



Welcome to Combwich

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## **Your village website**

[www.combwich.org.uk](http://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.

# **Otter Tales**

## **Enhanced Play and Recreation Area**

The rather tired and worn out children's play area in Combwich (pictured) has served the village children well over the last 30 years, but is now overdue for replacing.



The good news is that work will commence on the installation of an exciting new play area on Monday 23 May, with a 4-6 week completion period. It is designed for children of all ages with a shelter for inclement weather and 3 pieces of outdoor equipment for 14 year olds plus and adults.

We apologise in advance for the lack of the facility during this period but we hope everyone will understand. The weekend before will be used to dismantle the old fence and wooden play equipment. The existing swings and safety surfacing will be removed by Wicksteed (contractor), but the high slide will remain, although it will be repainted to match the new equipment.

Whilst the work is ongoing, Wicksteed will be utilising some of the parking spaces along Riverside for storage of plant and equipment. We apologise for any inconvenience to residents. The play area will be open as soon as it is finished, but we will be arranging a formal opening event to thank all our helpers and funders who granted us the £99,000 required. Please keep a look out for notices advertising this event, as it would be lovely to see a lot of people, showing the community's appreciation.

## **Sedgemoor Ramblers 40th Anniversary**

Sedgemoor Ramblers Association celebrated their 40th Anniversary by installing a seat on the track just past the entrance to the marshes. They hope walkers will pause for a rest and to enjoy the panoramic views from this point. Tony Fawle, Ramblers Secretary, is top left.



# Otterhampton Offcuts

## Snippets from the April and May 2016 Parish Council and other meetings

### Annual Assembly and Annual meeting held on 3.5.16

The Chairman, Barry Leathwood circulated his report for the year. A copy will be placed on the [www.combwich.org.uk](http://www.combwich.org.uk) website and also on notice boards. The Clerk presented the Annual Accounts to 31.3.16 and the draft External Audit Return which were subsequently approved by Members. Parishioners are invited to examine the accounts as per the statutory notice which will be placed on the notice boards on 27.5.16 (the Accounts and Audit Return will be placed on the Website after this date). Thanks go to Rod Williams for carrying out the internal audit.

### New Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Barry Leathwood stood down as Chairman. He said it had been a pleasure to serve as Chair both last year and previous periods. Members voiced their appreciation and thanks to Barry, who has worked tirelessly on behalf of the parish. He has provided sound guidance and advice to our new members, which has contributed greatly to the smooth running of the parish council over the past year.

We are pleased to announce that our new Chairman will be John Berry, a resident of Combwich for 34 years. He served as vice-chair last year. John will be ably assisted by our new Vice-Chairman Dick Best, who lives in Steart and has been a member of the parish council since 2010.

### Bus Service at the Bus Stop

Following our third meeting with Highways and WebberBus on 7.4.16, Highways recommended we revert to the original proposal to block the Brookside Rd access (with bollards) as it would be cheaper, quicker and easier to implement. Pedestrians and cyclists can continue to use this access. It will take 4-6 months for this work to be undertaken.

### Other Highways issues

The safety signage at Dame Withycombe Hill will go ahead in 2016/17 (it had been due earlier in the year but the whole C182 programme has slipped).

One of the disabled parking spaces alongside the Common will be removed due to infrequent use.

We will look at the feasibility of creating 2 or 3 permanent parking spaces on the existing verge adjacent to the play area. This verge has almost been destroyed by vehicles parking here anyway, so it makes sense to tidy and make the area safer by using tarmac and kerbs to define the spaces.

The road markings at the junction of Brookside Rd/Church Hill will be repainted (date not yet known)

We will be erecting a voluntary 20mph speed limit sign at the entrance to the village.

We will not be installing a Speed Indication Device (SID) as it is unlikely we could find a suitable location which would provide the necessary median speeds to instigate intervention.

