



Welcome to Combwich

Otter Tales

Published with the generous support of Otterhampton Parish Council

Senior's Christmas Dinner



Sixty-seven of the parish's more mature residents enjoyed a lovely (free) 3 course Christmas Dinner with wine and coffee in the village hall in December, compliments of OPRA.

Entertainment was provided by the Combwich Choir led by Nicole Wigley and MC was Mike Gardener. Pictured right are some of the volunteers who made it possible. More details on page 5.

If you are 65 years old and live in the Otterhampton Parish and did not receive an invitation this year, but would like to attend in the future, please ring 652399 to be put on the list.



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Otterhampton Offcuts

Snippets from your December 2019

&

January 2020 Parish Council Meetings

We were sorry to hear of the very sad passing of Murray Lister on Christmas Day. He served as a councillor on the parish council for a year until May 2019. He brought a different and valued perspective to the council and we very much enjoyed his company. We send Holly, Harry and Max and family our heartfelt condolences.

Parish Precept

The proposed parish council precept (budget) for 2020/21 was discussed in great detail at a meeting on 5.12.19. It was decided not to increase the precept this year so it will be retained at £26000.

Play Area



We reported in the last Otter Tales that we were considering our options on how we might deal with the ground settlement and safety surfacing issues at the play area following our challenge to Wicksteed (playground contractor) that the surfacing is not fit for purpose. We held a meeting with a legal representative from SDC on 3.1.20 to try and establish if we have a legal case. Discussions are ongoing.

Trees

As per the recommendations in the Tree Maintenance Schedule for trees in the parish, some essential maintenance will be undertaken to trees in the vicinity of the Village Hall and the Common during January. This will include formative pruning of the crowns and the removal of any damaged branches.



SCC Somerset Road Safety Team (Route 60+) Presentation – 5 March 2020

Just a reminder that the Somerset Road Safety Team will be delivering a presentation aimed at helping to keep older drivers driving on the road safer, for longer. 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 in Otterhampton Village Hall, on Thursday 5.3.20, 10am – 1pm. If you have not already advised the Clerk you will be attending, please can you do so by 10.2.20.



Church Hill Parking

We have received complaints regarding parked vehicles adjacent to the pavement in Church Hill near the junction at the bottom of the hill. We appreciate that parking is at a premium throughout the village but obviously parking here, in this manner, could well be dangerous for vehicles either having to overtake them, possibly head-on into vehicles entering Church Hill from Brookside Rd and vice-versa. All we as a parish council can do is to request and remind people to park with consideration and with due regard to the safety of others.

Diverted temporary footpath during Combwich Wharf works

Following complaints about the state of the footpath, we requested that EDF carry out repairs to make the footpath usable and safe. Remedial works will be undertaken, but the footpath will need to be closed (maximum of a week). We have requested that notice is given in advance of the footpath closure so we can advise residents.

Replacement and additional defibrillator for Combwich



The existing defibrillator by the phone box will be replaced with a new one and the landlord at the Anchor has very kindly agreed that an additional defibrillator for the village can be located at the public house. Matt will also absorb the cost of the electricity to run it. We will apply to the Hinkley Point C Community Fund to fund the defibrillators. This will be a supported package from the South Western Ambulance Service (Community Public Access Scheme) renewable every 4 years at a cost of £2800. This includes all maintenance, battery and defibrillator pad replacement and new defibrillators.

The next parish council meeting will be held on Thursday 6 February 2020, 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 or Tel 01278 652426

From the parish archives!

- 1948 - Application from a Bridgwater man to supply a weekly fish and chip service.
- 1955 - Bridgwater Bay declared a nature reserve - big problems with by-laws, hunters and fishermen from village upset!
- 1966 - The name Martyn Close suggested by the developers was deemed unsuitable by the parish council who preferred Parrett Close!
- 1969 - Mr Messet passes away after 21 years as clerk to the parish council.



