



Welcome to Combwich

Otter Tales

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Stay at Home
Protect The NHS
Save Lives



NHS



The greatest threat to humanity in the last century has been met with courage and resilience, particularly by those in the frontline. We now recognise who is really important to our lives and

we must never forget them. The doctors and nurses, carers, ambulance workers, medical scientists and all the unseen backroom staff, some of whom have tragically lost their lives, deserve our thanks and support. Thanks must also go to the legions of shopworkers, delivery drivers and others who we continue to rely on.

We applaud these modern heroes from our doorsteps on a Thursday evening, but when the time is right, their status and pay should be uplifted to reflect their value to society. A tangible expression

Thanks also to the wonderful volunteers of this parish who in so many ways who have shopped and cared for those considered vulnerable because of age or ill health. This crisis has brought out the best in us.

Otterhampton Parish Council

A report from Council Chair Julie Evans

The Parish Council, like all of us, is adjusting to a new way of life and business. What has not changed though is the hard work and effort of Aly Prowse the Clerk to the Parish Council. Thanks to Aly for all she continues to do at this difficult time, when the Business Continuity Motion we are presently working under places even more responsibility on her. Only the Clerk to the Council can action decisions made by or speak on behalf of the Parish Council under this motion; unless, she falls ill in which case that responsibility falls to me.



The Parish Council being the most local element of government is constituted on meeting and making decisions in a physical forum open to attendance by the public. Decisions are then made in public and minutes taken by the Clerk to the Parish Council. Those minutes (formal notes of the meetings) are made widely and publicly available on noticeboards and www.combwich.org website. This promotes transparency and robust discussion prior to decisions being made for which the Councillors take collective responsibility. The actions agreed by the Parish Council are then implemented by the Clerk to the Council.

The last meeting in person open to the public was held on 21 March 2020 when a Business Continuity Motion was agreed to allow Parish Council business to continue without meeting in person. A copy of that Motion is on noticeboards around the Parish and on www.combwich.org. The government has provided guidance to Councils to meet virtually; but because Parish Councillors are volunteers and as such not provided with secure technology such as dedicated email addresses, it relies on our own equipment and technical expertise. Access to platforms such as Zoom and Loop Up are not uniform across your Parish Councillors and, for that reason, we have not held any virtual meetings. Instead, we are communicating by email in response to matters identified to the Clerk in order to help her make the decisions envisaged by the Business Continuity Motion. The Parish Council will reconvene physically as soon as the Government gives the clearance to do so, notifications of such will be on notice boards and the website.

Parish Council regular expenditure is continuing. The draft annual accounts to 31.3.20 are complete [and await formal approval by councillors; once done they will be placed on the website and noticeboards]. The External Annual Audit submission date has been extended due to the coronavirus. During the period of lockdown, the Parish Council has been very happy to help fund our local scrub hub which is busily sewing to provide much needed PPE. Thank you to all involved. Notice the new flag, another recent purchase. There are still funds in the pot put aside to help community projects for those in need of assistance or to prevent social isolation. If you have such a project or need please contact the Clerk.

The Parish Council has limited resources and powers but an amazing electorate; without everyone one of us following the rules, the government has put in place that so change our social norms, this virus would have a much stronger grip by now so thank you to all of you. We cannot all do more than this but I would like to give special thanks to those working hard to give us all some sense of “normality” at this time; that is all keyworkers living in the Parish and closest to home, The Combwich Shop & The Anchor; both have adapted quickly to offer a different kind of service and everyone involved is much appreciated.

Stay safe, take care and look after each other and (Otterhampton Parish) our glass!





Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

Registered Charity Number 1124017

Tina Gardener Chair

The OPRA AGM was to have taken place on 23rd March but, due to the social distancing now in place, was unable to happen. All our committee members have agreed to continue and all Officers will remain in position. It is customary at the AGM for the Chairman to deliver a report and this is the abridged version that would have been made;

A huge thank you must go to all the committee and volunteers who have helped with our activities during the year, too many to mention but give yourselves a pat on the back for all your efforts. Also thank you to our 100 club members without whose support OPRA would not be able to function. At the end of 2019 we had 98 members who pay £1 per week, 50pence is distributed in the monthly draw, 5pence is kept back for the Christmas draw and the remaining 45pence is retained by OPRA to fund all our activities. We now have 103 members, so thank you to those who recently joined us.

Our activities last year started with the ever-popular Easter Egg Hunt, 61 children took part and enjoyed an Easter egg for their efforts and one lucky winner also received a large egg. This was followed by our quiz hosted by Mary and Shaun Ryall. In July we had a stall at the OVH's successful village fun day and in August enjoyed a walk followed by a cream tea and a cider or two courtesy of Aly and Robin Prowse, all proceeds went to Steart Church. Next came November and our Firework display which as ever was well supported, we were so lucky that the rain stopped just before our display started. Unfortunately, the popular and now traditional lantern parade was unable to take place.