Highways will not provide flood markers at Steart but we can purchase and install our own temporary markers, which we are looking into.

Roadworks between Combwich and the Rodway Hill roundabout- hopefully you will be aware of these works which are to widen the C182 and to install a cycle way. This will

### Contact details for the parish council

#### PARISH COUNCILLORS

John Berry (Chairman)	01278 652682
Dick Best (Vice Chairman)	01278 651063
Barry Leathwood	01278 652399
Heath Bennett	01278 651356
Bob Birkenhead	01278 653127
Julie Evans	01278 652735
Rachel Perrett	01278 652958
Mrs Aly Prowse (Clerk)	01278 652426

[otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com](mailto:otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com)

#### County and District Ward Members

John Edney (County)	01278 653026
Mike Caswell (District)	01278 652043
Julie Pay (District)	01278 732956

commence early May, with planned completion November 2016.

### Additional Dog Bin and Dog Bag Dispensers

In an effort to improve the dog fouling which continues to blight our parish, we have purchased a further bin which is located by the footpath at the Brookside Rd garages. In addition, we have purchased 2 dog bag dispensers (as a trial) which will be situated by the dog bins on the Combwich track and near the phone box.

We are informed by SDC that successful prosecution of dog owners who do not pick up after their dogs is on the increase. Good. We will actively encourage dog wardens to patrol in the parish.

### Broadband Voucher Scheme (probably relevant to Steart & some Otterhampton residents only)

Connecting Devon and Somerset (D and S) has recently launched its Voucher Scheme to provide subsidies to install alternative broadband technology. Vouchers worth up to £500 are now available for residents and businesses who experience broadband speeds below 2Mbps. The subsidy will cover the cost of connecting to an improved broadband service to boost broadband speeds to a minimum of 10Mbps, offering a variety of technology solutions including fibre to the home, wireless and satellite.

For more information please see the link below.  
<http://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/cds-broadband-voucher-scheme/>

Steart residents are investigating the possibility of a joint application to share costs. Any Otterhampton residents who may be eligible./interested, please contact the parish clerk.

# OTTER WHEELS

## YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME



### PROVIDED FOR THE RESIDENTS OF OTTERHAMPTON PARISH & STOCKLAND BRISTOL

**Passenger Booking Number: 07925 15 42 16**

#### **Eligible journeys include**

Hospital and clinic visits for which no transport is provided by other services

Visits to the doctor, dentist, optician, chiropodist and to collect prescriptions, shopping

Shopping and banking; visits to relatives & friends, especially the sick

#### **Booking checklist (Scheme commences 1.6.16)**

All passengers will need to formally enrol (forms available from the Post Office or coordinators)

Ring the Co-ordinator on 07925154216 **at least 48 hours in advance please**

Agree pick up, drop off locations, cost, time, date and special requirements e.g. wheelchairs

On the day of travel, please try and have the correct money to put into the envelope provided by the driver (although cheques are acceptable, made out to Otter Wheels)

#### **Approved Drivers**

Drivers will be from within the parish and will be Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) approved.

**WE NEED MORE DRIVERS PLEASE – IF YOU MAY BE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT:**

Jacque Sparks 652069, Yvonne Bulman 652713 or Aly Prowse 652426 for more information.

#### **Examples of Return Fares (including £1 booking fee)**

From Comwich (central point) to:	With Bus Pass	Without Bus Pass
Cannington Health centre	£2.25	£3.50
Quantock Medical Centre (Nether Stowey)	£ 4.25	£7.50
Bridgwater Hospital	£5.25	£9.50
Musgrove Park Hospital	£10.25	£19.50
Williton	£ 9.25	£17.50
Bridgwater Railway Station	£4.75	£8.50
Bridgwater Bus Station	£4.50	£8.00
Taunton Railway Station	£10.00	£19.00

**NB** Journeys from Otterhampton, Steart or Stockland Bristol, will need to have added, the appropriate miles / mileage cost of 50p per mile (depending where the driver originates)

