

TOFT VILLAGE CALENDAR

JUNE 2025



DIARY DATES

The Parish Council

The Parish Council
will meet on
Monday 2nd June.

Toft Friendship Club

[Over 50s Club]
Wednesday 11th
June. We hope to be
taking an afternoon
boat trip.

Midsummer Music

Saturday 21st June at
4.30pm at
St Andrew's Church

Kingston Wood Manor Open Gardens

Sunday 29th June
2:30 - 5:00pm

Cocktail Evening at the Club

Saturday 7th June
8.00pm

Toft Sports

Save the date
Saturday 19th July

EDITORIAL

On May 8th, Toft, alongside numerous other communities across the nation, marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Eight decades earlier, VE Day was certainly a time of unbridled jubilation and relief in Britain after years of grinding conflict in Europe had finally ended. Millions of war-weary citizens celebrated but many of these same people also felt that World War Two itself had somehow ended with victory over Germany. The ongoing bloody conflict in the Far East was rather distant and largely unrelatable to these people's everyday lives.

For many communities across the Eastern region, however, the war in South-East Asia was very real as many families on VE Day were still awaiting news about the thousands of men of the Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire battalions captured by the Japanese with the fall of Singapore in early 1942. Much like the 'Pals' battalions of World War One, these Territorial Army units drew upon East Anglian communities for most of their recruits.

The troops arrived in Singapore to reinforce the island's defences at the end of January/early February 1942 to a nightmare situation. After two weeks of fierce fighting against overwhelming Japanese forces, the Singapore garrison was forced to surrender. Initially held in the notorious Changi Prison, there followed three and a half years of brutal captivity in POW camps, with many ending up working on the notorious Burma-Thailand railway.

The Cambridgeshire Regiment alone was about 1,900 strong when it arrived in Singapore in 1942. By the end of 1945, 784 officers and men had died in either the brief period of fighting or as prisoners. These included Norman Custerson and Roland Braysher, both named on the Toft War Memorial, who died in Japanese POW camps.

One Toft resident, Harry Sparks, remarkably survived both POW camps and the Burma Railway and made it home. Other enlisted men from Toft, including Clifford and Donald Tebbit and later residents such as Richard Howard, also deployed in the region during 1945/1946, so our small village has a significant connection with the South-East Asia war zone.

In 2025, we have recently celebrated the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe but on August 15th, we can also recognise the contributions made by members of our community to that other distant conflict and the official end of World War Two.

Big Toft Breakfast - AMAZING!

Huge thanks to everyone who contributed to making the annual Big Breakfast such an enormous success - yet again! Organised by the 'Women of Toft' and run by a huge team of fabulous volunteers of all genders, we filled Toft People's Hall with joyful people feasting on delicious breakfasts and donating to charity.

Over 200 breakfasts were served. Volunteers baked, shopped, shifted furniture, did flower displays, cooked, made drinks, cleared tables, washed up and created a truly fun event for everyone. The people of Toft and beyond (of all ages) came together.

Supported by donations from Toft Shop, Comberton Co-operative, Tesco (Milton) and Sainsbury's, we raised £615.20 for Fairtrade and £615.20 for Farm Africa".

The Schoolroom Café

The Café and 'Funtime for Little Ones' will stay open every Wednesday from 10.30am to 1.30pm throughout the school holidays in the People's Hall and families with children are very welcome. Families with babies and toddlers are especially welcome to join the half-hour of singing and stories at 10.30am. It's free and there's no need to book. Home-made biscuits at 2 for 50p are available every week and are particularly popular with children. We also have highchairs and safety mugs for hot drinks and a variety of toys to keep the little ones happy when rhyme time is finished.

If you would like help in the Café, or make soup or bake cakes, please talk to one of the team leaders, or email Gill at: gill.ppugh@gmail.com.

MINISTRY TEAM THE CHURCH IN TOFT

St Andrew's Parish Church

We have some changes to the Ministry team.