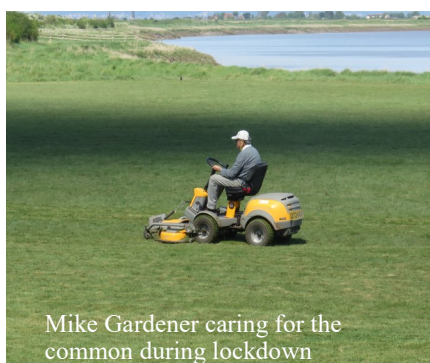
Then before we knew it along came December and up went the Christmas trees in Comwich and Steart and our biggest event of the year, the Seniors' Christmas Dinner took place. As always this was very well attended and enjoyed by all. Entertainment this year came from; Mike who did a Christmas quiz, Sarah Webb and Tom Jacobs who performed 'I've got you babe' and Comwich Choir who performed several songs including the Twelve Days of Christmas which involved audience participation.

Our Easter activities this year were stopped by the lockdown, but the ever-efficient Robert had already ordered 80 Easter eggs. Luckily the primary school hadn't yet closed and so the 70 children there each received an egg and the rest were distributed to primary school children living in the village and not attending Otterhampton School.

OPRA Officers and Committee Chair	
Tina Gardener	652642
Secretary	
Ann Leathwood	652399
Treasurer	
Sue Francis	653663
Vice Chair	
Barry Leathwood	652399
Committee	
Mary Cornish	653868
Beverly Smith	652595
Di Davie	652141
Felicity Ashworth	653633
Jacqui Sparks	652069
Melvin Fooks	322459
100 Club Organisers	
Ann Leathwood	652399
Sue Francis	653663

The 100 Club draw takes place every month at the Coffee Morning Otterhampton Village Hall and the winning numbers are displayed in the Post Office and the parish website www.comwich.org.uk shortly afterwards.

If you want to join the 100 Club or become involved in OPRA activities please contact Ann on 652399 or any committee member.



Mike Gardener caring for the common during lockdown



Newly hatched cygnet on Steart Marshes captured by Andy Parsons

As with everywhere, all our future activities are in limbo until we know the way forward from this pandemic. We sincerely hope it will not be too long before we can start socialising with our families, friends and neighbours. In the mean-time take care and stay safe.



Otterhampton Primary School.

Spring term highlights

Head Teacher, Claire Luce



Closing the gates on Friday 20th March was certainly one of the hardest moments of my career so far. Saying 'goodbye' and 'stay safe' to our families was heartbreaking and we had little or no answer to when we would be returning.

Fast forward to the end of April and we have now had 4 weeks of home learning. Staff have been working around the clock to provide a mix of paper and online activities for the children. We have been keeping in regular contact with our families through the online platform 'Class Dojo' and by phone calls every week. Offering support in a variety of different ways or answering questions about home learning! We have received endless portfolio updates from the children, with pictures and videos of everything they have been up to.

The school continues to be open for both vulnerable children/children of key workers and the staff have been providing this child care on a rota.

We are all looking forward to going back to school when it is safe to do so.



A life line to villagers

Never has the village shop been more valued than during these last few weeks of Covid 19 lockdown, when villagers, many of us elderly and vulnerable have been confined to our homes.

The post office had to close until further notice because Peter the Postmaster had to self isolate because of health problems leaving Jane and Robert alone with the business.

Unable to function as a normal shop because of social distancing, radical changes had to be made. Orders can

be phoned in, paid for over the phone and delivered by Robert or collected. Customers calling at the shop, observing social distancing, can provide a shopping list, or ask for items and Robert or Jane will deliver them to a table in the doorway when customers will pay by a contactless transaction when possible. Robert has kept an eye on vulnerable customers and delivers their orders personally.

It is not easy for Robert and Jane, as their main wholesaler has refused to deliver to Combwich making it necessary for Robert to make a daily visit to the wholesalers for provisions.

Whenever you speak to someone in the village the conversation will inevitably gravitate to fulsome praise of Robert and Jane for providing this essential service. This crisis has identified many heroes and firmly amongst them are Robert, Jane and Peter. Thank you very much all of you.



Revd Alison Waters, Rector

I don't suppose any of us thought back in January, when those first reports came from China of a new and virulent virus, that we would find life in our communities and our nation so radically changed a few months later. This is an extraordinary crisis – unprecedented in recent times – and I would like to pay tribute to those who have been so instrumental in our managing thus far.

Cannington Volunteers was born out of the fact that those in our villages who most often step up, who are the mainstay of our churches, councils and community groups, are the over 60's. Yet now, it was these very people who would be rendered housebound by the pandemic. They couldn't help, and they shouldn't help, for their own protection and so younger people needed to step up. And they did. Otterhampton Parish Council were proactive in working with us to extend the scheme to Comwich and the surrounding villages. Individuals and couples who were self-isolating due



to age or infirmity were matched with those who were able to help with shopping, dog walking, even just a friendly call. No one need panic or feel abandoned; there were friends around them who could and would help. The marvellous Barry Leathwood helped coordinate the response. Younger families looked out for their older neighbours, the healthy supported those being shielded from the virus.

I must applaud local shops and businesses who so swiftly and effectively adapted to the needs of our suddenly incarcerated community. Whilst the larger supermarkets floundered, the farm shops and other local food suppliers were nimble enough to arrange new lines and set up the means of getting basics to people quickly and effectively. The Post Office in Comwich marvellously turned from a convenience store into a necessity store, with new and invaluable phone and collect, and delivery services. Our fantastic village schools have remained open to provide childcare for key workers.

We have rightly been clapping for the NHS and those working in social care. The pharmacy in the Health Centre in Cannington quickly engaged with the volunteers to ensure that we could work together to meet the needs of those who could no longer collect their prescriptions. Deliveries began, calming the concerns of those stuck at home and limiting those having to gather at the Surgery and the Post Office.

Thank you especially to all the volunteers, and to everyone who looked out for an older or more vulnerable neighbour. Our villages and hamlets came into their own. And what wonderful work is being done by the "Otterhampton Scrub Hub", sewing essential items for the NHS frontline workers.

I am desperately sad to have to close our churches. It is counterintuitive during a time of crisis to stop access to places of peace, reflection and prayer. I hope to be able to reopen them soon, and I am grateful for the support of the local community at what will be a difficult few months for St Peter's and St Mary Magdalene's.

These are and have been extraordinary times. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have been laid low by this awful disease, those from our community who have died, and those who mourn them. We grieve with those whose livelihoods have been lost, those separated from loved ones, especially those in care homes or hospitals, and those who live in fear of what the future may hold. We may yet face more difficult times ahead but we do so knowing that we can lean upon one another and we will be held safe.

Revd Alison Waters, Rector.

Paul Gripton - Profile



Paul grew up as a Black-Country boy from Wolverhampton, complete with a 'Peaky Blinder' hair style, long since gone but retaining the sense of humour, typical to the area.

At 14 his first brush with emergencies occurred when he was required to preserve 4 fingers, severed in an accident (not his) in a derelict factory far from help. After sixth form with jobs plentiful in the seventies, he became a bank clerk.

This proved too exciting and he was soon training at West Bromwich as a 'Fireman'. (This was the seventies!)

Marriage at the tender age of 20 to Sue, his ever patient wife, took place in Altarnun Church, Cornwall.

A transfer to Bristol and a house in Wellington, Somerset was swiftly followed by the arrival of Matt and Becs (both found under a hedge apparently). Combwich beckoned in the mid-eighties.

Paul and Sue recognised Combwich as a great place to live and bring up kids. It was an ideal base to enjoy his love of nature, fishing, travelling and the West Country. The South West all became 'home ground'. The family recall their sailing exploits, with a mixture of delight, laughter and an overriding sense of fear. Sue had been promised Gin and Tonics, moored off the beach where the sun always shone!



Career highlights, included releasing a trapped (and screaming) train driver, whilst upside down in the smashed cab, by patiently unbolting his seat, along with the numerous rescues from fire he considers he was fortunate to attend.

A spell in hospital occurred after developing septicaemia from contaminated mud, whilst recovering a body under Clifton Suspension Bridge.

The lows included the many fatalities encountered over the years. The personal loss of Fire Fighter Fleur Lombard aged 21 in a supermarket fire (a friend, who he trained when a Brigade instructor) and the further deaths of two members of his watch in tragic circumstances, required all his resilience

and good nature to help rebuild the watch. He was pleased with the recent naming of a GWR locomotive in honour of Fleur.

Normally known for his quiet personality (??) his "Drill Ground" booming voice was needed whilst entering Safeway, Taunton to join Sue shopping. A runaway toddler had been knocked down by a camper van unknown to the driver and Paul's instinctive fire service 'rest' command, frightened him into stopping just short as the rear tyre was in contact with the child's head. Sue's "Where on earth have you been" (Polite version) still makes him smile.

Retirement at a youngish age allowed Paul to enjoy his many interests. Portugal is a favourite abroad but Norfolk and Scotland are relished closer to home.

Paul was a Parish Councillor, when HPC and the WWT Steart project proposals were under consideration. In particular he looks back with pleasure at the fighting, community team spirit that developed, eventually resulting in the limited EDFE role at Combwich involving AIL'S and the Wharf, which the Parish Council had originally supported.

He believes in the maxim, "Knowledge is Power".

Apart from his family, Paul's main enthusiasm is for books, often having at least five on the go at once on an eclectic mix of subjects, with Radio 4 or Jazz FM, gently playing in the background.

An interest in all aspects of the unexplained and the unusual (not just why Sue puts up with him!) complements many of the strange occurrences he has experienced in his full and, he considers, lucky life.

