

# TOFT VILLAGE CALENDAR

October 2025



## DIARY DATES

### The Parish Council

Monday 6th October  
2025 at 7.00pm

### St Andrew's Church

Harvest celebration  
19th October 3.00pm

### Toft People's Hall

An Evening with  
Toft Historical Society  
Wednesday 29th  
October, 7.30 – 9.00pm

### Toft

### Friendship Club

8th October  
Mackays of Cambridge  
- Serving Cambridge  
since 1912 - at The  
People's Hall 2.30pm.

### The Warm Hub

will be back from  
27th October at  
The People's Hall.

### Toft People's Hall

Management  
Committee AGM  
11th November  
at 8.00pm

## EDITORIAL

Below we feature a pair of Toft photographs, one showing the Black Bull pub that stood on the High Street more than 100 years ago, the other an affectionate present-day recreation. Toft once had three pubs. Our neighbours Kingston and Caldecote once upon a time hosted a further four pubs between them. All are now closed.

The decline in pub numbers is not just a thing of the past. Some 300 pubs closed in England and Wales in 2024 and the trend has continued. In other words, hardly a day passes without a pub somewhere closing its doors forever.

The reasons why pubs close are many. Some close because they cannot keep up with the pressure of rising prices, staff wages, energy bills and taxes. Some are in rural locations where population changes and a lack of public transport shrink the customer base below financial viability. Yet the biggest shift is in drinking habits and the convenience and low price of supermarket alcohol. Put crudely, people just don't go out drinking anymore. Many pubs have more or less become restaurants, some requiring a reservation just as any restaurant might. The COVID pandemic put an end to the crush at the bar or the casual bar-hanging that was the mark of a popular pub. Many pubs never recovered that chaotic informality and traditional jostling to 'get them in' before stop tap.

We have changed and pubs have changed. Does it matter? In a small village like Toft, community hubs such as pub, shop or church do much more than provide goods, drink and communal worship. They are places where people build and maintain social networks, make and remake friendships, exchange news and gossip, plan and realise community activities. Fortunately, in Toft we have a social club that has a friendly bar that has more than made up for the closure of our last pub, The Red Lion (latterly a Chinese restaurant). The demise of the traditional village pub is probably inevitable, but if we support our social club, where the drinks are half the price of the same fare in Cambridge thanks to the volunteer staff, we can keep that old pub spirit alive. September's highly successful Beer and Cider Festival bore testimony to how we can celebrate the long tradition of English ales and cider and the communal bonds they facilitate.

The Calendar received this charming email from Jane Hough, along with two photos. The first shows the old Black Bull pub that once stood in Toft High Street. The second shows it as it is now, a private residence, in a delightful recreation of the original

Hello,  
I'm visiting from Australia and staying with my sister and family at their beautiful home, the old "Black Bull", on High Street.  
We thought we'd re-create this old photo...  
Hope you enjoy it!  
Jane (and Ainslea Askew)



## CHURCH IN TOFT – ST ANDREW’S

This church extends a warm ecumenical welcome to all.

**Assistant Curate** Revd Barnabas Leeke  
(Please note Barnabas is away training for most of October)

**Lay Minister** Mrs Barbara Preece 263466

**Churchwardens** Mrs Ann Mitchell 262516  
Mrs Elizabeth Dolman 262574

**Deputy Wardens** John Quenby 263949  
Jean Verney 263557

### SERVICES OF WORSHIP all at St Andrew’s

#### 5th October

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)  
Revd Prof. Michael Reiss

11.00am Holy Communion  
Revd Prof. Michael Reiss

#### 12th October

11.00am Morning Worship  
Revd Robert Dolman

#### 19th October

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)  
Revd Prof. Michael Reiss  
3.00pm HARVEST CELEBRATION (see right)  
Barbara Preece

#### 26th October

11.00am Holy Communion  
Revd Priscilla Slusar

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

Sadly, Mrs Ridgeon, who lived at Priory Cottage for  
many years, has died.

A Big **Thank You** from the Mitchell family for the  
beautiful cards, kind words and genuine friendship  
following the death of Brian

## Friendship CLUB

8th October Mackays of Cambridge - Serving  
Cambridge since 1912. As usual 2.30 at Toft People’s  
Hall. Visitors welcome.

The Friendship club is for over 50s. We meet every  
month on the 2nd Wednesday at 2.30pm at Toft People’s  
Hall. All welcome

## Contemplating Nature

September has seen the season of Creationtide in which we  
remember God as Creator and Sustainer of life. The season  
ends on October 4, the feast day of Francis of Assisi.

