

TOFT VILLAGE CALENDAR

October 2026



DIARY DATES

The Parish Council

The next meeting is on
Monday 5th October
7.00pm in The People's
Hall. All welcome.

Harvest

The Harvest service is on
11th October at 11.00am
in St Andrew's Church.

Toft Friendship Club

Wednesday 7th October
African Wildlife Safari -
an illustrated talk by
Simon Shore &
Neville Tait
2.30pm at
Toft People's Hall .

The Club in October

Kathryn Roberts &
Sean Lakeman 3rd.
Food on Friday 9th,
Sausage Festival 17th
and Paul Armer and
the Dawn Chorus on 30th.
All events are at
The People's Hall.

Macmillan coffee morning

Wednesday 14th October
from 10.30 - 13.30 in
The People's Hall.

Editorial

It's up there with the world's great unanswerable questions, such as: If God Is All-powerful, Could He* Create A Rock So Heavy That He Couldn't Shift It? or: Why Don't Birds Ever Use Nest Boxes? And yet, here we are, with yet another insoluble mystery on our hands. How can an Englishman travel a scant few miles in his own country and yet feel more abroad than he does in Paris, Berlin or Rome? If I were to tell you that the English person concerned was an effete southerner (me) and the place travelled to was that mysterious, scary region often referred to, in covert whispers, as 'Up North', then maybe you'll sympathise. It's not just the weather (sleet, mostly), it's the sudden cultural backflip - all your assumptions and norms somersaulting out of the window.

Take shopping, or dining out, or, well, almost anything where one party is trying to get their mitts on another party's hard-earned pelf. You might imagine that the party of the first part, as we hepcats like to call it, would be solicitous, emollient - perhaps, even, welcoming. It was with this zany expectation that we entered a local eatery to ask if, mayhap, they had such an item as a cheese scone for sale. The owner stared at us as if we'd asked for a kitten sandwich. 'We have not,' he said, brusquely, 'and you'll not find anyone else round here selling them, neither. There's no call, see?' We trooped meekly out, mentally castigating ourselves for not having boned up on local knowledge aforehand and I could have sworn I heard a voice behind us mutter, 'What a pair of dumbos' - but I may have imagined it. Things didn't exactly improve when, by now more than peckish, we rolled into a competing dive down the road a bit. 'This looks OK,' whispered my helpmeet. 'Look, they've got proper doilies.' We took a seat. And it is at this point, my fellow southerners, that I must ask you to brace yourselves. Even, perhaps, to hide this otherwise irreproachable periodical from impressionable young eyes or family members of a vapourish inclination. Because there, on the menu, in unmistakeable type, was the item: 'Ham Sandwich (With Gravy - add 0.50p)'. In what possible parallel universe does a person halfway through a ham sandwich stop and think, 'What this needs is a ladleful of Bisto sloshed over it'?

Still, I've learnt something. If you want to feel completely and totally abroad, like a fish out of water, there's no need to go through the Hell we call 'Gatwick'. Just head up the A1.

**Yeah, OK. He could be a She. But I just don't see a woman wasting her time like this.*

C2C Busway

The results of the planning enquiry into the construction of the Cambourne to Cambridge busway are now in and it looks as though the project will go ahead. According to the possibly slightly biased Bonkers Busway website, the inspectors concluded that the scheme "would not do anything to relieve congestion and improve journey times to the east of Grange Road in the City Centre". Any improvement in air quality would be "limited", even before the irony of felling mature trees and destroying habitat that absorbs carbon, filters pollution and helps produce the air we breathe.

Nor does the Order deliver an affordable bus service. It provides infrastructure on which buses might run. Fares and services will

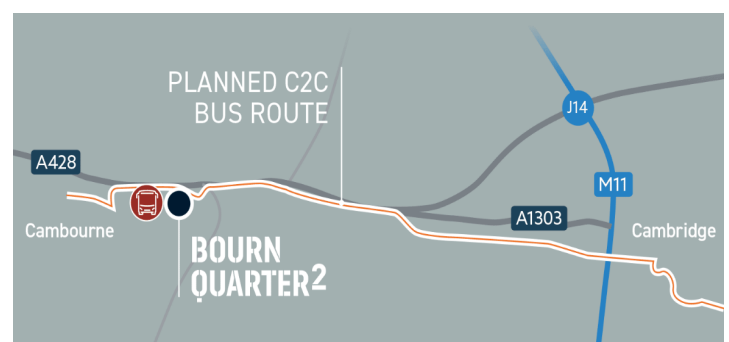
depend on operators and the Combined Authority, while Mayor Paul Bristow has repeatedly said he cannot guarantee the assumed services.

