COMBERTON CONTACT FEBRUARY 2025



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Opening times Monday to Friday

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Prescriptions can be collected outside of opening hours by signing up to use our Pharmaself machine at Comberton (see website for details) www.combertonandeversdensurgerv.nhs.uk

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Opening times Monday to Friday

Surgery 8:00 - 12:30 & 13:30 - 18:00 Dispensary 8:00 -12:30 & 14:00 - 18:00

Phones at both surgeries go to night service at 18:00

Repeat prescription requests will only be taken over the phone for housebound patients.

BOURN SURGERY 01954 719313 bourn.surgery@nhs.net

01354 696677 Age Concern Cambridge Information & Advice Line 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 Angua Water Sewerage Emergencies 03457 145 145 Environmental Health Services (South Cambs) 03450 450500 **Meridian Primary School** 262423 Nursery Way Sheltered Housing Parkside Police Station 264434 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), 262073 See panel on page 7 for transport bookings **Wood Green Animal Shelter** 01480 830014 Stray dogs (South Cambs DC) 443000

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E D G E

COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB

THURSDAYS. 4PM TO 6PM. COMBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH.

Regular dates for your diary

Day	Time	What	Where
Monday	Morning	Monday Studio	VH
Monday	9.30am - 11am	Messy Play (term time only)	СР
Monday	9.45am - 11am	Comberton Walkers	ВС
Monday	3.40pm - 5.35pm	Children's Street Dance Classes	MS
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
Tuesday	6.45pm - 7.30pm	ChaSamba Adult Fitness	MS
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
BC = Baptist Church
CP = Comberton Playgroup CVC = Comberton Village College MS = Meridian School

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 30th January
Thursday 6th February
Thursday 13th February
Thursday 20th February
Thursday 27th February
Thursday 6th March
Blue
Blue
Black
Blue
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 editor@combertoncontact.org.uk 50 South Street, CB23 7DZ

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 March magazine by 15th February 2025. Submissions will only be acknowledged if requested and this may take up to a week.

From the Editor

I encourage you to sign this petition calling on the government to pause plans for the East West Rail Bedford - Cambridge link pending a full independent review.

It is easy to do, only requiring a name, email address and a postcode. Then all you need to do is to respond to an email confirming it is you.

Thank you to those who have already signed the petition - at time of writing there were 3340 signatures; 10,000 are required to elicit a response from the government, so please encourage your friends and contacts to sign up. They don't need to be local to have a say.

The petition (which has a deadline of 11th June 2025) can be reached via either of the following links:

https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/701546 or https://gr.short.az/r/b5dvie4dgugpc41

To stay up to date with the local plans please sign up as described in the Parish Council bulletin on page 15.

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 January 2025	Barbara Mitton	01223 262073
03 February 2025	Angela Donnelly	01223 263283
10 February 2025	Angela Donnelly	01223 263283
17 February 2025	Joan Wells	01223 262746
24 February 2025	Joan Wells	01223 262746
03 March 2025	Gill Redman	01223 262246

Please Note

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

More drivers are **<u>URGENTLY</u>** 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

28 February - Mohak Café & Indian Curry Experience, Haslingfield 28 March - George & Dragon, Elsworth

All lunches are at 12:30 pm

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Men's Shed at **Madingley** Hall





Wednesday morning at 11am



Activities

Every Wednesday at 11am - Men's Shed at Madingley Hall Thursday 27th Feb at 2.30pm - Oasis Teas in Comberton Village Hall



Regular Services in St Mary's Church Building

Sun 2nd Feb at 9.30am - Holy Communion Sun 9th Feb at 8.00am - BCP Holy Communion

at 9.30am - Holy Communion

Sun 16th Feb at 9.30am - Morning Worship

Sun 23rd Feb 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-3pm for visits & individual prayer.



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

Associate Priest: The Rev'd Chris Westgarth



www.stmaryscomberton.org

chris.westgarthlebtinternet.com

Team Curate: The Rev'd Barnabas Leeke

barnabasleekeelordsbridge.org

Tel: 07710 661003

Churchwardens:

Michael Edwards, 01223 262748, michael@kentings.co.uk Teresa Taylor, 07717 001429, ptc.taylor@btinternet.com

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CONTACT DETAILS

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Comberton Library

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

Tel: 01223 264277

Happy New Year 2025!

Coming Up!

Warm space, **your space** this winter is here again at Comberton Library. Every **Wednesday: 2.30pm** – **5pm.** There will be tea/coffee/cuppa soup and biscuits. A place for you to wait for an activity after school, read/borrow, use WiFi and computer access or a place to keep warm. Donations welcome.

We thank you to the kids who finished their Christmas Treasure Hunt and received certificates; they had a great time.

