



Welcome to Combwich

COMBWICH, OTTERHAMPTON AND  
STEART NEWSLETTER

May 2022

Issue 42

# Otter Tales

Published with the generous support of Otterhampton Parish Council

Content list on back page



## PLATINUM JUBILEE AND FUN DAY

Riverside, Combwich



See Page 2  
for more details

4th June 2022



**To commemorate the Queen's 70th Anniversary, Combwich  
will be celebrating over the June bank holiday.  
We really hope you'll join us.**

### Thursday 2nd June

**9.45pm**

Lighting of the Beacon on the Common (Courtesy of OPRA)

### Friday 3rd June

**10am - 4pm**

Children's Royal Corgi Trail Competition

**11am - 2.30pm**

Coffee Morning & Sandwich Lunch

### Saturday 4th June

**10am - 12 noon**

Judging of the Best Dressed House

**3pm**

Mix and Mingle Magician

**12.00 noon**

Queen's tour of the village

**3.30pm**

Picnic - bring your own royal feast  
Harbour View Bar opens

**12.15pm**

Queen's arrival & Opening ceremony

**4pm**

Judging begins  
- Best Dressed Table/Picnic Blanket  
- Best "Dress Like a Royal"

**12 noon - 11pm**

The Anchor will be open

**12.30pm**

Races for all ages  
- Egg and Spoon  
- Bouncy Hoppers  
- Dressing Up Race  
- Sack Race  
Other games and activities including bouncy castle & Pet Portraits

**5pm**

Have-a-go at Short Mat Bowls - upstairs Village Hall

**5.30pm**

Competition winners announced

**6pm**

Right Royal Quiz for all the family - Village Hall

**12.30pm - 3pm**

Outdoor bar open

**6.30pm**

Cocktail Hour & Open Mic - Harbour View Bar

**2pm**

Tug o' War (Female, Male 10-18 years, Free-for-all)

**Midnight**

Harbour View Bar Closes

**Look for the full Programme coming through your door very soon.**

[www.otterhamptonvillagehall.co.uk/jubilee](http://www.otterhamptonvillagehall.co.uk/jubilee)



otterhamptonvillagehall



otterhampton\_village\_hall





## Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

Registered Charity Number 1124017

We held our Easter Egg hunt this year on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April, the first one since 2019 and we were extremely lucky with the weather as it was a glorious weekend. 63 children took part and we had numerous correct answers (we must make them harder next year to tax the parents more) and the lucky winner drawn out was Niobe.

This was followed by our Easter Quiz held on the Sunday and again it was the first since 2019. It was very well supported and the excellent quizmaster as always was Shaun Ryall, with his wife Mary keeping scores.

We would like to thank Matt for allowing both events to be held at the Anchor and to Robert for supplying the Easter eggs, once again at a discount.

Our last Sunday walk started from Crowcombe Heathfield railway station and was a circular walk taking in Crowcombe village and once again we were lucky to have lovely weather. The May walk will take place on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May and will be a 4.5 mile walk from Langport taking in Muchelney; this walk is guaranteed to be flat!

We recently made a £100 donation to help pay the rent for Combwich Choir who are struggling with numbers at present. We will also be making a donation of £180 towards the costs of the Jubilee fun day and helping with the lunch being served after the Friday coffee morning on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Our beacon, only normally seen on the firework night, will be used on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June as part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. It will be placed on the bank of the small common near the Children's play area and will be lit along with many others at 9.45pm.

