



## COMBWICH, OTTERHAMPTON AND STEART NEWSLETTER

# Otter Tales

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*The Flower Show. Poppy Mifsud wins the trophy for best fruit for her exhibit of three cooking apples. Poppy also won first prize for Three Flowers in a Vase, Weeds in a container, Any other Fruit, Victoria Sandwich, Three decorated Biscuits. Poppy gained most points for a young person. Well done Poppy.*

# Otterhampton Parish Council

Otterhampton Offcuts

Snippets from your parish council August to September 2024 meetings

## 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 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 Combwich. 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** Avon & Somerset Police have stepped up patrols in the area at our request due to the increase in antisocial behaviour. **Your Watercourse: rights and roles** If you live in a house with a garden that borders the brook, you may not be aware of your rights and responsibilities regarding the bank. This useful link details your rights and roles:

<https://engageenvironmentagency.uk.engagementhq.com/your-watercourse-rights-and-roles>

## New Noticeboard in Steart

Thanks to Cllr Dave Dodge and Mike Slaymaker for installing a new noticeboard in Steart at Ferrices Farm, the old one was starting to fall apart.

## 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.

**Dog Fouling** Dog fouling is still an issue in the parish including along the track and around Steart Marshes. There is no excuse not to pick it up and put it to the dogs bins provided by the Parish Council. 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/)

When walking in the fields do not let your dogs run free where there is livestock. It is very important to pick up any dog mess as it can pose a serious risk as it may cause livestock to abort their calves.

## 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 10<sup>th</sup> October, 14<sup>th</sup> November and 12<sup>th</sup> December 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 Ferrices 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

## 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



*I bumped into Mike Slaymaker (right) while replacing the notice board and he just so happened to have some longer screws and very kindly remained to help me fix the new board in place. I did ask him if he would want to cut the ribbon but he declined. Dave*





## Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

Registered Charity Number 1124017

Chair Tina Gardener 652642 - Secretary Carol Bradbury 652313

OPRA is now planning winter events, details of which will be announced on Facebook, email and posters around the village. We would like to draw your attention to a couple of these in the meantime.



**The Combwich Firework Display** brought to you by OPRA and the Otterhampton Parish Council, will take place on the Common at 6pm on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Burgers and hotdogs will be served from 5.30pm. This is a free event, but a donation towards the cost would be appreciated.

For those of us of a certain age there is the **Seniors Christmas Dinner** to look forward to on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December in the Village Hall. This is a three-course meal with wine and is free for attendees. Partners aged under 65 may attend at a cost £10.

The invitation will go to all over 65-year-olds in the parish who are on our list. If you have attended before, you are on our list and will receive a personal invitation nearer to the event. If you are over 65 and have not been invited before, but wish to this year please contact Carol, or Tina whose telephone numbers are at the top of the page to make sure of your invite to this wonderful event. **(If we don't know you are eligible we can't invite you)**



These events and others are funded by OPRA who raise their money through the **100 Club**. Members pay £1 a week, taken quarterly by standing order. The draw usually takes place at the Friday coffee morning. If you would like to join, or want further information contact Tina on 652642 or Sue on 653663 alternatively come along to our AGM and meet us. Details below.

### OPRA AGM



**Join us** for a glass of wine with cheese and biscuits, 7pm Monday 21st October at the Anchor for a chat about future village events.

OPRA members will receive a personal invitation and will be electing the committee and officials, but members of the public are welcome too. Don't worry you won't be pressured to join the committee.

## Flower Show.

Garden Club held the first Flower Show in Combach since 1991. There were four hundred and one entries. The youngest entrant, Alethea Lyons aged four won most points for her vegetable sculpture, painted tile and artwork. Garden Club would like to thank everyone who took part, the judges and all those who helped making the show a success.



Trophies were presented by The Parish Council: *Best in Show*, OPRA: *Most Points*, The Village Hall: *Handicraft*, Harbour View Bar: *Beverage*, Combach W.I.: *Baking*, Combach Book Club: *Rose in a Vase*, Combach Brownies: *Garden on a Plate*, WWT *Butterfly and Bee Flowers*, Brick and Tile Museum: *Painted Tiles*, Maggy Layton: *Flowers and Foliage*, Mike and Maria Naraway: *Fruit*, Connie Sanders: *Flowers*, Michelle Liddle: *Vase of Flowers*, Elizabeth Marriot: *Preserves*, Webber Family: *Collection of Vegetables*, Bob and Carol Birkenhead: *Children's Art*, Paul and Cindy Thorneil: *Runner Beans*.

