



## COMBWICH, OTTERHAMPTON AND STEART NEWSLETTER

# Otter Tales



Coronation Special

**Kings Coronation Celebrations**  
Sunday 7th May 2023 at 2pm

We cordially invite you  
*Tom & Sue Jacobs*  
to be 'King & Queen' of Otterhampton for the day.

Your chauffeur driven carriage will collect you at 1.45pm on the 7th May.  
Arriving at St Peter's Church to be greeted by the bells for your  
'Coronation'.

You will then have a royal tour of the village where much waving will be  
required, arriving at the village hall to open the celebrations.

We do hope you can oblige  
TSVP otterhamptonk@gmail.com



## Getting Ready

Less than twelve months after we all enjoyed the Queen's Platinum Jubilee party, Sunday 7th May 2023 brought the community together once more with a once-in-a-lifetime celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III.

All over the country people held street parties over the extended bank holiday period and the parish of Otterhampton was no exception. Meticulous plans had been in the making since March and a team of dedicated residents gave up hours of their time to organise what turned out to be a fantastic day in the village of Combwich.



Sunday began early for those involved in bringing it together and lots of volunteers were down at the village hall or on the village green hours before kick-off, putting up gazebos, setting up stalls and getting everything ready for the street party. Fortunately, the sun was out with no rain forecast but sadly the common was so waterlogged that grass-cutting had been impossible the week before, so all the activities and stalls had to be squeezed onto the village green.



The celebrations began on the Saturday morning when more than 25 children scoured the village throughout the day, searching for the 20 hidden royal crowns. 22 entries completed the trail and it was a case of picking the winner from a hat, so well done to all who took part and congratulations to Enya Johnson for being the winner.



## King and Queen of Comwich

The party on Sunday began at 1.50pm with the crowning of our very own King and Queen for the day, good sports, Tom and Sue Jacobs. Led into St Peter's Church by a fabulous jester (aka Jan Cashin), a very authentic service was undertaken by Reverend Jan Church with a full congregation witnessing the pledge that Tom and Sue gave to the village. (Let's just hope they don't get sent to the tower for impersonating the King and Queen!) They were then whisked away in a gleaming, bunting-covered car, chauffeur-driven by a very smart Simon Briggs for a cruise around the village to undertake their royal waving duties, before arriving at the village green and officially opening the Coronation celebrations.





## Best Dressed House

Whilst all this was going on, residents Ruth and John Wake proceeded around the village and out to Otterhampton, judging the houses that had entered the Best Dressed House Competition. The standard of the entries was extremely high and made the judging very difficult, however, after much deliberation it was decided that Sue and Eddie Aherne of River View would take the prize. A mention must also be given to the fabulous efforts of everyone who adorned their property with royal regalia. Thank you for being great sports.









# OPS KINGS CORONATION AND BELL RINGING

*Written by Katy McKellar (aged 10 years)*



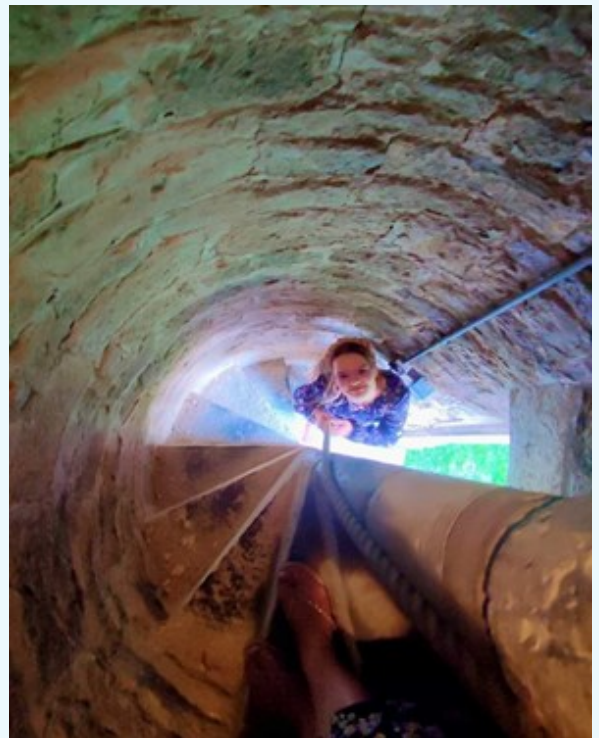
On the 6th of May 2023, King Charles III was crowned during his coronation and became our new ruler.

