



Welcome to Combwich

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

COMBWICH WEATHER MAN

Garth Crocker of Nursery Close, Combwich, has been recording our local weather and sending the information at 10 minute intervals throughout the day and night to the Met Office and to BBC Points West since 2011. He also sends his information directly to the Michigan State University.

His weather station is officially recognised by the Met Office and Garth has received their Gold Award for the last 3 consecutive years for being online for more than 90% of the time.

Next time Ian Ferguson points to the weather map behind him and quotes rainfall figures for Combwich, you'll know where he gets his information from! His solar powered automatic weather station is perched on a 5 metre pole (right) in his back garden and records 90 parameter events including rain, wind, pressure and humidity. He also has a weather webcam making a visual recording.

Garth who is a former BBC communications engineer also has his own weather website www.combwichweather.info with a mass of information, both current and historical, and includes weather trends. If you are interested in our local weather then check out this site.

Garth, pictured at his control centre in his back bedroom over looking his weather station, insists

he is not a weather forecaster, but a recorder of the local weather who together with thousands of weather enthusiasts, helps the Met Office to develop a detailed picture of UK weather.

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



Otterhampton Offcuts

Snippets from the April and May 2017 Parish Council meetings



ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY- 2 MAY 2017

Chairman's Report:

The Chairman, John Berry, presented his review of the year (which will be available in full on notice boards and the Combwich website). Some of the key areas he addressed included:

Hinkley Point C - the long awaited decision on how this might impact on us; particularly the traffic on the C182 and in and around Bridgwater. We continue to campaign with our neighbours in Stockland Bristol for speed reduction and safety measures (including at Biffen's Corner) along the C182. On the plus side is the £500k mitigation fund which as a parish, we need to ensure is spent as effectively as possible.

Enhancements – It is gratifying to see so many children and young people enjoying the play and recreation area. Other areas of enhancement include the small common by the pill; tree planting by the play area; repairs to Combwich Track; new mesh safety railings across the brook at the entrance to Estuary Park; a new dog bin at Brookside Rd garages and two dog bag dispensers; vegetation removal along Wharf Rd and the grant funded sea buckthorn project at Steart.

Parking has become increasingly difficult in the village and the verge bordering the road near the play area became seriously eroded during the winter. Measures to prevent cars encroaching onto the common are underway, but parking is likely to remain a problem that we can only resolve collectively. We persist with our efforts to regain public access to Combwich Ponds, although we are one in a long waiting list at County Hall, and with Highways for lighting improvements at the crossroads. The timely provision of the restricted, albeit welcome bus service courtesy of EDF has helped (as of course has Otter Wheels) but can only be a short term answer. We will also continue to address this issue.

The Chairman paid tribute to our County Cllr John Edney, retiring after 16 years as a ward councillor. He also thanked our District Cllrs Mike Caswell and Julie Pay. Finally he expressed his thanks and appreciation to his fellow councillors who put in a lot of voluntary time and effort trying to represent the best interests of the community; the Clerk and the village gardener.

Annual Accounts to 31.3.17:

The Clerk presented the Annual Accounts which showed a net bank balance of £18.8k; £13.2k of this is held in reserve for ongoing obligations. The total income for the year was £90.4k, an increase over the previous year of £69.5k, almost wholly attributed to the Play and Recreation Area. Similarly, expenditure for the year at £92.5k, an increase over the previous year of £78k, was largely due to the Play Area and the associated VAT of £18k (reclaimable). The full Accounts, together with the Audit return will be placed on the Website (mid to late May).

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

Public Session:

While the 3 members of the community were very welcome, it was disappointing to see only 3 people present. The main theme was that of appearance and enhancement in the village, sometimes looking a little 'unloved and unkempt'. The parish council does try to keep the areas it is responsible for maintained, but some areas such as the grass opposite Nursery Cl and the Post Office are the responsibility of Somerset County Council and of course whilst we appreciate all those residents who do cut the grassed areas outside of their properties and make an effort with flowers and vegetation, etc, it is in the main up to each individual householder with respect to their efforts and resources.

