



# Toft Village Calendar

Produced and Distributed by St. Andrew's Parish Church

June 2021



## DIARY DATES

### MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING



sadly still on the not yet list! When we do get back to having monthly coffee mornings, which will be fantastic, we will be looking for a new Coffee morning organiser. Not onerous – just asking for volunteers for each month and ensuring the venue is in the Calendar for that month. Arpi Johnson has run this rota for many years and would now like to hand it on to a 'keen' volunteer.

### TOFT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

[Over 50s Club]. Still no meetings at present.

**Sewing, Knit and Natter** is still unable to meet.

**The Parish Council** - The next PC meeting is on **7th June**. It will be held in The People's Hall. All welcome subject to prevailing restrictions.

**Internet Club** Dates for meetings this June are 7th and 21st. Hope to see you there 2 - 4 pm.

[katherine@jameskj.plus.co.uk](mailto:katherine@jameskj.plus.co.uk)  
and  
[jane@tebbitdesign.co.uk](mailto:jane@tebbitdesign.co.uk)

## EDITORIAL

Well, I've had mine. The Pfizer, double-tap, didn't hurt a bit. I've been enjoying my new sense of invulnerability, going around saying 'Go on - breathe on me. Touch me, even. It's perfectly safe, top scientists say so.'

However.

The trouble with taking top scientists at face value is that there are always some even topper ones just around the corner. And in my case, it is those giants of the diagnostic world who run the Fenland Covid-19 Study. In case you're unfamiliar with this outfit, I will explain. The Fenland Study Group, operating out of their secret, lead-lined dungeon at Addenbrookes, has been grilling selected individuals for what seems like half a lifetime now. Every so often a barrage of impertinent questions arrives in my inbox, demanding to know such things as what I had for breakfast recently, or how many times I watched television or mowed the lawn. Occasionally, the hapless dupes who inhabit their behavioural laboratory are summonsed to the hospital itself, where scary things with lights and dials are strapped on or plugged into you. Then you have to do things like, lay perfectly still, get up, move around a bit and so on. All good, clean fun, or so I thought when I signed up a decade or more back. Since then, the Fenland Study group has been as easy to get rid of as pigeon poo on a new shoe. Just when you think they've finally lost interest, up they pop with Phase 17 or Stage 4 (b) of something or other. Still, if it helps satisfy their puzzling nosiness into other people's business, who am I to gainsay them? I mean, rewards in Heaven and all that...

Thus it was that I found myself equipped with a blood-sampling device and a set of impenetrably gnomish instructions on its use. Simply put, you jabbed the thingy into your arm, waited a while and then pulled it out of your arm and tried to stem both the blood and the pitiful whimpering that followed without spilling the precious sample over anything valuable, or white. Once you regained consciousness, you popped the whole lot into an envelope and then popped that into the post-box. I don't know what else they were doing with it, but one of the spin-off benefits of this procedure was that their tests would tell you if you had Covid antibodies - that's to say, you could tell if you had actually had Covid at some stage in the past. Fairly clearly - and the Fenland bods pointed this out - if you'd been vaccinated, you could and should expect to see antibodies present.

But here's the thing: My first two tests, taken pre-jab, showed a negative antibody presence, fully justifying my refusal to so much as answer the door to anyone (except the Amazon guy, obvs) over the past few months. But the third and final test was taken a good two months after my jab. In theory, this should have returned a positive result. But it didn't. So, Houston, I have a problem. Am I, as Government advisers keep telling me, home and hosed or am I, as the boffos at Addenbrookes suggest, an antibody-free catastrophe waiting to happen?

All I can say is - if you happen to see me, hug with caution. God knows what I might have got - science certainly doesn't.



South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council

## Local knowledge – request for help

The Council needs your help. We want to improve our ability to communicate urgent, local messages in our communities, by creating a directory of community and village contacts – and platforms used in different communities – to help spread appropriate local messages. This would not be for regular promotion of information – but to access in times such as flooding, village-wide missed bin collections, or other time-sensitive communications to a small area within the District.

If you are, or know of, someone in your town or village who has an effective way of sharing news with others, or if you have a local Facebook group, email group or WhatsApp group, please let us know by emailing [communications@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:communications@scambs.gov.uk). Similarly if you run a local Facebook noticeboard group or email group and would like to be involved, please email [communications@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:communications@scambs.gov.uk). The idea is not to hand over any contact details of people in your community, but for us to create a list of the key individuals and groups in each community who may be able to help us.

Best wishes

*Sustainable Communities and  
Wellbeing Team*

*South Cambridgeshire District  
Council*

**MINISTRY TEAM****THE CHURCH IN TOFT**

St. Andrew's Parish Church

Team Vicar:

Rev David Newton 01223 665654

Lay Minister: Barbara Preece Tel: 263466

Churchwardens:

Ann Mitchell 262516

John Quenby 263949

**Methodist Church**

Minister: Rev Alison Walker

01223 872862

[alison.walker@methodist.org.uk](mailto:alison.walker@methodist.org.uk)

Stewards:

Diana Tebbit 01223 263557

Stephen Acklam 264055

Mrs Pat Morton 264010

*The Church in Toft*

Public worship resumed at St. Andrew's, all being well, on Palm Sunday 28th March with an 8.30 BCP and an 11.00am Holy Communion outside service.

**SERVICES OF WORSHIP Please note we have returned to alternating services in the two churches**

*6th June* 8.30am Holy Communion - Rev Prof Michael Reiss

11.00am Covenant Service, Methodist Church – Rev Alison Walker

*13th June* 11.00am Holy Communion – St. Andrew's - Rev David Newton

*20th June* 8.30am Holy Communion - Rev Prof Michael Reiss

11.00am Morning Worship – Methodist Church - Rev David Newton

*27th June* COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OUTSIDE  
\*\*

11.00am Morning Worship – Mrs Barbara Preece & Mrs Cathy Michell

For the services OUTSIDE please wrap up well. Chairs will be provided, but if you prefer your own, feel free to bring them with you.

Morning prayer on Wednesdays at 9.15am. This is available on email. 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 will continue at 11.00am every Sunday:

THE MEETING ID: 898 7070 2475 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89870702475>. There is also online audio available.

\*\* After this celebratory outdoor service we will serve refreshments and you are invited to bring a picnic lunch so we can, once again, enjoy each other's company.

PLEASE DO JOIN US

# D

ear Friends

## Caring for God's Acre: The Churchyard

With a number of outdoor services and so on I have been more aware than ever of how beautiful the churchyard can be – especially in Spring. The bulbs and primroses, and now the Celandine and so on. Huge thanks go to those who maintain it.

In May a few of us met with someone who runs the *Wildlife Trust Churchyard Conservation Awards*. Whether or not we formally apply for this award it was good to hear of a few things we could do better, as well as a number of things we are already doing well.

One of the things that we talked about doing better was communicating, and letting people know why the churchyard is maintained in the way that it is. For it is not all mown short, as one might see in the American Cemetery at Madingley. It is quite intentionally managed: with some areas cut short, others left until the Spring bulbs and flowers gone, in some areas the cow parsley allowed to flower, but cut before it seeds. The South West area is left uncut as some uncut areas are crucial for a vast number of animals.

Personally, I'm on a new journey of discovery engaging with the flora and fauna that such managed land might enable, just as I expect we are all beginning to increasingly think about what little things we can do to increase biodiversity in these days.

