

COMBERTON CONTACT JUNE 2024

Meridian Primary School

SUMMER FETE

Saturday 8th June

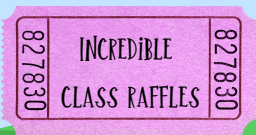
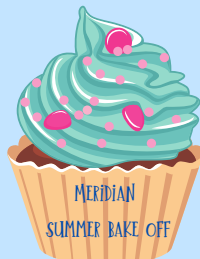
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Age Concern Cambridge Information & Advice Line	01354 696677
Apple Tree Dentist 1-3 West Street, Comberton	262838
Ash Croft Veterinary Surgery 169 St Neots Rd, Hardwick	01954 210250
Baptist Church Church Office	264707
Benefits Agency Chesterton Road, 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
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Meridian Primary School	262423
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Parkside Police Station	01480 456111
Samaritans	364455
Social Services	264466
(emergency out-of-hours)	01733 561370
St Mary's Church (Curate Chris Westgarth)	07710 661003
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 <https://comberton-pc.gov.uk/decisions-meetings/agendas-and-minutes>

Wheelie Bin Collection Dates

Thursday 30 th May	Black
Thursday 6 th June	Blue/Green
Thursday 13 th June	Black
Thursday 20 th June	Blue/Green
Thursday 27 th June	Black
Thursday 4 th July	Blue/Green



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 and Advertising Terry Coad 01223 263264
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 300 dpi. Please send any submissions for the July magazine by 15th June 2024. Submissions will only be acknowledged if requested and this may take up to a week.

From the Editor

The picture on last month's front cover attracted quite a lot of feedback - many people understood the tongue in cheek reference to East West rail which was referenced by a number of articles in the magazine.



The picture showed the aftermath of an accident in October 1895 at Montparnasse station in Paris, where an express train failed to stop and crashed through the buffer stops at the end of the platform, with the locomotive falling into the Place de Rennes below the station. Fortunately there was only one fatality, a lady standing in the street below who was killed by falling masonry.

For information about petitions and other ways you can influence and learn more about the impact East West rail would have on our village and its surroundings please see pages 35 and 37.

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 Jessie Brewer
clerk@comberton-pc.gov.uk
Comberton Parish Council
PO Box 1549
CAMBRIDGE DO
CB1 0ZS

District Councillors Ariel Cahn 01223 232186
cllr.cahna@scambs.gov.uk

Dr Lisa Redrup 07855 324580
cllr.redrup@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:

27 May 2024	Joan Wells	01223 262746
03 June 2024	Joan Wells	01223 262746
10 June 2024	Barbara Mitton	01223 262073
17 June 2024	Barbara Mitton	01223 262073
24 June 2024	Gill Redman	01223 262246
01 July 2024	Gill Redman	01223 262246

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



Comberton Luncheon Club

7 June 2024 - Three Horseshoes, Madingley

28 June 2024 - Toft Golf Course

All lunches are at 12:30 pm

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The Parish Church of St Mary, Comberton

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Saturday 29th June
at 5.00pm in
Ely Cathedral



Priesting of
St Mary's Curate
Rev Barnabas Leeke



Activities

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

Thursday 27th June at 2.30pm - **Oasis Teas** in the Village Hall



Lordsbridge Team Services

Sunday 30th June at 8.30am - **BCP Holy Communion at Toft Church**

10.30am - **Holy Communion at Comberton Church**

Regular Services in St Mary's Church Building



Sun 2nd June at 9.30am - **Holy Communion**

Sun 9th June at 8.00am - **BCP Holy Communion**

9.30am - **Holy Communion**

Sun 16th June at 9.30am - **Morning Worship**

Sun 23rd June 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 usually open from
7.30am-4pm for visits & individual 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

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

http://

 www.stmaryscomberton.org

Churchwardens:

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

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



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Meridian Primary School

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Greetings Neighbours,

Meridian Primary School has enjoyed a fantastic few weeks leading up to the Bank Holiday and Half Term, with some enriching learning experiences taking place off-site.

Years 3 & 4 Performance on Tuesday 26th March

Our Years 3 and 4 children had an outstanding performance on Tuesday 26th March. With the captivating theme of the Minotaur, the children delivered enchanting singing and exceptional acting skills. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the parents for their attendance and support, and to the staff for their invaluable assistance in making this event a resounding success.

