



Toft Village Calendar

Produced and Distributed by St. Andrew's Parish Church

November 2024



EDITORIAL

What strange mania has infected the Met Office just lately? If their objective is to send the entire populace off to bed of an Autumn evening with a sense of dread, sleeping bags and toothbrushes packed against any of a myriad potential catastrophes, then they are half-way to succeeding. "Britain Braced For Battering" ran the strapline in an otherwise respected publication just the other day as it warned of the perils of approaching Storm Ashley. This storm, gasped the BBC, would produce an "explosive cyclogenesis", before explaining to its more low-brow viewers, such as me, that we would probably be more familiar with the term 'weather bomb'. I wasn't, but the thought was enough to send me scurrying off to check if we still had the candles from last month's birthday cake. In the event, it turned out that some places that often get autumn gales got some autumn gales. The 'bomb', it seemed, was a bit of a UXB.

Have a look at the weather forecast on TV sometime. The map is covered with threatening wedges of blue-ish purple in which are scattered livid blotches of acid yellow. This means it will be wet. On days when it isn't wet, we get fiery streaks of crimson and day-glo orange. This means it might be warm or, as the presenter will inform us in portentous, doom-laden tones, '0.7 degrees higher than the corresponding period last year' or some equally scary equivalent. Over-laying the whole thing is what looks like a swarm of enraged hornets, showing us that it might be breezy.

And then there are the 'meteorological phenomena'. The 'Supermoon' earlier this month, which I excitedly rushed into the garden to clock. Yup - it was a full moon. Other than that, it looked entirely normal. Or 'STEVE'. Steve, in case you unaccountably don't know, stands for 'Strong Thermal Emission Velocity Enhancement' and is alleged to 'appear as a ribbon and last for 20 minutes to an hour'. Except that it doesn't and didn't. And who can forget that rare opportunity to witness the glorious splendour of the Aurora Borealis just a few weeks back? Well, pretty much everyone, if the crowd of disappointed potential spectators I joined is anything to go by. "Look" said one. "It might be that faint smudge you can see, but only if you look through a camera." And I've lost count of the number of chances to see the Perseid meteor shower, religiously promised every year but never actually visible to anyone without an industrial-strength telescope and six years of training.

Why do they keep foisting all this panic-inducing stuff on us? What are we supposed to do - reinstall an Anderson shelter in the back garden? Time was, the Met Office - and the forecast - was populated by avuncular old chaps in tweeds who would sometimes move a little magnetic picture of a cloud onto the map to signify the arrival of mid-Winter, or tell us comforting stories about things called isobars, which were generally confined to The Bay Of Biscay and other weird foreign places. Today, we get 'Apocalypse Now - The Weather Forecast'.

Still, one thing hasn't changed. They were often wrong then - and they're often wrong now. *Plus ça change...*

Local charity enables unpaid carers to write their Will for free

This Free Wills Month, local charity *Caring Together* has launched their first ever free Will writing service. This enables unpaid carers and others to make a Will online, over the phone or in-person with a local solicitor at no cost to themselves.

The charity supports unpaid, family carers who are looking after someone with a disability or long-term illness. This is why the charity provides vital services including breaks, counselling and specialist support for children who are carers.

As well as this being a quick, easy, and free way to write a Will, particularly for anyone who is currently in a caring role, it is the charity's hope that people will consider leaving a gift in their Will to the charity. Caring Together's Chief Executive, Miriam Martin said, "We know that for many of the unpaid carers we support putting their affairs in order brings great peace of mind, but the cost of making a Will can be difficult to manage.

"This is why we are offering a number of different ways to make a free Will - including online, by phone, or visiting a local solicitor".

Last year, Caring Together Charity supported over 27,000 people across Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Norfolk. However, there are over 150,000 reported unpaid carers in these areas.

Although Caring Together Charity covers the cost of the Will, there's no obligation to leave a gift to the charity, and local people can still use the service to write their Will for free.

To find out more about writing your Will for free, visit caringtogether.org/legacies, email legacies@caringtogether.org or call 0345 241 0954.

DIARY DATES

TOFT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

[Over 50s Club].

13th November
2.30pm *Wild West*
an illustrated talk
by Simon Shore &
Neville Tait As
usual everyone is
welcome.

~~~~~

### The Parish Council

The Parish  
Council will meet  
on Mon 4th  
November. All  
welcome

~~~~~

Sewing, Knit and Natter

Christmas SALE at
the Cafe
Wednesday 13th
November
People's Hall, 11 -
12.30
For more
information contact
Lucy (262948) or
Sally (262895).

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

John Quenby 263949

Methodist Church

Minister: Revd Charity Nzegwu

01763 241803

Stewards:

Diana Tebbit 01223 263557

Stephen Acklam 264055

Mrs Pat Morton 264010

SERVICES OF WORSHIP

3rd November 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) - Rev Prof. Michael Reiss

11.00 am ALL SAINTS DAY Holy Communion Methodist Church – Rev Robert Dolman

10th November **British legion Remembrance SUNDAY**

10.30 am Service at Memorial outside Methodist Church (for those who can, march to church)

11.00 am continues at St. Andrew's - Revd Barnabas Leeke

17th November 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) – Rev Prof. Michael Reiss

11.00am Morning Worship, Methodist Church – Rev Charity Ngewzu

24th November CHRIST THE KING – West of Cambridge Ecumenical Service

10.30 am Comberton Leisure Centre

There will be morning prayer at St. Andrew's every Wednesday at 9.30 am (about half-an-hour) from October 9th – NB change of time

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

MEETING ID: 823 1147 3640

Remember, remember the 5th of November...

