



Welcome to Combwich

# Otter Tales

Published with the generous support of Otterhampton Parish Council

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## Arrival of “Abnormal Indivisible Load” (AIL) at Combwich Wharf.



Barge and tug on the  
River Parrett  
heading for  
Combwich

*Photo Luke Perrett*

## Arriving at Combwich Wharf



Tunnel Borer  
unloaded and  
traveling by C182 to  
HPC

*Photo Mike Tucker*

Update on  
Combwich Wharf  
refurbishment on  
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# Otterhampton Offcuts

## Snippets from the June & July 2019 Parish Council Meetings

### EDF Comwich Wharf Refurbishment Update (July)

Briefly (as there is a more detailed report within the newsletter) the construction is keeping to schedule. Work will accelerate over the next couple of months. The planned completion date is winter 2020. Permanent offices will be erected towards the end of July and will be in place for 5 years. At its peak, there will be 30-40 personnel on site. There are noise monitors in place to ensure the noise does not exceed the permitted 85 decibels. If the noise does rise above this level an automatic message will be triggered and sent to SDC. The next large delivery which will be the main fuel tanks (from Slovakia) will be during October. Regular updates will continue to be provided by EDF.

### Hinkley C Community Fund

An application for funding to provide much needed and additional IT equipment for Otterhampton Primary School was supported (recently approved by the Otterhampton Parish Project Team). The net sum requested is £8584.92. Match funding of £953.88 (10% of the cost) was provided by the Friends of Otterhampton Parish School. The application will now go forward for approval at the Hinkley C Community Fund Panel on 19.7.19.

### Parking in the Village

Following a recent and unpleasant incident involving two vehicles on Church Hill, please can we ask that residents park as considerately as possible. As you all know Church Hill, School Lane and Ship Lane are very narrow and with the number of vehicles trying to park there, it can make it very difficult at times for people trying to pass them or to reverse to let others pass.

### Removal of Willows and Brambles

We have recently gone out to competitive tender to remove the willow trees and brambles from the area around the brook near the defibrillator and phone box. The willows were identified as a risk within our Tree Maintenance Survey a couple of years ago. We have had to carry out preventative and emergency works to the willows over the last 18 months or so, so cannot allow them to get in such a state that they could cause injury to someone or cause damage to property e.g cars. The brambles are encroaching the brook and need to be removed. The work will be carried out in the autumn.

### SCC Chairman's Award

Our 'postie' Roger Musgrove, collected his award on 4.7.19 accompanied by Dick Best. Please turn to page 4 to see a photograph of Roger receiving his award.

### Councillor Training

All the councillors are undergoing a number of training

### Contact details for the parish council

#### PARISH COUNCILLORS

Julie Evans (Chair)	01278 652735
Bob Birkenhead (Vice Chair)	01278 653127
Rachel Perrett	01278 652958
Tina Gardener	01278 652642
Marie Beckley	07748 154395
Lindsey Parsons	07843 604787
Andrew Darch (Stewart)	01278 653495
Mrs Aly Prowse (Clerk)	01278 652426
<a href="mailto:otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com">otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com</a>	

#### County and District Ward Members

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

sessions including Councillors' Essential Training, "Being a Successful Chair", Code of Conduct and Planning. This will be useful as we strive to carry out our role in a competent and professional manner.

### Rural Housing Need Assessment

Following a recent presentation by SDC's Rural Housing team, a survey will be sent out shortly to all householders in the parish to try and establish what the ongoing needs are for housing in the community. There is of course no guarantee that the housing needs can be delivered, but at least if any new development is planned, these needs will form part of discussions with a developer.

### Village Walk and next Parish Council Meeting

We don't traditionally have a parish council meeting in August, but we have a 'village walk' to look at things that might need attention or to consider future enhancement. This will be on 5.8.19 at 6pm. If you see us, please feel free to come and speak to us and tell us your views and ideas.

The next parish council meeting will then be held on Thursday 5 September 2019, at 7.00pm, in Otterhampton Village Hall. Residents are very welcome at our meetings. You will be given a warm welcome and the opportunity to participate and discuss the various topics. In addition, tea, coffee and biscuits are available from 5-10 minutes before the meeting start time.

