

COMBERTON CONTACT FEBRUARY 2024

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Age Concern Cambridge Information & Advice Line	01354 696677
Apple Tree Dentist 1-3 West Street, Comberton	262838
Ash Croft Veterinary Surgery 169 St Neots Rd, Hardwick	01954 210250
Baptist Church Church Office	264707
Benefits Agency Chesterton Road, Cambridge	545200
Comberton Catholics (Fr John Minh)	832397
Comberton Library	0345 045 5225
Comberton Playgroup	262373
Comberton Village College	262503
Adult Education	264721
Cambridge Water Emergencies	01223 706050
Anglia Water Sewerage Emergencies	03457 145 145
Environmental Health Services (South Cambs)	03450 450500
Meridian Primary School	262423
Nursery Way Sheltered Housing	264434
Parkside Police Station	01480 456111
Samaritans	364455
Social Services	264466
(emergency out-of-hours)	01733 561370
St Mary's Church (Vicar David Newton)	665654
Street Light Failure reporting helpline	01954 233330
Village Help Scheme (Chairman Barbara Mitton), See panel on page 7 for transport bookings	262073
Wood Green Animal Shelter	01480 830014
Stray dogs (South Cambs DC)	443000

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Regular dates for your diary

Day	Time	What	Where
Monday	Morning	Monday Studio	VH
Monday	9.30am - 11am	Messy Play (term time only)	CP
Monday	9.45am - 11am	Comberton Walkers	BC
Monday	6pm - 7pm	Tang Soo Do Junior 6-11	MS
Monday	7pm - 9pm	Tang Soo Do	MS
1 st , 2 nd , 4 th Monday	7pm - 9pm	Carpet Bowls	VH
3 rd Monday	7pm - 9pm	Comberton Winemakers	VH
Tuesday	10.30am - 12 noon	Cafe	VH
Tuesday	1.30pm - 4pm	Fabric and Yarns	BC
2 nd Tuesday	8pm (Except Aug)	Comberton WI	VH
4 th Tuesday	8pm - 9:30pm	Comberton Antiquarian Society	VH
Wednesday	10am - 11:30am	Comberton Baby & Toddler Group	VH
Wednesday	2pm - 3:30pm (term time only)	Bumps & Babes	BC
Wednesday	5.30pm-6.30pm	Pilates Class - book via www.faybpilates.co.uk	MS
Wednesday	6.45pm-7.45pm	U15 Football Club	CVC
Wednesday	7pm - 9pm	Tang Soo Do	MS
Thursday	9.30am - 11am	Messy Play (term time only)	CP
Thursday	5.45pm-6.45pm	U8 Football Club	CVC
2 nd Thursday	2.30pm	Comberton Friendship	VH
4 th Thursday (not Dec & Aug)	2.30pm - 4pm	Oasis Teas	VH
3 rd Friday	7pm (7:30pm start)	Bingo Party	VH

VH = Village Hall CVC = Comberton Village College
 BC = Baptist Church MS = Meridian School
 CP = Comberton Playgroup

Parish Council

Meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

We welcome public attendance and the agendas and minutes can be found at <http://parish-council.comberton.org/decisions/meetings/>

Wheelie Bin Collection Dates

Thursday 1 st February	Blue
Thursday 8 th February	Black
Thursday 15 th February	Blue & Green
Thursday 22 nd February	Black
Thursday 29 th February	Blue
Thursday 7 th March	Black



Advertising Rates

	Size (w x h)	Annual (10 editions)	Single Edition
Whole page	122mm x 183mm	£475	£60
3/5 page	122mm x 109mm	£285	£36
2/5 page	122mm x 72mm	£190	£24
1/5 page	122mm x 35mm	£95	£12
1/5 page	60mm x 72mm	£95	£12
Back page (colour)	122mm x 183mm	One-off only	£90

Comberton Contact Team

Editor and Designer	James Gilbert	07768 421049
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treasurer@combertoncontact.org.uk	38 Westlands	

Distribution	Marian Dymott	01223 263292
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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 magazine by 15th February 2024. Submissions will only be acknowledged if requested and this may take up to a week.

From the Editor

It still feels very much like winter with the recent mix of cold weather and relentless storms rolling in from the Atlantic, bringing too much rain and high winds. However, the days are getting longer, particularly noticeable when the sun shines, and we will soon be heading into spring. Our chickens are enjoying their larger pen, and we hope that the 5ft high fence will stop them becoming a fox buffet.



