

# COMBERTON CONTACT

## FEBRUARY 2020

### Comberton WI Annual Pancake Race

A photograph of a pancake race in progress. Several young children are running across a paved area, each carrying a small pancake on a plate. They are wearing winter clothing like coats and trousers. In the background, there are parked cars, including a dark blue car with the license plate 'KAS5 AAZ', and brick houses under a clear blue sky. The scene is bright and sunny, with long shadows cast on the ground.

**Tuesday 18th Feb 10.30am  
at the Village Hall**

# USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

## COMBERTON SURGERY

**58 Green End** 262500 Prescriptions 262399

### Opening times Monday-Friday:

Reception 8.00–12.30 & 1.30–6.30  
Telephone line 8.15–12.30 & 1.30–6.00  
Appointments 8.00–11.30 & 3.30–6.00  
Dispensary 8.00–12.30 & 2.00–6.30  
Dispensary phone 10.30–12.30 & 3.30–6.30

Orders taken from housebound patients only. Dispensary is open Saturday 8.30–10.30 for collection of pre-ordered drugs only.

## EVERSDEN SURGERY

**33 Harlton Road** 262579 Prescriptions 262579

### Opening times:

Mon - Wed & Fri: 8.00–12.30 & 1.30–6.30  
Thursday 8.00–12:30  
The dispensary is closed 12:30 - 2:00 Mon - Wed & Fri.

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**Alms Hill** 01954 719469  
Emergencies 01954 719313

### Opening times Monday to Friday:

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Dispensary 8.30–1.00 & 2.00–6.00

The Great Gransden surgery branch is at midday on Tuesdays, in the Reading Room, Fox Street.

Please book appointment with Receptionist.

### Surgery phones go to Night Service at 6.00 pm

If you need to contact a Doctor in an emergency out of hours please ring 111

**NHS Child & family team:** Sackville House, Sackville Way, Cambourne, 01954 282830

<b>Age Concern</b> Cambridge Information & Advice Line	<b>01354 696677</b>
<b>Apple Tree Dentist</b> 1-3 West Street, Comberton	<b>262838</b>
<b>Ash Croft Veterinary Surgery</b> 169 St Neots Rd, Hardwick	<b>01954 210250</b>
<b>Baptist Church</b> Church Office	<b>264707</b>
<b>Benefits Agency</b> Chesterton Road, Cambridge	<b>545200</b>
<b>Comberton Catholics</b> (Fr John Minh)	<b>832397</b>
<b>Comberton Library</b>	<b>0345 045 5225</b>
<b>Comberton Playgroup</b>	<b>262373</b>
<b>Comberton Village College</b>	<b>262503</b>
Adult Education	<b>264721</b>
<b>Cambridge Water</b>	<b>706050</b>
Emergencies	<b>403000</b>
Sewerage Emergencies	<b>0845 7145145</b>
<b>Environmental Health Services (South Cambs)</b>	<b>03450 450500</b>
<b>Meridian Primary School</b>	<b>262423</b>
<b>Nursery Way Sheltered Housing</b>	<b>264434</b>
<b>Parkside Police Station</b>	<b>01480 456111</b>
<b>Samaritans</b>	<b>364455</b>
<b>Social Services</b>	<b>264466</b>
(emergency out-of-hours)	<b>01733 561370</b>
<b>St Mary's Church (Vicar David Newton)</b>	<b>665654</b>
<b>Street Light Failure reporting helpline</b>	<b>01954 233330</b>
<b>Village Help Scheme</b> (Chairman Janet McCabe),	<b>263387</b>
See panel on page 23 for transport bookings	
<b>Wood Green Animal Shelter</b>	<b>01480 830014</b>
Stray dogs (South Cambs DC)	<b>443000</b>

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## Regular dates for your diary

