## Comberton Contact Team


| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Editor & Designer** | Anne Horler | 20 Green End | 01223 264683 |
| | email: editor@combertoncontact.org.uk | | |
| **Treasurer** | Terry Coad | 38 Westlands | 01223 263264 |
| **Advertising** | email to: treasurer@combertoncontact.org.uk | | |
| **Distribution** | Marion Dymott | 26 Barrons Way | 01223 263292 |
| **assisted by** | Mary Richards | 38 Barrons Way | 01223 262180 |


Please send or deliver copy to Anne or by email in Word or rich text or pdf.

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## ADVERTISING RATES FOR COMBERTON CONTACT

from June 2009

**Changes will be effective at the time of booking advertisements.**

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

**Coloured back cover** (one-off) **Whole page** £66

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### REGULAR DATES

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Every Tuesday | | Comberton Café & Crafts at Village Hall |
| Every Tuesday | | Table Tennis in Village Hall |
| Every Wednesday | 10.00 -11.30 | Comberton Toddler Group at Village Hall |
| Every Wednesday evening | | Tang Soo Do at Meridian School |
| Every Wednesday | 12.25 - 1.10 | Lunchtime Badminton at Village College |
| Every Wed. (in term time) | 2-3.30pm | Bumps & Babes at Baptist Church |
| 1st 2nd and 4th Monday Evenings | 7.00pm | Carpet Bowls at Village Hall. |
| 4th Tuesday of each month | 8.00pm | Comberton Antiquarian Society at V. H |
| 4th Thursday of each month | 2.30pm | Oasis Teas at Village Hall |
| !st Wednesday of each month | 10.30am | Reading Group at the Library |
| 3rd Sat (in term time) | 10.00-12.00am | Dads R Us at Baptist Church |
| 2nd Wednesday eah Month | 7.30pm | Parish Council Meeting at Village Hall |

### FEBRUARY

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 7th Feb | 10.00-12.00am | Meet Your Councillors at Village Hall |
| 9th Feb | 10.30-11.00 | Rhymetime at the Library |
| 10th Feb | 7.15pm | WI Meeting in Village Hall |
| 12thFeb | 2.30pm | Friendship Club in the Village Hall |
| 17th Feb | 10.30am | Pancake Race at Village Hall |
| 18th Feb | 1.30-3.30pm | Carers Drop-in at Cambourne Library |
| 20th Feb | 7.00pm | Bingo Party at Village Hall |
| 23rd Feb | 10.30-11.00 | Rhymetime at the Library |
| 26th Feb | 2.30pm | Oasis Teas at Village Hall |
| 28th Feb | 10.30-12.00am | Big Brew Coffee Morning at St Mary's Church |
| 28th Feb | 8.00pm | Paul Karensa at St Mary's Church |

### MARCH

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 7th Mar | 8.00pm | Combertones at Village Hall |
| 9th Mar | 10.30-11.00 | Rhymetime at the Library |
| 18th Mar | 1.30-3.30pm | Carers Drop-in at Cambourne Library |
| 23rd Mar | 10.30-11.00 | Rhymetime at the Library |

# A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

A Happy New Year to you all. I would like to thank all our willing and tireless distributors without whose work in all weathers you would not receive your Contact. Particular thanks are due for their dedication to helping us to rectify the error in last month's issue which necessitated delivering all over again. Mr & Mrs Dobie are no longer delivering to Thornbury and we really thank them for their work over the years. I have been handed a short history of Comberton. Because we did not had an issue last month there are a lot of contributions this month and space has been given to items which have deadlines. However I intend to re-publish this history in two instalments starting next month. It takes us up to about 1980. If anyone has more recent history they would like to add please let me have it and I will put it in maybe as chapter 3.

**VILLAGE CAFÉ at the VILLAGE HALL**

Open every Tuesday 10.30 - 12 noon

Coffee/Tea/Squash

Meet up with friends or make new ones

Families welcome!

Hope to see you there soon.

## Meet your Councillors for Coffee

## Saturday 7th February 2015

Between 10:00 am and 12 noon
Comberton Village Hall

Tim Scott, District Councillor and Stephen Frost, County Councillor will be available to talk with you about matters of local concern.

*Promoted by S P Frost on behalf of Comberton Conservatives, both of 153 St Neots Road, Hardwick CB23 7QJ*

FAIRTRADE
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**Saturday 28 February 10.30 – 12.00**
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To support some of the world's poorest producers

Admission: adults £1, school age children 50p,
to include coffee and biscuits

All Welcome – Bring a friend!

## VILLAGE BINGO PARTY

Comberton Village Hall
Friday 20th February 7 for 7.30pm
£1 Admission
Tea/coffee and Biscuits available
Bring a bottle if you wish.
Bring your friends from this and other villages!
6 games/chances to win cash prizes
£2.50 for a book of 6 game cards.
12 Raffle prizes every time
For further information contact Andrew on 263089
or Michael on 262748
This event is sponsored by Comberton Village Hall Trustees

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# VAL SINCLAIR

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***Saturday 7th March 2015 at 8pm***

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**Tel : 01954 230824**

**Email : combertones@btinternet.com**

**or just pay on the door**

**Teas will be on sale, or bring your own drinks & glasses**

**All proceeds of the evening to charity**

---

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**ADULT CLASSES:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Venues** | Comberton Village College<br>Meridian Primary School Comberton<br>Colours of Dance Studio | Barton Village Hall<br>Bourn Village Hall |
| **Types of Dance** | Ballroom & Latin | Chasamba Fitness |

**CHILDREN'S CLASSES:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Venues** | Trumpington Meadows Primary School:<br>The Colours of Dance Studios Histon Road. | Bourn Village Hall<br>Comberton Village Hall |
| **Types of Dance** | Pre School Funky Footsteps,<br>Ballroom & Latin | Street Dance, |

**If you would like to book a space at any of the classes or for more information please contact Chrissie on 01223262561/07929721020 or cmoore7@sky.com.**

## Where can abuse happen?

Abuse can take place in any setting:

- in your home
- in someone else's home (relatives or friend)
- in a residential or nursing home
- in a day centre, adult education or other establishment
- in a hospital or GP surgery
- at work
- in a public place

## Who abuses?

The person responsible for the abuse is often well known to the adult being abused. They may be:

- a relative, friend or neighbour
- a paid or volunteer carer
- a professional worker
- another resident or service user
- an occasional visitor or service provider

If you would like this information in an alternative format, please phone 0345 045 5202 or email: adultsocialcareleaflets@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

or write to:

Cambridgeshire County Council
CC1221, Castle Court
Shire Hall
CAMBRIDGE, CB3 0AP

July 2013 Gen5-v2

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***This is when Home-Start volunteers can help!***

## A 10 session training course for new volunteers is being held during February & March 2015

**The course will run from 9.30am – 2.30pm - dates to be confirmed**

**For more details contact Sarah or Jackie at:-**
**Home-Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire,**
**Unit 6, Valley Farm, Station Road, Meldreth,**
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- Providing unpaid support to adult family members or friends who could not manage without your help?
- Struggling with an age related condition?

If you answer 'yes' to any of the above then why not come along to one of our

## Carer Drop-In's

At Cambourne Library, Sackville House,
Sackville Way, Cambourne CB23 6HD
1.30pm – 3.30pm
Refreshments available

**21 January 2015**

**18 February 2015**

**18 March 2015**

**Our advice is free and confidential and a warm welcome is guaranteed.**

For further information contact
Telephone: 01480 377616 or Leigh Hornsby on 01480 373220

Drop.InSessionsAsc @cambridgeshire.gov.uk
CarersSupportTeam@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

healthwatch Cambridgeshire

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## Working Together Consultation Event

Dear Supporter,

**You are welcome to come to our Consultation Event**

1.30pm to 4pm on Monday 23rd February 2015
The Maltings, Ship Lane, Ely CB7 4BB

**This event is open to anyone who is interested in our work.**

We will talk to you about the work we have done in the last 18 months.

We will ask you what you think we need to work on in the future.

Places are limited - call our office on 01480 420628 to book your place.

Yours sincerely,

**Sandie Smith** **Chief Executive**

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LOCAL SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

# Ditch the Diet, Change lives instead.

## News release

**We're Eddie's and we're a local charity. Our name is new but we're not. We've been supporting people with learning disabilities in Cambridgeshire for over ten years. We used to be part of Cambridgeshire Mencap. Eddie's provides a wide range of services for children, young people and adults with learning disabilities, and their families and carers. We offer practical support andlots of exciting opportunities.**

We are urgently looking for volunteers for our Family Support and Befriending schemes. Caring for a child or young person with a learning disability can be emotionally and physically tiring. Often,individuals with learning disabilities need extra assistance with simple day-to-day activities. Our Family Support Service delivers practical support for parents and carers when and where they need it most by providing a trained volunteer to regularly visit the child or young person. The volunteer might helpthat child to get out and about and do something they enjoy – from a walk in the park to a visit to the cinema. Or, they could look after a child or young person at home so that carers can take a well-earned break.

Typically, a volunteer befriender might go to the cinema or go shopping and have a coffee with the youngperson they befriend. This can make a real difference to young peoples' lives. It gives them an opportunity to develop friendships and the chance to do ordinary things without their main carers. It canimprove self-esteem and also help to develop life skills.

We'd like to hear from people who are settled in Cambridge or surrounding villages and can develop ameaningful relationship with a young person over a sustained period of time.

We think our volunteers are exceptional and you could be too! We give training and support. It only takesa few hours of your time and really does change lives.

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Pre booking recommended for groups of 4+

*Food Times:*
No food on Mon, Tues: 12 – 2pm, Weds - Fri: 12 – 2pm & 6 – 8pm
Sat: 12.30 - 2.30pm & 6 – 8pm, Sun: 12.30 - 2.30pm

*Pub Quiz* – Cash prizes & Raffle, Friday 13th February, 8.30pm

*Karaoke with Wayne* – Saturday 28th February, 9pm

# PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

from the Clerk

The Parish Council met on 10th December 2014 and on 14th January 2015

***Recreation ground***

Maintenance of the new pitches was considered and a specification for annual maintenance agreed. A buffer zone will be left between the Jubilee Wood and the pitches.

***Normandy Close***

Annual maintenance arrangements were put in place for the open space's landscaping. The Council's Tree Group will be checking which trees and shrubs have died and will need replacing.

***Street lights***

Complaints about the streetlights and works continue to be received by the Parish Council and these are forwarded to Balfour Beatty the company who is undertaking the work on the County Council's behalf. Any complaints about the street lighting or the works should be sent to enquiries@lightingcambridgeshire.com and/or taken up with your county Councillor, Cllr Stephen Frost stephen.frost@ambridgeshire.gov.uk

***Post Office van parking***

Following complaints about the parking of the vans on the verge complaints have now been received that the vans are now parking on the highway. There are no yellow lines on the highway to prevent this however, the Parish Council has decided that it would be preferable if the post office vans park in the recreation ground car park. A letter will be sent to them advising them of this and it is hoped that they take up this offer.

***The Drift***

The Drift is a byway open to all traffic but this leads to the surface being damaged at this time of the year. The Parish Council will try to progress with Cambridgeshire County Council a seasonal closure of the byway to protect the surface during the winter months.

***Annual assets review***

The annual review of the Parish Councils assets has taken place and works identified will be put in hand. The refurbishment of the village sign is taking longer than hoped but the sign due to circumstances beyond the Council's control and the Parish Council hopes that the work will be completed before too long.

***Tree planting***

Donations towards the cost of new trees are still invited. If you would be willing to donate some money towards the costs please contact the Clerk. All donations welcome.

***Baptist Church Youth Application***

The Parish Council was pleased to be able to support and be the referee for the Church's application to the County Council for a grant.

