

COMMUNITY INFORMATION



Work Parties at Combs Wood

Sundays 15th December, January 12th and February 9th

Time: TBC call to confirm (FREE) (Suitable for Adults)

Come along and spend a few hours doing some practical conservation work. It is a great way to meet people, see parts of the reserve you wouldn't normally see, learn new skills and get some exercise. Please bring a packed lunch and plenty to drink. Wear stout footwear or safety boots, and bring waterproofs. We will supply any additional protective equipment required.
For more details please phone Kevin Boyce : 01449 676610

Combs History Group

The history group has been dormant now for a few years with only a few researching family history and the history of Combs privately. The co-op token scheme is allowing us to try and raise funds to set the group up once more hopefully giving us the funds to pay for hall hire and speakers and allow a group to log the local history once more.

Please keep a look out on the village notice boards and website along with the village magazines for news on the history group re-launch in the new year.

Jill Scarff jill@scarff.co.uk 01449 613489



Combs Parish Council Meetings Battisford Village Hall, 7:30pm

January 13th

February 10th

March 9th

Please contact our Clerk 7 days prior to any meeting to suggest an item for our agenda.

combsparishcouncil@gmail.com



At our November Parish meeting we welcomed PC Stefan Henrikson, Stowmarket Engagement Officer who updated us on the policing in the area. Police resources are improving as new officers are taken on, but training does take time. PC Henrikson informed councillors that they will be more accessible and informed us on the Police Connect network, either by subscribing by text or email you can be informed of any events in our area. The parish council now has a direct contact again with the police, which we lost a few years ago. If you would like to join, go to (suffolk.police.uk/policeconnect) to register online.

Our village Speed Indicator Device (SID) has been moving around the village and I am getting reports back that it is slowing cars down when they see the speed they are doing, **What do you think ?**

Suffolk Highways has agreed to update the speed signs through the village as many of these have faded and are no longer readable or are missing completely.

Now that winter has arrived a number of potholes have appeared in the village roads. If you notice any please report them to Suffolk Highways or our Parish Clerk.

Have a Happy Christmas.
Stuart Scarff

Combs Bobbin Lace Group has now been meeting for several years. We have six ladies and a teacher who meet every other Thursday morning from 9.30 am to 11.30 am. Some have been doing lace for many years, but always learning new techniques whilst others are beginners. It is an old traditional craft and is rewarding to see people wanting to keep this craft alive. If you would like to know more or would like to join the group please contact me and come along and see what a beautiful craft it is.

Jill Scarff jill@scarff.co.uk 01449 613489

A New Project for the Village

Following the recent Village Survey it was clear within the results Combs residents were enthusiastic for a community area to facilitate your many suggestions for meeting, playing, relaxing, and supporting clubs of many sorts.

With great timing, over the Summer the Parish Council were offered the opportunity to be a part of a new community project on Oaks Meadow (you may know it better as the Fete meadow) by Desiree Shelley who owns the land which borders the village. Some of you might already have heard about this, or attended the open meeting on 30th November where Desiree gave her plan its first official airing. Currently it is in its early stages of discussion and design, but suffice to say the essential elements of it will be for the whole site to be sustainable and environmentally sound, including a Village Hall proposed for the front part of the site and will be Net Zero Carbon following the Passivhaus standard.



The project will be supported with grants and fundraising from many areas and it begins in the spring. The Woodland Trust has confirmed their commitment to be a part of it and are donating the trees and such to enable the planting of heritage trees and an orchard. Next will be the beds installed for community planting of vegetables, fruit and flowers, a wildlife pond, play area for smalls, and benches and tables for picnics.

Combs is short of community facilities and this opportunity is one we believe we could embrace and support. Watch this space for updates of our plans and participation within the project. If you have suggestions or would like to offer assistance in any way (and the variety of skills required for a project of this sort is vast) then please get in touch.

First Time Central Heating Systems for Suffolk Residents

A further 200 Suffolk homes without central heating will soon be able to have their first ever system installed.

On 7 October it was reported that Suffolk's local authorities have secured an additional £760,000 of funding from the Warm Homes Fund. This will enable the installation of 204 first time central heating systems in eligible, fuel-poor households across Suffolk over the next three years.

This is in addition to the original funding secured by the partnership in 2017 for 514 systems, over 200 of which have already been delivered. Around four million UK households are in fuel poverty, unable to affordably heat their home to the temperature needed to stay warm and healthy. As well as being on low incomes many of these households are also faced with the additional burden of relying on heating systems that are inefficient and expensive to run.

The £150m Warm Homes Fund was established by National Grid using part of the proceeds from the sale of the company's majority stake in its gas distribution business. It funds the installation of affordable heating solutions in fuel poor households which don't use mains gas as their primary source of heat.

The Suffolk project is being managed by Suffolk County Council, administered by Suffolk Warm Homes Healthy People based at East Suffolk Council and is supported with further funding from Ipswich Borough, Babergh District, Mid-Suffolk District, East Suffolk and West Suffolk Councils. Alongside the first-time central heating system, eligible households can also benefit from new insulation measures to make their homes more energy efficient, as well as grants from the Suffolk Community Foundation's 'Surviving Winter Appeal'.

Anyone who does not have a central heating system and finds it a challenge to afford their energy bills contact:

Suffolk Warm Homes Healthy People
03456 037686

quoting the **Warm Homes Fund**
or visit www.greensuffolk.org/whf

