



COMBWICH, OTTERHAMPTON AND STEART NEWSLETTER

Otter Tales

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General Information



New post box arrives after delay. The cheapskate Royal Mail provided an ER rather than a CR box. Combwich celebrated the coronation of the King, (See Otter Tales "Coronation Special"), and the village is awarded an out of date post box exactly 12 months after the Coronation. That is not right. That is wrong.

Located at corner of Brookside Road and Nursery Close

Otterhampton Parish Council

Otterhampton Offcuts
Snippets from our February -March 2024 meetings

OTTERHAMPTON OFFCUTS

Snippets from your Parish Council Meetings, April - May 2024

Correction - Flooding on Brookside Road

The flooding on Brookside Road was caused by blocked culverts and drains. The new pump has already been used and has prevented the flood water entering some houses.

Community Shop

A steering group has now been set up and the parish council will be supporting them. A note from the chair of the steering group can be found on page 5.

New Councillor

We are pleased to welcome Steve Parker in joining us on the parish council. We wish him well and hope he enjoys his time as a councillor.

Re-election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

At the recent annual meeting of the parish council, we were pleased to re-elect Lindsey Parsons as chair and Connie Sanders as vice-chair.

Annual Audit

The parish council's finances have been audited by the internal auditor and no issues were found. This will now go to the external auditor.

Common Track – Potholes

We still do not have a date for this work to be done but will post an update as soon as we do.

Trees

New trees have been planted at Crossways and near the brownie copse.

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 13th June, 11th July, 12th September 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

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
Dave Dodge	07306 243368
Gina Mear (Clerk)	01278 652499

otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com

County Ward Members

Mike Caswell	01278 652043
Brian Bolt	079708 55990



Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

Registered Charity Number 1124017

Chair Tina Gardener 652642 - Secretary Carol Bradbury 652313

Our last OPRA activity took place at Easter. It kicked off with our ever-popular Easter egg hunt on Good Friday, for once the weather was kind us and we had 61 children taking part. Thank you to Neil Church for setting this year's questions, there were a couple of questions that caught most children out and we only had 4 completely correct answer sheets. Evie Oliver was drawn at Random and won the large Easter Egg. Well done to everyone who took part including the parents!

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.

This was followed by the adults' quiz, normally held on Easter Sunday but moved to the Saturday this year. There were 7 teams taking part and it was a tightly fought contest once again and the top 4 teams were only separated by a few points. As always, a huge thank you to Mary and Shaun for another excellent quiz and to Matt for hosting both events at the Anchor.

Our next event will hopefully take place on Saturday 1st June at 2.00pm and will be the Murray Lister memorial cricket match. The common has been flooded a number of times and we've only just started cutting the common so we're hoping that the pitch can be prepared in time. We would like as many of you as possible to attend and to help raised funds for the Brain Tumour Charity. Last year we had to abandon the cricket match and instead had a cricket darts tournament held in the Anchor when we raised a staggering £476.53. The plan is for cricketers to meet at the Anchor at 1pm for team selection. Even if you do not wish to take part you can still come along and enjoy the afternoon, there will be plenty of refreshments including a barbecue, teas, coffees and cakes and for a donation there will be ciders lagers and pimm's available. We will also be running a raffle. Any raffle donations and cakes will be greatly appreciated. Please remember to bring plenty of cash as we can not accept card payments.

That's not cricket!



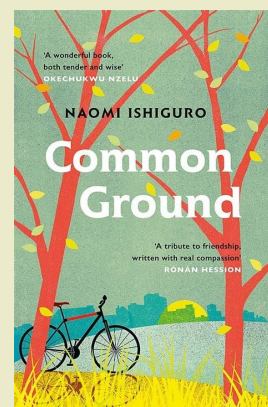
Here, let me show you how it's done...

Combwich Book Club

Book club met on the 11th April in the anchor with some new members joining in. We discussed 'Raging Storm' by Ann Cleeves. There was a mixed response to this latest crime fiction which is set in Devon. Ann Cleeves is best known for writing 'Vera' and 'Shetland' so expectations were high. Although not everybody enjoyed all aspects of the story, it did provoke some lively discussion. At the May meeting we shared examples of 'self help' books which seem to be very popular. Once again the group had a lively discussion.