Talent Show on Thursday 28th March

On Thursday 28th March, our school hosted an exciting Talent Show, showcasing the diverse talents of children from Years 1 to 6. The event featured impressive performances, including singing, dancing, music instruments playing, and entertaining jokes. Each participant displayed confidence, captivating the audience with their talents. The Talent Show provided a wonderful opportunity for children to shine and express themselves creatively. We are proud of their achievements and hope all children audiences enjoyed the show.

Meridian won in Cambridgeshire Year 5 Maths Challenge 2024 on Wednesday 17th April

A team of four Year 5 children, Tristan, Lewis, Jethro and Stefan, represented Meridian in the Cambridgeshire Year 5 Maths Challenge at Holywell Primary in St Ives on Wednesday 17th April. They battled against teams from seven other schools to solve Maths problems and puzzles. They worked really well as a team and received a certificate for being particularly skilled in the memory round. They won the heat 1 competition and await for completion of all heats to go through to the county final.

Netball B Team Tournament Finals on Thursday 18th April

On Thursday 18th April in the afternoon, our Meridian Netball B Team played in the South Cambridgeshire Schools finals tournament at Northstowe Secondary College. There were 15 local schools playing in the tournament and Meridian came 2nd in the first group stage and so went into pool 2. They then came first in pool 2! That means that overall they came 5th out of the 15 teams. They played brilliantly, showing great skill and motivation. We are very proud of this great achievement.

Bee Netball A Team Shield Final on Wednesday 24th April

On Wednesday 24th April in the afternoon, our Meridian Netball A Team played in the South Cambridgeshire Schools Shield Finals tournament at Comberton Village College. There were 14 local schools playing in the tournament and Meridian came third in the first group stage and so went into pool 3. They then came third in pool 3. That means that overall they came 12th out of the 14 teams.

Kind regards

Mrs Carole Etchie and **Everyone**
Headteacher at **Meridian**

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AIP Approved 12/02/2024



June Challenge

Sponsored by Costcutter of Comberton

VO...WE...LS... In three parts

PART 1 .Simply take each vowel and increase it by adding one letter at a time , creating a recognised word at each stage, until you have a nine letter word. (Example. A, AT, TEA, RATE, LATER, RENTAL, ANTLERS, NEUTRALS and RESULTANT; not now acceptable).

A	E	I	O	U
--	--	--	--	--
---	---	---	---	---
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Part 2. Is to provide five words of any length but each containing all five vowels.

.....

.....

Part 3. Where you are requested to provide five words which contain none of the vowels above. Words must be of at least five letters.

.....

.....

Your target is 55 points. Good hunting. Entries to store please no later than the 14th June. First out of the hat wins the prize of wine and confectionery generously donated by Costcutter of Comberton.

Name/Address.....

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Help urgently needed

I have been helping to lead Barton guides for the last year . We are currently sitting on the train to Edinburgh for a week long camp at Bonaly scout site with 13 girls. This year we have been ice skating, learnt how to do CPR, had a night hike and gone giraffe hunting around Cambridge. This term we are painting rocks and faces ready for the Barton fete on the 15th June. We are also going to do campfire cooking locally.

We are a wonderful group that is 70 years old this year but we will have to close this summer unless we can find helpers to join us.

If you can help please contact me at 1stbartonguides@gmail.com

Ruth Colenso

Comberton Men's Shed

Having spent the first year of my retirement restoring/rebuilding my Jowett truck I started looking for a more social gathering. I had worked in a customer focused roll for a number of years and found I missed the general day to day chat on the door step about the weather, gardens and pot holes!

There was a article in the contact, towards the end of last year, about the UK MANSLED Assoc and the Comberton group. I made contact and now we meet on a Wednesday at 11am drink tea/coffee and generally chat about all sorts. We had a lecture/ discussion on restoring an antique table and although the shed is wood orientated other arts and crafts are embraced, you can do your own projects or muck in on a couple of community projects we have on the go, or just sit in the sunshine and talk.

Although we currently meet at the very picturesque Madingley Hall shed, local lifts freely available, the Comberton shed are currently in the process of securing our own shed in the village.

If you would like to visit the shed to see what it's about or desire more information please contact Mike Allen email: mikemae@hotmail.co.uk or message on 0767621742 and I'll get back to you.

Mike Allen



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The Herringland Charity

How often have you looked at the village sign by the pond and noticed the lady with the herrings?