Day	Time	What	Where
Mon	09:30-13:30	Fun for 1's & 2's	Playgroup
Mon	09:45	Comberton Walkers	BC
1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon	19:00	Carpet Bowls	VH
3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	19:30	Wine Makers	VH
Tue	10:30-12:00	Village Cafe & Crafts	VH
Tue	13:30-16:00	Fabric & Yarns	BC
Tue	18:30-20:00	Keep Fit	CVC
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tue	19:45	Women's Institute	VH
4 <sup>th</sup> Tue	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	19:00-21:30	Army Cadets	CVC
Wed	20:00-22:00	Shuttles Badminton	CVC
Wed (term)	14:00-15:30	Bumps & Babies	BC
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed	19:30	Parish Council	VH
Thu	09:30-11:30	Fun for 1's & 2's	Playgroup
Thu	09:30-13:15	Tumble Tots	VH
Thu (term)	16:00-18:00	EDGE Youth Club	BC
2 <sup>nd</sup> Thu	14:30	Friendship Club	VH
4 <sup>th</sup> Thu	14:30	Oasis Teas (55+)	VH
Fri	18:00-21:00	TaeKwon Do	MS
3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	19:00	Bingo Party	VH
Sat	10:00-11:00	Park Tennis	Park
Sat	09:00-12:30	Junior Squash	CVC
4 <sup>th</sup> Sat	09:00-10:00	Selah	VH
Sun	15:00-18:40	Adult Squash	CVC

VH = Village Hall

CVC = Comberton Village College

BC = Baptist Church

MS = Meridian School



# Upcoming Events

<b>February</b>		
17 7:30pm	Comberton Winemakers Tasting	Comberton Village Hall
18 10:30am	WI Pancake Race	Comberton Village Hall
21 2:30pm	Dinosaur Craft Event	Comberton Library
26 7pm	Games Night	Comberton Village Hall
27 2:30pm	Oasis Tea	Comberton Village Hall
29 7:30pm	FOSM Vox Cantab Concert	St Mary's Church
29 6.45pm	Bowls Club Quiz Evening	Comberton Village Hall

## Advertising rates for Comberton Contact

	<b>Size (w x h)</b>	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Single Edition</b>
<b>Whole page</b>	122mm x 183mm	£400	£44
<b>3/5 page</b>	122mm x 109mm	£240	£27
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<b>1/5 page</b>	122mm x 35mm	£80	£9
<b>1/5 page</b>	60mm x 72mm	£80	£9
<b>1/10 page</b>	60mm x 35mm	£50	£6

## Comberton Contact Team

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 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 300 dpi. Please send any submissions for the March 2020 magazine by 14th February 2020. Submissions will only be acknowledged if requested and this may take up to a week.



## From the Editor

I very much enjoyed my first Christmas in Comberton. We had a houseful of family staying with us at 50 South Street, who sung along heartily at the Carol Service and helped us tidy the garden for the winter.

For Christmas lunch we had a delicious turkey from the local butcher and on New Years' Eve we joined the celebrations and friendly welcome at the Three Horseshoes as well as a kind invitation from our neighbours.

Living in a village is a great privilege and our local institutions deserve our support - why not try out a local business and join a local club in 2020 and help ensure that Comberton can continue to offer a wide range of facilities and activities throughout the new decade.

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	01954 210241
	30 West Drive, CB23 7NY	
District Councillors	Ian Sollom	07722 065475
	Cllr.Sollom@scambs.gov.uk	
	Philip Allen	07963 526137
	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](http://www.combertonchurch.co.uk)

Find us on Facebook: St Mary's Church, Comberton

## Vicar

Revd David Newton, 92 Swaynes Lane, Comberton, CB23 7EF  
01223 665654, 07736 944396, [davidnewton@lordsbridge.org](mailto:davidnewton@lordsbridge.org)

## Churchwardens

Chris Westgarth, 263242, [chris.westgarth1@btinternet.com](mailto:chris.westgarth1@btinternet.com)  
Mary Jenkins, 80 West Street, 263751, [maryjenkins18@gmail.com](mailto:maryjenkins18@gmail.com)

## Services and Events in February

(at St Mary's Church, Comberton unless otherwise noted)

Sunday 2 February	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 9 February	8.00 am 9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion
Sunday 16 February	9.30 am	Morning Worship
Saturday 22 February	9.00 am	Selah (Village Hall)
Sunday 23 February	8.00 am 9.30 am 7.30 pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion Sacred Space at Dry Drayton Church
Ash Wednesday 26 Feb.	7.30 pm	Holy Communion with Ashing
Thursday 27 February	2.30 pm	Oasis Teas (in the Village Hall)
Saturday 29 February	7.30 pm	Friends of St Mary's Concert with Vox Cantab

**We say a short service of Morning Prayer every Tuesday at 9.30 am  
– all welcome.**



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# Something to Celebrate

As I write this, Radio 4 are doing a little series (the 1.45pm slot) on early environmental activists. One of them was on Wangari Maathai, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004. She was a Kenyan, who won a scholarship to the States and then came back as a lecturer in Veterinary medicine.

