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Regular dates for your diary

Mon	9:30-13:30	Fun for 1's & 2's	Playgroup
Mon	9:45	Comberton walkers	Baptist Church
1 st , 2 nd & 4 th Mon	19:00	Carpet bowls	VH
3 rd Mon	19:30	Wine Makers	VH
Tues	10:30-12:00	Village Café & Crafts	VH
Tues	13.30– 16.00	Fabric & Yarns	Baptist Church
Tues	18:30-20:00	Keep Fit	CVC
2 nd Tues	19:45	Women's Institute	VH
4 th Tues	20:00	Antiquarian Society	VH
Wed	10:00-11:30	Baby & Toddler Group	VH
Wed	12:25-13:10	Lunchtime Badminton	CVC
Wed	14:00	Bridge Club	VH
Wed	20:00-22:00	Shuttles Badminton	CVC
Wed (term)	14:00-15:30	Bumps & Babies	Baptist Church
2 nd Wed	19:30	Parish Council	VH
Thurs	9:30-11:30	Fun for 1's & 2's	Playgroup
Thurs	9:30-1:15	Tumble Tots	VH
Thurs (term)	16:00-18:00	EDGE Youth Club	Baptist Church
2 nd Thurs	14:30	Friendship Club	VH
4 th Thurs	14:30	Oasis Teas (55+)	VH
Fri	18:00-21:00	TaeKwon Do	Meridian Sch.
2 nd Fri	20:00	Comedy Club	CVC
3 rd Fri	19:00	Bingo Party	VH
Sat	10:00-11:00	Park Tennis	Park
Sat	9:00-12:30	Junior Squash	CVC
4 th Sat	9:00	Selah	VH
Sun	15:00-18:40	Adult Squash	CVC

VH = Village Hall

CVC = Comberton Village College

Upcoming events

December

1	Christingle Service	St Mary's Church
6	Christmas Lights at the Crossroads	Village Pond
7	Christmas Fayre	Village Hall
7	Christmas Storytime and Craft Session	Comberton Library
9	Rhymetime	Comberton Library
9	Winemakers and Carpet Bowls Evening	Village Hall
13-15	Comberton Players Treasure Island	Village Hall
15	Carols by Candlelight	Baptist Church
18	Baby and Toddler Group Christmas Parties	Village Hall
22	Carols at Christmas	St Mary's Church
24	Nativity Service	St Mary's Church

January

20	Winemakers New Year Social	Village Hall
23	Oasis Tea	Village Hall

Advertising rates for Comberton Contact

	Size (w x h)	Annual	Single edition
Whole page	122mm x 183mm	£400.00	£44.00
Three fifth page	122mm x 109mm	£240.00	£27.00
Two fifth page	122mm x 72mm	£160.00	£18.00
One fifth page	122mm x 35mm	£ 80.00	£ 9.00
	60mm x 72mm	£ 80.00	£ 9.00
One tenth page	60mm x 35mm	£ 50.00	£ 6.00

Comberton Contact Team

Editor and Designer	James Gilbert	07768 421049
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	50 South Street, CB23 7DZ	
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	treasurer@combertoncontact.org.uk	
	38 Westlands	
Distribution	Marian Dymott	01223 263292

Please supply copy via email in a plain text format and images in jpg, png or pdf with 300dpi. Please send any submissions for the February 2020 magazine by 15th January 2020

From the Editor

I am probably one of Comberton's newer residents, having moved into the village at the end of August. Although new to Comberton, I have lived in or around Cambridge since 1984, when I arrived as a young student to study engineering.

Why did I volunteer? I thought it would be a good way of making a contribution to village life, as well as getting to know people in the community.

The Comberton Contact is your magazine and I would very much like your suggestions and feedback on things you would like to see more of (or less of !). All ideas for improving the magazine will be gratefully received, although I cannot promise to act on all of them.

I do plan to make some gradual changes to the design and content once I have settled into the role.

I would like to thank Terry Coad who has done an excellent job as interim editor, whilst continuing to manage the advertising, finance and production of the Comberton Contact.