Assistant Curate:

Revd Barnabas Leeke 07787 800 888

Lay Minister:

Barbara Preece Tel: 263466

Churchwardens:

Ann Mitchell 262516

Elizabeth Dolman 262574

Deputy Wardens:

John Quenby 263949

Jean Verney (who is also the Treasurer)

Methodist Church

Minister: Revd Charity Nzegwu

01763 241803

Stewards:

Diana Tebbit 263557

Stephen Acklam 264055

Mrs Pat Morton 264010

SERVICES OF WORSHIP

Thursday, 29th May – Ascension Day

7.00pm St. Mary's Comberton

1st June

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

Revd Prof. Michael Reiss

11.00am Holy Communion, Methodist Church

Revd Priscilla Slusar

8th June

11.00am Holy Communion, St. Andrew's

Revd Barnabas Leeke

15th June

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

Revd Prof. Michael Reiss

11.00am Morning Worship, Methodist Church

Revd Robert Dolman

22nd June

11.00am Holy Communion, St. Andrew's

Revd Barnabas Leeke

29th June

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

Revd Prof. Michael Reiss

10.30am Team Service, Dry Drayton

Sing Holy Communion for Feast Day with combined choirs

Revd Claire Robertson & Becca Herrick

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

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

May we remember

On VE Day, more than 80 of us could be found on Lot Meadow, observing the lighting of the Beacon, but as I stood in the dark listening to *I Vow to Thee My Country*, I remembered that, for many in Toft, VE Day was not a great event – the farming year was vital and food was short. For local men in the Cambridgeshire Regiment, it would be three more months till VJ Day and the end of the war and many, many months more till they got home. We tragically lost three villagers to WWII but, much like the First World War, it otherwise touched Toft lightly; we remain a Thankful Village.

After the war, Toft menfolk did their National Service and to the village came also men who had served: a Battle of Britain pilot, an RAF Pathfinder, a Lancaster bomber navigator, to remember but three. Whether we are old enough to remember the celebrations, rationing, hand-me down clothes, stories told by grandparents or whether the great wars are just part of 'history lessons', we in Toft try to be a small part of our nation's remembrance.

One hundred and fifty years ago, our Methodist Chapel was opened, and in its wall is our village memorial. About 100 miles away is the National Memorial Arboretum - a space where everyone can celebrate lives lived and remember lives lost. It is a beautiful and inspiring place, a home for more than 400 memorials with tales of bravery shown in the most extraordinary of times, selfless service and sacrifice, camaraderie and care in major war and minor conflict. From the Armed Forces and Emergency Services to civilian organisations that supported our nation in times of need, people from all walks of life are represented with designs that are rich in symbolism reflecting those they remember.

In today's world, threatened by conflict on many sides, may we remember that in 1945 this country, indeed most of the world, hoped that peace was at hand.

ALM



**Action for
Pulmonary Fibrosis**

The call for donations to this worthy cause in the May issue omitted to mention that the Toft resident involved in fundraising is Jean Stewart. It is already well on its way to its target, so if you wish to donate, go to <https://www.justgiving.com/page/jo-nix-1?utm.medium=FR&utm.source=CL&utm.campaign=015>



CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY



Election of Church Wardens

At the election on April 27th Ann Mitchell and Elizabeth Dolman were elected as the new Wardens. John Quenby has stepped back and will assist as a Deputy Warden with Jean Verney to make the team. He took on the role at the APCM in 2016, taking over all things churchyard and maintenance as well as becoming our coffee 'barista' following the death of Pat Gouldstone. So much has been achieved in the last nine years with the repair of the south roof and the brilliant repair of the churchyard wall during the covid period, the clearing and levelling of the 'Lebanon cedar' corner, the digging of holes for ashes, bonfires galore, working with the

Guides when they do their evening in the churchyard, strimming before the Wartons took this on (and we are so grateful to them too), our new notice board – just to name a few of the many jobs he has undertaken with skill and humour. On behalf of the Parish, thank you John.

CLOSURE OF TOFT METHODIST CHAPEL

It is with enormous sadness that we report that the last service, after more than 160 years, will take place in Toft Methodist Chapel on Sunday 27th July at 3.00pm. The building will then be closed.

Friendship Club

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 11th, when we hope to be taking an afternoon boat trip. However,... the arrangements have not yet been finalised.

We will keep all those who have renewed their membership informed of the arrangements. Annual subscriptions were due in April but, even allowing for sickness and holidays, about 11 people have not rejoined.

If you think you would like to join us, please contact Doreen or Ann.

Around the Villages

Kingston Wood Manor Open Gardens

Sunday, June 29th; 2:30 - 5:00pm

by kind invitation of Julian and Sara Metherell

Admission: £5 with children free.

