



Welcome to Combwich

# Otter Tales

Published with the generous support of Otterhampton Parish Council

## Inside this issue

### Page 2

Parish Council Offcuts

### Page 3

Offcuts & Village Shop (poem)

### Page 4

OPRA Report & Coronavirus

### Page 5

Otterhampton Village Hall

Shelly's Friend

### Page 6

WWT Steart Marshes

### Page 7

Wildlife Trust

### Page 8

Historical Combwich

Scam Alert

### Page 9

June Johnson Remembered

### Page 10

Gwyn Griffiths - Profile

### Page 11

I never knew that!

### Pages 12 & 13

Alison Jacobs, Artist

### Page 14

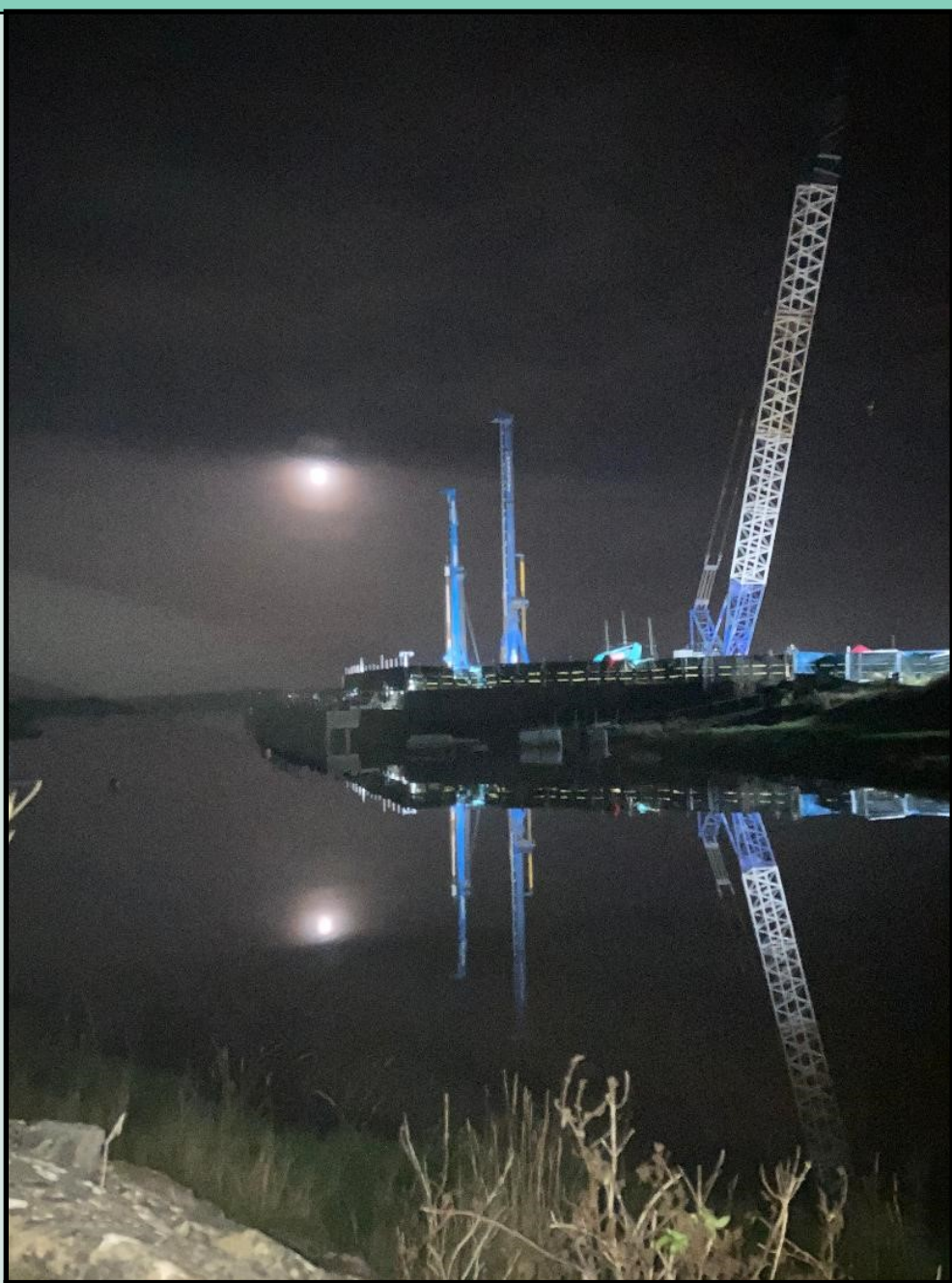
Combwich Wharf Update

### Page 15

Readers' photographs

### Page 16

General information



A lovely night time photo of the wharf taken by Gwyn Griffiths (see profile page 10) moments before the moon disappeared behind the clouds

# Otterhampton Parish Council

Otterhampton Offcuts

Snippets from your February and March 2021 Parish Council Meetings

## **BROOKSIDE RD – OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION (39/20/00013)**

The parish council submitted an objection to Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) on 3 February. 162 forms (44% of the community) were returned from the community consultation which firmly rejected the proposed development. Briefly the results told us: -

### **Proposed Housing Development of up to 60 houses:**

9% In favour of a development of up to 60 houses as per the application

2% In favour of the development but only if a small number of houses

3% Did not vote for or against the proposal, but indicated a small development would be acceptable

67% Against any development at all

18% Against the proposed development of 60 houses, but would accept a small development of 6 units or affordable housing units only

1% No feelings either way

(The average number of houses that constituted a smaller development was 18 units)

### **Proposed Village Hall (VH):**

7% Liked the proposed location

4% Did not like the location but think we need a new VH

20% Did not like the proposed location of the VH

16% Said the village does not need a new village hall

47% Did not like the location and a new VH is not required (both options ticked on form)

6% No feelings either way

(A net 76% do not like the proposed location nor think a new village hall is required)

