

COMBERTON CONTACT TEAM

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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
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	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

MARCH 2012

7th March	7.00pm	Fashion Show at Anglia Ruskin University
8th March	2.00pm	Comberton Friendship Group at Village Hall
9th March	7.00pm	Evening Bingo Party at Village Hall
10th March	10.00 - 12.00	Big Brew Coffee Morning at St Mary's Church
10th March	10.00-1.30pm	Greener Homes Event at Meridian School
12th March	2.30pm	British Legion Meeting at Village Hall
13th March	7.45pm	WI meeting at Village Hall
14th March	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting at Village Hall
17th March	7.30pm	Quiz Night at Meridian School
18th March	11.30 - 3.00	Comberton Market at Leisure Centre
19th March	7.30pm	Comberton Winemakers at Village Hall
21st March	7.30pm	Film - Singing in the Rain at Village Hall
24th March	10.30 - 12.00	St Mary's Church Easter Coffee Morning at Village Hall

APRIL 2012

4th April	7.30pm	Comberton Village Hall AGM at V Hall
17th April	10.30 - noon	Easter Celebration at Village Hall
20th April		Closing date for entries for Jubilee Walk

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

I can tell you now why I produced a January issue and no February one. I went to St Lucia for the whole of January as a Saga volunteer. It was in the nature of a working holiday. I spent the mornings helping in a local Primary School from Monday to Friday and the rest of the time I was on holiday. It is a beautiful island, not very big, 27 x14 miles, and very volcanic. The roads are a nightmare but luckily I wasn't driving. I transferred from the airport to Castries by helicopter each way. That was well worth it. The people are very free to show each other affection and yet their cultural discipline is harsh. They have natural good manners, including the children. We stayed in an all-inclusive Saga owned hotel and were offered several perks as volunteers. Not having worked for a few years I did find I got quite tired on occasions but a comfy bed, beach and pool R and R soon put me right again. We had opportunities to attend official educational events with the Headmistress and they were quite an eye-opener. Whilst our school served a very poor catchment area, others served affluent professional areas and the contrast was acute. I came home to a sharp reality check with a burst pipe in the roof having brought down the bathroom ceiling and flooded the rear hall, landing and study. I am writing this in a room which is now a furniture store with five industrial driers going full blast. Roll on the Spring!

COMBERTON CINEMA

At the Village Hall

Banish the post festive season gloom with our winter into
spring film programme

And when March storms batter us, if you
can't beat 'em then join 'em with the classic
1952 musical

SINGING IN THE RAIN U

Wednesday 21st March

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

EVENING BINGO PARTY

Comberton Village Hall

Friday 9th March 7 for 7.30 pm

£1 Admission

Tea/coffee and Biscuits available

Bring a bottle if you wish.

Bring your friends from this and other villages!

6 games/chances to win cash prizes

£2.50 for a book of 6 game cards.

10 Raffle prizes every time

For further information contact Andrew on 263089

or Michael on 262748

This event is sponsored by Comberton Village Hall
Trustees

Comberton Winemakers

The next meeting of Comberton Winemakers

Monday March 19th at 7-30pm

Village Hall.

This will be an elimination of wines for the BBPS
show at Buckden. Please bring along any wines
that you consider suitable for entering in the Show.

The April meeting will be on **Monday April 16th**
and will be a talk by Julian Cooper from British
Sugar.

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 BOWLS CLUB



Have you ever fancied having a go at bowling? Why not come along and give it a try. It is great fun and a great way of getting fresh air and meeting new and old friends.

It is a game for people of all ages, not just gentle exercise for the older person it is also a very tactical game

Everyone welcome both experienced and new bowlers. .

For more information contact

Gillian on 01223 263734 or Irene on 01223 262084

Quiz Night!



When:

Saturday 17th March at 7.30pm

Where:

Meridian Primary School, Comberton

All in aid of Childreach International

For more information or to book tickets please

email: katy.crichton@hop.co.uk

Call: 01223 262423 (meridian school office)

Or pop in to the school office and speak to Lynne or Ann





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SATURDAY 7th APRIL 2012

10.30
till 12
Noon

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Prize for each category

ADMISSION

£1 includes Coffee
& Hot Cross Bun
Children 50p
includes soft drink
and a biscuit

This event is
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Trustees

**“The Combertones” jazz band and
friends in concert.**

March 3rd in Comberton.



Come and support us. Bring your own
drinks/glasses.
Teas on sale.

Comberton Village Hall on Saturday 3rd March at 7.30pm.

Tickets £7.50 , concessions £4. Funds will go to Barton

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Tickets from Liz Bland 01223 26304

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Wednesday, 7th March 7.00 p.m.

Fashion Show & Auction

at Anglia Ruskin University, East Road, Cambridge

Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of ChildLine

Tickets: www.anglia.ac.uk/mumford 0845 196 2320

Celebrity Auctioneer from the popular BBC 2 "Flog It", Will Axon of

Rowley Fine Art Auctioneers

Guest Speaker, Sue Minto – Head of ChildLine

Shopping & Fashion Art Installations

Spring Women's Fashion from Cuckoo

Le Reve Lingerie & Swimwear Show – featuring bespoke hats from milliner,

Abigail Crampton

Cambridge School of Art Fashion Design Students Catwalk Show

Generously supported by Anglia Ruskin University & The Mumford Theatre

Co-Sponsored by Elms Cambridge BMW

Comberton Market

will be on Mothers Day - March 18th.

