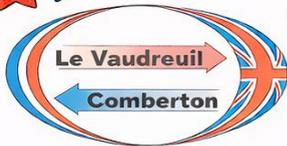


COMBERTON CONTACT MARCH 2026

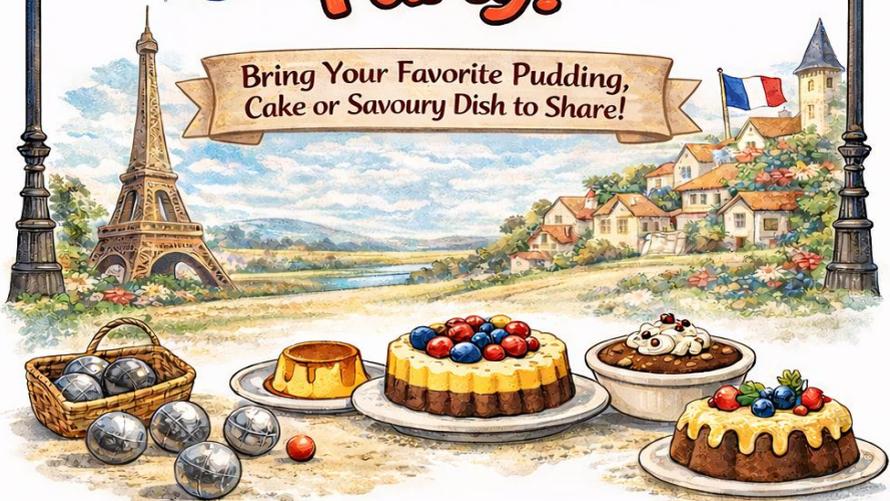


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Twinning Association

invites you to a

Pudding & Games Party!

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Comberton Baptist Church Centre

Sunday 19th April 2026 ♥ 3-5pm

£10 per Family or £5 per individual or £2 per individual if
you bring a dessert to share.

Contact Liz Bland chair@combertontwinning.org.uk to confirm your attendance
and to obtain further information.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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58 Green End, Comberton, CB23 7DY

01223 262500

Opening times Monday to Friday

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

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

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

www.combertonandeversdensurgery.nhs.uk

EVERSDEN SURGERY

33 Harlton Road, Little Eversden, CB23 1HB

01223 262579

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.

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ourn.surgery@nhs.net

Age Concern Cambridge Information & Advice Line	01354 696677
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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 (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	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 Heritage Society	VH
Wednesday	10am - 11:30am	Comberton Baby & Toddler Group	VH
Wednesday	11am - 1pm	Comberton Shed	MH
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 MH = Madingley Hall

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 26 th February	Blue
Thursday 5 th March	Black
Thursday 12 th March	Blue & Green
Thursday 19 th March	Black
Thursday 26 th March	Blue & Green
Thursday 2 nd April	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 April magazine by 15th March 2026. Submissions will only be acknowledged if requested and this may take up to a week.

From the Editor

It has been a while since I've had to ask, but I am now running rather short of material for the magazine, especially in months when there is no material from some of the regular contributors.

Please can you consider writing something for your magazine - it could be a bit of village history, information about a business or service you provide to the residents of Comberton, or anything you think might be of interest to other readers.

Activities to look out for in March include the Music Café (see page 15) and the Comberton Men's Shed will be meeting at the Pavilion every Wednesday from 18th March onward (see rear cover).

Spring is definitely here with daffodils and snowdrops coming up in Comberton gardens - the days are getting noticeably longer and hopefully the rain will become less frequent.....

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	Christopher Morris 07971 678429 christopher.morris@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Village Help Scheme

23 February 2026	Gill Redman	07939915321
02 March 2026	Angela Donnelly	07939915321
09 March 2026	Angela Donnelly	07939915321
16 March 2026	Pauline Grounds	07939915321
23 March 2026	Pauline Grounds	07939915321
30 March 2026	Barbara Mitton	07939915321
06 April 2026	Barbara Mitton	07939915321

Volunteer Drivers & Coordinators Needed

Do you have a few hours to spare each week? We're looking for volunteer drivers and coordinators to help community members get to important medical appointments. This service will soon become too difficult to run without more volunteers.

Roles available:

Volunteer Coordinators: Help schedule rides and match drivers with those in need — can be done from home .

Volunteer Drivers: Use your own vehicle to provide safe, friendly transport for people who otherwise struggle to get to appointments.

You'll make a real difference in someone's life by helping them access essential care.

