



COMBS PARISH COUNCIL

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2022



Welcome to Combs Parish Council newsletter

The Parish Council are planning to celebrate the Queens Jubilee on June 2nd by lighting the beacon at the cemetery at 21.45 hrs along with many other Parishes around the country. We have started planning the evening and hope to have entertainment with music and singing, so please come along on the evening and celebrate this historic event. If anyone would like to get involved, please get in contact.

Two councillor positions have arisen on the Parish Council as Tori Whitehead and Tracey Chaplin have decided to step down. I must thank them both for all the work they carried out on the council. We will shortly be advertising these positions on the village notice boards, but if you would like to get involved, please contact the Parish Clerk combsparishcouncil@gmail.com 01449 613255

The village sign on Mill Lane corner has been refurbished and repainted over the winter, thanks to local artist Arlette Eno-Daynes.

It is good news that the Combs & Battisford Fete will be going ahead this year on July 2nd at the Battisford play area. An afternoon of fun and games along with many of the usual attractions for everyone to get together and enjoy. So please support the hard work that it takes putting this together.

With spring around the corner, it is nice to see the mornings and evenings are getting lighter. It has been a very mild winter so far with several days recording temperatures in the teens and very little rain. It seems like the grass lawns have not stopped growing!

We are again planning to have a village spring clean / litter pick on Sunday April 3rd at 09.00 hrs, if you would like to help, we will be meeting up at the Tannery car park to allocate the areas to be cleaned. Please remember to wear hi vis clothing.

Stuart Scarff
Chairman

JOIN US FOR THE SPRING LITTER PICK

SUNDAY 3rd APRIL

9am, THE TANNERY CAR PARK

Come and help make a difference to our neighbourhood; it's fun, gets you outside and the instant results are so satisfying.

On arrival you will be given a location, bags and grabbers.

We have some hi vis jackets but if you have your own, please wear it!



Footpath Signposts

A team of volunteers will be installing a set of plaques on footpath signposts over the coming weeks. The plaques are a County Council initiative and depict QR codes which link to the Discover Suffolk and Countryside Code websites.

Discover Suffolk promotes the active life when out and about in Suffolk and points at walking, cycling and riding facilities across the county.


Please keep an eye out for volunteers if you are driving in the Parish as the signposts are on main roads. The team will be wearing hi vis jackets but some posts are awkwardly positioned and affixing and subsequently photographing the plaques for the record may involve some encroachment onto the road surface.

Thank you in advance and do enjoy Discovering Suffolk.

Oaks Meadow Project

December saw the planting of the Community Orchard with apple, pear, plum, greengage & cherry trees. Thanks to the volunteers for digging & planting and especially to the Sicon Foundation who funded the project & Bill Baldry who planned and continues to be the guardian for the orchard.



The Eco Loo, funded by  **COMMUNITY FUND** is currently under construction, thanks to Kevin Brand Plumbing, and we will hopefully have the 'vacant' sign up within the next few months.

Healing Woods are funding the additional hedging needed for the green space & Suffolk Rural College are going to help with the planting. We have purchased recycled plastic seating from Realise Futures Eco Furniture and these will be in place in the Spring. They have also funded the concept design for the Reflective Space, by Louisa Van den Berg, local garden designer, which is a very exciting concept.



have awarded £4000 from their "Places Like Home" fund

which is to help the recovery from Covid 19 to build on energy & creativity to make stronger communities for a better everyday life. This money will go towards landscaping the Reflective Space with the plants, trees and features included in the plan.

As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee & the Suffolk Festival there will be a special event on the meadow on June 21st afternoon & evening. We will be creating a Community Medicine Wheel Garden & you can all help with making it and leaving your mark!! More details in due course.

If you would like to help in anyway (there are lots of background tasks that do not require digging), Email: oaksmeadow@gmail.com

Lighthouse Women's Aid

Domestic abuse, also known as domestic violence, can happen to anyone. Sometimes the most unlikely people are experiencing it and their public persona may not give any indicators to what is going on behind closed doors while they are at home.

Domestic abuse has no boundaries – it has no regard for your gender, sexuality, wealth, educational level, status, race, religion, age, geography or disability. It is not only the stereotypical person who experiences domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse is a hidden social epidemic and affects many of us. In Suffolk it affects one in three women and one in six men. So statistically, the chances are that we all know someone who is experiencing it, or the shadow of domestic abuse is in our families.

Many of you may be aware of physical and verbal domestic abuse but domestic abuse also includes emotional, psychological, sexual, financial and coercive control.

