes for grassing over the Queen's Platinum Jubilee area – one for seeding and one for turfing the area. He is awaiting a decision on whether the area is to have a hedge and will then make a decision on the best and most economical method of grassing over the area.

Regarding EWR, SCDC requested comments from Parish Councils so that they could include the PC's thoughts in their reply. Given a very comprehensive response was sent some time ago by Toft Parish Council to EWR's proposal, and there have been no significant changes, it was agreed that the Council's response would be re-submitted.



Regarding the MVAS speed data, Cllr Yeadon reported that he had moved the speed monitor from School Lane to Comberton Road.

For the first two weeks the display was not on so we have been able to see if it actually does make a difference having the unit operating. Subsequent to the meeting Martin has been able to confirm that approx 17% of vehicles exceeded the speed limit when the display was off but this reduced to 11% when the display was illuminated. So, we believe it's fairly conclusive that it does help although we'd still like to reduce it further.

Cllr Darbyshire reported that, hopefully, the bird boxes will be in situ or ready to be placed in situ by the end of January 2025.

Under correspondence, SCDC have again offered parishes either 6 free trees or one larger tree and we decided that we could take one large Rowan tree and plant it in the playground area;

Cllr Yeadon also reported that Cllr Lina Nieto had written asking whether there were any major Highway investments needed in the village and we agreed to submit that there were serious drainage problems on Comberton Road and the High Street with the two main areas of concern being outside Beldam's Close on the High Street and the area at the entrance to the Meridian Golf Course on Comberton Road.

A letter had been received from a parishioner in response to a request made in the Calendar for members of the public to attend the Parish Council meetings particularly if they had thoughts about speeding in the village. The writer pointed out that, unfortunately, Monday evening clashed with choir practice making it difficult for parishioners to attend in person. However, the Parish Council would like to stress that we welcome comments on any matter by letter or email. In the same letter it was pointed out that speeding in the village is still a problem and suggested that a pedestrian crossing, chicanes or speed bumps could be considered. Cllr Darbyshire informed the meeting that this had been thoroughly investigated previously and in addition to the difficulty of installing such measures, due to the parked cars and two acute bends either end of the High Street, costs were prohibitive with starting costs of – a Zebra Crossing £48,000, chicanes and speed bumps £25,000 and £23,000 a pair respectively. Cllr Darbyshire agreed to write a response.

Cllr Yeadon reported that a quote for the repairing of the bus shelter had been accepted and work would commence asap.

The Finance report was considered and payment of bills approved.

The budget for the Financial Year 2025/2026 was reviewed and monies allocated for planned projects. The Parish Council is pleased to report that it will be possible to reduce the precept for 2026 by approximately 10%.

There were no planning applications to consider.

Under Member's Items there were no outstanding issues. Both Cllr Darbyshire and Cllr Miles reported that as a result of changes of personnel at SCDC, the two new officers dealing with Highways and Footpaths were keen to work through the backlog of outstanding issues.

Cllr Darbyshire pointed out that some of the information in the Welcome Packs might be out of date and Cllr Miles agreed to look at this and update where possible.

The proposal by Cllr Miles for Lot Meadow to become a standing item on Parish Council agendas was agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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

**Toft**  
*People's*  
**Hall**

## **Annual General Meeting**

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

**Tues 14th January 2025 at 8.00pm**

*All residents of Toft are invited*

If you have any items you wish to be added to the Agenda give them in writing on or before Monday 6th January to the Secretary or Chairman.

**Please note - no Agenda items will be accepted after 6th Jan**

### **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:

[gifford.graham@gmail.com](mailto:gifford.graham@gmail.com)

or [jake@tebbitdesign.co.uk](mailto:jake@tebbitdesign.co.uk)

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



**Derek & Kay  
wish our friends  
& neighbours  
a very  
Happy  
New Year**

*An extra greeting that was missed out on last month's coloured pages. Apologies to Derek and Kay*

