

Rural Coffee Caravan



The Coffee Caravan cannot visit us just yet but please take a look at their online events list for things to keep being social.

www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk/events



Battisford & District Cricket Club

An introduction to cricket for children aged 5-8 and 8-11

Sunday mornings

Starting mid May

Sign up is via

www.ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStar
(search Battisford)



www.orchardbarn.org.uk

Parents – Grandparents - Carers

Are you looking for a different and exciting way to interest your children in nature?

Join us, with leader Ross Piper
Saturday 24 April for a
FREE Minibeast ID session
and make a cob brick to take home
for wild bees to live in.

Messy outdoor fun!

11 am – 1 pm or 2 pm to 4 pm
Booking is essential and children
must be accompanied by an adult.

Parish Council

Zoom Meetings 7:30pm

12th April

6th May (APM)

14th June (tbc)

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

combsparrishcouncil@gmail.com



COMBS PARISH COUNCIL

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2021



With spring around the corner, evenings getting lighter and the lockdown restrictions starting to be lifted lets hope that life will get back to some sort of normality. The Parish Council has continued to operate with our monthly meetings taking part on Zoom. Hopefully we will soon be able to get back around a table to hold our meetings. I have noticed that many more people are getting out and about exploring the village and footpaths, some of which have turned very muddy over winter due to the wet weather. I have spoken to many that have walked up from Stowmarket for their exercise who have never explored what is on their doorstep.

It was with regret that Councillor David Thorpe decided to step down from the Parish Council. David was our longest serving Councillor and the one that did all the little jobs in the village that most people did not notice for example mending footpath signs, trimming hedges when needed, clearing footpaths from overgrowth, attending to the cemetery and keeping it clean and tidy and levelling graves. He also dealt with the street lights, organising the maintenance. I would like to thank him for all that he has done over the years.

In the last newsletter I informed you that we had two vacancies on the Parish Council. I am pleased to inform you that we had three people come forward wishing to get involved and become Parish Councillors. Following David Thorpe stepping down we have been able to co-opt Suzanne Ottewell, Tony Kitson and Terry Betchley onto the Parish Council giving us a full Council.

The Parish council continues to receive many planning applications for comments, this takes up the vast majority of our meetings. A number of new dwellings have been granted throughout the village and this has lead to the Parish Council receiving CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funding. This has enabled us to award funds to the Battsford Cricket Club and St Marys Church, we have also received a request from the Oaks Meadow Project.

Stuart Scarff - Chairman



County Councillor, Kay Oakes
01449 721497
07724 700695
Kay.oakes@suffolk.gov.uk



District Councillor, John Matthissen
01449 258894
07976 308128
councillor@matthissen.net

Kay and John
are our
County and District
Councillors. They attend
every Parish Council
meeting and advise on
County and District
matters.

JOIN US FOR THE SPRING LITTER PICK SUNDAY, APRIL 18TH 9AM, THE TANNERY CARPARK

**To be COVID safe please
stay in your cars on arrival,
we will come to you with
a location, bags and grabbers.**

**WE HAVE SOME HI-VIS
JACKETS BUT IF YOU HAVE
YOUR OWN PLEASE WEAR IT.**

**Let's hope we don't find this
much rubbish this year!**



Parish Walks



Our village survey suggested that residents enjoy walking along the lanes, paths and byways in our Parish. To that end, we will be building upon the excellent walks designed by Bill Baldry which are currently available on the village website

www.combsvillage.org.uk/combs-life/combs-walks

Our aims are:

- to identify a series of walks in and around the Parish of varying length and difficulty
- to produce route guides including descriptions, maps and directions
- to highlight architectural, historical and other points of interest
- to update existing and/or install new information boards

We're hoping to produce the first route guides in time for the summer and will provide an update in the next newsletter.

Combs Parish Council

We've had a few changes recently, please meet our new Councillors.



Stuart Scarff
Chairman



Tori Whitehead



Tony Kitson



Terry Betchley



Ian Walker



Tracey Chaplin



Tony Bamber
Clerk



Suzanne Ottewell

Battisford and District Cricket Club

Battisford and District Cricket Club started off with a few locals playing cricket at Wattisham. However in 1973 Greene King leased the club the ground which we were subsequently able to purchase and Battisford and District Cricket Club was formed.

