

COMBWICH, OTTERHAMPTON AND STEART NEWSLETTER

July 2022

Issue 43

Otter Tales

Published with the generous support of Otterhampton Parish Council

Inside this issue

Page 1

Epic Cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats

Page 2

Parish Council Report

Page 3

Otterhampton Village Hall

Page 4

Epic cycle ride

Page 5

OPRA

Pages 6, 7, 8, 9

Platinum Jubilee Report

Page 10

Notes to a not so sleepy village

Page 11

WWT Steart Marshes

Page 12

Combwich & District WI

Page 13

Nurse on call

Page 14

Church Announcements

Page 15

The Anchor

Otter Wheels—Passenger Information

Page 16

Mobile Library

General Information

An epic cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats

By Caroline Vasques (nee Jacobs – Tom & Sue's daughter)



Anyone from home who knows me probably knows that I have always been more bookish than athletic, so might be surprised to know that I have just completed an epic two-week cycle ride from Land's End to John O'Groats, raising money for Cancer Research.

My inspiration came from an article about a 73-year-old grandma who had cycled Land's End to John O'Groats ('LEJOG') in 3 weeks. I thought that if she could do it in three weeks, then probably so could I, and that could fit with work and kids. Over the course of the next couple of years, my 'LEJOG madventure' went from being a vague idea, to a dream, then a bit of an obsession and then once I started working towards it and committing myself to it, it became an actual possibility. I got myself a new bike – a Specialized Diverge carbon gravel bike, which although light, is perhaps not the fastest, but could easily cope with the mix of roads, cycle paths, canal paths and dirt tracks that the ride would throw at us.

Otterhampton Parish Council

Otterhampton Offcuts July 2022

New Parish Clerk - Gina Mear

I am pleased to be taking on the role as clerk for the parish council, following in the footsteps of my mum who was chair back in the 80s/90s.

I have lived in Combwich most of my life, living in the house I grew up in. My two daughters attend the primary school which has changed considerably since I attended! I have also seen many changes in the village, most of them for the better, such as the flood defences and the village hall refurbishment.

I look forward to working alongside the parish councillors and thank Tina Gardener for her work as temporary clerk.



Councillor Resignations

Unfortunately, two of the councillors tendered their resignations in June which means there are now three vacancies on the council. By the time Otter Tales has gone to print a legal notice will have been posted on the village's noticeboards regarding the vacancies. We have already received some interest from parishioners.

Trees

Two trees were identified as having Ash Dieback disease and were consequently felled as advised, the trees were on the green opposite the village hall and near the Anchor Inn. Logs were available for villagers and all were collected.

Brookside Road Development

Another planning application has been submitted for the erection of us to 60 dwellings, public open space and other associated infrastructure. The parish council will be objecting to this proposal.

Play Area

The play area paths have recently been maintained and a RoSPA inspection has been carried out. The report has identified a few minor issues to be rectified.

Steart Ward

The fire brigade was called out to a fire on the Steart beach car park which may have been fly-tipped rubbish. There has been an increase in rubbish and old BBQs left recently.

Works at the Wharf

EDF gave a presentation regarding construction works to the wharf. The construction will start on 17th September and last for 14 weeks until 20th December and will work around tidal patterns. The construction working hours have been agreed by SDC. There will be deliveries from July to September. This project aligns more with the original plan and the wharf will be fully operational from January 2023. 48 culverts will be delivered by road and craned into place with the area being dredged prior to this.