11am - 3pm

at Comberton Leisure

Charity - Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

St Mary's Church, Comberton

Easter Coffee Morning

Saturday 24th March

10.30 – 12.00

In the Village Hall

Raffle, Bring & Buy, Cakes etc.

Admission £1.00 to include Coffee and Hot Cross Bun



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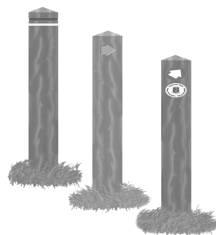
Monday-Friday

9:00am -1:00pm 2:00pm – 5:00pm

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

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.**

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

from the Clerk

The Parish Council met on 11 January and 8 February 2012.

Parish Council consultations

Thank you to all residents who have taken the time to write to the Council with their views and suggestions on consultations on –

- Proposed bollards on the grassed areas in Hillfield Road to prevent damage by vehicles parking on them
- Proposed speed reduction along the eastern section of Barton Road
- The Comberton Crusaders approach to the Council to lease the recreation ground land extension and exploring the idea of a new pavilion with car parking
- Possible schemes, including “20s Plenty” and raised platforms near the Meridian School

So what is happens now? These responses help the Parish Council build up a picture of how residents’ feel about local matters. The Council already has a lot of information on residents’ views, needs and wishes collected from the parish plan questionnaire. With four consultations being undertaken simultaneously you have certainly given the Council a lot to think about!

In order to give a thorough consideration of some of these the Council has tasked its working groups to look at these further and the Council will consider their reports and recommendations at a future meeting.

For some matters such as the County Council’s Minor Improvements Scheme the Parish Council had to submit a bid by the beginning of February so a bid was submitted for traffic calming for raised platforms either side of Harbour Avenue to calm traffic near the primary school. The Parish Council’s Transport Working Group will meet with the County Councillor, Fiona Whelan and County Council Officers and Comberton’s bid will be ranked by the County Council against other bids submitted by other Parish Councils. If successful the Parish Council will have to pay 10% of the scheme’s cost up to £1,000.

Residents’ views on the proposed bollards and information gathered at the site meeting last year have been considered carefully. The Parish Council will be installing bollards on two areas in Hillfield Road as a start. The transport Working Group will be monitoring the impact that these have over the coming year and the Council may extend the bollards to other areas.

The recreation ground is the Parish Council’s biggest and most complex project and the Recreation Ground Working Group is working very hard behind the scenes and between Council meetings. Such a lot of questions have been posed and the Parish Council does not have answers to all of them at the present time as a lot will depend on decisions that may, or may not be made in the future. Regrettably some residents may have to wait for answers but the Council will do its utmost to take all views into account and make the right decisions for the village and its residents.

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At its February meeting the following was agreed –

- The Parish Council authorised the Recreation Ground Working Group (RWG) to invite sports clubs and other users of the recreation ground to participate in a Recreation Ground Extension Steering Group (RESG)
- The Parish Council authorised the RWG to appoint as many representatives as it considers appropriate to the RESG
- The purposes of the RESG shall be to explore sources of funding to develop the recreation ground extension, to submit applications for funding which appear to it to be appropriate and any other purposes which the Parish Council shall authorise.
- The RESG shall not accept any funding or conditions for funding without first obtaining authorisation from the Parish Council

Please remember if you don't write with your views and suggestions or attend meetings the Parish Council won't know what you think or what you would like to see. Many residents write even when there is no current consultation. That's fine it all helps the Council keep in touch with residents views.

Please note that the Parish Council needs your views and comments however it can not act on any anonymous letters received. The Parish Council understands that there may be occasion when a resident may wish to contact the Council but prefer that their name and address is kept out of the public domain. If this is the case please include your name and address when writing to the parish clerk but clearly mark your letter at the top 'NAME AND ADDRESS WITHHELD UNDER THE DPA' (Data Protection Act).

Parish Council budget for 1 March 2012 to 31 March 2013 and precept

The Council approved its budget and set the Precept at its January meeting. The Council has reduced its precept demand from 65,000 to £58,815.60. For a copy of the full budget please contact the Clerk.

Co-option to fill casual vacancy

Peter Crossley from Barons Way was co-opted to fill the last of the vacancies on the Parish Council.

Queen's Jubilee

In July 2011 the Focus Group was tasked with planning a Jubilee walk to commemorate the Queen's diamond jubilee. The exact route of the walk has not been finalised but will include places such as the sensory garden, pond and the church. Each area having a significant feature or memorial (Bus shelter at West street to commemorate the coronation (1953), village sign – silver jubilee (1977), the sensory garden (Golden jubilee 2002) and many other features of interest in the village. The walk will be marked by a series of waymarkers with a specially designed jubilee disk. A competition for children under the age of 11 to design the logo for the jubilee walk will be advertised in Contact.

