



# COMBWICH, OTTERHAMPTON AND STEART NEWSLETTER

# Otter Tales

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# Otterhampton Parish Council

Otterhampton Offcuts  
Snippets from our June -July 2024 meetings

## Annual Parish Assembly

The Annual Parish Assembly was held at the end of May and representatives from some of the organisations within the parish attended and gave the councillors a report of their business. If you would like to attend next year's assembly please contact the clerk.

## Common Track – Potholes

The work on the track to fix the potholes from Ship Lane to the slope has now been done.

## On Your Bike – Community Cycling Project

The parish council has been contacted by this project and to see if we wish to take it further, we are looking for expressions of interest. The Dr Bike service includes doing bike safety checks, giving advice and making minor adjustments where possible. The average check/time for a bike is 15 minutes. Where time permits, the mechanic may replace some essential parts such as brake blocks or cables, but there is no obligation for them to do so. More extensive repairs will need to be booked at their local outlets in either Bridgwater or Taunton. Their mechanics are happy to work on bikes in front of the bike owner and explain the issues they find. More information about the project can be found at [www.on-your-bike.co.uk](http://www.on-your-bike.co.uk) If you would to register your interest please contact the clerk on the email address below.

## Fly Parking

We would like to acknowledge the huge improvement in fly parking at the entrance to Combswich. On some days the number of cars parked near the bus stop made it dangerous for cars turning into the village. We appreciate the support from EDF and SPS to tackle this matter.

## Antisocial Behaviour

At the end of May, there was an attempted break-in to a van on Brookside Road. Please be vigilant and make sure vehicles are locked at night.

We have been made aware of children knocking on doors late at night, throwing stones at wildlife and smashing jam jars which are on sale in a roadside honesty stall. The police will be asked to step up patrols in the area.

## Dog Fouling

Again, we have been made aware of dog fouling

## Contact details for the parish council

### PARISH COUNCILLORS

Lindsey Parsons (Chair)	01278 653700
Tina Gardener	01278 652642
Mike Haycraft	01278 653264
Connie Sanders (Vice-Chair)	01278 653307
Carol Bradbury	01278 652313
Steve Parker	01278 653045
Dave Dodge	<a href="mailto:david.dodge@gmx.co.uk">david.dodge@gmx.co.uk</a>

Gina Mear (Clerk)	01278 652499
	<a href="mailto:otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com">otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com</a>

### County Ward Members

Mike Caswell	01278 652043
Brian Bolt	079708 55990

in and around Combswich where cattle are grazing. Consuming dog faeces can be fatal to cows so please clean up after your dog. If you witness an owner not picking up after their dog, please report it to the dog warden at [www.somerset.gov.uk/environment-and-food-safety/report-dog-fouling/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/environment-and-food-safety/report-dog-fouling/)

## 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 take place on the second Thursday of the month so the next parish council meetings will be on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 10<sup>th</sup> October, 14<sup>th</sup> November and 12<sup>th</sup> December starting at 7.00pm, in Otterhampton Village Hall. There is no meeting in August.



*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 [Combswich.org.uk](http://Combswich.org.uk) website*

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



## Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

Registered Charity Number 1124017

Chair Tina Gardener 652642 - Secretary Carol Bradbury 652313

### T20 COMES TO COMBWICH COMMON

It was touch and go whether we would be able to cut the common and prepare the cricket pitch in time for the annual cricket match in memory of the late Murray Lister. Luck was on our side and the common dried up enough and with the hard work put in by Mike and Melvyn, it was prepared and ready for 1<sup>st</sup> June. The weather was kind to us and we had a record attendance. Thank you to all or regulars. It



was great to see a lot of new faces spectating and playing cricket. I hope you all enjoyed the day and will be back next year.



An excellent BBQ as always run by Ray Bollen ably assisted by Di. The refreshment tent was manned by Sue, Mary and Tina, who did a roaring trade in teas, coffee and cakes. There were also plenty of donations for lager, cider and Pimms. There were more children this year and we will make sure we are better stocked with non-alcoholic drinks next year. We also held raffles which were very generously supported. In total we raised a staggering **£645.15** for the

Brain Tumour Charity, so, a huge thank you to you all.

