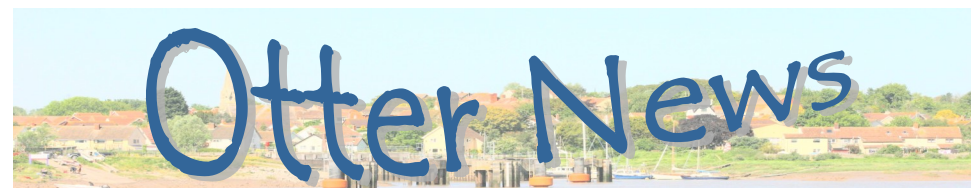


## YOUR GUIDE to WHATS ON in COMBWICH

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Date &amp; Times</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Contact Details</i>
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	Mondays 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 3rd Thursday 7.30 pm	Stockland Village Hall	Pam Woodley 653908
<i>If your organisation would like to be added to the 'What's on Guide' please contact John on 653308.</i>			



*Find us on [www.combwich.org.uk](http://www.combwich.org.uk)*

*MAY 2013*

### Otterhampton Parish Council Newsletter

#### DEAR VILLAGERS

When you look around our community and see the range of activities it makes you realise that we are very fortunate. The village hall is used most days, posters seem to spring up almost daily advertising for this or that. We have a web site where you can find a huge amount of information about our villages and the various groups that organise all these activities.

Some age groups are well represented others are not. As a community what are we missing? Are you in a social group that is not represented? What other activities could be organised to include the whole community and every age group? Would you be willing to help set up and run a new activity? Any ideas? Why not email me on the address in the footer below. If you don't have email write to me, then drop it in the village hall post-box, addressed "Ideas for the Future".

A few words of 'community thanks' would not go amiss. OPRA for all the varying activities they organise, the Village Hall Committee for running the hall, Cannington Health Centre for the weekly surgeries in Combwich, the behind the scenes organisers of the Art Group, Coffee Morning, Chat and Chill, Village Market, Table Top Sales, Social Club, Brownies, Choir, Quilting, Bowls, WI, and not forgetting the Shop/Post Office and the Anchor for the support they give to community activities.

Remember if you would like to feature your club/organization in our newsletter please contact any Parish Councillor or email to: [jwmarriott@talktalk.net](mailto:jwmarriott@talktalk.net)

## OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL AGM

The village hall is managed by a committee made up of seven elected members, three co-opted members and three representatives from regular user groups.

### **The AGM is on Saturday 18th May 2013 at 11.00am**

Everyone in the community is entitled to attend and vote for the nominees who are standing as elected members. The village hall is managed by the committee on behalf of the community and the AGM is your opportunity to make your views known to the committee.

The hall is over 100 years old and has had many improvements over the years. However the building is showing its age and needs lots of work to meet the needs of the future. Last year we conducted a survey that showed the majority of the community wanted to keep the existing hall rather than build a new in another location.

Major refurbishment of the hall is a long term goal but in the short term the existing building needs to be kept in good repair. Volunteers are urgently needed to join our working parties to help carry out running repairs, no experience needed just enthusiasm although plumbing, electrical or plastering expertise would be welcome.

**Look forward to seeing you all at the AGM.**

## COLD CALLING INITIATIVE

Building on the successful pilot scheme in Sedgemoor, the 'No Cold Calling Zone' initiative is being expanded into other residential areas and rural villages. This scheme empowers individual residents and communities to stand up to uninvited callers, by advising them through street signage and door stickers that they are not welcome in the area.

Our local PCSO, with the agreement of the Parish Council, will be carrying out a survey with a view to getting the villages in the our parish designated as a **'NO COLD CALLING ZONE'**.

Should cold callers disregard this advice or if traders break any of the laws which protect consumers, then both the Police and Somerset County Council Trading Standards will take action.

## PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The Parish Annual Assembly was held on 1st May and gave the chance for people in the parish to have their say on any subject.

The topics brought up were;

- Defibrillator - we now have five people in the parish who attended a course on CPR and using the defibrillator. The PC were asked to expedite the site selection and installation. To make it available externally it must be kept in a temperature controlled container. For the interim period it will be available, during normal opening hours, from the Post Office.
- First Aiders - There are many people in the parish who are qualified first aiders who can carry out CPR. It was suggested that we should publish a list of these people who would be prepared to respond in an emergency.
- Dog Fouling - This is a serious problem, especially around the school, along the riverbank and on the common, caused by irresponsible dog owners. The PC were asked to highlight this and to arrange regular visits by the dog warden as there have been a substantial number of successful prosecutions in other Sedgemoor areas.
- Village Agents - Yvonne Bulman the newly appointed village agent gave a short presentation on her role. See facing page.

The Parish Council Annual Meeting followed on from the public session and the public were welcomed to stay and listen.

Mervyn Brown stood down as chairperson and Paul Gripton was proposed, seconded and voted in as the chairperson and likewise John Marriott as vice-chairperson.

Contact details of the Parish Council are;

Paul Gripton (Chair)	653240	John Marriott (Vice-chair)	653308
Barry Leathwood	652399	Mervyn Brown	652687
Liz Sidebotham	653028	Tim Jones	653829
Dick Best (Stear)	651063	Peter Shaw (Clerk)	652626

## Quantock Musical Theatre Company



Friday 14th June at 7.30pm



A sing-along for ALL ages! The return of the fantastic local group of singers who will, this year, perform a range of music celebrating 90 years of Walt Disney. This year's show "Wish Upon A Star" will bring songs from lots of Disney films from the classics of Snow White, Dumbo and Cinderella through to Toy Story and Tangled. Bring the kids! Admission £5.00

### YOUR VILLAGE AGENT



My name is Yvonne Bulman and I am the Village Agent for Otterhampton, Fiddington, Holford, Kilve, Stockland Bristol, Stogursey and Strington.