*With Love, Rev. David Newton*

**Sewing, Knit and Natter** - The ladies of Sewing, Knit and Natter are still not able to hold their monthly meeting but we are all working separately in our homes and looking forwards to normal service being resumed shortly.



## THE CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY

**The Methodist Church** is beginning to re-open its building for worship and community uses. The first service to be held in the chapel on 6th June will be the renewal of our Covenant commitment to God, including Holy Communion. Services will then resume the usual pattern of alternating venues. We will be adhering to the now usual Covid safety rules – social distancing, masks and restricted numbers. We hope that we will be allowed to sing soon! We look forward to welcoming you. Alison Walker

**JUNE 4TH, 4.00 – 6.00 pm DAHLIA SALE** on the village Green

Once again we will be selling Brian Mitchell's Dahlias in aid of the Church Restoration Fund.

If you would rather place an order or cannot come that day, then please let us know number of plants required, colour, type (Cactus, decorative, don't mind) and size. We will have the order ready that day, or you can collect, or we can deliver at a convenient time.

please contact the Mitchells, 20 High Street, Toft [ann@mitchella.ndonet.com](mailto:ann@mitchella.ndonet.com) 262516 (answerphone)

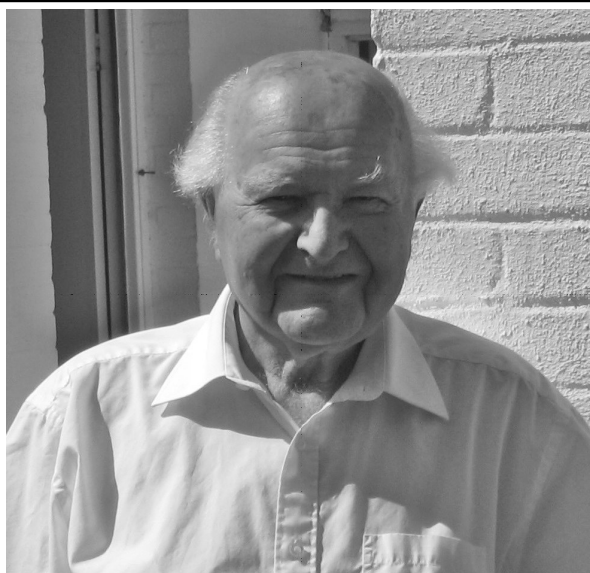
**SEPTEMBER 4th** – please keep the date for this **Open Day/Mini-Fête** – more details in the coming months. If anyone would like to help with this event, please do get in touch with Ann Mitchell.



### RICHARD HOWARD 1921-2021

We are sad to report the death of Richard, just three weeks short of his 100th birthday. As you read this you may have been using a t-towel designed by him, admiring our village sign organised by him, listening to the church bells whose restoration he oversaw, be drinking from a Richard-designed Toft mug.... He has contributed so much to the life of Toft as a Churchwarden, as a member and Chairman of the Parish Council....

His funeral will take place at 12 noon on his 100th birthday, 10th June. Because of current



restrictions only those invited by the family will be able to attend the service but the hearse will drive round the village before the service if you wish to pay your respects. He will be interred in the churchyard.

We will have a more extensive obituary in the Calendar next month

### RUTH JACKLIN 1934 - 2021

We also record with sadness the death of Ruth Jacklin, born and brought up in Toft, married to Alf, she lived in High Street until his death and then in Millers Road before going into a home.



*Detail of Ruth helping with Sunday School in 1950*



## TOFT SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

### Grand Reopening

We are pleased to announce the re-opening of Toft Social Club on Saturday 3rd July. We plan to welcome you back with a Barbeque, starting at 4pm. As well as seating in the Hall, there will be plenty of outside seating and arrangements are being made in case of inclement weather! The Bar will stay open until 9pm, so if you don't want to come for the Barbeque, you can join us for a drink!

**Tickets** will be on sale from mid-June, cost £6.00 and can be bought from Toft Shop or by calling 01223 263359. Tickets will be on sale until the evening of Thursday 1st July.

Going forward, with constraints on staffing and increased safety measures, it will not be possible for us to immediately return to being open 4 nights a week – so for the first few weeks **we plan to open one night a week, on a Friday**. We will be working towards opening more nights a week and ensuring the return of our usual regular events, such as quiz, film nights and food nights.

*Important Note: Please read on to get an update on how we are working to open.*

As we cannot be certain what the exact pandemic guidelines will be at the opening date – in theory it is after the 21st June “Step Four” phase, where rules relax completely, but given recent announcements, we may still be in “Step Three” guidelines, the committee is putting things in place to ensure we can cope with both eventualities. This could mean limited numbers inside the Hall itself, table service for drinks and wearing of masks – we will be keeping the Social Club website updated with the situation, so please keep an eye on that.

### Toft People's Hall Management Committee

As many of you know, the Hall itself is run by a Management Committee, and we are grateful to them for their support in getting the Social Club open again. This has been in a number of forms including their planned purchasing of outside furniture and general support. Thank you!

### Future Events

Events postponed from last year included a couple of live gigs and these have now been rescheduled for the Autumn. “While and Matthews” – a brilliant pairing of singer / songwriters who put on an online concert for us in lieu of last year's event – which was excellent; and Mitch Benn, well known comedian / musician, famous for many Radio 4 shows including the “Now Show”.

We are optimistic that these will now take place and tickets are on sale again. We are currently limiting the numbers in case we have to run these as socially distanced events, so if you fancy coming along, get your tickets soon here: <https://toftsocialclub.org.uk/venue/tickets.php>

### TSC Online

Given that things are easing and evenings are lighter, we feel the need for online sessions has diminished and so none are planned at this time.

### Can you help?

We remain very keen to get more help – both in running the Club and on committee – and we are very flexible about how much time you can commit. If you can help, do please contact us at: [help@toftsocialclub.org.uk](mailto:help@toftsocialclub.org.uk) or by calling 01223 263359.

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

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

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

**Toft Parish Council**

Clerk: Mrs Gail Stoeher (clerk@tpc.toft.org.uk)

30 West Drive

Highfields Caldecote

Cambridge, CB23 7NY Tel: 01954 210241

Councillors	Phone	E-mail
<i>Chairman:</i>		
Martin Yeadon	263663	cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk
James Wrycroft	264427	cllr.wrycroft@tpc.toft.org.uk
Elaine Miles	262255	cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk
Tricia Ellis-Evans	263477	cllr.ellis-evans@tpc.toft.org.uk
Andy Tall	07984796273	cllr.tall@tpc.toft.org.uk
Lluis Borrell	264611	cllr.borrell@toft.org.uk
Kaushik Popat		cllr.popat@tpc.toft.org.uk

*The Council is your locally elected Council at the first tier of local government. Meetings are open to the public and are usually held on the first Monday of each month (excepting August) at the Toft People's Hall in School Lane starting at 7.00pm.*

*Notices of meetings and agendas are published on the Parish Council Noticeboard near the bus shelter together with minutes, which can also be viewed at [www.toft.org.uk](http://www.toft.org.uk). Among other things, the Council considers local planning applications for the planning authority, the South Cambridgeshire District Council; provides the local recreation area, the People's Hall, litter bins, dog waste bins and the bus shelter; arranges for local verge cutting on behalf of the Cambridgeshire County Council and works with that authority to ensure the maintenance of local footpaths.*

**Next Meeting: Monday 7th June, 7.00 pm in  
The People's Hall . All welcome subject to  
social-distancing guidelines**

This report covers three Parish Council Meetings.