The exact origins of this charity are obscure, but it would appear to date back from at least the early 18th century, when a field, situated on the east side of the drift that runs to the south from Long Road, was left to the village by a benefactor in his will.

Rental of the northern part of this field was to be applied to the upkeep of the church and of the cobbled causeway leading to it; the Church Land. The rent from the southern part, approximately seven acres, was for the purchase of a barrel of herrings from Lowestoft, to be distributed to 'the settled poor of the Parish' in Lent, according to the size of their families: thus the Herring Land, as commemorated on the village sign.

However, it seems that by 1834, or earlier, when the annual rent of the Herringland was £9, money rather than herrings was given on Good Friday.

Quite recently, it has been agreed with the Charity Commissioners that the money can be used for wider benefits to Comberton, rather than just the needy, and over recent years the charity in addition to supporting individuals and organisations, has amongst other things, donated to the play equipment on the recreation ground, provided three benches, and supported the holiday hamper scheme.

Following the sad death of Dr Tony Hoskins, who had been involved for at least forty years both as committee member and Chairman, there is a vacancy for a Trustee. It is certainly not an onerous job with usually one meeting a year, and occasional decisions on expenditure; please do let me know if you would like some more information.

Peter Mitton
Chairman of the Trustees

peteramitton@gmail.com



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Comberton Antiquarian Society

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 25th June at 8pm in the Village Hall when Nigel Fenner will give a talk entitled

Frank Fenner & Sport in Cambridge from 19th Century

Nigel Fenner, related to Frank, will talk about Francis P. Fenner, who was a local tobacconist and talented cricketer. Frank not only established the local cricket team as one of the best in the country using players from both Town and Gown, but also created Fenner's Cricket Ground, as a multi-sport facility, and a gymnasium in the Market, for both the University, and the Working Men's College.



COMBERTON VILLAGE HALL

ANNUAL VILLAGE TEA 2024

A note for your diary; this year the trustees are reverting to the original format, first started over 90 years ago, of an afternoon tea for the village's more senior residents, to be held on

Friday 19th July 2024

More details will be forthcoming in July's issue of 'Contact'.

The event is sponsored by the Trustees of Comberton Village Hall

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Wednesday 19th June 2024

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Comberton Parish Council

Bulletin - June 2024

Visit the Parish Council website

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



If you would be interested to fill one of the three vacancies we have on the Parish Council, please contact the clerk for information.

We now have a new zebra crossing on Barton Road near Meridian Primary School, delivered as part of the Comberton Greenway. It will improve road safety for all pedestrians



crossing the road in this area. In addition, most gully frames on Barton Road have been replaced as part of the Greenway project.



We have been informed of plans to close Barton Road near Woottens Close 24/7 for 5 days in August (for works unrelated to the Greenways). We are currently investigating the matter, particularly the impact on bus routes. The works have already been moved to the holiday season to decrease the impact, but we are trying our best to further mitigate the disruption.



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Comberton Library

your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Tel: 0345 045 5225

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

There is a lot to explore and enjoy at your local library in June.

Comberton library

Come on over to the library if you're new to Comberton or around the area—membership is free! If you think your library card has expired come along and re-join, it does not cost anything. We look forward to see you! There is also free access to books, ebooks, eAudiobooks, library computers and more.

Coming Up!

Remember, **June is National Crime Readers Month**. Comberton Library has a huge range of crime fiction and also if you want to interact with solving a mystery, come, borrow and solve a crime jigsaw puzzle wise. Also, we are always ready to help you solve your next mystery read.

Library@home is a discussion talk event on **June 5th from 11.15 - 12.15pm**. A free event with refreshments. Lindsay Healy will demonstrate the library service offered.

Great Big Green Week, 8 – 16th June. A national celebration. Comberton library will continue to show a planet friendly display of Summer.

June is **Pride Month**, celebrating LGBTQ+ diversity.

Saturday July 13th – start signing up for the **Summer Reading Challenge**, Marvellous Makers. More details will follow.

Mobile Library will be outside Comberton Library from 10.30am – 1pm on **Monday 15th July**. Come, browse and see what a mobile library looks like.

Green! Big! Outdoor Games! **Friday 26th July**. Outside the library between 3pm – 5pm.

Monday 29th July at 11.00am – 12.30pm CD Clock and Fan making. Free Event.

Marvellous Makers, Creative Arts – **Summer Reading Challenge** free event.