If funding permits it is proposed to create a small jubilee walk booklet for villagers.

It is proposed to seek grant funding for the project from Awards for All.

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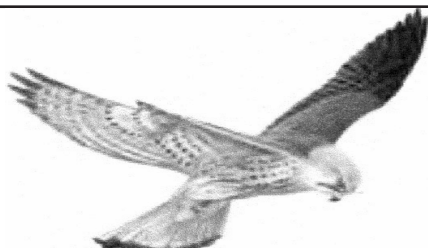
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Meridian School Fun Run

The Parish Council granted permission to the Meridian School to use the Comberton recreation ground and extension for a Fun Run to raise funds for the PTA on Sunday 24th June.

Friday night late night bus service

Cllrs Harangozo 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.

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
Mr Antony Bateman	19 Bush Close
Mr Peter Crossley	59 Barons Way
Mr Hywel Griffiths	18 Barrons Way
Mr Andrew Hollick	73 Swaynes Lane
Dr Janet McCabe (Vice-Chairman)	3 Westcroft
Mr Simon Moffat	86 Swaynes Lane
Mrs Mary Richards	38 Barrons Way
Mr Ben Pemberton	35 West Street
Mrs Jill Preston	45 Long Road
Mr Tim Scott	Moat House, 65 Green End
Dame Veronica Sutherland	12 Hines Lane
Miss Chris Westgarth	85 Barton Road

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 14TH March 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.

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Rev Corin Redsell - curate

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corinredsell@lordsbridge.org

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Churchwardens Mr M.R. Evans 82 Green End Tel 263215

Mrs M Jenkins 80 West Street Tel 263751

Please contact Rev Mike Booker about arrangements for **Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings** and the readings of Banns.

Services and Events at St Mary's in March

Sunday 4th	8.00am	Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
	9.30am	Holy Communion
Saturday 10th	10.00-12.00	Big Brew Coffee Morning, at St Mary's
Sunday 11th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 18th	8.00am	Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
	9.30am	Mothering Sunday All-Age Service
Thursday 22nd	2.30pm	Thursday Service and Social, in the Village Hall
Saturday 24th	10.30-12.00	Easter Coffee Morning, in the Village Hall
Sunday 25th	9.30am	Holy Communion

Each Wednesday this month, as we are in Lent, there will be a simple, quiet service of Compline at 7.30pm at St Mary's. It is a short service ending the day with prayer. You are most welcome - whether you come to St Mary's regularly, worship in a different church, or have not been to church for quite a while. St Mary's is a Fairtrade church. We have a stall with fairly traded produce on sale each week, and the tea and coffee we use at church events is chosen because the producers get a better, reliable price for the crops they grow. To find out more, come and join in the Big Brew on Saturday 10th, part of Fairtrade Fortnight.

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5.00 pm Cambourne (In the new church)

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9.30 am (Children's)

10.45 am (Sung)

12.15 pm (Polish)

5.00 pm (Folk)

6.15 pm (Latin)

Additional Services during Lent:-

Each Friday, 7.30 pm stations of the Cross

After Wednesday's 12.15 Mass – Hunger Lunch –with proceeds for CAFOD

Further details of these and all other services for March and Lent may be found on the parish website which also has the weekly newssheet.

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COMBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH

A Light in the Dark

We recently held a memorial service for a dear lady who, for many of us, was a shining example of a Christian. Many fine things could be said about her, but the thing that was most remarkable about her was how she prayed.

You may be wondering what is the point of that? Well, for her, prayer was her chief means by which she related to Her Lord. She would habitually get up at three or four in the morning and spend two or more hours in prayer. The result of this life of prayer was a life of love. Many people in our church who met her and got to know her felt not only her love but also God's love. Even as she lay dying, that love shone out. She will be deeply missed by all of us.

Saint Peter in his first letter speaks of the salvation of the soul in terms of the love that is then to found flowing from us, even in the middle of all sorts of difficulties of life. Peter points us to the fact that while we want rescuing out of our situation, the real need is that our souls (the way we really are inside) need rescuing so that we are able to love, even when it is not returned.

We all kind of know this, but to rise to embrace this as our top priority requires a level of honesty with ourselves we often avoid, and commitment to seek God few bother with. Yet, as the Saviour said, 'What does it profit if a man gains the whole world but loses his own soul.'

This lady's life, and death, stands as an example to our little community of what a Christian life consists in, and as such has challenged us to do as she did.

Imagine. . .