Charges are for a return journey even if you only travel one way

Waiting time over 2 hours will incur the cost of two journeys (except by prior arrangement)

A minimum fare of £1 per head for journeys within Comwich. The operating times for these are 9am to 6pm

The above fares are the published prices. Other journeys are calculated at 50p per mile plus a £1 booking fee

Volunteer drivers are reimbursed their motoring expenses at the Inland Revenue's rate of 45p per mile

Passengers travelling together may split the cost of the journey between themselves

Passengers will pay car parking fees

**This Scheme is supported by Otterhampton Parish Council**





# Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

Registered Charity Number 1124017

At the recent Annual General Meeting held in the Anchor there was a change at the top - Tina Gardener who has been part of the OPRA Committee since it's inception more than a dozen years ago, and for most of that time has been chair and principle motivator, has stood down for family reasons. Members of the committee paid tributes to Tina for the magnificent effort she has put into OPRA and all its activities in the community, and hope that she will be able to re-join the committee in the near future.



The new Chair is Jacquie Sparks who has lived in the village for many years and will be assisted by Barry Leathwood as Vice-chair. Jacquie is full of new ideas so watch this space!

Unfortunately for a variety of reasons OPRA will be unable to organise the Fete this year, for which we apologise. We will however be organising other events throughout the summer, perhaps in conjunction with the parish council and the opening of the new play area to which OPRA has donated £1,000.

The monthly summer walks programme has started with a circular walk from Washford station on a beautiful sunny Sunday morning. The walk ended back in Combwich for a lovely Sunday lunch at the Anchor. Probably a net gain in calories over the day, but very enjoyable. The next walk will take in sections of the Steart Marshes and will be held on Sunday 22nd March.

If your organisation needs a bit of financial support maybe OPRA; can help, download a grant application form from [www.combwich.org.uk](http://www.combwich.org.uk).

## Co-operation

There are so many worthwhile voluntary organisations which help to make this a great place to live, but some of those organisations struggle from time to time. Sometimes a little money is needed, or perhaps volunteers with organising or other skills are required. We know that parents struggling to balance child care with running a home and earning a living have little spare time, but many will have good ideas to improve our community. Retired people are a great resource and maybe some are looking at ways to become involved in the community in some capacity or other.

A suggestion from OPRA Chair Jacquie is that we set up a meeting of representatives of all the organisation in the parish to explore how we can help each other and perhaps identify gaps in local provision. This could be a one off meeting or lead to something more. Let us know what you think by contacting Jacquie or Barry

## OPRA Officers and Committee Chair

Jacqui Sparks 652069

**Secretary**

Ann Leathwood 652399

**Treasurer**

Sue Francis 653663

**Committee**

Mary Cornish 653868

Beverly Smith 652595

Di Davie 652141

Barry Leathwood

Vice chair 652399

**100 Club Organiser**

Ann Leathwood 652399

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](http://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.



## A Message from the new Rector Reverend Alison Waters



It is very exciting to be soon starting work in the parish. We have received a lovely welcome so far as we have moved into the Rectory at Cannington, and we are beginning to explore the villages. My husband Alan is a Cornishman and I am born and bred Somerset, growing up in Minehead, so beginning ministry in the West Country is a homecoming for us both. We are also looking forward to introducing our 4 year old son, Seth, to the beauty of the county, and the warmth of its residents.

For the last four years, I have worked as a Pioneer Minister in the Parish of Sonning in Berkshire. This was a new post that I was able to make my own and focussed primarily on children, families and schools. Before then, I was priest in Littleton, Middlesex and I am looking forward not only to getting back to more regular parish work but also making good use of the experience I have gained in working with younger people. One of my first priorities, of course, will be making St Peter's safe again and I am very grateful to the wardens for their commitment and hard work in this regard.

