

## COMBERTON CONTACT TEAM

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### BRASS BAND CONCERT

The City of Cambridge Brass Band will be making a return visit to the Village Hall on Wednesday November 25<sup>th</sup>. Keep this date free. Further details will appear in the November Contact.

## ADVERTISING RATES FOR COMBERTON CONTACT

from 1<sup>st</sup> 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
Three-fifths Page	122mm x 109mm	£240	£27
Two-fifths Page	122mm x 72mm	£160	£18
One-fifth Page	122mm x 35mm	£ 80	£ 9
	60mm x 72mm	£ 80	£ 9
One-tenth Page	60mm x 35mm	£ 50	£ 6
Coloured back cover		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 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday Evenings at 7.00pm	Carpet Bowls at Village Hall.

### OCTOBER 2009

6th Oct	10.30 - 12.30 First Table Tennis in Village Hall
7th Oct	7.30pm.m Mamma Mia! at Village Hall
12th Oct	3 - 6pm Children's Hospice Open Day
13th Oct	7.45p.m. WI meeting at Village Hall
14th Oct	7.30p.m. Parish Council Meeting Village Hall
17th Oct	St Mary's Church Harvest Supper at Village Hall
21st Oct	Cambridge Festival of Ideas begins
22nd Oct	2.30 - 4.30p.m. Afternoon Tea Dances

### NOVEMBER 2009

7th Nov	6.15p.m. Scout Group Bonfire and Firework display
14th Nov	7.30pm Comberton Twinning Association Quiz Night at Village Hall
18th Nov	7.00 Comberton Panel Meeting at Meridian School, Comberton
19th Nov	2.30 - 4.30p.m. Afternoon Tea Dances

### DECEMBER 2009

18th Dec.	7.30 p.m. Snow White in the Village Hall
19th Dec	3.00p.m. & 7.30p.m. Snow White in the Village Hall

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

It is with great sadness that I have read and included two lovely tributes to Margaret Cook who was such a loyal and active villager. We shall all miss her.

You will notice that I have placed coming events near the front of the Contact this month. I think that gives them more impact in bringing them to your attention. The Village group reports are now in the middle of the magazine. I hope you approve of this small change.

Many favourable comments have been received on the colour covers which Contact has had since June. I am afraid there was some disappointment over the placing of an event on the front cover this month. Competition is strong and this is what made me put black and white event notices closer to the cover. All I can advise is that you plan well ahead to avoid disappointment. The next vacant front cover is February!

# MAMMA MIA! COMES TO COMBERTON

---

**Yes that's right, the tiny Greek island of Kalokairi will be brought to Comberton Village Hall!**

**For only £3 see the musical hit rom-com which will be sure to see you relive that 70's dance fever!**

---

**Mamma Mia! The Movie will be showing at Comberton Village Hall at 7:30pm on Wednesday 7th October**

---

**Tickets available on the door or from: Cruikshanks the Butcher, Ivan Brown (01223) 262407, Glynis Ellis 262214, Sandra Hyde 262075, tickets may sell out so book early to avoid disappointment!**

---

*This initiative is being promoted by Comberton Village Hall Trustees*

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### BARTON DRAMA GROUP

Autumn Production will be

## Steel Magnolias

by Robert Harling.

It is a touching and hilarious play set in a beauty parlour somewhere in Louisiana.

Barton Village Hall

Wed. 25th November to

Sat. 28th November 8.00p.m.

Tickets from Norma Eaton

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COMBERTON VILLAGE HALL

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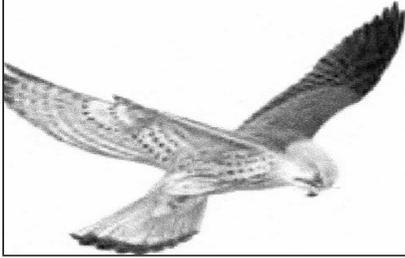
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Thursday 19th November

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1<sup>ST</sup> COMBERTON SCOUT GROUP

BONFIRE AND FIREWORK DISPLAY

**Gate open 6-15 pm on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November**

This year we are using a field 100m along the Drift with the kind permission of Mr and Mrs Baker. It is therefore important that we all respect this property and cause no damage and use the refuse sacks provided.