Although it is 800 years next year since the death  
of Francis, he continues to fascinate and inspire, with  
a respect beyond his own Church and beyond all faith  
traditions. Even Bertrand Russell, a convinced atheist,  
called him the most lovable of saints. He has been  
celebrated in poetry, music, art, film and in dozens  
of biographies. Francis can be honoured for his deep  
identification with Christ, for the simplicity of his life and  
rejection of worldly values, for his introduction of a crib  
and animals into a Christmas service, but today it is his  
gentle love for all created things which attracts most  
people. He has become the patron saint of ecology.

Francis contemplated nature with spontaneous delight.  
Someone wrote that he walked, literally, in an enchanted  
world, where creatures were his brothers and sisters. His  
Canticle of the Sun, one of the first poems in the Italian  
vernacular, presented the whole creation as a theatre for the  
praise of God in which all things had their part to play. He  
famously preached to the birds about God’s love for them.

The late Pope Francis took this very seriously. A  
memorable encyclical had the subtitle *On the Care of our  
Common Home*. It made climate change a moral issue,  
challenged unbridled consumerism and called for ‘an  
integral ecology’ which would restore right relationships  
between humanity and the earth.

Assisi itself has been called ‘a crossroads of the Spirit’. A  
wide variety of seekers and pilgrims are attracted there.  
In 2024 it was the venue for representatives from many  
traditions to share in a project for an ecumenical Feast of  
Creation.

We can all work together on this one.

*Rev. Robert Dolman*

### Enjoying the fruits of Lot Meadow



I’m sorry to have to gripe  
But the fruit that I bought just isn’t ripe.  
When I sink my teeth in, I want juice down my chin,  
But my shop fruit just isn’t ripe.

What is the point of going to the trouble  
Of growing it, tending it, picking and packing it  
And transporting it halfway around the world  
To sit on a shelf, say it’s good for my health  
If it’s tasteless and juiceless and only fit to be hurled  
Into the bin?

So visit Lot Meadow and pick your own.  
No pesticides or anything suspicious.  
And everyone will know that they are home-grown  
Because they’ll be ripe and will taste delicious.

*Gill Pugh*



# THE CHURCH IN TOFT



**THANK YOU** It was lovely to see so many of you on 6th September and we are so grateful for your support. Animals of all sorts descended from the tower – not many teddies but snakes and dinosaurs, unicorns and cats. It was a perfect day to enjoy coffee and cake, serenaded by Toft Gallery Band. We are declaring £1,100, which will go up and will greatly help towards the insurance!

**Our Harvest celebration** this year is at 3.00pm on 19th October with a theme of fruitfulness. We will decorate the church and all the produce - fresh and tins or packets - will go to help the Women's Refuge.

Even if you cannot come, perhaps you could drop off some courgettes, or baked beans, or carrots or ?

On a longer term, Cambridge Sustainable Food, <https://cambridgesustainablefood.org/> off Barnwell Road near Sainsbury is always in need of food to distribute, especially if you have surplus apples, potatoes, etc. If you cannot deliver yourself, let us know (Cathy Michell [catherinemichell33@gmail.com](mailto:catherinemichell33@gmail.com) or Barbara or Ann).

## WELCOME BACK TO THE WARM HUB



THE Clocks will change and the Warm Hub will be back from 27th October.

Come and join us for chat, games, friendship and refreshment, all for free.

We'll meet every Monday, from 10.00 to 12.00 at Toft People's Hall.

We would love to see you there. You'll be guaranteed a warm welcome.

Feel free to bring a friend.

## Toft Methodist Chapel Closes After 163 Years

On a warm summer's day on July 27th 2025, the people of Toft gathered for a service unlike any other — a final farewell to Toft Methodist Chapel, which, after 163 years, closed its doors for the last time.

The chapel was filled with around 130 worshippers from near and far. Former members returned to say goodbye, many travelling long distances, and local residents came to pay respects to a place that has stood as a spiritual home for generations. Clergy from both Methodist and Anglican traditions joined the service, alongside the congregation of St Andrew's Church, with whom the chapel shared a cherished Local Ecumenical Partnership for over two decades.

The most poignant words in the service came from Chapel Steward Diana Tebbit. She told of the chapel's founding in 1862 by John Tebbit, an ancestor of her late husband, Cliff. Six generations of his family served the chapel faithfully, witnessing its growth as the building was extended twice to welcome its thriving congregation. 'It was a place people loved to come to,' she reflected.