So why approve it? Read the conclusions and the overriding justification is growth: enabling housing and economic development.

The economics deserve scrutiny too. The initial benefit-

cost ratio is around 0.5:1, classed as poor value for money. Put simply, about 50p of benefit for every £1 invested.

At some point, the new busway will have to go over, or under, the new railway, which will also serve Cambourne to Cambridge. Any suspicion that the right hand has no idea what the left hand is doing is, of course, groundless.



THE CHURCH IN TOFT

St Andrew's Parish Church *This church extends a warm ecumenical welcome to all.*

Lay Minister Mrs Barbara Preece 263466
Churchwardens Mrs Ann Mitchell 262516
Mrs Elizabeth Dolman 262574
Deputy Warden Jean Verney 263028

SERVICES OF WORSHIP

4th October

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
Revd Prof. Michael Reiss
11.00am Morning Worship
Mrs Cathy Michell

11th October

11.00am **Harvest** Holy Communion
Revd Priscilla Slusar

18th October

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
Revd Priscilla Slusar

11.00am Morning Worship
Revd Robert Dolman

25th October

10.30am Lordsbridge Team Service Dry Drayton

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 36

11th October we will celebrate HARVEST

The grain harvest is, as you know, long past and our fields are being ploughed but apples, courgettes, tomatoes – the harvest of our gardens – continues. Even if you do not attend the service, if you can spare any fruits from your garden, please drop them into the church and they will be delivered to the Women's Refuge in Cambridge on Monday 12th.



Is this autumn?



Is this autumn? Following these strange months, we will welcome the return of the Warm Hub. At the moment the dahlias' amazing colours decorate the path to Caldecote, everywhere the pyracanthas are laden with brilliant orange and yellow and the juice of blackberries continues to stain the pavements. However, autumn can bring gloom to many – shortening days, plunging temperatures, and bare gardens can bring depression to the bravest souls. Many authors have written on this and here are a few. 'No spring nor summer beauty hath such grace, As I have seen in one autumnal face' wrote John Donne in the seventeenth century. In L. M. Montgomery's novel, Anne of Green Gables remarks that we should be 'glad to live in a world where there are Octobers'. And George Eliot wrote in a letter to a friend, 'Is not this a true autumn day? Just the still melancholy that I love - that makes life and nature harmonise. The birds are consulting about their migrations, the trees are putting on the hectic or the pallid hues of decay, and begin to strew the ground, that one's very footsteps may not disturb the repose of earth and air, while they give us a scent that is a perfect anodyne to the restless spirit. Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns'. And from the Victorian novelist Samuel Butler, 'Autumn is the mellow season, and what we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits.' But for me there is but one writer who has captured autumn, acutely and skilfully. Who can beat John Keats' *To Autumn*, written on 19th September 1819?

*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;*

[...]

*Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.*

May autumn be special for all of us.

ALM



THE CHURCH IN TOFT



A QUIET SERVICE TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

You are warmly invited to St Andrew's Church Toft
for a time of remembrance and thanks,
quietness, words and music for
'Those we love but see no more'



At 3.00pm on Sunday November 1st

There will be refreshments following the service.
We look forward to welcoming you.

St Andrew's East Window

As the repair to our East Window has become more urgent with the continuing dry weather, we have had permission to make a temporary repair. We hope this will be possible in early October, which will give us time to set about raising the up to £115,000 we need for a proper repair and conservation in 2027. If you can help, we would be so grateful.

You can use one of these methods to donate:

- <https://givealittle.co/c/standrewtoftrestoration> or
- the QR code below
- or Bank Transfer to: Account name: 'Toft PCC'
Sort Code: 30-91-56 Account: 02251476
- Cheque to 'Toft PCC' to 20 High Street, 40 School Lane or 2 Beldams Close (please add a note with the cheque, or email standrewtoft@gmail.com for a Gift Aid Form).



WELCOME BACK

The clocks will change and the Warm Hub will be back from 26th October
Come and join us for chat, games, friendship and refreshment, all for free.
We'll meet every Monday, from 10.00 to 12.00 at Toft People's Hall.

We would love to see you there - you'll be guaranteed a warm welcome.
Feel free to bring a friend.