It is that time of year again when thoughts turn to bonfires, toffee apples, marshmallows and fireworks. A time, as the saying goes, to remember, but what is it that we are remembering?

The rhyme continues, "gunpowder, treason and plot". As many of you will already know, the remembrance is of the attempt, by Guy Fawkes and his co-conspirators, to blow up parliament at the state opening on the 5th November 1605. Their motivation was disappointment that the promise of increased religious freedom under the new King (James I) had not materialised.

The country had veered between Catholic and Protestant observance over the previous fifty years as the monarchs had changed, and there had been a lot of violence, fear and repression associated with those changes.

There was a hope that James's approach would be more moderate, but it's obvious from the plot and its aftermath that wasn't the case.

All dim and distant past now, so what are we remembering with our 'Bonfire Night' celebrations? Perhaps it is worth remembering that the freedoms we often take for granted were hard-won by people very much like ourselves, and that there are people very much like us still struggling for them around the world.

So round the fires, in the flavours and through the fizzes and bangs, let's be thankful that we are free to worship (or not) as we see fit. There is lots of variety in the Church in Toft and whatever your personal history you're free (and would be very welcome!) to join in celebrating that with us.

- Rev'd Barnabas Leeke



THE CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY

A series of four Advent Course mornings are to be held, starting on 28th November from 10.30 - 12 noon. More details in Christmas circular and the next Calendar



~~~~~  
Our annual **Christmas Fayre** will take place on Saturday, 30th November 10.30-12.30. Look out for our elves and all the details in the Christmas circular.  
~~~~~

THE WARM HUB is BACK

*From MONDAY, 28TH OCTOBER, every
MONDAY*

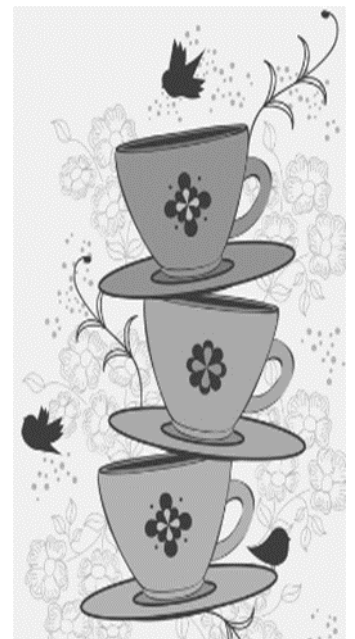
from 10.00-12.00

at the Methodist Chapel.

*Come and join us for chat, games, friendship
and refreshment. The scrabble board awaits!*

*We would love to see you there
You'll be sure of a warm welcome.*

Do bring a friend



MARY BAVERSTOCK

It is with enormous sadness we report the death of Mary; a Toft girl through and through.

Over long years involved with 1st Toft Brownie Pack as Snowy Owl, as Treasurer for the Friendship Club, visitor and friend, Car transport scheme and of course in all aspects of Comberton Baptist Church.

We hope to provide a fuller obituary next month.

Experiences of a patient at Addenbrooke's Hospital

It was a Saturday evening about 7 o'clock,
My daughter-in law-doctor having taken
stock

Of my pitiful state and thought tests were
needed

So to A & E I went to be treated.

The bleak white waiting room was packed,
Folks perched uncomfortably on chairs
hard-backed

Registered, triaged, instructed to wait,
The staff were friendly but it was getting
late.

As midnight approached and my back was
aching

My history was told and lots of blood
taken.

Seen by one and asked to wait,
Seen by another, I awaited my fate.

It was decided further assessment was
required

So off I went feeling very tired

For an overnight stay in the EAU*

No beds, just recliner chairs and a shared
loo.

**Emergency Assessment Unit*

Canula in arm, hooked up to a drip,
If I moved it beeped, and nurse curled her
lip.

If I needed the loo, the drip came too,
Clothes in a tangle, couldn't reach my
shoe.

Sleep was very hard to come by
A dozen others coughed or cried
A depository of sickness, pain and grief

Waiting for answers, cures or relief.

Would there be a diagnosis soon,
Can I go home this afternoon?

I'm still in the clothes I arrived in last night
Face unwashed, hair unbrushed, I must be
a sight.

But doctors are in short supply
Nobody knows when they'll come by.
Amazing how fast one succumbs to
dependence
Confidence fades, in creeps senescence.

Do not get ill on a Saturday!
Your consultant may be out on the green
The specialists are special only Monday to
Friday
Though the rest do their best in between.

But a tribute first and foremost to the
heroes unsung
Yet vital to make this behemoth run,
Uncomplaining and underpaid souls
Theirs is the task to empty bedpans and
bowls,
Clean up the mess when you didn't make
it in time,
Wipe bottoms, mop tears and
unspeakable grime
And through it all they manage a smile,
Exude compassion, reset the dial.

