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OPENING TIMES

Monday Closed
Tuesday to Friday 5pm to 11pm
Saturday 12pm to 11pm
Sunday 12pm to 5pm

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**BRIDGWATER
CHORAL
SOCIETY**

Why not join us? We are a choir of about 80 members of diverse background and ability. Help is given in learning parts and we do not currently audition potential members. We are performing Handel's Messiah in December and Bach's Mass in B minor in May 2013.

For more details visit our website

www.bridgwaterchoral.org

COMBWICH VILLAGE MARKET
SECOND SATURDAY EVERY MONTH
10.00 am - 12 noon

AT
OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL
LOCAL FOOD, PRODUCE & CRAFT STALLS
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

*You may advertise here.
It is free if your business is in the
Otterhampton Parish or you run it
from home and live in the parish.
Please phone John on 653308 or
by email to jorvik@talktalk.net
(subject to space availability)*

Otter News

DECEMBER 2012

Otterhampton Parish Council Newsletter

OPEN PARISH MEETING

HINKLEY POINT C & EDF ISSUES

As a community we have been badly let down by Sedgemoor District Council & Somerset County Council abandoning Otterhampton PC over the issues with EDF and the Section 106 agreement. The Parish Council have been trying for some time to get SDC & SCC to come to the village and explain their reasons for withdrawing their support.

Senior representatives from SDC & SCC have agreed to attend an Open Parish Meeting on Tuesday 11th December in the village hall. Show your support for the Parish Council by coming to this meeting and showing the strength of feeling in the community. This is your opportunity to let them know how you feel about their behaviour.

TUESDAY 11th DECEMBER

at 7.30 pm

In Otterhampton Village Hall, Combwich

See page 2 for the full agenda

Remember if you would like to feature your club or organization in our newsletter please contact any Parish Councillor or E Mail to: jorvik@talktalk.net

OPEN PARISH MEETING

TUESDAY 11th DECEMBER

at 7.30 pm

In Otterhampton Village Hall, Combwich

Agenda

1. Welcome, by OPC Chairman.
2. Scene setting on the issue of SDC & SCC abandoning OPC on the 106 agreement with EDF by Paul Gripton.
3. Report from Action Group by Steve Chinn.
4. Response by SDC by Doug Bamsey
and SCC by Alyn Jones
5. Open Floor.
6. Summary, by the OPC Chairman.

YOUR GUIDE to WHATS ON in COMBWICH

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Date & Times</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Contact Details</i>
Keep Fit	Every Monday & Wednesday 7.30 - 8.30 pm	Otterhampton Village Hall	Michele 07754144844
Short Mat Bowls	Every Mon & Wednesday 7.30 - 9.00 pm	Otterhampton Village Hall	
Art Class	Every Monday 2.30 - 3.30 pm	Otterhampton Village Hall	John Bailey 652540
Brownies	Starts 5.45 pm	Otterhampton School	Liz Brown 652687
Badminton Adults	Every Thursday 6.30 - 9.00pm	Otterhampton School	Colin Beasley 07531808303
Badminton Teens (Limited Numbers)	Every Thursday 5.30 - 6.30 pm	Otterhampton School	Gary Perret 652958
Talks (winter only)	Monthly, Every 3rd Thursday 8.00 - 9.30 pm	Otterhampton Village Hall	Mervyn Brown 652687
Walks	Monthly, every 3rd Sun 10.30 am onwards	Various	Barry Leathwood 652399
Chat & Chill	Every Friday 7.30 - 9.00 pm	Otterhampton Village Hall	Reg Wilkes 652339
Combwich Village Market	Monthly, every 2nd Sat 10.00 am - 12 noon	Otterhampton Village Hall	Elizabeth Marriott 653308
Coffee Morning	Every Friday 10.00 am - 12 noon	Otterhampton Village Hall	Helen Jowett 652322
Little Otters	Every School Day	Otterhampton School	Julie Salter 653052
Patchwork and Quilting	Every Wednesday 10.00 am - 12 noon	Otterhampton Village Hall	Liz Browning 653889
Choir	2nd & 4th Thursday monthly 7pm to 8pm.	Otterhampton Village Hall	Nicole Wigley 653431
WI	Monthly, every 2nd Thursday 7.30 pm	Stockland Village Hall	Pam Woodley 653908
<p><i>If your organisation would like to be added to the 'What's on Guide' please contact John on 653308.</i></p>			

OTTERHAMPTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT

Otterhampton Parish Council has recognised that some local people from the parish may find it hard to find a decent home at a price they can afford within the parish. Over the past few months it has been looking at what can be done to help local people who need help to access an affordable home. Affordable housing can include both rented and affordable-homeownership homes.

At the end of 2011 the Community Plan Steering Group conducted a Housing Needs Survey on behalf of the Parish Council and the work was undertaken by the Community Council for Somerset supported by Sedgemoor District Council. It was hoped that the results would reveal the level of unmet housing need. While the survey and associated information revealed a need of between six and fourteen homes there was insufficient information to determine the type and size of homes required. For this reason the Parish Council has decided to "refresh" the survey.