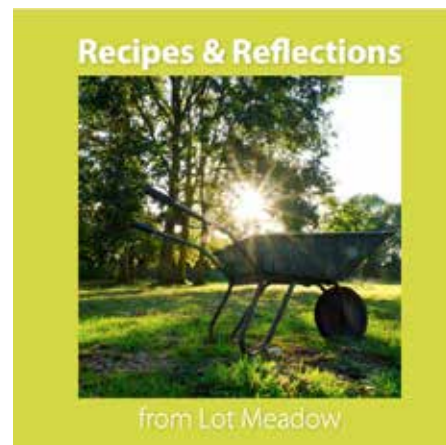
# Lot Meadow Recipes and Reflections

I am delighted to report that ALL copies have now been sold. We were able to present a cheque for £265 to St Andrew's Church at the end of the Christmas Fayre.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Jane Tebbit, Katherine James and Elaine Miles for, firstly, the idea and then their tireless efforts of gathering the varied content, designing, setting and editing the Cookbook. Also I'd like to thank all those many people of our wonderful village for their favourite recipes, photographs, paintings, poems, songs and various pieces of nonsense!

Whilst selling all 200 copies we have received many compliments from far and wide. To all of you a BIG thank you for your contributions to making this cookbook such an amazing success.

*Tricia Ellis-Evans*



*The working party 10 years ago*

## Volunteers - Lot Meadow

It is now over 10 years since the village acquired Lot Meadow. The fruit trees are producing on an annual basis and both the oak and the cedar of Lebanon trees have taken well. We have taken advice from the Ecology Officer at SCDC and all our decisions are made on the basis of caring for the environment.

Apart from the grass cutting, the Meadow is taken care of by a group of volunteers from the village. The work involves cutting back the blackthorn and brambles, clearing out the ditch, pruning the fruit trees, collecting wood which has fallen during winter storms, etc.

We usually meet a couple of times in the year in winter and autumn but with climate change this may change. There is quite a bit to be done at the moment so I am hoping to have a session in January.

I will be sending out an email with details when weather permits (we are fair-weather volunteers and do not work in the rain!).

If you would like to join our merry band of volunteers, please do get in touch with me, details below. If you are new to our village, it is a wonderful way to meet up with some of your neighbours - we even supply a coffee/tea break and sometimes even cake! I look forward to seeing some new faces.

*Tricia Ellis-Evans* Tel: 263477; Mob: 07896 525800; E-mail: [tricia@paceprojects.co.uk](mailto:tricia@paceprojects.co.uk)



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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- An online Youth Rangers social for any young person aged 11-17 interested in local wildlife and global environmental issues, on the evening of Friday January 10<sup>th</sup>
- A social Nature and Natter walk around Cambourne Nature Reserve, followed by a cuppa on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> Jan
- A social Nature and Natter willow-weaving session at our head office in Cambourne on the evening of the 12<sup>th</sup> February

## Further information

**Events:** [www.wildlifebcn.org/events](http://www.wildlifebcn.org/events)

**Volunteering:**  
[www.wildlifebcn.org/get-involved](http://www.wildlifebcn.org/get-involved)

[cambridgeshire@wildlifebcn.org](mailto:cambridgeshire@wildlifebcn.org)

[@wildlifebcn](https://twitter.com/wildlifebcn)

[www.wildlifebcn.org](http://www.wildlifebcn.org)

# All the fun of the Fayre

The Church Christmas Fayre was held at the People's Hall on 30<sup>th</sup> November 10.30-12.30, with a variety of stalls selling crafts, plants, cakes, preserves, etc., as well as games and a raffle. A very special guest of honour arrived, to the delight of the children present!



# TIMBER!

Toft once had a thriving sawmill, located in The Mount (the trading estate behind Toft shop). It is marked as 'Timber Yard' on some of our older maps. In October 1918, the sawmill was put up for sale. The advert for the sale reveals just what a busy, well-stocked place it must have been.

The photograph shows the sawmill when it was still in action, with some of the interesting characters who worked there.



The sale was announced in the Cambridge Daily News Monday 14 October 1918:

## **TOFT, CAMBRIDGESHIRE,**

7 miles from Cambridge, 3 ½ miles from Old North-road or Lord's Bridge Stations, ½ mile from Toft and Kingston Siding L.S.W. Railway.