Please note that children must be supervised by an adult at all times. No Dogs Please.

All proceeds will be for the Church of All Saints and St. Andrew, Kingston.

Cambs Deaf Association

Cambridgeshire Deaf Association invite you to FREE NHS Hearing Aid Maintenance sessions on the 4th Wednesday morning of every month 10am – 12pm at The Cabin, St. Mary's Church, Hardwick.

CDA offer a range of FREE services including NHS hearing aid maintenance, battery supply services, advice and signposting to local services.

Come and see us - we're a friendly bunch.

Our Facebook page link <https://www.facebook.com/CambsDeaf/> Our twitter link @cambsdeaf



TOFT SHOP & POST OFFICE

Toft shop reduced opening hours in June

Due to personal circumstances Toft Shop will have reduced opening hours in June.

3rd and 4th June: Closed all day

5th to 16th June: Open mornings only 7am – 1pm (afternoons closed)

The Post office will be closed from 3rd to 16th June.

We apologise for any inconvenience.

Thank you.

Jenny and Justin



Comberton Summer Festival

July 5th 2025

Comberton Rec.

TOFT PARISH COUNCIL

Who is on the Council?

The Parish Council is comprised of a Chair and Deputy Chair and five other councillors, all of whom are volunteers. Currently these members are:

	Phone	E-mail
Chair:		
Martin Yeadon	263663	cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk
Deputy:		
Elaine Miles	262255	cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk
Emma Darbyshire	07763 463234	cllr.darbyshire@tpc.toft.org.uk
Rebecca Harris	07796 176333	cllr.harris@tpc.toft.org.uk
Giles Harrison		cllr.harrison@tpc.toft.org.uk
Sarah Tebbit		cllr.tebbit@tpc.toft.org.uk
Clerk:		
Ben Stoehr	01954 210241	clerk@tpc.toft.org.uk

The Parish Council will meet next on Monday 2nd June

The Parish Council met on 12th May 2025 at 7.00pm and held the Toft Annual Parish Meeting, followed by The Annual Meeting of William Eversden's Charity (Allotments) and the monthly meeting of Toft Parish Council. The next Parish Council Meeting will be 2nd June 2025 and all are welcome to attend.

The meeting opened with **Toft Annual Parish Meeting**

Cllr Harris sent her apologies for absence.

Minutes of the previous Annual Parish meeting were approved. There were no matters arising.

Cllr Martin Yeadon read the report of the Parish Council for the year, listing the many projects which the PC has been involved in. (Full report printed elsewhere in the Calendar.) It was warmly received and there were no comments.

The Parish Council's audited accounts, ending 31st March 2024, were accepted. The last audited accounts are available on the Parish Council webpage (see below).

The District Councillor for Hardwick and Toft, Cllr Lina Nieto, indicated that this could be her last attendance due to re-organisation of councils and merging of roles. She was planning to focus on mental health among young people during the coming year. **She was keen to point out that anybody suffering with mental health problems could contact her (07506 420655) and she would direct them to appropriate organisations that could offer help.**

The meeting closed at 7.15pm. The next Toft Annual Parish Meeting will be on May 11th. 2026.

The **William Eversden's Charity Meeting** followed with the election of Cllr Martin Yeadon as Chair and Cllr Elaine Miles as Deputy Chair. Cllr Harris' apologies for absence were noted and the minutes of the last

meeting were approved.

The PC commended the work done by Sharon Chandler in keeping the footpath free of weeds and open for the public to walk on. However, it was reported that some dog walkers were allowing their dogs to run freely over the allotments, causing damage and leaving faeces. It was agreed that the PC would provide a notice at either end of the entrance to the allotments telling owners that when walking through the allotments, dogs must be kept on a lead and under control.

It was agreed that as the allotment rents had not been raised for several years from the current rent of £15 p.a., this would be increased to £20 p.a. next year.

Water extraction from the borehole has been successful during times of abundant rainfall, but much less so during dry periods, even with priming, when the water table is low. It was agreed that this information would be passed on to Jim Tebbit along with the request for a broken bracket to be fixed. It was agreed that the PC would fund the fuel for the brush cutter when it is required.

The meeting closed at 7.32pm. The next biennial Allotment meeting will be on November 3rd 2025 and the next Annual Allotment Meeting will be on 11th May 2026.