On Friday 5th May the children of Otterhampton Primary school (OPS) celebrated the new King in many different ways throughout the day.



We had a Great Otterhampton Bake Off. We were asked to make/decorate coronation style treats to bring into school and one of our Governors judged them. I made red, white and blue cupcakes. All of the winners won a box of Maltesers. Yum! We also split into house groups and we made party hats which we could wear during our celebration assembly. Another activity we enjoyed was drawing on squares of felt. I drew a London bus on mine. After everyone has finished colouring, we tied them all together to make a colourful piece of wall art. We will have to find a large room to hang it in, since it will have 70+ drawings on it! This will be a lovely way for us to remember such a special occasion. I learnt lots of facts about the coronation that day (who knew that the Diamond Jubilee State Coach had heating!) In the Celebration assembly, our Headteacher quizzed us all about The Royal family. At the end we all sang God save the king. To finish our day of celebrating, everyone got to eat cake and sweets which was really fun.

On the 21st April, the village coronation leaflet arrived at our house. I had a look through it and I saw that you could have a go at bell ringing. We emailed Steve straight away to see if my Mum and I could have a go. He asked us if we could come along to the 1st practice on the 28th April to try out bell ringing. We happily agreed. We went along to St Peter's Church and once we finally found where the stairs were to go up to the bells, we were amazed how steep and winding they were! When we finally got up those VERY VERY steep steps, we met people who also wanted to give the bell ringing a go and made some new friends! We got to play some simple tunes like "God save the King" and "Happy Birthday". I really enjoyed the bell ringing. Everyone was so kind and we had lots of laughs! Me and Mum went to every practice and one time Steve let me ring the bells by myself to God save the King! I enjoyed every bit of it.

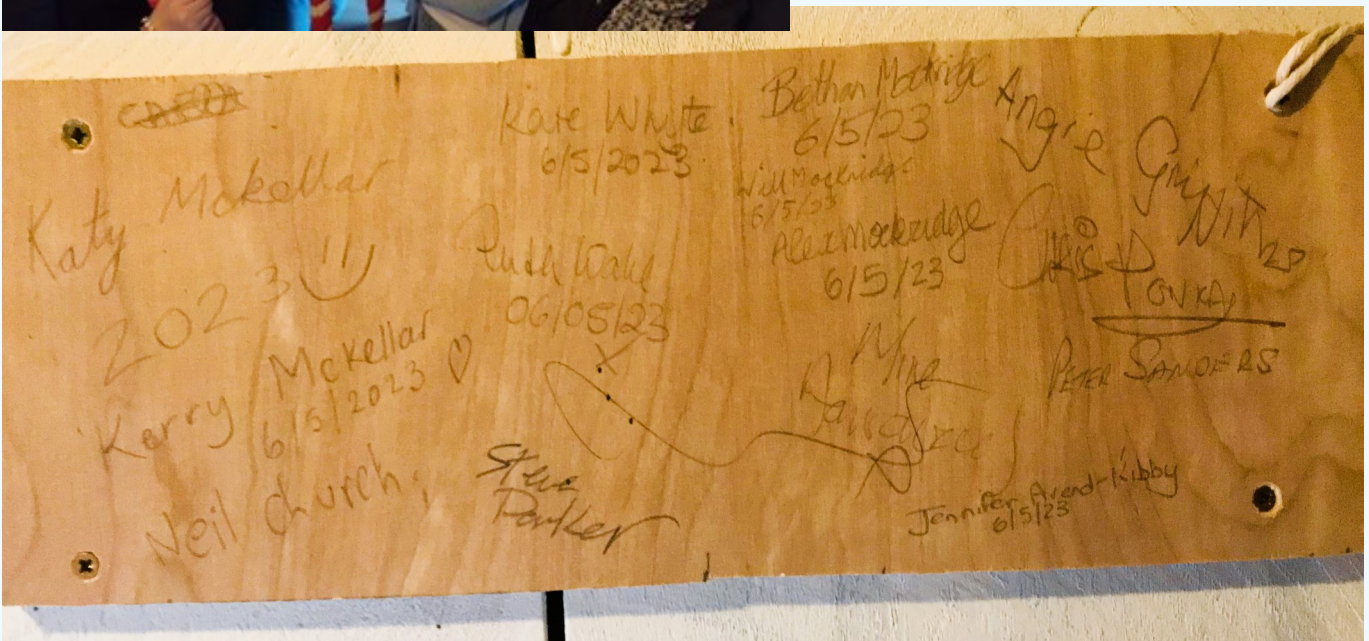
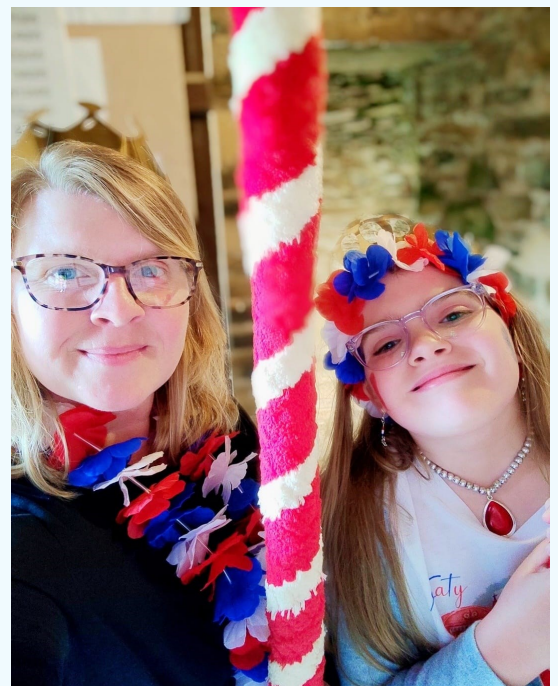




