



COMBS PARISH COUNCIL

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2021



Welcome to Combs Parish Council Autumn newsletter.

The summer ended up being quite a let down with disappointing weather, cloudy and lack of sunshine. We did seem to miss most of the heavy rain storms that many villages around us endured, with Brettenham recording 181 mm of rain on one Sunday afternoon but in Combs I only recorded 3 mm. This was certainly the case on many occasions when these very local storms missed this area.

Certainly the bees have found it very difficult this year finding pollen and nectar in a poor flowering Summer and I have noticed very little honey in hives this year.

We will be welcoming Revd Sarah Jenkins as the new Rector at St Marys Church this November, following the Revd Chris Childs who left to take up a new position at Gazeley.

You will see later in this newsletter, an article regarding Phase 1 of the restoration of the bells at St Marys. This project is about to start, with the bells being removed from the tower to be restored. There is also an article in this newsletter regarding "quiet lanes". You will find more information of what they are and we would very much like people's opinions for the parish council to then go forward with these suggestions.

The Parish Council have managed to get the roadside footpath from Scotches Corner to the top of Poplar Hill cleared and widened back to its original width but we still need to get the last area back to the church hall cleared, which will be reported although this is in the boundary of Stowmarket.

With the darker evenings approaching, it would be a good idea for everyone to check on their house and out buildings security. Although Combs has been fortunate to have a low crime rate it would be nice to not allow any opportunities to arise.

Please be aware that I have had a report of hare coursing taking place on the fields in the village. This is when people in a car, normally a 4x4, drive on fields and release a dog or dogs to chase down hares for sport. This is often filmed as it involves high stakes. If you see this taking place, please dial 999 and report it to the police. At no point approach them.

Stuart Scarff
Chairman

Parish Walks & Quiet Lanes

We've been building upon the excellent walks designed by Bill Baldry and added a few others, all available on the village website. (www.combsvillage.org.uk/combs-life/combs-walks)

There are walks from 1.2 miles right up to the Parish Boundary Walk of 10 miles, hopefully there's something there to suit most tastes and mobility levels. The more we document, the easier it will be for people to work out their own preferred walking routes around the Parish so, we'll be adding more in time. Our guides include route descriptions, maps and directions and they highlight architectural, historical and other points of interest. Long term plans include notice boards and rest stations at suitable intervals.



Quiet Lanes

So what are "Quiet Lanes" and how do they affect us and how do we use them? Quiet Lanes are single track roads where we can all enjoy the rural environment sharing these together with walkers, cyclists, horse riders and joggers but still alongside motor vehicles driven with regards to all the other users.

An officially designated Quiet Lane will be clearly signed both ends as to this effect at both ends to make sure all users are aware that it is a shared road with priorities i.e. Pedestrians first, then horse riders, cyclists and finally motorists.

You can find out more at www.quietlanessuffolk.co.uk which has a good informative Q&A

Our neighbours in Battsford are in the process of designating two lanes, including Burnthouse Lane and we are looking forward to learning from their experience. Once we have more news of this, we will let you know via our website, notice boards and newsletter.

Your Parish council would be interested in your views regarding Quiet lanes, the window to consider designating one or two in our Parish will be opening shortly for a limited period. We would appreciate knowing your thoughts regarding them or, whether you wish us to pursue this idea.

As ever please contact our clerk or talk with one of your councillors and let us know your thoughts.

Church Bells



St Mary's Church, Combs - BELLS

We are delighted to announce that Phase I of the Bell project is now about to take place. With the grateful thanks for a kind donation from Combs Parish Council we have now raised sufficient funds to complete Phase I.

Phase I consists of removing the 4 original bells from the church tower and transporting them to the John Taylor Bell Foundry in Loughborough. There they will be restored and then returned. The medieval frame within the bell tower will be restored in readiness for the 4 bells to be re hung.