Wednesday 21st August at 10.30am – 12.30pm.

Weekly activities

Knit and Natter group continue to meet in Comberton Library, 10.30am – 11.30am. June dates: 10th and 24th. July dates: 8th and 22nd. Then every other Monday onwards. Newcomers are warmly welcome.

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Come sing along and have fun, **Rhymetime**, 10.30am – 11.00am (except during the school holidays) for children between 0 to 4 years of age. June dates: 3rd and 17th. July dates: 1st and 15th. Also, come and join the **First Steps Library Club**, aged 0 – 4 years.

Every Saturday **It's Lego Time** with Duplo. Come and have fun building and exploring your imagination. All children accompanied by an adult. **It is a free event.**

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

The Comberton Friendship Club

First I want to welcome all our new members that have joined us in the last few months.

We now know all about Rowan (A charity in Cambridge) after a wonderful talk by Rosemary Bloomfield at our May meeting. Our June meeting will be our Strawberry Tea .

There will be a stall for Bring and Buy plus a Raffle (Prizes needed please).

We meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2.30pm in the Village Hall.

For more information please contact:

Rex Webb 263653 or email rexwebb@sky.com

E D G E

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May Challenge Solution

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FIGURE IT OUT...IT DOES ADD UP

The answers could be established by simply adding together the first and then resultant figures i.e. 4444 converts to 16 and 16 converts to 7 by simple addition.

5555 converts to 20 which in turn becomes 2.

9999 converts to 36 which in turn becomes 9.

Apology. All of the above is quite straightforward but was ruined by my special final clue which I entered incorrectly.

The published figure 3764828319 (total 6) should have been 3764828379 which converts to 3. Many thanks to those of you who persisted and entered the correct 7, 2 and 9.

The winner is **Mary Jenkins** of West Street.

Comberton Allotments & Gardens Association

Spring Plant Sale: Once again this event was a great success with stock and visitors both appearing in abundance. Thanks to all those who donated plants to us and purchased plants from the sale, we hope that they all grow on successfully. The profits will help to subsidise the Autumn Show and maybe you will be able to display some of your purchases there.

Our surplus stock was passed on to be sold for St Mary's Church funds.

Our next events are:-

Summer BBQ: Saturday 6th July - 6pm 'till late, held on the Long Road allotment site.

Autumn Show: Saturday 14th September - 3pm in the Meridian School. More details will be in the next issue of Contact.

Best Kept Allotment: Another reminder to plot holders that the competition this year will be judged on the South Street allotment site only and we anticipate this will take place during July.

Robin Worship (CA&GA secretary) robin.worship7@gmail.com

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The Car Park at St Mary's Church Comberton

The car park upgrade by J Cobb and sons, Orwell, started work on 29th April. Recommended by R J Carter Construction Ltd here at Vision Park, they finished in four days. In that time the whole area was 'shaved' level and the larger part laid with planings, heavy rolled and spread with a thick layer of shingle.

The lesser section was managed differently. After levelling, a shallow trench-line was cut around the perimeter close to the gateway into the churchyard, defining the area to become the disability parking zone. Cement poured into the trench received the concrete edging slabs and tarmac was rolled. In the planning stage we considered our options but it came down to this choice for the most long-lasting result. Beauty gave way to a robust finish!

Our Churchwarden Michael is very knowledgeable on shingle-laid car parks! Following the last shingle spread in 2005, he would rake and level the shingle. Raking will be needed this time too. You can help us by thoughtful parking. The shingle will compact quickest if everyone who can do so chooses to park on the 'beach'.

Let me tell you about the fundraising. St Mary's has a special relationship with Jesus College and we applied to their Proby Trust for a grant. They responded most generously. Consequently, Friends of St Mary's were spared most of this bill. Our other dedicated donor for the disability parking upgrade was the Comberton Herringland Charity who donated £1000! These generous grants, combined with several gifts of £1000 or greater, enabled FOSM successfully to push for an early inspection of the lead covering the Nave roof (see May Contact). The total cost of work on car park, gateway, churchyard wall, north path lighting and nave roof amounts to nearly £33,000! Thank you, donors!

Soon the Quinquennial Inspection Report will be available. It will tell us what else needs fixing. We already know of two other areas of rainwater ingress demanding attention.

There will be a Friends of St Mary's stall at the Church Fete on August Bank Holiday Monday. Come and find us.