Initially there was just one side playing friendly cricket with all of the participants coming from a five mile radius. A small shed was the club house and changing area and the toilet facilities were behind a tin screen! Our early benefactors have been Mike Wynn-Jones and Delia Smith local residents. Mike is a long standing member and was club captain and organiser of cricket tours to the south coast.

So from humble beginnings we now have a beautifully positioned cricket ground and newly extended pavilion at Moats Tye. BDCC now fields 2 men's weekend teams competing in different leagues, a 20/20 team, a ladies team and we have a thriving junior section. We still have many playing members living in the local area and have an increasing social membership and a Vice Presidents sections. We are always keen to welcome new members and families. Our vision is to be " a friendly and inclusive club, passionate about grass roots cricket and keen to achieve at as high a standard as possible. A club that is committed to the development of its junior members and making an active and significant contribution to our community and to Suffolk cricket."

We were particularly fortunate to obtain a lottery grant in 2003 which enabled the current club house to be built and other grants meant that the existing nets and the roll on / roll off covers were added to the facilities. Inevitably though things need to be upgraded and we embarked on a major extension to the kitchen and social space at the end of 2019. The club could not run without its volunteers and the extension to the clubhouse has been completed primarily with the help of over 1,000 volunteer hours.



As referenced earlier we have been very fortunate over the years with grants and personal donations. We have received funds from the County and District Councillors and the two parish councils at Battisford and Combs towards the latest pavilion construction work. Most recently Battisford and Combs Parish council donated £250 and £500 respectively towards some new tub chairs for the social space for which we are very grateful. We just hope to be able to use them soon.

The clubhouse and its facilities including the bar and marquees are available for hire for meetings, weddings, wakes and parties and we are very keen for local residents to make use of the facilities.

Once restrictions are lifted we will again be opening the clubhouse on a Friday night. We hold junior and senior training sessions and also run an All Stars programme which is an introduction to cricket for 5-8 year olds.

This last year saw very few games of cricket however those we did play saw many spectators enjoying the sunshine. We are hoping for a full season of cricket ahead and to be able to hold some social events too.

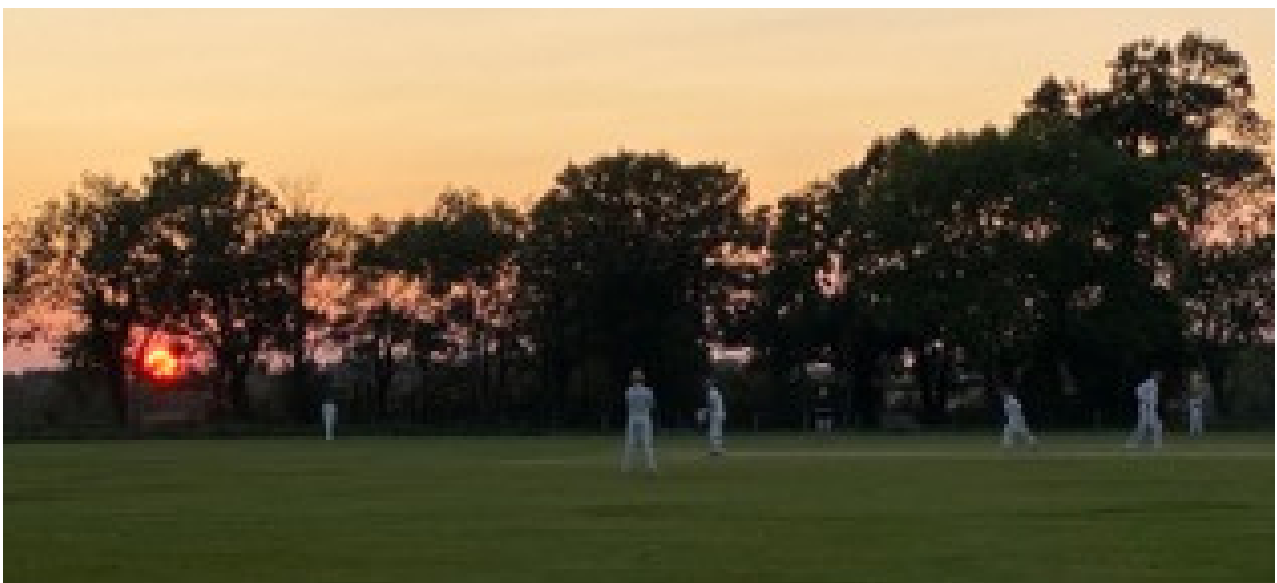
**Our first competitive home game will be on Saturday 17th April
- weather and Covid restrictions permitting.**

