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Regular Dates for Your Diary

Mon	9:30-11:30am	Fun for 1s & 2s	Playgroup
Mon	9:45am	Comberton Walkers	Baptist Church
Mon	8:00-9:30pm	Aikido for 16+	VH
1 st 3 rd 4 th Mon	7:00pm	Carpet Bowls	VH
3 rd Mon	7:30pm	Wine Makers	VH
Tues	9:30-11:30am	Little Bundles (u1)	Playgroup
Tues	10:30-12noon	Village Cafe & Crafts	VH
Tues	6:30-8pm	Keep Fit	Sports Hall, CVC
2 nd Tues	7:45pm	Women's Institute	VH
4 th Tues	8pm	Antiquarian Society	VH
Wed	10-11:30am	Baby & Toddler Group	VH
Wed	12:25-1:10pm	Lunchtime Badminton	CVC
Wed	2pm	Bridge Club	VH
Wed	After School	Tang Soo Do	Meridian School
Wed	6:30-9pm	Tennis Mix-In Session	Tennis Club
Wed (term)	2-3:30pm	Bumps and Babes	Baptist Church
2 nd Wed	7:30pm	Parish Council	VH
Thurs	9:30-11:30pm	Fun for 1s & 2s	Playgroup
Thurs (term)	4-6pm	EDGE Youth Club	Baptist Church
2 nd Thurs	2:30pm	Friendship Club	VH
4 th Thurs	2:30pm	Oasis Teas (55+)	VH
Fri	6-7pm	Tae Kwon Do	Meridian School
Fri	7-8pm	Tae Kwon Do	Meridian School
2 nd Fri	8pm	Custard Comedy	CVC
3 rd Fri	7pm	Bingo Party	VH
Sat	10-11am	Park Tennis	Park
VH = Village Hall		CVC = Comberton Village College	

Advertising Rates

Size	mm (w x h)	Annual	Single Edition
Whole Page	122 x 183	£400	£44
Three fifths	122 x 109	£240	£27
Two fifths	122 x 72	£160	£18
One fifth	122 x 35	£80	£9
	60 x 72	£80	£9
One tenth	60 x 35	£50	£6

From the Editor

Friends,

Welcome to this first edition of Comberton Contact for 2018. I hope the new year has been pleasant and enjoyable for you so far.

December and January have been so very busy. It was great to attend David Newton's licensing service at the start of December. There was a wonderful show of support from the village. You can read a message from him on p7. You might be aware that there was a fire at one of the beautiful thatched cottages on West Street near to the duck pond. The owners have written an article (p39) to explain what happened and the future plans.

One of the most touching pieces of content in this month's magazine is a collection of memories from Mr J Poole (p20). He has been a resident of Comberton for eighty years and has shared some of his recollections of the village with us. If you've got memories of Comberton that you would like to share, please do get in contact.

This is one of my favourite parts of editing the magazine; connecting with this wonderful village. There is so very much going on and it is so easy to miss out on the many different events and happenings of the community. Do make sure you scour all the pages for all the different goings-on.

Chris

Comberton Contact Team

Editor and Designer	Chris Balding	07746 668140
	editor@combertoncontact.org.uk	
	43 St Thomas Close	
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.
March edition submission deadline is 14th February

Cambridge Stroke Group

The Cambridge Stroke Group is a support group for all stroke survivors in Cambridgeshire. The group, a small charity run entirely by volunteers, was created with the joining together of Different Strokes, Cambridge and The Stroke Association to help provide a comprehensive support group for all those, of any age, who have had a stroke.

The Cambridge Stroke Group provides support and a lifeline to its members, helping to transform their lives and speed up recovery after a stroke by gaining independence, establishing new friendships and experiencing new activities.

Cambridge 
Stroke
 Group

The aim of the group is to provide a meeting place in a friendly and caring environment for people who have had a stroke, their families, carers and friends. It is a place away from the hospital that offers emotional and social support to stroke survivors and a chance to meet others who have also experienced the potentially devastating effects of having had a stroke.

Our drop-in meetings are calm, friendly and informal and everyone is welcome to pop in for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat. We meet every Thursday afternoon between 1pm – 4pm at the David Rayner Centre, Scotsdales Nursery and Garden Centre, 120 Cambridge Road, Great Shelford CB22 5JT.

For any further info please email info@cambridgestrokegroup.co.uk visit our website on www.cambridgestrokegroup.co.uk or ring Helen Long on 07540 513225

The Parish Church of St Mary Comberton

In the Lordsbridge Team Ministry

www.combertonchurch.co.uk - Find us on Facebook: St Mary's Church, Comberton

Revd David Newton (Vicar), 92 Swaynes Lane, Comberton, CB23 7EF,
01223 665654, 07736944396, davidnewton@lordsbridge.org

