



Welcome to Combwich

# Otter Tales

Published with the generous support of Otterhampton Parish Council

## Inside this issue

### Page 2

Parish Council Offcuts

### Page 3

Christingle & Christmas Tree Lighting

### Page 4

Boat Club Gig Section

Night-time Delivery

Parking on the Track

### Page 5

OPRA Fireworks

### Page 6

WI

### Page 7

Otterhampton School

### Pages 8

Jane Temple profile

### Page 9

Angling Trust

### Page 10

Village Hall & Harbour View

Bar

### Page 11

Quantock Musical Theatre Co

HPC Construction Site Visit

### Pages 12 & 13

WWT Steart Marshes

### Page 14

C182 Traffic Notices

Combwich Anchor

Post Office and Stores

Recycling

### Page 15

Otter Wheels, Short Mat

Bowls & Pilates

### Page 16

Mobile Library & Diary of events

## *From the other side!*



OPRA Sunday walkers viewing the village from the Pawlet Ham side of the River Parrett and then back to the Anchor for a roast lunch.



The application to restore access to the Combwich Ponds which were closed to local people is now being considered by Somerset County Council. More news in the next issue

# Otterhampton Offcuts

## Snippets from your October & November 2019 Parish Council Meetings

### Bus shelter

The installation of the lighting tower at the bus shelter was temporarily halted because of an underground diesel leak which has now been resolved. The work should be completed during week commencing 18.11.19.

The bus shelter was recently hit by a vehicle causing damage to the left-hand pillar. This will be repaired shortly. We have for a few years been considering to either refurbish or replace the bus shelter. Recent advice received from a builder suggests that the stone is not very good and the foundation/base could probably do with replacing although we stress that the building is safe. We know that for some, the stone shelter is a bit of a feature at the entrance to the village and would not like to see it replaced with a modern Perspex type shelter. Please let us know your views and comments with regard to a possible replacement, subject of course to cost and availability of funds.

### Play Area

We challenged Wicksteed that the safety surfacing (recommended by them) is not fit for purpose as it caused the ground settlement issues and the carbon blacking which in the summer got on children's clothing and skin, which they have refuted. We are now considering our options on how we might effect a permanent and satisfactory solution, recognising that the play area is immensely popular and so well used.

### Removal of Willows and Brambles at the brook

Following the removal of the willows and brambles at the brook, a post and three railed wooden fence around the open side will shortly be erected as a safety measure.

### Combwich Wharf Information

EDF will be providing an update on the wharf's progress at a parish council meeting soon (look out for information on notice boards and the [www.combwich.org](http://www.combwich.org) website) and has recently updated the Combwich Wharf Section of the FAQ's on its website as per the following link:

<https://www.edfenergy.com/energy/nuclear-new-build-projects/hinkley-point-c/local-community>

### SCC Somerset Road Safety Team Route (60+)

**Presentation.** The Somerset Road Safety Team will be delivering a free presentation aimed at helping to keep older drivers driving on the road safer for longer, recognising when a person lives in a remote area and has to stop driving it presents a difficult lifestyle change. Also present will be police and fire services for home safety advice, health professionals and other agencies who can offer advice. The event will be held on 5.3.20 in Otterhampton Village Hall. We need 20+ people to make it viable, so please can you let the Clerk know if this is something you may be interested in.



### 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 (Stear)	01278 653495
Mrs Aly Prowse (Clerk)	01278 652426

[otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com](mailto:otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com)

#### County and District Ward Members

Mike Caswell	01278 652043
--------------	--------------

(District & County)

### Winter Services

SCC is introducing a 'snow warden' scheme to give training to volunteers in the community who would like to help during periods of icy or snowy weather. This will involve distributing bags of grit where needed and to coordinate snow clearance from pavements etc. Andy Darch has volunteered to represent Steart. If anyone would like to help out in either Combwich or Otterhampton please let me know. The parish council has a garage on Brookside Rd where supplies are stored. A number of councillors are key holders. Please refer to the Parish Emergency Plan for more details.