We received a lot of orders for the Jubilee coins, and due to the level of interest, we decided to order extra just in case. Luckily we did, as we received a number of late orders. We still have some available and if you would like any please contact Tina on 652642 or [tinagardener@btinternet.com](mailto:tinagardener@btinternet.com)

### OPRA Committee

Tina Gardener (Chair)	652642
Carol Bradbury (Secretary)	652313
Sue Francis (Treasurer)	653663
Barry Leathwood	652399
Di Davie	652141
Mary Cornish	653868
Melvyn Fooks	322459
Felicity Ashworth	653633
Paul Bradbury	652313
Connie Sanders	653307
Pete Sanders	653307

**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](http://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.



# Otterhampton Parish Council

Otterhampton Offcuts

May 2022

## Otter Tales May 2022

### **New Clerk & Councillors**

We have recently appointed a new Clerk, Gina Mear to replace our previous clerk Mel who resigned in March. We are looking forward to working with Gina, who we are sure will be a great asset to the Parish Council. In March our chairman Julie Evans resigned along with Marie Beckley. They both made great contributions whilst they were on the council. We were all saddened by the death of Julie last month who fought a courageous battle with cancer.

The elections for both the Parish and Unitary Councils took place on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Mike Caswell and Brian Bolt were elected as Unitary councillors for the Cannington ward which includes Otterhampton. Mike along with Julie Pay are both Sedgemoor District Councillors and they will continue in their role until the Unitary Council comes into being on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

The Steart Ward was uncontested and Andy Darch continues as councillor for Steart. The Otterhampton & Combwich Ward has 6 councillors. Bob Birkenhead decided not to stand for re-election but Lindsey Parsons, Rachel Perrett and Tina Gardener did and were duly elected uncontested along with Sally Horne and Kay Whatling, our new councillors. This leaves a vacancy for one councillor and if anyone would like to be co-opted then please contact our Clerk.



The Parish Council would like to thank Bob Birkenhead (pictured left) for his contribution to Combwich in his time as a councillor. A number of you will have seen him recently working on the phone box and buoy, ably assisted by Carol his wife. Bob has put in many hours, above and beyond what is expected from a councillor. We are hopeful that he will continue to take on special projects and continue as the Rights of Way Officer.

### **Planning**

**Planning application 39/22/00003** has been received for outline planning permission with some matters reserved for the erection of up to 60 dwellings, public open space, and other associated matters. This is a similar application to 39/20/00013 which was refused last year. The Parish Council would like to thank all those residents who have put a lot of effort in helping the Parish Council understand the current application, it has been very much appreciated. By the time this publication goes to print the Parish Council will have made their decision at the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Trees**

As reported in previous publications, 2 ash trees in the centre of the village have ash die back as identified by a professional arborist, who advised they needed to be felled as they were unsafe. As you can see from the photo below the trees have now been felled.



### **Play Area Paths**

The contract has been placed for the refurbishment of the paths; it will mean temporary closure of the play area whilst the work is completed but advance warning will be given.

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

### **PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Rachel Perrett	01278 652958
Tina Gardener	01278 652642
Lindsey Parsons	07843 604787
Andrew Darch (Steart)	01278 653495
Sally Horne	01278 653005
Kate Whatling	07964 089144
Vacancy	
Gina Mear (Clerk)	01278 652499
<a href="mailto:otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com">otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com</a>	

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

Mike Caswell	01278 652043
(District & County)	
Julie Pay (District)	01278 732956
Brian Bolt (County)	bbolt@hotmail.com



# Your Parish Council

**Rachel Perrett**



I have lived in Combwich for over 28 years and my sons attended Otterhampton Primary School, the village community is important to us as a family.

Serving on the Parish Council has been a steep learning curve but also a privilege. I am currently acting as School liaison and attending EDF Stakeholders meeting.

With the many challenges we face I hope I present a good listening ear to take people's concerns back to the Parish Council.

**Tina Gardener**



I love living in Combwich which has been my home for 28 years. I have been actively involved in village life including Pre-School committee, School Governor and Village Hall committee. I am currently Chairman of OPRA and a volunteer driver for Otter Wheels. I work part time as a Clerk for two Parish

Councils and so I am very experienced in Parish Council work and can use this experience along with my enthusiasm for village life as a councillor.

