



OPRA Newsletter

September 2013

www.combwich.org.uk

This glorious summer is reminiscent of all our childhood memories with almost endless blue skies and sunshine. In our corner of the country we are ideally placed to make the most of the good weather with access to the coast, Somerset levels and the Quantock Hills. The new footpath from Combwich to Stert Drove recently opened and provides safe walking and cycling between Combwich, Otterhampton, Stockland Bristol and Steart and is proving immensely popular. Soon the path will be extended to provide yet more possibilities for walkers and cyclists.

Unfortunately the much heralded breach in the River Parrett to allow tidal flooding to form the salt marsh wetlands has had to be postponed until September 2014. The unusual weather over the last year has caused delay in the construction process and though earthworks to create the reserve are complete, they will require



time to allow vegetation to grow and strengthen the new embankments. For more information go to the website which has a direct link to WWT's lapsed time cameras.

The newly planted Wildflower Meadow at the entrance to Combwich though planted rather late because of the weather is a profusion of colour and by next year will look even better

Many local organisations took a break in August, but not the ever more successful monthly Combwich Market or the Friday Morning Coffee Club which entertains locals to coffee and gossip and much more from 10-12 each Friday morning. The Parish Plan Steering Group were also busy and organised a Drop-In Day to gather people's views on a range of issues in the parish.

This Autumn and Winter

Whether we like it or not the days are getting shorter and in OPRA we are arranging our winter programme. Our usual series of Village Hall Talks will start from Thursday 19th September and will continue until March with the exception of December. The first of our Autumn Sunday morning Walks will be on 15th September which will involve a circular walk on the other side of the River Parrett (with views of Combwich) and will be suitable for all the family.

A new event this year will be a Race Night at the Anchor on Saturday 5th October to raise funds and have fun. Funds raised will be used to help replace the aging tractor used to cut the grass on the common.

The Annual Firework Display will be on Sunday 3rd November and the ever popular Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner will be on Saturday 7th December. And on the following day the lighting of the village Christmas tree.

For more information on these events see over, or go to the website and watch for notices at the entrance to the village and elsewhere.

**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

Barry Leathwood 652399

Robert Wright 652277

Jacqui Sparks 652069

OPRA DERBY



Race Night
at
The Anchor

Fancy a night at the Races then this is your opportunity for a good night out

7.30 pm

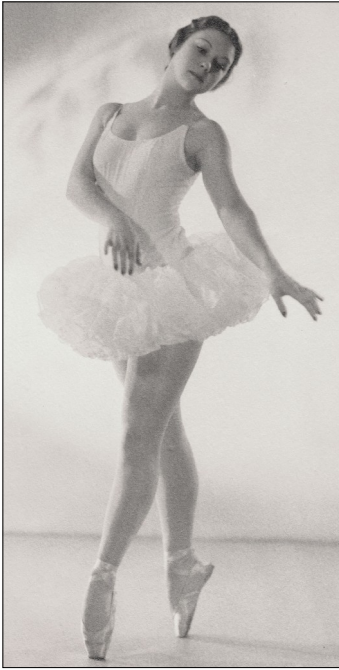
Saturday 5th October

Race Cards £2.50 (including ploughman's) available from the Anchor, Post Office and Committee members from the end of the month.



Hats or fancy dress optional

If you would like to sponsor a race and advertise your business or organisation for £25 please ring Tina on 652642



This month's Teaser - here is a picture of the beautiful Margaret Currie. Who is she and what is her connection with Comwich?

Read this fascinating story on the parish website www.comwich.org.uk.

If you haven't been on the website recently then it is worth another look as there is so much more to see. Stories and pictures of local events. Information on local people and organisations and much more.

Our Villages

Most people appreciate what a lovely group of villages we have in this parish brought all the closer as a result of the new footpath. In each village people are working hard to improve the community for residents and visitors alike to enjoy. Unfortunately there are a few people who undermine these efforts by, for example letting their dogs foul footpaths and the common. This is not only unsightly and unpleasant but also poses a health risk particularly for children.

OPRA committee members recently spent a Saturday morning painting the pavilion on the common (below) only to have graffiti written all over it very soon afterwards.

This is antisocial behaviour we can do without. Perhaps those responsible would volunteer to repaint the building. Information on culprits to OPRA please.



We have also had reports of children swimming in the new South Brook adjacent to the new footpath. The managers of the project have asked us to point out the dangers of becoming trapped unseen under water and also of bacterial infections such as Leptospirosis (Weils disease).

100 Club

Most of the funds raised by OPRA, and spent in the community, come from **100 Club** members. The **100 Club** is not just about giving, it is also about taking part in the weekly and monthly draws and getting some of your money back! Each month over **£200** is distributed in prize money plus a bumper draw at Christmas with prize money of **£200** being shared between 3 lucky winners. In fact over half of the money is returned in prize money throughout the year. **To qualify for the bumper Christmas draw you must be a member by October.**

Becoming a member of the **100 Club** also gives you right to attend our AGM and have your say about how OPRA spends the money raised and activities you think would benefit the community.

DIARY of OPRA EVENTS

Walk Sunday 15th September meet at the Anchor 9.30am to share cars – see Comwich from over the river

Talk Thursday 19th September 8pm Village Hall 'Wallis and the Abdication' which Mollie Bond calls 'British History with spice'.

Race Night Saturday 5th October 7.30pm the Anchor

Talk Thursday 17th October 8pm Village Hall Steart Project update tbc

Walk Sunday 20th October tbc

Fireworks Sunday 3rd November lighting the Beacon and fireworks from 6pm on the Common. Burgers and hot-dogs available

Walk Sunday 17th November tbc

Talk Thursday 21st November 'Iceland and the Sagas' by Val Bannister

Seniors Christmas Dinner Saturday 7th December 7.30pm (over 60s by invitation)

Christmas Tree Lighting Sunday 8th December 6pm

There are also many other events such as the art and drawing group and the choir. Details of these can be found on the website.

Cricket on the Common

A spontaneous (almost) cricket match took place on the Common recently. Two teams from the Anchor matched

their skills (and sometimes the lack of them) in an entertaining and for some painful afternoon. Then back to the pub. Thanks to organisers Richard, Jason and Rob for a great afternoon.

