

COMBERTON CONTACT TEAM

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ADVERTISING RATES FOR COMBERTON CONTACT

from 1st June 2009

Changes will be effective at the time of booking or rebooking advertisements.

	Size (w x h)	Annual	Single Edition
Whole Page	122mm x 183mm	£400	£44
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One-tenth Page	60mm x 35mm	£ 50	£ 6
Coloured back cover		Whole page	£88
		Half page	£44
		Quarter page	£22

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Every Tuesday	Comberton Café at the Village Hall
Every Tuesday	Table Tennis 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
1st and 3rd Sunday of each month	S.E.F at Comberton Baptist Church
Every Tuesday	Young Enterprise after school at Meridian School
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	at Village Hall Comberton Antiquarian Society

DECEMBER 2009

4th Dec	7pm	Christmas Lights at the Crossroads
5th, 8th & 12th Dec		Reindeer Evenings at Burwash Manor
5th Dec	10.30am	Christmas Fair at Village Hall
6th Dec	6.30pm	Comberton Cantabile at St Mary's
8th Dec	7.45pm	Comberton WI Meeting at Village Hall
9th Dec`	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting at Village Hall
10th Dec	12.45pm.	Comberton Friendship Group Christmas Dinner
12th Dec		Farmers Market at Wimpole Hall
18th & 19th Dec.	7.30 p.m.	Snow White in the Village Hall
19th Dec	3.00p.m.	Snow White in the Village Hall
20th Dec	4.00pm	Candlelit Carol Service at Comberton Baptist Church

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

This is the last issue of Comberton Contact for 2009. As there is no January issue the next will be February and the deadline will be 10th January for the covers and 15th January for the inside pages. Please do not be afraid of submitting very colourful copy for the front and back covers, preferably in a pdf format. *As I write the front cover for February is still available.* Keep sending in your ideas and articles for the Contact for they are what makes it a true village magazine.

May I wish you all a very happy Christmas with family and friends and a secure and prosperous 2010.



Christmas Lights at the Crossroads

Friday 4th December

7pm

An event for the whole community

Hot 'festive' Punch

Roasted Chestnuts

Mince Pies

Christmas Carols

with the Salvation Army Band

Venue by kind permission of Comberton Playgroup.

Please bring a torch or lantern

*Parents and carers are respectfully asked to ensure that
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Afterwards the band will play at Nursery Way



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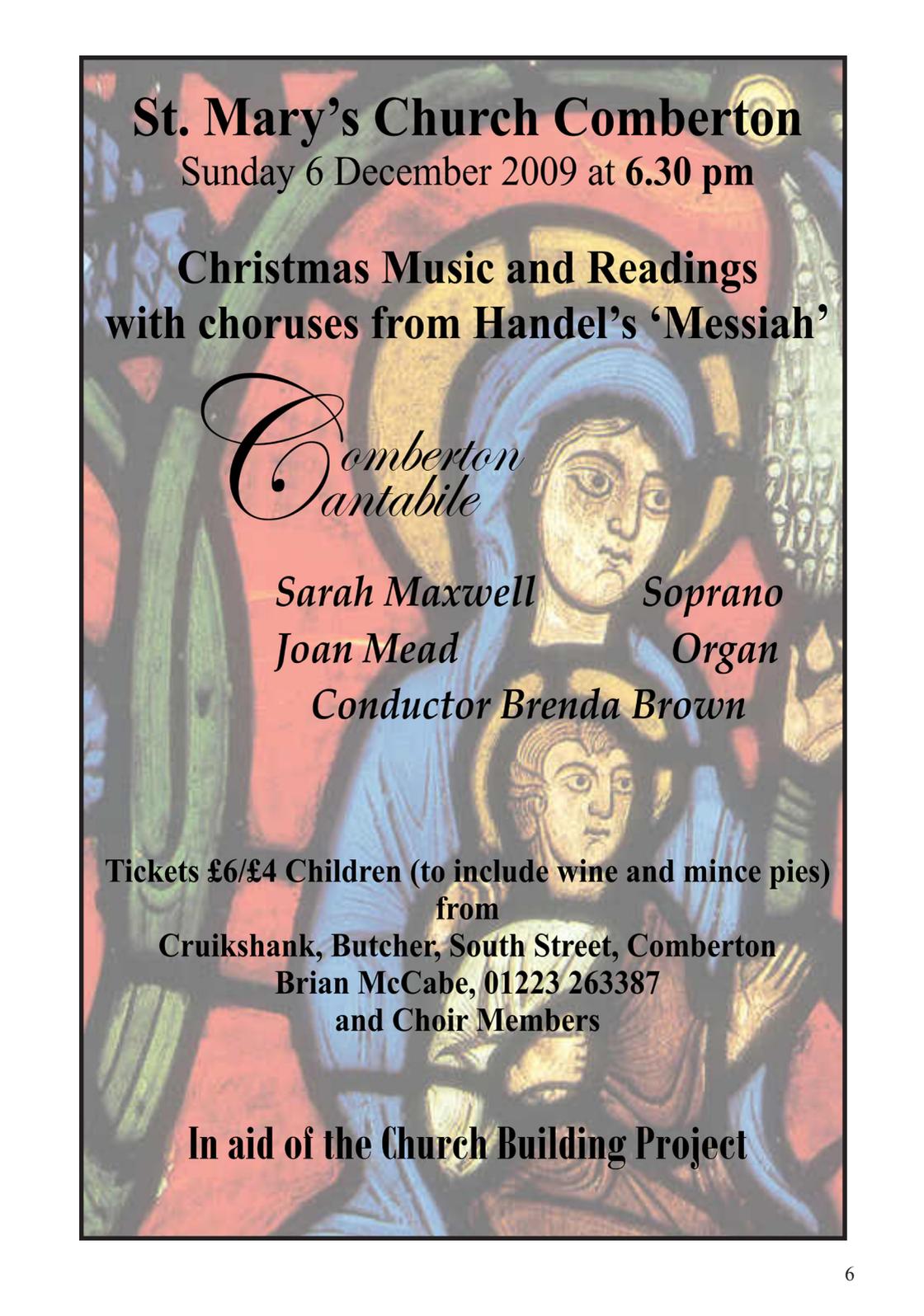
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Saturday 5th December 10.30 a.m.