Coercive control is not a new phenomenon but it is now a criminal offence and it is defined as a pattern of behaviours, not a one-off incident, designed to make the other person subordinate or dependent.

The effect is to shrink the victim's world which normalizes the abuser's behaviour and restricts access to help and support for the victim. Some examples may include:

- *Taking control over aspects of a person's everyday life e.g. where they go, who they see, what they wear, what they eat and when they can sleep
- *Isolating them from family and friends
- *Controlling how much money they have and how it is spent
- *And many more behaviours on a spectrum of control

The motivation behind coercively controlling behaviour is power and control over the individual and this also helps us understand why it is so extremely difficult to leave an abusive relationship and sometimes the person who is being controlled does not even realise that they are experiencing abuse.

Please look out for friends, family members, neighbours or colleagues who may be experiencing domestic abuse and signpost them to the following agencies for advice on domestic abuse:

Lighthouse Advice Line: 01473 228270 - 9am - 4pm Monday - Friday

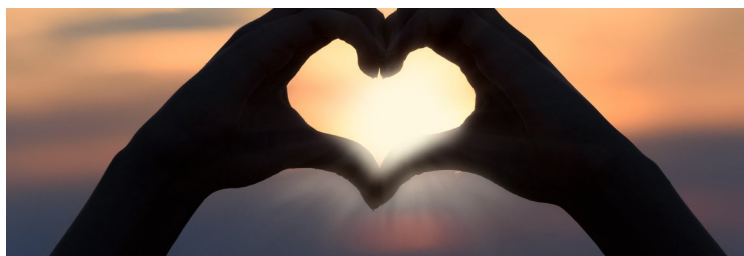
Email: info@lighthousewa.org.uk

Men's Advice Line 0808 8010327

National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247 - 24 hours 7 days a week

Gallop LGBT+ Helpline: 0300 999 5428

If you are in immediate danger call 999



News from from District Councillor John Matthissen

- **Tree for Life scheme for new parents**

This offers a free tree for new parents and is open to all families who have welcomed a new arrival between 1 January and 31 December 2021. Parents who may have lost a child during the same period are also able to apply for a remembrance tree. The initiative offers parents with a new-born or newly adopted child the chance to mark their arrival by planting a tree. It aims to benefit families, communities and the environment by boosting tree coverage across the district. Expert help is always on hand at collection to advise families on their tree choice and aftercare at home. Also open to those without a garden, for whom trees continue to be planted at locations in the district including Needham Lake and Gallowsfield Wood in Haughley. Please apply via <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/tree-for-life> or call 0300 123 400 as soon as possible.



- **Recycling and waste collections**

Staff absence related to Covid is varying day to day, and some disruption of collections is inevitable. The advice remains to leave your bin out to await delayed collection, and to check that the council knows of the delay by looking at <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/waste-services/> where changes and missed collections are frequently updated.

- **Seedling Tree to Red Gable**

As you start to get out in the garden, don't forget that baby native trees in pots are needed by the Red Gables Tree Nursery, Ipswich Road, Stowmarket IP14 1BE. They also need large pots. Leave any trees and pots by the greenhouse.

If you have any land suitable for tree planting, please let me and the parish council know.

- **Father Christmas collecting for the Food Bank**

Congratulations to everyone in Combs and Battsford who helped make this project so successful. I am hoping other villages will follow the example next Christmas.

John Matthissen: councillor@matthissen.net. Telephone 01449 258894 (7 days a week !)

Or write to me at 2 Brick Kiln Cottages, Barretts Lane, Needham Market IP6 8RZ

Parish Council Meetings

Battsford & District Cricket Club 7:30pm

Monday 14th March

Monday 11th April

Tuesday 10th May

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

Cricket Club



We are delighted that Combs Parish Council have started to use the cricket pavilion for their monthly council meetings and hopefully this can further promote the facilities to the wider community. The cricket pavilion and ground is available for hire and we have been used for weddings, funeral wakes and birthday parties.

We start the Cricket season with our first home match on Easter Saturday and we will have matches throughout the spring and summer until middle of September. The club will be open on Friday nights and at the weekend and on those evenings when there are games being played. Our fixture list will be on our website soon. We are always looking for new junior and senior players as well as being very welcoming to social members.

So if you have recently moved or fancy taking up a new sport or popping in to watch the cricket in a friendly setting do give us a look.

Winter junior coaching is taking place on 12/19/26th March at Ringshall Village Hall from 10.30am- 12noon and a get together for all juniors and parents on 26th March 12-1pm again at Ringshall Village Hall.

