



# COMBWICH, OTTERHAMPTON AND STEART NEWSLETTER

# Otter Tales

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# Otterhampton Parish Council

Otterhampton Offcuts  
Snippets from our July - August 2023 meetings

## Councillor Vacancies

There will soon be vacancies for new councillors to join the parish council, please look out for our posts on the All Things Combwich Facebook page and Otterhampton Parish Council Facebook pages, or email the clerk.

## Parish Council Meetings

Parish council meetings are open to the public so if you have a subject you would like to discuss please come along or email the clerk in advance so that the matter can be discussed.



Parish Council meetings have now been moved to the second Thursday of the month so the next parish council meetings will be on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 12<sup>th</sup> October, 9<sup>th</sup> November and 14<sup>th</sup> December starting at 7.00pm, in Otterhampton Village Hall, there is no meeting in August.

## 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
Andy Darch (Stear)	andydarch@live.co.uk
Gina Mear (Clerk)	01278 652499
<a href="mailto:otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com">otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com</a>	

### County Ward Members

Mike Caswell	01278 652043
Brian Bolt	bbolt@hotmail.com

## Overhanging Foliage

If your property borders the pavement or road, we kindly ask that any overhanging foliage be cut back. We have found that vehicles and pedestrians are being forced to drive/walk further into the middle of the road in some areas.

*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](http://Combwich.org.uk) website.*

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



Thank you to everyone who attended the Otterhampton Village Hall AGM on 27<sup>th</sup> July where trustees reviewed the past year and parishioners could ask any questions over some cheese and wine.

Following the AGM, we welcomed three new trustees, Richard Navoy, Michael Narraway and Sheila Thomas. Pete Cashin stepped down as a trustee but will continue to run the hall accounts. Many thanks to Pete for all of his hard work over the last few years.

The trustees are grateful to Andy Turnbull who has arranged for some EDF workers to voluntarily repaint some areas of the hall which were not sealed properly during the refurbishment.

Please remember that we are currently looking for volunteers and trustees to join us in shaping the future of the Village Hall. If you are passionate about ensuring the hall remains a valuable community asset, please contact Sue Barton on 01278 653531 or [suecbarton@gmail.com](mailto:suecbarton@gmail.com) to discuss volunteering or becoming a trustee.

For updates on everything relating to the village hall, please look at our website [www.otterhamptonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.otterhamptonvillagehall.co.uk)





## Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

Registered Charity Number 1124017

The end of the summer is upon us and autumn is almost here. As reported in the last Otter Tales we were due to hold our annual cricket match in memory of the late Murray Lister. True to form the weather wasn't kind and rather than postpone to the following week (which may have been no better) we went ahead with an alternative cricket game at the Anchor.

Huge thanks to Matt for allowing us to use the pub and for generously donating raffle prizes. Special thanks also to Fae and Tabi who coped magnificently with the extra people who descended on them without notice! The weather did allow us to have the BBQ and refreshments outside, the OPRA BBQ wouldn't be a proper BBQ without Ray Bollen doing the cooking, so thanks again Ray. It was so good we sold out. Thank you also to those who provided cakes and raffle prizes.

You may be wondering how we managed to have a cricket match in the pub, well it was dartboard cricket! The bowling team had to get a bullseye, or 25 to get a wicket, and the batting team had to score over 40 to score runs. There were other rules as well; it got a bit complicated for me trying to keep score and keep tab of all the players who kept going to the bar! If it happens again, Tina, won't be volunteering.

The team selection played in Harrison's favour, most of his team can be seen down the social club on a Friday night playing darts and he beat Ian's team, a much younger team by 93 runs. A special mention to Steve Lang who took 2 of the 3 wickets needed to win.



The whole purpose of the event was to raise money for the Brain Tumour Charity and have lots of fun in the process. Thank you to everyone who attended and gave so generously, we raised about £450.

Apologies for those that were looking forward to the Cream Tea walk at Steart which had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. Robin kindly opened his cider shed for those that were so looking forward to sampling some of his renowned cider.

### Forthcoming events are

17<sup>th</sup> September – Walk, meeting at the Anchor at 9.30am

2<sup>nd</sup> October – OPRA AGM, 7.30pm at the Anchor

5<sup>th</sup> November – Fireworks on the common at 6.00pm

2<sup>nd</sup> December – Senior's Christmas dinner (if you've reached the magical age of 65 and would like to be invited and not already on our list, then please let any committee member know).

To keep updated on OPRA events, look out for the posters, posts on All things Combwich Facebook page and the website [www.combwich.org.uk](http://www.combwich.org.uk) You can also email [barry.leathwood@btinternet.com](mailto:barry.leathwood@btinternet.com) to be put on our email distribution list for notifications of village events.

Finally, we were extremely disappointed that someone decided to throw our notice board that was on the grass verge by Estuary Park into the brook. We managed to retrieve the board and has been dried out and in use again.

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.



## Hello from Harbour View Bar.



Thank you for your continued support & joining us for our monthly quiz. We are looking forward to our Blitz time Sally musical afternoon on Saturday 16th Sept 4 -6.30pm. Sally will be singing songs from the 40/50s and we will be serving a cream tea in the interval. Tickets are £10 including the cream tea & entry to the raffle. Look out for posters around the village. Tickets available from the club, coffee morning & Bev & Steve Lang 22 Ship Lane or email Bev at [beverly64@me.com](mailto:beverly64@me.com) or Ian [eanwills64@gmail.com](mailto:eanwills64@gmail.com).

As you know from the last Otter Tales update, we are increasing this year's membership from £5 to £6 this will help with the increasing costs of everything. CO2 gas for the pumps, alcohol prices & insurance etc. Also we ask that as a member, if you bring a guest you pay a £1 fee for them. The jar is on the bar.

Steve Lang has been chair of the club since 2019, and helped with overseeing the refurb & getting the club up & running after covid. We had a larger committee then; unfortunately they had to step down. Ian & myself (Bev) joined the committee in 2020, and after numerous requests for new committee members we have had no takers.

We feel at the moment we are living our lives round the club & not the club around our lives. We are very grateful for those who have stepped up to help in the past, helping behind the bar on a busy shift or generally being there for us.

With this in mind as from the end of this year the current committee will be stepping down for personal reasons. It is a good time to hand over as the club is running well and it would be great to see some new faces at the helm. Steve is happy to continue briefly into the new year to enable a handover, etc, and we would all still be available to help out where we can

It would be a great shame if it had to close. Feel free to come in and chat about what it all involves or e mail us.

Kind regards from the committee.

## 1st Garden Club Outing

*By Louise Bailey with Sue Ayley and Joan Selway, Connie and Pete Saunders, Maureen and Chris Lloyd-Williams and June Young.*

A very pleasant warm sunny morning was spent by nine members in Cannington Walled Gardens. Thanks to the organisers, we had lifts to Cannington and entry at a reduced price.

On arrival we spread out and met around interesting plants and flowers by a seat or brightly coloured borders. Later rain threatened and the glasshouses were a treat to explore. Unusual trees, climbers and shrubs in the tropical house, with a lovely hot humid atmosphere. Coffee bushes, Banana Palms, Hibiscus, Climbing Hoya, ones I recognised. The dry cactus house is full of very prickly balls and spikes including a large imposing Prickly Pear. You keep carefully to the path in there.

Some of us were disappointed with the labelling, I only saw one. It would be nice to know the names of the unusual and exotic plants. I would have liked to know what apples they grow. We did see a few weeds, the volunteers have a lot to look after.

We all finished up in the cafe for drinks, snacks and "Happy Chatting".





## Sharn Hooper – Profile

Did you know that we have a national and internationally known professional cyclist living in our village, neither did I until very recently. Sharn, is a Physiotherapist, she works in the NHS and provides physiotherapy privately through her business 'Aspire Physiotherapy.' She also teaches Pilates classes the village hall on a Wednesday at 6.30pm.

Born in Guernsey before moving to Plymouth, Portsmouth, Manchester and finally coming to Comwich. Still in her 30s, she has already had an incredible athletic career.

In her early 20s she was a keen climber and spent summers climbing in various locations including the Alps. Then took up triathlon and represented Great Britain at Age group levels winning a number of including:

European Cross Triathlon Championships  
(Bilbao, Spain) 2022 - Gold medal

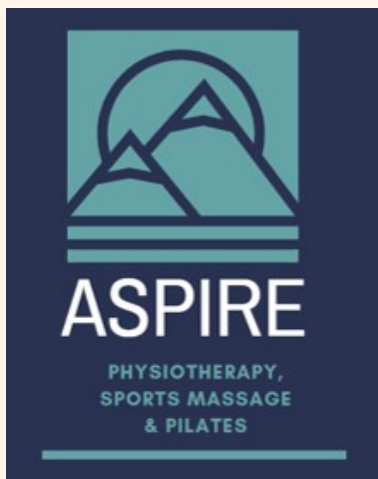
World Cross Triathlon Championships  
(Canada) 2018 - Silver

European Cross Triathlon Championships  
(Switzerland) 2017 - Bronze

European Cross Duathlon Championships  
(Romania) 2016 – Gold

She has also competed in Ironman triathlons involving a 2.4-mile swim, 112 mile bike ride, followed by a 26 mile marathon.