*David Hughes,
Chairman
Friends of St Mary's*





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Audition Notice

Scrooge The Pantomime!

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Can the mean miserly Scrooge ever be reformed? Will the Ghosts of Division G seal the deal? And what have a pantomime cow and fairies got to do with it all?

Find out more at the auditions for this year's Comberton Players Pantomime.

Comberton Pantomimes get bigger and better every year, and draw together people of all ages from Comberton and the surrounding area to have fun and put on a brilliant Christmas show for the community! If you're interested in being on stage then come along to one of the auditions on the dates listed below (no booking necessary). There are parts big and small and everyone is welcome to audition, regardless of experience. Bring your friends and neighbours and get involved!

Performance Dates 13th – 15th December 2024

Audition Dates

Tuesday 25th June Old Village Hall, Green End, Comberton	6.30pm-7.30pm	Children aged 9 by the date of 1 st performance, up to those in year 8
	8.00pm-9.30pm	Adults and children in year 9 and above by the date of the 1 st performance
Sunday 30th June Old Village Hall, Green End, Comberton	5.00pm-6.00pm	Children aged 9 by the date of 1 st performance, up to those in year 8
	6.30pm-8.00pm	Adults and children in year 9 and above by the date of the 1 st performance

Our usual rehearsal nights are Tuesdays and Wednesdays starting in September, with the occasional Sunday, further details of which will be shared at auditions. The audition will include some acting using the script and some singing and dancing which will be taught on the night. No need to prepare anything!

If you would like to find out more about the auditions and production, or are interested in becoming part of our Production Team, please contact combertonplayers@aol.com

East West Rail

As expected, the meeting held on 22nd May outlined the process for statutory consultation but offered little opportunity for our local voices and opinions to be heard.

Cambridge Approaches and BFARe (Bedford for a Re-consultation on Route E) are joining forces to put pressure on the Government to pause the East West Rail project.

“We do not want the Oxford-Cambridge rail link as described in the East West Rail Company’s Route Update Announcement and subsequent refinements. We call for these plans to be paused and for a full, transparent and independent review.”

There is a petition at <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/661989> but unfortunately due to the election all petitions are being closed on 30th May and you are most likely reading this after the 30th May.

Please consider signing up to receive updates and information from Cambridge Approaches at <https://cambridgeapproaches.org/support-us/>

There is also a petition calling for EWR to reconsider the Northern Approach which does not have a time limit. This is being put forward by Chris Chapman, the conservative candidate for South Cambridgeshire. You can sign up for the petition at

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<https://www.chriscarterchapman.co.uk/east-west-rail-petition>. Please consider doing this, regardless of which party you might support in the general election.

“Crime against the countryside,” says The Countryside Regeneration Trust

A national charity which promotes nature-friendly farming has issued an open letter to East West Rail (EWR), calling its plans to build a railway line in Cambridgeshire “a crime against the countryside.”

The Countryside Regeneration Trust (CRT), which owns 400-acre Lark Rise Farm near the villages of Barton and Comberton, is calling for EWR to change its proposed route through regenerative arable farmland known as Westfield.

The charity has also raised concerns about ecological surveys carried out by EWR on its land.

The CRT is calling on EWR to work with them to protect the specialist habitat at Lark Rise Farm and to rethink its proposal for the southern route through Cambridgeshire.

Conservation Officer Vince Lea said: “We have written an open letter to EWR calling for action.

“The route will be disastrous for the Cambridgeshire countryside. It is the most expensive of the options previously suggested. It has the greatest impact on biodiversity and on residents of south Cambridgeshire.

“EWR will take out a vast area of productive farmland, not just under the footprint of the railway line itself but all the surrounding land used during the construction or converted into 'mitigation' features. We would like to talk to them about the environmental impact and can share the results of our long-term monitoring of the site, with over 20 years of breeding bird surveys, winter bird counts, otter and water vole surveys, butterfly surveys and knowledge of rare arable plants.”

Tim Scott, the tenant farmer at Lark Rise Farm for 30 years, said: “We are in the 24th year of nature recovery at Lark Rise. We have numerous Red List Species, and we are in the top one per cent of our county for these species and most, if not all of these, will be lost because of the railway.

“I question whether this folly is needed at all, but all common sense would suggest the northern route is the more appropriate one.”

The Editor

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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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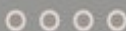
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