



Welcome to Combwich

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Otter Tales

Our thanks to EDF Hinkley Point who print this newsletter without charge



The annual charity cricket match (once again organised by Murray Lister and Jason Navoy) was a huge success.



The sun was out - as indeed were most of the players... (Some more rapidly than others!) Everyone joined in the spirit of the day and great fun was had by all. Extra attractions this year included 'Limbo dancing' and a 'Flip-Flop Flinging Contest'. Thanks

to Matt and co at the Anchor, Mike White for the lovely hog roast, Jason the chef and Holly and Sophie for serving. Di Davie for doing a great job with the scones. Thanks also to Jimmy White and Steve Tucker for the bouncy castle and generator. Rich Navoy and Harbour View Club for the PA system. Our illustrious umpires - Ray and Dave. Also Mike Gardener for kindly sorting all the cricket gear. A grand total of **£534** was raised for SANDS Charity and Macmillian Cancer Care. Thanks to all others who helped and spectators who kindly donated.



Report and Photographs by Chris Ponka

Otterhampton Offcuts

Snippets from the June and July 2017 Parish Council Meetings

An update on items we reported previously:-

Combwich Retaining Wall – The work to the barriers over the brook at the junction of Brookside Rd/Church Hill - infilling with galvanised mesh (similar to the recent works at Estuary Park) as a safety measure, was completed at the end of June.

Verge Erosion by the Play Area – Following consultation with residents in the vicinity of the play area, wooden verge marker posts along the verge were installed during June. We hope we can prevent further erosion of the verge.



Tree Maintenance – All the trees that are the responsibility of the parish council will be inspected as part of the recent tree maintenance survey by Sedgemoor Trees. As we feared, the large willow tree by the defibrillator is dangerous and needs to come down, as do some limbs of another tree in the same area. It is likely that all the willows in this area will need to come down at some point. This will have a big impact on the area, so we will discuss the possibility of replanting some trees.



Other items:-

Speed limit and safety measures on the C182

The report from the Transport Forum on 6.7.17 indicated there will be some improvements between the new bypass roundabout at Rodway, Cannington and Clayland Corner, Stogursey. Hopefully this will include a 50mph speed limit to just beyond the Otterhampton turn off; additional road markings at the Biffen's corner junction and flashing lights at Clayland's Corner.

Contact details for the parish council

PARISH COUNCILLORS

John Berry (Chairman)	01278 652682
Dick Best (Vice Chairman)	01278 651063
Barry Leathwood	01278 652399
Bob Birkenhead	01278 653127
Julie Evans	01278 652735
Rachel Perrett	01278 652958
Dave Cather	07720 313041
Mrs Aly Prowse (Clerk)	01278 652426

otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com

County and District Ward Members

Mike Caswell	01278 652043
(District & County)	
Julie Pay (District)	01278 732956

Hinkley Point C Visit

Councillors will tour the new Hinkley C build on 18 July.

Temporary Closure of Riverside

The road between Harbour View and Martyn Close will be closed for approximately 2 days from 7 August to enable Wessex Water to carry out sewer repair work in this road.

Bus Shelter

Repairs to the bus shelter (wooden barge boards and soffits) will be carried out during August.

Youth Club at Cannington

Children from the parish are welcome to attend the youth club which is held on Monday evenings, 6.30pm-8.30pm at Cannington Village Hall. The age range is 11 - 17 years and the cost is 80p. The sessions are very well run by Youth Unlimited, with lots of planned activities.

Hinkley Point Charity Run

The run will take place on 26.7.17 around the Steart Marshes for up to 300 runners, starting at 6pm. They will start and finish on the large Common. Runners will be transported by bus, so we will not be overrun by cars.

Next Meeting – General Parish Enhancement

We traditionally have no parish council meeting in August, but we do have a parish walkabout to try and identify areas of improvement we feel may enhance the parish. Please do get in touch if you have any ideas or wish to draw to our attention any possible enhancement.

The next meeting after this will be Thursday 7 September, 7pm, at Otterhampton Village Hall.

Notes from your Village Agent

Izzy Silvester



Lovely August! It is warm (hopefully), lots of lovely local fresh produce on sale and in our gardens, companies slow down as their employees take annual leave, children off school screech around the supermarket aisles, the beaches and the A39 are jammed.

Time to think about your heating!