MAIN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Election of Officers and Representatives:

Chairman – John Berry
Vice-Chairman – Dick Best
Community Forum – Dick Best
Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Meeting (SSG) – John Berry
Public Rights Of Way – Bob Birkenhead
School Liaison – Rachel Perrett
Transport Forum – Julie Evans
Village Hall – Dave Cather, Barry Leathwood & Aly Prowse
Otter Wheels, Otter Tales & OPRA – Barry Leathwood

Combwich Retaining Wall – Subject to validation of the quotation, the barriers over the brook at the junction of Brookside Rd/ Church Hill will be infilled with galvanised mesh (similar to the recent works at Estuary Park) as a safety measure.

Verge Erosion by the Play Area – To protect the verge and improve road safety, we intend to erect wooden verge marker posts along the verge. We hope we can prevent further erosion of the verge, which over this past winter has become a real mess and a possible safety hazard. We will of course consult with nearby residents.

Tree Maintenance – Another large branch of the tree by the defibrillator snapped and fell recently which we had to get Highways to address. We are concerned about the overall safety of this tree and will get it assessed by a tree surgeon. This will be done as part of our new Tree Maintenance Inspection Schedule for trees in the parish that are our responsibility.

Bridgwater Tidal Barrier Scheme – We attended a meeting with the Environment Agency (EA) on 4.4.17 who wished to update us on the Scheme. We were reassured as far as Combswich downstream defences are concerned, in that the further away from Bridgwater you are the less impact is likely to be felt, plus there will be new secondary flood defences near Combswich. The EA undertook to keep us updated as and when progress is made.

Annual Audit to 31.3.17 – We have completed the Annual Audit return which has to be returned to the external auditors by 25.5.17. This is very formal and structured process which will be heavily scrutinised. We thank Rod Williams for carrying out the Internal Audit role. As part of the Government's Transparency Code enabled in 2015, the audit return plus a number of other documents including a list of all individual items of expenditure over £100 and a list of the parish council assets must be displayed on the Parish Website. This will be carried out towards the end of May.

Meeting/Minutes Notification – Agendas for forthcoming meetings must be publicly displayed 3 days before a meeting and draft minutes must be displayed within a month following the meeting. This is done via the parish notice boards that are located opposite the Anchor Inn, opposite the Post Office and on the wall at Ferricies Farm, Steart. The Parish Website is similarly updated. If you would like to be informed individually, if you let me have your email address I will be happy to add you to my circulation list.

Next Meeting - The next meeting will be on Thursday 1 June at 7pm in Otterhampton Village Hall.

Did you know?

1931 parish council minutes typed for the first time

1965 Parking becomes a problem in the village - still is

1968 Suspicious goings on at the Harbour Café!!!

1947 Petition received for the supply of electricity to the parish.
1948 Application from a Bridgwater man to supply a weekly fish and chip service.

Notes from your Village Agent

Izzy Silvester

Would you like to attend a regular swimming session at St Audries Pool but need the hoist in order to get in the pool?



I am very keen on helping to set up at least one swimming session per week for local people who require the use of the hoist at St Audries pool. I already have two local people who are interested.

The pool would need to be hired on a weekly basis (which would mean you would **not** have to take out membership of the pool). I need at least 7 people to make the session financially viable as the pool hire is £35 per hour. The session would also need two volunteers to come along each week to help, as the hoist needs two people to operate it. The volunteers could be on a rota so that the commitment would not be too demanding.



The sessions proposed would be for one hour, every week, on a Monday. We can choose when we run the session as long as its between 12.30 and 3.00.

Please contact me on the below number if you are interested.

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@somerset.rcc.org.uk

I only work part-time so it may take a day or two for me to return your call.



Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

Registered Charity Number 1124017

The OPRA AGM was held at the end of March when members came together to report on the work of the last year. All the committee were re-elected, including Tina Gardener who was warmly welcomed on her return to the committee after a year's absence.



The treasurer Sue Francis reported a healthy balance of £4454.08 in the accounts for the last year, mainly due to the success of the 100 Club. During the last year we donated £1,000 towards the cost of the play area which we are pleased to see is well used. Ann Leathwood reported that we have 101 members of the 100 Club who provide most of the income for OPRA. New members are always welcome.

Members enjoyed a convivial evening of wine and food.

The annual children's Easter Egg Hunt on Good Friday was a success once again with 74 children taking part and earning themselves an Easter Egg each. Several children achieved the maximum results and their names went into a draw to pick a winner who received a bumper Easter Egg. Thanks to Matt at the Anchor for hosting the event. The adults all enjoyed the Quiz on Easter Sunday.