TOFT PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Martin Yeadon

01223 263663

cllr.yeadon@tpc.toft.org.uk

Deputy: Elaine Miles

01223262255

cllr.miles@tpc.toft.org.uk

Avril Coghlan

cllr.coghlan@tpc.toft.org.uk

Emma Darbyshire

07763 463234

cllr.darbyshire@tpc.toft.org.uk

William Howling

Contact details to come

Paul McCarthy

Contact details to come

Clerk: Ben Stoehr

01954 210241

clerk@tpc.toft.org.uk

The Parish Council represents the residents of Toft and aims to support the welfare and interests of its residents and businesses. Each council member takes responsibilities for specific areas covering Highways, Health and Safety, Footpaths, Lot Meadow, The Recreation and Playground area, The Allotments, Climate Change, The People's Hall, the Defibrillator and Welcome Packs.

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

The Council met on Monday 7th September 2026 in the People's Hall

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Monday 5th October 2026 at 7.00pm in The People's Hall. All Welcome.

Comments from Members of the Public

A member of the Plymouth Brethren spoke to the meeting and advised that, as they would like to enclose the building, hitherto known as the Methodist Chapel, and the adjoining car park, preferably with a small hedge, they wish to move the Memorial plaque on the High Street wall to a place where villagers can access it and asked the PC to consider where this could be moved to. In addition, they are to move the entrance to the back of the building, which will minimise noise of worshippers leaving the building. They have a "Rapid Response Team" willing to engage in small community activities, such as litter picking.

A resident reported that on the footpath by the side of the car park, a concrete block needs removing and the overgrown hedge at the High Street end needs cutting back.

The District Councillor, Catherine Hubbard, reported that she is keen to follow up on requests for a zebra crossing on the High Street. Cllr Darbyshire pointed out that she had discussed this idea with Highways but the response had been negative due to the road layout. Cllr Darbyshire will contact Highways again.

There were no apologies for absence or declarations of interest and the minutes of the last meeting were approved with a few amendments by Cllr Darbyshire.

Matters Arising

The PC was very pleased to welcome Paul McCarthy as a new member of the Parish Council.

Cllrs Darbyshire and Miles reported that the overhanging vegetation on the footpath between Toft and Comberton has been cut back and that CCC will clear soil and grass, which has encroached, to restore the path to its original width.

Regarding the Finding Fitness climbing wall, Cllr Miles reported that on 15th July she had an acknowledgement from the National Lottery Community Fund and was advised that a response could take up to 16 weeks.

The RoSPA report was considered at the last meeting and Cllr Yeadon reported that the reported minor repairs were underway.

Cllr Miles confirmed that she had looked again at the positioning of a new bench on Mill Drift and reported that there is a wonderful view at the end of the houses overlooking undulating small hills. It was agreed that the PC would purchase a new bench.

Cllr Miles confirmed that she had purchased new "Pick up after your dog" signs and was putting these in place.

Quotes for the refurbishment of the benches and map information boards had been brought to the meeting and it was agreed that Cllr Yeadon would choose the most economical quote.

Cllrs Howling and Darbyshire agreed examine instructions for using the new PC website and councillor emails, after which an article will be put in the Calendar advising residents of them.

Correspondence

Cllr Yeadon reported that he had received notification that the ACV listing for Toft shop will expire in approximately 12 months' time and proposed the item is deferred onto the Agenda for that time.

It was agreed that the PC would not reply to the consultation on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan as there were no significant changes in this immediate area, ***(For information, the day after the meeting, an email was issued by government that they are reviewing Local Government Reorganisation and hence any changes for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have been paused whilst the review is carried out.)***

It was agreed that there was no need to reply to the Scoping Consultation and Call for Sites in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals & Waste Local Plan review.

It was agreed to fund the request for improvements to the Jubilee Green from a resident who is managing the grass and hedging. Cllr Darbyshire's request for funding to plant some spring bulbs on the village green was agreed and they could combine their orders when purchasing. It was noted that, where possible, "wild" native spring flowers would be ordered to maintain the natural rural look of the village.

It was pointed out that the Parish and Town Survey

from ACRE was addressed to the Clerk and needed no response from the PC.

Cllr Darbyshire reported that she has expressed an interest in attending the ACRE Annual General Meeting 2026.

Cllr Miles talked the PC through the Cambridgeshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan survey and will submit the responses on behalf of the Council.

Finance, etc.

The finance report was considered and the payment of bills approved.

Play inspection reports had already been dealt with and there was no matter arising which was considered a risk or danger to health and safety.

Planning/Tree Works

No requests had been received.

Members' Items

Cllr Yeadon reported that the new picnic benches for Lot Meadow were to be delivered on 9th September and once Cynan and Tricia had returned from holiday, these would be installed.

Cllr Miles reported that the Clerk for Kingston had written to the landowner regarding the overgrown footpath leading from B1046 towards Kingston but had had no response.