***Connections Bus***

The Parish Council has renewed the contract with the Connections Bus from 1st April 2015 for a year. If your child hasn't used the Bus before and would like to and you need more information on when it visits please contact the Clerk.

***Playground Project Phase 3***

An order will be placed shortly for phase 3 works to the sandpit.

***Budget and Precept for 1 April 2105 to 31 March 2016***

The Parish Council approved its budget and set its precept at £58,370. This is the amount the

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Council requires to balance its budget; a 2.4% increase on the current year. A full copy of the budget is available on the Council's website.

***Problems and reporting***

The Parish Council is responsible for the pavilion, recreation ground, pond and open spaces throughout the village and trees and play equipment and structures such as bus shelters and benches on these areas. If you have a concern about anything relating to Parish Council land, assets or business then please contact the Clerk. If you have any concerns about potholes, damaged pavements, street lights not working, hedges obstructing the pavement or highway or any other highway issue please report them to the County Council online
http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/reportingafault.htm
Use the District Council's online portal to report weeds growing out of the roadside, roadside litter bins, an abandoned vehicle, dog fouling, fly tipping, graffiti or littering
https://www.scambs.gov.uk/ "Report it"

***Parish Council contact details***

Mrs Gail Stoehr, Clerk to Comberton Parish Council, 30 West Drive, Highfields Caldecote, Cambridge, CB23 7NY

Email parishclerk@comberton.org.uk Tel: 01954 210241 Fax: 0870 705 2759

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Miss Amanda Bacon (Chairman) | Arial View, 92B Swaynes Lane | 264711 |
| Mr Richard Elleray | 30 Green End | 262433 |
| Mr Hywel Griffiths (Vice-Chairman) | 18 Barrons Way | 263390 |
| Mrs Sophie Higman | Berry Cottage 7 West Street | 264624 |
| Mr Andrew Hollick | 73 Swaynes Lane | 263089 |
| Dr Janet McCabe | 3 Westcroft | 263387 |
| Mr Simon Moffat | 86 Swaynes Lane | |
| Mr Ben Pemberton | 35 West Street | 262445 |
| Mrs Jill Preston | 45 Long Road | 263077 |
| Mr Tim Scott | Moat House, 65 Green End | 263434 |
| Mr Nick Taylor | 41 West Street | 263419 |
| Miss Chris Westgarth | 85 Barton Road | 263242 |

The Parish Council meets on the second Wednesday in the month (except August) at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All parishioners are invited to attend the meeting and the first ten minutes or so are open to residents to ask questions or make comments and observations on Comberton matters or on items on the agenda. If the matter is on the agenda or has already been under discussion a response may be given at the meeting otherwise the matter might be tabled for fuller discussion at the next or a future meeting.

## THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY, COMBERTON

In the Lordsbridge Team Ministry

Revd. Michael Booker - team rector 01223 260095 mikebooker@lordsbridge.org
Revd Corin Redsell - curate 01954 212970 corinredsell@lordsbridge.org
www.combertonchurch.co.uk

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

Churchwardens Mrs Debbie Spencer, Tel 264287
Mrs Mary Jenkins, 80 West Street, Tel 263751

Please contact Mike Booker about arrangements for Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings and the readings of Banns of marriage.

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Services and Events at St Mary's in February

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sunday 1st | 8.00am | Holy Communion (Prayer Book) |
| | 9.30am | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 8th | 9.30am | Holy Communion |
| | 7.30pm | Sacred Space at St Mary's |
| Sunday 15th | 8.00am | Holy Communion (Prayer Book) |
| | 9.30am | Morning Worship |
| Wednesday 18th | 8.00pm | Ash Wednesday service in Toft |
| Sunday 22nd | 9.30am | All Age worship and Baptism |
| Thursday 26th | 2.30pm | Oasis Tea, in the Village Hall |
| Saturday 28th | | Big Brew Coffee Morning at St Mary's |
| | 8.00pm | So a comedian walks into church - an evening with Paul Kerensa |

St Mary's is a Fairtrade church. We have a stall with fairly traded produce on sale each week, and the tea and coffee we use at church events is chosen because the producers get a better, reliable price for the crops they grow. Come and support Fair-trade, and have a good time chatting to friends, at the Big Brew on Saturday 28th. Then come back for an evening of fun with Paul Kerensa, comedian, script writer and Christian.

If you're in need of quiet, St Mary's is open at weekends. There is a special display in the chancel, which changes every few weeks, with ideas and materials to help you pray. Sacred Space, alternative worship with contemporary music, space, quiet and creativity, is at St Mary's again this month, on the evening of February 8th - you're very welcome, whether or not you come to any other St Mary's event

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Detailed below are the normal times of masses at weekends

Sunday Vigil Mass on Saturday evening:-

5.00 pm Cambourne
6.00 pm Bar Hill
6.00 pm OLEM

Sunday Masses at OLEM

8.00 am
9.30 am (Children's)
10.45 am (Sung)
12.15 pm (Polish)
5.00 pm (Folk)
6.15 pm (Latin)

Ash Wednesday is 18th February

Further details of these and all other services for June for the entire parish may be found on the parish website which also has the weekly newssheet and other parish information. www.olem.org.uk

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# THE MAGIC OF THE CUP

Most of us love an underdog. How many 'feel good' films did you watch over Christmas where the storyline involved a lone individual overcoming incredible odds to succeed? How many John Grisham novels are about one person's struggle for justice against the might and power of massive corporations and the political elite? We love an underdog. As I'm writing this Cambridge United are still in the FA Cup. The chances are that by the time you read it they are not. Because between now and then there is the small matter of the fourth round tie against footballing giants Manchester United. Man Utd sit near the top of the Premier League. Cambridge are the lowest ranked team still in the competition. Unfortunately I have a prior engagement so will not even be able to watch the match live on the television - but most people tuning in to watch that match will be supporting Cambridge. I expect the only people supporting Man Utd will be Man Utd fans - pretty much everyone else will be supporting the underdog. Hoping to see the mighty fall. Hoping to experience a giant killing. Just over ten years ago, my team, Exeter City, went to Old Trafford, and in the FA Cup held Man Utd to a nil-nil draw. That's the 'magic of the cup'. On the day anything is possible. On the day sometimes David does slay Goliath. One of the things I like about the story of David and Goliath in the Bible is David's perspective on life. Everyone around him sees a terrifying, armed and dangerous opponent who surely cannot be defeated. But David recognises that however mighty Goliath may be, God is bigger. We all have our own Goliaths in life - those things that seem too big for us to overcome. But are we facing these things on our own or with God?
Keith Tarring - Minister at Comberton Baptist Church