James Gilbert

Important People for the Village

Parish Council Chair	Mr Hywel Griffiths	01223 263390
	18 Barrons Way, CB23 7EQ	
Parish Council Clerk	Mrs Gail Stoehr	01 954 21 0241
	30 West Drive, CB23 7NY	
District Councillors	Ian Sollom	07722 065475
	Cllr.Sollom@scambs.gov.uk	
	Philip Allen	07963 5261 37
	Cllr.Allen@scambs.gov.uk	
	Tony Mason	07432 779551
	Cllr.Mason@scambs.gov.uk	
County Councillor	Lina Niento	07402 351821
	Lina.Nieto@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	

The Parish Church of St Mary, Comberton

In the Lordsbridge Team Ministry

www.combertonchurch.co.uk—Find us on Facebook: St Mary's Church, Comberton

Vicar Revd David Newton 92 Swaynes Lane, CB23 7EF
davidnewton@lordsbridge.org

Churchwardens

Chris Westgarth 263242 *chris.westgarth1@btinternet.com*
 Mary Jenkins 263751 *maryjenkins18@gmail.com*

Services and Events in December/January (at St Mary's Church, Comberton unless otherwise noted)

Sunday 1st December	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	3.30 pm	Christingle
Sunday 8th December	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 15th December	9.30 am	Blue Christmas - A Service of Healing and Wholeness
Sunday 22nd December	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	6.30 pm	Carols at Christmas
Christmas Eve	3.30 pm	Nativity Service
	11:30 pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	9.30 am	Christmas Communion
Sunday 29th December	8.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP) at St Andrew's, Toft
	10.30 am	Lordsbridge Team Holy Communion at Little Eversden
Sunday 5th January	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 12th January	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 19th January	9.30 am	Service for Christian Unity
Thursday 23rd January	2.30 pm	Oasis Tea in the Village Hall
Saturday 25th January	9.00am	Selah in the Village Hall
Sunday 26th January	8.00 am	Holy communion (BCP)
	9.30 am	Morning Worship

We say a short service of Morning Prayer every Tuesday (except New Year's Eve) at 9.30 am - all welcome.



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Meridian Primary School

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Greetings Neighbours,

We are almost at the end of the autumn term, and all the excitement for Christmas is here!

The children have enjoyed some great learning in and out of the classroom this term, particularly with an emphasis on outdoor learning. Our year 4 children, through a home/school Ancient Egypt project, created their own class museum with some amazing handmade artefacts.

Last month we held a special remembrance service at the school which was a moving tribute. We enjoyed the collaboration of the local community joining for this occasion. Please read an additional article by Mrs Shepperson.

Recently, the whole school took part in a focus week on anti-bullying. There were special assemblies and workshops throughout the week to help, support and challenge them in thought and action.

We also received a personal letter from Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP who is the Minister of State for School Standards congratulating us on our 100% pass rate for our 2019 Year 1 phonics check which places our school in the top two percent of all primary schools in the country.

We are looking forward to our reception and KS1 nativity performance of 'Shine'. We will be using our new coloured lighting effects for the show, which were bought and installed courtesy of the PTA and their fundraising efforts. We are also looking forward to a visiting theatre group performing Cinderella in pantomime.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and all good wishes for the New Year 2020.

If you are interested in volunteering at our school on a regular basis or becoming a school governor, we would love to hear from you. All regular volunteers and school governors are subject to the necessary DBS checks. Please do get in touch with the office staff on office@meridian.cambs.sch.uk or our chair of governors on chair@meridian.cambs.sch.uk.

Kind Regards,

Mrs C. Etchie Headteacher

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Sundays at CBC

10:30 - Family Worship

20:00 - Prayer Meeting

Minister - Revd Keith Tarring - (01 223) 264 707



Christmas Craft Fundraiser

Saturday 21st December 2019

11am - 3pm

Comberton Baptist Church

Drop in and enjoy a range of crafts from 50p - £2

including Christmas cards and decorations

All materials included

Stay for as long as you like

Comberton Luncheon Club

6 December 2019 (Christmas Lunch)

Blue Lion Hardwick

31 January 2020

The Stove, Bourn

28 February 2020

Meridian Golf Club, Toft

27 March 2020

Old Crown, Girton

Please contact Frances if you wish to join our friendly group (264230)

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Friends of St Mary's

Continuing on from last month's article from the Friends of St Mary's, I have put together some background information on how FOSM's work relates to our ancient church building.

St Mary Church Comberton

St Mary's is one of the 334 churches in the Diocese of Ely; each church building represents the presence of the Church of England in every community in the country and is a testament to the lives of the many thousands of people who have worshiped, celebrated and sought solace and comfort there. The care and maintenance of these extraordinary buildings is a challenge and responsibility faced by clergy and congregations alike. St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the financial responsibility for both the fabric and spiritual aspects of parish church life.

The Care of Church buildings

The Church Buildings Department of the Diocese of Ely supports, advises and guides parishes on all matters of their responsibility relating to the care, maintenance, repair and development of their churches. Their governance ensures that churches are properly cared for and that any work is properly considered and undertaken in the most appropriate way. Together with the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (DAC), they strive to maintain a proper balance between the requirements of caring for the historical and archaeological significance of these precious buildings while recognizing that churches are living places of worship and mission with a need to adapt and become fit for purpose in the 21st century.

In recent times our village, along with significant support from external funding bodies, has enabled the PCC to repair and restore the tower and bells, to redecorate the nave and chancel, create a small kitchen within the church and, with a significant bequest, build a new North Porch with toilet facilities.

Every five-years St Mary's is subject to an inspection (Quinquennial Inspection, QI) by our church architect. Work on the last QI repairs was completed a year ago and the work was checked and signed-off last month. These costs were met by grants from the Church Commissioners (for repair and maintenance to the chancel) and from grants from South Cambs, Church Care, FOSM and from PCC funds. As will be appreciated the repair and maintenance of an ancient building is presently expensive and ongoing as indeed it has been in all previous stages of its long history.

Friends of St Mary's Comberton

FOSM was formed following a series of lead thefts to enable contributions to be made specifically towards that expense and also towards the maintenance and repair generally of St Mary's Church building, and so share more widely, in the village and beyond, an appreciation of our ancient building. The extra financial support is channelled through the PCC who remain responsible for the fabric as well as the ministry of the church.

If you would like to help support the church in either mission or fabric please get in touch.

John Crang

FOSM Trustee

St Mary's PCC Treasurer

stmstreasurer@cantab.net

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Due to my father semi retiring in October 2017 my husband and I have continued the business that he set up some 25 years ago by combining it with our own.

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COMBERTON CRUSADERS FOOTBALL CLUB

We're recruiting players for our Soccer Centre & U8 team

Soccer Centre

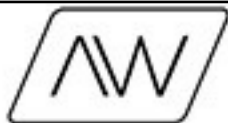
- **WANTED: Boys & girls in Reception to School Year 2**
- Introduce your child to football in a fun environment with professional coach Alex Minei
- Weekly sessions on Saturday 9–10am at Comberton Village College astro pitches
- £35 per term (10 sessions) payable at start of each term (3 terms per year)
- Or £90 all year (30 sessions)
- **Contact:** SC secretary Emma Buckland, emma_de_giacometti@hotmail.com

Under 8 team

- **WANTED: Boys & girls in School Year 3**
- Weekly training on Wednesday 5.45-6.45pm at Comberton Village College astro pitches
- Matches on Saturday morning (usually around 10am) at home (Comberton Rec) or away
- Matches are played 5-a-side
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Comberton Baby and Toddler Group

Many thanks to everyone who has supported the baby and toddler group this term. We have enjoyed welcoming so many new families, and lots of new-borns, from Comberton and surrounding villages. The children have really enjoyed the new tuff tray activities, which have included role playing cookery; leaf rubbings with Autumn leaves and a small world animal area.

The toddlers (and adults) have been enjoying the new selection of snacks - many thanks to Vicki for growing some lovely veg and baking toddler friendly cakes!

The Comberton Baby and Toddler group runs on Wednesday mornings (10-11:30am) in Comberton Village Hall. It costs £2 per family, and includes: craft activities; hands on activities; play dough; toys suitable from birth to pre-school; snack (teas & coffees for adults) and finishes with songs. There is plenty of parking and spaces for buggies, scooters, bikes etc.

At the Baby and Toddler group we loosely link the crafts and tuff tray ideas to themes. The themes for the next few months are as follows:

December	Christmas crafts and a winter themed tuff tray. Christmas Party for children at 10am on December 18th in the Village Hall Parents Christmas Social the evening of December 18th
January	transport crafts and a building site in the tuff tray.
February	knights and princess crafts and a castle in the tuff tray.
March	Explorers crafts and the tuff tray will be turned into a survival area.

We are always looking for people who would be able to arrive a little earlier (9:30am onwards) to help us set up. If you are able to help please chat to Alice, Vicki, James or Cathy at the next group. In the mean time, thank you so much to all the adults who have agreed to help set up as soon as they arrive, and to everyone for pulling together to pack away at the end of the sessions. The group has been hugely popular this term and all the help (tidying away; collecting coffee cups; sweeping up; toy donations) is very much appreciated.



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From Fitness to Fruit! The Orchards Survey.

Early in November, late on a Monday morning David & I were delighted to welcome local volunteer surveyors from the Orchards East project team to Meadowside. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Landscape Group in the School of History at the University of East Anglia (UEA), is undertaking a three year project to research, conserve and promote the region's orchards, their legacy and future.

Working with hundreds of new volunteers, the project will survey and record old orchard sites across the East of England as well as research the social, cultural & economic history of fruit growing in the region.

Just shows you never know what is going on!

Using both modern and historic OS maps, previously identified orchard sites within the parish have been listed for the survey. You guessed - Meadowside was one...or so they thought. Having agreed to the survey, we had sight of the survey form to be completed during the visit enabling us to prepare; of course it is easier to complete parts in advance indoors than outside in the rain during the visit!!

An orchard is defined by the survey as five trees - so we had not one but two orchards, front and back! The survey is looking at age, variety, biodiversity (posh word for holes in trunk, fungi, moss, lichen, dead wood, wild flowers, etc), height, size, shape, and more. It was fascinating & so worthwhile.

Some very interesting orchards have never been included in any map or may have been planted since the previous surveys. If you're not sure and for extra interest, look up the old survey maps on the National Library of Scotland website: <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/side-by-side>

Why Fitness? Well, some members of the Monday Walking for Health group, refreshed by coffee at the end of their walk, joined with more volunteer surveyors and morphed into a Survey Team!

Do you think you have or know of an orchard to include in the survey?

Contact Mary Jenkins on combertonwalkers@gmail.com to learn more...and have fun looking at your fruit trees.

Jane R Hughes

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Comberton Library

Opening Hours:

Monday	10am – 1pm
Wednesday	10am – 1pm, 2pm -5pm
Friday	2pm – 5pm
Saturday	10am – 1pm

More details can be found on the Library Service website at

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library>

If you like a festive read, do come and browse the titles available in the library. We have picture books and some longer chapter books for children and a range of adult fiction titles on display too. All are available to borrow.

If you would like a break from Christmas shopping, or are looking for something festive to do locally with your children or grandchildren, you may like to know that we are holding a **Christmas Storytime, Songs and Craft** session from **10.30 am – 12 noon on Saturday 7th December** in the library. There will be a charge of £1 per participating child to help us cover our costs. Do put the date in your diary and come along for some family fun.

Our final Rhymetime session before Christmas is on **Monday 9th December, from 10.30 – 11.00 am**. The sessions will re-commence in the New Year, with the January sessions being on **13th and 27th January**. We would like to take this opportunity to wish our wonderful Rhymetime volunteer, Barbara, a very happy and restful Christmas; thank you once again Barbara for all you do to support us, especially for the lovely introduction to the library you give our youngest customers.

Comberton Library will be open on Monday 23rd December from 10.00 am until 1.00 pm, as normal, but will then be closed for the Christmas/New Year period, re-opening on Friday 3rd January at 2.00 pm. All items borrowed from the library will have extended dates to cover this period.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing all our customers, both long established and new, in 2020!

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Farewell from Heidi Allen

Dear all,

I wanted to write and extend a fond farewell and a heartfelt thank you for four and a half wonderful years as your Member of Parliament.

I have been so proud of the vibrant, open, welcoming local communities who have shared a myriad of local successes and events with me and my husband Phil. We really do live in one of the best places in the world and it has been a privilege to create so many wonderful memories with you. I could never have dreamt that being sawn in half at the Cambourne Christmas Lights Switch On or being put in the medieval stocks at Hinxtton could be so much fun! And who knew I could be so successful at village fetes – I literally cleaned up at the Eltisley tombola; opened with a rock band at Bar Hill; won the Tug of War with the ladies team at Meldreth and arrived at Whaddon in a vintage Bentley. I can't claim quite so much success at Thriplow Daffodil Festival, where I managed to confuse the category of Best Puppy with Dog that Looks Most Like its Owner! You are a very forgiving bunch.

Race starting became something of a hobby and I was lucky enough to be invited to wave the flag at Cambourne, Caldecote, Great Chishill and the brilliant Duxford Soap Box Derby twice. A definite highlight was helping to “top out” the new Royal Papworth hospital, while a low was probably during the Steeple Morden Steam Engine Rally when I innocently told the crowd that my husband ‘likes to get on something hot and dirty at the weekend’ – I’m not sure I ever lived that one down!

I’ve been privileged to see first-hand the exceptional efforts of our public service workers as they go about their duties with dedication and brilliance. I’ve loved spending a night on duty with the bed team at Addenbrookes; going out on shift with our exceptional police, fire ambulance crews; cutting open a car with the Duxford fire crew to test new equipment and I was extremely proud to welcome the Prime Minister to the Genome Campus to showcase the ground-breaking work that takes place here.

I’ve laughed out loud at the contributions made by primary and secondary school pupils during my dozens of school visits and have been humbled and inspired by the pupils and teachers within our schools. On my final day, I was especially proud to hand GCSE certificates out to Cottenham Village College’s latest cohort; celebrated like I’d won the lottery when Guilden Morden Primary turned itself around for Ofsted and probably enjoyed Elsworth Pre-School’s cocktail night a little too much...hic!

South Cambs certainly knows how to party and I was lucky enough to watch

(Continued on page 23)

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(Continued from page 21)

the Hare and Hounds in Harlton coming back to life; Fen Drayton's Call my Wine Bluff and Queen Edith's RNLI superb Brass Band Concert. I dusted off my landlady skills at the Shelford Feast, pulling pints but my team and I failed miserably at Caxton's Village Hall Quiz Night...perhaps the cheese and wine may have distracted us somewhat! I loved giving Litlington residents a taste of my Desert Island Disc selections and who could forget me being beaten by Simon Saggars, the Green candidate in a hustings at Comberton VC!

I have so many special memories and it's just not possible to document them all here. Truly, it has been the greatest privilege to serve the people and communities of South Cambridgeshire. Thank you to everyone who shared a kind word, a thoughtful comment or a grey cell stretching learning. It has been a huge honour. To all the brilliant people of South Cambs – thank you for a wonderful four and a half years and for allowing Phil and I to build our life here.

All our love, Heidi and Phil x

Volunteer Drivers Scheme

To book transport please see the dates below and call the appropriate number

More drivers are **URGENTLY** required for this essential service

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23 December 2019	Gill Redman	01223 262246
30 December 2019	Margaret Storey	01223 262748
06 January 2020	Margaret Storey	01223 262748
13 January 2020	Barbara Mitton	01223 262073
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For more information please contact Mrs Gill Redman as above.

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Losing Things

I really hate losing things. I get stressed very quickly. The other day I lost my driving glasses. I went into blind panic, couldn't find them for days. Searched everywhere, in the car, in the house, in all the places I'd been, in the dog (not really). Inevitably, (of course!) they were in the car – they'd just fallen down that bit between the seat and the handbrake!

I'm thinking a lot about 'loss' at that moment as it is a central theme in my current research. It has never been far from the centre of the Christian faith as there has been this central idea that we only find life by 'losing it' – by giving it away.

But even if some forms of loss are good, most are not. And without wanting to be too glum as 'the season to be jolly' approaches, it seems to me that some things are getting lost in our current time which might in fact be quite precious.

We might immediately think of the loss of species across the globe, or the loss of forests and other carbon sinks. Or politically we might think of the loss of trust, or the loss of integrity within our current political discourse.

I might also think about the loss of Christ from Christmas. Which is not some plea to you to come to church this Christmastide. (I always avoid talking about church in these articles as I'm not a church-ian but a Christ-ian). Instead, I'm saying that we lose something precious if we forget the Christmas Narrative. For generation upon generation that story (alongside others) has formed our imaginations and cultures, it has been a lens through which we think about oppression and hope, generosity and service. Such stories make us. We lose much if we pretend that we can just make up our own stories. The stories we learn shape us and make us into who we are.

Thankfully though the Christmas story is that in Christ God enters the world in which we keep losing things, including ourselves. He loses himself to find us – the precious lost ones.

Rev. David Newton



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Remembrance Evening

On Friday 8 November 2019 Meridian Primary School held its second Remembrance Evening. Last year's event marked the 100th anniversary of the armistice and this year commemorated the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings. This year's event proved very successful, extremely well attended, with an audience that included parents, carers, grandparents and many others from the local community. Rex Webb and John Collins from Comberton British Legion played an important role, John expertly displaying his Standard Bearer skills and showing all exactly why he is the County Standard Master and Rex delivering the Act of Remembrance and Role of Honour that brought home the poignancy and loss that the village suffered during both conflicts. Jane Hughes held the audience in total silence as she recounted the importance of Comberton during the First World War, from the reminder of the existence of Comberton Railway to the local farms that were converted into hospitals to receive casualties from the front. I think that the most striking fact was the number of casualties moved from the frontline in France to British hospitals, some seventy trains per day, full of casualties and many with life changing injuries.