Requirements:

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The Parish Church of St Mary, Comberton

In the Benefice of The Lordsbridge Team



**Thursday 19th
March
at 7.00pm
at All Saints,
Haslingfield**



**Installation of new
Team Rector, Rev
Clare Coates by
Bishop Dagmar**

Activities and Special Events



Thursday 26th March at 2.30pm - **Oasis Teas** at Comberton Village Hall
Saturday 28th March at 2.30pm - **Music Cafe** in St Mary's

Regular Services in St Mary's Church Building



Sun 1st March at 9.30am - **Holy Communion with Lynn Swart preaching**

Sun 8th March at 8.00am - **BCP Holy Communion**
9.30am - **Holy Communion**

Sunday 15th March at 9.30am - **Mothering Sunday**

Sun 22nd March at 8.00am - **BCP Holy Communion**
9.30am - **Holy Communion**

Sunday 29th March at 9.30am - **Palm Sunday and Baptism**

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.

On-line Giving

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

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



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

Associate Priest: The Rev'd Chris Westgarth

chris.westgarth1@btinternet.com

Tel: 07710 661003

Team Curate: The Rev'd Barnabas Leeke

barnabasleeke@lordsbridge.org

Tel: 07787 800888

http://



www.stmaryscomberton.org

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AIP Approved 12/02/2024



Comberton Allotments & Gardens Association

DATES FOR YOUR 2026 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 10th May 10.30 am – Village Hall

Summer Barbecue – Saturday 11th July 6.00pm – Long Road Allotments

Autumn Show – Saturday 12th September - Meridian School

Annual General Meeting – Thursday 19th 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 South Street patch.

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

You are invited to join us this

Easter

Maundy Thursday, 2nd April - Communion Service at 7.30pm

Good Friday, 3rd April - Reflection on the Cross at 10.30am

Easter Day, 5th April - Easter Celebration at 10.30am

Comberton Baptist Church

www.c-b-c.org.uk

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Are you looking for a new challenge this year?

Can you spare a few hours each month to become one of our School Governors?

We are looking for committed and enthusiastic individuals to join our Governing Body.

School governors play a vital role in shaping the future of our school. Working as part of a supportive team, governors help set the school's vision, hold leaders to account, and ensure the best possible outcomes for our pupils.

What does the role involve?

- Attending governing body meetings (9 per year)
- Contributing to strategic decisions about the school's direction
- Supporting and challenging school leaders to improve outcomes
 - Acting in the best interests of pupils at all times

Who can apply?

You do not need previous experience in education. We welcome people from all backgrounds. Skills and experience in areas such as finance, HR, safeguarding, education, or community engagement are particularly valuable, but most importantly, we are looking for individuals who:

- Care about children and education
- Are willing to learn and work as part of a team
- Can commit time and energy to the role

What we offer

- Full induction and ongoing training
- The opportunity to develop new skills
- The chance to make a real difference in your local community
 - A rewarding voluntary role with meaningful impact

If you are interested in becoming a governor or would like to find out more, please contact the school office or Becky Richards, Chair of Governors, chair@meridian.cambs.sch.uk

<https://www.meridianprimary.co.uk/governors/>

Help shape the future of our school – your skills can make a real difference

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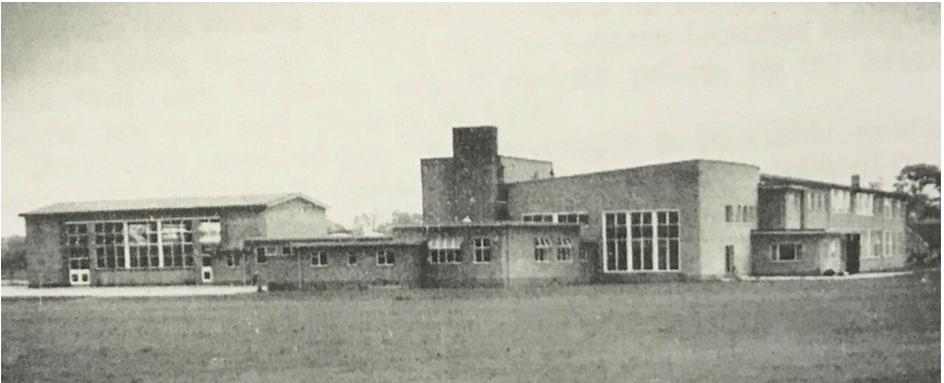
Local Hero

A few people were kind enough to say that my jottings about Community Education at The Village College brought back happy memories.

