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Comberton Contact Team

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Further helpers sought for distribution.

Regular dates for your diary

Every Monday	9.45	Comberton Walkers, Baptist Church
1st, 2nd & 4th Monday eve	7.00	Carpet Bowls, VH
Every Tuesday	10.30 12.00	Comberton Café and Crafts, VH
Every Tuesday		Table Tennis, VH
2nd Tuesday evening	7.45	Women's Institute, VH
4th Tuesday evening	8.00	Comberton Antiquarian Society, VH
Every Wednesday	10.00 11.30	Comberton Toddler Group, VH
Wednesday		Tang Soo Do, Meridian School
Every Wednesday	12.25 1.10	Lunchtime Badminton, CVC
Every Wednesday evening	6.30 9.00	Tennis Club mix-in session
Every Wednesday evening	8.00 10.00	At CVC
Wednesday (term time)	2.00 3.30	Bumps and Babes, Baptist Church
2nd Wednesday (not August)	7.30	Parish Council Meeting, VH
4th Thursday afternoon	2.30	Oasis Teas, Village Hall
Every Saturday	9.00 11.30	Tennis Club mix-in session
3rd Saturday, (term time)	10.00 12.00	Dads R Us, Baptist Church
		CVC = Comberton Village College

February diary dates

6, morning	10.00 12.30	Local Reps meeting, VH
9, evening	7.45	Women's Institute Annual Meeting, VH
11, afternoon	2.30	Friendship Club
10 & 11, evening	7.30	Comberton Players auditions
12, evening	8.00	Custard Comedy, CVC
13, evening	7.30 11.00	Tennis Club Valentine Disco, VH
16, morning	10.00	WI Pancake Race, VH
16, day		Access All Areas event at CVC
20, evening	8.00	Polka Dot & Feathers Charity Ball
26, lunchtime		Comberton Luncheon Club

Advertising Rates for Comberton Contact

as at January 2016

Any changes will be effective at the time of booking your advertisement

	Size (w x h)	Annual Single edition	
Whole page	122mm x 183mm	£400.00	£44
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One tenth page	60mm x 35mm	£ 50.00	£ 6
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THE CHALLENGE

sponsored by COSTCUTTER STORE

Welcome to another year of teasers. It is my information (GCHQ) that a large number of you have resolved to submit at least eight entries this year. Well done, I have purchased a larger hat to accommodate the draw.

Each of the paired clues below will lead you to either a country, city, borough or river.

.....	A Central American country/A lightweight hat.
.....	American state capital/ English car(no longer).
.....	Southern hemisphere capital/ Famous British Aircraft.
.....	Mediterranean island/ London underground station.
.....	S. American river/ Womble
.....	Irish County/ Style of overcoat.
.....	Mediterranean country/ Goatskin leather.
.....	European country/ Womble (Father's brother)
.....	European capital city/ Duke of Wellington's horse.
.....	American State capital / English bicycle company.
.....	London borough / Farming implement.
.....	European capital city / Long round loaf.
.....	European capital city/ He who abducted Helen.
.....	London borough / Walk ? Dance ? Song ?
.....	European capital city / Famous concerto.
.....	African Republic / Old English coin.
.....	London borough / Style of boot.
.....	English county / Style of jacket.
.....	London borough / Type of carriage.
.....	Scottish city /Small flute.
.....	English county / Horse drawn vehicle.

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

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

THE CHALLENGE : December/January solution & winner

THE OBSERVER / GANYMEDE.....PAPER MOON
ON DRUGS / THE CO-OP IS ONE.....HIGH SOCIETY
WHEN IT GETS DARK / BROAD ROAD.....SUNSET BOULEVADE
NORTH'S BRIDGE PARTNER/ CANADIAN RAILROAD.....SOUTH PACIFIC
24.00 HRS / TEX RITTER.....MIDNIGHT COWBOY
THE SUN ? / INDIAN LILY IN PETER PAN.....PAPER TIGER
AN ANIMAL 'BURNING BRIGHT' / CHESTNUT HORSE.....TIGER BAY
PERIOD JUNE TO AUGUST? / TRIP TO IBIZA.....SUMMER HOLIDAY
KEEP APART / ARTICLES OF FURNITURE.....SEPARATE TABLES
JULIUS CAESAR / JAZZ SINGER BILLIE.....ROMAN HOLIDAY
BULLSEYE / OXFAM.....SWEET CHARITY
TYPE OF EGG / ROW OF SHOPS.....EASTER PARADE
COW / AGRICULTURAL UNIT.....ANIMAL FARM
THE BLUE ? (FLAG) / GREEK GOD OF PASTURES.....PETER PAN
42.195 KILOMETRES / ISLAND IN THE IRISH SEA.....MARATHON MAN
WINNER:- JENNY BROWN of Barton Road