Summer is the best time to get your **boiler serviced** and ready for the autumn – find out any potential issues before it gets cold! **Oil is usually cheaper** at this time so take advantage - check with boiler juice for all the local prices or join an oil purchasing group like Somerset Community Oil Scheme 01603 881888. Take the time to check that you are on the **cheapest tariff** by using a comparison website. Look at the small print on your bill, it will give you the information about how your average usage which you enter into the website and it finds the best deals. Your bill will also let you know if you are on your company's best tariff. You can phone and ask if you are not sure. September is when you register for the **Winter Warmer Discounts** with your energy company. If you are on pension credits or are considered vulnerable, you can be eligible for more than £100 off your winter bill – if you register. Give your energy companies a call and see if you are eligible.

Once you have thought about the cold weather, now think about the hot weather! Independent Age have a super booklet called **Summerwise** which you can download and print or call 08003196789. It contains useful tips such as checking the effect your medication can have on your hydration and skin sensitivity. Don't forget also that medication often has to be stored usually under 25C; watch out for those hot days! They also remind us that we do need some sun exposure to get our quota of vitamin D from the UVB rays and they don't travel through glass.

Independent Age have also produced a new free booklet discussing **scams** – how to identify and what to do. Phone 08003196789 to get a copy. They also have a scam spotting test on www.independentage.org/scams-quiz. Remember, the more potential scams we discuss, less will become a reality.

If you are finding life a bit hard going at the moment, I may be able to help.

Please phone me: Izzy Silvester your village agent, on 07931 018045, leave me your name and number and I will ring you back. Or email me on izzy@somersetccc.org.uk I do only work part-time, so it may take a day or two for me to return your call. Thank you.



In the picture from left to right

Sitting - Aly Prowse, Sue Barton and Tina Gardener

Standing - Richard Stirling, Julie Evans, Bruce Barton, Gary Perrett, Amanda Cather, Dick Best, Dave Cather. Not in the picture Laura Valentine-Slack, with Barry Leathwood taking the photograph

Otterhampton Parish Project Team (OPPT)

OPPT is the team which delivered the new children's area - reconstituted with some new members to advise and assist organisations, groups and individuals to apply for funding for community projects from the £500k earmarked for this parish. We are working with Somerset Community Foundation who will be managing the whole Community Impact Mitigation fund for Somerset on behalf of EDF. We hope to have detailed information in September to advise the process to obtain funding, which we understand may be available to apply for from October - but there are no time restraints. Again, we will be consulting with all residents, updating the previous information you gave us, and asking you to validate/amend this information. Therefore, you may wish to start thinking about potential projects now?



Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

Registered Charity Number 1124017

Kite Making and Flying



OPRA Officers and Committee

Chair

Jacqui Sparks 652069

Secretary

Ann Leathwood 652399

Treasurer

Sue Francis 653663

Vice Chair

Barry Leathwood 652399

Committee

Mary Cornish 653868

Beverly Smith 652595

Di Davie 652141

Felicity Ashworth 653633

Tina Gardener 652642

100 Club Organisers

Ann Leathwood 652399

Sue Francis 653663



The 100 Club draw takes place every month at the Coffee Morning Otterhampton Village Hall and the winning numbers are displayed in the Post Office and the parish website www.combwich.org.uk shortly afterwards.

If you want to join the 100 Club or become involved in OPRA activities please contact Ann on 652399 or any committee member.



Mike Timmins (*in striped jumper*) organised another successful children's Kite workshop in the village hall recently. He was assisted by his wife Linda, Bob and Carol Birkenhead and Di Davie. All the kites flew and the children enjoyed the morning. Thanks Mike.

In the last month OPRA has loaned equipment to Stogursey and Otterhampton Primary Schools for their summer activities and made a cash donation to our local school.

On the 15th July there will be a cream tea walk and another cream tea walk in August (see page 6). Walks are advertised on the noticeboards or sign up for email information on local walks.

If you want to get involved in any of our activities please contact one of the committee



Otter Wheels - Volunteer car scheme for local residents



The initial idea for Otter Wheels was conceived way back in 2015 when the County published their Car Scheme Toolkit. We were all aware that bus services in rural areas were under threat and something was needed to enable elderly and vulnerable people easy access to medical centres, hospitals, dentists and shopping etcetera.