### VE Day

Perhaps a little way off but Government guidance is being offered to Town and Parish Councils who wish to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the war in Europe on the 8.5.20 (VJ Day will be commemorated on 15.8.20). Please go to the VE Day 75 website – [www.veday75.org](http://www.veday75.org) to see the complete overview for this anniversary.

### Finances

The half-yearly accounts to 30.9.19 were approved at the November meeting. Please contact the Clerk if you would like any information relating to the accounts. We will be discussing our Precept (budget) requirements for 2020/21 prior to the next parish council meeting on 5.12.19, 6.00pm in the Harbour View Club

### Superfast Broadband Consultation

Perhaps of more relevance to Steart and Otterhampton residents - a public consultation has been launched by Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) ahead of undertaking a fresh procurement to find contractors to provide superfast broadband. For more information go to <https://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/cds-2019-omr-public-consultation/>

## Offcuts continued

Consultation responses need to be submitted by Tuesday 10 December to:

[enquiries@connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk). or in writing to OMR consultation, Economy Team, AB2 Lucombe House, County Hall, Exeter, EX2 4QD.

**The next parish council meeting will be held on Thursday 5 December 2019, at 7.00pm (6pm for Precept discussion) in The Harbour View Club.**

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



## Christmas Tree Lights

Switch on  
5pm Sunday  
8th December

Come and join us after Christingle

*By the phone box in Combwich*



## Christmas at Combwich & Stockland Churches

### Christingle Service at Combwich

Sunday 8th December 4.00pm  
followed by turning on of Christmas Lights

### Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 15th December 6.30pm (Stockland)  
Sunday 22nd December 6.30pm (Combwich)

### Christmas Eve Communion at Combwich

Christmas Eve 9.00pm

### Family Communion at Stockland

Christmas Day 11.00am

*Bring a toy to show the Rector what  
Father Christmas has brought you*



St Mary Magdalene Church, Stockland &  
St Peter Church, Combwich

*We wish all our  
readers a Very Merry  
Christmas*



*and a  
Happy New Year*

## Comwich Boat Club - Gig Section

Comwich Boat Club entered two Gigs with mixed crews in the London River Marathon called 'The Great River Race' on September 14. The weather was superb for the 21.6 mile race from Millwall to Ham at Richmond.

William Johnson coxed by Trevor Reason completed the race in a time of 2 hours, 41.05 minutes and was the 37<sup>th</sup> fastest on the day out of 355 boats. They finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the mixed crew class and 13<sup>th</sup> in the Gigs.

Avocet coxed by Kerrie Howard finished 150<sup>th</sup> fastest on the day in a time of 2 hours, 59.15 minutes.



Both crews represented the village and club wearing racing colours and both boats flying club flags.

The Club continues to attract the question "Where's Comwich"? A lot more people out there now know!

The Club continues to grow and will be competing in the Jurassic League next summer. It's not too late to get involved and take up rowing. Its a great sport and very sociable.

## Night Time Delivery - *By Tim Jones*



Towards the end of October on a very rainy night a large barge was nudged into Comwich Wharf by a couple of punchy looking tug boats. It contained four beautifully wrapped large objects which were unloaded over the next couple of days.

Apparently they were the main fuel tanks for the emergency generators on the HPC site and had been manufactured in the Czech Republic. They arrived via Slovakia, Bratislava and Rotterdam. Quite a journey.

It is understood to be the last large delivery expected at the wharf until next Autumn, by which time the much reduced refurbishment of the wharf - currently due to start in January - should have been completed.

## Parking on the Track by the Common

Parking on the track is prohibited and access is limited to authorised vehicles. This makes it a much more pleasant for walkers, cyclists and the occasional horse rider. However, there are exceptions to this rule; parishioners who are Blue Badge holders can apply to the parish council for a permit, which must be displayed on the dashboard, allowing them to park on the track to give them a view of the river which would otherwise be denied to them because of the flood banks.





# Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

Registered Charity Number 1124017



Will the rain hold off long enough for the annual Firework Display to be held? Fortunately, despite rain all day just as we were about to start the rain stopped and the crowds turned out. Thank you to all who braved the elements to make the display a success once again.

Just how Adrian Floyd, Kevin Partridge and their team Lewis Partridge and Pete Ingram managed to set-up the display on the very soggy common almost defies belief, but they managed it.

Thanks also to other volunteers who made it all happen, Ray Bollen aided Chris Stockham who managed the bbq, and cooked sizzling burgers and hot dogs in trying circumstances and in a very short time. Thanks to John Devlin for supplying the burgers and sausages. The volunteers and OPRA committee who roped off the common for safety reasons and who erected the marquee for the bbq and took it all down in the dark. Special thanks to Mike Gardener for all his work behind the scenes

It is important to note that whenever there is an event in the village, someone has to organise and work hard to ensure its success.



*Left: Queuing for the burgers*

*Bellow: Matt from the Anchor lights the Beacon*

*Bottom; Tina (Chair), Sue (Treasurer), with Committee member Melvin counting the collection*



*Ray tries to clear the smoke watched by our anxious treasurer Sue*



*When it's all over and every thing is put away, it's down to the Anchor to get warm and enjoy a welcome drink whilst counting the takings from the bbq £140 and the bucket collection £200, which will offset part of the £875 cost of purchasing the fireworks.*

*This is all paid for by the **OPRA 100 Club** whose members contribute £1 a week (collected quarterly) to enter a draw. Half the money is returned in prizes and the rest fund events like this. Contact Ann for more information 652399.*



# News from Comwich and District WI September and October 2019 - by Wendy Durant

## SEPTEMBER 2019

We were all very happy to see our September meeting kicking off the start of Autumn after our August recess. Absolutely lovely to get together again, share our stories and trial our new start time of 7.00 p.m. at the Stockland Club.

September was a busy month as we had a very big birthday to celebrate, yes one of our members turned 90, so we had a bit of a birthday party for her with a cake, flowers and a big card made by a craft club member, which we all signed. She was a bit overcome, slightly shocked we knew, but happy so all was good.

Our speaker this month was Carol Rennison who came along and showed us how to make amazing flower arrangements from a few flowers and a lot of greenery. Carol made three beautiful arrangements in super quick time and donated them to the raffle, so three of us went away with an arrangement and one of us with all the flowers and greenery left over to make a statement piece at home.



Wendy hosted the final Craft Club to be held in a member's home – new larger venue for October as the club has grown too big for a domestic setting. We got messy again with the bottle lamps and some of us continued with our jewel work. This club is doing extremely well - we have some real talent in our W.I. even those who said they can't do crafts find they can and make a good job of it too.

Our Ladies Lunch venue was the Traveller's Rest at Merridge where we had a lovely meal in real Olde Worlde surroundings, only marred by the fact that I completely forgot to pick Betty up but she did arrive in time to order and says she forgives me – sorry once again Betty.

## OCTOBER 2019

Our guest speaker this month was Ian Williamson who shared his adventures trekking in Nepal just after the earthquake in 2015 and raising money for St. Margaret's Hospice at the same time. His talk was mesmerising and illustrated with gorgeous slides. He then sold items to raise more funds for the Hospice.

Members played the first match of the W.I. Annual Skittles Tournament v. St. Audries. Despite leading all the way, we lost by only 6 pins in the last round. We were not too happy! Still, there's always next year.

Ladies Lunch was at the Babbling Brook, Shurton and the food was really yummy. They came out joint second in our league table, only half a point behind the leaders, possibly only because they had a low 5 from one of us!

The Craft Club had a new venue in October – we met at the Stockland Club as we needed somewhere where we could spread out. The Club was perfect and we all agreed it was a good move. We made bottle lamps again from white wine bottles which we covered with patterned paper serviettes and filled them with battery lights – really pretty and very popular. We all want to make more next month, either to sell and raise funds for our local Churches or to give as presents at Christmas. Wendy showed us how to make a book Angel which three of us completed in the afternoon and she also showed us a fabric wreath which we are going to do in December, along with more fabric wreaths. Louise has an idea for a Christmas table decoration which she will show at the November W.I. Meeting.

Come on Comwich ladies, join our W.I. and enrich your life. Ring Anne 653192





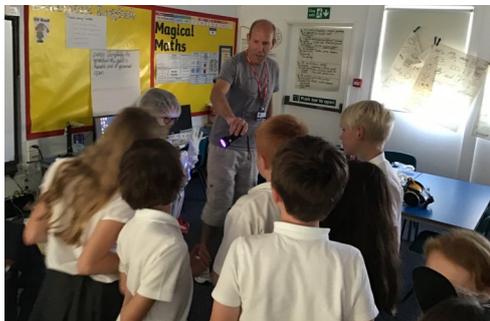
# Otterhampton Primary School.

Head Teacher, Claire Luce



## Highlights from the Autumn term so far!

- Bay Class trip to Exeter Cathedral
- Cross track cycling
- Mobile Library visiting monthly
- Sounds Write Parent workshop
- Harvest Church service
- Parent Stay and Play - making Autumn wreathes
- Celebration assemblies for parents
- Brook Class had a visit from a troll!
- After school clubs continue
- River Class Comwich Walk
- KS2 Football tournament at Bridgwater College
- Carymoor visit - talk on recycling
- KS2 Lantern making day
- Remembrance celebrations
- New IT resources have arrived (EDF Community Fund)
- Halloween Disco - raising over £130 for music equipment



## Dates for the diary

- OPS Christmas Fayre - Friday 6th Dec - 5-7pm.
- OPS Community Coffee morning - Friday 13th December 10am - all welcome for refreshments and Christmas Carols at OPS.

## Jane Temple - Profile

Jane was born in Shanghai, China, in 1929 and spent the first six years of her life there with her parents and brothers. Her father was a civil engineer and was involved in major road building programmes.

She remembers Miss Sharp's dancing classes with affection and spending time on the family's houseboat, a converted traditional Chinese Junk on the Yangtze River, and her parents, tennis parties at their home. Occasional holidays were spent in Japan. The family left China in 1935 and stayed with their grandmother in Wembdon for a time. Later the family moved to Durleigh Elms and lived with Mr Cuthbert Pardoe (founder of the Bridgwater solicitors). She remembers the days before the reservoir changed the landscape for ever.

When the time came to go to school she was sent as a boarder to her mother's old school, the prestigious Roehampton girls' school near London. Jane recalls happy times there and didn't consider it posh, despite the presence of a few foreign royals. For a period during the war the whole school moved to Newquay in Cornwall, then to Stanford Hall and again to "The Convent of the Sacred Heart" now called Woldingham School.



During the school holidays she returned to the family home, Hill Cottage in Otterhampton where she still lives. The house was originally rented from the Everards family and later when they were disposing of their land, Jane's parents were able to purchase it at an attractive price. (*see photo left*) They set up a thriving market garden to meet a growing need for fresh produce during and after the war. Jane was later able to buy the walled garden and other adjacent land.

Horse riding and cycling around the park and out to Combwich and Steart were some of the pleasures of her early life. She remembers the live firing range at Steart as RAF bombers made

practice bombing runs. Later her parents bought her a pony and trap which she used to ferry her friends to Holford Glen and various other places. She was a member of the Pony Club, which was based at Hill House, then a hotel. In 1946 it became St Hilda's school, a private mixed school, but intended primarily for girls, the school was relocated from Westcliffe-on-Sea (Essex) to Hill House. The school closed in the early 1970s. It has since become a Christian Centre.

Combwich was very different in her youth with less than half the current population and many people working locally on the farms, in horticulture, the brush factory and the brickyards where she remembers watching bricks being produced. An occasional trip to Bridgwater was on Mr Haybittle's bus, which would stop and pick up wherever the passengers wanted, regardless of where the bus stop was.

On leaving school, Jane attended Cannington Farm Institute and gained her qualifications as a horticulturalist, after which she returned to her old school Roehampton for three or four years as head gardener, in charge of their 20-acre gardens with staff working under her. A strange experience after being a pupil there for so many years.

