



Welcome to Combwich

Otter Tales

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Diary of Events.

Well known Combwich resident Bill Johnson had a big surprise when he unveiled the name of a new boat - it was named after himself.



The 30ft Cornish training gig was bought by the Combwich Motor Boat and Sailing Club with the help of grants from the Parish Council, and from the parish's allocation of the HPC Community Fund, which is managed by the Somerset Community Foundation.

Bill, 86, is a founder member of the club and had the original idea to try and obtain a rowing gig after seeing them on the Isles of Scilly and other parts of Cornwall, where gig rowing is a hugely popular hobby.

Burnham-on-Sea has its own gig rowing club and has supported the Combwich club in getting the project up and running.

Bill, a lifelong boating enthusiast who has built his own craft, said: "I was very pleased to be asked to unveil the name, but totally surprised it was my name. A number of people have been involved in a lot of hard work to make this happen and it will be a tremendous facility for the community."

Together with safety equipment, oars and trailers, the gig, which was specially built in St Austell, cost around £20,000. Club secretary Trevor Reason, said: "We had a lot of interest in this venture from people who are not members of the boat club, so we are confident it will be a success."

At the naming ceremony, the Vicar of Cannington, Rev Alison Waters, blessed the new gig.

David Eccles, Head of Stakeholder Support for HPC, said: "Its great to see the arrival of this new gig as a result of the club's own efforts along with the Parish Council and support from the HPC Community Fund. The club provides a great service to the local community and we're delighted to be able to help such a worthy cause."

The gig has six single oar rowing stations and Cornish Pilot Gigs were recognised as one of the first shore-based lifeboats that went to vessels in distress. Their history can be traced back to the 17th Century when they were used to ferry pilots out to incoming vessels off the Atlantic. There are now dozens of gig rowing clubs throughout the UK and further afield.



Otterhampton Offcuts

Snippets from the April & May 2018 Parish Council Meetings

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY- 3 MAY 2018

Chairman's Report:

The Chairman, Dave Cather, presented his report (the full transcript below): -
Good evening. I hope you are all well, and welcome to your Otterhampton Parish Council's, Annual Assembly.

Everything changes, and indeed John Berry left for sunnier climes, vacating the chair in January.



Somehow, I was nominated and I'll admit with some reluctance, I agreed to step into the role.

I'm glad I did though.

I like being the chair of your Parish Council. I enjoy working with your other councillors, they are all amazingly nice, helpful people, with a wealth of backgrounds and experience, and they are all volunteering their time and doing their best to represent you and your Parish.

How they do this varies considerably, from considering 22 planning applications, attending lots of outside forums and committees, a range of plantings, from 500 daffodils to 1000 trees, speaking to you, hosting drop in sessions, organising repairs and maintenance around the villages, various training courses, liaising with district and county councils as well as local organisations, tirelessly campaigning for C182 safety and infrastructure measures, and a host of other things, big and small, including attending your Parish Council meetings once a month.

Like all of you, we live somewhere intimately experiencing HPC, with all of its many implications, both short and long term.

We all deal, daily, with the huge changes this extraordinary project has brought, from vast increases in local traffic, enormous disruption due to roadworks, the started, and future, work on the Wharf, fly parking in the village, new faces, new employment opportunities, and community investment opportunities (your CIM fund now stands at close to £600,000! Your ideas will decide what its spent on. Want to make a difference? Get involved.)

I feel it's not what happens to you that counts, so much as how you deal with it. Help us to guide the future of your parish.

If you want to know more about what we do, please do come along to your parish meetings, we aren't scary and while we may not supply the drama of a West Wing, we are also not quite your vicar of Dibley.

Thank you.

Dave Cather

Contact details for the parish council

PARISH COUNCILLORS

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Dave Cather (Chairman) | 01278 313041 |
| Dick Best | 01278 651063 |
| Barry Leathwood | 01278 652399 |
| Bob Birkenhead | 01278 653127 |
| Julie Evans (Vice Chair) | 01278 652735 |
| Rachel Perrett | 01278 652958 |
| Murray Lister | 07802 823497 |
| 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 |

Annual Accounts to 31.3 18:

The Clerk presented the Annual Accounts which showed a net bank balance of £22.9k; £14.5k of this is held in reserve for ongoing obligations.