In the 70s she began a tree planting movement, simply to help those from where she came from who were beginning to be short of fire wood, building material and food – largely due to the massive increase in cash crops (tea and coffee).

She spent much of her life campaigning for tree planting – which of course has now become all the rage. Apparently, Pakistan planted 1 billion last year!

Poignantly and perhaps depressingly she said the 'death of our environment is also our death'. She was all about re-connecting our place in the natural world. We cannot think of ourselves apart from the good earth.

And so more positively, she also suggested something celebratory. What if every person on the planet planted a tree to 'celebrate' our life and our interdependence on the life around us, she said. And in Kenya millions of trees were planted.

If as individuals, communities, nations and a global village, we have any hope of meeting the demands of global warming, we are going to have to learn to celebrate our environment. Just thinking about the environment under threat is going to wear us out pretty thin, pretty fast.

But if instead we begin to celebrate the world we inhabit, then maybe (just maybe) we'll begin to foster the kind of attitudes and habits which might make us able to meet the long term challenges to come.

And planting trees is a pretty good way to start. Trees have always been a symbol of life. The tree of life in the myth of the Garden of Eden. The tree that's for the healing of the leaves of the nations at the very end of the Bible. And the tree in the middle of the story, a sign of death being overcome by new life. 'Plant a tree' – celebrate life.

Rev. David Newton

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*Pressing Pause  
On the Noise of Life*

*Selah*

**RETURNS FOR 2020**

*Movement and Meditation*

**New Dates**

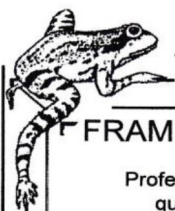
25<sup>th</sup> Jan  
22<sup>nd</sup> Feb  
28<sup>th</sup> March  
25<sup>th</sup> April  
23<sup>rd</sup> May  
27<sup>th</sup> June

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# Parish Council Report from the Clerk

The Parish Council met on 8 January 2020.

## Asset Repairs

The Parish Council has conducted the assets review and is arranging repairs for assets. Some works will be conducted by the Community Payback team.

## Housing Needs Survey

Mark Deas from Cambridgeshire ACRE attended the meeting to suggest that the Parish Council consider a Housing Needs Survey. The Council did not agree to support this.

## Budget 2020/21

The PC approved its budget for FY2021. The level of precept has been kept the same at £59,400. A copy of the budget is available on the website.

The following have been included in the budget for next year: Hillfield Road bollards £500, Operation London Bridge £100, Comberton swimming pool £2000, and safety surfacing £2500 (seed funding for a project estimated to cost £15k-£20k). It is hoped the balance will be covered by an external grant.

## Levelling of pitches

At its next meeting, the Council will be considering a request from Comberton United for a grant of £3790 towards levelling of the football pitch.

## Highways and other issues

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](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>

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## **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](mailto:parishclerk@comberton.org.uk)

Tel: 01954 210241

Jeremy Graham (Recreation Ground Coordinator) can be contacted on: [rec-coord@comberton.org.uk](mailto: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.



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# Comberton Village Hall Trustees



## Games Night



Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Comberton Village Hall

7-10pm

Bring a game you like to play or come and  
discover something new!

### **Comberton Winemakers**

We are a friendly group with an age range spanning from 30 to 80+ years old and the aim of encouraging the appreciation and enjoyment of winemaking. On Monday, 17th February we are looking forward to a Commercial Wine Tasting lead by our Chairman Alan Armstrong. Do come and join us in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm and learn more about our activities and social events.

Pat Gifford, Secretary.