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E-mail bg@moncraft.co.uk

A Message from the Editor
Well, hello everyone! I took over from Anne just before Christmas but won't be able to achieve such high standards quite yet: I didn't anticipate the various technical problems we have encountered while trying to set up the new application we needed to install, and must thank Terry, and Tony at Victoire, for patience and support in helping me through these. I am sure there will be several mistakes in this issue so I hope I've not caused serious offence: things will run more smoothly in future!
Suki

Comberton Cinema
at the Village Hall
will be back in March!

The Village Café at the Village Hall
is open every Tuesday from 10.30 - 12 noon
Coffee, tea and squash are available
Meet up with old friends and make new ones 30 - families welcome!
We hope to see you there soon!

Fourth Bi-Annual Arts and Crafts Exhibition
30 and 31 July 2016, Village Hall

Monday Studio, Comberton's resident art group, will be holding their bi-annual Arts and Crafts Exhibition on 30 and 31 July 2016 in the Village Hall and we are looking for contributors. The ethos of the exhibition is to give artists and crafters the opportunity to display and show off their wares, and if you desire, to sell them. The only participating criteria are that you live in or are associated with a group active in the village of Comberton. Don't be shy we know that every village has a wealth of talented artists and crafters and now is a wonderful opportunity for you to showcase your talent/s. Previously we have accommodated artists working in every medium; wood turners; quilters; knitters; jewellery makers; card makers; candle makers; an iconographer; gift makers and much much more ...

Please help us to make this a very special village event and contact either: Janet Mancuso at 07770 481123 (mancuso.janet@yahoo.co.uk) or Debra Gaadt (art.degaat@btinternet.com).
This event is sponsored by The Village Hall Trustees.

Comberton Players: next production 24th/25th June

AN EVENING OF MELODRAMA

A selection of one act melodramas from 5 to 25 minutes

featuring a range of parts from cameos to leads: from moustache twirling villains to damsels in distress (and everything in between for panto for grownups)

AUDITIONS

February 10th/11th at 7.30 in the Old Village Hall, Comberton

If you are interested in auditioning or would like further information contact
Rachel Nielsen on rach.clark1@gmail.com or 262013
or Glynis Ellis on glynisellis@talk21.com or 262214

The group welcomes new members for acting, directing and backstage opportunities,
no previous experience required!

Comberton Tennis Club

are hosting a

Valentine's Party-Disco-Dance

at

Comberton Village Hall

on

Saturday February 13 February

from 7.30 - 11 p.m.

Delicious home-cooked food (and tea/coffee).

Valentine's games and quizzes and a themed raffle.

Pay Bar with good quality, good value drink.

Live music and a DISCO.

All for £15 per head.

Please come with your family and friends to celebrate this special day.

Please book tickets from Mel Collins (Tel: 01223 262458; collinsmelanie@gmail.com),
or Tamryn Saby (Tel: 01223 263593 / 07989978953;
tamrynsaby@hotmail.com).

Tennis Club socials are always Village events: we love to see as many people as possible from Sports Clubs, groups and societies in and around Comberton. Happy Valentine's Day!

District Councillor Report

May I initially wish you all a happy new year. This has been a quiet time of the year with regard to SCDC. I will start with things closest to home. There have been a few cases of fly tipping in and around the village and South Cambs have been excellent in their response time and thoroughness in tidying the mess. A slight negative has been one or two black and blue bins that had been overlooked on collection days, all of which I reported to the relevant departments. A couple of residents have complained about parking issues in Hillfield Road. Two issues here: one, parking on the sharp bend that would cause issues with emergency vehicles; the other, cars parked on the grass which generally make the area messy. The plea from fellow Hillfield residents is to use the parking areas in front of your garages if not the garages themselves. Please don't shoot the messenger on this one.

