

COMBERTON CONTACT TEAM

Editor & Designer	Anne Horler	20 Green End	01223 264683
	email: editor@combertoncontact.org.uk		
Treasurer	Terry Coad	38 Westlands	01223 263264
Advertising	email to: treasurer@combertoncontact.org.uk		
Distribution	Marion Dymott	26 Barrons Way	01223 263292
assisted by	Mary Richards	38 Barrons Way	01223 262180

Please send all articles to Anne at the above address, or by email in plain or rich text..

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ADVERTISING RATES FOR COMBERTON CONTACT

from June 2009

Changes will be effective at the time of booking advertisements.

	Size (w x h)	Annual	Single edition
Whole page	122mm x 183mm	£400	£44
Three fifth page	122mm x 109mm	£240	£27
Two fifth page	122mm x 72 mm	£160	£18
One fifth page	122mm x 35mm	£ 80	£ 9
	60mm x 72mm	£ 80	£ 9
One tenth page	60mm x 35mm	£ 50	£ 6
Coloured back cover (one-off)		Whole page	£66

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

REGULAR DATES

Every Tuesday	Comberton Café at the Village Hall
Every Tuesday	Table Tennis in Village Hall
Every Tuesday 2.00pm	Slow 'n' Low in Village Hall
Every Wednesday 10.00 to 11.30	Comberton Toddler Group at Village Hall
Every Wednesday evening	Tang Soo Do at Meridian School
Every Wednesday 12.25 - 1.10	Lunchtime Badminton at Village College
1st and 3rd Sunday of each month	S.E.F at Comberton Baptist Church
1 st 2 nd and 4 th Monday Evenings at 7.00pm	Carpet Bowls at Village Hall.
4th Tuesday of each month at 8.00pm	Comberton Antiquarian Society at V. H.
4th Thursday of each month 2.30pm	Service & Social at Village Hall
Tuesdays 10.00-11.00am	Sign and Cuddles at Comberton Baptist Church

APRIL 2012

4th April	7.30pm	Comberton Village Hall AGM at V. Hall
11th April	7.30pm	Parish Coucil Meeting in Village Hall
12th April	2.30pm	Friendship Club Meeting at Village Hall
17th April	10.30 - noon	Easter Celebration at Village Hall
10th April	7.45pm	WI Meeting at Village Hall
18th April	7.30pm	Film - Jane Eyre at Village Hall
20th April		Closing date for entries for Jubilee Walk
22nd April	10.00-4.00	Antiques Fair at Orwell Village Hall
25th April	6.00pm	Tester Session at Bowls Club
25th April	7.45pm	WI Meeting at the Village Hall
25th April	10.00-10.00	Boden Party at Foxes Bridge Farm
27th April		Deadline for Playground Questionnaire
29th April	2.00pm	Tester Session at Bowls Club
28th April	2.00-4.00pm	Scout Jumble Sale at Meridian School

MAY 2012

25th April	7.30pm	Annual Parish Meeting at Village Hall
26th May	7.30pm	Comberton Cantabile at St Mary's Church

JUNE 2012

4th June	Jubilee Beacon & Picnic at St Mary's Church
8th & 9th June	Comberton Players
30th June & 1st July	Monday Studio

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you for your messages of sympathy and support for the damage my burst pipe has caused. Seeing the Spring sunshine makes life in these circumstances seem a little more bearable. As you will see a lot is happening in the village and around in April so enjoy and keep your thoughts and comments coming.

COMBERTON CINEMA

At the Village Hall

Wednesday 18th April

Jane Eyre

The 2011 remake of the classic love story

Tickets £3.50 on the door
Doors open 7.30, Film starts 7.45

For further information Sandra Hyde Tel: 262075
This event is sponsored by Comberton Village Hall Trustees

Jubilee Beacon and Evening Picnic

4th June 2012

Plans are taking shape for the Jubilee beacon (on the church) and an evening picnic in the grounds of St Mary's. The logistics of how to get the beacon to the top of the tower still need finalising but we are keen to be a part of the national beacon celebrations – culminating with the beacons being lit up, down and across the country. To add to the celebrations we are planning a 'Picnic Around the Tower' event – bring your own jubilee food and drink and enjoy a balmy summer evening with music and jubilee festivities... More details next month...

St Mary's Church and Comberton Parish Council



Bowling in Comberton

Have you ever thought that you might like to have a go at bowling – well now is your chance. We are having two taster sessions this year the first on Wednesday 25th April from 6.00 pm and the second on the following Sunday from 2.00 pm. You don't need to have bowled before, we have bowls you can borrow and people who can give you a general idea of what the game is all about. You will need a pair of flat shoes such as trainers.

Whatever your age, come along and give it a go.
If you want any more information you can contact
either Gillian (263734) or Irene (262084).

We look forward to meeting you

COMBERTON VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 4th April 7.30pm

Wine Reception

Annual Report

Financial Report

**Election of Trustees to serve on the
Village Hall Committee**

Any other business.

**Following the meeting there will be an
illustrated talk on the Village Halls of
Comberton – past and present.**

VILLAGE CAFÉ at the VILLAGE HALL

Open every Tuesday 10.30 - 12 noon

Coffee/Tea/Squash

Meet up with friends or make new ones

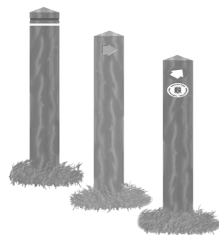
Families welcome!