Contact for Clerk (Aly Prowse)  
[otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com](mailto:otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com) or Tel  
01278 652426

## Adopt a Footpath - Bob Birkenhead

Somerset County Council has recently been publicising the 'Adopt a Footpath' scheme. This is in addition to the role of footpath liaison officer which I currently hold as a volunteer. Details of the scheme can be found at: <https://volunteering.somerset.gov.uk/opportunities/rights-of-way-volunteer/>

In this scheme you can register with the council who will give you an induction and provide you with gloves, secateurs and other equipment. We have many public rights of way in our parish, some frequently used and others rarely used. It is difficult for one person to keep up with the overgrowth and breakages which occur at the various stiles and gates on our footpath system so it was agreed at the parish council meeting that we concentrate on the more frequently used paths in the parish.

To see our local network, refer to <https://roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map> and search for Combwich, Otterhampton or Steart to see a map which can be magnified as required. Anyone can report anything wrong on our local network by clicking on 'report an issue'. The paths most used in our parish which are not cared for by WWT or English Nature are as follows; BW 25/16 from School Lane to Otterhampton Hill via Hill House. BW 25/14 from Brookside to intersection with BW 25/16 to carry on to Hill House. BW 25/23 from School Lane to intersection with BW 25/14 to turn to Brookside or Hill House BW 25/31 from opposite the bottom of Church Hill to the river bank where after about 100 metres it becomes BW 5/4 in the parish of Cannington. BW 25/21 from Estuary Park west to Bolham Bridge.

If you are interested in joining this scheme and adopting any of the footpaths listed above or other footpaths in the parish, please contact Somerset County Council on line and also contact me on [birkenhead.bob@gmail.com](mailto:birkenhead.bob@gmail.com)

## Combwich Wharf Update - Immy Silby, Community Relations Executive HPC



As part of the Hinkley Point C project, works are underway to refurbish the current wharf in Combwich. This will allow large loads to be delivered by sea.

Progress on the wharf refurbishment is on schedule. The stage one Enabling Works are currently being implemented; this includes aspects such as the site set up. The contractor completing the works, Hochtief, have also been working on the private access road in preparation for Western Power Distribution to complete the installation of a new transformer.

Over the coming months you can expect to see works to the otter fencing, mammal crossing, as well as offices arriving and being erected. At peak, there will be around 40 people working on the wharf. Noise monitoring stations continue to be in place at various points in Combwich.

I'd like to thank the local community for their patience whilst we had the deliveries into the wharf for our Tunnel Boring Machines back in June, and hope that those who came down to watch the delivery arriving enjoyed the scene. For further information, please do visit our website or get in touch by telephone on 0333 009 7070.



### Combwich Ponds

Thanks to all those of you who have emailed or written to Somerset County Council in support of our campaign to have the Ponds footpaths reopened. There is no news yet as the application is still being examined.





# Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

Registered Charity Number 1124017

# OPRA



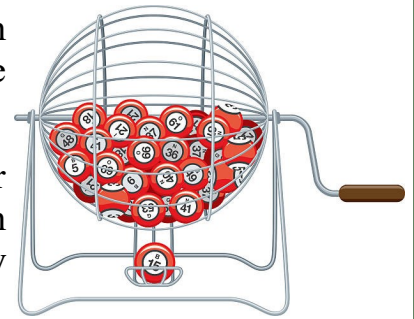
OPRA has been part of parish and community life for decades and hopefully will continue to do so. We arrange a variety of activities throughout the year, the Children's' Easter Egg Hunt, Walks and

Talks, the Annual Fireworks Display and Lantern Parade, a Christmas Tree for Combwich and Steart and the ever popular Christmas Dinner for the over 65s. We also provide grants to other organisations and new initiatives.

Our funds come mainly from membership of the 100 Club who contribute £1 a week and participate in a weekly draw (made monthly). Half of the income is paid out in prize money and the rest is used in support of community activities and organisation in the parish.

The 100 Club draw takes place at the Friday Coffee morning in the Otterhampton Village Hall and the winning numbers are displayed in the Post office shortly afterwards.

If you are interested in helping your community in this way, or want to become involved OPRA activities, please contact Ann on 652399 or any committee member. You will be made very welcome.



