



Welcome to Combwich

Otter Tales

Published with the generous support of Otterhampton Parish Council

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Annual Combwich Cricket Match raises over £900 for charity



June 16th 2018 was the date for this year's annual cricket match held on the Combwich Common, and as always, was a great success. The weather and tidal forecast did not look in favour for the proposed date but thankfully both held off, and over £900 was raised for the three charities, Macmillan Cancer Research, Sands and St Margaret's Hospice.

As always the day could not have gone ahead without the efforts of the organisers so we would like to say a huge thank you to Jason Navoy, Murray Lister, Kevin Hill, Jason and Sophie Marsh. Also involved were Dave Catchpole who provided the barbeque and catering, Di Davie bringing along her delicious scones and Croft Farm Family Butchers and Pennylane Foods for providing the meat for the barbeque. Honourable mentions also to Mike Gardener for arranging the maintenance of the wicket and to Ray Howard, Tony Davie and Brian Hutchins for their combined efforts in keeping score and umpiring, which certainly prevented any controversy after the final over!! Finally, a big thank you to Jimmy White for providing the bouncy castle, Steve Tucker for kindly lending us his generator and to Matthew Nicklin for offering the Anchor Inn as the hub for operations.

Continued with more pictures on page 5

Otterhampton Offcuts

Snippets from the June & July 2018 Parish Council Meetings

Highways

Stear and Otterhampton have just undergone some serious patching works on the roads. Surface dressing will follow shortly.

Dame Withycombe Hill layby widening – we have submitted an application for this work to be funded from our Hinkley C Community Impact Mitigation (CIM) fund. Highways are not able to fund it, but such is the importance we attach to this scheme for the safety of our residents and other road users, we believe it will be an appropriate use of CIM funds. Highways has agreed to produce a specification to determine the cost, currently estimated to be around £10k. SCC is minded to make a contribution which will be welcomed. The SCC-approved contractor will be used and hence, the work will need to be incorporated within the overall Highways roads and transport programme.

Annual Audit Return

Our thanks are expressed to Rod Williams who very kindly carried out our internal audit of the accounts for 2017/18. This is a legal requirement prior to submitting the Audit Return to the new external auditor, PFK Littlejohn.

Harbour View Consultation – Garden furniture on the Village Green



The Harbour View Club wrote to us as owners of the Village Green, requesting permission to erect some permanent garden furniture on both the green in front of the Village Hall and the common adjacent to the Pill. We are seeking the views of the residents in the vicinity of the green which we will consider carefully, along with insurance and liability obligations and with due regard to the Village Green status.

Doctor's branch surgery in Combwich ceasing 23.7.18

We were disappointed to learn of the



Contact details for the parish council

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Dave Cather (Chairman)	01278 652570
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

impending closure of the Wednesday afternoon Doctor's surgery in Combwich. We wrote to the Cannington Health Service Practice Manager to ask for the numbers of patients using the service over the last year, and whether subject to a campaign to advertise the surgery, it could continue for the rest of the year and then review again. The patient numbers for 2017 were 96; 34 patients attended the first 6 months of 2018. This averages 2-3 patients per week which when put into context, GP's consulting at the main surgery are able to see 10-14 patients each surgery. We are advised that the service cannot be extended until the end of the year because whilst actively looking for a replacement GP, the surgery will have to rely on locum support when possible, which may result in a reduced service for the practice population if it tried to continue the branch surgery. The Practice has reiterated that the decision was not taken lightly or without proper consideration.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

We won't go into too much detail here because for most people the spate of emails dropping into in-boxes has become a bit of a nuisance!. However, this is a legal requirement and as a responsible organisation, we too have had to produce Privacy Notices, amend our Governance Procedures and take steps to ensure we are fully compliant with the GDPR. We have to carry out an audit to establish what data we hold, why, how it is obtained and whether it is held securely. Once we have decided the

data we will hold we then need to determine the grounds for processing it. It will be an opportunity to have a big bonfire as we streamline the data held! We will shortly upload our privacy notice and amended procedures to the parish website; combwich.org.uk

Next Meeting

We traditionally don't hold a parish council meeting in August, but we do have a "village walkabout" and we will be looking to produce an emergency plan, welcome packs for new residents as well as helping to update the Community Plan. Thereafter, the next formal parish council meeting will be on Thursday 6 September 2018