**TO TIMBER MERCHANTS, BUILDERS, WHEELWRIGHTS. FARMERS, and OTHERS.**

### **IMPORTANT SALE OF TIMBER MERCHANT'S PLANT, MACHINERY AND STOCK-IN-TRADE,**

Subject to the consent of the Ministry of Munitions, and comprising:

35 B.H.P. GAS ENGINE and Suction Gas Plant, by the Campbell Gas Engine Company, in excellent working order; RACK BENCH for 6ft. Saw, by Allchin and Co. Northampton; 24in. Circular Saw Bench with rising and falling table; BAND SAW and SINGLE DEAL FRAME, Circular Cross-cut and other Saws, Shafting, Belting, Pulleys, Tools. etc.; 6-Ton Timber Carriage, 3 Timber Gills. Haulage Tackle Jacks. Chains, also sundry Farming Stock, comprising: Carts, Ploughs, Water Cart, Hay Shaker, Horse Hoes, Harrows, etc.; 2 Galvanised Tanks, 2 Fowl Houses, Grindstone, 4 Wheel Barrows.

The STOCK-IN-TRADE comprises a quantity of Sawn Oak and Ash Planks, Elm Boards and other Timber, Felloes, Gate and Fencing Posts, Ladders, Gates, etc.; quantity of bone-dry Deal in Boards and Planks, Ironmongery, etc.

### **THREE CAPITAL WORKING HORSES**

And Harness for same



# Friends of Bourn Brook (FOBB) *An update on our first year*

## **Bourn Brook – a changing environment**

Many in Toft are aware that our stretch of Bourn Brook has been changing over the past 20-30 years. Surveys by local environmental groups (the Wildlife Trusts and the Countryside Regeneration Trust, CRT) show the impact of invasive plant and animals on native species and stream bank stability.

At a meeting in Toft People's Hall a year ago, the Cam Valley Forum (CVF) gave presentations about their work with partners, including Anglian Water and the Environment Agency "to protect and improve the environment of the River Cam and its tributaries", of which Bourn Brook is one.

## **Identifying problems**

A preliminary study by CVF in winter 2022 and May 2023 indicated that the Anglian Water Recycling Centre above Bourn was daily discharging treated effluent into a drainage ditch that meets the Brook just east of Bourn Golf Club. This was causing downstream nutrient enrichment of the Brook. We were also informed of more serious incidents over the previous decade, where untreated sewage had been released into the Brook from burst pipes. These pipes are part of the network pumping sewage from surrounding villages to the Recycling Centre. One incident in 2019 resulted in Anglian Water being fined for polluting the Brook.

## **Taking action – first steps**

These revelations helped prompt the formation of Toft Friends of Bourn Brook (FOBB) to follow up on the work of CVF and assist the Wildlife Trusts and the CRT. We began in May with a survey of invertebrates (river flies), which are a key food for many organisms in and around the Brook. The survey revealed an impoverished river fly community, which is indicative of poor ecosystem health. We also contributed to the work of the Wildlife Trusts in removing invasive Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed. This activity is successfully reducing the presence of such plants from the Brook and its feeder streams.

Having taken advice from Environment Agency contacts, we aim to establish an official River Fly Survey site in 2025, to begin more frequent surveys of the health of Bourn Brook and continue to remove invasive plants.

## **Monitoring for E. Coli**

Regular monitoring by FOBB in 2024 has confirmed that the effluent released by the Bourn Works not only increases nutrient enrichment but also increases counts of E.coli bacteria (which pose possible health threats). In the absence of regular rainfall over the summer, the Brook and its feeder streams virtually run dry each year. As a result, treated effluent flows directly into the Brook and is only slowly diluted moving downstream. Over early summer to early autumn our data shows increasing values and therefore greater potential health risks with time. In terms of official bathing water quality,



*River fly monitoring May 2024*

the Toft stretch of the Brook would be rated as "Poor" for much of the summer period.

When the Brook is actively flowing once again in late autumn/early winter, our monitoring shows far lower phosphate levels and E.coli counts than in summer because the effluent is diluted. Hopefully, new equipment being installed at Bourn should reduce phosphate levels further from January 2025.