This is a centre of expertise
But, communication and caring, these are
the keys
To unlock the answers to our pathology
Not just reliance on high-class technology.

Toft Parish Council

Clerk: Ben Stoehr (clerk@tpc.toft.org.uk)

30 West Drive

Highfields Caldecote

Cambridge, CB23 7NY Tel: 01954 210241

Website: <https://tpc.toft.org.uk>

Councillors	Phone	E-mail
<i>Chairman:</i>		
Martin Yeadon	263663	cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk
Emma Darbyshire	07763 463234	cllr.darbyshire@tpc.toft.org.uk
Elaine Miles	262255	cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk
Sarah Tebbit		sarahilic01@gmail.com
Christine Watson.	07730 941946	cllr.watson@tpc.toft.org.uk

The Council is your locally elected Council at the first tier of local government. Meetings are open to the public and are usually held on the first Monday of each month (excepting August) at the Toft People's Hall in School Lane starting at 7.00pm.. The Council's website can be found at: <https://tpc.toft.org.uk>

Notices of meetings and agendas are published on the Parish Council Noticeboard near the bus shelter together with minutes, which can also be viewed at www.toft.org.uk. Among other things, the Council considers local planning applications for the planning authority, the South Cambridgeshire District Council; provides the local recreation area, the People's Hall, litter bins, dog waste bins and the bus shelter; arranges for local verge cutting on behalf of the Cambridgeshire County Council and works with that authority to ensure the maintenance of local footpaths.

**Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Monday
4th November 2024 at 7.00pm in The People's
Hall. All Welcome.**

The Council met on Monday 7th October 2024 in the People's Hall.

The meeting opened with a comment from a parishioner on the poor state of the footpath in the Snicket as it is covered with moss and weeds are growing along the edges. It will be raised as a priority with the grass cutting contractors.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Christine Watson, Rebecca Harris and Sarah Tebbit.

There were no declarations of interest nor requests for dispensations.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Improvements to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee area are on hold as Cllr Yeadon is awaiting a response to his bid for funding.

The grass cutting contract for the whole village is to be finalised at the next meeting.

It was agreed that the PC would adopt the CAPALC model Biodiversity policy and it was noted that Toft has already started many of the initiatives outlined. Cllr Miles is to draft a model for Toft village to be considered at the next meeting.

It was, however, decided not to progress the CCC Active Travel Hierarchy consultation nor the Combined Authority Bus Franchising consultation.

Regarding the two applications for Toft People's Hall and the Methodist Chapel to become ACVs (Assets of Community Value), TPH has been applied for and Cllr Yeadon is awaiting further information from the steward of the Methodist Chapel before finalising this application.

The idea of moving the bench on the drift outside the allotments on the eastern side away from the hedge and to a more open aspect was generally approved but, given it is heavy, it will need some more investigation and volunteers before it can be moved.

The cost of new Defibrillator pads was noted and approved.

It was agreed that the mapping website "Parish Online" contained a lot of useful information and could be of assistance in searching for specific data. It was agreed that we would take out a year's subscription and review it again next year.

A letter has been received from a resident in the Birdlings requesting road markings and mirrors to improve visibility. As this still comes within the remit of the developers a letter will be sent to them and at the same time two other issues will be raised - the lack of lights along the cycle path and hedgehog highways in garden fences. These issues had been originally included in the development plans.

We had been informed in a report by Michael Atkins, County Councillor, that we had not been successful in our 20mph bid. There had been 91 requests but funding only for 8 schemes. Cllr. Derbyshire questioned whether the speed monitor could be placed on the opposite side of the road but it was pointed out by Cllr Yeadon that there were designated posts where the speed cameras could be erected. However, it was agreed that, for now, a more rigorous regime would be implemented on the High Street and Comberton Road where the worst offences occur, by moving the speed monitors on a regular basis. The cost of a solar panel for the battery is to be investigated.

The Finance Report was approved.

There was no play inspection presented nor were there any matters considered urgent of risk of health and safety.

It was agreed that we should renew our insurance policy with our current providers.

Regarding the Integrated Retirement Community proposed at Branch Road, Comberton, the PC wholeheartedly supported the comprehensive response from Comberton Parish Council.

At the time of the meeting there were no SCDC planning decision notices nor tree works applications.

Cllr Yeadon informed the meeting that he was now in receipt of letters from both the youths who had broken the windows in the bus shelter containing assurances that this behaviour would not be repeated.

Cllr Miles has agreed to attend a Zoom meeting on "Creating a community heart-transforming vacant spaces into vibrant places" which is to take place on 17th October.

(Cont/...)

Cllr. Derbyshire reported that decisions regarding white lines being refreshed and other issues were being delayed due to lack of funds.

There was no report from Toft People's Hall.

Regarding footpaths, Cllr Miles reported that she had been chasing up the team who had cleared the bridge over the Bourn brook to ensure that a proper assessment of the strength of the banks and the security of the bridge which rests on these is to be carried out as planned. She reported that she has had confirmation that this assessment and any reinforcement work required will be carried out. She had also been informed that any branches still overhanging the brook or in the ditch running into the brook were the responsibility of the

landowner and she is to contact them.