Regarding the Defibrillator, the Clerk is to order a new battery. Cllr McCarthy has agreed to take over its maintenance once he has been fully instructed in its use. Cllr Darbyshire will arrange a training course for the village, which will be advertised when a date is agreed.

Cllr Coghlan reported that students are not using the zebra crossing and it was suggested that anyone concerned should write to the college as this was a matter for them.

Cllr Miles proposed the creation of a Disaster Management Plan for the village given the effects of global warming. Cllr Howling is to take the lead on this and will draw up an initial all-season plan of action. Once the plan is agreed, it will be published in the Calendar.

It was agreed that the amount of promotional material at the entrance to the Mount and outside the village shop was excessive, not in keeping with a small village and obscured vision for drivers. This is to be reported to Highways.

Cllr Miles reported that the top part of the map sign opposite the village green had fallen off and needed repairing and that the one by the bridge on Brookside had disappeared.

Cllr Yeadon proposed that we carry out Village Hero Awards as last year, a request will be put in the Calendar for nominations and awards made at the annual Christmas dinner.

It was agreed that the programme that Cllr Yeadon had used to convert data from the Speed Camera provided excellent information and will be passed on regularly to the Speed Watch team.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Aliens among us: invasive species in our countryside

Online talk with wildlife
expert Vince Lea
15th October | 7-8pm



The Countryside Regeneration Trust's popular programme of free online talks returns on Thursday, October 15, from 7pm to 8pm, with a fascinating look at invasive species and their impact on our countryside.

Dr Vince Lea, the CRT's Conservation Officer at Lark Rise Farm, Barton, will explore the growing challenge posed by invasive non-native species (INNS). More than 2,000 of these species are now found in the UK, with new arrivals continuing to enter, often through international trade routes.

Vince will explain how the CRT is tackling these issues and how local people can help. He will also discuss successful efforts to control American mink, which have contributed to the return of water voles in some areas.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the talk., which will be held online. To book your free place, visit: www.thecrt.co.uk/Event/aliens-among-us-invasive-species-in-our-countryside

Booking is essential to receive the joining link.

Donations are very welcome to support the CRT's work.

Comberton Heritage Society

Our meeting is on Tuesday October 27th in
Comberton Village Hall at 8pm will be a
talk by Jeanette Moser and is entitled

Everyone has a story to tell

Jeanette will be telling the fascinating story of her family history: her mother and father's escape from Nazi Germany to Israel then South Africa, where she was born in 1938 and her own life, growing up as a six-year-old Jewish girl, as a boarder in a Catholic convent. Her aim is to encourage everyone to preserve memories for generations to come.

Toft Club News

The Toft Beer and Cider Festival was another great success this year – lots of people came along to enjoy an excellent choice of beer and cider, some wonderful food and great music. Thanks to everyone involved and those who came along to support the event.

We have a busy month coming up in October, with something for everyone.



We are holding our first ever **Toft Sausage Festival** on Saturday 17th October from 11am until 2pm. Inspired by the Bavarian and Austrian festivals, there will be a variety of sausages including bratwurst, chorizo, hot-dog and vegetarian as well as traditional British - all served with a choice of breads and accompaniments and washed down with real ale, craft lager and a full range of drinks from the bar, including free squash for children. There will be live music throughout the event from die Lagerhosen oompah band. The festival will be great fun for all the family. Entry is free. Check out the website for more details here: <https://toft.club/sausage-festival>

We are hosting two music gigs in October: on Saturday 3rd we are excited to be welcoming the legendary **Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman**. From their roots in 90s folk supergroup

A poster for Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman. It features a black and white photo of the two artists standing in a narrow stone street. The text 'KATHRYN ROBERTS & SEAN LAKEMAN' is overlaid in large white letters. Below the photo, it says 'SAT 3RD OCT' and 'TOFT - SOCIAL CLUB'. At the bottom, the website 'www.kathrynrobertsandsseanlakeman.com' is listed. There is a small 'MIDNIGHT MANGO' logo in the top left corner.

KATHRYN ROBERTS
&
SEAN LAKEMAN

SAT 3RD OCT

TOFT - SOCIAL CLUB

www.kathrynrobertsandsseanlakeman.com

Friday 30th October



Paul Armer and The Dawn Chorus

Equation through to becoming a revered duo in the folk music scene, this multi award-winning folk music couple continue to exude timeless class with their exquisite brand of traditional and contemporary acoustic music. This promises to be a fantastic evening of music – don't miss it! Tickets are just £18 and are on sale now on the website: <https://toft.club/tickets.php>

Then on Friday 30th we welcome the wonderful bluegrass group **Paul Armer and The Dawn Chorus**, who have a rare combination of honest, meaningful songwriting and virtuosic instrumental talent which has wowed audiences up and down the country. Tickets are just £16 and are on sale now on the website: <https://toft.club/tickets.php>

The monthly **Games Night** returns at 7pm on Friday 2nd – come along and try some new and interesting games. Free entry – all ages welcome.

