

TOFT VILLAGE CALENDAR

May 2025



DIARY DATES

The Parish Council

The Parish Council
will meet on
Monday 12th May.

Toft Friendship Club

[Over 50s Club]
14th May, 2.30, Toft
People's Hall.
Our speaker will be
from Camsight.

Toft Spring Feast

3-4 May
(see page 6)

**VE Day
commemorations**
Thursday 8th May

Toft Big Breakfast

18th May from 9am
at The People's Hall

EDITORIAL

On May 8th, communities throughout UK will celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE (Victory in Europe) Day. A day when a war-weary nation could finally breathe a communal sigh of relief and let their hair down before starting on the significant work of national reconstruction and recovery.

For the greater part of its existence, Toft has been a small farming community somewhat disconnected from the wider world, even during and after World War One. In the Second World War this 'rural idyll' would have been more disturbed with the daily racket of military aircraft operating across the East of England, particularly with the proximity of the heavy bomber station at Bourn Airfield. Cambridge and its surrounding environs were also subjected to German bombing at times. The Toft community was still focused on agriculture, but already change was coming to the farming sector.

The end of WWII certainly initiated significant change. In the 1960s and 70s, the post-war imperative for UK house building brought sizeable housing estates to the previously very small local villages in the Bourn Valley. Even Toft saw an increase in housing stock with new builds down both School Lane and Miller's Road. Expansion in Cambridge and improved transport links brought a much more diverse workforce to communities in the Bourn Valley. However, the first large-scale local building development only started in 1998 with construction of the Cambourne 'super village' beside the A428.

We are now in a much more significant period of expansion with recent governments promoting an economic 'growth corridor' between Oxford and Cambridge. This will require an acceleration in house building and infrastructure along the corridor to support a growing workforce. We already have housing developments underway beside the A428 with West Cambourne and Wintringham (St Neots). Significantly, a government-approved consortium has now purchased Bourn Airfield to implement plans for building 3,500 houses that were approved last year by the District Council.

This consortium plan includes significant infrastructure funding to support the contentious Cambourne to Cambridge Busway proposal. Reconfiguration of the A1 Black Cat roundabout and dualling of the A428 from that roundabout to Caxton Gibbet are already underway and EWR's proposed rail route past various Bourn Valley villages continues to garner robust government support, despite local opposition. Whether we like it or not, it seems that a profound transformation in the local landscape and likely erosion of our rural lifestyle is approaching in the coming years. It seems we must enjoy what we have while we can.



FRANK NEWBOLD 1942

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 263557

Stephen Acklam 264055

Mrs Pat Morton 264010

SERVICES OF WORSHIP

4th May SPRING FEAST

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

Revd Prof. Michael Reiss

11.45am Short service outside Methodist Church before walk to Frog's Hall

c.3.00pm Celebration beginning at the well, followed by a service in the church

See later in the Calendar for details of the rest of the Spring Feast.

11th May

11.00am Holy Communion, St. Andrew's

Revd Priscilla Slusar

18th May

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

Revd Priscilla Slusar

11.00am Morning Worship, Methodist Church

Revd Robert Dolman

25th May

11.00am Morning Worship, St. Andrew's

Revd Rose Westwood

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

Bells A quarter peal will be rung on Monday 28th April from 10.30am.

'With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.' Isaiah 12.3

This month we will gather at the Toft well on the 4th of May as part of the Spring Feast celebrations, symbolically drawing water from that well, which was once so vital to the local residents.

Wells have a special place in the bible too. They are a place of meeting, teaching and both literal and metaphorical feeding. They were also a symbol of life to a culture which had a nomadic background, wandering through some pretty inhospitable environments with their families and flocks. This is why Isaiah uses the image of the well as he paints a picture of what life will be like when the promised messiah comes (we believe he was writing about Jesus).

Last year I presided over the fateful events of the lost bucket at the well celebrations, but thanks to the incredible generosity of local people, we plan to unveil an amazing new bucket this year, which will hopefully last for many years to come, enabling literal water to be drawn from this very physical well.