I found myself transported to country that seemed strangely familiar, yet it was not one I had lived in before. I would like so much to go back there again, but for now may I describe it to you? In some ways it seemed not totally

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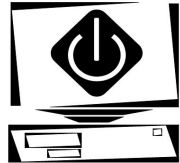
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unlike our own, yet it was so very different. The industry of the country seemed oddly quaint compared to our crowded offices, noisy factories, and cavernous roaring power stations. Constrained by that most ancient of principles, 'Do not destroy', there was no waste. If a material could not be reused, it was not used at all. Food, fibre, resins and all kind of stone and ceramics seemed to be the main physical resources of that land, and things were made with such skill they lasted for centuries, even the ships. Bronze that looked to me like gold was the chief metal of that land, and no kitchen would be without pans, cutlery and goblets made of it, these items being fashioned by local artisans. Iron was sparingly used, as the people there no longer knew the need for forts with great stores of weaponry. Nearly all that the inhabitants needed was available locally or in their county. No-one needed to rush around, though occasionally a horse with its rider would trot past. The world seemed bigger and altogether more spacious as well as infinitely more peaceful. An occasional horse and cart came by, its quiet padded hooves treading on the grass, pulling a ladem wagon which glided by on tracks of what seemed smooth golden glass. Once a year everyone went on holiday, travelling on astonishingly silent trains (though at no great speed) or gliding in swift catamarans down broad rivers and over the seas, sailing faster than the wind, all moving nearly effortlessly, friction being something that could be almost banished at will, it seemed. The residents told me that they had come to realise that they needed far less of most things and the land itself was well able to provide the little they really needed. Even the music and dance was made by the people themselves, and what dances they were! The most valued commodity produced and spoken of by the inhabitants of this land was kindness, a kindness made effective by the skill of the people and made universal by the desire and clarity of purpose of its inhabitants. Economists of the land spoke of the upward trend in Gross National Kindness, and discussed how the economic inputs like food or materials could ensure that this strategic output of the land could be manufactured in even greater abundance and more universally distributed.

How did such a country come about? I met an old man there who told me those who dwelt in the land had tried all of the alternatives, but in the end none had worked. So they found and read the old instruction manual to see if there was a better way. I asked him to tell me what it said. He opened the book and read aloud to me one of his favourite quotations: 'Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.'

God bless you all,

Graham

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NEWS FROM THE MERIDIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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You may be aware that there has been a lot of discussion in government recently about the primary school curriculum. Just before the last general election we were even provided with glossy documents outlining what it should be. However, one of the very first actions of the current government was to tell us to ignore them! So the National Curriculum of 1999 remains the document which all maintained schools must follow until it is replaced at some point in the future. However, the message from government is very clear – primary schools are strongly encouraged to tailor their curriculum to suit their own children and context.

The purpose of all this background is to let you know that Meridian has been doing just that this year! After a lot of research and looking at other models, we have been trialling a new 'creative curriculum' where children study themes which encompass a wide range of traditional subject areas. We still have to make sure that the National Curriculum is covered, but we can use approaches which really excite and motivate the children.

I think the best thing I can do is give you an example. Our younger children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 have been following a theme about the 1960s. This has included a great deal of music (of course!), art (including tie dye and Andy Warhol), historical research (about the moon landing, for example) and lots of literacy skills. Although the teachers decide the theme, they try very much to follow the children's interests and adapt the approach as they go along.

This week the children's work culminated in a super assembly, which parents enjoyed on a Friday afternoon. We saw dancing to Lulu's 'Shout!', a fashion parade of fantastic tie-dyed T shirts, interviews with the three Apollo 11 astronauts (small children in spacesuits), we sang along to new lyrics to 'We all Live in a Yellow Submarine' ('We all Live in a Purple Tambourine' goes well) and even screamed at our young 'Beatles'. Lots of fun – but an enormous amount of learning too.

From my point of view the most disturbing thing was that I remembered it all the first time round! Fortunately, the same cannot be said of one of the themes higher up the school – 'Who Killed Tutankhamun?'...

Glennis Virgo Headteacher

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Saturday March 3rd 10.00-4.00pm

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Get Fit Sen-

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Thurs 9.40-10.55 a.m. in Toft People's Hall.

Pilates Monday: Mixed 10.35-11.35a.m **Intermed.** 5.45 -6.45 or 6.50-7.50pm

Begs 7.55-8.55pm

Pilates Advanced

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Zumba

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COMBERTON LEISURE

Events January to March 2012

Date	Event	Details
Sat 14 Jan	Splitz Dance School Showcase	Local dance school's annual show-case
Frid 20 January	Custard Comedy	Gavin Webster, Debra Jane Appleby, David Morgan and your host Craig Murray. Tickets are £8 adv / £10 door. Doors open 8.00pm Over-18s only.
Sat 28 & Sun 29 January	Empowerment Live! Conference	Listen to 8 inspirational speakers at seminars and workshops over the weekend designed to help you to achieve your targets. £130 for the weekend
Saturday 4 February	stART Presents: Energize - The South Cambs District Dance Showcase	Dancers from schools across South Cambs will come together to share their work with family and friends and each other. Free entry.
Sunday 5 February	stART presents: Energize – Free Dance Workshops for young people	Two classes – one for under 11's and one for over 11's both free but sign up in advance. Contact Richard Brown for details
Monday 13 th to Thursday 16 th February	stART Presents: Half Term Drama Workshops for 8 to 12 year olds	Ella Lyons is running a four-day workshops leading to a performance of Pete's Dragon. For more details contact Richard Brown.
Friday 17 February	Custard Comedy	Gary Delaney, Tudur Owen, Andrew Doyle and your host Juliette Myers. £8 adv / £10 door. Doors open 8.00pm Over-18s only.
Saturday 18 February	stART Youth Theatre Presents: The Crucible	stART Youth Theatre returns with Arthur Miller's classic set in Salem during the famous witch trials.



