



Welcome to Combwich

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Otter Tales

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

Otterhampton Parish Project Team (OPPT)

£500k is the amount of Community Impact Mitigation (CIM) money allocated to the parish in mitigation for the inconvenience the community is experiencing as a result of the Hinkley C works at and around Combwich Wharf. After years of delay the money will soon be available to provide worthwhile projects for our community of Combwich, Otterhampton and Steart.

As reported in the July issue, the OPPT team which delivered the new play and recreation area - reconstituted with some new members - is up and running. We are working with the Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) who will administer the fund on behalf of EDF.

Building on the community wide consultations and Open Day in 2015, we compiled a project list which we have updated to reflect completed projects and additional comments/guidance as appropriate. We would now like you to review this list to confirm the existing projects and ideas are still desired, and to add any new projects and ideas that have come to the fore since 2015.

Briefly, projects are open to individuals, groups and organisations and will need to meet the criteria of the SCF which will include both community benefit and support, sustainability, value for money and how it will mitigate the impact of Hinkley C. OPPT will provide advice and assistance but **we will need people to make these ideas a reality**. Generally, people who come forward with ideas and have the plans to design, manage and implement them (as long as they meet the criteria) will inevitably have priority for the funds.

This funding is a once in a lifetime opportunity so we must ensure we spend it responsibly, with lasting benefits.

On Pages 14 and 15 you will find the existing project list. Projects marked in **Green** are those that generally meet the CIM criteria, but the list is not exhaustive. With your help, our aim is to compile an updated project list that best reflects the needs, priorities and benefits to the community. Even if you have no new ideas please let us know what you think of the potential projects already listed.

Please therefore could you review the list and complete the reply slip so that we can start building a foundation for the next stage of the process. The

slips should be returned to the box in the Post Office in Combwich, or emailed to otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com by the end of September.

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Otterhampton Offcuts

Snippets from the August Village Walk and September 2017 Parish Council Meeting

Parish Councillors Village Walk 3rd August 2017

We traditionally don't have a meeting in August but have a parish walkabout to try and identify any areas of improvement to enhance the parish. We found minor issues such as weeds in walls, kerbs and pavements (SDC normally spray these so we have asked that this is done), the bus shelter floor littered with cigarette ends (now removed), overgrown vegetation on Wharf Rd (which will be cleared in the next couple of months), and the noticeboard by the play area needs replacing which hopefully we can do through the Hinkley C CIM funds. The damaged drain cover and surrounding tarmac in Ship Lane has been repaired. If you see anything that needs attention in the parish, please contact the Clerk.

Future Parish Councillor Vacancy

Our existing Chairman will be leaving the area in February 2018, therefore there will be a councillor vacancy which we will formally advertise towards the end of this year/beginning of next. We are mentioning this now because if any parishioner feels they might like to become a councillor and wish to find out what the role entails, this will give plenty of time to do some research! Please contact the Clerk if you would like further information.

Hinkley Point C "Fly Parking"

Hinkley C employees parking in the local villages are causing some concerns. Whilst in many cases the parking is not illegal it does cause inconvenience to residents. EDF recognises this, therefore all employees have to sign a 'Code of Conduct' which includes the statement that individuals should be "ambassadors for the project through their behaviour and actions when in the community" before they are issued with a site pass. EDF is clamping down hard on individuals identified as repeat offenders. Warning notices are placed on vehicles and number plate details are taken to identify the individual(s) who will then be spoken to. New developments are in progress to add additional controls to bus-stop usage. This will mean that an individual can only access a bus based upon their home location; i.e a resident of Bridgwater will not be able to drive to Combswich to board a bus. You can notify EDF of any fly parking (with vehicle registration numbers if possible) to hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com

Youth Club at Cannington

As advised in the previous Otter Tales, children and young adults from the parish will be welcome to attend the youth club which is held on Monday evenings, from **18 September**, 6.30pm-8.30pm at Cannington Village Hall. The age range is 11 -17 years and the cost is £1.00. The sessions are very well run by Youth Unlimited, with lots of planned activities. See our notice boards for information detailing the activities and trips.