The first was an extraordinary meeting arranged specifically to gather views on the EWR proposals to help guide the PC's response to the consultation. There was a good attendance and several residents voiced their concerns and views. Residents supported the PC in continuing to press for a full consideration on the Northern route which is not one of the current route options. Residents also said that the PC shouldn't select a preference for either of the proposed route options, both of which pass close to Toft.

The PC agreed to prepare a response to the consultation and also to carry out another letter box drop and further information to encourage residents to respond.

The Parish Council held the Annual Parish Meeting and the Parish Council's Annual General Meeting on 4th May 2021 via Zoom.

At the Annual Parish Meeting the public can raise any issues that they want the PC to consider. A resident requested that the verges should not be cut so vigorously and that the grass and wild flowers should be allowed to grow. The PC continually reviews the cutting regime and these views will be considered.

A resident suggested getting a noise survey carried out, to be part of our objection to the EWR rail. However it was concluded that the noise level would not be excessive although trains would be heard and concerns about noise could be included in responses to the consultation.

The Chair gave a report on the Parish Councils activities during the year. A report from the District Councillor was read out.

The RFO gave a report on the accounts from last year.

A resident thanked the PC for their efforts over the year. With no other business the meeting was closed.

The PC then held its AGM. Cllr Yeadon was re-elected as Chair, Cllr Ellis-Evans was re-elected as Vice-Chair. Other responsibilities and roles are to continue as last year.

The PC reviewed the accounts for this year and approved them.

The PC considered current processes, policies and procedures and agreed not to change any of them.

A planning application was considered.

30 welcome packs have been given to Bennell Farm for new residents as they begin to occupy the estate.

Please see the official minutes of the meeting for the definitive outcomes.

### Reasons Why – Not

TOFT: it's an unexceptional, typically English small village. There are no particular attractions to bring people here. But they do come – because of where it lies, and because it's just far enough from Cambridge to be deemed 'rural'. Here, unusually for this shire, the land folds gently into mild dips and rises, there are deep lanes, high(ish) windswept ridges and, to the south, the wider Bourn valley. From our doors we can take any one of a number of tracks and pathways, many of them ancient, linking churches, villages, fields and woodlands. In the past I've walked from home for more than twenty miles, with only the odd quarter of a mile along a road to link with the next path.

During the past year, hundreds – possibly even thousands if repeat visits were counted – of other people have come to our village for the same reason: to walk those tracks and paths, to hear and see wildlife, to soak up this special landscape. Perhaps to find their own place in the world.

These are not just human tracks and pathways, either. Wild animals, large and small, need natural corridors along which to travel, unfettered by busy roads and other built obstructions. Birds need sheltering hedges, copses and woodland, of which we have many. And we do have a relative abundance of wildlife. Larks rise up in vibrant song from the high ridges, woodpeckers dip back and forth, a pale barn owl patrols the fields morning and evening. Even the call of a cuckoo was heard this May, the occasional flash of a kingfisher is seen, and the chatter of swallows and martins and the high screech of swifts overhead are welcomed as signs of summer a-coming. In early spring the weird cry of the fox and the raucous bark of the muntjac sound across the land. In fact, every season is a celebration, of song, flower, scent and sound. Who has not sought and found pleasure in the spring carpet of bluebells in Hardwick Wood, ditches filled with cowslips and hedges fringed with Queen Anne's lace? Or breathed in the scents of summer, delighted in the sharp taste of blackberries in autumn, felt the peace of a quiet winter's day when the naked trees give definition to the land?

Within and around the village are numerous signs of its considerable history: the old field names (Mill Field, Brook Field), the ancient tracks (Lot Way, Port Way, Armshold Lane), narrow lanes (Pinfold Well Lane, Stoney Lane) and the rise and fall of medieval pastures all reveal a place where people have quietly lived their lives for centuries.

So how can we possibly tolerate the threatened destruction of this genuinely precious land? Are we soon to see scenes like those the poet John Clare observed in the 18th century?

Ye injur'd fields were while so gay  
When natures hand display'd  
Long waving rows of Willows gray  
And clumps of Hawthorn shade  
But now alas your Hawthorn bowers  
All desolate we see  
The tyrants hand their shade devours  
And cuts down every tree...  
Both milkmaids shouts & herdsman's call  
Have vanish'd with the green  
The king kups yellow shades and all  
Shall never more be seen  
*From 'Helpston Green' by John Clare*

We may no longer hear the shouts and calls of milkmaids and herdsman. While our own landscape, not so far distant in miles from Clare's own, may have evolved into what he feared centuries ago – huge open fields that he so deplored – this is still a land to be cherished. We're constantly being told that we need to care for our environment, for the sake of our wildlife and too for our own wellbeing. The vision of huge concrete viaducts and massive embankments being slashed across our fields, driven through hedges, obliterating our established tracks and rights of way, of the constant noise, vibration and pollution of a new railway, is surely not one we can allow to happen – is it?

*Katherine James*



*Opinion | By James Perry (This is an abridged version of an article originally published in the 'Cambridge Independent' newspaper, to whom thanks and attributions are given)*

As a scientist, local resident and keen builder of transport networks in computer games, I've found myself drawn to the debate about **East West Rail**, and the question of how to connect a new line from the west with Cambridge's existing railways.

The guided busway having already taken the obvious routes, we are left to choose between a detour to the north or south. The East West Rail (EWR) Company say a southern approach makes more sense, for reasons explained recently. I'm not a rail expert, but decided to speak up in the hope that it will help encourage those who are to offer us definitive answers to some major unanswered questions.

It may be that a southern approach is ultimately the best option, but there is unease at the lack of transparency as to why a northern approach has been ruled out. There's a chance a northern approach could keep freight trains out of Cambridge, be easier to electrify, and help solve some of our biggest local transport issues – so I'd argue it's worth thinking really carefully indeed before we decide it's unfeasible.

We now know that the southern approach could involve, among other things, what has been dubbed the "Great Wall": an eight to 10-metre high, many-mile-long mix of alternating embankment, viaduct and even deeper cutting from north of the Eversdens to a huge new junction at Harston, to carry the new railway over the biggest hill in the area. In an otherwise flat landscape, the proposal has come as quite a shock to local residents, to put it mildly.

When there is no ideal solution, it is much harder for those affected by the decision to accept the outcome if they struggle to understand why it was made. The biggest reason why a northern approach is worth considering is the possibility of a station at Northstowe. The new town's planned size cannot be underestimated – in a few years' time it will be bigger than either Ely or Newmarket. It is too far from Cambridge for most to regularly cycle, and I understand that before the pandemic the guided busway (which also serves passengers from Huntingdon and St Ives) was already reaching its peak capacity with only around 700 of 10,000 houses built. For a local commuter town specifically designed to be accessible to workplaces in Cambridge, public transport from Northstowe to the biomedical campus or West Cambridge is largely impractical, and it's already standing room only to Cambridge North at rush hour. A railway station near Oakington/Northstowe (with attached cycle routes to nearby villages, lots of bike racks and "blue badge" parking) could connect a population of around 35,000 with Cambridge's stations (and London) via a short cycle and train ride; buses could then focus on passengers less well served by the rail network.

The Barbastelle bats at Wimpole and astronomers at Lord's Bridge would presumably also be in favour.

Track to the north of Cambridge would cross low lying floodplains, so would necessitate raising the track on an embankment. Although challenging, a few-metre-tall rise (with associated flood mitigation measures) may not be unreasonable when compared against the proposed "Great Wall". The land was deemed suitable for 10,000 new houses, and Oakington has had a station before, so a new one should be technically viable. Digging out the rowing lake that has been vaguely on the cards for years could even provide soil for the embankments, although its planned location would need revising.

A 'northern approach' (plus wiggle room for future services and freight) is expected to require at most 14 or 15 trains per hour in each direction. To put that in context, the French can manage that throughput at 200mph; Thameslink and Crossrail are designed to run

at 24 per hour. I understand some of the current signalling dates from the 1970s, but is already in the process of being upgraded. For the short section where all passenger trains travel at the same modest speed, there is a strong argument that – contrary to EWR Co's claim – existing track will have plenty of capacity.

Arguably the biggest obstacle for a northern (or indeed any) route is that Cambridge is connected to so many towns and cities in different directions. Few can afford to live near their work, leading to high demand for both public and private transport. Finding a way to route all that traffic in and around a city where the main employment areas are quite widely spread is undeniably a challenge. Today, a train from London reverses in Cambridge every 10 minutes. But Cambridge is not the end of any lines. With a southern approach, even with the mooted new routes to places like Wisbech, there will always be far more demand heading south than north out of the city.

This would mean we'd always be burdened with many terminating services, which need longer at stations and reduce line capacity. EWR Co claim a northern approach would require all EWR trains to also terminate in Cambridge. But is there another way?

If the new line were electrified then it would be possible, in principle, to run trains from Oxford, through Cambridge to London, by combining EWR and existing services. I suspect it would be a challenge to make it work, but given the potential benefits – fewer terminating trains and thus reduced pressure to expand stations and track in Cambridge, direct trains to London from Northstowe and Cambourne, and perhaps also from Oxford/Bedford to Stansted Airport – surely it's worth serious consideration?

Opening a new diesel-reliant railway at the same time as banning new diesel cars seems completely unconscionable, but is what EWR currently plans to do. I suspect reluctance to build EWR as an electrified route has arisen in part because a southern approach doesn't just enable trains to continue through to Norwich and Ipswich, it probably requires it to some extent due to the terminus problem. As a result, the existing lines to Norwich and Ipswich would require electrification at the same time. These routes are relatively quiet, and low down the UK's priority list. So, is providing direct services to Norwich and Ipswich critical for EWR? The fraction of passengers heading from one side of Cambridge to the other is small, and they would either be swapping an all electric route through London on Crossrail for a diesel service, or removing a single transfer at Cambridge. Nonetheless, if the answer is yes, then with a northern approach those passengers could be served by an 'express' train calling at Cambridge North only, avoiding a detour through busy central Cambridge – in much the same way as EWR will call at Bletchley but not Milton Keynes.

Ultimately, the question is whether we want to prioritise high-speed travel for long distance commuting into Cambridge, or instead focus on facilitating efficient, high throughput local routes to help more people to be able to live closer to their place of work?

The elephant in the room is whether, particularly post-pandemic, a railway between Cambridge and Bedford with very few stations is the best use of limited funds which could otherwise be spent on more local, electric, 'metro' style solutions.

Local light rail and buses are much cheaper to build, and the idea that high-tech research necessarily involves constantly zooming back and forth on the train between one another's labs has largely been replaced with, well, Zoom.

Does it really make sense to design a transport network where it's quicker to commute to Addenbrooke's from Bedford than from Northstowe?



### **Comberton Library**

**Tel: 0345 045 5225**

(Monday: 10.00 am – 2.00 pm

Wednesday: 1.00 – 5.00 pm)

It has been lovely welcoming our customers into the library, and hope that many of you have enjoyed the opportunity to browse and choose your own books. Managed browsing is ongoing, whilst we await the Government announcement on the next, and, hopefully, final step on the road to normality. The Library Service is still planning for the return to our full library offer, so please do keep checking the website and the Libraries social media platforms for the latest news.

Access to the public computers continues to be available by appointment only, with a limit of one 45-minute appointment per day per customer still in place. However, I am pleased to confirm that computer access is no longer limited to essential use only, so do make an appointment if you need use of a computer for any reason.

The much-anticipated Summer Reading Challenge for children will be back again this year. I am delighted to be able to announce that the Challenge will be running in the library throughout the school summer holidays. Get ready for Wild World Heroes, in partnership with The Reading Agency. The Reading Agency has teamed up with the WWF for this special nature-themed Challenge and it promises to be another brilliant challenge, a chance for the children to read some amazing books, collect some awesome stickers and learn more about how they can look after the planet! Children will be able to join-up to take part from Saturday 10th July. Further information will be available in the library, and online, Cambridgeshire Libraries Facebook Family page @CambslibFamilies, so please do keep an eye open for the details.

Brochures for the latest The Library Presents programme are available in the library, so do collect a copy when you are next visiting. The full programme is also available online. We are delighted to be able to tell you that The Opera Dudes – Codfathers of Croon! will be performing at Upper Cambourne Amphitheatre, Sterling Way, Cambourne on Saturday 12th June at 4.00 pm. Tickets are £5, £4/£3 concessions and can be booked online at [www.library.live/the-library-presents](http://www.library.live/the-library-presents), or in person at Cambourne or Comberton Libraries. The Opera Dudes are an amazing duo, 'a little bit classical, a little bit swing and a whole lot showbiz'. If you have seen them perform before, you will know that you are in for an amazing hour, or so, of entertainment.

Hi VIS fortnight, a national event, is taking place from 7 – 20 June, with the aim of highlighting the wonderful world of accessible reading. The Library Service has a whole range of accessible reading resources for visual/print impaired customers; books in large print, audio spoken word CDs, e-audio, e-books, all for both adults and children, dyslexia friendly books for children and young people and children's books in giant print and braille. Please do ask the library staff if you would like more information or help in accessing these resources.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful Rhymetime volunteer, Barbara, for all the support she has given to Comberton Library over the past five years. Barbara has run our Rhymetime sessions with such commitment and enthusiasm and given our youngest children and their parent/carers so much fun and enjoyment along the way. Sadly, Barbara has decided that now is the right time for her to 'pass on the baton'. Barbara, you leave us with our sincere thanks for all you have done to support the library and we wish you good health and happiness in all you do in the future.

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

### **A Thankyou**

Following a recent fall on 5 April whilst walking along Brookside, I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thankyou to both the lady walking her dog who initially found me and also to the kind lady and her family who recently moved into the cottage at the bottom of School Lane, for attending to me, phoning for an ambulance and contacting my family.

As a result of the fall I was admitted to Addenbrookes and spent four days undergoing numerous tests and scans. I was very lucky not to fracture or break my hip or arm but nonetheless suffered substantial and severe bruising as well as fracturing ribs down my right side.

I hope to resume my daily walks around the village in the near future and to call on the family to thank them personally for all their kindness and help.

Very many thanks - Beryl Sparks

# Sale of an estate in 1824

This advertisement appeared in the wonderfully named *Huntingdon, St. Ives, St. Neots, Somersham, Ramsey, Stilton, Buckden, Kimbolton, Bedford, Biggleswade and Potton Advertiser* in 1824.

