



Welcome to Combwich

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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.

Otter Tales



A view of the Arco Dart dredger as it passes Combwich Harbour on the way back to the Bristol Channel. Taken from the top of St Peter's Church spire (right).

A brave photographer perhaps? No, just a unique opportunity to see the village from a different perspective which was presented when scaffolding was erected to repair the church spire.

It is hoped that the Church will be open again early next year when the once familiar sound of the bells will ring out again.

It has taken many months to organise sufficient funding for the work on the Church spire to start and that has now been achieved. The scaffold is up and repairs to the spire are finally under way.



See over



Revd Alison Waters, Warren Pappas (stone mason) & Brian Sparks



The professionals have now been able to inspect the spire much more closely and a small group of villagers were also able to climb to the top, not only to see the view (which is awesome) but also to inspect the damage.

Unfortunately, the damage to the spire is much worse than originally anticipated and if left much longer the whole steeple was likely to fall. The scaffold was designed to keep the whole structure as secure and safe as possible, and remedial work has now been done to make it safe whilst the full repairs are undertaken. This involves structural repairs to the external masonry as well as internal repairs to the bells and pendulum. It is anticipated that the works will take about six months.

In the meantime, Church services will be restarting in Comwich on 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month in Otterhampton School at 11.15am, beginning on 2 October. All are very welcome to come along and Revd Alison Waters extends many thanks to Mr Benbow and the governors for their support.

Just some of the damage to the spire



Alison points out a problem with the weather vane



A Taste of Provence

Come to Comwich Village Hall on Saturday the 1st. October and transport yourself to the sights sounds and tastes of the Provence region of France. On offer is a 7 course dinner for the price of £10 per head.

The Menu:

An aperitif to welcome you.

French Onion Soup

Oeuf Mimosa salad

Beef Bourguignon served with rice and seasonal green vegetables.

Cassis Bomb served with Chantilly cream

Regional cheeses with biscuits

Tea, Coffee or Cappuccino served with after dinner mints

Still and sparkling mineral water will be provided and the Village Club bar will be open for you to purchase alternative drinks. There will be a themed raffle with prizes sourced in Provence this summer, and a table quiz with a prize for the best informed table and to keep you chatting while you dine.

The waitress/waiter service and serving team all come from the younger members of our community who have been trained for the role they play. They are all volunteers but are quite happy to work for tips should you feel inclined.

All proceeds from the evening will be split between the Village Hall Fund and the Burnham on Sea Lifeboat station.

Looking forward to seeing you seated at 7.p.m. for a 7.30.p.m. start.

This event is brought to you by Maggy Layton and Helen Jowett, together with past students of Otterhampton Primary School.

We can offer you anything from a romantic table for two to a large group table and if you are single we will place you in a group of people that you feel comfortable with.

Please look for posters that will give you the number to phone for tickets. The number is limited to 50, so be quick!!

Otterhampton Offcuts

Snippets from the August Village Walk & September 2016 Parish Council meeting

Play and Recreation Area

It is lovely to see so many people of all ages visiting and enjoying the Play and Recreation Area. As you will have observed though, there is an issue with the pathways and floor underneath the shelter. We are waiting for the contractor to return to carry out the repairs and some other corrective issues which we hope will commence shortly. It may mean some or all of the play area may be closed during the duration of the repair but we will advise you by notices at the Play Area and the notice boards.

We will be installing additional fencing to direct people to use the entrance path off the road to hopefully discourage children running across the road from the pub car park. For the same reason the hedge will be trimmed along the verge but it will not be removed. Some trees will be planted in the autumn to enhance the area. Also we are considering proposals to create some formal parking on the verge, and install kerbing and white lining in front of the entrance pathway to improve the safety, thus cars parking here will be ‘managed’ rather than parking inconsiderately creating potential hazards as now. This may have to be done in stages as funds and permissions from Highways allow.

The play area will be inspected on a weekly basis as part of the RoSPA recommendations. However if you see any defects or notice any problems please advise the parish council as soon as possible. There has been some ‘stone throwing’ on to the safety



surfacing. We sincerely hope this stops once the paths and shelter flooring have been repaired, as this is dangerous. If you see any children throwing stones, please ask them to stop. We obviously cannot monitor the area continuously so we ask that parents and guardians help shoulder the responsibility.