No cricket match would be possible without umpires and what a magnificent job Brian Hutchings and Frank Waghorn did,

After suffering 2 successive defeats, Ian Newberry captained the winning team this year and won in great style. The losing team captained by Harrison Cornish were all bowled out and had to bat again to get through their 20 overs. No doubt Harrison will be seeking his revenge next year.

A big thank you to the OPRA committee for all their help on the day and even bigger thank you to everyone for playing and supporting the event so generously.

Hopefully our monthly walks will commence in September and then our next main event will be the November Fireworks.





## JUST WHY? by Katy Mckellar (11 years)



I suddenly thought the other day...

Why are some foods named after a country they don't even come from? Like for example,

French Fries. You would think FRENCH Fries come from FRANCE wouldn't you? But no! They come from Belgium. Why aren't they called Belgian Fries? Also there's FRENCH toast which you would also think is from FRANCE but the first known recorded recipe for French toast comes from Rome around 300 A.D. Why isn't it called Roman Toast? I swear the people who named these foods must have been drunk or something. You might be thinking "Katy, that's not too bad, it's only 2 out of the billions of foods that were named wrong." But you are so incorrect. Let me tell you some more. There is...

English Muffins- its from America.  
Scotch eggs- it's from England.  
Hawaiian Pizza- it's from Canada.  
German Chocolate Cake- it's from America.

Russian Dressing- it's from New Hampshire.

London Broil- it's from America.

Baked Alaska- its from New York City.

JUST NAME THE FOOD AFTER THE COUNTRY OR PLACE ITS FROM! NOT A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ONE!!!!



### quick note

Hi! Sorry I haven't written much this time. I've been really busy with transition days and SAT scores and all of that sort of stuff. Thanks for reading and I hope you've learned something new!

### **Damien Boyd - Author** (A WI Event)

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June a book signing with Damien Boyd, a former local solicitor and now author of crime novels, was organised by Comwich and District WI. Originally in the planning our WI had the idea of inviting, other local WI groups, then it was decided to open it up to the village of Comwich. It was a brilliant event enjoyed by over 60 people attending. Damien's talk brought smiles and laughter amongst the audience. Refreshments and a raffle were provided by the WI. We have received lovely comments since the event and we look forward to organising the next one, watch this space!





## Brownie Special!

I was invited along to a meeting of the 1st Combwich Brownies on Monday June 10<sup>th</sup> as there was going to be a special presentation of awards as they had requested some photographs.

I arrived in the middle of the meeting to find fourteen Brownies with their two leaders Liz and Karen and leader in training Jennifer just finishing off their Be Well Skills Builder Challenge. Divided into two groups, the older ones had been learning how to deal with burns as part of their First Aid stage 3 skills builder and had various parts of their limbs covered with cling film, while the younger ones were learning how to boost their self-esteem by becoming super heroes as part of their Feel Good stage 2 skills builder and wearing face masks and lots of tags. Some of them then told me about the exciting weekend they had had at a sleepover in North Petherton Community Centre with other Brownies from the Bridgwater District. Named Night at the Library, they had taken part in a number of different activities associated with books and characters from books. One Brownie had already got the badge she had achieved sewn onto her uniform. Comprising 5 different segments, it was very impressive



The Brownies then played a game before the main event of the evening, which was their usual termly awarding of badges, but this was to be a special one as I was about to find out. The Brownies are run in a very traditional way, so they got into their groups, called sixes (with the now updated names of Unicorns, Dragons and Phoenix) and skipped into a ring like formation singing a rousing song. The Division Commissioner, Tamsen Wetherall, who had been present all evening, was then invited to present the badges, with the names announced by Brown Owl (Liz Brown).

There were several badges given out for attending extra activity days, most notably a session at Flip Out in Wellington and a recycling event in Wembdon.