([kenpat.gifford@btinternet.com](mailto:kenpat.gifford@btinternet.com))



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# A big thank you...

The community Christmas lights event on Friday 6th December was a good event and even the heavy rain failed to dampen our spirits. The Parish Council would like to thank the following people for the part they played in making the event a success; Clare and Stuart Tunstall and HIM maintenance for sponsoring the lights at the pond, Anita and Jim Turnbull for the additional lights at the pond, Hilary and Rachel from the playgroup for the use of the facilities and the electricity for the lights around the school. In addition, thanks to Jane and David Hughes, Chris Westgarth, Hywel Griffiths, Andrew Hollick and Brian McCabe for preparing and serving the refreshments...

The night was VERY wet, and for the first time in nearly 20 years we were forced to come inside!

However, the lights still twinkled, the Salvation Army band played our favourites, we sang heartily, we enjoyed the festive punch, mince pies, biscuits and chestnuts.

Thanks to your generous support the bucket collection for the work of the Salvation Army raised £150. Thank you Comberton!

## Comberton Players' Pantomime

The Pantomime 'Treasure Island' held in the Village Hall 13th – 15th December was a great success. Expertly written and directed by Rachel Nielsen with a dedicated cast of 35 including 14 adults and 21 young people and supported by a large, talented Production Team.

The cast portrayed their characters with skill. Treasure Island played to full houses at four performances.

The production contained three pieces of original music which were composed specifically for the show by members of our village.

This was the fifth pantomime written and directed by Rachel. Such is the reputation that the Players have established over the years tickets were quickly sold out without the need for much publicity.

Treasure Island was reviewed by NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic Association) giving it a very complimentary report.

Well done Comberton Players.

Malcolm Wright

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# Meridian Primary School

*Learning for life – striving for excellence*

Greetings Neighbours,

We hope you have all had a great start to the new decade 2020!

We have had a lovely start to the term, and you may have seen some of our year 6's around the village undertaking their bikeability programme for riding safely on the roads.

We are all looking forward to our STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) week which will be taking place the week of 27th January. This will have a particular emphasis on science and design and technology (DT) this year. We have organised for every class to have a STEM workshop led by a county lead STEM ambassador and two KS2 classes will also visit the science centre during the week. Spring is also the term that we have Mad Science, a science club organisation who come to lead different investigations with the children after school.

We encourage our parent body to come in to share their science or technology expertise to further enrich the children's knowledge and understanding. Please let us know if you are interested in sharing your science based background with our children for a short session.

Last term, we had a very successful early morning running club and we were delighted that the recent running club workshop for parent and volunteers for all the neighbouring schools was so well attended. We look forward to seeing this club up and running again this term.

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](mailto:office@meridian.cambs.sch.uk) or our chair of governors on [chair@meridian.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:chair@meridian.cambs.sch.uk).

Kind Regards,

Mrs C. Etchie Headteacher

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## **Village Help Scheme**

### **Volunteer Drivers Schedule**

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

27 <sup>th</sup> January	Joan Wells	01223 262746
3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Joan Wells	01223 262746
10 <sup>th</sup> February	Gill Redman	01223 262246
17 <sup>th</sup> February	Gill Redman	01223 262246
24 <sup>th</sup> February	Margaret Storey	01223 262748
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Margaret Storey	01223 262748

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

For more information please contact Mrs Gill Redman on 01223 262246.

## **Comberton Bowls Club**

### **QUIZ EVENING**

**SATURDAY 29th February**

**COMBERTON VILLAGE HALL**

**6.45pm for 7pm start**

**Teams of up to 8 players**

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# Comberton Allotments & Gardens Association

## DATES FOR YOUR 2020 DIARY

Our events commence with the Plant Sale in May where we hope to sell lots of fine plants for you to nurture and perhaps exhibit the results in the Autumn Show.