The group chose to read 'Common Ground' by Naomi Ishiguro for the next book club which is on the 13th June.

Thanks to Eloise and the Anchor Inn for hosting our meetings. New members are always welcome to join in the discussion, share books and hopefully have a good evening.

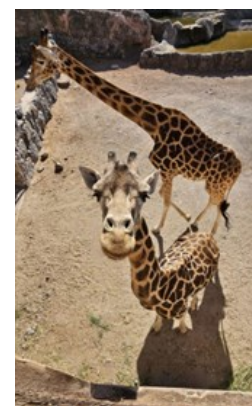
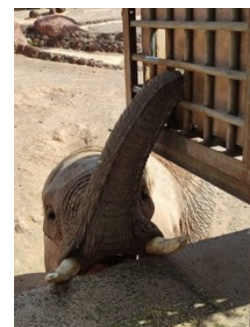


My Experience At The Oasis Wildlife Park!

by Katy Mckellar (11 years)

During the Easter holidays, my family and I enjoyed a holiday to Fuerteventura. One day we decided to go to the south of the island to visit The Oasis Wildlife Park in La Lajita. When we first walked in, I was shocked at the beautiful scenery. There were enormous palm trees and lovely flowers around us. We started to look around but we took a wrong turn and ended up in the zoo's market where local people were selling their crafts! After we checked the map that we were given, we started our journey around the zoo. As we looked at all the animals, we soon realised they seemed to get bigger as you followed the trail. At first we saw all the different species of monkeys and then at the end we saw giant giraffes! The zoo had a bunch of different animals such as... (this is gonna be a BIG list) birds, flamingos, camels, sheep, kangaroos, emus, goats, Llamas, snakes, crocodiles, hippos, zebras, elephants, giraffes, monkeys, deer (my favourite animal), sea lions, turtles and a fennec fox. After a while we stopped off for some treats and my Mum said she had the best ice cream she's ever had! My Oreo ice cream was pretty good as well! When we arrived at the giraffes we got to feed them, they have super long tongues but were so gentle and I had one of the best times of my life. I never knew giraffes liked carrots! The sea lions were adorable too, we got to see them practise all their tricks and one of them even sat up on the glass surrounding their pool! At the end, there was a gift shop and my Dad saw this really cute toy giraffe and decided to buy it for me! (here's the funny part) my Dad thought the toy was 15 euro... but it was actually 51 euro!!!

I loved my trip to The Oasis Wildlife Park. If you're ever in Fuerteventura, please visit it. It's the best zoo I've ever been to!



Davide Dodge, Steart Resident - Profile

Born and raised in Somerset, I first developed an interest in beekeeping in 1984, aged 14, when my grandfather (my role model) offered me a day off school in order to help him capture a swarm, clustered high in a tree. The offer of a day off school was too good to refuse and I've been fascinated by bees ever since.

Following grandad's funeral, I joined the army in what was perhaps a knee-jerk reaction to his death. Soon after joining I became a Physical Training Instructor, then a Close Protection (CP) Officer, guarding senior officers, visiting diplomats and royalty in areas of conflict. I was CP team leader for Scotland's senior soldier, General Loudon, wearing the same uniform as him, to confuse the enemy. I always thought it amusing to wear a Scottish tam-o-shanter with my broad west-country accent. There were many highs and lows during my time in the army. The lowest came when a good friend was shot dead. Better times included fast roping from a Wessex helicopter to a speeding RIB (rigid inflatable boat), or diving in the South Pacific assisting marine biologists tag white pointer sharks - both all in a day's work!

In 2000, my first son was born and I decided to leave the army for a quieter family life. Somehow, though, I ended up working for the then owner of Harrods, protecting him and his family.



Not the easiest family to work for, I soon left to look after a young Saudi Arabian Princess, after which I conducted surveillance on a Saudi Prince, but those are definitely stories for another day. I later looked after the Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE; another Saudi Princess; a wealthy hedge fund owner under threat; a premier league football player or two; and then was privately employed by a multi-billionaire for six years, travelling the world as a 'grey man' always present in the background. I was also in the specialist anti-piracy team for the first ever consignment of liquid gas from Yemen to Boston Harbour, deemed such a valued target to terrorists that the entire harbour was closed for our arrival and the ship escorted in by Apache helicopters. All in all, I've worked in over 50 countries, on six continents. But constant short notice travel inevitably had an impact on my marriage.