Paul likes nothing better than facing up to injustice and authority when required, tempered with that ever present sense of black humour. Something Sedgemoor DC no doubt continue to relish.



Going, Going, Gone! *By Phil Edwards*

On Tuesday 25th February the hides at Steart Point were demolished. Robin Prowse tells me that they were built by the then Nature Conservancy Council in commemoration of Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 so they have stood through all the weather of 43 years. They were constructed by a team led by the warden John Breeds, reputedly based upon a design at Slimbridge by, or for, Sir Peter Scott. While a giant amongst conservationists, Sir Peter was not



a large man and some of Somerset's taller birders always found the hides a trifle cramped. Nonetheless, many of us experienced many wonderful sights while seated gazing out.

Farewell old friend, we hope the new one will be as good or better. The pictures show the progressive demolition and removal.

Covid-19 distancing brings a community together

Lynn Carter

Mooching around Facebook on 14th April I noticed that a group of ladies near Bruton were making scrubs outfits for NHS workers. Having watched the harrowing news on TV the previous night about frontline staff not having the right equipment to do their job, I felt duty-bound to lend a hand. It was a shame that the Somerset group was a bit too far away to participate, given the current travel restrictions of the Coronavirus pandemic.



Otterhampton Scrubs Hub

MADE SO FAR

- 21 Scrubs Sets
- 140 Hats with ties
- 24 Caps
- 46 Headbands
- 4 Masks

See photos on Facebook:
All Things Combwich Group

However, knowing the wealth of sewing talent we have in the village, I wondered if anyone else would be interested in setting up a local hub. So, up went a notice on Facebook's "All Things Combwich Group" page. Three days later we had a team of 16 ladies (now 20 and counting) in the form of Otterhampton Scrubs Hub, together with an abundance of offers of fabric, haberdashery, bedding, sewing machines and transport.

A begging letter was sent to Otterhampton Parish Council which resulted in a handsome donation of £250 to set up the project, plus a personal contribution of £25 from Parish Clerk, Aly Prowse. This funding has enabled us to buy buttons, elastic, thread, bias tape and specific fabric for scrubs sets so thank you to OPC and Aly for their kind contributions.

After setting up the hub, sourcing materials and patterns and getting our volunteers up and running (at the correct social distance of course), I quickly discovered that finding fabric for scrubs sets was somewhat of a challenge! It seems half the population is sewing for the NHS so, not only is it in short supply, but prices have gone through the roof and delivery dates are so far away, I was beginning to think the crisis will be over before we are able to get our hands on a roll of fabric.

Determined to make this happen, I contacted a much bigger hub called Taunton Scrubbers who have access to the correct type of fabric for scrubs outfits, at bargain prices. Very quickly, a 50-metre roll of 90" wide fabric was sourced from (unbelievably) my hometown of Mansfield. We didn't even have to pay for carriage thanks to Susan McDonnell, one of the co-ordinators. It has proved to be a great collaboration as the Scrubbers have a direct link with Somerset Health Trust, which means we are assured that everything we make is to the right spec and is distributed to exactly where it's needed.



The generosity continued with the Village Hall Committee allowing Nick and I free access to the hall. This enabled us to cut the fabric into 20 sets of scrubs outfits ready for sewing, with the remainder of the roll going to Angela Partridge for her to make a further 10 sets.

Then along came a fireman! With a very kind offer from Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Services of further funding and free transport. Visions of buttons and elastic being dropped off by a fully equipped fire engine seemed slightly over the top but Steve Smith, Charity Co-ordinator for SAFE South West played a great part in organising the free carriage of a second 50m roll of fabric from Tiverton to Combwich.



This roll, (thanks for the heads up from Jan Cashin), was also a freebie. Heathcoat Fabrics in Devon announced on Facebook that they were giving away rolls of fabric to anyone making NHS scrubs. So following yet another begging letter, Commercial Manager of Heathcoats, Mark Drysdale, kindly agreed to let us have one of the rolls.

And there's more! A big surplus roll of thick Perspex has been donated by Alan Waters. We've not really found a way to incorporate it into the sewing but I'm currently in talks with Kings College Taunton to see if they can utilise it. They are involved in a national initiative called The Big Print, a 3D printing project making face shields. Between 23rd March and 22nd April they had requests for 600,000 face shields from chemists, hospitals, medical practices and social care organisations all over the country. For more details: www.3dcrowd.uk

This terrible virus has brought forth some incredible acts of kindness and, despite the drastic actions that we've all had to take and the distance we have to keep, it's had an opposite effect of actually bringing together more people than ever. The support for this particular project has been overwhelming and I feel very privileged to be part of such a great community.