The plan was put to the Parish Council who agreed to a Start Up Grant of two hundred pounds, this was matched by a similar grant from Somerset County Council and eventually a further grant from the West Somerset Car Scheme Partnership. So funding was in place, now all we needed were drivers, officers and coordinators. Thanks to the generosity of people in the parish we soon found we had a nucleus of drivers and others who were willing to give of their time and so Otter Wheels was 'born' on the 1st June 2016.

After 'trading' for twelve months we have completed approximately 120 journeys travelling as far afield as Bristol, the shortest journey is probably to Cannington. We can happily report that we are still solvent, thanks to our treasurer Liz Brown who has kept us all on the straight and narrow. No mean feat when we have eleven drivers all of whom submit expenses once a month. Why expenses you might ask? Passengers pay for their journeys on a mileage basis – the drivers give their time freely and their expenses only cover the cost of the petrol. Talking of costs, all car schemes are supported by the County Council too, every time there is a new driver (additional drivers are always welcome) the County pays for DBS clearance. Passengers are also able to claim concessionary rates if they are in possession of a valid bus pass again thanks to the County Council.

We hope to be able to continue to serve our community for the foreseeable future – if you haven't given us a try please do; we are only a phone call away **07925 154 216** and there is an answer phone on at all times.

If you feel you could be a volunteer occasionally (we do need more drivers) then please call the above number for more information. Don't worry, you won't be pressed into signing up, if this is not for you.



Secretary/Coordinator Yvonne Bulman, Chairman Richard Stirling and Treasurer Liz Brown (inset)



The scheme's 100th passenger, Elizabeth Marriott delivered safely home by volunteer driver Mick Bulman

Combwich Wharf Investigation Work



The Hinkley Point C team are currently working hard with Combwich Motor Boat and Sailing Club to relocate some boats in the Pill so ground investigation work can begin safely. The investigation works are required to inform the designers, Jacobs, of the ground conditions at depth. The contractor, HOCHTIEF will use this information during the main refurbishment work at the wharf. We expect the wharf to become operational within 2 years of starting the refurbishment work.

The investigation works will be carried out from a jack-up barge that will be visible beside the wharf and out in the berth to the edge of the River Parrett throughout the works. The works will involve a drilling rig creating 6 boreholes measuring 150mm in diameter to a depth of up to 40 meters below ground level to gather data. It will also include 12 penetration tests from the barge to determine the characteristics of the soil/rock layers in the ground.

Investigation work is planned to start in August and be complete in the Autumn.

Boring will only be undertaken between 08:00 to 19:00 Monday to Friday and 08:00 to 13:00 on Saturdays, so disturbance will be kept to a minimum. Noise will be closely monitored throughout and vibrations and dust are not an issue from this type of investigation work. All deliveries and vehicles will enter via our private link road off the C182 so additional traffic will not enter the village.

The team are also working closely with colleagues at Hinkley Point B and Wessex Water to ensure deliveries to the wharf can continue and maintenance work on the pumping station is not affected.



We will keep residents, the parish council and the boat club fully informed as progress is made.

If you would like more information do please make contact via 0800 096 9650, or drop in to our EDF Energy Visitor Centre, Angel Place Shopping Centre, Bridgwater TA6 3TQ or Hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com

OPRA WALK and Cream Tea

Join us for an amble around the wonderful Steart countryside, **2pm Saturday 19th August** at a starting point to be announced. This will be a gentle walk suitable for all the family.



By the kind invitation of Aly and Robin Prowse, a cream tea will be available at Dowells Farm, Steart, for donation of £3.50 per person for Steart and Stockland Churches.

As always strong shoes/boots and a waterproof jacket are recommended

[Please contact Barry on 652399 for more information and to book your cream tea.](#)



WWT Steart Marshes

working in partnership with



**Environment
Agency**

EVENTS

BUTTERFLY AND DRAGONFLY WALK

30th July 2017

Steart Marshes is home to many spectacular dragonflies and butterflies so join us exploring these amazing insects - 11am-1pm. Booking essential -£3/£4 (WWT member/non-member)

BRIDWATCHING FOR BEGINNERS

9th August 2017

Instructions on the use bird watching equipment and how to identify birds on the reserve. 10.30am – 12.30pm - Places are limited and booking essential -£3/£4 (WWT member/non-member).