Thanks to a backlog of content from the Parish Council I had plenty of material for this magazine, and even had to carry a couple of articles over, but I'd like to repeat my appeal for material for the magazine. I would love if some younger people in the village would consider writing an article; the Comberton Contact should reflect the views and interests of everybody living in our village.

James Gilbert 07768 421049 editor@combertoncontact.org.uk

Comberton Village Website

Regular updates are available at www.comberton.org

Local Government Contacts

Parish Council Chair	Jennifer Martin jen.martin@comberton-pc.gov.uk
Parish Council Clerk	Angela Bridges 07735 908030 clerk@comberton-pc.gov.uk Comberton Parish Council, PO Box 300, Royston SG8 1GA
District Councillors	Ariel Cahn 01223 232186 cllr.cahna@scambs.gov.uk Dr Lisa Redrup 07855 324580 cllr.redrupl@scambs.gov.uk
County Councillor	Michael Atkins 07968 264637 michael.atkins@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Village Help Scheme

Volunteer Drivers Schedule

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

For the following weeks:

29 January 2024	Gill Redman	01223 262246
05 February 2024	Joan Wells	01223 262746
12 February 2024	Joan Wells	01223 262746
19 February 2024	Angela Donnelly	01223 263283
26 February 2024	Angela Donnelly	01223 263283
04 March 2024	Barbara Mitton	01223 262073

Please Note

With the closure of the Butchers payments should now be made at the pub.

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

For more information please contact

Mrs Gill Redman on 01223 262246

Mrs Barbara Mitton on 01223 262073



Oasis Tea
22 Feb - 2.30pm

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The Parish Church of St Mary, Comberton



St Mary's Church
Comberton

In the Benefice of The Lordsbridge Team

Wed 14th February

at 12 noon

Holy Communion

at Dry Drayton Church



Wed 14th February

at 7.30pm

Evening Worship

at Toft Church

Activities



Every Wednesday at 11am - **Men's Shed** at Madingley Hall

Thurs 22nd February at 2.30pm - **Oasis Tea** in Comberton Village Hall

Regular Services in St Mary's Church Building



Sun 4th February at 9.30am - **Morning Worship**

Sun 11th February at 8.00am - **BCP Holy Communion**

9.30am - **Holy Communion**

Sun 18th February at 9.30am - **Holy Communion**

Sun 25th February at 8.00am - **BCP Holy Communion**

9.30am - **Holy Communion**

On-line Services



Zoom Church: Sunday at 11am - ID: **8231 1473 640**

Tuesday Morning Prayer on Zoom at 9.30am - ID: **495 061 1016**

Wednesday Compline on Zoom at 8pm - ID: **899 215 191**



Quiet Prayer

Our church building is open daily for quiet prayer.

On-line Giving

We can now accept on-line donations;
more information on our website.



Find us on Facebook:

St Mary's Church, Comberton

For information about Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals,
please contact The Rev'd Chris Westgarth

http://

www.stmaryscomberton.org



Churchwardens:

Michael Edwards, 01223 262748, michael@kentings.co.uk

Teresa Taylor, 07717 001429, ptc.taylor@btinternet.com

Curates: The Rev'd Chris Westgarth
chris.westgarth@btinternet.com

Tel: 07710 661003

The Rev'd Barnabas Leeke
barnabas.leeke@lordsbridge.org

Tel: 07787 800888

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St Mary's - In Vacancy

As reported in last month's Contact, Rev David Newton has now taken up his new post with the Diocese of Ely and that means that St Mary's (together with Toft) is now 'In vacancy' or as it is often referred to as 'Interregnum' (meaning, an interval or pause between two periods of office or other things). During this period, the church will be operating as usual and information about services and other activities are detailed elsewhere in this publication.

We are blessed at St Mary's to have Rev Chris Westgarth and Rev Barnabas Leeke as our Curates, and retired ordained ministers Rev Steve Clarke and Rev Michael Reiss who are both licensed to lead services in Comberton. As part of the Lordsbridge team of churches we can also call on members of that team for assistance as required.

If you wish to arrange a wedding, funeral or baptism, please contact Rev Chris Westgarth in the first instance. Any other enquiries should be directed to the Church Wardens who assume many of the responsibilities of the Vicar while the parish is in vacancy, supported by the Rural Dean.

All contact details are on the page showing this month's services.