Molly, Ava, Esme and Hope were awarded with their first anniversary badges to mark a year since making their Brownie promise. Autumn received two badges which meant she had completed her Silver Award and received a badge and certificate for this

Then came the highlight of the evening. Liz explained that the highest achievement a Brownie can now receive under the new programme devised by Girlguiding is the Gold Award. She explained that due to covid some girls had to delay joining Brownies, so had had to work extra hard to do everything required in the time available to them. Layla and Isla were the first two Brownies since restarting after lock down to have achieved this and Tamsen congratulated them on this achievement while very proud parents were watching.



We all thought this was the end of the presentation but Tamsen announced that she was going to re-present some badges that had been awarded at a recent guiders award evening to celebrate the hard work of guiders in the division. Firstly, Karen received her 25 years' service badge, followed by Liz getting her 50 years. Tamsen congratulated them both, and after taking some more photographs I took my leave, leaving the Brownies looking forward to the rest of their activities for the term, which will culminate in a sleepover at Dartmoor Zoo at the beginning of August. Before this event they were looking forward to a trip to the

cinema and an end of term picnic at Ramscombe.

Brownies is open to girls from 7 years old and there will be spaces for next term. Please register your daughter on the Girlguiding website or contact Liz Brown 652687 or Karen Barton 652673. Ed.



## Garden Club



### Garden Club on the Radio 5th August

Garden Club will feature on Sedgemoor FM for five evenings from Monday 5th August at 6.15pm.



### Garden Club 13th August

Maggie Pope from the School of Herbal Medicine will be giving a talk and presentation about the medicinal uses of herbs and herbal medicine. Maggie has a practice in Somerset and grows and wildcrafts many of her own herbs which she prepares in her own pharmacy. Entry: Free to Garden Club Members. £ 3.00. For Non Members.



**THE SCHOOL of  
HERBAL MEDICINE**

*'continuing a living tradition'*

### Garden Club 10th September

Club Nite: Gardener's Question Time with Dan and Steve covering topical garden issues. Make your own Terrarium with Heidi. Bring your own container.

### Flower Show Trophies will be awarded for:

Most Points: Flowers Foliage, Vegetables and Fruit  
 Most Points: Flowers and Foliage  
 Best Flower : Classes 4-9  
 Vase of Garden Flowers  
 Rose in A Vase  
 Bee/Butterfly Friendly jar of Flowers  
 Best Vegetable  
 Runner Beans  
 A Collection of Vegetables  
 Best Fruit  
 Most Points: Preserves and Baking  
 Best Preserve  
 Best Cake  
 Best Beverage  
 Friendship Bracelet made with flowers  
 Garden on a Plate  
 Piece of Artwork ' My Garden' Under 5s/ 5-8/9-11  
 Decorative Clay Tile Over 16s and 15 and under  
 Best in Handicraft and Art  
 Photograph: "Village Life" under 15s  
 Most Points Overall  
 Best in Show  
 House Entry: Scarecrow / Plant Pot Sculpture  
 The Most Peculiar Thing!



Garden Club Flower Show is on the 7th September. It will be the first Flower Show in the village since 1991. Entry Forms and Schedules will be delivered across the Parish. They are available on the garden club website [www.cosgardenclub.com](http://www.cosgardenclub.com)



**Trophy winners from the 1990 Show**

## Roses in December *by Florence Chant*

*(5th abridged instalment of her childhood memories of living in Combwich before the 1st World War)*

### HEALTH SERVICES / BIRTHS AND DEATHS (Abridged)

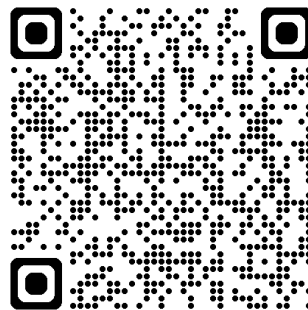
The village of Combwich had no resident doctor and no certified midwife.

