

# TOFT VILLAGE CALENDAR

JULY 2025



## DIARY DATES

**The Parish Council**  
will meet on  
Monday 7th of July.

### **Toft Friendship Club**

9th July at 2.30, in  
Toft People's Hall:  
Strawberries & Cream!  
The Friendship Club is  
for over 50s.

**Toft Sports**  
19th July in the  
meadow by the  
church at approx. 2.30

**Methodist Chapel**  
The final service of  
worship will be held  
on Sunday, July 27th  
at 3.00pm.

**Toft Slow Session**  
There will be a Slow  
Session on Saturday  
26 July starting at 7.30  
in Toft People's Hall.  
Everyone is welcome.



## EDITORIAL

Do you speak American? Or more precisely, American English? British English spread around the world from the Tudor era onwards through colonisation and gave birth to American English. English now has about one and a half billion users worldwide. But the global reach of English as the language of international communication in the 21<sup>st</sup> century owes its dominance to North American English. This has come about thanks to the internet and the dissemination of American culture through economic power, popular music, cinema, social media, broadcasting and streaming.

Your answer to the initial question may have been a confident 'no'; the people of Toft speak good British English! But give yourself a little test. Which would you be more inclined to use (a) The government will likely change its mind or (b) The government is likely to change its mind? 'Schedule' with (a) sk- or (b) sh-? (a) generation zee or (b) generation zed? (a) trash or (b) rubbish? (a) practice the piano or (b) practise the piano? If your answer is (a) to all five, welcome to American English. There's a legitimate mid-Atlantic answer too: sometimes I use (a), sometimes (b). What's more, some Americanisms are very old British and Irish forms reimported to these islands (for example, the use of American 'gotten', which goes back to Middle English in the 1500s). Old and new forms can compete till natural selection declares a winner but at present it looks like British English may falter inside the final furlong. Furlong? What's that?

Global English is increasingly dominated by American English and it's not only British English that imports Americanisms (Australian and Nigerian English are two other varieties which do so, among others). But as with everything, this has its upsides and downsides. On the upside, a fluent command of English promises social capital, offering global career and study opportunities. International trade, diplomacy and cultural exchange benefit from a common language and sensitive, effective communication obviates misunderstandings and brings people together. On the downside, we face the loss of diversity in our UK regions through this linguistic melting-pot. Will the Cambridgeshire accent, still vibrant in Toft's oldest native inhabitants, be distinguishable from Norfolk or Suffolk accents 20 years from now? Will we lose local words and sayings? More to the point, does it matter? Over to you, reader.

## FRIENDS OF BOURN BROOK

**Q. What lurks beneath the murky waters of Bourn Brook? A. Quite a lot actually.**

The Friends of Bourn Brook (FOBB) have been investigating over the past year. We have discovered that phosphate levels have decreased, probably thanks to the improvements made at the Bourn Sewage Works and that there are a lot of invertebrates like caddis fly larvae, tiny freshwater shrimps, various types of Olives (fly larvae) and even some small fish at home now in the water and under the stones.

The Parish Council has generously given us funds to buy our own equipment for sampling the riverfly (invertebrate) population. The group has now been certified by the Riverfly Partnership to collect samples and upload our findings to their national database. We intend to do this monthly throughout the summer.

Himalayan balsam is a problem every year. The Cambridge Conservation Volunteers (CCV) have asked FOBB to help pull balsam along the brook through the village and at the Cambridge Meridian Golf Course. They plan to go upstream towards Kingston on July 6th and downstream through the Golf Course on Sunday 20th July. If you would like to join in this activity or would be interested in kick sampling for riverfly, contact: [janetebbit@icloud.com](mailto:janetebbit@icloud.com) or Vince Lea: [v.lea@thecrt.co.uk](mailto:v.lea@thecrt.co.uk)



caddis fly larva

## MINISTRY TEAM THE CHURCH IN TOFT

### St Andrew's Parish Church

#### Assistant Curate:

Revd Barnabas Leeke 07787 800 888

#### Lay Minister:

Barbara Preece Tel: 263466

#### Churchwardens:

Ann Mitchell 262516

Elizabeth Dolman 262574

#### Deputy Wardens:

John Quenby 263949

Jean Verney (who is also the Treasurer)