- If the wind is unfavourable to surrounding properties then the bonfire will not be lit. For the environmentally concerned, if hay or wood is buried and left to rot it will produce methane. However if burnt it will produce carbon dioxide, which although undesirable is much less damaging. This is considered carbon neutral.
- The bonfire will already be built on the day of the display. No further material for the bonfire should be delivered to the site or left outside the gate beforehand and definitely not outside the gate of the field, which was always used in previous years. We regret that no bonfire material will be required or collected as in previous years.
- The public are requested to move along if requested by crowd marshals, especially should the wind change direction.
- It will not be permitted to bring dogs into the field.
- Fireworks are not allowed to be brought into the field.

The above concerns are to make the event as safe and as friendly as possible to allow our young and families to enjoy a spectacular event, which is also one of our traditions.

All proceeds will go towards the upkeep of 1<sup>st</sup>. Comberton Scout Group. We now have sixty Cubs and Scouts.

Many thanks for your support. We do hope that you will have a pleasant and fun evening.

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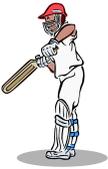
6 Ellison Lane, Hardwick, Cambridge.

# RECREATION GROUND WORKING GROUP – (A WORKING GROUP OF THE PARISH COUNCIL)

We need your help...



Interested in the development of the recreation ground, have ideas about what's needed in the village, keen on sport, interested in biodiversity –The group is able to co-opt members so if you think you have something to offer to help the group move this project forward please get in touch with Tom Serby - [Tom.Serby@anglia.ac.uk](mailto:Tom.Serby@anglia.ac.uk)  
Tel: 01223 262303



## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FROM THE CLERK

The Parish Council met on Wednesday 9 September 2009

### PARISH COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Comberton Parish Council warmly invites any parishioner who would like to serve on the Parish Council to contact the Clerk with their details or for more information on what is involved being a parish councillor.

You should consider becoming a Parish Councillor if:

You Want To Do More for Your Community

You Want To Spend Your Time Productively

You Can Think, Listen and Act Locally

Effort required:

TIME - As with most things, the more you put in, the more you (and your community) will get out.

The Council employs a Clerk to support the Council in its work both at meetings and also between meetings.

Comberton Parish Council meet each month on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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All members are encouraged to take on an area of responsibility to help share the workload and to ensure that the Council maximises its efficiency. The Council has one committee (Planning) and several working groups which offer members a chance to use their skills and knowledge for maximum benefit or to review a matter in more depth before a decision is reached. Sometimes these Committees or Working Groups will meet in between the meetings of the full Parish Council.

**COST** - Being a Councillor should cost you little. There is usually cover for subsistence and travel allowances if your duties take you out of your local Council's area. These allowances will be within a maximum laid down by the Government.

If you are interested in joining the Parish Council please write to or email the Clerk. The Parish Council hope to fill the vacancy at its next meeting.

#### AUDIT CONCLUSION

Notice is hereby given that the Parish Council's annual audit for financial year ended 31 March 2009 has been completed and everything found to be in order.

#### Scouts annual bonfire and fireworks display

In response to a request from the Scouts the Parish Council has granted permission for the event to be held this year on the recreation ground land extension if alternative arrangements can not be secured.

#### CONNECTION BUS

A very interesting report was considered from the Connections Bus. The Bus has been visiting the village most weeks on a Tuesday. The Parish Council has extended the contract for a further six months to the end of March 2010.

#### COMBERTON VILLAGE COLLEGE PROPOSED 6<sup>TH</sup> FORM

The Chairman attended a meeting in July where there was an opportunity to view their building plans and hear about there proposed travel plan. A full copy of the Chairman's report is available from the Clerk.

#### ACCESS TO THE COUNCILS MEETING PAPERS

At its monthly meeting the Parish Council considers a wide range of topics and verbal and written reports. In accordance with statutory requirements the agenda along with written reports and correspondence are circulated to all members 3 clear days before the meeting. This allows the council members to prepare themselves ready to consider the matters for decision at the forthcoming meeting. The agenda is displayed on the parish notice board in South Street. Minutes of meetings are available on the notice board and website. Some of the written papers considered by members at meetings contain personal data which is strictly controlled by the Data Protection Act. To ensure that it complies with both the Freedom of Information Act and also the Data Protection Act a copy of a report considered by the Council at its meeting is available to any resident on written request to the Clerk.