Continued on Page 3

Contact details for the parish council PARISH COUNCILLORS

 Rachel Perrett
 01278 652958

 Tina Gardener
 01278 652642

 Lindsey Parsons
 01278 653700

 Andrew Darch (Steart)
 01278 653495

Vacancy Vacancy Vacancy

Gina Mear (Clerk) 01278 652499

otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com

County and District Ward Members

Mike Caswell 01278 652043

(District & County)

Julie Pay (District) 01278 732956
Brian Bolt (County) bbolt@hotmail.com





Now that the refurbishment of the village hall is complete, it's time to get together and celebrate the grand re-opening on Saturday 6th August. The hall will be officially opened by our much loved postman, Roger Musgrove ESQ at 2.30pm before everyone can enjoy refreshments, and a light buffet, whilst viewing the hall facilities and learning more about the various activities and groups which are running regularly. Hopefully this will inspire the community to take up a new hobby, learn a skill or just have some new experiences. There will also be activities for families to enjoy out on the green opposite the village hall. The trustees look

forward to seeing you all and will be available to chat through any ideas you might have for events, or opportunities to hire this fantastic space.

Everyone comes together to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee!

It was great to see the local community get together on Saturday 4th June to celebrate in style. The day got off to a regal start with our very own Queen, Carolyn Harris, traveling around the village in her chauffeur driven car getting people in the mood for an afternoon of fun. The unseasonal weather was



not going to stop us with activities and competitions running all though the day and into the evening ranging from The Best Dressed House Competition, Corgi spotting, Tug o' war competition and the traditional egg and spoon race. There was plenty of family fun with children's games, various stalls, face painting and glitter tattoos and refreshments/sweet treats for young and old alike. Once the delicious picnics had been eaten and the magician had wowed us, the celebrations continued into the evening with a cocktail hour at the Harbour View Bar, The Right Royal Quiz in the hall and the open mic, featuring our

very own Apalachee Nation.

Please head on over to the village hall website where you can relive the day and look at the photo gallery as well as registering for the news letter to ensure you are up to speed on future events. The link is www.otterhamptonvillagehall.co.uk

Facebook

The parish council now has its own Facebook page; Otterhampton Parish Council. The page is to keep parishioners informed of any news, information, planning matters and more



Parish Council Meetings

The next parish council meetings will be on Thursday 1st September, Thursday 6th October, Thursday 3rd November and Thursday 1st December starting at 7.00pm, in Otterhampton Village Hall.

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

Contact for Clerk (Gina Mear) otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com or Tel 01278 652499

Continued from page 1

I planned a route of around 1000 miles over 15 days – ranging from about 50 to almost 90 miles a day. My wonderful sister Alison immediately volunteered to support me, and drive a camper van, so I wouldn't have to carry huge panniers of kit. My lovely boyfriend Duncan joined us from midway through Day 3 to the very end, cycling half-days (and sometimes more) with me, to keep me going. And my amazing best friend Saranne also joined the merry band from Glasgow northwards to offer practical and moral support. We hired a lovely little yellow VW Transporter called Daisy from Moovans Ltd in Highbridge and took a couple of tents too and stayed mostly in pre-booked campsites.





I trained as much as I could, fitting in at least 3 early morning rides during the week

and one or two longer rides at the weekends, come rain or shine and all through the winter. My last training ride was 77 miles, with 4,000ft of climbing, so I definitely felt ready.

The route I chose went: Land's End - St Austell - Okehampton - Combwich - Chepstow - Ludlow - Frodsham (Runcorn) - Garstang (Lancs) - Threlkeld (Keswick) - Moffat - Loch Lomond - Glencoe - Inverness - Lairg - Bettyhill - John O'Groats. In all, over the 15 days I cycled 1,020 miles, and climbed 53,000 ft. It was by far the hardest, but most thrilling

and wonderful thing I have ever done – apart from having my two children, of course!



I cycled through some absolutely beautiful and spectacular parts of the country, from Bodmin Moor and the Granite Way, to the Arnside & Silverdale AONB, the Lake District, The Trossachs, Glencoe, along the Caledonian Canal and through the remote North of Scotland. There were parts of the route I would never choose to do again, including the 2-hour slog alongside motorways and industrial wastelands between Portbury and Chepstow, and the terrifying, vertigo-inducing road through the rather-too-awesome-for-me Glencoe.