Meridian's choir were fantastic as usual singing a rendition of songs, that were perfect for the evening, under the guidance and direction of Miss Rebecca Sands the choir is going from strength to strength and they should all be very proud of their efforts. A special mention must be made for Ellie and Eve who beautifully read their poem 'A Memory' not once but twice, such was the reflective sadness of the moment. A huge thank you to Anna Edwards for accompanying the choir on the piano and our PTA for organising and providing refreshments.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to all that attended and helped make the evening a success, it was heart-warming to hear so many positive comments. We look forward to organising our third Remembrance evening next year, which will mark the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe. Thank you for your continued support,

Alison Shepperson Assistant Headteacher Meridian Primary School



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Comberton Women's Institute

We have been as busy as ever at Comberton WI. We have had some new members and a number of visitors to our sessions. Visitors are always welcome.

In September we had an excellent talk in the subject of "Making a Stand for Chelsea". The speaker was a specialist in plants which are used in medicine and had on a number of occasions exhibited at the Chelsea Flower Show. In addition to learning about the use of plants in medicine we heard about some delightful encounters he had had with celebrities, including the Queen.

Our speaker in October gave a fascinating insight into acupuncture, its uses today, and something of the history of its development. Members had a number of questions to ask after her talk.

The various clubs continue to thrive and members of the Craft Group have been extremely busy knitting, sewing, painting and sticking. They have been creating some really novel and attractive items for our stall at the village Christmas Fayre on 7th December. We look forward to seeing you there and meanwhile we take this opportunity to wish you all a really great time in the festive season.

Wendy Timbs Secretary

Comberton Winemakers

We are a friendly group (with an age range spanning from 30 to 90+ years old) and the aim of encouraging the appreciation and enjoyment of winemaking.

On Monday, 9th December at 7.30 pm we will be joining the Carpet Bowls Club in an evening of Christmas Cheer. The cookery competition this year is Shortbread and Fruit Scones and we will enjoy a 'bring and share' supper.

On Monday, 20th January at 7.30 pm it is our New Year Social with mulled wine, table-top games, bowling for lemon, a quiz and bingo as well as supper.

Do come and join us in the Village Hall and learn more about our activities and social events.

Pat Gifford, Secretary.

kenpat.gifford@btinternet.com

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Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

Christmas is approaching - the time of year when we like to enjoy a tipple, entertain friends and loved ones and cook up festive feasts. With all the fun to be had it is easy to be distracted when cooking in the kitchen.

50 per cent of all fires in the home start in the kitchen and more than half of those are as a result of distractions whilst cooking.

We want to help ensure that your festive cheer doesn't go up in smoke this Christmas by sharing the following tips for safe cooking over the festive season:

- Never leave cooking unattended or if you leave the house.
- Do not cook when tired or under the influence of alcohol, drugs or medication that make you drowsy
- Regularly clean the grill pan and oven. Built up fat can easily catch fire
- Do not leave anything flammable on or near the hob – tea towels, oven gloves and even washing baskets can catch fire.
- Take care when using microwaves - fires can start when food is put in for too long.
- Oven chips or temperature controlled deep fat fryers are safer than using a chip pan. If you do use a chip pan, do not fill it more than one third with fat – turn down the heat if it starts smoking – the precursor of fire !
- Fire can break out within large household appliances so please regularly maintain your dish-washers, washing machines and driers - never leave them on when you go out or go to bed. Always register your appliances online for warranties and to ensure that you are made aware of any faults or recalls.
- Have a **working smoke alarm** on each floor of your home. If one keeps going off when you are cooking it is probably in the wrong location, or you may have the wrong type of alarm. **Never** take the batteries out of your smoke alarm.

If you do have a fire in the house - get everyone out, call 999 Fire and Rescue and stay out – NEVER re-enter until safe to do so.

Keep testing those Smoke Alarms – they save lives.

From all at Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service – have a very Happy Christmas.

Michael White



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Friends of the Rosie Hospital

The Friends of the Rosie Hospital are helping to make the Rosie a more comfortable environment for mothers and babies. For up-to-the minute information follow Rosie in Stitches facebook page.