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10.30a.m.

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Children 50p (includes juices and biscuits)



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COMBERTON PLAYERS - ANNUAL PANTOMIME –
December 18th & 19th

The pantomime has been written by a local resident,
Rick Nelms.

It is being directed by Judith Bowen who has had wide
experience as an actress and has also directed many
successful productions including numerous pantomimes.

Under Judith's direction our pantomime promises to be an
excellent show so make sure of your tickets.
Full details are given on the front cover.

Your Village Cinema needs
You!

The success of **MAMMA MIA!** shows there is an audience for a
cinema in Comberton. Now it needs a group of people to set up and
run this new community venture. The Village Hall Trustees will be
purchasing its own state of the art equipment so that everything will
be available at the flick of a switch.

Would YOU like to :

- ❖ be in at the beginning and shape the way it is organised?
- ❖ develop the programme of films?
- ❖ join the growing band of community run cinemas?

(See www.bffs.org.uk)

If Yes to any of these, contact Ivan Brown (01223) 262407, Glynis
Ellis 262214 or Sandra Hyde 262075 for further details.

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FROM THE CLERK

The Parish Council met on Wednesday 11 November 2009

Parish Council committee and working groups

John Cornell was appointed to the Transport Working Group and also the Recreation Ground Working Group

Charles Chambers stood down from the Affordable Housing Working Group

The terms of reference and membership of the Budget working group was agreed as:

A working group to prepare a recommendation to the next Parish Council meeting on the budget for 2011. The working group is asked to take the baseline budget which will be prepared by the Clerk and consider this against the agreed principles and add any special projects etc to it before making recommendation to the Council.

In 2006/7 the Parish Council adopted the following basic principles to be applied to its budgets.

- The Council will continue to look for other sources of funding apart from the Precept to fund its budget
- There should be strategic benefit
- The Council should endeavour to make the pavilion run at as near to, if not at nil cost
- Support should be given to other village groups and organisations which benefit the village

Membership: Jock Walsh, Chris Westgarth, Charles Chambers and Dorothy Morison

Watts Wood Interpretation/Information Board.

An application to the Forestry Commission was successful and the Parish Council has been awarded the full £500. The offer is on condition that the Council considers accessibility standards in terms of sight and visual impairment and physical accessibility in terms of height of the board and the surface underneath to enable wheelchair access. South Cambridgeshire District Council has also offered financial support up to approximately 50% of the cost of the project.

Refurbishment of the slide steps

An order has been placed to refurbish the mound slide steps.

Village Maps

Thanks to Paul Hardy revised maps have been received and will be installed shortly.

Broadband Speeds

If you have been affected by slow Broadband speeds, please let Andrew Lansley MP know of the problems you have experienced. Andrew Lansley, Cambridgeshire Conservative Association, 153 St Neots Road, Hardwick, CB23 7QJ

To check your speed try <http://www.broadbandspeedchecker.co.uk/>

South Cambs District Council's Local Development Framework

This is a set of plans outlining where and what type of development can take place across South Cambridgeshire up to 2016 and in some cases beyond. The current consultation includes their Statement of Community Involvement and Supplementary Planning



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Documents. If you would like to know more or have your say visit www.scambs.gov.uk or view the documents at the Council's Cambourne Offices. Comments must be received by the District Council before 4 December 2009.