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## WORKING GROUP REPORTS

### Tree Group

Robert Cook and Jane Winney attended the Parish Council meeting to report on the work of the Tree Group and its compilation of an up to date list of trees in the village which will be incredibly useful to this and future councils.

### Affordable Housing

South Cambridgeshire District Council has been discussing the site at The Valley with another housing association and anticipates a planning application shortly. The work of the Parish Council trying to find a suitable site or site to meet the need identified in the Housing Needs Survey continues.

### Transport Working Group (TWG)

The Group is undertaking discussions with the County Council and Councillor to try to reduce the speed limit through the village. With the proposed 6<sup>th</sup> Form at the Village College CVC is working on its travel plan. The Parish Council does not feel that the information that it has seen on the travel plan to date is credible and covers fully Comberton's requirements. An approach therefore will be made to both CVC and the County Council to work more closely with them to find a suitable solution for the benefit of all the parties including the resident of Comberton.

### Parish Plan Steering Group

Having given a commitment to undertake a new parish plan the working group is reviewing the questions in the last survey to see which should be asked again and which new questions need to be included. The questionnaire will include a section on the recreation ground, pavilion and land extension as the Parish Council is keen to hear the views of all residents on this matter.

If you would like to be involved in the Parish Plan Steering Group contact the Clerk for more information or to express your interest.

### Recreation Ground Group

Negotiations and discussions with the Sports Club continue. In order to comply with one of the planning conditions required for the land extension the Council will start with plans for the drainage of the field.

## DOORSTEP CALLERS

What you should know when you get an unexpected door caller.

ID should always be checked. Anyone wishing to carry out Door to Door selling of this nature is required to hold a Pedlars certificate. This certificate will show the area that they are authorised to operate in.

Below are some guideline regarding Doorstep Selling that you may find useful.

Doorstep selling is when someone sells you goods or services in your home or on your doorstep. It can be convenient to buy on the doorstep - but you can be pressured into buying something you do not want or that is not good value for money by a salesperson

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using clever selling tactics. Here are three things to remember when buying at the door:

1. Check the seller's identity - Were you expecting them? If not, be very cautious. If you are interested in what they are selling, you can ask them to come back at another time that is more convenient for you (for example, when you have someone else with you). Always ask for identity card and look at it carefully. Check their identity by ringing their company using a number from the phonebook (not a number they give you).
2. Take control - you ask the questions - If you decide to have a meeting with a doorstep seller, make sure you are in control, not the salesperson. Remember it is a business situation not a chat with a friend.
3. Never sign on the spot, shop around. The price you are quoted may be a lot cheaper somewhere else.

Older people can obtain free consumer advice by phoning Age Concern on 0800 009 966 or Help The Aged on 0207 278 1114. If you have any concerns about a company or door step sellers in your area contact Trading Standards.

*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
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 14 October 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.

## ANNUAL PARISH REPORT – FELLING OF TREES ON BARTON ROAD

Since the Annual Report was written more information has come to light concerning the felling of the poplar trees on Barton Road. They were infested with goat moth, the larvae

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of which can live for up to 5 years before pupating, by which time most of the centre of the trunk is reduced to a network of tunnels and sawdust. This is a scarce insect which occurs mainly in eastern England the larvae of which can feed on a range of broad leaved trees. The Parish Council was led to believe that the trees were subject to Preservation Orders and was unsure why there had been a lack of consultation. The Council sought further information from SCDC and found that the trees did not have Preservation Orders. SCDC only consult with parishes where a tree trunk is over 75 mm in diameter and inside a designated Conservation Area or protected under a Tree Preservation Order. It is of course disappointing that the trees were infested and removed but the reason for removal is now known and understood. The original report may lead some readers to believe that SCDC had not been cooperative or understanding in this matter – for this we can only apologise and hopefully this sets the record straight. Tree group, Comberton Parish Council

## THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY, COMBERTON

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

Revd. Michael Booker tel: 01223 260095

email: [contact@combertonchurch.co.uk](mailto:contact@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 October**

Sunday 4th	8.00am	Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at St Mary's
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Harvest Thanksgiving Service</b>
Sunday 11th	8.30am	Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at St Andrew's Toft
	9.30am	Holy Communion
Saturday 17th		<b>** Harvest Supper in the Village Hall</b>
Sunday 18th	8.00am	Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at St Mary's
	9.30am	Morning Prayer - St Luke's Day: God and Healing
Sunday 25th	9.30am	Holy Communion
	3.30pm	Last Sunday Special

