



# COMBS PARISH COUNCIL

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2022



## SPECIAL BUMPER EDITION

Dear Residents of Combs Parish,

This was to have been Councillor Ian Walker's first report but as he's currently unwell I shall be filling in for him.

It's a busy time for the Parish with three big events (the Jubilee Beacon, the Oak's Meadow Medicine Wheel and the joint Village fete) all occurring in short order, hence our one-off extended edition to do them all justice.

The Jubilee Beacon lighting on 2nd June was a great success, attended by some 2-300 people who enjoyed a barbeque and refreshments and a splendid rendition of a specially written song by a choir put together under very short notice beforehand. The event was a fitting testament to the organisational skills of those Parish stalwarts Stuart and Jill Scarff and a sizeable supporting cast. I'm sorry to report that Stuart has decided to step down from the Parish Chair after some 12 years of first class service. The Parish has benefited greatly under his leadership and we are delighted – indeed positively relieved - that he is staying on as a Councillor.

The 10th of May saw us hold a 'double-meeting': first the Annual Parish Meeting and then following on immediately the Council Annual General Meeting. The former is open to all Parish residents and is an opportunity for community groups to highlight progress. We were delighted to welcome Julia Stephens-Row who updated us on the continuing progress of the Cricket Club and Rachel Williams and Jess Thorpe who are organising the Annual Fete. Please see relevant articles later in this newsletter. We were also pleased to be joined by our County Councillor Kay Oakes and District Councillor John Matthissen. Kay and John attend all our monthly meetings and are highly active in supporting the Parish.

Finally we have vacancies for two new Councillors and have included an article later in the Newsletter which we hope will entice people into considering joining us. All expressions of interest will be gratefully received.

Tony Kitson, Vice Chair



# Combs & Battisford fete

## Saturday 2nd July 2022 From 1pm

We're now in full swing getting everything ready for this years Combs & Battisford fete.

The fete will be held on the playing field on Straight Road Battisford.

There will be plenty of stalls to look around, the gardening show, dog show and arena acts. There will be a licenced bar and other refreshments for sale.

The theme this year is Typically British bringing the villages together and will be full of colour with our scarecrow competition.

Tickets for the Pig Race on Friday evening have already Sold Out!

Saturday evening Barn Dance Starts at 7pm (bar & food available)

Join us for an evening of dancing, dust off your boots and grab your hat and join us for the closing event of 2022.

Ticket are £3 per adult (children free) and are available by contacting Sara on 07469 960580 or [sara.mcrae@sky.com](mailto:sara.mcrae@sky.com)

We look forward to seeing you all.

Rachel Williams  
Chairperson.





**TUESDAY 21st JUNE 2022**

**OAKS MEADOW, BILDESTON ROAD  
LITTLE FINBOROUGH IP14 2LA**



**CREATION OF A COMMUNITY MEDICINE  
WHEEL GARDEN  
A 36 foot diameter circle**

**Part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee  
celebrations.**



and



**From 2:00pm Bring your painted stones or paint available ones on site.  
Bring your potted medicinal plants (list available on  
www.oaksmeadow.org.uk) and ribbons to attach to posts.**

**From 3:00pm A traditional jubilee afternoon tea will be on sale with lots of  
local delicacies.**

**From 7:00pm to sunset A midsummer BBQ will be available**

**Bring your own drinks and/or a picnic**

**Further information on the website [www.oaksmeadow.org.uk](http://www.oaksmeadow.org.uk)**

**Facebook: Oaks Meadow Project**

**A big thank you to the 81 households (representing 202 adults and  
children) who kindly responded to our village hall survey which ran until  
January 2022. You provided us with a wealth of information, innovative  
and practical ideas and a good deal of food for thought. You will find the  
full survey results and the next steps on our website at:**

**<https://oaksmeadow.org.uk/survey-results/>**



Picture of Suzanne with Tony Bamber & Stuart Scarff

As part of the festival of Suffolk for the Jubilee celebrations, on Monday 23rd May the Festival Torch relay passed through Combs on its 588-mile journey around Suffolk. It started in Brandon on Friday 13th May, visiting 250 towns and villages along the way to the Suffolk Show, finally reaching its destination on Wednesday 1st June where it was a centre-piece for the big Jubilee Pageant at the Showground.

