

# TOFT VILLAGE CALENDAR

JUNE 2026

## EDITORIAL

The infallible BBC tells us that just under 90 per cent of adults in this country listen to the radio each week. I'm one of them. Which is why I'm so familiar with the phrase 'Just tell your smart-speaker to...'; which fills the airwaves so monotonously. Having become a bit of a digital refusenik, I have no idea what this means. Up till now, I assumed they had a few seconds to fill in before the next programme and had decided this was slightly better than just humming 'eeny-meeny-miny-mo' for a while whilst the next item was teed-up. But thanks to inadvertently consorting with a young person recently, I've discovered that a smart speaker is an actual thing and can be found in some households. I didn't think to ask what shape, size or colour they were, so when it came to uncovering the existence or otherwise of my own smart speaker, I felt at a slight disadvantage.

Nothing daunted, it would be a simple matter to find out if I had a smart speaker and if so, where it was and what it looked like. Electrical, was my guess. And I assumed it would be able to acknowledge my commands. 'Turn the radio on' I shouted at the kettle. Nothing happened. Silly of me, really. It would be something heftier, something with more gravitas - a serious bit of kit. 'Play a tune' I shrieked at the fridge, which remained mutely impassive in that way that only fridges have. The dog stared at me and then, hedging its bets, sat. At last, I wandered over to the television. Maybe you had to be a bit more polite, less strident. 'Umm - look, sorry and so on, but can you hear me?' I muttered, desperately hoping no actual humans could see me. Unbelievably, the TV responded. 'Hi there.' it said, adopting that jaunty trans-Atlantic tone we all love so well. 'Try holding the microphone a little closer.' Microphone? What fresh hell was this? Never mind - we were half-way there! 'Could you play me a tune?' I bellowed. 'Sure thing,' it responded, 'one second while I find directions to Troon for you.' My dismay deepened. 'No, I want you to play a tune.' I shouted, 'Can you do that?' The TV had a think. Then it flashed up a screen and said: 'Sure. First scan this code with your smartphone so we can set up your account.'

A familiar sense of despairing bafflement manifested. I was about to be humiliated (again) by a household gadget which was supposed to be helping me. 'I don't want an account,' I pleaded, 'I just want to listen to some music.' Nothing. Silence. Then the screen changed. 'Sorry - we've been unable to process your request at this time,' it informed me.

Well, that's just fine with me. I've got by with ordinary old dumb speakers for a pretty good while now and I'm happy to stick with them a bit longer. After all, they come complete with matching owner.



**Toft Sports is on 11 July at  
2.30pm in the meadow by  
the church**

You can download an interactive, coloured version of the Calendar from the village website at <https://www.toft.org.uk/calendar.php>



## DIARY DATES

### The Parish Council

The next meeting will be held on 1st June in the People's Hall and all are welcome.

### Toft

### Friendship Club

[Over 50s Club]

Our meeting on 10th June 2.30pm at Toft People's Hall, visitors welcome.

### St Andrews Church

### FÊTE

FIX & FAREWELL

June 20th

10.30am - 12.30pm

### Summer Concert

28th June 4.30pm at St Andrew's Church

### Toft Sports

Earlier in the month than usual. 11 July at 2.30pm in the meadow by the church.

The day ends with a family barbeque.

## THE CHURCH IN TOFT

**St Andrew's Parish Church** This church extends a warm ecumenical welcome to all.

**Lay Minister** Mrs Barbara Preece 263466  
**Churchwardens** Mrs Ann Mitchell 262516  
Mrs Elizabeth Dolman 262574  
**Deputy Wardens** Jean Verney 263028

### SERVICES OF WORSHIP

#### 7th June

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
Revd Prof. Michael Reiss  
11.00 am Morning Worship  
Revd Robert Dolman

#### 14th June

11.00 Holy Communion  
Revd Priscilla Slusar

#### 21st June

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
Revd Prof. Michael Reiss  
11.00 am Morning Worship  
Mrs Cathy Michell

#### 28th June

11.00 am Holy Communion  
Revd Clare Coates

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 36**

### REPAIRS TO ST ANDREW'S



Repairs to St Andrew's could cost up to £115,000. We will be applying for grants but evidence of local support is often needed. This is where you can help. Choose one of these methods to donate: <https://givealittle.co/c/standrewtoftrestoration> or the QR code below.