The monthly **Parish Council Meeting** followed with the election of Cllr Martin Yeadon as Chair and Cllr Elaine Miles as Deputy. Other Council members agreed to continue in their current roles and duties. However, Cllr Giles Harrison took over Planning from Cllr Yeadon and Cllr Sarah Tebbit took on the responsibility for the Defibrillator. It was agreed that Cllr Elaine Miles and Cllr Emma Darbyshire would share the Wildlife role.

A member of the public raised the issue of high noise levels from the musical equipment in the children's playground with a view to it being removed. It was agreed that this should be opened to the Toft community and views are being sought. Please see the notice elsewhere in the Calendar.

Cllr Harris' apologies for absence were noted. Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

The Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessments were all accepted along with the current Assets list, Insurance policy and fidelity guarantee.

The PC is awaiting information on a proposal for a climbing wall in the children's playground.

We are awaiting information from SCDC about replacing the open-topped bins with closed-topped bins. This is considered desirable to prevent litter from blowing out, prevent dogs and foxes from raiding the bins and to reduce amounts of litter in the bins which should be recycled elsewhere.

The PC recently completed a walkabout one night to assess whether there were any areas that needed extra streetlights. Cllr Yeadon is completing the report and it will be presented at the next meeting.

Cllr Darbyshire informed the meeting that she has agreed to meet with Martin Sebborn, date to be confirmed, to discuss ways in which the Toft website

could be improved and updated.

Cllr Yeadon confirmed that the VE day was successful and well-attended. Regrettably, the Peace Lantern, ordered well in advance, was not delivered. A refund will be provided by the company.

Under Members' items, Cllr Darbyshire had reported the broken road sign on the Hardwick Road at the entrance to the village but has had no reply to date. She further agreed to report a billboard advertising tuition, which has been illegally erected on the frontage of the building site next to the Home Meadow Care Home. Finally, she informed the meeting that she will follow up on the problem of overhead wires passing through trees on Brookside, which has already been reported but no reply received.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Minutes of Parish Council meetings are available online at <https://tpc.toft.org.uk>

Toft Parish Council AGM 2024-25

Report by the Chair, Martin Yeadon

Your Parish Council consists of Cllrs Elaine Miles, Beccy Harris, Sarah Tebbit, Emma Darbyshire and Giles Harrison. Recently we lost Cllr Christine Watson as she moved from the village. We are currently one Councillor short of a full Council and we will continue to try to fill that position.

Regarding EWR, the PC has continued to be actively involved in the process, responding to the most recent Consultation and attending several meetings with EWR. My current assessment is that it will ultimately go ahead so we need to try to minimise the construction disruption, ensure that footpaths are maintained and make as many other gains, such as cycleways, as we can.

Cllr Watson carried on with the monthly monitoring of the playground to ensure its safety. During the summer of 2024, we were able to replace the old climbing structure for younger children with a new colourful one with soft surface material below it. The rest of the wooden equipment has been repainted. We also agreed to carry out a tree survey to ensure the trees around the playground were safe and we are awaiting the results. Cllr Watson continued her monthly inspections of the Defibrillator readiness.

Cllr Darbyshire organised the installation of several bird boxes around the village. We are grateful to the Men's Shed for the construction and installation of these boxes. The PC was also pleased with the Lot Meadow sign made by the Men's Shed.

We have been unsuccessful, so far, with our bid to establish a 20mph limit throughout Toft but have reapplied this year. It will be several months before we know the outcome.

Cllr Darbyshire has also been diligent in reporting potholes and other County Council (CC) issues on their website. We have asked the CC to prioritise the repair of some of our road drains in the village as they continue

to cause problems.

Cllr Harris has taken on the lead role in managing the grass cutting contract. We changed contractor this year, taking on the lowest-priced contract and so far, it is going well.

Cllr Miles has diligently managed the notice board and compiled summaries of our meetings for the Calendar. She also managed the village survey of natural resources and is leading on the Hedgehog Day planned for June this year.

Cllr Yeadon continued to carry out the two-weekly battery replacements on the speed monitors and downloaded the data that we gather from the monitors. The PC has ordered solar panels to replace the batteries. Significant repairs were made to the bus shelter to extend its longevity.

