



OPRA Newsletter

January 2015

www.combwich.org.uk

A **Very Happy New Year** to all our readers. 2014 was a busy year for OPRA as it included the successful, but exhausting Biennial Fete followed by the equally successful Pig Roast at the Anchor. This was in addition to our usual Easter Children's' activities and the monthly Walks and Talks..

Otterhampton Parish
Recreation Association

Registered Charity No
1124017

The annual firework display attracted a large number of spectators. Thanks are due to the dedicated band of pyrotechnicians and supporting volunteers who managed to produce a splendid display on a limited budget.



The Senior's Christmas Dinner was a great success once again and our thanks to the team of volunteers who made it all possible. Apart from delicious food and a plentiful supply of wine, we were treated to a performance by the evermore impressive Combwich Choir led by Nicole Wigley, a very amusing monologue by John Bailey and to round the evening off, a sing along of all the oldies starring Peter Barnicoat and his talented assistant Graeme Wigley, with Joe on the piano.

OPRA Committee

Chairperson

Robert Palmer 653464.

Secretary

Ann Leathwood 652399.

Treasurer

Sue Francis 653663.

100 Club Organiser

Ann Leathwood 652399

Lyn Palmer 653464

Tina Gardener 652642

Barry Leathwood 652399

Robert Wright 652277

Jacqui Sparks 652069

The Christmas tree lights in Combwich were turned on by Nigel the Gnome by arrangement with Ray Howard and attracted the biggest audience ever. The Combwich Choir led the carol singing, which was stage managed by Mike Gardener with some help from committee members.



At a special awards ceremony in Taunton recently, our very own Helen Jowett was presented with Somerset County Council Chairman's Award for service to her community. The citation read "Every



community would love a Helen Jowett, and the parish of Otterhampton is very lucky to have her. Here is a person who puts others first and not a day goes by when she is not doing something for someone, somewhere; be it for the young, the old, the able and the not so able. Helen gives so much but takes so very little. 'No' would not appear to be in her vocabulary. Her life has not necessarily been a bed of roses either, yet you will never hear her moan about her lot. It is difficult to know where to start listing the reasons why she should be a recipient of this award, but during the past 30 years or so she has enhanced the community to such a degree through her involvement, energy, enthusiasm, commitment, compassion and sense of fun that she is respected and loved by everyone. The Parish Council cannot think of a more worthy winner of this award than Helen".

Diary

Talk-Tuesday 17th February 7.30pm in the village hall by our very own weatherman Garth Crocker who supplies local weather information to BBC Points West. This really is a talk not to be missed

Talk-Thursday 17th March to be arranged

OPRA Sunday Walks are normally the third Sunday in the month meeting at the Anchor to share cars. Details on the notice boards, website and by email.

The Children's Easter Egg Hunt 10.30am Good Friday 3rd April at the Anchor All local children participating in this free event will receive an Easter Egg with the winner receiving a bumper Egg. On Easter Sunday evening 5th April a Quiz will be held at the Anchor at 8pm for those longer in the tooth.

The Drawing Club continues to meet at 2pm every Monday in the village hall

Combwich Choir meets at 7pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursday also in the village hall

The OPRA AGM will be held at 7.30pm Friday 20th March in the Anchor for a very short formal meeting followed by a glass of wine and refreshments.

Friday Morning Coffee Club at 10am to 12 noon continues to provide a haven for an increasing number of villagers to enjoy coffee and good company.

Poppy Day Appeal

Local Poppy Day Appeal Organiser Liz Sidebotham reports a record collection of £403.60 from the residents of Combwich. Congratulations to Liz and her team

Volunteers

We are fortunate in having many volunteers to assist with village activities such as the Fete, but too few who are willing to become involved in committee activities. OPRA is in need of such people and the parish council is likely to have several vacancies in May. There could never be a better time to become involved and help shape the future of our community.

For all local information go to www.combwich.org.uk

£500,000 to spend

You may be aware that Otterhampton Parish (including Combwich, Otterhampton and Steart) has been awarded £500,000 from the Hinkley C Community Impact (CIM) Mitigation Fund as a result of developments which EDF is proposing within the parish. It is expected that funds will start to become available over the next few months.

In response to the flyer sent to every household requesting volunteers, an Otterhampton Parish Project Team (OPPT) has been set up to steer the process of accessing these funds for worthwhile local projects. The funds should be available from early spring onwards.

More information will be circulated soon.

100 Club Christmas Draw Winners

Congratulations to our lucky winners

1st prize	£130.50	Mick Bulman
2nd prize	£78.30	Simon Briggs
3rd prize	£52.20	Aly & Robin Prowse

(The above prizes are in addition to the monthly draw)

Not yet a member; contact Ann on 652399 for more information.

Afternoon Tea and Advice

@Cannington-a new community hub held at Cannington United Reform Church (High Street - opposite the Rose and Crown) open every Wednesday 1-4pm. Meet new people, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of cake.

Free Help and Advice is also available to all from Sedgemoor Citizens Advice and Sedgemoor District Council on a drop-in-basis (no appointment necessary). Advice is available for a range of issues from employment problems to council tax arrears.

We can help no matter what the problem!

Come along every Wednesday 1-4pm - we look forward to meeting you

Email Addresses

OPRA maintains an extensive local email list which is used to send out important community information. If you are not receiving this information but would like to, please send your name and email address to barry.leathwood@btinternet.com