Trophies were also presented for Most points in Vegetables and Fruit, (J. Randall Trophy) Most points in Baking and preserves, (M. Randall Trophy) Best Vegetable (M. Pople Trophy) and Children's Art M.J. Pople Trophy), Biggest Pumpkin, Largest Sunflower, The House Entry and the Most Peculiar Thing!



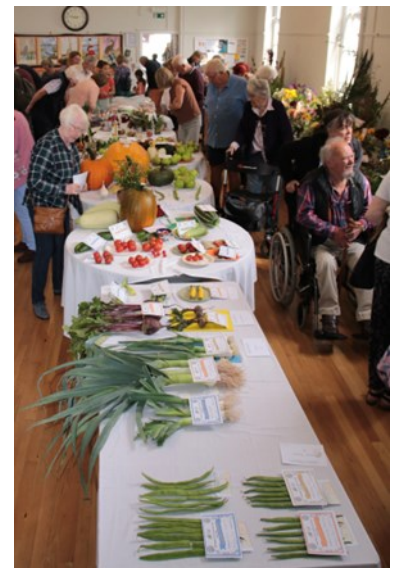
Final touches and The Hall is cleared ready for Judging



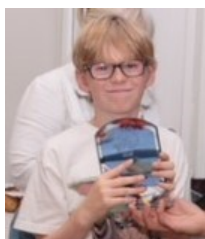
Barney Rossiter's Scarecrow



Steve Turner wins the Collection of Vegetables Trophy, Most Points for Fruit and Vegetables and well as Best in Show



Judging complete and Prize certificates awarded.



Barney with the House Entry Trophy



Sandra Ford with the Handicraft Trophy



Linda Ingram wins for Baking and Most Points in Baking and Preserves



Michelle Liddle wins The Most Peculiar Thing!





## Carolyn Harris - Profile

Carolyn Harris is a familia figure in Combwich with her flaming red hair and silver Mercedes sports car. She was born in Kent and regards herself as lucky enough to have attended a good school and had a happy childhood with animals around her at home. Her father was Captain of a Royal Navy motor torpedo boat (MTB), and through that connection, some of her early social life was spent at parties and dances associated with the Navy, including on the HMS Ark Royal aircraft carrier. He later became a Trustee Banker.



After leaving school she attended the Merrist Wood Agricultural College where she earned a National Certificate in Agriculture and the skills, she acquired were to prove particularly useful. Her varied career included becoming an au pair in Naples, looking after a herd of Hereford cattle in Kent, and farm secretary to a Stud in Hampshire. In London she worked at Meryl Lynch, the American stockbrokers, and was assistant to the House Manager at the Royal Opera House.



Carolyn and her father at her wedding to Ken

After leaving London, Carolyn returned home to joined her parents who had bought the then derelict Lower Cock Farm, near Stockland Bristol, which they restored to its former glory, with many original features including a Priests Hole and a stone spiral staircase. Carolyn met and married Ken, a neighbouring farmer. It was a mixed farm which included sheep, geese and chickens. Sadly, Ken had a serious heart attack only six months after they were married, which forced them giving up farming. She described marriage to Ken as the happiest days of her life.

Carolyn's artistic talent turned to writing and illustrating children's books, a number of which were published. She also designed and made one-off knitwear using wool from the farm, which her friends modelled for her. She still has the spinning wheel. The Sunday Telegraph featured her as part of a series on up-and-coming designers.

She wrote and illustrated a book, "Kitting Patterns from Nature" published by Batsford.

Using all her acquired skills she set-up a one-person business which she called 'Cary-the-Can' and distributed leaflets to local farms offering a range of services, including cooking, milking and a range of other jobs. This enterprise attracted a lot of media interest both locally and nationally and featured on BBC Radio 4s "Women's Hour" and on HTV and BBC television.

However, her life has not been all work; she has a passion for sports cars and has owned several, including an Austin Healy Sprite, Austin Healy 3000, an MGA, the fabulous Lotus Elite, and still enjoys her current Mercedes sports car.

She has enjoyed several holidays in Italy, Sicily and a memorable two weeks as the sole passenger on a container ship trading in Ireland and many North European ports.

Carolyn has an abiding interest in local history and particularly the Vikings and the River Parrett on which she has produced another book. Though not published she has provided copies for friends.

She also immensely enjoyed gig rowing as part of the Combwich Boat Club, but sadly that came to an end because of internal disputes.

Carolyn sings as part of the Combwich choir which meets in the church because of the good acoustics. She is also a keen gardener.