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Saturday 25 February	Rhubarb Cabaret!	A totally new venture for Comberton Leisure. Rhubarb Cabaret will present some of the nation's leading cabaret artists right on your doorstep! A night of magic, comedy, music, circus, mime and dance is planned for the first night. Bring a friend and watch the night sparkle! £10 adv / £12 door
Friday 09 March	Custard Comedy	Line up tbc. Doors open 8.00pm Over-18s only.
Friday 16 th March	CVC Dance Showcase	Students from CVC show off their hard work in dance classes this term.
Thur 22 to Sat 24 March	Bourn Players - Annie	See www.bournplayers.org.uk/ for details
Saturday 31 st March	Rhubarb Cabaret!	More Cabaret mayhem, details to follow.

Details for all of these shows can be found on our website: www.comberton-leisure.com or via the school website, www.combertonvc.org

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COMBERTON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Meeting held on 12th January 2012

Our first meeting of the year was well attended. Our chairlady welcomed everybody and wished us all a happy new year. Members donated many items to the Bring and Buy stall and the money raised contributed towards subsidising our various events held throughout the year. Our first speaker of the year was Rebecca Proctor from the Papworth Heritage Trust. The informative talk supported by pictures on a screen was about how Papworth Hospital was created in the early 1900's, starting from two cottages in the village of Bowen treating small numbers of men suffering from tuberculosis. They lived in wooden huts all the year round, fresh air and outside activities being very important in the treatment of TB. Due to the foresight of a doctor Barry Jones, this small treatment centre moved to Papworth Hall which then became a much larger hospital for the treatment of lung disorders.

Meeting held on Thursday 9th February 2012

There was a very good turnout of members considering how bad the weather was. It was nice to see a full house. We had a bring and buy table and a raffle. Both were well supported. The money raised helped to boost the club's funds. Our guest speaker was Reverend Mike Booker who gave a very interesting and informative talk about the parish registers and records of Comberton. We also displayed some books on births, marriages and deaths with entries going back as far as the late 1500's. From statistics Mike had researched from the records, he gave a brief own history of Comberton right up to the present day.

Our next meeting will be on March 8th 2012 at 2.00pm at the Village Hall. The guest speaker will be Linda Scoles.

COMBERTON WI

Our January speaker was Mary Ellis, whose talk 'Sheets and Sausages' gave an amusing account of her experiences running a Bed and breakfast. Mary began her business to supplement her household income. There were the unexpected pleasures of meeting people who became friends and being able to offer hospitality to visitors. Obviously opening up your house to complete strangers can have its pitfalls but Mary has turned trying experiences into humorous anecdotes.

Pancake Race: this year fell on Valentine's Day, it was the 34th annual race. The weather was kind, dry but cold. The event was well supported. Some 50 people attended and all the children who ran were given chocolate treats.. Coffee etc was served afterwards in the Village Hall.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 14th February with the election of officers followed by refreshments.

Date for Diary: March 13th 7.45pm at Village Hall.

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A LETTER FROM A RESIDENT

January 1st 2012-02-19

Dear Contact readers,

I write un response to the letter in the January edition of Contact by Ingrid Sims, Secretary of the Comberton Crusaders football team advancing the argument for an increase in the number of football fields in the village. As a parent of children that play football and other sports, I believe it is very important that we provide resources for our kids to play the sports and games that will help them to live healthy and well-balanced lives – especially in this age of computer games and obesity.

However, I do not believe that the recreation ground extension should be turned into yet another couple of acres of turf. – we already have plenty of that in the village and given the extensive fields at CVC I can see no justification at all in developing the land for sports because we have a few vociferous football clubs. It is clear to me that the Parish Council has the right perspective on this issue and by exploring the planning of community woodland has the pulse of the community.

Planning new woodland is an effective way of addressing issues of climate change. Trees provide resources that can counter-balance some of the effects of pollution and CO2. They provide key habitats for birds, mammals and support other flora and fauna. Trees are also an integral part in maintaining natural systems such as the water cycle. The planting of new woodlands can, therefore, provide a number of benefits for people, society and the environment. They also provide a longer-term approach to managing landscape resources and storing carbon, an issue that is central to tackling climate change. Even short visits to woodlands and green spaces can make big differences to how people feel. Children also benefit from woodlands as they offer locations for adventure play and socialisation.

The planting of new woodlands is a good way of fostering a more engaged community. Planting events and use of woodlands by the community provide a sense of ownership for local people who consider these trees their own. In the long term this increases the use of the woods but also provides a level of management and respect for the landscape.

