



Welcome to Combwich

Otter Tales

Fun in the Sun - Charity Cricket Fun Day

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Harbour View Social Club

A warm welcome to the new Head of Otterhampton Primary School Nick Benbow and his family. More in the next issue.



Combwich held its Charity Cricket Fun Day on July 11th this year. The day was a huge success with £342 raised for the Stillborn Charity Sands. The charity offers support to families and parents through bereavement.

The two teams, picked at random, played out a close game with the winning margin only seven runs.

A fantastic day was had by all, with scones at half time, refreshments and a bouncy castle throughout with a BBQ after. It was also so good to see so many villagers and even others from further afield supporting an event put on for the village, run by the village.

Big thanks goes out to Sarah Webb, who provided the wonderful scones for half time and to both the Anchor Inn and Village Hall who both made contributions for the day. Not forgetting umpires Brian Hawkins and Brian Hutchings and scorer Liz Sidebotham.

We can't wait for next years turnout and hope the day will be as much of a success as this years.

Keep a look out for signs and posters for future events to make sure you don't miss out.

And 25 years ago! (Note the sartorial differences) Do you recognise anyone?



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

Otterhampton Offcuts

Snippets from the September 2015 Parish Council and other meetings

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - 3 SEPTEMBER

Meetings are not held in August (although we did carry out a members' walk around the village to highlight potential actions and concerns that may need attention). We aim to place draft minutes of meetings on the notice boards within seven days of a meeting, so we will only cover key points here.

Annual Audit to 31.3.15

The audit of our Accounts and Annual Governance Statement for the 2014/15 financial year was approved on 30.6.15. This is carried out by Grant Thornton, external auditors appointed by the Government.

Highways Issues

Following our meeting with Highways in July, it was agreed to alter the pedestrian barriers between Estuary Park and the Wharf Road to allow easier access for those with mobility issues; safety work will be carried out at Dame Withycombe Hill; flood poles at Steart have been agreed, although it is highly unlikely the suggestion of raising the road in Steart will be done; a 20 mph speed limit was not deemed as necessary. This follows a speed indication survey carried out 18 months ago by Highways. However, we do request that people drive with care through the village. We will be seeking advice from Highways following a resident's suggestion to alter the priority at Brookside Rd /Church Hill.

The Highways road sign approaching Combwich has now been amended to include "Combwich". The large pothole adjacent to the common along Riverview has been repaired; a temporary light will be put up at the bus shelter before the dark evenings (this is pending ongoing discussions / feasibility study with Somerset County Council for permanent street lighting at the Combwich junction).

Contact details for the parish council

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Barry Leathwood (Chairman)	01278 652399
Heath Bennett	01278 651356
John Berry	01278 562682
Dick Best (Steart Ward)	01278 651063
Bob Birkenhead	01278 653127
Julie Evans	01278 652735
Stuart Mason	01278 652067
Mrs Aly Powse (Clerk)	01278 652426

otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com

County and District Ward Members

John Edney (County)	01278 653026
Mike Caswell (District)	01278 652034
Julie Pay (District)	01278 732956

Be a Good Neighbour

We are fortunate in having a lovely area for us all to enjoy whether we are young or old. It is also a great place to exercise dogs which most do with a sense of responsibility. Unfortunately a few fail to pick up after their dogs making it a much less pleasurable experience for others.

Please pick up after your dog

Parking

In a village like ours parking is always a problem, but if you have to park on the pavement please leave room for children's buggies and wheel chairs and scooters

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH PROJECT TEAM – CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

Since the public consultation on 7 August, the proposed children's play area has moved on apace! Site meetings with specialist companies have been held and tenders are due for return on 28.9.15. Consultations / permissions have been sought with the appropriate regulatory bodies e.g. SDC (planning) and Natural England. The applications for grant funding are in progress and subject to obtaining the bid funds, it is hoped the enhanced play area will be installed by June 2016.



Possible changes to the Development Boundary

Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) as part of the review and update of the Sedgemoor District Local Plan, is putting together some suggested changes to the development boundaries. This has not been done for ten years. Proposals may include adjustments to reflect changes in garden boundaries, the inclusion of properties previously excluded, any new developments and changes for accuracy / consistency. It is likely only to affect Combwich. SDC will be holding public consultations towards the end of October 2015.

COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME (ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR NEEDED)



The first meeting was held on 2 September which was well attended. We have plenty of volunteer drivers. However, we have just one volunteer co-ordinator and we could do with one or two more. The volunteer co-ordinator will take calls from passengers and assign the journey to a driver. If we have two (or three) co-ordinators it means the role can be shared. Later on we will need a Chairman and a Treasurer/Secretary. Anyone can get involved so if you might be interested in helping with this very worthwhile initiative, please get in touch.



Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

Register Charity Number 1124017

During a rather dismal summer the sun shone on the 8th August for the cricket match organised by Murray Lister who must be thanked for his efforts. It was great to see the common used for a great village event. Over the last year the cricket equipment has deteriorated and OPRA has agreed to purchase new equipment for next year. It was also suggested that rounders could also be played; we'll dig out our rounder's equipment and replenish it for next year if necessary.

Our monthly walks have now been going for ten years and we have a good group of regular walkers. It was suggested that others might like a shorter walk. In August we organised a short walk around Cannington and ended up in the walled gardens for a cream tea. Although we didn't get a lot of people on the walk it was enjoyed by those who participated. If there is enough interest we will organise another one.



We are now looking to plan our Autumn/Winter programme, starting with a repeat of the kite workshop on the 3rd October by popular demand. Following the popular Easter quiz, Mary and Sean will be running another quiz for us on Sunday 18th October at the Anchor.

During half term Sarah Webb has kindly agreed to hold lantern making workshops for the children. We will then have a lantern parade before the firework display which will be held on Sunday 1st November at 6.00pm. The success of our race night two years ago has prompted us to organise another one on Saturday 21st November in the Village Hall.

The ever popular Seniors Christmas Dinner will be held on Saturday 5th December and then on Sunday 6th December will be the lighting of the Christmas tree.

The biennial fete will take place next summer if we get enough volunteers. It is proposed to set up a fete committee and we are looking for volunteers to join. If you are able to help then please get in touch with any committee member. We'll decide early next year if the fete will go ahead depending on the level of interest shown.

More details of all our events will be published later.



OPRA Officers and Committee

Chair

Tina Gardener 652642

Secretary

Ann Leathwood 652399

Treasurer

Sue Francis 653663

Committee

Mary Cornish 652337

Jacqui Sparks 652069

Beverly Smith 652595

Rob Wright 652277

Di Davey 652141

Barry Leathwood 652399

100 Club Organiser

Ann Leathwood 652399

Free
Make and Fly a Kite

10.30am
Saturday
3rd October
Village Hall
Combwich

Make a sled kite 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. Adult helpers will be very welcome.

Bring a camera too and take lots of pictures.

Stearth Marshes - Dick Best on the natural history of the parish



Most wildlife stories in the media seem to suggest that all is doom and gloom. It is certainly true that there are problems and many species are suffering huge declines in their populations, but there are many others whose populations are stable and others whose populations are growing. A recent report on a nation-wide survey of British breeding birds shows that in

the last 18 years populations have increased in just over half of the species and, of those considered to be threatened, just over half have shown a population increase. Some birds have spread into Britain and made spectacular gains, such as the Collared Dove and Little Egret and

local interest the Avocet – a charismatic black and white wading bird with an upturned bill.

Avocets were almost extinct in Britain after the last war and in Somerset they were rare birds until the new millennium since when a regular wintering flock in the Parrett Estuary has grown to a record number of over 500 birds in 2014. Avocets first bred in Britain in East Anglia in the 1950s and have slowly spread to other areas and eventually reached Somerset in 2012 when the first pair to breed in the County successfully reared a chick in the Natural England reserve on Stert Point and then this year three pairs bred on the Stearth Peninsula, two on Stert Point and one in the new WWT Stearth Marsh - hopefully this is the start of greater things.