Churchwardens

Chris Westgarth, 263242, chris.westgarth1@btinternet.com

Mary Jenkins, 80 West Street, 263751, maryjenkins18@gmail.com

Services and Events at St Mary's in February

Sunday 4 Feb	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 11 Feb	8am 9.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion
Wednesday 14 Feb	7.30 pm	Holy Communion and ashing for Ash Wednesday at Toft St Andrew's
Sunday 18 Feb	9.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday 22 Feb	2.30 pm	Oasis Tea, in the Village Hall
Sunday 25 Feb	8 am 9.30am 7.30 pm	Holy Communion Morning Worship Sacred Space at Dry Drayton Church
Friday 2 March	7.30 pm	World Day of Prayer Surinam Service
Sunday 4 March	9.30 am	Holy Communion

Morning Prayer is said every Tuesday at 9:30am

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A Message From Rev. David Newton

One of the things I find hardest about living in the UK, even in the southern half, is the short days and long nights during the winter months. I find it harder to stay cheery, and long for the bright light of the sun to wake me up and to stay shining into the evening.

Getting up in the dark is perhaps the most difficult thing about it for me. I'm not exactly a morning person at the best of times, but when daylight is still an hour off and I have to drag myself out of bed I'm not fit for company. My poor wife knows it might take a while before I'm able to string sentences together in any coherent way!

In this country, and others at similar or more northerly latitudes, there have grown up a vast number of traditions that help us deal with the darker months: Halloween, Fireworks, and Christmas Lights have all helped us through since November. Most of these have their roots in the Christian story, and virtually all have the symbol of light at their centre. The most popular church services through this time are often candle lit – beautiful warm flickering flames causing the darkness to flee.

Light is a hugely powerful and emotive symbol. Light helps us see what's around us, it lights the way ahead, it takes away fear, it helps things grow. Darkness, on the other hand, is associated with fear and with evil. Such associations were used with great effect by the Gospel writer John. He called Jesus 'the light who shines in the darkness'.

As the darkness begins to recede let us take heart. For even if it does not feel like there is much light around either personally or politically, we can trust light is coming. As St John so powerfully put it, 'the darkness has not overcome.'

Rev. David Newton.



Oasis Tea

22 Feb - 2.30pm

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Comberton Friendship Club

On Thursday December 14th we had our Annual Christmas Lunch, as usual cooked and served by Carol and her team from Toft. It was a very happy afternoon. The new vicar, David Newton, turned up and said grace for us.

Sue our chair lady was thanked for all her hard work over the year and presented with a gift. A raffle was held which had so many prizes I think we all won something. At the end of a very enjoyable afternoon we all went home with our annual gift from the club, a good ending to 2017.

January 11th 2018, saw our first meeting of the New Year; Richard Grant who has been Head Gardener at Madingley Hall since 1988 was our speaker. Very interesting and informative about the history of the hall.

First built in 1543 by Sir John Hynde, which his descendants occupied until the 1860's. It was sold in 1948 along with the surrounding park and farmland to the University of Cambridge for £50,000. How it has changed over the years, not only the building but the beautiful gardens with its lovely assortment of different areas which includes a two acre wild meadow.

It is an Institute of Continuing Education but is available for a whole host of different occasions, B/B, conferences, private parties, afternoon tea, etc.

Next meeting, Thursday February 8th at 2.30pm. New members always welcome.

Catholic Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes & St John Fisher

With effect from 2nd January, Comberton is now part of the above new parish with Canon John Minh as the Parish Priest.

On Saturday February 17th at 7.00pm, Fr John will celebrate mass in St Mary's Church, Comberton. Everyone is welcome.

Presbytery :-135 High Street, Sawston, CB22 3HJ, Telephone 01223 832397

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Sundays at CBC
10:30 - Family Worship
20:00 - Prayer Meeting

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Youth Worker - Nick Slater - nick@c-b-c.org.uk



Faith, Family & Football
My journey - Matthew Joseph
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Village Help Scheme Volunteer Drivers Schedule

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

Two weeks commencing:

29 January	Gill Redman	01223 262246
12 February	Joan Wells	01223 262746
26 February	Margaret Storey	01223 262748
12 March	Pam Fisher	01223 262282

More drivers are required for this essential service.

For more info please contact Mrs Gill Redman on 01223 262246



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Comberton Twinning Association

Comberton is twinned with Le Vaudreuil, a beautiful village near Rouen in Northern France. Each village has a twinning association, which fosters annual weekend trips between these and nearby villages. In addition, there have been many further visits between friends who became acquainted as a result of the twinning.

A party from Le Vaudreuil last visited Comberton 27th - 29th October 2017 and was hosted by local residents. On the Saturday evening, the Comberton Twinning Association organised a ceilidh and hog-roast supper. This was a roaring success and for the rest of the weekend, hosts entertained their French guests as they pleased. The convention is that French members host and entertain in similar fashion when the Comberton Association visits Le Vaudreuil.

The next visit to Le Vaudreuil will be Friday 8th to Sunday 10th June 2018, a special trip because it coincides with celebrations to mark the 1,000th anniversary of their church. They are planning lectures, concerts, a bishop's mass, dance workshops, a street party, a costume parade and a twinning organisation lunch on the Sunday.