**Spring Plant Sale** – Saturday 16th May 10:00 am - Playschool

**Summer Barbecue** – Saturday 11th July 6:00 pm – Long Road Allotments

**Autumn Show** – Saturday 12th September - Meridian School

**Annual General Meeting** – Wednesday 25th November 7:30 pm – Village Hall

**Best Kept Allotment** – This year the trophy will be awarded to the Best Kept Allotment on the South Street Site.

Robin Worship; CAGA Secretary ([robin.worship7@gmail.com](mailto:robin.worship7@gmail.com))



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\*£15 joining fee

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**Pay and Play Gym** £6.50/£5 Concession

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# **Comberton Women's Institute**

Here we are in a new decade in which we will be celebrating our 80th anniversary as a WI, in October. Surely something to mark .

We ended 2019 on a lively note with a really good Christmas party which was very traditional with games, carols, Secret Santa and good food and drink supplied by members.

Our most recent meeting was really most interesting and enlightening with an illustrated talk from a representative from the East Anglian Air Ambulance. It really made us aware of the extent of the work that they do, covering the whole of East Anglia. They are supported solely by donations and do not receive government funding though they work in close alliance with the NHS. Their work has grown tremendously and they are now in their twentieth year and growing all the time. Members were keen to show their support for such a worth while organisation.

Next month we will be once again holding the Pancake Race in the February half term on Tuesday 18th and hope to see children and parents at this annual event which has become quite a tradition in the village. It goes ahead rain or shine. Do come along and enjoy the fun.

## **Comberton Ramblers**

If you are making a new resolution for 2020 why not join a walking club that will put you together with like-minded people.

The benefits from walking is a good way to get fit. It strengthens the heart and improves circulation by raising the heart rate to a safe level. Walking also gives people the opportunity to spend time in the fresh air and enjoy exploring the countryside.

Comberton Ramblers walk alternative Sundays between 5-7 miles.

New walkers are very welcome to join us with 2 free walks, and if you enjoy our walks we request that you become a member. Annual membership fee is £8.50 per person.

Our full walks programme can be viewed with photos at <https://www.combertonramblers.org.uk>

For further information please contact Stella the Secretary via email [stella.ramblers@hotmail.com](mailto:stella.ramblers@hotmail.com) or telephone 01954 210049.

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# Comberton Library

## Opening Hours

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

More details can be found on the Library Service website at:

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

The new 'What's On in Cambridgeshire Libraries', covering the months January to March, is now available in the library.

The booklet contains a wealth of information about what is happening in our libraries, including Comberton, over the next few months. Do pick up a copy when you are next visiting the library.

During half-term week, on **Friday 21st February**, we will be holding a **Drop-in Dinosaur Craft Event for families**. This will take place between **2.30 - 4.00 pm**, during our normal opening hours. There will be a small charge of £1 per child to help cover our costs. We hope that this will be a fun activity for both dinosaur and crafting fans! There will also be a range of dinosaur books available to borrow, so bring your library card along with you too.

Did you know that we have a number of informative and interesting leaflets available on health related matters; the most recently received concern maintaining a healthy weight. Please do browse what is available when you are next in the library and help yourself to any of interest. We also have a good range of health related books available to borrow, and if we don't have the one you are looking for on our shelves, we can usually reserve a copy from another library.

Our upcoming **Rhymetime** sessions are on **10th & 24th February** and **9th and 23rd March**, from 10.30 – 11.00 am. Although these sessions are aimed at very young children we welcome older siblings and pre-schoolers who enjoy singing too! It is lots of fun for both children and adults, so, if you have not been before, do come along and give it a try.

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



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Cambourne&district u3a is now well into its second year of existence with a membership of over 130. We have a monthly meet and greet with a speaker, various interest groups and we organise trips to places of interest. For more information on the above and how to join please go on our website [u3a.cambourne.org](http://u3a.cambourne.org)

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# Bumps and Babes

Baby & Toddler Group | Wednesday | 2-3.30pm | Comberton Baptist Church

## Comberton Speed Reduction Update

The Parish Council have supported an application to Cambridgeshire County Council's Local Highways Initiative. This fund offers up to £15,000 towards local projects – which is a £5,000 increase from previous years. Here we provide a brief update of the plans, which have been modified in line with recommendations from a highway engineer.

The current proposal is for the speed limit on most of the roads in Comberton to drop to 20 mph, including all side streets, and the B1049 West of Hines Lane. To encourage lower speeds, the smallest design of speed bumps would be installed on parts of the B1049. Long Road and the B1049 to the East of Hines Lane are not included in this proposal, so remain at 30 mph (the advisory 20 mph Meridian school flashing signs will remain in position). We have explored several options for including all roads in this plan, but at present the costs of implementing this are too high.

