TOFT VILLAGE CALENDAR

DIARY DATES

The Parish Council Next Meeting:
Monday 1st September 2025 at 7.00pm in The People's Hall.

Autumn Fete St Andrew's Church
on Saturday 6th September 10.30 - 12.30.

Zephirus Recorder Quartet
Sunday 21st September 4.30pm At St Andrew's Church, Toft.

Toft Friendship Club
We meet for tea at Coton Orchard Garden Centre on Wednesday 10th September.
The Friendship Club is for over 50s.

EDITORIAL

September 2025

Change comes to all communities. Before WWII Toft was a relatively poor community, where almost everyone either worked on the land or supported these workers. Limited transport infrastructure meant such communities were in large part self-sufficient. Pre-war Toft had a smaller population than at present yet had various small village businesses such as the blacksmith, a cobbler, a bike shop and the wood mill, a couple of pubs, a couple of general stores, a post office, a village school, the Church Institute Hall and the two churches.

Increasing mechanisation of the agricultural sector brought a declining need for farm workers, who then had to find occupation elsewhere but improved transport capabilities allowed more people to work away from the village. It also allowed villagers to shop more widely and the resulting competition impacted village businesses and saw local shops and pubs close. By the 2000s only the local Toft Shop and the one pub (now a Chinese restaurant) remained and the shop has recently encountered more competition from the new Cooperative convenience store.

Substantial house building in Toft in the Sixties and Seventies brought a significant influx of new families. The pubs still existed then but the only large public areas were the churches and the unloved Church Institute building. When the local school closed in 1959, the village converted it into the People's Hall and the Church Institute was replaced by a private house. The Village College opened on Toft parish land in 1960 so we gained substantial new school infrastructure. Later saw the building of the Home Meadow Care Home and the arrival of businesses to occupy the Mount and the farm site off Church Lane. In the coming decade we may see further change if EWR and associated housing developments in the area eventuate.

A largely self-sufficient agricultural community has transformed since the War but we thankfully still have some family farming around us and our highly regarded social activities, focussed mainly on the People's Hall and the two church venues. Sadly, the Methodist Chapel recently closed, so reducing options, and the success of the People's Hall venue depends on a volunteer workforce, many now of advancing years. Hopefully, Toft and its community will respond positively to such challenges in the coming years.

MINISTRY TEAM
THE CHURCH IN TOFT

St Andrew's Parish Church

Assistant Curate
Revd Barnabas Leeke 07787 800 888

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

31st August
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
Revd Prof. Michael Reiss
10.30am Lordsbridge Team Service and Ecumenical Welcome *
Holy Communion
Revd Barnabas Leeke and Revd Charles Fraser

7th September
NB No 8.30am (BCP)
11.00am Holy Communion
Revd Priscilla Slusar

14th September
11.00am Holy Communion
Revd Barnabas Leeke

21st September
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
Revd Prof. Michael Reiss
11.00am Holy Communion
Revd Barnabas Leeke

28th September
11.00am Morning Worship
Revd Robert Dolman

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

* As we reach another milestone in the life of the Church in Toft, it would be good to see some of you at the service on 31st as we welcome our Methodists into a sharing partnership for the future.

The Good Samaritan

At St Andrew's recently we have been looking again at the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10.25-37). This is a story that Jesus told, which would have shocked his listeners because the hero of the story is the person they would have least expected. It is eternally relevant because it speaks to our own preconceptions and makes us reflect on both how we are good neighbours to others and who we might expect to be a good neighbour to us.

It also illustrates a key aspect of God: He is not limited to acting only through so-called 'religious' people. Christians believe that all good things come from God, whether those things are a product of organized religion or secular society.

Toft in general, and St Andrew's in particular, thrive because of the goodness of people from across our community, whether they are motivated by faith or not. It is part of the work of faith communities to encourage and celebrate this whenever they can, because by doing so we would hope to see an increase in goodness in our communities and a decrease in its opposite.

St Andrew's autumn fete will take this theme as its focus this year, celebrating all those who contribute to the life of the church in many different ways, and the positive impact that this has on the whole Toft community. There will be the usual joy of seeing your favourite teddy on a zip line from the tower, sharing coffee and cake with friends and trying your luck at a game or two, as well as an opportunity to make your own contribution to the continued life of the church.