**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.

**Tuesday morning prayers.** As well as our main Sunday services, there is a short and quiet service of Morning Prayer every Tuesday at 9.15am. Everybody is welcome to come and join in any Tuesday. We take time especially to pray for needs round the village. If you would like somebody

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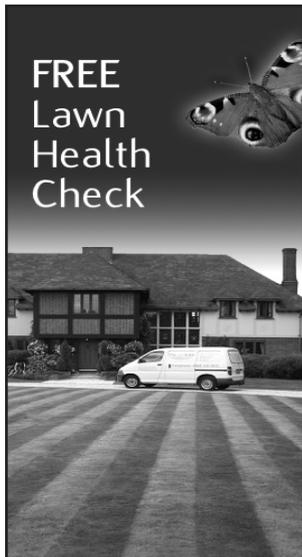
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or something mentioned in the prayers, please ring Mike Booker. There is also a box inside the door of the church in which requests for prayer can be left when the church is open.

**The Children's Barn** is now under construction behind St Mary's. It's not long now until we have more space for children to enjoy being part of Sunday mornings at St Mary's.

**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.

**Welcome David!** Through the month of September we will have a trainee vicar with us. David Redfield will be our unpaid curate for the month, and joining in everything that's going on.

## ST MARY'S ANNUAL CHURCH FÊTE

A big thank you to everyone who supported St Mary's Annual Church Fête on Bank Holiday Monday. The parish church belongs to the whole village and our aim is always to make this a real village event.

It was wonderful to see so many people involved and helping in so many ways; from donating goods for sale, setting up and clearing away at the end, manning stalls, or just coming along to spend money and enjoy the atmosphere. While it is impossible to personally thank everyone, you can be assured that your contributions were much appreciated.

Without wishing to dwell unduly on financial matters, it obviously costs a great deal to maintain and service this ancient listed building. Nearly £3,200 was raised by the Fête, which will make an important contribution to this.

Thank you once again and please remember that it is your church and that you will always receive a warm welcome at any of our services.

Penelope and Michael Evans

## A THANK YOU TO MATT

Dear Editor,

I was rather surprised that in this month's issue of Contact there was no mention of the fact that our curate Matt Watts was leaving the village early this month to take up a post in New Zealand. I am sure there have been farewells at the church but there must be a few people like me who are old and housebound who cannot get to church but benefitted from Matt's kindness & friendship. I have lived in the village only three years - Matt arrived in the village 2 weeks after me and apart from my wonderful LIFELINE lady was the first person to visit me. Matt visited me regularly & we chatted about everything under the sun. He never imposed religion into his visits but we always concluded with a prayer, but even then he asked permission first. I have heard of his great kindness to several other people in the village & when he came to say goodbye to me a good few tears were shed.

I am 85 & disabled so I do not get out at all so I shall miss him coming up the garden

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path & cheerfully waving to announce his arrival. He and my 'Lifeline' lady kept me in touch with happenings in the village and I always look forward CONTACT for that reason too - so can there be just a few words of appreciation for a young man who did a lot of good in the village & befriended me!

Editor - Thank you so much for this lovely letter which I was so glad to receive and publish.

## THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY AND THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

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

Detailed below are the normal times of masses at weekends

Sunday Vigil Mass on Saturday evening:-

5.00 pm Cambourne (In the Vine School)

6.00 pm Bar Hill

6.00 pm OLEM

Sunday Masses at OLEM

8.00 am

9.30 am (Children's)

10.45 am (Sung)

12.15 pm (Polish)

5.00 pm (Folk)

6.15 pm (Latin)

Further details of these and all other services for October for the entire parish including Sawston may be found on the parish website ([www.olem.org.uk](http://www.olem.org.uk)) which also has the weekly newsheet and other parish information.

## 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 groups in the 'The Mix'!

**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 Mix @ CBC are groups for children and young people aged 2-17 years. For the under 2's there is also a crèche available.



JASON MOORE

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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

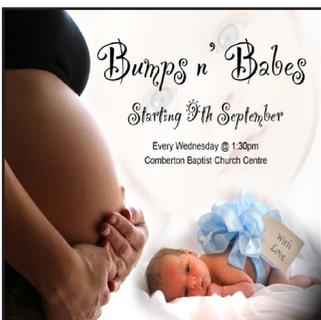
For more information please call Donna on 01223 264707 or 01954 211259

ALSO ON THE 4<sup>th</sup> 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 center. We'll be looking at a range of issues – our theme this season is Vintage Jesus: What did Jesus look like?

**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 [admin@c-b-c.org.uk](mailto:admin@c-b-c.org.uk) Our minister the Rev Stephen Henderson can also be contacted on 01223 264707 or [minister@c-b-c.org.uk](mailto:minister@c-b-c.org.uk). The Comberton Baptist Church website is: [www.c-b-c.org.uk](http://www.c-b-c.org.uk)

 <p><i>Bumps n' Babies</i> Starting 9<sup>th</sup> September Every Wednesday @ 1:30pm Comberton Baptist Church Centre</p>	<p><i>Bumps n' Babies</i></p> <p>You are warmly invited to a brand new group for "Bumps and Babies". This is a small, friendly group aimed at new parents who would like to meet other parents in their community.</p> <p>When: Every Wednesday Starting: 9<sup>th</sup> September @ 1:30pm Where: Comberton Baptist Church Centre</p> <p>Refreshments will be available throughout! Each week we will have the opportunity to hear from a qualified expert on topics relevant to you and your baby.</p> <p>If you would like more information please contact Donna: <a href="mailto:donna@c-b-c.org.uk">donna@c-b-c.org.uk</a> Tel: 01223 264707 (Office hours) 01954 211259 (Home)</p> <p>Supported by <b>Sure Start Children's Centres</b>  department for <b>children, schools and families</b></p>
--	--

## NEWS FROM THE MERIDIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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We had a very interesting visitor early in the term: Fatou Baldeh is the Headteacher of

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a school in The Gambia. There it is called a nursery school but it is perhaps more like some of the first schools in this country, as it takes children aged from 3 to 7 years old. She joined us for our Friday Celebration assembly and then was taken on a tour of the school by two of our older children. She was, of course, astonished at all the facilities we take for granted, particularly the technology. Our computer suite amazed her! She is here through the auspices of The Lisa Kent Memorial Trust and was accompanied by Liz Tinkler from that organisation. Her visit humbled both staff and children, and we are hoping very much to create a lasting link between us and both her present school and a new one which is being built.

We were delighted to host the Comberton Village Show again this year. It had particular resonance for some of our children this time, as Years 2, 3 and 4 had already undertaken visits to the allotments at the invitation of an allotment holder. This was to support work on food and growing plants respectively and resulted in staff and parent helpers alike being overwhelmed with excited questions.

On a similar theme we also had that ‘compost assembly’ (yes, really!) which I mentioned at the end of last term. Parents were invited and this was a great kickstart to our whole school composting project which is the major theme we have chosen for our Eco-Schools Silver Award. Children in KS2 (‘the juniors’) have also experienced some recycling workshops.

Perhaps you have spotted our attractive new entrance area. We are very pleased with it – it enhances both children’s security and the efficiency of the office. I hope to have some more news for you next month about improvements to the school environment. Watch this space...

In the meantime, just for your information, half term is the week beginning 26 October.

Glennis Virgo, Headteacher

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## SOME MEMORIES OF MARGARET COOK

One Sunday morning in May 1963 a policeman in his uniform rode his bicycle down our drive at 66 Green End. We had no telephone and were ready to receive bad news. It was Brian Cook and he had come to persuade us to join the Tennis Club! From then on we got to know Brian and Margaret well. They were both members of the Tennis Club in the 60s and 70s.

Margaret joined the Women's Institute in the 1960s. She soon became a committee member and organised Christmas parcels for all the over sixties in the village which were delivered by members of the W.I. As the village grew the Christmas parcel distribution ceased because of increased numbers and those who had organised them never became old enough to receive one!

In 1966, '68 and '70 Brian, with the help of Margaret and others, organised three very successful Carnivals which raised much money to extend the Recreation Ground (much smaller in those days), to provide play equipment there and a large ride-on mower. Until 1991 Brian, again assisted by Margaret and others organised a New Years Eve Ball every year at the Village College. These were hugely successful and raised further funds for the Recreation Ground.