OPRA organises Sunday morning walks, usually on the third Sunday of the month. Those who have expressed an interest, receive an email giving details of the walk and posters are placed at the entrance of the village.



The April circular walk took us from Knighton, Shurton Bars, Hinkley Point, Honibere Wood and back to Knighton passing along side the Hinkley C power station construction site.

Pictured are some of the walkers approaching the huge jetty which is being constructed to bring in 80% of the aggregates needed to build the new nuclear power station.

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.

Friday Coffee Club

Helen's Coffee Club in the village hall on a Friday morning. As much coffee or tea as you can drink between 10 and 12 noon with biscuits and sometimes croissants, pancakes, bacon rolls and cream teas. On occasions the time is extended for a ploughman's lunch. Helen also organises trips to places of interest.



What are Friday mornings for? In Combwich there has only been one place to go and that is

A great time is had by 30 - 40 young and the not so young people, who not only enjoy the experience, but raise money for charity. In the last few months £405.06 has been raised for Macmillan Nurses, Poppy Day, Children in Need, Air Ambulance and Bliss.

Helen Jowett and Trish Sperring pictured in the kitchen. Also in the team are Barbara Baldry, Elizabeth Brown, Joan Langlois, Eunice Bennett and Liz Turner.



Combwich Crafters



From left to right: Liz Turner, Sue Jacobs, Glenda Payne, Wendy Dadds, Sue Sellers, Liz Sidebotham & Liz Hutchins

Not in the picture: Angie Burrells, Elizabeth Marriott & Carol Thompson

The talented craftswomen of Combwich Crafters presented their magnificent embroidered wall hanging to the village hall which is now permanently on show in the hall. The group have created a wonderful 'picture' depicting Combwich and have to date raised £435 from the sale of the 'Combwich Bricks' which they generously donated to the Hall.

Why not have you family name immortalised on the wall hanging for only £5. Contact Sue Jacobs on 652450



A few examples of the beautiful work by Combwich Crafters - sorry there is not the space to show all the wonderful exhibits





WWT Steart Marshes

working in partnership with



**Environment
Agency**

Events

CHANDOS ART EXHIBITION

Sat & Sun 13TH & 14TH May (All Day)

An exhibition in the Mendip Hide where local artists from Chandos Society of Artists display different works in a variety of mediums. Combwich local choir joining them on the Sunday from 12-1pm.



OPEN DAY

Monday 29th Bank Holiday (10-3pm)

Come and join us to celebrate all things WWT Steart Marshes, with different activities and walks throughout the day. Refreshments will be made available courtesy of the Christian Hill House Centre.



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

Volunteering

The new weekend group is growing in numbers. It runs from 10.00am to 1.00pm every other Sunday. Over the last few months we have managed to complete the tree maintenance in the mitigation ponds and more recently removed the rape growing within Stockland. More group members very much welcome, contact Chloe.

Reserve

New Dog Permissions

Those of you who regularly walk the reserve will have noticed we have recently installed permission signs and designed some leaflets with a specific focus on walking your dog on the peninsula. This is a joint venture with Natural England who have been experiencing issues with dogs disturbing wildlife on the Bridgwater Bay reserve for many years.

We appreciate how many people enjoy walking their dogs in the area and that is why we've tried to be as inclusive as we can and provide an area where dogs can run off leads. There are copies of the new leaflet available at all entrances into the reserve explaining in a lot more detail our reasons for having to prevent dogs from running all over the reserve. *(see map on next page)*

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

Otterhampton Village Hall

News from the Otterhampton Village Hall Committee

The Village Hall Committee AGM was held on 26th April and the members of the Committee are:

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

Events are being planned to help raise funds for the maintenance of the hall and include:

**Beetle drive Family Bingo Ladies Pamper Evening
Quiz Indoor Car Boot Sale**

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 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

Combwich Crafters

Very special thanks to the Combwich Crafters for the beautiful wall hanging which is now permanently on show in the hall. The very talented ladies in the group have created a wonderful 'picture' depicting Combwich and have to date raised £435 from the sale of the 'Combwich Bricks' which they generously donated to the Hall.