These four bells will be hung dead in the wooden medieval frame and an electric striking mechanism will be installed to sound the four bells. It is hoped that work will commence at the beginning of October. The bells have not been heard since the 1950's so it is hoped that by the end of the year you will be able to once again hear the bells from St Mary's, Combs sound across the valley.

Parish Council Meetings
Battisford Village Hall 7:30pm
8th November
13th December

Please contact our clerk 7 days before if
you wish to suggest an item for the agenda or to attend a meeting
combsparishcouncil@gmail.com

Oaks Meadow Project

Thank you to everyone who attended the open afternoon, despite the inclement weather, it was extremely successful with nearly 100 people attending. From all the feedback that we received it is clear that the community is well and truly behind this project and is excited at the prospect of having a village facility available for everyone.



The Natsol composting toilet, pictured above, is due to be delivered within the next few weeks. Thanks to the National Lottery Community Fund for financing this part of the project.

Combs Parish Council has donated the funds for a superb pair of Oak gates to go on Bildeston Road vehicular entrance. Now, we have to raise the funds to construct the access before we can install the gates.

Recently we had some very exciting news that the Oaks Meadow Project has been selected as one of just four sites in Suffolk to be designated as a Healing Wood. "SCC's healing woods project connects with the motion unanimously passed by the county's councillors earlier this year, to commit to developing mental health support in Suffolk, in response to the impacts of the pandemic.

Research, such as that recently published by the University of Essex with The Green Light Trust, demonstrated that access to woodlands and green space can significantly improve people's wellbeing. The four sites will develop unused spaces and existing green areas, to make them more accessible and offer dedicated places for peaceful reflection and a positive focus.

We have already had a visit from the Healing Wood leads and they have advised and will support with some of the funding for the design, prep & planting of the Reflective Area, as well as hedging, trees, the copse, benches & signage.

If you would like more regular updates and/or help with volunteering on the site, please email Desiree Shelley, Chair of Trustees: desshelley@talk21.com

Bonfires

We're at that period of the year when the garden starts to die off and bonfires start to be lit. Residents have commented that some of these are not only damaging to our environment but also inconsiderate given their impact on neighbours' wellbeing and property. If you do want to light a bonfire, please do consider wind direction, the way the smoke drifts once it has been lit and actively manage it.

The following is a good guide to bonfires if you feel you really do need to have one:

www.anglianhome.co.uk/goodtobehome/guides/how-to-build-the-perfect-garden-bonfire/



We would like to remind residents that the District Council still run their brown bin service and there are garden waste recycling/composting services at our local centre in Stowmarket, both kinder ways to all concerned to dispose of this waste.

Some Parishes have set up their own local composting project to lessen local pollution and neighbourly irritation and this is something we are willing to pursue if there is significant demand. More information can be found at

www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/reduce-your-waste/home-composting/community-composting

Do let us know if this is something you feel is worth pursuing by replying to our clerk or by talking to any of your local councillors.



Cricket Club

We were fortunate that despite a not so sunny August, we were able to complete all of our home fixtures for our men's teams, ladies and T20 side. For the fourth year in a row, we reached the T20 finals and despite coming second, there is much to celebrate as along the way we beat some very strong sides. Our Saturday men's team remain in Division 5, despite playing 19 games and winning 12 and scoring many more points than others who were promoted, however because of COVID restrictions the league decided to work on averages, which worked against us. Our Sunday side performed very well this year, winning 7 out of 14 games, and our ladies had a great victory on their last game of the season.

During the summer, we were able to host a two day cricket camp for our junior players. We also had held our end of season celebrations for both Juniors and Seniors over the last few weeks.

Over the winter the cricket club will continue to be open on Monday, Tuesday and Friday nights and we will also be holding other events such as a quiz, a race night and movie evenings. Look out for our events on our Facebook page.

We are always keen to attract new social members as well as playing members and it won't be too long before we start training for next season.