October 9th sees the return of an old favourite – **Food on Friday**. Join us and enjoy a meal and great company! Full details on the website.

October film night is on Saturday 17th, showing the 2025 film *Marty Supreme* starring Timothée Chalamet, Gwyneth Paltrow and Odessa A'zion. It tells the story of Marty Mauser, a silver-tongued hustler with a dream that no one respects: to

become the world champion table tennis player. Doors open at 19:30 and the film starts promptly at 8pm. Annual membership of the Film Club is £12 and evening membership is £3.

All of our regular events are taking place, **Toft Art** is on Thursday 1st, **Toft Quiz** on Thursday 8th and **Carpet Bowls** on Friday 16th. The popular **Open Mic / Music Night** is on Saturday 10th – pop in and enjoy some local live music – free entry.

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

Keep up to date here:

Website: <https://toft.club>

Follow us on Facebook:

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

Toft Enterprise Award 2026

The Toft Enterprise scheme, advertised in the Village Calendar in July, offered young residents the chance to carry out a programme of learning and working at Toft Club and the Community Café between August and September. Skills on offer included: bar and cellar work, customer interactions, time management, food preparation, health and safety, till/financial transactions, problem solving and team working.



Two young residents came forward to take up the challenge: Oscar Burdon and Ben Henderson. Both worked tirelessly during the busy Toft Beer and Cider Festival and many of us benefitted from their hard work. Ben said: "From the get-go it was organised and streamlined." He said he had developed "interpersonal

skills, the ability to communicate with a wide range of people at the café and club." Oscar commented: "I got a lot of feedback and help. I learnt things I never thought

I would."

Linda Hollow, one of the initiators of the scheme summed it up: "The Toft Enterprise Award 2026 has shown Toft at its best. Two young men from Toft, with support from Toft Club and the Community café have contributed greatly. Too many people are quick to write off young people - here in Toft we support them and help them take their next steps!"

Martin Sebborn, Chair of Toft Club, commented that Ben and Oscar had "learnt new practical skills, had their self-confidence and communication skills boosted and been of great assistance to the Club and the Café." He added, "It's been an enjoyable and worthwhile exercise for everyone and one that we will be repeating."

Toft has long been famous for tea-parties. Now we have a new type of tea to celebrate: the TEA, Toft Enterprise Award. Congratulations Ben and Oscar, and our best wishes for the future. If you would like more information about the scheme, email Linda Hollow (linda.hollow@btconnect.com) or Martin Sebborn (martin@toft.club).

The **SCHOOLROOM** *Community Café*

Every Wednesday, 10.30am - 1.30pm in the People's Hall, or outside in the courtyard under the shade of a parasol. NB This is not a secured area so children must be supervised.

10.30 - 11.00am: Funtime for Little Ones - half an hour of singing and stories for babies and toddlers and their carers. It's free and there's no need to book - just turn up. Enjoy chatting afterwards over a coffee and cake if you wish, while the little ones explore the range of toys available.

Our volunteer cooks and bakers produce a selection of delicious cakes, scones, sausage rolls and soups at low prices for a mid-week treat.

We always welcome offers of help with running the café, whether it's baking a cake, helping to serve behind the counter, arranging the furniture or washing up! If you'd like to get involved, just speak to one of the helpers during a café session or email gill.ppugh@gmail.com

**The Schoolroom Café is hosting a
Macmillan Coffee Morning on
Wednesday 14th October from 10.30 - 13.30
at Toft People's Hall**

**The Café will be transformed into a Macmillan's
Coffee Morning, with all proceeds going to this
well-known cancer support charity.**

**All donations of home-baking for sale, or raffle
prizes will be greatly welcomed.**



If you would like to get involved in helping at the café or if you need more information about the Macmillan coffee morning just speak to one of the helpers during a café session or email gill.ppugh@gmail.com

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Friendship Club



Friendship Club Outing

The Club's September meeting was afternoon tea at Coton Orchard.

Scones, jam, cream and a cuppa were enjoyed by 20 members.