Although we had the most unbelievably good weather – with only one morning of slight drizzle around Lancaster, there were days when it was actually too hot, and I had to take the middle of the day off and pedal late into the evenings instead. In fact, the heat (and my heavy braking on the downhills) caused my hydraulic brakes to 'boil' and keep clamping on. So not only did I cycle quite a bit of Shropshire and the Lake District with my brakes on, but we had to hop from bike shop to bike shop, trying to get the issues fixed.

All too soon, it came to an end. The final day was probably the hardest – our shortest in mileage terms, but into relentless headwinds that meant we even had to pedal hard downhill and wondered if we'd ever get there. Not to mention that Alison managed to park Daisy in a ditch and had to be pulled out, adding to the day's excitement! And then finally, we made it! And after the obligatory photo at the signpost in the howling wind, followed by a quick cuppa in the café, we hopped into the van and motored down to Stirling for the night, where we had a wonderful curry and a few drinks to celebrate the end of an amazing journey.



The absolute highlights for me were the stunning landscapes, the fun times with my amazing 'crew', meeting old friends along the way, and the kindness of strangers, who enquired, encouraged, gave practical help and donated to my fundraiser. I could have done without the mechanical issues, motorway bridges, dizzying mountain passes and at times the heat, but I really can't complain about anything - the weather and even the notorious Scottish midges were pretty kind to us! And so far, we've managed to raise £3,500 for Cancer Research (including Gift Aid), so a huge thank you to everyone who has kindly donated. If anyone would like to read my daily account of the trip, here's a link to the blog: https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Caroline-Vasques. Thank you!



Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

Registered Charity Number 1124017

Life is getting back to normal after the Covid crisis, but the recent surge in cases means we all have to take care, particularly the vulnerable.

Recently the village celebrated the Queen's Jubilee in a weekend of events, all recorded on other pages of this newsletter. A hearty thanks to the organisers, volunteer helpers and all those who attended to make it so successful.

A couple of events for your diary -

The Annual Murray Lister Cricket Match



This will take place on the Common at 3.30pm on Saturday 6th August. It will be a fun packed afternoon in memory of Murray Lister who was one of the original organisers of the event, with the proceeds going to The Brain Tumour Charity. As

before there will be a beer tent and BBQ and other refreshments, and of course a raffle. There is no requirement to be a good cricketer to take part, only enthusiasm to have a good time!

The later start of the cricket is to allow everyone to attend the grand reopening of the village hall after the extensive refurbishment at 2.30pm on the same day.

Cream tea and Walk Sunday 21st August

Those wanting enjoy a gentle walk around the Steart peninsular should meet at 2pm in the English Nature carpark in Steart. This will be followed by a cream tea will once again be provide by Aly and Robin at Dowells Farm, with all proceeds shared between Steart Church, MacMillan Cancer Support and Love Musgrove in memory of Tony Davie

You do not need to take part in the walk to be able to enjoy a delicious cream tea and good company. Please ring Aly on 652426 to book your cream tea.

The 100 Club draw usually takes place every month at the Coffee Morning in Otterhampton Village Hall, although on occasions it has been necessary for the numbers 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

If you want to join the 100 Club or become involved in OPRA activities please contact Tina on 652642 or Sue 653663 or any committee member.

OPRA Committee	
Tina Gardener (Chair)	652642
Carol Bradbury (Secreta	ary) 652313
Sue Francis (Treasurer)	653663
Barry Leathwood	652399
Di Davie	652141
Mary Cornish	653868
Melvyn Fooks	322457
Felicity Ashworth	653633
Paul Bradbury	652313
Connie Sanders	653307
Pete Sanders	653307
Rev Jan Church	07733 433526

Taking care off our village

There is no better example of care for our village. The village notice board always has a lovely display of flowers to enhance it as the photo shows. This is not done by the parish council, or any other organisation, but by villager Helen Jowett, who does so much for the people of this parish.