Bank transfer to:: AC,name Toft PCC" Sort code 30-91-56 Account 02251476.

Cheque to "Toft PCC" to  
2 Comberton Road, 20 High  
Street, 40 School Lane or  
2 Beldam's Close.

Add a note with a cheque or email [standrewtoft@gmail.com](mailto:standrewtoft@gmail.com) for a Gift Aid form.



## A SAD FAREWELL

*I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit (Ephesians 3.16)*

Dear Toft,

This will be the last time that I write to you because my time as a curate in Toft is coming to an end. As many of you will already know, I have been appointed as the next Vicar of St Mary & St Michael's, Trumpington and will be 'Instituted and Inducted' there in a service on the 24th June at 7pm – all welcome!

It is sad to be moving on again, but my 'apprenticeship' here was always going to be no more than three years so we knew it would pass all too quickly. It has been a wonderful opportunity for me as I have learnt the ropes from more experienced clergy, as well as being able to develop my own ministry by trying some new things. I am grateful for all the wisdom and advice I have received from so many in this community, as well as the warm welcome I have enjoyed as I have ministered here.

From Warm Hubs to Well Blessings, and Traditional Evensong to Teddies from the Tower, there is so much to celebrate about the way the Toft community comes together to support each other. I've also been privileged to talk about my faith journey with our young people in primary and secondary schools in Comberton, to share in the joys and the challenges of life with many others as they have been married or mourned the loss of a loved one. They say it takes a village to raise a child, but it's also true that it takes a community to support each one of us at different times of our lives. We cannot do it all alone.

There are many places to find community these days, but I think there is something unique about Christian community. In trying (and not always succeeding!) to imitate Jesus, we aim to build a community with love, forgiveness and understanding at its heart. But there is even more to it than that; something inexplicable and wonderful happens when we come together to seek God in community, and it is what St Paul wrote about in his prayer to the church in Ephesus quoted above. We find an inner strength and joy that can sustain us through all sorts of trials and challenges.

So as I move on, I pray the same prayer for this community, that it may be strengthened by God's spirit moving among us. And I encourage you once again, as Jesus said to his first disciples, to "come and see" what it means to follow Jesus – you might be as surprised as me!

God bless,

*Barnabas*

# THE CHURCH IN TOFT

St Andrew's  
Invites you to the Church on June 20<sup>th</sup>  
10.30am - 12.30pm

to

FÊTE  
FIX &

to say FAREWELL



REFRESHMENTS, GAMES, CAKES, CLOTHES,  
and of course TEDDIES FROM THE TOWER

A CHANCE TO FIX & SAVE THE  
EAST WINDOW with a GIFT £££££?  
and FAREWELL to Barnabas



Amy Standley (age 10) wrote this poem specially to celebrate the 2026 Toft Spring Feast. Amy read the poem for the Toft Odyssey video and also read it at St Andrew's church on 3 May.

## Toft

For some, Toft is just a dot on a map.  
For me, Toft is a big world yet to explore.  
We are a Viking village steeped in ancient Viking lore.  
Around the Maypole, colours weave,  
We dance the steps the elders knew,  
With ribbons bright of every hue.  
Summer's here, it's time to compete  
In the Sports Day Olympics, bring on the heat!  
The egg and spoon at a careful pace,  
A quick kind of balancing race,  
The tug of war, a test of might,  
Grimaced faces, knuckles white.  
The muntjac bark, the owl calls out.  
The barbecue's lit, it's getting dark!  
I hope my thoughts and words have shown  
Toft is a world within its own.

## Friendship CLUB

Our meeting on 10th June is entitled  
**Memories — holiday snaps**  
which will be led by Barbara Preece.



Please bring a holiday photo, at least one!