### Methodist Church

**Minister:** Revd Charity Nzegwu

01763 241803

#### Stewards:

Diana Tebbit 263557

Stephen Acklam 264055

Mrs Pat Morton 264010

## SERVICES OF WORSHIP

### 6th July

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

Revd Priscilla Slusar

11.00am Holy Communion, Methodist Church

Revd Robert Dolman

### 13th July

11.00am Holy Communion, St. Andrew's

Revd Barnabas Leeke

### 20th July

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

Revd Prof. Michael Reiss

11.00am Morning Worship, Methodist Church

Mrs Cathy Michell

### 27th July

#### 3.00pm METHODIST CHURCH – Final service

Revd Charity Nzegwu, assisted by Anglican and Methodist members, followed by refreshments. There will be a display of Methodism in Toft over the centuries in the New Room.

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

## THE END OF A CHAPTER

Sadly, Toft Methodist Church is closing at the end of August. The final service of worship will be held on Sunday, July 27 at 3.00pm. Our first word must be one of thanks, particularly to the Tebbit family, who pioneered the venture in the 1860s and have remained at its heart ever since, but also to many others who have worked hard over the years, generous with their time and money, to maintain a lively centre of Christian witness at the heart of the village. For generations it throbbed with life and many found there a moral and spiritual compass for their lives. When education ended for many in their early teens at the latest, the Chapel fed and enlarged young minds. Many people have enjoyed its hospitality on a wide variety of occasions.

In Victorian times and since, Primitive Methodism was an important strand of English Christianity. Often it captured the hearts and minds of communities dedicated to a particular industry, whether it was fishing or mining or agriculture. It offered an enthusiastic approach to Christian worship and life and a vibrant network of fellowship more accessible to some than the more formal atmosphere of the Established Church. Its outward looking stance led many Prims, as they were called, into the trade unions and into radical politics.

The world has changed at a phenomenal rate. Better education, social mobility, industrialisation and a vast array of new ways of communication have all transformed the setting in which the churches operate. The Churches have drawn much closer together especially in places like Toft, where for more than twenty years the Chapel and St Andrew's Parish Church have grown increasingly close in a Local Ecumenical Partnership.

Throughout history there has been constant development in the Church. Theology acquires new breadth and depth. Denominations and movements come and go. But there is also continuity. We hope that the best features of Methodism will flourish in the life of St Andrew's and that the message of Jesus Christ will continue to be faithfully proclaimed and lived.



Toft Methodist chapel 1940. The new extension





# CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY



Methodist Sunday School c1920

TOFT METHODIST CHAPEL – following the final service on 27th July, the Chapel building will be closed.

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## *Schoolroom Community Café News*

We'd very much like to hear your views about what you'd like to see – or eat – in the café. Now the warmer weather is here, do you still enjoy soup? What do you think of the 'Specials' we've been trialling recently (filled jacket potatoes, bacon baps, quiches, filled baguettes, samosas)? Have you been enjoying our range of home-made cakes?

We can't guarantee to please everyone but let us know your preferences and views on any aspect of the

café and we'll do our best!

To share your ideas, or if you would like to know more about helping in the café, making soup or baking cakes, please talk to one of the team leaders, or email Gill at: [gill.ppugh@gmail.com](mailto:gill.ppugh@gmail.com).

Many thanks to all those who already contribute to making our café such a welcoming and enjoyable place to visit every Wednesday.



# 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	<a href="mailto:cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk">cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk</a>
Deputy:		
Elaine Miles	262255	<a href="mailto:cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk">cllr.miles@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>
<b>Clerk:</b>		
Ben Stoehr	01954 210241	<a href="mailto:clerk@tpc.toft.org.uk">clerk@tpc.toft.org.uk</a>

**The Parish Council met on 9th June 2025 at 7.00pm.  
Next Meeting: Monday 7th July 2025, 7.00pm in The People's Hall. All Welcome.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Harris, who was out of the Parish and Cllr Harrison.