People who completed the original survey in 2011 will be contacted directly. The survey is also open to any other local person or person with a local connection who thinks they might want help with their housing.

If you (or a member of your family) feel that you might need help in finding an affordable home in Otterhampton please fill in a Housing Needs Survey Form. Completed forms should be returned to District Council for analysis. Any information provided will be treated with the upmost privacy

People who own land locally, who feel that they might be interested in making their land available for any future affordable housing project are also being encouraged to make contact. If you would like a form, further information on completing a form or would like to talk to us about making land available please call Sedgemoor's Development Officer Elaine Oliver – telephone 01278 436485 or email elaine.oliver@sedgemoor.gov.uk

DEAR VILLAGERS

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS and OUR VERY BEST WISHES FOR 2013 from ALL YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

There are lots of excited youngsters (and no doubt a few oldsters) counting down the days till Christmas and the arrival of Father Christmas. The village Christmas tree has been lit up bringing a welcome glow as you come into the village.



We certainly need some cheer after such a dull and wet start to winter, so lets defy the weather, get out your Christmas lights and light up Combwich, Otterhampton & Steart. Warm up the mulled wine and mince pies and have a ball. Wish everyone you meet a cheerful 'Happy Christmas', Scrooge is banned until next year.

Don't forget to catch up with **all the parish gossip** on the website www.combwich.org.uk.

See how our senior citizens enjoyed their annual Christmas Dinner and find out what is happening our community over the next few weeks. Discover the history of the village hall and go to "Gallery" to see photographs of the area and recent events. All this and much more is available on **your** new website, **have a browse now!**

COULD YOU BE A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

One of Otterhampton Parish councillors has resigned and the council need to elect a new councillor. The main requirements are common sense and a desire to serve the community. Meetings are on the first Thursday of every month in the Village Hall at Combwich where a wide variety of issues are discussed that affect the community and the necessary actions implemented.

If you are interested in becoming a councillor please contact Peter Shaw (Parish Clerk) for more information on 652626 or any Parish Councillor.

COMBWICH WILDFLOWER PROJECT

Our committee is a dedicated team determined to transform the entrance to Combwich Village into a beautiful area of wildflowers and grasses. This will take time and inevitably some mess will be involved during the preparation of the site. We do hope that everyone will support us in this venture.

Bees, butterflies and all manner of insects are declining at an alarming rate. If we don't help them then who will?

When the time is right weather-wise we will be asking interested people and children to join us in a seed sowing day and by next Summer we are hoping to see the first flush of flowers and grasses.

To help you all to see how the area might eventually look please see the "before" and "after" photos.



WORK in PROGRESS



VISION for the FUTURE

Your comments and any offers of help are very welcome.

Please contact any of the committee.....Maureen Lloyd-Williams, Liz Brown, Louise Bailey, or Christine Birken, or email Maureen at c.lloydw@btinternet.com or ring 01278652998.

PARKING

We all know that parking can be difficult in Combwich, but if you have to park on a pavement please allow enough room for push/wheel chairs and mobility scooters to pass without being forced on to the road. Dropped curbs should also be kept clear as they are needed by the same users.

RURAL DEFIBULATORS

John Edney the Chairman of Somerset County Council has set up a scheme for Defibrillators to be located in rural areas around Somerset. They would be sited in key areas and volunteers from within the local community will be trained in their use.

This equipment is a 'Lifesaver' and can make a vital difference to the outcome of a life threatening cardiac arrest. The Parish Council are looking for 5 people who are willing to be trained to use a defibrillator and can attend a training course on the 23rd January 2013.

The course will be run by St. John's Ambulance at Mill Farm, Fiddington, and would last for four hours. If you can attend and want to volunteer please contact Peter Shaw (Parish Clerk) on 652626

'DARK NIGHTS RISING' & STREET LIGHTING

'Dark Nights Rising' has nothing to do with 'super heroes' but is part of a consultation by SCC that will reduce 'light pollution' and reduce energy costs. This would involve;

- Some street lights being dimmed
- Some street lights being removed
- Some being switched off between midnight & 5.30am

Somerset has 45,000 street lamps and whilst we only have a few in our parish they do burn throughout the hours of darkness. The Parish Council are keen to get the views of local residents on these three options, either at the next PC meeting on 3rd January 2013, or contact John Marriott by Phone; 01278 653308 or Email; jwmarriott@talktalk.net

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY FLOOD WARNING SERVICE

To get direct access to up-to-date recorded information about flood risks for our area,

- call the Floodline on 0845 988 1188 then enter the quickdial code, **164262** when requested.
- Or via the website www.environment-agency.gov.uk and then enter your postcode or local river name.
- Or you can register to receive them by telephone, text, email or fax using the free 'Floodline Warnings Direct' service