Highways

Stear village has a number of dips and ruts in the road which have just been patched. In addition the road and passing places between the Otterhampton turn-off and the WWT Steart Marshes compound is due for repair in the next couple of months. We also continue to pursue with Highways, a solution to remedy the safety issues at Biffen's Corner (Otterhampton turn off from the

Contact details for the parish council

PARISH COUNCILLORS

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

otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com

County and District Ward Members

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

Hinkley C182 road). There was yet another accident there recently and a number of near misses have also occurred. When turning out of Otterhampton on to the Hinkley road, the blind spot on the right makes exiting very dangerous. Locals tend to know and respect the dangers, but there are a lot more road users now, obviously Hinkley C traffic and also visitors to Steart Marshes.



Play Area

The play area passed its RoSPA annual inspection in July. However, we are aware there are some issues such as grass growing through the safety surface and some problems with ground settlement. We are seeking advice to address these issues and will rectify them as soon as possible. Please also note that children are not permitted to take scooters and bicycles into the play area - we did have a sign to this effect on the fence of the play area which was 'removed'. We will be erecting a more permanent sign shortly.

Next Meeting

The next parish council meeting will be Thursday 5 October, 7pm, at Otterhampton Village Hall. Please note that draft minutes of the meeting are normally placed on the notice boards and the website www.combswich.org.uk within 10 days of parish council meetings.

Notes from your Village Agent

Izzy Silvester



I was talking to a Bank Manager the other day and she was telling me about the alarming number of instances where her customers have been the victims of fraud. There are so many fraudsters about that it's worth taking a moment to **STOP AND THINK** when you get a phone call, or an email or even someone knocking on the door who you don't know.

We've all had calls like this –

“Hello, this is British Bank, there's a problem with your account, in fact, we think someone is stealing money from it. Can I just confirm your identity? Please tell me your PIN.....”

“Hello, this is the Tax Man, you're due a tax refund, which we can pay directly into your account, the money will be in tomorrow, if you'd just give us your bank details....”

Please take a moment to STOP AND THINK even if someone says they're from a trusted organisation like the Police or the Bank, how do you know? Ask yourself what's really going on. Because, deep down, you already know the rules for beating fraudsters, so stay calm, take a deep breath, and remember if something feels wrong then it is wrong, and it's time to put the phone down.

There are five basic rules for dealing with the fraudsters –

Never tell anyone your security details like PINs and passwords

Always assume a phone call or email is a scam

Never be rushed into making a decision

Always listen to your instincts

Always stay in control

In Case of Emergency! Break Glass!

A little story from a client of mine....she had got into the habit of leaving the key turned in the lock when she went to bed. Unfortunately, one night she felt unwell and pressed her alarm, summoning a neighbour who has a key. He could not get his key in the keyhole as it was blocked from the other side, so he panicked a bit, imagining her flat out on the floor and broke the glass so he could get in. She meanwhile was feeling better but was scared half to death by the sound of breaking glass. It's a miracle she didn't hit him over the head with a poker.

The moral of this little story is **Please take the key out of the keyhole when you lock the door, so that in an emergency, no-one has to Break the Glass!**

Village Agents exist to help people in rural areas who are finding it difficult to access services and advice centres because of where they live.

Do you have a problem and you don't know who to turn to?

Are you finding life hard, and could do with some advice and support?

Is there a collective problem in the community that needs a kick start to solve?

If so, I may be able to help, please give me a call

Izzy

07931018045

izzy@somersettrcc.org.uk



Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

Registered Charity Number 1124017

Combwich Lantern Parade and Firework Display 2017

This year's lantern parade will precede the firework display as usual on Sunday the 5th of November and will commence at 5.45pm (venue to be confirmed)

This year we have chosen the theme of "Outer Space" for the parade and children, parents and grand parents are invited to take part in lantern making workshops during the half term week, beginning Sat 21st of October. During the workshops, you will be able to make your own lanterns or get involved making the larger lanterns for the parade.

We are also planning to have two Prizes this Year, one for the lucky booking number and one for the most creative themed lantern. So, get your thinking caps on and start planning your out of this world lantern!!

Owing to the increased demand, we are asking you to book your places at the workshops this year, details of how to book, will be sent out with the children from the school in the last week of term, as well as being posted outside the village hall and post office.

Anyone wishing to help with the workshops or organisation of the event please contact Sarah Webb on 01278 284234.