MOTH I.D WORKSHOP (EVENING/ MORNING SESSIONS)

12th/13th August 2017

Your chance to see a moth trap in action and get close views of these stunning insects. Aimed at beginners & people who want to learn about moths. Saturday evening – 9pm – Midnight/ Sunday Morning 10am-12. Booking Essential - £5 one session/ £8 for both.



Other events can be found on the News pages of our website (wwt.org.uk/Steart/news)

RESERVE

Volunteering

Recently we have been managing the willow withy beds. These were planted across the wetland walkway a couple of years ago. The management involves weeding in-between the willows and mulching afterwards to keep the faster growing plants away and keep the moisture in the ground. Eventually these withys can be used to create useful products across the reserve like the 'fedges' by our hides or used for crafting activities. They are, however, already providing good habitat for wildlife to include frogs, small mammals, newts and invertebrates

New Engagement Officer

It is with great pleasure to announce that we have successfully appointed a new engagement officer; Nicole Turnbull-Wigley who has been volunteering with the trust since December 2014 will be starting on Monday 3rd July. Many of you will already know Nicole as a local resident of Combs and those of you who don't will hopefully get to know her in the near future.

Dogs Vs Cattle; Disturbance to Nesting Birds

It has been brought to my attention that people couldn't understand why we let cattle graze but not dogs over areas where there are nesting birds and wintering. The reason for the restrictions to dogs is because they are viewed as predators by the birds. Birds won't distinguish between wild and domesticated threats so will abandon their nests if they are in danger of being killed. Cattle are not seen as a threat by wild birds and



WWT Steart Marshes

working in partnership with



**Environment
Agency**

Continued

research has shown they very rarely trample nests. Quite often birds sitting on a nest will scare the cattle away from the area.

Wildlife Update



There was great excitement from bird watchers at the end of May when a Gull-billed Tern a rare visitor to UK from Mediterranean was spotted on the reserve. This is only the 4th record for Somerset

Photo; Gull-billed tern feeding on crab from saltmarsh habitat.



Frogbit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*) is a floating aquatic plant. It has been found on Stockland Marshes in one of the freshwater ditches. The leaves look like mini water lilies, with flowers appearing around July which have three white petals. We are considering it as quite an exciting find since the species has not been planted. It is also listed as vulnerable on the Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain. This means that the species is considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild. Frogbit is related to the Canadian (*Elodea canadensis*) and Nuttall's (*E. nuttallii*) Waterweed species which are both also found on the reserve, although these species are both introduced from America to the UK flora.

Any further queries please don't hesitate to contact the Site Manager, Alys Laver on 01278 651090 / 07717 505966 or email on alys.laver@wwt.org.uk

Bridgwater Bay National Nature Reserve - an update by Dick Best

The Steart Peninsula is becoming more widely known through the recently created Steart Marshes, managed by the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust (WWT), but the Peninsula holds another gem - Bridgwater Bay National Nature Reserve, managed by Natural England (NE). The reserve, a conservation area of international importance, surrounds the Peninsula and surrounding areas with a fringe of sand, shingle and coastal marsh, plus massive mud flats extending into the Upper Bristol Channel.

There have been some recent alterations to the footpaths and access around the Natural England reserve. Firstly, the coastal footpaths have been extended and now form part of the England Coast Path and create a new circular walk that runs from Wall Common to Stert Point (and the newly restored Tower Hide) and, in the summer, along the Parrett flood bank to the Steart Marsh breach. Unfortunately maintenance of the some sections of the footpath is becoming a problem and access can be at times challenging. Secondly, access to the coastal strip west of Wall Common has been closed to prevent disturbance of breeding birds in the summer, notably Ringed Plovers (four territories this year), and, at other seasons, to prevent disruption of the large high tide roosts of migrating and wintering waders that occur along this section of coast.



Otterhampton Village Hall

News from the Otterhampton Village Hall Committee

The Village Hall Committee members are:

Amber Austin (652111), Rebecca Barrett (074637 44981), Sue Barton (653531), Di Davie (652141), Marcus Ford (652971), Tina Gardener (652642), Helen Jowett (652322), Patricia Priest (652278), Audrey Rowley (653298) and Liz Sidebotham (653028).

Look out for posters and blackboards in the Village to see what the next event will be and if you have any ideas for future events at the hall, or have any comments to make please get in touch with any Committee member.

