



Summers gone but look what's coming.....

Not the best of summers despite a beautiful spring, but there were a few OPRA highlights. The second Summer Ball was a success once again. Next year perhaps we will do something different. Any ideas?

The Sunday morning walks continued throughout the summer with the highlight being the Annual Ramscombe Walk and BBQ in July.

The monthly Community Market (initial funding from OPRA) has proved a great success and looks set to continue. Congratulations to the Community Market Committee and all the volunteers, not forgetting the Community Plan Steering group who set it all in motion.

The Thursday evening badminton sessions have continued and now boast a youth session.

Stroll Through Comwich History

We all know that this area has been occupied from Roman times and beyond, but did you know there was once a slaughterhouse in the village and less macabre a billiard hall and a reading room all now long gone. If you are interested in knowing a little more, please join us for a stroll though the village when we will highlight significant buildings and some of their history. Perhaps you have something to add as we walk around. We will end up at the village hall for refreshments, a chat about old times and view old photo's of the village.

We will meet outside the post office at **2pm Saturday 15th October**. This is an occasion for everyone. If you are unable to walk around the village we

can push you or drive you up the hills, the point is we need your story of life in the village .

Village Talks

An exciting range of talks is planned for the winter starting on 27th October with Helen Toye on "Rescued Birds of Prey" with live birds you will be able to handle. On 24th November our own Paul Gripton will talk about some "Experiences in the Fire Service" (Paul doesn't want to be handled!).

On 19th January Laura Burnett of the "Somerset Archaeology Finds Service" will talk about her work and will try to identify objects you bring. All these talks will be at 8pm in the village hall.



Wet and Windy Brent Knoll Walk

Sunday Walks

Are normally the third Sunday of the month; check notice boards.

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.

Firework Display

6pm Sunday 6th November watch our Annual Firework Display on the Common while gorging on a delicious burger or hotdog. A time for children of all ages.

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.

Seniors Christmas Dinner

The highlight of many seniors social calendar is the Christmas Dinner to be held this year on Saturday 3rd December in the village hall. Invitations will be sent out in November and need to be returned promptly to guarantee a seat as places are limited.

Combwich Friday Coffee Club

The village coffee mornings continue to flourish and provide a pleasant meeting place for local residents and visitors from Cannington, Wembdon, Steart, Stogursey, Spaxton, North Petherton and even London, Worcester and the USA! New friends are made and old friends reunited.

We intended to operate as a non-profit making service but this seems quite difficult to achieve (Alan Sugar watch out!!). However, we do use all profits to provide a few "variety" coffee mornings. Four picnic tables and chairs were purchased to use outside on good weather days. Cream tea mornings are popular and also the ploughman's lunches. Sometimes we serve croissants as well as biscuits and cakes.

Combwich Coffee Club is more than just a coffee morning - lots of things seem to be happening!. On 22nd September we hired a bus

and visited Mapperton House and gardens. Produce is sold and 10% of takings are donated to a chosen charity. We have raised a total of £296.80 which has been shared between the following charities:

Macmillan £30	Air Ambulance £29
Children in Need £20	Red Nose Day £78
Help the Heroes £30	Village Hall £44.80
Childrens Hospice £30	Red Cross £35

Some of these donations are the total takings from a coffee morning. Financial decisions are made by the team of six volunteers and the approval of customers. There is a good turnover of the wide selection of books and DVDs. These are free on a "bring and take" basis. You don't have to bring a book.

Juliet Payne —complementary therapist and Nick Tester—foot health practitioner, were both invited to visit, introduce themselves, chat and answer questions. Many people were not aware that Juliet and Nick lived in the village.

If you have an interest or skill you wish to share at the coffee mornings contact Helen Jowett on 01278 652322.

Thank you to Robert at the Post Office who is our obliging supplier and always so helpful. Finally on behalf of villagers I would like to say thank you to all the volunteers who make it possible by giving of their precious time.

Helen Jowett

NB. The coffee morning is every Friday between 10am and 12 noon in the village hall.



Chat and Chill

The Friday evening Drop-In sessions for young people is now under new management. Thanks to Sandie & Reg Wilkes for taking this on.

Combwich & District WI Invite you!

By Vanessa J-Smith

On the 2nd Thursday of every Month @ Stockland Sport & Social Club - 7.30pm

Some WI's are very set in their ways and stuffy, however our group are relaxed and friendly, mixed age group and very supportive. In recent months we have had guest speakers from The Red Cross Emergency Response Unit, a local Garden Club, and local craftswomen demonstrating Encaustic Art and Designer Jewellery making. This month we are promised another informative evening on UFO's and Crop Circles.

Some of the outings recently have been to The Bristol Blue Glass Factory, Adams Farm, and the delights of the New Pier at Weston-Super-Mare with the fantastic Sand Sculptures.

We very much welcome new ideas and personalities to our group, so please come and join us. For a **short period only**, we are offering **one free evening**, with no obligation. We would love to welcome and entertain you. If you would like a lift this can be arranged. For more information please phone Vanessa on 01278 652830 or Carol on 01278 652752, we would love to hear from you.

Housing Needs Survey

The survey form has been delivered to you recently. If you or a member of your family needs an affordable home in the parish please complete the form and return it in the free-post envelope.

Art Class

A new drawing and painting class has started in the Village Hall under the guidance of John Bailey. It is non-profit making and is held on Monday afternoons 2-4pm. OPRA is subsidising this for a few weeks and the cost to you will be £2 for every two hour session. If you're interested just come along or ring John on 652540.

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.