Following divorce I found myself in Iraq and then 5 years in Afghanistan where I met Gillian (wife No. 2), who was working at the Embassy. I had the pleasure of body-guarding her during a 'work trip' to Mazar e Sharif and her breathtaking (lack of) ability to throw a dart at a dartboard won my heart. I later began working on a secret contract based at the British Embassy. Later still I worked for the US Department of Defence protecting Pentagon officials visiting Afghanistan and finally worked with US engineers who were assisting Afghan welders to lay a vast gas pipeline through the mountains of Sheberghan with no back up from the US or British, self sufficient for our own security, and I loved it.

I returned home in 2014 having promised my two sons that I would remain in the UK. In 2020 we found Cox's Farm for sale, and, excited about moving back to Somerset and being able to keep bees once more, we made an offer, which was accepted. After what seemed like an eternity we finally moved in, in Feb 2021, and haven't looked back since - even the horizontal rain can't spoil our love of Steart. The residents are among the finest I have met in all my travels and a Friday evening at Robin's cider barn is not to be missed. I now have a few bee colonies here, as well as in other parts of Somerset. I'm a passionate advocate for pollinators, so please do let your dandelions thrive!



Flower Show Saturday 7th September 2024

Schedule Contact Garden Club at COSGardenclub@gmail.com

Further Details on the Garden Club Web Site: cosgardenclub.com



Flowers & Foliage

Plant in a pot	Foliage
Plant in a pot	Flowering
Indoor plant	
Vase of Garden Flowers	Five Kinds
Vase of Garden Flowers	One Variety
Flower in a Vase	Single Bloom
Three Flowers in a Vase	Single Blooms
Vase of Foliage	
Rose in a Vase	
Flower Arrangement	
Shrub Stem/Branch	Floral
Shrub Stem/Branch	Foliage
Butterfly/Bee Friendly jar of flowers	
Collection of weeds in a jar	
Collection of seed heads	
Largest Sunflower	By Diameter
Largest Sunflower	By Height

Vegetables

Carrots	Three
Onions	Three
Potatoes	Three
Cabbages	Two
Beans - Runner	Six
Beans - French	Six
Leeks	Three
Globe Beetroot	Three
Courgettes	Two
Lettuces	Two
Tomatoes	Five
Cucumbers	Two
Any other Vegetable	
Heaviest Potato	
Longest Runner Bean	
Biggest Onion	
Largest Pumpkin	
A Collection of Vegetables	Six Kinds

Fruit

Apples (Cooking)	Five
Apples (Dessert)	Five
Plums	Five
Rhubarb	Three Stalks
Any other Fruit	

Herbs and Berries

Collection of culinary herbs in a container	
Collection of Edible Foraged Plants	

Preserves

Pot of Jam	Any variety
Pot of Marmalade	Any variety
Pot of Chutney	Any variety
Pot of Fruit Curd	Any variety
Pot of Honey	

Baking

Cake	Victoria Sandwich.
Cake	Fruit or vegetable
Six Small Cakes	
Three Decorated Biscuits	

Beverages

Bottle of Home Made Red Wine	
Bottle of Home Made White Wine	
Bottle of Home Made Beer	
Bottle of Home Made Cider	
Bottle of Home Made Fruit or Flower Infused Alcohol	
Bottle of Home Made Fruit/Vegetable Juice	
Bottle of Fruit or Flower Cordial	

Handicraft

Knitted or Crocheted article	
Sewn article	
Piece of Fancy Sewing	
Any Other Handmade Craft Item	
Friendship bracelet made with garden flowers	
Sculpture/animal made from vegetables	
Garden on a plate	

Art

Piece of Artwork. Entitled "My Garden".	
Any Media	
Design the cover for next year's Flower Show Programme.	
Painted piece of Clay Tile.	
Decorative Clay Tile	

Photography

Photograph	Village Life
Photograph	The Four Seasons

Scarecrow or Plant Pot Sculpture in your garden

The Most Peculiar Thing!