## **No evidence of raw sewage discharge**

Diluted, untreated sewage is released legally by UK sewage works during heavy storms, but the media have also reported evidence of frequent illegal discharges at other times. We have seen no evidence of raw sewage discharges from the Bourn treatment plant after heavy rainfall. Our work also shows that the Bourn Works is not the only source of pollution. We discovered very high E.coli counts in the Brook in Bourn village and at Caxton End, which could be attributed to residential release of sewage and other pollutants into surface drains that ultimately flowed directly into the Brook. Interestingly, we have not seen any clear evidence of enrichment from agricultural runoff so far.

## **Plans for 2025**

In 2025 we plan more detailed studies to confirm the pattern of pollution over a year and we will investigate other possible sewage sources such as residential soil pipes and septic tanks as well as evaluating the impact of agricultural runoff. We'll regularly update our webpage on the village website and share our data with other citizen science river groups, Anglian Water and the Environment Agency.

## **How you can help**

To undertake monitoring and survey activities, we need the help of Toft residents in 2025. Together, we can make a positive contribution to improve the health of our Brook. Look out for more information in future Calendars.

# Toft Club News

## A Happy New Year from everyone at The Club

We are holding a **Murder Mystery Evening** on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January – join us for one of Carol's excellent three course meals, and use your detective skills to solve the diabolical murder that has taken place! Numbers are limited so be sure to get your tickets early – on sale now at the Club.

We are excited to be welcoming **Sound of the Sirens** to Toft in March – on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>. Sound of the Sirens are a popular acoustic singer-songwriting duo based in Exeter, Devon comprising of Abbe Martin & Hannah Wood. Tickets for this are already selling fast – so don't miss out, get yours now, from the website: <https://toft.club/gigs.php>

Continuing the music theme, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> is the next **Slow Session** - a music evening to join in with! All ability levels are welcome to play or join us to listen - free entry. The bar will be open as normal. And our monthly **Open Mic Music Night** is on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> – an evening of music from our talented local musicians – free entry.

**Film Night** is on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>, when we will be showing the 2024 film "Thelma". When 93-year-old Thelma Post gets duped by a phone scammer

pretending to be her grandson, she sets out on a treacherous quest across the city to reclaim what was taken from her. Doors open at 7:30pm and the film starts promptly at 8:00pm. Film Club membership is £12 for the year – due in January for most members, or evening membership is £2.50.

## Food on Friday returns on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

We'll have Sausage and Mash with Onion Gravy - a trio of top quality sausages with creamy mashed potatoes and homemade onion gravy. Doors open at 7pm. We operate on first come, first served – so come early to avoid disappointment!

## Regular events are taking place in January

Toft Art is on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>, Toft Quiz on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>, Carpet Bowls on Friday 10<sup>th</sup>, Table Tennis on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> and Toft Bingo on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Club is always open every Thursday and Friday evening from 8pm, plus most 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://toft.club>

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/ToftSocial>

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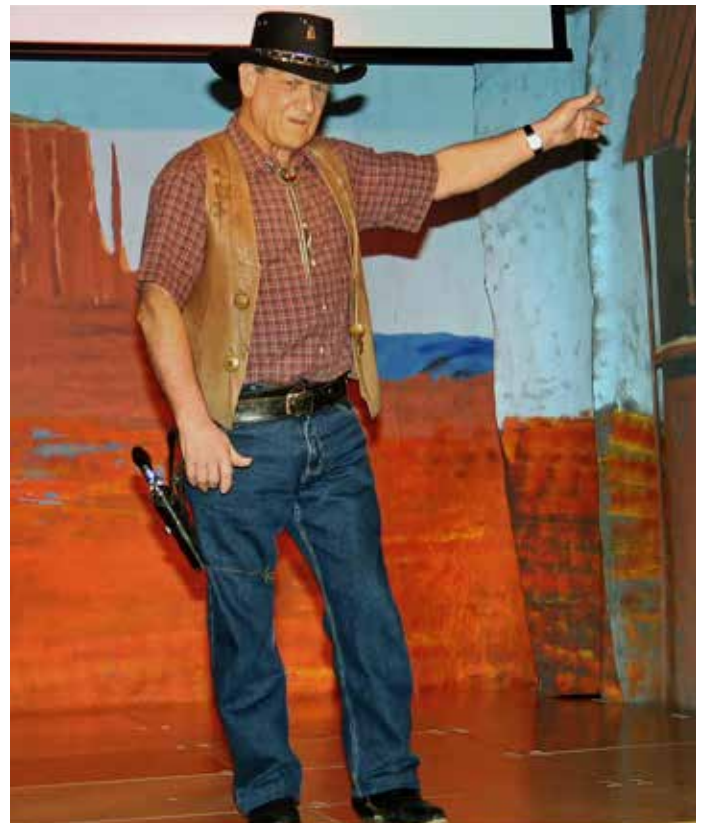
## From the archive: This Month in (Toft Village Calendar) History