The next visit from our French friends will be in 2019. If you are interested in being part of these activities, please contact either Chairman Paul Hardy (263232, info@combertontwinning.org.uk) or Secretary Glynis Ellis (262214, glynnisellis@talk21.com). For further details see also the website combertontwinning.org.uk.

Hosting, incidentally, need not be expensive: suggestions of activities that have proved popular in the past may be found on the website. To be a member of the Association it is NOT necessary to be able to speak French, nor is it necessary to live in Comberton, and younger families with children are especially welcome.

A request to all local historians

For our visit to France in June, we are researching events that took place in or around Comberton about 1,000 years ago, to compare with what was happening in Le Vaudreuil when their church was being built (preparation for the Norman Conquest perhaps?). Any ideas?

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Comberton Library

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	Wednesday:	10am – 1pm	2pm - 5pm
	Friday:		2pm - 5pm
	Saturday:	10am – 1pm	

More details can be found on the Library Service website at:
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

By the time you read this article, we will have a new self-service machine installed at Comberton Library. The machine looks a bit different from the one we are all used to, but basically operates in the same way. The good news is that the new system accepts notes as well as coins, which we hope will be helpful for our customers. If you need any help in issuing or returning items, or paying charges, a staff member will always be on hand, so do please just ask.

Upcoming Rhymetime sessions: 5th and 19th February and 5th and 19th March (10.30 -11.00 am). Please note that although these sessions are aimed at very young children we welcome older siblings and pre-schoolers who enjoy singing too! If you haven't been to a session before, please do come along with your baby, toddler, or pre-schooler and give it a try. We have a lovely volunteer running the sessions and it is great fun for both children and adults.

We are also pleased to announce that we have a brand new display of ReadySpex reading glasses at the library, with a new and updated range of glasses available at very reasonable prices. If you need a little help with reading smaller print, or are without your prescription glasses, you may find that having a pair of ReadySpex will be of benefit. Do have a look at the display when you are next in the library.

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Friends of St Mary's Church Comberton Trust

Three C's make a great start to 2018!

Yes, that's good news for Comberton and for supporters of the Friends of St. Mary's Church.

Two of the C's are for the **C**harity **C**ommission who have said that they "are satisfied that 'Friends of St Mary's Church Comberton' is a charity and it has been entered onto the Register of Charities with the Registered Charity Number 1176591". That makes it much more easy for us to request donations from businesses and is often a pre-requisite for obtaining grants from SCDC, other Charities and Benevolent Societies. We have had the ability to reclaim Gift Aid earlier, as we had already been given charitable status by HMRC. 2017's gift aid will be reclaimed this quarter.

The third **C** will be heard... Along other notes, sung by the acclaimed SongCycle - the all singing all cycling male voice quartet - on the evening of 28th April at St. Mary's Church. SongCycle was formed in 1996 following the four founder members first combined entry into the "Friend's of Essex Churches Sponsored Cycle ride" when, as well as raising money for charity

by cycling from church to church, they sang a different four part motet in each one and have continued to do so every year, having raised over £42,000 to date.

Since inception SongCycle has progressed to singing in a variety of styles which is not barbershop, but 'à la King's Singers' and their repertoire ranges from the sacred motets and canticles which they sing in cathedrals and churches to popular music by composers such as Lennon and McCartney and Billy Joel. They even manage some popular children's television theme tunes. Their renditions of 'Postman Pat' and 'Bob the Builder' are certainly not to be missed, and you will always be guaranteed good professional entertainment. So put the 28th April in your diary, then get your tickets, which will include nibbles wine/fruit juice, from March - see March Contact for details.

We also hope to unveil our logo and publicise other events for later in the year in that edition. Our website is at www.friends-of-st-marys.org.uk where you will be able to see our 2017 Accounts and Chairman's Annual Report.

Richard Ellera
Treasurer



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Comberton WI 40th Annual Pancake Race

Back in 1978 Cambridgeshire Federation of WI's challenged its members to use £5 from the county funds to raise money for the federation. On hearing of this challenge Sandra Hyde, president of Comberton WI, thought it would be a good idea to make bread and sell at a village event.

She challenged the 'younger' Comberton Mill WI to a pancake race on Shrove Tuesday along with a bread stall, 'bring and buy' and refreshments to raise the money for CFWI; the prize to be a wooden spoon! The event was attended by over 100 villagers and raised £23 for the federation. In the following years the profits were split between the 2 WIs.

Sadly Comberton Mill WI closed in 1989 but it was decided to continue the pancake race for the children of the village and, thereafter, it was held on the Tuesday of the spring half-term. The children race in different age groups and there are races for the adults also and it is now run as a non-profit event and still by Sandra.

The race has been run every year in all weathers, even snow on a couple of occasions and it is good to see the children of the 70's now bringing their own children along!

***We look forward to the 40th
pancake race in on 13th
February 2018!***

Comberton Bowls Quiz Night

Comberton Village Hall
Saturday 24th February
6.45 for 7pm start
Teams - maximum of 8
£8.00 per person to include
Ploughman's.
Please bring your own drinks &
glasses.