Ann Mitchell, the dedicated Anglican Churchwarden, and Steve Acklam, Senior Methodist Steward and Circuit Steward gave heartfelt testimonies. There were readings too — Psalm 23 read by Pat Morton, and a passage on Christ's burial from Steve.

This was no sombre occasion — it was a service of gratitude and hope. Reverend Charity Tozivep-Nzegwu, the Chapel Minister, led worship with warmth and grace, and her sermon reminded us that endings can also be beginnings.

Prayers of Thanksgiving came from voices that had shaped the chapel's life over the years: Chapel Stewards Di Tebbit and Pat Morton, lay preacher Cathy Michell, Elizabeth Dolman, The Reverend Robert Dolman and Charity, the current Chapel Minister, shared in this historic moment.

The Peace was led by The Reverend Barnabus Leeke, the St Andrew's curate.

Then came a moment heavy with symbolism: the Handing Back of the Keys. A large key, representing all the chapel keys and all that the chapel had held safe was placed in the hands of Circuit Steward Ross McEwan.

The hymns — played with great skill by Janet Tanburn— soared with energy. Voices rose high, almost lifting the roof one last time, as the congregation sang together in faith and farewell.

Afterwards, stories were shared over refreshments thanks to the efforts of Carol Wilmot and her team. Displays of photographs and documents in the New Room invited visitors to step back through the decades, while a collection for Action for Children — a cause long supported by the chapel — raised over £400. Further events in August, including open days and a table-top sale of chapel items, brought in an additional £360 for charity and donations brought the total raised to £824, proving that the chapel continued to serve others.

On August 31st, the final act took place at St Andrew's Church, where a Lordsbridge Team Service marked the end of the Local Ecumenical Partnership and welcomed the remaining Methodists into the Anglican congregation. It was a gesture that spoke of unity and continuity. Whilst buildings may close, faith and fellowship endure.

For 163 years, Toft Methodist Chapel stood in Toft High Street as a beacon of worship, friendship, and service. Its walls have heard countless hymns, prayers, and sermons; its seats have held generations of villagers through life's joys and sorrows. Now, as its doors close, its legacy lives on in the hearts of all who called it home.

# 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   |
|-----------------|--------------|--|
| <b>Chair:</b>   |              |  |
| Martin Yeadon   | 263663       | <a href="mailto:cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk">cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk</a>         |
| <b>Deputy:</b>  |              |  |
| Elaine Miles    | 262255       | <a href="mailto:cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk">cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk</a>           |
| Avril Coghlan   |              | <a href="mailto:cllr.coghlan@tpc.toft.org.uk">cllr.coghlan@tpc.toft.org.uk</a>       |
| Emma Darbyshire | 07763 463234 | <a href="mailto:cllr.darbyshire@tpc.toft.org.uk">cllr.darbyshire@tpc.toft.org.uk</a> |
| Rebecca Harris  | 07796 176333 | <a href="mailto:cllr.harris@tpc.toft.org.uk">cllr.harris@tpc.toft.org.uk</a>         |
| Giles Harrison  |              | <a href="mailto:cllr.harrison@tpc.toft.org.uk">cllr.harrison@tpc.toft.org.uk</a>     |
| Sarah Tebbit    |              | <a href="mailto:cllr.tebbit@tpc.toft.org.uk">cllr.tebbit@tpc.toft.org.uk</a>         |

### Clerk:

Ben Stoehr 01954 210241 [clerk@tpc.toft.org.uk](mailto: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.

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

**Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Monday 6th October 2025 at 7.00pm in The People's Hall. All welcome.**

The Council met on Monday 1st September 2025 in the People's Hall following the summer recess.

A member of the public raised concerns about police presence which had been seen along School Lane and rumours of criminal activity. The Chair informed the meeting that the PC is not informed by the police of any criminal activity and has no special authority to deal with such behaviour. However, one of our Councillors is invited to a regular meeting with the local police and would raise the concern at that meeting. The Chair pointed out that any member of the public can report suspicious behaviour by logging onto: <https://www.cambs.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/> or find out about crime in the area by logging onto: <https://www.cambs.police.uk/area/your-area>.

Another member of the public raised the problem of overgrown hedgerows intruding onto the public pavement and making it difficult to walk, especially for anyone in a wheelchair or pushing a buggy. Cllr Miles told the meeting that a 'polite request' for residents to respect one's neighbours had been put into the Calendar, though it was acknowledged that not everyone reads the Calendar. Cllr Darbyshire said

that she had written to Highways for support on this annoying and, for some, dangerous problem and would follow this up.