The health of the villagers was the responsibility of one doctor who lived at Cannington and one at Stogursey. Messages could be left at a cottage asking the doctor to call on his next visit to the village. These visits occurred about twice a week but in case of an emergency a messenger could go either to Cannington or Stogursey requesting an immediate visit. The doctor would then come as soon as possible riding in his smart, highly polished trap drawn by a spanking pony. When medicine was needed it had to be fetched from the doctor's home either two, or four miles away.

It was not the custom in humble houses to have the doctor at confinements. Often the only attendant was an unqualified midwife. This was a good thing since the Doctor often took so long to come that the delivery was effected before he could take charge of the situation. Dr. Mottram always came from Stogursey to attend my mother in her all-too-frequent confinements but she was attended also by an unqualified midwife named Mrs. Johnson, a comforting, kindly motherly soul devoted to the care of her patients and their families. She took a proprietary interest in our family and would sometimes invite us, "her children" as she regarded us, to take tea with her in her little cottage on the common. It was in her home that, when I was about six years old, I first became acquainted with a phonograph. I remember how astonished my brother and I were when she slipped a black cylindrical record into place and turned a handle and lo! there came the sound of a man singing in a thin, cracked, tinny voice:

*"Why can't they have the sea in London  
Why can't they have the seaside there? In  
the beautiful summertime London would be  
mine If they only had the seaside there."*

We were filled with amazement and could talk of little else when we got home.



*Click on the QR code above to hear the song*



The amazing thing was that we even survived since as babies we must have inhaled and swallowed millions of germs daily. We were all bottle-fed, the food consisting of diluted and sweetened cows' milk taken from a teat attached to a bottle by a long rubber tube and a piece of glass tubing leading to the milk. Sterilisation was a difficult, if not actually impossible. I do not remember that any of the babies suffered unduly from digestive troubles. I must however admit that three babies did not survive early infancy.

There were many superstitions surrounding the birth of a child and its early upbringing though I only remember two in which my mother believed. The first was that it was unlucky for a baby to see its own reflection in a mirror and the other that misfortune would follow if a little child's finger-nails were cut with scissors. They must be bitten short.

It was not customary for young babies to be allowed to take any kicking exercises until about the age of four months when they ceased to wear long, constricting garments. It was quite an important day when the baby was first "short- frocked". Boys wore dresses until they were about three years old when they were "breeched" and first wore trousers. Our little brother would then be the proud possessor of a pocket in which Father had put a penny, much to the delight of the recipient. The babies were "wheeled out" to take the air in a high, yellow, two-wheeled mail-cart which was not exactly accident-proof. I once tilted a rather big baby into the brook across the road. Luckily he floated on the fairly shallow water and rescue was easily effected.



From birth I had suffered from a severe squint which distressed my parents very much as well as being the cause of my suffering a great deal of unhappiness from the teasing of other children at school. My parents decided, when I was seven years old, that I must see a consultant oculist at Bristol Eye Hospital and plans began for my Father and me to travel by train for his purpose.

This was a tremendous adventure for me as I had never even seen a train. We were to stay for ten days with my Uncle and Aunt at Westbury-on-Trym. It was exciting for me to see fields, houses and stations rushing by as I sat entranced on the journey. When we arrived at Templemeads Station there was a barrow-boy selling fruit in the station fore-court. I pointed to some golden-yellow fruits, the like of which I had never seen before, and asked my father what they were. He said they were called "bananas" but sadly we couldn't buy any as they were too spicy (my Father's word for "expensive").

There followed an exciting long ride on the top platform of a tram or a bus.

I was taken the next day to the Eye Hospital where we were refused an operation as other treatment must first be tried. Spectacles were prescribed and I had to wear a black shade over my "good" eye for two hours each day in an attempt to make the "lazy" eye work harder. I detested wearing the shade as other children made fun of me. Three years later the School Doctor paid the first of his annual visits to the school. Each year he sent me to Stogursey School to see the school oculist who was visiting there.