Cllr Miles reported that she had been in touch with the Woodland Trust for clarification of whose responsibility it is to keep the stream/ditch running through Toft Wood free of branches and debris. She had had the reply that the boundary of Toft Wood ended with the bank of the stream so further investigations will be made to discover who owns the ditch and what clearing of this watercourse is possible to avoid the path flooding during rainy periods.

There was no further issues regarding the defibrillator nor the Birdlings estate.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

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



The Club celebrates it's **Silver Anniversary** in November! It is amazing to think that we have been open for 25 years – and what a 25 years it has been, with a vast array of different events and a host of people involved in every aspect of the Club.

We will be celebrating this milestone on **Saturday 16th November** – during the afternoon we will be holding an exhibition and all sorts of presentations showcasing the many events that have taken place and the people that have participated. The exhibition will also include details on Millennium refurbishment that saw us get the wonderful Hall that we now have.

Then we will be starting the evening celebrations with **a brand new RicMar video**, we are promised an extravaganza of comedy and memories! The video will be followed by a party! Everyone is invited to join us – there will be snacks and a complimentary glass of fizz! If you know us of old it will be your chance to reminisce on past events, if you don't know the Club, then it will be a great chance to find out about us. Full details and timings are on the website – do come and enjoy the fun!

The **film night** in November is early this month – on the 2nd. We are showing the 2023 film “*Wicked Little Lies*”, starring Jessie Buckley, Olivia Coleman and Timothy Spall. Based on a true story, when people in Littlehampton, including conservative local, Edith, begin receiving letters full of hilarious profanities, the rowdy, Irish migrant, Rose, is charged with the crime. Suspecting that something is amiss, the town's women investigate! Doors open at 7:30pm and the film starts promptly at 8pm. Evening tickets are £2.50 and annual membership is just £12.

On **Saturday 23rd** we have live music from the wonderfully talented and entertaining “**Blue Lass**”, a 3 piece, all female bluegrass band. They will be playing a combination of original and traditional bluegrass and old-time songs and instrumentals. There will also be a workshop session in the afternoon. Tickets for the evening gig are just £15 and are on sale on the website now. This is sure to be a fun, music evening so get your tickets now.

The entertainment continues at the end of the month, on **Saturday 30th**, this time with a ghostly feel! We are holding a “*Ghost Stories by Candlelight*” evening which will feature tales from the unknown told by some of our talented local folk. We are finalising details, so keep an eye on the website, but make sure you put the date in your diary!

All our regular events are taking place in November, **Toft Art** is on Thursday 7th, **Carpet Bowls** on Friday 8th, the popular **Open Mic / Music Night** is on Saturday 9th, **Toft Quiz** on Thursday 14th, **Table Tennis** on Thursday 21st and **Toft Bingo** on Thursday 28th.

The Club is always open every Thursday and Friday evening from 8pm, plus many Saturday evenings and there is always a warm welcome where you can meet up with friends and enjoy a drink.

Finally, another date for your diary – our world famous **Christmas Dinner** takes place on **Saturday 14th December** – tickets will be on sale from Thursday 21st November.

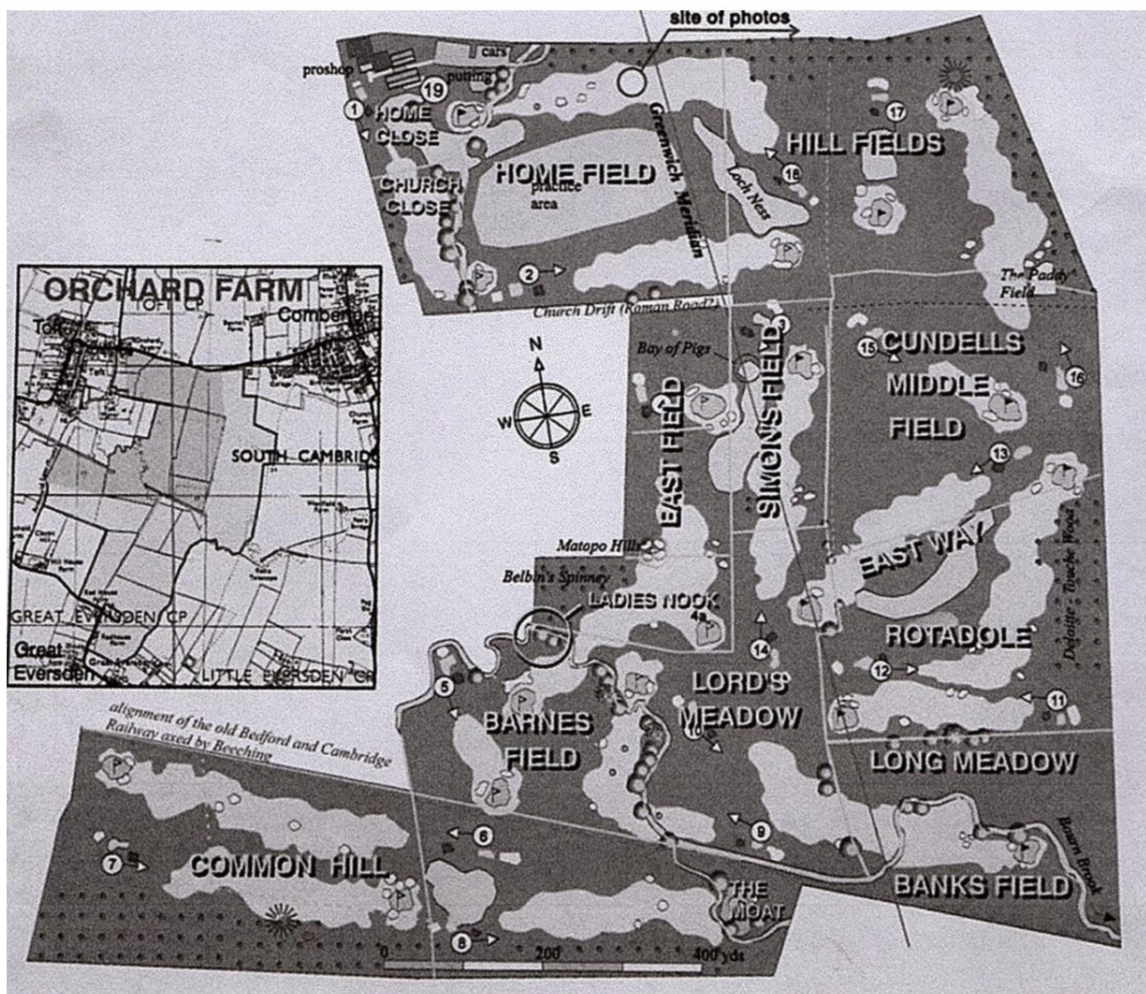
Keep up to date here:

Website: <https://toftsocialclub.org.uk> Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ToftSocial>

Golf in Toft

Orchard Farm in Toft stretched from the Comberton Road down to the northern edge of Great Eversden. 210 acres of the northern end of this largely arable farm were sold to developers by the landowner Paul Tebbit in 1992. The land is located mainly north of the Bourn Brook and, in mediaeval times, formed part of the East Field of Toft Parish. It is dissected N-S by the Greenwich Meridian Line and lies across the E-W routes of both the ancient Lot Way and the Oxford/Cambridge railway line, which was closed in 1967.

The course was designed by former Ryder Cup players Peter Alliss and Clive Clarke who, on one occasion, flew in by helicopter to oversee the building work! The original contractor employed to build the course unfortunately went into receivership in 1993 with the course still unfinished. However, Vivien Saunders (former British Ladies Open Champion) and Jenny Wisson stepped in to ensure completion of the 18-hole, par-73 course and it opened to golfers on April 1st, 1994 as the Comberton Meridian Golf Club. A relatively short, but challenging, course it is now regarded as one of the best in the region and has hosted several prestigious golf tournaments. In the last decade or so the club has come under new management and been renamed the Cambridge Meridian Golf Club. The new owners have produced plans for significant expansion of the facilities, including a hotel, but these are yet to advance further.



The Cambridge Meridian Golf Course, showing the layout of the course and the names of the old fields. The small map shows the original area of Orchard Farm (medium grey) and the land (darker grey) sold for the golf course.



Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants

Cambourne Nature Reserve is one of The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants' most accessible nature reserves, and we are keen to be better connected to communities in and around the

area. Our events have a wildlife theme and are usually outdoors; by engaging people with nature, we aim to increase enjoyment, and understanding of local wildlife and global environmental issues, as well and support people to take action for a more sustainable future. We will shortly be planning our events programme for 2025 and are keen for some feedback to ensure our Communities and Education Team meet needs of local people. Here is a flavour of some of the events we run (mostly through the warmer months):

- Little Bugs for families with pre-school toddlers
- Wild in the Woods sessions for families with primary age children
- Family home-school sessions
- Youth Rangers for young people age 11-17
- Seasonal strolls for adults
- Special walks for adults like night walks and bird song walks
- "Sit and Chat in Nature" sessions for adults
- Some specialist wildlife training workshops
- Annual events at our head-office where members of the public can meet and chat with staff like our Open Garden and Christmas Fair events

Did you know that we also deliver talks and walks for community groups, and work with schools? You might also see us at community events.

You can feedback in a variety of ways:

Come on an event and chat in person (our Christmas Fair is Friday 29th November and involves mince pies!)

Send us an email: Rebecca.Neal@wildlifebcn.org

Complete our questionnaire (you might see this on Facebook, or it can be emailed)

Pop a letter in our post box (our office is on Broad Street, Great Cambourne, CB23 6DH)

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.

Local enquiries

Rebecca.Neal@wildlifebcn.org

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

General enquiries

cambridgeshire@wildlifebcn.org

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

www.wildlifebcn.org



TOFT

Simple Sewing Knit and Natter Group



Invites you to our Christmas Sale
on



Wednesday 13th November 2024



Toft People's Hall

11.0am onwards

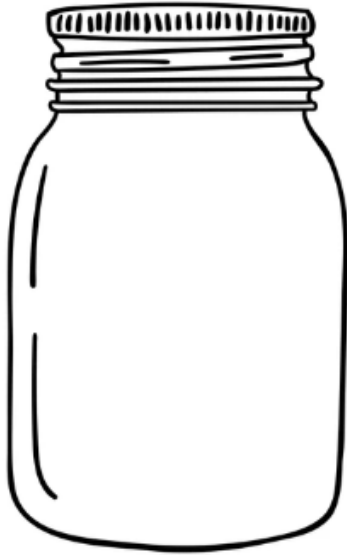
Proceeds to

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity



Tea and Coffee available at Café





JAM JARS

The time for marmalade making is fast approaching and I will need about 250 jars. It would be appreciated that if you have clean empty jars of approximately one pound size then these can be left at the shop for me to collect.

