



# OPRA Newsletter

[www.combwich.org.uk](http://www.combwich.org.uk)

January 2013

2012-officially the wettest year since records began, but it didn't stop a range of activities in our vibrant community. The Biennial Fete was forced indoors but everything else proceeded normally. The Firework Display was once again a great success thanks to our trained volunteers and all who turned out to support the event.



## Christmas Activities

The switching on of the Christmas Tree Lights was performed by Helen Jowett who set the scene for the festivities and thanks to Mike Gardener and friends for setting up the tree and lights.

The Annual Over 60s Christmas Dinner was once again a great success with 72 diners enjoying a 3 course meal plus coffee and wine. Much appreciated entertainment was provided by the Combwich Choir led by Nicole Wigley plus guitarist David Gardener.

We are often asked how we can afford such a lavish event for our senior citizens; the answer is that it is only possible because of the generosity and hard work of volunteers and supporters and the 100 Club which is the source of most of our income. If you want to contribute the details are opposite.

## Win £25

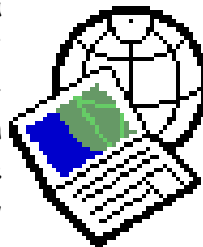
Just log on to the website [www.combwich.org.uk](http://www.combwich.org.uk) and search for the 5 Golden Otters hidden around the website.

- use the "Contact Us" button at the bottom right-hand side of any page or email us at [admin@combwich.org.uk](mailto:admin@combwich.org.uk) and tell us on which pages you found the Golden Otters

- if you are right then we'll enter you in a draw at the next OPRA AGM on Friday 15th March and the winner will receive £25.

- Whilst you are on the website, please take the opportunity to give us your feedback and vote on the website via the article at the top of the home page.

This is the community's website providing regularly updated news, a "what's on " calendar, information on the village hall and how to book a room, and a wealth of information on our community groups plus many photographs of the area. Why not take a look right now.



Otterhampton Parish  
Recreation Association

Registered Charity No  
1124017

## OPRA Committee

### 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

Chris Hancock 653939

Jacqui Sparks 652069

## 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.

[www.combwich.org.uk](http://www.combwich.org.uk)

serving

Combwich

Otterhampton

Stear

Take a look today

**The Stert Wildlife Habitat Creation Scheme** is under construction as anyone visiting the area can see, although it is running a little behind due to the exceptionally wet weather. A 200m breach in the River Parrett flood bank to allow tidal inundation is planned for August/September this year. The existing footpaths will be diverted and new car parking will be provided together with toilets and a small visitor centre. A new footpath linking Combwich, Otterhampton and Stert has been created and will be opened in the spring.

For more information you can visit the project compound on the Stert Drove at 6pm on the last Friday of each month.

**OPRA Sunday Walks** now in their ninth year are normally held on the third Sunday of the month although for various reasons this sometimes has to change. Some are easy and designed for all abilities and ages and others are a little more challenging. All are enjoyable and usually end up with a Sunday lunch. The next walk will be on Sunday 20th January in the Quantocks. Meeting at the Anchor at 9.30am. Details will be on the Notice Board at the entrance of the village and emails sent to those on the list.

**This season's OPRA Talk programme** continues on Tuesday 15th January at 8pm in the Village Hall with a talk by Tom Jacobs - The Accidental Painter - Tom will describe how he started as a painter and will be an illustrated, practical talk full of amusing anecdotes.

**Happy times with John Bailey** as the Combwich drawing group meets 2 pm-4 pm every Monday. Unfortunately John has been rather poorly recently but hopes to be back in good health soon. However, the group is still meeting as usual.

**Choir** If you love to sing and would like to join a like minded group come along at 7pm 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month.

**Coffee Mornings** 10am-12 noon every Friday—are very well attended and a good way to keep up with all that is going on. Profits are donated to local charities. All welcome.

**Chat & Chill** 7.30—9pm every Friday in term time. All 11—17 year olds welcome. For more information contact Reg & Sandie on 652339

**Floods** created major problems for thousands of people in the country and many of them in Somerset, but fortunately not many had serious problems in this parish. Our commiserations to those few who did have flooding problems.



**100 Club Christmas Draw** winners were:

- Joe Bell with a first prize of £100,
- second Barry and Ann Leathwood £60
- third Nick Tester £39.

The draw took place at the Coffee Club on Friday 21st December and the winning numbers were drawn by Helen Jowett with OPRA Chair Robert Palmer and 100 Club Organiser Lyn Palmer officiating.

**The OPRA AGM** sounds a bit daunting, in fact the emphasis is on enjoyment and celebration of a good year past. We will have a friendly game of skittles which is usually quite hilarious particularly after refreshments and a drink or two. But before that we do have a very short formal session where the accounts are approved and officers are confirmed in their positions or new ones elected. If you are interested in becoming more involved or would like to go on the committee give Ann a ring on 652399 to get more information. Put 7.30pm Friday 15th March in the Anchor in your diary for a good night out.

### **Easter**

The Children's Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 10.30am on Good Friday 29th March from the Anchor. All children of the parish are welcome. On Easter Sunday evening 31st March a Quiz will be held at the Anchor at 8pm for those longer in the tooth.

Updated information on the contents of this Newsletter and much more is always available on our website [www.combwich.org.uk](http://www.combwich.org.uk)