Margaret was a Trustee of the Village Hall for over 20 years and played an active role in the development of the new hall. During the last two years she has assisted Nerys in the running of the Village Café, an initiative which has helped to promote a good community spirit by providing a regular meeting point for residents.

Margaret was always there assisting Brian in his many community activities. One of her outstanding qualities was 'reliability'. When asked to do a job one could always be certain that it would be carried out efficiently and promptly. Margaret will be sadly missed.

The Trustees of the Village Hall have decided to purchase a seat to be placed to the side of the entrance of the Village Hall in memory of Margaret. This will be paid for from the proceeds of the Village Café and any contributions which members of the village might like to make. If you would like to contribute, please send a donation to Brian Burton, Treasurer of the Village Hall Trustees, 100 Swaynes Lane, tel.264072. Cheques should be made out to "Comberton Village Hall".

Malcolm Wright Vice Chairman Village Hall Trustees

## A TRIBUTE TO MARGARET FROM BRIAN

From the outpouring of the very many cards, letters and messages of condolence my family and I have received I thought you would like me to pay this tribute to Margaret and I am privileged to do so.

I first met Margaret in 1959 when I was on Tipperary Ward at Old Addenbrookes



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Hospital. I had returned there for an infection to be treated following a surgery operation to my broken right arm. She was a student nurse and I fell in love with her wonderful smile and cheerful disposition as she attended me and went about her duties on the ward.. I asked her if I could take her out when I had been discharged and she agreed, but not before first checking my records.. She saw I was single and a policeman. She was very familiar with policemen because she lodged at the home of Jill Chapman, a fellow student nurse, whose father was one. She became very attached to this family, who treated her as one of their own, and I remember the time when we proudly took our new baby daughter for them to see. Jill paid tribute to Margaret at her funeral.

Margaret came from Whittlesey where she was born in 1938. She missed her father for 4 ½ years whilst he served overseas during the war, but there was her grandmother who lived a few doors away and two maiden aunts, so she was well loved and cared for. In her youth she belonged to the Red Cross and helped at Sunday School. She became very attached to the Rev. Nicholas' family during their three-year stay at the Manse. It was the Rev. Nicholas who married us and christened Rachel and Stephen. The Rev. Nicholas' son and daughter, Paul and Gillian, were at the funeral.

We married in 1961 and I was posted to Comberton. In those days being a policeman's wife was like being the doctor's or vicar's wife, they could not help but become involved. Margaret was a people's person and she welcomed the opportunity of becoming part of community life. She helped out enormously when emergencies arrived on the doorstep and I was out on my beat. In fact on a number of occasions she used her nursing skills to patch up the injured. Rachel was born in 1963 and Stephen in 1966. it was Margaret who fostered their musical talents.

When the nursery school opened she seized upon the opportunity of working there. At this time Stephen was of nursery school age. She had previous experience of working at a nursery school, having worked at one in Peterborough from the age of 16 to 18. She was very competent and when the Head Mistress retired she took over and was there until 1979. Our children by this time were in their teens so she then went to work as an audiometrician testing children's hearing in schools. She remained in this work until 1997 when the Health Authority decided to withdraw the service.

In 1972 we built our house in West Street. We did a lot of the work ourselves and in the evening Margaret could be seen standing high on the scaffolding whilst I threw bricks up to her for stacking in piles for the bricklayers the next day. Margaret had done very little gardening before we built the house, but she soon learned and became well respected for her knowledge on plants. The problem is I haven't a clue on many of their names, or how I should look after them.

In 1983 I retired from the police force and started my business. It would not have been the success it is without Margaret's full backing. She helped out in the office for a few hours a week up to a few months before she died. Her methodical working method was an example to others and is sorely missed.

Ever since arriving in Comberton we were both very much involved in village life. Margaret was soon invited to join the W.I. and was a founder member of the W.I.

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Gardening Club. She was still a member of both right up to the end. I could not have done many of the fund raising events I did without Margaret's support. When the village hall needed a new Lets Secretary she volunteered and did this for about 15 years. Together with the Treasurer they were the main stay of running the hall. She very much enjoyed being able to give something back to the community which later led to her joining the " Village Help Scheme" as a driver and as a volunteer for Addenbrookes' "Welcome Home From Hospital"

Margaret was one of the driving forces behind building the new village hall. She was determined it was going to be warm, friendly and welcoming. She was very much involved with the décor and I remember that the colour of the chairs had to be as near a match as possible to the colour in the curtains. It was she who first suggested the oak floor.