The Festival Torch Relay was the idea of Mark Brennan and the torch was designed by the CEO of Brafe, Andrew Dalby. It has 70 holes to symbolize the Queen's reign and the Festival of Suffolk logo on one side.

The rickshaw started its day in Stowmarket, arriving at St Mary's Church Hall at about 9.35am where Cllr Suzanne Ottewell volunteered to ride in the rickshaw to the corner of Jack's Lane and Park Road, saying it was a great honour and great fun! From there, the relay carried on to Great Finborough, Onehouse and various other towns and villages before finishing the day at Badwell Ash at approx. 7pm.



## The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon

On Thursday 2nd June the Parish Beacon in the new cemetery at St Mary's Church Combs was lit at 21:45 along with many others around the country.

A large crowd of several hundred people attended the church grounds to enjoy a BBQ and refreshments in the warm and sunny weather.

The newly formed community choir performed a beautiful rendition of a song especially written for the jubilee from inside the church. Everyone then walked around to the new cemetery to see the beacon being lit by Stuart Scarff, to the sound of the choir singing several songs including the jubilee song "A Song for the Commonwealth" and the National Anthem.

Many thanks to all those involved in organising the event including Jill Scarff and team for assembling the choir and arranging all the rehearsals.

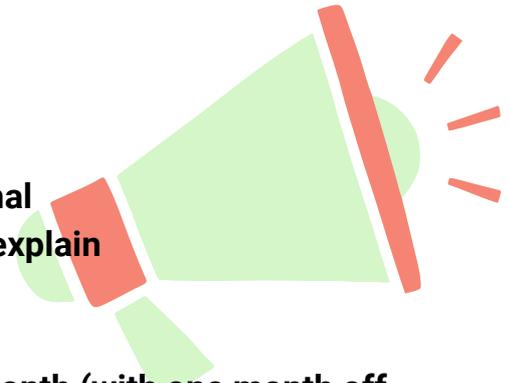
# Some photos of the BBQ and Beacon evening....



## **Councillor Recruitment**

**We have vacancies for two additional councillors.**

**It's a responsible and fulfilling position which carries an opportunity to help shape the Parish in light of the external demands placed on it. We thought it might be helpful to explain what that means in practical terms.**



**We schedule meetings for the second Monday of each month (with one month off in the summer). These are held at Battsford and Combs Cricket Club at 7:30pm and we generally finish at 9:00-9:30. The 'meat' of the meeting lies in reviewing and commenting on building planning applications after which we record the extent to which we support them (or not . . .). This requires some preparation and we usually set aside 2 or so hours over the preceding week to review records on the Mid-Suffolk planning website as well as other papers and the financial statements provided by our Secretary, Tony Bamber. In addition to that there are other projects we look to – these differ but examples include: support for the Oaks Meadow development; support for the St Mary's church bells refurbishment; upkeep of the cemetery and churchyard; footpaths and walks; roads, traffic and utilities; and organisation of other community activities such as the annual litter pick. Basically you can put in whatever effort you are comfortable with and around other demands.**

**We'd welcome any expression of interest. No prior experience is necessary and training is provided in the form of webinars – this can be very flexible and spread out to suit you. We'd be particularly open to volunteers from Moats Tye/Little London as our representation is currently concentrated along the Park Road/Battsford Road area.**

**If you'd like to find out more with no pressure on you at all do please get in touch with Tony Bamber at [combsparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:combsparishcouncil@gmail.com). or 01449 613255**

**Parish Council Meetings  
Battsford & District Cricket Club 7:30pm  
Monday 20th June (rescheduled date)  
Monday 11th July  
August - No planned meeting  
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](mailto:combsparishcouncil@gmail.com)**

*"I am struggling to stay on top of my household bills; my weekly food shop isn't stretching as far anymore and now my energy bill is going up too. I don't know how I'm going to afford all of these price rises. What can I do to stop my finances spiralling out of control?"*

First of all, you are not alone in this and there's support to help you.

