



Welcome to Combwich

# Otter Tales

Published with the generous support of Otterhampton Parish Council

## Inside this issue

### Page 2

Parish Council Offcuts

### Page 3

Parish Council vacancy

### Page 4

OPRA

### Page 5

Otterhampton Village Hall & Photos

### Page 6

Coffee Mornings resume

### Page 7

Phil Edwards, Steart

### Page 8

Combwich Wharf update

### Page 9

Eels- The Queen of Palate Pleasure

Combwich & District WI

### Page 10

Notes to a not so sleepy village

### Page 11

Pilates

### Pages 12

WWT Steart Marshes

### Page 13

Conservation Group, Brownies

### Page 14

Harvest Festival

### Page 15

Anchor & Otter Wheels

### Page 16

Mobile Library & other information

**Life is slowly returning to normal** after the Covid crisis, but care is still needed as infection rates are still very high. The various parish organisations are starting up again to take advantage of the newly refurbished village hall, and the Harbour View Bar is now open.

The Friday Coffee Club is thriving, the Brownies are setting up again, and OPRA has a range of events organised. The WI and other organisations are getting going too.



The Brownie Copse (above) is getting a lot of attention from volunteers from the Otterhampton Conservation & Biodiversity Group, under the direction of Mark Ward of the Wildlife Trust Somerset (more on page 13)

# Otterhampton Parish Council

Otterhampton Offcuts

Snippets from your August and September 2021 Parish Council Meetings

## Village Walk 5 August

The parish council does not traditionally hold a meeting in August but we do have a village walk to look at enhancement possibilities or maintenance requirements. Some of the things identified included: -

1. Estuary Park - Uneven surfacing of pavements and potholes. This has been reported to Highways. We are aware the SDC budget for pavement repair has already been utilised for this financial year so we have requested that this work is put on the list for 2022/23.
2. Wharf Rd – long term management of the trees (some may need attention before winter), verges and vegetation. Recognising there is a wish from residents to retain ‘wilder’ areas in the village, we will seek options and advice for environmental enhancement in this area. We have recently installed speed and weight limit signage at the entrance to Wharf Rd at the request of residents.
3. Dog bag dispensers – these have now been removed. Dog bins at the existing 4 locations will remain (Brookside Rd garages, the entrance to Wharf Rd near the defibrillator, on the common opposite the entrance to Riverview and alongside the track near the OPRA pavilion).
4. Parking area alongside the common – the very deep potholes will be reported to Highways.
5. Weeds on pavements & public spaces and vegetation overhanging walls – weed spraying in public areas is planned to be treated by SDC during September. Vegetation overhanging walls and fences onto pavements and roads is the responsibility of land/home owners.
6. Combwich Track – the potholes need filling. This is a recurring maintenance issue. We will obtain a quote for this work.

## Play Area

We are pleased with the resurfacing works recently undertaken in the play area. This will not eradicate the drainage issues, but it should certainly offer significant improvement. We also installed a replacement seesaw. **Please can we reiterate that the play equipment is designed for users aged 12 years and under. Recently adults have been seen using the equipment. The seesaw which was damaged because of ‘mis-use’ cost £2800 to replace and we simply cannot afford to keep replacing items.**

The paths are in need of refurbishment as they have deteriorated quite badly since the spring. This is something we are addressing on an urgent basis.

## Village Sign

Many of you will have noticed that the village sign is now back in place! Our thanks and much appreciation to Andy Turnball and his team who carried out the refurbishment. This was organised by Cllr Bob Birkenhead and the parish council paid for the materials. The old post will be removed.

## Village Hall

We were very pleased to recommence our meetings in the Village Hall and are very impressed with the refurbishment. We are aware that there are still some works to be done, such as the disability ramp into the Hall which will be a very welcome addition. We would like to record our thanks and appreciation to Sue Barton and the Trustees for doing such a tremendous job during such a difficult time.

## Otterhampton Wilder Community project

The next event will be held on 26.9.21 meeting at the Brownie Copse at 11am. Look out for information on notice boards and the “All things Combwich” Facebook page.