INCOME for the year was £27.4k, a net reduction from the previous year of £63k. The previous year we received a £51k grant for the Play Area and a £5k grant for the Steart Backrap project, VAT was £10k less in 2017/18. This was offset by the increase in the Precept of £2k and £1k grant received in 2017/18 for a defibrillator at Steart.

EXPENDITURE for the year was £23.3k, a decrease from the previous year of £69.2k. This variance was largely due to Play Area expenditure of £55.7k and a corresponding reduction in VAT of £17.6k. This was offset by one-off expenditure for safety barriers at the brook alongside Brookside Rd of £3.2k and other minor miscellaneous items of £0.9k.

The full Accounts, together with the Audit return will be placed on the Website (mid to late May). The Clerk will be very happy to answer any queries residents may have on any aspect of the parish council finances.

MAIN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Election of Officers and Representatives:

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

Vice-Chairman - Dick Best stood down after serving as Vice-Chair for the past 3 years. Dick has done a marvellous job; a sterling support and help to the three Chairs, two of whom were new councillors and very appreciative of his guidance and broad experience delivered with warmth, integrity and humour. We are very pleased that Julie Evans will be our new Vice-Chair.



Co-Option of new Councillor – Following John Berry's departure to Cyprus, we are delighted to announce that Murray Lister was co-opted on to the parish council.

Roads and Transport meeting with Mr Pat Flaherty (SCC Chief Executive Officer and Andy Coupe) – Following our letter complaining about the additional 250 HGV lorry movements along the C182, we invited Mr Flaherty to the parish to see for himself the impact of the traffic on the parish and in particular the C182. We drove him the length and breadth of the parish and pointed out where all the accidents had been, the state of the lay-by at Bolham, difficulties crossing the road for Dame Withycombe Hill residents together with the inadequate width of the lay-by there; erosion of the verges along the C182 and the blind spot when exiting the Steart Marshes/C182 junction (Biffen's Corner). We also requested chevron signage on the bend at Dame Withycombe Hill to replace the reflective markings. Additional safety signage and road markings will also be implemented just outside of Combwich. We also understand that a Vehicle Messaging Device will be erected near Biffen's Corner.

Tree Maintenance and Open Spaces Strategy – A small sub group has been set up to consider both a short and long-term strategy to manage the trees and open spaces in the parish. This will perhaps, include planting new trees alongside older, taller trees that

may have to come down at some point, so there won't be so much of an empty space. Trees that are in danger of falling in wet and windy weather must be made secure to ensure potential damage and injury is minimised. We also wish to continue enhancing the parish to ensure we have pleasant surroundings.

Bridgwater Tidal Barrier Scheme Update– The Environment Agency (EA) attended the parish council meeting on 5.4.18 and advised there will be no raised flood defences along the pill frontage or the flood banks in the village as residents generally thought it would impact on views and the general ambiance of the area. There will however be secondary defences south of the village.

Parking in the Village – An ongoing problem for which there are no easy answers unfortunately. A particular problem was recently reported to us in Church Hill. Vehicles were parked badly which caused no end of problems for the bin lorry (that had to reverse down the hill and around the bend into Brookside Rd) and other vehicles who could not get through. As you are aware it is very narrow beyond the Church to the top of the hill, so all we ask please, is for everyone who needs to park here, to do so as considerately as possible.

Community Plan - Parking will be one of the areas we hope will be addressed through the Community Plan which is due to be reviewed soon. Residents will be consulted and involved during this process.

Play Area Remedial Repairs to the Groundworks – This is now almost complete. The contractors will need to return to finish the 3 or 4 areas that they were unable to do when they attended in mid-April.

Next Meeting - The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 12 June** at 7pm in Otterhampton Village Hall.



A slightly altered format for Otter Tales this month. We hope you like it, but if not tell us how you think we can improve Otter Tales. Are there features you would like to see covered, or would you like to contribute something, maybe an article, or photograph.

We have many interesting people in our community who could tell a tale or two, perhaps you are one of them. We would love to hear from you.