Just over a year ago she received a NHS bowel cancer screening test kit. We were very shocked when the result showed positive. Unfortunately it was too late, the cancer had spread to the liver and lungs. This screening has only recently been introduced by the NHS and is offered biannually to all those between the ages to 60 and 69.

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August she lost her fight against the disease. She lay in a candlelit room and passed away peacefully in her sleep at 10 p.m. Rachel and I were by her side and as she died Rachel picked up her violin and played to her, it was very moving.

Margaret had dictated to me, down to the last detail, the funeral content and arrangements. I was able to fulfil all of these, which made the funeral very special. Well over 200 attended.

A number said they would like a copy of Rachel's Reading, it is as follows:

Life Goes On

If I should go before the rest of you  
Break not a flower  
Nor inscribe a stone  
Nor when I am gone  
Speak in a Sunday voice  
But be the usual selves  
That I have known

Weep if you must  
Parting is hell  
But life goes on  
So....sing as well

Joyce Grenfell 1910-1979

My family and I thank all of you who sent cards and messages of condolence. They were very comforting.

Brian Cook 62 West Street.

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## COMBERTON VILLAGE HALL

### Table Tennis at Comberton Village Hall

On Tuesday 6th October and the following Tuesdays in October, the Trustees will be providing table tennis facilities in the main hall for recreational use while the Village Café is open (10.30am to 12 noon). Bats and balls will be provided.

If this venture proves popular, the trial will be continued, possibly with longer hours.

Anyone interested is invited to drop in and play                      Brian Burton                      Treasurer

## COMBERTON FRIENDSHIP CUB

The Annual Harvest Festival started the Friendship Club meeting on Thursday September 10th. There was a wonderful display of fruit and vegetables and produce which was then auctioned off to raise funds for the Club. This was done with good humour and lots of hilarity. If anyone over the age of sixty would like to join us, the club is held on the second Thursday of each month. The fee is around £6.00 for the year.

October is the A.G.M. which starts at 2.30p.m.

November to March is a 2 o'clock start.

## COMBERTON PLAYERS

This year's pantomime is Snow White (performances 18th and 19th December). Are you interested in being part of the chorus? If so, please come along to one of our rehearsals at Comberton Village Hall on Tuesdays at 7.45pm and see whether it is for you!

For more information, contact Judith Bowen on 01223 262186.

## COMBERTON WI

Our speakers in July were Janet and Christopher South (known to many from his column in the Cambridge Evening News). Their talk was entitled 'Snap out of it' and they aimed to give reminiscences of their holidays without showing any pictures. Members were given a choice of cryptic titles and the husband and wife team proceeded to paint pictures with words. It was very effective and served to whet the appetite for our own summer holidays.

Members take a break in August but we did have a very enjoyable evening visit to Burwell Museum. The museum is a credit to Burwell and its inhabitants and is a wonderful repository of history, artefacts and memories.

Our September speaker was Clive Bowring who gave us a fascinating history of the development of Parker's Piece. The 25 acre plot had belonged to Great St Mary's Church and Michaelhouse in the 14th century and had been farmed by Edward Parker. In the 17th century Trinity College wanted to extend its building and arranged to swap Parker's Piece for the fields on the Backs which belonged to the city. Since then Parker's Piece has been a fantastic amenity for the city and was widely used for football, cricket and rugby in the 19th century.

Date for your diary: October 13th at 7.45p.m. Dr. Carrie Herbert will speak about the Red Balloon Centre.

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## AUTUMN LAWN CARE & RENOVATION

Following this summers hot then wet conditions most lawns are in need of some renovation work to help the grass to recover before the weeds and moss take advantage.

### Scarification and over seeding

The autumn routine for all lawns is to scarify to remove the dead grass and thatch that accumulates in your lawn choking it.

Scarifying will open up the surface removing thatch and allowing the grass to breathe. It also provides an excellent opportunity to over sow with a quality grass seed to improve the quality of the lawn.

### Aeration

Soil compaction is a frequent cause of turf deterioration and moss invasion. For optimal effectiveness the lawn needs aerating in the autumn. This is the process whereby holes are “mechanically punched” in to the lawn allowing air in to the roots of the grass encouraging a more vigorous and greener lawn. The air holes need to be 10-15 cm (4-6” in depth).