We don't need the well so much anymore. We have so much water available to us in the modern world that we can leave the tap running until it reaches exactly the right temperature for our needs! Many would say we don't need religion anymore either, the tap of knowledge flows more freely than ever and we can pick and choose our information flow.

Next to the village well is another well, it is a well of tradition and thought which runs even deeper than Isaiah, a well we can draw on, which will refresh not just our bodies, but our souls and our minds. You will find much joy in St Andrew's on the 4th of May, or indeed any time you wish to come. I look forward to seeing you there.

Barnabas Leeke



St. Andrew's well



CHURCH IN TOFT DIARY



Friendship CLUB

14th May, 2.30, Toft People's Hall.

Our speaker will be from Camsight, a Cambridgeshire charity that supports local people of all ages living with low vision and blindness to live the lives they choose and who work to enhance independence, improve well-being and improve inclusion.

The Friendship Club is for over 50s. We meet every month on the 2nd Wednesday at 2.30pm at Toft People's Hall. We have a varied programme of speakers, both illustrated and non and try to go on at least one outing every year, plus a Christmas lunch and other celebrations. This is the time of year to join us; to be a member costs £5, payable at our April and subsequent meetings plus £1 per meeting. We have a raffle and serve refreshments every time. Visitors are always welcome and it costs them £1.50 a time.
Do come - we would welcome you.



Please join us in celebrating the historic VE Day 80th Anniversary on 8th May 2025

- 9am** The celebration will start at 9am with a special VE Day 80th Anniversary Flag being raised on the Village Green with a Proclamation and a Peace Lantern being lit.
- 6:30pm** The bells of St Andrew's Church will be rung.
- 9pm** Starting at 9pm, in Lot Meadow (by the Recreation Ground) we will celebrate with refreshments, members of Toft Choir will sing *I Vow to Thee My Country*, the Proclamation will be repeated and the Beacon will be lit.

Please note, it will be dark and access to Lot Meadow is rough and uneven. There will be limited lighting to mark the way but please bring torches, wear stout footwear and take care. There will be access for wheelchairs and those with disabilities via 46 High Street (and a marshal to assist).
Thanks to Emma and Richard Mee for permitting access through their property.

Mrs Jill Ridgeon correction

Contrary to the incorrect statement in the April issue of the Calendar, Mrs Jill Ridgeon is still very much with us all. We have sent her a written apology for our very regrettable error.

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
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

Date of next meeting: 12th May

The Parish Council met on 7th April, 2025.

Please note that the next meeting will be on the 2nd Monday in the month due to the May Bank Holiday weekend. It will comprise the Annual Parish Meeting, The William Eversden Charity (Allotments) meeting and the Annual General Meeting.

Next Meeting: Monday 12th May, 7.00pm in The People's Hall. All welcome.

Apologies were received from Christine Watson, who has resigned as she has moved from the village. The Chair is to send a letter of thanks to her for the work she has done as a Parish Council member, particularly in looking after the defibrillator, the Children's Playground and Recreational area and as the PC representative on TPH committee.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Regarding Climbing Wall equipment from Finding Fitness Ltd, this is to be discussed at the next meeting once we have received updated information from Christine Watson.

Cllr Yeadon reported that he had given advice and suggestions to the young person regarding the setting up of a football team.

It was decided that regarding the quotes for a tree survey, we would limit this to the Children's Playground and Recreational area and, as all the companies who quoted were known to the Clerk's office, we decided on the most economical.

Cllr Harrison reported back on quotes for new bins. We decided that we would not replace the small open bins opposite the Children's Playground and Recreational area and on the corner of the house by St. Andrew's Cottages. Before making a final decision on

replacing the other open bins, we are seeking a quote from the District Council for supply and installation.

Cllr Yeadon confirmed that the VE Day celebration would take place on the evening of Thursday 8th May in Lot Meadow. The beacon will be lit, Toft choir will be singing and refreshments will be available. Lighting will be provided from the High Street to Lot Meadow. In the morning of 8th May, a flag will be raised on the village green and the church bells will be rung at 6pm.

A quote had been received from Balfour Beatty to do a survey of the streetlights in Toft to ascertain if there are any particularly badly-lit stretches. However, as the quote was in the region of £500, it was decided that this could be done by council members and this will be carried out on Monday 14th April at 9pm.