Finally as part of the Hinkley C grant, we have to submit customer feedback forms to demonstrate the play area met its expectations. We will be handing out these shortly, so we would be grateful if you could complete and return them.

Village Walk

Briefly, the parish council members walked around the Village one evening in August noting possible enhancements and areas in need of attention. In addition to the various ideas in the vicinity of the play area, we will be arranging vegetation and tree maintenance along the Wharf Rd and trees by the defibrillator; removal of a bicycle thrown in the brook (Gary Perrett has since kindly removed it and taken it to the tip); some minor repairs to the bus shelter including replacement solar light; Highways will be asked to inspect the bridge railings over the brook at Estuary Park for safety reasons. We would like to find out who owns the stone trough and pump at Brookside to possibly restore it and perhaps put plants in it?

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

otterhamptonpccclerk@gmail.com

County and District Ward Members

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

Combwich Buoy

We are thrilled that the Combwich Cruising Club have been able to complete the repairs to the buoy. We hope you all agree that it now looks resplendent in its rightful position on the flood bank. Our grateful thanks to Bill Johnson, Bob Jenkins and all those involved with the repair. Bob Birkenhead has collected the plaque from Burnham Marine and once it has been updated, will arrange for it to be put back on the buoy; this of course explains its history.



Somerset County Council Chairman's Award

This year we have recommended Sue Ayley as our nominee for the award. Many of you will know the tremendous efforts and contribution by Sue to the running of the Village Hall from the early 80's until a couple of years ago. She also quietly carries out many other kindnesses, help and support to people in the village. We believe Sue will be a very worthy recipient of the award.

somerset Art Week

Your Combwich artists

17th September - 2nd October 2016

The Cottage Studio Tom Jacobs

*Exhibition of watercolour paintings of local and farther afield subjects
See the artist at work in his studio demonstrating techniques.*



17th September- 2nd October 2016
Somerset art weeks open studios venue 138
Studio open 11 am - 6 pm

Sarah Webb at the Somerset Open Studios

17th September to 2nd October. Venue 137

In the 1980's I trained as a traditional basket maker at Somerset Bridge being one of the last people to undertake a traditional apprenticeship. I now work from my studio in Combwich making baskets and willow sculptures as well as teaching all over the south west.

Some of you will have seen me at local markets and also seen my work out at Steart Marshes in the form of two willow egrets in flight at the pond by the main car park. During the event my studio will be open daily from 10 am to 6 pm, there will be a sculpture trail and games in my garden with prizes for children who can identify all the animals as well as daily demonstrations and drop-in-have-a-go sessions on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

So if you have ever wanted to have a go or are just curious and fancy a day out with the family, come along and see me; all you have to do is follow the signs to Mill House and join me in my world of willow and wonder.





Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

Registered Charity Number 1124017

OPRA would like to support more activities for the children of the village throughout the year. This Autumn there will be workshops led by Sarah Webb during half term week to prepare lanterns to parade at the fireworks display and we have the Easter egg hunt on Good Friday. A few ideas that have come up include:

- Workshops to prepare decorations for the Christmas tree
- Junior Bake off
- A Christmas party for the children
- Craft workshops
- Game shows

We really need help to organise activities and would welcome any new ideas from anyone who would like to share a talent or passion with the young people of the village. Please contact Jacqui Sparks 652069 or anyone on the OPRA Committee with ideas or if you would like to just help out at an event. There is no long term commitment required, just support for an individual event.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 18th September East Quantocks Head Walk (meet 9.30am the Anchor to share cars)

October half term lantern workshops (see below)

Sunday 6th November Lantern Parade; Assemble by the phone box at 5.30pm

Sunday 6th November Fireworks Display and lighting the Beacon 6pm

Saturday 3rd December Senior's Christmas Dinner

Sunday 4th December Christmas Tree Lighting

The OPRA 100 Club will have 99 members from the 1st October 2016. Why don't you join and become the 100th member. This is your chance to win a cash prize and to contribute to the community in a tangible way.

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

Felicity Ashworth 653633

Barry Leathwood

Vice chair 652399

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.