Teresa Taylor & Michael Edwards
St Mary's Church Wardens



Comberton Luncheon Club

23 February 2023—Three Horseshoes, Comberton

22 March 2023—Red Lion, Grantchester

All lunches are at 12:30 pm

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December Challenge Solution

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MY WORD !!!

The eleven letters required to complete the puzzle were:

A	N	S	E	O	D	I	R	Y	L	U
73	26	21	15	12	9	8	7	7	6	6

Listed below as an aid are the number of occasions each of the top 11 letters occurred.

Which with a 'little' juggling gives you **DELUSIONARY**.

The winner is **April Pennick** of Harbour Avenue.

Comberton Antiquarian Society

Our meeting this month will be on Tuesday 27th February 2024 when David Oates will give a talk on:

Chivers Jam Factory at Histon

David Oates father worked for the Chivers Company and became the Company archivist. David inherited this archive and photographs from his father and these form the basis of his presentation. It will be an interesting evening.

The meeting will be at 8pm in Comberton Village Hall.

Guests are most welcome but we would encourage any non members to join the Society.

It is only £10 for an annual subscription.



Fabric & Yarns

Patchwork | Sew | Knit | Crochet | Embroider | Tea | Cake

Tuesday | 1.30-4pm | Comberton Baptist Church Centre

01223 264707 www.c-b-c.org.uk

Chat | Tea | Coffee | Cake | Play | Craft | Songs

Bumps and Babies

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

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Happy New Year 2024!

"A new heart for a New Year, always!" – Charles Dickens

Coming up!

January Book Sale: Saturdays 13th and 27th. Books of all ages!

What is E – resources? Libby, Borrow Box, Ancestry etc. Did you know that these resources are available? Our digital buddies at this event will show us how to access and learn more on **January 22nd** at 11.30 – 12.30. Come along all are welcome!

A Festival of Stories will take place on Monday 26th February, 10.30 -11.00. Rose Feather, a Storytelling an event for up to 8 children from birth-2 years old along with their parents & carers. A celebration of **National Storytelling Week**.

Astronomy Event - Friday 23rd February, 3.00 - 3.45. This is in half term week. An astronomer from the Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge will be coming to Comberton library to give a talk and answer questions on astronomy.

Science week event on Wednesday 13th March, 3.00 - 4.30. Come along and discover what Comberton library is doing in Science week?

Knit and Natter group continue to meet in Comberton Library, 10.30am - 11.30am, January 22nd. February dates: 5th and 19th. March dates: 4th and 18th and then every other Monday. Newcomers are warmly welcome.

Come and sing along, **Rhymetime** 10.30am – 11am for children age between 0-4 years of age. January dates: 15th and 29th. February dates: 12th and 26th. March dates: 11th and 25th.

Every Saturday, **Its Lego Time** with Duplo - come and have fun building! All children accompanied by an adult. It is a free event.

Our opening hours (excluding bank holidays etc.)

Monday	10am – 1pm
Wednesday	10am – 1pm and 2.30pm – 5.30pm
Friday	2.30pm – 5.30pm
Saturday	10am – 1pm

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St Mary's Churchyard and Nature Recovery

Can you Help?

Recent articles in Contact have updated the village community on progress to improve the habitat and increase the biodiversity in the churchyard. It can be seen as part of a network of paths and hedgerows radiating as corridors down to Bourn Brook, to the south, Tit Brook then along hedges to the fields in the centre and north of the village and along footpaths east and west towards Watts Wood and the Meridian Golf course. This network is an example of how natural corridors can provide wildlife habitat. It demonstrates the biodiversity resource in and around Comberton as an essential part of the Green Belt and a buffer against inappropriate development. A key part of the plan is to retain the integrity of the valuable farmland surrounding the village.

The Parish Council has set up a Nature Recovery Group to build on the work in the churchyard. It will explore how to assist nature recovery in and around Comberton to support local and national government initiatives which follow from the government's 2018 policy paper 'A Green Future: Our 25-year Plan to Improve the Environment'. This has led directly to the establishment of plans for a Nature Recovery Network (NRN) which is being rolled out by DEFRA and Natural England. Locally the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is responsible for the scheme. The County Council has established the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) in collaboration with Natural Cambridgeshire and the local District Council. The aim is to develop an evidence-based, locally led collaborative approach.

We will hold an open meeting in the Village Hall at 7:30pm on 22nd February to discuss the proposals. Please do come along if you are able to help, are interested in supporting the project, or if you would simply like to know what we are doing. We would be delighted to share our proposal with you and discuss any interests or concerns you may have

We look forward to hearing from you, at combertonnaturenetwork@outlook.com and seeing you at our meeting on 22nd February.