# NEWS FROM THE MERIDIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Learning for Life

Every year, as December turns into January, we receive quite a lot of visits from prospective parents who are trying to decide where their very young child should start their school career. For some, it is perhaps not too difficult a decision – a sibling (or siblings) is already here, parents know the school, and are happy with what we provide. For the first-time parent, however, it can be a more daunting task. We are, therefore, more than happy to arrange a little tour of the school and, if I'm available, a personal chat. I find it very encouraging how well informed parents are. I always ask if they have looked at our school website, and the answer is nearly always 'yes'. They know about our most recent Ofsted inspections and are often aware of our Forest School provision. So what do I talk to them about? I try to give them some idea of our ethos. Our strapline (see above) is Learning for Life and I explain the double meaning that carries: that we try to prepare children for later life by giving them the skills they need; and that we believe learning is a life-long experience which adults engage in too. I talk about our responsive curriculum which is 'wrapped around' the National Curriculum and follows the enthusiasms of children and teachers alike while ensuring we cover those National Curriculum requirements. I explain why we are so keen to involve children in Forest School and how we use Watts Wood to excite children about the outdoors, build their social and team-working skills, and enhance their self esteem. I talk about our

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commitment to Shakespeare as a vehicle for children's learning and how all our children, of whatever age, are introduced to Shakespeare in an engaging way. I may mention our emphasis on the 4Rs. These are four particular characteristics which promote successful learning – resilience, resourcefulness, reflectiveness and relationships. I will also refer to our tasty school lunches and the new entitlement of all children in Reception and Key Stage 1 to have a free hot school lunch every day. I'll point them towards the breakfast and after school club (recently given a 'good ' Ofsted judgment) which helps working parents with childcare. I even point out that we have four male teachers (an unusually high proportion in a primary school) and the benefits I feel that brings to everyone! But increasingly I refer to standards in teaching. The research is clear – it is the skills of a child's teacher which have the most impact on her or his learning and progress. So the job of school leaders is really quite simple: to do everything possible to raise, and keep raising, teaching standards. That's what we strive to do at Meridian and, among all the other priorities, it is theone thing we must never lose sight of.
Glennis Virgo Headteacher

## WHAT'S ON AT COMBERTON AND CAMBOURNE VILLAGE COLLEGES.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 05-Feb-15 | Ceroc Workshop | Cambourne Village College |
| 07-Feb-15 | Indian Dance Show | Cambourne Village College |
| 12-Feb-15 | Ceroc Workshop | Cambourne Village College |
| 19-Feb-15 | Ceroc Workshop | Cambourne Village College |
| 20-Feb-15 | Custard Comedy | Cambourne Village College |
| 26-Feb-15 | Ceroc Workshop | Cambourne Village College |
| 05-Mar-15 | Ceroc Workshop | Cambourne Village College |
| 12-Mar-15 | Ceroc Workshop | Cambourne Village College |
| 19-Mar-15 | Ceroc Workshop | Cambourne Village College |
| 20-Mar-15 | Custard Comedy | Cambourne Village College |
| 26-Mar-15 | Ceroc Workshop | Cambourne Village College |
| 02-Apr-15 | Ceroc Workshop | Cambourne Village College |
| 09-Apr-15 | Ceroc Workshop | Cambourne Village College |
| 16-Apr-15 | Ceroc Workshop | Cambourne Village College |
| 17-Apr-15 | Custard Comedy | Cambourne Village College |
| 07-Feb-15 | Eden Dance | Comberton Sports & Arts |
| 08-Feb-15 | Eden Dance | Comberton Sports & Arts |
| 13-Feb-15 | Custard Comedy | Comberton Sports & Arts |
| 21-Feb-15 | Dance Excess | Comberton Sports & Arts |
| 05-Mar-15 | Royal Opera House & Orcehstra de Picardi Present Noyes Fludde | Comberton Sports & Arts |
| 06-Mar-15 | Royal Opera House & Orcehstra de Picardi Present Noyes Fludde | Comberton Sports & Arts |
| 06-Mar-15 | Steve Knightly - Grow Your Own Gig | Comberton Sports & Arts |
| 07-Mar-15 | Auction of Promises | Comberton Sports & Arts |
| 08-Mar-15 | Colours of Dance Show | Comberton Sports & Arts |
| 12-Mar-15 | Lady Windermere's Fan | Comberton Sports & Arts |

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| 13-Mar-15 | Lady Windermere's Fan | Comberton Sports & Arts |
| 13-Mar-15 | Custard Comedy | Comberton Sports & Arts |
| 19-Mar-15 | Bourn Players | Comberton Sports & Arts |
| 20-Mar-15 | Bourn Players | Comberton Sports & Arts |
| 21-Mar-15 | Bourn Players | Comberton Sports & Arts |
| 21-Mar-15 | Dance Excess | Comberton Sports & Arts |
| 10-Apr-15 | Custard Comedy | Comberton Sports & Arts |
| 11-Apr-15 | WI Centenary Celebrations | Comberton Sports & Arts |

## Christmas Lights – Thank You.

A big thank you to everyone who made the Annual lights event a success. Thank you to Hilary and the playgroup staff and to Stuart and Clare Tunstall at HIM Maintenance for the electricity for the lights. The Salvation Army band from Waterbeach played our favourite carols and shared short bible verses that told the Christmas story. Thank you for the very generous donations to the work of the Salvation Army. Hot festive punch, mince pies and roasted chestnuts were enjoyed by all on the cold, frosty evening.