Why not have your family name immortalised on the wall hanging for only £5. Contact Sue Jacobs to arrange.

HARBOUR VIEW SOCIAL CLUB

The Club held their AGM on 3rd May and the Club is now run by:

Bruce Barton, Paul Cadmore, Jude Pound, 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.

The Murder at the Village Hall held on 30th April was an outstanding success. Fifty eight people became detectives for the evening and 15 solved the heinous 'crime' of 2 upstanding villagers which led to a tie break question for the winner of the £50 cash prize. Another murder mystery is being arranged by Jude and Chris for the Autumn.

Dates for your diary include:

Sunday 28th May - Asian Food evening with Open Mic and Karaoke

August Bank Holiday - 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 £2 per person and starts at 8.30pm. Come along and test your brainpower.

Look out for the blackboards and posters for details of the next event and come along.

Otters Darts Team

Would you like to join the Otters Darts Team who play at the Club? New members are very welcome and much needed to play on Tuesdays and Fridays. If you are keen get in touch with Dave Aggett on 652171 or speak to Peter Wright at the shop.

The Otters won the 3-a-side cup final recently and are also in the team for the 4-a-side final this month. The teams include Dave Aggett, Brian Hawkins, Andy Priest, Dave Simpkins and Peter Wright.



News from Revd Alison Waters

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

ST PETER'S CHURCH REOPENS!

I am delighted to announce that St Peter's Church has reopened for Sunday worship. The repair works to the exterior masonry are complete and we are just awaiting the reconnection of the clock to the bell chimes and a few snagging items.

It has been a long haul, and work will still need to be carried out in the near future on loose plasterwork inside the church, but the end is in sight. On 7th May, we held our first service in the church for 3 years, a lovely family service with 20 in attendance.

In the summer, at a time to be announced, we will have a celebration and grand reopening. Thank you to everyone who has played a part or contributed towards the repairs. And please do get in touch with any ideas as to how we can use this precious building to further serve the community of Combwich.

Sunday Worship is at 11.15am on 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

With every blessing

Revd Alison Waters



The bells returning - captured by a sharp eyed Bob Birkenhead

1st COMBWICH BROWNIES

The 1st Combwich Brownies are actively seeking girls between 7 and 9 years old to join them on a Monday evening at Otterhampton village hall between 5.45pm and 7.30pm.

Last term our activities included a circus skills day, a special screening of Beauty and the Beast especially for Brownies and a trampolining evening.

This term we are planning to hold a special tea party, lots of fun with food and cooking, a sandcastle evening on Burnham beach and a trip to Bristol to visit the S.S. Great Britain followed by a late lunch at Zaza Bazaar. Add to this a fun sports evening, a keep fit session and a visit to Pets at Home and you can see we are in for a busy few weeks. The term will finish with a sleep under Concorde at the Fleet Air Arm museum together with Brownies from all over Somerset.

We are also looking for an adult to come along to help us on a regular basis on a Monday evening.

For further details of any of the above please contact Liz Brown 01278652687 or Karen Barton 01278652673. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Genius of Oscar Wilde

Fashion is a form of ugliness so intolerable that we have to alter it every six months.

I am not young enough to know everything.

I think that God in creating Man somewhat overestimated his ability.

America had often been discovered before Columbus, but it had always been hushed up.

Morality, like art, means drawing a line someplace.

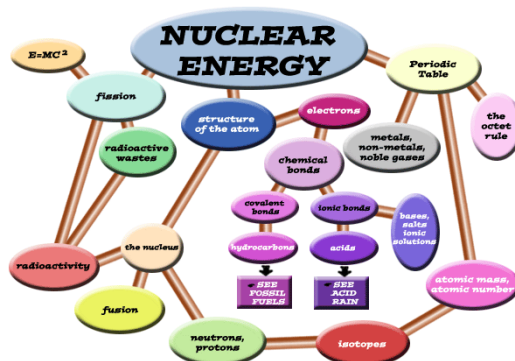
To disagree with three-fourths of the British public is one of the first requisites of sanity.

Nuclear Roundup *by Tim Jones*

With work at Hinkley Point C ramping up - reports of potential strikes apart - the national press has again been taking more interest in what will become Europe's largest construction site - on the doorsteps of our lovely village.