It was agreed that we would continue membership of CAPALC as it is a very useful advice service for parish councils.

Regarding the Children's Playground and Recreational area, it has been decided that any large scale cutting back of hedges will now be left until later in the year after the nesting season is over. There has been a complaint regarding the noise level of the new musical equipment and Cllr Yeadon is to investigate this further.



Dear friends and neighbours in Toft

My friends Annie, Jo and I are fundraising for Action For Pulmonary Fibrosis and we would really appreciate your support.

Look at our JustGiving page through the link below to see our story.

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to Action For Pulmonary Fibrosis, so it's the most efficient way to give - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.

You can donate to our JustGiving page by clicking here

https://www.justgiving.com/page/jo-nix-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=015

JustGiving sends your donation straight to Action For Pulmonary Fibrosis and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more.

Thank you for your support!

What you need to know if your property is located in Toft's Conservation Area

A Conservation Area is an 'area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. Conservation Areas may be small or large and each has its own look, feel and distinctive sense of place. Conservation Areas will normally be based on groups of buildings that are Listed or of Local Interest, and include other features such as open spaces, trees, boundaries, a historic street pattern, archaeology or historic landscapes. Main views and the street scene, or townscape contribute to the special character of Conservation Areas. The meanings and value that buildings and features have for local residents are also important.

Failure to comply with regulations can lead to a fine, so if you live in a conservation area, it is worth checking before you make any alterations to your buildings or trees, hedges and boundaries. Below is a map which shows the conservation area in Toft.

Alterations to residential buildings

Some alterations to residential buildings in Conservation Areas will need planning permission. These may include the siting of satellite dish antenna, dormer windows, flues/chimneys, the use of external

cladding and the construction of some outbuildings. For more information, see www.planningportal.gov.uk or the Council's Planning Service.