Inevitably it takes a little while for a new Rector to settle in. There is much to learn about the parishes and I beg your patience, especially when following Father Peter who has been with you for such a long time. Do stop me and introduce yourselves when you see me around and I look forward to getting to know you and this beautiful community.

God bless.

Revd Alison Waters



Quantock Musical Theatre Company bring a new show full of musical numbers to entertain and keep your feet tapping.

With songs from musicals new and old - from Annie to We will Rock you, Phantom to Shrek, there are tunes to keep everyone happy. For a fun evening of "I know this - what's it from ?" Come along to find out and raise funds for your Village Hall and local charity - Marion Evered Trust.

(Marion Evered Trust raises money for Oak Ward - childrens cancer unit - Musgrove Hospital )

**Otterhampton Village Hall 7.30 4th June Ticket price £6, from Combwich Post Office, on the door or**

[www.ticketssource.co.uk/qmtc](http://www.ticketssource.co.uk/qmtc)

## News from Combwich and District WI

By Vanessa J Smith

Combwich & District WI met on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March on St Patrick's Day. It was also our Easter meeting when traditionally we have an Easter Bonnet Parade, it seemed appropriate to give this an Irish twist and the creations were indeed stunning and quirky! Liz Turner won the competition adorned with flowers, shamrocks and potatoes! The evening continued with our Guest Speaker, **Tina Heaven** from *'Beauty Heaven'* in Bridgwater, who gave us a very illuminating demonstration on the art of applying make up to enhance one's appearance. We took on board many useful beauty tips and all went home with the intention of making more of an effort.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, we had a very enjoyable outing to **Mary & Cy Bartlett's** Mill and Orchards for a tour of their beautiful *Daffodil and Narcissi collection*. Cy gave us a very informative talk enabling us to identify various species as we toured the grounds and Mary produced a wonderful afternoon tea. It was the most beautiful spring afternoon which was a great lift to the spirits.



On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April, many members and partners had a private tour of The **Hinkley C** site. This was more interesting than many had realised, to see the vast area it covered plus the huge earth moving trucks, and the various buildings and tunnels etc., built to protect the wildlife. This tour was a real eye opener for many.

Finally on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April we had a very long meeting, but a most enjoyable and sociable time was had by all. We began with the general business and notices. It then seemed appropriate to break for a very special **Loyal Toast** with a glass of wine, to her **Majesty the Queen on her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**.

The meeting then proceeded with our AGM. This went well, appointing a new Secretary, Brenda Wasley, with all other offices remaining. Our outgoing Secretary Anne Weston was thanked for her 5 years of hard work and commitment, she will remain on the committee, thankfully. The President then presented Anne with a Birthday Posy and a House plant.

Our guest speaker for the remainder of the evening, was Jane Tarr who gave us a very interesting talk on Aromatherapy filling the room with many familiar fragrances and treated us all to a very soothing hand massage.

'TV Celebrities' was the competition, many of the cast from 'Home Fires' put in an appearance, even Vera showed her face, but the winner was Liz Turner as Hiawatha.

*If you would like to join or for further details about Combwich & District WI, do not hesitate to ring Vanessa on 01278 652830 or Anne on 01278 653192 we welcome your call.*

## Coffee Morning June Trip

### KNIGHTESHAYES – NEAR TIVERTON THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

Garden is a masterpiece of architectural planting. Restored wall garden and best example in UK of a Victorian kitchen garden. Gothic house of opulent design. Café. Tea rooms, plant centre, picnic area etc.

Coach - £14 (includes £1 for driver)

Entrance - £7.90 Free to National Trust members  
Total £21.90

No guided tours, but guides in each room of the house

Leave Combwich 9.30am – arrive 10.45am

Leave Knightshayes 4pm – Arrive Combwich 5.15pm approx.