The next Village Markets will be held on Saturday 12th August and Saturday 9 September - 10 am to midday. Come along and buy your plants, cakes, fresh vegetables, artwork, glassware, jewellery and crafts. Ideal for gifts for yourself or friends. Why not stay for tea, cake or a bacon roll and chat with friends?

The Hall is available to hire and ideal for parties and arrangements can be made for the Harbour View Club bar to be open – if you would like more information contact Di Davie on 01278 652141 or email her on dianadavie@hotmail.co.uk



Could you spare an hour a week to support your village hall?

Treasurer wanted: Otterhampton Village Hall - Voluntary position

We're looking for someone with book keeping skills, computer literate and able to use excel. Duties include; invoicing approx. 10 per month, bookkeeping, banking, monthly report, attendance at monthly Committee meeting - not compulsory.

Training provided if needed.

Please contact: Rebecca Barratt on 07463 744981 or email rebeccabarratt1@yahoo.co.uk

HARBOUR VIEW SOCIAL CLUB

The Club is run by:

Bruce Barton, Paul Cadmore, Jude Cound, Brian Hawkins, Chris Ponka, Audrey Rowley and Geoff Smith. Speak to them if you have any ideas or comments about the Club.

The Club is open Fridays and Saturdays from 7pm to midnight. Annual membership is only £2.50 with £1 charged for visitors. Everyone is welcome so why not come along? The Club has a fully stocked bar and a darts area and skittle alley are available.

Dates for your diary include:

August Bank Holiday Sunday -Spanish Paella event

First Saturday of each month brings the monthly quiz with a cash prize for the winner and various prizes for each round. Cost is £1 per person and starts at 8.30pm. Come along and test your brainpower.

The Club has decided to raise much needed cash for their chosen charity St Margaret's Hospice. So far the Club has raised £110 from the Open Mic and Asian Food afternoon. Help to raise more cash by looking out for future events which will be advertised on the blackboards.

Why not come along to join in the events at the Village Hall and Harbour View to support the Club, the Hall and St Margaret's Hospice. Various Clubs using the hall are advertised in the noticeboard outside the Hall. Why not come along?



News from Revd Alison Waters

*The Rectory, 27 Brook Street, Cannington TA5 2HP
cannington.benefice@gmail.com
01278 652953*



St Peter's Church



**10am Re-opening
Celebration Service**

11.30am to 2.30pm

Church Fete

Stalls - Games - Cakes - BBQ

SUN 30 JULY

Church Fete

We would be very grateful for any items (books, plants, bric a brac) to sell at the St Peter's Church Fete and Raffle prizes. If you can help, please contact Jacqui Sparks on 652069.



COMBWICH CRAFTERS

Combwich Crafters are closing the sale of bricks on November 30th 2017. Anyone wanting to buy a brick in the meantime can do so from Sue Jacobs at the Combwich Market or by telephoning 652450. The cost is still £5. So far we have raised £480, it would be great if we could round it up to £500.

Nuclear Roundup - Costs Rise *by Tim Jones*

The most revealing thing about the recent announcement that HPC is going to cost more and be delayed even further, is that it appears to have come as no surprise to anyone. The EDF chief confidently proclaimed in 2007 that not only would it be the first nuclear power station built on time and to budget, but some would say, foolishly predicted UK households would be cooking their Christmas turkeys in 2017 using power from HPC. As well as a lot of happy turkeys, anyone with the slightest knowledge of the nuclear industry knew that was never going to happen. It is unlikely the two are linked, but the EDF chief in question is leaving his job in a few weeks' time.

EDF says HPC costs will rise another £1.5bn to £19.6bn and the project will be delayed by up to 15 months, meaning the turkeys will have to wait until at least 2025, although France's *Le Monde* newspaper says it is more likely to be 2027. The increased costs will be met by EDF and other backers and are partly due to "adapting project designs to meet demand of the UK regulators".

Only a couple of weeks before the announcement, there was more flak around the project when the National Audit Office said the HPC nuclear deal 'cost the public £billions more than it should have'. The public spending watchdog said the Government's deal for the power station "locked consumers into a risky and expensive project with uncertain strategic and economic benefits". As well as claiming Ministers failed to consider alternative ways of financing the plant, the NAO has called for the Government to reconsider whether more nuclear plants are needed.