**Lindsey Parsons**



I have lived in Combwich for 41 years and feel passionately about village life, helping to run the village playgroup in the early years, giving a helping hand with Neighbourhood Watch and lately setting up a ladies skittle team at our club. I feel strongly that the people of the village should have

their opinions heard, and I will endeavour to make their concerns heard, and be a voice of reason. I care for Combwich and our way of life.

**Andrew Darch**



Having grown up here, it is now such a privilege to live, work and bring children up in our community. Hopefully I can help keep our unique little spot lovely, leaving it a better place for all. I attend the Transport and Steart forum doing my best to air your concerns.

## New Councillors

**Kay Whatling**



I have lived in Otterhampton at Hill House Christian Centre for just over 10 years. During the last 2 years of lockdowns etc, we were able to welcome local visitors up at Hill House whilst we were forced to close and it really ignited a passion in me for the community and my

locality. I'm looking forward to learning how I can help and serve you in the parish and will endeavour to listen and represent us all as best I can.

**Sally Horne**



Having lived in Combwich for most of my life the parish and its residents are important to me. I hope by becoming a parish councillor I can help to ensure parishioner's concerns are addressed as we move into the future with all its challenges. I currently deliver

The Otter Tales, help maintain the defibrillators in the village and deliver medication to some of our elderly residents weekly. Becoming a parish councillor is a new challenge for me but I take the position seriously and with enthusiasm.

## Combwich Ponds

**Yet another delay to the re-opening of the foot-paths around the Ponds. A last minute objection has been received which is being considered.**

## **Quick Guide to the Planning Application Process re - 39/22/00003 by Paul Gripton** **(Land at Brookside Road)**

Application 39/22/00003 is an 'Outline Planning Application' including access, for residential development of **up to 60** units. The appearance, landscaping, layout and scale (including I believe, the final 'quantum' - numbers of dwellings), will be determined by a future 'reserved matters' application, should this application receive outline planning permission. Public comments can be made and should be considered by the Local Planning Authority (SDC) on any such future reserved matters application.

SDC were possibly at fault by initially 'Validating' the application, without all the required supporting information including a 'Transport Assessment'. The application was subsequently invalidated by the LPA until such information was supplied by the applicant. A newly amended application/form, with corrected responses, including a new proposal description (minus the car parking area/community hall) and supported by a Transport Statement meant the application was revalidated and parties were given until 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022, to submit comments. (previous comments made, should still be relevant)

**Please note**, the public can submit comments (a number of times) usually up to determination of the application, as further information (such as by statutory consultees including OPC) comes forward. Should either the Otterhampton Parish Council or District Councillor response disagree (eg. object) with that taken by the LPA position on the application, then a 'delegated decision' (by the officers) cannot be made and it will be reported to the full 'Development Committee' - made up of SDC Councillors, for determination. (supported by the case officers report) One interested party (for and against the proposal), an OPC representative and District Councillor can normally each address the Committee for up to 3 minutes with their viewpoint. The next DC meetings are scheduled for 31<sup>st</sup> May and 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022. The LPA normally have 13 weeks to determine such a 'Major Application'. (This revised application was registered on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022) so things may change again. Any results from the recent Housing Needs Survey have the potential to seriously impact any determination.

Limited space in Otter Tales does not allow me to fully address the issues (thank goodness I hear you sigh!) and I recognise it is a confusing/complex situation but the above is 'my take' on the current process/situation, whether readers are for or against the application.



### **Harbour View Bar**

We are pleased to say that we are at the stage where final touches are being made to finish the village hall refurbishment! A much more prominent sign and an external noticeboard is due to be installed on the front of the hall. A big thank you goes to Shaun Parsons at Crazy Phox Design and Print.



Inside the hall, a new noticeboard has been put up to support communication to the community. This will support our other forms of updates such as the village hall website at the following link

[www.otterhamptonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.otterhamptonvillagehall.co.uk)

## Otter Wheels—we're back

It is a joy to be living in this beautiful area with country walks around the Steart Marshes and the riverside and much more, but for those with limited mobility or without access to a car it is a different story. The parish has no regular bus services other than the very limited (but welcome) EDF bus service and so getting to a much-needed doctor, dental or hospital appointment is mostly impossible by public transport.