NATS Terminal Control North update

NATS have written to say that they have listened to all the comments made on the consultation last year and will not be consulting further until at least Sept 2010. They still stress that doing nothing is not a long term option however the general downturn in air traffic levels internationally means there is less urgency than originally for this development.

Police non-emergency contact number

The non-emergency contact number for Cambridgeshire Constabulary has changed to 0345 456 4564. The old number 0845 456 4564, will continue to operate alongside the new number until April 2011.

In an emergency, always dial 999, if lives are in danger, or if there is a serious risk of injury, if a serious crime is happening or if a criminal is still at the scene. In all other cases, and for general enquiries, please call the police on 0345 456 4564. This number is staffed by specially trained operators, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week including bank holidays.

Parish Council members contact details

Miss Chris Westgarth (Chairman) 85 Barton Road 263242

Dr Janet McCabe (Vice-Chairman) 3 Westcroft 263387

Miss Amanda Bacon	Arial View, 92B Swaynes Lane	264711
Mr John Cornell	16 Barrons Way	263566
Dr Charles Chambers	16 Green End	264638
Mr Ted Halford	69 Swaynes Lane	262531
Mr Andrew Hollick	73 Swaynes Lane	263089
Mrs Sandra Hyde	57 Long Road	262075
Mr Simon Moffat	86 Swaynes Lane	
Mrs Dorothy Morison	5 The Valley	263027
Mr Richard Rowlands	43 West Street	264508
Mr Tom Serby	Home Farm, 250 Barton Road	262303
Mr Jock Walsh	38 Fox's Way	263225

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 9 December 2009 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All parishioners are invited to attend the meeting and the first ten minutes or so is open to residents to ask questions or make comments and observations on Comberton matters. If the matter is 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.

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Priest-in-Charge of St Mary's, Comberton and St Andrew's, Toft:

Revd. Michael Booker tel: 01223 260095

email: contact@combertonchurch.co.uk

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 the Priest-in-Charge.

Services and Events at St Mary's in December

Friday 4th	7.45pm	Comberton Village College Carol Service at St Mary's
Sunday 6th	8.00am	Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at St Mary's
	9.30am	Holy Communion
		Comberton Cantabile Evening Concert - see separate information
Sunday 13th	8.30am	Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at St Andrew's Toft
	9.30am	Holy Communion
Friday 18th	10.30am	Meridian School Carol Service at St Mary's
Sunday 20th	8.00am	Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at St Mary's
	9.30am	Morning Prayer - a shorter service
	6.30pm	Carols by Candle Light
Christmas Eve	3.30pm	Crib Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	9.30am	Christmas Family Communion
Sunday 27th	9.30am	A shorter Communion service (No Last Sunday Special)

This is the month of our great celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ - God with us. You are very welcome at all St Mary's services over the Christmas period, even (or especially!) if you have not managed to come at any other time of the year. If you have family members, friends or neighbours who are unable to get out and would like to receive Christmas Communion at home, please let Rev Mike Booker know.

St Mary's Church building is open all day every weekend, not only when there are services. Please feel free to come in at any time, to sit, pray, think or simply enjoy the quiet.

The Children's Barn is nearing completion. We look forward to exciting new developments in our work with children from the New Year.

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The Catholic Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs (OLEM) serves much of the south and west of Cambridge. A warm invitation is extended to all to join us at the services over the Christmas period and below are some details.

Penitential service on Tuesday 22nd December at 7.30 pm at OLEM

Christmas Eve	5.00 pm	OLEM (Children's Christmas Mass)
	To be confirmed	Cambourne – in the new Church
	6.30 pm	Bar Hill Community Church
	9.00 pm	Polish Mass at OLEM
	11.30 pm	Carols followed by followed by Midnight Mass in OLEM

Masses on Christmas Day are at the usual Sunday times with the exception that there are no afternoon or evening masses.

Further details may be found on the parish web site which also includes the weekly news-sheet and other parish information. www.olem.org.uk

Masses for the weekend of 26th and 27th are at the normal times.

The Catholic Community wishes you all a holy and peaceful Christmas and a happy new year.

Christmas @ Comberton Baptist Church

Candlelit Carol Service

Sunday 20th December @ 4pm

Followed by mulled wine and mince pies



**Christmas Day Service @ Comberton Baptist
Church - 10:00 am**

Everyone welcome

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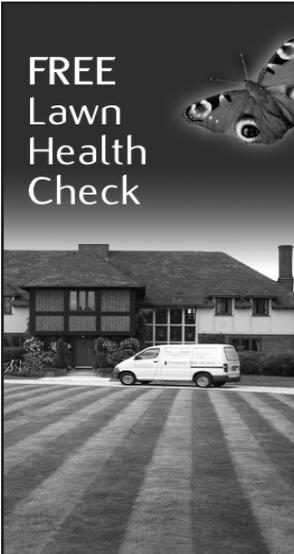
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COMBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH

You are Welcome at Comberton Baptist Church

SUNDAY SERVICES: Our morning services begin at 10.30 am - 12 noon and feature a mixture of traditional and contemporary music, engaging topics and a variety of speakers. Refreshments are served after the service. Children stay for the first part of this service and then have the opportunity to go to their teams in the 'The Lighthouse!'