Following the popularity of last year's event, we need a number of volunteers to marshal the parade, to enable it to take place. Please contact Sarah or any OPRA member if you are willing to help.

The parade will end on the common with the lighting of the beacon and the firework display. Hot dogs and burgers will once again be on sale.

OPRA is again sponsoring the lantern making workshops and also providing the fireworks. The cost of the fireworks is in excess of £700.00 so please make sure you come armed with plenty of change to throw in the collection buckets to help defray the cost.



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.

The August OPRA walk was around Steart taking in the Breech which allows water from the River Parrett to flow into the Marshes and the Natural England Bird Hides. The walk was followed by a delicious cream tea put on by Aly and Robin Prowse at Dowlls Farm. A few glasses of cider were consumed too! All proceeds raise from the cream tea were donated to the Steart and Stockland Churches



Senior's Christmas Dinner 2017

The OPRA Christmas dinner this year will be on Saturday 2nd December in the village hall. Invitations to all on our list will be sent out in early November. Because of increasing pressure the committee has decided to raise the qualifying age for those not already on the invitation list to 65 (this will not affect those already on the list)

Invitees are also able to bring their partners if they don't qualify on the basis of age, but there will be a charge of £10

If you want to be informed of village walks email barry.leathwood@btinternet.com and you will be added to our notification list.

News from EDF - Wharf Refurbishment

The investigation work to inform the design of Comwich wharf refurbishment is now expected to commence in the middle of September, we're confident the work will be complete this year.



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

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



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

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

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

COMMUNITY APPLE PRESSING DAY

FOR ANYONE WISHING TO HARVEST THEIR
APPLES FOR CIDER OR FRESH APPLE JUICE
(please advise us in advance if you will be bringing apples
you will also need containers)



Instruction Provided

ON SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER 2017

Noon - 4pm

DOWELLS FARM, STEART TA5 2PX (ALY & ROBIN)

Tel 01278 652426

(Parking - Please use Natural England Car Park behind Dowells Farm)

From the grapevine - Tim Jones



The Environment Agency is planning to hold a drop-in session this Autumn for local residents, regarding proposals to improve flood/tidal defences in the area. The scheme is linked to the Bridgwater Tidal Barrier scheme, which is currently scheduled for construction in 2023-2024 and is not yet at the detailed design stage.

But one villager was shown plans by surveyors working for the EA that raised the existing pill wall in the village and adjoining banks by around two feet, although the Authority says this would only be one of a number of options.

It is worth remembering that a Parrett Barrage was first talked about back in the 1970's, when at least two comprehensive tidal mapping models were carried out - and from memory, provided conflicting predictions. The current defences in the village were constructed in the 1980's..

Since Tim wrote the above article the parish council was given a Bridgwater Tidal Barrier update By Andy Hohl and Amy Cocker of the Environment Agency (EA)

To summarise the current proposals -these include, improvements to the downstream defences to provide a standard of protection of 1 in 200 to Combwich, Chilton Trinity and Pawlett (i.e. the same as Bridgwater). This will mean raising sections of the existing online defences; building new lengths of secondary defences and continue to maintain the existing online defences. For Combwich, the design proposals at this time (subject to further consultation both technical and public) will equate to raising the defences within Combwich village in the range of 300mm to 600mm (e.g. harbour wall, flood bank and walls by the Pill) upstream online embankment 600mm to 900mm; downstream online embankment 400mm to 500mm and new offline secondary defence embankment south of Combwich 1.0m to 1.5m. A public drop-in session will be held in Combwich late September or early October to explain the outline proposals and to receive feedback.

Questions and answers included:

- Define a 1 in 200 event? The chance of that event happening is 1 in 200 in any year or 0.5% chance. A 1 in 100 event has a 1% chance
- Concerns that 600mm raising of existing defences through Combwich is high e.g. harbour wall? 600mm results from the current proposal to provide 1 in 200 SOP (*Standard Of Protection*). If the community object to this a reduced SOP could be considered, however the tidal flood risk to properties would increase
- Is there an increase flood risk in Combwich as a result of the barrier scheme/operation? No, there is no increased flood risk. The EA currently propose to provide the same SOP of 1 in 200 to Combwich as proposed for Bridgwater.



Cumbwiche Short Mat Bowls Club

(Established 1987)

First floor Otterhampton Village Hall Combwich.