## Roger Musgrove - Otterhampton Somerset County Council Chairman's Award



We believe that everyone in the parish would support our nomination for Roger "Our Postie" for this award. He is incredibly popular, diligent, valued and hugely appreciated right across the parish for his acts of kindness, help, support, friendliness and very cheery disposition. Even the dogs love him for their daily biscuit. Importantly he also "looks out for people" in our rural and sparsely populated parish, and could be a life saver!

## 1st Combwich Brownies



We now have a small but happy group of Brownies coming from villages around the area and so making new friendships. Three girls will be leaving at the end of this term as they are moving on to secondary schools. This leaves us with some spare places for 7/8 year olds to come and join us and enjoy some of the challenges that we undertake and to learn new skills.

We are now working on an entirely new and exciting programme which challenges everyone, both girls and leaders, and covers almost every topic you can imagine. We have just had an adventure day with other Brownies from around the county where, among other things, Brownies learned how to strike matches, build and light camp fires, and pitch and strike tents. In the holidays we are taking part in a night at the Fleet Air Arm museum where we will sleep under Concord. If your daughter would be interested in joining us please contact Liz Brown 01278652687 or Karen Barton 01278 652673.



# SOS

# OTTER WHEELS

## Can you HELP?

**By giving a little of your spare time as a volunteer driver for Otter Wheels you could help residents of our community, who for whatever reason are unable to drive, make essential journeys.**

**You can do as few, or as many journeys as you wish, there will be no pressure to do more than you feel able. A mileage allowance is paid.**

**For more information please contact: Elizabeth Marriott on 653308**

## Combwich Boat Club



Combwich Boat Club continues to go from strength to strength with members of the gig section now able to use two new gigs.

Avocet is a glass fibre craft similar to the William Johnson, but the club now has a traditional Cornish built gig, Warlock, paid for from the Otterhampton Parish allocation of the EDF Community Fund.

It means members can now take part in numerous regattas throughout the South West. A men's team has already notched up a credible 5th place in the Super Vets races in Swanage and upcoming events include Exmouth, Sidmouth and Lyme Regis.

Gigs have also been rowed up to Bridgwater on a couple of occasions and a team was due to take part in the recent Burnham-on-Sea to Combwich and back race.

Anyone interested in having a gig in one of the gigs should contact Club secretary Trevor Reason or visit the club website.

### MAY AND JUNE MEETINGS 2019

Your W.I. meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at Stockland Club, starting 7.30 p.m. finish around 9.30 p.m.

We have various guest Speakers on a huge variety of topics, competitions, monthly birthday posies, refreshments but most of all really great company, lots of chat, laughter and sharing of ideas.

We always give a huge welcome to new members and if you need a lift there are always girls in Comwich that would be happy to car share. If that's not enough to tempt you, we also have a thriving Craft Club meeting once a month and a monthly Ladies Lunch where we visit various local pubs to sample their cuisine. We also have an Annual outing to a place of interest, so do take up this invitation and visit your W.I. – I promise we're not all 'Jam and Jerusalem' or a bunch of old fogies, just a friendly group of local girls of all ages. In addition to all of that, you can come and test us out a couple of times before you need to pay!



MAY saw our A.G.M. and our lovely hard working President Vanessa stepped down after 6 years of loyal service during which she has turned the W.I. around from near closure to its present thriving state. Vanessa is now our new Vice President, so thank you Vanessa from us all. We then welcomed our New President Brenda, who stepped up from Secretary. I know Brenda will also make a great President with new ideas, plenty of W.I. experience, a really friendly, welcoming nature and a big smile – we can't wait to see what the future has in store – all we know is that it will be good! Anne retired from Treasurer and took on the Secretary post, one that she has done brilliantly before. Elizabeth moved from Vice President to Treasurer and has also taken on the job of recruiting our Speakers for 2020 so I'm confident we will have some very interesting talks next year. There were reports from the Craft Club and Ladies Lunch both of which went extremely well, posies were presented to our May Birthday Girls and we ended with a scrumptious American Supper.



JUNE. This month was Member's Evening where once a year the members organise everything and then entertain the Committee. We had Connie as acting President, Carol as acting Secretary and Shirley was acting Treasurer. They all stepped up brilliantly especially as they were all recruited at the last minute! Sadly because of this, Brenda missed her first meeting as President but she was presented with the Competition Winner's Trophy for the year instead. Following on from that, Rachel had organised a lovely lady, Alison Brown from 'Tropic' to give us a talk on 'Green Beauty'. Alison brought lots of really gorgeous potions for us to try and organised a lipstick competition which was hilarious. Usual reports on Craft Club and Ladies Lunch. The evening ended with the usual yummy refreshments. Next month, July, we are looking forward to a talk from Darren Hillman on Photography.

If you need any more info, please contact Brenda Wasley on 01278 446279 or Anne Weston on 01278 651312 who will be happy to help.





# Otterhampton Primary School.

Head Teacher, Claire Luce



## Otterhampton Primary School -- Highlights from the Summer term.

- Pyjamarama reading day - raising money for the Book Trust
- Year 6 trip to London
- Swimming lessons continue at Quantock Lodge
- Bay Class trip to Hinkley Point
- River Class trip to Bristol Zoo
- Mobile Library visiting monthly
- Brymore athletics event
- Bay Class trip to Taunton Museum
- Year 6 transition days at their new schools
- NSPCC Parent workshop
- Celebration assemblies for parents
- After school clubs continue
- Brook Class trip to Tropiquaria
- New Science resources



London

New visualiser - thanks to donations from Cannington Enterprises and Bridgwater Mowers

Dates for the diary - OPS Sports Day and BBQ - Wednesday 10th July 1.30pm.



Bristol Zoo



Brymore Athletics



Pyjamas Boom Swap



Science Resources

## Jean Kibby- Profile

The irrepressible Jean Kibby well known to all in Comwich, a local you might say. She has certainly been involved in village activities usually playing a lead role. But some would be surprised to learn that Jean is really a scouser, born in 1932 and raised a few streets from Anfield, the Liverpool football ground. She still has fond memories of a very happy childhood.

At the beginning of the war in 1939 she was evacuated along with her sister Phyllis to Capel Bangor in North Wales to stay in a house with few facilities; in fact they had to cross the road to get drinking water from the bank! They only stayed a few months as mum and dad wanted them home.



She remembers her grandfather relating to her how he walked through the Mersey Tunnel which connects Liverpool to the Wirral in Cheshire when it first opened in 1934 and happy family holidays in the Isle of Man when she was small. After happy school years at the Queen Mary High School in Liverpool, she went to work for the GPO as a telephonist and had a great social life enjoying dancing in particular.

Things were about to change, she was persuaded by a friend to visit her in Comwich where she met her husband to be, Bernard Kibby in the Anchor. Within 18 months they married back in Liverpool and after their honeymoon moved in with Bernard's parents. As was possible in those days, within 3 weeks they were offered a council house in Brookside Road where she lives to this day. When "the right to buy" was offered to tenants Bernard refused to buy it even though he was earning good money as a shift worker in Cellophane in Bridgwater. After he died over 20 years ago she decided to purchase the house to give her some security.

Moving from the centre of Liverpool to rural Comwich at the age of 24 was a bit of a culture shock she recalls. Needing a job and having previously worked for the GPO she successfully applied to become the local postwoman with a round that included many isolated farms and cottages around Comwich. In one field she found herself surrounded by a herd of heifers, although she didn't realise they were just curious, and left at high speed! That particular resident did not get their mail that day! After that she had a series of jobs including at Morgan's Brush Factory and speaks eloquently of the variety of skills that were applied to a range of products.



*Jean at keep fit in her early 30s.*

Jean was a member of the Comwich and District WI and became President, and in that role was chosen to go to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party and was presented to Princess Alexandra; a momentous occasion she said. She was heavily involved with a range of WI activities including the drama group and the choir. Her great friend in these activities was the much missed Mem Myatt; together they organised an all day Fete on the common.

She helped found the Comwich Brownies which is still going today. Her skill and commitment led her to eventually becoming Assistant District Commissioner.

The village school was a big part of her life, as school secretary and also school meals supervisor. Every week used to take the children swimming in Taunton and later at Bridgwater Lido. At the opening of the Splash in Bridgwater she met Princess Diana; another momentous occasion.

In addition to all this (and much more) she raised her two daughters Susan and Jenifer and now has six lovely grandchildren. Jean says she had a very good life in the wonderful community. But you have to get involved - and not wait for people to come to you. A lesson for us all.



## Life on a divided island - *John Berry*

No, not your one. We moved to Cyprus in March 2018. The division here is much more evident, even taking Boris into account. There's a border running right through the centre of Nicosia, which makes it the world's last divided capital. North of the line lies the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, to the south the Republic of Cyprus, Greek speaking and a member of the EU. We live in the north a couple of kilometres from the coast and not far from Kyrenia. Behind our house the Besparmak mountain range rises up to a height of more than two thousand feet. It's a dramatic view.



Life here isn't dominated by the border, which is easily crossed at a number of points, putting one in mind of western Europe before the EU. The cost of living is low, the climate benign and the island is very beautiful. The beaches are more numerous in the north and much less developed. Since the 'Turkish Intervention', as it's euphemistically known in the North in 1974, Greeks and Turks have become separated and there is little sign of that changing any time soon. Whereas they once understood one another's language and often lived in villages with a mosque at one end and an Orthodox church at the other, now two generations have grown up apart, many knowing less about each other than Donald Trump knows about Mexicans.

Life for a Brit expat is pretty good. Cypriots, Turkish and Greek, are friendly and generally welcoming. Turkish is quite difficult to learn, being unrelated to Indo-European languages, but our clumsy efforts to get to grips with it are met with a cheerful tolerance and we are trying! There are quite a lot of us here and together with Scandinavians and Russians we constitute a significant chunk of the population. And like most British ex-colonies, in Cyprus, north and south, we drive on the left.

Just now our weather has changed from a warm Spring, following the wettest winter in living memory to Summer, with cloudless day following cloudless day and the temperature nudging the mid-thirties. It's not everybody's cup of tea, but we love it. It's also a gardener's paradise, provided you're handy with a hose, or better still an automatic watering system. It's early days for recycling here though and despite the sunshine – 300+ days annually - there's not much solar power generation, apart from hot water systems. For all that, the TRNC is much closer to the rest of Europe, developmentally, than when we first visited in 2002. And development brings negatives as well as positives, as Combwich residents well know!

## Guided Cycle Ride for Novice or Intermediate Riders

To any novice cyclist or those that have not cycled for a while!

The ride is designed for adults (16 and over) and is particularly trying to encourage people who have limited experience of cycling or would like to get back into this wonderful activity.



We will be conducting a 'guided' cycle ride of between 10 - 15 miles in your local area on **Saturday August 10th** in the morning.

The ride will be managed by trained Sustrans (national cycling charity) riders and will include a ride manager, leader & assistant. Leaders are also first aid trained.

If you are interested, please contact Gary Perrett phone 01278 652958.

# OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

News from the Otterhampton Village Hall Committee



## THE PAST

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Comwich Fun Day** was held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July and was a great success. The sun shone, the burgers were cooked, the cakes baked, thirsts quenched at the bar and children of all ages took part in the sack, bouncy hopper, egg and spoon and obstacle races. There were tug of war matches enjoyed by all and medals and sweets awarded.

The Fun Day was organised by the Village Hall Committee (mainly Amber, Audrey and Pete – thank you!) and funds raised will help with the hall refurbishment costs. Many thanks to the Parish Council for arranging for the common to be cut and the white lining added; to Otterhampton School for the loan of benches and tables; OPRA for the loan of various equipment and help setting up on the day; to the Friday Coffee Morning group and others who generously made and donated some wonderful cakes; to Comwich Boat Club for the loan of the BBQ; to Dave Larkins for the BBQ gas; Greenslades and Pete and Connie for the loan of generators; Blackmore Farm shop for the loan of a freezer; Sarah Kennedy for loaning gazebos and supplying chocolate prizes; to Comwich Stores for hiring the childrens' races equipment and to Mike for donating the hay bales.

Thanks also to all the volunteers from the Village Hall Committee, Harbour View Committee, OPRA, Comwich Boat Club, Connie, Pete, Jan, Debbie, Andy, Charlotte, Amelia, Evie, Brian, Ray, Pat, Lynn, Nick, Nicky and Ian, Ray for helping to set up, run the show and clear away afterwards. You are all wonderful people and the day would not have taken place without you all.

Special thanks have to go to Rob (Comwich Stores) and Georgina (Brymore School) for volunteering to go in the stocks and get wet sponges thrown at them though they seemed to enjoy it! And finally to Mike Gardener for his brilliant job of comparing and keeping everyone up to date on events.

We had some brilliant raffle prizes donated by:

Harbour View Club, Asda, Jan Cashin, Cannington Walled Garden, Butlins, Spice Club, Sally Fisher, The Anchor Inn, Comwich Stores, Butlins, Tropiquaria and Bill Johnson

Thank you so much for the donations and well done to all the winners. Thanks to everyone who came along to support the Fun Day and we hope to see you next year. If you would like to be involved or have any new ideas please let us know.

Work is progressing on the planned refurbishment. We have started the tender process and expect bids to be provided within the next couple of months. The business plan is nearly complete and we are working closely with the Community Council for Somerset to alter our governance document to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) so individual trustees will be financially protected during the refurbishment process. Once tenders are in and we have the CIO we will be in a position to seek funding for the whole project from the Hinkley Community Fund and other organisations; building work will then take place early 2020.

If you have any queries about the refurbishment please don't hesitate to contact the village hall committee: write to us at the hall, email or phone me Sue on 01278 653531.











## Reserve

### Grazing Paths in Stockland Marshes

As many of you who frequent the paths around the area of Stockland Marshes, we have started grazing a lot of the grass paths that we used to previously cut with the tractor. There are a few reasons for this new management:

- Firstly we are solely reliant on an agri-environment scheme that funds all our work and staffing on site. Grazing is a key element we have to deliver to receive this income.
- Grazing is a lot more sustainable than cutting with the tractor, which costs us fuel and a lot of time we can allocate to other areas of management.
- Grazing these areas will encourage a lot more biodiversity, the cattle will eat all the areas of long rank grass and oil-seed rape and encourage more flowers such as the cuckoo flower to spread which in turn will bring in more insects.

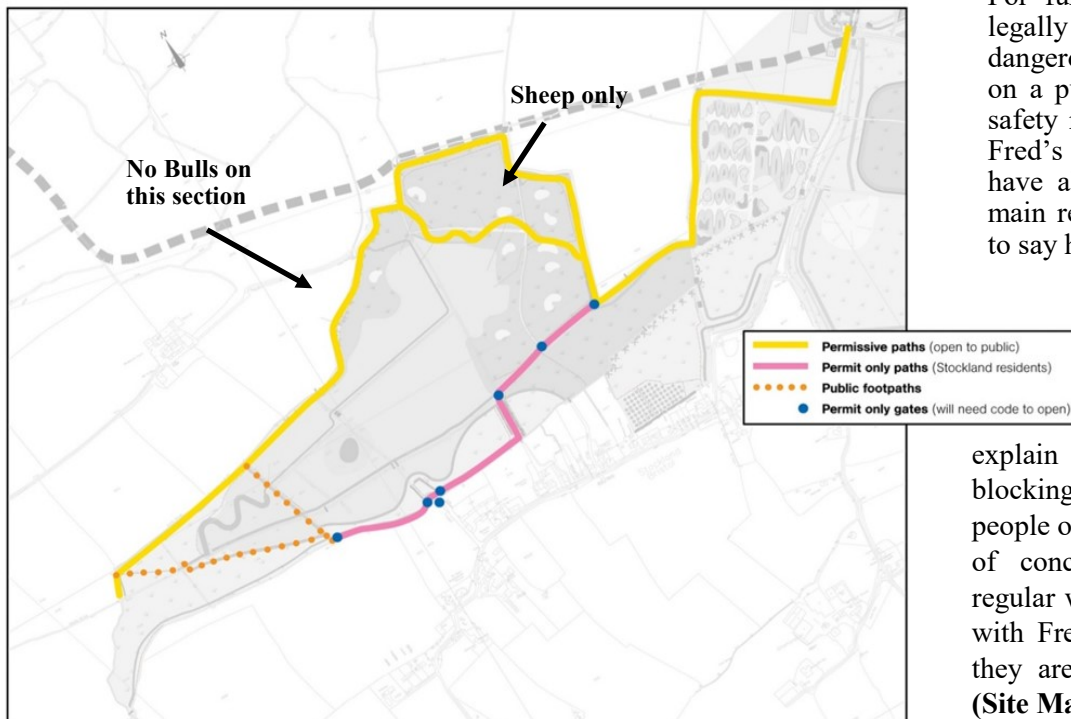
I appreciate this is a big change and not everyone is comfortable around cattle. I wanted to reassure regular walkers of the area that I have listened to concerns and made changes on the ground which I hope will appease people's worries.