With big thanks to:

All our sewing angels: Jan Cashin, Karen Taylor, Sue Barton, Emma Bridger, Jenny Hodges, Nicola Fairfax and daughter Dulcie (our youngest seamstress), Yvonne Bulman, Angela Partridge, Debbie Turnbull, Caroline Darch, Sara Gazzard, Jo Haxby, Wendy Dadds, Angie Griffiths, Janet Bussell, Elizabeth Marriott, Heidi Ingram and Kate Whyte; to Taunton Scrubbers for their help sourcing materials and organising distribution; to Carole & Andrew Taylor in Cannington for collections; to OPC and Aly Prowse for their donations; to the Village Hall Committee for free use of the hall; to Steve Smith from SAFE SW for transportation; Mark Drysdale from Heathcoats for the free roll of fabric; Darren the fireman for delivering said roll; Alan Waters for the Perspex; Kevin Partridge for cutting out 10 sets of scrubs for Angela; to Nick's Mum and brother in Stourbridge for digging out their buttons and elastic and to my lovely husband, Nick Carter, for running alongside me with this idea, putting up with the mess in the house and spending a weekend helping me to cut the scrubs sets.



There is still an urgent demand for sewn garments so if you'd like to get involved please email Lynn: combwichscrubs@gmail.com

To keep updated on the Otterhampton Scrubs Hub progress, please check the All Things Combwich group on Facebook.



Family of Large Munsterlanders self-isolating in Steart!

Submitted by Robin and Aly Prowse

Wooded area on the Common affectionately known as the Brownie Copse..... *By Councillor Julie Evans*

It seems like a lifetime ago now, certainly different times in all sorts of ways...but on Sunday 15 March 2020 in the pouring rain a group of us got together to plant some trees.

We planted some good sized trees donated by EDF, moved from another site where they were not thriving. I am happy to report that the initially very wet weather and the subsequent warm and dry weather seem to have revived their chances and they are now thriving.

The site had been prepared by Jim and Nik Doble of Sedgmoor Trees who also donated a large number of various types of hawthorn saplings which were also planted. You will notice pathways through the brambles leaving enough for nesting birds. Please explore the area and let us know what you think.

We hope to manage and extend tree planting in this area over the coming years and our next step was to invite the Brownies and others to join us and Somerset Brilliant Coasts at the Village Fun Day on 4 July and perhaps build some bug hotels.

Like much else this is on hold at present but we are and will be after volunteers to join our "Tree Strategy Group" in the future to determine and action where and how many trees we can most effectively plant to help in the battle against global warming. If you are interested please contact any of your Parish Councillors whose contact details appear in each edition of Otters Tales.



The first 2 photographs were taken in March and the third in April. What a difference a month makes...looking forward to May.....June.....July.....



Carol and Paul Bradbury at the annual 'Media Modelling' show in Hanslope, Bucks last year. The 'Oscar' trophy was awarded for the red model of 'My Mother the Car' (1960s TV show).

Looking on the bright side -Tina Gardener

There isn't much the majority of us living in Comwich can do to help with the pandemic which is affecting most of the world, a part from Staying Home, Protecting the NHS and Saving Lives.

We are fortunate (well most of the time!) that our daughter Amy decided to leave her shared house in Reading and join us at home. By staying at home, whilst having beautiful weather we have probably all been busy in our gardens. None more so than in our house where Mike has created a lockdown list of jobs, we have painted the front and back gates, the shed, garden furniture and planters, the patio has also been cleaned, all those jobs we have put off for the last few years. The bedding plants are in, the lawn gets mowed twice a week and lots of pruning and tidying up of the garden have also taken place.

We've enjoyed BBQ's and well-earned glasses of Pimm's and cider after a hard day's toil. On a whim, we bought a paddling pool at Easter when we were experiencing a heat wave, only for the temperature to drop as soon as it arrived!

We're lucky to have our shop for essentials, the Pub for takeaways and the Butchers and Bakers in Cannington. We have so much wonderful countryside on our doorstep with plenty of routes for walking and cycling. We have so much time on our hands for a gentler pace of life and time to stop and chat with our friends and neighbours and I am sure we are all becoming much fitter.

Thursdays at 8.00pm have become a bit of a competition in Martyn Close as to who can make the most noise, it started with clapping and a few saucepans and we have progressed through a tambourine, hunting horn, referee's whistle, guitar and organ and on to hand held bells and then the last 2 weeks we've had to compete with the church bells! What a great idea for them to be rung.

We are so lucky to be living in Comwich!



Otter Wheels

We regret to report that the car scheme has temporarily suspended operations due to the Covid 19 pandemic and we apologise for any inconvenience

We will be up and running again as soon as possible

Our telephone number is still operational 07925 154216 if you want to keep in touch.

We will also need more volunteer drivers when we resume the service

If you can help please ring for more information

In the meantime

Stay Safe

OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

News from the Otterhampton Village Hall Committee



THE PAST



THE PRESENT



THE FUTURE

COVID-19: CLOSURE OF THE VILLAGE HALL

Obviously with the current pandemic the Village Hall is closed for the foreseeable future. The Village Hall Committee is carefully monitoring the situation and the Hall will open again as soon as we are advised that it is safe to do so. In the meantime, the building is monitored regularly and the necessary health and safety routines undertaken.