Money and numbers before 23<sup>rd</sup> May please

**Contact Hellen Jowett 652322 – 47 Estuary Park**

## Combwich Brownies

Combwich Brownies have moved their Brownie meetings to Otterhampton Village Hall, Combwich. We still meet on a Monday evening from 18:00hrs to 19:30hrs during term time and we take girls from 7 – 10 years old, from a large catchment area



The Brownies have a varied and fun programme which include;

- Out & About adventures
- Challenge & Interest badges
- Cooking
- Craft

Some of our more recent activities which we have shared with other Brownies in the area are a 'Sleep – under' Concorde at Yeovilton, a Safety Day with the RNLI, Fire Service & Council Road Safety Officer & trampolining.

If you would like more information we have a Facebook page Mocha 1st Combwich Brownies Travelling Owl or you can contact either Liz Brown 01278 652687 or Karen Barton 01278 652673.

### Oscar Wilde Quotes

The truth is rarely pure and never simple

*The importance of being Ernest 1895 Act 1*

What is a cynic? A man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing.

*Lady Windermere's Fan, 1892, Act III*



# Otterhampton Village Hall

News from the Otterhampton Village Hall Committee



**Saturday 4th June:** "Magic of the Musicals". The Quantock Musical Theatre Company bring a new show full of musical numbers to entertain and keep your feet tapping. With songs from musicals new and old - from Annie to We will Rock You, Phantom to Shrek, there are tunes to keep everyone happy. For a fun evening of "I know this - what's it from?" come along and find out and raise funds for the Village Hall and the Marion Evered Trust which raises money for Oak Ward Childrens' Cancer Unit at Musgrove Hospital. Tickets will be £6 and obtainable soon from the Comwich Village Shop or [www.ticketsource.co.uk/gmtc](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/gmtc). Watch out for the posters.

**The Village Hall Committee AGM** will be held in the main hall on Wednesday 18th May starting at 7.45pm. A new Committee will need to be elected so if you would like to be involved with the running, maintenance and promotion of the hall please come along.

## Otterhampton Village Hall Calendar 2017

We are looking for entries for the 2017 calendar and need your help! We are going to reformat the calendar next year and will have more space to include your photos of Wildlife and Favourite Family Recipes: so you will also get more for your money! Wildlife photos need to have been taken by the individual submitting the photo - no professional photos please. Give the title of the photo, where it was taken, your name, and age if under 16, so the details can be added to the calendar.

For the Favourite Family Recipes please give the name of the dish, full instructions and a photo of the completed dish. Give your name and age if under 16 please.

All entries need to be in by 31st July 2016 and the Village Hall Committee will decide which photos and recipes will be included in the Calendar. Entries by email preferably to Audrey Rowley at [audrey.rowley@outlook.com](mailto:audrey.rowley@outlook.com). If you don't have access to email please post your photos/recipes to Audrey through the Village Hall post box but remember to add your phone number or address so they can be returned to you.

The Calendar helps to raise much needed funding used to help with the upkeep and improvement of the Village Hall. Calendar sales have been very good but we hope to increase them again with the 2017 calendar - every home should have one! We hope to have the Calendars on sale from October this year so if you would like to reserve a copy email Audrey, ring her on 01278 653298 or pop a note to her in the Village Hall post box. Your support is very much appreciated and truly makes a difference.

We are also looking for additional sponsorship to help fund the cost of the printing. There will be 24 pages available so if you have a business to promote and would like to advertise in the Calendar please contact Audrey. Each sponsor will need to supply a logo/photo and contact details which will be reproduced on a page of the Calendar.

## Banning the Use of E Cigarettes in the Village Hall

The Committee has decided that with effect from 1st May the use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigs) in any part of the village hall premises will be banned. This decision is in line with many other buildings which are open to members of the public, particularly youngsters.

## C182 CANNINGTON TO COMBWITH ROADWORKS

Expect delays as construction work continues for the next 6 months to create a cycle path and improved footpath between Combwich and the new Cannington roundabout along the C182 road. The road will also be widened with kerbs and drainage improvements.