Hope to see you there soon.

Comberton Jubilee Walk



To commemorate the Queen's diamond jubilee the Parish Council is creating a walk round the village. The walk will include Watts Wood, the church, the pond and village sign, the sensory garden, the pond, the rec. and many other village features. The walk will be marked by a series of 'waymarker' posts and discs.



A competition for under 11s...

Can you....

- Design a picture for the waymarker disc (ideas might include something to make people think of the Queen and the 60 years she has reigned)

Important information - The winning image will need to be scanned and copied, so please keep the design simple and please do not use pencils.

Please

- submit your designs on **A4 paper**
- use most of the paper for your design
- don't use pencil
- make sure your name, age and address is attached to your design (not written on your design)

Entries may be left at Meridian School or Comberton Library.

Closing date for entries April 20th

COMING SOON in JUNE (the 8th & 9th)

COMBERTON PLAYERS
present

A Tomb with a View

A comedy thriller by Norman Robbins

Murder and mayhem abound as a weird and sinister family gathers for a will reading. Join us as the plot twists and turns hilariously to its surprising conclusion.

Watch this space and posters for further details

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ANTIQUE FAIR

at Orwell Village Hall

Sunday April 22nd 2012

10am-4pm £1 (early entry 9am £2)
in aid of Milton Children's Hospice.

Comberton 1st Scout Group Annual Jumble Sale

28th April 2012

Meridian Primary School,
Harbour Avenue, Comberton

2pm – 4pm

Refreshments available

Admission 20p

Collections on the day; please leave outside your
house marked 'Scouts'

For larger items please call:

Group Scout Leader - Ian Douglas 07710803708

Vice Chairman – John Gresham 01223 262867

Village Café

The Village Café has now been in existence for nearly 5 years and has been very well supported. The Café has been serviced by a team of 15 volunteers who work in threes on a rota basis once a month. The Café is open from 10.30am until 12 noon.

Would anyone in the village like to be involved on a Tuesday once a month or to be a floater to deputise if one of the regular volunteers cannot make it. If you would like to support the Café in this way please contact Nerys Wright, Tel. 262960.



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COMBERTON CANTABILE - LOOKING AHEAD

The Choir will be entering into the Jubilee spirit by performing a 'Coronation' concert with appropriate works by, among others, Mozart, Handel and Britten, including 'Zad'

We have four soloists and a very good organist to perform with us.

The Concert is on **Saturday 26th May at 7.30 p.m. in St. Mary's Church.**

Our poster will be on the front cover of the May edition of 'Contact' with ticket details. We hope you will be able to come and support us.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

from the Clerk

The Parish Council met on 14 March 2012.

South Cambridgeshire District Council Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)

South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) is assessing the need for housing in the district for the period 2017-2031. Last year it invited landowners and developers to put land forward as possible sites for development in the future. SCDC is considering all the sites that were put forward and will publish an "Issues and Options" paper detailing the most suitable sites in Summer 2012. It will consult on this. Several of these sites are in Comberton. At the meeting the Parish Council formed its position on development in the village. The Parish Council took the view that in principal it was against development of more than the eight dwellings per site that are currently permitted under the "Group Village" designation.

The sites currently under consideration by SCDC are -

- Land adjoining (north) to 69 Long Road, Comberton (Site 004)
- 40 - 48 West Street, Comberton (Site 079)
- 50 - 54 West Street, Comberton (Site 080)
- Land to the rear of 42 Swaynes Lane, Comberton (Site 087)
- Land south and east of 42 Swaynes Lane, Comberton (Site 088)
- Land to the west of Birdlines, Manor Farm, Comberton (Site 110)
- Land off Long Road (south of Branch Road), Comberton (Site 158)
- Land at Green End, Comberton (Site 181)
- Land to the East of Bush Close, Comberton (Site 255)

For more information on Comberton's current designation as a Group Village and also on this process and there is available on the SCDC website.

<http://www.scams.gov.uk/Environment/Planning/DistrictPlanning/LocalDevelopmentFramework/SHLAA.htm>

Comberton Parish Council seeks your views on these proposals. What do you think? This will be discussed further at the Annual Parish Council. Come along, find out more and let the Council know your views or write to the Parish Council by the end of April please. The Parish Council also did not support the late inclusion of Bennell Farm into the SHLAA as the deadline had been passed and also as nothing had changed since the

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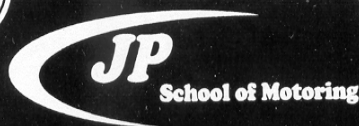
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Parish Council had looked at the proposal in detail last year.

Annual Parish Meeting

Every English Parish must have a Parish Meeting. All Parish and Town Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting between the dates of 1st March and 1st June (inclusive). This is not a Council meeting but a meeting of registered electors. The meeting will be held this year at 7.30pm on Weds 23rd May Come to the meeting and join in the discussions.

Everyone welcome. Is a Parish Meeting the same as a Council meeting? No. Although a Parish meeting is convened, chaired and minuted by the Parish Council, it is not a Parish Council meeting but a meeting of registered electors (including councillors who are registered electors).