Consultee objections were submitted to the SDC planning website by the Parrett Internal Drainage Board, Environment Agency, both District Councillors, Campaign for Rural England, Cannington Parish Council and the Affordable Housing Enabling Officer. Holding objections (subject to the production of surveys and further information) were submitted by Somerset Ecology, Somerset County Council Public Rights of Way, Senior Historic Environment Officer and the Lead Local flood Authority. Circa 70 objections were submitted from interested parties. We note that Somerset County Highways response is still under consideration.

## **FLY PARKING IN COMBWICH**

We are getting a few complaints about fly parking in the village particularly at weekends because of all of the visitors accessing WWT Steart Marshes via Combwich. There is not a lot the parish council can do as long as vehicles park on the highway and do not cause obstruction. However, we have made WWT's Alys Laver aware to ensure that when she conducts her forthcoming review of 'visitor management' she includes Combwich in the considerations.

## **DOG GLOVE DISPENSERS**

The dog glove dispensers on the common and by the defibrillator are starting to go rusty and difficult to open. The parish council has decided not to replace them. Hence, some advanced warning that when the existing stock of dog bags runs out, we will no longer provide the free bags. It is costing the parish council circa £650 per year for this service. The dog bins will remain.

## **Contact details for the parish council**

### **PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Julie Evans (Chair)	01278 652735
Bob Birkenhead (Vice Chair)	01278 653127
Rachel Perrett	01278 652958
Tina Gardener	01278 652642
Marie Beckley	07748 154395
Lindsey Parsons	07843 604787
Andrew Darch (Stewart)	01278 653495
Mrs Aly Prowse (Clerk)	01278 652426

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

### **County and District Ward Members**

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



*Continued from page 2*

### **EDF COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

EDF has asked for project ideas that they could provide in the form of additional community support e.g., resources, once Comwich Wharf is in operation. If you have any ideas that you would like considered, please let the Clerk know.

### **HIGHWAYS WORKS**

There will be a temporary closure of Riverside to allow Wessex Water to carry out works, planned to commence on 15 March and to last for up to 5 days.

C182 – Works to strengthen Bolham Bridge are due to start from 15 March and expected to last for 4 weeks. One lane will be closed and traffic lights will be in operation. The works are planned to take place overnight between the hours of 1900 – 0500 from Monday evenings through to Saturday mornings.

