



# OPRA Newsletter

January 2012

## Out with the old—in with the new

### Christmas Festivities

The Annual Over 60s Christmas Dinner was a raging success once again with 74 diners (the maximum the Village Hall can accommodate) enjoying a 3 course meal plus coffee and wine. Much appreciated entertainment was provided by the recently formed Combwich Choir led by Nichole Wigley plus guitarist David Gardener. This event is only possible because of the generosity and hard work of volunteers and supporters.



The switch on of the Village Christmas Tree lights was performed by surprise guest Buttercup the cow who has lived quietly in a field behind the Church for the last 18 years (courtesy of Ray Howard) delighted the children. This will be a hard act to follow.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 16th March—OPRA AGM & Skittles
- 6th April—Children's Easter Egg Hunt
- 8th April—Quiz
- 2-5th June Diamond Jubilee
- 7th July OPRA Fete
- Talks third Thursday in the month\*
- Walks third Sunday in the month\*
- \*Check notice boards

### Combwich History

Interest in the history of our village was demonstrated when 55 villagers turned up for the local history walk around Combwich. At each point residents added their memories of old times in the village. OPRA gave a commitment to organise a follow up meeting and perhaps set up a local history group. If you are interested please let us know.

### Village Talks

Laura Burnett of the "Somerset Archaeology Finds Service" gave a stimulating talk in the village hall in January. She described some of the 88 records of finds in this parish including a segment of a bronze age sword dated 1500—800 BC. Local residents took various items including pottery, jewellery, coins and a flint axe which Laura was able to identify and comment on.

The next talk will be held on the Thursday 16th February details to be confirmed, and on 29th March we will be welcoming back Val Banister on the subject of 'Three Viking Women' tales of the sagas based on real people.

### 100 Club Christmas Draw Winners

- 1st prize Peter Austin £108.00
- 2nd prize Dave & Mandy Latham £70.00
- 3rd Prize Steve Chinn £45.00

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

Robert Wright 652277

### 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.

### OPRA AGM

&

### Skittles Evening

Join us at 7.30pm Friday 16th March in the Anchor for a free fun evening. A brief AGM to elect committee members etc followed by skittles and refreshments. If you are interested in joining the committee please let us know so that we can send you information.

## Fete

How quickly it comes around again, but yes it is Fete Year and Saturday 7th July is this years date. The aim of the Fete is to maintain a healthy tradition and have a fun day for everyone and at the same time raise money to support our activities throughout the year.

All the usual attractions will be present including Cuthbert the Clown with his magic tricks and much more. The Nelson School of Dancing have been booked again by popular demand and a bouncy castle has been arranged. Various games, stalls, barbeque, ice cream, cream teas and a variety of activities are promised to ensure a good time for all.

If you have any thoughts on what else we should be doing or want to get involved then please contact a member of the committee. You will be very welcome

## Comwich Friday Coffee Club

A warm welcome awaits all who attend the Friday morning Coffee Club in the village hall. An almost endless supply of coffee or tea and biscuits and often much more, all for £1 between the hours of 10 and 12 noon. Regular donations to charities from the proceeds are made with the agreement of the regular attendees. This really is the place to be to catch up on local gossip and news. For more information contact Helen Jowett 01278 652322

## Diamond Jubilee

Want to get involved in organising something for the Jubilee weekend or have ideas on what should be done then contact Tina on 652642 or Lyn on 653364 to join a Working Party which is shortly to be set up.

## Easter

The Children's' Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 10.30am on Good Friday 6th April from the Anchor. All children of the parish are welcome. On Easter Sunday evening the Quiz will be held at the Anchor 7.30pm at 8pm for those longer in the tooth.

## Chat and Chill

The Friday evening Drop-In sessions for young people is open every Friday evening from 7.30 pm for secondary school age young people. For more information contact Sandie & Reg Wilkes on 01278 652339

## Art Group

The Art Group, which meets on Mondays at 2 pm for a couple of hours is proving a great success so far. John Bailey says that it's a pleasant mixture of hard work and almost too much laughter. He says that he has managed so far to give a healthy donation to Spread Your Wings, the local Owl charity. Next term starts on January 9<sup>th</sup> and, if you have any enquiries, do ring John on 01278 652540.

## Community Choir

The Community Choir has proved very popular and meets 2nd & 4th Thursday 7-8pm in the Village Hall. For more information ring Nicole on 653431.

## Dogs

Man's best friend. Lovely though they can be, providing good company and a reason to get out in the fresh air, what they leave behind isn't appreciated by everyone. Recently there has been a big increase in dog fouling of pavements and green areas. Unpleasant to step in and a health hazard. So annoyed was one local resident that he threatened to set up an early morning and evening patrol armed with a flash camera to catch the culprits. So please if you have a dog make sure you pick up after it.



## About OPRA

OPRA is a local charity which works exclusively within the Otterhampton Parish. We organise activities directly, or support others, sometimes by making a grant or providing pump priming finance to get something going. If you have suggestions for future OPRA activities or want to become involved please get in touch with any trustee.