Lantern Parade and Workshops

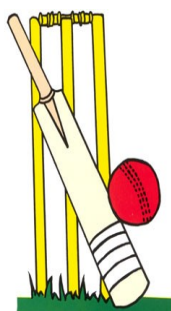
Those of you who attended the OPRA fireworks display last year will have seen the wonderful Lantern Parade which preceded it. This year will be even better. Sarah Webb is organising a series of lantern workshops in the village hall during the October half term to create the lanterns, which will be paraded through the village on Sunday 6th November, ending up on the Combwich Common at 6pm for the start of the Fireworks display.

The lanterns will take more than one session to create so please try to get to one of the early sessions in the village hall.

October 24th 4 – 8pm, October 26th 2-6pm, October 28th 1-5 pm

And in the evenings October 31st 6-10pm, November 2nd 6-10pm

For more details contact Sarah Webb on basketlady@talktalk.net or Tel; 284234



Annual Cricket Match

The cricket match on Combwich Common in August was again a great success despite the indifferent weather. Thanks to Murray Lister for organising the event and all who turned out to play and support the teams. A special thanks to Sarah Webb who supplied the delicious cream teas, Matt for the BBQ and OPRA for preparing the pitch and supplying new equipment. A magnificent £400 was raised for charity.

Unfortunately there are no photographs of the event to display as the photographer managed to accidentally delete them all!!

Wildlife Update

The final pair of Little Ringed Plover hatched 2 young on Otterhampton Marshes.

The first of the waders are starting to return with Wood Sandpiper, Little Stint, including 550 Dunlin, and 50 Avocet.

It's that time of year, with around 3000 adult Shelduck moulting feathers in Bridgwater Bay, flightless as they replace flight feathers, only juveniles are left on Steart Marshes.

The butterfly walk went well, with the first sighting of an Essex skipper.



Wood Sandpiper (Joe Cockram WWT)



Essex Skipper



Reserve Update

We have a new willow sculpture trail in place. The trail features life size sculptures of animals that live and use the reserve. An information sheet is available to download from wwt.org.uk/steart/news.

Willow Marsh harrier, flying over reeds in the Wetland Walkway

Events and Upcoming

Over the summer holidays we are running free pond dipping sessions when the weather is good and we have volunteers available. We will also be out between 11am and 3pm on Bank Holiday Monday, 29th August. Come to the dipping platform on the Wetland Walkway to see what's living in the watercourses.

Coming soon will be the installation of geocaches along with a brass rubbing trail.

Stockland Permits

The permit that allows access to a circular path around Stockland Marshes which has been enjoyed this past year by local residents is coming up for renewal.

Current permits will expire 1st October, after this date a new code will be put on the gates. To apply for a permit please contact Alys Laver using the email address or numbers below, or pop into the office and we can sort the application and card out at the same time.

Volunteers Needed

We are currently looking for volunteers who can help with events away from the reserve, Community Engagers. This is for people who are interested in WWT Steart Marshes and are happy to talk to people about it, encouraging them to visit. We attend events like local fairs and at the end of May we will be going to Barrington Court Nature Week. If you'd like to find out more, please contact Lucy Bartlett at lucy.bartlett@wwt.org.uk or ring the reserve office on 01278 651090. We regularly have other volunteering opportunities as well, so please get in touch if you're interested.

For any enquiries or concerns about anything on the reserve please don't hesitate to contact **Alys Laver - Site Manager WWT Steart Marshes**

Reserve Office, Stert Drove, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2PU

01278 651090/07717 505966 email; alys.laver@wwt.org.uk

New Footpaths Liaison Officer

Bob Birkenhead

I have recently taken over from Barry Leathwood as the Parish Path Liaison Officer. This coincides with a new system set up by Somerset County Council to help us all get to know our public rights of way. This can be accessed at:-

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/policies-and-plans/plans/rights-of-way/>

If you visit this website to view the network and then zoom in on our parish you will see the map of all of the public rights of way in our area. I shall be regularly keeping a check on our well-used footpaths and be using the website to check out some of the lesser used footpaths. I shall also be using this website to raise any issues with our Somerset County Council Rights of Way Area Warden who will liaise with landowners and various organizations responsible for the footpaths.

There is also an interesting feature on the website in which you can see the aerial photographic survey of Somerset taken in 1946; some of you will see your homes in the survey. This can be accessed by clicking on the menu at the top of the screen and by zooming in on Otterhampton parish you can see how sparsely populated the area was in 1946.