## 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 (District & County)	01278 652043
Julie Pay (District)	01278 732956



### **Annual Audit**

The annual audit of our accounts for the year ending 31.3.21 has been approved by the external auditor. A copy of the signed audited accounts is available on the [Combwich.org.uk](http://Combwich.org.uk) website or from the Clerk.

### **Parish and Town Council Elections**

As a result of the creation of the new unitary authority, it is likely that elections for town and parish councils will be brought forward to May 2022 to remain in sync with future principal authority elections. Therefore, if anyone has an interest in becoming a councillor, the next few months will give you the opportunity to find out more about what it involves. Please contact any councillor, the Chair or the Clerk for more information.

### **Combwich Wharf update**

EDF will be giving an update regarding Combwich Wharf prior to the start of the next parish council meeting, 6.30pm, on 7 October in Otterhampton Village Hall.

### **Parish Council Meetings**

The next parish council meetings will be on Thursday 7 October 2021, starting at 6.30pm (as above) and Thursday 4 November 2021 at 7.00pm, both in Otterhampton Village Hall.

*Full details of the decisions taken at parish council meetings are contained within the minutes which are available on the 3 village notice boards (opposite the Post Office, opposite the Anchor Inn by the play area and on the wall of Ferracies Farm, Steart) or the [Combwich.org.uk](http://Combwich.org.uk) website.*

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



## **Otterhampton Parish Council**

### **Vacancy for Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer**

**As at 1 September 2021**

---

Salary in accordance with the substantive range of the National Joint Council spinal points 7-17 (April 2020) £20092 - £24491 (pro rata) depending on qualifications and experience.

Hours are approximately 10-12 per week. Holiday entitlement 22 days rising to 25 days after 5 years of service (pro rata)

---

Working from home, we are looking for a self-motivated person to become its next Clerk to the Council (a laptop computer, printer and 2 x four drawer filing cabinets are provided). The role is part time and includes being the Council's Responsible Financial Officer.

The Clerk is responsible for the administration of the business and finance of the Council. The post includes some evening work (for example, parish council meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month 7-9pm) and occasional attendance at community and ad hoc meetings.

Candidates will need:

- Accurate administrative and financial skills with excellent attention to detail
- Excellent communication skills
- Must be able to attend evening parish council meetings
- Ability to meet deadlines, to work alone and use of initiative
- Computer literate with confident knowledge of MS Office applications (including Word and Excel) internet, email and social media
- Ability to interpret and advise on Parish Council Governance
- Experience is desirable but not essential as training will be provided if required and/or a willingness to work towards the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA)
- An interest in community life
- A friendly and positive outlook

For a copy of the job description, person specification and application form, please call 01278 652426 or email [otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com](mailto:otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com)

---

The closing date for applications is Wednesday 13 October 2021. Interviews will take place week commencing 25 October 2021. The handover for the post will commence during November 2021



# Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

Registered Charity Number 1124017

In August we had the second of our post-lockdown walks around Steart culminating in a delicious cream tea at Dowells Farm, Steart hosted by Aly and Robin Prowse, where we were joined by many others who just came for the cream tea, and who could blame them! A copious supply of scrumptious homemade scones, clotted cream, and jam all beautifully set out adjacent to the cider barn. And yes, a few did indulge in a glass or two of Robin's home brewed cider. It was a lovely event, despite the inclement weather, and a massive £256 including donations was collected and shared between Steart Church and Macmillan Cancer Support. Thanks Aly and Robin for a brilliant afternoon.

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September we will be holding the postponed from August, Murray Lister Memorial Cricket Match which will start at 2pm (players to meet at the Anchor at 1pm). There will be children's games, BBQ, scones and cold drinks will be available and a lot of fun.



Next on our list is the monthly OPRA walk which will be on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September meeting at 9.30am at the Anchor (*watch out for emails and notice boards for more details*). Why not join us for gentle local walk suitable for everyone.

On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September at the Anchor is the delayed OPRA AGM. All members will receive a personal invitation. The 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of OPRA's formation, is on the 9th October, so watch this space, perhaps a trip down memory lane!

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November marks the return of the annual Firework display on Combwich Common. More details will be provided later.