New members welcome
why not come and give it a try

Mon: 7.15pm for 7.30 > 9.30
Tel: Brian: 01278 652747

Otterhampton Village Hall

News from the Otterhampton Village Hall Committee

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 at the Village Hall to raise funds to maintain and renovate the Hall.

The Village Market opens 10 til midday on the 2nd Saturday of every month. On Saturday 28th October the Hall and bar will be open for a **Ghoulish Halloween evening**. Come along if you dare! Its free entry with Ghoulish Hot Dogs (price £1.50), a prize for the best Halloween costume, games, raffle and much more. Look out for the adverts.

Would you like to play indoor bowls? There is a fully equipped bowls room in the Hall and new members are always welcome. Why not come along and have a go? Contact details are on the notice board at the front of the hall and you can be sure of a warm welcome.

If you have any ideas for events or would like to plan something just get in touch with any Committee member or email Sue Barton on bartonbs@btinternet.com The Hall is available to hire and ideal for parties; 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



HARBOUR VIEW SOCIAL 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 including Real Ale, and a darts area and skittle alley are available.

On August Bank Holiday Sunday the Club held a Spanish themed afternoon with chicken, fish and vegetarian paellas. The afternoon was a huge success with over 70 people attending and enjoying the beautiful weather. Even members of the Bridgwater Harley Owners Group (HOG) Chapter attended with their fantastic bikes and are likely to come to future events. We even had new members visiting from Prague and New York so quite an international event!

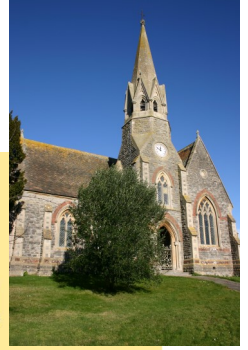


Our thanks to everyone who came along and made this such a glorious event.

Dates for your diary include:

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.



St Peter's Church

HARVEST SUPPER

**Friday 29th September
6.30pm at Village Hall**

**Tickets: £8 for 4 courses
Available from the Post Office**

**Call 652953 to advise of any special
dietary requirements**

HARVEST FESTIVAL

**11.15am
Sunday
1st October**



News from Otterhampton Primary School

Interim Head of School: Mrs Zoë Llewellyn

Combwich Tel: 01278 652487

www.otterhamptonprisch.co.uk

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

The Autumn term has started with great enthusiasm as we all get settled into different classrooms, many of which have been completely redecorated thanks to fantastic efforts from parents and support staff. Our Phase 1 Unit for children aged 2-6 means that all children in our preschool class and Reception/Year 1 class can make full use of our specially designed Early Years outdoor area and our newly decorated Whale outdoor classroom.



Phase 1's topic this term is Our World and there is great excitement to see our trim trail adventure playground and galleon ship being constructed by Creative Play next week. A huge thank you to all involved in fundraising over the last couple of years to enable this development – especially the Friends of Otterhampton and OPRA who provided a grant towards the project. We are continuing Walk to School and now have sports coaches on site 3 times a week teaching Real PE and running House Competitions as we promote outdoor activity, team spirit and exercise. After many ideas from the children, we have named our Houses after the local hills – Brendon (Blue), Mendip (Green), Polden (Red) and Quantock (Yellow).

Roald Dahl's World is the topic for Phase 2 and we are looking forward to coming to school dressed as our favourite characters and studying a range of topics inspired by Roald Dahl's books including chocolate, special effects in films and Norway. We will be producing our own Otterhampton Recipe book which we hope to sell at the Christmas Fair on 24th November. After half term, our topic will be Bristol and Beyond.

Over the summer, Hinkley Point Workplace Solutions kindly provided us with a skilled labour force who voluntarily decorated our Hall and entrance hall, built a bin storage area, moved fences and carried out a number of projects. We are very grateful to EDF. Similarly, we would like to thank Wollens of Cannington who have donated hardcore for the Science Garden we are planning to develop. We would welcome any volunteers with building knowledge or construction/Science companies interested in sponsorship to help us establish this area which incorporates our pond and will include a mud kitchen, vegetable gardens, sensory area and a Science investigation pod.

As we move closer to joining Haygrove Multi-Academy Trust, we are delighted to welcome Mrs Leanne Mills from Haygrove who has joined Mr James Blackmore from Spaxton on our school leadership team.