I do not need jars of 12 oz, or less.

Whilst I appreciate labels being removed this is not crucial and I can attend to this task. Your help will be appreciated.

- Peter Johnson

The **SCHOOLROOM** *Community Café*



Wanted! Regular team member to help serve hot drinks, cakes and soup once a month in our friendly Café, 10.30 – 1.30pm on Wednesdays. Plenty of support provided, as well as friendship and cake!

If you might be interested, please do get in touch, either by emailing me at gill.ppugh@gmail.com, or speaking to one of the other team leaders (Teresa, Jane Gifford or Katherine James) at the Café (preferably during a quiet patch!).



Arthur Rank Hospice Charity

In December, Arthur Bear, from Arthur Rank Hospice Charity, is teaming up with the North Pole, to bring the magic of Christmas to Cambridgeshire. For a small donation, Santa will send a personalised letter, directly to the special little people in your life.

Not only will your little ones experience the magic of Christmas, but your generous contribution will directly support patients and their loved ones. Visit arhc.org.uk/santa to order your letter from Santa and remember to register before 8 December 2024 to make sure your letter arrives on time.

COMBERTON RAMBLERS

If you like walking and enjoy the countryside we are the walking group for you. Comberton Ramblers walk an average of 5-6 miles every fortnight on a Sunday.

To view our walk programme + photo's please go to our web-page.

<https://www.combertonramblers.org.uk>

So why not give us a try, you'll have the benefit of an exhilarating walk plus the companionship of a group of like-minded people .

You can have 2 free walks and if you like us we would appreciate you becoming a member.

Membership fee is £10.00 per person.

For more information please contact the Secretary, Stella. Email Stella.hardwicke2274@hotmail.com



Foxton Christmas Windows – Sunday 1 December



On Sunday 1 December between 3.30pm and 7pm, we will be holding a fabulous festive Christmas Windows event in Foxton. Residents will be creating beautiful Christmas windows for display and there will be a central café in the village hall, to raise money for Foxton Primary School, Foxton Pre-School and St Laurence Church. Independent crafters are invited to apply to hold a stall in the village hall during the event. Stall holders will need to pay £15 as a contribution to the fundraising but would keep proceeds of any sales. Christmas gifts, decorations etc particularly welcomed!

Contact us at foxtonwindows@gmail.com

Please come along and join us on the day. You can buy a programme at the Village Hall and wander round the village to admire all the windows and then vote for your favourite. There will be mulled wine, mince pies and cakes at the café in the Village Hall, plus Christmas entertainment.

If anyone has a local business they would like to promote in the programme, please contact us with the details at foxtonwindows@gmail.com.



FORK TALK

This column has reported before (in 2018) on the Poacher at Elsworth. But because the place we'd hoped to go to had told us we were out of luck on this particular Sunday in October, and because we'd heard it had changed its approach, we thought we'd give it another whirl. Externally, The Poacher is post-card pretty, one of those old-style thatched and beamed places that just cry out to be pubs. It also has a small but very attractive rear garden, plus parking for enough cars to fill it, so first impressions are pretty promising. Its web site now proclaims it as a 'destination pub', whatever that is, with a lot of the usual guff about locally-sourced this, that and the other. I mean - does anyone really care where their peas came from? But - they'd spelt 'licence' correctly, so I was happy to overlook all that.

We'd booked in advance and I recommend you do too, if you're thinking of popping in. I counted nine tables, so it doesn't take much to fill the place up. And, on this Sunday, it was comfortably full - encouraging, given that the competition, the widely-known George and Dragon, is but a hop, step and jump down the road. The last time the Fork Talk commando had stormed these walls, the food was (and I quote) "perfectly fine, indeed very tasty, but if your definition of a good meal out is 'something I couldn't cook nearly this well myself', prepare to be disappointed. On the plus side... portions were generous. You won't go away from here feeling peckish." What, we wondered, had changed and made it into a 'destination'? It's still a Free House, meaning they can serve whatever they like in the way of drinks, not whatever the brewery is pushing that week. This week, they had beers from the under-rated Wadworth's stable, which put at least some of our team in a benign mood. Beers change almost weekly, I'm told, so I don't know what you might get offered, should you drop in some time. But - *a nos moutons*. Or, in our case, *a nos boeuf ou porc*. This being a Sunday, and the kitchen being tiny (I had a peek through the half-open door) the 'destination' limits itself to roasts on Sundays. Do not, however, despair, veggies: There is a seriously yummy-smelling option for you in the shape of a Mushroom Stroganoff. The people next door tried it and it looked hugely tempting. We, though, were here to

satisfy our inner-carnivore so all opted for the more traditional meat-and-two-veg. I get pretty stuffed pretty quickly nowadays, so I didn't fancy a starter. Which was lucky, because The Destination didn't offer us the opportunity. When they say they only do roasts on Sundays, they mean it. I assume they sometimes get heartier trencher-persons than me through the doors, so it strikes me they're missing a trick here but I guess they know what they're doing.