There were no declarations of interest nor written requests for dispensations.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved and Cllr Miles confirmed that a notice had been put into the Calendar regarding the musical equipment in the children's playground as agreed.

The PC was very happy to welcome Avril Coghlan as a new member of the Parish Council and as she lives on the Birdlings estate, she will become the representative for residents living there.

Cllr Tebbit agreed to become the PC representative on TPH committee. Regarding the viability of installing the Finding Fitness climbing wall in the children's playground area, Cllr Tebbit has agreed to investigate further.

Information has been received from the County Council that the open bins we had requested to be replaced are, in fact, owned by the Parish. It was agreed that the open bins around the village would either be replaced by the PC with the green 'topsy' bins or removed. Those being replaced are: next to the bus shelter; by the bus stop near Home Meadow Care Home; opposite St. Andrew's Church and by the bus stop outside the children's playground. Two open bins are being removed, one on the High Street between Beldam's Close and Brookside and one on Comberton Road just past St. Andrew's Cottages.

Cllr Yeadon has almost completed the survey of street lighting and will present it at the next meeting.

Regarding the Facebook account, Cllr Derbyshire has agreed to investigate the procedure for closing this

account as it has not been used for some time.

The ROSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) report on our children's equipment was very good. There are one or two minor issues such as the catch on the gate and the goalpost netting that Cllr Yeadon has said he is willing to fix.

The tree survey was well received and it was agreed that the recommendations would be carried out in the autumn at the same time as the hedge cutting – i.e. after the bird-nesting season.

As work on the newly-planted hedge in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee area needs to continue during the growing season, the grassing of this will take place in the autumn to prevent the ground being disturbed.

The request for a further bin at the Birdlings is to be directed to the developers as it is their responsibility. Cllr Coghlan agreed to pursue this.

The members of the meeting were very happy to support the request from the Friends of Bourn Brook to provide funds for the purchase of equipment which will further assist in the analysis of the condition of the water.

Under correspondence received, a resident has questioned the way in which the verges have been cut and it was agreed that, given the current contract is underway, these comments would be taken into consideration when the next cutting contract is drawn up.

The Chair was very pleased to inform the meeting of an offer from Strategem to do some volunteer work within the village and he will be contacting them with a suggestion.

Under Finance, Procedure and Risk assessment, the finance report was considered and payment of bills was approved. It was unanimously agreed that Accounting Statements were all in order and approved and duly signed by the Chair.

There were no planning applications to consider.

Under members' items, Cllr Miles reported that there had been a number of complaints regarding overhanging vegetation that was causing pedestrians to walk into the road or blocking motorists' view of oncoming traffic. These have been noted and Cllr Derbyshire will inform Highways of these dangers.

Cllr Derbyshire continues to pursue the problem of overhead wires in the overgrown trees in Brookside. She is greatly hampered by the fact that Highways and the power company say that this is the responsibility of the landowner, who moved to New Zealand many years ago and is untraceable.

Cllr Miles agreed to supply the information requested by Cambridgeshire County Council, who are drawing up a 'Public Rights of Way Hierarchy', which will provide the final piece of information on the 'Active Travel Hierarchy', which is a county-wide network. This is intended to give the Council valuable information about the users of all the footpaths in the county so that they can consider prioritising maintenance activities on the most important routes.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

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



# TOFT SPORTS DAY

With an active village community such as Toft, it is not surprising that there are accounts of the then very well-attended Methodist Sunday School in the first half of the 20th century organising picnics that would, on occasion, include sporting activities. It seems that the Tebbit boys were very capable runners and there are stories of Claude Tebbit winning the Round the Village race in 1900. There are suggestions that similar sporting events occurred on and off over the following decades. However, the first record we have of a village-wide Sports Day was in 1953, when it formed part of the celebration of our late Queen's Coronation. On that day, the prize for winning was one (shilling) and six pence, a shilling for second place and sixpence for third! This proved to be the beginning of what became a regular annual Toft social occasion up until 2004.