*Lorraine 07952293510
folbiggl@live.co.uk
Beryl 01223 264602
berylhankin@aol.com*

Village Hall AGM

The Trustees of Comberton Village Hall invite you to hear the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire, Jason Ablewhite, speak about his work and plans.

Wednesday 28th March in the Village Hall. 7.15pm wine reception for 7.30pm start.
All welcome

***This will be followed by the
AGM of the Village Hall.***

Long Road Comberton in the 1930s and 1940s

Memories of an Octogenarian.

I came to live in Long Road on December 16th 1935 when I was 5 years old. My father had lost his right arm and had his right foot badly injured at Thiepval in the First World War. He bought three acres of land in Long Road stretching back to what is now Fox's Way and had a bungalow built by the local builder, Mr. A. G. Warboys of West Street. The land cost £48 and the bungalow £350. The builder also built a chicken house with perches over droppings boards and nest boxes for the hens to lay their eggs. All this for a cost of £15.

My parents planted an assortment of fruit trees on the land. There was no mains water or electricity laid on in Long Road. We had a well in the garden with a pump but this was not fit to use as drinking water. Our water for making tea was captured from the roof into a 150 gallon corrugated iron tank at the corner of the bungalow.

When I look at the roof now and see bird droppings spattered all over it I wonder what we must have consumed in our tea, but we survived!

We had to collect drinking water from a pump outside the council houses in Barton Road, quite a distance with heavy pails! Our lighting was candles and paraffin lamps and cooking was on a range and the way things cooked was affected by the direction of the wind causing how the coal burned. Cleaning of the range was by blackleading.

There was no mains sewerage so we had an outside bucket privy which my father had to empty regularly into a hole which he dug in the garden (we had some good vegetables!). We had no bathroom so we had to bring in a tin bath into what we called the wash house.

The water from buckets was heated in a brick built copper in the corner and as we sat in the bath we would open the fire door of the copper and put on more wood. The copper was kept filled up so that the whole family would be able to add more hot water. Everyone used the same water, cleanest first and the water would be bailed out the next morning.

Long Road Comberton in the 1930s and 1940s Cont.

As you can imagine wash day was a mammoth task, sheets in the copper and smaller items washed in a tin bath stood on a fruit box all to go through a mangle before hanging on the line to dry. There were no rubbish collections so we had to dig a big hole in the garden and fill it with our rubbish. Water was finally laid on in 1947 and mains electricity connected and switched on on the 19th February 1954

Coming from Barton Road our bungalow was the 4th property. On the corner of Barton Road and Long Road there was a paddock on which John Beldam kept his horse and flat truck on which he used to deliver fruit and vegetables round the village. He had an orchard where the first two houses now stand.

The next house up the road was Mr. Arthur Papworth's. In his front garden he had a railway carriage which I think was brought from Lords Bridge station pulled by a team of horses. He used it for storing coal and fruit. In his porch he had his steel helmet which he had brought back home from the 14-18 war which, as a child, fascinated me. Next to Mr Papworth was an orchard belonging to Mr. Russell Baker.

Next up the road was a bungalow belonging to a family named Nightingale. My brother and I used to play with the children who lived there and on one occasion Mrs Nightingale took me to school on her bicycle carrier, the school being the one that is now the Nursery school. Onward up the road, the next property which was owned by my father's brother Harold Poole. This consisted of a wooden bungalow which I think was an ex army hut. He had various sheds and pig sties surrounding a cattle yard. He had a lorry with which he used to pick up churns of milk from the surrounding farms and take them to Cambridge for bottling.

At nights while the London blitz was going on we could see from our front garden, beyond the range of hills to the south, the glow from the fires in London and now and then an extra large glow when something very inflammable went up. The air raid sirens used to go most nights, but we saw very little of the action. The nearest bombs we had were in fields beyond the railway bridge on the road going past the vicarage - they must have been meant for the big ammunition store at Lords Bridge.

Long Road Comberton in the 1930s and 1940s cont.

We kept pigs which we bought when they were weaned at about eight weeks old and kept them until they were ready for slaughter when another of my father's brothers, Lewis Poole, would take them in his old truck which had tyres which were devoid of tread and even had layers of the cords below showing, either to market or direct for slaughter. Some went to our local butcher, Mr. Woodley.

During the war and while food was still rationed smallholders and farmers were allowed to have a pig killed and keep half of it, the other half to go to the local butcher so we would get our half. The hams and shoulders and side had to be salted, then smoked at a bacon factory. These were then hung in our pantry and cut as required. Joints of pork were stored in brine in large earthenware pots. There were no fridges or freezers the only other store we had was a wooden meat safe with a thin gauge metal grille on the front which was hung outside on the wall. In hot weather milk had to be boiled in order to keep it overnight.

Living here in the country we were able to live much better than lots of people during rationing. We kept chickens and grew fruit in our orchard. We would kill a chicken for the table and every weekend my father would kill a chicken for a family from Cambridge who came to live in Comberton for the duration of the war.

I used to take it to them and as well as paying for the chicken they would give me two pence which I would take to the shop and buy a packet of fruit gums!