For this reason, a volunteer car scheme was set up a few years ago within the parish to take people who do not have access to their own car, either temporarily or permanently, to doctors and hospital appointments, and lifts to the railway or bus station for those longer trips, AND shopping trips have also been undertaken. This service IS much appreciated by passengers, who are anxious to see it continue.



*Driver Tina Gardener taking passenger Peter Barnicoat to an appointment*

How does it work? Passengers who must register with the scheme, ring a dedicated number to leave a message giving details of their requirements to a journey 'coordinator' who then contacts an available driver to arrange the trip. The trips are not free, but certainly low cost and work out at about 50p per mile. For those with a bus pass the county council will refund half the cost to the scheme allowing those passengers to travel half price (25p per mile).

Of course, it all depends on volunteers to run the scheme (without payment) and particularly drivers who have a 4-door car, and who are prepared to give their time. Drivers are paid .45p per mile for these journeys. None of the drivers are full time and do as many or as few trips as they like with no pressure to do more.

Just as important are the 'coordinators' who hold the scheme's mobile phone, responding to passenger requests left on the answerphone. They email drivers to arrange a journey then forward the trip details, a particularly important job! There are other people involved too, including the highly effective treasurer who makes sure the books balance and the drivers are paid. Convivial meetings are held occasionally to provide updates and well, to enjoy each other's company in a social atmosphere. However, the scheme has taken a battering during the pandemic and has lost (not to Covid) some of the drivers and coordinators and now offers a much more limited service, not managing some journey requests due to fewer available drivers. Despite this, Otter Wheels continued to operate and even managed the schemes 1,000th journey during this period.

The team are anxious to expand again, but that depends on more volunteers including drivers and coordinators. If you can help in any capacity to support this worthy and much appreciated car scheme or just want more information, please contact Elizabeth on **01278 653308** or email [jorvik@talktalk.net](mailto:jorvik@talktalk.net).

**[jorvik@talktalk.net](mailto:jorvik@talktalk.net)**.



## Inks and Reeds Workshop 11 April 2022

The Combwich Art Group hosted a workshop in the village hall, attracting 18 participants. Artist Judith Champion introduced us to using inks and water with reed stems cut like quills to make a variety of marks and effects. After two-minute sketches on random themes, we divided a sheet into 4 and experimented with the different marks the reed quill can produce to make four abstract designs.

Judith demonstrated how an effective landscape can be created using these marks and allowing ink and water to blend and interact. She supervised as we produced our own pictures, enhancing the landscapes with brushwork and other colours, amid much cheerful chatter.

We rounded off the afternoon with a display of our efforts, while enjoying refreshments with superb cakes baked by Jean Webb. Huge thanks to Judith for her time, energy and creative skills.

**Fancy joining us?** The Combwich art group meets on Mondays from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. We are currently a self-steering group, sometimes organising extra activities, such as this workshop. We welcome new members, whatever their art experience, and there is a small fee each week. If interested, please contact either **Jean Webb (01278 653136)** or **Rachel Boyd (01278 652914)**.





## Neighbourhood Watch

Currently we are desperately short of Co-ordinators in the village to enable the scheme to function as it should. Being a Co-ordinator requires little effort and is very rewarding. It's mainly about looking after ourselves, our property and out neighbours, some of whom may be vulnerable. There are no pressures to attend local or regional meetings and seminars either. If you think you may be interested in joining us, you will find information on line, or you can contact our local PCSO Jason Wyatt at [Jason.wyatt@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:Jason.wyatt@avonandsomerset.police.uk)



*Gannet not taken at Steart Marshes, but at Bampton Cliffs in Yorkshire - ed*

Mick Bulman.

As many of you know my husband Mick passed away on Saturday 16th April 2022. The family and I would like to thank all those who have kindly sent cards and offered support at this time, it is much appreciated.