So while the local area appears to be awash in park and ride projects, new junctions, cycle paths and replacement windows, what of the future? In a recent leading article, *The Times* newspaper said: "Hinkley Point C will create jobs, but in a white elephant that will be technologically out of date before being connected to the grid." The same leading article went on to highlight what it described as the most alarming figure in the National Audit Office report - an estimate of £22bn that investors in HPC could claim in compensation were it to be scrapped.

Snippets from Otterhampton Parish Council Minutes

1909 The sub-postmistress was granted a weekly half day holiday.

1917 Bridgwater RDC (Rural District Council) sent a circular about the provision of houses for the working classes when men returned from the war. PC resolved to put existing cottages in village in good repair.

1924 Minute urging Great Western Railway to build between Bridgwater and Watchet to solve serious unemployment. Such a line would open up the oilshale industries and the cement industries.

1927 Council houses approved at entrance to village. Resolution passed that the supply of drinking water to the village was inadequate, many houses have no supply at all.

1949 Steart has its first refuse collection.

1955 Bridgwater Bay declared a nature reserve by Somerset River Board- the land purchased from Lord Clifford.

Big problems with bye-laws, hunters and fishermen upset.

1955 Otterhampton and Stockland get an electricity supply.

1956 Steart finally get theirs.

News from Otterhampton Primary School

Interim Head of School: Mrs Zoë Llewellyn

Combwich Tel: 01278 652487

www.otterhamptonprsch.co.uk

E-mail: office@otterhampton.somerset.sch.uk

During the Summer term, we have been encouraging children to increase their walking and fitness through the Golden Mile challenge and the WOW (Walk at least once a week) initiative. Year 5 have also been busy developing their cycle confidence and skills through Bikeability. In the autumn, we are hoping to restart the Walking Bus from the phone box area to the school and are looking for volunteers.



Our recent Summer Fair, organised by the Friends, raised over £1100 which we are putting towards a new adventure playground. We are very grateful to OPRA for the £150 grant which they raised for this project.

This term, all children have enjoyed Forest School on site and we plan to continue this year-round. Our Sports Day (which fell on the hottest day in June for 40 years!) was a great success and was won again by Green House.

The last few weeks, we have been busy moving, developing and decorating as all three of our main school classes move rooms to create dedicated Phase 1 (2-6 year olds) and Phase 2 (6-11 year olds) learning environments enabling more outdoor and independent learning. We have cleared our library of old stock which has been taken by Mrs Layton to the Oxfam warehouse to be sent abroad to those learning English. Wollens have kindly donated lots of hard landscaping materials which are being used to create a Science garden around our pond. Many parents including Darren Downs & Pete Ingram have been working hard to redecorate the large Victorian classroom which is becoming our River class (Year 2/3/4) this autumn.

We wish our Year 6 leavers all the best as they head off to Haygrove, Chilton Trinity, Brymore, Queens Taunton and Cullompton College. Congratulations to Isla Tilsley for her writing scholarship to Queens.

Little Otters

Little Otters is a small rural Pre-school that is part of our school, taking children 2 years up until they start Reception class. At our last inspection in December 2015, Little Otters secured a Good Ofsted rating and offers 2-year old funded places as well as funding for 3 and 4 year old children. This provision is registered to offer families 30 hours of free childcare providing they meet certain criteria. Morning sessions, whole days and afternoon sessions are on offer. Children over the age of 3 can also join Otters Den (the breakfast and after-school club).

A wide variety of activities are available within the Early Years Foundation Stage framework (EYFS) including: painting, malleables, water play, arts and crafts, stories and lots of outdoor activities. During this summer, the children have been learning about Summer time, the beach, under the sea and holidays. We are once again having our annual trip to Puxton Park near Weston-Super-Mare.

We are lucky to be situated in a beautiful harbourside village where we like to go for walks and engage the children in thinking and talking about their local community. At Little Otters, our children achieve really well and become autonomous learners, well-equipped with skills that prepare them for their lifelong learning journey.

Please come and meet us all. If you have any questions please ring direct on:

01278 653052 Julie Salter (BA Ed Hons Teaching and Learning) Little Otters

01278 652487 Zoe Llewellyn (Interim Head of School) or Carol Pracownik (Business Manager)

News from Combwich and District WI

Vanessa J Smith (President)



It is a while since I reported the goings on of Combwich & District WI, so I apologise for missing the deadline in April, but I was away in France. However, I will now be delighted to fill this hiatus!