Roses in December *by Florence Chant (continued)*

OUR NEIGHBOURS (Abridged)

I should like to give a detailed description of our neighbours and their home, particularly as I imagine their life-style was fairly typical.

The family consisted of Grandfather Powell who always appeared to me to be age-old, his son Uncle Thomas and Thomas's wife, Aunt Sarah. She was a short, comfortable woman wearing always a black, ankle-length dress of bombazine covered by a rough apron when doing her morning's work and in the afternoon a stiffly starched white apron. Her grey hair was drawn back from her forehead and wound to form a neat bun at the back. She rarely smiled but she had the kindest of dispositions.

Uncle Tom Powell had been lame from the age of eighteen as the result of a foolish prank executed by a young workmate when uncle was trundling a large wheelbarrow of clay across a narrow plank at the brick-works where he was employed. He had a most amiable disposition and though he spoke little it was always with gentleness and kindness.

When Uncle Tom went to work he wore a clean shirt, expertly made by Aunt Sarah, using a very old, but well-maintained, sewing machine. She paid a small sum regularly into a thrift-club run by

E. H. Hooper, Draper, of Bridgwater. A few yards of stiff, striped shirting had to be bought. I used to think the shirts must have been uncomfortable to wear before regular washing made them soft to the skin. Uncle Tom's clothes were invariably neatly mended but his trousers were patched in so many varied colours that his workmates, noticing the latest example, would ask, "Now then, Tom. Which firm be'est representing s'morning?"



Florence's house and neighbours

"Grandfather" Powell was very quiet and uncommonly dour.

During the years that I knew him, the only work he did outside his own premises was the clearing of the brook of weeds and reeds. He was particularly busy when the brook had been in spate. On warm summer evenings he would have a bonfire of dry weeds and reeds.

Our neighbours' home was delightful in its brightness and neatness. The front door was framed in fragrant white jasmine in Summer and golden jasmine in Winter. Each bed in the front garden was edged with purple aubrietia in Spring and in Summer blue campanulas tumbled in great beauty over the boundary stones onto the pebbled paths.

There were daffodils, narcissi, polyanthus and golden crown-lilies in the Spring followed by a wealth of sweet-scented Summer flowers, including regal Madonna lilies, sweet-williams, mignonette, lavender and rosemary. The back garden was carefully cultivated. The beds were bordered by red tiles up-ended and all kinds of fruits, vegetables and herbs were grown. The sweet scent of thyme, sage, parsley and mint perfumed the air. There were clumps of rhubarb, bushes of gooseberries and red and black currants and some well-trained espalier apple-trees bearing choice fruit. Plum and pear trees were trained against the high wall separating the garden from the productive apple-orchard beyond. In the garden was a well of sweet, ice-cold water which never failed.

Inside was the red-brick paved cider-house with large wooden racks on which rested three casks of cider. Only one of these was "tapped" at a time. Straight ahead was the kitchen where the air

had a strong odour compounded of paraffin oil and carbolic soap. All Aunt Sarah's cooking was done on a paraffin stove.

The kitchen was invariably very cool even in Summer as no direct sunshine reached the window at the back of the house. Aunt Sarah kept her perishable food in a large metal safe with perforated zinc door.

The living-room was well, if not very comfortably, furnished. The floor was covered with coconut matting and a many-coloured rag rug provided comfort in front of the beautifully polished range in bright steel, parts of which reflected the leaping flames of the fire. This was kept generously replenished with logs of apple-wood from a large, round wicker basket near the grate. On either side of the fire was a Windsor type armchair the one always occupied in the evening by Grandfather and the other by Uncle Tom. They settled down there quietly as soon as darkness fell and remained until it was time for bed.

Aunt Sarah was usually occupied with needlework except on Sunday evenings when she sat at the table before an open Bible, her steel-rimmed spectacles on the end of her nose. As she never turned a leaf I suspect that she could not read.



At our end of "Overlong" were about six families. There was Mr. Quick, the blacksmith, a busy and friendly man. We loved to see the smith using his bellows to produce great leaping flames and glowing coals which lit up every gloomy recess of the smithy. It was a joyous experience to see the smith clutch a piece of iron in the tongs, plunge it into the heart of the fire, fetch it out and proceed to beat the daylights out of it on the anvil. We liked to see the hot shoe applied to the well-trimmed hoof of the horse and even grew to tolerate the acrid scent of the smoke accompanying the process. We knew the names of all the horses and the men who brought them from the farms to the smithy to be shod. Mr. Quick was so gentle with the horses that they remained patient and well-behaved throughout the proceedings. When not occupied with the actual shoeing of horses, Mr. Quick made spare shoes in various sizes which he hung on his walls and also made and repaired garden tools and farm implements.

Nearby lived Mrs. Wynn who had a very delicate husband and son. She had one other son who worked, a small lad of school age and two daughters. The children were always kept scrupulously clean as also was their home, but they were very poor. The mother had worked so hard that she was little more than skin and skeleton. They had one little luxury - a weekly dough-cake which Mr. Hunt in his bakehouse next door to us baked for them. Each Saturday morning we would hear Mrs. Wynn's sharp voice addressing the baker thus:- "Good morning Mr. Hunt. Will you please make me a dough-cake as usual? I've brought me own grievances."

One of my special friends was Mr. Stone the coalman who lived in the house on the far side of the bakery. His face was always blackened from long contact with coal-dust: I'm sure he washed but in this he obviously fought a losing battle. Sometimes, when I was a little older, his daughter Ella and I would wait for him to return to the village so that we could ride on the shafts of the coal-wagon to the stables. Here we would watch him in the soft light of a swinging oil-lamp as he lovingly saw to the comfort of his horse and fed it with hay and chaff. Every now and then there would be a tremendous puff of air as the horse blew the chaff out of its nostrils.

In the village lived Mr. Ambrose Bryant who had served his time as a soldier. One Saturday the first ever Jumble Sale was held in the village and almost at the close of the proceedings I was able to buy for a penny a huge pile of magazines issued in the course of the Boer War. As I passed his gate, Mr. Bryant asked me what I had in my bundle. I let him have a look at a few of the books and soon I was listening to an enthralling story of the old soldier's exploits in the war. When I got home I told my Father all about it. His response was, "Oh yes my dear, we all know Ambrose Bryant won the Boer War." From that time onward I regarded the one-time soldier with respect almost amounting to reverence.



Mrs Clare Luce
Executive Headteacher



Spring Term 2024 Highlights

We had an amazing **World Book Day** at OPS! We saw every character imaginable from Robin Hood to Cinderella. Every class spent time with Ruby from West End Schools creating a dance based around the book Pinocchio. It is amazing what can be achieved in an hour.

The following week we had a Book Fair which raised over £200 for the school to buy new books for the library.



Sports fixtures - Netball Year 5/6s took part in a netball tournament at Haygrove school, we won 2 games and lost 1. Year 5/6s Key Steps Gymnastics competition - 2nd place! Gracie came 7th out of 67 runners in the Somerset Cross Country Finals. Lexi - 6 medals for her swimming gala in November. Well done to everyone involved.



Police Headquarters Trip - The Year 5s had a brilliant day in Portishead visiting the Police HQ. They looked so 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.

Mini Police village wander - The Year 5s donned their Mini Police uniforms and went out and about in the village with the PCSOs Georgia and Sam who took them on a vulnerable vehicle check. They were looking for things in cars that might make them vulnerable. Then, they had a look at the police car and the equipment inside.



Longleat Trip - The whole school ventured to Longleat for a 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.



School Streets - I am excited to share that this initiative will start on Monday 3rd June 2024. All residents and parents have been written to regarding the timings of the School Lane closure and we request volunteers who will be able to support this scheme. Please contact the school if you are able to help. For more information please visit

COMBWICH VILLAGE MARKET

Every 2nd Saturday of the month
10am - 12noon
Otterhampton Village Hall

Enjoy a freshly brewed cuppa & a bacon butty

Browse and buy from all the lovingly crafted handmade delights

Registered Charity No. 1186747

Michael Beasley, the new Bishop of Bath and Wells at St Marys Stogumber with our Revd Jan Church at St Marys Stogumber

Jan was licenced to the higher office of Associate Priest



What we've been up to!

Margaret Lomax joined us for our March meeting and gave us an insight into meeting Bradley Walsh. With her recollections of her first interview in front of the camera, when she was worried that she may need to blow her nose, the evening got off to an amusing start. Margaret appeared on The Chase in 2014 and in the opening quick fire round only managed to get 2 questions correct, with Bradley commenting that she was not very bright. One of her fellow contestants, a college professor, managed to get 8 correct answers but unfortunately got caught by the chaser, as did the other two contestants. When it came to the final Margaret stood alone and scored 13, not enough to win, but an enjoyable experience. Thank you, Margaret, for a laughter filled evening. Margaret donates her speakers fee to the League of Friends at Musgrove.

In April Brian Wright shared his knowledge on the origins of some of our everyday sayings and superstitions. He explained that in recent surveys 51% of women considered themselves to be somewhat superstitious compared to 29% of men. Did you know that horseshoes were originally hung above doorways to deter witches as apparently, they cannot cross under iron, and that the word abracadabra was used to ward off the plague! Thank you, Brian, for a very informative evening.

Combwich and District WI



Dates for your diary!

Thursday 20th June – Members evening, entertainment organised by non-committee members

Thursday 18th July – Luke Simon 'School in a bag' – competition – 6-line limerick or poem

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

We welcome 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. Why not come along to one of our evenings, you will be warmly welcomed.

For more information contact Connie on 01278 653307

Harbour View Bar

The Bar has been buzzing with excitement and activity, making it the heart of our local community. From quiz nights to sporting events, there's been something for everyone to enjoy.

Our resident quiz master has been putting minds to the test that have drawn in crowds of eager participants, watch out The Beast. It's been a fantastic way for locals to come together, share laughs, and maybe even learn a thing or two!

For sports enthusiasts, the recent water ski championships were a highlight. The championships not only showcased impressive talent on the water but also welcomed new faces into our bar.

Looking ahead, we have another exciting event lined up. On the 25th of May at 7 PM, join us for our upcoming Beetle Drive and Fish & Chip Night. This promises to be a delightful evening filled with fun games and delicious food.. Tickets now on sale in the bar.

On a final note, we would like to wish Captain Steve Lang a Happy 60th, yes you heard me right 60th, birthday !



From the OVH trustees.

Following a short delay the new Otterhampton Village Hall website will be unveiled at the end of May. The new website will include a calendar booking system so rooms can be hired online.

Update on upcoming events:

OVH are offering FREE basic 1st aid training including the use of the defibrillator on 1st June, 10.00 till midday, and 22nd June 15.00 to 17.00. The sessions will be run by Richard Navoy who is a qualified First Responder. Please contact Richard on 07854 227312 or via email on Richard.navoy@gmail.com to book a place.

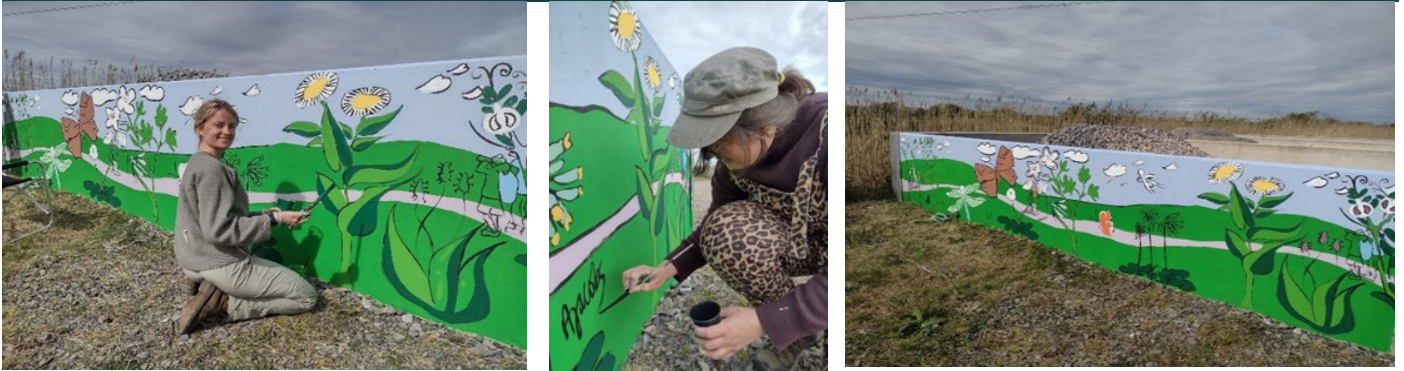
A Murder Mystery evening with food is planned for the near future so keep an eye open for posters and notifications on social media.