Contact the editor to discuss the possibilities

Tragedy on the C182 by Julie Evans, Otterhampton Parish Councillor

Before Wednesday 25 April 2018 I had penned an Article “*Change to speed limit on C182*” and the tragic events of that day make it all the more poignant. After discussion with my fellow Parish Councillors I have decided to delay its publication to a future edition of Otters Tales. My thoughts and sympathies and those of my fellow Parish Councillors go to all the family and friends of those involved whether directly or having witnessed the accident and tried to help in the aftermath. The impact of that day will stay with many for the rest of their lives.

For those that do not know there was a fatal accident on the C182 between Combwich & Cannington. Investigations are ongoing and it would be inappropriate to include any further detail about that accident here.

Accidents like these give us all pause for thought. I regularly attend the EDF Transport Forum; at which I continually remind the highways authorities about local community concern in relation to safety on the C182 now that the volume and nature of traffic using it has changed and continues to increase as the HPC Project evolves. Over the past many months the Parish Council has been campaigning on your behalf for road safety improvements with some successes and some disappointments along the way.

The speed limit on our stretch of the C182 will be changing this summer and I hope we can all embrace the forthcoming change; think carefully about if it is safe to get to the limit and accept that there are no circumstances where it is appropriate to exceed the limit – I cringe every time I am overtaken on the new bypass when I am travelling at the speed limit. My view and that of my fellow Parish Councillors is that 40mph is the appropriate speed for most of the C182 certainly from the new roundabout to beyond Biffen’s Corner. That is not the limit that is to be set but as a local community it is a limit we could keep in our own minds.

The new limit will be 50mph. Remember it is a limit so if you must overtake you have to be able to do it without exceeding that speed.

I implore users of the C182 to consider carefully whether an overtaking manoeuvre will actually save any time. Travelling from Cannington to Hinkley Point at 40mph, a journey of no more than 4 miles takes less than 5 minutes and even at 30mph still less than 10 minutes.



On Sunday 22nd April Fleur Cutler from Combwich, successfully managed to complete the Virgin London Marathon. The weather was not at all kind, temperatures reached 24c in the shade and made the 26.2 miles even more of a challenge, she eventually crossed the finish line in 5hrs 28mins.



Fleur was raising money for **Children with Cancer UK**. The charity was founded by Eddie and Marion Gorman after losing both of their children to cancer in 1987; it is now the nation's leading national charity dedicated to the fight against childhood cancer. Fleur has hopefully raised over £1,500 but with your support she may be able to reach her goal of £2,000.

If you would like to help Fleur reach the grand total of £2000 and help raise money for this amazing charity, please visit her JustGiving Page by searching for **Virgin Money Giving - Fleur Cutler**.

Or if you would like to sponsor me just call **07783747297** and I will come to you with my sponsor form. (Please leave a message if I don't answer and I will call you back)





Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

Registered Charity Number 1124017



OPRA Officers and Committee Chair

Tina Gardener 652642

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

Jacqui Sparks 652069

Melvin Fooks 651323

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.

AGM There was a good turnout for the AGM at the Anchor in March which witnessed the return of Tina Gardener to the position of Chair and the re-election of Ann Leathwood as Secretary and Sue Francis Treasurer. Tina warmly thanked outgoing Chair Jacqui Sparks who decided to step down after two years because of family commitments. Everyone had a glass of wine and lots of cheese and biscuits (or was it the other way round!) during a pleasant evening.

Children's Easter Egg Hunt



A wet and windy Good Friday was not the best days to go around the village searching for clues, but 40 children and many parents braved the elements and earned themselves an Easter Egg. The first prize of a huge Chocolate Egg went to Jack White. Pictured are some of the OPRA Committee who made it all happen.

On Easter Sunday with the kids tucked up in bed it was time for the adults to take part in our traditional Easter Quiz. A good number of quizzers ensured a very enjoyable evening. Our thanks to Shaun and Mary, quizmaster and assistant for making the event a great success

As always, thanks to the Anchor for hosting the above events.

OPRA Walking Group

Enjoying a coffee break, with a view of the new temporary jetty under construction at Hinkley Point C during a circular walk, led by Mike Gardener, starting from Knighton. Calories burnt off, then back to the Anchor for a delicious Sunday lunch. (*net gain in calories!*)

Interested in joining us - the next walk is Sunday 20th May and then Sunday 24th June.

For more details ring 652399 or watch for the notice boards



Notes from your Village Agent

Izzy Silvester



Remember The Talking Café in Williton on the 2nd Wednesday of every month if you need help with free advice and support. Pop in for a cuppa and have a chat with me the Living Better Nurse, West Somerset Advice Bureau, local Energy saving charity(who can help you reduce your bills), Carer's Agent, local PSCO etc!

Help with your iPad, mobile phone on computer is available for free on May 9th and June 13th and help with free training opportunities for getting back to work.

Dementia Awareness Week 2018 will take place on Monday 21 May – Sunday 27 May 2018.

We are all more aware that many more people are living with dementia in our society and so it is a good chance to be aware of how a person with dementia may see the world so that we can be supportive of those trying to live independently with dementia.

There are many types of dementia. Most people will have heard of Alzheimer's which is where proteins build up in the brain and stop the signals from being accurately transmitted. Vascular dementia is the result of small strokes which damage the brain. Both will get worse with time but how rapidly can vary. Alzheimer's is a smoother process and vascular can be more stepped. There are many other forms including damage to the brain through alcohol consumption.

The change to the person can also vary but you may see a change in personality, mood, confusion and frustration. People may start to avoid social situations as they feel anxious and exhausted. Later symptoms can include reduced hand eye co-ordination, visual disturbance and of course forgetting the immediate information and living in the past.

You may come across someone experiencing symptoms when you are out. Being aware that someone may become bewildered because they have forgotten where they are, or perhaps because the mat in a shop door looks more like a lake, will help us all to be more patient and understanding.

There is a huge range of publications available that are all worth a read. Ask me or your surgery and the Alzheimer's society on 01458 251541 for information. There is also a super booklet called "When Grandma came to stay" to help children understand and be prepared.

Look out for local dementia awareness events and press releases for organisations.

Minehead: Singing for the brain

Methodist Hall, Lower Meadow Road, Alcombe, Minehead. Alternate Thursdays, 10.30am-12.30pm. For further information please contact Paul King on 01278 663 760 or email paul.king@alzheimers.org.uk

Minehead Dementia group

Contact Val or Emily on mineheadaa@gmail.com

Watchet Dementia Alliance.

Every other Wednesday morning in the Sanctuary (2nd, 16th, and 30th of May and the 23rd is a café birthday party)

Contact Margaret Tatham on: watchetdementia@btinternet.com or 07973638030.

There will be some dementia friends sessions during the week of the 21st-27th May—please contact Margaret for more information and a cake sale in the Methodist church on the morning of sat 26th.

Not sure who to turn to? Village Agents are a charity that work with you. Please phone me Izzy Silvester your village agent on 07931 018045, leave me your name and number and I will ring you back. Or e mail me on izzy@somersetrec.org.uk I do only work part-time so it may take a day or two for me to return your call. Thank you.

Worried about the cost of repairs to your home?
You may be entitled to a subsidised loan from your local council



Give us a call today and see how we may be able help you

Typical
4.2% APR

“ I am so grateful for this help!
It's taken a huge weight off of my mind ”



01823 461099
www.wrcic.org.uk
 Email: enquiries@wrcic.org.uk

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| Date | Event |
|------------|---------------------------|
| 20 May | Combwich Regional |
| 16/17 June | Saltash GB National |
| 21 July | Weston S Mare Regional |
| 4/5 Aug | Weston S Mare GB National |
| 15/16 Sept | Cardiff GB National |
| 7 Oct | Torquay Regional |

Logos: WESTON BAY WATER SPORTS CLUB, Saltash Town Council, TOR BAY HARBOUR, H2O, COMBICH MOTOR BOAT & SAILING CLUB.

**South West Water WATERSKI Racing Sunday
 20th May between 10am and noon here in
 Combwich**



Following a ‘Community Led Plan Open Day’ at which parishioners expressed a need for a monthly market, a small committee of volunteers agreed to investigate this proposal and, from their efforts, our Village Market was born. The very first Combwich Village Market was held in Otterhampton Village Hall on the 9 July, 2011, so the July market this year will be our 7th anniversary! We would like to thank all of the customers who have supported us over those seven years and who, hopefully, will continue to do so for quite a few more.

As well as a chance to get together in a convivial atmosphere whilst enjoying refreshments, bacon rolls being a particular favourite, the Village Market is also an opportunity to discover a wide range of home-grown, homemade and hand crafted wares produced and sold by very talented members of our own local community. In addition, and importantly, it raises much needed funds for our Village Hall!

A market would be nothing without its stalls, so a big thank you to all of our stall holders for their hard work and dedication, particular thanks going to Liz Brown, Sue Jacobs, and Rachel Boyd who have been with us from the start. In recognition of the hard work and respective talents and skills of all of our stallholders, and, for those of you who haven't visited us yet, we thought you would like to hear a little bit more about the stallholders and their amazing products. Please have a look at the following pages.

Combwich Village Market *continued*

Liz Brown is a local horticulturist and grows and sells an interesting and attractive variety of herbs and garden plants. She is always happy to give advice about which to choose as well as planting and care. In addition, Liz makes and sells a wide range of delicious and popular jams, chutneys and marmalades. *For further information or orders, contact her on 01278 652687 or lizbrown625@gmail.com.*



Sue Jacobs uses her sewing, quilting and embroidery skills to use pretty fabrics, some of which are recycled, to produce a wide and very affordable range of all year round and seasonal items for the home. Some popular examples are table runners, peg bags, shoulder bags and pot holders, as well as soft toys and decorative items for children. Seasonal lavender bunches and related items are also sometimes available. In addition, Sue also hand makes greeting cards. For information about her product range, contact Sue on: 01278 652450.



Jean Webb and Rachel Boyd have combined their creative and artistic talents to produce original art work, cards, hand made jewellery and gift tags. Jean creates handpainted canvases and cards with a floral theme which are both beautiful and inexpensive. 'Boyd's Beads' offers attractive and tasteful hand-crafted items of jewelry for sale at very affordable prices. If you would like to find out more about their products, or if you would like to try your own hand at painting or drawing with the Art Group (Mondays 2.00-4.00 in the Village Hall) where you can meet with Jean, Rachel and others who like to draw, paint and chat about art and life in general, contact: *Jean: 01278 653136 & Rachel 01278 652914, or for Combwich Art Group, visit 'All Things Combwich' on Facebook.*

Sarah Webb is a Basket Maker and Willow Artist and you may have seen her wonderful wildlife sculptures if you have visited Steart Marshes Nature Reserve. Between basket making, willow sculpture and teaching the art of willow work and lantern making, Sarah finds time when she can to sell her lovely contemporary and traditional baskets and willow items at our village market. If you want to find out more about her products, willow work or courses, contact Sarah on: 01278 284234 or email basketlady@talktalk.net or visit webbworkswillows.com





Liz Turner of Creative Art and Crafts offers beautifully handcrafted items in a range of materials. They include knitwear and leather ware , a range of felted accessories such as hats, gloves and purses and lovely hand painted silk scarves. Liz is also an artist and photographer and her works include hand painted and photographic cards, watercolours, wax painted art work and animal portraits. If you want to know more, Liz can be contacted at: lizturner.forart@hotmail.co.uk

Sonia Hart uses her papercraft skills to make an inexpensive range of personalised birthday cards and seasonal cards. A range of very cute and colourful 3D and rocking cards for children has proved very popular. Hand knitted items of baby wear and toys as well as other attractive knitted accessories are also available. For further enquiries, Sonia can be contacted on: 01278 652672



Irene Gale of Bright Designs offers a wonderful array of beautiful hand crafted, kiln fired fused glass items and hand painted and decorated wooden boxes. Each item is unique and the range includes fused glass candle shades, trinket dishes, tea-light holders, sun catchers and free standing decorative glass panels. If you would like to know more about Irene's work, contact her at: galeirene723@gmail.com



Martin Felstead of Greenway Pork rears some of the rarer, traditional British pig breeds. Among a variety of pork products, Greenway's speciality, and already very popular at our Village Market, is a range of home-made sausages, including apple, sage and onion, hot and tasty, leek and apple and Cumberland. You can sample, buy and order Martin's sausages every month at the market. For more information about Greenway products contact: 01278 425853 or visit lifeatgreenway.com.