## 1st Combwich Brownies - Night with the Tigers

We were very fortunate to secure a slot at this event organized by Dartmoor Zoo and arranged by Girlguiding Southwest. It was only offered on a few occasions during the summer, with only 60 places each night. We took four leaders and 14 Brownies and had an amazing time. Apart from a couple of hours of free time after we arrived in the morning, everything was organized and arranged for us including talks about the animals, workshops on animal behaviour and enrichment making, where we learned how to improve the quality of life of animals in captivity. We also had a dusk zoo trail competition and a twilight tour. Not forgetting the incredible meals and snacks provided.



Here are a few of the comments from the Brownies:

Hope: 'My favourite thing was the twilight tour because we did it in the dark. We got to run around the zoo, it was SO fun. I also liked the hot chocolate and the marshmallows we got to roast, they were delicious.'



Ivie: 'I loved the hot chocolate and marshmallows and the breakfast. The best was making enrichment pads for the meercats, we hid the food in the pads for them to find.'

Bea: 'Thank you to the zoo for letting us stay. I had a brilliant time. I loved the night walk.'

Willow: 'I loved the twilight tour and the hot chocolate. My favourite animal was the cloud rat. I had really good fun with the treasure hunt.'

Autumn: 'We did lots of fun activities'

Grace loved all the animals and the twilight tour, Melody & Bethany loved the hot chocolate and the campfire where they toasted marshmallows.

Ava: 'I loved the big cats and marshmallows and hot chocolate, it was the best, and the twilight tour.'

Brownies is the best, like who gets to go to the zoo at night and SLEEP OVER!

The Owls: 'This was the best sleepover ever as the staff at the zoo tired the Brownies out so much that they crashed out directly their heads dropped onto their pillows.'

If any girls between 7 and 9 are interested in doing similar things please contact Liz 652687 or Karen 07857823989 for further details



## ROSES IN DECEMBER: THE VILLAGE SCHOOL (Abridged)

Early in September 1904 at the age of 3½ years I set off to become a pupil at the village school known as the Otterhampton Council School. I wore sturdy black boots with Blakey metal protectors on the soles, thick black stockings held up by elastic garters, a grey dress reaching the middle of my shins and a white cotton pinafore with frills around the neck and sleeves. How exciting yet alarming it was to find myself among about fifty other children in the playground.

The school-bell rang and we all lined up in the playground and were escorted by the teachers to our class-rooms. The headmaster took particulars of names, dates of birth, father's names and the addresses of new pupils and our names were recorded on the class register.

The school building consisted of a very inadequate cloakroom and two classrooms - "Big Room" for the children aged seven and older, and "Little Room" for under sevens. The larger room was presided over by the Headmaster, suitably named Mr. Wise. He was assisted by a young paid monitress, Nellie Hunt. The headmaster was a very strict disciplinarian and swift retribution followed any unacceptable behavior or the offering of careless work. Nellie wore a long dress almost reaching the ground and a flowered pinafore to protect her dress from chalky dust.

The "Little Room" was presided over by a Miss Pearce, the only daughter of the Captain Pearce who lived near the river. She was gentle, kind and efficient and managed to teach us simple calculations. Her classroom had a split-level floor, there being three rows of long forms without back-rests arranged in gallery formation. The only other furniture in the room consisted of the teacher's desk and a small cupboard. The rope which activated the school bell was in this room.

The "Big Room" had similar long forms, but of varying sizes and in this case the floor was flat. The furniture included a large, square table the top of which was used when "cutting-out" processes were being carried out in needlework lessons while the two drawers contained our little bundles of sewing tied round with white tape and bearing labels showing our names. Other items of furniture were a piano, two easels and wooden blackboards, a large framed swinging slate for the use of the teacher, the Head Teacher's desk and a long, narrow cupboard containing the few sets of books. High on one wall was a very dusty, glass-fronted case importantly named "The Museum". This was a thing of mystery, with its many little labelled bottles and packets, and so it remained until I was twelve years old when, on one gloriously exciting occasion an experiment was conducted with two kinds of chemicals to produce oxygen which magically caused a glowing match end to spring into brilliant flame.

Any water for use in the school-house had to be brought in pails from a house at the bottom of the school lane. The lavatories were of the "earth-closet" type which, though satisfactorily hygienic, were decidedly primitive. When used for serious business, it was necessary to ask the teacher for a piece of paper. Both schoolrooms were heated by coke-burning "Tortoise" stoves which warmed only the air in their vicinity. At times we children suffered very much from the cold. In Winter it was sometimes necessary on dark afternoons to light the oil- lamps suspended on chains from the ceiling.