Lastly, we are looking for individuals to join our existing trustees and work with us on all things, 'village hall'. Trustees meet once a month to discuss any hall related matters and talk through our ideas for events and how we can maximise usage of our great community asset. We are collaborative and have the attitude that no idea is a bad idea, but we would love to welcome new trustees onto the committee to bring a fresh perspective on how the hall can be even better utilised. If you are interested in getting involved, please speak to any trustee or contact nicolarowland77@yahoo.co.uk.





WWT Steart Marshes & Bridgwater Bay NNR



We've brightened up the concrete stone and gravel store with the help of local artist Alison Jacobs who designed this colourful mural including Steart wildlife. Volunteers and The Nelson Trust helped with the painting. Take a look - you'll find the mural off the vehicle access track near the willow cows.

Hundreds of hectares of wetland habitat are due to be restored, or enhanced, across WWT Steart Marshes and Bridgwater Bay National Nature Reserve (NNR), thanks to more than £800,000 in funding from the government's **Species Survival Fund**.

**SPECIES
SURVIVAL
FUND**



Funded by
UK Government

Heritage
Fund

The funding awarded to WWT, the charity for wetlands and wildlife, will be used to boost local biodiversity, improving the condition across more than 370 hectares of coastal floodplain grazing marsh and freshwater habitats, which species like Avocets and great crested newts rely on. As well as creating new saline lagoons, scrapes and ditches across both nature reserves, the project, 'Wetter for waders', will restore at least one 'ghost pond' previously lost on the land, on top of six others that will be improved.

A new boardwalk across the saltmarsh at WWT Steart Marshes will help visitors get closer to nature and learn about the specialist wildlife of the saltmarsh ecosystem. Predator-proof fencing will help protect new areas to support vulnerable breeding waders, and 'No Fence' collars will enable cattle to graze areas across 290 hectares of saltmarsh, helping to naturally manage the vegetation.

On top of improvements to the landscape, the sites will host a series of willow and art workshops for the local community, producing huge wildlife sculptures and murals, and hold sessions for local landowners on how to create wetland features. Four new members of staff will deliver and champion the work done at WWT Steart Marshes and Bridgwater Bay NNR.

The Species Survival Fund builds upon the success of similar initiatives like the Green Recovery Challenge Fund and will create the foundations for ongoing expansion of habitats to support our wildlife. The fund will create and improve natural habitats, helping Defra to meet their target to protect 30% of land for nature by 2030 (known as 30by30).

The Species Survival Fund, a partnership between Defra and The National Lottery Heritage Fund, has seen grants of up to £3 million awarded across England for habitat creation and restoration projects to run over the next two years.

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

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

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

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

Email: otter.tales@aol.com

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



**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.



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



COMBWICH, OTTERHAMPTON
AND
STEAR T NEWSLETTER

Otter Tales

The deadline for the next edition will be
Thursday **11th July**

We would welcome your stories and events
for publication.



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

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 11th July.

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

Defibrillators can save your life.

The Combwich defibrillator is positioned in the telephone box.

The Steart defibrillator is positioned at Ferrices Farm has one

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



Otter Tales:

Editor: Barry Leathwood. Assisted by Steven Parker.

Distribution: Bob Birkenhead email:

Birkenhead.bob@gmail.com

Articles for publication: email otter.tales@aol.com

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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 by **Thursday 11th July**

Mobile Library: Dates and Times.

Thursday 13th June, 11th July, 8th August

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

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 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

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