

Music

Music has long been a feature of Toft life, and for such a small village, Toft simply bursts with musical talent. Muriel Peach, Toft's oldest native resident (b. 17 October 1915), recalls a time some 90 years ago when men would sing in the tap room of the *Red Lion* pub (now the *Tai Yuen restaurant*), where her parents were the publicans. Much later, in the 1970s, anyone passing through Toft and dropping into the *Red Lion* might have stumbled upon one of the informal music sessions where Toft denizens such as Archie Badcock could be heard in full swing. Occasional informal sing-song sessions continued at the pub until it became a restaurant.

Music has always marked the village's celebrations, such as the 777 anniversary year of Saint Andrew's Church, the 2000 Millennium celebrations, Christmas carols both indoors and out on the village green and around the village streets, the annual Maypole dance, harvest suppers and the Queen's Silver and Golden Jubilees, where young and older residents have performed, either in the choir, or else singing, playing a variety of instruments and dancing. Pantomimes, Reviews, the Beer Festival and dedicated musical evenings run by Toft Social Club in the People's Hall have been another opportunity for Toft to show off its extraordinary musical talents. More recently, the Spring Festival brought together local performers in the 2011 'Local Folk' Concert. Saint Andrew's church has been host to the excellent Toft Choir, which rehearses regularly in the Methodist chapel, as well as the recently established Toft Gallery Band, which plays and sings church music in ancient styles. Until its demise in 2011, the Toft Barbershop Quartet also provided entertainment on many occasions at different village venues, including its farewell concert at the Methodist chapel in February 2011. Over the years, music was also provided on keyboard at Toft events by Pauline Jacklin. At present, Toft boasts several folk and pop/rock bands that perform at village events, including Kat and the Old Dogs, Fire in the Cellar and The Toft Session. Toft even has its own set of jigs and a traditional Spring Carol, composed by members of the Toft Session and played at village events.


Toft is not just the home of amateur musicians. The Finkel Brothers, Humf and Harry, of School Lane, have taken their jazz guitar playing to a high professional standard (watch them on You Tube playing at 11 Mill Lane: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jcULQwFpyXE&feature=fvst>). Val Sinclair of Eversden Close sings jazz professionally at venues across East Anglia. Vicky Unsworth of Mill Lane, a singer who excels in modern songs and songs from the musicals, is also heading for a professional career in music. Meanwhile, all of these professional performers frequently share their wonderful talents with the people of Toft and perform at Social Club events.

And all the while, informal 'house sessions' take place around the village where musicians gather just for the fun of making music.



Singing: Toft Choir 1997

ST. ANDREW'S RESTORATION FUND



Raising the Roof

Concert

FAURÉ'S REQUIEM, sung by the Toft Plus Choir
under the direction of Ajay Burlingham-Bohr

TOFT BARBER SHOP
and MARIE-CLAIRE GROUNDS

23rd April, 2005 7.30 pm
St. Andrew's Church

Tickets £10/£8 to include wine & nibbles in interval
available from Toft Stores,
Barbara Preece, Firethorn Cottage 263466
Arpi Johnson, 73 School Lane, 262708
Ann Mitchell, 20 High Street, 262516

Singing: Concert programme 1

2005



CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE AGES

Christmas begins this week-end with

THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT


on
December 3rd at 7.30 pm
and

THE CHRISTMAS TREE, CHRISTINGLE AND GIFT SERVICE



on
December 4th at 3.00 pm



Singing: concert programme 2



THE RHYTHM OF LIFE

Toft Choir
Toft Barbershop Quartet
Toft Session

Saturday 5th July 2008

Singing: concert programme 3

Four Anniversaries Concert

Toft Choir
invites you to celebrate the anniversaries of



Handel
Purcell
Haydn
Mendelssohn



Saturday 4th July 2009
St Andrews Church Toft
7.30 pm



Tickets on the door, or from
TOFT SHOP
BARBARA PREECE 01223 263466
ARPI JOHNSON 01223 262708



Adults £10.00, Friends of St. Andrew's concession, children £4.00
includes Glass of Bubbly or Juice, Strawberries & Cream during
the interval in the beautiful Garden of NORMA and TIM Rink

Proceeds to St Andrew's Church Restoration Fund

Singing: concert programme 4



Women's folk music group *The Pagles* performing at Local Folk, 2011, Toft People's Hall