You might feel that we already have plenty of green fields and open landscape around us, but those fields are intensive food production areas and I do not believe that any of our local farmers are really serious about organic food production or significant habitat creation and so the land surrounding us is not really optimised for nature. Woodland cover in Cambridge is a fraction of what it is in other parts of the country (2% of land cover) as farming and development have grubbed out so many woodlands. It's time we reversed this trend and planting trees on the recreation ground extension is a very good and timely idea and not as Ms Sims suggests the 'easy option'. The argument about the original vision for this land is irrelevant in my view

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as the world changes along with our priorities as individuals and a community. I think that in the intervening years we have all come to see the value of quality multi-functional natural areas close to communities and the very real need for increasing natural habitat and protecting our local biodiversity. There are some that seem to think that the world revolves around football and sports, but I would hope that Comberton has more to offer than endless acres of sports pitches to its residents.

cc Comberton Parish Council

A note from the editor: Contact is a way of having your say on local issues. I am glad to include this letter for that reason. I anticipate that responses may be made and I would ask that you keep your contribution as short as is reasonable so that all can be included unabridged.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

A branch meeting will be held in Comberton Village Hall on
Monday March 12th at 2.30pm.

Edwin Dickinson Branch Chairman

TIRED OF EATING ALONE?

Would you like to join our dining club? Eating out – once a month – at a variety of venues – it doesn't have to be expensive. Tel: Frances Stafford
on 01223 264230

DO YOU ENJOY PLAYING YOUR MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

Would you like to join others but do not relish joining a large orchestra?
Meeting maybe once a month for fun playing. Tel: Frances Stafford
on 01223 264230 for more information.

GREENER HOMES EVENT

Comberton Renewable Energy Group warmly invites all residents to a Greener Homes event on Saturday 10th March. This will be held at the Meridian School from 10.30 a.m to 1.30 p.m where you will be able to find out about all the latest opportunities to save on your energy bills and keep your homes warm. Come and sign up for FREE insulation which is available only for a short time to anyone who owns their home. You will also be able to loan some home energy monitors and our invited speakers will provide the latest information about the Feed-in Tariff and other incentives for installing your own renewable energy systems. Local installers will be demonstrating some of these systems. We look forward to seeing you there.

Steve Harangozo
Group

Chairman, Comberton Renewable Energy

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 Also flowering shrubs, climbers and hardy perennials.
 All at grower's prices.
 Open 7 days a week 10.00 to 6.00.
 Saunders Nurseries, West Street, Comberton.
 01223 262268



THE OLYMPICS 2012

a great opportunity to celebrate and get involved in Cambridgeshire

For the sporting....

As Olympic fever spreads across the country, many of us might feel inclined to get involved in some new sporting activities, whether in a competitive manner or just for a bit of fun.

Numerous events are going on nationally – the Big Dance Week in July, the ‘Gold Challenge’ where you can raise money for charity by trying 5, 10, 20 or 30 Olympic and Paralympic sports, ‘Hopscotch to Victory’ which is a world record attempt taking place in June, and for those who fancy something a little less strenuous, there is ‘All the Bells’ which calls on residents to ring any kind of bell they can between 8am and 8.03am on 27th July. More information about these activities and many more can be found on the main Olympic and Paralympic website www.london2012.com. If you do not have access to the internet and would like to find out more about the national activities, telephone 0845 2672012.

There will also be many sporting events and activities taking place locally. These will be listed on www.livingsport.co.uk or you can contact LIVING SPORT on 01487 841559. Events will also be added to the www.cambridge-shire.net website as they are announced. If you have an event planned that you would like to publicise, it can be added to this website. If you have a disability, you can find out what activities you can get involved in locally at www.abilityplusgroup.co.uk, by calling the Ability PLUS Group on 01487 849929 or by contacting your local District Council.

For the not so sporting....

The Olympics also bring people together and are a reason to celebrate. Large events will be taking place across the county along the Olympic Torch route as it passes through Peterborough on 3rd July, Cambridge (as part of the Big Weekend on Parker’s Piece) on 7th and 8th July and St Ives and Huntingdon on 8th July. Route details and times will be announced by London 2012 nearer the time.

Local people are also being encouraged to organise their own celebrations and the **2012 Local Leaders** initiative has been set up to help you do just that. By signing up, you will receive information on a range of themed celebration ideas and be in the front row to receive free London 2012 event materials. You can find out more at www.london2012.com/get-involved or by telephoning 0845 2672012.

The County Council is keen to encourage local events and street parties, and has added simple guidance to getting a street party road closure on their website at

Isaiah58

-help-share-bring-give-

Would you appreciate help with small jobs around the home, garden or in the wider village?

Isaiah58 involves young people from local churches helping out in the village community.

We have moved furniture, trimmed hedges, weeded gardens, swept leaves and painted bus shelters....

No project too small!

If you have a possible project for the team please call
Jonathan Catley, 01223 263508
 07971 758041
 jonathan.catley@hotmail.co.uk

We don't charge or ask for any donation for the help.
It is part of us putting our faith into action.