PARENTS WITH INFANTS: At CBC we want to make everyone feel welcome, this includes our youngest guests. We have a crèche available during the service where parents with young babies can go if their children become restless – there is also a monitor so you can see and hear and still feeling part of the service.



CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE: The Lighthouse @ CBC are groups for children and young people aged 2-17 years. For the under 2's there is also a crèche available. S.E.F is a group for teenagers aged 14-17 which meets every Sunday evening. Here young people can make friends and explore their faith together.



Junior Church is an exciting new programme for children and young people aged 2-13 years, with a newly formed group for 11-13yrs.

Packed with great activities, craft, bible stories, singing, games and lots more...

Where: Comberton Baptist Church (in the centre behind the church)

When: Every fourth Sunday of each month

Time: Doors open at 10.15am with activities starting at 10.30-11.45am

Comberton Baptist Church, Green End, Comberton

For more information please call Donna on 01223 264707 or 01954 211259

ALSO ON THE 4th SUNDAY: of every month running alongside Junior Church we will be having special short services between 10:30 - 11:45 am followed by refreshments in the church centre. We'll be looking at a range of issues – our theme this season beginning January will be *Why? 7 Difficult Questions*.



PRAYER & COUNSELLING: After each morning service members of CBC's Prayer Team will be available at the front of the church to pray with you regarding any needs you may have. CBC also offers confidential counselling on an ongoing basis, please contact the church office for more information.

For further information on any of the above please contact the church office on 01223 264707 or Dan@c-b-c.org.uk Our minister the Revd. Stephen Henderson can also be contacted on 01223 264707 or Stephen@c-b-c.org.uk. The Comberton Baptist Church website is: www.c-b-c.org.uk

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NEWS FROM THE MERIDIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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I wonder if you heard some of our older children on the radio at the end of October? We were contacted by Radio Cambridgeshire to say that as part of their Friday afternoon programme they were doing a feature on the Meridian Line. I think they must have googled 'Meridian' and found us! As a result, a reporter came out to talk to a group of our children about work they did last year on the Meridian Line and the countries it runs through. She spoke to them both at school and at the Meridian Line marker on the border of Comberton and Toft. I accompanied the children throughout the afternoon and have to say I felt extremely proud. They not only behaved in a mature and thoughtful way, but also expressed themselves in an articulate and knowledgeable manner. The resulting feature was well worth listening to and reminded me of the qualities we value at Meridian. By coincidence, as a whole school community at present we are looking at our 'values' - those qualities and strengths we really believe in and seek to encourage in our children. We have consulted with staff, parents, governors and most especially with the children themselves. It has been a fascinating exercise and what has struck me most is the common themes which emerge, such as 'respect', 'love of learning' and 'care for others'. In the coming weeks we will be converting these into 'child-friendly' language so that they can become a simple, visible reminder to guide us in all we do.



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Meanwhile, Christmas rushes to meet us. The younger children are practising a little musical play about the Christmas story, and KS2 ('the juniors') will be performing a selection of carols old and new. This year, as a new departure (at least in recent years), the whole school will walk to St Mary's church on the last morning of term (Friday 18 December) for a carol service led by Rev. Mike Booker. One of our core values will be on display without a doubt, as older children are paired up with younger ones to accompany and support them as we walk through the village. Please feel free to wave if you see us!

On behalf of the school, may I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas]
Glennis Virgo, Headteacher

COMBERTON VILLAGE HALL

Following the sudden death of our Chairman, Brian Cook, on the 16th October, Vice Chairman Malcolm Wright was elected Chairman and John Collins, Vice Chairman at a recent meeting of the Trustees. Brian Cook had been Chairman for a number of years and had made a huge contribution to the new hall and to the halls which

preceded it. In particular he was very familiar with the technical aspects of the hall and those who are left to administer it in his absence are having to work hard to come to terms with these. Brian will be greatly missed.

At the previous meeting, the Trustees had decided to purchase a seat in memory of Margaret Cook using donations and the Trust's funds. This will now to be inscribed 'In Memory of Brian and Margaret Cook' and any donations made in Brian's memory will also be put towards the seat. In addition, the Trustees intend erecting a plaque inside the hall to commemorate the contributions made by Brian and Margaret to village life.