Recently Sharn has concentrated on cycling and this summer she was selected to represent Great Britain in the Elite Mountain Bike Marathon World Championships in Scotland.



Other events she has taken part in include:

Quantock Quake Mountain bike event 2022 (first rider not on an electric bike!)

Transalp Mountain bike stage race - 7 days mountain bike race across the Alps

Many local MTB events (and podiums)

On top of all that she loves bike packing and encouraging women in sport. She also has her own business "Aspire" and provides physiotherapy, sports massage and Pilates services locally. If you would like to book an appointment or join a class please contact her: [aspirephysiopilates@gmail.com](mailto:aspirephysiopilates@gmail.com)



## Combwich & District WI - *Elizabeth Marriott*



On June 13th we had the privilege of seeing the amazing "Red Dress" which is an international collaborative embroidery project created and co-ordinated by Somerset based British artist Kirstie Macleod. To date 366 women and girls and 7 men from 51 countries have worked on the dress which is made up of 84 panels of burgundy silk dupion and weighing 44lbs.

The silhouette of the dress is internationally strong and empowered, and has been exhibited around the world.

The people of different countries - the embroiderers - may not have been able to understand each others' language, but they were able to communicate through their embroidery.

The dress has become a vehicle for expression and a platform for voices to be heard. So on 13th June this incredible Red Dress was brought to Woolavington Village Hall by Kirstie for 180 WI members to admire.



At our July meeting we had a most amazing speaker, Ursula Franklin, and heard her talk about "Mission Penguin". She has seen 17 of the 18 recognised species so far in her travels covering the Galapagos, Peru, South Africa, Tristan da Cunha, Australia, New Zealand, the Falklands and Antarctica, her next trip is back to Antarctica to see the 18th species of the Emperor Penguin. We thoroughly enjoyed the fabulous photographs and talk.



We have no meeting in August. Our next meeting is on Thursday 21st September 7pm for 7.30pm start, we have Alison Jacobs talking about "Alison's Amazing Art Adventure" and our meeting October 19th is our fun skittles evening. If you are interested in joining our happy band, do come and join us at our next meeting, you will be sure of a warm welcome.

## Post Office and Shop Closing

We are sorry to hear that the shop and post office are closing after many years of service to our community. We wish Peter, Jane and Robert well for the future.

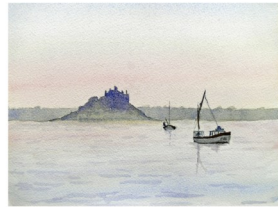
The closure will no doubt have a considerable impact on the village and the wider area.

We understand the issue will be considered by the parish council at their next meeting which is on Thursday 14th September at 7pm. The meeting is open to the public who are encouraged to attend.





*Somerset Art Weeks open studios  
16 th September to 1st October  
Tom's Studio at 8 Church Hill*



*Will Be open 11 am to 6pm daily  
But Closed on Mondays.*

Combwich has its own acclaimed artist participating in Open Studios. Tom Jacob's (Venue 58) studio will be open and people will be able to see his range of drawings and paintings.

Tom works mainly in watercolour, pen and wash. He produces city and landscapes, portraits of pets and people. He also does studies of the village, the local area and Parrett scenes charting the ever changing landscape.



## SOMERSET OPEN STUDIOS 2023

Somerset Open Studios and Art Weeks Events, is an annual countywide event highlighting the visual arts and crafts around the county.

Open Studios is the largest visual art event in Somerset with over two hundred artists participating in a hundred and fifty eight venues this year. This year Somerset Open Studios returns across the county and artists will open their studio doors. Visitors will be able to see their work, their studio and meet the artists.



COMBWICH, OTTERHAMPTON  
AND  
STEART NEWSLETTER

# Otter Tales

The deadline for the next edition will be Thursday 9th November, with distribution the last weekend of November.