There was but a single soul front of house. Nonetheless, service was prompt and courteous and the food was well-cooked, well-presented and quality stuff all round. If you sense a 'but' on its way, you're right. What you get is a plate of food with everything on it, regardless of whether you want it. So if, for example, you happen to have an aversion to cabbage, that's just tough luck. It would be nice - and probably make economic sense - if they did what most places do: serve your vegetables as a side dish, so you can help yourself to the quantity and variety that suits. But again, The Destination proved a law unto itself.

We moved on to the puds. And here, I will say, The Poacher excelled. My colleagues are well brought-up persons of taste and refinement (and if you don't believe me, ask them) so they were too polite to drool but I think if decorum had permitted, they would have. No complaints here and if desserts make or break a meal for you then this is the place to come to.

To sum up: This place is run by a couple who are evidently wedded to their trade. Their aspirations marginally outstrip their achievements but not for want of trying. There's just the two of them and I couldn't help thinking that a third pair of hands would make the whole operation run just that little bit more smoothly. If your website and PR builds up customer expectation, you need to be able to deliver. And, a couple of minor gripes aside, they did. If you want good, home-cooked food and can't be bothered to (or just plain can't) do it yourself, then this place is a good bet. It's a lovely, suitably bucolic location, too. They have a little way to go before I'd call it a true 'destination' but I reckon they can get there.

The prices aren't bad either. We paid around 130.00 for the four of us, including drinks. Will we be back? Best I can say is...probably.

Wheelie Bin Collections For November

(N.B. This schedule may be subject to change)

Black Bin:

Thurs 14th Nov

Thurs 28th Nov

Blue/Green Bin

Thurs 7th Nov

Thurs 21st Nov


**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**
**Remember,
remember to
celebrate
safely!**

 Bonfire Night is
a very popular

fixture in the calendar where people come together to enjoy fireworks. While it can be fun for all of the family to enjoy, there are lots of potential hazards so it's really important to keep you and your family safe. Help support your local community this year and go to an organised firework display instead of holding one at home.

While most people enjoy fireworks responsibly, in the wrong hands they can cause injury and damage to property. Fireworks are explosives and as such should be treated with respect and only used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the firework safety code.

Also lighting bonfires in back gardens presents significant risks to residents, so would encourage residents across the county to think twice before having their own displays and lighting bonfires.

Firework safety tips

- Only buy fireworks with a CE mark
- Light fireworks at arm's length using a taper, stand well back and never go back to a lit firework
- Never throw fireworks or put them in your pockets or clothing
- Light sparklers one at a time wearing gloves, and place used sparklers in a bucket of water
- Never give sparklers to children under five
- Keep your pets indoors throughout the evening
- It is illegal to sell fireworks to someone under the age of 18 or to light fireworks in a public place
- Respect your neighbours – don't let off fireworks late at night and remember there are laws to follow.

Notice to Advertisers

Advertisements are published quarterly. Copy for inclusion in the next available edition of the Calendar **must** reach us by **17th January 2025** at the *very latest*. Advertisements will **NOT** be published unless full payment has been received in advance. Please note: *We are currently unable to accept PDF file types*. 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 costs and 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 07968 264637
 CVC Community Education: 01223 264721
 District Councillor: 01954 210040
 Household Waste/Pest Control: 0345 045 0063
 Lifespan Health Care, Family and Child Team: 01223 264460
 Member of Parliament: Phone 01223 603677
 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

The Calendar is always pleased to receive contributions from readers, advertisers and fund raisers. We reserve the right to edit, amend, abridge or otherwise butcher any submissions to accord with technical or editorial requirements, or sometimes just on a whim. We do not normally accept anonymous contributions or those using pen-names.

Contributors are asked to note that all text formatting is removed from items on receipt. Consider **plain text files** as your first choice where possible. **Please avoid proprietary file types (e.g. PDF, PUB, DOCX, XLS etc) unless you feel it essential.** **Graphics (if essential) are best submitted as PNG files.** Many thanks.

And, finally...

Please remember that contributions for the next issue of the *Calendar* must reach the Editor, Michael Walker, **by 20th November**. Many thanks to all who contributed to this edition.
 Email: calendareditor@toft.org.uk Post: 33 Egremont Road, Hardwick, Cambridge CB23 7XR Telephone: 01954 211346

ADVERTISEMENTS APPEARING HERE ARE SUPPLIED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE BUSINESSES. NO WARRANTY, RECOMMENDATION OR OTHER MARK OF SECURITY OR APPROVAL IS EXPRESSED BY THE PUBLISHERS OR THEIR AGENTS, NEITHER SHOULD ANY BE INFERRED.