### **CENSUS 21.3.21**

The last census was carried out in 2011. It is a valuable source of information as not only does it provide historical information, the statistics are used to provide future (until 2031) forecasts for demographic, social and investment calculations.

### **LOCAL ELECTIONS 6.5.21**

The elections are to appoint Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners. As the village hall is being refurbished, the polling station will be at Stockland Club.

### **HIGH TIDES:**

Cameras at the ready! We are due some very high tides on 29<sup>th</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> April; the highest on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> at a height of 6.74m at 0850 hours and in the evening, 6.63m at 2113 hours.

### **NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING(S)**

The next two parish council meetings will be held on Thursday 1.4.21 and 6.5.21 respectively, 7.00pm on Zoom. Please note the meeting on the 6 May will be the Annual Assembly and Annual Meeting.

Please note that we aim to place draft minutes on notice boards and the [comwich.org.uk](http://comwich.org.uk) website within 10 working days of parish council meetings.



## **THE VILLAGE SHOP**

The Village Shop, the dear old shop,  
Convenient, clean and just a hop  
Down Brookside way and free from strife,  
Reminder of a gentler life.

With Robert, Jane and good ol' Peter,  
Guardian of the Franking Meter,  
Parcels, letters, Birthday cards,  
All are safely sent onwards.

Now Covid's here and, one by one,  
We queue to get our shopping done,  
All we could need and often more,  
You'll always find behind their door.

And now the vaccine's on its way,  
We live to shop another day.  
So don't forget, when all is clear,  
The village heart's still beating here.



Paul Bradbury... with sincere acknowledgements to the great John Betjeman.



# Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

Registered Charity Number 1124017

In the last Otter Tales, we were looking forward to getting on with our programme of events in the hope that by Easter we could hold the delayed Seniors Christmas dinner, together with the other activities we normally arrange for that weekend, but the pandemic has scuppered those plans again. However, we are determined to make up for it when we safely can.

In the meantime, the committee at its recent meeting decided to distribute Easter Eggs to all the children at the Otterhampton Primary School and to primary aged children within the parish who attend other schools. The eggs will be accompanied by a quiz to be completed and returned to the school and the winner will be awarded a large Easter egg. For those with primary aged children who do not attend our local school please contact Tina on 652642 to ensure they don't miss out.

We are making tentative arrangements for the following activities: -

- Special Seniors event which will no doubt involve food and wine.
- A cricket match on the common in August in honour of the late Murray Lister.
- A photographic competition with various categories
- Cream tea walk in August
- A series of village hall talks during the autumn and winter on local history, WWT Steart Marshes, Bridgwater Harbourmaster/River Parrett Pilot and EDF Comwich Wharf.

*All the above are subject to confirmation.*

If you have ideas or suggestions for activities then please let us know, better still if you want to organise an event for the benefit of the community, we may be able to help you.

This year marks the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of OPRA's existence and hopefully we can find some way of celebrating this soon. In the meantime, we will continue to support our communities by arranging recreational activities for all in the parish and in support of other local organisations. We can only do this because of the success of our 100 Club and its members who contribute £1 a week with the chance of winning a cash prize. We give out 55% in prizes, 50% in monthly prizes and 5% at Christmas.

Finally, it has been a difficult year for everyone, but there is real hope for the future thanks to the successful NHS-led vaccine roll out. Stay Safe.

**The 100 Club** draw usually takes place every month at the Coffee Morning in Otterhampton Village Hall, but during the last few months the numbers have had to be drawn and witnessed by an independent observer by a video link. The winning numbers are displayed in the Post Office and the parish website [www.comwich.org.uk](http://www.comwich.org.uk)

If you want to join the 100 Club or become involved in OPRA activities please contact Ann on 652399 or Tina on 652642 or any committee member.

## Coronavirus

Better days are ahead but the virus is still with us so please take care.

If you have symptoms, get a test by contacting [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/coronavirus) or call 119.