### Top Dressing

In addition to aerating, applying a sterilised turf dressing (sand: soil mixture) will help keep the holes open longer and grass healthier.

### Autumn Feed

This feed is another important part of any lawncare programme. Feed with a fertiliser high in Phosphate and Potassium with additional Iron for that dark green look, and to promote a good healthy root structure.

### Actions required in Autumn

- Raise cutting height to 1 ½ inches (3.5-4 cm)
- Scarify and over seed lawn
- Aerate lawn
- Apply top dressing
- Autumn feed required
- Keep fallen leaves off of lawn

Some of the above tasks can be carried out by the lawn owner; other tasks may need some professional intervention. For more information about ProLawncare Ltd services on offer Phone 01480 812393 E-mail [info@prolawncare.co.uk](mailto:info@prolawncare.co.uk)“....for that Lawn you’ve longed for”

## MELDRETH LOCAL HISTORY GROUP PRESS RELEASE

The Meldreth Local History Group (MLHG) Open Day will be held on Sunday 15th November 2009 in Meldreth Village Hall between 11.00 am – 4.00 pm. This year’s theme will be Trade and Commerce. The displays will include features on The Atlas Stone Company / Eternit, the Fruit Orchards, the Coprolite Industry and the village pubs and brewery. It is hoped to have talks / sessions throughout the day. There will

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also be a Trade and Commerce slideshow. Last year's event was very successful and many visitors brought along their own material and photographs that were scanned for the Meldreth Community Archive, which can be viewed at [www.ccan.co.uk](http://www.ccan.co.uk).

Entry is free and everybody is welcome.

For further information please contact Kathryn Betts on 01763 268428, Terry Dash on 01763 260823 or email [info@mlhg.org.uk](mailto:info@mlhg.org.uk)

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For more information, please contact Debbie Rogers or Debra Hough on 01223 262503 ext 227. For an application form, please visit our website

[www.combertonvc.org](http://www.combertonvc.org) or contact the Personnel Administrator on 01223 262503 ext 204 or e-mail: [thecollege@comberton.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:thecollege@comberton.cambs.sch.uk)

## VILLAGE CAFÉ AT THE VILLAGE HALL

### NEW RESIDENTS ----- DID YOU KNOW?

Every Tuesday in the Village Hall there is a Café from 10.30 – 12 noon.

You can meet friends (or make new ones) over a cup of coffee or tea and biscuits and sometimes a slice of home made cake. Children are welcome.

A new venture at the Café:

Would any village organisation like to 'man' a table in the entrance foyer to sell products to raise money for their organisation e.g. garden/allotment produce; Christmas decorations; cakes; crafts etc.

If you are interested please telephone Nerys Wright on 262960



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07971 758041

jonathan.catley@hotmail.co.uk

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October 5th to October 18th----- Mr R. Sewell

October 19th to November 1st-----Mr & Mrs M.Waters

November 2nd to November 15th-----Mr & Mrs A.Clarke

November 16th to November 29th-----Mr & Mrs M.Sims

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

## COMBERTON LIBRARY

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

## THE CHALLENGE

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TREW or FORCE???

Some of the following statements are correct, some are not. Simply put a line through those you believe to be incorrect.

1. Meadowlark Lemon was a famous American baseball player.
2. Antidisestablishmentarianism is the longest word in any of the Oxford dictionaries.
3. Medullary Rays emanate from the Crab Nebula.
4. Wash Bears (Common Raccoon ) were given their nickname because they wash both their food and their paws before eating it.
5. Foggy Bottom is a district of Washington DC.
6. The raw meat Hors-d'oeuvre, Carpaccio was given its name by Guiseppe Cipriani at Harry's Bar in Venice because the colours of the dish reminded him of paintings by the artist Carpaccio.
7. Cyrano De Bergerac's real name was Hugh Bique.
8. The Thunderer is an alternative name for The Daily Telegraph.
9. Peterhouse was the first Cambridge college, founded in 1284.
10. There has been only one English Pope, his name was Adrian.
11. There are 204 bones in the human body.
12. Hsing-Chia P'o Kung-Ho Kuo is the official name for Singapore.

Entries please to Costcutter, Library or Surgery by October 14<sup>th</sup>.

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

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