At the April meeting, we had a visit from our new County Advisor, Marilyn Symonds and she could not have chosen a better evening because our dear friend Shirley Harrington came to give us an evening of 'Tales from a Lay Reader'. Shirley took many of our church services for Stockland, Steart and Combwich, during the two years while Peter Martin was ill and then until our new Rector Alison took up her post. We came to value her friendship, wisdom and encouragement at this difficult period. We were treated to a very humorous and joyful evening and as you can imagine this involved accounts of christenings, weddings and funerals!

Our AGM was held in May, when the Committee welcomed a new Treasurer, Anne Weston who agreed to take over from Shirley Pettitt as she was moving out of the village and into Bridgwater. Shirley has been our Treasurer for nearly 20 years and has taken this responsibility with great pride and commitment. Thankfully, she has agreed to remain on the committee as Assistant Treasurer. We did not have a speaker for this meeting, but instead livened things up with a themed evening of 'The Wild, Wild West!' We had some very inventive cowgirls, but no squaws. I am pleased to say there were no shootings or horses tethered up outside Stockland Club, but lots of "how dee" and "yeehah" while we shared our – Bonanza Buffet, complete with doughnuts and chewy salt beef (and boy was it chewy!)

Our project for members this year was to knit 'sensory bands' for sufferers with Dementia to aid restless hands and also 'beanie hats' for patients in oncology units. We amounted quite a few bag fulls which will be distributed throughout the area.

In June we met at Lane Cottage, the home of John and Jane Tarr for Jane's scrumptious homemade Cream Tea and a demonstration of 'wood turning' from John not forgetting the 'star turn' from one of their very friendly and musical Muscovy Ducks, who rather stole the show! John certainly spread his enthusiasm for this craft and has agreed to take several members on as students. We had the prettiest sun hat competition which was won by Kate Jarvis who had covered her hat with gorgeous roses from her garden.



I am happy to report our first WI Craft Group will be meeting on the Monday 3rd July from 10am to 12.30pm and then on the 1st Monday of the Month there after (except for August and January.) Mem Myatt has very kindly offered for our next meeting to organise a Fish 'n' Chip supper at her house on 20th July. It would appear we are 'eating again'!!!! The competition will be 'the funniest holiday photo', so hopefully we are in for a laugh or two!

There will be no meeting in August as usual but we have our summer outing on 19th September to Midney Gardens and possibly a bit of retail therapy at Clarke's Village before. Then on 21st September we are delighted to welcome Trevor Webb, known locally as 'Spider', who is going to talk and give us some tips on Gardening and Pruning. We are very much looking forward to this meeting and hopefully our gardens will benefit from it too.

If you would like to join our very friendly group you can be sure of a very warm welcome. Please do not hesitate to call us for any further information, we would be delighted to hear from you on - (01278 652830) Vanessa J-Smith (president) or - (01278 446279) Brenda Wasley (Secretary)

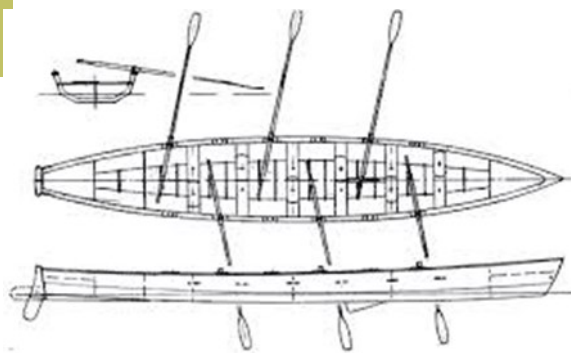
GIG RACING

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

Cornish Gig Racing is becoming popular around the Bristol Channel, there are Gig Clubs at Burnham-on-Sea, Clevedon and Bristol.

Cornish Gigs are about 30 feet long overall and crewed by 6 oarsmen and a cox'n. This is a sport for all ages, male and female.

The Combwich M.B.&S.C committee have discussed the formation of a gig racing team and supports exploring the feasibility of forming a team.



If you are seriously interested please contact Bill Johnson at 3 Harbour View, Combwich TA5 2QU. Tel: 01278 652283.