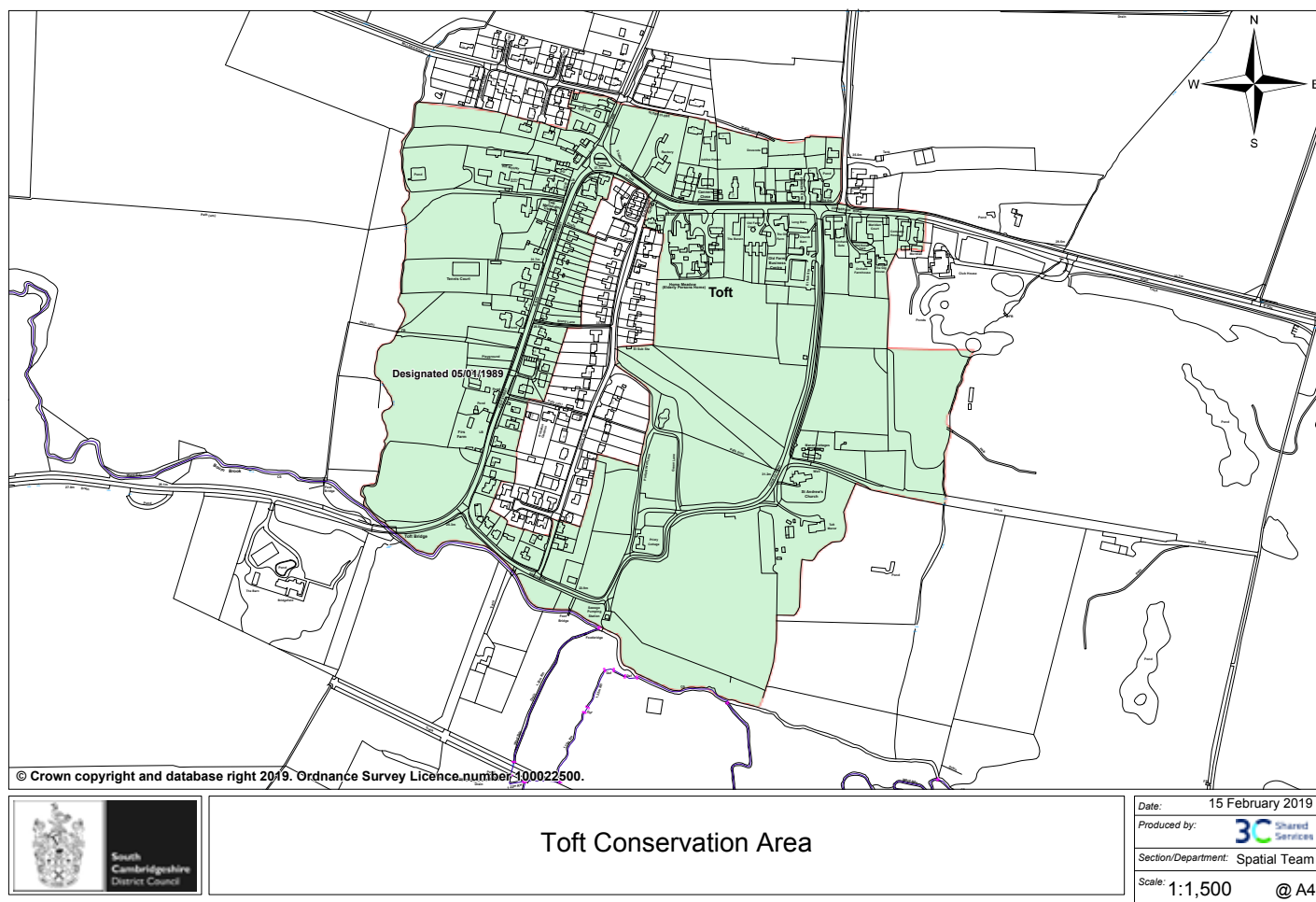
Trees and hedges

All trees including fruit trees over a certain size (with a trunk diameter more than 75mm when measured at 1.5m above ground level) are protected by Conservation Area status. A six-week written notice of intended tree works must be given. For more information, see www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-and-environment/trees-and-hedgerows/trees-in-conservation-areas

Listed buildings

The need for Listed Building Consent for alterations and demolition work to Listed Buildings (and buildings and structures within their curtilages) remains the same when a property becomes included within a Conservation Area. Please refer to the guidance note on Listed Buildings: www.scambs.gov.uk/environment/conservation/historicbuildings/default.htm.

There is a useful guide covering all these aspects with contact details at:
www.scambs.gov.uk/media/7913/conservation-areas-guide.pdf.





TOFT SPRING FEAST WEEKEND

May 3rd – 4th

Saturday 3rd May
10:30 – 12:30

Exhibition in the Methodist Chapel (with refreshments)

'VE Day and Make, Do and Mend – Then and Now'

If you have memorabilia from WWII such as ration books, coupons, letters, clothing, medals, stories – whatever – please bring them along or contact Cynan Ellis-Evans (263477) or Ann Mitchell (262516) in advance.



11:00 – 11:30

Maypole Practice on the lawn behind the Chapel

Open to young and old.

15:00 – 17:00

'Make, Do and Mend' 30 min. video presentation in the People's Hall. Exhibition of paintings by Paul McCarthy ('Reimagining Toft') and Jake Tebbit; photographs by Toft student and amateur photographers. *Free entry. The video will be shown on a rolling basis.*

Sunday 4th May (all times approximate)
11:45

Toft Parish Walk and Picnic at Frog's Hall (courtesy of the Quenbys)

Start from the Methodist Chapel. All are welcome.

14:15

Maypole Dancing on the Village Green



15:00

Walk to St Andrew's Church, parading the Garland, and Well Dressing

15:15

Service and Village Tea at St Andrew's Church



TOFT AT WAR

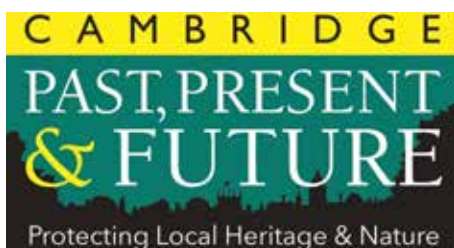
As we approach the 80th anniversary of VE Day on May 8th, we may be thankful that Toft was spared the worst ravages of World War II. Nonetheless, the village did its best to support the war effort, including this event recorded in the Cambridge Independent Press on 22nd December 1939.