Early Sports Days were organised by Geoff Balcombe's father and later taken over by the People's Hall Entertainment Committee, but always under the aegis of the Parish Council. Home Meadow was the venue during this period, initially courtesy of Clifford Tebbit and later through Michael Tebbit.

Sports Days included a wide range of activities for one and all, as shown by the 1990 poster. These included team competitions such as tug of war and rounders organised around odds vs. evens teams (odd number houses versus even number houses). By the 1980s, Sports Days had often expanded to become an all-day event, as in 1987 when it included a children's parade, a crafts and hobbies exhibition at the Methodist Church,

a painting competition and even an opportunity to play boules!

Changing village demographics through the 1990s led to support for the event reducing over time. The 2002 Sports Day became Funday Sunday with new sporting attractions as well as a beer tent and the barbecue over lunchtime. However, by 2004 it

was decided to discontinue the event until 2012 when, as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Sports Day was revived in Mary Paxman's field beside Church Road. Since then, Sports Days have become a more regular event up to the present day.

See page 11 for details of this year's Sports Day.



**TOFT VILLAGE**  
**SPORTSDAY**  
on Saturday the 7th day of July 1990  
Commencing at 2.30. in the afternoon, or as near as may be determined by the readiness of the contestants and organisers  
**ON THE MEADOW**  
by kind permission of Mr Clifford Tebbit

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**Featuring**  
**THE GREAT SKIPPING RACE**  
*open to all ages - whether short or tall, little or big, lean or fat, young or old*  
**COSTUME RACE**  
*A Battle of the Sexes. The Ladies versus the Gentlemen in this exciting new addition to our programme*  
**FLAT RACES**  
*for all complexions and ages*  
**OBSTACLE RACES**  
**THE ROUND THE VILLAGE RACE**  
*The Winner to hold for one year a most excellent engraved shield*  
**TODDLERS RACE • WELLIE THROWING • PITCHING THE BALE**  
**SPUD & SPOON • THROWING THE BEAN BAG**  
**CREAM TEAS**  
*on sale throughout the afternoon provided by "Toft Playgroup". Orange squash free to all children*  
**RACES - WHEELBARROW • 3-LEGGED • SLOW CYCLE • SACK**

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**Concluding with**  
**A GRAND FAMILY BARBECUE**  
*will take place in the early evening - bring your own meat (to be barbecued by our cooks) and something to drink. Salads, bread and utensils provided.*

FLAGMAN BY JAY THORP



**Tel: 01223 457958**

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library)

### Weekly activities

**Rhymetime**, 10.30am – 11.00am for children between 0 to 4 years of age. July dates: 14th Then every other week. Also join the **First Steps Library Club**, aged 0 to 4 years. **Free event.**

**It's Lego Time** with Duplo. Every Saturday from 10.30am. **Free event.**

**Summer Reading Challenge** Starting **Saturday, July 5th**, and **Saturday, July 12th**, sign up at Comberton library for a six-week reading challenge.

### Summer activities at Comberton

**SRC Big Outdoor Games Fri 25 Jul 3-5pm £**

**SRC Flower Button Craft Fri 1 Aug 3.30-4.30 £**

Book your tickets in Comberton library or email:

[cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

### 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.



**Wildlife Trust for  
Beds, Cambs  
& Northants**

Summer is peak time for hoverflies and they can be found anywhere there are flowers. They are useful pollinators and amazing mimics, having the warning colours and appearance of bees or wasps (so predators leave them alone) but without a sting. There are over 280 species in the UK and an average suburban garden might have 40. The Wildlife Trusts and The Royal Horticultural Society have teamed up to provide a free booklet all about hoverflies and how you can help them. You can find it on the *Wild About Gardens website*.