UPDATE ON THE VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT

Unfortunately it is now highly unlikely that the refurbishment will take place this year as hoped. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the OPPT Committee, Parish Council and the EDF Community Fund are unable to meet to discuss our application for funding from the EDF Community Fund.

We are hoping that we will have a decision on the EDF funding later this year. At that point we can apply for additional funding from other organisations. So realistically the project is likely to be delayed for a further year with a start in Spring 2021.

COMBWICH FUN DAY 4TH JULY 2020

Otterhampton Village Hall is hoping to bring you our 3rd Combwich Fun Day on Saturday 4th July. If restrictions prevent it happening on we will plan a celebration for the village and parish when able. More information as the date gets closer, but we have a bouncy castle, the fun and games including the bouncy hoppers, bar and BBQ. For those of you having a good sort out, there will be tables to hire for a small cost, so keep sorting and saving ☐. Please contact Amber 01278 652111 if you have any questions, looking forward to a celebration with you all in our wonderful community.

In the meantime, stay safe and well and look forward to seeing everyone when the Hall reopens.



HARBOUR VIEW BAR

Although currently closed the Harbour View Bar Committee is still looking for up to 2 new members to join the team. Generally the Committee meet once a month and are always looking for fresh ideas to increase membership and promote the Bar. A positive attitude is a must!

If you would like to help either call Bruce Barton on 653531, put your name and contact details in the letter box (please mark for HVB).

The current Committee members are:

Steve Lang (Chair), Marie Beckley (Secretary), Bruce Barton (Treasurer)

Rachel Ingram, Bev Lang, Corby Stansfield, Stuart Stansfield, Heath Bennett

The Bar has received a letter of thanks from St Margaret's Hospice Care for the £45 donated by members and visitors to the Bar.

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
(In conjunction with Revd Alison Waters)

CORONAVIRUS – WE ARE HERE TO HELP (updated information)

If you are self-isolating (whatever your age) now, or later, and you would like help with shopping, prescriptions, dog walking, or would just like someone to talk to, please get in touch and we will do our best to link you up with someone who can give you the appropriate help.

Please phone the following number: 01278 652399 (Barry Leathwood)
Or email : barry.leathwood@btinternet.com

Volunteers wanted

If you are able to offer help, please call: 01278 652953 (Revd Alison)
Or email: cannington.volunteers@gmail.com

Somerset County Council's Coronavirus Helpline

Ring 0300 790625 for a range of advice and help available in Somerset

Other useful information

Combwich Post Office and Shop: 01278 652277 (Post Office closed temporarily; shop orders and card payments over the phone) or contactless payments on collection.

Anchor Inn – 653612 for pizza. 0747642335 for Sunday lunch & burgers. Please check their Facebook Page for menus and delivery days. More details page 16.

Blackmore Farm (deliveries over £10 FOC) Shop 651154 (payment taken over phone). **Blackmore Farm** (freshly cooked meals, payment taken over the phone) 653442.

Greenway Farm (takeaway menu 6-9pm Fri & Sat, 12-2pm Sun, 01278 425853 and 07557 449591. Order by 8pm the day before. Delivery free within a 2-mile radius.

SPAR, Cannington: 653224 (orders and payment over the phone).

Croft Farm Butchers, Cannington (652230). The butcher will also deliver supplies from the Village Bakery, Cannington (651047) if meat & bread ordered at the same time.

Sedgemoor Village Agents: 01823331222; 07535279359; email jo@somersetccc.org.uk

Otter Wheels has suspended operations for the time being, but ring 07925 154216 if you require further information.

We will endeavour to update information on the Facebook page "All things Combwich", email notifications, noticeboards and website <http://www.combwich.org.uk>

Please stay safe at this worrying time; know that we are thinking of you and are keen to help. You are not alone, please pick up the phone.

Otterhampton Parish Council in conjunction with Cannington Volunteers
Parish Clerk: Aly Prowse Tel 01278 652426, email: otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com

UPDATED AS AT 3.5.20

A time for us girls

Submitted by Elizabeth Marriott

I'm normally a social girl
I love to meet my mates
But lately with the virus here
We can't go out the gates.
You see we are the 'oldies' now
We need to stay inside
If they haven't seen us for a while
They'll think we've upped and died.

They'll never know the things we did
Before we got this old
There wasn't any Facebook
So not everything was told.
We may seem sweet old ladies
Who would never be uncouth
But we grew up in the 60s –
If you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll
The pill and miniskirts
We smoked, we drank, we partied
And were quite outrageous flirts.
Then we settled down, got married
An turned into someone's mum,
Somebody's wife, then nana,
Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace
Because our lives were full
But to bury us before we're dead
Is like a red rag to a bull!
So here you find me stuck inside
For 4 weeks, maybe more
I finally find myself again
Then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me
I'd while away the hour
I'd bake for all the family
But I've got no flaming flour!
Now Netflix is just wonderful
I like a gutsy thriller
I'm swooning over Idris
Or some random sexy killer.