- What is the purpose of the Annual Parish Meeting? - The purpose is to
- enable the registered electors to discuss parish affairs and to pass resolutions thereon. This meeting is also an opportunity for the Parish Council (and higher tiers of local government) and community group leaders to explain their activities over the last year.
- Who can attend the meeting? - Anyone may attend but only registered electors in the parish may speak and vote.
- Will I be able to ask questions and make resolutions? - Yes, there will be an opportunity to ask questions of any of the speakers and also any registered elector may ask questions of the Council. Where ever possible and if the information is to hand then the questions to the Council usually be answered by the Chairman or by the Parish Clerk or a designated Councillor. Sometimes it is necessary to make enquiries after the meeting or refer the question to the Parish Council or someone else for an answer. If you have a question please send it to the Clerk as far in advance of the meeting if at all possible. An elector may also make suggestions and comment on parish issues and propose resolutions at the meeting. Resolutions relating to allotments are legally binding but all others are persuasive only, but will be considered by the Parish Council at their meetings.
- Who will chair the meeting? – The Chairman of the Parish Council must chair the meeting, if present. In his absence the vice chairman must preside if present. If neither is able to attend, then the meeting will elect a chairman from those electors present.
- Will Parish Councillors be there? – Although there is no compulsion, Councillors normally attend. They will speak if required, but the purpose of the meeting is to enable the ordinary electors to have their say. Councillors will listen with interest and as electors themselves, also have the opportunity to raise questions and make comments if they wish.
- Will notes be taken of the meeting? - Yes, a written record of the meeting will be taken by the Parish Clerk kept in a special book. The rules on the signature and admissibility of minutes are the same as those for Parish Council meetings.
- How long will the meeting last? - As long as need be within reason but this is at the Chairman's discretion. It really depends on those present and the number of questions and the discussion that is raised. Generally, the meeting will last no longer than 2.5 hours.

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Each year in the autumn in Contact the Parish Council invites applications for grants from village groups and organisations. At its next meeting the Parish Council will be considering applications from: St Mary's Church £750 (churchyard upkeep) and Comberton Scouts approx £800 (half the cost of the annual fireworks). Also it will consider requests from Cambs County Council Summer Reading Challenge, Victim Support (ongoing development of work and support of people in local community whose lives have been affected by crime), The Police Shrievally Trust (work improving the security of the homes of elderly, vulnerable or disabled people)

Friday night late night bus service

Cllrs Harangozo reported that the District Council would not support this and so alternative funding would have to be found. This is to be an agenda item for the Parish Council's April meeting. If you have any views on this please take the time to write to the Parish Council and Whelan arrange a joint village meeting to discuss the proposed withdrawal of the Friday night bus to Cambridge. The Parish Council has agreed, if supported by enough of the other local villages, to apply for a Community chest Grant towards the cost of keeping the bus running. For more information please contact Cllr Harangozo.

Recreation ground

The Parish Council received a report from its Recreation Ground Working Group (RWG) and also a report on a meeting with representatives from the Football Association and correspondence from the Football Clubs. The Parish Council remains committed to seeking advice and developing the recreation ground extension in a responsible way for the benefit of all. There is a clear indication that this is a feasible and exciting project. It was agreed that the RWG should prepare a project plan to extend and improve the pavilion and that the Parish Council would appoint an architect. Consideration of whether a new recreation ground gate and also if chicanes should be installed on the safer routes to school path was deferred to a future meeting. Work to extend the recreation ground car park is due to commence on 16th April and is expected to take approximately 3 weeks. The Parish Council is trying to arrange alternative parking for the sports clubs, recreation ground users and also the Connections Bus which visits on a Tuesday evening. The Council urges everyone not to park in Hines Lane whilst work is taking place.

Parish Council contact details

Mrs Gail Stoehr, Clerk to Comberton Parish Council, Clerk to Comberton Parish Council 30 West Drive, Highfields Caldecote, Cambridge, CB23 7NY

Email parishclerk@comberton.org.uk Tel: 01954 210241 Fax: 0870 705 2759

Miss Amanda Bacon (Chairman) Arial View, 92B Swaynes Lane 264711

Mr Antony Bateman	19 Bush Close	262243
Mr Peter Crossley	59 Barons Way	262517
Mr Hywel Griffiths	18 Barrons Way	263390
Mr Andrew Hollick	73 Swaynes Lane	263089
Dr Janet McCabe (Vice-Chairman)	3 Westcroft	263387

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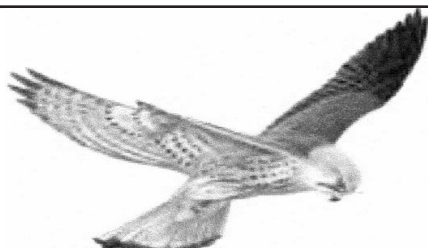
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Mr Simon Moffat	86 Swaynes Lane	
Mrs Mary Richards	38 Barrons Way	262180
Mr Ben Pemberton	35 West Street	262445
Mrs Jill Preston	45 Long Road	263077
Mr Tim Scott	Moat House, 65 Green End	263434
Dame Veronica Sutherland	12 Hines Lane	362050
Miss Chris Westgarth	85 Barton Road	263242

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 11 April 2012 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All parishioners are invited to attend the meeting and the first ten minutes or so are open to residents to ask questions or make comments and observations on Comberton matters or on items on the agenda. If the matter is on the agenda or has already been under discussion a response may be given at the meeting otherwise the matter will be tabled for fuller discussion at the next or a future meeting.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY, COMBERTON

Rev'd. Michael Booker tel: 01223 260095

Rev Corin Redsell - curate 01954 212970

mikebooker@lordsbridge.org - corinredsell@lordsbridge.org

www.combertonchurch.co.uk

Churchwardens Mr M.R. Evans 82 Green End Tel 263215
Mrs M Jenkins 80 West Street Tel 263751

Arrangements for **Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings** and the readings of Banns at the Parish Church should be made with Rev Mike Booker.