### July events

(Charges apply.) A complete list can be found at: [wildlifebcn.org/events](http://wildlifebcn.org/events)

- Friday mornings, 9.30-11ish: Little Bugs pre-school sessions, Cambourne
- Fri 18<sup>th</sup> 8.30-11pm: Night walk from Cambourne to Bourn Windmill
- Sat 19<sup>th</sup> 9-12.30: Summer walk from Cambourne to Bourn Windmill
- Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> 8-10pm: Nature and Natter, walk and campfire for adults, Cambourne
- Wed 30<sup>th</sup> (Cambourne): 10-12ish: the first of the weekly family sessions for the summer holidays, making mini rafts

### Local enquiries

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

Facebook: @BeccaBadgerWTBCN

### General enquiries

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

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

The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants is a local conservation charity aiming to achieve bigger, better and more joined up habitats for wildlife and people.



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**  
*Working together to improve community safety*

If you are planning to have a BBQ:

- Use barbeques on a hard, flat surface away from grass, shrubs or fencing.
- Put disposable barbeques on bricks. Do not place directly on grass.

For more information log on to [www.cambsfire.gov.uk](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk), follow us on social media or call 01480 444500.



# Hedgehog Awareness Day – Another success for Toft!

I am very pleased to report that the event was very well attended and a huge success – the games and sales made almost £300, which is quite amazing for a two-hour event. So, I would like to thank all those who helped to make this such a success: people who knitted the hedgehogs and brooches, made cards, bunting and the hedgehog cake, provided a drawing for the secret auction, helped to erect the hedgehog trail and gave their time before and during the event and, last but not least, those who brought wonderful cakes and biscuits. It would never have happened without this tremendous group effort nor without the generosity of those who attended so 'Well done' to all.

Judith Large from Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital was overwhelmed by what she described as 'a fabulous

atmosphere' and appreciated Toft's enthusiasm in promoting the cause of hedgehogs.

**Judith confirmed that she will be releasing some young hedgehogs in Toft. Read her message in this edition of the Calendar and get in touch with her if you meet the requirements.** (See page 8.)

It is vitally important for our resident hedgehogs to have a new gene pool, which will produce healthy offspring and increase the population.

I think we can safely say that we have taken a huge step further in helping our prickly friends! Please continue to keep me informed of hedgehog activity in and around your garden.

*Many thanks, Elaine*



Toft's Hedgehog Awareness Day on 15 June was a great success. One Toft 11-year-old created a beautiful, framed drawing of a hedgehog, which was auctioned for charity. The event, as with all great Toft events, featured cakes galore!





## Hedgehog Release in Toft from Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital

We obviously invest a lot of time and resources into getting our hedgehogs back to health so we need to make certain that your garden and surrounding area is the best place to release the hedgehog so that it has the best chance of survival. We tend to release hedgehogs from back gardens only.

**Can you please get back to me with the following information if you would like to be considered as a release site?**

- Details of hedgehogs that visit your garden already. We wouldn't consider your site appropriate if you haven't already got hedgehogs.
- Information about how hedgehogs can come and go from your garden - boundaries must be porous.
- What feeding stations and provision of water do you have?
- Do you have any night-time cameras for monitoring hedgehogs?
- What sort of hedgehog house you have as a 'starter home' on release?
- Do you have dogs - or are there dogs next door?
- Are there any hazards such as steep-sided ponds?
- Proposed building work in your garden or locally? This can be hazardous.
- Are you close to a busy road?
- Is there any badger or fox activity in the locality?
- Garden chemicals, patio cleaners, etc. cause chemical burns to hedgehogs' feet. Your garden needs to be as chemical free as possible.

**Some photographs would be really helpful and appreciated. It is likely that I will need to come and check your garden.**

Don't worry if you don't have a hedgehog house. I can advise on making one. Please don't buy one. Commercial ones tend to be poorly designed and made.