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

COMBERTON LIBRARY

Monday	2.00pm - 7.00pm
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	10.00am - 1.00pm
	2.00pm - 5.00pm
Thursday	Closed
Friday	2.00pm - 7.00pm
Saturday	10.00am - 1.00pm
Sunday	Closed

The Village College, West Street, Comberton, Cambridge, CB23 7DU

Tel: 0845 045 5225

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

RECREATION GROUND GATE ROTA,

March to September 2012

February 20th to March 4th	Alan & Mary Clarke	May 28th to June 10th	Mick & Barbara Waters
March 5th to March 18th	Jon & Jo Callan	June 11th to June 24th	Alan & Mary Clarke
March 19th to April 1st	Raymond Sewell	June 25th to July 8th	Jon & Jo Callan
April 2nd to April 15th	Mick & Barbara Waters	July 9th to July 22nd	Raymond Sewell
April 16th to April 29th	Alan & Mary Clarke	July 23rd to Aug 5th	Mick & Barbara Waters
April 30th to May 13th	Jon & Jo Callan	Aug 6th to Aug 19th	Alan & Mary Clarke
May 14th to May 27th	Raymond Sewell	Aug 20th to Sept 2nd	Jon & Jo Callan

Access on foot is not affected

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/trafficmanagement/events/ontheroad/street_parties.htm.

If you don't have internet access, you can call 01223 507176 to arrange this or to discuss any other events that you would like to organise.

Cultural events will also be taking place, including the UK's biggest ever cultural festival and the 'Walk the World' campaign which encourages residents to join the race to find local connections to all 206 nations taking part in the Olympics (see www.walktheworld.org.uk). Information on local cultural events will also be available on www.cambridgeshire.net as they are announced. And finally, if you have been inspired by the 70,000 people who have registered as Olympic and Paralympic volunteers, you can sign up to volunteer at local events at www.volunteercambsandpboro.org.uk.

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SYSTEMS

In late 2011 the eCoton team (Coton village's SPEP group) co-ordinated a bulk purchase scheme for solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. The scheme was an amazing success. Installers were asked to tender to supply the group and the winning company was Upbeat Energy who impressed the eCoton team with their knowledge, organisation and work ethic. In total Upbeat Energy installed 75 systems during the 6 week period leading up to 12th December. Upbeat Energy has also pledged to provide a free system for Coton primary school.

Upbeat Energy is now running a second bulk purchase scheme with systems being installed up to the end of March. This is open to all homeowners in Cambridgeshire and there are already a large number of homes signed up. Despite the much-publicised drop in the FiT, PV systems will still provide greater than a 10% tax-free inflation-linked return, representing one of the best financial investments out there. To receive an info pack you can call 01223 581504 or email info@upbeat-energy.co.uk or just go to www.upbeat-energy.co.uk. YOU NEED TO ACT FAST TO BEAT THE NEXT FiT DEADLINE.

FRIENDS OF COMBERTON AREA

Update March 2012

Library supporters met with County, District and Parish Councillors on 26th January and were updated on the funding of the library (the County would run and fund the core library service including building running costs) the revised opening hours from April 2012 (which will be Monday 10-1, Wed 10-1 and 2-5, Friday 2-5, Saturday 10-1, dropping from 19 to 15 hours) and the concept of community hubs. The FOCAL group discussed the role of volunteers or students working for D of E

awards providing evening opening, supporting summer reading schemes and other activities in the library. Further meetings will be arranged before April for people wishing to volunteer.

Suzan Griffiths

Chair FOCAL

MERIDIAN LINE TRAVEL'S NEW VILLAGE LINKS SERVICE

WHILE bus services all over the country are under threat, one Mid-Anglian company is bucking the trend and has this week launched a new route.

Meridian Line Travel's new Village Links service started on Monday January 9 to provide a much-needed route between St Neots, Papworth and Comberton Village College. Although it is primarily for students at the college, which opened a new Sixth Form in September, members of the public are also able to use the new 29 service. It will leave Little Paxton just before 7.00am and stop at various places within St Neots before heading down the A428 to Eltisley, across to Papworth, Elsworth, Cambourne and Toft to arrive at Comberton at 8.15am. The return service will leave Comberton at 3.00pm.

With the new Sixth Form intake, Comberton now has in excess of 30 pupils able to take advantage of the 29, which is initially running on a one-term trial basis. "We are delighted Meridian Line has decided to put on this route," said Head of Sixth Form Phillip Evans. "We already had a number of pupils in the 11-16 part of the school travelling in from the St Neots and Papworth areas and this number has increased with the opening of the Sixth Form. We anticipate this number will grow with our second year of students in September."

Tim Dawes, managing director of Meridian Line, said: "We are delighted to have been able to set up this route to work with Comberton and hope it will be a success. We also hope it will provide a useful service for the general public.

"The stops we have set are not fixed and we will stop for passengers at any recognised bus stop on the route if requested."

More than 20 youngsters used the bus to Comberton on its first day of operation.

A route map, timetable and fares guide is available on the Comberton website www.combertonvc.org or from Bassingbourn-based Meridian Line (01763) 241999.

LEND US YOUR HOME TO HELP AFRICAN ORPHANS!