Friendship Club next meeting

7th October 2.30pm Toft People's Hall

African Wildlife Safari - an illustrated talk by Simon Shore & Neville Tait

The Friendship Club is for over 50s. We normally meet every month on the 2nd Wednesday at 2.30pm at Toft People's Hall; programme followed by tea and biscuits.

Visitors always welcome.

S C R A B B L E

Scrabble players needed for Home Meadow

A rota of volunteers regularly goes to Home Meadow on Thursday afternoons at 2pm to play scrabble with the residents.

If anyone would like to join the rota, please contact Liz liztomes6@btinternet.com

Toft 1895

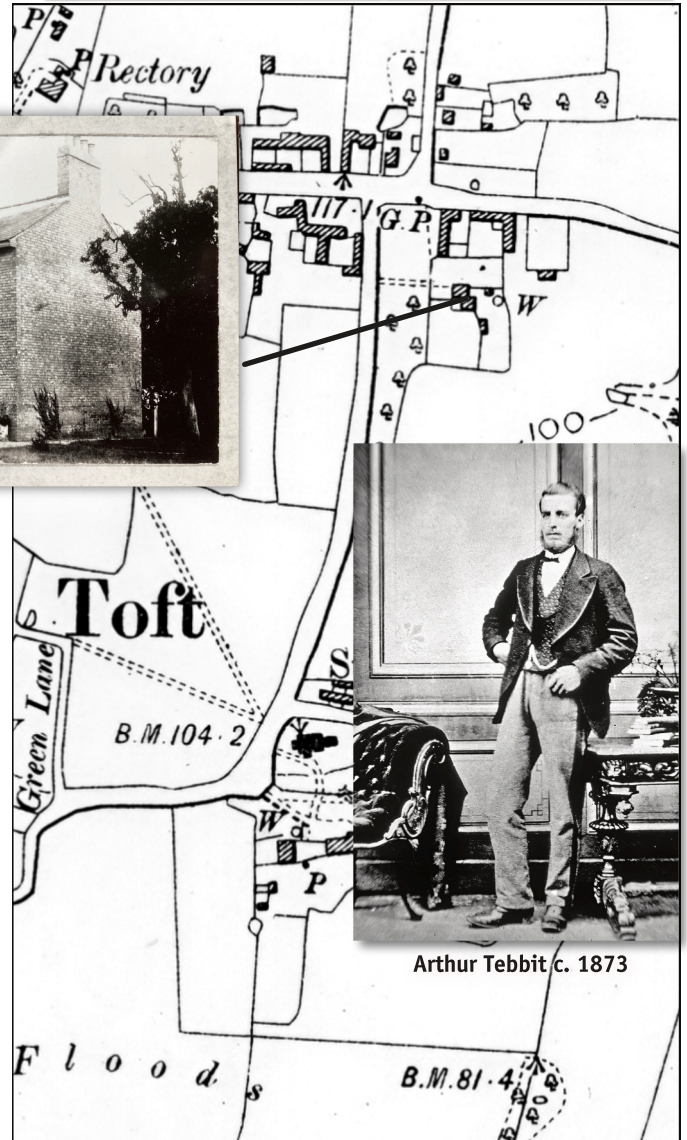
PART 8

May Creek's memoir of Toft in 1895 now leads us across the Comberton Road from Old Farm to South View then back again across the road to Orchard Farm, describing who lived where.

Now we cross the road to South View, with Joe Warboys as tenant rented from A. Tebbit at, I think, £20 per annum. Mr W. was not a satisfied tenant and early in the 1900s or late 1800s built the two cottages in School Lane, living in the larger himself. Here Mrs Warboys died in 1906. Now Hardwick Rd: on the corner a cottage occupied by Mr and Mrs Alf Collett, with Arthur, who they took when his mother died. Next to them, the house owned by the Radfords, who lived at Hardwick Wood, occupied by Ebenezer Creek and family, a son and daughter Maude, later Mrs Peach. Ebenezer was a snob*, a good one. Here he made and mended boots and shoes. Now we cross to Orchard Farm, occupied by Mr. A Tebbit, four sons and three daughters and a delicate wife. A place to revive memory of Christmas parties, Sunday school treats, all associated with Orchard Farm. Here Mr. A Tebbit lived till 1915, when he crossed the road to South View with his new wife Annie. Leaving Orchard Farm, we go out by the white hand gate onto that little used path to the church, very much a drift until the Reverend Powell decided his members needed a decent path and had Church Path Toft and Sand Path to Caldecote made usable. Church cottages, three in number. In the first one lived Betsy Freestone and her mother; in the second a Mr and Mrs Joe Creek (horsekeeper for the Tebbits); in the third a family called Jacobs, I think.