The PC is grateful to Tricia and Cynan Ellis-Evans for continuing to manage Lot Meadow and thanks are due also to all those involved in the various Lot Meadow working parties over the year. The PC continued to develop the Queen's Platinum Jubilee area and this year we planted a mixed hedge at the rear of the area. We are again grateful to Tricia and Cynan for managing that activity.

Cllr Yeadon led the successful VE 80th Anniversary celebrations although thanks go to Martin Sebborn for organising the Beacon lighting and Carol Wilmot for organising the refreshments funded by the PC.

The PC has successfully managed the finances and was able to maintain the Precept at the same level as the previous year.

The Chair finished by thanking all the Councillors for all their efforts during the year and their support to him. He also thanked Ben, our Clerk, and the rest of the LGS team for their support.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Playground Musical Equipment

The Parish Council has received a complaint from a resident living close to the children's playground regarding the noise level of the musical equipment and has requested that the equipment be removed. Before any such undertaking, the Parish Council must seek the views of other residents and users of this equipment. We would welcome your comments, in writing, on the removal or the retention of the musical equipment. Please be assured that your replies will be treated with the strictest confidence. Please contact the Clerk, Ben Stoehr, clerk@tpc.toft.org.uk before 28th June and/or make your views known at the Parish Council meeting on 7th July. All are welcome to attend and join the discussion.

Hedgehog Awareness Day

Sunday 15th June 2025

2.00pm – 4.00pm

at Toft People's Hall

This **free** event has been organised with staff from the

Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital, who will be there to raise awareness of the plight of hedgehogs and explain how you can help.



Learn how to * handle a hedgehog*

* feed a hedgehog

* administer food to a hoglet

* recognise signs of illness or distress

* make your garden hedgehog-friendly

* make a simple house and feeding station

(*Only toy hedgehogs will be used as real hedgehogs would get very distressed by lots of people.)

Have help to * draw your own hedgehog.

Buy * a knitted hedgehog

* a crocheted hedgehog brooch

* a hedgehog-decorated card.

Try to * guess the hedgehog's name

* guess the weight of the hedgehog cake

* find the hedgehog trail around the village.

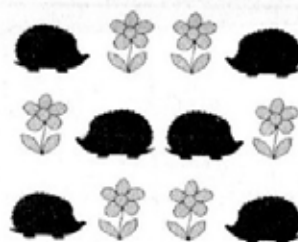
Enjoy refreshments – scones, cakes and biscuits, tea, coffee and soft drinks.

Proceeds to be shared with Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital and Toft Wildlife fund to improve the local habitat to support hedgehogs.

Hedgehog Champions

Here is a poem from a young Toft resident, who has become the 1st Hedgehog champion in Toft. Hurrah!

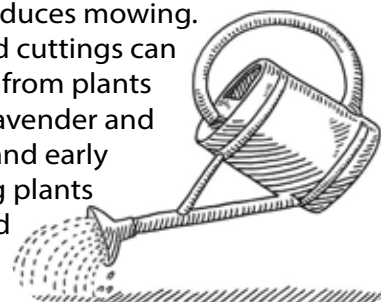
Little, cute, furry creature,
very unique within every
feature,
scuttling through the dark
of night,
paws so soft, eyes so bright,
small, black nose, back of
spines,
one of truly amazing
kinds.



Would you like to join us? If so, please contact Cllr Elaine Miles (cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk)

The Garden Wrangler

After midsummer it feels like the rollercoaster ride of spring can coast for a while and relax. As this wonderful spring moves into possible drought, I am increasingly interested in low-input gardening, using drought-tolerant plants, as seen recently at Chelsea Flower Show. Lawns will always recover so don't fear a hosepipe ban and at least it reduces mowing. Softwood cuttings can be taken from plants such as lavender and fuchsia, and early flowering plants may need pruning.



Wildlife Trust BCN Update: June 2025

Submitting official wildlife records is valuable and data can contribute to research, direct green space management and inform local planning. Anyone can submit records directly to the county-based biological records centres (ours is *Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre*), or using the free app *iRecord*. If you can get a photo, your record is more likely to be accepted. You need to know the name of the species though, so here are some identification tips: The fold-out guides made by the *Field Studies Council* are great for common wildlife, fairly cheap and are accessible for children.