On the King's coronation day, Angela kindly gave us all crowns to wear. We then rang the bells for an hour straight, in 3 teams of 5 and got to sign a special plaque.

I was quite tired after that. Then on Sunday 7th May it was our village coronation party and we were asked to ring the bells for the King and Queen of Combwich. Once my bell ringing duties were complete, I got to enjoy a day of fun with family and friends.

I had so much happiness ringing the bells, it will be a lovely memory. Thank you to Steve, Angela, Jenny, Kate and my Mum Kerry, who were in my team, and to everyone else who helped to make the King's coronation one to remember for a very long time.





## Bell Ringing

The wonderful sound of the church bells was very much in earshot throughout the weekend. On the day of the Coronation, along with church bell towers across the country, the bells at St. Peter's rang out in celebration to mark the event. Fifteen bell ringers played a Special Coronation Ring that was written for the Queen's Coronation in 1953. This was suggested on the Council for Bell Ringers' website to perform for the Coronation and the bell ringers practiced the performance during the week. On the Coronation Day itself they played it twelve times lasting about an hour.

The performance was officially recorded on 'The Ringing World' website.

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1624955>



### Combwich Bell Ringers

On Saturday, 6th May 2023 in 60m  
Combwich (St Peter's), Somerset  
Church Hill

### 48 Coronation Call Changes

1953 Coronation sequence adapted for 5 hung bells by omitting bell 6. The adapted sequence was rung fifteen times by three teams of five bell ringers lasting approximately one hour.