Support for Somerset Residents During Lockdown

Help is available for anyone in Somerset who may need additional support during this national lockdown

You can call 0300 790 6275 if you need any help for yourself or are concerned about relatives or neighbours

**STAY ALERT - CONTROL THE VIRUS - SAVE LIVES**

# OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL CIO: NEWS



## Spring is in the air!

After a year of making significant changes to our normal way of life, it is starting to feel like there is light at the end of the tunnel. Spring and warmer days are on the way and if we continue on the current path, we will be able to enjoy a summer of socialising with family and friends and participating in our favourite hobbies and activities.

## Village Hall Refurbishment:

The village hall is a central hub in the community for many parishioners/user groups and when its re-opens, there will be a fantastic refreshed environment for everyone to enjoy. The hall will undergo an exciting refurbishment over the spring months with many improvements including re-decoration throughout, double glazing, improved kitchen and bowling alley areas and a generally modernised environment. The trustees are very excited that the work will be underway in the next few months and can't wait to unveil the fully refreshed hall in June based on the current estimation (and subject to lifting of restrictions).

## Easter Raffle:

Following the success of the Christmas raffle, tickets will be on sale shortly for our Easter raffle run jointly between OVH and the Harbour View Club. Tickets cost £1 each and there will be an array of exciting prizes to be won. If you would like support and be included in the draw, tickets can be purchased directly from any member of the hall or bar committees: Amber Austin, Marie Beckley, Pete Cashin, Steve Lang, Nicola Rowland, Rachel Ingram, Ian Williams, Heath Bennett, Helen Jowett, Bev Lang, Marcus Ford, Corby Stansfield, Sue Barton, Stuart Stansfield, Audrey Rowley and Lindsey Parsons. Alternatively, please e-mail [bartonbs@btinternet.com](mailto:bartonbs@btinternet.com) or [bloodstorm\\_20@gmail.com](mailto:bloodstorm_20@gmail.com)



Watch out for our next update regarding the grand re-opening of the village hall and future events such as the village fun day in the summer!

## Shelly and Friends



*Jacqui Sparks*

I am starting a local Zoom Club for parents with children under the age of 11, "Let's Manage our Own Emotions with Shelly and Friends". It would be a coffee club if we were not in lockdown!

Emotional Logic is a skill that is taught in many schools and colleges in Devon and Worcester and has helped very many people cope well with all the changes that life throws at us. You can see

more information at [emotionallogiccentre.org.uk](http://emotionallogiccentre.org.uk)

Each book teaches children how to use each of the emotions we all go through when we lose something effectively to help us transition through the change and come out stronger and more resilient.

As an Emotional Logic Coach I also have materials to help older children and adults Please call me on 652069 or message on 07988526058 (signal is rubbish for calls on the mobile!) email on [jacqui@jacabeeeducation.com](mailto:jacqui@jacabeeeducation.com) for more information.





## **Grant of £1.58m secured to protect and enhance Somerset coast** by Alys Laver

Fantastic news! An ambitious new project to safeguard the Somerset coast from the effects of climate change has received a £1.58m grant as part of the UK Government's new Green Recovery Challenge Fund.

The project will focus on creating and restoring 130 hectares (about 105 football pitches) of nature-rich wetland habitat along the Somerset coast. This habitat will help increase flood resilience, improve soil and water quality and help absorb carbon, increasing the robustness of the county's coastline overall. The project also aims to embed knowledge and skills within local communities so they can continue this work into the future.

It is one of the first environmental projects awarded funding from the £40 million pot available through the Green Recovery Challenge Fund. And is one of twenty one projects to have been awarded a larger grant (over £250k - £5m). Forty seven projects have been awarded smaller grants (£50 - £250k).

Securing this significant amount of funding early from one of the Government's new flagship green funding schemes is a great initial step towards promoting the nature-based solutions that wetlands provide and being able to quickly respond to this opportunity has paid off.

The proportion of the funding that is being allocated to Steart Marshes will see habitat improvement works undertaken in the three main areas of the site. Identifying and delivering health and wellbeing opportunities within the local community and the writing and provision of training and learning sessions, which will involve practical work and monitoring on the reserve itself. All of this will be undertaken throughout 2021 and reach completion by April 2022.

The Somerset coast project will be delivered in partnership with Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group South West (FWAG), Bridgwater & Taunton College (BTC) and Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU).