## Comedy Evening at St Mary's (See Back Cover)

Saturday 28th February at 8pm

Paul Karensa, a a comedian who writes for the BBC's Miranda and Not Going Out. Entrance £5 . There will also be drinks and refreshments for sale. Put the date in your diary and come along for a cracking evening…

## Comberton Friendship Club

Our Annual Christmas Lunch was held on the afternoon of Thursday 11th December. As usual it was a great success, tables set beautifully by committee, plus other members of the club. We all enjoyed an excellent meal, a quiz, plus a raffle, to which forty prizes were donated, thankyou everyone. A toast was given to all past members especially Mary Lilley and Jean Woodruff who both sadly passed away in 2014. Lastly all members received a small gift each plus a Christmas card from the club. A very friendly happy afternoon. Our first meeting for the year was held on Thursday 8th January. Our speaker being Nikki Soyza from "Care Net Work" Cambridgeshire. This was originally started by Sheila and Robert Stevenson in 1986 when he was vicar of St. Mary's Church Comberton. By 1996 it had grown so big it became a registered charity and to this day attends to about 200 people a month in Cambridge. All short term practical help is provided in your home by volunteers for three weeks after a hospital stay or an illness. A very interesting talk with lots of information on how to use this charity if needed. Their local office is in Hardwick telephone number 01954 212100. Next meeting Thursday 12th February at 2.30pm. A talk will be given by Oakhouse Foods. There will be a raffle also a stall. Happy New Year to all our members.

## Comberton WI Report for December and January

Members organised a very convivial Christmas party in December with a quiz, games, an excellent buffet and a visit from Santa's elves. Everybody enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and the time to chat. 2015 marks a real WI milestone. The National

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Federation is celebrating its centenary and Comberton WI is 75 years old. We began in October 1940 partly in response to the war effort and have held a meeting on the second Tuesday of the month ever since.

Our first meeting of 2015 proved to be somewhat unusual. Our booked speaker was local Russian academic Irina Kirillova who gave her views on the last three Russian presidents. In her role as an interpreter, Irina had met Gorbachev, Yeltsin and Putin on visits to the UK and compared the often negative press they received in the UK with their popularity at home. After the Soviet Union imploded in 1991, all the leaders had struggled to fill the vacuum but Irina felt that Yeltsin and Putin had been quite successful in bringing in reforms and returning Russia to its pre-Soviet state. Shortly before our talk on Russia, a visitor arrived announcing that he was our speaker. Although he had clearly made a mistake in his diary, we felt that perhaps he should speak, having driven 50 miles to reach us. So we had a double bill with Bob Jones giving us half an hour of "Laughter in the Village" with lots of light-hearted anecdotes and poems about country characters. It was certainly a varied evening providing both education and entertainment with a quick cup of tea inbetween!

Dates for the diary: 10th February at 7.45pm in the Village Hall, Charlotte Avery from St Mary's School, Cambridge on "Girls' education and female role models". All are welcome.

## *Annual Pancake Race on Tuesday 17th February at 10.30am*

The Pancake Race has been running annually in February half term since 1978. This year it actually falls on Shrove Tuesday. This event is open to all and we welcome runners of all ages. Pancakes and pans will be provided. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the village hall.

## COMBERTON LIBRARY

Opening Hours: Mon: 10am-1pm
Wed: 10am-1pm, 2pm-5pm
Fri: 2pm-5pm
Sat: 10am-1pm

More details can be found on the Library Service website at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/libraries **Once a month Comberton Reading Group meets at the library** for an hour of informal book chat, but for the other Wednesdays in the month we currently have no groups that meet here. If you are interested in setting up a small monthly group please ask us about using the library for your meeting. Whether it's knitting, writing or even to discuss walking routes, the library is your public space! On a similar note Huntingdon Library is setting up a monthly Lego group and is seeking donations of Lego and Duplo for children to use, especially base plates. Thank you to those dedicated parents, grandparents and childminders who are trekking through the weather to come to our **Rhymetime sessions on alternate Mondays,** we really appreciate your support! Sessions in February will be on 9thth and 23rd at 10.30am. And look out for Library activities across the County for National Libraries Day on Saturday 7th February!

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***Comberton Reading Group***

Comberton Reading Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month in the library, between 10.30 and 11.30am. If you are interested in joining a fun and lively chat about a wide variety of titles ask at the library for details. The group have chosen a new theme and will be looking at Science Fiction. For discussion on 4th February: "The Ocean at the End of the Lane" by Neil Gaiman. Please pop in and ask for March's title!

## COMBERTON BRIDGE CLUB

We urgently require more members or the club is in danger of folding. If you enjoy a game of Rubber Bridge do come and join us on Wednesday afternoons. We meet at 2 pm in the Village hall for approximately 2-2½ hours but should you need further information please telephone Sylvia Robertson on C. 263474.

## COMBERTON RAMBLERS

What will be your New Year's Resolution? Why not join the Comberton Ramblers walking group. The group walks alternative Sundays- normally between 5 – 6 miles. Starting and finishing at a congenial hostellery for a drink / lunch. Our aim is to enjoy ourselves, to take in the sights and sounds of the countryside. You can have 2 free walks and then if you like us we would appreciate you becoming a member. The annual membership fee is £8.50 per person. If you are interested and would like further details please contact the Secretary – Stella.
Email. stella.ramblers@hotmail.com

## COMBERTON WALKERS

A new Walking for Health group has been set up, based in Comberton and available to everyone in the surrounding area. Walking for Health is England's largest network of health walk schemes, designed to help people to get and stay active. It is run by The Ramblers, which is the charity for walkers, and by Macmillan Cancer Support, which strongly believes in the health benefits of exercise for people living with or beyond cancer. By sharing their expertise, they support 600 local schemes across England to offer short, free walks. Walks are led by friendly, knowledgeable, local volunteers. Our walk leaders are specially trained for their role and can provide the advice and encouragement that walkers need to build fitness at a pace that is right for them. We are really hoping that you will come and have fun, get or stay fit and make some new friendships. You can chat whilst you walk and then some more as we have refreshments at the end of the walk! We will be here, rain or shine, so put on those comfy walking shoes and come and join us
Details of the Comberton Walkers group:

Frequency: Mondays weekly during term times only (break for half terms)
Dates: January - 12th, 19th 26th
February – 2nd, 9th (half term) 23rd
March: - 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd
Time: Registration at 9.45am and walk 10.00 – 10.30 am (approx.)