I sat down with Fred Stone who grazes the area on our behalf and we have agreed the following:

- Sheep only on the thin wiggly path (see map below)
- No bulls on the new path sections as we understand this makes people nervous (see map below)
- The removal of all the yellow warning signs. These were only put up as a good intention, they were never a reflection of the animals grazing the area and understandably caused people to feel concerned.



*Cuckoo flower and orange-tip butterfly which we are actively encouraging the spread.*



For further reassurance the farmer legally isn't allowed to put any dangerous bulls or nursing mothers on a public footpath for health and safety reasons and I can assure you Fred's cows are very mellow. They have all been hand reared and the main reason they might approach is to say hello.

I am happy to arrange a walk around the parts of the path to

explain how to approach cattle, blocking a gate or come and meet people on site to see any further areas of concern. Hopefully over time regular walkers will become familiar with Fred's cattle and how friendly they are. **Written by Alys Laver (Site Manager)**





### First Orchid on the Reserve

On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June I was very excited to receive the news that the first orchid had been found on site. Richard and Becky Foyle who were leading a wildlife walk made the discovery with a member of the public. The Pyramidal Orchid is a small orchid that lives up to its name - its pink flower spike forms a pyramidal shape. It grows on grassland and coastal habitats, scrub, roadside verges, old quarries and railway embankments.

It flowers in June and July, its densely packed flower spike holding up to 100 flowers and attracts a range of butterflies and moths. Orchid seeds do not store enough food to grow on their own, so they team up with a mat-forming fungus in the soil. In turn, the orchid's roots protect the fungus.

This shows that the change in management practices to more wildlife-friendly practices, by altering the cutting of the grasslands, grazing regime and no nutrient enrichment promotes the germination of seeds that have most likely been dormant for many years, waiting for the right conditions to flower. **Written by Alys Laver (Site Manager)**



### Ragged Robin

Ragged Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*) gets its name from its finely divided petals that give it a "ragged" appearance.

It is very important to a range of different wildlife including dragonflies, bees and butterflies, which, in turn, bring frogs, toads and other animals. It is suggested as a good plant to bring into your garden to encourage these visitors.

It is closely related to red champion but increasingly much less common as much of its wetland habitat has been turned into farm land. Thankfully it is doing very well on Steart marshes where it has a perfect home in much of the wetland walk way. **Written by Ronan Conn (Reserve Warden)**

### Engagement



Last week was **National Volunteers Week**, and it is a time when organisations like ourselves take the opportunity to say thank you to our trusty band of volunteers who work so hard for us.

Our Steart Marshes volunteers do all sorts of tasks including office admin, marketing, social media, wildlife monitoring, photography, leading guided walks, and of course, the practical work from planting to digging drainage ditches and building fences.

If you have a few hours to spare and would like to try out volunteering with us please take a look at our website 'Visiting' page for more information. Good show of team work from the staff and volunteers during training with Reflex First Aid last week. **Written by Nicole Turnbull-Wigley (WWT Engagement Officer)**

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at Steart Marshes please contact us at [info.steart@wwt.org.uk](mailto:info.steart@wwt.org.uk) to arrange a taster day, or complete an application form on our website [wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/steart-marshes/visiting/](http://wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/steart-marshes/visiting/).

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](mailto: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](mailto:alys.laver@wwt.org.uk)





# GET FAMILY FISHING

Try a fishing taster session with your family on the 13th and 20th July 10am - 3pm at Combwich Ponds

Register your families FREE place by emailing: [dean.asplin@anglingtrust.net](mailto:dean.asplin@anglingtrust.net)

Everything provided completely FREE!

[WWW.GETFISHING.ORG.UK](http://WWW.GETFISHING.ORG.UK)

Friendly, safe and fun sessions to get you fishing straight away!



Angling Trust is the representative and governing body for angling in England. Our angling participation work supported by Environment Agency fishing licence income and Sport England funding, helps to introduce thousands of people to fishing each year.