There was no doctors surgery in Comberton and like many people we did not have a car so we had to get someone to drive us to either Caxton, or later, to Dr Harry Richards in Grange Road, Cambridge. We did not have a telephone so if we needed to call we had to go to a call box down the village or next door to our uncle Harold.

John Poole, December 2017.

Meridian Primary School

A very happy 2018 to you all! We are excited by an active spring term.

From the very first day back, the children in Y5 and Y6 were put through their paces with the launch of our six-week active science programme delivered by the Cambridge United Organisation (for schools). The children have had the opportunities to learn about the functions of the body, alongside exercise.

And more science this term... with our Mad Science club starting back this term for all children. KS2 children have also had visits from different science ambassadors (experts from the STEM in-school project). This has been a valuable experience for the children with some hands on investigations. (STEM = Science, technology, engineering, mathematics).

You may have also seen our responsible Y6 children active, out and about in Comberton, undertaking their bike-ability challenge for safe riding on roads.

Meridian Primary School
Comberton, Cambridge



And...have you heard of 'Speed Stacking'? Have you given it a go as an active sports activity? Well here at Meridian, we are excited about introducing a 'Speed Stacking' club this term. It is a club designed to help co-ordination and speed. Speed Stacking is now an official recognised sport in the junior Olympics! A list of other clubs we offer can be found on our school website.

www.meridianprimary.co.uk

If you have some time during the middle of the school day and are keen to offer your support, we are looking to appoint a relief midday supervisor to support midday duties during staff absence. If you would like more information, please contact Ann Webb in the school office. All posts are subject to the necessary enhanced DBS checks.

With Kind Regards,

Mrs C. Etchie
Headteacher



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Parish Council Report from the Clerk

The Parish Council met on 10 January 2018.

New Parish Council member and remaining vacancy

The Parish Council was pleased to welcome Dr Pamela Black of West Street as a new co-opted member of the Parish Council. While there remains one vacancy on the Council it is unlikely now that this will be filled as there will be elections in May. Information on the elections will be available on the District Council's website in the New Year.

Greater Cambridge Partnership Cambourne to Cambridge Consultation

The Parish Council considered the options for a Park and Ride site and three possible route options for a new bus route between a new Park and Ride site and Cambridge. It was agreed to support the Scotland Farm site for the Park and Ride as being in the best position to receive traffic and for environmental reasons as it is felt that there would be a lot of light pollution and traffic problems if the Park and Ride site is built near Madingley Mulch. The Parish Council supported the proposed Route B and felt that a dedicated bus lane along Madingley Road would improve the speed of the journey.

Tree Work

The Parish Council has accepted quotations for the medium and longer term tree work recommended in the tree survey. Work around the village will commence shortly and is expected that the B priority work will be completed before the end of March 2018 and the C priority work will be completed within the next year.

Budget 1st April 2018 to 31 March 2019

The Parish Council has approved its budget, which will be available on the website in due course. The Precept has been set at £59,400 which is the same as at present. In its budget the Council has included £2,000 towards a storage container on the recreation ground and £3,500 towards youth work in the village and approximately £5,000 towards a Transport Working Group project; details of which will be considered later in the year.

Parking in Green End

Following concerns expressed by residents about hazardous and inconsiderate parking in Green End near the Doctors' surgery, the Parish Council will be arranging a meeting with the Practice



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Parish Council Report from the Clerk Cont.

Manager at the Surgery to discuss what can be done to alleviate this. The situation had been exacerbated by problems with the drains which have now been resolved.

SCDC Cleaner Communities Pilot Scheme

SCDC are running two pilot schemes over the next few months, one involving community-led “Spring Clean Ups,” and the other involving the provision of a street sweeping kit, including a ride-in sweeper, for community volunteers to use. The Parish Council is expressing an interest in the schemes and awaits further information from the District Council.

Highways issues

Please remember if you see a problem with a street light, a pot hole or another highway problem you should report it on the County Council’s website. Again please do not assume someone has already reported it.

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20081/roads_and_pathways/10/roadworks_and_faults

Parish Council contact details
Mrs Gail Stoehr
Clerk to Comberton Parish Council,
30 West Drive,
Highfields
CB23 7NY
parishclerk@comberton.org.uk
01954 210241

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District Councillor Report

The landscape of the District Council will be changing after the elections in May with our village being served by 3 District Councillors rather than just me. These 3 people will also represent Coton, Barton, Grantchester, Harlton, Haslingfield, Harston and Hauxton so in theory we may not have a Comberton resident to represent us, even though I still intend to stand. The District Council in simplified terms looks after Bin collection, Council Houses, Planning, Licensing and collects our taxes, most other things are Parish or the County Council issues.

I was very saddened by the fire at the thatched cottage in West Street before Christmas.

Thankfully it would appear to be salvageable. Cottages like this and similar give many of us a feel-good factor in the 100 mile an hour world we now live in.

SCDC and more general issues raised by residents :-

Time taken to process planning applications - Officers are on the case and times will improve.

Queries relating to the 90 homes in front of Bennell Farm - ongoing!