Thank you to those who have already made donations. If you would like to make a donation, please send it to Brian Burton, Treasurer, 100 Swaynes Lane, Comberton, tel. 264072. Cheques should be made payable to 'Comberton Village Hall'.

Margaret Hardy

Secretary, Comberton Village Hall Trustees

COMBERTON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club meeting held on Thursday November 12th was a slide show and talk by Brenda Disbury who does volunteer work at Anglesey Abbey in Cambridge. The usual events are held there throughout the year with the most popular being the snowdrops which last about five weeks. Members are reminded of our Christmas Lunch which is on Thursday 10th December at 12.45pm.

COMBERTON WI

Our November speaker was Julie Petrie-Sims from Camsight, a local charity founded in 1912 to support visually impaired people in the Cambridge area. Julie explained how the charity and its many volunteers offer practical help and emotional support to enable the visually impaired to remain as independent as possible. This can involve befriending,

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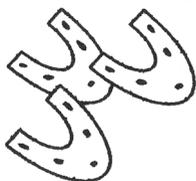
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social events or offering simple gadgets to help in the home. The charity helps all with visual problems not just the registered blind. We learnt that macular degeneration and diabetes are the largest causes of visual impairment and we were urged to have annual eye tests after the age of fifty.

Date for Diary: Members Evening 8th December at 7.45pm in the Village Hall.

COMBERTON WINEMAKERS

Please Note : The change of venue for the next meeting. The usual seasonal Christmas meeting is to be held at Madingley Village Hall at 7-30 pm on December 14th. There will be a quiz & buffet, the competition will be for fruit scones & flapjacks.

The New Year Social meeting on the 9th January will be as usual in Comberton Village Hall at 7-30pm, (cost £3-00) includes games, raffle, and a buffet. Music will be provided by the Fenlanders. As usual the committee ask you to please bring your own plates and cutlery.

The Committee would also like to extend to their members and friends their Best Wishes for Christmas & the New Year.



Comberton Twinning Association

*Chairman: Peter Mitton, 60 West Street, Comberton,
CAMBRIDGE, CB3 7DS, Tel 01223 262073,
email peteramitton@btopenworld.com*

*Secretary: Mary Catlin, 59 Green End, Comberton,
CAMBRIDGE, CB3 7DY, Tel 01223 263905,
email derekatlin@ricsonline.org*

Some thirty -six members visited Le Vaudreuil in late September, and as usual thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality of our French friends. Highlights were a trip on a privately run railway and entertainment on Saturday evening , but the main element is maintaining and strengthening relationships with the people, some of whom we have now known for ten years.

Early in November, Barbara and I were invited to the official opening of their new 'Village Hall', or Pavillon as they would like it to be known. Somewhat larger than our excellent hall, it seats 400 for a sit down meal, and has a double kitchen so that two functions could run at the same time. The five hour event started with an excellent lunch, followed by a two hour cabaret, involving some 80 of the residents of Le Vaudreuil, for which they have been rehearsing for the past twelve months. It was quite a spectacle.

The next visit from France will be mid April next year, and we plan to return next September. We would welcome new members, especially families, and please do note, speaking French is NOT required; many of Le Vaudreuilians speak excellent English. Please do contact either myself or Mary Catlin if you require more details.
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COMBERTON CRUSADERS

The new football season for us started on the first weekend in September, with just under 200 children making up 12 teams. After some pre-season training the children and coaches were all looking forward to getting back to playing football, and this positivity has been reflected in the strong start that our teams have made. The Under 8, Under 12 and Under 14 boys and Under 12, Under 13 and Under 15 girls have won all of their league games so far, and five of those six teams are also unbeaten in their cup run. Managers of other clubs have commented on the excellent level of skill and understanding of the game shown by our players, and on their team spirit and fair play. In a season in which we introduced the Respect Programme, we are proud of our players' reputation for good sportsmanship as much as we are of their achievements on the pitch.

The commitment and enthusiasm of the volunteer coaches and managers (otherwise known as Mum or Dad!) enables the children to enjoy playing football whilst learning and progressing to a very high standard. One area in which we would like to help the children more is specialised goalkeeper coaching, so if anyone out there has any experience and could spare an hour a week to help us with this, we would love to hear from you.

Our current girls teams are very successful, and we are keen to keep bringing in the next wave of players, so along with the FA we are looking at how to get more girls involved in football at a young age, and are hoping to set up a Soccer School for girls – if you know any girls between 6 and 9 years old who might be interested in playing football, initially coming along to a couple of training sessions on the Astroturf at Comberton Village College to see if it is for them, then please get in touch.