The 1st Combwich Fun Day

*Combwich Fun Day on Saturday 14th July between 2 and 4.30 pm on the Common.
Many events have been planned*

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

Donate a prize

Volunteer to help run one of the events 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

Sea Buckthorn Control in Steart

A small parcel of common land within Steart, known locally as Backrap, held a very healthy population of Sea Buckthorn, a plant regarded by Natural England to be regionally non-native and invasive, which was spreading to private land adjacent to the site and to other sites within the village and Wall Common. The aim of the project, started in March 2016, was to return the site as closely as practicable to its original state, i.e. an area of grass and scrub, and to provide an area of biodiversity interest for visitors and local residents. The clearance was made by local contractors and financed with the help of Natural England, Quantock AONB, the Commoners, the parish council and local residents.



Replanting started in the autumn of 2017 with the generous help of the Woodland Trust in providing over 400 whips of a variety of indigenous shrubs and trees, followed in the spring of 2018 with an equally generous grant from the Socio-Economic Fund from Magnox (Hinkley A site) to purchase a further 700 indigenous trees and shrubs. So far the plants have not had an easy time, what with an Arctic winter and now a Saharan heat wave and drought to withstand. The site is maintained by members of the community and some locals are valiantly attempting to water as much as possible in the hope that it will rain again.

Although fenced alongside the road, the site is open and can provide a useful link with the newly-created England Coast Path.

Dick Best



Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

Registered Charity Number 1124017

As this is written it is 28 degrees centigrade and set to continue for the next few days. Great for those of us who are retired or on holiday, but not so great for those that have to work. But it is a good time to remind you of some future OPRA events. We have our monthly walks which are usually on the third Sunday of the month although we occasionally have to change this.

The July walk is on Sunday 15th July meeting at the Anchor to share cars at 9.30am. More details later

On 19th August we have arranged a special Cream Tea Walk setting off from the Natural England carpark in Steart at 2pm, followed by a very easy circular walk suitable for the whole family before returning to Dowells Farm (next to the carpark) courtesy of Aly and Robin Prowse, who will be hosting a splendid cream tea for a suggested donation of £3.50 per head. There will also be a raffle. All proceeds



will go to the Steart Church. The cream tea is also open to non-walkers, so if you can't manage the walk you are welcome to join us for the cream tea. It would be helpful if you could let Barry know on 652399 if you will be coming.

OPRA is not organising a Fete this year, but is supporting The Combwich Fun Day on the 14th July in various ways. We will also be running the cream tea tent and welcome volunteers to help. If you can help please contact Tina on 652642.

Other events to note in your diary are the Village Fireworks Display which this year will be on Sunday 4th November.

Looking even further ahead, our ever-popular Senior's Christmas Dinner will be held on Saturday 1st December. This is a free four course dinner with wine and a great deal of fun. Invites will be sent out to all on our list in November as in previous years. If you are aged 65 years, or over, and live in the parish and not currently on the list and would like to attend, contact Ann on 652399 or one of the committee. If we don't know about you, we can't invite you.

As always, we are looking for ideas for future activities and hopefully people to organise them, if you are interested please contact one of the committee.

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.



Senior's Christmas Dinner 2017

Cream Tea Walk

2pm Sunday 19th August, meet English Nature Carpark, Steart

A gentle walk followed by a delicious cream tea at Dowells Farm, Steart

Courtesy of Aly and Robin Prowse

£3.50 donation to Steart Church, there will also be a raffle.

All Welcome

Please ring Aly on 652426 to book your cream tea

Combwich Charity Cricket Match continued from page 1

Moving onto the cricket match itself, the teams were selected out of a hat by the two team captains and action commenced with the captain winning the toss opting to bat first. It was a slow start after some incredibly savvy bowling but a couple of decent partnerships and some individual brilliance, the batting side amassed a fair total that would be difficult for the side yet to bat. After a short break the players returned and roles reversed, and much the same as the previous innings, the batting side got off to a slow start. The game was definitely in the balance until the weather gods got involved with players and spectators running drastically for cover! Fortunately it was just a passing shower and the batting side kept plugging away to win the match in the final overs.