*Dialect word for a shoemaker

toft historical society



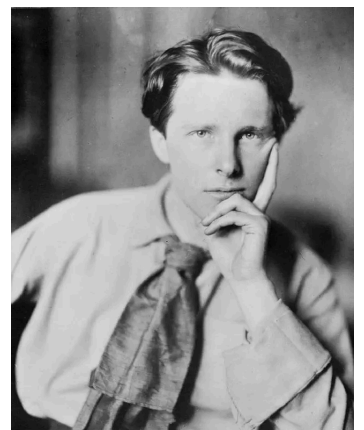
Arthur Tebbit c. 1873



FIRESIDE

Fireside makes a welcome return on
November 6th, when Dr Claire Nicholson
will speak on

*The Odd Couple: Virginia Woolf and
Rupert Brooke.*



Digital Buddy Assistance Need any assistance to get online, uploading photos, bus pass renewal/new application or even accessing your emails? Digital Buddy will assist you **Mondays, 11am-1pm**. Book an appointment.

Digital Buddy on Monday 5th October will demonstrate how to manage your library account on Spydus (online service) between **11am – 12.30pm**. Please bring along your IT device.

School projects

Don't forget how much libraries can help with school projects. We have a wide selection of junior non-fiction books and with a library card you also have free access to online dictionaries, encyclopaedias and history research websites. Visit our website and explore our learning and research page.

Weekly activities

Knit, Sew and Natter group meets at **10.30am**. **October** dates: 12th and 26th. **November** dates: 9th and 23rd.

December dates: 7th. Then every other Monday. Newcomers warmly welcome. There are always tea, coffee and biscuits available.

Rhymetime 10.30am – 11.00am (except during the school holidays) for children between 0 to 4 years of age. **October** dates: 5th and 19th. **November** dates: 2nd, 16th and 30th. **December** date: 14th. **First Steps Library Club** for ages 0-4 years. Every visit to the library, attending events like Rhymetime your child will get a special stamp towards a certificate.

It's Lego Time with Duplo. **Saturdays** starting at 10.30am. Come and have fun building and exploring your imagination. Every child needs an adult to accompany them. **This is a free event.**

Opening hours (excluding bank holidays etc.)

Monday 10am – 1pm

Wednesday 10am – 1pm and 2.30pm – 5.30pm

Friday 2.30pm – 5.30pm

Saturday 10am – 1pm

Marmalade & jam

If it is not convenient to make purchases at the shop, then I would be pleased to assist. Please contact me by phone on 01223 262708 or email me at pjohnson@toft.org.uk



Arthur Rank Hospice Charity

Fill a bag for a fiver sale

Following the success of Arthur Rank Hospice Charity's first 'Fill a Bag for £5.00' event, they will be hosting another sale. Visit Arthur Rank Hospice (next to the Babraham Road Park & Ride carpark) on Friday 9 October (10am – 2pm) and Saturday 10 October (10am – 2pm). For just £5.00 you can fill a bag of pre-loved women's, men's and children's clothes! Visit arhc.org.uk/retail-sale for more information.

Could You Volunteer?

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity has a range of volunteer opportunities at arhc.org.uk/volunteer. Their outstanding services and Christmas Tree Recycling campaign wouldn't be possible without additional volunteers. If you'd like to be part of the team who collects trees in January and they'd love to hear from you. For more information about volunteering to collect trees, please email christmastrees@arhc.org.uk.

Could your event host a collection for Hospice Care? 3

Do you want to make a difference at your event? Consider hosting a donation station, collection buckets and contactless donation App for Arthur Rank Hospice Charity to support people with an advancing serious illness and end of life care. Visit arhc.org.uk/fundraising or email Sarah or Lisa at cf@arhc.org.uk or telephone 01223 675888 to get involved.

Are you a knitter?

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity sell knitted items throughout the year. Last Easter they rehomed over 4,000 knitted chicks and they are looking for people to help them continue this tradition. If you would like to get involved by knitting chicks or hosting an adoption site, please visit arhc.org.uk/knitting or email cf@arhc.org.uk or telephone 01223 675888.

Bereavement Support

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity hosts a drop in group called 'Grief Connections' (previously 'Grief Kind Space') every Friday from 10am to midday in their Bistro. The session is open for anyone who would like to talk to someone about grief and meet others in similar situations. For more information visit arhc.org.uk/griefkind or telephone 01223 675777.