The cricket pavilion is also available for hire and recently we have been used for weddings, funeral wakes and birthday parties.

Website: www.battisforddistrict.play-cricket.com/

Twitter: @BattisforDCC

Facebook: Battisford and District Cricket Club

Or, contact Julia Stephens-Row

secretary@battisfordcricket.co.uk for more information

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons 2nd June 2022

Combs Parish Council are hoping to participate in the national lighting of beacons next year to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

More information soon – watch the website, noticeboards and next newsletter



Combs History

Did You Know?

Before 1934, Combs had 11 pubs/ale houses/beer houses/gardens. In the years leading to 1934, the boundary of Combs was said to be the river RAT which, runs along Combs Lane to Boulters Bridge as mentioned in the book Stowmarket - The March of Time written by Harry Double. In 1934, the boundaries of Stowmarket were extended and incorporated Combs Ford, stretching up to the top of Poplar Hill. People ask why St Mary's Combs Church is not in the centre or nearer to the village of Combs - well it once was!

This information has been taken from Stowmarket - Combs & Stowupland Pubs written by Neil Langridge & Brian A Southgate.

Bakers Arms - Combs (now Combs Ford) c1842 - c1885 Positioned nearly opposite the Gladstone Arms and almost next door to the Magpie Inn

Bell - Combs unknown location 1711

Cock - location unknown. 1607 - 1616 Ale house in Combs

Gardeners Arms - Moats Tye, Upper Combs c1855. Now a private dwelling

Gladstone Arms - Combs (now Combs Ford) pre 1855 to present; previously known as "Bold Buccleuch"

Live & Let Live - Hadleigh Road (now Park Road) situated at Trickers Green, Combs c1865 - 1989. This beer house seems to have been built by a Mr. Roper for his two sons, hence the name of the houses running alongside the old pub - "Ropers Row".

Magpie/Pie - Combs (now Combs Ford) pre 1619 to current

Potash - Upper Combs - before 1779 - 1799 Possibly situated at Pot Kiln Farm (opposite Jockeys Lane)

Punch Bowl - Upper Combs (now Battisford) 1727 to current

This was built by Ambrose Wright on a meadow that he had bought for £50. The original name was the "Sweep Chimney" and remained so until 1732.

Tannery - Hadleigh Road (now Park Road) Combs. Beerhouse & gardens 1864 - 1883

The Volunteers - Poplar Hill, Combs Village (now Combs Ford) c1861 - 1913

A photograph shows The Volunteers on the site of the once post office in Combs Ford. Several companies of volunteer militia existed locally, part time soldiers would muster a few times a year to drill and no doubt retire to a local pub afterwards. Whether this particular beer house had any connection with any volunteers is not known. On its sale stables, 5 cottages and some arable land are mentioned.

Rural Coffee Caravan



*20th October
10am - 12 noon
Combs Green
Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 2NP
Come along for a covid secure
chat, please bring your own
chair*

www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk/events



www.orchardbarn.org.uk
FREE WORKSHOPS

**Peg Making
Beginners Thursday
14th or Saturday 16th
October
Improvers Thursday
21st or Thursday 28th
October**

**Group sizes will be small and
adults only as sharp knives are
used. Booking is essential.
ginny.orchardbarn@gmail.com**



The 462 bus runs through Battsford & Combs into Stowmarket every Tuesday and Friday. It leaves the Punchbowl, Battsford at 10.18 am stopping at Moat Farm, Queens Close and Model Farm Park Road arriving at Argos in Stowmarket at 10.33 am

The return journey leaves Stowmarket Station Road West at 12:40 pm

More information and downloadable timetable can be found at

www.suffolkonboard.com/content or by calling 0345 6066171

Choose Refills - Mobile Eco Refill Shop



See us at The Punch Bowl, Battsford on the 1st Saturday of each month between 9-11 am and the 3rd Monday of each month between 5-7pm

For more information www.chooserefills.co.uk