There were no declarations of interest and the minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Cllr Darbyshire reported that sadly, despite repeated requests to Highways to cut back vegetation on the cycle path between Toft and Comberton, no response had been received. She is liaising with staff at Comberton Village College to see if a joint effort will bring about a better response.

The street light survey would be discussed at the next meeting, when the dark evenings will enable the suggestions to be considered.

Cllr Tebbit informed the meeting that she had finally been sent information regarding the climbing frame for the playground from Finding Fitness and this will be circulated to councillors. Information will also be circulated throughout the village and parishioners will have the opportunity to voice their opinions before any decisions are made.

It was decided that the trees that had been assessed as 'priority' in the tree survey of the playground would be dealt with and it was agreed that the work identified on the hedgerows could now take place.

Cllr Miles made a proposal for the wording that could be placed on a noticeboard at the entrances to Home Meadow. It was felt that while the PC was not against dogs and their owners enjoying this space, people who were afraid of dogs should be protected from over-exuberant dogs. The wording will be circulated among the councillors before finally being accepted and in the meantime, Cllr Darbyshire will seek the approval of the landowner to erect the sign.

Finding ways of reducing noise from the musical equipment is on-going.

Regarding the requests received from CAPALC regarding the IT policy, as this was very complicated, the Chair is seeking advice from the Clerk regarding the best way we can respond.

Regarding the noise from youths on motorcycles, this is to be addressed by Cllrs Tebbit and Darbyshire in conjunction with members of Comberton PC, who have also raised concerns about the behaviour of some youths in their village.

It was felt that the siting of 5 glamping pods on the land north of the B1046 was a significant change in the use of the land and is in a green belt. The PC also noted that EWR had objected to this installation as it would be sited where the railway line would cross and although an alternative site had been mentioned, no evidence for this has been presented.

The PC objected to the proposal as it is in Green Belt land and outside the village boundary.

Cllr Miles reported that £75 had been donated to the Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital (SHH) from the proceeds of the Hedgehog Awareness Day, which had been gratefully received. She also reported that 2 baby hedgehogs had been found abandoned on

School Lane and they had been taken to Judith Large at SHH and that they were thriving. However, due to the drought conditions, the planned release of any juvenile hedgehogs would be delayed until there had been substantial rainfall.

Cllr Yeadon reported that he had had no response from the management team at Birdlings regarding the request for a new public noticeboard. The clerk is to write again and at the same time request an additional bin for the play area.

Grassing of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee area will take place in the autumn, when conditions are more favourable.

Cllr Coghlan has agreed to send round to councillors a summary of a reply on behalf of the PC to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Cllr Yeadon has put Stratagem in touch with Ann Mitchell regarding their generous offer to support the Christmas appeal. He reported that volunteer work had already been done by them around the village, for which we are very grateful.

The Finance Report was considered and payment of bills approved.

Under members' items, Cllr Yeadon reported that he had done various jobs around the village over the summer and in particular, solar panels had been fitted to the speed signs. Cllr Derbyshire reported that an illegal sign on Comberton Road advertising Tutoring had been removed and we are waiting for a response regarding the large bags of waste on the highway verge opposite the bus shelter. She also reported that given there has been no response regarding trees which have grown around telegraph wires, she will contact UK Power Network. Cllr Tebbit reported that she has had no reply to a request for further training on the Defibrillator and will follow this up. Cllr Yeadon reported that an interest group has been formed to consider the future of the Methodist Chapel. A request has been made to register this as a village asset. In the meantime, many groups who used the Methodist Chapel are reconvening at TPH.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

## Around the Villages

### COMBERTON HERITAGE SOCIETY

On Tuesday 28th October David Stubbings will give a talk on **Chesterton Tower** at **8pm in Comberton Village Hall.**  
**All visitors most welcome.**

### FOXTON SCARECROW FESTIVAL

**Saturday 4 October, 12.00 to 6.00**

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

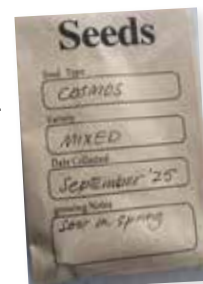
## Telephone Box Seed Swap

Last time I looked the seed swap was almost empty.

£16 has been collected in the Farm Africa donations box at Toft Shop. Many thanks to all who contributed.

The shelves of the telephone box have been restocked with fresh seed, some are ready to sow now to give you colourful flowers in your garden next year.

If you have any leftover seeds (open packets are fine) or you have collected some from your own garden, please add them or swap them. Thank you.



Jane Tebbit

## An Evening with Toft Historical Society

**Wednesday 29th October, 7.30 – 9.00pm**

Come along to Toft People's Hall for an evening of local history and celebration. Free entry.

**7.30pm** A short 10-minute video following the closure of the Methodist Chapel. The chapel played a central part in religious and social activities in Toft for over 100 years. The video includes extracts from the final service, the services broadcast from Toft on BBC TV in 1984, and a tribute to one of its centrepiece activities in recent decades, Toft Fireside.

**7.45pm** Stephen Owen will give a 45-minute talk on the history and building of the Bedford to Cambridge line. We will take a trip along the line visiting all the stations (plus a mention of Toft and Kingston Sidings) and finish by looking to the future of East-West Rail.

Stephen is best known for his efforts in restoring the Old North Road Station, which he transformed into a heritage site.



Old North Road Station at Longstowe  
Photo from John Mann collection

# Toft Club News

Wow! What a weekend we had for the 19th Toft Beer and Cider Festival. We had great beer and cider, wonderful food, good music, fabulous weather, enthusiastic volunteers and an amazing crowd of people who came along to enjoy the event. The Club would like to thank everyone who helped and joined us to support the event.

We have a busy October coming up. We are supporting two music events. Friday 3rd October sees the amazing **Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman** performing in the People's Hall. This multi award-winning folk music couple exude timeless class with their exquisite brand of traditional and contemporary acoustic music. Tickets are just £18 on the website.

Then on Tuesday 14th the Hall welcomes the return of **Chris While and Julie Matthews** – their unrivalled musical partnership of over 30 years produces some amazing music. They have recently appeared on BBC Radio 2 as part of the 21st Century Folk project, performing their new song, *The Waiting Room*. Tickets are just £18 on the website.

Later in the month, we are holding an **Eighties Weekend!** On Friday 17th we will be getting the weekend going by showing the classic eighties movie *Top Gun*. Doors open at 7:00pm and the film starts promptly at 7:30pm. Free entry to everyone.

On the afternoon of Saturday 18th at 14:00 we will be holding an exhibition entitled *What did you do in the 80's?* which will feature photos, items and interviews covering personal stories and details on life in Toft in the 1980s. We are asking everyone to contribute something – please contact us at [eighties@toft.club](mailto:eighties@toft.club) with details and photos! The bar will be open and there will be teas, coffee and cake!

Then on Saturday evening, from 8pm we will be having an Eighties Party! Come along in your best 80s gear and join the fun and the dancing. There's more info on the website and in the weekly news email.

The music theme this month starts on Saturday 4th with the popular **Slow Session**. This is a chance for you to join us and play, or pop along and listen – new players are always welcome. The evening usually starts about 7:30 and the bar is open from 8pm. Then we have our monthly **Open Mic Night** on Saturday 11th – come along and listen to our local talented musicians, or if you would like to take part, please contact us via the website.

All our other regular events take place: **Toft Art** on Thursday 2nd, **Toft Quiz** on Thursday 9th, **Carpet Bowls** on Friday 10th, **Table Tennis** on Thursday 16th and **Toft Bingo** on Thursday 23rd.

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>

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ToftSocial>

We are also on WhatsApp, Instagram and Nextdoor – see the website for links.



## Last chance to Save Coton Orchard

A public inquiry is about to take place that will determine the fate of Coton Orchard: can growth in Cambridge be achieved responsibly, or will it come at the cost of our natural heritage?

Read More: follow the QR code



## Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants

### Update for October

#### Team Wilder

The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs, and Northants is embracing a new approach to working with people. Team Wilder aims to support community groups and individuals who have ideas and ongoing projects that look to achieve aims that align with our own. Maybe you want to help your neighbourhood hedgehogs or transform a neglected patch in your community for wildlife. You might want to set up an eco-group, organise a bioblitz, or campaign for nature. Whether you are an existing group or just a person with a passion for wildlife, we want to hear from you!