Rainfall in Combwich

Jan 57mm
Feb 46mm
Mar 53mm
Apr 18mm
May 47mm
June 46mm
July 90mm
Aug 48mm



Courtesy of Garth Crocker

Snippets from Parish Council Minutes

1952 After some difficulty Coronation Celebrations Committee formed
1953 Collection for National Flood and Tempest disaster (Lynmouth)
1956 Harbour master applied to site buoy-yard in Pill
1956 Proposal for street lighting
1957 Some allotments disappear as contractors form new road to harbour.
1959 Ships engineer involved in fatal accident in the harbour.
1960 Press announce more council houses to be built for Hinkley workers. - Houses built near Tower Estate . No PC consultation
1963 Street cleaner praised for his diligence.

News from Combwich and District WI

Vanessa J Smith (President)



The members from Combwich & district WI hope you all have had a lovely summer thus far, despite the unseasonal weather, which has made the weeds and grass very healthy and strong!!!! Not much fun for those planning outdoor events – other than gardening! Let us hope September brings more sunshine.

July started with a very promising number of members for the first meeting of our new **Craft Group**. It was a very enjoyable and social event and we look forward to our next one in **October** when we will be getting ready for

Christmas with Somerset Patchwork, Fabergé Eggs and in **November**, Card making.

Also this month, members were invited to meet at Mem Myatt's in Combwich for our Monthly Meeting. This fantastic Soirée, was a most convivial evening with a scrumptious Fish 'n' Chip supper, delivered to Mem's door by The Anchor. I was unfortunately unable to join the fun as I was on holiday, but was assured that Mem as always was the perfect host and look forward to seeing the photos of the evening.

For all of you who know Mem, she is indeed a 'Party Girl', and always game for a laugh – even in her 90's, and enjoys being amongst her friends and neighbours having a laugh, hugs and a good old chat. Sadly at the beginning of August, Mem suffered a bad stroke and shortly after pneumonia set in; She has recently been transferred from Musgrove Hospital to South Petherton Community Hospital for convalescence and rehabilitation, hopefully we can keep visiting her. Mem has been Vice President of our WI for nearly 4 years and is known as our 'National Treasure'; We are all thinking of you Mem.



Our Annual Summer Outing this year on **19th September** will be to **Midney Gardens** for a guided tour round the lovely gardens followed by Tea and Cakes. This promises to be an enjoyable event – weather permitting.

On **21st September**, we have our monthly meeting which we are very much looking forward to as we are being joined by **Trevor Webb**, affectionately known to us as 'Spider', who is going to hopefully sort us out with all our **Pruning and Gardening** problems. After our tour of Midney gardens I am sure we will all have aspirations to improve our patch, so I am sure Spider' will have a challenge on his hands as we will have lots of questions. Spider is also President of The Stockland Flower Show, I have a hunch that some 'huge vegetables' will be on display !!!!

In October we start the Annual Skittles Tournament, so we are hoping to get past the first round! Wish us luck!

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

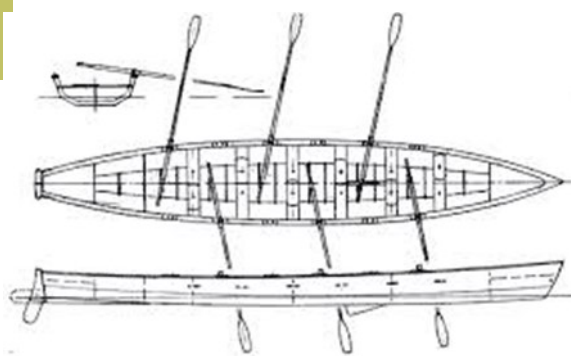
GIG RACING

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

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

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

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



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

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



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

Otter Wheels

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

Is lack of transport a problem?

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

Ring - Otter Wheels on: 07925 154 216

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

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

Typical return journey prices are: -

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

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

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



WWT Steart Marshes

working in partnership with



Environment
Agency

Volunteering

Recently we have been working hard to remove the guards from the thousands of hedgerow plants around the entire reserve. A lot of the saplings are big enough for the plastic protection to be removed, this allows them to thicken up. We are also starting to cut back these hedgerows on rotation to encourage fresh growth and get them into a healthy shape making them a benefit to wildlife.

