



COMBWICH, OTTERHAMPTON AND STEART NEWSLETTER

Otter Tales

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General Information

Combwich Resident

Wins Award *by Lynn Carter*

We are proud to announce that in February this year one of our residents, Sue Barton, was awarded the *Chair's Award for Service to the Community* from the Chair of Somerset County Council.



Sue has lived in the village for 22 years and during that time has been an outstanding advocate for the community. She has been a Trustee of the Village Hall since 2013, became Chair of the Village Hall Committee soon after joining and continues with those duties today. She has freely given 100's of hours of her time over the years to various projects and initiatives in the village, much of it whilst working full time.

We can thank Sue for being the driving force behind the recent refurbishment of the Village Hall, having spent several years discussing the plans with the other Trustees, residents, consultants, architects, Parish and District Councils, Councillors and trades, as well as organising much of the works, negotiating prices with suppliers and project managing the bulk of the development. Her drive and persistence in applying for funding for the Village Hall refurbishment has been phenomenal and tireless, spending months filling in forms and writing to potential sponsors in order to secure enough funds to undertake the needs and wishes of the community. Without her commitment it's doubtful we'd have the fantastic hall we have today.

She is one of the founder members of the 2011 launch of the monthly village market. She was a key co-ordinator in the organising of both the Diamond and Platinum Jubilee village celebrations and now the upcoming King's Coronation street party. Apart from writing the vast majority of the content for the Village Hall website, Sue is involved in dealing with all manner of issues relating to the Village Hall on a regular basis. She has been a prominent figure in organising fundraising events for the Village Hall and, with the invaluable help of the other Trustees, has raised £1000's over the years. On top of all this she is also a volunteer driver for Otter Wheels so we think such a prestigious award is very well deserved. Well done Sue and thank you for your continued service.

Otterhampton Parish Council

Otterhampton Offcuts
Snippets from our March and April 2023 meetings

Wharf Road Enhancements

Parish councillors and volunteers spent a morning working on Wharf Road, clearing areas, tidying up, making brashes and sowing wildflower seeds. If you would like to volunteer to help with the ongoing upkeep of Wharf Road, please contact the clerk.



Parish Councillors and volunteers at work

Somerset Council

On 1st April, the district councils and county council merged to become a unitary council. All services can be found at www.somerset.gov.uk or by calling 0300 123 2224.

Village Gardener – Keith

After 15 years of tending the village, looking after the play area and litter picking, our village gardener, has retired. We wish Keith well for the future and thank him for his hard work.

Antisocial Behaviour

If are a victim of, or witness to, any antisocial behaviour, please report it through the Avon & Somerset website at <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/anti-social-behaviour/>

Somerset Life

Combwich will be featured in the June edition of Somerset Life magazine.

Contact details for the parish council

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Lindsey Parsons (Chair)	01278 653700
Rachel Perrett (Vice Chair)	01278 652958
Tina Gardener	01278 652642
Mike Haycraft	01278 653264
Connie Sanders	01278 653307
Amanda Gibbons	01278 652570
AndyDarch (Stewart)	andydarch@live.co.uk
Gina Mear (Clerk)	01278 652499
	otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com

County and District Ward Members

Mike Caswell (County)	01278 652043
Brian Bolt (County)	bbolt@hotmail.com

Village Maintenance Day – 13th May

On this day (usually in the morning) we will be finishing the clearing of the barn on Brookside Road and then, if there is time, we will do some more work on Wharf Road. The parish council would like to thank the volunteers who have helped previously with these projects. If you would like to help us, please contact the clerk.

Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council meetings have now been moved to the second Thursday of the month so the next parish council meetings will be on Thursday 4th May, 8th June and 13th July 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.

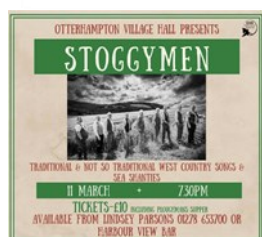
Contact for Clerk (Gina Mear)
otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com or Tel
01278 652499



Hopefully everyone is looking forward to the upcoming bank holidays and long weekends over the next few months. The trustees have been working on plans with other groups to make sure that we have as many opportunities as possible to maximise the extra time and get together as a community.



Following on from the King's Coronation on 6th May, Combwich will be the venue for the coronation celebration on Sunday 7th May between 1.50pm and 5pm. Please see the advert in this edition of Otter Tales for full details but it will be a fun packed afternoon offering an opportunity to celebrate with family and friends. There will be activities and competitions for adults and children with the option to bring your own food and drink but the Harbour View Bar will open and there are numerous food options, from cake to pizza, to purchase. We are all hoping for some sunshine so we can celebrate outside but in the event that the weather isn't kind, the event will still run based in the village hall so please come along rain or shine!



On 11th March, the Stoggy Men, came back by popular demand and entertained a full hall with a collection of West Country songs and sea shanties. Due to the success of recent events, we will be updating everyone shortly with the upcoming events through 2023. If anyone has any ideas for entertainment, they would like us to explore, please get in contact with any trustee in person or via the OVH website at www.otterhamptonvillagehall.co.uk/ contact



Thank you to everyone who took part in the Easter raffle and congratulations to the winners. A special thank you to Lindsey Parsons for arranging the raffle and organising the brilliant prizes.

Harbour View Bar

We are continuing with our monthly Saturday quiz, always fun & lots of laughs, a big thank you to our quiz master Richard Navoy.

Rock 'n' roll bingo has taken place on 2 Saturdays courtesy of Ian Rowland raising money for charity... we wish him well on his London Marathon run .

It has been a pleasure to welcome the garden club, who have been using the bar to host their monthly meetings. It has be great to see new faces.

Ladies skittles starts on Wednesday 10th May, if the bar lights are on, we are open... please pop in.

The coronation preparations are well under way, we will be open on Friday 5th May as normal and Sunday 7th from 1.30pm... pimms hour from 4-5pm...

Harbour view darts team is still up & running... match dates are displayed on the board outside.... If the team are away the board will be free for members use. Dart matches are finishing on 19th May until later in the year.

Thank you to everyone who supports the club... we are a very small committee who run around and work hard to keep it up & running.... Also our 3 lovely bar ladies, Rachel, Grace & Rachel .

If you are interested in joining our committee please let us know.

Next quiz Saturday 13th May 8pm.

The harbour view bar Committee





Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

Registered Charity Number 1124017

What a wonderful Easter weekend, it felt like spring had finally arrived with blue skies and sunshine. The perfect weather for our Easter egg hunt which took place on Good Friday. We had just over 50 children who all received an Easter egg for taking part. There were 5 entries who had all the questions correct and the winner was picked at random and won a large Easter egg.

This was followed by an Easter quiz which took place on Easter Sunday. We had a record number of people taking part and the eleven teams filled the Anchor. As always thanks go to Shaun and Mary Ryall for an excellent quiz which was enjoyed by all. It was very tightly contested with the top 4 teams only separated by a few points, it all boiled down to who played their joker on the right round.

Thank you to Matt who hosted both events for us at the Anchor and for providing raffle prizes and to Robert at the Post Office for sourcing the Easter eggs for us and also providing raffle prizes. We are very fortunate to have such generous businesses in our village.

The final thanks go to all those who supported both events and gave generously to the raffle. It wouldn't have been successful without your participation.

Our monthly walks are continuing, normally on the third Sunday of the month meeting at the Anchor Inn at 9.30am. Look out for the posters, posts on All things Combwich Facebook page and the website www.combwich.org.uk You can also email barry.leathwood@btinternet.com to be put on our email distribution list for notifications of village events.

OPRA were pleased to donate £200 to the newly formed Garden Club to help them with their start up costs, we wish them every success.

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.



Combwich & District WI - 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.

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 which happens every June, looking forward to a surprise evening.

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





CORONATION CELEBRATION

Riverside – Combwich

Crowning of the 'King of Otterhampton'

Tug O War

Ring-a-Thon

Rapid Shot

Selfie Station

Face Painting

Street Party

Competitions & Races

Food & Fun

and much much more



SUNDAY 7TH MAY 2023

1.50pm - 5pm



Mrs Claire Luce

Head Teacher



OPS Updates Spring 2

World Book Day 2023

We celebrated World Book Day by looking at the book 'Where the Wild things are' and dressing up as 'Wild things'. I was amazed by everyone's interpretation of this idea and the creativity in designing costumes! Well done parents/carers! Each class spent time with Ruby from the 'West End in Schools' team and produced a brilliant dance each. They performed them at the end of the day. Ruby commented on the excellent behaviour of our students.