Services and Events at St Mary's in April

Sunday 1st	8.00am	Holy Communion
Palm Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion and giving of palm crosses
Thursday 5th	7.30pm	Passover meal and Communion at St Andrew's, Toft
Maundy Thursday		
Friday 6th	9.30am	Meditations at the Cross
Good Friday	11.00am	Walking with Jesus. - Experiencing Good Friday for all ages, at St Andrew's, Toft
Sunday 8th	9.30am	He is Risen! Easter Family Communion
Sunday 15th	8.00am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 22nd	9.30am	A short service, followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 29th	9.30am	All-Age worship and Baptism

April begins with Christians celebrating the greatest week of the year. We remember together the arrest, trial, and suffering of Jesus, and his death upon the cross. Then, on Easter Sunday, we join together in celebration, remembering that death could not hold him. Jesus returned to his friends, alive! Death is one of the last unmentionable topics. Maybe we can feel that even mentioning death is to bring it closer to us. Each year, Easter is a reminder

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for us that God’s love is stronger than even death itself. Whatever our fears and anxieties, the Easter story gives the proof that there is a God who is greater than whatever we fear. If the biggest enemy of all is defeated, then nothing else we face, however frightening, need dominate our lives. God is still God, and does not change, and God is always there for anyone who turns to Him. Through Holy Week (the week leading up to Easter Day) St Mary’s will be open every day. You are very welcome to come and enjoy the quiet, to think, and to pray at any time.

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The Catholic Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs (OLEM) serves much of the south and west of Cambridge.

Detailed below are the main services at the Parish Church in Hills Road for Easter.

Tuesday 3 rd April	19.30	Penitential Service
Maundy Thursday 5 th April	19.30	Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper
Good Friday 6 th April	9.30	Morning Prayer
	11.00	Children’s Stations of the Cross
	15.00	Celebration of the Lord’s Passion
19.30		Stations of the Cross
20.30		Taize Prayer around the Cross
Holy Saturday 7 th April	9.30	Morning Prayer
	21.00	The Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday 24 th April	8.00	Mass
	9.30	Children’s Mass
	10.45	Sung Mass (English)
	12.15	Polish Mass
	17.00	Sung Folk Mass
	18.15	Sung Mass (Latin)
At Bar Hill	12.00	Mass
At Cambourne	17.00	Mass

Further details of these and all other services for April may be found on the parish website which also has the weekly news sheet and other parish information. www.olem.org.uk

COMBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH

The Bride Price

Of all the parables and metaphors that Jesus Christ used to communicate his message about the relationship that was possible between God and individual human beings, the one he used most often was the picture of a betrothal and a wedding. In his day, a young man would visit the father of the girl and offer him the bride price. If that were settled, then the young man would go to the girl and make the proposal in the course of the evening by pouring a cup of wine and offering it to her. If she took the cup and drank from it, she was saying ‘yes’. The man would then say, ‘I go to prepare a place for you.’ He would then leave and go and build their new house, generally an extension onto the family home.

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Then when the groom's father had decided the house was ready, months later, at the time of the wedding and with some theatre the groom would come back with his friends. The bride would watch for his return, keeping her lamp lit at night. Normally around midnight, or perhaps later if he had to travel far, the groom would come near, and with a trumpet and a shout to tell the bride he was near, the bride and her bridesmaids would finally make herself ready and he would then collect her.

At this time of year we celebrate the bride price, which was none other than God giving himself for his bride, the unjust death by crucifixion of that holy man-who-is-God, dying by the power of man so that we might have life by the power of God. For all who say 'yes', Jesus has 'gone to prepare a place for us.' As he said, 'And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me, so that you also may be where I am.'

I do like weddings, but that one will be very special.

God bless you all this Easter,

Graham

Comberton Baptist Church invites you to join with us each and every Sunday, 10:30 am. Our Children's and Youth work, called N2Y, (Never Too Young), caters for anyone from babies to sixth-formers.

THE FAIRTRADE BIG BREW COFFEE MORNING

The Fairtrade Big Brew coffee morning on 10th March was well attended. We raised £257 for Traidcraft Exchange (the charity arm of the organisation) and, in addition, sold £283 worth of Fairtrade goods. Many thanks to everyone who helped at the event or supported us in any way. Mary Jenkins and Joan Mead



NEWS FROM THE MERIDIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Opportunity - Creativity - Challenge

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One of the many joys of working in a primary school is watching children's growing independence as they progress throughout the school. For some of our Reception children just coming to school all day, every day, can prove a bit of a challenge at first but by the time they reach Year 6 (the top class) our eleven-year-olds are more than ready for the move to secondary school.