Now on to planning and associated matters. The Bennell Farm proposed development site is still rumbling on, awaiting approval or refusal at SCDC. Many residents have remarked on the new farm grain store on the brow of the hill by the woodland burial round. Madness, and an eye sore as far as I am concerned. It is in the Parish of Barton, but surely common sense would have put it further from the road and not in such a prominent place? It's nothing to do with me, so no blame in my direction please.

Looking slightly further afield, the City Deal is wanting to reduce congestion in the City and two of its strategies are more Park and Rides and more cycle routes around the perimeter of the City. For us it is looking at a new Park and Ride by the little mini roundabout on the A603 by the M11 slip round. I find all of these Park and Rides slightly strange, if the purpose is to reduce the number of cars on our roads during the rush hour. Currently cars queue for about 4 miles along the A603 to get into the City, and if the Park and Ride is built, those same cars will still be queuing, but now to get into the Park and Ride? Surely regular, reliable and clean buses is a more sustainable approach? Why not, during the 7.00 - 9.00 and 16.00 - 18.30 "rush hour" slots, have numerous buses, thus making the commute quicker, less stressful and maybe even pleasant?

Maybe I am a madman though, thinking that way? **M J E Scott**

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MEET YOUR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Your chance to meet and talk with your Member of Parliament,
Heidi Allen, your County Councillor, Stephen Frost, and your
District Councillor, Tim Scott

Come along to the Village Hall, Green End,
on Saturday 6 February,
between 10.00am and 12.30pm,
for a cup of tea, a biscuit, and a chat.
All Comberton residents welcome.

The **Love Food Fair**, will be held at Cambridge Central Library,
Third floor on 20 February 2016 from 10.30am to 3.00pm.

There will be a variety of different groups and organisations providing
top tips on food, eating healthily, grow your own, and some tasty
samples. The Fair is free to attend.

Consultation on advocacy services

Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council are
consulting with anyone with an interest in the future of advocacy services
across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. They are seeking feedback on
the draft specification for an Integrated advocacy service in their areas. Both
councils are fully committed to the principles and benefits of independent
advocacy and want the new advocacy service to build on the success of
current and previous advocacy services. There will be one contract for
advocacy services in Cambridgeshire, and one contract for Peterborough.

A three month public consultation opened in November 2015. For more
information and to take part visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk and search for
'Consultations' to complete the online survey.

If you do not have internet access and require a paper copy of the
consultation, or if you need it in an alternative format such as large print or
Easy Read please contact: Carol Williams, tel: 01223 706130,
email: carol.williams@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

The consultation closes on 20 February 2016.

Comberton Luncheon Club

26 February

18 March

29 April

The Hare and Hounds, Harlton

The White Horse, Barton

The Old Crown, Girtton

New members welcome—telephone Frances on Cambridge 264230

Events in February



Sat 6 Feb & Sun 7 Feb 2:30pm – Eden Dance Junor Cast present **Aladdin**

With music by Rimsky Korsakov, Tchaikovsky & Vangelis, a re-telling of the classic tale of genies, flying carpets and magic lamps to transport you to warmer climes.

Tickets: £10 Adults / £7 Concessions - <http://www.wegotickets.com/location/3764>

Sat 6 Feb & Sun 7 Feb 5:30pm – Eden Dance Senior Cast present **Alice**

in **Wonderland** Surreal adventures set to music, inc. the Shostakovich Jazz Suites.

Tickets: £2 Adults / £9 Concessions - <http://www.wegotickets.com/location/3764>

Fri 12 Feb Custard Comedy

with **Noel James, Andrew Watts, Jon Murfin** and MC **Hayley Ellis**

Earlybird online tickets £5.00 + 50p booking fee, normal online price, £6.50 + 65p booking fee. £8.00 direct from Comberton Sports and Arts reception, 01223 264 444.

Tickets on the door are £10.00.