Start and Finish at Comberton Baptist Church, Green End, Comberton, CB23 7DY (Parking available). If you have any queries at all, please contact our Walks Leader, Sylvia
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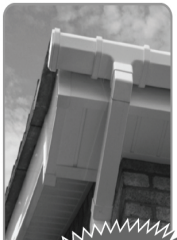

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# DOG OWNERS

Dogs are very much welcomed into the village; however we do ask that their owners behave responsibly. Apart from the obvious unpleasantness when we tread in dog excrement, there are some serious health issues, so picking up after our dogs is not a choice it's a responsibility. (failure to do so can result in a pretty hefty fine). If dogs are not wormed regularly and their faeces picked up, there is the danger of toxocariasis. There are numerous dog waste bins and plenty of normal waste bins (which can also be used) around the village and we ask that dog owners 'bag it and bin it'. On public footpaths and byways where a bin is not so readily available we ask that owners either bag it and carry it to the nearest bin or follow National Trust guidelines and use a stick to remove the excrement from the pathway. On the recreation ground, dog owners are also required to keep their dog under control (this includes the recreation ground extension) and away from the children's play equipment. (And of course use one of the 3 bins sited on the rec).

So the basic rules are

- Always make sure you have a ready supply of bags for picking up after your dog… (Nappy sacks are ideal and cheap)
- Take a torch with you for early morning or night-time walks
- Always make sure you bag it and bin it
- Just because you and your dog are in an open space does not mean you don't need to clear up…if necessary follow National Trust guidelines Let's make Comberton a responsible dog-owner village!

# COMBERTON ALLOTMENTS & GARDENS ASSOCIATION

## DATES FOR YOUR 2015 DIARY

A new growing season is almost upon us and once again we will need to make the most of whatever the weather, droughts or deluges, has in store for us! The association will be there at the Plant Sale in May to sell you lots of fine plants to cultivate and hopefully exhibit at the Autumn Show.

Spring Plant Sale – Saturday 16th May 10.00 am - Playschool
Summer Barbecue – Saturday 18th July 6.00pm – Long Road Allotments
Autumn Show – Saturday 12th September - Meridian School
Annual General Meeting –Wednesday 25th November 7.30pm – Village Hall
Annual Outing – No final decisions have been made on venue or date but it will probably be Saturday 26th or Sunday 27th September. Watch future editions of Contact for details! Robin Worship; CAGA Secretary (robin@worship.freeserve.co.uk)

# FAIRTRADE IN COMBERTON

We have been selling Fairtrade products in Comberton very successfully, on behalf of St Mary's Church, for four years, helping to provide employment and generate a fair income for talented people in poorer parts of the world. We would like to thank all of you who support this enterprise. On 28th February we will be holding another Big Brew Coffee Morning at the church between 10.30am and 12 noon to raise money for Traidcraft Exchange, the Fairtrade charity which trains and advises producers and

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helps them to market their goods. This year the government has pledged to match all the money raised between 4 January and 3 April pound for pound, so please come and help us to raise a good total. There will be the usual cake stall, raffle and other attractions plus Fairtrade goods for sale. Mary Jenkins and Joan Mead

## JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2015 BULLETIN FROM CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Looking for something new to do in 2015? Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is looking for volunteers in your area to join our successful Community Champion scheme. Community Champions encourage local residents to carry out fire safety checks in their homes, visit community groups and educate about fire safety and escape plans. We will train you, give you a uniform and provide you with a wide range of activities to choose from, all of which will help to keep our communities safe from the risk of fire. Anyone interested in becoming a Community Champion should call Rachael Brown at Cambridgeshire ACRE on (01353) 865038; email rachael.brown@cambsacre.org.uk or log on to http://cambsfirechamps.org.uk/. Cambridgeshire ACRE co-ordinate the Community Champions Scheme on behalf of CFRS. And don't forget to make a New Year Resolution to test your smoke alarm, and that of your elderly relatives, once a month but pressing the 'test' button on the device. To find out if you are eligible for a free home fire safety check, call 0800 917 99 94. THINK the fire service is all about putting out fires and rescuing people from road crashes? Think again. At Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, the men and women on our frontline deliver important fire safety advice to dozens of different communities. From visiting schools to care homes, mother and toddler groups to community fetes, our firefighters play an integral role in keeping YOUR community safe. And we'd like you to think about joining us. The role of a firefighter is varied and exciting but most importantly, it can make a real different to people's lives. It is a profession that provides development from the start, with opportunities to grow into management or specialist roles for those who want to. The next recruitment process for wholetime firefighters opens this month (February 2015). To find out more, log on to www.cambsfire.gov.uk.
Kind regards,
Leanne Ehren Media and Communication Officer Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service
01480 444558 07747113255 www.cambsfire.gov.uk Twitter: cambsfrs
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## COLD WEATHER ACTION ALERT

Life saving advice for elderly and vulnerable in the expected cold weather
A cold weather warning have been issued with the Met Office expecting that temperatures will fall below freezing. During this time, the elderly and those who are vulnerable are reminded of the simple life saving tips about how to stay warm and well in colder weather. In Cambridgeshire alone there are an average of 182 deaths per year linked to cold weather. Keeping warm in colder temperatures is particularly important for older more frail people, those with ongoing illnesses such as heart and lung conditions and the very young as the cold can affect their health. Icy ground is also a hazard that can lead to falls and broken bones.

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There are six top tips to help keep you warm and safe this winter. Some may seem obvious, but they could help you to stay healthy during the colder winter months.