## FREEHOLD ESTATE At Toft, Cambridgeshire

**T**o be sold by auction,  
By COCKETT & NASH,

At the Red Lion, at Toft, on the 19th of November, 1824, at 3 O'clock, (subject to such conditions of sale as will be then produced;)

A FREEHOLD ESTATE, in the county of Cambridge, consisting of a DWELLING-HOUSE, containing sitting-room, parlour, Dairy, Oven, and three bed-rooms; together with a Barn, Stable, and other outbuildings, Yard, 2 GARDENS planted with Fruit Trees, and a CLOSE of rich PASTURE adjoining, containing with the Homestall about Two Acres; also an Inclosed FIELD lying in *East Way Field*, in the parish of TOFT containing 12A. OR. 30p. about 3-acres of which are rich Pasture, the residue good Corn Land, bounded by the Rectory land west, Mr. Whittet south, Mr. Dickerson east, and a driftway north, in the occupation of Mr. John Stern, tenant-at-will, at the yearly rent of £20.

*The Land-Tax is redeemed.*

The Estate may be viewed by applying to the Tenant.

Printed Particulars to be had at the inns and public-houses in the neighbourhood; at the place Of sale; and of COCKETT and NASH, at Royston, Herts.

The Red Lion pub on the village green was a frequent venue for land and property sales. The 1812 map shows the rectory lands as lying south of St Andrew's church. The East Way Field was probably at or near what was called East Way common – land lying north of Bourn Brook between Toft and Comberton. Mr. Dickerson's land is shown in 1812 as lying just south of the church drift, before the drift was diverted to its present route north of the church.

A 'tenant-at-will' agreement between a landlord and tenant did not specify duration or payment and could be terminated at any time. Landowners could, instead of paying the Land tax, pay a lump sum to 'redeem' the land from future liability.

## TOFT SEED SWAP



There has been a lot of activity at the seed swap in the last couple of months.

You still have time to sow vegetable and flower seeds so why not go and have a look.

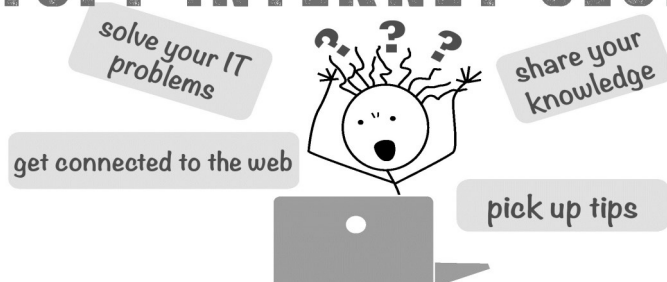
*Thank you to all who have contributed.*



toft\_telephone\_box\_seed\_swap

Instagram

## TOFT INTERNET CLUB



Great news! In June we should at last be able to meet again, in person, in the People's Hall. Put these dates in your diary: Mondays 7 and 21 June, 2-4pm. Do bring along any tecky issues, or any new tips you've learnt in the last year – or just be there to enjoy a bit of company and chat.

We will of course be following guidelines – both those of the government and of the People's Hall – but all current Internet Club members will be circulated about those before the meeting.

For more information, or if you wish to join the group, please contact Katherine ([katherine@jameskj.plus.com](mailto:katherine@jameskj.plus.com)) or Jane ([jane@tebbitdesign.co.uk](mailto:jane@tebbitdesign.co.uk)).



## RE-BUILDING OUR VILLAGE HUB

The April issue of the Calendar included a questionnaire entitled 'A Makeover for Toft People's Hall'. The committee who run the Hall on behalf of the village would like to thank everyone who responded to the questionnaire which amounted to approximately a quarter of all the households in the village (still happy to take any further comments).

The object of the questionnaire was, before upgrading the facilities of the Hall, to consult the village regarding the priorities of residents, particularly in terms of filling gaps not currently covered by existing activities in the Hall.

We are evaluating the results and will have more to report in the June Calendar.

So watch this space!

**We will be opening on the 1st June!**

**booking enquiries can be made  
via [www.toft.org.uk](http://www.toft.org.uk).**

*Steve Pugh, Chairman,  
Toft People's Hall Committee*



# Bedfordshire Cambridgeshire Northamptonshire

**Wildlife Trust: West  
Cambridgeshire  
Hundreds Update, May  
2021**

June is a special month for the Communities and Wildlife team at the Wildlife Trust for Beds Cambs and Northants, as it is the time for 30 Days Wild. This national campaign from the Wildlife Trusts aims to encourage people to engage with nature daily, for a month. You can sign up on our website and be sent a free pack with resources and ideas. There are options for families, care homes, schools, and businesses, because everyone benefits from a closer connection with nature.

[www.wildlifebcn.org/30DaysWild](http://www.wildlifebcn.org/30DaysWild).



*Helophilus pendulus*

If you have children aged 7-11, you might enjoy celebrating 30 Days Wild using my self-guided wildlife-themed scavenger hunt, which can be done in any wilder green space. Please also look out for face-to-face family sessions in our West Cambs Hundreds reserves throughout the school holidays. We run sessions that are accessible for pushchairs and wheel chairs from Cambourne Nature Reserve, where the paths are wider, flatter and surfaced. [www.wildlifebcn.org/events](http://www.wildlifebcn.org/events)

June is a good time to spot flowers and insects on the rides in our woods (the wider tracks). You might come across meadow sweet, which has creamy flowers and a musky smell, and the ringlet butterfly which is dark brown with several darker spots. You might also see hoverflies which are often bee or wasp mimics (they have the colours but not the sting).



*Ringlet butterfly on meadowsweet*

The best way you can help us keep our woodlands great for the wildlife you enjoy, is by sticking to the paths. If you stay on the official paths, use the middle of the paths, and try not to cut corners, you can reduce trampling and soil compaction that affect sensitive plants like oxlip, that grow on the edges of the woodland trails.

I am always pleased to hear what wildlife you have seen on our reserves or in your garden, and I would love to hear about your 30 Days Wild adventures. You can email on [rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org](mailto:rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org), and connect on Facebook @BeccaBadgerWTBCN

BCN Facebook page @wildlifebcn - Tweet: @wildlifebcn - Visit: [www.wildlifebcn.org](http://www.wildlifebcn.org)



## Climate Change Working Group

### Air Source Heat Pumps

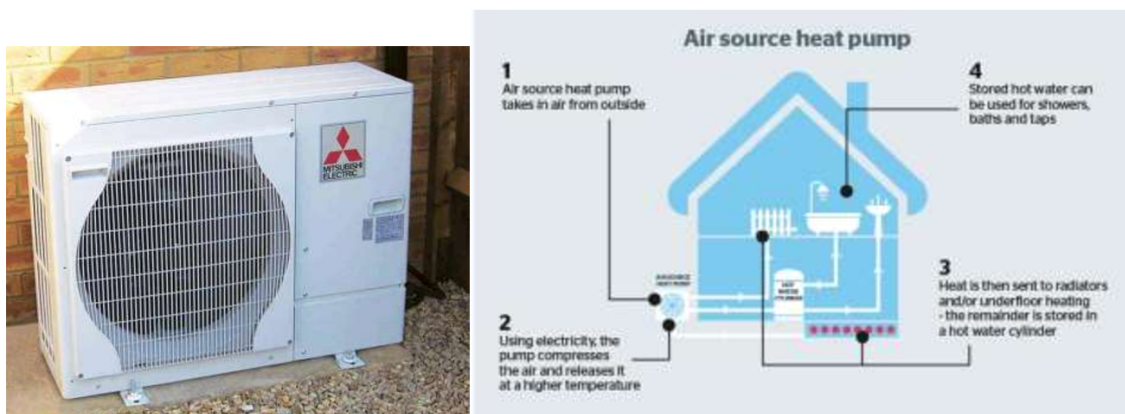
With a national target to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050 the drive to look at our individual carbon footprints needs to start now. One of the main producers of carbon emissions at a domestic level is the way we heat our homes. Fossil fuels are one of the major contributors to one's carbon footprint and there are suggestions that the sale of gas boilers should be stopped by 2025.