I hope you will join us in celebrating the goodness we find in unexpected places and the unique Toft neighbourliness from which we all benefit.

God bless

Barnabas

Friendship CLUB

Our August meeting, in which we shared memories of the post-war years: rationing, school milk, chapped knees, rice pudding was greatly enjoyed. In September we meet for a tea at Coton Orchard Garden Centre on Wednesday 10th September. Some people plan to visit the American Cemetery Museum beforehand and others will wander in the Garden Centre. If you would like to join us, please contact Doreen Jacklin, 3 Beldam's Close or Ann Mitchell 262516.

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

THE CHURCH IN TOFT

Various things from the Chapel building are moving into St Andrew's so forgive us if you find the church temporarily closed.

Sad to say, during July, most of the church silver was stolen. As the church is open in daylight hours and as we do not have CCTV so cannot be precise as to the exact time it disappeared, the police cannot take any action. It has probably been melted down by now! BUT the chalice, whilst silver, would not have had much value as far as the silver was concerned and would certainly have been more valuable as a chalice. Keep your eyes open for it please – it might even be in a Toft ditch!

On Saturday 6th September come and CELEBRATE St Andrews from 10.30 – 12.30 with refreshments, chat, some games, and bring teddy for a ride down off the tower from 11.00. See the poster! Donations can be made by card or cash.

We are also looking for prizes. If you are feeling generous, please leave at 20 High Street or 2 Beldam's Close.

• Bottles • Raffle prizes • Items of all sorts for Lucky squares – large or small

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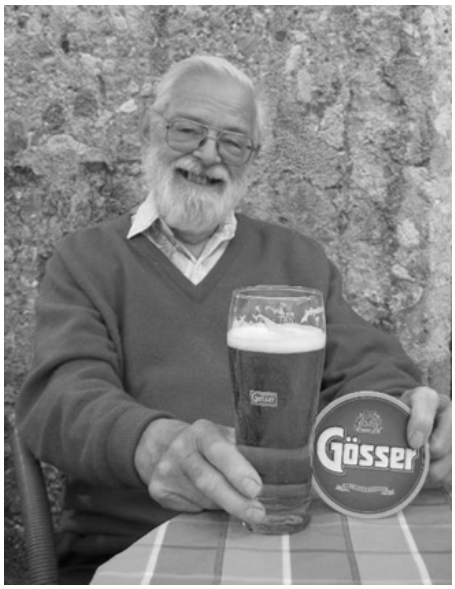
Brian Mitchell

In the last Calendar we reported the death of Dr Brian Mitchell, 20 High Street, aged 95. A Yorkshire man, educated at Sedbergh and Aberdeen University, he came to Peterhouse Cambridge to do his PhD in economic history. Following his RAF short Service Commission he returned to Cambridge and began to look for a site to build a house where the land went up and down a bit! So, he built on the former pig farm behind the Methodist Church here in Toft and there he remained until his death this year. In Toft he will be remembered for his garden, generously used for village Fetes, events, guide camps but above all for his dahlias; for his attendance every Friday night for a pint (or two) at the Club back to the days of the Red Lion and his participation in the quizzes.

In 1968 he married Ann and they had two sons; there are three grandchildren. A Fellow of Trinity College, where he taught



generations of students, he was amongst other things College Steward for many years, Secretary of the wine committee and Treasurer of the Field Club – the latter entailing parties in Toft for students, captains and secretaries of every sport except rowing. He wrote several books both in historical statistics and on general elections amongst other subjects.

In 1970 he became Secretary of Cambridge University Rugy Union Club, (more parties at Toft) and some 20 years later Treasurer – so the Varsity match, internationals and rugby generally played a major part in the winter, moving to cricket in the summer, where he played for, captained a side and in time became President of Camden Cricket Club (a local club founded in 1881). He loved to travel, in the fifties in France developing his skill in wine and delight in good food, eventually spending sabbatical time in the USA and Japan and visiting India, S. Korea, Fiji, New Zealand and Australia and widely in Europe, with a trip at least once a year, sometimes as part of the touring rugby side.

There will be a Celebration of his life on September 20th, at 11am in St. Andrew's followed by lunch at 20 High Street. If you would like to attend and to have lunch, please do and let Ann know.