TOFT For the Serving Men.—A whist drive was held in the School on Friday, the proceeds from which were originally intended to provide cigarettes for Christmas for the soldiers of the village, but as the result, over £5, thanks to the generosity of friends, far exceeded all expectations, the entertainment committee have decided to send each man a parcel containing cigarettes, handkerchiefs, writing paper and stamps. The prizewinners were; Ladies, 1 Mrs. H. Sparkes, 2 Mrs. G. Farrant, consolation, Mrs. R. Ward; gentlemen, 1 Mr. S. Jacklin, 2 Mr. Reg. Ward, consolation. Mr. Preston. Competitions for a cake and bottle of wine were won by Rev. S. H. Cartwright and Mrs. Cartwright.

Toft was protected by the Home Guard (1944 photograph: the Cambridgeshire Collection).



Toft Home Guard 1944



Archaeology Dig Drop in at Wandlebury

Mon 28 April - 2 May & Mon 5 - Fri 9 May, 10.30am-3pm

Watch the digs and speak to trainee archaeologists about the archaeology found at Wandlebury, once an important iron-age fort with a roundhouse village.



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

Warm weather highlights dangers of swimming in open water

As the warm weather arrives and the temptation to jump into rivers and lakes to cool off increases, residents are reminded of the risks of swimming in open water. Parents are also urged to explain these risks to their children.

Station Commander Paul Clarke, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service's lead for Water Safety, said, 'As much as it can look very tempting to go for a swim in a river, lake or other areas of open water like quarries, even if the weather is warm, the water can be much colder than expected. At this time of year, you wouldn't expect the water to be warmer than 4 or 5 degrees and that can cause your body to go into cold water shock, which can affect your ability to breathe.

'It's also really important to remember that open water can be deeper than expected, with unseen hazards below the surface. Things like rubbish, shopping trolleys and rubble can be hidden beneath the murky water, which can easily trap or injure someone. The water may also look calm on the surface, but there may still be strong undercurrents, especially near locks, which could pull even the strongest swimmer under. It is certainly safer to consider visiting one of the many public swimming pools or lidos located around the county.'



Tel: 01223 457958

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

Weekly activities

Knit, Sew and Natter group meet in Combenton Library at 10.30am – 11.30am. May date: 19th. Newcomers are most welcome.

Rhymetime 10.30am – 11.00am for children between 0 to 4 years of age. May date: 12th. Also **First Steps Library Club**, aged 0 – 4 years. Free event.

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

Opening hours (excluding bank holidays, etc.)

Monday	10am – 5pm	(from 31 st March)
Tuesday	10am – 1pm	(from 31 st March)
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 each month, 2.00 to 3.00pm, parked by the Village Green.

Around the villages

COMBERTON

ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Our meeting this month will be Tuesday 25th May, when we welcome back Stuart Orme. His talk this month is entitled

Henry VIII's Grandmother - the life of Margaret Beaufort.



The remarkable story of the matriarch of the Tudor dynasty and her local connections. Lady Margaret Beaufort was brought up in Deeping and lived at Collyweston.

Stuart Orme is a historian, folklorist, writer and the curator of the Cromwell Museum in Huntingdon.

The meeting will be at 8pm in Comberton Village Hall. All visitors are most welcome.

LONGSTOWE



Longstowe Village Hall Celebrating

80th Anniversary WW2's V.E. Day

Full Afternoon Tea

(a small donation in the region of £5 would be appreciated)

Bank Holiday Monday 5th May 3 - 5pm

Longstowe ROLL OF HONOUR: Walter COOK, Clarence PETTIT, Sidney UNWIN, Sam COOK

HARDWICK

Hardwick Women's Institute would like to invite you to come along to one of their meetings.

We are a friendly group that meet on the 3rd Wednesday each month at Hardwick Primary School at 7.30pm in the main hall. We have a variety of speakers throughout the year, although our favourite part is the refreshments and a chatter! If you would like to give us a try, visitors can just pay £5 on the door.