Feb 16 – Cambridgeshire Alliance for Independent Living presents **Access All Areas**

Market style exhibition for people with disabilities who living indendently with talks about different schemes and ways of connecting from around the county. Free event, lunch provided. Contact: james@cambridgeshirealliance.org.uk tel: 0300 111 2301.

20 Feb from 8:00pm - The Polka Dots & Feathers Winter Charity Circus Ball

A show stopping evening of sparkles and spectacle, of big bands and booze aplenty, of swing DJs and circus babes, of buresque bambinos and emporium nymphs. Why not throw on vintage number, ooze some sass and join in a night of naughtiness? This Ball is a fund raiser, with all proceeds are going towards a £2.5k target set by Eleanor Lyons, who is running the London Marathon in April 2016, for The Royal National Children's Foundation. Drinks and street food will be provided by The River Kitchen Cambridge. Also, a naughty stand with frilly delights and sexy hand-made corsets, on sale from Burlesque Costumery.

Entertainment: Bands, Swing DJs, Burlesque Show, Circus

Tickets £10 - Dress Code: Black Tie, Sparkles, Burlesque, Circus.

Tickets available online <http://www.wegotickets.com/location/3764>

For more information about any of these shows please ring Comberton Sports & Arts reception 01223 264444 or email rbrown@comberton.cambs.sch.uk Richard Brown, Arts Development Manager Comberton Sports & Arts, Comberton Village College West Street, Comberton CB23 7DU.

NSPCC

Spring Concert

Phoenix Choral

Sunday 20th March 2016 3.30 pm

Church of St Helena & St Mary,
Church Lane, Bourn CB23 2SG

Tickets include glass of fizz and canapés
£15 Adults £10 Concessions (under 16's free)

All proceeds to the NSPCC and Bourn Church

Tickets on sale at **Bourn Village Shop** and on line
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/spring-concert-tickets-20708610010>

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Comberton Friendship Club

On Thursday 10 December 2015 we had our annual Christmas lunch. It was a very enjoyable afternoon, the food cooked and served by Carol Wilmot, and team from Toft was excellent. A raffle was held, with lots of prizes donated by the Club and club members. Every member received their Christmas gift from the Club, as usual. A beautiful plant was given to Betty Grimshaw in recognition of her 90th birthday.

Our first Club meeting of 2016 was held on Thursday 14 January. A team from the Citizens Advice Bureau gave a very interesting and informative talk on how to save money on our energy bills and how to improve heating in our homes. Packs were distributed to everyone containing information on all the subjects discussed.

Next meeting: 11 February, 2.30pm. There will be a raffle.

LGBT History Month has just started nationally and the Constabulary are involved in various events across the county to promote equality and diversity in our communities and will be promoting their initiative through social media: it has recently created a new role to improve the way the police liaise with people in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities. Some officers, Lesbian and Gay Liaison Officers (LAGLOs), have received special training, as part of a national initiative, to give them insight into the issues faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the community. They can provide a link between the LGBT+ community and the police, and can offer information, advice and support to victims and witnesses: it is hoped that this relationship will encourage the reporting of transphobic, bi-phobic and homophobic incidents.

To contact an LAGLO please call 101 or email laglo@cambs.pnn.police.uk. Please note this is a secondary role for the officers so it may be several days before they are able to respond. In an emergency, always dial 999.

For more information please visit <http://www.cambs-police.co.uk/victims/lgbt.asp>

SCAM ALERT: Virus-infected email "from Royal Mail"

Official-looking emails claiming to be from Royal Mail are being sent out by fraudsters. They contain a link to a document which will install malicious software on your computer and is designed to steal your account names, email addresses and passwords.

The emails say something like "Royal Mail is sorry to inform you that a package addressed to you was seized by HM Revenue & Customs upon arrival into the United Kingdom. You may have been a victim of counterfeit merchandise and the RM Group UK will notify you on how to get your money back. Please review the attached PDF document for more information. Document (RM7002137GB).Zip ... DO NOT CLICK ON ANY LINKS OR DOWNLOAD ANY ATTACHMENTS - report immediately to Action Fraud. http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud Telephone: 0300 123 2040

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Bourn Players present



Peter Pan

A Musical Adventure

The Performance Hall at Comberton Village College
 Thursday 17th and Friday 18th March 2016 at 7.30pm
 and Saturday 19th March at 2.30pm & 7.30pm


Tickets through www.bournplayers.org.uk
 & from Bourn Village Shop

Based on JM Barrie's original play
 with permission from Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children
 Music by George Stiles, Lyrics by Anthony Drewe Book by Willis Hall

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Churchwardens: Chris Westgarth, Tel 263242 &
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.