Tom Jacobs an Ode to OPRA



For walkers and Quizzers and Easter egg hunters
for in opra we cater for all.
We meet in the hall, and have a drink in the club,
in opra we cater for all
After walks every month, some local, some far,
we have a nice lunch, at the Anchor Pub bar.
In November the fireworks light up the sky
There's hot dogs and coffee, to toast to the guy.
At Christmas the old folks sit down to their dinner,
With entertainment thrown in it's always a winner,
For in OPRA we cater for all

And

Tuesday Walker's Lament

Some like to run and some ride a bike
We much prefer to walk and to hike
From Exmoor the Quantocks and Wills Neck too
we often get lost but always pull through
So Brian and Mike and David and Mell
Not forgetting old Tom our joker as well
Over steep hills and across boggy dale
Our gang keep on striving through rain and fierce gale
We sometimes fall over avoiding a hole
But its always ok as Tom taught us to roll
Finishing happy at the end of the trail we find a nice
local pub serving fine local ale
After two pints of larger our mirth is a guarantee
As lubricated Tom comes out with fine repartee
Then its home to our wives as quick as can be
As we sometimes stop for the desperate to pee
After a nice hot meal for our wives it is boring
As all she can hear is us loudly snoring



New Gardening Club

Stockland are starting a Gardening Club
and the first meeting will be at the

Stockland Club

Thursday 23rd January

8 p.m.

All will be welcome from the adjoining villages. Keen to get people with all sorts of gardening expertise.

For more information ring 01278 652399



Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

Registered Charity Number 1124017

Tina Gardener Chair

Firstly a very happy New Year 2020 to everyone and this year OPRA will be 20 years old. It was formed in March 2000 and took over from the Combwich Common Committee. When they transferred their assets to OPRA their request was that the annual Christmas dinner for the senior citizens of the parish should continue.

We have honoured that commitment and last December saw the 21st dinner held in the village hall, as you can see from the front page it was well attended and was well served by a large number of volunteers. Special thanks to be given to our youngest volunteers, Alex and Will Mockridge who entertained us on the piano, sold raffle tickets and helped serve the meals. They remind me of when my two children were small and looked forward to helping out every year. Thank you to Rob Wright for giving us a good discount on the wine and for serving it (there was an incentive to keep the glasses topped up!), and to Ray Bollen and Chris Stockham who as always did a fantastic job in the kitchen. Normally Matt from the Anchor cooks the potatoes and turkey for us but, as he was on holiday his dad, Dave stepped in and did a fantastic job. Entertainment was provided by the Combwich Choir who did an excellent audience participation of the Twelve days of Christmas, Mike who did a Christmas quiz, and Sarah Webb and Tom Jacobs who did a hilarious rendition of 'I've got you Babe'. This all added to a wonderful evening.

This would not be possible without the income generated from our 100 Club. 45% is retained by OPRA, 50% goes in weekly and monthly prizes and 5% for the grand Christmas draw. This year the winners were; Mic Bulman 1st prize. Elizabeth Marriott 2nd prize and Helen Rees 3rd prize

Not only does the 100 Club finance the Christmas dinner, it also finances the Easter egg hunt, the firework display and the Christmas trees for Combwich and Steart and any other activities we put on. Last year we also made a donation of £500 to the Village Hall towards the cost of the removal of asbestos. We currently have 99 members. If you would like to join please contact Ann Leathwood on 652399 or download the application form from www.combwich.org.uk/opra/100-club/



If you need to get fit after the excesses of Christmas then why not join us on our next walk on Sunday 19th January, meeting at the Anchor car park at 9.30am to share cars.



News from Combwich and District WI November & December 2019 - by Wendy Durant

NOVEMBER 2019

Our Monthly meeting on 21st November was one we were looking forward to and were delighted to be joined by our WI Advisor, Marilyn Symonds, who we had warned, would be subject to a bit of exotic dancing!! We were visited by dancers Layla and Anne, their costumes were amazing and the music and various styles of dance both traditional and modern, were captivating and very beautiful to watch. Then came our turn to have a go! On went the gorgeous decorated belts, total bling and heavily bejewelled with beads and jangles. We learnt some moves and then joined in with shimmies and shakes to a modern rock! The meeting ended with refreshments and some delicious Turkish delight from our Advisor Marilyn. We had lots of competition exhibits from the orient, but Wendy Durant's rose quartz Quan Yin won. Vanessa won the 'flower of the month' which was a Queen Elizabeth Rose. This was once again a fabulous evening and was very well attended.