Air source heat pumps (ASHP) are currently one of the simplest and easy-to-install ways that one can significantly reduce their carbon footprint.

#### What is an ASHP and how does it work?

ASHPs extract heat from the outside air. They work a bit like your fridge or split air conditioning unit – only in reverse. This heat is concentrated to a higher temperature by the heat pump and then sent to your heating system. The only energy used by a heat pump is electricity to power the compressor and the fans which transfer heat energy from the external air into the building. A well designed ASHP installation will deliver three times as much thermal energy (heat) as is used in electrical energy to drive the system.

Here is a picture of an ASHP unit and a diagram of how it works:



ASHPs work best with heating systems that are optimised to run at low water delivery temperature and as such may be a requirement to increase the size of radiators to emit more heat at a lower temperature. That is why it is often said that underfloor heating is best suited to this type of heating system. The leaving water temperature is no more than 55°C and often a lot less. The hot water temperature is also lower, usually 50°C, than with gas/oil boilers (which is usually 65°C to 70°C) with a weekly disinfection function to increase the water temperature to 55°C to disinfect the water tank.

#### Cost and Incentives

The basic cost of an ASHP system can vary from £4000 to £8000+ for the unit and with installation, increases cost to between £5000 to £10000+ depending on the size of the system required. Installers have a calculator to work out how much heat is required to heat the size of your property and recommend the correct unit. On top, you may need to get improved insulation, larger radiators or install underfloor heating, all of which will inevitably add to the cost. There are also hybrid systems available which use oil/gas as well as an ASHP for when the outside temperature falls below a set level which would be better suited to older properties or properties without adequate insulation.

There are incentives that the Government are currently running. Unfortunately, the Green Homes scheme introduced by the Government last year has been cancelled but the Renewable Heat Incentive is still running by which you can recover most, if not all, of the cost of installation over a seven year period. More can be found here

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/domestic-rhi/applicants>.

### Real world experiences

From my personal experience it has been a bit of a learning curve as to the best way to use the system. We have both underfloor heating (on the ground floor) and radiators (first floor) and the way underfloor heating works requires a change in mindset when compared to traditional gas/oil boilers. As the leaving water temperature is lower and the time it takes for underfloor heating to heat up the home it works out better to maintain a comfortable temperature throughout the day and only let the temperature drop by a couple of degrees overnight. This works best especially in winter when the outside temperature is below 7°C, the efficiency of the heat pump starts to reduce and heating the home takes longer. With radiators, heating arrives quicker than underfloor heating (which can take a number of hours) but disappears quicker which causes the heat pump to turn on more frequently, so it is best to have a separate zone/thermostat for them.

When it comes to running costs, I am finding it to be higher than it probably would be with using oil as a fuel but it takes away all the stresses associated with having an oil fired boiler. Added to this is the advantage of lower carbon emissions. These are arguably huge plus points which are well worth it in my opinion.

Here is a comment from a Toft resident who has had an ASHP for a number of years:

"I had an air heat pump installed three years ago. It's quiet, clean, odourless and efficient. My house is small, so I have just one operating unit, which is ample. It does take time to get used to - radiators are never hot, for example, as the heat is rapidly dispersed into the air, and there's a longer time-delay in heating a room or the house by this means - but once up to temperature it's very comfortable. The water is heated during the night, to use energy more efficiently. Of course the pump requires electricity, so my electricity bills are higher than previously, but that's balanced against the cost of buying oil, the hassle of having it delivered, the smell, and the presence of a large oil tank!"

If you would like to discuss more about ASHPs, or if you have any ideas to do with climate change, or if you wish to join the Climate Change Working Group please email: [cllr.popat@tpc.toft.org.uk](mailto:cllr.popat@tpc.toft.org.uk)

## LIVE THEATRE RETURNS - TO YOUR DOORSTEP!

Dear Residents of Toft

What a year we've all had! It's certainly been a culturally barren twelve months, with our theatres and live music venues having remained closed throughout the pandemic. Whilst they are now tentatively beginning to reopen their doors, it will be some time before the UK's world leading arts sector returns to the thriving industry it once was.

But, fear not, as live performance is about to return. Prepare to be enthralled, moved and amused by the magic of storytelling once again because we - HALF CUT THEATRE - are bringing the theatre to YOU!

We are delighted to be visiting **The Willow Tree in Bourn on Thursday 17th June** with our new adaptation of Shakespeare's...

### TWELFTH NIGHT

Whether you're a seasoned theatre-goer or Shakespeare novice, this 75 minute raucous reimagining of one of the Bard's best loved comedies is a guaranteed winner for those aged three to 103!

Half Cut Theatre passionately believe that theatre should be available and affordable for everyone so we do not set advance ticket prices - instead you reserve your space for free at [www.halfcuttheatre.co.uk/book](http://www.halfcuttheatre.co.uk/book) and then you Pay What You Decide after the performance - it's up to you!

Performances are at **5pm & 7:30pm** and the fantastic bar and kitchen at The Willow Tree will of course be open, making this a pub garden experience like no other!

Don't miss this occasion of post lockdown joy - we cannot wait to see you there! See our advert on the following page ...

*The HCT team*



Praise for Half Cut Theatre's "A Midsummer Night's Dream: The Hour"



**"GLITTERINGLY ENTERTAINING... RICHLY FUNNY"**

Sardines Magazine

# TWELFTH

# Night

**TICKETS**  
**PAY WHAT**  
**YOU DECIDE**  
**AFTER THE SHOW**

BY **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**  
ADAPTED BY **HALF CUT THEATRE**

**THURSDAY 17TH JUNE**

**5PM & 7.30PM**

**THE WILLOW TREE**

**29 HIGH ST, BOURN, CAMBRIDGE**  
**CB23 2SQ**

TO RESERVE A SPACE VISIT  
[WWW.HALFCUTTHEATRE.CO.UK/BOOK](http://WWW.HALFCUTTHEATRE.CO.UK/BOOK)  
OR CALL 07892 854658



HALF CUT THEATRE



@CUTTTHEATRE



@HALFCUTTHEATRE



TO BOOK

A Toft lady stopped me while I was out walking to say how much she enjoyed reading Tim Speed's poem about the loss of wildlife to development in last month's Calendar. I told her that I've found that poets seem to gravitate towards each other, a bit like lemmings, or a rural version of The Bloomsbury Set! Indeed I've recently been sent some poetry by another countryman, Bob Hacker whose farming business is near Lolworth should you have yet to discover the lovely local produce at Hacker's Farm. It's interesting to know that a farmer, in tandem with going about his often mundane tasks in mud and muck, is composing poetry about his beloved brothers or lost love.

