



COMBS PARISH COUNCIL

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2020



Welcome to the Autumn Parish newsletter, the Parish council have continued to carry out its obligations over the last six months with our monthly meeting carried out by virtual meetings taking place on Zoom.

Councillor Jamie Crooks has decided to step down from the Parish council, the Parish council and I would like to thank Jamie for all the work and input he has put in over the years.

The Parish council now has two vacancies to fill, if anyone would like to get involved with the village then please contact the Parish clerk (combsparishcouncil@gmail.com) for more information.

One of the Parish council's and residents' main concerns in the village is speeding vehicles. We carried out a survey about five years ago on the state of the speed limit signs through the village and found that a number of the signs were missing, posts broken off or had faded so they could not be read. This report was passed onto Suffolk Highways who are responsible for these and they have acknowledged that the signs need attention and have put us on a waiting list along with many other villages for this work to be carried out. Both the Parish council and County Councillor have continually lobbied Suffolk Highways that these signs are mandatory to road users and that it is very difficult to keep vehicles' speeds down if the signs are missing.

We bought a SID (speed indication device) a couple of years ago which is moved around the village and this has made drivers aware of the speed they are doing in our village and this does help to slow them down. The Parish Council have now purchased a second SID for the Tannery Road area allowing us to leave the other SID on Park Road and Bildeston Road. But the speed limit cannot be enforced if the road signs are not visual, so we will continue to lobby Suffolk Highways and our County Councillor for this work to be carried out.

Stuart Scarff - Chairman

Wheelie Bin 30 Signs

To further remind drivers that we are a 30 zone Kay Oakes, our County Councillor, has sourced some '30 Please drive carefully' signs for our wheelie bins.

If you would like one please contact:

Combs Village: Tony Bamber, 01449 613255

Moats Tye/Little London: Tracey Chaplin 01449 672 418 I will also put them in a box on my drive, 2 The Thatches, IP14 2ER (Yellow thatched cottage, Moats Tye)

Please feel free to stick them to your black, green or brown bin, that way we will get a variety being noticed on numerous days in the week.



COVID & Defibrillators

The National defibrillator database has the locations of all defibrillators in the U.K.
www.nddb.co.uk

Due to the current Covid-19 coronavirus outbreak, there are several important changes to CPR that you should take note of:

- If someone is unconscious and not breathing normally call 999.
- Do not put your face close to theirs. Use a towel or a piece of clothing and lay it over the mouth and nose.
- Do not give rescue breaths but start hands-only CPR.

Vineyard: Did you Know?

In 2017 Scarff's Farms planted their first 20,400 vines followed by a further 23,930 vines in 2018. Across the 22 acre site you'll see three varieties Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier. Once harvested they will be blended to create an English sparkling wine. Before we get to harvesting the grapes, there is a lot of care and attention needed for each vine. From pruning which starts in February round to leaf stripping in the summer, there are many tasks that happen over the course of the year. Most of the tasks that need completing in the vineyard are done by hand. Therefore this year during lockdown we were fortunate to have a team of self employed local people in the vineyard helping. Bud rubbing, lifting wires and tucking in the vines are just a few tasks the team helped with.

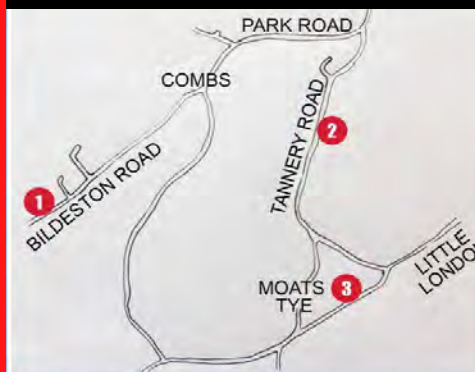
Everyone is working hard to keep the grapes growing under the best conditions. The first harvest was on the 11th September, where we picked the first six tonnes of grapes using locally sourced staffing. All picking is completed by hand and the grapes are picked as whole bunches, to ensure the best quality juice for the winery. We are expecting to pick a further 29 tonnes in the upcoming weeks. This year's harvest of grapes, 35 tonnes, will approximately create 24,00 bottles of English sparkling wine.

There is a permissive footpath that runs along the bottom of the vineyard, you can access this from either Mill Lane or Bildeston Road for anyone that would like to come and view the vineyard.

Catherine Scarff

This is the first of hopefully many articles sharing what is happening in Combs Parish, if you would like to share your Combs Parish news please contact our clerk combsparishcouncil@gmail.com

Parish Defibrillators



If you would like to know how to use a defibrillator please take a look at the British Heart Foundation tutorials.

www.bhf.org.uk

search: cpr training videos



The Oaks Meadow Project - Progress so far



This new project was delayed at the beginning of the year due to lockdown, but it is now back on track and the Parish Council are excited to be on the steering committee. At time of going to press progress the project included the completion and submission of the application to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), and with it the constitution and objectives have been set out by the new committee.

The project as a whole will offer facilities for recreation, leisure and education in the interests of social welfare and improving the conditions of life for the residents of Combs, Little Finborough and neighbouring rural settlements. Its aim is to promote sustainable eco systems and recycling with a view to providing education and conservation of local flora, fauna and the environment generally. It will also offer a commitment to improve morale and spiritual welfare and promote civic responsibility, good citizenship and social cohesion, along with the promotion of cultural interests and industry.

On Oaks Meadow itself a topographical survey has been completed and this will help to site the various features of the green space area in the most advantageous position including rain water harvesting, which is an area the Parish Council are keen to assist with.

We are in the early stages of approaching various organisations for donations of trees and hedging for planting and it is hoped to have a community working party in the first week of November (Government Covid guidelines dependant) to clear some areas to prepare for winter planting. Look out for notices around the village with details of this if this gets the all clear to go ahead.

We would like invite local residents to help the steering group understand more about what you want to see on the meadow and how you want to be able to use the facilities. If you are interested in being part of this group please contact Desiree Shelley desshelley@talk21.com or Cllr Tori Whitehead on 07880 712175.

Disabled Facilities Grant

www.babergh.gov.uk/housing/private-sector-housing-grants/disabled-facilities-grant/
or call Social Care Services 0808 800 4005

You could receive a Disabled Facilities Grant if you're disabled and need to make changes to your home.

- For example: widen doors and install ramps, improve access to rooms and facilities - e.g. stairlifts or a downstairs bathroom, provide a heating system suitable for your needs, adapt heating or lighting controls to make them easier to use
- A maximum grant limit of £30,000

Grants may be awarded to those living in owner-occupied or privately rented properties. The Council carries out adaptations to their own properties.



Rural Coffee Caravan

Information on board
"come in for a chat..."

Please bring your own mug & chair

Combs Green
October 21st 10 - 12

A socially distanced meet

could you foster?



we urgently need foster carers in your area



We can help you to provide a young person with a stable, secure home.

Call us on 0800 389 0143
Visit us at www.nexusfostering.co.uk




**Our bus is back,
Tuesdays & Thursdays
into Stowmarket 10:30
return 12:30**

**You need to book a seat 7
days in advance as spaces
are limited due to COVID**

01473 826242



FREE family, adult or child bike training

www.bikeability.org.uk

For more details



Parish Council

Zoom Meetings 7:30pm

12th Oct

9th Nov

14th Dec

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