We are sad to report three more deaths – one from the village – **Denise Grundy** of 2 Preston Close and **Maureen Exton**, a former resident of Beldam's Close in the late 70s and 80s with daughter Jane.
Dr Pam Fisher, for many years a GP in the Comberton surgery, has also recently died and there will be a service in St Mary's, Comberton at 2.00pm on 8th September to celebrate her life.

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*
Avril Coghlan		*cllr.coghlan@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 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

The next meeting will be Monday 1st September 2025 at 7.00pm in The People's Hall.

The Toft Methodist Chapel Building

After 160 years as a focus for the non-conformist presence in Toft, the Chapel sadly hosted its final service on July 27th. Until its future has been resolved by the Methodist Circuit, which may take some time, the Chapel will no longer be accessible for community use. The People's Hall is certainly a major focus for numerous social activities in Toft. However, the Chapel has usefully provided an additional venue over the years for activities such as Guides, the Warm Hub, village fetes, fayres and exhibitions as well as musical rehearsals by larger groups such as the Toft Choir and the Brass Band.

In considering the future of the Chapel building, an obvious option would be for the Circuit to sell it with the primary aim of securing market value, but there are precedents that suggest that the Circuit could be open to considering other solutions. There is certainly some interest, both in the village and within the local area, in investigating possible ways for us to once again have access to this community venue in the future. These interested parties will be further exploring ideas in the coming months, alongside establishing closer contact with the local Methodist Circuit to make them aware of our interest and sounding out the types of proposal they could entertain.

Updates will be published as and when more information is available.

Are you doing your bit for Toft?

We all know that Toft is a great place to live in with lots of events and things to do, surrounded by some beautiful countryside and it has a wonderful sense of community. However, it's easy to lose sight of the small things that can cause distress to our fellow villagers or make life difficult, such as:

★ Overgrown hedges that force pedestrians and others to walk into the road;

★ Bonfires that are lit at inappropriate times;

★ Litter in the streets;

★ Dog poo on footpaths and pavements.

Please help to keep Toft clean and tidy, pleasant and safe to move around in and free from litter and pollution.

Thank you from Toft Parish Council

ZEPHIRUS RECORDER QUARTET

Sunday 21st September at 4.30pm
at St Andrew's Church, Toft

If you look carefully at this picture, you will see Nuala, long-time resident and musician of Toft, and Janet, long-time choir leader of Toft choir and fan of Toft. Nuala and Janet have been playing in Zephirus Recorder Quartet for a number of years now and the quartet has given concerts at Michaelhouse in Cambridge and Horningsea church, and has contributed to other concerts and events at various locations around Cambridge. Nuala and Janet very much hope you will come and support them in Toft, as they offer a varied programme of music from different periods and showcase recorders of different sizes.

The concert will be around an hour in length and will be followed by tea and cake in the church. Entry is free, but donations are welcome for refreshments, with any surplus being given to St Andrew's.

YOU ARE INVITED TO

CELEBRATE

St Andrew's

06 SEPT | AT THE CHURCH | 10.30-12.30

TEDDIES FROM THE TOWER

LIVE MUSIC

GAMES AND PRIZES

COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS

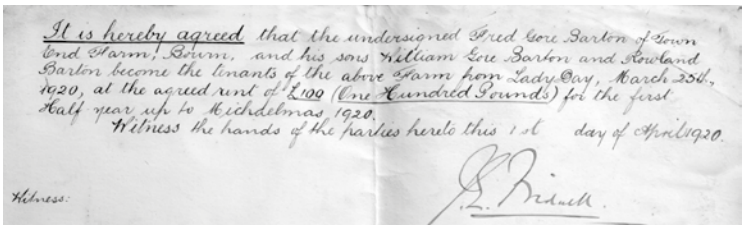
Richard 'Dick' Barton and family

Toft recently lost one of its great characters from our rural past, Mr Richard Barton of Mill Lane. Richard, or Dick as he was known, retired to Toft after a lifetime of farming, and lived in the bungalow in Mill Lane, which stands on the site of his father's farmstead, Holbein's Farm. His father, William Gore 'Bill' Barton (pictured right) built the bungalow. His mother, Mabel Mary Cooper (pictured below) was the school headmistress at Graveley.

Dick Barton farmed in Hardwick before retiring to Toft. His predecessors, Fred Gore Barton (Dick's grandfather) Bill Barton and Rowland 'Rowley' Barton (Fred's sons) acquired the tenancy of Hardwick Wood Farm in 1920 (see images of the tenancy agreement above right).

Mabel Barton (right), mother of Richard Barton

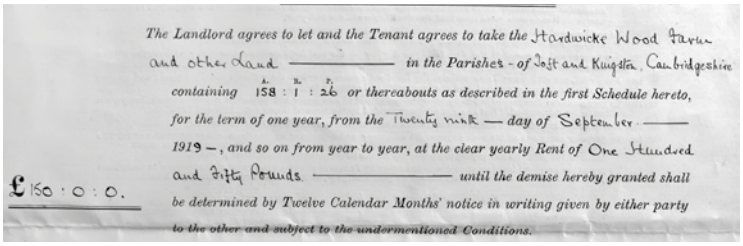
toft historical society



It is hereby agreed that the undersigned Fred Gore Barton of Town End Farm, Bourn, and his sons William Gore Barton and Rowland Barton become the tenants of the above Farm from Lady Day, March 25th, 1920, at the agreed rent of £100 (One Hundred Pounds) for the first Half year up to Michelmas 1920.

Witness the hands of the parties hereto this 1st day of April 1920.

Witness:



The Landlord agrees to let and the Tenant agrees to take the Hardwicke Wood Farm and other Land in the Parishes of Toft and Knigston, Cambridgeshire containing 158 : 1 : 26 or thereabouts as described in the first Schedule hereto, for the term of one year, from the Twenty ninth day of September 1919, and so on from year to year, at the clear yearly Rent of One Hundred and Fifty Pounds until the demise hereby granted shall be determined by Twelve Calendar Months' notice in writing given by either party to the other and subject to the undermentioned Conditions.

£150 : 0 : 0.

Toft Historical Society interviewed and videoed Dick during the decade before he passed away. He has left us a detailed and fascinating picture of agricultural life around Toft in the era before huge tractors and mechanised harvesting became the norm, a time when men carried backbreaking heavy sacks of grain to the barns and when much of the farmwork was done by hand.

William Gore Barton c.1966

Dick will be greatly missed for his colourful anecdotes, his acute sense of history and the importance of recording our local heritage. A recording of an interview with Dick talking about his life can be found on the THS website. He died on July 15th.

Toft Historical Society Talk Announcement

On Wednesday 29th October, Toft Historical Society (THS) will host a talk about the old Bedford and Cambridge railway, which ran through the Toft bottom fields.
The speaker has asked anyone who has photographs relevant to the old railway if they would be happy to share them with him. If you have either paper or digital copies, please email contact@tofthistory.org. THS will make digital copies of prints and return them safely to you.
Further details of the talk will follow in the next issue of the Calendar.

Friends of Bourn Brook

Summer 2025 Update

As mentioned in a recent Calendar article, we have now established an Environment Agency approved Riverfly monitoring site in the Brook below Priory Field and just downstream from the Toft Pumping Station. This site is being monitored on a monthly basis using nationally agreed Riverfly methodologies and our data is now being uploaded onto the official national Riverfly database. As a result, we can more reliably interpret our findings to establish the health status of the Brook over time. At present it can be assessed as moderately poor. Riverfly sampling is an entertaining and educational activity to undertake so if you are interested in the health of our local stream, contact *janetebbit@icloud.com*.

The chemical and microbiological health of the Brook has also been monitored regularly by FOBB since May 2024. The research has confirmed the detrimental effects of the treated effluent released into the Brook from Bourn Water Treatment Works. The installation of a phosphate stripping unit at the Works in Dec 2024 significantly lowered phosphate levels in effluent released each day into the Brook during the first half of 2025, when the Brook was actively flowing. However, the Brook largely dries up in summer upstream of the entry point for released treated effluent. The effluent flow is therefore not being significantly diluted at this time as it flows down towards Toft parish and so phosphate levels have risen again, albeit not as high as before the phosphate stripper came online.

We have seen little evidence to date that farming activity is currently polluting the Brook but we have observed two instances of significant domestic waste pollution of the Brook (extremely high counts of the bacterium E. coli) where it flows through Bourn village. This could be a waste dumping incident or possibly a leaking septic tank.

In a separate study we are now working with a researcher from Rothamsted Research Institute, investigating sources of sediments entering the Brook and other tributaries of the River Cam. This has traditionally been attributed to agricultural activities but there is increasing evidence that burrowing of banks by the highly invasive American Signal Crayfish could be a more likely explanation for the increasingly murky streams and rivers of the River Cam catchment.

Invasive Signal Crayfish

Shepreth Hedgehog Release Project – Update

As a result of the success of our 'Hedgehog Awareness Day', Judith Large, who ran an information session about hedgehogs on the day, informed me that she was choosing Toft as a suitable release village for juvenile hedgehogs. Following a recent meeting, we identified a small area of the village, based on the maturity of the gardens, where they were positioned and evidence of a current hedgehog population, as suitable for a release area. Subsequently, I have delivered an invitation leaflet '*Could you adopt a young hedgehog*?' to every household in the chosen area. I am happy to report that we have already had one person who has expressed an interest, so if you have received an invitation, and would like to join this wonderful project, please get in touch with me or directly with Judith.

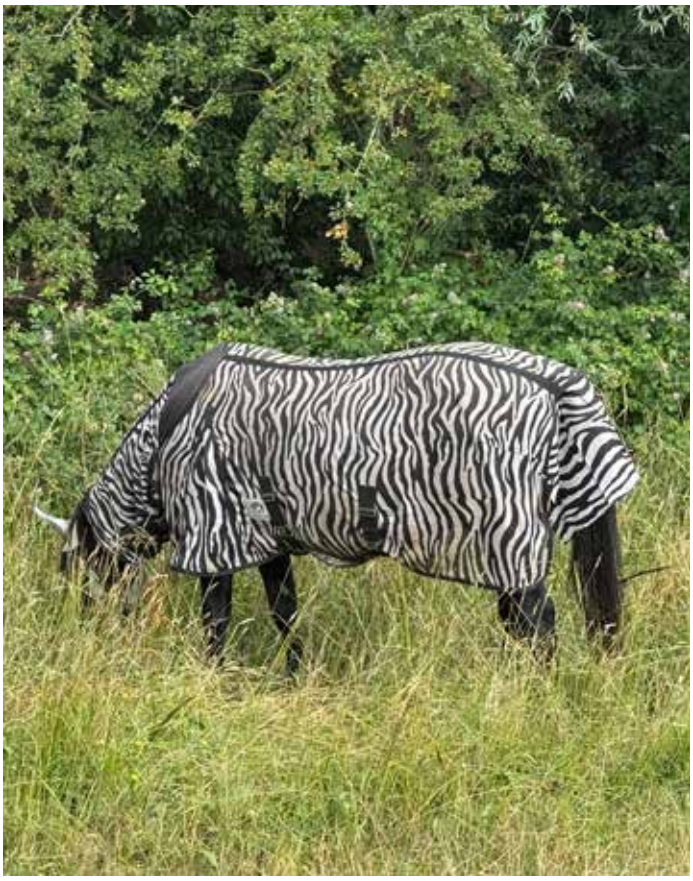
Judith - *judith.large62@googlemail.com*

Elaine - *elainemiles3@gmail.com*

Many thanks, *Elaine*

TOFT INCOMER?

The scientists tell us that climate change is resulting in flora and fauna moving ever northward. This zebra has walked all the way to Toft to enjoy the grazing in the Harris's Long Meadow.



Ripening Fruit in Lot Meadow

LOT MEADOW ORCHARD LAYOUT

Info Board

Discovery (apple)

Arthur Turner (cooking apple)

Bench

Willingham Gage (plum relative)

Egremont Russet (apple)

Chivers Delight (apple)

Conference (pear)

Beth (pear)

Czar (plum)

Lord Lambourne (apple)

Beacon

This year's weather has resulted in some of the fruit ripening early. Below is a guide.

Discovery – ripe in August but doesn't keep so should be picked and eaten.
Egremont Russet – usually ripe in October.
Conference Pear – usually in October/November.
Czar – ripe in August and now finished.
Willingham Gage – ripe in August. Excellent crop this year - has already been cleared.
Chivers Delight – This tree is laden with fruit but not usually ready to pick until October.
Beth – ripe by end of August. Not quite ready as we go to press.
Arthur Turner – ripe late August to early November. A sweet cooker which requires little sugar.
Lord Lambourne – ripe mid-September.

Lot Meadow belongs to the village and so do the fruit trees. Please help yourselves but do please leave some for other residents. Why not do a good turn and pick some for an elderly neighbour who is unable to visit Lot Meadow?

Nature Diary Rain & Shine

Let's face it: this summer has been mostly Shine, with far too little Rain to swell the grain or keep our grass green. Which would you prefer, really? A summer such as we've had this year will live long in young people's memories, as one of endless days of sun and light. Not so much fun for older folks battling against the heat, though, or even for the farmers, who seem to have had to harvest and then plough earlier than ever before. And our wild companions need all the help we can give them just now, especially in the form of a supply of water. Every ditch and stream is bone-dry until the next heavy rain falls, so small creatures are hard pushed to find what they need. A dish of water replenished every evening (the water evaporates very quickly during these warm days) could be a matter of life or death for them. And the bonuses? For those who are observant, there have been a few more unusual insects around, for example the striking Jersey tiger moth (*Euplagia quadripunctaria*) with its zebra-striped wings and bright red or orange body. This species, along with a number of others, is moving inexorably north with our higher temperatures. Perhaps because of our milder spring, trees are groaning – some quite literally – with their burden of fruit of every sort – plums, apples,

damsons, hips and haws – which should provide plenty of food for the birds and other creatures in the months to come. But still ... we need the rain, and who knows what the autumn will bring? Perhaps we do need to be careful what we wish for, but plenty of rain – in moderation – would be good!

Toft Club News

The 19th Toft **Beer & Cider Festival** will be over the weekend of 5th - 7th September. There will be a choice of local real ales and ciders, and our fabulous range of homemade food over the whole weekend. Saturday night will feature local bands, along with local music on Sunday afternoon. Entrance is free; and we are open from 4pm on Friday 5th, and noon on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th. There will be a Roast Dinner available at lunchtime on Sunday 7th – tickets will be on sale in the week before the Festival. Check out the website for full details of this annual event.

On Saturday 27th we are holding another **Pudding and Games Evening** – come along and have a delicious pudding, and then spend the rest of the evening playing games – both board games and some interactive Wii games on the big screen! Or just come along for the games! Puddings just £3 – tickets on sale from the Club. Doors open at 7pm.

The Film Club will be showing the 2024 film "*A Real Pain*" on Saturday 20th – mismatched cousins reunite for a tour through Poland to honour their beloved grandmother, but their old tensions resurface against the backdrop of their family history – the film deals with its sobering subject matter with respect and sensitivity, and yet it's packed with laughs from start to finish. 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 £3.00.

All our other regular events take place: **Toft Quiz** on Thursday 11th, **Carpet Bowls** on Friday 12th, **Table Tennis** on Thursday 18th, and **Toft Bingo** on Thursday 25th.

The Club is hosting a couple of music gigs in October: ***Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman*** are here on Friday 3rd October, and ***While & Matthews*** return on Tuesday 14th October. Full details are on the website.

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*

Schoolroom café

Schoolroom Café News & Macmillan Coffee Morning

We are delighted to let you know about a special event in September that promises not only delicious treats but also the chance to make a real difference.

On Wednesday 24th September, we will be holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning in place of our usual Café. Sadly, most people have been touched in some way by cancer, and we want to show our support for this fantastic charity.

So on this day, all your favourite cakes, scones and more will be available, plus soups at lunchtime (gluten-free options will also be available) and instead of paying Café prices, customers will be invited to donate whatever they wish, with all proceeds going to Macmillan.

Funtime for Little Ones will take place as usual from 10.30-11am, and we welcome all our regular customers plus new visitors in the People's Hall from 10.30am till 1.30pm.

We'd welcome extra offers of help with baking cakes, making soup and helping to serve and clear up on the day. Please contact Gill Pugh *gill.ppugh@gmail.com* or Jane Gifford *jane.gifford2@gmail.com*.

Around the villages

Foxton Scarecrow Festival

Saturday 4 October, 12.00 to 5.00.