Like Tim, (Gransden Bard), I told Bob, (Lolworth Bard) I would try to get a wider audience for his poems other than his livestock by submitting his words to our Village Calendar.

*Marion Read (Toft Bard).*

~~~~~

### **Seasons**

The seasons they come and go  
Like the tide with its ebb and flow,  
Winter when the north winds blow  
Brings down the ice and snow,  
Makes the face and fingers glow.

Followed by the warming days of spring  
Then the songbirds start to sing,  
In the breeze the catkins swing  
Swallows return on the wing.

Then those hot summer days  
The sun sends down those glaring rays,  
Watching the fox cub as he plays  
Seeing the flight of a pair of jays.

Autumn with its cooling breeze  
Bringing down those colourful leaves,  
Leaving bare the majestic trees  
No more swarming of the bees.

Then comes the fog and the rain,  
The seasons start all over again.

*Bob Hacker, Lolworth, Cambridge CB23 8HD*

*(If you liked that, we've found room for another one of Bob's verses on p.19)*



# Meridian Primary School

*Learning for life – striving for excellence*

Greetings Neighbours,

We are all so happy to be back into the summer term, a term that is beginning to feel more like the terms we are used to. The children are enjoying a number of school clubs in addition to the school day and we are holding parent consultations for all year groups. We were so happy to welcome our EYFS parents into the EYFS classroom to see their children's environment. This was particularly important to us as our youngest children and their parents have only ever operated from distance remotely and have not been in school.

The school council and a team of staff are keen to make the vision of our habitat garden a reality. This is a small project but one which we were not able to complete last summer. We are looking forward to seeing the developments take shape this term. Our vision is to create a calm and peaceful space for children to enjoy and we are busy with designs. The children have shared so many ideas for possible features in this garden including sensory and wildlife areas and our school councillors are writing to companies to help source items.

We are now looking at ways we can fund all outdoor areas of the school including the attention required for the KS1 playground. We have had the vision for years, the children wanted to create a quiet tranquil part of our outdoor area for sitting, reflecting, imagining and reading but we were unable to start this last year. This year, it is especially important that we create the space for the health and well-being benefits for our community. Many local companies have agreed to help us: Thank you! Please do get in touch if you are able to support this project.

The whole school took part in a Friday skip this term (staff included). This was part of the Cambridgeshire School Sports Partnership and many other schools took part. It was great to see that so many children were able to improve their skipping skills, learn new sophisticated skips and improve personal achievements.

The children in Year 6 are working on a project about plastic in collaboration with Cambridge United, The Premier League and Sky. The Sky Ocean Rescue Project is encouraging social action to increase awareness of single use plastic. The children created videos, presentations and wrote letters – even letters to the Prime Minister. We will be displaying their 3D art structure that symbolises their message at the entrance of the school.

We are delighted that our Hilltop residential will still go ahead! We have two very excited year groups soon off to Hilltop in Norfolk.

We are trialling a bus service from and to Toft after half-term for our children who live there. If it is a success, we hope to put it into full time service from September.

May I take this opportunity again to thank again all the staff, children, families and governors for all their hard work. As always, thank you for your support and keep well.

Kind regards,

*Mrs C. Etchie - Headteacher*

**Hello,**

We're raising £3000 to Fund printing costs for a book of short stories, games and puzzles to raise much needed funds for **The East Anglian Children's Hospice**.

Please donate to my JustGiving Crowdfunding Page and help make it happen:

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jill-adderley?utm\\_id=1&utm\\_term=nm2NdNWER](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jill-adderley?utm_id=1&utm_term=nm2NdNWER)





## ForkTalk

Eager to test out the new al fresco dining arrangements we currently live with, the ForkTalk team took excitedly to the road and headed to Woodditton, just the other side of

Stetchworth, where can be found, at the southern tip of the Devil's Dyke, **The Three Blackbirds**. This seventeenth-century drinking hole was pretty much gutted by a fire in 2018, so what you see now, apart from the basic shell and structure, is all new. That said, it's an attractive mix of styles - fit for purpose in the 21st century but still recognisably olde-worlde in essence. I don't know what it was like before the fire, but I'd say the renovators haven't done a bad job. It's now part of a smallish chain going by the name of the Chestnut Group. Forensic examination - or random Googling, whichever you find easier - reveals that this group owns or runs a dozen or so eateries throughout East Anglia, including The Rupert Brooke at Grantchester and Jamie Oliver's old stamping ground, The Cricketers, at Clavering. Inside, the pub was almost sepulchral still and empty, but they had managed to tack on canvassed enclosures at front and rear and it was to one of these that we were ushered on arrival.

Clearly, the current restrictions pile a whole heap of additional operating difficulties on places like this and we had come prepared to overlook a few glitches and wobbles in the spirit of good old British fair-play and tolerance. As it turned out, we needn't have worried. Having followed the increasingly bizarre safety rituals (Stand here and you must wear a mask. Move one foot that way and sit down, and you can take it off) we took our places in the tent. We'd chosen a comparatively clement day for this excursion but the tent itself was pretty wind and weather-tight and equipped with a striking outdoor heater, so we were all reasonably snug. In fact, the thought that we may as well have been indoors struck more than one of us as the afternoon wore on. We couldn't fully investigate the bar area but our waitress, attentive without being intrusive, was happy to run through what was on offer. The wine list was pronounced satisfactory, if not exactly packed with bargains and we noticed a vast array of gins on offer, for those who fancied something rather more bracing. Beers - well, what can I say? A depressing collection of euro-fizzes and the 'selection of cask-ales' promised on the web-site turned out to be a mere one in number. Still, it was Adnams' Southwold bitter, a potable brew, so all was not lost. Apparently, many local brewers have not quite run their production levels back up to full-chat yet - that, at least, was the

explanation proffered and it seems likely enough. Settling down with our drinks, we perused the menu. No surprises here - there's a good selection of tried and trusted stuff and, if it's cutting-edge Heston-style experimentation from just this side of culinary insanity you're after, you'll have come to the wrong place.

After a short wait, our first courses arrived. Two of us had ordered a 'sharing platter' of assorted 'Suffolk cured meats and local cheese'. When it arrived, I became a little puzzled. Chorizo? Salami? Prosciutto? Unless they meant that they'd bought all this lot from the Newmarket Aldi, I couldn't really tease out the 'Suffolk' connection. But it was good stuff, regardless and I didn't even try to guess where the cheese came from. Main courses were distinctly unadventurous - we all plumped for various roasts and their accompaniments. Very pleased we did, too. I have no idea if the piece of beef I was presented with actually started its journey in Suffolk, as advertised, nor do I care. What I can tell you is that it retained a slightly pinkish hue but nevertheless simply pulled apart like moist gossamer. And tasted just as good as it sounds. I don't know where they got it, but I want that cow. The escorting vegetables (and this time I could believe they came from Suffolk, or even its superior veg-growing neighbour, Cambridgeshire) were just as good. Even the quantities were right, so I ended up feeling pleasantly replete, rather than over-stuffed or, worse still, peckish.