In the Infant Room all writing had to be done on slates which could conveniently, if unhygienically, be cleaned with liquid by nature provided and dried with a "slate-rag" taken to school for the purpose. When about twenty-five children were painstakingly writing pot-hooks or figures the resulting squeaks made by the slate-pencils were enough to set anyone's teeth on edge. About once a week little tin pans were distributed and each child was given ten lovely coloured glass marbles for counting. Sometimes we wove small mats using coloured strips of paper and we were also taught first steps in knitting with thick wool on big, wooden needles.

The only set of reading books was reserved for the use of the six-to-seven- year-olds. When reading time came each day for the little ones a roll of reading-sheets was thrown over the blackboard. On the first few sheets were isolated words, each accompanied by an appropriate

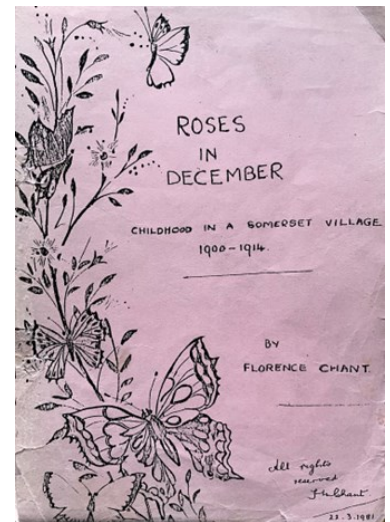




illustration. Over and over again we spelt and pronounced the words until most of us were word-perfect.

It was a great step forward when, instead of unrelated words we proceeded to the reading of simple sentences like "a cat is on the mat" with its accompanying picture testifying to the truth of the statement. During my last year in the Infants Room we had the great pleasure of tackling reading from a book. At the head of each new chapter was a list of hyphenated words to be encountered below. Over and over in unison and individually we read and spelt the words until we were deemed to be word-perfect. By this time I had learnt to read so well that I longed to find more reading-matter. I read labels on sauce-bottles and packets of tea and learnt by heart public notices such as the one outside the "Baker's Arms" informing the public that children under the age of fourteen could not be admitted to the public rooms. I remember informing Aunt Sarah that her packet of tea bore the warning "Water twice boiled or over boiled will spoil the finest tea." She was not visibly impressed.

Miss Pearce took her charges into the play-ground twice a week for "Drill". We stood in two long rows, boys in the front and girls at the back. I feel now that this arrangement could have been designed to maintain decorum when we received the order, "Forward bend!" though goodness knows what could have been indelicately revealed under our long frocks except possibly a bit of white insertion decorating the bottoms of certain undergarments. We stretched arms in various directions, stood "at ease" and "at attention." We marched around the playground while Miss Pearce clapped her hands to keep us in step. On very cold mornings we ran around the playground, blowing clouds of mist from our little mouths. It was useless to complain that we "had stitch" or were out of breath - we were told to take one deep breath then join in on the "tail of the crocodile." At last we returned to our classrooms, with tingling feet and fingers, eyes shining bright, cheeks rosy-red and ready and eager to settle down to tackle the problems presented by the lesson to follow.

My attaining the age of seven years and consequent promotion to the Big Room coincided with the resignation of the Headmaster. His place was taken by a Headmistress, Miss Torpey. This event marked the beginning of a most happy and exciting period in the history of the village. The Headmistress from the very outset plunged into various activities involving her pupils and the adult members of the community.



*School as it is today*

Miss Torpey, was an accomplished pianist and music did much to create pleasure and happiness in the lives of the pupils. She taught jolly songs which we sung with tremendous enthusiasm. Sometimes we sat and listened, some of us completely enchanted, while tuneful music was played to us. Physical exercises were performed to the accompaniment of lively passages. Soon we were preparing for what I think was the first school concert to be presented in the village. Action songs were extremely popular and won much applause from the parents and friends. One song performed by all the girls was "White Sails." The chorus was accompanied by the raising and rhythmically swinging to-and-fro of our snowy-white pinafores.

The great day for the concert came and fathers and big brothers came after leaving their day's work to prepare the room. They rolled back the dividing partition to make one big room and arranged the forms to face in the required direction. A stage was constructed by placing long boards on trestles and great was the rattling and rumbling when the performers in the evening took the stage for the opening chorus. It was a simple performance much appreciated by all, especially by parents who realised how much time and effort Miss Torpey had expended during the weeks of preparation. There was much clapping and stamping of feet, with cries of "encore" and we were proud and happy to repeat the last verses and choruses.