Comberton library celebrating Chinese New Year of the Snake - Wednesday January 29th.

In the month of **February**, Love is in the air - Look out for Valentine origami love heart book marks and there is also 'Date with a Book.'

Festival of stories – Monday 24^{th} February, 10.30am – 11.30am. Mark Making Fun in the library at Comberton Library. This **event is Free** but you will need to book your place in the library.

"Change and adapt" is the theme for Science Week event, Friday, March 7th at Comberton Library. Families can participate in science activities.

In **April**, there's the Easter Hunt during the Easter Break more information will follow. Additionally, there will be quotations recited and children will have the chance to create and decorate their crowns starting from **April 24**th - **28th**, which is Shakespeare Week.

Weekly activities

Knit and Natter group continue to meet in Comberton Library, 10.30am - 11.30am January dates: 20th. February dates: 3^{rd} and 17^{th} . March dates: 3^{rd} and 17^{th} . Then every other Monday onwards. **Newcomers** are most welcome to complete your own projects, start a new or participate in group activities. There is always tea, coffee and biscuits available.

We are really thankful to the women from Knit and Natter who created gorgeous hats, scarves, and gloves for Jimmy's Cambridge.

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. January dates: 13^{th} and 27^{th} . February dates: 10^{th} and 24^{th} . March dates: 10^{th} and 24^{th} . Then every other week. Also, come and join the **First Steps Library Club**, aged 0-4 years. Free event.

It's Lego Time with Duplo. Every Saturday from 10.30am. Come and have fun using your imagination. All children must be accompanied by an adult. This 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

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Comberton Parish Council Bulletin - February 2025

In this first edition of 2025, Comberton Parish Council wishes you all a Happy New Year. We hope you have had a restful and festive break and that you have a healthy and joyful year ahead.

To stay informed about the Parish Council, visit our website, attend meetings, and read this column. These are the three means by which we communicate with residents. For issues or questions, or to work with us on one of our projects, please email the clerk.

The Endurance/retirement village planning application for 200 dwellings in Comberton was considered at a District Council Planning Meeting on 15th January 2025. District



Councillor Cllr Atkins and Parish Councillors Cllr Marshall and Cllr Michel spoke to object to the planning application. The application was unanimously rejected by the District Council Planning Committee. The applicant can now appeal.



Visitors to our recreation ground will soon notice some changes to the long Hawthorn hedge which separates the two playing areas. This season,

sections of the hedge will be laid in a traditional manner, which is to benefit the overall health of the hedge, to prevent it becoming gappy at the bottom, and to ensure it is as

productive as possible with flowers and fruit. Once the laid hedge re-grows, it will be cut incrementally across its length to preserve differing habitats for wildife.





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Parish Council Bulletin (continued)

A non-statutory consultation on East West Rail closed on 24th January. Please visit https:// eastwestrail.co.uk and sign up to Cambridge Approaches updates to keep up to date with this project. We will continue sharing information via our website.



A statutory consultation will take place at a later date.

We thank all residents who have answered our Local Highway Improvements survey. We have analysed the data and are planning several improvements.

We are commmitted to improve parking on South Street and have put aside funds to work on this project. We have also applied for County Council funds to obtain a Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign which will be moved around the village regularly to remind drivers of the local speed limits.

We send our heartfelt thanks to the Parish Council employees for all their hard work in 2024: Our village handy person Rick, our village clerk Jessie, who amongst other things organised our Christmas festivities at the pond, and our new grounds people, Neil, Ross and Andy. We would also like to extend our thanks to the Turnbulls for making it possible to switch on the Christmas tree. We truly appreciate their support.

Cllr Claire Michel, Vice-chair

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

Parish Council clerk: clerk@comberton-pc.gov.uk

Website: https://comberton-pc.gov.uk/

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E-mail bg@moncraft.co.uk

Parish Council Funding and Spending 2025-26

Summary

This note is intended to make clear the funding that the Parish Council will receive from the Parish precept in the 2025-26 tax year. In short: the charge in the coming tax year will be approximately £78 (for a band 'D' household).

Source of funds

The Parish Council has a mandate to represent local people, deliver certain services and improve the quality of life in Comberton. Where projects require funding, there are three common sources:

- The 'parish precept' that is charged via council tax bills;
- grants that the Parish Council applies for;
- and occasional funds levied from developers required to contribute to specific infrastructure projects (so-called 'section 106' monies).

Use of funds

The Parish Council has planned to support a series of recurring and one-off activities in 2025-26. These include:

- Recurring: Maintenance of trees, grass verges, hedges, pathways, and recreation grounds. Upkeep and security of various buildingsand equipment including the village hall, sports pavilion, and playground equipment.
- Support to local initiatives: Comberton Shed group (new), the local Playgroup, EDGE, bowls club, St Mary's Church (support for public pathway maintenance)



.../...