The fabulous and much missed Senior's Christmas Dinner will be held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December in the newly refurbished village hall (thanks to the village hall committee for a wonderfully improved building). Invitations will be sent to all over 65 year old residents of the parish who are on our list. If you have had an invitation in the past you will be invited this time. If not, or if you are unsure, contact Ann on 652399 or email [ann.leathwood/@btopenworld](mailto:ann.leathwood/@btopenworld) to ensure you are included for this free event.

Later we will be announcing other events including walks and talks in the village hall.

All these activities and others are paid for by the money we raise from the OPRA 100 Club which allows our charity to play an important part in the life of our community. Why not join us and pay £1 a week by direct debit to participate in the weekly draw (made monthly). Half the money raised is returned to members prize money and the rest is used to support community activities. More details on how to join are in the green box on the right.

**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.combwich.org.uk](http://www.combwich.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.



# OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL CIO: NEWS



## Otterhampton Village Hall and Harbour View Bar are Open!



We are extremely happy to announce that after months of refurbishment works, over the spring and summer, the hall and bar are fully open for everyone to enjoy.

The hall is already hosting regular activities including aerobics, pilates and arts/crafts sessions with more to come and is also open for general bookings. The bright and airy space is now a fantastic environment to host special events including parties and Christenings as an example, so please spread the word to family and friends. As well as the large floor space and stage, the main hall also

offers a full kitchen and use of new tables and chairs.

In addition, there is a separate Bowls Room, Skittle Alley and small meeting room on the upper floors which are now accessible to all via the newly installed stair lift.

Lastly, the Harbour View Bar has had a complete refurbishment and is now an open plan space where people can come and meet with friends for a relaxing drink (or two)!

We will be announcing the date for the grand re-opening imminently and are planning on running social events throughout the year which will be advertised in Otter Tales, but also on social media. To keep up to date, please sign up and visit our website at <https://www.otterhamptonvillagehall.co.uk>

The trustees look forward to seeing you all soon ☐

## Photos by Aly Prowse, Steart



Red Admiral and Bee on Buddleia

# Friday Coffee Club

Every Friday morning  
from 10 - 12 noon in  
the village hall.  
Everyone welcome



Top right, Helen reading the notices

Right, Connie in the kitchen, and just below Agnes receiving a cake (baked by Debbie) on her 96th Birthday



“What a relief” said one coffee morning attendee “to be back meeting my friends after such a long time locked away.” A view shared by many on the table. Getting together for tea and cakes and sometimes bacon rolls keeps the community alive, said another.

The only social thing I do now and I have missed it, said 96 year old Ron.

A wrinklies club said one, not so said another, look at the children over there playing with the toys in the corner. One attendee said she belonged to a variety of U3A groups but the only one I really missed was the Friday coffee mornings.

There is usually some produce for sale and books to exchange, and all the profits go to charity.

On Friday 1st October you can stuff yourself with cake and all the proceed will go to Macmillan Cancer Support

Tributes were paid to Helen Jowett and her team for making it all possible. On duty today with Helen was Connie Sanders who is on a rota of volunteer helpers.



## Wildlife Photographs by Steart Resident Phil Edwards

*The first three photos were taken at Steart while in the bottom right corner is a male Araripe manakin taken in Ceará State, Brazil in November 2018. which appeared recently in the Guardian*



Adult Sedge Warbler feeding a fledgling



Peregrine stretching its wings at Steart Point



Two badger cubs out exploring the lane in daylight



## Update on the latest work progressing at Combwich Wharf

We are writing to inform you about the next phase of work that will begin in the coming days as the project to refurbish Combwich Wharf begins to reach its conclusion.

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be completing the resurfacing of the main access road that leads to the Wharf. This involves the planning and removal of the old road surface, levelling and the relaying of new tarmac to improve the road that will support the movements of Hinkley Point C's components.

As always, we wanted to make you aware of this work that may lead to elevated noise levels in the area close to the access road from Monday 6th September. The work is expected to last two days but may be affected by the weather or other unforeseen circumstances. Any activity will also only take place during normal day-time working hours.