Keeping the score Tony Davey



*Umpire Ray Howard
Sartorially elegant*



*Umpire Brian Hutchings
Well prepared*



Some took it very seriously and some had other things on their minds!

Just like to finish off by saying a huge thanks to all that came along and contributed to the charities, hope you all had a fantastic day and hope to see you next year!

Murray Lister

And a great big thank you to the organisers for a wonderful day and for raising so much money for very worthwhile charities. *ED*



The legend that is Tom Jacobs, could not believe what has just happened!

Life as a Coleridge Cottage volunteer *by Rachel Boyd (Combwich resident)*

After retiring, it was my good luck that Coleridge Cottage in Nether Stowey was recruiting volunteers for its reopening after a major re-presentation by the National Trust. I signed up and for 8 years I've thoroughly enjoyed working for about half a day a week. I've learned much and met many terrific people – volunteers, staff and worldwide visitors. Even descendants of Coleridge.

There are many roles, including gardening and serving in the tea room and shop, but I mostly welcome visitors, act as room guide and take school and adult groups around. We do themed talks and tours, such as



Romantic Women, Coleridge's Garden, The Cottage Uncovered, poetry readings and children's story times. We can help create and run these and children's trails for the cottage.

Visitors really like seeing us in 18thC costume, worn sometimes, especially on 'dress like a Georgian' days and in December, when we trim the cottage as for a Georgian Christmas. They can try some on themselves and try quill writing, or listen to poems. The cottage has high visitor satisfaction scores and people get a real sense of the family's life in this



cramped, mouse-ridden 'hovel'.

They enjoy the story of the young, newly-wed poet arriving with his wife and new baby in mid-winter 1796, later enticing Wordsworth to come and live nearby and producing with him a game-changing book of poems including the 'Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner'. Yes, Somerset inspired the first 'romantic poets'. I grew up in Highgate, North London, where Coleridge ended this story, living with the doctor treating his opium addiction.

The Cottage opens every day now and always needs more volunteers. You don't have to be a Coleridge expert. It's easy to pick up the key information via room folders and experienced colleagues. You can volunteer for just one activity – e.g. the tea room or shop – and choose your duty times. There are social events and trips and a volunteer card (earned by hours worked) allows entry to NT properties and some discounts. All highly recommended!



Photo Dave Wood

To get started, contact Tina, Kate or Roy on **01278 732662**, visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/coleridgecottage or attend a volunteer open day. The next one is **5th July 2018** from 5-7 pm at the Cottage in Lime Street, Nether Stowey.

The Combwich Funday on Combwich common

Sat 14 th July 2pm-4 30 pm

Stalls, Tug of War, Sack Races,



Something for Everyone



William Johnson Training Gig *by Tim Jones*

The gig, William Johnson is becoming a familiar sight on the river adjacent to Combwich as more and more people are enjoying the opportunity to take up rowing. The gig section has attracted 28 new members to the Combwich Motor Boat and Sailing Club with many others expressing an interest to 'have a go'. Whole families have joined and three generations from the same family have been out on the gig. Club secretary Trevor Reason said: "It has been a wonderful success and attracted rowers from youngsters to pensioners." The Club has now positioned a larger, refurbished pontoon in the Pill to enable easier access to the gig. A number of members have also been to Bristol on a course to learn how to cox the gig.



Photo: Tim Houghton



Photo :Tim Houghton

Welcome to the new Head Teacher of Otterhampton Primary School Clair Luce



Claire writes:

I am delighted to have been appointed as the new Head Teacher at Otterhampton Primary School. The school is ready to move forward and I am excited to be leading the way on its journey to success.

So far I have been tremendously impressed with the behaviour and attitudes to learning of the children and the staff are dedicated to school improvement.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the numerous parents/carers who have made me feel so welcome, your well wishes and positive comments have been greatly appreciated. I look forward to working closely with the parents, governors, staff and the community in Combwich in the future.

Watch out for regular updates in future issues of Otter Tales.



News from *Revd Alison Waters*

Otterhampton Church

Cheese, Wine and Evensong
Sunday 8th July
5.00pm

On Sunday 8th July, we will be holding a service of Evensong at All Saints Church, Otterhampton.



All Saints was closed in 1988 and is in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. It is open to the public but no longer regularly used for worship. This service is an opportunity to see the church once again filled with song and to share in cheese and wine on what we hope will be a lovely evening in aid of the Trust. All are very welcome to come along.