The Green Recovery Challenge Fund is a key part of Prime Minister's 10 Point Plan to kick-start nature recovery and tackle climate change. The fund is being delivered by the National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England and the Environment Agency.



### **WWT's Senior Project Manager for Wetland Landscapes, Tim McGrath said:**

"The world is facing a climate crisis, a nature crisis and an emerging wellbeing crisis. To combat this, WWT is launching its own Blue Recovery, which proposes the creation and restoration of wetlands as a natural solution to these problems.

"Healthy wetlands have multiple benefits for people and wildlife; they store more carbon than forests, they store and slow the flow of water, preventing flooding, they support biodiversity and provide people with an abundance of nature to enjoy, proven to have positive impacts on health.

“We are so pleased to be the recipients of such a generous fund to help this work get underway in Somerset, where WWT has had a longstanding presence, centred around the spectacular WWT Steart Marshes.”

**Environment Minister, Rebecca Pow, said:**

“These projects will drive forward work across England to restore and transform our landscapes, boost nature and create green jobs, and will be a vital part of helping us to build back greener from coronavirus.

“I look forward to working with environmental organisations as these projects help address the twin challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change, while creating and retaining jobs as part of the green recovery.”

**Ros Kerslake, Chief Executive, National Lottery Heritage Fund, said:**

“Supporting our natural environment is one of the most valuable things we can do right now. All these projects are of huge benefit to our beautiful countryside and wildlife, but will also support jobs, health and wellbeing, which are vitally important as we begin to emerge from the coronavirus crisis.”

The government’s forthcoming Environment Bill puts the environment at the centre of policy making to ensure that we have a cleaner, greener and more resilient country for the next generation. The fund is supporting a range of nature conservation and recovery, as well as nature-based solutions projects, which will contribute towards government’s wider 25 Year Environment Plan commitments.

Please contact us if you have any questions or comments about Steart Marshes.

**Reserve Office:** 01278 651090 [info.steart@wwt.org.uk](mailto:info.steart@wwt.org.uk)

**Site Manager:** Alys Laver 07717 505966 [alys.laver@wwt.org.uk](mailto:alys.laver@wwt.org.uk)

**Engagement Officer:** Nicole Turnbull 07717 342061 [nicole.turnbull@wwt.org.uk](mailto:nicole.turnbull@wwt.org.uk)

## OTTERHAMPTON CONSERVATION & BIODIVERSITY GROUP – CALL FOR ACTION

Mark Ward from Somerset Wildlife Trust’s ‘Somerset’s Brilliant Coast’ Project (funded by HPC CIM Fund & the National Trust) is currently working with local residents and Otterhampton Parish Council to support the setting up of new group for the parish.



The aims of the group are, working with the relevant authorities, to carry out conservation tasks to increase biodiversity and ecological resilience and to enhance natural spaces for the benefit and well-being of all. We also hope to set up a series of ecological surveys that can be carried out as ‘citizen science’ projects on annual basis to help monitor how the area is changing, and hopefully improving, over the years.

One of our first projects will be to continue some initial work already started by some residents to improve Brownies Copse for wildlife. The Copse is owned by the Parish Council who would like to see it integrated with wider protected spaces in the adjacent Bridgwater Bay SSSI of which the Combwich Common is a part.

We have already been in touch with Otterhampton School who are keen to be involved, and are working with the Combwich Family Fun Day committee to introduce some environmental activities into this year’s event if it is able to go ahead.

For any locals who would like to be part of this exciting new venture, we are planning an initial Zoom meeting on Thursday 22nd April (7pm) and hopefully, if restrictions allow, some outdoor gatherings later in May and June to make some plans and get going on some actions.

To find out more and sign up for the meeting please email Mark Ward on [mark.ward@somersetwildlife.org](mailto:mark.ward@somersetwildlife.org) or ring him on 07880 754750

## A new way to explore historical Combwich

*with your smart phone or tablet*

Find out about the secretive Tudor alchemist who lived in Combwich, what the Somerset phrases 'chollywobbles', 'cock-squailing' and 'fitchet' might refer to, and what the village 'hobblers' did to incoming ships.

Storywalks are hosted on the internet and can be accessed by scanning the QR code with a smart phone or tablet for the Combwich Storywalk. Alternatively

you can visit [englandcoastpath.storywalks.info/Combwich](http://englandcoastpath.storywalks.info/Combwich). When you reach the walk's page you should see the distance to the start of the walk shown in the first grey bar. If you don't see that, check that the phone's location/GPS setting is on and the browser is allowed to access your location.



The Combwich trail starts at the Combwich Buoy and the first chapter to the story will unlock automatically as you arrive at the Buoy, with subsequent chapters unlocking as you walk the route. If you are unable to access the phone's location setting you can still complete the walk by following the walk directions to the stopping points, selecting the Help option and then the option to say that your GPS is not working. This will allow you to manually unlock the chapters.

*Somerset County Council has commissioned 12 Storywalks on the England Coast Path with funding from Natural England. The site is currently being "road tested" prior to a launch in April. In the unlikely event you have a problem, either direct your feedback to [barry.leathwood@btinternet.com](mailto:barry.leathwood@btinternet.com) or email [rightsofway@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:rightsofway@somerset.gov.uk) and put England Coast Path Combwich Storywalk in the subject field.*

# Scam Alert!

**Beware fraudsters are taking advantage of lockdown to scam you out of your money. Unsolicited texts and phone calls offering for example 'THIRD LOCKDOWN' HMRC GRANT or calls saying you will lose internet connection if you don't respond by 'pressing'.....These are frauds.**

**Warning signs include:**

- unsolicited emails, phone calls, text messages or letters
- emails from sources you don't recognise that include attached documents or other files
- emails that appear to be from your bank, HMRC or another trustworthy source that ask you to reveal personal data, such as your account details
- you are asked to pay money up front, for example to cover delivery costs or to 'release funds'
- you have 'won a prize' in a lottery or competition you have never heard of, much-less entered
- you are pressurised or hurried into making a decision - e.g. told to 'act now' as the price will go up if you don't buy immediately

you are told to not tell anyone else about it - for example 'it's an exclusive deal only for you'

**Constant vigilance and scepticism are required, especially online, however cyber-street-wise and internet-savvy you think you may be.**



## JUNE JOHNSON



My dear June passed away on Sunday the 24th January at Musgrove Park Hospital after suffering an intracranial haemorrhage. My family are grateful for all the sympathy messages, calls, cards, and flowers we all received from people.

We would also like to say thank you to everyone who came out to say goodbye to June on the morning of her funeral. It was quite overwhelming to see so many friends from the village and outside the village lining the roads to pay their respects to June

Bill and family

### **Broadband Problems**

**Do you have broadband connectivity issues?**

The Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership are offering an £800 voucher for mobile boosting kit for those individuals and businesses who meet their criteria to boost your mobile signal.



<https://heartofswlep.co.uk/news/new-scheme-launched-to-improve-mobile-phone-coverage/>

## Gwyn Griffiths - Profile

I was born in the Gwendraeth Valley village of Drefach which is between Llanelli and Carmarthen in South West Wales. This was a totally Welsh speaking area at the time and all activities such as school and chapel were conducted entirely in Welsh. It was a slow pace of life with few cars about and strong ties to rugby with nearby Llanelli Rugby Club. English classes at school were nursery rhymes and some English was picked up via the television.



Work opportunities for my parents (a nurse and boilermaker welder) necessitated a move first to Cwmbran and then Chepstow. I went to secondary school at Lydney Grammar School which was a strong academic and sporting school but I only had modest results in O and A levels. I did, however, develop a passion for hockey and golf which remain with me to this day.

In our early days at Chepstow the first Severn Bridge was being built and I remember the queues for the Beachley to Aust ferry snaking through Chepstow at peak holiday times.

I also remember adventurous cycle rides over the Severn Bridge to Aust where there was an outdoor lido and we could go swimming. We were lucky to have so much freedom as youngsters in those days and our parents were never sure where we were with no mobile phones. We just had to be back in time for meals.

Following secondary school, I went to Bath University to study Electrical Engineering with sponsorship by the Central Electricity Generating Board. I really enjoyed university life and joined in with hockey, football and cricket clubs during my first year (to the detriment of my academic work in the first year). I did work harder during the following years and eventually graduated in 1977. I also met Angie who was studying Pharmacy at Bath University on a hockey tour to Guernsey.