We continue to closely monitor our noise levels and make sure that measures are in place to reduce them as far as possible. For example, we continue to maintain the padded green fencing surrounding the work area. This is an acoustic blanket, one of the measures in place to reduce impact.

Kind Regards,

Hinkley Point C Community Relations Team

**PARKINSON'S<sup>UK</sup>**  
**CHANGE ATTITUDES.**  
**FIND A CURE.**  
**JOIN US.**

A tea party get together for friends and family at the home of Victor and Joan Langlois in Estuary Park had the unexpected bonus of raising £100 for Parkinson's UK

The organisation funds life-changing research and is there for people with Parkinson's and their loved ones when they need us most.

Joan and Vic, who has Parkinson's disease, will be forever grateful for the support they have received from the charity.



## Eels – ‘The Queen of Palate Pleasure’

Izaak Walton The complete Angler. What you know or may not know about eels.

According to Johannes Schmidt, a Danish zoologist, the Eel breeds in the Sargasso Sea. This belief based on twenty years researching the passage of eel larvae in the Gulf Stream from Europe to the Sargasso Sea.

Eels were used as a currency during the Middle Ages and contributed considerably to the cost of building Ely Cathedral. Baby eels know as Elvers are still a valuable harvest from the River Parrett and Severn, and are exported to Europe and Japan.

In 1939 the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries received a proposal from Lt. Col E TG K Cross to establish an Eel fishery on the River Parrett to augment the loss of 2,000 tons Eels that used to be imported from Holland before the War.

In more recent times Commander Ingram brought together two great resources; warm water from Hinkley Point Nuclear Power Station and Elvers. The Eels grew fast in the warmer water and for several years were farmed at Hinkley Point until the Central



Electricity Generating Board (the then owners of the power station) decided to charge for the heated water which made the venture uneconomic.

Florence Chant in her book about her childhood in Combrich from 1900 – 1914 recalls that during spring time the brook would be black with Elvers ascending the stream.

Did you know that Sigmund Freud, a Psychoanalyst, spent his early years trying to identify the reproductive organs of the Eels. His research failed! Perhaps that’s why he decided to study people!



Bill Johnson

## COMBWICH AND DISTRICT W.I.

GOOD NEWS! The Combrich & District W.I. will be re-opening on Thursday 16th September at 7.30 p.m. at the Stockland Club. We are planning on making our first meeting in 18 months a joyous occasion with a party atmosphere - with scrummy food and drink provided by the Committee. We hope to see all of our existing members, along with several new faces who will be given a very warm welcome, so why not put that date in your diary now!



Wendy Durant



We are also planning to restart our popular Craft Club in October, with the Ladies Lunches resuming in the New Year. We have lots of interesting speakers lined up, raffles, competitions etc., along with the usual friendship and laughs, so we hope to see you there.

Our lovely President, Brenda can be contacted on 01278 446279, and our equally lovely Secretary and Treasurer, Anne on 653192, and Elizabeth 653308.

## NOTES TO A 'NOT SO SLEEPY' VILLAGE!

Dear Barry and all the lovely readers and contributors of 'Otter Tales',

I hope you are all well and managing to 'keep smiling through' during these sadly awkward and trying times, which has just brought to mind the old song 'We'll meet again' sung by Dame Vera Lynn, which in turn reminds me of something the late, great Les Dawson once said to me...

We happened to be in a little, grotty night-club in Bridlington of all places, where Les was appearing in Summer Season.

To those 'millennials' amongst you, a summer season used to be a big variety show held at theatres in all seaside towns around the country each and every year, starring the top comedians, singers and speciality acts of the day. Imagine a 'live' show where you'd get Jason Manford, Michael McIntyre and Ed Sheeran topping the bill! (Two performances daily – three on Wednesdays and Saturdays!) Yes, we were spoilt in those days, though we didn't know it at the time! (Trying to find live summer entertainment in a seaside theatre now is as rare as Adele writing a happy song!)

Anyhow - the year was 1982 as far as memory serves. For some reason we were chatting about the Falklands war (If you're too young - Google it!) Les Dawson turned to me, glass of whiskey in one hand and Embassy cigarette in the other and said, in that amazing gruffle of a voice 'Chris, I always knew there was going to be another war when I walked past Vera Lynn's house and she was 'warming up'!