At least I've got a stash of booze
For when I'm being idle
There's wine and whisky, even gin
If I'm feeling suicidal
So lets all drink to lockdown
To recovery and health
And hope this awful virus
Doesn't decimate our wealth.

We'll all get through this crisis
And be back to join our mates
Just hoping I'm not far to wide
To fit through the flaming gates!

Limericks

A long time ago I was free,
To wander footpaths to the sea,
Now I'm stuck here at home
Making jam on my own,
Good gracious, just how can that be.
Liz Brown Cannington

When sitting at home all alone,
I tried not to cry and to moan,
So I hopped in the bath,
And had a good laugh.
Covering myself with white foam
Louise Bailey Combwich

There's a virus plaguing the bees
The flowers are feeling the squeeze,
So now it's our turn,
If we see, if we learn,
In the end we will all smile, and say cheese
Tessa Budd Stogumber

When your whole world is turned upside down,
It's better to smile than to frown,
Let's look on the Brightside
And stay on the right side
Hoping soon to be out on the town.
Ann Carley France

We're in lockdown, complete isolation,
You can't even go to the station,
We joined the applause
To further our cause
Of the NHS saving the nation
Tessa Budd Stogumber

There was a young man from Cleckheaton,
Who lived in a lighthouse near Meaton,
Saying "I've got the virus,
A thing they sent to try us",
He jumped in the sea, just off Seaton.
Chris Lloyd Williams Combwich

A cough, sore throat and a fever
So Harold decided to leave her,
He put on his hat
But his head was too fat,
So he chopped off his head with a cleaver.
Helen Jowett Combwich

We'll see it off in a couple of weeks,
It's a hoax, it's fake news, just Chinese,
Said Johnson and Trump,
Both like a chump,
As the planet is brought to its knees.
Simon Bailey Bristol

We're afflicted by Corvid 19
Of pasta there's none to be seen
Our travels on hold
Loo rolls are like gold
And our hands incredibly clean.
Caroline Pike. London.

This virus that keeps us indoors
The result is a birth rate that soars
The effecting confining
Is much intertwining
A bundle of joy is the cause.
Caroline Pike

Like others we stood at the door
And for nurses we clapped shore to shore
For the doctors who try
So hard to get by
We stood at the door and clapped more.
Louise Bailey. Combwich.

There was a young lady called Liz
Whose marmalade sold with a fizz
Struck down with the virus
She could not supply us
So Lulu took over the biz.
Chris Lloyd-Williams. Combwich.

Don't worry, enjoy every day
Massive meteors are soon on the way
We know when one hits
We'll be all blown to bits
Eternity will be here to stay.
Ron Smith. Combwich.

In three-months I'll look like a witch
Hair hanging down in a ditch
But what will I wear under all that long hair
Well nothing, not even a stich.
Tessa Budd. Stogumber.

While humans are dying away
It's really a beautiful day
In the fields and the trees
With the birds and the bees
Mother nature is saying HOORAY!
Carolyn. Combwich.

A beauty who lived in Verona
Who fancied a man with Corona
But she said from the start
Keep two metres apart
It's a good thing he said "I'm a loner".
Carolyn Combwich

There was a bored lady called Maureen
Who sat in her garden just yawning
The grasses and weeds
Grew up well past her knees
But the wildlife around her was swarming.
Maureen Lloyd-Williams. Combwich.

Isolation is best we are told
Especially plus seventy and old
Oh what great fun
Live on Gin and a bun
Because bread becomes gold and is sold.
Helen Jowett Combwich

Two metres apart is the mode
If necessary walk in the road
You didn't get far
Got mowed down by a car
So much for the new highway code
Helen Jowett Combwich

A lady who lived in Verona,
Caught a virus, they call it Corona,
"Fear not", the doc said,
Just keep to your bed,
And we'll tell you when its all over.
Melanie Combwich

Lockdown Lament

From treading the Parrett, and tripping up the track
In lockdown you can still exercise there and back.
Then its's back to the garden to dig and to sow,
In case there's a shortage of food you know,
The wife has a list of 10 odd jobs on her mind
So I'll do numbers 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9
She's a crafty old stick and I'm sure she will prevail,
And so, I'll do the jobs all even numbers as well.
So at the end of the day all is tidy and fine
Then we can isolate at home with a nice glass of wine
So stay safe everybody and keep apart 2 metres
Which is just as well as I've lost my odour eaters
Tom Jacobs Combwich

From a Grateful Villager

I would like to include a sincere THANK YOU to all those in the village who have offered help in these uncertain times - I don't truly consider myself as being either old or vulnerable but according to the criteria given by the Government both Mick and I fall into this category and it is thanks to the generosity of younger neighbours and volunteers within the village that we have been able to self isolate as recommended.