At the age of 23 she married Geoff who she had met at Cannington Farm Institute. They moved to Dorset near Ringwood and lived in a thatched cottage. Returning home one day she thought the thatch was alight and called the fire brigade, only to find embarrassingly, it was just paper burning in the grate.

Geoff secured a job as a teacher at an "Approved School" South of Birmingham where his craft skills, particularly pottery were much appreciated. Tragically, during a school hill walking trip, Geoff fell and died, leaving Jane to bring up four children. Her mother was also ailing at that time and so she moved back to the family home in Otterhampton with her children in 1968

Since her marriage Jane hasn't had a formal paid job, bringing up four children was enough, and living the "Good Life". She was secretary of the Stockland flower show and she has been involved in various organisations including the WI, garden clubs and the Somerset Archaeological Society and maintains a strong interest in archaeology. Now ninety years old Jane, is fit and well and drives her car regularly to the Combwich coffee mornings and elsewhere.

## Angling Trust by *Combwich Resident Dean Asplin*

For many reasons the number of people taking part in angling, like in every other sport is in decline. I work for the National Governing Body for Angling, the "Angling Trust" as the Partnership Development Manager. It is my task to get more people to try fishing and therefore hopefully becoming lifelong anglers. Every year we run over 500 'Get Fishing' days nationwide all of which can be found on our events website [www.getfishing.org.uk](http://www.getfishing.org.uk)

My very small family and I moved to the village of Combwich in October 2018 and after regularly witnessing the school run past our house to Otterhampton primary school I just knew there might be an opportunity to promote angling to these children and their families. We decided to run three 'Get Fishing' family events mainly in the summer holidays. They were a great success with 49 people having a go over the three days and every single one of them actually caught something!. It was excellent to see many repeat participants, with several families bringing along equipment that they had bought after being inspired at the previous sessions. Because we were using qualified and licenced angling coaches this enabled us to assess what some of the younger participants had learned. This led to Ava (3yrs old, pic attached) gaining her 'angling starter' skills awards certificate. Jacob (aged 9, picture attached) gained his 'angling starter' and level 1 skills award certificate. Jacob has really taken to the sport and I am sure he will be a life long angler - job done!

I would like to say a big thank you to Bridgwater Angling Club for allowing us to use the Combwich lake and also to the volunteers/angling coaches that helped out on the days: Marcus, Brian and Mark. I would also like to thank Barry at the Otter Tales, Claire the head at Otterhampton primary school, Combwich Post Office and Otterhampton Social Club for all their support in promoting the events.

Dean Asplin  
Partnership Development Manager (South)  
Angling Trust  
Mob: 07854 239731  
[dean.asplin@anglingtrust.net](mailto:dean.asplin@anglingtrust.net)



### Find free fishing events at [www.getfishing.org.uk](http://www.getfishing.org.uk)

The Angling Trust - Our Mission:

- \* Promote angling
- \* Campaign for anglers' rights and the environment
- \* Lobby governments and agencies
- \* Protect our waterways and marine environment
- \* Develop angling as a sport for young and old
- \* Support angling interests

Read more and JOIN NOW at [www.anglingtrust.net](http://www.anglingtrust.net)

Promote us by Liking our Facebook page -

[www.facebook.com/AnglingTrust](http://www.facebook.com/AnglingTrust)

Follow us on Twitter - [www.twitter.com/AnglingTrust](http://www.twitter.com/AnglingTrust)



# OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

News from the Otterhampton Village Hall Committee



## THE PAST

## THE PRESENT

## THE FUTURE

### UPDATE ON THE VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT

Well finally we have some news to report! The Village Hall Committee has applied for Charitable Incorporation Organisation status as discussed at the recent consultation held on 14<sup>th</sup> September. We have formally registered the land on which the Hall is sited with the Land Registry and expect their positive response very soon. Our Business Plan is ready and we have received tenders for the refurbishment of the Village Hall. The Committee has unanimously chosen their preferred contractor and we hope work will start on the refurbishment in Spring 2020. But first, of course, first we need to obtain the necessary grants to cover all the costs including VAT, new furniture etc. so the next few months will be very busy for the Committee. Full details and copies of the internal and external plans will be in the Refurbishment Update 3 which will be uploaded onto the Comwich website within the next few days.

To help raise much needed funds we are holding a Quiz on **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**. The quizmasters are the brilliant Shaun and Mary and the first prize will £50 plus runner up prizes. Food will be provided – lasagne, chilli and vegetarian chilli plus a dessert for just £10 per person. So please come along and support us. Tickets will be available from the Village Shop and Harbour View Bar. Look out for the posters.

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 me or phone me on 01278 653531. We will be looking for volunteers to help with the internal decorations, furniture etc. It is your Hall so we welcome your contributions. More information will be included in the Refurbishment Update.



### HARBOUR VIEW BAR

The Bar is open Fridays and Saturdays from 7pm to midnight, Sundays between 2 and 6pm (this may alter shortly), and also some Mondays and Tuesdays for the Winter darts and skittles nights 7 till 12pm (if the lights are on and the door is open so is the bar, so come on in!). Annual membership is only £2.50 and new members are always welcome; £1 is charged for visitors so why not come along? The Bar 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 jackpot 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. The Harbour View Christmas raffle tickets will be available very soon. Some great prizes including Exeter Chiefs tickets, a Gin hamper, a Tower of Temptation (four boxes of goodies including chocolates, wine and nougat and truffles), free MOT and many more. Tickets will be available from Harbour View Bar and the draw will take place on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December** evening. Mulled wine and mince pies will also be available to start the Christmas celebrations.

Tickets will soon be on sale for the Harbour View Bar **New Year's Eve PARTY!** Book soon for a special evening with a family friendly comedy show by Dylan Altoft. The show will be from 8.30 to 10.30pm followed by New Year celebrations in the Bar.

Due to the inclement weather the Treasure Hunt around Comwich has been postponed until the Spring. Look out for the blackboards and posters for details of the next event and come along.

# QMTC

# QUANTOCK MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY

## Seasonal Songs

QMTC will once again be performing seasonal songs at Otterhampton Village Hall  
on Saturday 30th November 2019 at 7.30pm.

Tickets will be on sale at Comwich Post Office, on the door or online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/qmtc](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/qmtc)

50% of the proceeds will go to Otterhampton Village Hall and 50% to the Marion Evered Trust which supports the Children's cancer ward at Musgrove Park Hospital.

## HPC Construction Site Visit by *Tim Jones*

During a visit to Australia earlier this year my wife and I were taken to visit a huge open cast gold mine - Super Pit - in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia (*Right*). Its size is difficult to explain, but the local town was a little like the Wild West populated by fluorescent coated FIFOs (fly in fly out) contractors.



With our close relatives due back to visit us a few months later, they expressed a wish to visit the Hinkley Point C construction site. Planning ahead it was something easily arranged with the extremely helpful staff at EDF's visitor centre in Angel Place, Bridgwater.

Prior to the visit we explained to our guests that rather than FIFOs we had plenty of DIDOS (drive in drive outs), or maybe BIBOs (bused in bussed out), but the theory is the same.

Following a polished video at the visitor centre and a short, interesting presentation, we got to ride on one of the dozens of white "ghost buses" which seem to over populate our local roads, and appear a lot of the time to be empty.

The 45 minutes spent driving around the construction site were absolutely fascinating. There was good commentary, parts of which could have done with a bit more explanation, but all in all it was excellent.

The huge elevated site (after tens of thousands of tons of earth have been moved) is remarkably neat and tidy with various construction areas securely fenced off from each other and only designated walkways joining them. What an amazing feat to bring everything together on such a huge site, although unfortunately, EDF announced on the day of the visit a further delay in completion and up to a £2.9billion increase in costs.

Among the forest of tower cranes, we had a fairly close up view of Big Carl, the largest mobile crane in the world. It would be interesting to know its daily hire cost, but its four year on site stay is stated to be worth a £20 million contract. But it is a lot if crane for the money. Enough aggregate is stored on site (remember the hundreds of Hanson lorries, before the on site wharf opened?) to enable a continuous 72 hour pour of concrete. That's a lot of concrete.