BT ducting works are being undertaken in advance of the main construction works and will be utilising temporary traffic light control over a relatively short distance. Once the BT Works are completed the main construction works will commence from the Cannington end and temporary traffic lights will be utilised over an extended length. The temporary lights will be manually controlled during the working day.

There's no gain without pain they say - but much improved access to Cannington may be worth it.

## QUANTOCK WALKING FESTIVAL

11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2016



Celebrate 40 years of walking  
with Sedgemoor Ramblers



Three guided walks of 3, 7 and 10 miles  
each day starting from

Nether Stowey, a total of 40 miles for 40 years  
Enjoy stunning views of coast, moor and woodland  
Tea and homemade cake afterwards at the Church  
Centre

(donations requested)

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL (all walks free)**

Full details and booking form on

[www.sedgemoorramblers.co.uk](http://www.sedgemoorramblers.co.uk) or tel: 01278 773730

## IT for Seniors *Joe and Graeme Wigley*

The IT for Seniors sessions that are  
being held during the Friday Coffee  
Mornings are going really well.

Thank you to everyone who has  
come forward with their questions.



We've had a complete mix of IT-  
related issues and it's been great fun trying to solve  
them. We'll continue to try and come along to most  
Coffee Mornings. We're happy to tackle any IT  
problem no matter how big or small, and also any  
upgrades or repairs eg. broken screens or dead  
batteries. Just come and see us on a Friday or give us  
a call on 653431.

### MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library visits Comwich and Stockland every four weeks on a Tuesday morning.

Visits are on Tuesday May 24<sup>th</sup>, June 21<sup>st</sup>, July 19<sup>th</sup>, Aug 16<sup>th</sup>, Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, Oct 11<sup>th</sup>, Nov 8<sup>th</sup> and Dec 6<sup>th</sup>

Otterhampton School TA5 2QS 9.45 - 10.40

Harbour TA5 2QU 10.45 - 11.05

Comwich Post Office TA5 2QW 11.10 - 11.30

Stockland Bristol Captains TA5 2PY 11.40 - 11.55

Please make use of this facility, we have the advantage in Comwich of the school using the mobile library.

Unfortunately the service has recently been withdrawn from Steart due to lack of use.

## DIARY OF EVENTS

(Otterhampton Village Hall unless otherwise stated)

### REGULAR EVENTS

Monday	Art Club	2pm - 4pm	
Tuesday	Aerobics	9.30am - 10.30am	
	Pilates	10.35am - 11.35am	
Tuesday	Mobile Library	School ~ 9.30-10.25am Harbour ~ 10.30-10.50am Post Office ~ 10.55-1.15am	2016 24 <sup>th</sup> May; 21 <sup>st</sup> June; 19 <sup>th</sup> July; 16 <sup>th</sup> August
Wednesday	Doctor's Surgery	3pm - 4pm	
Thursday (1 <sup>st</sup> of month)	Parish Council Meeting	7pm	Starts with public forum
Thursday (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> )	Choir	7pm - 8pm	
Thursday (3 <sup>rd</sup> of month)	Comwich & District WI	7.30pm	Stockland Sports & Social Club
Friday	Coffee Morning	10am - 12noon	
Saturday (2 <sup>nd</sup> of month)	Comwich Market	10am - 12noon	

### FUTURE EVENTS

14 May 2016	Hill House, Otterhampton 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event	Starts at midday (take a picnic)	For more information <a href="http://www.hillhouse.org.uk">www.hillhouse.org.uk</a>
22 May 2016	OPRA Walk	10am	Meet the Anchor
2 June 2016 7 July 2016	Next Parish Council Mtgs	7pm	
15 July 2016	Next Otter Tales		Articles by 5 July

### Otter Tales

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

Events to Aly Prowse, Tel: 652426 email: [otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com](mailto:otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com)

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