Some of this increased confidence comes naturally, of course, but a lot of it is carefully encouraged and extended by the staff. School trips are a good example. In the Reception class our children's first trip is a village walk, usually culminating in a visit to Watts Wood, to look at signs of the season, for example. It's a long walk if you're only four and can be quite an adventure. Later in the year they may make a short trip into Cambridge – to the Folk Museum, perhaps. Mr Spicer, our Reception class teacher, always says that the coach ride itself is clearly a real highlight for many, never mind the exciting things they went to see!

By the time they reach Years 1 and 2 the children are able to go a little

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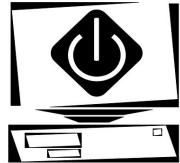
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further and spend a few hours out of school. Just recently the children in these year groups went to Amey Cespa, which is a recycling facility near Waterbeach. It fitted in perfectly with their new curriculum theme called 'Plastic Fantastic' and they clearly had a 'fantastic' time.

As the children travel up the school, trips become more demanding. For the last two years, for example, we have taken the whole of Key Stage 2 (the juniors) to the Corn Exchange to watch a full production by Shakespeare4Kidz of an adapted Shakespeare play. For some, this will be their first experience of going to a theatre.

It is in Year 5, when the children are 9 and 10 years old, that the most challenging trip of all takes place. This is their first residential visit when they spend Monday to Friday at Hilltop Outdoor Centre in Norfolk. The activities are led by fully trained instructors and are designed to promote teamwork, challenge fears and, of course, provide lots of fun! The children climb up things, swing off things, ride mountain bikes, go rock-pooling and generally have a wonderful time. This year's Year 5 are due to go shortly after the Easter break and past experience tells us that they will come back full of boundless energy and confidence. The staff will come back tired!

Glennis Virgo

Headteacher

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We are currently planning the adult education programme for September 2012

and would love to hear your suggestions for new courses. Do please get in touch

ART

Digital Photography Improvers – develop your own style (Mon 7.30-9.30pm)
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Drawing & Painting (Mon 9.30-11.30 a.m.) 10 weeks

Jewellery Beginners (Weds 7.30-9.30pm) 9 weeks

Watercolours Beginners (Weds 9.30-11.30am);

Watercolours Improvers (Thurs. 9.30-11.30am) 10 wks

DANCE and FITNESS

Ballroom & Latin Dance Beginners (Mon 7.00-8.00pm),

Improvers: (Mon 8.05-9.35pm) pay weekly

Dance Fit held in Caldecote Village Hall (Tues 9.45-10.45am).

Get Fit Mixed (Tues.1.00 - 2.00pm) **Get Fit Seniors** (Tues 2.05-3.05pm) 10 weeks,
held in CB3 Fitness Room

Keep Fit to Music Over 65's (Thurs 9.40-10.55 a.m.) held in Toft People's Hall.
5 weeks, starts 3rd May.

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Pilates Mixed (Mon 10.35-11.35a.m),
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Pilates Beginners (Mon. 7.55-8.55pm) all 10 weeks.
Pilates Flexaware/Beginners (Weds 7.00-8.00pm),
Advanced (Weds. 8.00-9.00pm), 10 weeks
Zumba (Weds 7.15-8.15pm) 10 weeks

GENERAL INTEREST

Getting Started with Golf (Weds 7.00-8.00pm) **held at Whaddon, with professional coach**, 6 weeks.

Glider Pilot Theory, plus optional flight (Mon 7.30-9.30pm) starts June 11th
3 weeks

Indian Cookery (Weds 7.00-9.00pm) 5 weeks

LANGUAGES

Italian 3rd term Beginners (Mon 6.30-8.00pm), 3rd term

Italian Improvers (Mon 8.00-9.30pm)

Spanish Intermediate Conversation 3rd term (Fri. 9.30-11.30a.m.)

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Watercolour Painting: solving technique problems, intermediate level
(Monday 23rd July 10.00-12.00pm)

Drawing & Painting Family Day: for parents and children, min age 8 years (Tuesday July 10.00-3.00pm)

Watercolour Painting: finding the right colour scheme, intermediate
(Weds 25th July 10.00-3.00pm)

Portrait Painting & Drawing for Improvers (Thursday 26th July (10.00-1.00pm)

COMBERTON WI

Our speaker in March was Mr John Grieve, a well-known Cambridge Vet. He gave us a detailed account of his life in veterinary practice, chronicling the changes in the past fifty years. He told many anecdotes and stories about the animals and people he had encountered in his long career.

Dates for diary: Tuesday 10th April at 7.45pm – Louise Milbourne –
‘A Very Different War’ Louisa was sent to the US during World War Two.

 Wednesday 25th April at 7.30pm – Eliza McLelland –
‘To Bead or not to Bead’. Eliza combines her love of beading with theatre.
£3 including refreshments.

COMBERTON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

It was nice to see so many members seated in the Hall. Our chairlady welcomed everyone including two new members. Our speaker for the afternoon was Linda Scoles, and American lady who came to England with her husband and children in 1971 and settled in the village of Great Barton near Bury St Edmunds. Linda's talk was entitled 'The Yanks are Coming'. It was a very humorous presentation all based on Linda's arrival in England and settling into the English way of life in a rural village. Our next meeting will be on April 12th starting at 2.30pm. A raffle will be held. Any raffle prizes would be most welcome. Our speaker will be Jason Middleton from Cellini of Cambridge.