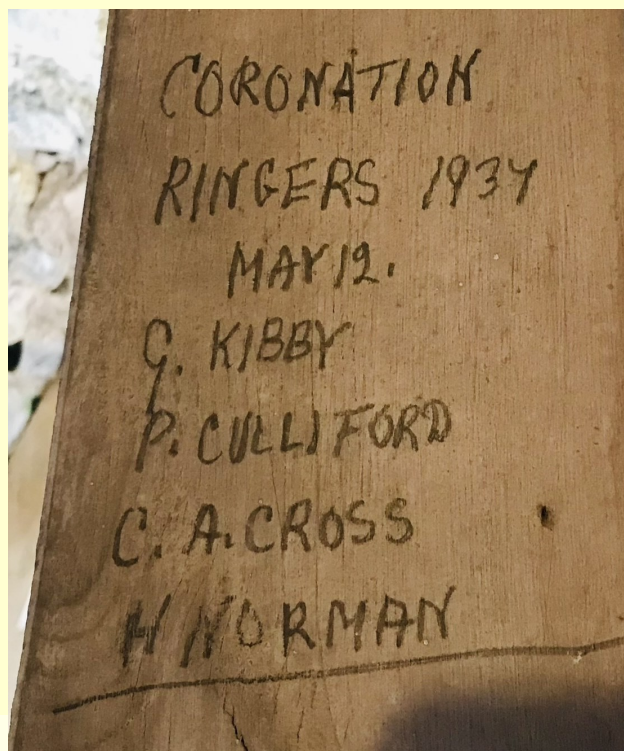
- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Katy McKellar        | 9 Alex Mockridge |
| 2 Kerry McKellar       | 10 Ruth Wake     |
| 3 Angie Griffiths      | 11 Chris Ponka   |
| 4 Kate Whyte           | 12 Steve Parker  |
| 5 Jennifer Arend-Kibby | 13 Neil Church   |
| 6 Mike Narraway        | 14 Pete Sanders  |
| 7 Bethan Mockridge     | 15 Chris Ellis   |
| 8 Jill Mockridge       |                  |

The bells were rung for the Coronation of King Charles III.

The bell ringers started and ended the performance by chiming "God Save the King".



On the Sunday some of the new bell ringers rang the bells for the King and Queen of Otterhampton. This was followed by a stream of people, too many to count, of all ages having a go at ringing the bells. Everyone had fun playing their own personal Coronation Ring-for-the-King, the National Anthem and other tunes including Christmas songs. The bells were rung frontwards, backwards, willy nilly and as fast as possible.



### Ringing the Bells. By Jennifer Arend-Kibby

It started off as seeing an advert on All Things Combwich Facebook page inviting people to come and have a go at bell ringing to finally ring the bells on Coronation Day, it also stated in the ad that if you did ring on that day your name would be added to all the the other names from the village since 1870 who had rung the bells for special occasions.....now that got me interested as I thought maybe there might be names of my father's family as he was born in Combwich. So along I went and low and behold there was numerous Kibby's names written on the board, including one that had rung the bells for the Kings Coronation in 1937. So now my curiosity filled, I actually really enjoyed taking part so much so that I am returning to ring the bells and become a member of the Combwich Bellringers.



## Street Party





Whilst we weren't able to hold some of the planned races and activities due to the Common being out of use, there was something for everyone including a ball pool and hook-a-duck for the kids superbly overseen by Andy Lyon, children's activities by Lauren Lewington, Kate Narraway and Helen Heard, face-painting by Emily Pearson, an amazing cake stall organised by Bev Lang and Lisa Williams together with their team of cake-makers and delicious food from Perry Green Pizza's and Rocky Road Kitchen as well as dozens of yummy cream teas served in the church grounds. A special mention should be given to Chloe Underwood who made the most fantastic Union Jack cake which was shared between the street party picnickers. Best children's crown prize went to Katy and Ruben.

The talented Ben Smith was there selling his hand forged ironware and lots of people enjoyed dressing up in Nick Carter's captain's uniform and taking pictures in the Selfie Station set up by Nick and Lynn Carter. We'd love to see those photos, so feel free to upload them to the All Things Comwich group on Facebook - #ComwichSelfies.







The Garden Club had great fun and did a roaring trade selling their plants and seeds and drumming up interest in the Club, but the highlight of the day was probably the Rapid Shot shooting range where both adults and children had 140 goes at shooting the air-soft BB guns. Congratulations for being the quickest at hitting 8 targets go to Connor Jewel for fastest male shot (6.3 seconds), Connie Palmer, fastest female shot (13.4 seconds) and Josh for fastest under 18 (9.4 seconds).







We couldn't have enjoyed such a great weekend without the help of our amazing community. A huge thank you goes to:

The 40+ volunteers who gave up their time before, during and after the event.

Otterhampton Village Hall for getting the ball rolling and funding the event; Otterhampton Parish Council and OPRA for further funds, including the cost of this special edition, also for lending us various pieces of equipment. A particular thank you to Sue Barton, Jan Cashin and Lynn Carter the main organisers, without whom the whole event would not have happened.

All who sent in photos and stories (sorry we could not print them all) and thanks to Lyn Carter who provided most of the text to describe the weekend events.