This will be a Christmas edition so please have your Christmas stories and event to submit

## Rachel and Gary Perrett's Adventure

### Lands End to John O' Groats

Both recently retired and wanting to do something special, preferable something involving cycling. Rachel came up with the idea of cycling from Lands End to John O' Groats (LEJOG) on their newly acquired eclectic bikes in four stages, and after Gary's initial shock at the idea, he suggested if they were to do it, it should be in one go. So, it was decided, and the great adventure took shape.



They were indulging themselves, but wanted to do more and they came up with the idea of raising funds for the Pituitary Foundation ([www.pituitary.org.uk](http://www.pituitary.org.uk)). Why the Pituitary Foundation? Back in late 1989 Gary was diagnosed with a Pituitary tumour, in the centre of his head. This involved cranial surgery, initial drug therapy and then 10 years of being introduced to hormones and lots of medication adjustments. When he was better he and Rachel ran the southwest Pituitary Support group based at Musgrove Hospital for over 7 years.



After much planning and preparation, including many long and hilly day cycle rides, they finally set off on 9th July from the very busy (with tourists) Lands End for a short section to Marazion. Day 2 was tougher with lots of rain and hillier route to Newquay. Although they had previously had practice runs with their new bikes, this was different with full pannier bags adding to the weight. An electric bike doesn't do all the work, you have to pedal and dial in support from the motor on the hills, and make good use of the gears. On one occasion Rachel forgot to change gear on a steep hill and had to return to the bottom of the hill to take a run at it, this time in the

right low gear. Gary nicknamed her "wrong gear Rachel".

The weather wasn't always kind driving rain and winds knocking them sideways and schedules to maintain. Accommodation had been booked well in advance and so whatever the weather they had to complete that stage in order to get a bed for the night. Arriving at the destination wasn't the end of the working day, some days they rode on muddy paths and the mud built up under the mudguards and had to be stripped, cleaned and serviced.

By Day 8 the first stage 'Lands End to Combach' was completed and the second stage to Penrith started. The first stop was in Bristol where they met with representatives of their charity the Pituitary Foundation (see photo right).





The third and fourth stages took them from Penrith to Aberfeldy and then Aberfeldy to John o Groats.

Along the way they met with friends and family all spurring them on. They travelled through beautiful and challenging countryside, steep and sometimes gruelling hills but often rewarded when they reached the top by amazing views. However, not all their route took them through the countryside. Manchester with its busy and dangerous roads (for cyclists) and almost never ending urban sprawl seemed to take for ever to get through.

The much needed rest days (between stages) were often meeting up with friends or family for a meal and recuperation. During their journey they met lots of wonderful people, on one occasion when planning on stopping at a café in Scotland for a welcome tea break only to find the café closed, the owner nevertheless put the kettle on and made them a brew.



Finally on day 29, a final ride from Thurso to John O' Groats on a lovely sunny day. What a relief! Soon after son Simon and girlfriend Charlotte arrived to drive them home.

This is just a few words about Gary and Rachel's Adventure, to read more and see the many photos of the trip go to <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100092894286700> and if this inspires you to donate to the Pituitary Foundation go to <https://www.pituitary.org.uk/fundraise-and-donate/make-a-donation/>

Or, if you prefer, give the cash or Rachel or Gary who will pay it in for you.



To



## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH OTTERHAMPTON

A recent meeting took place at All Saints Church in Otterhampton, with the local representative of the Churches Conservation Trust and three members of the local community to discuss the possible future of this church. Below is a summary of information and discussions from the meeting.



All Saints Church in Otterhampton, Somerset, dates from the 14th century. It is recorded in the National Heritage List for England as a designated Grade II listed building.

A church was established on the site in the 12th century, valued at £5 in 1291, although the current building largely dates from the 14th. The Perpendicular west tower was added later and has an Elizabethan bell-frame with 4 bells, one of which dates from the 16th century and two others are dated 1617 and 1737. The original dedication was to Saint Peter, however it was later renamed All Saints.

The interior includes a Norman font with a Jacobean cover, a screen from the 16th century, and 17th-century communion rails.

It was declared redundant on 1 March 1988, and was vested with the Churches Conservation Trust on 2 August 1989.

All Saints currently has permission from the Church of England for up to six Sunday services each year, plus an unlimited number of occasional services. In the past two years the Church has hosted one evensong service and one funeral.