Well done to EDF for keeping the two visits a week going. They can't always be convenient, but as a PR exercise I imagine they are invaluable and I am sure anyone would find the experience fascinating. Fortunately or unfortunately, with EDF's similar reactor at Flamanville in France reportedly a decade behind schedule and well over budget, there could be plenty of opportunity.



## Reserve

### Stockland Marshes Permit Application / Renewal

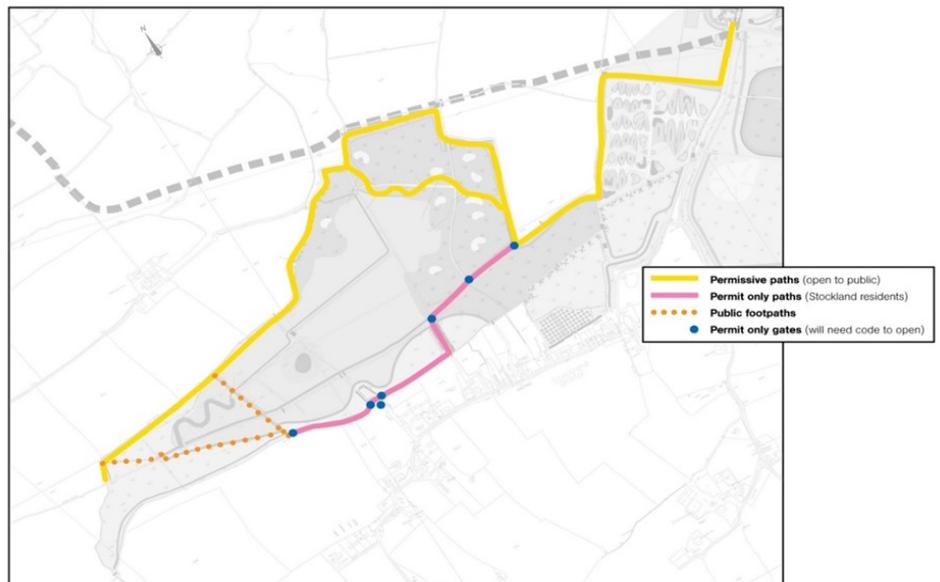
The Stockland Marshes area has always been of interest to villagers, a circular permit access route was introduced in September 2015. This provides permit holders with

the unique code for the padlocks on the pedestrian gates (please refer to map). **The old code will be changing on the 15th November.**

The permit itself comes in the form of a card which will have its own unique number. There will be a nominal donation of £2 per permit, payable by cash. You can apply for a permit via email, drop into the site office or ring the office number. There's a simple form to complete with your details to ensure we can keep you informed of any changes including path closures that may arise or changes to the padlock code.

Your permit card will come with some regulations that need to be followed to ensure that Stockland Marsh is respected and remains enjoyable for everyone wanting to use the area. Please carry your permit at all times

1. Permit to be used by named person only.
2. Please keep your dog on a lead.
3. Please clean up after your dog.
4. Foot users only, no bikes or horses.



## **Birds**



As summer ends and autumn starts we are seeing the arrival of many of our winter residents. Waders and wildfowl such as Redshank, Black-tailed Godwit Teal and Wigeon have moved in and are best seen from Quantock hides and across Stockland Marsh. An American Golden Plover was also spotted in late September amongst European Golden Plover. This rarity would have been blown across the Atlantic in one of the many storm systems that come from the West.

## WWT Steart Marshes *continued*

### Engagement

Did you know that waders feed at night? I have been surprised and delighted to hear the bird sounds out on the marshes after dark. So much so that it inspired me to start up our night walks 2 years ago. Armed with a night scope and bat detector, we head out across the wetland walkway and listen to what is about. We also learn a bit about night vision in humans and animals.



This photo was taken on our night walk earlier this year by volunteer Fiona

Please contact the office for further details. **Written by Nicole Turnbull-Wigley (WWT Engagement Officer)**

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.