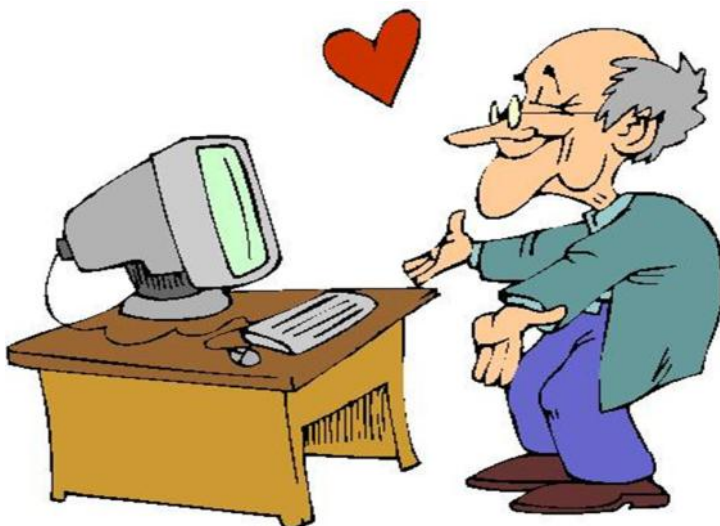
From your Village Agent

Use it or lose it – I'm afraid!

Do you like to read? Do you have difficulty getting to the library? If you can't get to the library there is the 'person to person' Home Library scheme. If you are confined to home you might find it helpful to have library books, talking books or other items delivered to home if requested. If you would like to use this scheme or make further enquiries contact Sue Sheppard on 01823 359158.

Remember your Village Agent is here for you whether your problem is great or small and you can contact me on **07572 023432** or by e-mail

ybulmanva@somersetccc.org.uk. Our service is free and completely confidential.



IT Skills for Seniors

Joe and Graeme Wigley are intending to run some sessions to help the "more mature" members of our parish with their IT skills. This is something that has been suggested on a number of occasions. The sessions are likely to be small, informal groups and include a bit of teaching, some demonstrating, and lots of questions and answers. At the moment we're finding out what people want and planning the sessions. If you are interested and haven't already spoken to us at the coffee morning, then please get in touch (653431) and let us know what would help you.

Combwich Craft Group - All Welcome

The Combwich Craft Group meet on a Wednesday morning 10am – 12 noon at Otterhampton Village Hall. We are a self-help group, the members have a wide range of crafts and knowledge between them. So if you need help with a U>F>O> (unfinished object) or un-started project why not come along and see us. You may do a craft new to us which would be good to see and for you to tell us about.

We will be meeting again in September, on Wednesday 16th until 21st October, a break for half term, starting again on 4th November until the 25th.

For more information contact Sue Jacobs on 652450



Wildflower Meadow Autumn 2015

This year has not been very good for our little patch. It started with wild daffodils and snowdrops and progressed to a sea of Red Campion. After that came thistles and corn cockles interspersed with a sprinkling of other species. The grasses were predominant. We are not despondent! Every year is likely to be different largely dependent on weather conditions. We have decided rather than sow seed direct that we will grow and purchase small plants which can be nurtured by us and put in when conditions are right. This may seem straightforward but involves many hours of

The Annual General Meeting of
Combwich Wildflower Meadow
7 pm

WEDNESDAY 23 September 2015

AT THE ANCHOR COMBWICH

work. Over the past year our little team has shrunk due to Christine Birkan moving away and sadly the recent death of John Bailey.

We are appealing to everyone in the village who has enjoyed what we have done so far and might be able to join our friendly team to contact us. At this time of year the hours involved are minimal and mainly involve planning and the yearly clear up of the meadow. Around November/December individual plants will need to be put in. Obviously the more people involved the

lighter the tasks. We usually meet as needed. These are short meetings roughly once every two or three months depending on the time of year.

Valued help from many people including the Parish Council, OPRA, members of the coffee morning and the Art club all who provided support and money which has been much appreciated. Tim Bates has given a lot of his time and deserves a special mention. For very little petrol money he has regularly strimmed back the grass and has helped with the erection of the new bench. All the hard work and goodwill should not be allowed to go to waste.