Services for the next few months are below:

Sunday 1st July
11.15am Patronal Family Service St Peter's Church, Combwich

Sunday 5th August
11.15am Family Service St Peter's Church, Combwich

Sunday 8th July
11.15am Family Service St Mary Magdalene Church, Stockland
5.00pm Evensong (preceded by cheese and wine) All Saints Church, Otterhampton

Sunday 12th August
11.15am Family Service St Mary Magdalene Church, Stockland

Sunday 15th July
11.15am Holy Communion St Peter's Church, Combwich

Sunday 19th August
11.15am Holy Communion St Peter's Church, Combwich

Sunday 22nd July
11.15am Holy Communion St Mary Magdalene Church, Stockland

Sunday 26th August
11.15am Holy Communion St Mary Magdalene Church, Stockland

Sunday 29th July
10.00am Benefice Communion St Andrew's Chapel, Steart

Interior of All Saints Church Otterhampton



News from Combwich and District WI

Vanessa J Smith (President)



This year we celebrate the Centenary of Somerset County Federation of the Women's Institute and lots of events have been organized.

On **Saturday 28th April**, Elizabeth Marriott and myself joined over 450 Somerset members in celebration for a **Centenary Banner Parade**. We started at Cathedral Green with banners held high, accompanied by The Mayor, The Town Crier and a full Brass Band, the

weather remained dry as we paraded through the gorgeous City streets of Wells, heartily singing our Anthem – 'Jerusalem' to the waiting crowds until we reached St Cuthbert's Church where we enjoyed a fabulous Tea and Cakes.

Our **Craft Club** met in May and made *fabric flowers*, this has become quite addictive as members are beginning to experiment and design very inventive forms of flora! We have continued this project through June and July also we will be making wired leaves.

Wendy Durant is very keen for our group to start making a quilt using many techniques of stitching, appliqué, patchwork etc. We are having discussions later this month and I think this may be a very instructive way for members to learn new skills and work towards their strengths, ability and preferred craft. An exciting project.

On **9th May** Elizabeth and myself, went on a County trip to Dartmouth and enjoyed a most enlightening guided tour of **Britannia Royal Dartmouth College** which is the training establishment responsible for delivering the initial training course to all Royal Naval Officers, both men and women and from all backgrounds. The interior was amazing although the exterior needed a lot of refurbishment, especially the beautiful Pavilion. This was a most enjoyable day.

Our monthly meeting on **17th of May** was well attended considering it was our AGM. All officers remained the same so after the business was concluded we all had a friendly game of **Skittles and a Ploughman's Supper**.

On **24th May** we held a day Workshop at Stockland Club and were once again instructed into the ancient art of **Straw Craft** with the very patient **Michael Sprigg** who was also our Guest Speaker in April's monthly meeting.

Michael showed us how to make a small horseshoe which we then put in a rather smart silk lined presentation box. We then got more ambitious and some of us went on to make hearts. The day was great fun with lots of laughs and much banter going on. Michael enjoyed his day also with us and wants to come back for a follow up workshop!



The Monthly meeting in on **Thursday 21st June** was **Members Night** which was a fabulous evening and full of surprises, especially for the committee because the whole evening was organised by the members. Betty Edney was President, Doreen Bunch took the minutes and Wendy Durant reported the finances and did the Raffle. Our Guest Speaker was our very friendly County Advisor **Margaret Lomax** who with her usual charm and wit regaled her experience as a contestant on **The Chase with Bradley Walsh**. A most enjoyable evening was had by all and a warm welcome back to Jane Temple who must now be our longest standing

member, we have missed you Jane.

Next Month in July we will be 'Eating Out' at **Greenway farm** and there will be **no meeting in August**.

For more information or to join Combwich & District WI, please do not hesitate to call Vanessa on 01278 652830 or Brenda on 01278 446279, we welcome your call.





Join the international research project at Steart, Stockland Bristol, Otterhampton, and Combwich! by filling in the 5 minute questionnaire “*About You, the Estuary and Steart Marshes*”, delivered to your home in the next few days ☺

Supported by the Sedgemoor District Council, we are independent researchers from universities in Bristol and Japan who have conducted similar studies in Malaysia and Japan. We are looking for someone aged 15 or older, ideally whose birthday is the closest to 1st January to complete the survey as a representative of the views of the household.