Thank you Helen



The Jubilee Celebrations



The 4th of June 2022 brought the parish together in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. 70 years on the throne and still going strong, the Queen gave us a good excuse to have a party and enjoy some community feel-good fun after two years of COVID restrictions.

All over the country people were preparing for over 16,000 street parties over the extended bank holiday period and the parish of Otterhampton was no exception. More than 500 emails were exchanged, dozens of phone calls made, meetings were had, spreadsheets produced, lists made and meticulous plans had been in the making since February and a team of dedicated residents gave up hours of their time to organise what turned out to be a fantastic few days.



The celebrations began on the Thursday evening with the lighting of the beacon, courtesy of OPRA. The following day a well-attended special Jubilee lunch in the village hall was enjoyed by many, thanks to Helen Jowett and her helpers.

We also witnessed a host of children scouring the village throughout Friday, searching for the 20 hidden corgis which had been lovingly knitted by the ladies of the Wednesday Craft Club and local WI. The Corgi Trail was a great success with 19 entries.





Saturday began early for those involved in bringing it together and lots of volunteers were down at the village hall or on the green hours before kick-off, eager to get the party started. We had all been keeping a keen eye on the weather forecast and witnessed it change from "OK" to "somewhat dire" over the previous seven days and the overcast start and heavy skies weren't boding well for an outdoor fete. An early decision had to be made and, given the possibility of rain, sadly the bouncy castle was cancelled and all the craft stalls were moved into the hall rather than around the edges of the Common.

Once the decision was made, the set-up crew busied themselves, (with much hilarity), erecting gazebos, pinning up the bunting, blowing up balloons, putting up signs,

setting out tables and the bar, getting the games and activity areas ready and closing the road.

Whilst all this was going on, our resident artist, Tom Jacobs proceeded around the village judging the 15 houses that had entered the Best Dressed House Competition and was delighted to later announce that the winner was Emma Bridger for her fabulous royal beautification of Walton House.

However, a mention must also be given to the fabulous efforts of everyone who adorned their property with royal regalia, in particular Jim and Nikki Jewell at Tower Cottage for their fantastic "Family of Flags" and the creative regal genius of Kate and Paul Narroway on Church Hill.







At 12 noon, a gleaming, chauffeur-driven car covered in bunting crept into view to collect our very own Queen, aka Carolyn Harris. After being presented with a beautiful handmade posy by Olivia Bridger and Isla Manupenu, a very well-groomed driver of said gleaming car, Simon Briggs, cruised off around the village with the royal passenger so that she could undertake her regal waving duties, before arriving back at the hall and officially opening the Jubilee celebrations.



outdoor bar was renamed Ye Olde Limpy Inn, a homage to Steve Lang who, painfully determined to get the show on the road, spent all day on crutches following a recent injury.

The rain held off so we were able to run the egg and spoon and dressing up races and the tug o' war competition, refereed by Nick Carter, needed very little coaxing to take part. The rope was a real tug o' war rope kindly loaned by

Whilst the weather put pay to some of the planned activities there was something for everyone including lots of arts and crafts stalls, games for the kids, face-painting and glitter tattoos by Cannington Pantomime Society, ice cream and candy floss stall, a fantastic cake stall, BBQ and fruit kebabs, the Pets Portraits stand, the Jubilee coins distributed by OPRA and the short mat bowls room was open for people to have-a-go. The



Felton Eccles Tug O' War club and previously used in the National Championships. The crowd delighted at the fact that a team of children managed to pull six strapping blokes across the line! What fun.











As ever, Mike Gardener did a magnificent job of announcing various activities throughout the day, as did lan Williams whilst commentating on the races and games.

By the time the picnic began the sun was out and at around 3.30pm tables and blankets were dressed in right royal regalia for the bring-your-own feast whilst Dave the magician worked his... well, magic, as he mixed and mingled with the diners.