Services and Events at St Mary's in February

Sunday 7	8.00am Holy Communion (Prayer Book); 9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 18	8.00pm Ash Wednesday service in Toft
Sunday 14	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 21	8.00am Holy Communion (Prayer Book); 9.30am Morning Worship 7.30pm Sacred Space in Dry Drayton - Mountains
Tuesday 23	4.15pm Cross Trainers
Thursday 25	2.30pm Oasis Tea, in the Village Hall
Sunday 28	9.30am Holy Communion

As Lent begins very early this year, we will be pondering the words of Jesus spoken on the cross, in the context of Thursday home groups and also a quiet Monday daytime time of meditation. Please ask Mike if you'd like to find out more

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 on the evening of February 21 - you're very welcome, whether or not you come to any other St Mary's event

March Diary Date Friday 4 March, 8.00pm, Cambourne Church. Understanding the refugee crisis - with Heidi Allen MP and other speakers

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The Catholic Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs (OLEM) serves much of the south and west of Cambridge. Detailed below are the normal times of masses at weekends

Vigil Mass on Saturday evening:-	Sunday Masses at OLEM	
5.00pm Cambourne	8.00am	12.15pm (Polish)
6.00pm Bar Hill	9.30am(Children's)	5.00pm (Folk)
6.00pm OLEM	10.45 (Sung)	6.15pm (Latin)

Ash Wednesday is 10 February

Details of these and other services in the entire parish are listed on the parish web site, with our weekly newsheet and other parish information.

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Village heroes

The following nominations for the District Council's awards scheme have been made:

Rex Webb is a unique village character, often likened to a character from Last of the Summer Wine, who spends hours 'becoming' Santa Claus for numerous community activities around the village and county. Rex donates all the donations from his Santa activities to Meldreth Manor School. This year...as with previous years, he has raised over £1,000. After Christmas his Santa beard is also trimmed for charity. Rex is actively involved in many village groups including bingo calling, the friendship group and the local church. He is always willing to help others and brings a smile wherever he goes, ho, ho ho.

Don Fisher is a real village unsung hero. This octogenarian has quietly served the village through membership of several village groups - including the village hall and St Mary's church, in a modest and unassuming way. Don's knowledge and expertise regarding hearing loops and amplification systems has helped many community groups... Where he has freely given much of his spare time... Don recently stepped down as treasurer at St Mary's But he is frequently the first to arrive and the last person to leave.... As he still likes to keep a watchful eye on things like the heating system and oil levels... As he says, with a twinkle in his eye, he has a vested interest in keeping the church warm!

The Comberton Playground Project was set up by a group of residents to revitalise the playground facilities in Comberton Recreation Ground. They dedicated several years to organising a charitable trust to raise money, and implemented a brand new extensive playground facility to replace outdated, dangerous play equipment. The new playground was designed to cater for all ages from toddlers to teenagers. The play area is now a popular meeting place for families, providing a focal point for parents to meet and exchange information, and for older children to meet friends, encouraging independence and outdoor activity.

Comberton Parish Council budget

The Parish Council has approved its budget for the year beginning 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017. To meet this budget the precept will increase by approximately 1.7%. For a copy of the budget please contact the Clerk.

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

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20.00 - Prayer Meeting

Youth at CBC: Youth Pastor Adrian Semerene adrian@c-b-c.org.uk
Trainee Youth Worker Kayleigh Prince Kayleigh@c-b-c.org.uk
Activities include Sunday morning groups, midweek bible studies, trips, and more.

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.

Dog owners

We would like to remind owners that you can be prosecuted for failing to pick up after your dog. But in March the law changed and dog owners can also face an on the spot fine for failing to have bags in their pockets... There has been a noticeable increase in fouling especially around Harbour Avenue, Barton Road and Hillfield Road.