Bill arranged a demonstration visit to Combwich and has received serious interest from 20 local people and is currently looking at funding opportunities.



A recent visit to Combwich Pill by Burnham on Sea Gig racing team
(Photo by William Edwards)

Otter Wheels

Your local car scheme always there for **You**

Is lack of transport a problem?

Can't get to the dentist, doctor, hospital, shopping, visit a friend?

Ring - Otter Wheels on: 07925 154 216

This not for profit car scheme has been running for over a year now, if you haven't tried us why not give us a go? Door to door service with friendly experienced drivers all DBS checked and happy to help.

The rates are reasonable and are per car, not per person and those with a bus pass travel half price.

Typical return journey prices are: -

	With bus pass	Without bus pass
Cannington Health Centre	£2.25	£3.50
Bridgwater Bus station	£4.50	£8.00
Musgrove Hospital Taunton	£10.25	£19.50

Ring Otter Wheels 07925 154 216 for more information and to book a journey

The success of the scheme means we need additional drivers. If you are interested please ring 07925 154216. Expenses are paid





OLD COMBWICH

Morgan's Brush Factory - 1994 (above)
Now Old Mill Close

Mike Ingram haymaking in what is now
Nursery Close - 1994
Photographs by Bob Birkenhead



Quantock Music Theatre Company (QMTC)

The QMTC made their annual visit to Combwich on 30th June when they performed their Gold Concert, which consisted of favourites from their previous shows. It was well received by the audience of 39. It would be really great to see more people.

The proceeds from the concert were £280 and half of this goes to Otterhampton Village Hall, QMTC donate their half to the Marion Evered Trust for the children's cancer ward at Musgrove Hospital.

Two songs from the show were awarded gold and silver when QMTC performed them at the Highbridge Festival.

If you like singing and are interested in joining this friendly group then, go along to Stogursey Victory Hall on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm.

Everyone is welcome, there are no auditions just fun. Please contact Rosie on 733370 for more information.



MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library visits Combwich and Stockland every four weeks on a Thursday morning from 6th July

Otterhampton School TA5 2QS 10.05 - 10.40

Harbour TA5 2QU 10.55 – 11.15

Combwich Post Office TA5 2QW 11.10 – 11.30

Stockland Bristol Captains TA5 2PY 11.20– 11.40

Please make use of this facility, we have the advantage in Combwich of the school using the mobile library which helps us to retain the service. Unfortunately the service has recently been withdrawn from Steart due to lack of use.

If you have an interesting hobby, or interest which you would like to share in these pages, please contact the editor

Your village website www.combwich.org.uk is the place to go for up to date information on what is happening in the parish and much more. Take a look to see what you have been missing. You can subscribe by adding your email address to the home page to receive email notices of new posts to ensure you don't miss anything.

DIARY OF EVENTS

(Otterhampton Village Hall unless otherwise stated)

REGULAR EVENTS

Monday	Art Club	2pm – 4pm	
Monday	Brownies	5.45pm - 7.30pm	
Tuesday	Aerobics Pilates	9.30am – 10.30am 10.45 am – 11.45am	
Wednesday	Doctors Surgery	3pm – 4pm	
Wednesday	Combwich Crafters	10am – 12 noon	
Thursday (1 st of month)	Parish Council	7pm	Starts with public session
Thursday (2 nd & 4 th of month)	Choir	7pm – 8pm	
Thursday (3 rd of month)	Combwich& District WI	7.30pm	Stockland Sports & Social Club
Friday	Coffee morning	10am – 12 noon	
Saturday (2 nd of month)	Combwich Market	10am – 12 noon	

FUTURE EVENTS

August	NO Parish Council Meeting		
7th September 2017	Parish Council Meeting	7pm	Starts with public session
10 th September 2017	Next Otter Tales		Articles by 10th Sept

Otter Tales

Articles for publication to Barry Leathwood (editor) Tel: 652399, email: barry.leathwood@btinternet.com

Events to Aly Prowse, Tel: 652426 email: otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com

Distribution. Bob Birkenhead Tel: 653127, email: bob@combwich.freemove.co.uk

Our thanks to EDF Hinkley Point B who print this newsletter without charge.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information published in Otter Tales, some of the views expressed are those of individuals or organisations.