But the day didn't end there! Following the picnic, Cocktail Hour kicked off in Harbour View bar with the serving of Red Lizzies, Jubilee Juice and Blue Blood! The Right Royal Quiz began around 6pm, organised and hosted by Reverend Alison Waters and supported by an excellent turn out of villagers and their families. The Open Mic Music Fest ended the day with local band Apalachee Nation playing their socks off and the Jubilee celebrations finally came to a close at midnight.



A great few days was had by many and hopefully some fond memories were made. To see more photos of the celebrations please head to the Village Hall website www.otterhamptonvillagehall.co.uk/platinum-jubilee. It would be impossible to ask permission of every person in every photo but if you are keen not to be included on the website then please make the Village Hall Committee aware and we'll ensure any image with you in it is removed.

......

Thank You

We couldn't have enjoyed such a great day without the help of our amazing community so a huge thank you goes to the 60+ volunteers who gave up their time before, during and after the event (apologies if we've missed anyone):

Otterhampton Village Hall for getting the ball rolling and funding the event; Otterhampton Parish Council and Sedgemoor District Council for funding; OPRA for funding, lighting of the beacon and the Jubilee coins; Tina Gardener for organising the lending of various OPRA equipment; Helen Jowett for the Jubilee lunch; Jan Cashin for her creative marketing material (and her patience!); Pete Cashin for organising the finances; Nick Carter and Bruce Barton for the unenviable task of writing the Event Risk Assessment; Our leaflet distributors Jan and Pete Cashin, Tamsin Stevens, Elizabeth Marriot, Rachel and Sue Szaruta, Angela Griffiths, Sue and Bruce Barton, Bethan Mockridge and Marcus Ford; Postie Roger for delivering a special invitation to our Queen in style; Robert, Jane and Peter at the Post Office for letting us have somewhere to put the entry bucket; Barry Leathwood for allowing us not only a whole page in Otter Tales but also the prestigious front page; Jim and Nicola Doble for the use of their road signs; Road marshals Tamsin and Emilia Stevens, Andy and Salli Bryan, Paul Gripton, Richard Navoy, Charlene and Steve Chinn, John and Pauline Culleton, Ruth and John Wake, Sue Francis, Simon Briggs, Sue and Rachel Szaruta, Carol and Marcus Ring, Lisa Matthews, Dawn Darr, Gwyn Griffiths, Bob Birkenhead, Peter Austin, Audrey Rowley, Louise and Mark Reynolds, Nick and Lynn Carter; to Bev Lang, Rachel and Gary Perrett, Peter Austin, Tim Bates, Charlotte Turnbull, Jim Juniper, Kirsten Preston, Mike Gardener, Lindsey Parsons, Paul Gripton, Ian Williams, Bruce Barton, Nick Carter, Sarah Kennedy, Nicky and Ian Rowland and Mel for their help setting up, taking down and running stalls; Our Queen, the great sport that is Carolyn Harris for opening the celebrations; her chauffeur Simon Briggs and his gleaming car; Olivia Bridger and Isla Manupenu for presenting Queenie with her handmade posy; Richard Navoy and Debbie Turnbull for acting as our First Aiders; Angie Griffiths and Mel Haycraft for organising the Pets Portraits Competition; Sue Jacobs, Elizabeth Marriott and the Combwich Crafters for knitting all those lovely corgis and organising the corgi trail; Christine Conlon for the beautiful handmade felt rosettes; Jennifer Kenn, Lacey Kenn, Sally Horne and all the cake makers for the fantastic cake stall; Steve Lang, Rachel Ingram, Steph and Robyn Juniper who kept us all plied with alcohol and Bev Lang and Ian Williams for the royal cocktails; Lindsey Parsons for loan of and running the coconut shy; stallholders Combwich Crafters, Ollie Austin (pet food), Sophie Austin (fruit kebabs), Neil Gibson (prints) and his Mum (crafts), Gwyneth Linley (jewellery), Savannah Jones (bath bombs); Charlotte Powell (Rocky Road Kitchen), Donna Rush (festival gear), Ruth Loveridge (wwwthewickerbasket.co.uk), Hannah Jones and the Cannington Pantomime Society (face painting and costumes), Helen Rees (bric-a-brac), Nick Sawyer (Chic Woodturning), Karen Coates (Happy Bee Craft); Tom Jacobs for judging