Talking to some friends they chatted about even earlier times in Comberton. He and his wife came to the village in 1961 having previously having a great time working and playing in California.

They moved into a bungalow in Green End for £3000 and having just moved in they had a knock on the door to meet a policeman, with his bike, who said, "Welcome to Comberton." After a brief chat in which interests were exchanged he said: "Well if you're interested in tennis please join us on the rec on Sunday." They were and they did. They joined a thriving club with two hard and two grass courts. On Sunday afternoon up to forty folks would come to socialise. They brought cakes and sandwiches and kids including babies in a pram. It was a party atmosphere.

Comberton was growing in the 1950's. Previously the school at the crossroads was "The Village School" for all ages. It did expand into a H.O.R.S.A. building but there was a need for a much bigger school.



In 1960 Comberton Village College was opened. In 1962 The estate around Harbour Avenue was built and in 1966 The Barrons Way estate was started.

The bobby was based in the Police House on the corner of Long Road and Barton Road. The policeman also ran a table tennis club for kids in the old Village Hall.

He and many others organised big Carnivals on Whit Bank Holiday Monday in 1968, 70 and 72. These were opened by celebrities,

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including Leslie Crowther who some might remember. Just as now a celebrity got people to come.

This policeman's view was that encouraging community involvement made his job easier as well as being a good thing. The policeman, as you will know was Brian Cook. He and Margaret his wife did an enormous amount for the village as I'll write about soon. He and Margaret are buried in the new burial ground at St. Mary's Church.

After the Carnival there was a ball at the college and another on New Year's Eve. Brian and Margaret and many others organised them. The funds raised from these and other events, and it was a goodly sum, enabled the grass courts to be built, the machines bought to keep those courts and the cricket field in good condition and a children's play area to be constructed.

Future pieces will be about The Drama group: Dylan Thomas, Chekov, Ibsen and pantos; the new Village Hall and Twinning.

Terry Wall September 2025



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

Bumps and Babes

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

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Comberton Cinema

Comberton Village Hall



Here is the last chance to catch up with the much loved characters in this long running popular saga. The Crawley family and the household enter the 1930s, with concerns of scandal, financial problems and fears of social disgrace as well as changes for the future.

This elegant production offers closure for fans of the renowned series.

Wednesday 18th March 2026

Doors open 7.30 pm, film starts 7.45

Ticket £5 on the door

This event is sponsored by the Village Hall Trustees



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Racing towards Comberton Players' final target

A massive thank you to Comberton United Football Club for donating £400 to the Comberton Players' lights project. We are thrilled that they chose to support us with proceeds from their ever-popular Race Night in December, held at The Three Horseshoes.

We are very nearly there with finishing the main phase of the renovation of the Village Hall lights, and very grateful to have support from other groups for the village.

Comberton Players

Comberton Heritage Society

The meeting this month is on Tuesday March 24th and will be a talk by Denis Moules.

The Farm Boy who Became a Cambridge Detective

Denis Moules is a Fenland fisherman and author. He spent his early years as a Fen Boy in Wisbech on a 40 acre farm. He eventually became a Cambridge detective until he retired in 1998.

The meeting will be at 8pm in Comberton Village Hall. All visitors most welcome.

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FOSM Chronicles Part 2 2018 – 2021

In the February Contact (Part 1), I described how **FOSM** - the **Friends Of St Mary's Church** was formed. **Part 2** covers key events for the Friends and Parochial Church Council (**PCC**) through 2018 to end 2021.

2018 was a big year for us all. The whole community marked the Centenary of the end of the First World War. Urgent major restoration works on the Church of St Mary Comberton, highlighted in 2014, were completed. The Friends of St Mary's was recognised as a Charity with five named Trustees, DRH, GC, RE, JC and BM.

In June 2018, the Bedford Gallery Quire returned to hold a workshop, gathering other Quires from Norfolk and Lincolnshire to support our fundraising efforts. We staged the Comberton Open Gardens fundraiser: Coton Garden Centre contributed £50. Our thanks go to Malcolm Wright, the organiser.

By October 2018, the Friends were able to donate £4,000 to the PCC for the second of four annual loan repayments for roof lead theft in 2016 - with a further £14,000 towards fabric repair costs. The total bill for repairs identified in the 2014 Inspection exceeded £46,000. After the Church Commissioners paid £18.5K for Chancel (east end) repairs, the PCC still had to find £27K.