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Tea Bar, Rosie Hospital Outpatient Clinic

Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm

Bar Hill Community Market

Saturday 7th December 10.30am to 2pm

Selling toys and gifts for all ages

Cambourne Business Park - Christmas Market

Tuesday 10th December 4pm to 8pm

selling toys and gifts for all ages

New members are always welcome, whether to contribute financially, to join our team of knitters, provide transport for our volunteers, display a small selection of our wares or to help on the Rosie tea bar. Contact Mary Sanders on 01223 356615. Thank you for your continued support.



You are invited to join us for

Carols by Candlelight

Comberton Baptist Church

Sunday 15th December - 6pm

Followed by seasonal refreshments

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Due to popular demand we have a second matinee performance this year!

Fri 13th Dec, **7.30pm**

Sat 14th Dec, **2.30pm**

Sat 14th Dec, **7.30pm**

Sun 15th Dec, **2pm** (please note earlier start time of this performance!)

Tickets (£6 & £8) are available from Cruickshank Butchers on South St, or by e-mailing cptickets@aol.com

This nautical adventure promises to be one of our best pantomimes yet, suitable for ALL ages! What's your treasure?!

Comberton Ramblers

If you like walking and enjoy the countryside we are the walking group for you. Comberton Ramblers walk an average of 5-6 miles every fortnight on a Sunday.

To view our walk programme and photos please go to our web-page:

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For more information please contact the Secretary Stella.

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Grow Your Own - Eat Your Heart Out Brexit

Those of you wanting to cater for your own future fruit and vegetables supply, think about renting an Allotment Garden in South Street.

5 pole (half plot) is £45 per year and 10 pole (one plot) is £70 per year ending 30th September.

A Waiting List is now available - first come - first listed

At the time of writing this for Contact at least 1 x ½ plot and 1 x full plot (which can be divided into 2 x ½ plots) are available - I also have one person wanting to share a half plot! So don't miss this opportunity.

Jane R Hughes (Local Agent) 01223 263355 jane@meadowside.com

Parish Council Report from the Clerk

The Parish Council met on 13 November 2019.

Community Defibrillator

Further to the article last month, The Parish Council is preparing a bid to the Lottery Fund to cover the cost of a defibrillator. The Council needs community support for the project or the grant application is unlikely to be successful; if you think this is a good idea, please email or write to the Clerk at the address below.

Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme

The Parish Council has set up a small working group to look at projects and grant opportunities for Parish Council and the wider community. The working group will bring recommendations to a future Parish Council meeting.

Flood Plan

The Comberton Flood Plan has been updated and is published with the meeting papers for November Parish Council meeting.

Budget 2020/21

The Parish Council is setting its budget for next year in January, if any community groups would like to apply for funding please contact the Clerk for an application form

Highways and other issues

The Parish Council received a complaint from a resident about cyclists using the footpath between Barrons Way and South Street. The Parish Council asks that anyone using the path to be courteous and considerate to pedestrians. The Parish Council will also be contacting CVC about the matter.

Please remember if you see a problem with a street light, road signs, pot holes, flooding, hedges and trees or another highway problem you should report it on the County Council's website Please do not assume someone has already reported it.

http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20081/roads_and_pathways/10/roadworks_and_faults

If you have any issues with missed or lost bins, council tax or benefit issues, or environmental issues such as dog fouling, littering or abandoned vehicles they can be reported on the following link:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/form-type/report-it>

December Parish Council Meeting – Cancelled

The Parish Council has decided not to meet in December 2019 and 2020, unless there is any urgent business that cannot wait until January.

Councillor Vacancies

There are currently three vacancies on the Parish Council. If you are interested in joining please contact the clerk (details below).

Parish Council contact details

Hywel Griffiths (Chairman)	18 Barrons Way	263390
Caroline Abraham	12 Swaynes Lane	263996
Jill Feldman	133 Green End	
Andrew Hollick	73 Swaynes Lane	263089
Janet McCabe	3 Westcroft	263387
Simon Moffat	86 Swaynes Lane	
Jennifer Martin	18 St Thomas Close	
Tim Scott	65 Green End	263838
Lynn Tatnell	89 Barons Way	263460
Chris Westgarth	85 Barton Road	263242

Mrs Gail Stoehr, Clerk to Comberton Parish Council, 30 West Drive, Highfields Caldecote, Cambridge, CB23 7NY
Email parishclerk@comberton.org.uk Tel: 01954 210241

Jeremy Graham (Recreation Ground Co-ordinator) can be contacted on:
rec-coord@comberton.org.uk (Tel: 07778 363619)
for Recreation Ground and Handyman issues.