Our look at Toft Village Calendars from the past this month goes back to January 2008, when Toft thespians were busy rehearsing (yes – believe it or not, they do rehearse) for (and I quote) 'a visual, comic and musical extravaganza' which was Toft Goes West. Many of us got to act out our inner cowboy or cowgirl.

The Film Club had only recently been set up and with the first film *The Last King of Scotland* was already a roaring success.

The Parish Council mentioned a proposed 7 wind turbine development on land in Great Eversden, reported vandalism to a dog waste bin, litter bin and footpath sign in Church Road and planned to buy new five-a-side goal posts and nets for the rec.

This issue also contained an obituary for one of Toft's most distinguished residents, Wing-Commander Eric Barwell DFC & Bar, father of Diana Tebbit, who had served as a fighter pilot at Dunkirk, in the Battle of Britain and on many other occasions, showing immense courage. A remarkable man, who at 90 bought himself a rowing machine 'to keep fit'.



*Toft Goes West in January 2008*

# OLD TIME, BLUEGRASS AND BLUE LASS

On 23rd November, Toft Social Club treated us to a great day of music. The Bluegrass/Old Time trio Blue Lass came to the People's Hall. In the afternoon they gave a workshop where eight Toft musicians on a variety of instruments (fiddles, guitars, banjo and flute) learnt a lively old-time tune.

There is much debate online as to the difference between Bluegrass and Old Time, but it seems to boil down to two overlapping traditions. Old time is ... well ... older, with its roots in Scots-Irish and English traditional music with some African influences. Bluegrass is a more recent, postwar development but which also owes a lot to old-time styles and adds a layer of influence from gospel, blues and jazz.

Musical debates apart, the evening performance was a great mixture of the two styles, with virtuoso solos on guitar, banjo and mandolin from the three band members, along with tightly controlled close harmonies that evoked the Appalachian world of American traditional music. The three were obviously enjoying themselves immensely in front of the capacity Toft audience, with much banter and laughter in between songs.

What was even nicer was their



friendly sociability; they didn't disappear offstage after the final applause but mingled awhile with

the audience. You are welcome to Toft any time, Blue Lass, with your bluegrass, old time or any old style.



## Enjoy singing?

Toft choir will meet on Monday 13 January at 7.30pm in the People's Hall to decide its programme for 2025. If you are interested in knowing more about the choir and what we do, please contact Janet Tanburn on 01954 7188452 or email: [janetmtanburn@gmail.com](mailto:janetmtanburn@gmail.com).

The choir meets Monday evenings at the Methodist chapel. Tenors and basses are always particularly welcome!

## BIN COLLECTIONS FOR JANUARY

**Black Bin:**  
9th, 23rd

**Blue Bin:**  
2nd, 16th, 30th

**Green Bin:**  
16th

## 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](mailto: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

# RECYCLE YOUR CABLES



Research reveals that over a third of UK homes that hold on to electricals do so because they don't know how to dispose of them properly.

Cambridgeshire County Council is currently working with Recycle Your Electricals to encourage residents to participate in The Great Cable Challenge - a nationwide campaign aimed at tackling the millions of cables sitting idle across UK households.

Give a second life to the valuable materials contained in cables, such as copper, aluminium and even gold, all of which can be turned into new products.

You can take your cables and some electricals to John Lewis, B&Q and Currys or drop them off at the recycling centres at Milton and Thriplow. Please check with these shops and centres before you go.

<https://www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Material-Focus-The-Great-Cable-Guide-25.09.24.pdf>

### Household Recycling Centres

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/household-recycling-centres](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/household-recycling-centres)

## 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 **20th January**.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this edition.

Email: [calendareditor@toft.org.uk](mailto:calendareditor@toft.org.uk)

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