But reading some of the articles in our "more serious press" could easily lead one to puzzle exactly what our country's nuclear policy is - or do we in fact have one.

In 2002 the now disappeared Government owned BNFL and British Energy (subsequently taken over by EDF), had signed an agreement on the feasibility of the AP1000 nuclear reactor, since licensed in the USA. Then around the time of the Government's rekindled interest in new nuclear build around four years later, the patent for the AP1000 was sold to a foreign company, leaving the UK without its own design. Hence one real reason why a very costly and totally unproven nuclear power station is being built at Hinkley Point by a French company. Although it was reassuring to read late last year that EDF has promised the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee that it will not ask the Government for financial help if the project runs into problems.



It has also emerged that while the Government appears to be fully backing a giant 3.2GW nuclear plant at Hinkley Point, it is also encouraging competition to develop small modular nuclear reactors (first mooted decades ago), possibly a tenth the size of HPC. The move has attracted world wide interest to develop the technology, which the UK Government believes could be vital in securing Britain's future energy supplies. Bit of a mixed message there then.

HPC also featured briefly during the recent French elections with the right wing National Front party unhelpfully declaring it was fundamentally against the building of the Somerset plant.

At around the same time as the re-emergence of new nuclear power in the UK, the Government established the bureaucratic nightmare known as the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority which appears to have done its best in the subsequent years to "mismanage" the clean up and decommissioning of the UK's ageing nuclear facilities, including HPA. When the NDA was formed in 2005, the UK's decommissioning costs were estimated at over £55bn, a figure that has now more than doubled to £117bn. It is not clear if that figure includes the £100m of taxpayers' money paid by the Government to the two contractors who apparently "unfairly" missed out on the massive decommissioning contract which included HPA.

As a result it looks like there will be another different contractor (the third since the NDA was formed) subsequently taking over decommissioning of the UK's nuclear legacy including HPA, which in a worrying similarity with new build, is hugely over budget and way behind schedule.

Bridge Club

We continue to run the bridge club on alternate Tuesday evenings in the Village Hall which is great fun and much enjoyed by players. Please come and join us. Whether you are new to bridge or an experienced player you will be very welcome.

We start at 7.30pm and the dates are:

Tuesday 23rd May
6th June
20th June

We hope to see you
Linda & John Berry
Angie & Gwyn Griffiths



News from Otterhampton Primary School

From the Governors

As school budgets continue to be squeezed and the local authority becomes further reduced, the Government drive to see all schools as Academies becomes ever more pressing. The Governors of Otterhampton school recognise that as a small school, we are particularly vulnerable to even the smallest change in circumstances and we know that despite having a brilliant group of staff, supportive parents and wonderful pupils, we need external support to move the school forward.



Following exploration with various multi academy trusts (organisations that run groups of Academies) the governors decided to seek to join The Haygrove Trust, as this option represents the best fit for our school, and builds on an existing long standing collaboration. We have, therefore, following a consultation process, applied to central government, for approval for Otterhampton to join the Haygrove Trust - ideally from September 2017. At meetings with parents a few weeks ago, there was universal support for this approach. We believe that there are significant advantages to being part of a larger, local partnership. On a day to day basis, the functioning of the school is unlikely to change - the name and identity of Otterhampton will not change, the ethos and culture that parents and children value will remain unchanged, as will many of the existing policies and practices. The main differences will be around accountability; the school leadership would be accountable to the Haygrove Trust, rather than to the local authority as it is at present. Funding would come directly from government, rather than through the authority, although the amount of funding would be calculated in the same way as it is now. Haygrove, where a good many of Otterhampton children go at Year 7, will, through the Trust, provide a range of opportunities to support transition from primary to secondary, to share and learn from good practice between schools and to work collaboratively to raise standards across the whole school. We also anticipate that we will be able to reduce school running costs, by purchasing through a larger organisation, so more of the budget can be spent directly on children and their learning resources.

There is a good deal of work to be done when we get the approval from government, but we hope to be part of the Haygrove Trust in time for the new school year.

And from the Staff

2017 has been a busy and fun year at Otterhampton Primary so far...

Last term, we held an afternoon in our Houses to find out about Chinese New Year and celebrated World Book Day with lots of fantastic costumes. Our School Council organised a cake sale for Red Nose Day which, combined with our 'Wear something red' event, raised £100 for Comic Relief.