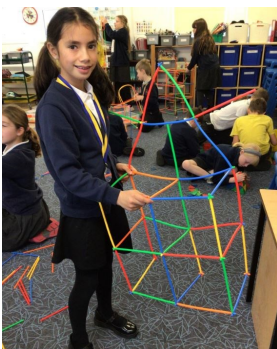
School of Rock

Years 4/5/6 had a great evening at the McMillan Theatre watching the 'School of Rock' performed by The Young Musical Theatre Company of Bridgwater. What great talent we have in our area!



Gymnastics success!!

We were very successful in the recent Gymnastics competitions at St Joseph's School. Our Year 3/4 team came in first place out of 8 schools (special mention to Gracie and Isla who came 1st and 2nd place overall). Our Year 1/2 team came second out of 6 schools (special mention to Brody and Noah who came 2nd and 3rd place overall). Go Team OPS!!



After school clubs

Our after-school clubs have proved very popular this half term. Clubs include STEM club, Craft club, Dance club, fitness club and multi skills clubs. We are able to offer these clubs for free and they are enjoyed by all.



We are looking forward to more fun filled activities in the Summer term. Hopefully the sun will make an appearance too!

Combwich Crafters Open Afternoon *by Sue Jacobs*

This was our first “open” session, and we were very pleased to see so many ladies and Gents who had popped in to see what we have been making. Our visitors enjoyed a cuppa and cake and a chat about our work. We were delighted to see that some had signed up to join us and we look forward to meeting them. For more information telephone Sue on 01278 652450

Originally Combwich Crafters were a group of patchwork and quilters. But, after our tutor left us to live in Scotland we decided to meet up as before but as a self-help craft group. This was in 2014.

It was suggested that something should be done to brighten up the village hall, so we put our heads and expertise together and designed a wall hanging. We decided to incorporate things to represent the village such as the harbour, the buoy, and otter and a heron as well as the church tower.



To raise funds for the village hall, “bricks” with villagers names embroidered onto them were sold and added under the hanging, these represented the brickworks. The hall hanging was completed and handed over to the village hall during our first exhibition in April 2017.

We did manage to meet between Covid lockdowns, but our numbers wen down. We also sadly lost a founder member Liz Hutchings. We continued to meet up, knit, crochet and embroider, learning from each other. We have also had day workshops with experts to guide and inform us. We have also had visits to Cold Harbour Mill and the Patchwork and Quilting Show at Malvern.

In August 2022 we set up a display of our work when the Grand Opening of the Hall was celebrated.



Email: otter.tales@aol.com



www.combwich.org.uk/about-otterhampton/otter-ales

Now you see them, now you don't!

Tim Jones

The mystery of the missing gates on the footpath from the end of Wharf Road to the river has been solved.

Four cumbersome heavy duty gates appeared several months ago annoying hikers and particularly dog walkers.

They suddenly disappeared a few weeks ago after EDF was ordered to remove them and "told off" by the Somerset Rights of Way team.

The gates were installed by the company without planning permission and apparently without any consultation. Two of them were constructed either side of a proposed bypass route that has not been built and does not have planning permission.

The gates presented unauthorised obstructions along a well used public footpath that forms part of the nationally acclaimed Parrett Trail.

One villager commented: "It's a pity EDF appears not to have consulted anyone about this - it almost smacks of arrogance."

EDF, who would probably maintain they installed the gates on safety grounds, says it is seeking planning permission for the bypass route and to replace the gates. Perhaps they might even consult people and install some more "user friendly" ones.



Ringin' For The King



Kate, Pete, and the two Chrises getting ready for Ring For The King

Kate has joined Combwich Bell Ringers to Ring For The King. Along with bell ringers from around the country they are getting ready to ring out the bells for the King's coronation.

Combwich bell ringers say they want to do something special. To help in this historic occasion and join in the fun by ringing the bells on Coronation Day itself or in the Celebratory Ring on Sunday 7th May, e mail bell.ringers@aol.com.

Birthday Bells

Birthday bells where rung for Tommy, Holly and Isobel.

Garden Club Continues to Grow

By Heidi Drewitt



There continues to be a fantastic turn out at garden club meetings.

Meetings are normally held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month in the Harbour View Social Club, with the exception of May's, which will be held on Thursday 11th May when Roger Musgrove will give a talk on Birds in Our Garden.

The March meeting was a busy one. The formal election of the management team was held, there was a seed swap and a raffle.

Dan Webber gave a very well

received talk on seeds. This included a discussion on using F1 versus open pollinated seeds, as well as an explanation of the process of Stratification, which will trick seeds into growing. Dan then gave out seeds of Acer Osakazuki that he stratified. Dan also discussed the benefit of saving and breeding seeds from plants that grow well within the unique microclimate that surrounds Combwich.

April's meeting was a pop-up flower show. The pop-up show was the first flower show held in Combwich for over 30 years. The flower show was won by Maria Narraway with her stunning tulips.

The club's constitution was read through, points clarified and was formally agreed.

There was a tech clinic to assist members in getting connected to the Garden Club WhatsApp group.

Dan also gave a talk on how to care for trees and the importance of mulching trees for their long-term health.

The events team will be arranging future events, including a plant stall at the coronation celebration. If anyone has any spare plants, we will be grateful as they will help raise funds for the club.



Winning Entry at April's pop up flower show



The Garden Club is running a competition open to all: The largest pumpkin by volume, the largest sunflower head by diameter and the most peculiar thing grown in my garden. Entry forms will be available shortly from the Garden Club. The competition will be judged on Saturday 9th September. Sunflower and Pumpkin plants will be available from the Garden Club coronation stall.

Garden Club would like to thank Liz Brown for selling her produce and plants at the May Community Market for Garden Club.

Thank you very much



Another Stunning Entry

M&S filming at Ferricies Farm in Steart *by Andy Darch*

On the 3rd 4th and 5th April we were so incredibly privileged to have M&S on the farm shooting an advert for their new range of RSPCA Assured Oakham Gold chicken - and what an experience it was! Little did we know when asked just over a month ago, whether we would like to be involved, quite what the 3 days would bring. This did however give us the best excuse to do a few jobs that we had been planning to do for ages, new gates, junk moved from there, and the usual strimming and mowing as spring is trying to make an appearance. Fingers were also crossed for good weather and the BBC weather app was being monitored.

The plan for the advert is to be a part of a six-part series of ads showing six different suppliers of produce to M&S, chicken being one of them. M&S are the first supermarket to sign up to sell only higher welfare chicken in their stores. The plan was to show and explain how the chicken are reared.



Day 1: The chicken were the stars and were far more comfortable in front of camera than most of us. So, with a small crew (about 15 people) they started filming the chicken in our sheds. A little worried about how the chickens would react to so many people being in the shed with them, we started filming. However, we needn't have been as they were totally non plussed with the whole situation.

The chickens seemed to perform for the cameras showing all of the things chickens have to make their time as comfortable as possible - pecking on pecking objects, jumping on straw bales and sitting on and using their perches as balance beams. Scratching and dust bathing in their bedding to sunbathing in the light coming through the windows.

The children also had their time being filmed running around the garden with cameras chasing them. They loved it and were complete naturals. Tobias actually found a Greater Crested Newt and showed the camera man. I don't think that will make the cut though, an endangered newt being poked, prodded and squeezed by a very enthusiastic 5 year old on national telly may have raised some questions!

Day 2: The chicken were the stars of the show again, closely followed by Tom Kerridge. It was an early start to catch the sunrise. We were so lucky with the weather, I do not know where the fifty or sixty people who came to the farm that day would have sheltered from the rain, also the drone shots looking at the farm over the Bristol channel were incredible. With that many people the production company had brought with them a catering van, loos and a small marquee that did not quite seem big enough for all their kit and people.



Tom Kerridge was super, we toggled him up in overalls and wellies and walked up and down the shed many, many, many times talking about what made these birds special, slower reared to help them stay healthy and less in a shed so that they also have more space. Emilie from the RSPCA Assurance team was also there on camera to pick up the pieces when dad I would forget what a feeder or drinker was and why we have all the enrichment. There were shots to camera then outside in various locations around the farm and up and down the road being followed by cameras, sound and light people, directors and producers and of course the ever-present drone above. While all of this was going on we would be grabbed by the stills team too for pictures of us doing every day jobs looking pensively off into the distance while being told 'don't smile'.

Day 3: The John Deere and Land Rover were the stars of the show with cameras strapped to them like something out of Top Gear. I will be adding precision driver to my CV now. Ironically all of the junk that we had tried to clear away the director and photographers seemed to be most interested in now - shows real character they said. Admittedly one of the pictures that I liked the most was of a rusty old slurry tanker and a hedge trimmer, who could have guessed! Then as suddenly as they had all arrived, they were gone, it was back to the day job.



The ad is planned to be aired on or near the 8th of May after a foodie program if you would like to keep an eye out for it. M&S just don't want to clash with the King's coronation and hog all of the limelight. There may also be a 2 and a half minute mini documentary add on YouTube if all goes to plan. Final thanks Alys from the WWT for helping with rushing through permissions for flying drones around the farm and to all our Neighbours for putting up with the extra bodies and vehicles about.

WE WUZ BRUNG UP PROPER!! *Submitted by an anonymous villager*

"And we never had a whole Mars Bar until 1993"!!]

Congratulations to all my friends who were born in the 1930's, 1940's, 1950's and 1960s

First we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank Sherry while they carried us and lived in houses made of asbestos....]

They took aspirin, ate blue cheese, bread and dripping, raw egg products, loads of bacon and processed meat, tuna from a can.

Then after that trauma, our baby cots were covered with bright coloured lead based paint. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets or shoes, not to mention the risks we took hitchhiking.

As children we would ride in cars with no seat belts or airbags. We drank water from the garden hose and NOT from a bottle. Take away food was limited to fish and chips, no pizza shops, McDonalds, KFC, Subway, or Nandos. Even though all the shops closed at 6pm and didn't open on a Sunday, somehow we didn't starve to death!

We shared one soft drink with four friends and NO ONE actually died from this. We could collect old drink bottles and cash them in at the corner shop and buy toffees, gobstoppers and bubble gum.

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the street lights came on. No one was able to reach us all day. And we were ok.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of old prams and then ride them down the hill, only to find we forgot the brakes!

We built tree house and dens and played in river beds with matchbox cars. We did not have Playstations, Nintendo Wii, X-boxes, no video games at all, no 999 channels on Sky, no video/DVD films, or colour TV, no mobile phones, no personal computers, no internet or internet chat rooms We had friends and we went outside and found them! We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents.

Only girls had pierced ears! We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us for ever.

You could only buy Easter Eggs and Hot Cross Buns at Easter Time. We were given air guns and catapults for our 10th birthdays. We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just yelled for them.

Not everyone made the rugby/football/netball team. Those that didn't had to learn to deal with the disappointment, Imagine that!! Getting into the team was based on merit.

Our teachers used to hit us with canes and gym shoes and throw the blackboard rubber at us if they thought we weren't concentrating... We can string sentences together and spell and have proper conversations because of good, solid three R's education. Our parent would tell us to ask a strange to help us cross the road.



The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law!

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all! And you are one of them.

Congratulations! You might want to share this with others who have had the luck to grow up as kids, before the lawyers and government regulated our lives for our own good. And while you are at it forward it to you kids so they will know how brave their parents were.

Nostalgia is a wonderful thing, but we tend to forget the cold and damp houses with outside toilets many of us used to live in. Or, the diseases, like measles, mumps, whooping cough and polio which maimed or even killed children.

There were 789 child deaths (aged 1 to 15 years) in 2020 in England and Wales, the lowest on record. This is a rate of 7.0 deaths per 100,000 population of the same age and has steadily fallen from a rate of 33.0 child deaths per 100,000 population of the same age in 1981. Ed



Age UK Somerset is an independent local charity providing activities, free services & support across Somerset & North Somerset to help with the issues that can come with getting older

Information and Advice* & Benefit Claims We provide free, confidential information and advice on a wide range of issues such as money matters, health, social care, social activities and much more to thousands of local older people each year. We can also help with welfare benefits - finding out which benefits you may be entitled to claim and then sending one of our trained Volunteers to help complete the claim forms.

Wellbeing Service This service is about ensuring that older people in Somerset and North Somerset have the opportunity to lead the very best life they can. It helps individuals feel less lonely, always listened to and given the tailored support they need to improve their quality of life.

Chat and Map offers a holistic approach to solving the issues that may be affecting the quality of life of an older person. An appointment starts with a chat to help map what daily life is like for individuals and ends with solutions to make daily life better.

Walk and Talk* matches an older people who would like to benefit from getting outdoors and being more active with a friendly volunteer

Wellbeing Friends* matches older people with volunteers who visit each week to provide some pleasant company.

Friendly Phone Calls* connects an older person, who may be feeling lonely or a bit low, with a volunteer for a chat on the phone each week.

Ageing Well* We deliver fun and sociable exercise sessions across Somerset and North Somerset, specifically for older adults, such as Tai Chi and Movement to Music, as well as Flexercise (chair based exercise) and online sessions for those who want to stay fit at home.

Falls Prevention We run Stay Strong Stay Steady sessions specifically to improve balance and strength and increase confidence - these help older people to prevent falls and maintain their independence.

Memory Connections* - Dementia Maintenance Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (MCST) We run weekly group sessions across our area which include a programme of enjoyable and stimulating activities proven to slow the progression in cases of mild to moderate dementia.

***The services marked with a * rely on Volunteer support. COULD YOU HELP? Please get in touch.**

Toenail Cutting Working in association with Somerset NHS Foundation Trust we provide a professional, friendly and good value Toenail cutting service across Somerset for over 55s.

GET IN TOUCH TO SEE HOW WE CAN HELP

T 01823 345610

e info@ageuksomerset.org.uk

w www.ageuksomerset.org.uk



Registered Charity no. 1015900



Vinney Court
Vinney Street
Taunton
TA1 3FB

Tel: 01823 331222

Email: info@somersetccc.org.uk



Website: www.somersetagents.org / www.somersetcarers.org

May Agent Newsletter

May is such a hopeful month! Longer days, warmer weather and the return of the beloved seasonal events we are blessed with in Somerset – car boots and village fairs galore!

May is National Walking Month. It is a great time to discover the many wonderful locations in Somerset – from the Quantocks to the Mendips and the flats of the levels in between. The Get Outside in Somerset team can help you find your perfect walking day. Go to www.getoutsideinsomerset.co.uk for the inspiration to put a spring in your step!

May 11th is Somerset Day! This year the team are hosting Somerset's biggest ever quiz! Take part by tuning into BBC Radio Somerset on the 12th May at 7pm. You can also host your own quiz night – download the pack here: www.somersetday.com/somersets-biggest-ever-quiz - let's all fly the flag for Somerset!

CCS Village Agents have been busy in recent weeks being part of the **Somerset Dementia Wellbeing Service Roadshow**. Come along and have a go on the Virtual Dementia simulator, giving a person with a healthy brain an insight into what dementia might be like. The roadshows are 10am – 4pm and the remaining dates are:

- 5th May - Westlands, Yeovil
- 12th May - The Edgar Hall, Somerton
- 16th May - The Bennett Community Centre, Frome
- 22nd May - Wells Town Hall
- 2nd June - Cheddar Village Hall

The Somerset Dementia Wellbeing Service is collaboration of existing dementia services in Somerset. The aim is to provide consistency, improve diagnosis and enhance support for people with dementia and their carers. Full details of the roadshow and new service can be found here: <https://somersetcarers.org/news/dementia-wellbeing-roadshow/>

Coming up in June is Carers Week! CCS Village Agents support unpaid Carers through our Somerset Carers service. Our teams across Somerset are busy organising events to celebrate these heroes in our communities who selflessly care for their family members or friends. There will be goody bags, giveaways, free workshops and fun days – the full plan can be found here: www.somersetcarers.org/carersweek2023 - we hope to see you there!

ENDS

A date for your diary

Otter Wheels AGM

Your Volunteer Car Scheme

12.15 Friday 23rd June

Otterhampton Village Hall

Come and meet the volunteers who run our very successful and much needed car scheme



Following the Coronation a special Commemorative edition of Otter Tales will be produced recording how this parish celebrated the event. Send your photos, memories and stories to otter.tales@aol.com



Email: otter.tales@aol.com

www.combwich.org.uk/about-otterhampton/otter-ales


Stearth Marshes

 working in partnership with

Environment Agency


Old English Longhorn with yellow wagtails (Joe Cockram)

Warden Update by Sam Wall

Spring is now in full flow with plenty of bird activity on the reserve. Otterhampton is seeing its usual favourite nesting waders return with avocet, little ringed plover and oystercatchers all prospecting on the marsh. Yellow wagtails, swallows and sand martins have also started to arrive with the warmer weather bringing in enough insects for them to feed on. A pectoral sandpiper, a scarce passage migrant from North America, was recently blown off course across the Atlantic ending up on Otterhampton Marsh and has been one of the highlights of Spring so far along with a rare sighting of an osprey passing through over the reserve carpark.

Community Cob Roundhouse by Alys Laver

WWT have recently obtained planning permission for a cob roundhouse situated at the heart of the Wetland Walkway a short walk from the main car park. Currently an unused area with potential to enhance the experience of visiting groups for learning and wellbeing sessions. Whilst still lacking a building, we're undertaking this exciting project in order to provide a covered area for specialist groups, local schools and Health & Wellbeing (H&WB) activities. The space will be used for talks, demonstrations, practical



workshops such as willow weaving and storytelling events etc. It will also provide a dry social area for visiting groups to have lunch, without us needing to close off the bird hides.

The cob will be a 6m diameter roundhouse, with timber and cob walls and a natural green roof. Some of the wall panels will remain part or fully open to ensure the space is light enough for groups but offer protection from the elements and privacy. Regular user groups who would benefit from a space include adults with additional needs, work

experience students and our own volunteer team of over 50 people. We also keen to run more art, craft and rural skills events based around the use of willow and other natural products.

WWT's H&WB programmes collaborate directly with the local healthcare system, working as an extension of primary health care to support nature-based approaches to H&WB; such as preventative measures, 'Green Care', nature-based health promotion, with a focus on those living with chronic illness and mental health issues. 'Blue Space' programmes such as at Stearth Marshes are being shown through research and evidence to contribute multiple benefits, including enhancing recovery and restoration, reducing anxiety, supporting physical health, increasing enjoyment of life and supporting the ability to manage mental health.

What makes this project particularly exciting is the opportunity for groups and anyone from the local community to come and get stuck in. It will involve mixing the cob using clay from the site and building the walls. Staff and volunteers are going to be trained up by a professional cob builder so we can then continue to build and train others. We will keep you informed when the time gets closer and this will last most of the summer.

Keep an eye out on Twitter, Facebook, and www.wwt.org.uk/stearth for news and events

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

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

Welcome to The Anchor

Live Music: Check the Anchor Facebook page for details of live music events. No room hire fee for party bookings and meetings. Pool table and dartboard

Open Monday to Friday 4pm bar open
Food Wednesday to Friday 6pm to 8.30
Sat 12 to 11 bar open
Sun 12 to 6pm bar open
Saturday 12 to 2pm and 6pm to 8.30 food
Sun 12 to 2pm food



Hello all! We'd like to introduce our new pub managers, Fae and Tabbie. Tabbie will be taking care of you at the front of house, behind the bar and Fay will mostly staying behind the scenes and working hard to prepare your tasty meals. They would both like to express their thanks for your patience whilst they have been settling in to our lovely pub. They have had a wonderful time saying hello to all the friendly faces of the locals.

We hope to see you all soon, The Anchor Team.



Otter Wheels

Your volunteer car scheme is here for you.

Is lack of transport a problem? Want to visit a friend or family, or go to the dentist, doctor, hospital, then maybe we can help.

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 1,200 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

Plus 50p booking fee

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

Feedback

Email, comment, feedback, and suggestions to the editor please.

Stories, articles reports, events and other items for publication in the next edition of Otter Tales need to be received by Thursday **22nd June 2023**.

Email The Editor:
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Otter Tales:

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Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information published in Otter Tales, the views expressed are those of individuals or organisations.

Articles for the next issue **Thursday 22nd June**

Mobile Library: Dates and Times.

Thursday: 4th May, 1st June & 29th June

Combwich Harbour TA5 2QU 10.15 – 10.50

Combwich Post Office TA5 2QW 10.55 – 11.20

Stockland Bristol Club TA5 2PY 11.30– 11.55

For more information about this service contact Somerset Direct 0300 123224 or visit www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries

Defibrillators can save your life.

There are two defibrillators in Combwich. One is in the telephone box, the other at the Anchor/Ship Lane wall.

Stear has one defibrillator. It is on the wall of the old chapel (signposted).

Dial 999 to call for an ambulance then follow the simple instructions. NO TRAINING NEEDED



To keep up to date with all that is happening in the parish check the various village noticeboards, log onto www.combwich.org or visit the "All Things Combwich" Facebook page. For information about the village hall go to

www.otterhamptonvillagehall.co.uk

For local history visit Combwich, Steart and Otterhampton Memories Facebook Group

To be notified of events and local information by email contact: barry.leathwood@btinternet.com.

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

Proceeds from the May market will be for Garden Club.



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& STORES**

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