Rosemary May is the designer and creator of 'Gifts in Glass', a colourful and attractive assortment of plaques, framed glasswork pictures, pretty little dishes and coasters which incorporate screen printed images. Rosemary has also fashioned a lovely assortment of mirrors framed with shards of coloured glass. Her range extends to decorative door plates, wind chimes and 'dropped' glass vases. Rosemary can be contacted on: r.may111@btinternet.com



And finally, one of our most popular attractions at the monthly market is our cafe, staffed by a cheerful and accommodating group of volunteers, where you can buy a bacon roll (bacon and rolls supplied by Comwich PO and Village Store) and cup of tea, coffee or hot chocolate for only £2.25. Or perhaps a drink and home-made cake or scone and jam for as little as £1.50. Squash is also available for children. A special thanks to all those who provided cakes for the April market.

Otterhampton Village Hall

News from the Otterhampton Village Hall Committee



The Hall Trustees hold their AGM on Wednesday **14th May at 7.30pm** at the Hall. Please come along, have your say and perhaps volunteer to join the Committee - there will be wine if you need an incentive! New members are always needed and will be warmly welcomed. When we get the funding to refurbish the hall there will be many to decisions to make on behalf of the whole community and the more input the better: exciting times!

The proposed questionnaire is with the Community Council for Somerset and will be sent to all homes very soon. **PLEASE** make sure you complete it and send it back in the SAE: it will help our bid for substantial funding to make the hall a more attractive, environmentally friendly and accessible building for the whole community to use. We want and need your views.

The Hall is available to hire and ideal for parties; arrangements can be made for the 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 now open Fridays and Saturdays from 7pm to midnight, Sundays between 2 and 6pm, and Tuesday evenings during the summer darts season. 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 (on a handpump); a darts area and skittle alley are available for social events.

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 £1 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.

The 1st Combwich Fun Day

As there are no plans to hold a village fete, a group of local people are arranging a new Combwich Fun Day on Saturday 14th July between 2 and 4.30 pm on the Common. Many events have been planned including races for children and willing adults, a Tug of War competition with prizes for all, a skittle alley, bowls, ice cream van, village stocks, a bar, cream teas, BBQ, Wetland model and badge making, raffle, various stalls and a chance to see the new Combwich training gig - the William Johnson. And we are looking to provide more!

But we need help! Would you like to volunteer for one or more of the following?

Join the Committee which meets regularly to plan the day

Donate a prize

Volunteer to help run one of the events - the more volunteers there are the easier the Fun Day is!

Run a table top stall selling anything you like: books, old toys, bric a brac, plants, vegetables, eggs.... You keep all profits but the cost will be £5 per table

Help to set up and take down equipment on the day

Also need qualified 1st aiders

If you are able to help or want more information please contact Pat on 01278 652278 or email her at patricia_priest@btinternet.com

Look forward to seeing everyone on 14th July - if by chance the July weather isn't glorious (and it had better be) most of the events will take place in the Village Hall.

News from Combwich and District WI

Vanessa J Smith (President)



This year is flying by and so far members have enjoyed some great evenings and events, also I am delighted to say, we have gained a few new members on the way who have come along to join us for one of our talks/demonstrations and have decided to become members.

Our monthly meeting in **March** was a delightful evening with an **Introduction to Yoga** by a local lady who many of you may know – **Becky Foyle**. We had a most informative and stimulating time as not only did Becky give us an insight into the origin and various types of Yoga, but took us through a few simple moves and positions; This members found to be most relaxing and indeed a more holistic form of gentle exercise compared to other forms of physical torture I have experienced!



Our **Craft Club** this month focused on learning the basics of **Crochet** and it was decided to crochet squares which could be pieced together in a diagonal design to make a blanket which will then be auctioned off, the proceeds of which are yet to be decided. We continued to crochet at our April craft club and our squares nearly resemble a rather attractive blanket. We will be making **Fabric Flowers** in **May**.