**Do get back to me with any questions or concerns.**

Many thanks

Judith

[judith.large62@googlemail.com](mailto:judith.large62@googlemail.com)

Release Site Co-ordinator (Volunteer) Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital | Shepreth Wildlife Park | Shepreth | Herts | SG8 6PZ | Registered charity no. 1145477

## The Scent and Sight of Flowers



After the flurry of blossom in our hedgerows and trees in spring – already showing signs of the fruits to come – gardens and fields are now bright with summer flowers of every hue. Even our 'weeds' have a niche to fill, providing precious nectar for bees and so many other insects. Walking through the fields, one senses the fragrant scent of flowers and grasses wafted on the breeze; sometimes too the heady smell of new-mown hay. Along the field margins colours clash in startling array: yellow buttercups, deep purple thistles, white daisies, pink clover – common plants but brief luminous jewels in our landscape. And delicate arching sprays of briar rose of every hue, from deepest pink to pure white, clamber through, across and over the hedges, each falling petal presenting a perfect heart. In gardens too, roses are in abundance, and swathes of lavender hum with the contentment of bees. And all this multitude of flowers proclaims, 'This is summer!: the time to grow, flower and set seed, to make the most of those long, warm, light-filled days.'

*Katherine James*

### The Garden Wrangler

The Garden Wrangler is on holiday, not doing anything in the garden and advises the same to all readers.





# Around the villages

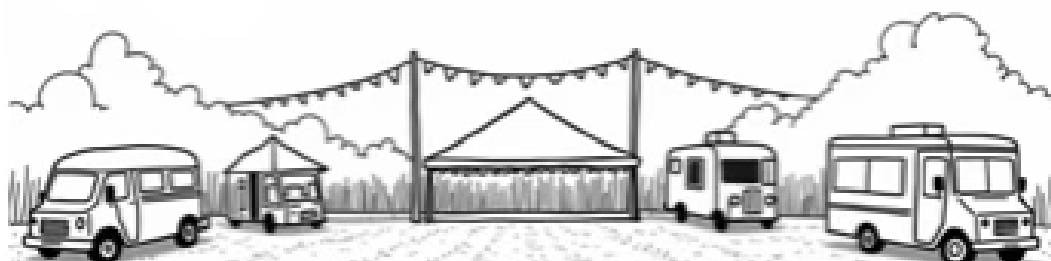
## Miniature Bourn Windmill Restored Thanks to Cambourne Shed



An 80-year-old replica of the historic Bourn Windmill has been lovingly restored by dedicated volunteers of Cambourne Shed. The replica is now on display at the windmill in time for the summer season of Open Days.

Bourn Windmill is the oldest surviving windmill in the UK and is owned and cared for by local charity Cambridge Past, Present & Future. Their Estate Manager, Allan Scott Davies, is really pleased with the work of the volunteers. 'This working model is more than just a charming garden feature - it tells a story of craftsmanship, family legacy and community spirit.'

The replica and Bourn Windmill can be visited on 13 July, 17 August and 14 September. Full details on [www.cambridgeppf.org/events-list](http://www.cambridgeppf.org/events-list) or via the QR code.



## Comberton Summer Festival

Comberton Parish Council is hosting a family-friendly Summer Festival, on 5th July 2025, 2-11pm.

The programme includes:

100 performers ranging in age from 7-70

60 feet of inflatable drop slide

30 stalls (food, jewellery, crafts)

9 hours of wall-to-wall entertainment

8 bands

4 sign-up activities

4 food trucks

1 tool sharpening service

A Disco and...a Dog Show!

Further information

use the QR code or

<https://comberton-pc.gov.uk/summer-festival>



## Poertry corner

Abigail Longhurst, granddaughter of Jane and Robert (School Lane) has always loved poetry and writing poems. When she was a child, she would send poems she'd written to Robert and Jane. She wrote this delightful one in 2014.

### Archery

You draw your string  
To your chin  
Then steadily breathe in.  
You lift your arm  
Now reasonably calm  
And look through the sight  
Willing your breath not to fight  
The string releases  
As your breath comes out in pieces  
It is stuck in the target  
You're breathing steadily  
So you know that you are done.