The Friendship club is for over 50's. We meet every month on the 2nd Wednesday at 2.30pm at Toft People's Hall, programme followed by tea and biscuits. **All welcome**

## 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	<i>cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk</i>
Deputy:		
Elaine Miles	262255	<i>cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk</i>
Avril Coghlan		<i>cllr.coghlan@tpc.toft.org.uk</i>
Emma Darbyshire	07763 463234	<i>cllr.darbyshire@tpc.toft.org.uk</i>

### Clerk:

Ben Stoehr 01954 210241 *clerk@tpc.toft.org.uk*

The Parish Council represents the residents of Toft and aims to support the welfare and interests of its residents and businesses. Each council member takes responsibilities for specific areas covering Highways, Health and Safety, Footpaths, Lot Meadow, The Recreation and Playground area, The Allotments, Climate Change, The People's Hall, the Defibrillator and Welcome Packs.

**Combined meetings of the Toft Annual Parish Meeting, William Eversden Charity (Allotments) and Toft Parish Council held on 11th May 2026 at 7pm in Toft People's Hall. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 1st June 2026 in the People's Hall and all are welcome.**

**(Note: Following the resignation of 3 members of the Parish Council, we are now short of members. If you are interested in joining the council, please contact a member of the PC to have an informal chat.)**

### The Meeting opened with the Toft Annual Meeting.

**Present: Cllrs Martin Yeadon, Elaine Miles, Avril Coghlan, Emma Darbyshire**

There were no apologies for absence and the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting were approved with no matters arising.

Martin Yeadon read out a comprehensive report of the Parish Council's activities and achievements during the past year and it was generally acknowledged that the PC had carried out a substantial amount of work, some of which is on-going. This report can be found in full on the website.

The audited accounts were presented and approved. There were no reports from the District Councillor nor County Councillor. The meeting closed at 7.20pm and there was a short lull in the proceedings to allow residents to attend the William Eversden Charity Meeting scheduled for 7.30pm. During this period the councillors officially signed their acceptance letters of appointment.

### The William Eversden's Charity meeting commenced at 7.30pm with the election of Martin Yeadon to the Chair and Elaine Miles to the Vice-Chair.

There were no apologies for absence nor declaration of interests and the minutes of the last ordinary meeting were approved.

A request had been received to cultivate one of the previously decommissioned allotment plots and after clarification of the plot and consideration of the feasibility of this request, it was agreed that this could be granted.

The request to erect a beehive on one of the previously decommissioned plots was rejected. This decision was based on evidence which had been sought by the Chair from a bee-keeper expert who had advised that the plot was too narrow to provide sufficient space for the bees to enter and leave the hive without allotment keepers and pedestrians being exposed to the possibility of being stung. It had been pointed out that while the majority of bees are quite placid, sometimes a hive can contain more aggressive bees and there is no way of predicting the nature of the hive.

The Charity funds and budget for FY ending 31st March 2025 was reviewed and accepted.

It was agreed that the existing allotment tenancy agreement was acceptable and that, as of September 2026, the annual rent for each allotment would rise from the current rate of £15 to £20.

It was agreed that a new sign requesting dog walkers to keep their dogs on the lead be erected at the entrance at the drift. In addition, some rustic steps should be put in place at the western entrance to the allotments to assist walkers when descending the slope by the bench. This work will be carried out in the autumn/winter when the ground is softer.

The Parish Council are very grateful to Sharon Chandler for keeping the footpath open by cutting back bushes and strimming the grass.

### The Parish Council Meeting followed with the election of Martin Yeadon to the Chair and Elaine Miles to the Vice-Chair.

There were no apologies for absence nor declarations of interest. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

The Parish Council is short of three members and will be looking to co-opt new members over the next few weeks and a request will be put in the Calendar to this effect.

**Regarding the Annual Business these were all approved but it was pointed out that there are no working groups except for the current one convened to oversee the possible acquisition of the Methodist Chapel.**

A member of the public raised, again, the problem of

hedges which are not being sufficiently cut back which causes problems for pedestrians, wheelchair users and anyone pushing a pram. It is hoped that householders will take note and keep their hedges trimmed. Likewise, the cycle path to Comberton needs attention and Cllr Darbyshire will contact Highways, yet again, in the hope that it will now be considered sufficiently overgrown to warrant attention.

### **There were no resolutions from the Annual Parish Meeting to consider.**

Cllr Yeadon was able to advise the meeting that he had received notification from Cheffins that the Methodist Chapel is due to be auctioned on 10th June at an estimated price of £165,000. The PC will provide £100,000 which will be made up of S106 monies and possibly a works loan to be taken out over a period of 25 years. The remainder, it is hoped, will be made up of contributions from residents, who at the recent public meeting, pledged that they would be interested in making a financial contribution to the purchase of the Methodist Chapel. Given the short period of time before the auction date, Cllr Yeadon is to contact these residents first asking for donations.

Cllr Miles is to contact ex-councillor Sarah Tebbit to enquire whether she had discovered if the Finding Fitness climbing wall had been installed in any local parishes so that we can view it in situ before making any firm decision.

The update on the website was deferred to the next meeting.

The contractor for the village grass cutting has contacted the PC with a request that the fee be increased by 10% due to the current fuel crisis. It was agreed that we would do this as the contractor's original fee was very reasonable and they have said that the fee would go back to that originally quoted once the fuel crisis is over.

Regarding East-West rail, Cllr Coghlan reported that there is grave concern amongst residents on the Birdlings estate regarding a proposal by the rail company to increase the height of the bridge, which will be built on the B1046 close to the Birdlings, to 10 meters. This represents a huge increase and no consultation has occurred. In addition, it seems that the land which will be used by East-West rail during the construction seems to be blocking the entrance to the estate. It is also still felt that the railway line goes extremely close to the college and will be a huge interference for students. Cllr Yeadon stated that he would investigate these issues and report back at the next meeting on the 1st June, which will still give the PC time to get its response back to EWR by the deadline of 9th June 2026.

The finance report was approved.

There was no play inspection report to consider nor

any matters considered urgent. However, it was noted that the pane of Perspex in the bus shelter is still to be replaced.

The date for the Assets walk will be decided at the next meeting.

There were no planning requests or tree works to be considered.

Under members items, Cllr Darbyshire agreed to be the PC representative on the Toft People's Hall committee and to oversee the maintenance of the Defibrillator until such time as a new member can take over.

The PC was happy to see the road resurfacing had been done, and that re-lining and cats' eyes will follow once the road is ready. Cllr Darbyshire has asked the County Council about signage to warn drivers of pedestrians crossing at Hardwick Road junction in Toft and is awaiting a reply.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

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

## **Your Parish Council needs YOU!**

Following three members of the Parish Council stepping down recently, we are looking to co-opt some new people. The Parish Council meets once a month, except August, usually on the first Monday of the month. The meetings start at 7pm and rarely go on beyond 8.30pm.

The issues we deal with are rarely on a major scale – East-West Rail being an exception – which means that the business of the meetings is fairly straightforward. We all take on a specific job and update the meeting on any matters arising. We make sure things around the village get fixed, protect Toft's interests and generally contribute to the feeling of being in a community that cares for its residents. Sometimes we bring about initiatives that improve the village.

Finally, as is well documented, volunteering is good for the volunteer, improving wellbeing and a sense of belonging to a community.

If you are interested, please get in touch with Cllr Martin Yeadon or Cllr Elaine Miles to have an informal chat. (See contact details on the Parish Council report.)

## Spring Feast 2026

This year's Spring Feast ran from 1-3 May. Events included a video evening at the Club, an exhibition of Toft buildings over the last 125 years, a tea-party, a food evening, a picnic in Lot Meadow, the Maypole, well-dressing and church service at Saint Andrew's, ending in a final tea-party at the church on Sunday afternoon. Marion Read made the Toft May Garland; Toft Session provided the music.



Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make the Spring Feast a success.

## Thank you to Justin and Jenny



At the Spring Feast Saturday afternoon tea-party in the People's Hall, Justin and Jenny Orange were presented with a cheque for £1,250 and a print of a linocut depicting the village green, by the late Nick Nicholson. Ann Mitchell made the presentation, thanked Justin and Jenny for 13 years of service to the village at Toft shop and wished them a happy retirement. Some of the youngsters who have worked at the shop over the years attended the event, along with more than 70 Toft residents and friends. Justin thanked everyone and encouraged us all to continue to support the shop and its new management (*see right*).

## East Anglian Air Ambulance launches Trek 24 Cambridgeshire

East Anglian Air Ambulance is calling on local walkers of all abilities to step up and take on Trek 24 Cambridgeshire this September. Taking place on Sunday 6 September, Trek 24 Cambridgeshire offers participants the chance to walk either 24 miles, 24 kilometres or 2.4 miles across the Cambridgeshire countryside.

Funds raised through Trek 24 Cambridgeshire will directly support East Anglian Air Ambulance, which urgently needs to raise £8.2 million to build a new air base just outside the village of Fulbourn – ahead of the closure of Cambridge Airport in 2030.

Places for Trek 24 Cambridgeshire must be booked in advance. Tickets start from as little as £6 for the shorter route. To find out more or to sign up, please visit: <https://www.eaaa.org.uk/support-us/events/trek-24/cambridgeshire>

To learn more about how to donate directly to the Cambridge Air Base Appeal, please visit: <https://www.eaaa.org.uk/cambridge-air-base-appeal>



## Welcome to our new shopkeepers

Toft Shop is an independent local and international food store and Post Office serving the village seven days a week.

**We are open Monday – Friday 7.00am to 8pm**

**Saturday and Sunday 8.00am to 8pm**

We stock the usual range of goods you would expect to find in a convenience store, and then a lot more including an extensive range of South African meat and groceries.

- Fresh bread baked on the premises;
- Home-made jams and marmalades plus a commercial range;
- Chilled and frozen chicken, meat products and fish;
- Dairy products including milk, yoghurt, butter, cheese, ice-cream etc;
- Cakes home-baked in the village plus a range of commercial cakes and biscuits;
- Wine, beer, spirits, cigarettes and vapes;
- General medicines;
- A range of greeting cards and stationary items;
- Newspapers and magazines;
- Household goods and pet food;
- Fresh fruit and vegetables, flowers and plants

***We also offer these services:***

Bourn and Comberton surgeries prescription pick-up and delivery

**THE POST OFFICE** – the usual branch services, and don't forget you can draw cash also.

**OPEN MONDAY – FRIDAY 9.00am – 1.00pm**

A warm welcome awaits you from HYDAR. (Tel 07585 309100)



*Toft shop new owners Sultan and Safraz*

# NATURE NOTES

## Peak Performance

Now at last we're in the full flow of summer, with every tree in shapely leaf, not yet burnished by the heat of midsummer but still glowing in that early spring green. Flowers too are abundant in the hedgerows, and every living thing, plant and animal, is in full-on reproduction mode. The birds are in fine voice, and some are already into their second brood: the youngsters from earlier nests flit around noisily in the hedgerows or, like the swallows, flash by at speed, revelling in their airy element.

My tally of birds seen in the village over the last few years comes to just 39 – not bad for a place that's surrounded by intensely cropped fields. But could it be longer – perhaps you've seen others not yet on that list (which does include the occasional spot of herons and egrets!)? And now, with insects burgeoning once more, there's no need to fill up the feeders – indeed, the RSPB requests that while bird infections are still rife, we avoid

putting out food for them for a few months (though the blackbird who deems my garden is his territory is already adept at stealing the grapes and tomatoes put out for the too-slow-moving tortoises!).

Let's enjoy these longer warmer days while they last. We're so lucky here to be relatively well wooded, and with recent new plantings of mixed hedgerows we can perhaps hope to hold on to our varied wildlife in future – and maybe encourage even more.



Tree Creeper - Turnnicliffe

## Wildlife Survey

Following on from the very successful Hedgehog Awareness day we had last June, I'd like to now start mapping where hedgehogs are appearing as well as other mammals such as badgers, foxes and deer as, due to the shortage of food in the more traditional rural habitats, these creatures are moving into more urban settings. If you see any of these animals, or evidence that they are around, could you please make a note of what it is, where you saw it and the date and time, approximately? Obviously a photograph would be wonderful! You can send any information to me via email: [elainemiles3@gmail.com](mailto:elainemiles3@gmail.com) or text me 07766 262 917.



Many thanks, Elaine

## DOGS AND THE LAW IN SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE:

### Dog fouling and Dangerous Dogs

In South Cambridgeshire, it is a criminal offence for a person in charge of a dog to fail to remove its faeces immediately from public land, including roads, footpaths and open green spaces. Offenders face a fixed penalty notice of £75–£100 or a fine of up to £1,000 if prosecuted in court.

### Key Aspects of Dog Fouling

- **Responsibility:** You must clean up after your dog immediately, regardless of whether you have a bag or if you were aware the dog had fouled.
- **Locations:** This law applies to any land to which the public has access, including parks, pavements, grass verges and common land.
- **Disposal:** You can use designated dog bins or any public litter bin for disposal.
- **Penalties:** Failure to comply can lead to a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN). While some areas of Cambridgeshire use £100, reports indicate the fixed penalty in South Cambridgeshire is £75. Non-payment can lead to prosecution and a maximum fine of £1,000.
- **Exceptions:** Registered blind individuals in charge of a guide dog are generally exempt.
- **Reporting:** Residents can report dog fouling to the council.

### What to do if you see fouling:

If you witness an incident, you can report it to South Cambridgeshire District Council. Providing information on who the person is and being prepared to give a statement aids in investigation.

### Key Aspects of Dangerous Dogs

Under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, it is a criminal offence in the UK to allow any dog to be “dangerously out of control” in public or private places (including homes and gardens). A dog is considered dangerous if it injures someone or behaves in a way that causes fear of injury.

### What “Out of Control” Means:

A dog does not need to bite to be deemed dangerous; it is sufficient that a person has reasonable grounds to feel worried or threatened that the dog may injure.

- **Offences:** Owners face unlimited fines or prison (up to 5 years for injury, 14 years for death) if their dog causes injury or, in some cases, behaves dangerously.
- **Private Property:** The law applies in homes and gardens, not just public spaces.
- **Banned Breeds:** It is illegal to own specific types without an exemption: Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro and XL Bully.
- **Control Measures:** Courts may order a dog to be muzzled, on a lead, neutered and microchipped.
- **Assistance Dogs:** Attacking an assistance dog is a serious, specifically punished offence.

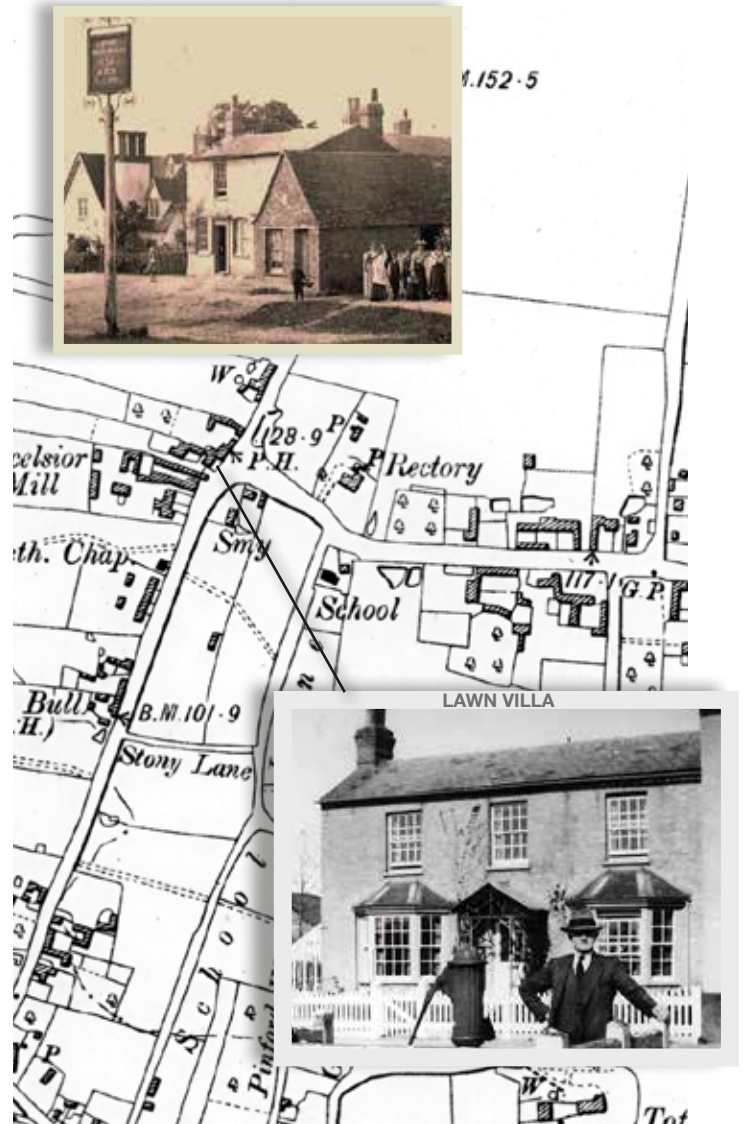
# Toft 1895

## PART 4

Continuing our serialisation of May Creek's handwritten memoir, she now brings us to the village shop and to Lawn Villa (Mary Coppin's house).