Our monthly meeting in **April** was well attended as we were treated to an **Introduction to Straw Craft** by our guest Speaker **Michael Sprigg** who gave us a most interesting potted history of this ancient craft. I first met Michael when booking our WI trip to Hinkley C as he was displaying his lovely creations in the EDF Visitors Centre in Angel Place. Not only did he agree to come along to our evening meeting but is planning to teach us more on a one day workshop when we are all hoping to make a beautiful lucky horseshoe. Michael makes it look so easy, but we will find out on **24th May** as we get serious with straw!!!

Somerset Federation Centenary Banner Parade on Saturday 28th April, there will be over 350 WI members parading our WI Banners through the City of Wells as we celebrate our Somerset Federations Centenary year. Many of these banners will have been made at various times during the past 100 years, and will no doubt be held high with pride by WI members from all over Somerset, including myself (President) and our Vice President Elizabeth Marriott with Combwich & District's banner made by Sue Jacobs. We will parade from the Cathedral, I believe we will be led by a band and the Mayor. No doubt the Town Crier will have a suitable verse or two!!

Combwich & District WI are thankfully growing in membership and hopefully will continue to do so, however, it needs local ladies like you to join us and see for yourselves just how friendly, warm and interesting our meetings are and of course our monthly Craft meetings also. We have outings and craft workshops also a chance to join with other WI's on trips and at their meetings. We have a free magazine – WI Life – which is full of interesting articles, craft and cookery and a monthly County News to keep us in touch with Somerset WI's and Federation events.

Next Monthly Meeting on Thursday 17th May – will be our **AGM**, this will be followed by a friendly game of **Skittles** and a **Ploughman's Supper**.

This year we are offering one free visit to our monthly meeting, 2nd visit will be £3.50 for the evening – refundable on 3rd evening when you come back to join! So please come and join us, you can get involved as much or as little as you wish with no pressure or expectations, only to enjoy yourself.

For more information or to join, please do not hesitate to phone Vanessa (President) on 01278 652830 or Brenda (Secretary) on 01278 446279. We would welcome your call.



WWT Steart Marshes

working in partnership with



**Environment
Agency**

Volunteering

This month our volunteers have been helping us to plant aquatic plants into our new ponds. Species such as water mint and marsh marigold have been planted into the pond next to the dipping platform in the wetland walkway, and into the pond that is fed by the run-off from the roof of one of the Quantock hides.



Pond by Quantock Hides filled by rainwater

Area by the dipping platform

Management

This past month we have been undertaking some further groundworks around the reserve that will benefit both visitors and assist with the management of the reserve. We have ploughed a water pipe from an existing supply to provide cattle with water during the summer months. A particularly hard area to manage due to the amount of rush will now be able to be managed more efficiently.



After topping the rush it grows back a lot more palatable for the cattle, there are fixed view points to monitor the effectiveness of the control by grazing. Some rush cover is great for certain bird species but too much makes it a lot less valuable as a habitat.

Wildlife

With spring now well on its way, only a few wintering birds remain, with a Teal, Gadwall and Shoveler lingering on both Otterhampton and Stockland. Nesting birds around the site are so far looking very promising with species such as Avocet, Oystercatchers, Little Ringed Plover, Mute Swan and Skylark all showing positive signs. Other highlights include a Great White Egret, a Garganey duck and an excellent view of a stunning male Merlin from the Otterhampton viewing platform.

A pair of Garganey, the male on the left with a very distinctive white eye stripe.

Photo by Jeremy Floyd (WWT)



Engagement

Come along to the Steart Marshes **Open Day on Sunday 20th May.**

We will have events, information and activities including guided walks, pond dipping, games, art and craft demonstrations, meet the livestock and refreshments. No need to book, just drop in and join us between from **10.30-3.30pm.**

Please come and talk to me if you have any questions or comments about Steart Marshes. I can be contacted on 01278 651090 / 07717 342061 or email at nicole.wigley@wwt.org.uk

Any further queries please don't hesitate to contact the Site Manager, Alys Laver on 01278 651090 / 07717 505966 or email on alys.laver@wwt.org.uk



Inflight Entertainment 2 - USA

Quantock Musical Theatre Company present their 2018 summer concert "Inflight Entertainment 2 - USA"!