The Friends created a display poster of all the Comberton Listed Buildings. We pitched our FOSM Fundraise target to achieve £35,000 by 2022. Contact Magazine carried 3 fundraise articles and we held 2 more fundraise events.

In 2019 St Mary's celebrated the Centenary of our church organ. Don Fisher remembered a Village power failure when the bellows were worked by hand-pumping the big lever (see it there still!). "What hard work that was!" he said. The organ was built by Edwin Tyrrell of St Ives and purchased second-hand by the PCC. It was installed and dedicated as the Comberton Village War Memorial on the first of August 1919. The Cambridge Independent Press reported the 'meat tea' on the Vicarage Lawn that day to welcome home the 'returning soldiers'.

Churchwardens Mrs Mary Jenkins and Miss Chris Westgarth plus the Friends pressed for grant funding for a major overhaul of the Organ (£2,900 Vat free). Restoration was completed by Easter 2019, well in time to play on the centenary re-dedication on August 4th 2019. A brass plaque celebrates the donations made by Chris Westgarth and Jane Hughes towards the restoration, in remembrance of their mothers.

I proposed to the Friends that the historic annual walk of 'beating the bounds', be restored. This traditional walk helped teach school children the boundaries of the Parish and allowed the priest to bless the crops for a good harvest to come.

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In October 2019, the Diocesan Architect commended the restoration work so far achieved but reminded us of two big future costs – the leaky Nave roof and the decaying Churchyard walls.



She agreed that attention should first turn to creating disabled parking spaces and resurfacing the car park.

In early 2020 multiple projects were being explored but no clear priorities. True project complexities were emerging from all the discussions, particularly with the car park upgrade. FOSM fundraising continued.

Then Covid arrived and gatherings stopped for some time! Zoom meetings took over. The Church Bank Holiday fete was cancelled but there was a generous response to the Appeal. Lock downs apart, the population took many months to recover their confidence in public gatherings. PCC records show that in April, Mary Jenkins and Chris Westgarth stood down and Michael Edwards stepped up as Churchwarden, later joined by Kathma Dawson. A fundraise Concert by Vox Cantab took place in October 2020. In November the leak in the north roof was reported as variable. Repair of car park potholes was discussed.

In Jan 2021 a fresh debate started over Covid. Should we hold public services of worship. However, the church remained closed until late March. There was still no detailed plan for the car park upgrade.

In **Part 3** I will tell the exciting story of great repairs to the car park, gateway and Nave roof!

David Hughes Chairman FOSM
February 2026



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March Challenge

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The 'clues' below all have answers which are films. Please be aware that they are not anagrams, they just need to be looked at very carefully. All of the letters in all of the words are in their correct sequence. Get just one and it will become very clear.

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TCHREAMICKRROR.....

TDOHECHOTOURSE.....

WHTHEWITOMANE.....

WALONIDERLCANED.....

LOWOMVENE.....

TRALNOSLASTITON.....

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Puzzle234 LR 3/26

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Playing bowls at Comberton is not just about playing bowls but getting out in the fresh air with other like-minded people and having fun!

Lawn bowls is a very low-impact form of exercise which improves your well-being and fitness levels.

Many people also find it therapeutic helping them to improve their coordination and confidence.

Playing at Comberton Bowls Club can be as competitive or non competitive as you like.

There are four internal club competitions to play in as well as the opportunity to represent the club in the various Cambridge and District competitions.

The club also competes in three different leagues. Prefer to play in the afternoon rather than early - mid evening? Well, the Foxton League is the one for you!

We are known throughout the different leagues we play in to be a very friendly club, which is something we are very proud of.

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Like all bowls clubs we are not exclusive and welcome people of all ages and abilities.

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February Challenge Solution

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“AQUS EPSLVTX PFCFQ ADY” (YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YEW)

“XG TGBKN BNOLCP CNJ” (WE SHALL CONKER ALL)

.....DA GHIFSJLE VIGN NO RGD ZCDEJCU ZOB YMA NSGGT
NE PTT UTGDQ

(BY FIGHTING THEM ON THE BEECHES AND ANY OTHER OF OUR
TREES)

SICA GBTF RJD ZVEBCHRA UQ AKKKA !

(THEY HAVE THE AUDACITY TO CLIMB)

Original quotation maker WINSTON SPENCER CHURCHILL (with
apologies)

Puzzle 233. LR 02/26

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



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Evenings (except Saturday)	£40	£50	£20 *	£30 *	£40	£50
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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