Mrs Eggar left on her maternity leave at the end of the Spring term and Mr Ben Adams (who has taught in Chile for several years) arrived to teach River Class. Our topics at the moment are: Animal all-sorts (Brook), What the Romans did for us (River) and The World's our Oyster (Bay).

With the Summer term underway, our Forest School has started and our Bay Class are looking forward to a week's Residential at Barton Hall (Torquay) once they have completed their SATS.

We look forward to seeing lots of you at our school summer fair.

Did you know?

The first mention of sewers in the parish council minutes was in 1904

In 1914 a proposal to supply mains water to the village was deferred because of the expense

1936 A refuse collection was discussed and unanimously agreed was not necessary.

1919 A parish meeting to decide how to celebrate Peace Day - had to be tea, dinner was out of the question as meat could not be procured!. Problems with horses using footpaths - somethings don't change!

1950 Row between Mr Fisher and Combwich Cricket Club concerning cattle on the common.
1960 Mr Fisher ploughs up the common!

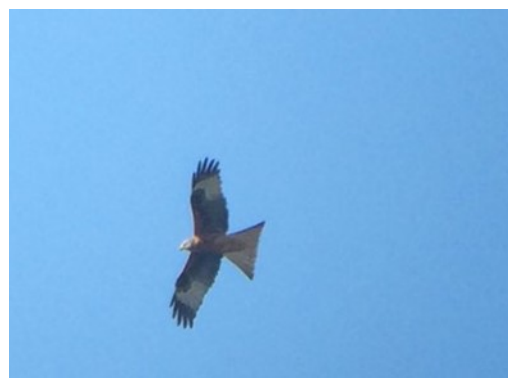


Sunday Times Article

Author and journalist Simon Barnes came to visit the reserve last week and his piece on WWT Steart Marshes was due to be published on **Sunday 30th April** in the Sunday Times magazine.

Wildlife Update

Three harbour porpoise were spotted in the River Parrett on 15th April, feeding adjacent to the breach during high tide.



Great to see the return of the Swallows feeding over the marshes, a sure sign of summer of the way. The song of Whitethroats, Cuckoo, Reed Warblers can be heard within the reeds and hedgerows as they set up their breeding territories.

Migrating birds such as Yellow Wagtails, Greenshank, Whimbrel, and Red Kite passing through. Nesting season continues to create excitement on the reserve and a sure sign that the reserve is developing as intended with Little Ringed Plover, Avocet and Oystercatcher starting to nest.

Combwich Short Mat Bowls Club

Combwich Short Mat Bowls Club has a number of reasons to celebrate in 2017. Combwich Bowls celebrates 30 Years of bowling as well as keeping their place within the first division. The Bowls Club is open to new members so come and join one of the longest established clubs in the village in this special Pearl anniversary year.

Combwich Stays Up

After being promoted to the first division of the Taunton and District short mat bowls league, Combwich have managed to retain their place. After a series of tense and exciting games against other villages in Somerset, Combwich remain in the first division. This is a significant achievement for the club as many of the other village teams have members who play for the Somerset County Team as well as the England International Team.

The League matches are played between October and March and now the club is looking forward to a series of inter village friendly matches. The club also plays a number of charity matches hosted by some of the villages with larger village halls.

30 Years of Bowls

May 2017 sees the 30th Anniversary of the bowls in Combwich. The Short Mat Bowls Club was set up by a group of dedicated players and officially opened by Councillor Lillian Cartwright who bowled the first official bowl. Initially housed in the loft space of the village hall and playing on a single mat the club has grown in strength and expanded. The Club now has two playing mats in a dedicated club room on the first floor of the village hall.



Combwich Short Mat Bowls Club is open to new members and will be holding a series of open evenings and events during this special Pearl Anniversary year.

Play Bowls

If you would like to try short mat bowls and would like to join one of the longest running clubs in the village just come along to one of our informal “roll ups” or contact a club member. The bowls club meets for informal games on a Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30 and Friday at 6.30 – 8.30.

The club has a selection of bowls of different sizes and weights to use and we are more than happy to help with learning how to play the game. The first three roll ups are free for potential new members. You will need to wear flat shoes with unpatterned soles so as not to damage the playing mats, but if you do not have any, house slippers will suffice to start with.