Websites

- The *Wildlife Trust BCN's website* has guides, biological keys, and information.
- The *Wildlife Trust BCNs Monitoring and Research Facebook page*.
- The *RSPB website* has an A-Z of birds.
- The *Woodland Trust website* has an A-Z of trees.

Free apps

- *Merlin* is a brilliant app to identify bird song.
- *ObsIdentify* uses photos to identify any species with a % confidence level.
- *Seek* does a similar thing to *ObsIdentify*.
- *Froglife's Dragonfinder app* helps identify and record reptiles and amphibians.
- *Google Lens* (not as good as other options).

June events

All events involve a chance to improve your identification skills. For a complete list, please visit wildlifebcn.org/events

- Sit and Chat in Nature (for adults)
- Trumpington Meadows: Wed 4th 1.30-3.30pm and Tues 24th June 10am-12
- Cambourne: Wed 25th June 10-12
- Wildlife Trust BCN Open Garden event, Cambourne: Sat 7th June, 11am-5pm
- Gamlingay Bioblitz (Gamlingay Climate Action Group), Wed 11th June
- Little Bugs pre-school sessions, Cambourne: Friday mornings, 9.30-11ish
- Seasonal stroll at Trumpington Meadows: Tues 17th June 7-8.15pm
- Nature and Natter bug hunting for adults, Trumpington Meadows: Sat 21st June 9.30-11.30
- Trumpington Meadows biodiversity event (a council event): Sat 21st June
- Youth Rangers evening wildflower walk, Trumpington Meadows: Fri 27th June 6.30-8.30pm

Further information

www.wildlifebcn.org
cambridgeshire@wildlifebcn.org
[@wildlifebcn](https://www.instagram.com/wildlifebcn)

Toft Club News

The charity Italian Evening in May was hugely successful and we raised a significant amount of money for the UK Pancreatic Cancer charity – full details on the website. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the event.



On Saturday 7th June we are holding a **Cocktail Evening**. There will be a selection of cocktails for you to try and snacks will be available. Free entry – just pay for the cocktails you try. This promises to be a fun and sociable evening, so do join us!

At the end of the month, on Sunday 29th we are holding our second **Sunday Fun Day**, starting at 11:30am. We invite you to bring all your family along for three hours of fun with something for everyone. We will have a choice of light lunches available and the bar will be open. There will be a story and rhyme session for little ones (children must be accompanied by an adult at all times) and various games available for older children and the young at heart!

The **Film Club** will be showing the 2024 film *Small Things Like These* on Saturday 14th. In 1985 devoted father Bill Furlong, played by Cillian Murphy, discovers disturbing secrets kept by the local convent and uncovers shocking truths of his own. Doors open at 7:30pm and the film starts promptly at 8:00pm. Film Club membership is £12 for the year, or evening membership is £2.50.

Our monthly **Open Mic Music Night** is slightly later in June, on Saturday 21st. This is an evening of music from talented local musicians – free entry. If you are interested in performing, please get in touch either via the website or our Facebook page.

There are a handful of tickets left for **Alfie Moore** in July. If you want to come, then you need to get your ticket now!

All our regular events take place in June: **Toft Art** on Thursday 5th, **Table Tennis** on Thursday 12th, **Carpet Bowls** on Friday 13th, **Toft Quiz** on Thursday 19th and **Toft Bingo** on Thursday 26th.

The Club is always open on 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>

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



Toft Choir and Toft Session present

Midsummer Music

on **Saturday 21st June**
at **4.30 pm**
at **St Andrew's Church,**
Toft

followed by a glass
of Pimm's

No charge

Donations welcome for
refreshments with any
surplus going to St
Andrew's Church
fabric fund

WATER OF LIFE

Sacred wells

Wells have played a vital role for centuries in village life and, up until the twentieth century, would have been the main or only source of water. Many of them are found near churches and are considered sacred. In our own area, village names such as Holywell and Knapwell, both mentioned in the Domesday Book, testify to their long history. The well beside Toft church was one of several in the village; others existed at Orchard Farm, Manor Farm, on the High Street and on Pinfold Well Lane. The well on Pinfold Well Lane is marked on the 1902 map of Toft as 'Pinford Well'.



Calamity

In 2024, water was drawn as usual, but just as the bucket emerged, the rope snapped and the bucket disappeared down the well. The clergy improvised with water from the church kitchen. The old metal bucket was later retrieved by lowering a magnet and, this year, the Comberton Men's Shed community workshop presented us with a magnificent wooden pail, which should last for generations to come.