Most of our teams currently have their full quota of players for this season, but the Under 11 girls team (school year 6) are looking for 3 more players to join them. We also have space in our Soccer Centre for 3 more children, boys or girls, from 5 – 7 years old. They learn the basic skills in a fun but structured way, on the Astroturf at Comberton Village College on Wednesday evenings from 5.45pm until 6.45pm, and can join the Under 8s team when they become old enough.

Please have a look at our website, www.combertoncrusaders.com where you can see photographs of the teams, match reports and contact details of coaches and officers. If you are interested in any of the items mentioned above, please contact either the Secretary, Kevin Jestice, on 01223 560624 or the Treasurer, Stephanie Young, on 01223 262365.

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on Tuesdays. The present arrangement is a temporary one. We hope that enough interested players will turn up eventually for them to be able to take responsibility for running the facility themselves, otherwise it will have to be curtailed.

Anyone interested is invited to drop in and play.

Brian Burton Treasurer

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Many thanks Cathy Hothersall

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN COOK

Brian Cook died very suddenly on Friday October 16th just seven weeks after his wife Margaret sadly passed away. Brian had lived in the village for over 48 years, having moved here as the village policeman with his new wife Margaret . He was extremely conscientious in his job promoting numerous community activities which he rightly saw as a powerful means of reducing crime. He dealt with any misdemeanours swiftly and effectively. For example in the sixties when he caught youngsters doing graffiti in a bus shelter he would frog march them to their parents home. They would later report to him at the bus shelter armed with paint and brushes (supplied by the parents) where they redecorated the bus shelter. For good measure he got them to redecorate the other bus shelter as well!

Brian's community activities were almost too numerous to mention. They were mainly focussed around the Village Halls and the Recreation Ground. In the old village hall (the wooden building in Green End now used as offices) he established a Table Tennis club for young people. The floor of the old hall needed replacing and with skills gained as an apprentice carpenter when he left school Brian did the work. His skill at carpentry was frequently put to good use in the village hall which replaced the old one and more recently in the new village hall.

In the late 60's and early 70's Brian was the inspiration behind three hugely successful carnivals on the Recreation Ground . He invited the well known comedian Leslie Crowther to open the first of these in 1966 . Such was his appeal that the organisers were totally overwhelmed by the attendance from far and wide. The carnivals were always followed by a ball at the Village College in the evening when the celebrity who opened the carnival performed a cabaret and top class bands provided the music for dancing. For many years Brian organised balls on New Year's Eve at the Village College which were always oversubscribed .

Apart from the obvious enjoyment and creation of community spirit which all of these events provided, they also generated substantial funds which were used to improve the

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facilities on the Recreation Ground including purchase of land for its enlargement and equipment. Brian and Margaret were both members of the Tennis Club there to which Brian contributed by encouraging residents to join.

More recently Brian played a large part in helping to create the New Village Hall which has been such an outstanding success. His carpentry skills were again in use fitting out the kitchen with the help of John Collins. He was familiar with all the technical workings of the hall and those of us left to run it in his absence are having to work hard to come to terms with these. Brian applied his practical skills in helping to build his own house in West Street in 1972. Needless to say he did all the wood work. In addition all the electrical wiring and much more besides.

In 1983, after 27 years in the police force, Brian decided to retire and set up his own security business aptly named Briar Security. As one would expect this has been very successful and is now being run by his son Stephen. His daughter Rachel is an accomplished violinist. One might have thought with his wood working skills that he might have made her violin. He realised he wasn't quite up to this and commissioned a violin maker to make it for her.

Brian had many attributes but one thing stood out. He didn't believe in red tape. If there was a job to be done he got on with it almost immediately. Reliability was his second name. As will be apparent from what has been said above Brian was a great asset to Comberton. He will be sadly missed.

Malcolm Wright

ABOUT MARGARET AND BRIAN COOK.

In the spring of 1990 my wife Els and I, Wim Rensink, came to live in Comberton, 61 West Street, just opposite the house of Margaret and Brian. The reason we went to Comberton had nothing to do with our knowing anything about the village or its inhabitants. Early retirement and feeling at home in England had given us the stimulus to try to find a place to live in that country, and a bungalow in a proper rural environment, at an acceptable price, about one hour travelling distance from London happened to be for sale in Comberton, a place until then unknown to us.

The day that I arrived, without Els who had to give her music lessons still for another month, Brian Cook invited me to join a sort of party that was going to take place that evening at the Village College. I remember that I felt quite embarrassed, knowing nobody at all, and said so to this kind new neighbour. – Oh, no problem, and he asked me to come to his house afterwards, to eat something there, and to meet his wife and other people. I do not remember that evening at all now, but that was the day our friendship started.

When Els arrived one month later Margaret took care of her in many ways, from introducing her to the Women's Institute to teaching her about English ways of propagating certain plants and showing her how to make English pastries.