## ANCHOR INN @ COMBWICH

Traditional Village Inn and Guesthouse

**OPENING TIMES**  
Monday to Thursday 5pm to 11pm  
Saturday Sunday 12pm to 11pm

Food served Tuesday to Friday 6pm to 9pm  
Friday Saturday Sunday 12 to 2pm and 6pm to 9pm

Tuesday burger night all burgers £6.50  
Wednesday steak night steaks from £7.50  
Sunday carvery 12.30 to 2.30 £9.50 each  
01278653612  
[www.comwichanchor.co.uk](http://www.comwichanchor.co.uk)

Combwich ANCHOR  
With this voucher you can get 2 carvery's for £14  
Must book and bring voucher in  
**01278653612**

### COMBWICH P.O. & STORES

- Groceries
- Off Licence
- Cards & Stationery
- Post Office

### Family Business Established 20 Yrs

### Bridgwater (Saltlands) Recycling Centre

Saltlands Avenue, Chilton Trinity, TA6 3JS  
(entrance off Western Way)  
Telephone 01278 444877

**Opening hours**

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday** 9:00 am - 6:00 pm  
**Saturday - Sunday** 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

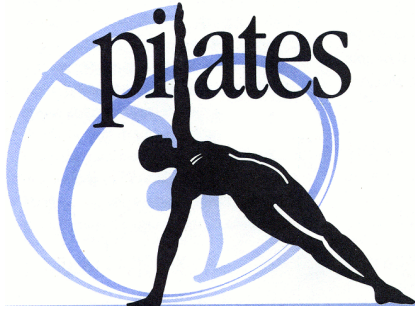
### Otter Tales -Your Newsletter

This is your newsletter and we hope it provides the right balance of information and entertainment. If you think some part of it could be improved, or even deleted, or there are other issues you would like covered please let me know.

Feedback is important to ensure we meet the needs of our community. Contact the editor with your comments.

[barry.leathwood@btinternet.com](mailto:barry.leathwood@btinternet.com) or ring 652399





Otterhampton Village Hall 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 Cally on

Tel: 07555302145/651214

And email: [callystephens18@icloud.com](mailto:callystephens18@icloud.com).



## 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

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?**

*Volunteer drivers needed. Mileage allowance paid. For more information contact Richard on 01278 652503 or [stirlings.greenacres@hotmail.com](mailto:stirlings.greenacres@hotmail.com)*

**Ring - Otter Wheels on: 07925 154 216 - but please try to give us 48 hours notice**

This not-for-profit car scheme has been running arround 3 years, with almost 500 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. **Though this is mainly a week day service, we will do our utmost to provide a driver at weekends, especially for hospital visits.**

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	£1.25	£2.50
Bridgwater Hospital	£4.35	£8.50
Bridgwater Town Centre	£3.50	£7.50

**Please note when you renew your bus pass you must let us have your new number.**

**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**



## MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library visits Combwich and Stockland every four weeks on a Thursday morning at the following times.

Otterhampton School TA5 2QS	10.05 - 10.40
Harbour TA5 2QU	10.55 - 11.15
Combwich Post Office TA5 2QW	11.20 - 11.40
Stockland Bristol Captains TA5 2PY	11.50 - 12.05

Visits on Thursdays - every 4 weeks

<b>2019</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2019</b>
17 Jan	9 May	29 Aug
14 Feb	6 Jun	26 Sep
14 Mar	4 Jul	24 Oct
11 Apr	1 Aug	21 Nov
		19 Dec

Please make use of this facility if you can. 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](http://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 6.30pm - 7.30pm 12.15pm - 1pm	
Wednesday	Combwich Crafters Short Mat Bowls	10am - 12 noon 7.30pm - 9.30pm	
Thursday (1 <sup>st</sup> of month)	Parish Council	7pm	Starts with public session
Thursday (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> of month)	Choir	7pm - 8pm	
Thursday (3 <sup>rd</sup> of month)	Combwich & District WI	7.30pm	Stockland Sports & Social Club
Friday	Coffee morning Police Surgery	10am - 12 noon	
Saturday (2 <sup>nd</sup> of month)	Combwich Market	10am - 12 noon	

### FUTURE EVENTS

Thursday 5th August Thursday 5th September	Parish Council village walk Parish Council Meeting	6pm 7pm	Meet Bus Shelter tea and biscuits provided
<b>Articles 8th September</b>	<b>Next Otter Tales</b>		<b>Distribution by 16th Sept</b>

### 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.