



OPRA Newsletter

September 2010

Summer Past

Another summer nearly over, great weather until the children's school holidays! Nevertheless there were a number of events in the village which everyone could enjoy. OPRA's main contribution was the Summer Fete which this year was held in July rather than the August Bank Holiday. A one day event instead of the usual two, but just as enjoyable and boosted our funds by around £1,500. All money raised will be spent within the community. Our thanks go to all those who contributed to make it a great success, the volunteers who helped setting it up and staffed the stalls, amusements and refreshments. A special thanks to Pat Beasley who kindly agreed to perform the opening ceremony. Most of all, thanks to all of you who attended and made the Fete a great success.



Earlier on 22nd May our Summer Ball, Casino and Disco was held at the Anchor. This 'dress to impress' for 'a night to remember' event was a great success and will no doubt be repeated in some form next year. Jeans and T-shirts were put aside and out came the evening gowns and tuxedos. Champagne was served and an excellent buffet enjoyed.

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



Grand Christmas Draw

OPRA are organising a Grand Christmas Draw with all the proceeds going to the village hall to help pay for much need fire safety equipment. The first prize will be £50 plus various other prizes. Tickets are 20p or £1 a book and the draw will take place on 17th December at the OVH social club.

The Village Hall is an important facility for community life, so please respond generously when the sellers call at your door.

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.

Wedding of the Year

26th June was a lovely sunny day, made special by the wedding of our Chair, Robert, and 100 Club organiser, Lyn, The wedding in St Peter's Church Comwich, was followed by a reception at the Anchor and attended by many villagers. Congratulations to you both.

HOW DOES OPRA WORK?

We have in the past tried to explain just what OPRA is and what it can do, but there still is some confusion. It is as you know a Charity and has to abide by the Charities Commission rules. It has to pass the 'public benefit' test and that is, by organising or financially supporting activities and projects that probably wouldn't happen without our support.

For example, we are able under our charitable status to use our funds to support events such as our Christmas Dinner for seniors or the Easter Egg Hunt for children. We are also able to support other organisations in the community such as the Mother and Toddler group and the Village School or Chat and Chill for the older children.

The Annual Fireworks display and Christmas Tree Lights benefit the whole village and so can be funded by OPRA. On the other hand, the Summer Ball earlier in the summer could not be described as a charitable activity (just a good night out), so to budget for a loss would have been wrong. As it happens we made a £100 profit which has gone into the funds.

The very successful Friday Coffee Mornings were pumped primed by OPRA funds, but is now totally independent. A good example of how we like to work.

If you have an idea which would benefit people in the village or want to organise a trip (which isn't self-selecting), then maybe OPRA can help make it happen. However the OPRA Trustees have a duty to ensure that the money we raise is spent to benefit as many people as possible.

Chat & Chill

This is a Friday evening 7-9pm drop-in for young people (11plus) in the village offering games, refreshments and a chance to meet friends. We urgently need new volunteers (18 plus) to help supervise the young people. If you are interested in helping please contact Helen Jowett on 652322

Little Otters Christmas Fayre

Friday, 12th November 6-9 pm
in the Village Hall. Come and do your Christmas Shopping at a variety of stalls whilst enjoying a glass of mulled wine.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday, 19th September – Walk around Burrowbridge and Mump—5 miles easy walking. Meet 9.30 am at the Anchor for car sharing

Sunday, 17th October – Walk, details to be announced

Thursday, 28th October – Talk by David Walker on Victorian Farming History in Somerset

Sunday, 7th November – Village Fireworks Display

Sunday, 21st November – Walk, details to be announced

Thursday, 25th November – Talk, details to be announced

Saturday, 4th December – Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinner

Sunday, 5th December – Lighting the village Christmas Tree

HINKLEY C OPRA supports the Parish Council and Villager's Campaign to stop the industrialisation of Combswich. This not a campaign against nuclear build or EDF, but merely an attempt to protect the village from EDF's proposal to turn 81 acres of green fields next to the ponds into an industrial estate'

NEWS FROM COMBWICH & DISTRICT WI by Vanessa J-Smith

Combswich & District WI meet in Stockland Club on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. Stockland may be tucked away, secluded, and some may think – sleepy, but I can assure you, we enjoy having fun and games just like our neighbours! We also enjoy social events and outings and occasionally we make Jam and sing Jerusalem! However, we are always encouraging newcomers to join our friendly tribe and would welcome YOU and any friends or family who would like to be part of this "New Inspiring Women's" Institute. We are of all ages, but all young at heart and are constantly seeking new horizons and interests to inspire, challenge and stimulate our enquiring minds. We recently had a private tour of the Walled Gardens at Cannington; another evening was full of 'Egyptian promise' as members were introduced to a performance of sensual traditional Egyptian dance. Still to come..... West Somerset Railway with a Cream Tea and explore Minehead and an evening with Graeme Thompson from '**Secret World**'. This promises to be an enlightening evening – why not bring a friend!

For more information about any of these events or if you are interested in joining the WI, please do not hesitate to ring President Yvonne Bulman – 01278 652713 or Secretary Pam Woodley – 01278 653908. You are more than welcome to come along as a visitor with no obligation – you might find this sociable pursuit is 'just up your street'!