In the almost four years that followed we learned from Brian and Margaret ways of doing and ways of thinking that often appeared to be slightly different from ours. I often asked Brian about, in my eyes, quaint English habits or customs. He being the practical man who could do and make almost everything with his hands (as was mentioned at his funeral on October 26 by his brother David and his son Stephen). When for instance

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I wondered why in my country the electrical current was allowed to flow both ways, while in England it has to go in one direction only, he explained that the English way was much safer. Why do English showers never spout crafty enough? About these and many other menial things we discussed quite a lot, as well as about politics, or euthanasia, about things that our respective governments did value differently. Or about languages, and whether it was an asset or a liability to have English as ones mother tongue. About the in my eye,s anti-cultural habit of the BBC and other English media never to let the public experience a speech in a foreign language. British people never hear a politician or an artist deliver a speech in Russian, or in Italian, or in Dutch. They never can appreciate the beauty of other languages. Brian tried to explain why the British do as they do, I did the same for European or Dutch things. We liked to do that, and learned from each other.

When Els had to go to Addenbrookes with sudden thrombosis Margaret was an angel of help and advice. She also stimulated Els to join the village competition that was held in the Village Collage, where one could show off, exhibiting his or her largest cucumber or reddest tomato, and was very proud of her when Els won some prizes (there were many categories to compete in). She was present when we needed help.

We -Els more than I- got to know quite a lot of people in Comberton in those years, but Margaret and Brian remained special. In the fifteen years after we moved back to Holland we saw each other quite regularly, they staying with us, we visiting Comberton. Now that they passed away so suddenly for us the heart has been taken out of the village. We shall remember with great pleasure Margaret's 70th birthday party at the Village Hall, September 2008. Nobody except she herself and Brian then knew she had cancer, and nobody at all knew Brian's heart being on the brink of total failure. We will remember them as the living and caring persons they were. We have still friends in Comberton, and for us it will remain a very special place. But it has irretrievably changed. It feels different now.

Els and Wim Rensink

BRIAN DONNELLY

Thank you to all friends and colleagues that were able to attend Brian's funeral, at OLEM, and burial at the Woodland Trust. We have received so many letters and cards of sympathy and friends have been so supportive at this difficult time. Brian loved the village and having travelled the world the majority of his working life he always felt glad to be back home and be surrounded by family and friends. I know he had very many happy memories of village life.

Angela, Lisa, Chris and James Donnelly.

LAURA OATES' TENNIS CAREER

It's been a long time since the parish Magazine had a report about Laura Oates. Over the last two years Laura has struggled, playing tennis and trying to pass her A levels. Unfortunately we now know they don't mix very well. However Laura kept playing throughout the two years and managed to get two A levels plus an NVQ and was awarded Hills Road 6th form Sports Personality for representing the college at tennis, hockey, netball, football and rounders. She won a Silver Medal in tennis and a gold medal in hockey at the Inter-College games in Loughborough. The following is a summary in

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Laura's words of some her tennis exploits this Summer.

After coming back from a torn ligament in my wrist in June I was hoping for a successful summer, having finished my A-levels. I played for Cambridgeshire in division 4 held in Oxford. Throughout the week I felt some of my previous form returning. My partner and I were unbeaten at the end of the week, winning 15 out of 15 matches, and helping our Cambridgeshire team earn promotion into the 3rd division. At Felixstowe I competed in the 18's and 21's singles, the girls' doubles and the mixed doubles, playing on grass. I was seeded 1 in both singles events and played my way into both singles finals and to both doubles finals, playing some of my best tennis. At the end of the tournament I had won 3 out of 4 titles. In the Cambridge closed tournament, I reached and won all 3 finals. Coming out with 3 titles in my last year was really satisfying.



Laura was rated 31st in the Country at U18. She is now playing full time, based at Wrexham Tennis Academy, training 6hrs a day and subjected to a very strict regime with very little social life. She is aiming at a world ranking. By beating a [Spanish player ranked 452](#) in the world at Barnstable she gained her [first ranking points](#). She needs to do this in two more tournaments to gain a world ranking. On a final note she is now ranked 36 in the British Adult Rankings and climbing. Her web site has also been up dated if you want more info. www.lauraoates.co.uk

WINTER GLORY

The big challenge for gardens in the winter months of December and January is to create colour and interest. This is not easy since there are few hardy plants to be found in flower; nevertheless, shrubs offer capabilities for blocks of colour. Mahonias, with large sprays of yellow flowers, can be the mainstay of colour against a dark evergreen hedge. Euonymus japonica has orange-coloured seed heads that break out of their husks at the end of the first week in January and make an interesting garden and indoor display. Golden-leaved Cupressus trees offer a splendid eye-catching focus that can be matched by a blue spruce (*Picea pungens glauca*). These two trees give height to the garden as well as providing insects for goldcrests; these tiny birds are often found within a flock of blue tits grazing through the trees in cold weather. Clusters of Cornus shrubs with their strongly coloured bark provide good stands of red, yellow, or salmon-tinted upright stalks.