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Parish Council Funding and Spending 2025-26 (continued)

 One-off: hedge laying at the recreation grounds; resurfacing the tennis courts, installation of cricket nets, installation of a 'pump' track, investigation of road improvements including parking, village events (summer and Christmas), overhaul of the village hall lights.

Comberton Parish precept 2025-26

In the last tax year (2024-25) the parish precept charge was approximately £71 for a house classified as 'band D' (slightly less for bands A-C, slightly more for bands E-H). In the coming tax year (2025-26) the parish precept will increase to approximately £78 for a band D household. This will raise approximately £70,000 towards parish works. The decision to increase the annual charge by (on average) £7 has been made with careful consideration and we wish to be transparent about the factors influencing it:

- 1. Our precept charge is low by national and local standards: The national average charge in England in 2024-25 was £86, in Bassingbourn it was £110 and in Harston it was £90.
- 2. Our costs have increased: The village sees the same rising costs as we all do services, wages and purchases have gone up (and will continue to do so this year)

Closing remark

The Parish Council's approach in preparing this budget has been to balance enhancements to our village across a deliberately broad range of activities with affordability. If you wish to find out more, please consider attending a parish council meeting held once per month. Details of larger projects are often described on the Parish Council website.

Parish Council clerk: clerk@comberton-pc.gov.uk
Website: https://comberton-pc.gov.uk/

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You are welcome to join us on any 2 of our walks to see if our group is for you. Then, once you have enjoyed the views, fun, exhilaration, it is just a case of becoming a member.

Annual membership membership fee is £10.00 per person.

No dogs are allowed except assistance dogs.

For further information please contact me by emailing: stella.hardwicke2274@hotmail.com or telephoning 01954 210049, mobile 07930 951703.

Thank you for reading this.

Stella – Secretary of the Comberton Ramblers https://combertonramblers.org.uk

Comberton Antiquarian Society

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 25th February at 8pm in the Village Hall when Cynan Ellis-Evans will give a talk entitled

The Antarctic Voyage of the Scotia

Dr. Cynan Ellis-Evans has extensive arctic and antarctic experience. He is a polar microbiologist, and has a background of over two decades of research on aquatic microbial ecology and biogeochemistry in both Polar Regions.

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To the Comberton Community,

Happy 2025! We are thrilled to start the new year with a new Headteacher, Miss Becky Snelling, who takes over from Mrs Summerfield. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Summerfield for her excellent work and support during a period of transition for the school. As Miss Snelling steps into her new role, she will build on the strong foundations established last term, and we look forward to the exciting next steps in our school's journey.

As we move into this new year, one of our focuses will be on enhancing sustainability and improving the school environment. We're excited to share that we have 150 trees ready to be planted, which will help to transform our field into a greener space, while also creating new habitats for wildlife. To help us with our environment improvements, we will be holding a Grounds Day in late spring—an opportunity for children, parents and community members to come and lend a hand. Watch this space for more details, and we hope to see as many volunteers as possible! Additionally, our dedicated governors have worked hard to secure a new Air Source Heat Pump project, and we're thrilled that this work will be kicking off in the next few months. This is a significant step toward making our school more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly.

We continue our involvement in the CB23 schools network, collaborating on policy design and sharing best practice. This network also provides our children with valuable opportunities to participate in events and competitions. At the end of January, we are proud to have four finalists who will take part in the CB23 Public Speaking Grand Final at Peterhouse College in Cambridge. We wish them the best of luck and are incredibly proud of their bravery.

Are you interested in volunteering in school? We are always grateful for the support of our school community. If you have the time and capacity to volunteer, we would love to hear from you! Whether it's helping with reading, assisting in administrative tasks, or supporting our extracurricular clubs, your involvement would make a real difference. If you are interested in volunteering, please get in touch with the school office.

Keep an eye out for our Year 6 children taking part in Bikeability over the next couple of weeks! They will be learning important road safety skills, including the key rules of the road, how to signal and how to manoeuvre safely on their bikes. As they gain valuable experience, please drive slowly and carefully if you're passing by. For many of them, this is their first time cycling on the road, and it can be a little nerve-racking. Your patience and consideration are greatly appreciated as they practice these essential skills. Thank you for your support in helping our children stay safe and confident on the road!

Kind regards

Miss Becky Snelling Headteacher Everyone at Meridian

and

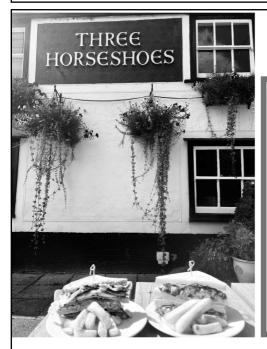


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Musical DIMINUENDO, SCHERZENDO, TREMOLANDO, ACCELERANDO, LENTANDO, GLISSANDO, DECELERANDO, RONDO, RAPIDO, RALLENTANDO, FORZANDO, ALLARGANDO, STRINGENDO, AFFRETANDO.