Illegal hare coursing and organised crime - this has been witnessed alongside Long Road. If you witness it please phone the Police.

House and vehicle crime - a similar theme and sadly increasing, so please be extra vigilant.

Parking Dr's Surgery - this is never ideal but was made much worse by a blocked drain resulting in the car park being closed. Normal service has now been returned.

Parking on West Street - I agree with residents that this is an accident waiting to happen.

Money wasted on cycleways - this is a tricky one and I can see both sides of the argument. A consultation is imminent on this but will not help us through the centre of the village. Regarding the GCP consultation I firmly believe cycleways should be alongside the existing roads and not turning our footpaths into 3m tarmac roads.

Better bus service - this just gets worse and really links to the above point regarding funding.

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District Councillor Report Cont.

Consultation relating to the Busway and associated Park and Ride - this closes at the end of January. Hopefully the GCP will see sense and protect our valuable Green Belt but I will not hold my breath.

Trees on eastern side of Bakers Close - this relates to their management and leaf picking.

Traffic on Long Road - this has increased significantly and must be associated with the A14 upgrade.

Traveller activity - this has not been an issue in our village but has been a great worry to neighbouring villages.

Tim

Monday Studio Art and Craft Exhibition

Monday Studio is hosting Comberton Village Art and Craft Exhibition in July.

Get your diaries ready. This is a reminder that on the 14th and 15th July 2018 we will be hosting the biannual art and crafts exhibition in Comberton Village Hall. This is prior notice for artists and crafters that wish to exhibit. This is giving plenty of time for people to come up with exciting, imaginative and creative works of art/craft to exhibit and sell, and for local people to view and enjoy the local talent in the area. More details will be in Comberton Contact later in the spring.

*Contact Angela Donnelly
07731875664*

Dog Fouling on South Street Allotments

Tenants on South Street Allotments have been aware for the past few months that the owner of a 'large' dog regularly walks their dog down the main drive and on the side paths, allowing the dog to foul. This is Private land, with no Public Footpaths or Right of Way.

Our Tenants are allotment gardening, often accompanied by their own children and grandchildren. They do not expect to find dog excrement on this site. Anyone found allowing their dog to foul the allotments will be reported.

*Jane R Hughes
Local Agent for the owners -
Heesom Green Partnership*



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Heidi Allen MP for South Cambs Newsletter

This is my first newsletter of 2018 and I would like to begin by wishing everyone a happy and healthy new year! It was an incredibly busy end to last year and is shaping up to be more of the same in 2018!

Having recovered fully from being sawn in half(!) at the Cambourne lights switch on event, I was able to join local residents for some of their Christmas celebrations. I always enjoy carol services and this year was no exception. I joined residents in Papworth Everard for their community carol service and attended the Christmas service at Holy Trinity Church in Elsworth. I was honoured to be asked to read one of the lessons and reflected on the work local community and faith groups do to bring people together not just at Christmas, but throughout the year. Our communities are stronger because of them.

I was also pleased to be asked to record a message for "Talking News for the Blind" which is provided to about 200 blind and partially sighted people in Cambridge and surrounding villages. This local charity does vital work to bring information and news to people who may feel isolated otherwise.

Last month, I invited Robert Halfon MP to South Cambs so he could see the excellent work undertaken at Villiers Park in Foxton.

Robert is the Chair of the House of Commons Education Select Committee and understands the role education plays in social mobility.

Villiers Park are a phenomenal education charity who actively seek out the brightest kids from the poorest backgrounds, in the most deprived parts of the UK. They work with them over a number of years, mentoring and supporting them to achieve their potential and a place at a top University or high level apprenticeship.

I am keen to help them expand, so if you work for an organisation who may be interested in sponsoring them, please do get in touch with me or them directly at www.villierspark.org.uk

Back in Westminster, the Agriculture Minister George Eustice kindly agreed to meet with some of my South Cambs farmers to discuss what life might be like for them outside the EU.

asbestos disease is still claiming lives



4,500 a year in the UK are dying from this disease

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Heidi Allen MP for South Cambs Newsletter Cont

We had a full and frank discussion about what small and large farmers will need to keep this vital industry profitable. We all agreed it was a very worthwhile meeting and took great reassurance from George's understanding of the challenges the industry faces.

A common theme in my newsletters is my ambition to get round every school in South Cambs. First off, I took some pretty tough questions from Great and Little Shelford Primary's School Council! It was also great to be back at Cambourne Village College to hear from students who are members of CAMnesty, the Cambourne Amnesty youth group. The optimism and straightforwardness of young minds gives me a great energy boost.

Finally, I visited Vine Inter-Church Primary School in Cambourne to understand the challenges facing a rapidly growing village with a constantly shifting population. The dedication of the staff and head teachers I meet in every school is humbling. It is always evident that every member of staff is completely and utterly committed to the children they teach.

Oakington's latest community facility is now open!

Crossways CommuniTea Café at 1 Longstanton Road, Oakington is a social enterprise with the aim of bringing the community together in a warm and welcoming environment.