Would you be willing to host a coffee and cards morning? All you need to do is call Chris Page on 0345 257 1953 (local rate) and book a date that's convenient for you, and then simply invite your friends and neighbours round for a coffee; we can even supply invitations if you wish! We'll bring a selection of beautiful fairly-traded cards, hand-crafted in Africa by orphaned youth

and let people peruse at their own leisure, usually over a cuppa and a piece of cake! It's a good excuse to have a get-together and help vulnerable youth in Africa (Rwanda) at the same time.

To find out more or to book a coffee and cards event, please call Chris during office hours Mon-Fri on 0345 257 1953 or email chris@cardsfromafrica.co.uk. Together we can make a difference! www.cardsfromafrica.co.uk

WINTER SWEET

Hardy winter-flowering shrubs are not common; those that have a strong scent as well are particularly delightful in our gardens. Winter Sweet, or more botanically named – *Chimonanthus*, fall into this valuable gardening category. These are deciduous shrubs of about 5ft high. The small flowers appear on bare twigs before the leaves emerge rather like Forsythia. Flowering occurs from January through to early March. A sprig of flowers will scent a room. The naturally occurring shrub comes from China and is *C. praecox* (C.p.). Flowers from this variety are small and creamy yellow, but on the inside the inner petals are claret-coloured. The petals curve inwards. A very good variety is C.p. 'Grandiflorus' with larger flowers and a more open appearance. A different variety is C.p. 'Luteus', its flowers are light yellow and lack the red tints on the inner petals. These shrubs need protection from extreme temperatures and are best trained against a west-facing wall to provide shelter from biting east winds in winter and burning sun in the summer.

The Japanese quinces (*Chaenomeles*) are excellent shrubs for spring and bring out early shades of red into the garden. *Chaenomeles X superba* 'Crimson and Gold' has deep crimson petals with golden stamens and is an impressive shrub. *C. speciosa* (C.s.) 'Phylis Moore' has marvellous deep pink flowers; C.s. 'Nivalis' is a white flowered variety. These shrubs have the added interest of small hard fruits with a tangy perfume in autumn; they can be used to make quince jelly.

The Yellow Book

The National Gardens Scheme book for 2012 is now published. There are 29 new gardens open in Cambridgeshire this year. The only garden open in March is Kirtling Tower near Newmarket CB8 9PA, home of Lord and Lady Fairhaven. This is a five acre garden with 100,000 bulbs planted including yellow and blue displays of muscari, chionodoxa, daffodils and narcissus. R.T. Choke

THE CHALLENGE

December/ January results

December

- (A) James "Sonny" Crocket
- (B) Comm. Jules Maigret
- (C) Lord Peter Wimsey
- (D) DCI Tom Barnaby
- (E) Insp. Jacques Clouseau
- (F) Insp. Endeavour Morse
- (G) Det. Super. Andrew Daziel
- (H) Sexton Blake
- (I) Thompson
- (J) Paul Temple
- (K) Hercule Poirot
- (L) Sherlock Holmes
- (M) Jeff Randal
- (N) Charlie Chan
- (O) DCI John Barnaby
- (P) Insp. Wexford

- (G) DS. Peter Pascoe
- (K) Cpt Arthur Hastings
- (N) Number One Son
- (H) Tinker
- (D) DS. Dan Scott
- (C) Sgt. Mervyn Bunter
- (P) Mike Burden
- (M) Marty Hopkirk
- (A) Ricardo "Rico" Tubbs
- (O) DS. Ben Jones
- (B) SGT. Lucas
- (F) Robert Lewis
- (E) Cato
- (J) Steve
- (I) Thompson
- (L) Dr. Watson

Winner: M. Briggs. Barrons Way

JANUARY The starting point was nine squares across and nine down and the quotation was:-

The Devil, having nothing else to do,
Went off to tempt my Lady Poltagrue,
My Lady, tempted by a private whim,
To his extreme annoyance, tempted him.

On Lady Poltagrue, a Public Peril

HILLAIRE BELLOC. 1870-1953

Winner. Sue Preston. Fox's Way

THE CHALLENGE

Sponsored by Costcutter store

The names of the following creatures all have quite alternate meanings.

Please match them with their 'alter egos':-

PIG.	BEETLE.	CAMEL.	RABBIT.	DONKEY.	HORSE.	MOUSE.
HAWK.	EAGLE	CAT.	RAM.	PIGEON.	BULL.	SWALLOW.
MOOSE.	OTTER	TIGER.	LION.	CANARY.	SHARK	

- A person advocating war.
- A hoax
- A male walrus.
- A heavy wooden mallet
- A bloodthirsty person.
- An early aeroplane.
- An American fraternity member.
- An abyss.
- A jazz fan.
- A predatory dealer.
- A piece of gymnastic equipment.
- A paravane.
- A computer control device
- A score of two less than par in golf.
- A ship's beak.
- An inferior golfer.
- A person used to smuggle drugs.
- A James VI coin worth 74 shillings.
- A segment of orange (slang)
- An informer.

Entries to Costcutter, Green End Surgery or Library by 14th March.

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

Name.....

Address.....