If you are interested, you can also enter the prize draw with a chance to win a one of three £20 vouchers for the Blackmore Farm Shop or the Croft Farm Family Butchers (which sells saltmarsh lamb from the Steart Marshes). The information you give us will remain anonymous, and the deadline for posting the survey is 31 July 2018. (a second class stamp is included)

The research results will be shared in a future Otter Tales and Stockland Gatepost. Thank you very much in advance! (If you prefer the online form to fill in, please visit here or scan the QR code: <https://goo.gl/forms/sCTsr28ONOfkbcH3>)



HOKKAIDO
UNIVERSITY



(Commissioners of the survey) Dr Mark Everard (University of the West of England); Rob McInness (RM Wetlands & Environment Ltd.); Dr Naoyuki Mikami (Hokkaido University, Japan); Dr Hiromi Yamashita (Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan) E-mail: hiromiya@apu.ac.jp, Tel +81 977 78 1065



Friday Coffee Club

New to the village, or want to meet people, the Coffee Club in the village hall every Friday morning between 10 and 12 noon is the place to go.

Copious amounts of tea, coffee and biscuits and excellent welcoming company all for £1. Often there are other delights including cakes, croissants, cream teas and occasionally bacon rolls.

All this is produced by local volunteers organised by Helen Jowett

Why not just come along, or if you want more information ring Helen on 652322.



WWT Steart Marshes

working in partnership with



**Environment
Agency**

Management

On the 30th May, as part of the Advanced Ecosystems Conservation in Practice. Masters students from Bristol UWE came to WWT Steart Marshes for the second year in a row. Utilising the reserve as the fantastic outdoor learning space that it is, they learnt some hugely important skills, predominantly in habitat survey techniques. Using the Field Studies Council in Nettlecombe as a base, students spent 3 full days on site undertaking Phase 1 habitat mapping and Saltmarsh condition assessments, collecting data for pollinator networks, and looking into surveying ecosystem services and function.

As an exemplar of wetland creation, demonstrating to people the benefits that wetlands bring to communities and wildlife, Steart Marshes offers the ideal location for students to put their field skills into practice. With a view to visit on an annual basis the students will be providing some important data to WWT about how the site is changing over time.



Wildlife

What is believed to be a first for the site, a pair of Shelduck have had 8 young which can be seen out on Otterhampton Marsh. A pair of yellow wagtails have set up territory within the intertidal area showing signs that they could have young. 3 Great White Egrets have also been seen occasionally lingering around Stockland Marsh Along with A tawny Owl with one fledged owlet.

Goat's-beard (*Tragopogon pratensis*) is coming up nicely throughout Steart Marshes and the surrounding area, it can most commonly be found along road verges and the dryer hedge rows. It looks like a much larger and better formed dandelion, with a similar flower and seed head (see images). Another common name for Goat's-beard is Jack –go-to-bed-at-noon due to the fact it's flowers are only open in the morning



Tragopogon pratensis in flower and in seed
Ronan Conn (WWT)



Engagement

An important area for us here at Steart is to maximise the potential for people to reap the many benefits of using the site to enhance their physical and mental health and wellbeing. Of course this is a great place to come for walking, running, cycling, etc, but I think we often underestimate the importance of places like Steart Marshes for our mental wellbeing, be that quiet contemplative time, or social time with friends, family or volunteers. WWT are currently running research into the value of spending time outdoors, and there is increasing evidence that blue space (being near water) can have an enhanced effect on wellbeing as compared to green space.

Regular health walks take place here, you can find details on the www.zingsomerset.co.uk website. Or join us for a **butterfly and dragonfly walk**, 11-1pm, Sun 8 July, call the office to book places. Drop in **pond dipping** Wednesday afternoons from 25 July.

Look out for us with our working wetland model at the following event:

Combwich fun afternoon, Sat 14th July



Pond dipping on the Open Day held on the 20th May.

Kit Houghton (WWT Volunteer)

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



Apologies to **Rachel Boyd** for missing her out of the last edition of Otter Tales feature on the Combwich Market.

Here is a sample of her beautiful hand crafted jewellery.