#### Nearby October events

(Booking is essential. Search for events and book at [wildlifebcn.org/events](http://wildlifebcn.org/events))

#### Cambourne

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Friday mornings | Little Bugs pre-school sessions for ages 2-4     |
| Thurs 23rd pm   | Wilder Stories at Cambourne Library for ages 3-8 |
| Wed 29th pm     | Family night walk for ages 7+                    |

#### Local enquiries

[Rebecca.Neal@wildlifebcn.org](mailto:Rebecca.Neal@wildlifebcn.org)

Facebook: [@BeccaBadgerWTBCN](https://www.facebook.com/BeccaBadgerWTBCN)

#### General enquiries

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

[@wildlifebcn](https://www.facebook.com/wildlifebcn)

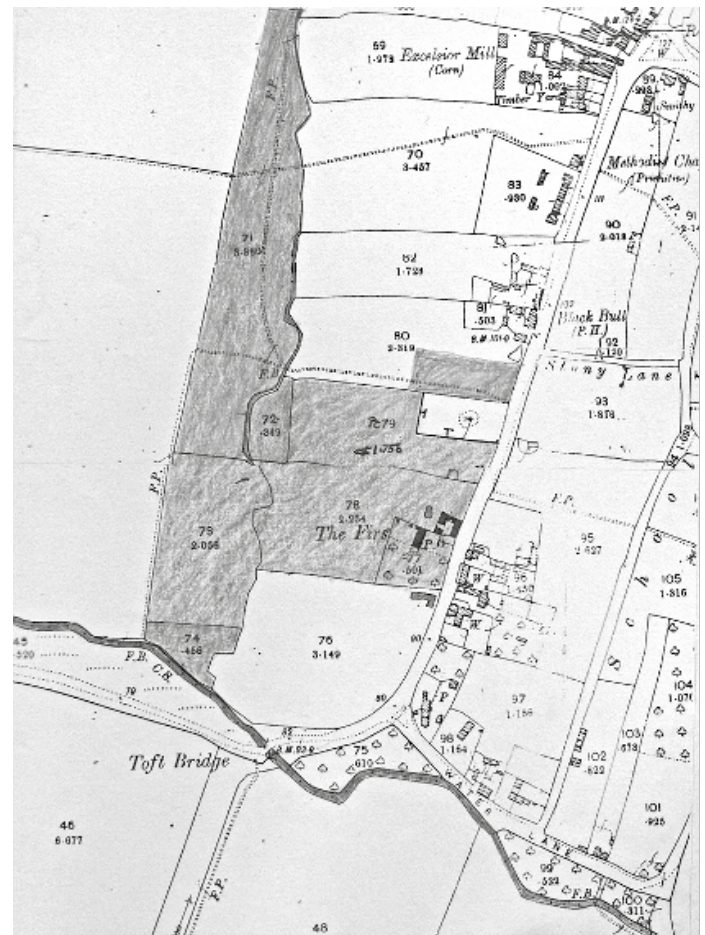
[www.wildlifebcn.org](http://www.wildlifebcn.org)

# Farmsteads of Toft

In the early 20th century, there were three substantive farms in Toft, all located on the top road in the vicinity of what is now as Farmers End. However, there are several further long-established buildings in the village historically referred to as farmsteads though these had a very small acreage. These farmsteads included South View Farm on the Hardwick Road and Firs Farm (64 High Street). Whilst not strictly a farmstead, when the Black Bull, further up the High Street, was a public house the landlord also owned some adjacent land, a section of which is now the Lot Meadow community area. This land was used for small scale farming as a secondary occupation for the landlord.

Firs Farm (or "The Firs") is an interesting example of these small Toft farmsteads. Constructed in the mid to late 17th century with some 19th century additions, it is one of several Grade 2 listed buildings in the village. Its land records indicate that holdings never exceeded five acres and early Ordnance Survey maps show a small farmyard with stables, barns and other buildings adjacent to the thatched cottage. The deeds indicate that the property was leased to tenants, who presumably were responsible for any farming activities. Firs Farm cottage housed the village Post Office from before WW1 and there was also a General Stores located there for a time. The Post Office was moved to its current location in the 1930s.

Firs Farm cottage was subdivided into separate tenancies until 1965. Multiple occupation was a feature of several of the older cottages including the thatched cottage opposite (65 High Street), which may have been a village bakery, and had up to three tenants living there in the early 20th century. Later in the century Firs Farm became a family home for its then owners and although most of the farmyard was demolished at an earlier date, the land associated with Firs Farm is still in use for stabling and grazing meadows.



The Post Office & Stores Toft. Cambs

## BIN COLLECTIONS FOR OCTOBER

Black Bin: 2nd, 16th, 30th

Blue Bin: 9th, 23rd

Green Bin: 9th, 23rd

## NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Advertisements are published quarterly. Copy for inclusion in the next available edition of the Calendar must reach us by 17th October 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 October.

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