There was the shop. I have heard Aunt talk of the Bolton family at the shop. I only remember David Creek, his wife, two sons David and Percy and five daughters: Grace, Lil, Faith, Minnie and Edith. Both the mother and Edith died of consumption. Faith and Minnie were at school when we started. David Creek junior and Percy went to Australia after the death of Edie; Minnie spent many years at Caxton and Chesterton. David Creek was often involved in a court case which always seemed to end in his favour. The shop was closed for many years and was a private dwelling till it was reopened as a shop in the mid-30s. When Mr Warboys gave up the sawmill before the First World War, it was run by Appleby and Beardmore, who ceased trading in the early 20s. The buildings were not used for many years till after the Second World War. There was a mill of some sort on the nearby land then occupied by a Mr Marriott. There was a dispute as to whose land it was on and the decision of the court ruined Mr Marriott, who went and lived in the Fens (Manea, I think), returning to Kingston many years later after he married one of the Miss Priors. I think the first a Mrs M was a Custerson, as Israel always spoke of them as Aunt and Uncle.

And I remember the house we now know as 'Lawn Villa', a small square cottage two up and two down, with a long back kitchen, occupied by the Chapmans and two younger daughters. The older girl and sons I did not know till they came back to Toft. Mr R. Chapman was a butcher, a good one, his sausages at 8 pence a pound were reckoned to be the best in the district. But there were few bylaws to be bent in those days: who bothered? Meat was a luxury.



### From Australia to Bourn

A recent visit to Bourn Windmill has brought its history to life, as descendants of one of the mill's 19th-century milling families travelled from Australia to reconnect with their roots.

Stephen and Christine Hipwell made the journey to Cambridgeshire to stand inside the very mill where Steve's ancestors once lived and worked. His family's connection stretches back generations, including his great grandfather, who emigrated to Australia as a baby, just six weeks old, carrying the family's story to the other side of the world.

Visitors can explore the windmill, learn about traditional milling and experience this unique part of Cambridgeshire's heritage first-hand.

**Bourn Windmill will be open from 2.30 - 4.30 on Sunday 19 July, Sunday, 23 August and Sunday 13 September**

For more information: <https://cambridgeppf.org/bourn-windmill>



Photo: Cambridge Past, Present & Future

**National Year of Reading.** The goal is to encourage people of all ages to read for enjoyment. With the motto "Go all in!", the campaign encourages us all to delve deeper into things that we already care about. As we immerse ourselves in learning about our interests, we have the opportunity to see how reading can help our mental and emotional well-being.

### Let's share our poems, short stories...

Comberton Library is inviting you to join us on **Wednesdays** from 10.30 to 11.30am to read aloud as we celebrate the National Year of Reading. Please bring along and share your favourite poems, short stories, and even bits of humorous news or articles. Our first gathering will be on June 3rd with tea and coffee. We look forward to seeing you.

### Weekly activities

**Knit, Sew and Natter** group **10.30am – 11.30am**; June dates: 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. July dates: 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Newcomers warmly welcome. Tea, coffee and biscuits available.

**Rhymetime**, 10.30am – 11.00am (except during the school holidays) for children between 0 to 4 years. June dates: 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. July dates: 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Also **First Steps Library Club**, aged 0-4 years.