If you would like to offer feedback on these plans, please go to our survey at: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/1AREW/>

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# The Challenge

## SPONSORED BY BUDGENS OF COMBERTON

### XXXX1X ( or thirty by nine )

Your task this month is simply to list 30 words which end in 'ix' ( Netflix for example. Not now acceptable). For the record I have assembled a list of 54 qualifying words so I hope that you will agree that 30 is not too high a target.

Entries please to Budgens, The Library or Green End Surgery no later than 14th February. Remember to include your name and address. The prize of £10 generously donated by Budgens is to be spent in store.

### DECEMBER Entries and winner

As there were only four entries I have decided to publish the winning entry plus the three runners up. Following hours of deliberation the newly formed Contact Literary Committee finally detected white smoke and chose **Penny Coe's** effort as the winner:

*Few spectators, not a sound; the silence is deafening. The combatants are in the ring, no bell for the first round. They come together and clash. No knock-out blow, no applause but a spectacular show, short , artistic, balletic.. A boxing match like no other. Two beautiful hares.*

#### **The Genie in the Lamp (Paula Hollick)**

*The Genie asked Hazel what three wishes she would like. Hazel replied "None.. I'm fine. " "But surely." " No, 'Im fine". Hazel asked the Genie what three wishes he would like. He also replied " None... I'm fine. " It was a match made in heaven, to live happily ever after.*

#### **My story (Lynne Crompton)**

*Unintentionally I bought a bear. It was standing,. moth-eaten , glassy eyed and huge in the closing junk shop window. He would soon be homeless , so I took him home. My wife, predictably said " It's either him or . " He now stands , 'bearly' there , in the hall.....She relented.*

#### **The Season (Andrew Hollick)**

*"Tis the season of good will to all people. The round robin is mailing all those Christmas letters. Unfortunately the vicar has lost his church, the earth may be getting warmer, Arctic ice is melting and elephants still do not like Penguins because they can't get the wrappers off !"*

**Thank you all for making the effort. A Happy New Year to everyone.**

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## FOSM— Friends of St Mary's Church

I thought that some of you might be interested on how our fund raising activities are progressing.

- In 2018 we were able to contribute £14,000 towards the Church repairs that were identified as serious in latest five year survey carried out for the Parochial Church Council (PCC). In addition we gave the PCC £4,000 for the second payment of a loan taken on by the PCC as a result of the second theft of lead from the Church roof.
- In 2019 we covered the third instalment of £4,000 of the loan repayment.

In 2020 we expect to cover the final instalment of £4,000 for the lead roof replacement loan and further hope to contribute to the planned improvements to the car park for disabled people and others. Obviously we cannot do this without your support. May I encourage you to come to any activities in 2020 that FOSM promotes - so that the fabric of St. Mary's Church and its surroundings can be sustained for the benefit of our community.

**Your next opportunity to do so, and enjoy a short concert from a chamber choir consisting of current and former choral scholars of the University of Cambridge—Vox Cantab—is this month, on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February from 7:30 p.m. at the Church.**

Further details of past and future events - with gift aid and standing order forms can be seen at our website [www.friends-of-st-marys.org.uk](http://www.friends-of-st-marys.org.uk)

Richard Elleray  
Treasurer of the Friends of St Mary's Church Trust

### Comberton Bridge Club

Following the recent death of one of our members the club is in urgent need of at least one new player. If you can help, or know anyone else who would be able to, please let Sylvia Robertson know on 01223 263474.

We play a friendly name of Rubber Bridge on Wednesday afternoons in the Village Hall.

If we are unsuccessful in recruiting new members the club will almost certainly close which would be a great shame having been in existence for almost 20 years.

Sylvia Robertson



# CAM Dance

## Funky Footsteps class 2.30-3.00pm

FRIDAYS AT COMBERTON VILLAGE HALL

Fun movement to music class for children from walking to 4yrs using familiar songs from Disney movies, CBeebies and nursery rhymes. Parents can join in or just relax and have fun watching your little one dance around.