The Village Agent scheme is in response to the fact that many people living in rural communities have difficulty in accessing key services and support agencies that help maintain well being and quality of life.

- Do you live alone and need help with a problem that is spoiling your everyday life?
- Do you have a problem that can be fixed by accessing the right people or agencies?
- Are you a carer that needs a little help and support?
- Are you new to living alone and need some advice?
- Does your community have a collective problem that needs a kick-start to solve?

**Any problem, no matter how small see if I can help.**

**All advice is free and completely confidential.**

Please contact me either by phone on 07572 023432  
or by email at [ybulmanva@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:ybulmanva@somersetccc.org.uk)

### KEEP YOUR DOG UNDER CLOSE CONTROL THIS SPRING

Nothing is more evocative of spring than seeing new lambs by their mothers out in the Quantock countryside.

But, please remember that it is at this time of year when sheep and lambs are at their most vulnerable. Quantock Rangers, local farmers and the Police would like to highlight the problems that some dogs can cause to livestock on the hills.

From 1st March dog owners are required by law to keep their dogs on a lead when being walked across Open Access land. In all other areas of the countryside dogs should be kept under close control. It's not just the physical attacks that cause harm but simply allowing a dog to chase sheep may cause ewes to abort or become injured.

Owen Jones, Quantock AONB Ranger said "I'm a dog owner myself and there's nothing I enjoy more than walking over the hills with my spaniel, but I have to remember that sheep, lambs and wildlife can easily be disturbed if the dogs, no matter how well trained, are not under very close control".

Owen went on to say "There have been many times when Quantock Rangers have had to deal with the aftermath of dog attacks on sheep and in all cases I believe they could have been easily avoided - it's never easy visiting a farmer to tell them that their livestock has been injured or killed".

If your dog does kill or cause harm to livestock, you can be liable for a significant fine and for the value of the livestock harmed - your pet may also be dispatched, the cost of which will have to be borne by you. Moreover, if your dog is actually seen harassing livestock it could be shot on sight.

If you actually witness an attack in progress, call **999** otherwise any incidents witnessed should be reported to the Police on **0845 456 7000** or directly to the Quantock Hills AONB Office on **01823 451884**.

### PARISH COUNCIL GRASS CUTTING

As part of the precept review earlier this year, by the parish council, the grass cutting service was put out to tender. Subsequently we will be changing our contractor and the grass will be left to mulch as this makes a considerable saving on this service.

## COMBWICH COFFEE CLUB

Combwich Coffee Club seems to be increasingly popular. The success is due to the commitment of the volunteers, without whom it would not be possible to run such a regular event, and of course the people who pop in. Our sincerest thanks to you all.

Our success has enables us to provide croissants, teacakes, cream teas and of course the Christmas Special. Once again there were presents for everybody along with mince pies, mulled wine and carols sung by old and young. All our remaining profits are used to support a wide range of charities. Since August 2012 we have made donations to the following;

- Combwich Community Plan - £66.70
- Macmillan Nurses - £30.00
- Citizens Advice Bureau - £40.00
- Bridgwater Arts Centre - £30.00
- Combwich Wild Flower Project - £38.00
- Somerset Air Ambulance - £30.00

The Coffee Club also buy the plants for the trough on the green opposite the Post Office.

If you have any ideas or suggestions that would add a bit more variety to the coffee mornings please speak to myself or one of the volunteers, we are open to ideas after all it is 'your club'.

Variety is a great thing and that is the advantage of our Friday mornings. There is a warm welcome for all, Oldies, Youngsters, Ladies, Gentlemen, Villagers and those Visitors from further afield who all contribute to the 'hubble and bubble filling the hall. Thank you all for making it an inviting and comfortable place to be every Friday morning.

Dates to note! 17th May - Ploughman's Lunch 11.30am - 1.00pm  
21st June - Cream Tea  
12th July - Cream Tea

Helen (Jowett) 652322

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM A YEAR OF TRIPS

**March 2012** - Another trip to Dorset spending 2 hours in Sherborne to visit the Abbey and the town then on to Minterne House. There was a log fire blazing in the grand hall where we were met by Lord Digby the owner. After giving us a brief history he guided us around the house telling amusing and interesting anecdotes. This was followed by a lovely sit down afternoon tea, sandwiches and yummy homemade cakes served on white tablecloths by lovely waitresses. We were invited, by his son to explore the gardens normally flowering with rhododendrons and magnolias but the cold weather had put plants and trees 'on hold'.

**May 2012** - It's 'Sidmouth here we come'. Two hours to play and paddle then on to visit the majestic house at 'Sidbury'. A private house but with owners who were happy to show us round and supply afternoon tea.

**September 2012** - On this trip we visited Hartland Abbey where we had an informative tour of the house and then wandered at our leisure round the various gardens. An amble to the beach for a picnic was the icing on the cake. Afterwards our driver took us for a quick trip around the tiny hamlet, often used for filming due to it's unspoilt setting. Big cliffs, big waves, rugged coastline a truly wonderful place.

**October 2012** - This trip took us to Athelhampton House in Dorset. A fine English Manor House with walled gardens, fountains and famous topiary pyramids. As everyone was so well behaved I organised another trip.

**December 2012** - This visit was to Manor House, Chapel Cleeve. We were welcomed by the lady of the manor into an atmospheric hall, log fire, cakes and coffee! The house is tucked away off the beaten track and the owner is working really hard to maintain and improve it. I hope to organise a working party one day during the summer. Everybody will be able to do something, including sitting down jobs. We can take a picnic and have a pleasant and productive day out.

Helen (Jowett) 652322