**It's Lego Time** with Duplo. Saturdays at 10.30am. Every child needs an adult to accompany them. **This is a free event.**

### Opening hours (excluding bank holidays etc.)

Monday	10am – 5pm
Tuesday	10am – 1pm
Wednesday	10am – 1pm and 2.30pm – 5.30pm
Friday	2.30pm – 5.30pm
Saturday	10am – 1pm

**Mobile Library** – Visits Toft on the third Friday of the month, 2.00 to 3.00pm by the Village Green.



## LONGSTOWE village FETE



**SATURDAY 27th June 2.00pm**



**Cricket**

**BAR – BBQ – Teas**

**Stalls – Games – Tombola**

**CASH (card reader BBQ & Bar ONLY)**

## COMBERTON BABY & TODDLER GROUP

**TERM TIME WEDNESDAYS, 9.45-11.30**

**COMBERTON VILLAGE HALL**

**£2.50 PER FAMILY, FREE FOR FIRST TIMERS**

**TOYS, CRAFTS,  
OUTDOOR PLAY,  
SINGING AND  
SNACKS FOR  
0-4s**

**COFFEE, TEA,  
BISCUITS, AND A  
CHANCE TO  
CHAT FOR  
GROWN-UPS!**

# TOFT BIG BREAKFAST

Taking place at Toft People's Hall on Sunday May 17th, 2026 the Big Breakfast was truly eggcellent (sic). TPH and garden were packed with happy people. Hard to count exactly how many – but at least 186 'Full English breakfasts' were cooked. Plus, a mountain of continental breakfasts and waffles were served.

Enormous thanks to all the amazing volunteers who shopped, baked, cooked, served, washed up, greeted, cleared up, kept huge smiles on their faces and welcomed the hoards of people enjoying breakfast, socialising and having a great time - all in a good cause! Fabulous to see so many people, from babes in arms to the most mature.



In these often-difficult times, there was so much giving! Donations of fresh fruit and delicious baked goods from our local **Co-op**, potatoes/mushrooms/tomatoes/bread rolls from **Tesco**, a very helpful Gift Card from **Sainsbury's**, discounts on - chipolatas from **Musks in Newmarket**, bacon from **Art of Meat** (Arbury Ct), and local eggs from **Wood Farm**, Waresley.

Sincere thanks to everyone who supported this fabulous event. All of the profit will be divided between our chosen charities, Farm Africa and Fairtrade.

**Thanks to everyone's amazing generosity we raised over £1600 and will be able to give each charity £842.20!**



## CAMBRIDGE PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

**Cambridge Nature Festival 2026**  
23rd May - 30th June

A celebration of Nature all around us!  
180+ exciting events and activities for all ages, abilities and interests.  
Most events are FREE OR AFFORDABLE

[www.cambridgenaturenetwork.org/naturefestival](http://www.cambridgenaturenetwork.org/naturefestival)

Events include: orchid identification, moth trapping, bat punt safaris, short films, music performance, exhibitions, hands-on activities, deep time walks, ecology talks, bioblitzes, pond dipping and much much more!

Cambridge Nature Festival returns for its fifth year with record programme of over 180 events

Five weeks of free and low-cost activities celebrating the natural world in the Cambridge area, from 23 May to 30 June 2026

Full programme and booking: <https://cambridgenaturenetwork.org/naturefestival/>

## Toft Choir and Toft Session

invite you to their

# Summer Concert Journeys



**On Sunday 28th June at 4.30  
St Andrew's Church Toft**

No Charge.

Donations welcome for refreshments with surplus going to  
St Andrew's Restoration Fund.

## BIN COLLECTIONS FOR JUNE

Black Bin: 11th, 25th

Blue Bin: 4th, 18th

Green Bin: 4th, 18th

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Toft Village Calendar and all the usual content. One of recent new features we have included 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. 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. And if you have any other ideas for the Calendar, let us know. Send all contributions and ideas to [calendareditor@toft.org.uk](mailto: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. Please send your written contributions as Word documents, if possible, or just plain text.

Please avoid sending PDFs unless you have no other option. Graphics (if essential) are best submitted as PNG or JPEG files.

Please ALWAYS send your contributions to [calendareditor@toft.org.uk](mailto:calendareditor@toft.org.uk) - never to an individual member of the editorial and design team.

Many thanks.

And, finally...Please remember that contributions for the next issue of the Calendar must reach the Editor by 18th June.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this edition.  
Email: [calendareditor@toft.org.uk](mailto:calendareditor@toft.org.uk)  
Post: The Gig House, The Old Horse Yard, Comberton Road, Toft CB23 2RY