To register or for our full Time Table please visit [cam-dance.com](http://cam-dance.com) or

Contact Chrissie at [cmoore7@sky.com](mailto:cmoore7@sky.com) or 07929721020 AISTD

## ChaSamba Adult Fitness Classes

Tuesday Barton Village Hall, 9.15am-10.15am

Wednesday Bourn Village  
Hall, 7pm - 8pm



*Chasamba Fitness is a partner-free Dance Fitness class using popular Ballroom and Latin American dances.*

*This class is for all ages, fitness levels and ability. So come and join in and have fun learning the Cha Cha Cha, Samba, Salsa, Quickstep and more.*

To register please go to my website [cam-dance.com](http://cam-dance.com) or email me [cmoore7@sky.com](mailto:cmoore7@sky.com) or call on 079297210

## Guide Dogs for the Blind Association

Volunteer to become a My Guide volunteer in the Cambridge and surrounding area for Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

As a My Guide Volunteer, you will be matched with a blind or partially sighted person living in your local area. You will support them to get out and about a few hours each week/fortnight to do the things that they want to do, which could range from walking into town, using public transport or support with free running their guide dog.



We are particularly looking for volunteers to help support people with a sight loss to attend the local swimming facilities in Cambridge once a week and/or get out about around the City centre walking to help increase their fitness.

**You could make a real difference to someone today.**

No previous experience required and nationally recognised sight guided training will be provided, along with safeguarding. You will also be supported with a dedicated role manager and be part of a wider team.

To find out more, please call 0345 143 0233 or email [guidedogs@peterborough.org.uk](mailto:guidedogs@peterborough.org.uk)

## Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

I look upon December to February as the 'doldrums' of the year activity-wise – but that cannot be said where CFRS are concerned. All times of the year present challenges to The Service, and winter brings with it heightened risks to our community and to those passing through. Prevention is better than cure, a maxim more appreciated within the emergency services than most, where road traffic accidents are concerned.

Whatever steps the Department of Transport and our local authorities initiate RTA's continue to challenge CFRS. It's no picnic turning out on a cold wet winter's night to deal with situations where life is at risk. So, what might we do to help ?

One idea is to install onto your mobile phone the 'what3words' app. Should you be involved in or witness an RTA this ultra accurate positioning will route all emergency services directly to the scene.

Also, ensure that vehicles are regularly and fully maintained and serviced, tyre condition is good and pressures are correct – check these weekly. Try not to undertake unnecessary journeys and let others know your plans.

Home safety, so often taken for granted, should be constantly thought about. Not just security day and night but safety, particularly in the kitchen where most domestic fires originate. It's not 'rocket science' ensuring that clothes, tea towels etc are kept well away from naked flames, or even searingly hot electric cooking surfaces.

Keep testing all smoke and CO monitors! Michael White





## COMBERTON CRUSADERS FOOTBALL CLUB

# We're recruiting players for our U9 & U11 GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAMS WE TRAIN EVERY WEDNESDAY

5:45pm to 6:45pm

Comberton Village College *(Astro pitch)*

*If you'd like to play football for a family style club this season, then please  
get in touch as we'd love to hear from you*

Just turn up or contact Barbie Calvert, FA Licenced Coach &  
Girls Team Secretary on

07929 592156 or email [barbiecalvertfc@yahoo.com](mailto:barbiecalvertfc@yahoo.com) for more info

Follow us on [facebook](#) @combertoncrusadersfc



We're also looking for coaches! The role is voluntary, but we'll fund you through the Level 1 coaching qualification

Coaches are referenced and DBS checked

**\*\* Funded by the FA's 'Grow the Game' grant \*\***

# Caring for our Church Yard

Our church yard remains a very important part of our village, where we can come and remember our loved ones. The beginning of a New Year seemed to be a good time to gently remind everyone of what is and isn't permitted on or around a grave, so that the whole church yard continues to be a sacred and safe space for everyone. These rules and regulations are not made by the vicar or the Parochial Church Council but by the diocese and reflect national guidelines.