Science at Steart Research Day

We spent an entire day at Cannington College with WWT staff, volunteers and researchers who are doing projects on the site. It's a fantastic opportunity to share ideas and learn about the latest findings. WWT Steart Marshes offers a really unique scenario having so much research being done from before the first tidal inundation and there's a lot which can be learnt.



Visit from Environment Secretary Michael Gove

Mr Gove met WWT staff who work with local residents and volunteers to look after the wetland reserve as well as the visitors and school groups who go there.

WWT Steart Marshes cost around £20m. It was commissioned by the Environment Agency. They co-designed the site with WWT who created and now manage it. Mr Gove toured the site with WWT Chief Executive Martin Spray and Environment Agency Chair Emma Howard Boyd.

From left to right; Rachel Burden – Environment Agency Wessex Flood Risk Manager, Tim McGrath – WWT project manager who oversaw the creation of Steart Marshes, Michael Gove MP – Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Martin Spray CBE – WWT Chief Executive and Emma Howard Boyd – Environment Agency Chair

Environment Secretary Michael Gove said:

“Steart Marshes is an inspiring project which has had tremendous success creating new habitat for wildlife while also providing increased flood protection for thousands of people living around the Severn Estuary.”

“This is a great example of how fresh thinking can create outstanding benefits for the environment and I was delighted to have the opportunity to see it in action.”

Wildlife Update



It's been an exciting month with the autumn weather starting and the movement of migratory birds picking up. There's been a visible increase in teal, dunlin and greenshank have been sighted which is a common autumn visitor to the reserve.

In August we have 6 cattle egrets come onto site. These are slightly smaller but much rarer than the little egret, cattle egrets are visiting the UK in increasing numbers. Originally from Africa, it found its way to North America in 1953 and quickly spread across the continent. They often spend time close to livestock and grab insects and worms that their hooves disturb. Cattle egrets have greyish legs and a yellow beak, compared to the black legs (with yellow feet) and black beak of the little egret. This stocky white heron also has yellow plumes on its head and neck during breeding season.

(photo Joe Cockram)



Juvenile Spoonbill (Joe Cockram)



Grey Phalarope (Joe Cockram)

We have also had a spoonbill on the reserve for over 6 weeks which illustrates how much food there must be for it to stay here so long. The Spoonbill feeds mainly on **fish**, **shrimps** and it will also eat other crustaceans and aquatic **insects**. The structure of its bill limits it to feeding in water that is less than 40 cm deep over sand, mud or clay, where it can sweep the water with its bill.

The strong winds we've had recently have also brought in some rare visitors, when we had not one but four grey phalarope drop into the reserve for shelter .

Engagement

Well here I am 2 months into this role and I can hardly believe how much has already happened! This weekend we ran a stand at the EDF Family Day at Quantock Lakes, speaking to almost 300 people new to the area. Our 3D working wetland model went down very well - members of the public (and volunteers!) enjoyed getting their hands wet learning about the many functions of wetlands.



My day to day work involves organising walks, talks, events, and managing our network of 60 volunteers. I have inducted 6 new recruits over recent weeks. We have volunteers helping with practical work, species monitoring, and engaging with the public both on and off site.

I have had a series of induction meetings up at Slimbridge – lots of names and faces to learn and given a talk at a science conference last month. I am also working on getting a leaflet together for our new brass rubbing trail around the site. When I get time you may see me out and about surveying for otter activity or counting butterflies.



As engagement officer and Combswich resident I am very much immersed in the local community. Please do come and talk to me if you have any questions or comments about Steart Marshes. I can be contacted on the regular office number / 07717 342061 or email at nicole.wigley@wwt.org.uk

Autumn 2017 Events at Steart Marshes

EXPLORE THE BREACH BY 4X4 Wed 27th September

Explore the saltmarsh and creek system in an area of the Reserve not open to the public
Spaces available on the 10-1130 tour. £10 per person

HIGH TIDE BIRD WATCHING, WALK Sat 7th October

Winter high tides are the best times to see impressive flocks of wading birds. Walk leaves 8.30am from main car park, suitable for Any age or ability. Suggested donation: WWT members £3/non-members

BIRD WATCHING WALK - Saturday 21st October

This time of year is particularly good for birds of prey and flocks of winter waders. Walk leaves main car park 8.30am, suitable for all ages and abilities.