I always had to wear spectacles and it was not until I was sixteen years of age and hoping to become a teacher that I was able to have the operation at Bristol to correct the squint. I was filled with happiness when, after about a month in hospital, for the first time in my life my eyes were beautifully straight.

Scarcely anyone in the village visited a dentist until he was racked with toothache. He would then either walk or ride to Bridgwater and invariably return minus one or two teeth. It was some years before anyone in the village heard of the possibility of having teeth filled. When this treatment in time was undertaken it was at first a clumsy and very uncomfortable procedure.

If children needed to have tonsils removed they were taken by their mothers by carrier's van to the hospital at Bridgwater. The operation would take place and the children be brought back in their mother's arms in the evening of the same day.

When a person died in the village a messenger was sent at once to the parish vergers to arrange for him to toll the passing bell at Otterhampton Church. On the day of the funeral the coffin containing the body was invariably borne on the shoulders of six bearers from Combach across the parks to the churchyard outside the Parish Church. The family mourners and friends dressed in deep mourning formed the cortège to complete the sad procession. It was always found possible to buy new clothing to wear at a funeral because practically everyone for the full period of adult life contributed a few coppers each week to an insurance company in order to provide funds necessary to ensure a "decent burial". It was considered a dreadful disgrace when a "pauper's funeral" was the last resort. Floral tributes to the departed were made by the mourners themselves of flowers from their own gardens or generously provided from the Squire's gardens.

When I was about eight years old a little girl of four died in a cottage in the park. The stricken parents asked six small girls, including me, to act as bearers. Dressed all in white we bore the little child to her resting-place. As far as I know this was the only occasion when this kind of procedure took place.

[Older people] had precious little opportunity to make provision for old age, unless their young relatives were willing to care for them, for many there was the prospect of ending their days in the Union workhouse at Bridgwater. It is easy to imagine the deep misery gripping the hearts of husbands and wives when on entering the precincts they were banished to their separate quarters perhaps never to meet again in this world.



Mrs Claire Luce

Executive Headteacher

<http://schoolstreets.org.uk/>


## **Summer 2 updates from Otterhampton Primary School**

### **Scholastic Book Fair**

We held a book fair at the end of March which raised over £200 which was spent on books for the library.

### **School Streets**

This initiative started on 3rd June and has been a success so far in keeping the children safer on School Lane. School lane is now closed from 8.25am until 8.55am and then in the afternoon at 2.55pm until 3.25pm.



### **New logo**

We are now proudly sporting our new logo! (top right)

### **Careers week**

A fun filled week of career related visits and visitors at the end of June. NFU, Farmlink, RNLI, UK National Hydrographic Office, a beautician, Steart Marshes volunteers, a DJ and Dental Hygienists to name a few. River, Bay and Ocean classes also had a trip to Hinkley Point Visitor Centre and a tour of C Site.



### **Longleat**

Whole school trip to Longleat end of March. Fun filled day of animal spotting. We dodged the showers and managed to fit so much in. One of the highlights was the Jungle Cruise and spotting the sea lions.



### **Year 5 trip to Police HQ**

Year 5s took a trip to the Police HQ at Portishead. They looked smart in their Mini Police uniforms. They had a talk from a call handler, visited the Police Museum and met the Avon and Somerset Chief Constable! A really informative day for them



### **Somerset County cricket Day**

We took a group of children to the Schools Day at the Somerset County Cricket ground to watch Somerset play against Warwickshire.

We still have lots to look forward before the end of term - Every class is attending Hill House for an Activity day, we have our annual sports day and our end of assembly where we will be saying farewell to our current Year 6s.

Have a great summer!

Claire







## CANNINGTON FOOD PANTRY

Cannington Food Pantry was set up by members of the Cannington United Reform Church (URC) on 22/11/22 at the time of the cost of living crisis alongside a warm space. We recognized a need, especially for people who have no transport and are unable to get to the Food Bank in Bridgwater.