We also will be running All Stars an introduction to cricket for 5 - 8 yr olds and Dynamos an introduction to cricket for those aged 8 -11yrs. Both programmes offer 8 weeks of jam-packed fun, activity and skills development. They are designed to introduce children to the sport, teaching them new skills, helping them make new friends and have a great time doing so. Dynamos Cricket provides a fantastic next step for all those graduating from All Stars Cricket and the perfect introduction for all 8-11 year-olds new to the sport!

These will begin on Sunday 22nd May, ending on Sunday 10th July . Registration is via the ECB website.

Spring and summer Junior coaching will commence on Friday 22nd April at the ground starting at 5.30pm. No experience needed and children of all ages are welcome. We are also planning on running three junior teams who will play in festivals and competitions over the spring and summer.

Senior cricket coaching will start on Friday 8th April as our first senior game is at home on Saturday 16th April.

We will also be holding other events such as a quiz, a race night and pie and pint night. Look out for our events on our Facebook page.

Finally we are looking for new sponsors to come forward. As a sponsor for £200 you can have a board - which we provide - displayed on the fence around the outfield for two years. So if you would like to promote your business do get in touch.

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

Twitter @BattisforDCC

Facebook @BattisfordAndDistrictCricketClub

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

Did you know?

There were windmills in Combs!

1: Branstead Mill, Mill Lane, Combs

This windmill stood in the grounds of Mill House, Mill Lane. The windmill dates back to 1736 and according to wikipedia it was demolished in 1937.



It was a post mill windmill, meaning it is an earliest type of European windmill. The feature is that the whole body of the mill that houses the machinery is mounted on a single vertical post, around which it can be turned to bring the sails into the wind.

2: Upper Mill, Mill Road, Combs

This windmill stood towards the end of Mill Road, on the right heading to Wattisham. It dates back to 1736 and was still standing in 1922 but demolished sometime in the 1920's according to wikipedia. This windmill is also a post mill windmill. According to the Mills archive the base of the windmill still stood in 1971 and has since been converted into a garage.



photos sourced from Mills Archive and Suffolk Mills

There are other sites which have been identified which are in the parish of Combs.

They are -

Jacks Grove, Mill Mound, Jacks Lane, Combs. Evidence shows of a mill that may have been situated on the flat topped mound. It has been suggested that boats had, at one time, been able to get up the stream that rises from a spring between Branstead Green and Jockey's Hall and runs northeastwards to join the river Rat near Combs Ford, to carry the grain away from the mill. It's hard to believe that this small stream could have ever supported this kind of traffic.

Mill Field at the bottom of Church Road noted on a 1710 map of Combs Hall Estate next to the stream.

Mill Field at the top next to Poplar Hill, it is believed that there was at one time a mill on the corner of the field near to the Rectory.

Watermill beside Combs Ford Bridge, Combs Ford on Rattlesden River. According to Suffolk Historic Environment record data this was of timber build and tiled and was in the process of demolition in 1960.

Orchard Barns

We need Volunteers no skill necessary!

Could you help? We are a small, friendly volunteer run organisation dedicated to teaching traditional building methods and environmental education in Ringshall.

We're looking for people who could:

- Help maintain our vegetable garden
- Do tidying up jobs around the site
- Maintain our build structures using basic carpentry skills
- Make shingles (wooden roof tiles)
- Help make insulation panels

Training will be given where needed, and you'll make

new friends, learn new skills, get a good green gym workout and have the satisfaction of knowing that you're making a difference.

Many of our Volunteers are retirees who have time to spare, but everyone is welcome. You could spend as little as a couple of hours or a whole day with us, on a regular basis each week.

If you're interested, please call Sarah for an informal chat on 07766 054042 or email Carole at carole.orchardbarn@gmail.com. More information about what we do can be found on our website: orchardbarn.org.uk/volunteers



Combs Green IP14 2NP

from 10am – 12pm

**Visits are currently the 3rd
Wednesday of each month but are
changing to the 2nd Thursday from
April 2022.**

Next visits are Wed 16th March

Thursday 14th April

Thursday 12th May

**Contact Diana 07494 572153 or
www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk**

Warm Homes Suffolk Fund to heat up cold homes this winter

It was announced on January 27th that residents can cut energy costs and reduce their carbon.

Suffolk residents who are struggling to keep their homes warm, can contact a new project which offers funding and free advice .

More details and further information about eligibility can be found in the on

www.warmhomessuffolk.org,

or by calling 03456 037 686.

Lines are open Monday to Friday 9am - 4pm.