Please keep an eye out on our website or Facebook or twitter page
www.battisforddistrict.play-cricket.com/

Twitter @BattisforDCC

Facebook @BattisfordAndDistrictCricketClub

Or contact Julia Stephens -Row for more information
secretary@battisfordcricket.co.uk



The Oaks Meadow Project – the story so far

Even through this latest lockdown Oaks Meadow Project (OMP) continues to stride forward with its plans and has some great news of progress already. Following a lot of work from the OMP team to complete a planning application for the creation of the two access points, construction of a wildlife pond and siting of an eco-toilet, Combs Parish Council were pleased to assist with the submission on their behalf, and the application has since been granted. With its registration as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) it really is all systems go!

On site itself the Green Space for Phase 1 is well underway. There have been a few days with working parties of volunteers when restrictions allowed, where clearing of brambles and staking out of proposed areas commenced. At time of going to press another week of working parties has been arranged (29th March to 3rd April) with volunteer numbers limited to six at each, where there will be tasks to suit all abilities including some of the donated hedging plants being put in the ground and further staking out and early working of the various areas to be created continuing. There will be more of these volunteer days arranged in the coming months so you haven't missed your chance to help.

In addition to the local volunteers, OMP are thrilled to have Suffolk Rural (formerly Otley College) onboard to be a part of the project, with a working day already completed which had the students assisting with planting and landscaping on site. This has also been a bonus for them as due to the COVID-19 restrictions their work experience opportunities had diminished dramatically and they leapt at the chance to be a part of this exciting and innovative project.

As well as much planting, spring will see the next item on the plan begin and is one of the bigger elements of this phase; the creation of the wildlife pond and landscaping of the surrounding space. The digging out is due to begin in May and the spoil will be used to give some contouring around the edge of the pond, which will offer the site some visual dimension and use as natural seating.

If you would like more information about the project please look on the Oaks Meadow Project Facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/714883526044592 and there are regular project updates on the Combs Village website www.combsvillage.org.uk If you are interested in being part of this group please contact Desiree Shelley desshelley@talk21.com, Steve Green (Volunteer Coordinator) sg.green@btinternet.com, or Cllr Tori Whitehead on 07880 712175.



Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan

The Parish Council have started to build a Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan for Combs. This will identify what infrastructure facilities we wish to develop over the coming years to reflect residents' needs and aspirations.

Why are we doing this? There are three main aims:

- to enable the Parish Council to understand where best to allocate funds against evidenced needs and to add transparency to our decisions
- to provide the District and County councils with a distinct perspective on our community's priorities and help build our case when applying for extra funding and other help from those bodies
- to help shape our local projects whether privately run or Parish Council driven

We need your help!

Our residents' thoughts and ideas will be the key in identifying and prioritising the infrastructure needs of our community and future spending decisions.

Your councillors are working to deliver projects you requested in the last village survey. Please feel free to mention these again and any new facilities you feel we need. Don't worry if it's too big or too small or even whether it's suitable: let's get it listed and take it from there.

If you have any thoughts/ ideas or require further information please either catch hold of one of us and have a chat, phone (our phone numbers are on all the notice boards) or email our clerk Tony Bamber at combsparishcouncil@gmail.com

Please do keep an eye on our notice boards over the next few months as we'll be providing updates on this initiative but in the meantime – please! - don't be shy!

Have a think; get in touch; help us to help you!