The second Craft Club meeting at Stockland Club and all seems to be going well both attendance wise and facilities. We had a few crafts going on – some made more of the fairy lamp bottles, others practiced their embroidery stitches and a few made book Angels and fabric wreaths which really looked lovely. The two latter themes were new for us but were really popular and I think more will be made soon. They are easy crafts to master with lovely outcomes, so appeal to all.

The month's events continued on Monday 11th with our Lunch Club at The Malt Shovel, Cannington for a lovely social lunchtime meal. This venue was superb under the new Management, excellent food and great service, gaining a very respectable 8 out of 10 on our leader board.

DECEMBER 2019

December is a great month at W.I. (well, every month is a great month really) where we all look forward to our Christmas Party. Loads of yummy Christmas food which we all brought in, plus mulled wine and Sue's Santa Bingo which always goes down a treat – lots of shouting and laughing and prizes for the winners. Then there is the Secret Santa with a prize for the best wrapped. We all took home lovely presents and got into the Christmas Spirit with gusto!

We had good attendance again for our two December Craft Clubs. There were a few different items being created; the majority of us did the Christmas fabric wreaths in various different sizes and all turned out completely different but all were amazing. There were also Book Angels, Bottle Lights and Christmas Tree ornaments in Decopatch. Everyone was very happy with their makes.

We held a second Craft Club especially to make wreaths for our doors. This afternoon was well attended by some very keen, artistic, ladies. We had all been gathering greenery from anywhere we could beg, borrow and (maybe) steal! This concentrated effort by all of us resulted in masses of different material which we all shared. Several different bases were used, wire, oasis and willow but all resulted in beautiful creations to decorate our doors and we left very proud of what we had achieved. Clearing up the mess afterwards took almost as long as the wreath making but we were all adamant we would be doing this again in 2020!

Our 9th Ladies Lunch was our Christmas Lunch, at the Ancient Mariner in Nether Stowey. The room was beautifully decorated for Christmas – very festive indeed which immediately put us into the right frame of mind. A really large turn out for this meal, 14 of us, so it was noisy, giggly and happy. There we were with our crackers, games, silly hats etc. having a lovely meal with great company. I really do believe that this is good for the soul, a day to be girly with your friends, to get stuff off your chest and chill out. Of course we did our usual rating at the end of the meal and the Ancient Mariner scored a whopping 9 out of 10, the top score for the year, just beating our former leader, The Maypole at Thurloxton by half a point. Who will be the winner in 2020? I have a lot of lovely new venues up my sleeve! Our Ladies Lunch is open to any member of the Combwich and District W.I. so why not join next year and be eligible for these lunches too.

Come on Combwich ladies, join our W.I. have lots of fun and enrich your life. Ring Anne 653192



Otterhampton Primary School.

Head Teacher, Claire Luce



December highlights!

What a busy month we have had at Otterhampton Primary School! We kicked off the festivities with our annual movie night. Movie goers had the option of 'Arthur Christmas' or 'Santa Paws'. Popcorn and snacks were served to the children in their favourite Pyjamas and onesies!

On this same day River Class took a trip to the Rural life museum in Glastonbury. They completed several different workshops where they made Christmas Crackers, Cornucopias and had fun playing Victorian games.

Next came our Christmas Fayre which was well supported by parents and the community. The Friends of OPS raised an incredible £352.04 on this occasion.

Brook Class and Little Otters performed brilliantly in their rendition of 'Christmas and the aliens' nativity and wowed the audience with their fantastic singing and acting.

One of the highlights of the month has to be the Community Coffee morning which was held in the School hall. Over 30 members of the Combwich community joined us for a morning of coffee, mince pies and Christmas carols. Staff and children commented on what a lovely morning it was and one that will definitely be repeated in the Spring.

Bay and River performed well in their traditional Christmas Carol concert. Traditional nativity costumes were worn and the singing of the carols was excellent.

Our final event was a whole school trip to Strode Theatre in the last week of term to watch 'Alice in Wonderland'. A great experience for all of the children and we were delighted that many of the staff there commented on the exemplary behaviour of the children.

I'm exhausted just thinking of how much we have done! Time for a rest! So as 2019 comes to a close, I would like to thank the amazing children at OPS, the dedicated staff, parents and the community for all of their support this year.

Here's to 2020!

Claire Luce



Peter Shaw - Profile



A familiar figure in the village Peter, has led an interesting life and is best known locally for his 25 years as Clerk to the Otterhampton Parish Council ending with his retirement from that role in March 2014, but more of that later. Peter was born in 1935 in Dunstable in Bedfordshire. He has some memories of the second World War when his father was in the Home Guard.

In 1946 the family moved to Bedford where at aged 13, Peter won a scholarship to the prestigious Bedford Modern School which is a Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference independent school with a history going back to the 16th century.

In 1953 Peter left school aged 18 and started a 5-year training course as a Quantity Surveyor. At about the same time he met his wife Wendy with whom he conducted a long-distance relationship as he was based in Bedford and she lived in Leeds. It was not until he qualified as a Quantity Surveyor and started to earn a decent salary that they could afford to get married in 1958. The following year they moved to Swindon where the first of their four children was born.

A promotion came in 1961 when he successfully applied for the Chief Quantity Surveyor's job with Bridgwater Borough Council (as it was then) and was heavily involved in the redevelopment of West Street.

He was also involved in the building of the 11-storey block of flats which was then the highest in the county. As his career progressed he became National President of his Society putting Bridgwater (and Comwich) on the professional map.

Peter and Wendy developed an active interest in amateur dramatics and particularly Gilbert and Sullivan and took part in a number of productions in Burnham-on-Sea and Bridgwater. Peter joined and enjoyed Bridgwater Round Table and also became a member of, and later President of East Quantocks Probus Club, which he continues to enjoy.

In 1964 Peter and two colleagues decided to build their own houses in Holford Road, Bridgwater; a mammoth task, but well worth it, at least financially as he was able to sell it and buy another house in nearby Oakfield Road. It wasn't long before with four children they needed a much bigger house and moved to Wembdon. During this time, they regularly visited Comwich with their children and dogs and fell in love with the place. In 1985 when Romani in Riverside came on the market, they were able to move to Comwich where Peter still lives. He retired from full-time work in 1990 when together they embarked on a fabulous world tour, followed by 25 years of driving holidays in Northern France.

A desire to become more involved in the community led Peter to be appointed Clerk to the Parish Council in September 1989, succeeding Beryl Urquhart, the late Alan Chaudry was chair. Not being a very proficient typist Peter enrolled Wendy to type the minutes and correspondence. A first-class partnership that lasted until Wendy sadly passed away in 2009.

Peter enjoyed his time as clerk to the Parish Council and noted some of the achievements during his time; the improvements to Wharf Road which was an absolute mess with abandoned cars and even an old caravan. Negotiations with Nuclear Electric, the users of the road, established that they would be responsible for the road surface and the Parish Council would maintain the verges. The parish council's attempt to get the Old Ship in Ship Lane "listed" was rejected by the district and county councils, but after much lobbying the Environment Agency took up the cause and it was given a Grade 2 listed status. Together with Bill Johnson he successfully lobbied to have the Common designated as a



Peter and Wendy enjoying a meal together

"Village Green" with SSSI status to secure it for future generations. A 30mph limit in the village was another achievement, as was the Welcome Feature at the entrance of the village and of course the parish council's collaboration with Bill Johnson to produce "Otterhampton Parish 2000" a history of the parish. With Paul Gripton, he resisted EDF's proposals to "damage" the village.