### Summary of community consultation meeting 1

A Church Plan meeting was held at Otterhampton All Saint's Church on Friday 4th Aug 2023. Present were the Local Community Officer (LCO) and 3 members of the community

#### 1. Services and Events

There historically is one service a year at All Saints church. The LCO had spoken to the local incumbent before the meeting and a service was happening on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August. Apart from occasional visiting bell ringers no other events happen at Otterhampton but there was interest with regards to holding a concert or possibly a flower festival next year.

#### 2. Walking Routes

The group mentioned that All Saints is on a walking route. The route that runs from near All Saints to Otterhampton School is called 'Coffin Way' and could potentially be part of a circular walk linking with Combwich and Stockland.

#### 3. Maintenance Issues

Part of the plaster ceiling in the vestry has collapsed and there is lots of dust and cobwebs in the nave. Roof tiles are also missing from the nave.

#### Action Plan

##### Community Action

Inform LCO of the contact details for someone at Somerset CC who could potentially help with promoting a walking route.

##### Local Community Officer Immediate Actions

LCO to report fallen roof tiles to Estates Officer (EO).

LCO to find out whether the bell tower is still open for bell ringing and if there is an insurance policy for members of the public to go up into the bell tower.

LCO will keep the group informed about a potential concert at All Saints next year.

##### Local Community Officer & Community Medium Long term Actions

Investigate potential for scheduled cleaning days

Investigate options for recruiting additional volunteers and community members, particularly for organising events, activities and services, and general fundraising

Consider means for increasing additional public interest, footfall and consequent donations

Investigate possibility of one or two church services a year



Review methods for promoting church to historical, archaeological or ecological societies, and inclusion in local heritage trails or walking/cycling routes.

Consider the suitability of the site for Camping

Identify means and suitability of Christmas card sales

Consider potential for introduction of venue to prospective new participants for events, hires, group visits etc.

Investigate participation in Ride & Stride scheme

Investigate musicians, artists, theatre companies or poets who might wish to use the church

Discuss potential for regular church related features, parish newsletter and inclusion of church updates in parish council meetings

Contact nearby Hill House Christian Centre to investigate whether they would be interested in using the church

If you would like to contact the Churches Conservation Trust regarding this recent meeting, or any of the proposed actions, or to be involved with All Saints Church, then please email:  
mleverett@theccct.org.uk

## Prayer Group

Please come and join us

every **THURSDAY**  
morning at **9.00am**

to  
**Pray**

At  
**St Peter's Church  
Combwich**

From Rev Jan Church  
Contact no: 07733433526

## Praise and Worship Service

**St Peter's Church, Combwich**

On the

**Second Sunday of the  
Month**

**@ 6.00pm**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME  
Coffee and Cake after.**



Paella day in the village hall and common



## Combwich Ponds - update

In March 2022 we thought the battle to reopen the footpaths around the Combwich Ponds would finally be won after their arbitrary closure in 2007 by the landowners, Bridgwater Angling Association (BAA). Somerset County Council (SCC) which has responsibility for these matters, after 14 years deliberation, finally ruled in favour of our village campaigners.



Having considered all the evidence that the footpaths had been used since 1928 without hinderance, made an Order that they be reopened subject to confirmation in April 2022. Unfortunately, a last-minute objection was made, presumably by the BAA which meant that the matter has to be referred to the Planning Inspectorate for final adjudication. We still do not know the nature of the objection. As far as we are aware the Council (now called Somerset Council) are still sitting on it.

After two Freedom of Information requests we were advised in April 2023 that the case is unlikely to be referred to the Planning Inspectorate for at least the next 18 months. Even when that is done, it will take several further months before we finally have a decision.

The primary reason for the delay is the former Somerset County Council, which is now Somerset Council. Questions need to be asked about the competency of this council.

*For those who have moved to the village in the last few years, the approximately 9-acre Combwich Ponds situated behind Estuary Park, and the circular footpaths around them had been used by the public for as long as anyone can remember. Documentary evidence provided in April 2008 demonstrated continued use since at least 1928.*

If you want further information about this please contact me on 07879 810077 or email [barry.leathwood@btinternet.com](mailto:barry.leathwood@btinternet.com)

Barry Leathwood

### Bridgwater Tidal Barrier Scheme

Creating a community resilient to flooding and coastal change



Somerset Council



Environment Agency



Heart of the South West



Department for Education



HM Government

The Bridgwater Tidal Barrier scheme, developed by the Environment Agency and Somerset Council is designed to protect Bridgwater and the surrounding area against tidal flooding.