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RECREATION EXTENSION STEERING GROUP

Dear all,

Comberton Parish Council decided in February to establish a steering group to work together with the Recreation Working Group in developing the recreation ground extension. We intend to seek funding for this project from the Football Foundation, Sport England and other funding bodies – we have already obtained valuable advice from the Football Association on how best to proceed.

We are anxious to work with local sports clubs, local residents and other interested parties to develop the extension into an area we can all be proud of and which will provide real benefits for the whole community. We are concerned also to minimise any inconvenience which will be caused to local residents.

I would like to invite you to participate in this project. Please let me know if you would like to play a part in the steering group, or if you wish to nominate someone to participate on behalf of your organisation. Please contact me by email at hywel.griffiths@talk21.com or at 18 Barrons Way. Kind regards, Hywel Griffiths Convenor, Recreation Working Group

DEAR CONTACT

As a Comberton resident I was disappointed to see that the parish council have planted a large number of trees on the recreation ground extension, an area which was purchased for the provision of playing fields. In the recent parish questionnaire tabling the responses of 359 households, the greatest number of respondents (117) said they wanted to see provision for football, with the next largest response of 94 people wanting provision for cricket. I am very disappointed that the parish council is clearly not listening to the people of the village and furthermore is refusing to enter into open and honest discussions with its residents. I have attended a couple of the parish council meetings where Comberton Crusaders have been attempting to work with the parish council to move this project forward, and was shocked to learn that there is a restrictive covenant on the recreation ground extension banning the planting of trees. When asked to explain how they were intending to get round this issue, the parish council declared that they were (and I quote) “not prepared to discuss the covenants” with the public and when they did realise they had to confront the issue at the end of their meeting in December, they ejected the public and took confidential minutes to which the public are not allowed access. I can only assume that the parish council has chosen to either ignore, breach or have overturned this covenant, which leads me as a resident to have no faith that they won’t do the same with the covenant restricting the construction of buildings on this land, which would in my opinion be far worse for the village than a bit of grass. It saddens me that our parish council, who are supposed to be working in the **public** interest, on land purchased **for** the village **with** our money, refuse to engage in open and honest discussions with the residents. I for one applaud Comberton Crusaders for being “vociferous” enough to voice their willingness to offer what must be a considerable amount of knowledge and hard work to get funding for, and progress made with, this land, something that no other individual or group has done. I do hope that those who speak out so forcefully against the football club will be as keen to offer their time and hard work to see this land turned into a useful space that the whole community can use, rather than leaving it as a very expensive piece of wasteland being paid for with our money. A Comberton resident

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DEAR CONTACT

I write to let residents know that Comberton Crusaders and myself are no longer seeking to work with the Parish Council to develop the recreation ground extension into grassed areas for football pitches. The PC have gone ahead and planted a third of the area with trees, thereby compromising any development project, demonstrating its unwillingness to pursue a flexible and fully-consultative solution and renegeing on its original 2005 commitment to utilise this land in full for playing fields. I no longer have any confidence that a development project can succeed for the following reasons:

- This tree planting has now precluded the only practical drainage solution by cutting off access to the drainage ditch.
- The space now left for football pitches is too small to allow the number and flexibility of pitch layouts that Comberton Crusaders need for our children's teams. Furthermore, the area is too small to allow other sports facilities, in addition to football, that other clubs and interests in the village might have wanted.
- The PC have no strategy for extending car parking provision, having left insufficient room for any flexibility of use of either the rec or rec extension that could have helped to achieve the additional parking that will be required if further pitches are created.
- The PC refuse to discuss with us or with any of the community the issue of the restrictive covenant on the land which disallows the planting of trees, leading us to believe that they may have now opened themselves up to the possibility of legal action, something with which Comberton Crusaders cannot be associated.

Without additional facilities in this village, Comberton Crusaders will continue to have 10 of its 13 teams play in Barton, Bourn, Caldecote and Eversden, with the associated environmental impact of 50 odd children being ferried out of the village for their matches. We will continue to pay other Parish Councils thousands of pounds a year in pitch hire fees, money that could have been coming to Comberton PC to help offset the £64,000 investment of public money in this land, and Comberton will continue to have a shocking shortage of sports facilities for the size of the population. The children of Comberton have been let down: the wood will not benefit any of this generation as it will be 50 to 100 years before these trees can be climbed, swung in or otherwise enjoyed actively – and it is active outdoor activities that the children want. This was not the place for an ecological project – the PC should be seeking to improve access to what we already have – ie Watts Wood and other areas where mature trees are already growing. As a secretary of a youth football club, my responsibility is to ensure good quality facilities for the 200 local children registered with our club and that will continue to be my focus.

Ingrid Sims Secretary (Girls) Comberton Crusaders FC



COMBERTON SPORTS & ARTS EVENTS

Date	Event	Description	Price	Times
12 April	Blood Donors	www.blood.co.uk/ for details		