It's always worth checking if there are benefits you don't know about that you're eligible for, including support with your energy costs and living costs. On the Citizens Advice website - [citizensadvice.org.uk](https://citizensadvice.org.uk) - there's a benefits calculator, advice on how to reduce living costs and information on other ways to increase your income.

There's also emergency support that you may have access to, such as food bank vouchers or fuel vouchers.

If you're struggling to stay on top of bills, it's really important to understand what money you have coming in and going out each month.

Citizens Advice also has a budgeting tool on its website that can help with this.

If you're already behind on bills, prioritise paying your rent or mortgage, plus energy bills and Council Tax first. Not paying these bills has the most serious

consequences. You should speak to the person or company you owe money to, to see if they can help you repay your bills sustainably.

We know that times are incredibly tough but please remember, you don't have to face this alone, so do contact Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk to help you find a way forward.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide advice on this or any other issue, including debt, employment, benefits and family law. You can contact them on 01449 676060

or use the contact form at [midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us](https://midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us). For more information and our opening hours go to [midsuffolkcab.org.uk](https://midsuffolkcab.org.uk).

## News from from District Councillor John Matthissen

### Food Bank

As household budgets are squeezed dry, the Food Bank has more demand but is running short of supplies. Please get an extra tin or two when shopping if you can afford it, and donations can be given via <https://donate.kindlink.com/new-life--suffolk-/2120>

### Should you be composting in your garden?

Composting at home is simple to do, produces something for free and helps save time, money and the planet. It helps the environment by cutting down on waste for disposal, preventing harmful methane gases and reducing reliance on peat.

Subsidised compost bins <https://suffolkrecycling.org.uk/reduce-your-waste/home-composting> .More info at [www.gardenorganic.org.uk](http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk)

### Recycling stalls

Thursday June 23

Market Place 9.30am – 11.30am. You can bring medicine 'blister' packs, toothpaste tubes and brushes, cheese wrappers and nets, pens, pencils and markers. It helps a lot if you have these separated. Clean pet food pouches and other soft plastic packaging can now be recycled at Tesco, Solar and some other shops. You will need to check who accepts what as Asda don't accept pet food pouches, but Tesco do.

John Matthissen: [councillor@matthissen.net](mailto:councillor@matthissen.net) Tel: 01449 258894 (7 days a week!)

# could you foster?

**nexus**  
fostering

we urgently need  
carers in Suffolk

**Ofsted**  
Outstanding  
Provider

Visit us at [www.nexusfostering.co.uk](http://www.nexusfostering.co.uk)  
Call us on 01603 951 405

## Did You Know.....



### **Ipswich Journal 31st March 1804 reports:**

Lionel Lee, for a burglary in the dwelling house of Thomas Robinson, of Combs. Before the Judge left the town, the three first were reprieved, but Lee was left for execution at Ipswich, on Saturday the 14th April. **Ipswich Journal 21st April 1804 reports:** Saturday last Lionel Lee was executed here pursuant to his sentence, in the presence of a vast concourse of spectators

### **Ipswich Journal 15th March 1828 reports:**

Thomas Robinson and George Ely, were charged with having broken into the barn of Mr George Ruffle, of Combs, in the night of January the 28th last, and stolen four bushels of red wheat and a hempen sack. Guilty and sentenced to 12 months imprisonment and hard labour in the County Gaol.

### **Ipswich Journal reports: (no date could be found)**

Chas. Raby charged with stealing a pair of stockings, the property of Francis Battle, of Combs and John Root, charged with receiving the same: the former pleaded guilty. 6 calendar months hard labour-last solitary.

### **Ipswich Journal 26th July 1834 reports:**

John Simpson 22 was indicted for stealing at Stowmarket a hat, the property of Mark Cresswell, of Coddendam. The prosecutor had been sleeping on a table in a publichouse at Stowmarket and when he awoke he found his hat missing. Between five and six in the morning of the robbery he saw his hat in the hands of the constable. The constable who apprehended the prisoner, stated that he took the hat from his hand, he was walking up the street in the direction of Combs. The prosecutor identified the hat. The prisoner said he took up the hat for his own, but he was much in liquor and did not know what he did. The jury returned a verdict of - Guilty he was sentenced to three calendar months imprisonment and hard labour.