Comberton Parish Council
Mark Collins, Robert Cook, Francine Hughes and Chris Westgarth
Comberton Nature Recovery Group



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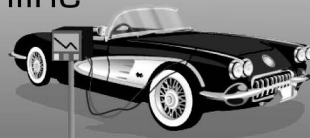


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At the Village Hall



Puccini's Manon Lescaut

**Jonas Kaufmann Kristine Opolais
Christophe Maltman Maurizio Muraro
Benjamin Hulet**

Antonio Pappano conducting the orchestra and chorus of
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February Challenge

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Table scraps.....

The answers to the following clues, all related, are quite inedible but undeniably on the table. They represent only 13.5% of the full 'menu'

1. (4) Naughton's comedy partner..
2. (6) The Lone Ranger's horse'
3. (8) 'Little Silver' in Spain. White gold in Ancient Egypt.
4. (6) Jack Warner was one in Dixon of Dock Green.
5. (4) Angela is the major source. (Anagram)
6. (4) Many wheeled 'horse' in America once.
7. (6) A German miner's demon.
8. (8) The answer is a snug tent.(Anagram).
9. (8) Named after first husband of Clytemnestra.
10. (7) A year here is only 88 Earth days.
11. (7) Rare element found in the Chicxulub crater.
12. (7) Superman's home planet.
13. (7) Daughter of (9) above.
14. (3) The end of Rasputin.
15. (5) Greek stranger ?

NB. The answers to the 'related' (9) and (13) require minor adjustments to line up with the other thirteen.

Entries to store please no later than **14th February**. First all correct entry out of the hat wins a prize generously donated by Costcutter.

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Comberton Community

Celebrating our community

Thank You

On this new page, we would like to thank all those who have helped in our community. There are many volunteers and groups active in Comberton. This space is to highlight the work that they are doing, to give thanks, and to let you know how to be involved.

Beavers

The Beaver Unit attached to 1st Comberton Scout group is currently closed. Although they have a couple of keen parent helpers they are desperately seeking a Beaver leader, someone who would like to run the unit. Full training and support can be given. Further detail from lan.douglas@craftshillscouts.org.uk

Comberton Sign

Thank you to Ted Hoover for the rebuilding of the Village sign. It looks great.

Parish Council Working Groups

The Parish Council is a volunteer group of local residents, also supported by working groups. Residents can join Parish Council working groups without becoming councillors.

- *Nature Recovery*
- *Recreation Ground*
- *Pavillion*
- *Local planning issues*

Thank you to these working groups for all the hard work last year, especially for the Retirement Village opposition work and the Pond Working Group who ensured the pond transformation has been successful.

We need more Parish Councillors and volunteers for the working groups.

David Newton

For over six years, Rvd David has led the Parish work at Saint Mary's and wider Lordsbridge team. He has supported so many aspects of village life, from social schemes, conservation work and supporting community groups such as the Playgroup. David, thank you for all your work for the village. We wish you and your family all the best for the future.

Girlguiding

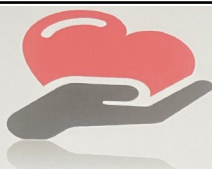
The Girlguiding Group relies on volunteers to give opportunities to girls aged 4-18 years and is looking for help on Monday or Tuesday evenings. You can be involved as little or much as you want and is fun and rewarding.

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Christmas Service

Big Thank You to Reverend Chris Westgarth who organised the village Christmas Service with representatives from different religious groups, businesses, young people, charities and village life. A real celebration of everything that goes in here in Comberton. Thank you also to all those involved for the kind refreshments after the service.

Advent Windows

Thank you to Juliet Kennard, who organised the Christmas Advent Windows in the village

Comberton Crusaders

Our Village football club, Comberton Crusaders, are urgently seeking a Welfare Officer, Committee Members and Volunteers to support the club and its 200 young people that play each week in the village. Please contact clubsecretaryccfc@aol.com if you can help.

Thanks to all those who support the thriving football teams.

Brass Band

Thank you to Reverend Keith Tarring for organising a fantastic brass band (thank you also to the musicians!) and carol service at the Three Horseshoes in Comberton. There was a wonderful atmosphere with over 100 villagers enjoying singing, mince pies and mulled wine.

Village Maintenance

You may have seen Rick, our village maintenance officer, ensuring that repairs are done and verges, hedges and public areas are well looked after. Thank you Rick.