the Best Dressed House; Ray Bollen with Pete and Connie Sanders and Trish Sperring for cooking all those burgers; Marcus Ford for running the have-a-go-bowls; Mike Gardener for his (often hilarious) running commentary throughout the day; Ian Williams for commentating on the races; Magician Dave Jones; Reverend Alison Waters for running the quiz; Martin Rackham for running the Open Mic and Apalachee Nation for playing; to Mike Ingram for having hay bales on standby; Felton Eccles Tug O' War team for loan of their championship rope; to Combwich Boat Club for Ioan of marquees; Brian Bateman for professional photos; Greenslades for lending us their generator; Clean Surroundings for grass cutting and line painting; to everyone in the parish who gloriously decorated their houses and gardens; to all villagers, especially Jim and Nicki Jewell and residents of the cottages on the green for tolerating the road closure; to Sue Barton, Amber Austin and Lynn Carter for organising the whole event and to everyone who came along and made it such a special day. Thank you.



NOTES to a not-so Sleepy Village! (Three)

Dear Barry and fellow residents,

Little birdie, flying high Dropped a message from the sky Farmer's wife said, wiping her eye 'It's a good job cows can't fly!'



This so I am told was one of the first jokes I ever said. Along with;

'What did the big chimney say to the little chimney?'

'You're too young to smoke!'

Followed by:

'What did the bra say to the top hat?'

'You go on ahead while I hold these two up!'

I had only just started talking and was about three years old. I delighted at parties and family gatherings in repeating them, as everybody laughed and sometimes (If I was lucky) even applauded! That's probably where it all started...

Not sure who taught me the jokes, might have been my Uncle Jack I suppose, who was a very good pantomime performer and club comedian.

But this recently got me thinking; maybe (if there is enough interest) a Children's contributions page could be started in the newsletter. Funny jokes, (and boy, do we need them at the moment!) Rhymes, Poems, or even a cartoon drawing?

Perhaps at Christmas there could even be a prize for the best contributor? Who knows, it may lead to someone becoming a full time writer, journalist or comedian...

And yes Mr Navoy... I am STILL using the same old jokes!

So, mums and dads, grannies and granddads, have a word with the youngsters and get the thinking caps on!

Chris Ponka

Email me at, chrisponkaplays@hotmail.co.uk not later than the end of August for the September issue of Otter Tales

Otterhampton Parish Council - Notable minutes from the past

- A proposal to supply mains water to the village was deferred so as not to incur unnecessary expens when so many men had nobly offered their services and made a sacrifice in so great a struggle,
- 1919 A request from Nether Stowey parish council for Combwich to co-operate in a telephone scheme from Bridgwater to Kilve or Williton.
 - Proposition for Light Railway taking in Combwich so that this area could be opened up sent to Minister of Transport.
- Minute urging Great Western Railway to build between Bridgwater and Watchet to solve serious unemployment. Such a line would open up the oilshale industries and the cement industries.
- 1927 Council houses approved at front of village.
- Resolution passed that supply of drinking water to the village was inadequate, many houses having no supply at all.





Events update



Saturday 23 July 10:00-16:00 We are launching as a dragonfly hotspot!

Steart Marshes has been recognised by the British Dragonfly Society as a hotspot due to the number of species and suitability of the habitat. We have a launch day which will include the unveiling of our newly designed information board and a whole host of dragonfly related events including walks and talks, craft and willow activities, pond dipping and a treasure hunt. Ice-creams will be on sale and we have our fingers firmly crossed for good weather!