It was a pleasure to do the honours and cut the ribbon (I was allowed proper grown up scissors on this occasion!) I hope you will be able to support the café by popping in soon for a cuppa. I can confirm beyond all doubt that they make a cracking brew!

Cambridgeshire's Police and Crime Commissioner is seeking views on their share of your council tax. They are proposing to increase it by £12 per year per household (based on a Band D property) in order to provide more front line police officers. The survey runs until the 29th January and can be found at - www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/W3CD8P3

Details of all upcoming surgeries and contact details can be found on my website - www.heidisouthcambs.co.uk. See you next month!

Heidi Allen MP

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Comberton Ramblers

The Comberton Ramblers Group walk on alternate Sundays. Walks are from 4 - 7 miles, usually ending near a public house. We are a friendly / informative group and enjoy exploring the varied countryside in this area. In June 2014 the group celebrated 40 years of rambling.

New walkers are welcome to join us with up to 2 free walks. If you enjoy our walks we request that you become a member.

From the 1st September 2017 the annual membership fee is £8.50 per person. Young people under 18 years old are free.

Upcoming walks

4th February 2018
Brockley Green. 5 Miles.
Meet at The Plough Inn,
Brockley Green, Hundon, Suffolk.
CO10 8DT

18th February 2018
Linton. 5.5. Miles.
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Street, Linton. CB21 4HS

4th March 2018
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Stella - The Secretary.
stella.ramblers@hotmail.com



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From the Fire to the Tin Hat Wrapper

West View, 39 West Street, Comberton

We would like to sincerely thank our neighbours on West Street, our families, friends (old and new), and many others both living in Comberton and further afield, for their kindness and their practical help which have supported, helped, and sustained us since our thatched cottage was damaged by fire on Saturday 25th November 2017. I am also writing to share a few details about the fire and the next steps, taken with others, towards the reconstruction of West View, 39 West Street, our home, a Grade II listed thatched cottage, which was built in the early 1600s.

On the day of the fire, many villagers supported the firefighters, those evacuated from their homes, and others inside the police cordoned-off area of West Street. One neighbour made 150 cups of tea and coffee! Bottles of water and sandwiches were provided, and cakes and biscuits served, with one neighbour bringing out fresh flapjack. The firefighters told us that they really appreciated the exceptional support of the village that day, and later wrote to thank those whose names and contact details they had managed to record.

Four hours into the fire, a firefighter rescued our 16-year-old cat Lara, handing her to me soaking wet. A close neighbour, who knows Lara well, immediately took Lara into her warm home, where she is still being well cared for until we are settled in our 'new' rental home. Our dog Darcey, was kindly taken into another nearby neighbour's home, where she was well cared for by her daughter and befriended by their own dog.

On Sunday 26th November, the fire investigator analysed the cottage's remains and with the help of witness accounts has concluded that the fire was "an accident, an unfortunate combination of events. A thatch fire, which as often occurs, started within 20 minutes of lighting a fire in a wood-burning stove. A burning ember rose up through the lined and insulated chimney, by chance landing on a patch of fire-susceptible thatch". In this case, the burning ember landed on the old thatch at the back of the cottage, and in spite of all the preventative measures in place, a chance combination of events led to an eight-hour thatch fire on Saturday 25th November. This conclusion is supported by the forensics team, which also inspected the remains.

From the Fire to the Tin Hat Wrapper Cont.

Once started, most thatch fires are not extinguished on the roof. They can only be controlled – by the many expert firefighters such as the ones that were with us on that day – until the thatch has burnt away and all the thatch has been raked from the cottage's roof. According to the firefighters this thatch fire had taken significantly less time to put out than most – one said approximately half the time – and as a consequence more of the cottage was saved than is usually the case. This was because the cottage was in the final stages of re-thatching; a platform of scaffolding around it provided good access to the roof, and there was no attached wire over the thatch to hamper raking off the burning thatch.

For the last 18 years, we have enjoyed living in and looking after the cottage on West Street, with our children, their two cats and our friendly border terrier. We are fortunate to have met members of all the families who have lived in West View since the early 1900s, and to have learnt much about the history of the cottage and the surrounding land from the Jones family who live opposite. So we were delighted when, after a visit in December, Historic England and South Cambridgeshire District Council recommended that the

cottage should be reconstructed.

Since the fire much has happened, and here it is important to sincerely thank those who have advised, guided, and worked on progressing the protection of the cottage's remaining historic fabric and the clearance of the debris from inside and around the cottage, all in preparation for the reconstruction. A local farmer offered his help and quickly arranged for one of his workers to clear the burnt and sodden thatch from the garden, and managed to salvage our daughter's teddy bear. A local craftsman quickly made good the doors and locks, then removed radiators and pipework to expose the inner walls' fabric, so as to aid any strip out and drying.

Numerous professionals have come to our aid. Consulting civil and structural engineers Gawn Associates are our project lead; their expertise and understanding of the structure, reconstruction and associated regulation needs of historic buildings is progressing the work, leading us and others through the maze of requirements and processes. Builders and decorators Offord and Camp are providing advice, guiding us and others through material and practical requirements.