The church well

The well at Toft church was restored in 2000 to mark the Millennium. Every year, at the Spring Feast, the well is dressed with flowers and foliage to celebrate life-giving water. By tradition, children from the village turn the handle and draw a bucket of water, which the clergy then use to bless (and soak!) the assembled crowd with branches of hyssop or rosemary.

Emma Mitchell



Anoushka Poppat



Anja Boltryk and Ruth Wrycroft



Paul McCarthy



Paul McCarthy



Methodist chapel exhibition



Jake Tebbit



Rohini Kapil



Methodist chapel exhibition



The Maypole



The Well-dressing



Spring Feast Saturday morning saw an exhibition in the Methodist Chapel on the theme of 'Make Do and Mend' to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII, followed in the afternoon by an exhibition of art and photography and a video presentation at the People's Hall, where Toft photographers, young and older, exhibited striking images, and artists Paul McCarthy, Rohini Kapil and Jake Tebbit exhibited paintings. More than 100 people passed through each of the two exhibitions. On Sunday, despite cloudy weather, the Maypole and Well-dressing attracted record numbers of adults and children.

VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebration



Toft celebrated the 80th Anniversary of VE day with its usual panache.

The day started with a Proclamation and Flag raising on the Green.

At 6.30pm there was a full house of bell ringers ringing the bells at the Church.

At around 9.30pm on Lot Meadow the Choir sang *I Vow to Thee My Country*, refreshments were enjoyed and the Beacon was lit.

BIN COLLECTIONS FOR JUNE

Black Bin: 12th & 26th June

Blue Bin: 5th & 19th June

Green Bin: 5th & 19th 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 at the very latest. Advertisements will NOT be published unless full payment has been received in advance. Please note: Quarter-page adverts MUST be Portrait-style, half-page adverts MUST be Landscape style. In the first instance, advertisers should contact Jean Verney at: calendaradstoft@gmail.com to discuss their requirements.

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Alcoholics Anonymous: 0845 769 7555
Anglian Water (for sewage): 08457 145 145
(Emergency number for burst water pipes: 01223 706050)
Ashcroft Veterinary Surgery: 01954 210250
Bourn GPs' Surgery: 01954 719313
Cambridge AIDS help-line: (01223) 508805
Cambs County Council: 0345 045 5200
Cambridge Dial a Ride 01223 506335
Cambridge Water: 01223 706050
Care Network Cambridgeshire 01954 211919.
Citizens Advice Bureau: 0844 848 7979
Comberton GPs' Surgery: 01223 262500
Comberton Village College: 01223 262503
Community Warden (Age UK CAP) 07812 495997
County Councillor Michael Atkins 07968 264637
CVC Community Education: 01223 264721
District Councillor: Lina Nieto 07506 420655
Household Waste/Pest Control: 0345 045 0063
Lifespan Health Care, Family and Child Team: 01223 264460
MP pippa.heydings.mp@parliament.uk
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

SOME USEFUL WEBSITE ADDRESSES

Cambridgeshire Constabulary:
<https://www.cambs.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us->
Cambridge City Food Bank:
<https://cambridgecity.foodbank.org.uk/>
South Cambridgeshire District Council:
<http://www.scambs.gov.uk>
Toft Parish Council: <https://tpc.toft.org.uk>
Toft Shop: <http://www.toftshop.co.uk>
Toft Village Website: <http://www.toft.org.uk>

A call for contributions

We hope you're enjoying the new design of the Toft Village Calendar and all the usual content. We're now keen to add new features to which we invite you to contribute.

One of them is 'What I'm Reading': let people know in just a few sentences (doesn't have to be more than 50-100 words) what you're reading and why you're enjoying it – or disliking it.

We'd also like to feature a 'Nature Diary'. What birds, animals, plants, natural phenomena have you observed in and around Toft this month? Again, just 50-100 words or so would do.

And if you'd like to write a guest editorial, we'll consider contributions of 300-500 words on any topic.

Naturally, we reserve the right to not publish any offensive, politically-biased or inappropriate material; otherwise, feel free to offer a view of the world that would interest Calendar readers. Send your contribution to calendareditor@toft.org.uk.

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 18 June.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this edition.

Email: calendareditor@toft.org.uk

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