It is open to anyone from Cannington and all surrounding villages to use at times when the church is open and is located in the foyer, where there is also a collection box for donations of food. It provides tinned and packet goods to those in need. You do not need a food bank voucher, nor do you need to be on any benefits. We also have chilled food nearing its use by date in our fridge, fresh fruit and vegetables and dry goods nearing or past their best before date. Anyone is welcome to take this food to avoid it going to landfill. The pantry relies on donations of food and cash to keep functioning. As many of you know I try to regularly raise money for it on my stall at Combwich market.

Having spoken to several people in Combwich, I know there is a genuine desire from people to help. With this in mind we are hoping to position a collection box in the village hall for people to place donations of food (tinned and dry goods, nothing fresh) This will be emptied on a regular basis. Items currently needed include baked beans, tinned peas, carrots and potatoes, fruit juice (especially apple), squash, tinned meats and fish, UTH milk, pasta, rice, jars of pasta sauce, noodles, breakfast cereals and any toiletries.

Of course, we also welcome anyone who is struggling to come and make use of the facilities.

At the moment the opening times are:

Monday 2.00pm to 4pm .Tuesday 9.30am to 2.30pm Thursday 10.30am-11.30am

Sunday 9am – 11am

Please watch this space for more information.

Any queries please contact Liz Brown 652687

## What we've been up to!

Kevin Little joined us in May and shared his 'fishy tales' with us. He recalled his experiences as a fishmonger and his visits to Billingsgate market. Billingsgate being a very busy market where fish was unloaded from ships on the Thames. Historically they were not allowed to work on Sundays but as mackerel needs to be processed as soon as possible permission was given from the church to open on Sundays, hence the expression 'holy mackerel.' Kevin also explained the smoking process of red herring with 8 weeks of salting and 6 of smoking. A very informative evening, thank you Kevin.



June 20<sup>th</sup> was our members evening and as such was organised by the non-committee members. A cream tea was provided for all and thoroughly enjoyed. Gail, who is a W I member and parenting specialist with Bristol City Council, gave us an insight into her role. This entails putting on workshops for parents who are struggling with behaviour within their families. They have a variety of courses for different age groups starting from 3 to 18. Families are referred from Social care, CAMHS and schools and the team have worked hard to ensure that families are able to self-refer.

At the end of June the lunch club visited The Bistro, Clayland Corner. A lovely location, lovely atmosphere and lovely food!!

# Combwich and District WI



## Dates for your diary!

No meeting in August

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Sept – Lottie Dale 'Falling with Style' – competition – Interesting piece of jewellery

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Oct – Games evening in the bar – no competition

Why not come along to one of our evenings and see what happens.

We welcome visitors and new members to join us at our meetings which are held on the third Thursday of each month in Otterhampton Village Hall, doors open at 7.00 ready for 7.30 start.

*For more information contact Connie on 01278 653307*



## Harbour View Bar

The past few weeks at Harbour View have been bustling with activity. We've had the pleasure of welcoming new members into our community, celebrating several birthdays, and even shared in the collective suspense of watching England's football matches together. Though the games were nail-biters, the camaraderie among friends and neighbours made it memorable. **We even had a visit from the main man himself, come on Harry!!!!**

One of the highlights, our first ever family skittles night. This event turned out to be a tremendous success, drawing enthusiastic participation from both long-time residents and newcomers. It was heart-warming to see new families enjoying our facilities, creating a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere that we hope will continue to grow.



Looking ahead, we have more exciting events planned for everyone. Be sure to keep an eye out for our upcoming activities. Your participation and support make these gatherings truly special, and we can't wait to see what the future holds for our wonderful community.

Thank you to Mike and Paul for the new sign, it looks amazing.

The annual Paella Day is back August 25th please look out for ticket information and times. Hope to see you there !!!!!