What an absolute joy and privilege it was to be able to spend such times with one of the most talented and clever comedians who ever lived, he truly was a comic genius and a true clown.

He was exactly as you supposed he would be, naturally funny on stage and off. What you saw was what you got.

We chatted about 'dying the death' - an expression used when you come up against a 'harsh' audience, who just don't seem to take to you or find you remotely funny... (A bit like me sometimes when I've appeared in the Combswich panto!)

'Les' I said '*surely* the days of you dying a death are long gone' he smiled and said 'Don't you bloody believe it. It still happens twice a year. What amazes me is how come on both those occasions, everybody who hates you gathers together in the same theatre at the same time! Do they all ring each other up and pre-arrange it?

Let's all go and see Dawson, sit on our hands and try not to laugh or enjoy ourselves! It's like some sort of wind-up'

Oh, he also said there's no such thing as a new joke (true)

And also never be frightened of telling an old gag, as there will always be somebody who hasn't heard it (also true).

The following Sunday he was arranging for us to have dinner at his place, to play snooker all day and have a few 'bevies', relax and have a few laughs with great company. Sadly, it wasn't to be, as on the Friday he had word that his then wife (Mags) had been diagnosed with a serious illness. (Which sadly took her a few years later).

Our paths never crossed again, but I followed his career through the TV successes and shows. Delighted when he met and married Tracy his second wife and overjoyed when they had their daughter. I still remember that lovely photo in the papers of the three of them, having just given birth to Charlotte.

The day he died – I like so many others, cried.



Someone once said 'When a comedian dies all that remains are the echoes of forgotten laughter'

I have on my wall a signed photo (one of many) – It is of dear Les sitting at a bar, with a whiskey in one hand and a cigarette in the other. I hear his voice most days saying 'Fancy another?'

During that summer of 1982 Les Dawson and I became friends.

We are still to this day... x

*Chris Ponka August 2021.*

# Pilates

**Wednesdays - 6:30pm**

**Otterhampton Village hall**

**Combwich**

**£6 pp**



**Contact: [Sharnhooper@outlook.com](mailto:Sharnhooper@outlook.com)**

**07708 073159**

### **Engagement** by Nicole Turnbull

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) has embarked on a series of local projects through the Green Recovery Challenge Fund (GRCF). The fund is being delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in Project Partnership with Natural England & the Environment Agency.

Hello everyone! We continue to have a lot going on at Steart Marshes thanks to the GRCF. In the next few weeks we hope to start work on habitat improvements around the site which will include reconnecting ditches, creating islands and new scrapes (These are shallow depressions with gently sloping edges which seasonally hold water. They create wetland features that are very attractive to wildlife, supporting a wide variety of invertebrates and providing important feeding areas for breeding wading birds). Long term these improvement works will lead to an increase in the biodiversity of the site (variety of plants and animals). There will be a few path closures and diversions during this time, especially on Stockland marsh, but we will make sure everything is well sign-posted and notice is given beforehand.

Senior Research Officer Sarah Davies is on site today teaching volunteers how to use acoustic devices to monitor bat and bird calls and Dr Hannah Mossman from Manchester Metropolitan University is out with a team of volunteers counting saltmarsh plants and identifying species.



We still have training events coming up that you are welcome to join us for and there will be an opportunity to continue with the monitoring longer term and register as a volunteer with WWT. The next two are:

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September - Ditch survey training**, 2-4.30pm

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September – Water quality training**, 2-4pm

Please contact [sarah.davies@wwt.org.uk](mailto:sarah.davies@wwt.org.uk) to book a place.

You can find us at The Bath & West Show in the Countryside area, 27-29<sup>th</sup> August, and the Seed the Day Festival in Bridgwater on the 11<sup>th</sup> September.