Once more board QMTC's "Quantock Airways INFLYENT airplane" - their luxury airliner designed for live in-flight entertainment, with the world's first onboard stage, for a musical make-believe trip around the United States of America - no passport required!

Join us for songs from around the States including California Dreamin', Do You Know The Way To San Jose?, Oklahoma!, music from West Side Story, and many, many more without ever leaving the village!

Boarding at an airport (ahem! Village Hall) near you this June! Take off at 7:30 pm (7pm at Williton).

Combwich Village Hall - 29th June Tickets £6.50 from Combwich Post Office, on the door, & online at www.ticketsource.com/qmtc.

Old Combwich



Generator Transformer on Transporter by No. 22
Brookside Road, Combwich
Taken on 10 October 1960



The nuclear industry at nearby Hinkley Point has influenced change in Combwich from widening the Brookside

Road and altering the course of the stream to allow the transportation of heavy equipment from the newly constructed wharf to the power station.

Left, start of the Wharf construction in January 1958 and below the Wharf looking towards Riverside in June 1961.

Below, the Pill many years earlier.

If you have pictures of old Combwich, Otterhampton, or Steart that you would care to share with readers, contact the editor.

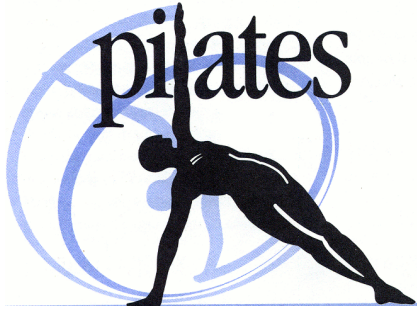


Start of Wharf Construction at Combwich
Taken on 1 January 1958



Wharf at Combwich
Taken on 4 June 1961





Otterhampton School
will be holding Pilates
classes for all ages and
abilities every Tuesday
evening from 6.30-
7.30pm.

Pilates is a gentle paced
class, mainly floor based
and helps improve core

stability, muscle tone, strength, posture and balance. All of
which we require our bodies to have to stay healthy,
whatever our age!

Classes are taught by a qualified and experienced Instructor
and cost £5 per session. You are welcome to attend and see
if it suits you before you commit and then payment will be
required in advance for that term. For anymore information
please contact

Callystephens17@icloud.com

Tel: 07555302145/651214



Cumbwitch 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

Otter Wheels

Is lack of transport a problem?

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

Your local car scheme always there for YOU

This not-for-profit car scheme has been running about two years now, with over 200 journeys
to date. 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.

Ring - Otter Wheels on: 07925 154 216 to book a journey, but please give accurate
details of the requested journey, especially your telephone number.



AGM for Otter Wheels will be taking place on

Thursday 21st June 2018 at 2.30 pm

In

The Village Hall

The business to be followed by a Cream Tea.

All welcome

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library visits Combwich and Stockland every four weeks on a Thursday morning . Next visits are 24th May and 21st 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.

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

And if you would like to receive Otter Tales by email as well as hard copy please email
barry.leathwood@btinternet.com

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 Brownies Short Mat Bowls | 2pm – 4pm 5.45pm - 7.30pm 7.30pm - 9.30pm | |
| Tuesday | Aerobics Pilates Gentle movement to music | 9.30am – 10.30am 10.45 am – 11.45am 12.15pm - 1pm | |
| Wednesday | Combwich Crafters Doctors Surgery Short Mat Bowls | 10am - 12 noon 3pm – 4pm 7.30pm - 9.30pm | |
| 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 | |
| Saturday (every week) | Kids Drama Group | 11am - 12 noon | |

FUTURE EVENTS

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| Tuesday 12th June 2018 | Parish Council Meeting | 7pm | |
| 5th July 2018 | Parish Council Meeting | 7pm | Village Hall |
| | | | |
| Distribution 16th July 2018 | Next Otter Tales | | Articles by 5th July |

Otter Tales

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Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information published in Otter Tales, some of the