Our next meetings are on 21st May, 18th June. You can find out more at www.hardwickwi.weebly.com.

Toft Club News

On Saturday 10th May we are holding one of our popular **food nights** – this time with an Italian theme. There will be a three-course meal, with all proceeds going to charity. Tickets are just £15 and are on sale at the Club now.

Our monthly **Open Mic Music Night** is early in May, on Saturday 3rd. This is an evening of music from talented local musicians – free entry. If you are interested in performing, please get in touch either via the website or our facebook page.

The Club will be open on **VE Day**, Thursday 8th so why not pop in for a drink before heading down to watch the beacon being lit or join us afterwards?

The **Film Club** will be showing the 2024 film *A Complete Unknown* on Saturday 17th. In 1961, an unknown 19-year-old Bob Dylan (played by Timothée Chalamet) arrives in New York City with his guitar and forges relationships with musical icons on his meteoric rise, culminating in a groundbreaking performance that reverberates around the world. 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 £2.50.

We round the month off with a **Cocktail Evening** on Saturday 31st. This will be a chance to try some cocktails prepared by our expert bar team! Details will be on the website nearer the time. Free entry, just pay for your drinks.

The Club is very pleased to be welcoming **Alfie Moore** back to Toft. Alfie, policeman turned comedian, who is well known for his Radio 4 series *Fair Cop*, is appearing on Friday 25th July. Tickets are £16 and on sale now via the Club website – this is sure to sell out quickly, so get your tickets now.

All our regular events take place in May, **Toft Art** on Thursday 1st, **Table Tennis** on Thursday 8th, **Carpet Bowls** on Friday 9th, **Toft Quiz** on Thursday 15th and **Toft Bingo** on Thursday 22nd.

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.

We are hoping to recruit a new treasurer to help with the running of the Club – if you are interested in helping, or want to find out more, then please email us at admin@toft.club

Keep up to date here:

Website: <https://toft.club>

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/ToftSocial>

Nature notes The Song of Birds



www.richardallenillustrator.com

During the long, grey winter, I've had the pleasure of the company of two pairs of robins, one pair in the front garden, one at the back. Each day I heard the melodious trill of the males as they announced their presence to their mates – and, essentially, to their rivals. Now, there's a nest in each hedge, front and back, with Mrs (probably) safely sitting on her eggs, supplied with food by her busy partner, whose song is now a little more restricted as he flits to and fro, anxiously collecting food for her. In a neighbouring hedge, another, larger nest holds a clutch of a blackbird's eggs, the female hunkered down against the fence, her mate more secretive but nonetheless aggressive in finding food for her – which includes the grapes I put out for my tortoises!

And now, Messrs Robin have much competition in the song stakes: close by, blackbirds, thrushes, tits, wrens and dunnocks all proclaim their presence, especially in the early mornings and evenings, singing loudly in concert from the trees all around, vying for space and territory in which to build their nests. It's unlikely they sing for the benefit of us humans (though privately I think my favourite robin may sometimes do just that), but we can all derive huge pleasure from their songs. Common garden birds they may be, but nonetheless they are a joyous company.

Which is why it's so very important that we continue to feed and provide water for the birds at least in winter, allow our hedges to grow (and only cut them once the likelihood of nesting birds has passed), to give them safe places away from cats and marauding magpies in which to build their nests. If you walk to the edge of the village and out into the open fields, it's immediately noticeable how the clamour of bird song fades away, leaving only the singular vibrant song of skylarks on the hill, the cawing of rooks and jackdaws and the mewling of buzzards as they patrol the fields. Our garden birds need us – and they repay us with their glorious spring chorus.

Katherine James

Notes from the Museum

'I've lived here all my life and I've never been in here before.' This is how quite a few of my conversations with visitors at the museum start. A lot of people who live in Cambridgeshire don't visit Cambridge University Museums; they've never heard of them, they're not sure where they are, or they think they're closed to the general public. But in fact, these museums are free, open to any of us to walk in and they love visitors!

About a year ago, I started volunteering at the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences on Wednesday mornings. I work with the museum's public engagement team, sometimes meeting people at the door, sometimes just wandering around the cases chatting, sometimes running hands-on activities. It's hugely rewarding - about as different from my normal desk job as you could imagine.

