

## The Toft Bus shelter

Toft bus shelter, although conceived originally as no more than a place to escape from the elements while waiting for the inbound bus, has achieved over the years iconic status, appearing as the backdrop to various pantomime and variety show sketches and periodically being the recipient of colourful decorations to mark important events such as the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and Saint Valentine's Day.

In 1953 the local bus was still the most significant means of transport in Toft village, together with the bicycle. At a Parish meeting it was agreed that as a permanent commemoration of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in that year, an English oak tree would be planted on the Green and a bus shelter erected. The brick Shelter, based on a design in use in Little Gransden was built by Messrs. Barford by the Glebe meadow for £106, paid for by the village and there was a grand celebration on January 24th 1954 when the Chairman of the County Council, Col. Parker, visited the village to inaugurate both the shelter and the tree. The Parish Council's decision also to make a permanent commemoration of the Coronation, in erecting a brick bus shelter and bench seat by the Glebe meadow, would have had more resonance then than in our age of widespread car ownership. Today's travellers still, nonetheless, enjoy the convenience of the shelter, at a time of re-established significance for public transport.



Toft Bus Shelter



Commemorative plaque





The bus shelter, Tofft Diamond Jubilee & Spring Feast, June 2012



Christmas decorations 2012





Christmas decorations 2012



The Shelter decorated for St Valentine's Day 2013





The Shelter decorated for Halloween 2013