## **What's permitted around graves**

No trees or shrubs may be planted without 'a faculty' (a special license from the diocese) however, bulbs are very welcome. We recognise that in the past many things have been planted on graves and that such plants may be greatly treasured. We are therefore not asking these to be removed, but we ask that no new shrubs or trees be planted.

No artificial flowers are allowed, except Remembrance Day poppies and Christmas Wreaths, and these are to be removed within 2 months. Cut flowers are welcome but should be removed when withered. There are currently a number of wreaths and withered flowers on graves and if these are not removed in a timely manner then they will be taken away at the beginning of April by the PCC.

No lighting is permitted on or around a grave, however toys or similar objects are permitted where appropriate, for up to 12 months following a burial, with the permission of the vicar.

Please also note that nothing should be fixed to the churchyard wall, to ensure its ongoing integrity.

## **A word on glass**

For the sake of those who mow, please do not put anything in glass. The worry is that if a glass vase is broken, there will be shards of glass amongst the grass, posing a risk to anyone tending the grave of a loved one, or those who look after the churchyard. Please replace all glass vases with sturdy plastic ones (elegant transparent vases are available from retailers).

## **Sunken graves**

We have noticed that a number of graves have sunk over time. The PCC will be working with the grave diggers to prevent the same problem happening in the future. If you tend a grave that has sunk, you are welcome to add earth to it from the large pile at the far end of the graveyard.

## Beautiful Burial Grounds

Finally, we are hoping to connect with a national project called 'beautiful burial grounds' run by *Caring for God's Acre*. The project aims to make burial grounds as beautiful, accessible and biodiverse as possible... if you would be interested in getting involved please do get in touch ([davidnewton@lordsbridge.org](mailto:davidnewton@lordsbridge.org)).

Many thanks to everyone for their care of this special place and we hope that by working together the graveyard will continue to be a much-loved space for generations to come.

Rev David Newton and St Mary's Parochial Church Council



**Of Love & Celebration**  
*A family concert of classics through the ages.*

**Saturday 29th February, 7.30pm**  
**St Mary's, Comberton**

**Vox Cantab**  
Director Louisa Denby

**Admission by free ticket from tickets @ [voxcontab.net](http://voxcontab.net) ([www.voxcontab.net](http://www.voxcontab.net))  
or Brian McCabe (01223 263387)**

Vox Cantab is an acclaimed group of singers with a wide repertoire of classical and popular songs. They will be singing a variety of classics sacred and secular, serious and light, from (mostly) English composers through the ages.

**There will be a collection to support the fabric of St Mary's  
– please give generously -**

Do come - the evening promises to be an absolute delight.





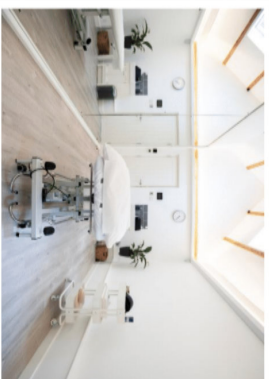
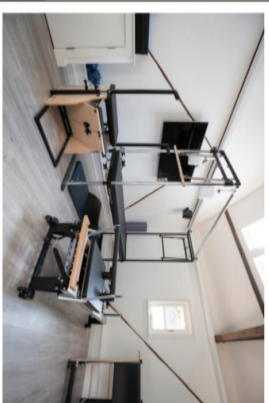
## The Form Practice

[www.theformpractice.com](http://www.theformpractice.com)  
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- ❖ Health Talks





# ADULT EDUCATION ART COURSES AT WYSING ARTS CENTRE

Join us for a series of adult art courses at Wysing Arts Centre, in Bourn, led by our studio artists. For full details of the courses and information about the artists leading them, please visit our website or call 01954 718881

<http://www.wysingartscentre.org/opportunities/courses>



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**ARTS COUNCIL  
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Camera-less Photography  
14 & 28 March  
Two part workshop with  
Emanuela Cusin

Suminagashi (Japanese  
Paper Marbling)  
24 Feb, 9 Mar or 23 Mar  
3 hour introductory  
workshop with Robert Foster

Ways of Seeing  
4 March to 1 April  
6 week evening course on  
life drawing with Soheila  
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The Surprise of Drawing  
24 Feb to 30 March  
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