Dogs are very much welcomed into the village; however we ask their owners to 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 bins are not available we ask owners either to bag it and carry it to the nearest bin or to follow National Trust guidelines and use a stick to remove it from the path. On the recreation ground, dog owners are also required to keep their dog under control (including on the extension area) and away from the children's play equipment.

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**
- Even if you and your dog are in an open space, you still need to clear up!

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Sun: 12.30 - 2.30

Events:

Quiz Night - Cash prizes & Raffle, Friday 12th Feb, 8.30pm

Vinyl Revival - Bring along your vinyl records to play, Sat 27th Feb, 9pm

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT from the Clerk

Vacancies on the Parish Council

Anna Barford from Green End and Caragh Urquhart from South Street were co-opted to the Parish Council in December. One vacancy remains: to apply to join, please contact the Clerk or speak to any member.

Speedwatch

Joining the Speedwatch scheme allows the public to get actively involved in monitoring the speed of vehicles travelling through their neighbourhood, and is about educating motorists about the law, and monitoring local trends. The Parish Council invites volunteers to be trained to use speed-indicator devices. The registered owner of any vehicle seen exceeding the speed limit is then sent an advisory letter from their local neighbourhood policing team, explaining that speeding is unacceptable to the local community. Please contact the Clerk or Cllr Higman if you would like to help.

Grass cutting and village maintenance

A three year contract was awarded, after tendering, to Buchans Landscaping. They will start at the beginning of March when the current contract with CGM ends.

Connections Bus

The Connection Bus contract has been extended for 12 months from 1 April. The bus will visit 41 times, i.e. term time and the first and last weeks of the school summer holidays. The cost of this service is £10,352.00 but could be much less if a couple of residents would be willing to help out for some sessions. Could this be you? An article on the work of the Bus, and the role of a volunteer, will be published in a future edition of *Contact*.

Steps to the rear of the village Hall: The dangerous handrail on the steps has been removed, so the steps should not be used until the County Council, on whose land they stand, has assessed them on grounds of health and safety.

Dog fouling

There has been an increase in dog fouling in the village. The Parish Council will ask the District Council to install and empty three more dog bins at various locations.

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Greetings to all!

News from Meridian Primary School

I hope you had a lovely Christmas

break. It is now a distant memory for us as we have started this term with great gusto. Last year ended with all our children involved in two great Christmas performances and a Carol service held at St Mary's Parish Church with Rev'd Booker and Rev'd Tarring! We also held our annual Xmas factor for the children to showcase their talents to each other.



The timings of these events coincided with a visit from Ofsted. Meridian School has not been inspected since 2011. Despite many changes to their criteria, we were naturally disappointed to be judged as 'Requires Improvement' (a school deemed to be 'satisfactory' but now labelled as 'requiring improvement'). However, we recognise and accept that there are things that do need to improve. The Inspectors commented on 'highly effective' teaching of reading, adding that by the end of Key Stage 2 attainment in reading was significantly above the national average and that there were good practices in mathematics leading to good progress in some year groups. We have a robust monitoring schedule planned for the rest of the school year.

We were delighted that the inspectors observed the good behaviour of our pupils, and pleased that they recognised how well we promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development within our curriculum. These areas are important, as they help to build good characters/ citizens for the future.

I will spotlight particular year groups in future issues so you can gain some insight into the learning that happens inside the classroom. We start below with Year 1. If you would like to visit the school to see us in action, please contact the office.

Kind regards, Mrs C. Etchie, Headteacher at Meridian Primary School

This has been an exciting year so far for the children in Year 1 at Meridian Primary School. The children soon settled into the first half of the autumn term with our topic 'You, Me and Everybody'. They learnt all about themselves and the people and things that are important to them. They also took part in a dance workshop and dressed up as book characters for our Roald Dahl day. They enjoyed Harvest time and even made pictures out of food! We had a visit from a dentist who taught us all about our teeth and how to look after them. In the second half of the term we had lots of fun with 'Songs and Rhymes'. The children enjoyed reading, writing and performing poetry, and learnt about some composers from the past and present. In early December we had an exciting trip to Ely Cathedral and the stained glass museum. The cathedral looked amazing, decorated for Christmas, and the children made beautiful lanterns to bring home. The children loved performing the Christmas show, 'Whoops a daisy Angel' and some of entered 'Xmas Factor'.