PLEASE COME TO HELP WITH AS MUCH OR AS LITTLE TIME AS YOU CAN SPARE. You will receive a warm welcome whatever your skills....not just gardening ones! We can be contacted on 01278652998 or maureen,mlw43@gmail.com

1st Combwich Brownies

The Brownies meet at Otterhampton School every Monday evening during term time. We are a small, friendly and welcoming group with a very varied programme of exciting events and activities taking us out and about at every opportunity. With a wide catchment area from outlying hamlets and villages, the Brownies have a chance to make new friends.

At the beginning of the holidays we were lucky enough to take part in an event at the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovilton. Eighty Brownies and 18 leaders from different parts of the county spent a day taking part in ingenious activities which resulted in the science investigator badge. Following an evening showing of the film Night at the Museum, the icing on the cake was a night sleeping underneath Concorde. Not a lot of sleep – a very hard concrete floor – a cold draughty aircraft hangar – but it was an experience not to be missed and was only the second time it had ever been done.

To take part in experiences like this why not think about joining the 1st Combwich Brownies. We take girls from the age of seven and have places available now. To register your daughter visit the girl guiding website and put her name down or phone Liz Brown (652687) or Karen Barton (652673) for more details.



Get fit the fun way!

Come along and join our fun and friendly fitness sessions suitable for men and women of any age and ability. Whether you want to lose weight, tone up or just improve your fitness levels then this could be the answer! Classes are instructed by Cally who is an experienced and qualified personal trainer.

Tuesdays: Aerobics 9.30-10.30am

Followed by Pilates 10.45-11.45am

£4.50 per session (£4 senior citizen) or £7.50 for both (£7 senior citizen)

These are held at Otterhampton village hall, Combwich.

Thursdays: Bootcamp 7.45-8.30pm. £4.50 per session. This is held on the large Combwich Common. For more info please contact Cally on 07825817728 or email callylouisewills@hotmail.co.uk

Coming Up - Harbour View Social Club

Harbour View Players & Social Club Proudly Present...

FREE * THEIR FIRST ANNUAL * £50
TO ENTER * **TALENT CONTEST!** * Cash PRIZE!

SATURDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 7.30pm

WHO WINS? YOU DECIDE!

FREE ADMISSION! *

* **DUE TO LIMITED NUMBER OF SEATS
EARLY ARRIVAL ADVISED!** *

- First Come First Served - *

JOIN THE SEARCH FOR A STAR!!!

OR
To Enter - just email
harbourviewplayers@outlook.com
for details *

**Otterhampton Village Hall, Combwich
TA5 2QZ
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 304605**

Sat 10th Oct, 7.30 Somerset Brass Band Tickets £3.50 including a Free GLASS OF WINE are available from the COMBWICH POST OFFICE from the 18th September. Harbour View Players & Social Club are proud to present their second Pantomime Jack & the Beanstalk Fri 15th and Sat 16th Jan.

Look out for posters to announce the sale of tickets, but following the success of our first Panto we advise you get your tickets early.



Once again our second Spanish event was a huge success thank you to everyone who attended the bank holiday afternoon event.

Can we remind everyone that the village hall is available for hire for your private parties and events, and Harbour View can supply your bar for the evening, we also have music equipment and lights available for your disco or some backing music. For more details of the use of the equipment or to book the bar for the night contact harbourvsc@gmail.com Please check our new screen in the club window to keep up to date with our forthcoming events.

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	15 th Sep, 13 Oct, 10 Nov
Wednesday	Doctor's Surgery	3pm – 4pm	
Wednesday	Craft Group	10.00am – 12 noon	16 th Sep – 21st Oct
Thursday (1 st of month)	Parish Council Meeting	7pm	Starts with public forum
Thursday (2 nd & 4 th)	Choir	7pm – 8pm	
Friday	Coffee Morning	10am – 12noon	
Saturday (2 nd of month)	Combwich Market	10am 12noon	
FUTURE EVENTS			
Thursday 17 Sept	Tidal Lagoon Power Presentation	7pm – 8.30pm	Parishioners are welcome to attend
15 November 2015	Next Otter Tales		Articles by 5 November

Otter Tales

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