Spick n' span

The long autumn with little frost made the leaves stay on the trees in early November. If you have some still on the lawns, rake and compost them. If leaves lie there over the winter, the grass underneath them will die back and look unsightly. Tidy round the shoots of bulbs but be careful not to disturb them. In the week before Christmas, look round the garden and see if any shrubs have flowers left so that you can bring sprigs of them into the house. If you are fortunate, there may be a rose or two that could still have a flower. By mid-January it should be time to think about pruning if the weather forecasts are favourable. Similarly, overgrown hedges may profit from thinning during

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the dormant period.

Indoor plants

Indoor varieties of cyclamen are rightly a very popular source of enjoyment. The trick is to keep the plants in flower for a long time. In my experience, this is possible with the smaller flowering varieties on stalks less than 12 cm long. I have a pot containing 3 corms of a small pink variety that was given to me in October 2008. It has flowered continuously without a break for over a year now; the smallest number of flowers (7) occurred in August. The plant has been watered sparingly but without the compost drying out. It has been fed about once a month with liquid tomato food and each time this stimulated a profusion of blooms. Scale insects can be a problem and affect some leaves, the insects look like small swellings close to leaf veins. The infected leaves can be pulled off and burnt. An alternative treatment is to spray the undersides of the leaves with a proprietary spray for the insect. Larger flowering cyclamen finish flowering in early summer and can be left to dry out; they can be re-potted and watered to start them off in September.

Enjoy your Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.

R.T. Choke

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The Village College	Monday	2.00pm - 7.00pm
Comberton	Tuesday	Closed
Cambridge	Wednesday	10.00am - 1.00pm
CB23 7DU		2.00pm - 5.00pm
Tel: 0845 045 5225	Thursday	Closed
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library	Friday	2.00pm - 7.00pm
	Saturday	10.00am - 1.00pm
	Sunday	Closed

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(December 2009/ January, February 2010)

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November 30th	to December 13th	Mr R. Sewell
December 14th	to December 27th	Mr & Mrs M. Waters
December 28th	to January 10th	Mr & Mrs A. Clarke
January 11th	to January 24th	Mr & Mrs M Sims
January 25th	to February 7th	Mr R. Sewell
February 8th	to February 21st	Mr & Mrs M Waters
February 22nd	to March 7th	Mr & Mrs A. Clarke

Access on foot is not affected

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THE CHALLENGE

November Solution and Winner

Equinine - Horses	Caprine - Goats
Porcine - Pigs	Leporine - Hares
Canine - Dogs	Ursine - Bears
Piscine - Fish	Feline - Cats
Cervine - Deer	Otarine - Seals
Bovine - Cattle	Avine - Birds
Elaphine - Red Deer	Vulpine - Foxes
Ovine - Sheep	Serpentine - Snakes

Winner: Mrs. S. Barnard. Bush Close

THE CHALLENGE

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The following actors are forever identified with particular roles, in the films listed below. Please re-unite actors and roles, entering initials only.

Anthony Hopkins.	Anthony Perkins.	Toby McGuire.
Rita Hayworth.	Elijah Wood.	Sarah Miles.
Orson Welles.	Tom Hanks.	Ben Kingsley.
Clint Eastwood.	Michael Douglas.	Gene Hackman.
Julie Andrews.	Bert Lahr.	John Wayne.
Clark Gable.	Sylvester Stallone.	Julia Roberts.
Kirk Douglas.	Peter Sellers.	Liza Minnelli.
Paul Newman.	Audrey Hepburn.	Vivian Leigh.
Marlon Brando.	Charlton Heston.	Barbra Streisland
Maggie Smith.	Gregory Peck.	Dustin Hoffman
Rhet Butler ()	Spiderman ()	Cool Hand Luke ()
Frodo Baggins ()	Gordon Gecko ()	Scarlet O'Hara ()
Fanny Bryce ()	Rocky Balboa ()	Spartacus ()
Harry Callahan ()	The Cowardly Lion ()	Rooster Cockburn ()
Hannibal Lector ()	Tootsie ()	Holly Golightly ()
Sally Bowles ()	Gandhi ()	Judah Ben Hur ()
Norman Bates ()	Mary Poppins ()	Don Corleone ()
Atticus Finch ()	Gilda ()	Popeye Doyle ()
Dr Strangelove ()	Miss Jean Brodie ()	Ryan's Daughter ()
Forrest Gump ()	Harry Lime ()	Erin Brockovich ()

Entries please to Costcutter, Library or Doctors by January 14th 2010.

The prize of £5,generously donated by Nayna & Vijay, is to be spent in store.

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