In recent years he has been able to enjoy frequent holidays with his friend Margaret.

By any other name.....another view from Steart by Dick Best

As with any community we have some place name peculiarities that separate locals from visitors – notably how to pronounce “Combwich” and also how to spell place names in and around the Peninsula at TA5 2PX.

According to current Ordinance Survey maps we live on the **Steart** Peninsula in **Steart** village, which is approached along **Stert** Drove, adjacent to **Steart** Marshes to the south and the mud of **Stert** Flats to the north and west and at the end of the road there is **Stert** Point, which overlooks **Stert** Island.

The origin of the name, whichever spelling, might be derived from the word “start”, referring to a tail or tail-like feature, such as in Redstart, a migrant bird with a red tail or Start Point on the end of a thin promontory on the south Devon coast. I have found a Norman reference to somewhere in this locality called “*La Start*” and it is tempting to think that this might refer to the Peninsula, which until a storm in the late 1700’s was joined to “Stert” creating a long, thin tail-like strip of land. It might be possible that an “e” then crept in from somewhere – perhaps this is where the “e” in old Bridgewater ended up!

“Stert, Parret Estuary and Bridgewater Bay” (from Day and Master map of Somerset 1782)

This map is part of a map of Somerset dated 1782 and clearly shows the land extending to what was then Stert Point, which became Stert Island once the neck of land was breached. The Point is labelled as a “warren”, presumably a warren for rearing rabbits. Sixteenth century maps of the area freely use either Stert or Steart to name places on and around the Peninsula, with Stert appearing most frequently and so we end up with the confusion we have on contemporary maps. Does it matter? Not at all, at the end of the day it is really of little concern - thankfully our postman can’t spell.



Combwich Giggers



Combwich Giggers provided the backbone of the Somerset team which took part in the Gig County Championships at Plymouth late last year. Members from Porlock, Burnham, Clevedon and Portishead clubs made up the rest of the team.

Up against strong opposition from well established giggering counties such as Devon and Cornwall, the Somerset team found it hard work, but gave a very good account of themselves.

The Combwich Club already has around 20 events and regattas on the calendar for 2020 and will continue to build on its very good first year on the road.

The Club will be taking part in a winter league involving the Avon and Somerset clubs which will

see at least one event held at Combwich (Sunday 15 March) and possibly more if the weather prevents the sea-based clubs' events going ahead.

Anyone interested in having a go should contact Club Secretary Trevor Barnes.

OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

News from the Otterhampton Village Hall Committee



THE PAST

THE PRESENT

THE FUTURE

UPDATE ON THE VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT

Wishing everyone a Very Happy New Year from the Village Hall Committee which is now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). CIO status was granted by the Charity Commission on 4th December 2019! We also received confirmation from the Land Registry that the land on which the Village Hall is sited is now formally registered. So the legal parts have now been taken care of. Now we just need to secure the money to refurbish the Hall!

The refurbishment is massive as we intend to completely modernise the Hall to make it more attractive and energy efficient. The work includes insulation, new windows, new boiler, solar panels, accessibility lift and entrance ramp, moving and modernising the WCs and kitchen, installing a hearing loop system and so much more. This refurbishment will cost over £500k and with VAT and consultancy fees the cost will be a whopping £800k.

This month we will be applying for a grant from the Hinkley Point Community Fund via the OPPT Committee and the Parish Council. The HPC Community Fund granted £500k (with interest this increased to just over £600k) to the village and we very much hope that the Village Hall will receive a large proportion of that grant. We will also be applying for other grants for the remainder with the help of the Community Council for Somerset. If you are aware of any organisations offering funding to community projects please do let me know (bartonbs@btinternet.com).

More news:

..... **The Hall has a NEW Facebook page.** Check out Otterhampton Village Hall (with the OVH symbol) and keep informed of events at the Hall and Harbour View Bar. Keep in touch, share photos and take part in forthcoming competitions.