'If you would like to make a donation to ' Reminiscence Learning (a locally based dementia care charity) in memory of Mick please forward to Robson & Stephens, Funeral Directors, 60 Clare Street, Bridgwater TA6 3EN.

Yvonne

## Peter Barnicoat—Profile

Peter is a familiar figure in Combnich as he takes his exercise walking along the track and enjoying a drink in the Anchor (see photo right), Those of a certain age will remember his beautiful tenor voice as he led the singing at the annual senior's Christmas dinner in the village hall.

He was born in Truro in June 1932 and attended Redruth School where he played a range of sports. After achieving his school certificate, he left school at 17 to take an apprenticeship with GPO/Post Office Telephones, (later to become British Telecom). For a time he worked at Goonhilly Satellite Earth Station where he was able to observe the launch of one of the first satellites. As soon as his apprenticeship was completed, he was conscripted into the army for his national service, most of which he spent in Egypt, before returning to GPO/Post Office Telephones where he spent all his working life at various levels in the company.

Very shortly after he was demobbed in 1954, he met his wife Trish, at a Saturday night dance in the army reservist Drill Hall in Truro. She had journeyed from Norfolk to visit her grandparents in Truro. That night she was with someone else, but the following Saturday she returned on her own and a whirlwind romance followed. Within six months they were married in Truro Cathedral (his father was a verger). Peter and Trish were happily married for 66 years.

When they were first married, they lived with Trish's grandparents for a while, and then rented a cottage with absolutely no facilities. In 1956 they bought their first house together for the princely sum of £200. Six months later they sold it for £600 and a few years later after a few promotions at work, invested £2,000 in a large 5-bedroom house. They had two sons David and Michael, of whom he is very proud, not least because of their sporting prowess. Michel was a brilliant tennis player and toured the US and David was an excellent football player They both ring him every day.

Throughout his life Peter has been an enthusiastic sportsman, excelling in rugby and cricket which he played for his county for several years. He was no slouch at table tennis either, and once performed an exhibition match in front of Viktor Barna, who amongst other achievements was a 5 times singles world champion table tennis player. Not afraid to get his feet wet he played water polo too, and for couple of years sang in the Truro Operettic Society.

At the age of 39 he was slowing up a bit and decided to retire from rugby after getting tackled a little too often! Golf then beckoned, and he soon had an envious handicap of 9, and a 'hole-in-one' at the 12<sup>th</sup> hole, at the Truro Golf Club.

When retirement loomed (at 58) they decided to leave Cornwall as they realised their boys had permanently moved away. Driving through Bridgwater in 1994 they spotted a house in an estate agents window they took a fancy to; it was the house in Harbour Court, Combnich in which they lived together until Trish sadly died in 2020.

Trish always supported his sporting endeavours which continued long after retirement, including a spell playing cricket for Kolve's first team. She was a 'professional watcher' sometimes roped in for tea making duties.

Their holidays were often spent in their touring caravan and later a static caravan in Cornwall. Both really enjoyed living in Combnich where they have made many friends and have lovely neighbours. Peter now on his own and on the verge of turning 90 explained that he has wonderful neighbours who regularly supply him with a meal. 'I've had a good life' he says and could not imagine living anywhere else.



*Peter and Trish at their wedding in Truro Cathedral in 1954*





## Combwich Gig Rowers

Combwich Gig Rowers attended the Burnham-On-Sea regatta on 23<sup>rd</sup> April with six clubs taking part, Bristol, Burnham, Porlock, Portishead, Clevedon and Combwich. The weather held out and Combwich had 3 successful first place wins in the Mixed Vets, Mixed Supervets and Novice races, also winning best overall team. A very proud day for our rowers and it shows that the great training we have been receiving is beginning to pay off.

Combwich will take part in this year's Jurassic League with our first race at Weymouth on 28<sup>th</sup> May. If you are interested in trying out gig rowing, please contact Marie Beckley 07748 154395.