Suggested donation WWT members £3/non-members £5

EXPLORE THE BREACH BY 4X4 Wed 25th October

Explore the saltmarsh and creek system in an area of the reserve not normally open to the public. Tours available throughout the day. Booking essential. Recommended donation £10 per person



WWT.org.uk
01278 651090 e info.steart@wwt.ork.uk
WWT Steart, Steart Drove, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2PU

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL – COMMUNITY IMPACT MITIGATION (CIM) FUND
PROJECT LIST FROM PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS / OPEN DAY JUNE 2015

As at 22 August 2017

Nb Items ticked for CIM potential will need to comply with the procedure; require community support and need someone to lead the project to include applying for funds and managing the project.

KEY: Projects for CIM funding (subject to above) Projects Completed Since 2015

TOPIC	PROJECT	SUGGESTED ACTION			COMMENTS (Since June 2015)
		CIM POTENTIAL	PARISH COUNCIL	COMMUNITY PLAN	
Amenities	Improve Play Area Youth /Recreation Shelter	-	-	-	COMPLETE 2016
	Mobile Signal	-	-	ü	Need to explore with Phone Companies; N/A for CIM funds
	Broadband	-	-	-	Combwich has superfast Broadband; Steart & Otterhampton coverage poor, but may be part of stage 2 rollout re Devon & Somerset Project
	Welcome Packs	-	ü	-	PC action – ongoing
	Bakery, additional village businesses/facilities	-	-	ü	Subject to demand/ private enterprise
	Youth Club		-	ü	Need to identify a sustainable demand. Previous youth club / chat and chill petered out – lack of volunteers/interest. Children able to attend Cannington Youth Club.
	Disabled parking on track	-	-	-	COMPLETE. Disabled bay by Common; permit system for disabled access on Combwich track implemented.
	Combwich Ponds	-	ü	-	PC following this up currently with Planning Inspectorate
	Allotments	-	ü	ü	Availability of land an issue, plus need to ascertain demand
	Gig- racing in Parrett	ü	-	-	New project identified by B.Johnson June 2017
	Replacement bird hide at Steart & refurb existing Tower Hide	-	-	-	May not be parish responsibility (Natural England) Tower Hide refurbished 2017
Village Enhancements	Benches	-	-	-	2 added to play area, 1 on Combwich track, 1 by Pill. 1 at Crossways. May more be added re commemorative/memorial requests.
	Dog Bins	-	-	-	1 added near Brookside Rd Garages; 2 dog bag dispensers installed.
	Trees	-	-	-	4 planted by Play Area; 1 planted by Pill. Professional Tree survey being undertaken August 2017
	Noticeboards	ü	-	-	Replacement needed by play area; add one in Otterhampton?

	New & larger mower for Common	ü	-	-	Replace existing mower (OPRA)
	Tidiness of village (including wild flower area at entrance to village and less notices)	-	-	ü	Keeping gardens tidy, sweep roads/pavements after hedge trimming; remove weeds from pavements etc. Up to individuals but perhaps could enter a village in bloom competition to encourage residents to participate
	Enhance Pill Area	ü	-	-	Could replace home-made pontoons; Require other specific ideas
School	Pre-School Play Area & Outdoor learning	ü	-	-	Possibly eligible for CIM if combined with community use?
	Forest School	-	-	ü	Would need further research to determine demand for this
Housing	Affordable Housing	-	-	ü	Sedgemoor District Council / Landowner initiative. N/A for CIM Fund
Village / Community Hall	Refurbish Existing Village Hall	ü	-	-	Need to identify community requirements; feasibility study required. Other items identified include sewing machines, bouncy castle, snooker table
	New Community Hall / Centre	ü	-	-	Would need land purchase & project team to take forward. Likely to cost > £500k
	Indoor Sports Hall	?	-	-	Only likely location to be within Village/community hall
	T-shirts for choir	ü	-	-	
Combwich Church	Renovate Church Roof / steeple	-	-	-	Certain amount of work undertaken with Heritage Lottery funding
	Modify internal for community use	ü			Need specific ideas – possible CIM funding potential
	Extend burial ground, Otterhampton	-	ü	ü	Would need land purchase; unsure if qualifies for CIM fund. Liaise with Vicar
	Get clock to work again	ü	-	-	Automatic winder?
	Stear Church	ü	-	-	Modify internal to facilitate greater community use
Highways	Streetlights at junction of village; other improvements at junction – roundabout?	ü	ü	ü	Parish council in discussion with SCC. A parishioner would like the streetlights in Estuary Pk removed.
	Improve Biffen's Corner junction	-	ü	ü	PC actively pursuing this with SCC; Transport Forum and Stockland Parish
	Additional Parking in village	ü	ü	ü	Difficult without land; PC considering 2 options (verge by play area & Wharf Rd)
	Pavements	-	-	-	Need to confirm with Highways, but road not wide enough to add/extend
	Cycle route to Cannington	-	-	-	COMPLETE
	Disabled access widened at Est Pk	-	-	-	COMPLETE (barriers moved apart)
		-	-	-	.