Abigail Longhurst

## What I'm Reading

The book I have just finished reading is entitled *Flight Behaviour* by Barbara Kingsolver.

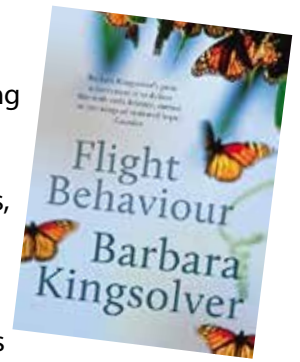
Set in the Appalachian Mountains, it tells of a community where the atmosphere is one of fear of education and scientists and a belief that everything that happens in life is 'God's Will'. The main character, Delarobia, born into poverty and destitution, discontented with her life as a young mother living on the Turnbow family farm, which is experiencing financial failure, seeks an escape through an assignation.

The story develops into a conflict between the deeply-ingrained societal beliefs and the science of climate change when Delerobia witnesses a strange phenomenon of nature – a large colony of monarch butterflies like a burning bush. She is immediately caught up in a life-changing media storm that challenges her way of life.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and would recommend it as it is well written, the characters are believable and the theme is relevant to our times.

This book won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2012.

Jean Stewart



## Notes from the Museum

Iggy, our iguanodon skeleton, has been greeting visitors at the door of the Sedgwick Museum since 1904. He is a particular friend of small children, who sometimes do a little delighted jig when they catch sight of him looming overhead. Just once did I see a small child bolt back out of the door in terror. That seems a very rational reaction: Iggy is extremely big – and skeletal – and they were very small and edible.

Iggy is our star exhibit, the image we use for our museum logo and the first thing most people recall after their visit. But Iggy does have a few problems. For a start, no self-respecting iguanodon would have stood up on its hind legs like a kangaroo. Iggy's position is a Victorian mistake, but now he's bolted onto an iron frame, we can't reposition him.

'Is he real?' I get asked this almost every week. Iggy is not the original fossil, which is in Brussels, but a cast, a replica accurate enough for the scientists of the time to use for study. Iggy is one of twelve casts of the same original fossil; he has a twin in Oxford and another in London.

Why ship all these copies of a Belgian iguanodon? This is the shady part of Iggy's story. King Leopold of Belgium was facing international condemnation for his appalling crimes against humanity in the Congo. Leopold was 'dinosaur-washing' his reputation. Dinosaurs were a huge Victorian craze; Leopold's gifts would have made popular exhibits, associating his name with respectable scientific endeavour.

Nevertheless, Iggy is still a firm favourite with staff,

volunteers and visitors to the museum. Why not come along to the museum and see if you agree with them? There's always plenty to see and do at the museum and in the school holidays, additional activities are laid on for children. Just ask me for details.

Nuala Tannahill







# TOFT VILLAGE SPORTS

**on Saturday 19th July commencing at 2.30 in the afternoon**  
or as near as may be determined by the readiness of the contestants and organisers

**ON THE MEADOW BY THE CHURCH**

by kind permission of Mary Paxman

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## **FEATURING The Costume Race**

A battle of the sexes - women versus the men. Don't miss this chance to crossdress.

## **FLAT RACES**

for all age groups

## **OBSTACLE RACE**

## **THE ROUND THE VILLAGE RACE**

an historic event in Toft since 1900

**TODDLERS RACE • WHEELBARROW  
WELLY WANGING • SLOW CYCLE  
PITCHING THE BALE • SPUD AND  
SPOON • THROWING THE BEAN BAG  
3-LEGGED RACE • SACK RACE**

something there for a range of ages from tot to tottering!

**Refreshments on sale throughout the afternoon.**

**Squash free for all children.**

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***Concluding with***  
**A Grand Family Barbecue**

**Bring your own food and drink**

No glasses in the meadow please due to danger for livestock

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## BIN COLLECTIONS FOR JULY

Black Bin: 10th, 24th

Blue Bin: 3rd, 17th, 31st

Green Bin: 3rd, 17th, 31st

## 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 18 July.

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