Young members are welcome and we have a Safeguarding procedure. This means that if you are under 16 you will need to be accompanied by an adult. We are an Equal Opportunities Club and welcome members from a diverse range of backgrounds regardless of age, ability, gender, ethnicity, religion, political opinion, marital status and sexual orientation.

Short Mat Bowls is enjoyable, sociable, friendly and an excellent way to keep fit and active. For those of with a competitive nature there is the opportunity to play in the up and coming friendly matches with other village teams and of course to be part of the continuing success of playing in the next season of the league in the first division.

Come along and join one of the longest running clubs in Combwich and let's play bowls!

For more information or to arrange a visit to the club contact:

Brian Ayley 652747 or Marcus Ford 652971

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 seven months 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

COMING SOON

to a stage near you

Quantock Musical Theatre Company

Presents

QMTC Gold

QMTC is a local community based group of singers who enjoy learning and performing a wide range of music, from theatre and musical productions both past and present. We recently took part in the Highbridge Festival of the Arts and proudly won a gold and two silver medals! QMTC were complimented on their 'full sound, which was both big and beautiful...excellent performance technically and artistically'.

Our concerts raise money for local village halls and the Marion Evered Trust, a charity which raises money for the Oak children's cancer unit at Musgrove Park Hospital. Why not come and enjoy our 'full, big and beautiful sound' for yourselves and help raise money for a good cause at the same time. Concert dates confirmed so far, tickets will be available on the door as well as local shop:- 24th June Kilve (tickets available from local post office), 8th July Nether Stowey (tickets available from Castle stores) , 14th July Williton (tickets available Tina's Hair Fashions) from, 15th July Stogursey (tickets available from the post office).

Free Make and Fly a Kite

**10.30am Saturday
27th May
Village Hall
Combwich**



Make a sled kite with Mike Timmins, using easily available materials and then fly it on the Common. All materials and tools, including kite line, will be provided, but it would be helpful if you could bring two identical supermarket plastic bags to make your kite tail.

Some help will be available but, smaller children should bring along an adult helper as we'll be using sharp scissors and sticky tape that gets all over the place.



Bring a camera too and take lots of pictures

Advertising at the entrance to Combwich

We are fortunate to live in such an attractive area and in a small village with so much going on. This is evidenced at least in part, by the number of posters advertising events and services at the entrance of the village. However, the parish council has received several complaints about the proliferation of these advertising boards and banners. We share this concern about the boards, but also recognise the importance of advertising events and services in Combwich.

The main concerns appear to be the number of boards from individual organisations or businesses and the length of time they are displayed, before and after the event in question. Often there are too many boards to be read without car drivers slowing down and possibly creating a hazard to other road users at this potentially dangerous junction. There is also some concern that visibility is at times restricted and that the boards are a distraction to drivers.

The land in question is owned by Somerset County Council Highways Department and so the parish council can only act in an advisory capacity. We are therefore making the following suggestions to all those organisations who, from time to time, erect display boards and banners at the village entrance: -

- Please display not more than two weeks before the event and remove them within 48 hours after the event
- Not more than one board at any one time please
- Please set the boards well back from the edge of the road and to avoid restricting visibility (the further away from the junction of the C182 the safer they are.)

We recognise that some organisations already adhere to the above advice for which we are grateful.

We look forward to your support and cooperation in this matter, but if you have any concerns please contact the clerk or one of the parish councillors.

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL



Holiday Fun Club

For the summer holidays

Cannington Pre-School is offering childcare for Primary School Aged Children 25th July to 18th August 2017

£20 a day, including breakfast and a snack

Our aim is to provide high quality childcare, in a safe and welcoming environment.

To book your place please download a booking form and parent agreement from our website

www.canningtonpreschool@yahoo.co.uk

For more details Tel: 01278 652720

Cannington Pre-School

Brook Street, Cannington, Bridgwater TA5 2HP

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library visits Combwich and Stockland every four weeks on a Thursday morning from 8th June

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.

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

1st June 2017	Parish Council Meeting	7pm	Starts with public session
6th July 2017	Parish Council Meeting	7pm	Starts with public session
15 th July 2017	Next Otter Tales		Articles by 9h July

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

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