All the action is taking place on the wetland walkway, with guided walks at 11.15am and 2pm. This is a free event, but donations are always welcome towards the upkeep of the reserve.

Saturday 6 August 11:00-16:00

Arts and Crafts Display In Stockland Church – as part of this, you can view the banners produced from photos taken in the Photovoice wellbeing project at Steart Marshes over the past few months.

Saturday 13 August - We will have a stand at the Portishead Saltmarshes Day for the first time. Do pop over and say hello if you are in the area!



Contacts at WWT Steart Marshes...

Reserve Office: 01278 651090 info.steart@wwt.org.uk

Site Manager: Alys Laver 07717 505966 alys.laver@wwt.org.uk

Learning and Engagement Manager: Nicole Turnbull 07717 342061 nicole.turnbull@wwt.org.uk

Green Recovery Challenge Fund



The National Lottery Heritage Fund





Combwich and District WI by Elizabeth Marriott

Another enjoyable evening was had by all on Thursday 19th May, our speaker was Lottie Dale who showed pictures on the wonderful new hall screen alongside a very amusing talk on Treading The Wards. Our next meeting on Thursday 16th June was the member's evening, which happens once a year, the members make all the arrangements to entertain the committee. What an evening it was and such



fun, a huge thank you to the members for organising, the committee were entertained with a film, popcorn, ice creams and cake; who needs to go to the cinema.

The Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations started on Friday 3rd June, the Wednesday Craft group and WI made 20 wonderful corgis and organised a "find the corgi's names trail". All 20 corgis were hidden around the village for the children to find, great fun was had by the children and adults to, two of the winners gave their corgis names, Bonzo and Princess Zara. Here is a photo of the completed corgis ready to go hide.



Our next meeting is on Thursday 21st July, which will start with an enjoyable evening of skittles followed by a short annual AGM which was postponed from the June meeting, we will be in Harbour View Bar this month, which will be opening especially for us for drinks.

If you are interested in joining our happy band do come along to our next meeting on July 21st at 7pm for 7.30pm start, you will be assured of a warm welcome.

The funeral of our friend Val Parker will be at St Peter's Church, Combwich at 1pm on Wednesday 20th July

All welcome

Refreshments at the Anchor after the service

Nurse on call

I am an Orthopaedic Nurse, and my job is based in Kiev hospital in the Ukraine. Sadly, these are unprecedented times since Russia has imposed an illegal war on my country Ukraine and all that is left of my hospital is rubble. As a result, I now class myself as a nurse on call.

I am going wherever I am needed, so in the past six weeks I have delivered babies, administered first aid, comforted people in their dying moments, whether it be from injuries sustained by the enemy or from cancer or old age.

I have family that have been forced out of their homes and I have no idea where any of them are. I just hope and pray that they are all safe somewhere. In the meantime, I will carry on the job I was trained to do. That job is to help everyone regardless of nationality, colour or creed or physical or mental need.

It is in my blood to help people and although right now we are in a terrible situation I will continue to be that nurse on call.

Sheila Thomas submitted by Helen Jowett

"Humpty Dumpty Sat on a wall" Mamushka, Babuska – where are you? I don't like the dark I hear a dog bark

"Humpty Dumpty had a great fall"
Mamushka, Babuska – Mamushka, Babuska
Is that an echo – like you taught me?
I'm climbing some steps like a monkey

"All the Kings horses – all the Kings men"
Now the guns are banging
Train wheels are clanging
Mamushka - I'm running
Can you hear me coming?

"Couldn't put Humpty together again Suddenly crowds Crying, calling Kisses, hugs Babies bawling

"Pop goes the weasel"
A gun blasts
Where to now?
I thought I was safe Oh – Holy cow!

No Mamushka – Nor Babushka – gone
I'm here - your son and grandson
A hand reaches out
And pulls me in
To a carriage – packed
I see a boy grin.