..... **The Hall will soon have a new website.** Information about the Hall, events, how to book a room and refurbishment updates will soon be available on line.

Harbour View Bar



Happy New Year from everyone on the Harbour View Committee and thanks to everyone who has supported the Bar over 2019. We tried something different this year and hired a comedian as part of the New Year's Eve entertainment followed by cocktails and the compulsory singing and dancing to Auld Lang Syne out in the road! We will be looking at ideas for this year's entertainment so if you have any ideas just let us know.

The Harbour View Christmas raffle 1st prize was won by Dee and Marie – congratulations.

Dates for your diary include:

The monthly quiz takes place on the first **Saturday of each month** (unless advertised) 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.

Look out for the blackboards and posters for details of the next event and come along.

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 til 12pm (if the lights are on and the door is open so is the bar so come on in!). **Annual membership is now due at 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.



Combwich Wharf Refurbishment Update

by Immy, Community Relations Executive

On Thursday 9th January we presented the latest plans for the refurbishment of Combwich Wharf to Otterhampton Parish Council and local residents. An application for the following works is currently being reviewed by Sedgemoor District Council, from which we expect a decision at the end of January.



2020 will see us enter the main phase of works on the wharf, with construction activity at its peak. Over the coming months, demolition of the Abnormal Loads Quay is planned to take place to reduce its height.

Following this, piling activity is due to begin in late Spring to construct the foundations which the Transfer Slab will sit on. The piling works will be completed using reduced sound methods, therefore limiting the impact of construction on local residents.

Once the piling activities are complete, works would start on construction of the Transfer Slab. This is the area onto which deliveries will be offloaded from the vessel. It forms a large part of the Abnormal Loads Quay.

We are anticipating that the bulk of works will be completed by the end of this year, before deliveries commence in 2021. You can still expect to see activity at the wharf into next year though, as the construction team carry out the final pieces of work, such as landscaping.

For more information, or to get in touch, visit <https://www.edfenergy.com/hpc> or call us on 0333 009 7070.



Remember when we used to have buses!

This is Wallace Bailey's original bus - the first to run to Steart carrying children to school at Stockland and back, and then unofficially to offer a service via Combwich to Bridgwater; the only operator ever to do so! Joan Pitman the girl on the bonnet has just returned home from school in the bus.

The entrance to the bus was via a door in the rear and the seating accommodation was two longitudinal planks, one either side of the of the bus from the rear, to the drivers partition. He had viewing access to the back of the bus from a small square window just behind his seat, and if the children made too much noise he would shout at them through this window.

This photo was probably taken around 1920, but if you know better please let us know.

(for more pictures and stories of this kind go to Facebook, Combwich, Steart & Otterhampton Memories)



Happy New Year to you all from the team at Steart Marshes!

Reserve



Over the past year we have cut back the vegetation from a number of new sections of ditch around the site, this allows people to view many of the hidden away water features and see right along ditches.

From the wildlife's perspective these opened up areas have been embraced by a number of species including the local swans who spend a lot of their time in them. For the shy species there are still plenty of places to hide away along the rest of the bank.



The removal of the tougher plants has allowed more of the flowering species to colonise between cuts and these areas are great for water mint *Mentha aquatica* and purple loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*.

Ronan Conn – Reserve Warden

Small mammals

Over the last year, with the help of our volunteers, we have carried out lots of survey work including of small mammals:

We have carried out a survey for dormice, but have not found these on site – we instead established there is a healthy population of wood mice who happily used the survey tubes as food stores and nest boxes.

Harvest mice are also present on site and the water vole population has remained very healthy across the reserve, including within a couple of ditches in the salt marsh area.

This winter we have just started water shrew surveys, so hope to find lots of signs of them around the reserve too.