After that, it was a challenge to take on the puds, but we're nothing if not combative at ForkTalk. A treacle tart, described as 'like nothing I've had before', quickly vanished, as did a white chocolate cheesecake and various velvety ice-creams. After that, it was on to the post-prandial teas and coffees and even here, the quality was evident.

To sum up - it was difficult to fault The Three Blackbirds. Maybe they're all just pleased to see their customers finally returning and revelling in the novelty of it all - who knows? Our waitress, who had been helpful, pleasant and professional throughout, did let me into one little secret, though: When it comes to a tip - she prefers cash. And, on the subject of money, this place is neither dirt-cheap nor silly-Cambridge-expensive. The four of us paid one hundred and seventy pounds, but this did include drinks. It's around a twenty-five minute drive to Woodditton from here, but on the strength of our experience, worth the petrol.\*

\*Other fuels are available. They just don't work in my car..

# healthwatch

## Cambridgeshire

### ***Wanted: your views on health and care***

What do you think about the health and care services you use? Good or bad, your views are wanted by Healthwatch.

Healthwatch is the independent champion for health and care in Cambridgeshire/ Peterborough (use one or other as appropriate). And it listens to local people and shares their experiences to help improve NHS and care services.

The kinds of things you can tell us about...

- ◇ Covid vaccinations - how did it go?
- ◇ Who's doing a great job? Your local dentist, pharmacist or district nurse?
- ◇ Visits to the GP - are video consultations working well or are you struggling to see your local doctor?
- ◇ Hospital waiting lists - we know many people are waiting for treatment and procedures. Tell us what would help you while you wait.
- ◇ Home care services
- ◇ Care homes
- ◇ Using the NHS 111 First service

Get in touch

Give your feedback at <https://www.healthwatchpeterborough.co.uk/share-your-views> or <https://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/share-your-views>

(please use the appropriate Cambridgeshire or Peterborough website link)

Not online? You can also call 0330 355 1285 or text: 0752 0635 176.

### **East-West Facts**

The population of the UK is forecast to grow by 16% by 2050 with the addition of 3 million homes. 1 million of these are planned for the ridiculous 'Ox-Cam Arc'. So - a third of the country's entire housing growth will be in just 4.7% of the UK's land area. Of that one million, 271,000 are planned for Cambridgeshire.

Q: Who does this benefit?

A: Not you

Aren't we the lucky ones!

(information courtesy of [www.cambridgeapproaches.org](http://www.cambridgeapproaches.org))



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**

We want everyone to enjoy the sunny weather safely this summer.

High temperatures and dry areas of land can be perfect conditions for a fire to spread.

Something as simple as not stubbing a cigarette out

properly, or using a disposable barbecue on grass, can start a fire that can get out of control quickly.

There are some simple steps we urge residents to take to help prevent an outdoor fire:

- Use barbecues on a hard, flat surface, away from grass, shrubs or fencing.
- Put disposable barbecues on bricks, do not place directly on grass.
- Ensure cigarettes are completely out
- Do not throw cigarettes out of car windows onto grass verges or vegetation
- Do not leave glass bottles lying on the ground, the sun's rays reflect through the glass and can start a fire
- Talk to your children about the dangers of starting a fire.

For the latest news, incidents and safety advice, or to contact us, log on to [www.cambsfire.gov.uk](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk). Sign up to email alerts and find us on Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Facebook.

### ***Test your smoke alarm!***

Did you know that you should test your smoke alarms at least once a month? Or that you should have smoke alarms on every floor of your home? Or that Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service do free home visits to make sure your home is fire safe?

Visit this website for helpful tips and advice: <https://firekills.campaign.gov.uk/>

It only takes one accident to start a fire. Fire kills. Let's prevent it.

### **Time**

Whilst a baby as you slept

Time crept.

As a boy you started to talk

Time walked.

Once you became a young man

Time ran.

When you got older as you do

Time flew.

All of a sudden you're getting on

Time gone.

*Bob Hacker, Lolworth, Cambridge CB23 8HD*

**Wheelie Bin Collections For June**

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

**Black Bin:**

Weds 9th June

Weds 23rd June

**Blue/Green Bin**

Thurs 3rd June

Weds 16th June

Weds 30th June

**Notice to Advertisers**

**Advertisements** are published quarterly. Copy for inclusion in the next available edition of the Calendar **must** reach us by 17th July 2021 at the *very latest*. Advertisements will **NOT** be published unless full payment has been received in advance. Please note: *We are currently unable to accept PDF file types*. Quarter-page adverts **MUST** be Portrait-style, half-page adverts **MUST** be Landscape-style. In the first instance, advertisers should contact **Pat Gouldstone** at: [calendaradstoft@gmail.com](mailto:calendaradstoft@gmail.com) to discuss their requirements.

**✂ USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS**

Alcoholics Anonymous: 0845 769 7555  
 Anglian Water (for sewage): 08457 145 145  
 Ashcroft Veterinary Surgery: 01954 210250  
 Bourn GPs' Surgery: 01954 719313  
 Cambridge AIDS help-line: (01223) 508805  
 Cambs County Council: 0345 045 5200  
 Cambridge Dial a Ride 01223 506335  
 Cambridge Water: 01223 706050  
 Care Network Cambridgeshire 01954 211919.  
 Citizens Advice Bureau: 0844 848 7979  
 Comberton GPs' Surgery: 01223 262500  
 Comberton Village College: 01223 262503  
 Community Warden (Age UK CAP) 07812 495997  
 County Councillor: 07402351821  
 CVC Community Education: 01223 264721  
 District Councillor: 01954 210040  
 Household Waste/Pest Control: 0345 045 0063  
 Lifespan Health Care, Family and Child Team: 01223 264460  
 Member of Parliament: Phone 01223 830037  
 Meridian Primary School: 01223 262423  
 Police: 101 (Emergencies: 999)  
 (Local Beat Officer is PCSO Sam Kennedy)  
 Road/Pothole Reporting: 0345 045 5212  
 Street Lighting: 0800 7838 247  
 Street Cleaning: 03450 450 063  
 South Cambs District Council: 03450 450 500  
 South Cambs Fire and Rescue: 01480 444 500  
 Toft Car Scheme: 262814. If no reply 262708  
 Trading Standards: 0345 0455206  
 UK Power Networks (Emergencies): 0800 31 63 105

*The Fitzwilliam Museum writes to tell us:*

**We're Back!**

We are delighted to welcome you back into the Museum! You can now see our new exhibitions '*The Human Touch*' and '*Scent from Nature*'.



As well as our displays: *Don't Wash Your Hands: Neither Light Agrees To Enter The Eyes Nor Air The Lungs* and *The Macclesfield Psalter*.

Book your tickets!

For information about your visit and safety, please see our Covid guidelines under our Opening Hours section on our website.

Before your visit please read the following information:

Museums and galleries now have a legal duty to ask every visitor over the age of 16 for their contact details, and to display the QR code poster for the NHS Test and Trace App. Please be aware that, in line with Government requirements, when you visit the museum, every member of your party over the age of 16 will need either to register using the NHS Test and Trace app or to provide their name and contact details.

*The Fitzwilliam Museum*

*Trumpington St, Cambridge CB2 1RB*

*Opening Hours (At time of printing):*

*Tuesday - Saturday: 10:00 - 17:00*

*Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays: 12:00 - 17:00*

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

Contributors are asked to note that all 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 you must) 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 June**. Many thanks to all who contributed to this edition.  
 Email: [calendareditor@toft.org.uk](mailto:calendareditor@toft.org.uk) Post: 33 Egremont Road, Hardwick, Cambridge CB23 7XR Telephone: 01954 211346