



OPRA Newsletter

January 2014

www.combwich.org.uk

A glorious summer, how often can we say that in the this country (pity it wasn't a Fete Year) and even the Autumn was pretty good, but soon the dark nights were upon us and it was time to start the Autumn series of events



In October a very successful OPRA Derby (Race Night) was the first of the autumn events, followed in November with the annual Firework Display thanks to our trained volunteers and all who turned out to support the event.

The festive season started for many with the Senior's Christmas Dinner enjoyed by 74 guests and entertained by the Combwich Choir led by Nicole Wigley. Head Chef Ray headed up the kitchen team and Mike Gardener was MC for the night. Thanks also to Reg and Sandie Wilkes for decorating the hall and the many other volunteers without whom this event could not take place.

The Christmas tree lights in Combwich were turned on by Jiffy the Giraffe by arrangement with Ray Howard and attracted the biggest audience ever.

Our Steart "correspondent" reported that they could only manage Charlie Chicken to switch on their tree lights!

The Walks and Talks programme continued throughout the period (see over for coming events) and OPRA is always looking for new ideas to support.



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

Barry Leathwood 652399

Robert Wright 652277

Jacqui Sparks 652069

The Magic 100 !!

A huge thank you to all members of the 100 Club for their continued contribution and to our new members for helping us reach our target of 100 members. During 2013 **£2,829** of prize money was distributed including the Bumper Christmas Draw where **£257** was shared between just 3 members.

The draw takes place on 1st Friday of each month at the Combwich Coffee Morning at Otterhampton Village Hall. A list of winners can be found on www.combwich.org.uk

The remainder of the 100 Club contributions are used by OPRA to support parish events, not least of all the Senior's Christmas Meal, Easter Eggs for the children and donations to various local initiatives throughout the year.

2014 brings a new challenge....."OPRA **200 Club**" so please pledge your support, for just £1 per week your number will be entered into the draw - a chance to win and an opportunity to support Parish events. Please phone Lyn on 653464 for an application form or collect one from Hope Cottage, 3 School Lane, Combwich.

OPRA Events Planned

Talk-Thursday 16th January we will welcome Chris Kettle from the Sedgemoor Citizens Advice Bureau. Chris is an entertaining speaker on what is an ever more important local service.

Talk-Thursday 20th February is the time for an Evening with our very own Jean and Mem and memories of Combwich past. An entertaining evening is promised with audience participation inevitable.

Talk-Thursday 20th March we will be regaled by retired vet Dick Best on Artic Wildlife. Dick represents Steart on the parish council and is heavily involved in the Steart Wildlife project.

All the above events are in the village hall and start at 8pm.

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.

Easter 2014

The Children's Easter Egg Hunt 10.30am Good Friday 18th 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 20th April a Quiz will be held at the Anchor at 8pm for those longer in the tooth.

The OPRA AGM will be held at 7.30pm Friday 21st March in the Anchor for a very short formal meeting followed by a glass of wine and refreshments.

Biennial Summer Fete

The Fete this year will be held on Saturday 5th July on the Common. More details will be provided nearer the date but we are looking for ideas and volunteers. If you can help please contact one of the Committee members.

Friday Morning Coffee Club

Thanks to the indefatigable Helen Jowett and her willing band of volunteers, the coffee mornings continue to provide a haven for increasing number of villagers to enjoy coffee and good company.

The Drawing Club continues to meet at 2pm every Monday in the village hall and the **Choir** meets at 7pm Thursday also in the village hall.

Chat & Chill continues to provide a place to go for young people on a Friday evening in the village hall

Common Maintenance

After 10 years service cutting the Combwich Common our trusty old 1950 Ford Dexta tractor



was no longer fit for purpose and we have replaced it with a modern ride on mower, a Stiga Park Pro 20. We are very grateful to Dave Catchpole who sourced the mower for us and negotiated a good price. We are now anxiously waiting the spring when we can try it out on the common.

Harbour Social Club

The Club based in the village hall has recently been renovated and re-launched at the village hall as a family friendly local venue. The club is normally open on Fridays and Saturday evenings. OPRA wishes them every success and encourages residents to sign up as members.

One of OPRA's success stories in recent years has been the village website, thanks to a team of volunteers led by Graeme Wigley webmaster. It is full of interesting and useful information including photographs of recent events. It is also the best place to find what's on in the parish. If you have an event to post or a comment to make go to www.combwich.org.uk to find out how