### **Ipswich Journal December 29th 1835 reports:**

On the 26th inst. at Coddendam, before the Revds.. Thomas Brown, Richard Etough, D.D., William Colvile and Francis Steward. Edward Robinson of Combs for riding on the shafts of his waggon and driving the same furiously on the turnpike road at Badley: penalty, including costs 12s 6d

### **Ipswich Journal Tuesday 11th July 1882 reports:**

School Act Case - Fredk. Mulley, Combs, was charged with neglecting to send his son to school on the 25th May. Defendant's wife appeared and said the child was sent, but was refused admittance because she did not send the school fee, which he forgot to take. The child had been kept away before on account of having whooping cough. Fined 1s without costs

## The Cricket Club



This is the future of the Battisford and District Cricket Club - a group of 5-8 year olds attending their first introduction to cricket under the All stars programme which we are running alongside our Dynamos sessions for 8-11 year olds until the middle of July.

All our teams including our juniors have been playing cricket over the last few weeks and the recent sunny weather has seen lots of people coming along to watch our home games.

All our teams are finding winning ways which is really encouraging, particularly our under 11 team who recently beat Copdock by 20 runs, and our ladies team who have won two out of two games. We are very pleased to welcome our new members both playing and non playing however there is always room for more.

A weekly update on fixtures and match reports can be found on our Facebook page.

We are looking forward to hosting county games in August on 2/3 rd August Suffolk v Herts and on 23rd August girls under 15 Suffolk v Herts and Norfolk.

A good number of people came along to our pie and pint night and the curry and quiz. Our next event is an afternoon and evening ladies day and race night on 20th August- more details to be found on our Facebook page soon.

So let's hope for sunshine and a fun filled successful season of cricket through to the middle of September.

For more information please contact

Website <https://battisforddistrict.play-cricket.com/>

Twitter @BattisforDCC

Facebook @BattisfordAndDistrictCricketClub

Or contact Julia Stephens-Row by email [secretary@battisfordcricket.co.uk](mailto:secretary@battisfordcricket.co.uk)



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# Ladies day

Saturday 20th August from 1pm

Battisford and District Cricket Club invites you to get dressed up, enjoy a day of cricket followed by an evening at the races from 7:30pm with meal included.

Adult ticket £15 pp  
Family ticket £40

*Prosecco* 🍷

afternoon cream  
tea £10 pp

**to book a ticket please contact Rachel  
[rachel@battisfordcricket.co.uk](mailto:rachel@battisfordcricket.co.uk)**



## Orchard Barn News

### Volunteers needed – no experience necessary!

We recently held a 'topping out' ceremony for our re-instated 1580s Long House green oak roof! Everyone involved in the build, including some of our funders, gathered to celebrate finishing the raising of the frame. William Clement Smith, the professional timber framer who has worked with volunteers throughout, fixed a bouquet of apple, elm and oak to the apex of the Southern gable and a toast to the house was drunk.



Now we need to close the building in before the Winter and need Volunteers to make shingles (wooden tiles) for the roof and to pack the straw and clay mix into the walls for insulation. This is a deep green, hybrid daub. The materials are home dug and grown within 5 miles of the project. It is mixed with a hoe and applied by hand.

If you're interested in helping our community group to continue to lower their carbon footprint, would like to learn new skills and work outside with friendly people in a beautiful environment, do get in touch. You can call Sarah for an informal chat on 07766 054042 or email Carole at [carole.orchardbarn@gmail.com](mailto:carole.orchardbarn@gmail.com). More information about what we do can be found on our website:

[orchardbarn.org.uk/volunteers](http://orchardbarn.org.uk/volunteers)

Building community sustainably at Orchard Barn, Ringshall, Suffolk, IP14 2LY

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



Combs Green IP14 2NP  
from 10am – 12pm on the  
2nd Thursday of each month  
Next visits are  
9th June  
14th July  
11th August

Contact Diana 07494 572153 or [www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk](http://www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk)