



Welcome to Combwich

COMBWICH, OTTERHAMPTON
AND
STEART NEWSLETTER

September 2022

Issue 44

Otter Tales

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***Roger Musgrove
delivering our letters
since 1988 retires.***

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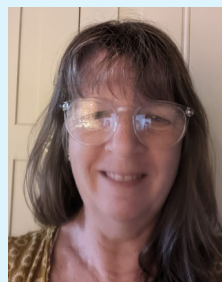
Photo by Lynne Juniper

Otterhampton Parish Council

Otterhampton Offcuts
Snipits from your July and 2022

New Councillors

We are pleased to report that we have co-opted three new councillors on to the parish council; Mike Haycraft, Connie Sanders and Amanda Gibbons. We look forward to working alongside them.



Gina Mear - Clerk

Village Walk – 4th August

The Parish Council does not traditionally hold a meeting in August but we do have a village walk to look at areas that may require maintenance or enhancement, some of the measures identified include:

1. Bus Shelter – requires work due to large cracks in the rear wall.
2. Sign Post – the damaged sign post needs to be removed.
3. Hedges and foliage – various hedges need to be cut back and foliage at the rear and side of the OPRA barn on Brookside Road needs to be removed. Other areas in the village also have foliage that needs to be cut back.
4. Road Name Signs – signs to be replaced have been identified for Estuary Park, Church Hill, Riverside and Harbour View.
5. Wharf Road wall – the wall at the entrance to Wharf Road has cracks and requires repairing.
6. Life Buoy Signpost – the signpost is in a state of disrepair and needs to be replaced or removed.
7. Play Area Footpaths – the new grit on the footpaths is very loose and requires attention.

Findings of the village walk and their remedies are to be discussed at the September meeting.

August Extraordinary Meeting

An extraordinary meeting was held to co-opt the new councillors and to discuss planning matters. A further meeting discussing work at the wharf will take place in September. The date and time will be widely advertised and there will be an opportunity to send in questions prior to the meeting.

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 details for the parish council

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Rachel Perrett	01278 652958
Tina Gardener	01278 652642
Lindsey Parsons	01278 653700
Andrew Darch (Stear)	01278 653495
Mike Haycraft	01278 653264
Connie Sanders	01278 653307
Amanda Gibbons	01278 652570
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



OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

The long awaited Grand Opening took place on Saturday 6th August with prosecco flowing and food galore - the afternoon was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to the lovely Roger Musgrove for officially opening the Hall, to the grant providers and

contractors who attended and the user groups for putting on a great display. Hopefully they managed to stir up some interest and gain new members. Photographs and an article about the Hall were even included in the Bridgwater Mercury – so the Hall is famous!

And special thanks to the grant providers who provided the cash for the refurbishment. They were:

- ◇ ACRE
- ◇ Bernard Sunley Foundation
- ◇ Fairfield Charitable Trust
- ◇ Garfield Weston Foundation
- ◇ HPC Community Fund
- ◇ Norman Family Charitable Foundation
- ◇ Otterhampton Parish Council
- ◇ Sedgemoor District Council
- ◇ Somerset County Council – Carbon Reduction Scheme

Although the Trustees are still finishing off some issues about the refurbishment, we will now be able to concentrate on maintaining and promoting the Hall. We are looking to plan some events over the next few months so keep an eye on the Events Noticeboard located near the ramp and come along and support us.

The Hall can be hired for events eg family and children's parties, skittles please contact Pete Cashin on pete.cashin@outlook.com for information. We can usually arrange for Harbour View Bar to open.

On Friday 21st October we are holding our AGM and everyone will be welcome, particularly if you would like to join the Committee as a Trustee or put forward some ideas for the Hall and future events. We always need new Trustees to provide new ideas, enthusiasm and help to run the Hall – we only meet monthly for a couple of hours. We particularly need a new secretary so please contact a Trustee if you would like more information about joining the Committee: Amber Austin, Sue Barton, Pete Cashin, Marcus Ford, Helen Jowett, Lindsey Parsons, Nicky Rowlands and our new Trustee Rachel Szaruta.



Photographs courtesy of the Bridgwater Mercury



COMBWICH MEN WITH A PEAL!

The bell ringers at St Peters Church in Combwich have been concerned for some time about their physical safety when ringing the church bells because of the rotting wooden mechanism above their heads. The problem was brought to a head when a local couple expressed their disappointment when told the bells could not be rung at their wedding.



The rector, the Rev Alison Waters desperate to sort out this problem, approached the members of the "Men's Shed" in Taunton (pictured left) for their help. After some head scratching, they managed to fix the problem in the nick of time allowing the bells to be rung.



Combwich Church bell ringers are (Left to right)
Steve Parker
Neil Church
Peter Sanders
Chris Ellis
(Chris Ponka not in photo (maybe he took the photo))

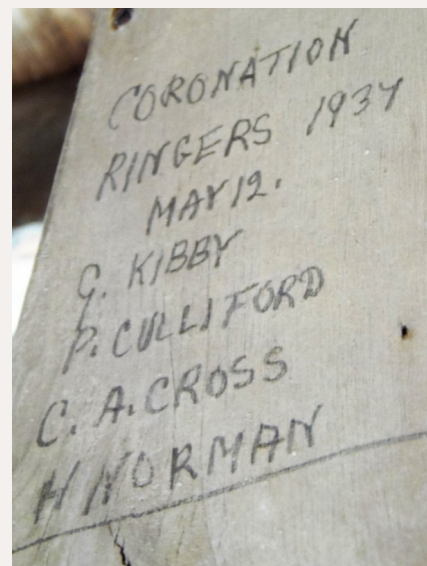


Some interesting shots of the 'graffiti' where people have written in pencil, when they rang the bells and at what event!



The picture of Steve (left) is with the 'PEAL BOARD' - looks like it was drawn up in 1920's perhaps?
Where the number on the board corresponds to the number of each bell, of which there are five. (The sixth bell being the clock chime!)

Right - Coronation of King George VI bell ringers (some familiar names)





Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

Registered Charity Number 1124017

This month has witnessed a number of local highlights including the retirement of Roger Musgrove our postie for over 30 years and the 100th birthday of Estuary Park resident Betty Hansford. We offer them both our congratulations and best wishes for the future (more about them both on other pages).

Another delightful occasion was the cream tea hosted by Aly and Robin Prowse with some help from friends. This well supported event raised £240 which will be shared between Steart Church, Macmillan Cancer Research and Love Musgrove. Congratulation Aly and Robin.

Preceding the cream tea, a number of people took a leisurely walk around the Steart Peninsular including a stop at the latest bird hide at Steart Point.



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 (Secretary)	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

Unfortunately the Murry Lister Memorial Cricket Match scheduled for August had to be postponed because of the lack of availability of some key personalities. The good news is that it is planned to take place on Saturday 17th September. Play starts at 2pm on the common and players meet at the Anchor at 1pm.

Another date for you diary is the annual Fireworks display on Sunday 6th November. This year it will be preceded by a lantern parade. So dig out those lanterns or maybe make a new one. More details later.

Sadly our large notice board, usually placed on the grass verge opposite the post office to advertise local events has been vandalised beyond repair. A new one will be purchased

Betty Hansford - Profile - 100 years old this month

Betty Hansford born on the 6th September 1922 in London to Scottish parents is still remarkably fit and active.

When she was five her parents split up and together with her mum and baby sister, Jessie (now 95) went to live with her grandparents in Bootle, Lancashire. Most of her schooling including a spell at the business school was in Bootle.

Early memories include listening to King George VI's Christmas Day speech and willing him to complete it fluently, without stammering,

Her first job after leaving business school was with Booker Brothers which was a shipping company operating out of Liverpool and when the offices were destroyed by German bombing during the war, they moved to a new building which is now a branch of Barclays Bank. During the blitz work carried on in the basement.



Fire watching was a very necessary job during these troubled times, but the "girls" were only allowed to do it on a Sunday. Although shipping was a reserved industry Betty wanted to do her bit and joined the Women's Land Army and Timber Corps, stationed in various parts of Cheshire and Wales. The arduous work involved felling trees, measuring timber, sawing pit props and also choosing and felling trees to turn into telephone poles. The work was dangerous, and she once had an axe in her back, though only requiring 3 stitches it was very close to her spine and could have been much more serious. During this period, she had first aid and home nursing lessons. Betty was also a keen member of the Civil Defence Corps.

In 1946 after the war ended, she returned to her job with the shipping company who had paid her a half salary during the time she was away and so she felt obliged to go back. After about six months she left to marry Lloyd a head forester and together they moved to Selkirk in Scotland to become head forester on a private estate. This was where her son John was born. They then moved to Derbyshire for a better head forester job, where Sheena and Barrie were born, then on to Gloucester, Hampshire and Nottinghamshire. Next was Polesden Lacey in Surrey working for the National Trust. This move provided Betty with an opportunity to work in their South East area office which included working on preparing the Commons Registration Act 1965. She also spent time working as a guide in the house.

After the breakup of her marriage in 1967 Betty moved to a flat in Reigate Surrey with Sheena and Barrie (her eldest son was in the army) and worked in the Town Clerks department during which time her divorce came through. It was here that she learned Latin American and ballroom dancing in addition to her other hobbies.

Her next job involved a few years as a secretary to a publisher of tropical fish and dog books. This involved regular attendance at Crufts and tropical fish shows in London. This was followed by a job as secretary to the General Secretary of the National Christian Education Council (NCEC) where she worked for three or four years.



In 1972 she met and married Ken who was a film editor for Anglia TV's Survival programmes. They had many lovely holidays. They were both lovers of orchestral music and went to many classical concerts.

Betty always a keen gardener, produced a new variety of geranium sanguineum which she was asked to name by the RHS. She named it South Nufield, after the village they lived in at the time. She has designed and written knitting patterns for both hand and machine knitting and had them published. She has also reared pigs and walked her beloved Labradors.

After nine happy years in Surrey, they moved to Westbury in Wiltshire to be a little nearer family. A regular church goer Betty was asked by her local church to read a lesson in Salisbury Cathedral commemorating the 60-year anniversary of the war and particularly the part women play during that time. It was a very special day.

Some 19 years later when Betty was 90 years old and with Ken's health failing, they moved to Combs. This turned out to be a wise move and they were able to benefit from help and support from their family. Ken died in 2015.

This month Betty celebrates her 100th Birthday.

Bridgwater Choral Society. The Choir's New Lease of Life.

Bridgwater Choral Society was founded in the early 20th Century and re-formed after the devastation of the Second World War. The Society was due to celebrate 70 years since that re-formation, when Covid 19 caused rehearsals and concerts to cease. In 2021 a further blow was dealt by the sudden resignation of their conductor. This was in the early days of attempting to re-open choirs everywhere after the pandemic.

Strong emotions and much sadness was felt by many, and the Choir faced folding entirely. A group of singers who did not want to see this happen, decided to try to keep the Choir going in some form, under the musical direction of Jackie Ayres, a musician of wide experience, including conducting, which she studied at the Guildhall in London. Elaine Thorneycroft Gibb also offered her support at the start of the season for which we are grateful.

The Autumn Term 2021 culminated in participation in the Civic Carol Service in St Mary's Church, Bridgwater. The conventional 4 part singing of the Choral Society was not possible because of lack of numbers, but a programme of carols and arrangements from across the ages and around the world were extremely well received, and made for a most enjoyable event. The Choir also performed at Fyne Court and Blake Court over the Christmas period.

In January, it was decided to name this new group from within the Choral Society as Harmonia. The Spring Term saw a few more members join, and through the winter, the singers enjoyed preparing suitable material, some of it arranged by their conductor. There was much illness and difficulty of ensuring a balanced sound, but with perseverance and flexibility, a most enjoyable concert took place on 22nd June in St Mary's Church with Frances Webb as our accompanist whose support we greatly value. The balance of sound, which is now that of a chamber choir, is excellent, and there is precision and clarity evident, as well as good attention to dynamics. The programme ranged from English Folk Song arrangements, Hungarian Folk Songs, classical songs by Schubert and Brahms, and John Rutter's lovely Prayer for Ukraine. There was a solo by Mary Morgan, and piano duets by Jackie Ayres and Frances Webb. Publicity for this was kept to a minimum, as Jackie suffered a broken leg just weeks before the concert! However, a very pleasant and sociable evening was enjoyed by the Harmonia group and friends and family who came to support. A collection was taken which was shared by St Mary's Church and the Emergency Appeal for Ukraine.

Harmonia has become an extremely friendly and supportive group. We welcome new members, as well as returning Choral Society members as we restart rehearsals in September 2022 for a new season of Christmas music, followed by a late Spring concert of music from around the world. Rehearsals take place at St Mary's Church Bridgwater on Wednesday evenings. For details please ring Sue Pow, Secretary, on 01278 662755 or Jackie Ayres on 01278 652060.

Roger as you will all know has been our postman since 1988 and has retired with a splendid send off in the village hall recently. Roger has become a legend in the area for his many kindnesses displayed over the years. Not only has he delivered the post and parcels, but he has kept his eye on those he thought might be vulnerable particularly during these recent difficult times.

Many people asked how can we thank Roger for his service to our community (and the post office). Helen Jowett, a prime mover in much that goes on in the parish suggested a tea and cakes event in the village hall to mark the occasion and set about with help from others to organise it. She particularly wants to thank all those who made delicious cakes and biscuits for everyone to enjoy.

A leaflet was produced advising residents of the parish of Roger's pending retirement and suggesting that people might like to make a small donation to mark his retirement and explained how this could be done.

Over £1,000 was donated to the fund organised by Hellen and was presented as a cheque at his retirement do in a packed village hall at the beginning of August. Village stalwart Paul Gripton made the presentation with a humorous speech and handed over the cheque together with a delightful painting by local artist Tom Jacobs, of Roger with his Post Office van on the Pill. Roger graciously accepted the presents and thanked everyone not only for the presentation but for their support over the years. He said he had the best job in the post office getting to know and serve the people of Otterhampton, Comwich and Steart. It was the people who made it all worthwhile.

Later Roger informed Helen that he had received another £1,000 plus, as personal gifts from residents making a total of over £2,000. The amount of money was a tangible expression of the gratitude and affection the people of this parish have for Roger. Postie Extraordinaire!

Just a few of the many tributes to Roger on Facebook

Beverly Lang Thank you to all that made today's farewell to Roger so lovely. Wonderful turnout delicious cakes & a memorable afternoon. We will miss you Rog. Thank you for being the best postie x **Kerry Mckellar** We will certainly miss you Roger! Thank you for being so great, especially after we moved 'just across the road' Wishing you all the best x **Queenie Ruth** Best postie in the world , you will sorely be missed by all especially Rocco & Rio for your yummy biscuits . Happy retirement Roger **Wendy Smith** Miss you already Rog **Felicity Ashworth** We will miss Roger. He is the best postie ever. So thoughtful and kind. Ingenious hiding places for my many many parcels, spotting me elsewhere in the village and delivering to me there. Won't be the same without Roger. Have a very Happy Retirement. You will be missed. . **Jackie Sheen** He will certainly be missed by one and all, Happy Retirement Roger, sorry we couldn't make it yesterday to say our goodbyes but thank you for everything and good luck for your new chapter ahead xx **Debbie Turnbull** Thank you Roger for everything you have done for everyone in and around Comwich. You're one of a kind. Lots of love from the Turnbull's xxx



Harbour View Bar

It's that time of year again as membership renewal is due 1st September it remains the same at £5 and guests at £1 a visit. Unfortunately, due to price rises for everything including breweries we will be making small price rises starting end of September, and on that note the committee has made a decision to close on Saturdays as we are running at a loss on these evenings. We will reopen in December as per normal, we will try in October/November on one Saturday each month to run a theme night or Quiz, (any suggestions welcome).

We are also looking for more bar staff so we can have a pool of staff for occasional shifts over 18's only, we are also looking for new committee members if anyone is interested contact Steve (chair) on bloodstorm_20@sky.com or 07875149826 or any committee member or bar staff.

A big thank you to all our regulars who continue to support us, Friday night darts is a great social event with lots of fun and laughter had by all, please come and support the HV Bar and Village Hall.

Thank you Steve Lang and Committee.



Local wildlife by *Aly Prowse*



We put the hanging basket up underneath the nest in the roof of the garage because we were worried that the youngsters would jump out trying to escape from the blistering heat of the galvanised roof during the heatwave before they were ready to fledge, as we have experienced before. They would be safe in the basket and the parents would feed them from this too. They safely fledged 3 or 4 days ago and love the view from above!



The dogs alerted me to something exciting outside the back door recently. I caught a glimpse of this little chap trying to make a run for it. I put the dogs indoors and sat in the garage waiting for the little stoat to emerge which he did after about 10 minutes. I remember as a child being asked how to tell the difference between a weasel and a stoat and being told "well a weasel is weasily recognised whilst a stoat is stotally different!"

Hi Kids

Do you want your own page in Otter Tales? Or maybe the opportunity to show off your talent.

Tell us a story, joke or cartoon and £5 will be offered to the best one in each edition

Send your contribution to Chris at chrisponkaplays@hotmail.co.uk



Combwich and District WI by Elizabeth Marriott



Our last meeting was on Thursday 21st July, what fun we had playing skittles with lots of laughter, a big thank you to our two sticker uppers local young ladies Evie and Molly also a huge thank you to the Harbour View bar who very kindly opened especially for us. We had our annual AGM after the skittles when Brenda was persuaded to remain as President for another year.

We don't meet in August so our next meeting is Thursday 15th September opening 7pm for a 7.30pm start, we have Ian Williamson giving us a talk on his walking adventures along The Silk Road, he will have lots of lovely photos to show us on the large hall screen, our competition is "an unusual holiday souvenir".

Some of our members thoroughly enjoyed a day at Sidmouth thanks to spare places on Nether Stowey WI's coach, we had beautiful sunshine all day and a very high tide to enjoy, a big thank you to Nether Stowey WI for arranging.



Saturday 6th August saw the official re opening of the village hall after extensive refurbishment and the WI as a user group was represented by Brenda and Elizabeth, they decorated a table with flowers, cakes, various crafts made at craft sessions including items made from driftwood at an afternoon class with Emma Duke, there was also an array of lovely photos including from our monthly lunches out at various venues and some of our WI celebrations over the years. We also hung the Combwich & District WI banner.



If you are interested in joining our happy band do come along to our next meeting on Thursday 15th September 7pm for 7.30pm start, you will be assured of a warm welcome.

Taking care off our village - *correction*

In the July issue of Otter Tales I reported that Helen Jowett was responsible for maintaining the lovely flower trough under the notice board (*see right*) opposite the post office.

Helen is anxious to point out that the plants are paid for by the Friday Coffee Club and are regularly watered by Jane, Peter and Robert of the post office.





Otterhampton Primary School.

Summer term highlights

Head Teacher, Claire Luce



Year 6 Trip to Crealy

To celebrate the end of SATs week, we took the Year 6s to Crealy Park in Devon for the day. The weather was kind and the children had a fantastic day at the park followed by a trip to McDonalds on the way home!



Maths Stay and Play

Mrs Mockridge organised an afternoon of fun maths activities that parents could attend with their children. The afternoon was a great success.



Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

This was the big event of the first half of the Summer term.

We started the day with the OPS Bake off! We saw an amazing 59 entries and a prize for each year group. All children and staff got to vote for their favourite!

Next, we had Jubilee crown making in our House Teams and then a whole school photo.

At lunchtime we invited all parents, carers, grandparents and friends to join us for a picnic on the field.



Year 6 Bikeability

The Year 6s took part in Bikeability and passed with flying colours.

Rounders Tournament

The Year 5/6s did brilliantly in their first ever competitive rounders tournament held at Wembdon Cricket Club. They played 6 games altogether against some of the bigger Bridgwater Schools and WON 4 of them! Overall they came 7th out of 15 schools who took part. I was very proud of their behaviour, sportsmanship and positive attitude and enthusiasm to get stuck in.



Bake off

Another triumph!



Careers Week

For the first time at OPS we organised a Careers week and what a busy week we had at the end of June!! We spent the week thinking about our futures and what careers we may be interested in. We had visits from a vet, a nurse, a chicken farmer, a construction company (Wilmott & Dixon), a therapy dog, a lady who works for Microsoft, paramedics, a social worker and an angler!!! A brilliant week!

Hillhouse trip

All classes spent the day up at Hillhouse for team building and orienteering activities.

What a busy term and I haven't mentioned..... Area sports, River and Bay Class Exeter Mosque Trip, Quad Kids sports tournament Sports Day', Year 10 Work experience students (6 students from Haygrove, Brymore and Crispin), Brook Class Swimming, Little Otters Dunster Beach Trip, Brook Class Dunster Castle Trip.

Thank you to everyone for their continued support.

We now look forward to the Autumn term and all of the opportunities (both inside and outside of the classroom) it will bring.

It's all Positively Negative

By Carol Bradbury

It seems that the end of the world may be nigh
Bills on the rise until they're sky high
Russia is trying to start World War Three
And China is circling Taiwan at sea
Temperatures soaring and tempers are flaring
Climate change buffs are constantly glaring
Forests on fire, elsewhere buildings are flooded
with gangs of thugs prowling around darkly hooded
Corruption, disruption all is doom and despair
That's all we are hearing from news on the air
But hang on a minute maybe all is not lost
We're still surviving, although at a cost
Covid's still here, but with very few dying
Recycling improvements mean we are all trying
Sporting successes to pick up our spirits
Meat's on the table, but maybe not fillets
Perhaps there is hope for us all very soon
After all we did manage to get to the moon

"There is a good story about a fictional boat race between a major British company and a Japanese crew. They both worked long and hard to maximise their performance and the Japanese won by a mile; so they set up a working party as they always do in those circumstances. And the working party concluded that the Japanese had 8 people rowing and 1 steering and the British Co had 8 people steering and 1 rowing. So, the British company employed consultants, which is what you do when a crisis of that kind occurs, and 18 months and about £5million later, the consultants confirmed that diagnosis and recommended that the British crew be completely restructured. There should be 3 assistant steering managers, 3 deputy steering managers and a director of steering services and the rower be given an incentive to row harder. And they had another race and the Japanese won by 2 miles, so they laid off the rower for poor performance, and they sold the boat and used it to give a higher than average pay award to the director of steering services."

By a famous politician (guess who?)



Welcome to The Anchor

Live Music on Sundays

Live music crosstown 17 September 8pm

No room hire fee for party bookings and meetings. Fancy have a meeting place or pop up shop

Out side catering welcome for events

Matt writes *'This is 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.'*



Open Monday to Thursday 4 to 10pm

Friday to Saturday 12 to 10pm

Sunday 12 to 5pm



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— to book a trip, but please give as much notice as you can before you need to travel. You will need to register (if you have not already done so) on this number before you can book a trip

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.

Dragonfly Hotspot Status by Nicole Turnbull

Steart Marshes has been recognised by the British Dragonfly Society as a hotspot due to the number of species (21 and counting) and the suitability of the habitat. Our launch event on 23 July was a great success, starting with the unveiling of our new information board near the kingfisher bridge by dragonfly gurus Dave Smallshire and Andy Swash. They spoke to the assembled crowd about the importance of Steart Marshes as a hotspot location, led guided walks and were also available to talk about the latest edition of their jointly authored field guide 'Britain's Dragonflies'. A rare variable damselfly even put in an appearance near the new information board!



Events on the day included walks and talks, craft, pond dipping and a treasure hunt. Willow weaving to make dragonflies was so popular that we ran out of willow by the end of the day, so this is something we will definitely be offering again in the future! Ice-creams, samphire and wooden bowls made from Steart wood were sold in the car park and I'm pleased to say that many people had a first taste of our marsh samphire for their dinner Saturday night!

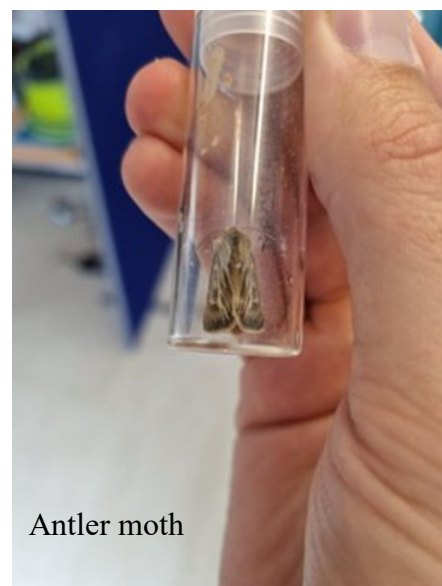
A busy day with visitors, experts and volunteers from WWT and the British Dragonfly Society (BDS) enjoying the activities and learning opportunities on offer. We are proud to be a designated BDS dragonfly hotspot!

Moth identification by Sam Wall

We ran a moth identification workshop over the weekend, where we had our own WWT moth expert, Peter Cranswick, visit the reserve to set 4 light traps around the reserve to see what he could find. In total we had about 100 species of moth by the morning including some species that are only normally found at wetlands!



Drinker Moths (*above and right*)



Antler moth



Goldspot moth



Moth identification workshop with Pete Cranswick

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

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

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

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library visits Combwich and Stockland every four weeks on a Thursday morning. The next visit is 8th September..

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/

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 3rd November 2022

Otter Tales

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