1. **Heat your home well** By setting your heating to the right temperature, a minimum of 18ºC (65ºF) day and night, you can keep your home warm and your bills as low as possible.

2. **Get financial support** There are grants, benefits and sources of advice available to make your home more energy efficient, improve your heating or help with bills. It's worthwhile claiming all the benefits you are entitled to. To find out about grants, services and organisations that call help you, your family or neighbour, please call 0345 650 0280.

3. **Eat well and have plenty of fluids** Food is a vital source of energy which helps to keep your body warm. Try to make sure you and your family have hot meals and drinks regularly throughout the day.

4. **Get a flu jab** People are more likely to catch flu in cold weather. It's not too late to get a free flu vaccination if you are: aged over 65, pregnant, aged six months to under 65 years with an on-going illness such as a heart or lung condition or are a carer. Flu jabs are available from your GP or some local pharmacists. All children aged two, three and four years are also entitled to a flu immunisation delivered by nasal spray at their GP Practice.

5. **Look after yourself** Keeping active is important for your health. If you do go out in cold weather it is important that you wear extra clothes to make sure that you are wrapped up warmly. During very cold and icy weather conditions it is safer for older people, very young children, and anyone with health problems to avoid going out where possible.

6. **Look after your family and neighbours** If you have an older or vulnerable relative or neighbour look out for them during winter to ensure that they are warm and safe and avoid the need for additional medical care.

Dr Liz Robin, Director of Public Health for Cambridgeshire County Council, said: "Cold snaps can be life threatening if you are elderly and frail or if you have an ongoing health condition. You are more susceptible to colds, flu, pneumonia and circulatory problems when the weather is cold, and icy ground can cause people to fall and break bones. Please take notice of these simple tips to help you or a vulnerable relative or neighbour to stay well, over the forecast period of cold weather."

Cambridgeshire County Councillor Kilian Bourke, Chairman of the Council's Health Committee, added: "No one should take the cold weather lightly as it can kill. We will be working with local health services and local community organisations to make sure those at risk are helped, supported and receive advice. We can all play our part though. If you have a vulnerable person living near you, I'd urge you to check on them to make sure they are okay during the cold snap."

Dr Fiona Head of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group, said: "It's important that patients with long term conditions or who are old or vulnerable keep themselves well hydrated and eat well. If you are concerned call 111."

Dr Keith McNeil , CUH chief executive, said: "Colds are called 'colds' for a reason. It is important that the frail and elderly, especially those with multiple health conditions, keep warm and well during this cold snap. Following these tips for dealing with cold weather, and checking up on family and neighbours, will help keep vulnerable people well and out of hospital. The hospital is always extremely busy when the temperature drops, so keeping warm and well helps everyone." More advice about staying healthy during cold weather is available on the winter health

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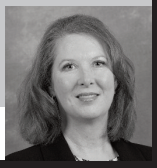

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http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/3288/pharmacies_providing_flu_vaccines_on_nhs

## COMMUNITY OIL BUYING SCHEME

Before topping up the oil tank to see through the winter months it might be the right time to consider joining an oil buying scheme. Cambridgeshire ACRE's community oil buying scheme is designed to help purchasers of central heating oil to make savings by buying in bulk. The scheme is open to anyone in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Community buildings such as churches and village halls as well as businesses which are reliant upon heating oil can join too. The annual membership fee for domestic users is £20 and covers as many oil orders as you need during the course of the year. Through our partnership with AF Affinity Limited, a subsidiary of Anglia Farmers Limited, the leading agricultural purchasing co-operative in the United Kingdom, the scheme makes the most of collective purchasing power. The average saving is usually 2pence per litre against online prices .In November and December 2014 scheme members who ordered oil in these months paid 46.99 and 42.49 pence per litre respectively (exclusive of VAT at 5%). The environment benefits too as every time a tanker comes out to make a delivery, it is using a lot of diesel – a full tanker can get as little as a horrifying 8 miles per gallon. If deliveries are organised so that one tanker delivers to several customers in a village, instead of making lots of individual deliveries, the fuel consumption is reduced and so is traffic in the village. There are five easy steps to cheaper heating oil:

- Step 1: Join the Cambridgeshire ACRE Community Oil Buying Scheme Complete a membership form or apply online and then set up a direct debit to pay for your future oil purchases.
- Step 2: Receive a reminder to check your oil levels Each month, we'll remind you to check your tank and notify you of the deadline to place an order. The minimum order is 500 litres.
- Step 3: Place your order online Use our online portal to let us know how much oil you want to buy. Your order increases our negotiating power, so once submitted we regard it as binding.
- Step 4: Sit back whilst our negotiators get the best possible price AF Affinity Ltd negotiate the best price from a range of suppliers. We advise you who the supplier is, the price per litre (exclusive of VAT, currently at 5%) and the approximate date of delivery.
- Step 5: Take delivery of the oil and pay the company The oil will be delivered as soon as possible and your bank account is debited with the amount you owe.

To find out more about the Cambridgeshire ACRE Community Oil Buying Scheme go to our website www.cambsacre.org.uk or contact Julie Weekes on 01353 860850 email oil@cambsacre.org.uk

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## HEIDI ALLEN

In October 2014, I was selected as the Conservative candidate for South Cambridgeshire, replacing Andrew Lansley MP who is retiring this year. Originally from a small village in Yorkshire, I studied Astrophysics at university and for 18 years have worked in a variety of industries; the last 6 have been running my family's manufacturing business. I am not a career politician, in fact it was the Tottenham riots of 2011 that spurred me into action. Quite simply, I felt I had to do something. As I began my parliamentary journey, I soon realised I didn't want to be an MP just "anywhere". I want to represent somewhere where my skills and experience will be useful and my understanding of village life, science, big and small business relevant. I'm excited by economic growth, but not at the cost of rural communities. South Cambridgeshire feels like somewhere that I will be able to make a difference. My husband Phil and I have since moved to the constituency, so if you would like to meet me, please do get in touch on 07718 287999 or heidi-hi@heidisouthcambs.co.uk.