**WWT Steart Marshes**

working in partnership with



**Environment  
Agency**

## Warden's update



### Alice Beaney

Spring and early summer are an exciting time of year at Steart. It's currently nesting season and this means there are many sensitive species around the reserve with nesting birds in the water, as well as ground nesting species such as Skylark. These are easily disturbed, so please be mindful when visiting the reserve to follow any signage and stick to the paths. We know it is a great place for walking your dogs, but please keep your dogs under close control and out of any water or long vegetation to help us protect the wildlife around the reserve.

### Sam Wall

Nesting season is in full swing with an abundance of activity around the reserve. Otterhampton Marsh is now home again to its usual breeding waders including avocet, little ringed plover and oystercatcher. Other bird life spotted around the reserve includes 3 spotted redshank in the north breach lagoon in lovely full summer plumage; spoonbill, great white egret and cattle egret have also been seen out on Stockland Marsh. A return in the hirundines is also a welcome sight with plenty of swallows now arriving, along with sand martins having been regularly spotted feeding around Stockland Marsh.

## Engagement Update

### Nicole Turnbull

Just a photo for those of you who haven't yet seen the new Green Recovery Challenge Fund signage. The original willow longhorn community project involved 110 people and all of your names are on the sign. Thanks to storm Eunice(!), Willow is now lying down relaxing. She has been joined by two new calves, created by artist Sophie Courtiour with a group from the Community Council for Somerset. Contacts at WWT 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)

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





# Green Recovery Challenge Fund



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

The  
National Lottery  
Heritage Fund



Environment  
Agency



## Notable Otterhampton Parish Council Minutes

- 1919 A parish council to decide how to celebrate Peace Day—had to be tea, dinner was out of the question as meat could not be procured.
- 1936 A refuse collection was discussed, and unanimously agreed not necessary.
- 1952 After some difficulty a coronation committee was formed
- 1955 Otterhampton and Stockland finally get an electricity supply (Start the following year).
- 1957 Some allotments disappear as contractors form new road to harbour.
- 1959 Ship's engineer is involved in a fatal accident at harbour.

## Combwich and District WI *by Elizabeth Marriott*

Because of unforeseen circumstances we have moved from Stockland Club to Otterhampton Village Hall Combwich where all our future meetings will be held, our first meeting in Combwich was on Thursday 21st April.

It was a really lovely evening and our speaker was John from Freewheelers, his talk was both informative and entertaining; he arrived on his Freewheelers motorbike and we all enjoyed looking over it outside after his talk.

We all made the decision to give our WI a name and Marsh Birds was suggested and agreed, we applied to our County Federation for name change which has just been given, so we are now Combwich and District Marsh Birds WI.

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN



Here is a photo of the wonderful Jubilee bunting made by two of our lovely members Sandra and Karis which will be included in the WI tea tent at the Bath and West show.

Our meetings are always the third Thursday of the month, 7pm for 7.30pm start and our speaker in May is Lotty Dale, Treading the Wards followed by our AGM. June's meeting will be organised by the members and we are looking forward to a surprise evening.

If interested do come along to our next meeting on May 19th, you will be assured of a warm welcome.



**somerset village &  
community agents**  
part of CCS

**Community Council for Somerset (CCS),** Viney Court, Viney Street, Taunton, TA1 3FB

**Tel:** 01823 331 222    **Web:** [www.somersetagents.org](http://www.somersetagents.org)

**Email:** [info@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:info@somersetccc.org.uk)

### **May Village Agent News**

May is National Walking Month in the UK, and a great incentive to Get Outdoors in Somerset. Kick start some healthy summer habits or encourage you to move a bit more than normal!

In Somerset, we are blessed to have thirty-five miles of our coastline on the South West Coast Path route. Why not set yourself a spring-summer challenge to walk it! Find more information here: <https://www.southwestcoastpath.org.uk/walk-coast-path/south-west-coast-path-national-trail/area/somerset-and-exmoor/>.