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)

**\*\*NOTIFICATIONS OF  
LARGE LOADS ON C182 AND  
DELAYS\*\***

The parish council normally receives letters from EDF advising of forthcoming large HGV movements along the C182, likely to cause delays to road users' journeys. We always put these on the noticeboards (these will be put on coloured paper so they stand out) in Otter Tales (if the timing coincides with publication dates) and also on the Website ([www.combwich.org.uk](http://www.combwich.org.uk)). If you subscribe to the website, you will be notified automatically.

**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.combwichanchor.co.uk](http://www.combwichanchor.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

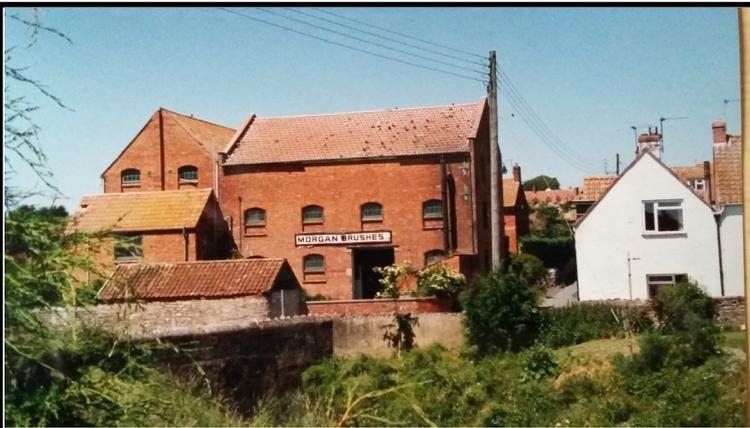
**Saturday - Sunday**  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**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



Do you remember Morgan's Brush Factor where many local people worked. To see more old photographs of the parish and share stories go to FaceBook and search for "Comwich, Steart and Otterhampton Memories".

Interested in local history then ring 652399 for more information.



## Cumbwitch Short Mat Bowls Club

(Established 1987)

First floor Otterhampton Village Hall Comwich.

**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

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

**Is lack of transport a problem?**

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

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

This not-for-profit car scheme has been running around 3 years, with over 600 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	£4.25	£8.50
Bridgwater Town Centre	£3.50	£7.00



**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 154216. Expenses are paid**

## 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>2020</b>
9 May	29 Aug	16 Jan
6 Jun	26 Sep	13 Feb
4 Jul	24 Oct	12 Mar
1 Aug	21 Nov	9 Apr
	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

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 10.45am - 11.45am 6.30pm - 7.30pm 12.15pm - 12.45pm	Contact Callystephens18@icloud.com Tel: 651215/07387287860
Wednesday	Combwich Crafters Short Mat Bowls	10am - 12 noon 7.30pm - 9.30pm	
Thursday (1 <sup>st</sup> of month)	Parish Council Meeting	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 (occasional Police surgery)	10am - 12noon	
Saturday (2 <sup>nd</sup> of month)	Combwich Market	10am - 12noon	

### FUTURE EVENTS

Thursday 5 December	Parish Council Meeting (early start re Precept meeting)	6.00pm (Precept) 7.00pm (main meeting)	*Harbour View Bar (Hall in use) Tea and biscuits provided
Saturday 7 December	Seniors Christmas Dinner	7pm	
Thursday 2nd January	Parish Council meeting	7pm	Tea and biscuits provided
Thursday 5 March 2020	Route 60+ Presentation Somerset Road Safety Team	11am - 1pm (to be confirmed)	
Articles by 5 January 2020	Next Otter Tales		Distribution by week commencing 13 January

### Otter Tales

Articles for publication to Barry Leathwood (editor) Tel: 652399, email: [barry.leathwood@btinternet.com](mailto:barry.leathwood@btinternet.com)  
Events to Aly Prowse, Tel: 652426 email: [otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com](mailto:otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com)  
Distribution. Bob Birkenhead Tel: 653127, email: [birkenhead.bob@gmail.com](mailto:birkenhead.bob@gmail.com)

Published with the generous support of Otterhampton Parish Council

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.