The Parish Council meets on the second Wednesday in the month (except August) **at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.** If an extra-ordinary meeting is needed this will be advertised on the notice board in South Street. The Planning Committee meets once or twice a month depending on applications received and its meetings are also advertised on the notice board.

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 might be tabled for fuller discussion at the next or a future meeting.



Meridian Primary School

Act of Remembrance



A Memory

A memory of faces pale with fright
As men left their families to fight.

A memory of crashes and billions of sounds
Of gunshots and yelling and bombing so loud.

A memory of soldiers with a country to save, for four
years long had to remain brave.

A memory of groups with hearts so strong
As they fought to protect the place where they belong.

A memory of nurses with hearts so full of love
As they healed the soldiers as gentle as doves.

A memory of children waiting for peace
Hoping their fathers would come home...
At least.

By Eve and Ellie



The Challenge Sponsored by Budgens of Comberton

.....and now for something completely different.

Your task this month is simply to write a story in a maximum of 50 words. The entries will be judged by an eminent panel of soaring intellectuals (my wife and I) and the winner chosen based on a combination of flow, wit, a satisfactory denouement and the price of fish at Billingsgate. What follows is an example dashed off mid cornflakes.

“ I promise Mummy, I won’t go near the lake” said Mollie. ‘Friends’ however helped her forget. ‘Friends’ didn’t mean to push her in, neither could ‘friends’ pull her out. Mollie struggled to reach the flickering light above as three pale figures surrounded her whispering “ A new friend at last. Welcome.”

Entries please to Budgens, The Library or Green End Surgery no later than the 14th January 2020. The prize of £10 generously donated by Budgens is to be spent in store.

Name.....Address.....

November Challenge Solution

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PIG	IRON.NUT.SICK.LATIN.IGNORANT.MAN.SWILL.SKIN.
WOLF	BERRY.HOUND. PACK. SPIDER. WHISTLE. TOOTH. FISH .CUB
HORSE	BRASS. BOX. CHESTNUT.FLY. LAUGH. PLAY. POWER. RADISH
TIGER	BADGE.BEETLE. FISH. FLOWER. LILY. MOTH. PRAWN. SHARK
ELEPHANT	CORD. GRASS. FOLIO. GUN. SHREW. SEAL. EAR. FOOT
DOG	BISCUIT. CART. COLLAR. EARED. END. FIGHT. PADDLE. WHISTLE
RABBIT	FEVER.HOLE.PUNCH.SQUIRREL.SUCKER. HOLE. HUTCH.WARREN
SHEEP	BITER. COTE. DIP. DOG. LOUSE. SHANK. LICE. HOOK
CAT	BIRD. BURGLAR. FISH. FLAP. MINT. WALK. GUT. CALL

The November Winner is April Pennick, Harbour Avenue.

The Plant Stall at 80 West Street

A big thank you to everyone who has generously donated either plants or money to the plant stall outside 80 West Street, which has been there over the spring and summer months for the past 3 years. During this time monetary donations have totalled £1,068 – an amazing figure - and a valuable contribution to the running costs at St Mary's church. It is greatly appreciated.

Mary Jenkins Churchwarden

Comberton Village Hall Lettings Charges

Village and Affiliated Community Group Use

Main Hall

Private (except evening social events)	£15
Affiliated Group (except evening social events)	£12.50
Weekday evening social events (M-T)	£30
Weekend evening social events (F/S/S)	£60
Wedding reception (all day - midnight)	£200
Meeting Room or Community Room	£10
Committee meetings in Meeting or Committee Room	£5

Non-Village and Non-Affiliated Community Group Use

Main Hall

Private (except evening social events)	£25
Non-Affiliated Group (exc evening social events)	£20
Weekday evening social events (M-T)	£40
Weekend evening social events (F/S/S)	£90
Wedding reception (all day - midnight)	£300
Meeting Room or Community Room	£15

Community Commercial and Commercial Letting charge on application to the Lettings Secretary.

Sessions run from 9am-1 pm, 2pm-5:30pm and 6pm-1 0:30pm.

Midnight for Friday/Saturday/Sunday. Premises to be vacated by end of session.

Annual affiliation fee of £10 is due on 1st January.

Community Group Use means local groups operating on a non-commercial basis.

Groups working with children or vulnerable adults will need to have Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult policies in place

Booking should be made with the Lettings Secretary Esther Chambers at combertonvillagehall@gmail.com or 07879 818080 between 9:00am and 9:00pm.