The fun continues this term with our topic, 'Seasons and Senses'. This involves lots of practical Science and Geography activities and we are also designing and making rain sticks!

Miss Foster and Mrs Sofflet, Year 1 Teachers

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Have you heard about the EngAGE initiative in Cambridgeshire?

EngAGE is a partnership between Cambridgeshire Libraries and Community and Adult Services aimed at developing new and useful opportunities for people over 50 years old. It offers a variety of monthly social and information events at local libraries across the county and basic computer assistance for beginners provided by our Computer Buddies. It can provide new opportunities to volunteer and support your local library as well as meeting places for Knit and Natter knitting groups. Locally monthly talks and Computer Buddies can be found at Cambourne Library, but if you would like to see small local events at Comberton please let staff know and we will pass this on to EngAGE organisers. All events are Free for anyone over the age of 50 (although some sessions ask for a donation towards refreshments). Look for details on the Library Service website or visit www.cambridgeshire.net and search for "EngAGE".

Upcoming Rhymetime sessions: 8 and 22 Feb, 7 and 21 March (10.30-11.00am).

We are still interested in hearing from people who can volunteer to sing with the little ones at these sessions, please ask a staff member if you would like more details.

Please note that although these sessions are aimed at very young children we welcome older siblings and pre-schoolers who enjoy singing too!

Our "Dystopia" themed rotating collection has been incredibly popular. Look out for our next collection about Creative Writing coming soon.



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Comberton WI report for January 2016

Our first speaker of 2016 was Philip Whaites, Head Gardener at Wimpole Hall. Philip gave us an illustrated talk on changes in the gardens and grounds over his long career. Philip has tried to restore the original features of the grounds and gardens, including the Dutch garden and the parterre. The pleasure grounds have been replanted with many trees and recently a new path has been made which meanders to the farm. The walled garden and the surrounding grounds had been taken over by the farm and it has taken time to return the area to its former prime. The glass house was destroyed by a bomb in 1943 and plans for the original glass house were found in the John Soane Museum in London so after a fundraising campaign, the large glass house was recreated in the walled garden. This is now the nursery for thousands of bedding plants for the gardens which are replaced annually. The walled garden also produces fruit and vegetables for the restaurant and flowers for the hall. Only three full time gardeners are employed by the National Trust but they are ably supported by ninety volunteers.

Tuesday 16 February, Pancake Race 10.30am at the Village Hall

During half term, Comberton WI will be holding the annual Pancake Race at the Village Hall, Green End, Comberton. Races will start at 10.30am and all ages are encouraged to take part. Pans and pancakes provided! Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Village Hall.



SCAM ALERT!

Police forces have become aware of a fraud circulating targeting elderly and vulnerable members of the community. Some older people have received telephone calls from a caller who purports to be from their G.P. surgery and asks for an appointment to discuss the persons' mobility needs. During the appointment the older person is persuaded to buy mobility aids which are either unnecessary or inappropriate and which are always expensive. If you receive a call like this, please check with your G.P. surgery first before agreeing to a visit. All G.P. surgeries and the Clinical Commissioning Groups in the N.H.S. have been informed about this.

In South Cambs. an incident was reported in the Fen Ditton area: a resident received a fraudulent call from someone trying to sell vitamins/ medical equipment. The caller kept demanding bank details, appeared to know the individual's medical history, and claimed to be from the local surgery. They threatened to continue calling until they got the response they wanted.

If you have concerns that you or a relative may have received a similar call, please report the details via 101.

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THE BINESWICK MURDER

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February 20th Combenton Sports and Arts

Centre 7.30 - Late

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Food available from The River Kitchen

The Royal National Children's Foundation

Cambridge Wind Band presents **Stars and Stripes**

Saturday 30 April – 7.30pm

West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

An evening of American music featuring Bernstein, Stevie Wonder, John Williams and much, much more.

Tickets £15 / £10 available from ADC Box office, tel: 01223 300085 or email: boxoffice@adctheatre.com

We would like to thank the Cambridge Wind Band who are raising funds through this concert for Home-Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire.