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Comberton Parish Council Bulletin

- February 2024



The Parish Council is committed to improving its communications towards Comberton residents. To this end, we will trial a monthly bulletin in Contact to inform you of our latest focus and decisions.

As part of our drive to improve communications, we have just launched a new Parish Council website:

<https://comberton-pc.gov.uk/>. Please visit it regularly for agendas and minutes of our meetings and updates on our work, as well as contact details.



The Parish Council is in desperate need for more councillors. We have had several vacancies for a while and simply cannot deliver on all our ideas for improvements to the village without more participation. Even if it might be daunting at first, being a Parish Councillor is a very rewarding role and a great opportunity to participate in improving the village. Why not come to one of our meetings to find out more about what we do?

We have been without an appointed clerk for several months. Although we had a partial cover, this has meant slower communications and we apologise for any delay you have experienced. A new clerk has just been recruited so improvements should come soon.



The Parish Council is delighted to support the EDGE Community Youth Club with a grant again this year and thanks them for their great work with young people in the village.



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Parish Council Bulletin (continued)



We are aware of regular issues with flooding in the village. Affected residents can report flood and access information on the County Council website: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/report-a-flood>

In addition, the Parish Council would like to collect information to strengthen their discussions with relevant stakeholders. Please visit our website to report flooding in the village.

We have received a number of complaints from residents about hedges encroaching on pavements. It is crucial that pavements are safe for all pedestrians, including those using pushchairs, mobility scooters, wheelchairs and those with mobility or visual impairments. Thus, we are reminding residents of their responsibility to trim hedges to the property boundary and hoping all will take the opportunity of the winter months to prune their shrubs and trees.



We would like to update you regarding the retirement village planning application under consideration. The applicant is allowed to submit one round of amended documents for their application. When this is received, all consultees, including the Parish Council and the public, will be invited to look at these documents and submit further comments. Following this process, the South Cambridgeshire Planning Committee will review the application.

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Parish Council Bulletin (continued)



A group of residents, which has carried out significant work to increase biodiversity in the Saint Mary's churchyard, has proposed the creation of a Comberton Nature Recovery Network to improve our natural environment and bring more wildlife into the village. The group will establish a network of potential wildlife corridors within and around the village to link significant sites of biodiversity importance, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Parish Council is delighted to support this proposal. The Tree and Environment and the Pond working groups will be reorganised to form the Comberton Nature Recovery Working Group which will be convened by Cllr Chris Westgarth. There will be an open meeting at the Village Hall at 7:30 pm on 22nd February to discuss ideas. Special thanks are given to Robert Cook, Mark Collins, Francine Hughes and Paul Hardy for the work they have already carried out and their new proposal.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership has approved the proposed road works on West Street, Barton Road and adjacent streets to improve road safety. Roadworks have restarted in early January. Letters regarding disruptions will be distributed to those in close proximity to the works. We will attempt to post these letters on our website as well to inform all residents.



Cll Claire Michel, Vice Chair

The Parish Council meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. Residents can attend the full meeting and the first 15 min are reserved for their comments.

Comberton Village Hall Lettings Charges

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Weekday eve.	£40	£50	£20 *	£30 *	£40	£50
Weekend eve.	£70	£85	£20 *	£30 *	£145	£165
	Meeting Room		Meeting Room		Meeting Room	
All sessions	£17.50	£22.50	£17.50	£22.50	£30	£32.50
	Community Room		Community Room		Community Room	
All sessions	£15	£20	£15	£20	£25	£27.50

Unless otherwise stated, charges are per session. Sessions are 9am to 1pm, 2pm to 5:30pm and 6pm to 10:30pm (midnight on Fri/Sat/Sun).

A refundable deposit of £50 is required at the time of booking.

Prices for commercial lettings and weddings are available on request.

*Additional information for groups:

- Affiliated Community groups holding evening group social or fundraising events will be charged the residents evening rates. Non-affiliated groups holding similar events will be charged the non-residents evening rates.
- Groups working with children and/or vulnerable adults will need to have child protection and vulnerable adult policies & procedures in place.
- Annual affiliation fee of £10 is due on 1st January.

More information, including hall availability, can be found at www.combertonvillagehall.org

To make a booking contact the Village Hall Administrator, Janice Sutton at combertonvillagehall@gmail.com or on 07435 324408 (9am to 9pm).

Please note that this is a part-time role carried out around my job. If I am unable to answer your call please leave a message and I will phone you back, or send me an email.

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