We will be holding our very successful Scarecrow Festival once again this year on Saturday 4 October, so please come along and join us for some scarecrow fun! This year our theme is 'In Perfect Harmony!' See if you can identify all the various songs and singers that the inventive people of Foxton have come up with.

Buy a programme on the day and find all the music-themed scarecrows around the village. Vote for your favourite scarecrow! Children's and adult's quizzes, tombola, raffle and games. Stop at various venues for refreshments (bacon butties, home-made soup or tea and cakes) and enjoy live music at the Village Hall.

Fund-raiser for St Laurence Church, Foxton School and Pre-School.

For further information, email *foxtonscarecrow@gmail.com* or find us on Facebook.

Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants

Garden bumblebee

There are over 270 species of bee in the UK, but only one is a honey bee and only 24 are bumblebees. Bumblebees are large hairy insects with a rounded abdomen (tail). There are seven common species in Cambridgeshire and they can be found in many habitats: gardens, parks, verges, wasteland, nature reserves. Why not visit one of our sites and see how many different species you can see? You can make an educated guess at identification because the common species have different patterns and colours. Look at the colour of the tail and the thorax (the middle section) and then see if there are any stripes. If you see a large bumblebee that is black all over, it might be the rarer ruderal bumblebee.

	White tipped tail	**Red/orange tipped tail**	**Tail gingery all over**
Thorax gingery all over	Tree bumblebee		Common carder bee
Thorax with 1 yellow stripe	Buff-tailed, or white-tailed bumblebee	Early bumblebee	
Thorax with 2 yellow stripes	Garden bumblebee		
Thorax black		Red-tailed bumblebee	

There are also six species of cuckoo bumblebees that often mimic their host but are rarer. These species do not produce worker bees but instead hijack the nest of another species and then con the workers into raising the next generation. Cuckoo bumblebees are a bit less hairy and therefore appear to have a more pointed abdomen. Some species have smoky wings. Cuckoo bumblebees do not collect food, so will not be seen with a blob of pollen on the inside of their back leg.

You can help bumblebees by encouraging the right plant species to grow in your garden. This might just mean letting a few 'weeds' grow. Here are a few easy win plants that can be grown in pots: sunflowers, sweet peas, geraniums, French beans, lemon balm, chives.

September events (booking is essential *wildlifebcn.org/events*)

Trumpington Meadows

- Monthly meander: a longer morning walk Monday 9th Sept
- Seasonal stroll: a shorter afternoon amble Friday 12th Sept
- Nature and Natter (creative writing):
  an evening session for adults to socialise Wed 17th Sept

Common carder bee

Cambourne

- Cambourne Community Fete: 20th Sept
- Little Bugs pre-school sessions: Friday mornings over 5 weeks starting 26th Sept

Local enquiries

- *Rebecca.Neal@wildlifebcn.org* Facebook: *@BeccaBadgerWTBCN*
- *TrumpingtonMeadows@wildlifebcn.org* Facebook: *@TrumpingtonMeadowsNatureReserve*

General enquiries

- *cambridgeshire@wildlifebcn.org*
- *@wildlifebcn*
- *www.wildlifebcn.org*

The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs, and Northants is a local wildlife conservation charity aiming to achieve bigger, better, and more joined up habitats for wildlife and people. We do this by working in partnership to conserve and enhance habitats and biodiversity, and through community work, helping people enjoy, understand, and take action for wildlife.

THE ALIENS ARE BACK!

In 2010, Toft Social Club put on a pantomime called Toft in Space, in which aliens landed on Toft village green and abducted a bunch of people dancing around the maypole. Fortunately, it was not our Brownies and other youngsters but a group of mature village ladies who were whisked away to the Planet Zog, until they were rescued in the show's happy ending.
Robert Longhurst (School Lane) has reimagined the scene on Toft village green. In his delightful painting, reproduced here in black and white, the villagers seem singularly unperturbed by the presence of aliens in their midst. What a friendly lot we are!

A reminder of the wierd and wonderful world of Toft in 2010.

BIN COLLECTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

Black Bin: 4th, 18th

Blue Bin: 11th, 25th

Green Bin: 11th, 25th

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* 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.heylings.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*.

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 - 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 September.

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