"Half a pound of tuppeny rice"
He stands nearby
I want to cry
Where will we go?
I really don't know.

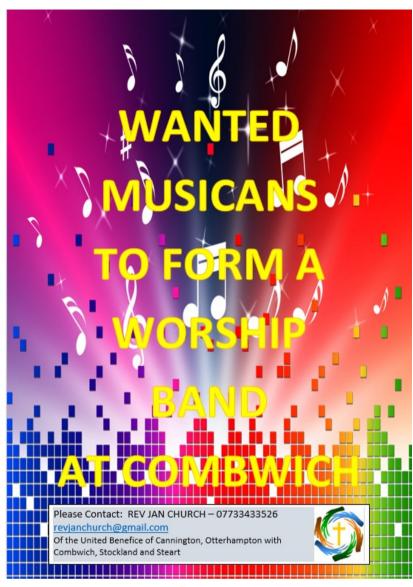
"Mamushka, Babushka – are you on this noisy train? I'm all squashed in - will I see you again?

"Half a pound of treacle"
I'm awake, then I sleep like
A bundle of rags on the floor
A great big jolt, the train stops
A uniform opens the door

"That's the way the money goes"
I manage to stay by the boy
He's holding tightly his beloved toy.
I sidle up and hold his hand
Can I stay with him in this strange land?

"Pop goes the weasel"

By Helen Jowett





Welcome to The Anchor

Live Music on Sundays

Watch out for the dates

Monday and Tuesday night pizza and pint only £10.99

Tuesday night quiz free to play, prizes to win, 7.30 start all welcome



Matt writes 'This is the start of my 16th year of looking after the Anchor and I am looking forward to a year with no more lockdowns and to enjoy the pub after the extensive refurbishment. If you have not been in since the remodelling pop in and meet the team. You will receive a warm welcome.'

The kitchen is open from

Monday 5.30pm to 8.30

Tuesday 5.30pm to 8.30

Wednesday 5pm to 8.30

Thursday 5pm to 8.30

Friday 12 to 2 and 5pm to 8.30

Saturday 12 to 2 and 5 pm to 8.30

Sunday Roast 12 to 2pm

See you soon



Otter Wheels Your volunteer car scheme is here for you.

Is lack of transport a problem?

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

Ring Otter Wheels on 07925154216—but please give as much notice as you can before you need to travel.

This not for profit car scheme has been running for several years with well over 1,000 trips completed. If you haven't tried us give us a go. Door to door service with friendly experienced drivers, all DBS checked and happy to help. However, you will need to register by ringing the above number before you can use the service.

Typical return journey prices are: -

	With bus pass	Without bus pass
Cannington Health Centre	£1.25	£2.50
Bridgwater Bus Station	£3.50	£7.00
Musgrove Hospital Taunton	£9.25	£18.50

Please when you renew your bus pass you must let us have your new number

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library visits Combwich and Stockland every four weeks on a Thursday morning. The next visit is 14th July.

Combwich Harbour TA5 2QU 10.15 - 11.00Combwich Post Office TA5 2QW 11.05 - 11.30Stockland Bristol Captains TA5 2PY 11.40 - 11.55

For information about this service, contact Somerset Direct 0300 1232224 or visit 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

Defibrillators can save your life.

We have two in Combwich, one in the telephone box, another at the Anchor/Ship Lane wall. Another is in Steart on the wall of the old chapel (signposted).

These are simple to use - dial 999 to call for an ambulance then follow the simple instructions.



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 or visit "All Things Combwich"

Facebook Group

For information about the village hall go to www.otterhamptonvillagehall.co.uk

Otter Tales

Deadline for articles etc for next issue is Thursday 1st September 2022

Otter Tales

Articles for publication to Barry Leathwood (editor) Tel: 652399, email: barry.leathwood@btinternet.com

Distribution. Bob Birkenhead Tel: 653127, email: 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.