Job opportunities were plentiful at that time but I decided to stick with the CEGB and started work at Uskmouth Power Station which was a coal fired station but, a year later applied for a job at Hinkley, starting at the 'A' Station in 1978 and moving to the 'B' Station to work on shift operations in the control room. Angie and I got married and moved to Combwich in 1979 where we raised two boys in a safe and friendly environment with a lovely local village school before embarking on a project to buy Fender House. This lovely house has needed much renovation over the years and will need constant work over the coming years but has given us much pleasure and we feel so lucky to look after it for a while.

Working at Hinkley Point was enjoyable, fulfilling and at times challenging but after 36 years there, I decided to retire in 2014. The move to retirement didn't worry me as I had plenty of activities to keep me occupied, however, I was persuaded to carry out a new challenge. I decided to walk the coastal path of Wales running from Chepstow to Chester covering a total distance of 890 miles over some of the most beautiful coastline in the United Kingdom. It also gave me a chance to refresh some of my Welsh vocabulary when meeting people along the way. I would walk for 2 or 3 days at a time covering 15 to 20 miles a day and the whole project took 2 years to complete. Planning travel and accommodation was the key to success but some of the scenery was fantastic and I especially enjoyed the Llyn Peninsula and Anglesey.

I am currently walking Offa's Dyke footpath to complete the circumnavigation of Wales but the pandemic leaves me 30 miles short. I hope to complete this in the near future possibly with a canine companion.



## Well, I never knew that!!!!

Submitted by Tansy Wheeler

In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts... So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them, 'Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down.' It's where we get the phrase 'mind your P's and Q's'

Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim, or handle, of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. 'Wet your whistle' is the phrase inspired by this practice.

In the 1400's a law was set forth that a man was not allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have 'the rule of thumb'.

Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled 'Gentlemen Only...Ladies Forbidden'...and thus the word GOLF entered into the English language.

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase..... 'goodnight, sleep tight.'

It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon

## Some Trivia

Q. If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find the letter 'A'?

A. One thousand

Q. What do bullet-proof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers, and laser printers all have in common?

A. All invented by women.

The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV was Fred and Wilma Flintstone

Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the US Treasury.

It is impossible to lick your elbow.

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king in history:

Spades - King David

Hearts - Charlemagne

Clubs - Alexander, the Great

Diamonds - Julius Caesar

$111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$

~~~~~AND FINALLY~~~~~

At least 75% of people who read this will try to lick their elbow!

Some of these amusing snippets may not be historically accurate, but they are still amusing!



## Alison Jacobs iPad Artist

Daughter of Combrich residents Tom and Sue Jacobs, Alison lives nearby in Stolford. Here she works as an iPad artist, focussing on her native landscape as inspiration.

Alison has always been a passionate artist she got hooked on painting with an iPad after visiting David Hockneys 'A bigger picture' exhibition at the Royal Academy in 2012. (<https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibition/david-hockney-a-bigger-picture>) At this point in her

career she had become well known for painting cows in acrylic paint but had taken that subject matter and medium to its ends and was looking for something new and exciting. She also loves painting outside whilst out walking or on breaks during a cycle ride and found the iPad the perfect mini studio to take with her wherever she went.

Alison loves the coastal margins and enjoys the colours and dramatic skies of our marshy flatlands by the sea. Alison spent 10 years painting in Steart and documenting the arrival and development of the new nature reserve. She made work about the coast all the way down to Minehead and is now focussing on the Stolford end of Bridgwater bay.

“The colours that bounce around the estuary and wider Bristol Channel are mesmerising, almost unreal. We are so lucky here seeing the wider horizon with the best sunrises and sunsets reflecting brilliant colours far and wide. Living here is an artists dream”.

During lockdown Alison has been teaching people to make art on their iPads live over the internet. Her Tuesday group is quite well established now and is going well, “we’ve covered everything from landscape painting to portraiture with quick sketch apps to more sophisticated software, everyone has come on brilliantly and feel much more confident about image making on their tablets. It’s a great means of expression during stressful times and also gives you the chance to experiment without messing up the place with sticky paints when you are stuck at home with no access to a studio.

Alison is looking to start a fresh group of complete beginners on a Wednesday 6-7pm and classes are £10 each or £20 for a one to one classes are run on Zoom Email [alison@alisonjacobs.com](mailto:alison@alisonjacobs.com) for details and how to apply.

You can see more of Alison’s work at [www.alisonjacobs.com](http://www.alisonjacobs.com) and can follow her on Instagram #alisonjacobspainting





1 European Otter for SCC  
castles and coast walking  
booklet 2019  
iPad Air PaperbyWetransfer

Stolford Sunset 2019  
iPad Air PaperbyWetransfer



4 Helwell Bay 2018  
iPad Air, Procreate

## Combwich Wharf Refurbishment Update

Since the last update here in Otter Tales, we've been making good progress on the Combwich Wharf refurbishment.

Our focus has remained on the completion of the installation of piles. By the time Otter Tales goes to press, we should be down to the installation of our last handful. We've been using vibration drilling techniques, rather than impact piling which is more invasive, to reduce disturbance to you.



We're beginning the metal works, placing the top of the piles into concrete which will provide better structural support for the Abnormal Loads Quay. The next step will be to construct the new Transfer Slab, which is an important element of the Abnormal Loads Quay as it will be the main area in which parts will be offloaded from the barge.

Over the next few weeks you'll see that construction plant, which has supported the piling works, will be removed from site. This includes the drilling plant – noticeable by the branding "Quinns" written on its mast – as well as the large crane. Smaller cranes will be brought onto site to support with the remaining works.

In February we received a request from a member of the public to sweep Wharf Road. After checking with the Parish Council, we were happy to have our road sweeper clear the road of natural debris, unrelated to construction, such as leaves.

You can keep up to date with what's going on at the wharf by signing up to our monthly update. If you are interested, or have any other questions, please call us on 0333 009 7070 or email us [hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com](mailto:hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com).

### Covid-19 Response

Effective measures continue to be in place to protect our workforce and local community. We are now carrying out around 1,000 tests a week on the Hinkley Point C project, allowing us to identify asymptomatic cases and cut out transmission from those who may not be showing symptoms.

Testing is only one of the many tools we have in place to keep everyone safe. If you would like to find out more, please visit our website [edfenergy.com/hpc](https://edfenergy.com/hpc)

### C182 Roadworks

From the middle of March you'll see works begin on the Bolham New bridge just outside Combwich. These works will provide better structural support to the bridge, to assist the delivery of large heavy loads for the project. Works will be undertaken overnight to reduce the impact on local traffic.

Thank you for your continued patience whilst we undertake associated works for the Hinkley Point C project and complete the wharf refurbishment. Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Take care,

Immy

Community Relations – Hinkley Point C



## Readers Photographs



*Day and night, taken by  
Tamsin Stevens*



*Sunset over Bridgwater  
Bay and Hinkley Point  
by Bob Birkenhead*

## MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library visits Combwich and Stockland every four weeks on a Thursday morning. The next visit is 3rd December.

Combwich Harbour TA5 2QU 10.20 – 11.00

Combwich Post Office TA5 2QW 11.05 – 11.25

Stockland Bristol Captains TA5 2PY 11.35 – 12.00

For information about this service, contact Somerset Direct 0300 1232224 or visit [www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries).

Please support this service

## Post Office and Shop

Masks must be worn at all times by all customers and please note that we are currently operating on one customer only allowed in at a time

Opening hours may vary during these difficult times, and please remember we are a small shop and cannot stock the range of the Supermarkets.



To keep up to date with all that is happening in the parish check the village noticeboards, log on to our own website, [www.combwich.org.uk](http://www.combwich.org.uk) or visit "All Things Combwich"

Facebook Group

Otter Tales

Deadline for articles etc for next issue is

Thursday 6TH May 2021

## Otter Wheels



We are sorry we cannot offer the normal service to our passengers due to the Covid 19 restrictions, but as soon as we are able we will resume normal service.

Thank you for your understanding

**However**

**Essential journeys for medical appointments will be undertaken when no alternative transport is available**

**Ring 07925 154216**

**For more information**

## 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