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29 April	Cabaret	Mirth, music, magic and mayhem at our popular new night out	£10 adv/£12 door	8.00pm
11 May	Custard Comedy	National comics come to Comberton www.combertonleisure.com	£8 adv / £10 door	8.00pm
19 May	It's another Comedy Panel Show	A trail episode for a new community TV show!	£5	8.00pm
13 May	Alzheimer's Research UK Walk	Fundraiser see www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/ for details	Tbc	Tbc
26 May	Cabaret	Mirth, music, magic and mayhem at our popular new night out	£10 adv/£12 door	8.00pm
27 May	Jill Bridger School of Dance	Local dance school showcase		
15 June	Custard Comedy	National comics come to Comberton www.combertonleisure.com	£8 adv / £10 door	8.00pm
16 June	Eversden Brass Band	www.the-eversdens.co.uk/banddetails11.htm	Tbc	Tbc
17 June	Red Cross Talent Show	Cambridgeshire heat of this prestigious national event	Tbc	Tbc
22 June	Cambourne Eagles FC Trophy Night	See Cambourne Eagles for details	Tbc	tbc
24 June	Cabaret	Mirth, music, magic and mayhem at our popular new night out	£10 adv/£12 door	8.00pm
29 June	You Can't Stop the Beat	Students celebrate their love of musicals!	Tbc	7.30pm
30 June	You Can't Stop the Beat	Students celebrate their love of musicals!	Tbc	Matinee & Eve tbc
1 July	Red Cross Talent Show	East of England semi final of this prestigious national event	Tbc	Tbc
6 July	CVC Dance Showcase	End of term show	Tbc	7.30pm



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7 July	Helen O'Grady Drama Academy	End of term show www.helenogrady.co.uk/	Tbc	7.00pm
8 July	Helen O'Grady Drama Academy	End of term show www.helenogrady.co.uk/	Tbc	7.00pm
14 July	Jigsaw Dance School	End of term show www.jigsawdance.com/	Tbc	7.00pm
15 July	Jill Bridger School of Dance	End of term show www.danceschool.biz/	Tbc	Tbc
21 July	Rock Choir	End of term show www.rockchoir.com/	Tbc	2.30pm & 7.00pm
26 July	Blood Donors	www.blood.co.uk/ for details	Tbc	Tbc

MONDAY STUDIO



On the weekend of Saturday 30th June and Sunday 1st July Monday Studio, a village art group, will be hosting an Art and Craft exhibition in the Village Hall. We would like to invite other village people, or members of village-based groups, to join in with us to show off our combined skills in the arts and crafts world. This can be art work in any medium and craft work in any material as an amateur or professional. It is not necessary for the work to be for sale, but it would be expected that a percentage of any sale will go to the Village Hall funds. At the last exhibition we were thrilled at the number of villagers who joined in but we feel sure that there are more people who could show their skills. Please don't be shy, we know that there is a wealth of talent in the village; come and show us what you do working away in the spare room, at the dining table or closeted in the garage. Let us show that Comberton has talent. If you would like to register an interest contact Sue Painter, Secretary for Monday Studio, on 01223 263315.

A BIG THANK YOU

Mrs Lee of West Street has delivered the Contact magazine to West Street homes for many years but, as she will be moving soon, will be unable to continue. Mrs Gifford, also of West Street, has kindly offered to take over. Marian Dymott

NSPCC CAMBRIDGE DINING CLUB

Monday 30th April at 12.00 noon

NSPCC Cambridge Dining Club welcomes both men and women, and meets at the charming riverside restaurant of La Mimosa, Cambridge, five times a year. Guest speaker is Keith Baldwin, a former Household Cavalry Soldier, talking on "All the Queen's Horses and All the Queen's Men". The 2-course meal and coffee costs just £16.50. All funds raised go towards NSPCC & ChildLine projects in the region. For more details contact: Kate Armstrong 01954 719745 or cfm.armstrong@gmail.com or find us on facebook: nspcc south cambs branch
Many thanks, Kate Armstrong

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DOGS

Dogs are very much welcomed into the village; however we do ask that their owners behave responsibly. Apart from the obvious unpleasantness when we tread in dog excrement, there are some serious health issues, so picking up after our dogs is not a choice it's a responsibility. (Failure to do so can result in a pretty hefty fine). There are numerous dog waste bins around the village and we ask that dog owners *'bag it and bin it'*. On public footpaths and byways where a bin is not so readily available we ask that owners follow National Trust guidelines and use a stick to remove the excrement from the pathway. On the recreation ground, dog owners are also required to keep their dog under control (this includes the recreation ground extension) and away from the children's play equipment. (And of course use one of the 3 bins sited on the rec).



FASHION SHOW AND AUCTION RAISES £6,000 FOR THE NSPCC!

8 March 2012

A fashion show at Anglia Ruskin University last night (7 March) sold out and raised more than £6,000 for the NSPCC's ChildLine service. Over 200 people turned up for Anglia Ruskin University's fashion show to see a host of university design students and local fashion retailers exhibiting their latest collections. The evening included an auction hosted by Will Axon, auctioneer and antiques expert from BBC's *Flog it!* Items kindly donated by local companies raised more than £2,000. The event was organised by the Cambridgeshire branch of NSPCC supporters in conjunction with local fashion retailers Cuckoo and Le Reve, Milner Abigail Crampton and students from the BA (Hons) Fashion Design course, with all proceeds from the event going towards the charity. Sue Minto from ChildLine who attended the fashion show, said: "It was a wonderful evening and we have managed to raise some vital funds for ChildLine. Last year ChildLine received more than 500,000 calls, and without the support of local volunteers and members of the public, we just couldn't continue the work to support those young children affected by abuse. Thanks to everyone who showed their support at the fashion show, and the auction, kindly hosted by Will Axon. The evening's highlight, the catwalk show, was definitely one to remember with designs from Cambridge School of Art Fashion students, Cuckoo's spring collection for women and lingerie and swimwear from Le Reve featuring bespoke hats by Abigail Crampton Millinery. It also featured a burlesque show! Dr Wendy Moody, Senior Lecturer in Fashion Design at Anglia Ruskin, said: "It was a fantastic evening and a great experience for the students on the BA (Hons) Fashion Design course. We felt privileged to be involved in such a worthwhile event, and are delighted that so much money has been raised for the NSPCC. If you would like to support the NSPCC locally, please contact Christian Morris on 01353 664 875 or email christian.morris@nspcc.org.uk