Heidi South Cambridgeshire Conservative PPC 07718 287999
www.heidisouthcambs.co.uk @heidiallen75 Promoted by Stephen Frost, on behalf of Heidi Allen both of 153 St Neots Road, Hardwick, Cambridge, CB23 7QJ

## VEHICLE SECURITY ADVICE FOR BMW MODELS – ECOPS & NHW

Please be aware there have been a number of burglaries and thefts where high powered vehicles such as BMW, Audi or 4 x 4 models have been targeted. Villages affected most recently were Gamlingay, Willingham, and Over, however there are no discernable hot-spots. It is not a new trend for these types of vehicle to be stolen to commit crime, and there are simple steps you can take to reduce the risk and improve security BMW drivers in particular should note there is a flaw in the security system of some BMW models (2005-2011 registered cars) that means that criminals can potentially access the OBD port and add a blank key to the onboard system, which is then used to disarm the alarm system to enable them to start and drive the vehicle away without a key. BMW can apply a fix, to avoid this happening, so it is worth contacting your local dealership for advice. For security at home always remove car keys from obvious places, such as ground floor window ledges, and shelves. Don't leave keys on a table, or anywhere they will be vulnerable to 'fishing' or 'hooking' using a device through the letter-box for example. Ideally take any vehicle keys upstairs with you when you go to bed. If you have a high value vehicle and you park on your drive consider security gates, lockable bollards, and a driveway alarm. Even better if you can park your vehicle in a garage. Take basic security measures to guard against sneak thieves. Make sure all ground floor windows and doors are secure and locked. Set alarms if you have them.

Rachel Carr Crime Reduction Officer

## Breast Cancer Campaign

If you weren't at our chocolate tasting event on 1st December you missed out on a rare treat. Isabelle Chappell from Chocolat Chocolat taught us about the history of chocolate from its humble beginnings as a food through to the different techniques the various chocolatiers have used to develop their eating chocolate. We were all tested to discover the super tasters amongst us. We were shown how to grade different chocolates and invited to hone those new skills in the form of a competition to guess the chocolate. "I have rediscovered my passion for chocolate" says Cambridge Pinks secretary Rob Morel "we had a fun and tasty night learning about Cambridge Pinks and breast cancer campaign - and chocolate!" from one of the happy attendees. There was another opportunity to buy one of the last few photos from our "La vie en rose" exhibition at the Arts Picturehouse in September. If you would like to get involved in fundraising for Breast Cancer Campaign then please do get in touch. If you would like to find out more about Breast Cancer Campaign and how your donations will be used then visit our website www.breastcancercampaign.org. Breast Cancer Campaign's mission is to fund innovative world class research into Breast Cancer. Here in Cambridge Breast Cancer Campaign is funding researchers who are l earning about the genetics of breast cancer and finding new genes involved in breast cancer.

Avril Williams Chairman avril.williams1@btinternet.com
Cambridge Pinks - Breast Cancer Campaign Volunteer Group

## Spotting the Signs of Child Sexual Exploitation in Cambridgeshire

Message sent by Tony Darnell (Police, Communications Officer, Cambridgeshire)

Throughout January the force will be raising awareness of child sexual exploitation and providing information and support on this type of abuse. The force is working in partnership with Cambridge and Peterborough Local Safe Guarding Children's Board (LSCB) and the NSPCC to help educate the wider community, young people, parents and professionals on how to spot the signs. Child sexual exploitation affects boys and girls from all backgrounds, some children and young people may not even be aware that it is abuse believing they are in a loving, consensual relationship. Our website has a dedicated section providing information on:

- Child sexual exploitation
- How to recognise the signs
- The force's approach to tackling CSE
- Myths, help and support
- Online safety for parents and carers and much more

If you would like more information click on the link below:
www.cambs.police.uk/GetCloser/ChildSexualExploitation

# THE CHALLENGE

## December Result and Winner

The winner's chosen Williams were :-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| SHAKESPEARE | WALLACE | WORDSWORTH |
| BUTLER YEATS | WILBERFORCE | HOWARD TAFT |
| MAKEPEACE THACKERY | SHATNER | HARTNELL |
| MCKINLEY | RANDOLPH HEARST | GOLDING |
| BLAKE | WALDORF ASTOR | ROACHE |
| HOLDEN | PENN | THE CONQUERER |
| PITT THE YOUNGER | DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE | |

Winner : Lorraine Folbigg. Hillfield Road

# THE CHALLENGE

Sponsoted by Costcutter Store

HARD CENTRES……No Montelimar, caramel or toffee, just thirty words which have somewhat unusual letter combinations as part of their construction e.g. MBF in Dumbfound.

The length of each word is indicated as an aid. If you are able to track down at least 15 an entry could be very worthwhile. (I should have chosen worthwhile for the hwh sequence!) NB. You should not feel constrained by my words, any words containing the following letter groupings will be accepted.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| -IBR- | --BDO----- | ---WAW-- | -YNT-- |
| -NGR- | -WKW--- | --MBR- | --NDR-- |
| --RDN--- | -YRI--- | -YMP- | -CKN------- |
| -IGS-- | -XYG-- | ---RRU- | -NJU-- |
| -HRI-- | -YPS- | -RDV--- | -YCL- |
| ---EGM---- | --LYG-- | --LTU-- | ULU- |
| --YCH- | -YBR-- | ---HIO- | --LTZ |
| -MPT- | --MKH--- | | |

Entries to Costcutter, Green End Surgery or Library please no later than the 14th February. The prize of £5, generously donated by Nayna & Vijay, is to be spent in store.

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-help-share-bring-give-

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| Wednesday | 10.00am - 1.00pm |
| | 2.00pm - 5.00pm |
| Thursday | Closed |
| Friday | 2.00pm - 5.00pm |
| Saturday | 10.00am - 1.00pm |
| Sunday | Closed |

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Tel: 0345 045 5225 www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

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| | |
|---|---|
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| February 16th to March 1st | A&M Clarke |