The Barrington Hippopotamus

When new visitors are local, I often point them towards the Barrington hippopotamus. 125,000 years ago, hippos wallowed in the River Cam and elephants thundered across



The Barrington Hippopotamus on display at the Sedgwick museum

Barrington village green. Our hippopotamus is surrounded by other bones found at Barrington, including elephants, lions, hyenas and rhinos. The hippos from Barrington were the same species that now live in Africa, so you can imagine just how warm Cambridgeshire must have been

at the time. This was an interglacial period – a break in the Ice Age, when the glaciers retreated for a relatively brief period and the climate warmed. Later, the glaciers returned and (sadly, I think) our hippos and elephants moved south again.

Nuala Tannahill

CURRY NIGHT...

Two simple words familiar to all of us. Curry is now as familiar as fish and chips, but it wasn't always so.

In 1963 I was posted to RAF Changi Singapore. On arrival I found myself the NCO in charge of airframes on B Flight 48 Squadron. Our aircraft were Hastings four-engined transports derived from the Halifax bomber of WW2. I was already experienced on the type so there was no learning curve to master. We were on night shift, starting at 7pm until night flying ended, usually about 11pm. We sent up two aircraft on continuous training doing circuits and bumps and once they were airborne, there was little to do until they landed.

On my first day in the Far East I had only just met the lads and had still to learn the ropes. About 8.30pm

I heard, 'Bob do you fancy a curry?' I knew what curry was but I don't think I'd ever had one. I doubt if many English people had at that time. 'Sure' I said, thinking I should go with the flow. 'Jump in the Land Rover.' And I found myself in the front seat with a list of 10 curries, having added mine on advice. How was I to carry all 10? It turned out to be simple and ingenious.

We drove the mile or so to Changi village, then a single street of huts, rather like elaborate allotment sheds, selling all sorts of things. We stopped at one, where huge cauldrons of curry were bubbling over wood fires, none of which I recognised.

So how was I to carry 10 curries? On the other side of the street was a vending barrow, run by a family of Tamils, known as 'Fred's alley

cafeteria', which sold coffee, tea and hot chocolate, etc. plus a range of rolls and fillings. All the milk used was tinned Carnation milk and they used a lot of them. The empty tins were boiled to sterilise them and used by the curry shop over the road. The lids had been opened but were still attached, a small hole in the lid had a rattan string through it and a little wooden peg in the other end. Thus I sat in the vehicle with 10 hot shiny tins suspended from my fingers back to the squadron.

I'm nominally in charge, it's my first day and here I am with shiny tins like bells hanging down, in the front of a Land Rover. This scene became familiar but that night it was something of a surprise. What a great curry night!

Robert Longhurst

The Garden Wrangler

The garden looks much healthier than this time last year without the endless rain and waterlogging. Fresh growth (particularly on roses) is very attractive to aphids, which should be tackled as soon as you see them, either squashing or spraying.

Tender plants can be planted towards the end of the month, or whenever it looks like the last frost has happened, but harden off first for a few days in a sheltered place outside.

Also weed before they seed, keep mowing and enjoy the spring.

Colm Sheppard



WALKING FOOTBALL



In 2014 Barclays Bank ran an advert on national television which featured two rather stout men of a certain age going into their local branch seeking a bank loan to set up a walking football competition. The advert was somewhat vague as to what the money was needed for, perhaps adding to the overall impression (in my house at least) that this was all a spoof.

Well, walking football is very much a real thing – and not just as a consequence of that advertisement. The invention of the game is credited to a man named John Croot in 2011 but it came to wider public attention because of the advert. Today you will find a walking football team almost anywhere you go in this country.

So what is it? As the name suggests, it is football without the running and as that Barclay's advert suggested, it is played mainly by men over 50 – although as it is a non-contact sport, men and women can play together and people with physical limitations can also play. The group I play in is based at the Sports Centre in Cambourne and plays a walking version of five-a-side with variations specific to walking football such as three-touches only from receiving the ball to passing or shooting and no tackling. This means that even experienced football players need to play in a different way. Our group plays for 90 minutes with a short half-time interval. The standard is reasonably good and most participants (but not all) have played regular or competitive football in the past. We referee ourselves – mainly calling someone for running – and it is played in a really good spirit, competitive but sporting and with good humour.