APRIL SHOWERS

April is characterised by its variable weather: warm sun, frost, heavy rain, hail and occasional thunder storms. But plant growth continues apace. Weeding is a

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constant priority. Nevertheless, there is much to be enjoyed. The hedgerows will have started their blossoms; particularly good are the Blackthorns with their white flowers all the way down their branches, looking like a snow fall. In gardens Magnolias will be in blossom; I am always stunned by their profusion. The old favourite *Clematis montana* will be at its best. This clematis has either white or pink flowers. There are some interesting new varieties *C. montana* 'Freda' has deep pink flowers, there are also some double varieties to look out for; 'Jacqui' is a double white with pinkish tips to the petals, the deepest double pink is 'Rosebud'.

Showy shrubs. Camellias are my favourite flowering shrub and are at their best this month. Although they are lime haters and do badly in Comberton soil, they will grow very well in large pots containing lime-free ericaceous compost. They need watering with natural rain water and special liquid feeding occasionally during the summer months. Rhododendrons are also brilliant shrubs for a large variety of different colours. Although most are intolerant of lime in the soil, there are now some that have been bred that are able to grow in our soil, these are the Inkarho rhododendrons and are worth a try. I would like to plant one this year.

Fritillaries. Good plants for a limey soil are the fritillaries. *F. Imperialis* is the very tall species that is available in yellow and orange. They look good in a clump of a dozen or so. But don't forget the little snakeshead lily *F. meleagris*; this grows nicely through a grassy area that does not need cutting until the plants have died back.

Local gardens to see in April: 1st April, eight gardens in Barton are open; one of them is an attractive 6-garden site known as the Six Houses which were built for retired gardeners. Trinity Hall Wychfield site (off Storeys Way) is a mixed site of a large beautifully structured Edwardian garden adjacent to the modern gardens of their new buildings. This garden is also open 1st April. R.T. Choke

THE CHALLENGE

March result & winner

HAWK	A person advocating war	PIGEON	A hoax
BULL	A male walrus.	BEETLE	A heavy wooden mallet
TIGER	A bloodthirsty person.	CAMEL	An early aeroplane.
MOOSE	An american fraternity member.		
SWALLOW	An abyss.		
CAT	A jazz fan.	SHARK	A predatory dealer.
HORSE	A piece of gymnastic equipment.		
OTTER	A paravane.	PIG	A segment of orange (slang)
LION	A James VI coin worth 74 shillings.		
EAGLE	A score of two less than par in golf.		
RAM	A ship's beak.	MOUSE	A computer control device
RABBIT	An inferior golfer.	CANARY	An informer.
DONKEY	A person used to smuggle drugs.		

Winner Dennis Coe. Westlands

1 of 4 Entries



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THE CHALLENGE

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All that is required this month is to provide 18 pairs of words which are pronounced the same but spelt differently e.g. you & yew. In addition also provide 2 examples where the same pronunciation covers 3 differently spelt words e.g. meat, meet, mete

Doubles

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1..... | 2..... |
| 3..... | 4..... |
| 5..... | 6..... |
| 7..... | 8..... |
| 9..... | 10..... |
| 11..... | 12..... |
| 13..... | 14..... |
| 15..... | 16..... |
| 17..... | 18..... |

Triples

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 1..... | 2..... |
|--------|--------|

Entries please to Costcutter, Library or Surgery by 14th April. The prize £5, kindly donated by Nayna & Vijay is to be spent in store.

Name.....

Address.....

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

Dear Residents

As a group of local parents we are working together with the Comberton Parish Council to improve the range of equipment in our playground, to suit all ages.

Please help us and complete this questionnaire so that we can gain the view of the whole community.



Comberton Playground Project

There are many locations around the village to hand in your completed questionnaire. Please do so by Friday 27 April 2012

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Costcutter Shop | • Meridian Primary School |
| • Comberton Playgroup | • Three Horseshoes |
| • CVC | • Toddler Group (Village Hall) |
| • Doctors Surgery | |

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Questionnaire

1: Circle the age range of the person completing the questionnaire (this helps us when claiming for funding)

[11-18] [19-25] [25 - 35] [35-50] [50 +]

2: Circle the age range of your children / grandchildren: [0-4] [5-11] [11+]

3: How often do you currently use the playground?

4: Would you like to see the current playground updated?

YES / NO

5: Do you travel to other playgrounds? YES / NO

If so, why? _____

Which ones? _____

6: Which 3 pieces of existing playground equipment (if any) would you keep and why?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

7: What equipment would you like to see in the new play-ground?

Any other comments:

Results of the questionnaire will be in next month's Comberton Contact.

*Isaiah58 is a project run by WCCYM
(West Cambridge Christian Youth Ministries)*

The Village College, West Street, Comberton, Cambridge, CB23 7DU
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Access on foot is not affected