From the Fire to the Tin Hat Wrapper Cont.

The Butler Brothers have cleared debris from around and inside the cottage, finding our son's teddy bear, and they continue with their work as further needs are identified. They have put in Acrow Props on the ground floor to make safe the upper floor, and re-laid the drive in preparation for the building work to follow. Scope Asbestos Analysis Services have inspected and tested for traces of asbestos bound into compounds used in the property's construction. DSS Electrical completed work on the cottage's electricity supply.

We have also benefited from Marlow Scaffolding Services whose scaffolding acted as a strong platform that enabled the firefighters to work more effectively and efficiently on the thatch fire; this platform has also facilitated subsequent inspections of the property. In addition, BWS Scaffolding erected the Tin Hat by 23rd December, wrapping the house up for Christmas (not to be unwrapped till later in 2018). This Tin Hat protects the cottage from further weather damage and enables work to continue inside. This protective structure continues to be maintained by BWS, with the platform enabling further inspection visits and the viewing of the property by contractors

such as the thatchers, who are putting together quotes for the 'new' thatch. We have reached the stage where a local surveyor has completed a measured survey and a local architect has drafted plans for the internal layout of the property. Last but not least, our insurers and Crawfords' Loss Adjustor are working with us to ensure that everything progresses in an efficient and timely manner.

We again extend our thanks to all those who have supported us in so many different ways both on the day of the fire and since. We are planning to write a book about the cottage, its history, the fire and reconstruction. Therefore, if you would like to share what you know about the history of the cottage, photos of the cottage, or contribute by writing about the day of the fire, or afterwards, please do contact me by email at pamelablack8888@gmail.com or by letter to 39 West Street, Comberton, CB23 7DS. We will write further updates as work on the reconstruction progresses. Thank you once more for your kindness, interest, and support, as we work together with many others on the restoration and rebuilding of one of the village's remaining Grade II listed thatched cottages.

Dr Pamela Black

On-call Firefighters

We are a vital part of today's fire and rescue service, providing an efficient, effective service that gives emergency cover to more than 90% of the UK. In Cambridgeshire they make up 56% of the workforce. An on-call firefighter is not based at a fire station but carries a pager and responds to emergency incidents as and when they happen. They receive an annual wage to reflect the time they commit to being available, plus additional payments for attending incidents and drill nights (one evening a week for two hours).

On-call firefighters often have jobs and are able to provide evening, daytime, or weekend cover. When on-call they may be at home, working for themselves or for a nearby company, or out in their local community within a 5 minute radius of the station itself. Our on-call firefighters are mainly located in rural communities, small towns and villages, and we will be able to tell you if you are within range to apply. If you are interested, go to www.cambsfire.gov.uk and search for on-call firefighter under the careers section or contact recruitment@cambsfire.gov.uk.

The Challenge Solution

Sponsored by Budgens of Comberton

A selection of some of the answers:-

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 First Lord of the Treasury | 13 Lord High Executioner |
| 2 Lord of the Flies | 14 Lord's Taverners |
| 3 Lord of the Rings | 15 Lord Haw Haw |
| 4 The Lord's Prayer | 16. Little Lord Fauntleroy |
| 5 Lord Privy Seal | 17. Screaming Lord Sutch |
| 6 Lord's Cricket Ground | 18. Lord Edgware Dies |
| 7 Lord Jim | 19. Butter in a Lordly dish |
| 8 Lord of the Dance | 20. Lord of Illusions |
| 9 Lord Mayor | 21. Lord of Shadows |
| 10 Lord of the Jungle | 22. Lord of the Manor |
| 11 Lord Chief Justice | 23. The Lord of Flatbush |
| 12 Lord Provost | 24. Lord of the Far Island |
| | 25. Lord of War |

Winner: April Pennick. Harbour Avenue

The Challenge

Sponsored by Budgen's of Comberton.

In each case below the answer is a single word which has a dual meaning. Solve just a few and the theme will become obvious.

A land mollusc/A bullet

A drug smuggler/A backless
slipper or shoe

A solid hooved ungulate/ A gym
item

A domesticated animal/ To track
or trail

A burrowing mammal/ An inferior
golfer

A jazz fan/ A domesticated
carnivore

A computer device/ A common
rodent

An ass/ A stupid person

A butterfly grub/A tractor on
endless tracks

To act as an informer/Another
house rodent

A domestic fowl/ A faint hearted
person

The Challenge Cont.

Daffy? / An amphibious military
vehicle

Carnivorous aquatic mammal/
Piece of stamped wax

Type of moustache/ Carnivorous
aquatic mammal

A bird of prey /A 'flying' toy

A spiny finned fish/ A measure of
5.5 yards

A long shafted weapon/A
voracious freshwater fish

Swimming stroke/ A daylight
Lepidoptera

A spy /A breakwater

A flightless bird/A Chinese
gooseberry

Entries please to Budgen's, Green End Surgery or the Library by 14th
February.

The prize of £10, generously donated by Budgens, is to be spent in
store.

Name.....

Address.....