If you have any issues with our public rights of way please contact me via Otterhampton Parish Council by email at otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com or by phone on 01278 652426



EDF UPDATE *Tim Jones*

Hinkley C has certainly been top of the agenda in the national and local press again and by the time you read this article a final, final, final decision might have been made.



But what to make of it all? Imagine having to cancel the “go ahead” celebration marquee bunfight at the last minute, not once but twice. Hopefully the sausage rolls and vol au vents did not go to waste.

This time of course it was the British Government who rained on the parade. An old friend who has worked around the European Union for more than 30 years called in to see me recently and he is convinced our esteemed Prime Minister had a phone call from across the pond which mentioned a certain espionage charge that was on the cusp of being made public.

Work on the proposed site appears to be ramping up and EDF made a timely announcement in August about letting contracts worth tens of millions of pounds to local companies. Probably nothing to do with putting a bit of extra pressure on the Government.

So will it be third time lucky in September? Our country certainly needs more generating capacity, nuclear needs to be part of that mix and Hinkley Point is the obvious site. But just imagine if you wanted to buy a super duper new car. You check with the manufacturer and they tell you they are building three, but all are behind schedule, well over cost, none are working and no, they can't give you a guarantee when one will be up and running. Unions involved with building them have raised safety and financing concerns and the major external financial backer is facing nuclear espionage charges in the United States. Still want to go ahead? Oh and by the way if you do - and it works - there will be huge ongoing costs for 35 years. Finally, the manufacturer cannot give you a cast iron price or delivery date and believe it or not, if it is built they have already decided not to build any more.

Perhaps it is no wonder our new PM called a time out.

I was working on the proof of one of my poems all the morning and took out a comma. In the afternoon I put it back again

Oscar Wilde

Harbour-View Players, Combwich
Proudly Present Their 3rd Annual
PANTOMIME!

Dick Whittington
AND HIS CAT

FRI 20th & SAT 21st January
7.30pm (SAT Matinee 2.30pm)

TICKETS ON SALE FROM
SEPTEMBER!

Tickets: £4 Adults
Children £2.50
From Combwich Post Office & Store

VILLAGE HALL, COMBWICH TA5 2QZ

Combwich Community Choir

Will be re-launching with new songs on
Thursday 8th September
7 - 8pm
Otterhampton Village Hall

Continuing 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month
Thanks for your patience.

Piano and maths lessons also available
Full details and prices from:

01278 653431

nicole@musicwithnicole.co.uk

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME- OTTER WHEELS

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS WANTED



OUR SCHEME WHICH STARTED ON 1st JUNE 2016 IS UP AND RUNNING WELL,
BUT REQUIRES MORE DRIVERS. USING YOUR OWN CAR, DRIVERS WILL
RECEIVE 45P PER MILE.

IF YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS TO SPARE A WEEK TO HELP WITH THIS
WORTHWHILE SCHEME, WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

For more information please contact Yvonne Bulman (Secretary)

Tel 01278 652713 email: Yvonne.bulman@zeb.myzen.co.uk

Otterhampton Village Hall

News from the Otterhampton Village Hall Committee



Following a thorough electrical survey of the whole building we have had the electrical circuits tested and upgraded and over the next few weeks some long awaited improvements to the building, including the installation of additional sockets throughout and new water heaters for the 1st floor, gents WC, and the bar will be undertaken. Wessex Water have also located a leak in the ground floor gents WC which will be fixed in early September.

Fund raising events at the hall over the next few month include:

- the Village Market held on the 2nd Saturday each month between 10am and midday. The market promotes homemade cakes, savouries and sweets, locally produced sausages and a variety of locally made crafts. Refreshments are available.
- Saturday 1st October promises to be a memorable night with Maggy Layton and Helen Jowett producing a sumptuous French meal. There are only 50 places available at only £10 per head so watch out for the advertising boards and get your tickets early.
- another Beetledrive is to be organised for the Autumn providing fun for the whole family.
- a general knowledge quiz will take place in November.
- family bingo nights will be held in October and December so watch out for the advertisements for these events.