The great advantage of the game is that it enables those of us who enjoy the game to continue playing when the running version of the game takes too much toll on the knees or ankles as the case may be (knees for me!). Although it is a walking game, you know you have been active after 90 minutes – but you will still be able to walk in relative comfort the next day.

Paul Hollow

The SCHOOLROOM Community Café

**Every Wednesday 10.30am to 1.30pm in
Toft People's Hall**

We continue to try out different 'Specials' in addition to our usual range of delicious homemade cakes, sausage rolls and soups. So you may find jacket potatoes, bacon baps, filled baguettes or quiches. We aim to let you know what to expect a week ahead. It's quite a challenge for our tiny café to get the right balance between not running out of your favourites and on the other hand, not wasting food if too much is left over, especially when customer numbers fluctuate hugely. So bear with us - we'll do our best!

Are you a parent or grandparent of a baby or toddler? If so, you are very welcome to come along to Funtime for Little Ones - half an hour of rhymes and singing from 10.30 to 11am, after which you're welcome to stay and chat over coffee while the little ones enjoy a range of toys. It's free, no need to book, and runs through school holidays as well as term times.

And as the weather (hopefully) improves, you have the option of sitting outside under the umbrellas to enjoy your refreshments - ideal for dog-walkers - but parents please be aware, this space is not enclosed.



The Big Toft Breakfast

Local & Fairtrade produce
Toft People's Hall
Sunday 18 May
9.00am-12.00 noon



**Come, eat and enjoy a great big breakfast
that does you good...and does good to others**

Organised by the Women of Toft
Proceeds divided between Fairtrade and Farm Africa



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Saturday - 9.00am to 11.00am

Sunday - 10.00am to 11.00am

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



As well as the usual cornucopia of goods found in a traditional Village Shop and Post Office, Toft Shop stocks a variety of local East Anglian specialities including homemade cakes, preserves and jams, locally baked breads including croissants and sourdough. We also offer a great range of herbs and spices as well as a huge greetings card selection and have East Anglia's largest selection of South African food.

Shop Opening Hours:	Post Office Opening
Mon-Tues: 7am - 6pm	Mon-Tues: 7am - 6pm
Wed: 7am - 1pm	Wed: 7am - 1pm
Thur-Fri: 7am - 6pm	Thur-Fri: 7am - 6pm
Sat: 7.30am - 2pm	Sat: 7.30am - 1pm
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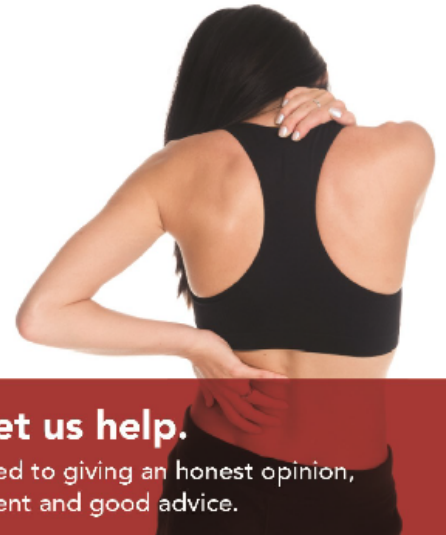
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BIN COLLECTIONS FOR MAY

Black Bin: 1st, 15th, 29th

Blue Bin: 8th, 22nd

Green Bin: 8th, 22nd

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: calendarads@aol.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
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 Shop: <http://www.toftshop.co.uk>
Toft Village Website: <http://www.toft.org.uk>

A Call for Contributions

We hope you're enjoying the new design of the Toft Village Calendar and all the usual content. We're now keen to add new features to which we invite you to contribute. One of them 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. We'd also like to feature a 'Nature Diary'. What birds, animals, plants, natural phenomena have you observed in and around Toft this month? Again, just 50-100 words or so would do. 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. Send your contribution 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 18 May.

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