Remember

The Combwich Village Market is always held on the second Saturday of the month in the village hall from 10 - 12 noon

See you there

Notes from your Village Agent

Izzy Silvester



I am writing in beautiful sunshine and I do hope that this is set to continue. I remember this time last year when it was very hot and I learned that medication can get over heated too. Liquids especially, can lose their effectiveness if left in a very hot place.

So can humans! Don't forget to keep drinking water as dehydration is an easy thing to fall victim to. Sometimes it makes you feel groggy and "headachy" as your body needs water to complete its every day jobs such as thinking and digesting your meal. Left unattended, it can make you very ill.

At this point I send out my empathy to hay fever sufferers. The pollen levels have been very high this year.

The sun seems also to have brought out a few suspicious looking people. I have received a few reports of strange loitering in the area. If you are worried, don't hesitate to call 101. It is the quickest way to get hold of the PCSO's on duty who will try to drive through and monitor suspicious situations. Gardens are packed with lovely summer equipment at the moment. Very tempting....

I thought you might all be interested in a service called **Swan Advocacy**. Swan Advocacy supports people who are concerned about their memory or have dementia, to complete a Living Well Plan. A Living Well Plan is a record of someone's past, present and future. It records past achievements and memories, identifies preferences that are important to someone today, and captures their hopes and wishes for the future. The plans include important information, what daily preferences a person has and what plans they would like to make for their future. Completing a Living Well Plan can:

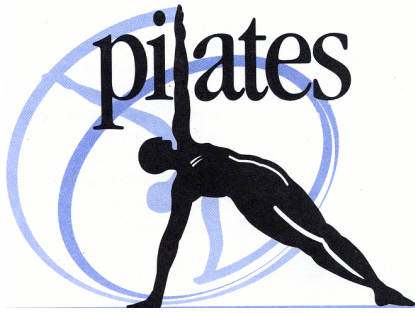
- Encourage someone to plan for the future
- Help others involved in their care to understand them better
- Help others who are making decisions on someone's behalf

They have trained volunteers to support people to complete a Living Well Plan or people can complete it by themselves, in their own time. You can phone them on 03333447928 or email somerset@swanadvocacy.org.uk. I can always make the referral for you so please ring if you need help!

I haven't been able to visit coffee mornings of late as I have been very busy attending to clients. If you would like help from a Village agent, Living Better Nurse, West Somerset advice bureau etc please remember you can drop in to one of our **Talking cafes (Beach Hotel in Minehead every Monday morning and Williton Library morning of July 11th and August 8th)** It was great to catch up with many of you at the annual parish meetings that I have been to throughout May and hear about all the exciting social groups in our villages.

Not sure who to turn to? Village Agents are a charity that work with individuals and social groups to give confidential support and advice. We can enable people to be more independent in their home, manage personal finances, care for family members and advise on just about anything!

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@somersetcc.org.uk .I do only work part-time so it may take a day or two for me to return your call. Thank you.



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

The Annual General meeting held recently was well attended by drivers and passengers alike. Also present were Nick Morgison and Sam Shaw from Somerset County Council, who praised the efforts of the Otter Wheels team in provide a much needed community service.

It was reported that we now have over 50 clients and 14 drivers. Over 300 journeys have been undertaken including

186 this year, providing a lifeline for many.

The scheme is financially viable thanks to the efforts of all the volunteer drivers and co-ordinators and not forgetting the officers (also volunteers) pictured left.

From the left are Secretary Yvonne Bulman, Chair Richard Stirling and Treasurer Liz Brown

After the formal meeting everyone enjoyed a lovely cream tea.

This not-for-profit car scheme is always there for you. 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.



MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library visits Combwich and Stockland every four weeks on a Thursday morning . Next visits are 19th July and 16th th August.

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 if you can.

Please note there is some confusion about whether the mobile library will stop outside the school because of parking and turning problems.

You can check by ringing 0300 1232224

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

Saturday 14th July	Combwich Fun Day	2pm - 4.30pm	Combwich Common (small)
August	OPC Village Walk. No Parish Council meeting	N/A	Parish Council to view the village and facilities
6th September	Parish Council Meeting	7pm	
Articles 9 th September 2018	Next Otter Tales		Distribution by 17th Sept

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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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.