**HARDWICK**

169 St Neots Road, Hardwick

Cambridgeshire, CB23 7QJ

Tel: 01954 210250

*Monday - Friday - 8.30 to 10.30am – 4.30 to 7.00pm**Saturday - 9.00am to 11.00am**Sunday - 10.00am to 11.00am***PAPWORTH**

Unit 1, Pendrill Court, Ermine Street North

Papworth Everard, Cambridgeshire, CB23 3UY

Tel: 01480 831615

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 11.30am to 1.30pm**Saturday - 12.00pm to 1.30pm****Consultations by Appointment Only*****www.ashcroftvet.co.uk**

Andrina B

the footcare specialist

Providing expert treatment in all aspects of foot healthcare in the comfort of your own home

Nail Cut • Callus • Athlete's Foot**Hard Skin • Corn Removal****Fungal Infections • Plantar Faciitis****In-Growing Toe Nail • Orthotics****Leg and Foot Massage**

To book your appointment call Andrina on

07966 571 686or email: andrinab@foot-care.co.uk**www.foot-care.co.uk**Andrina Baldock, Foot Health Practitioner, SAC Dip. FHPP FHPT
Register for Foot Health Practitioners Member

PEASGOOD & SKEATES

THE FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICE

*All types of funeral carried out
with the highest standard of service and care*

617 Newmarket Rd**CAMBRIDGE****01223 415255****164 Histon Rd****CAMBRIDGE****01223 791060**

**Also at Sawston, Duxford, Haverhill
and Saffron Walden**

Ask us about Funeral pre-planning and "My Funeral Wishes"

www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk

ADVERTISEMENTS APPEARING HERE ARE SUPPLIED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE BUSINESSES. NO WARRANTY, RECOMMENDATION OR OTHER MARK OF SECURITY OR APPROVAL IS EXPRESSED BY THE PUBLISHERS OR THEIR AGENTS, NEITHER SHOULD ANY BE INFERRED.



Little Hands Nursery School - Bourn Short Street, Bourn



A private Nursery School specialising in quality preschool care and education for the under fives
High staff to child ratio, using an individual child centred curriculum
Flexible booking system for the 08.30am - 4.30pm nursery day
Optional holiday clubs available

We accept nursery funding giving 15 hours per week of funded nursery sessions
for all 3 and 4 year olds and eligible 2 year olds plus 30 funding for eligible families

For further details contact:
Pam Marsden: nursery manager 01954 710656
E-mail: lh.bourn@gmail.com

Little Hands is also at Linton, Melbourn and Newton, visit the website at
www.littlehands.co.uk



- 👣 Sports injuries
- 👣 Children's feet
- 👣 Diabetes
- 👣 Skin and nail problems
- 👣 Verrucae
- 👣 HCPC registered
- 👣 Plenty of parking

Steamroller Ironing Services



Free pick-up and delivery
24/48 hr turnaround
Price: 1lb = £1.75. Minimum = £15
Established 2002

01223 782161

www.pennfarmpodiatry.co.uk

ADVERTISEMENTS APPEARING HERE ARE SUPPLIED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE BUSINESSES. NO WARRANTY, RECOMMENDATION OR OTHER MARK OF SECURITY OR APPROVAL IS EXPRESSED BY THE PUBLISHERS OR THEIR AGENTS, NEITHER SHOULD ANY BE INFERRED.

Rothwell's Carpet Cleaning

Carpet Cleaning & Stone Floors, Upholstery, Rugs

A few points that make us stand out,

Rothwell's has been in business since 1993

We're an honest local family firm.

Our large truck mounted machines mean more cleaning & drying power for excellent results.

Members of both the NCCA and TACCA.

We will move the furniture.

100% satisfaction or it's FREE.



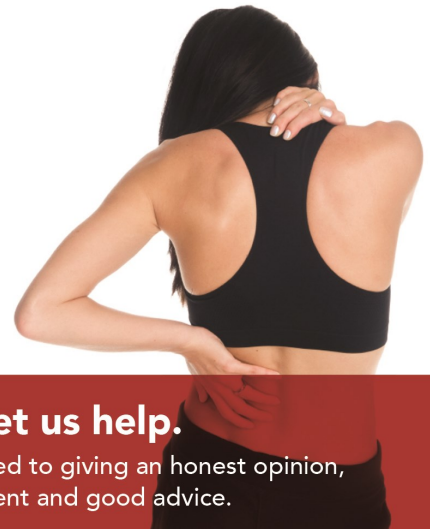
*Call Oliver and Max Campbell
for expert help today.*

01223 832 928 www.Rothwells.biz



CAMBOURNE OSTEOPATHS

Back Pain
Neck Pain
Joint Pain
Headaches
Muscle Spasm
Sports Injuries
Arthritis
& much more



In Pain? Let us help.

We are committed to giving an honest opinion, effective treatment and good advice.

Appointments Mon-Fri
01223 598558

Regus, 1010 Cambourne
Business Park, CB23 6DP

Book online: www.cambourneosteopaths.com
Email: practice@cambourneosteopaths.com

CHIMNEY SWEEP

J. L. Wight

Guild of Master Sweeps

Advice given /
Problems solved



Certificates issued



01954 253315

www.camsweep.co.uk

9 Cow Lane, Rampton

**CAN'T THINK OF WHAT TO
BUY THEM FOR CHRISTMAS ??**



COME TO OUR



CHRISTMAS FAIR

**LONGSTOWE VILLAGE
HALL**

**SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER
2PM TO 5PM**

Cards

Sweeties

Paintings

Engraved wooden
and slate articles

Sewn bags and
fabric stuff

Honey Gifts

Candles

Treasure Box

Children's Craft Kits

Lots more stalls

Refreshments

Free entry