	20 mph speed limit in Combwich	-	-	-	PC pursued; Speed Indication Device installed but did not exceed median speed. Traffic calming measures also explored. Right of way/no parking lining at junction Ship Hill/Church Hill/School Lane added 2017.
	Road/cycle path - Brookside Rd to School	-	-	ü	Probably only happen if associated with S106 Development funds. Lots of concerns for children's safety en-route to School. Need to discuss with Governors?
	40 mph speed on C182	-	-	-	PC pursued with Highways, likely to be 50mph implemented 2017/18
	Martyn Close adoption	-	-	-	Private Rd – N/A for CIM funding. PC has no Powers/resources either.
Exercise	Skateboard Park	ü	-	-	Need to identify suitable location and evaluate current need. Could explore Cannington PC' s Playing Fields on Combwich Rd (C182) as joint venture?
	Swimming Pool	-	-	-	Not feasible- need land purchase; cost to maintain and resource for long term not sustainable. Some cost estimated explored.
	Multi-sports pitch	ü	-	-	MUGA a possibility perhaps combine at School – would need to purchase land
	Football pitch	-	-	-	PC explored options; existing football area on common appears to be sufficient
	Fitness / climbing wall	-	-	-	Outdoor gym equipment inc. with play area 2016. Ascertain if further demand?
Transport	Community bus	ü	-	-	Free bus implemented Sept 2016; Otter Wheels established 2016; Need to ascertain further need?
	New Bus Shelter	-	-	ü	Repairs to existing shelter carried out August 2017; remaining structure being monitored.
	Boat for Steart residents	ü	-	-	In case of flooding – need to ascertain demand/necessity
Misc	Steart - WW2 underground shelter used by MI6; linked to Bletchley Pk	ü	-	-	Historical significance. Research being undertaken currently - consideration its removal to a museum depending on what it contains/condition?

CIM Fund

Project list from Public Consultation and Open Day June2015

Please read the details of the Consultation on pages ?? and indicate which projects you support in order of preference.

1.
I am prepared to help develop this project Yes / No
2.
I am prepared to help develop this project Yes / No
3.
I am prepared to help develop this project Yes / No

Comments on the above

I have an idea which I would like considered.

Name

Address

.....

Telephone

Email address.....

Please return to the Combwich Post Office or email to
otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com not later than Saturday 30th September.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library visits Combwich and Stockland every four weeks on a Thursday morning from 21st September.

Otterhampton School TA5 2QS 10.05 - 10.40

Harbour TA5 2QU 10.55 – 11.15

Combwich Post Office TA5 2QW 11.10 – 11.30

Stockland Bristol Captains TA5 2PY 11.20– 11.40

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

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

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

DIARY OF EVENTS

(Otterhampton Village Hall unless otherwise stated)

REGULAR EVENTS

Monday	Art Club	2pm – 4pm	
Monday	Brownies	5.45pm - 7.30pm	
Tuesday	Aerobics Pilates Gentle movement to music	9.30am – 10.30am 10.45 am – 11.45am 12.15pm - 1pm	
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

2nd Novemberr2017	Parish Council Meeting	7pm	Starts with public session
7th December 2017	Parish Council Meeting	7pm	Starts with public session
Distribution 15th November 2017	Next Otter Tales		Articles by 5th 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

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