Special thanks must go to Amber Austin who has gone that 'extra mile' and Linda Ingram who has checked almost daily that there is nothing we need. There are others too who are 'supporting' those of us who are considered vulnerable and I am sure I speak for all who are benefitting from the generosity of these younger people.

Thank you, we do appreciate your help.

Stay safe, best wishes

Yvonne Bulman

Maxim's

@ The Anchor

SUNDAY LUNCH
Collection or Delivery 12 - 3pm

1 Course £10.50	OAP or	1 Course £7.00
2 Courses £15.00	Kids Portions	2 Courses £10.00
3 Courses £19.50		3 Courses £13.00

To Begin - Choice Of:

Maxim's Homemade Soup Of The Day with Crusty Bread (Vegan)
Chicken Liver Pate with In House Chutney & Country Toast
Bloody Mary Prawn Cocktail with Grilled Lemon & Iceberg

Main Event - Choice Of:

Locally Sourced Herb Roasted Beef
Butter Roasted Turkey Crown
Slow Roasted Leg Of Lamb (£3.00 Supplement)
Veggie Nut Roast (Vegan)

All Served With:

Traditional Roast Potatoes - Honey Glazed Carrots & Parsnips with Crushed Walnuts - Sweet Potato Puree
Buttered Petit Pois - Cauliflower & Broccoli Mornay
Yorkshire Pudding - Crispy Kale - Vegetable Crisps
Red Wine & Thyme Jus

Treats:

Maxim's Crumble Of The Day with Crème Anglaise
Brownie Of The Day with Chantilly Cream
Maxim's Treat Of The Week

Pre Orders will be required before Friday 8pm

Payment via Card or Cash on Delivery

(Delivery Charge £2.00 Per Roast)

To order please message Maxim's - The Anchor or Text 07476 423735

We will get back to you as soon as we possibly can.

Many Thanks and stay safe.

Maxim & Matthew



Anchor Inn

Order on 07850 328817 or face book

Stone Baked Fresh Dough Pizzas

Any pizza £8.50

Margarita	Spicy veggie: pepper, mushrooms, red onion, sweetcorn, olives, jalapenos
Meatball and red onion	
Peperoni	
Hawaiian	4 cheese pizza: mozzarella, stilton, parmesan and cheddar
The veggie: pepper, mushrooms, red onion and olives sweetcorn	Meat feast: chicken, meatball, ham and pepperoni
The Goat: Goats cheese and caramelised onions	Spicy meat feast: chicken, meatball, ham and pepperoni with

Thursday and Friday night 4.30pm to 8pm - Any Pizza £8.50 takeaway



BOOM TINGZ

BURGERS
FRIES
DESSERTS

[@boomtingzburgers](#)
07476 423 735

Single Tingz		
Plain Jane	American Cheese - Gherkins - Tomato Mustard	5.00
Little Max	American Cheese - Big Max Sauce	6.00
Mother Clucker	Chicken - Spicy Bread Crumbed - Jalapeno Cheese - Candied Bacon - Candied Onions	6.50
The Veggie Ting	Spicy Bean Burger - Cheese - Mayo - Ciabatta - Gherkins - Burn Twice Sauce	6.00
Double Tingz		
Double Do'er	Beef Pattie - Spicy Crumbed Chicken - Smoked Monterey Jack - Candied Bacon	8.00
Big Max	Double Patty - American Cheese - Big Max Sauce	8.00
Brooklyn Browns	Double Patty - Candied Onions - Candied Bacon - BBQ Sauce - Red Cheese	8.50
Dutty Chick	Double Chicken - Balloumi Fries - Jalapeno Cheese - Gherkin - Candied Onions	9.00
Triple Tingz		
The Reverend James	Triple Beef Pattie - Candied Onions - Candied Bacon - Garlic Mayo - Smoked Monterey Jack	12.50
The VIV	Double Beef Patties - Single Spicy Crumbed Chicken - Burn Twice Sauce - Red Cheese - American Cheese - Candied Bacon	13.00
Fat Max	Triple Beef Pattie - Big Max Sauce	12.00
Jerky Tingz	Triple Chicken - Spicy Bread Crumbed - Jalapeno Cheese - Candied Onions - Jerky Sauce	13.00
Fries - Dem Dirty Fries		
Fries	2.00	Dem Dirty Ringer Chicken - Candied Bacon - 6.50
Halloumi Fries	4.00	Stinger Ones Gherkins - Jalapeno Cheese - Burn Twice Sauce
Dem Garlic Ones	3.50	Dem Dirty Naughty Ones Burger Bits - Candied Bacon - Candied Onion - American Cheese - Red Cheese
EXTRAS		
Pattie	3.00	Cheese Sauce & Candied Bacon 1.50
Candied Onions	1.00	

Collection only - Delivery coming very soon - Wednesday 5pm until 9pm
Bookings advised due to covid-19 restrictions

Otter Tales

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