The whole scheme comprises: Constructing a tidal barrier on the River Parrett, next to Express Park, Bridgwater Improving existing downstream riverside flood banks and constructing new secondary flood banks

For more information:

[www.somerset.gov.uk/beaches-ports-and-flooding/bridgwater-tidal-barrier/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/beaches-ports-and-flooding/bridgwater-tidal-barrier/)





## Garden Club Barbecue.- *Maria Narraway.*

Tea, garden, coffee, does a good day need anything else? Members of Combwich Garden Club voted for a summer BBQ which took place on Saturday 29th July.

The venue was Combwich boat club kindly suggested by Trevor. The weather was 'concerning' during the day but the sun came out for the evening event.

Garden Club members breezed in clutching items of food and drink and hunkered down to enjoy the feast ('twas a bit windy).

The river views and lively conversation mixed well with mouth watering aromas coming from the BBQ. As no-one trusts a skinny chef we were all pleased to see Mike in charge of the cooking. Suitably attired in apron and gloves Mike cooked the food to perfection.

The serving table was laden with magnificent salads, cous cous, pasta, potatoes, tomatoes, rice prepared by Margaret and if that wasn't enough there was another table of the most delicious deserts.



As the sun went down, people wandered home, satisfied and full, surrounded by good friends and a great BBQ.

Many thanks again to the boat club. (and requests for the same again next year).

## Orchids - *Heidi Drewett*

Keeping Orchids was the topic at the August Garden Club meeting.

We covered the basics of orchid care, such as the conditions they like, repotting, feeding and watering, as well as growing orchids in terrariums and I brought in some unusual orchids for people to see. (photo: *Restrepia falkenbergii*)

I also looked at the problems and pitfalls to avoid when purchasing orchids. The commonly named "million flowers orchid" is a mini *Phalaenopsis* (moth) orchid which fetches a considerable price tag. The plant is forced on to produce as many flowers as possible. As a result, it produces a terminal flower spike out of the crown, so it can no longer grow and will eventually die. Before buying an orchid check that there is not a terminal flower spike. The normal position for the flower stem is from underneath a leaf.





# WWT Steart Marshes

working in partnership with



Environment  
Agency



**It's all about the mud at Steart – a rich, carbon-storing habitat for wildlife and a large focus of our work on site!**

A few weeks ago we had a visit from the Bridgwater Fire Service who carried out a mud rescue exercise on Otterhampton Marsh for their own training. They kindly allowed staff and volunteers to observe and we all learnt some valuable lessons about what to do and what kit is available if the worst was to happen.

You may have noticed we have been carrying out dredging works on Otterhampton Marsh to deepen inlets and lagoons, removing silt after 10 years of build-up. This will increase resilience to drying out and improve the habitat for feeding birds. All removed silt will be reused for landscaping, on the flood bank and to create small islands.

**PLEASE** can we make a plea to dog walkers to clean up and remove all dog waste from the site. Two incidents this week involving bags of dog mess hidden in long grass have highlighted the importance of this issue. One of our wardens was splattered head to toe whilst strimming, and the mower ran over another bag which contaminated the equipment and left shredded plastic blowing around.

**Dog mess is a biohazard** and can cause some very nasty diseases. Please help to protect the environment and our staff and volunteers who work the site every day. You can use the general waste bin in the car park and there are dog bins at the Combwich entrance to the site. Thank you



-----Keep an eye out on Twitter, Facebook, and [wwt.org.uk/steart](https://www.wwt.org.uk/steart) for news and events

**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)

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

Email: [otter.tales@aol.com](mailto:otter.tales@aol.com)

[www.combwich.org.uk/about-otterhampton/otter-tales](https://www.combwich.org.uk/about-otterhampton/otter-tales)



## 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

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	£1.75	£3.50
Bridgwater Bus Station	£4.00	£8.00
Musgrove Hospital Taunton	£9.75	£19.50
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 9th November 2023.

Email The Editor:  
[otter.tales@aol.com](mailto:otter.tales@aol.com)

## Birthday Bells

If you would like to have 'Happy Birthday' played on the church bells

Email [bell.ringers@aol.com](mailto:bell.ringers@aol.com)

## 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



## Otter Tales:

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Published with the generous support of the Parish Council  
 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 by **Thursday 9th November**

## Mobile Library: Dates and Times.

**Thursday:** 21st September, 19th October, 16th November

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

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

[www.otterhamptonvillagehall.co.uk](http://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](mailto:barry.leathwood@btinternet.com).

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

Proceeds from the market will be donate to charity.

Ring Liz on 01278 652687



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