



OPRA Newsletter

February 2011

What a winter and it's barely February

The winter snow and bitter cold in November and December may have dampened the spirits of some of us as it seemed to go on for ever, but for the children there were snowball fights and sledging but unfortunately (as they would see it) no time off school. A special thank you to those who helped their neighbours by volunteer-



ing to do shopping and clearing paths etc.

The **Christmas** lights in peoples homes and gardens were a sight to see and the village Christmas Tree and new lights really set the festive mood. Thanks to Alex Tongue for kindly agreeing to switch on the lights and to

Mike Gardener and his team for erecting the tree and putting up the lights. Whilst in Steart a tree lighting ceremony with mince pies and mulled wine was held involving most of the residents.

The Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinner was once again a great success with even more people catered for than ever before, thanks to some clever rearranging of the tables. The sing-a-long led once again by Peter Barnicoat was as popular as ever. Thanks once again to those who made it all possible, Mark Drutt for providing all the vegetables and Matt

from the Anchor who cooked the turkey and roast potatoes. Also Ray Bollen, chef extraordinaire and his team of volunteers who all contributed to this wonderful event.

100 Club Christmas Draw

Congratulations to Martin Rees who won the £100 first prize. The £60 second prize went to Julie Evans and the lucky third prize winners were Dave and Carole Smith who received £39.55.

Otterhampton Parish
Recreation Association

Registered Charity No
1124017

OPRA Trustees

Chairperson

Robert Palmer 653464.

Secretary

Ann Leathwood 652399.

Treasurer

Sue Francis 653663.

100 Club Organiser

Lyn Palmer 653464

Tina Gardener 652642

Liz Sidebotham 653028.

Barry Leathwood 652399

OPRA 100 CLUB

Interested in joining then contact Lyn on 653464 to support OPRA financially and a chance to win cash prizes in the weekly draw (drawn monthly) Results are displayed in the Post Office and the village notice board Join the growing number of villagers contributing and benefiting from membership.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thurs 17th Feb -The Malmesbury Mystery a talk by Ewart Walker

Sat 19th Feb - Walk (see poster)

Fri 11th March - OPRA AGM

Sun 27th March - Walk (See poster)

Thurs 31st March - Bee keeping talk & demonstration by Robert & Lyn Palmer

Fri 22nd April - Children's Easter Egg Hunt at the Anchor (All children from the Parish welcome)

Sun 24th April - Easter Quiz at the Anchor

Friday Coffee Mornings

A great 2010 success has been the Coffee Mornings which are held every Friday morning between 10am and 12 noon in the village hall. Lashings of coffee, tea and biscuits and often much more all for just £1. On Christmas Eve mulled wine and mince pies were served and presents for the regulars. Donations have been made to Children in Need and the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance

It is now the premier meeting place in the village when friends and neighbours get together and local gossip is passed around. If you really want to know what is going on then the coffee morning is the place to be. More information from Helen Jowett 652928

Do you like to sing ... just for fun?

If so, come and join us for the first meeting of the Combwich Community Choir in the village hall, 6.30 – 7.30pm on Thursday 10th February.

No experience or ability required, just a good dose of enthusiasm and an enjoyment of singing!

We will aim to meet twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays to learn simple songs and rounds, some very familiar, some with actions, but all for fun! **EVERYONE** is welcome,

but children must please be accompanied by an adult (why not come along for a family sing?)

If you love to sing, please come along and try out our first session – don't be shy!

Many thanks to OPRA for their support in starting up this choir.

Please give me a ring if you have any questions or need more information.

Hope to see lots of you on the 10th February.

Nicole Wigley Tel. 653431

If you have an idea for a community activity then get in touch, maybe we can help. OPRA

Community Plan

In an attempt to determine the future of our communities more effectively, a Steering Group has been set up to produce a Community Plan. This will involve any individual, organisation or business contributing to our vision of what the future should hold for Combwich, Otterhampton and Steart. We are being aided in this process by the Community Council for Somerset. A Drop-In session will be held between 10am-4pm on Saturday 12th February in the Village Hall to give everyone the opportunity to contribute ideas and suggestions to the process. Steering group members, parish councillors and experts from the community council will be present to listen to your ideas and explain more about the Community Plan.

Combwich Chat & Chill

A drop in centre for 12 year olds upwards of Combwich takes place on most Fridays between 7 & 9 pm at the Village Hall. It is run by volunteers (new volunteers always welcome) and offers a range of activities. Activities planned include jewellery making and cake decoration. More information from Helen Jowett on 65322

NB. If you have a lightweight table tennis table you could donate or loan it would be most welcome.

OPRA AGM & Skittles Evening

Join us at 7.30pm on Friday 11th March for our very short but important AGM in the Anchor followed by a skittles evening with light refreshments provided.

This is open to all residents of the Parish and usually lasts



less than half an hour. Only members have voting rights but every one is welcome. It is however, your chance to have a say and to elect committee/trustee members. If you are interested in becoming more involved please let the secretary or one of the committee know well in advance of the meeting so we can let you have all the necessary details.

By 8pm we should be enjoying the skittles evening. We look forward to seeing you.

Village Gardening Group

As you might expect the work of the group has been somewhat hampered by the severe weather recently. Sedgemoor District Council very kindly donated daffodil bulbs for planting although they arrived at the same time as the snow! The Gardening Group are planning to plant the bulbs, albeit a little late, in the hope that the village will see the benefits this Spring. New projects are being discussed and as mentioned in the Christmas Parish Newsletter we would be grateful for the support of any other villagers who would like to join the group. For further information please contact Elaine Last on 01278 653059.