Volunteer, Hilary, helping put tubes out for the water shrew survey

Alice Beaney – Assistant Warden



WWT Steart Marshes *continued*

Engagement

I'm hoping by the time you read this that we may have some of our new 'working wetland' signs out on the reserve, they have just arrived in the office and we will be out with screwdriver in hand over the next few weeks putting them up. These signs have few words, but will act to highlight features which create habitat for wildlife whilst holding, cleaning and slowing the flow of water: a green 'living' roof on the hides; the trough at Mendip; ponds at Quantock and the toilets; treatment wetland; and swales to take run-off from the car park.

If you feel inspired to try out some ideas at home for the New Year then take a look at our website: www.wwt.org.uk/discover-wetlands/gardening-for-wetlands/

Please see below for details of our next few scheduled walks.

Nicole Turnbull – Engagement Officer

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions for the team, please contact us on:

Nicole Turnbull, Engagement Officer: 01278 651090 / 07717 342061 nicole.turnbull@wwt.org.uk

Alys Laver, Site Manager: 01278 651090 / 07717 505966 or email on alys.laver@wwt.org.uk

WWT STEART MARSHES EVENTS - WINTER 2020

HISTORY WALK

Thursday 30th January 10am-12 noon

Guided history walk discovering how the land around the Steart peninsula has been used since the Bronze Age to the present day.

Booking essential. Suggested Donation: £5

HIGH TIDE WILDLIFE WALK

Wed 12th February 9-11am

Come and enjoy the landscape and spectacle of high tide at Steart. Learn about the wildlife that visits the reserve, including large flocks of dunlin, lapwing and golden plover.

Booking essential. Suggested donation: £5

FRESHWATER BIRDPWATCHING WALK

Wednesday 26th February 10am-12 noon.

Discover our freshwater winter lake on Stockland Marsh. This is a great area for watching waterfowl including shoveler, wigeon, teal and gadwall.

Booking essential. Suggested donation: £5

HIGH TIDE BIRD WALK

Thursday 12th March 8-10am

Come and enjoy the spectacle of high tide as it fills the largest area of reserve. Witness large flocks of birds including dunlin, lapwing and golden plover.

Booking essential. Suggested donation: £5



WWT Steart Marshes

To book events contact: info.steart@wwt.org.uk

01278 651090 email

WWT Steart, Steart Drove, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2PU

Combwich Ponds

Those who have lived in the village for some time will remember the joy of being able to walk around the Combwich Ponds until they were arbitrarily closed to the public in May 2007. Since then we have campaigned to have the paths reopened. The Somerset Parish Council who adjudicate on these matters have finally got round to considering our application. Those of you who submitted evidence to support our claim all those years ago have been interviewed and a draft report together with appendices will be published on the SCC website at the end of this month (January). The applicant (Barry Leathwood) and the Landowner (Bridgwater Angling Association) will be written to with 6 weeks to reply/comment.

Two weeks later 'Other Interested Parties' (i.e. Ramblers, Open Spaces Society, Natural England, etc), will be written to with 4 weeks in which to reply/comment.

By April all replies 'should' be returned, and the 'report' will be made from the draft report, taking into account the replies/comments collected from the 4-6 weeks of consultation.

This 'report' is the rationale on which the decision is based on and is then published with the decision (both published on the SCC website).



**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 or ring
652399

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

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



Combwich 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 - 9.30pm

Tel: Marcus 01278 652971

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

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 800 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, to register as a passenger 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

2020	2020	
30 Jan	21 May	10 Sep
27 Feb	18 June	8 Oct
26 Mar	16 July	5 Nov
23 Apr	13 Aug	3 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 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 st of month)	Parish Council Meeting	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 (occasional Police surgery)	10am - 12noon	
Saturday (2 nd of month)	Combwich Market	10am - 12noon	

FUTURE EVENTS

Thursday 6 February 2020	Parish Council Meeting	7.00pm	Tea and biscuits provided
Thursday 5th March	Parish Council meeting	7pm	Tea and biscuits provided
Thursday 5 March 2020	Route 60+ Presentation Somerset Road Safety Team	11am - 1pm	
Articles by 23rd February 2020	Next Otter Tales		Distribution by week commencing 2nd March

Otter Tales

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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.