### Dates for diary

25<sup>th</sup> August – Paella

21<sup>st</sup> September – Race Night

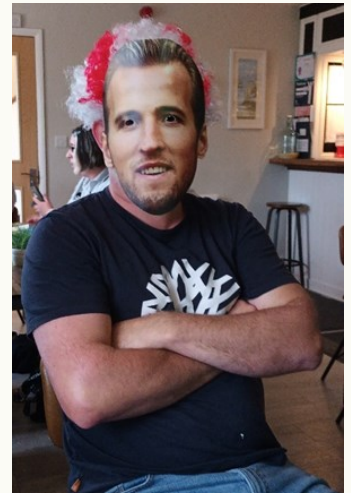
19<sup>th</sup> October – Oktoberfest

23<sup>rd</sup> November – Quiz

7<sup>th</sup> December – 70s/80s disco

**We are hiring!!**

**We are looking for weekend bar staff,  
shifts to be discussed. Please contact  
Marie for further details  
mbeckley@mail.com**





## WWT Steart Marshes & Bridgwater Bay NNR

We are delighted to announce that we are now fully staffed for the **Species Survival Fund** projects on site with 4 new members of the team. Over the past week we have welcomed Project Manager Jessie, Assistant Engagement Officer Olivia, and Assistant Wardens Katie and Kathy.

You might see us out and about counting and identifying! As part of the Species Survival fund projects we are carrying out wildlife monitoring to get baseline data before we begin making large scale habitat improvements. Great crested newts have been found in freshwater on both Stockland Marsh and up in Bridgwater Bay.



More information about the planned habitat improvement works and engagement projects will be coming over the next few weeks, so watch this space!

# SPECIES SURVIVAL FUND



Funded by  
UK Government

Heritage  
Fund

Our Tap to Donate machine is still out of order but if you want to support us we can take donations in the office. We are also selling ice-creams, wildlife guides, pin badges and wooden bowls.

**Dragonfly Day at Steart Marshes**, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August, 11am-3pm

We are planning a fun day of walks, activities, craft, and learning all based on dragonflies! More details coming soon.

**Health Walks** every Monday at 2pm and Thursday at 10am – contact us for more details.

Keep an eye out on Twitter, Facebook, and [www.wwt.org.uk/steart](http://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 & Learning Manager:** Nicole Turnbull 07717 342061 [nicole.turnbull@wwt.org.uk](mailto:nicole.turnbull@wwt.org.uk)



## Church Services

4th August 11.15 am -12.05 pm.

Family Service at St. Peter's Church Combwich

11th August 6.00 pm - 7.00pm.

Informal worship Service at St. Peter's Church Combwich

18th August 11.15 am - 12.15 pm

Eucharist at St Peter's Church Combwich

18th August 2024 5.00 pm - 6.30 pm

Evensong at All Saints Church, Otterhampton

1st September 11.15 am -12.05 pm.

Family Service at St. Peter's Church Combwich

8th September 6.00 pm - 7.00pm.

Informal worship Service at St. Peter's Church Combwich

15th September 11.15 am - 12.15 pm

Eucharist at St Peter's Church Combwich

## 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

## 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 1,600 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
Blackbrook Business Park	£8.25	£16.50
<i>Plus booking fee</i>	50p	£1.00

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 12th September.

Email The Editor:  
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)

## Otter Tales:

Editor: Barry Leathwood. Assisted by Steven Parker.

Distribution: Bob Birkenhead email:

[Birkenhead.bob@gmail.com](mailto:Birkenhead.bob@gmail.com)

Articles for publication: email [otter.tales@aol.com](mailto:otter.tales@aol.com)

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 12h September**

## Mobile Library: Dates and Times.

**Thursday 8th August, 5th September**

Combwich Harbour TA5 2QU 10.15 – 10.50

Combwich Shop TA5 2QW 10.55 – 11.20

Stockland Bristol Club TA5 2PY 11.30– 11.55

## Defibrillators can save your life.

The Combwich defibrillator is positioned in the telephone box.

The Steart defibrillator is positioned at Ferrices Farm.  
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](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 donated to charity.

Ring Liz on 01278 652687



## Village Shop Open - Shop local - Use it or lose it

### Opening hours

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 1.00pm and 2.00pm till 6.00pm

Saturday 9.00am till 1.00pm



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

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