The Social Club also hold fund raising events. Their recent Bank Holiday Sunday Spanish Day with paella and sangria was well attended and everyone had a great time. Future events organised by the Club include:

- Friday 23rd September: Geoffrey's Ghost an illustrated talk and book signing by Nicholas Ridley son of Dad's Army star Arnold Ridley. The talk starts at 7.30pm and costs just £3.
- Saturday 12th November Easels, Angels and Puffins, a three, one act comedy play by Nicholas Ridley, playwright. The play starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £10.
- Friday 20th and Saturday 21st January brings the ever popular Panto. The Panto is Dick Whittington and tickets will cost £4 for adults and £2.50 for children.

The hall is also regularly used by the various local clubs including the art club, arts and craft club, keep fit classes, Friday coffee morning, short mat bowls, skittles and darts teams. I'm pleased to say that the Combwich Choir are meeting again at the hall and so is the local Brownie pack. The Brownies meet Monday evenings between 5.45 and 7.30pm and have varied activities including craft, science, seasonal themes, sports, walking, sleepovers and trips and is for girls aged between 7 and 11 years old. If you would like further information please contact Liz Brown on 652687 or Karen Barton on 652673.


The upkeep of both the hall and the Social Club is costly and very much dependent on YOUR support so please come along and enjoy this unique facility. If you have any ideas for events please contact me at bartonbs@btinternet.com or on 653531.

I would like to extend my warm thanks to Committee members and volunteers for their help in keeping the hall a vibrant and necessary community asset.


Experience is the name everyone gives to their mistakes


Oscar Wilde

The Harbour-View Players, Combwich
Proudly Welcome Author & Playwright



**NICOLAS
RIDLEY**
Son of
**ARNOLD
RIDLEY**



DAD'S ARMY 

With an illustrated talk on his famous book

**"GODFREY'S
GHOST"**
From Father to Son

"A fitting tribute to ARNOLD RIDLEY OBE, soldier, playwright actor, inspiration for dear old PRIVATE GODFREY" Jimmy Perry

FRIDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER 7.30pm
Admission only £3 on the door

COMBWICH VILLAGE HALL TA5 2QZ



Community Apple Pressing Day

Robin Prowse at Steart has offered the use of his cider press for anyone wishing to harvest their apples either into cider or fresh apple juice. He will help and instruct people how to use the press at this 'community day' but you will need to do the hard work! (You might also get to taste a drop or two of the amber nectar). We will advise you of the date once the apples are 'ready' via notice boards, the Combwich website/email. It is likely to be October or November and all will be welcome

MOBILE LIBRARY

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

Visits are on Tuesday Sept 13th, Oct 11th, Nov 8th and Dec 6th

Otterhampton School TA5 2QS 9.45 - 10.40

Harbour TA5 2QU 10.45 - 11.05

Combwich Post Office TA5 2QW 11.10 - 11.30

Stockland Bristol Captains TA5 2PY 11.40 - 11.55

DIARY OF EVENTS

(Otterhampton Village Hall unless otherwise stated)

REGULAR EVENTS			
Monday	Art Club	2pm - 4pm	
Monday	Brownies	5.45pm - 7.30pm	
Tuesday	Aerobics	9.30am - 10.30am	
	Pilates	10.35am - 11.35am	
Wednesday	Doctor's Surgery	3pm - 4pm	
Thursday (1 st of month)	Parish Council Meeting	7pm	Starts with public forum
Thursday (2 nd & 4 th)	Choir	7pm - 8pm	
Thursday (3 rd of month)	Combwich & District WI	7.30pm	Stockland Sports & Social Club
Friday	Coffee Morning	10am - 12noon	
Saturday (2 nd of month)	Combwich Market	10am - 12noon	
FUTURE EVENTS			
Tuesday (1 st & 3 rd)	Bridge Club	7.30pm - 9pm	Village Hall
Sunday (1 st & 3 rd)	Church Worship At Otterhampton School	11.15am - 12.15pm	Family Service (1st) Eucharist (3rd)
Sunday	OPRA Walk	Meet the Anchor 9.30am	East Quantoxhead
6 October 2016	Parish Council Meeting	7pm	
3 November 2016	Parish Council Meeting	7pm	
15 November 2016	Next Otter Tales		Articles by 3 November

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

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