Informal music session at Toft Social Club 2005



Social Club Beer Festival music session 2009



Toft Session musicians raise money for Saint Andrew's church 'north porch' 2009



Frances Richens & Tom Preece.
"The Terrible Two" buskers
Toft Fete June 1998

Music at Toft Church Fete 1998



Toft musicians play a 'house session' at Farmer's End 2010

'House session' at Farmer's End 2010



Jazz night at Toft Social Club 2004



Toft musicians at Marion Read's wedding procession 2008



Toft Session musicians play for the Maypole dance 2010

Toft Session musicians play for the Maypole 2010



Mexican music at Toft Social Club Oct 2010

Toft Session and young Comberton musicians play Mexican music 2010



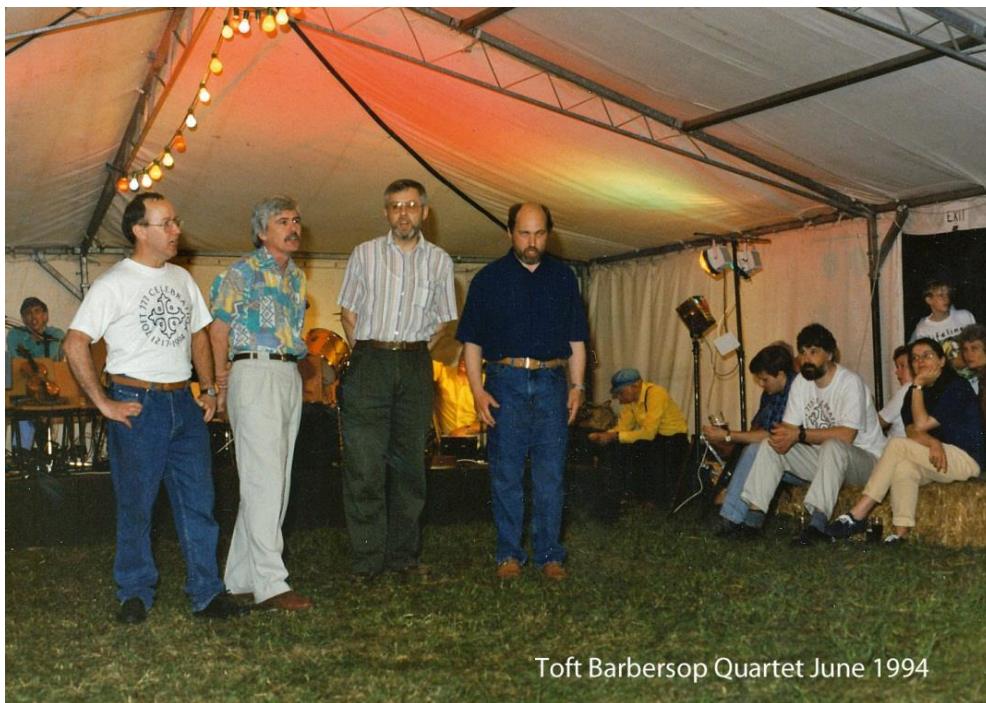
Music workshop at Toft Spring Festival 2010, conducted by Hazel Fairbairn (Kingston)

Spring Festival music workshop Toft People's Hall 2010



Pauline Jacklin, Toft Gala Evening, Millennium 2000 celebrations

Music at Toft Millennium celebrations 2000



Toft Barbersop Quartet June 1994

Toft Barbershop Quartet 1994



Toft gallery Band inaugural concert 12 Dec 2009 at St Andrew's church

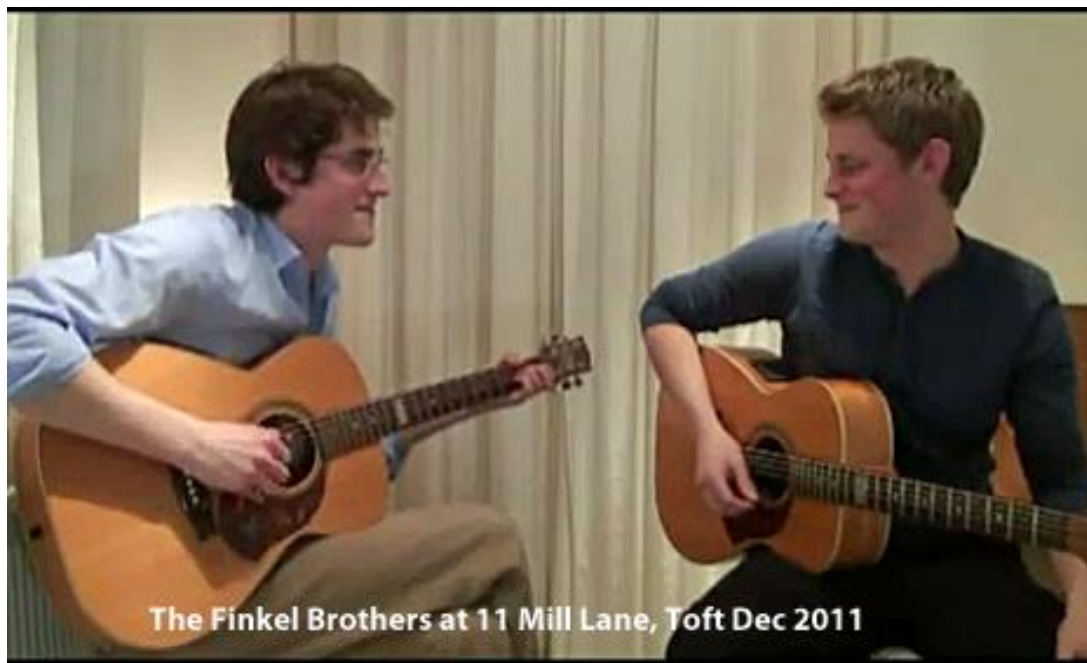
Toft Gallery band 2009



Toftlins pantomime 2006



Victoria Unsworth at Toft Social Club 2009



The Finkel Brothers Dec 2011