The winner is **Doug Chadwick** of Morris Close.

Wildlife Survey

The Parish Council would like to thank all those who returned the wildlife survey in December. If you have still have the questionnaire there is time to respond. Please put completed forms in the Village Hall postbox or photograph a completed form for return by email to combertonnaturenet@outlook.com.





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Comberton Allotments & Gardens Association DATES FOR YOUR 2025 DIARY

Our first event of the new season will be the Spring Plant Sale in May where we hope to sell you lots of fine plants to nurture and then perhaps to exhibit in the Autumn Show! The Sale will again be on a Sunday morning and in the Village Hall.

Our full diary is set out below:-

Spring Plant Sale – Sunday 11th May 10.30 am – Village Hall

Summer Barbecue – Saturday 12th July 6.00pm – Long Road Allotments

Autumn Show – Saturday 13th September - Meridian School

Annual General Meeting – Thursday 20th November 7.30pm – Village Hall

Best Kept Allotment – Our policy is to alternate the award between the two allotment sites, so this year the trophy will be awarded to the Best Kept Allotment on the Long Road patch.

Robin Worship; CAGA Secretary (robin.worship7@gmail.com)



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AIP Approved 12/02/2024





Comberton Twinning Association would like to invite you to a

SWISS CHEESE FONDUE NIGHT

on Saturday March 15th 2025



In Comberton Village Hall.

Hall doors open from 7.00pm

Includes raffle and a simple Quiz.

Please book a table in advance for you and your friends (tables of up to 6/8 people) and enjoy a home-made **Swiss cheese fondue** plus nibbles/starter and dessert (last bookings by 10th March please).

Bring your own drinks/glasses.

Tickets are £15 per adult, £9 for children age 13 and under.

Tickets available from:

Liz Bland 07889 271166 chair@combertontwinning.org.uk (Comberton)

All welcome: existing members, new and potential members and anyone who likes a cheese fondue.

The purpose of this event is to raise funds for our visits to, and to receive visits from, Le Vaudreuil, near Rouen in Normandy.

Oakes and Watson Tree Surgery and Consultancy and Peter Oakes and Daughter Tree Surgery



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February Challenge

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Example: Rio can be found inside a brioche.

PATISS	S	C	CTIC
IN	OLUBLE	W	BONE
s	LHEAD	P	TION
SH	I NG	CA	ET
AN	M	IR	TE
P	THIUS.	P	SOPHER
PAR	N	CA	ON
P	RS	ASTRO	R
J	S	I	IST
s	NG	CZECH	VAKIA
An easy one to start	the new year		

Entries to the store please no later than the 14th February. First correct entry out of the hat wins a prize likely to continue in the vein of Christmas's excesses. Sounds good to me!

Entries please to CO-OP store no later than 14th January 2025 please.



Apples raise funds for ACT

Thank you from ACT (Addenbrookes Charitable Trust) to those who donated £42 for the Apples (Bramley, Cox, Russet & John O-Gold) outside Meadowside, Swaynes Lane this Autumn.

Jane R Hughes Volunteer CUH

Library at Home service

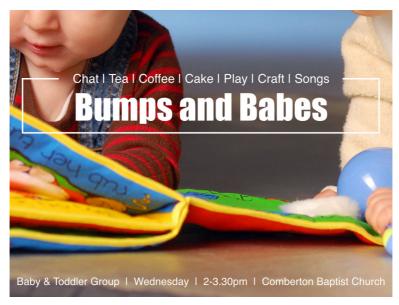
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A local volunteer can visit monthly at a mutually convenient time, bringing library books and audiobooks chosen according to each reader's preference, and have a friendly chat if you'd like.

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Comberton Village Hall Lettings Charges

	Private Individuals		Community Groups *		Community Commercial	
	Comberton	Non-	Affiliated	Non-	Local/Non-	Non-
	Residents	Residents		Affiliated	Franchised	Local/Franchised
SESSION	Main Hall		SSION Main Hall Main Hall		Main Hall	
Daytime	£25	£35	£20	£30	£40	£45
Evenings (except	£40	£50	£20 *	£30 *	£40	£50
Saturday)						
Saturday 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.
 Local/Non-franchised Community Commercial lettings can be reduced from £145 to £70 at the discretion of
 the Trustees, if the event is for a suitable charity. Groups should write to the Lettings Secretary with their
 request, including information on the charity, and this will be considered by the Trustees.
- 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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