NATURE DIARY



Nature With Us

It's the 2nd of September, and the swallows and house martins are lined up on the aerial cable that spans the garden. Is this the last day we shall see them? They twitter excitedly, feeding constantly, preparing for their long journey south to warmer climes. But what dangers do they face, both natural and human? Will they find what they need – food, water, safe passage? As for our native birds, they're now emerging from their summer moult – hence all the feathers lying around – and signalling their presence once again with song.

The last few months have been so very hot, so very dry. We've all had to find clever ways to keep cool and to conserve every drop of water to save our gardens. But if we've found it hard, how much more difficult it must be for the creatures living around us. Even the tiniest ants searched for every drop of water – to the extent of marching like explorers into my kettle, so that each morning these tiny creatures had to be fished out of that first cup of tea!



Insects, birds, mammals, every creature around us, they all need the same as we do – food, water and shelter. Yet we're the cause of so much of their distress, often simply because we're thoughtless, inconsiderate. Tin cans can trap small mammals, paper and general trash cause blocked drains when the rain does fall, and glass bottles – which are found a-plenty in hedges and ditches around the village – are a potential fire hazard.

Storms are forecast, which can be as much a danger to the natural world as to us. But we can help the creatures living in and around our gardens by providing food and water and even safe shelter in the way of trees, hedges, woodpiles and other untended areas.

To those birds facing another long journey across land, sea, desert: go safely, friends – and return again next year to give us the deep pleasure of your presence. And for our resident companions, we welcome you!



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

Wildlife Trust BCN October Update

The Wildlife Trust BCN's Team Wilder offers free advice, support and training for those who want help to do something linked to local wildlife or sustainability. If you have a project in mind, or are already working on something, and you think the Wildlife Trust BCN might be able to help with, please get in touch.

October events in Cambourne and Cambridge (visit wildlifebcn.org/events to book)

- Sat 24th Oct, 9.30-12ish, Nature Girls autumn walk at Trumpington Meadows (for women over 18)
- Wed 28th Oct, 9.30-12.30, Community work party for adults and families in Cambourne
- Thurs 29th Oct, 9.30-12.30, Community work party for adults and families at Trumpington Meadows
- Fri 30th Oct, 5.30-7.30pm, family fire in the orchard at Trumpington Meadows
- Sat 31st Oct, 5.30-7.30pm, family fire in the orchard in Cambourne

Local enquiries

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

General enquiries

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



**Have you
got yours?**



**Your new caddy
makes food waste
go fuuuuuuuurtherr**



BIN COLLECTIONS FOR OCTOBER

Black Bin: 1st, 15th, 29th

Blue/Green Bin: 8th, 22nd

Grey food caddy: from 15th onwards (each week).

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Advertisements are published quarterly. Copy for inclusion in the next available edition of the Calendar must reach us by 17th October at the very latest. Advertisements will NOT be published unless full payment has been received in advance. Please note: Quarter-page adverts MUST be Portrait-style, half-page adverts MUST be Landscape style. In the first instance, advertisers should contact Jean Verney at: calendaradstoft@gmail.com to discuss their requirements.

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Alcoholics Anonymous: 0845 769 7555
Anglian Water (for sewage): 08457 145 145
(Emergency 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: Catherine Hubbard
Cllr.Hubbard@scambs.gov.uk
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 Parish Council: <https://tpc.toft.org.uk>

Toft Shop: <http://www.toftshop.co.uk>

Toft Village Website: <http://www.toft.org.uk>



On Sunday October 11th I'll be pulling on my boots at dawn and walking 5km round the parish to raise money for the Samaritans.

Please consider sponsoring me. My JustGiving page is <https://dawnwalk.samaritans.org/fundraising/dawn-walk-for-the-samaritans2027>

Your donation will help someone with suicidal thoughts get help when they need it most. Just £10 could ensure a Samaritan is there to answer a life-saving call for help.

It would be lovely to have company on the walk - or just someone cheering me on! I'll be setting off at first light about 6.45am and should pass the People's Hall around about 7 on my way up to Toft Wood. If you'd like to join me, get in touch by October 5th. (If you don't have my contact details, I can be reached care of the calendareditor@toft.org.uk)

Nuala Tannahill

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CALENDAR

The Calendar is always pleased to receive contributions from readers 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. Send any photos, art or illustrations in a separate document.

Photographs are best submitted as JPEG files. Graphics as SVG or PNG.

Please avoid sending PDFs unless you have no other option. Please ALWAYS send your contributions to calendareditor@toft.org.uk - never to an individual member of the editorial and design team.

Many thanks.

And, finally... Please remember that contributions for the next issue of the Calendar must reach the Editor by 18th October.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this edition.

Email: calendareditor@toft.org.uk