We will also be running a **litter pick on the Parrett Banks Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September** as part of the Big Beach Clean Weekend. Please contact [info.steart@wwt.org.uk](mailto:info.steart@wwt.org.uk) if you are interested in helping us

**It continues to be an exciting time for Steart Marshes. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer and be involved in trading roles, practical work, health and wellbeing, surveying or monitoring.**

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)

**Green Recovery Challenge Fund**

## OTTERHAMPTON CONSERVATION & BIODIVERSITY GROUP:

26 SEPTEMBER - BUG HUNTS, WILDLIFE GARDEN MAPPING AND A RIVER LITTER PICK

This exciting new local group has been working with Mark Ward from Somerset Wildlife Trust's 'Somerset's Brilliant Coast' Project (funded by HPC CIM Funded & the National Trust) to carry out conservation tasks to increase biodiversity and ecological resilience, and to enhance natural spaces for the benefit and well-being of all.



Our first project has been to improve Brownies Copse for wildlife. The Copse, next to Combwich Common, is owned by Otterhampton Parish Council. With help from Sedgemoor Tree Services, local volunteers have already been out to create new pathways and to build bug hotels. Otterhampton School have also started to use the Copse as an outdoor classroom as part of their bid to become a Somerset Schools Coastal Champion.

Our next activity is taking place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 11am at the Copse. There will be family-focussed mini-beast hunts followed by a litter pick, in conjunction with WWT Steart Marshes, along the River Parrett (from 12 noon). Bring gardening gloves. Litter pickers and sacks provided. We will also be chatting to people about a potential wildlife garden mapping project and would be keen to speak to any keen wildlife gardeners!

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

## 1st Combwich Brownies

We will be starting face to face meetings again on Monday September 13th 5.45 - 7.30 p.m. at Otterhampton Village Hall. We hope to welcome back all our existing members, some of whom have been meeting on zoom for the past year, and would also like to invite any other girls between 7 and 10 who would be interested in coming along to see what we do. We will be offering the first two taster sessions free to new members.

Further details contact Liz Brown 652687 or Karen Barton 652673



**St Peter's Church**

# **HARVEST SUPPER**

**Saturday 2nd October  
6.30pm at Village Hall**

**Tickets: £8**

**Contact Revd Alison on 652953 for  
tickets or Anne Weston on 653192**

## **HARVEST FESTIVAL**

**11.15am  
Sunday  
3rd October**



## The Anchor, Comwich offers a warm welcome



Anchor kitchen opening Wednesday to Thursday 5pm to 8.30pm  
Friday and Saturday 12 to 2 and 5pm to 8.30  
Sunday carvery 12 to 2 pm

Balcony now open for drinks over  
looking river

Any stone baked pizza only £10

Please book on 01278 653612

Christmas menu out soon



## Drivers **URGENTLY** Required Now

Otter Wheels volunteer car scheme provides a much needed source of transport for those who have no access to a car, it means they can get to medical and dental appointments. Currently there are occasions when there is no driver available, if we have sufficient drivers then we will once again be in a position to offer a full service to include shopping and hairdresser.

Due to some drivers moving we now currently have a very limited number of volunteers.

Mileage is paid, full support is given and there are occasional meetings.

### **Also required - Coordinators**

Volunteer coordinators have the mobile phone used by passengers to leave a message when booking a trip and diary, must have a computer to liaise with drivers.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver or coordinator please contact Elizabeth Marriott on 01278 653308 or email [jorvik@talktalk.net](mailto:jorvik@talktalk.net).

We look forward to hearing from you and welcoming you to this very worthwhile and much appreciated local service.

## MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library visits Combwich and Stockland every four weeks on a Thursday morning. The next visit is 23rd September.

Combwich Harbour TA5 2QU 10.15 – 10.50

Combwich Post Office TA5 2QW 10.55 – 11.20

Stockland Bristol Captains TA5 2PY 11.30 – 11.55

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 - use it or lose it!

Your favourite  
Jam,  
Marmalade  
and chutney  
and also plants are still  
available.



Proceeds to the Bridgwater  
Food Bank

Ring Liz on 01278 652687

## Post Office and Shop

Masks must be worn at all times by all customers until further notice.

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

Thank you for your custom

COMBWICH P.O.  
& STORES

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

Family Business  
Established 20 Yrs

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 3rd November 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 or organisations.