Do you enjoy walking alone or with friends, or would you like to meet new people while you walk? The Get Outside in Somerset campaign has grown massively. It has a website packed with local groups you could join, and a Facebook group where you can share your favourite places to go. Why not inspire others to follow you! Visit - <https://getoutsideinsomerset.co.uk/activities> and select walking from the dropdown list for ideas!

More walking motivation can be found on the Somerset Day Trail map: <https://somersetday.com/2022-somerset-day-trail-map/>. May 11th is Somerset Day – a now well-established celebration of all things Somerset! Join in the activities at some of the fabulous destinations on the 2022 trail challenge. You could also win one of four prizes by submitting an interesting/wacky/fun photo of your days out or home with the Somerset flag (or bunting) flying. So why not celebrate National Walking Month Somerset style!

### **Help with Food**

As you may know, CCS Village Agents were instrumental in the distribution of food to all corners of Somerset during the pandemic. Our role as primary distributor has ended, but the many community groups we supported are still going strong!

If you need help with food, please do still contact your local CCS Agent, who will then connect you to your local group for premade meals or food boxes. Complete our online form here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p88y4z6> or call 01823 331222.

If you are part of a Community Group, the Smart Community Food Resilience Grant Fund is open for applications until 31st May. Community groups, charities, organisations, and agencies supporting or directly working to develop food resilience in Somerset communities can apply. Visit: <https://smartcommunities.online/new-food-resilience-grant-fund/>

HIS Church provides pallets of food for groups to purchase and use. For more details, costs, and delivery contact: Christine Wylde on 07771 707477 or email: [hisfood@hischurch.org.uk](mailto:hisfood@hischurch.org.uk)

FareShare redistribute surplus food from some of the UK's top food companies to more than 10,500 charities and community groups. To join the scheme for regular delivery please contact: <https://fareshare.org.uk/>

### **Talking Cafes in May**

CCS Village Agents are back in a Talking Café near you, at over sixteen locations across Somerset. It is a great place to drop in if you have a problem and do not know where to turn or are feeling lonely or isolated and would like a cuppa and a chat. Most run weekly sessions, so call us to find your local venue on 01823 331 222, or visit <https://somersetagents.org/talking-cafes/>

Our Facebook Live Talking Cafes are also still taking place every Wednesday at 1pm. Next month's discussion topics include Deafness, and guests from the Home Library Service. Tune in live or watch on catch up via Facebook or You Tube. [www.somersetagents.org/talkingcafeflive](http://www.somersetagents.org/talkingcafeflive)



## 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.

### 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

## Inside this issue

### Page 1

Platinum Jubilee and Fun Day

### Page 2

Jubilee Weekend Programme

### Page 3

OPRA

### Page 4

Parish Council

### Page 5

Your Parish Councillors

### Page 6

Guide To Planning Paul Gripton

Harbour View Bar

### Page 7

Welcome Back—Otter Wheels

### Page 8

Inks and Reeds Workshop

### Page 9

Neighbour Watch

### Page 10

Peter Barnicoat—Profile

### Page 11

Combwich Boat Club Gig Section

### Page 12

WWT Steart Marshes

### Page 13

Combwich and District WI

Notable Parish Council Minutes

### Page 14

Somerset Community Agent

### Page 15

The Anchor

Otter Wheels—Passenger Information

### Page 16

Mobile Library

General Information

## MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library visits Combwich and Stockland every four weeks on a Thursday morning. The next visit is 16th June.

Combwich Harbour TA5 2QU 10.15 – 11.00

Combwich Post Office TA5 2QW 11.05 – 11.30

Stockland 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](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**

**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**

**For information about the village hall go to [www.otterhamptonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.otterhamptonvillagehall.co.uk)**

**Otter Tales**

**Deadline for articles etc for next issue is  
Thursday 7th May 2022**

## Otter Tales

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**Published with the generous support of Otterhampton Parish Council**

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