When I was eleven years of age, the whole school was plunged into gloom at the news that our popular Headmistress had sent in her resignation and would be leaving us. On the last day of the Summer Term we said "Goodbye" to her. I have never forgotten the sense of loss I experienced that day. The village was soon to realise that Miss Torpey's departure had brought to an end a most happy period in its history.



## Combwich Bell Ringers.

The reputation of Combwich bell ringers with their unique style has spread across the area. Sedgemoor FM paid a visit to St. Peter's Church to discover about the bells and the tunes that emanate from the bell tower. Yolanda Bentham from Sedgemoor FM was fascinated to learn how the set of chime bells at St. Peter's can be rung to play various tunes and methods. Combwich Bell ringers are on Sedgemoor FM at 6.15pm each evening for the week beginning 23rd September 2024.

E mail Combwich Bell Ringers on their new e mail address for requests including 'Happy Birthday'. Email: [combwichbells@outlook.com](mailto:combwichbells@outlook.com)



## Boiler Upgrade Scheme

Government grants are currently available to replace fossil fuel heating systems. Through the Boiler Upgrade Scheme, people who live in Combwich are able to get a grant to cover part of the cost of replacing fossil fuel heating systems with a biomass boiler as an alternative to an air/ground source heat pump. Biomass boilers burn wood pellets and are fully automated.

Biomass boilers are available under the scheme if your property is off the gas grid and is in a rural location. As Combwich is off the gas grid and in a rural location residents are eligible for a government grant of £5000. Fossil fuel heating systems include oil or solid fuel. It also includes gas, electric or liquid petroleum gas. Biomass boilers are zero rated for VAT. The materials and labour needed for it's installation are also zero rated for VAT.

To qualify the boiler has to be a biomass only product and your property needs to have a valid Energy Performance Certificate. To access the grant the biomass boiler needs to be fitted by a Boiler Upgrade Scheme registered installer. The installer also needs to be MCS registered. The installer will apply and access the grant. The grant application is managed by Ofgem.

Further information is available from <https://www.gov.uk/apply-boiler-upgrade-scheme>

**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

OVH Otterhampton Village Hall

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1186747

HAND-MADE



## Debbie and Martin Rackham's Handfasting

On 17<sup>th</sup> August 2024 the Village Hall and Common were transformed to celebrate Debbie and Martin's marriage with a handfasting. Handfasting is an ancient tradition of binding a couple in marriage by literally tying their hands together with cord or ribbon as a symbol that they are bound together not just for a lifetime but for eternity.

The Common was decorated with sunflowers, hearts and an arch and Harbour View Bar and the Hall with lots of greenery, dried herbs and flowers.

A large group of family and friends gathered outside the Hall to watch Martin arrive on his motorbike followed by Debbie looking radiant in a lovely cream dress arriving on the back of Richard Navoy's decorated trike. Debbie walked to Martin accompanied by her sister Donna Rush.

Richard was celebrant for the handfasting ceremony in which Debbie and Martin exchanged their wedding rings and were bound together with coloured cords made by Donna and wrapped around their hands. They poured wine, ale and



seeds onto the Common symbolising 'giving back to nature'.

After the wonderful ceremony the celebrations started with plenty of food and drink. The music began and the party started and went on, and on, and on until quite literally the bar ran dry!

A truly wonderful day with everyone honoured to be part of such a happy and memorable occasion.

Debbie and Martin want to thank family and friends for making their day so special.

Particular thanks to all those who helped decorate the hall and common,

buy, bake and prepare food, set up the gazebos, bring out the chairs, clear away the following day and of course run the Bar: Donna, Eben, Emily, Richard, Sue, Bruce, Jean, Maria, Mike, Lynn, Nick, Kate, Paul, Audrey, Geoff, Bev, Steve, Grace, Marie, Dee, Brian, Carolyn, Pauline, John, Karen, Jim, Steph, Wendy, Robin, Jane, Paul, Linda and Michelle.

If you have any photos of the event please upload them onto the following website for the Rackhams to see:

[https://albums.memento.com/martinanddebbie?fbclid=IwY2xjawFNiHdleHRuA2FibQIxMQABHZAn8siK4ih6WF\\_COftaQx3biQbGASAsGL60DbaKcyNk47g9EfqqXuSw7Q\\_aem\\_7sKTruel78bMQh3jczYzKQ](https://albums.memento.com/martinanddebbie?fbclid=IwY2xjawFNiHdleHRuA2FibQIxMQABHZAn8siK4ih6WF_COftaQx3biQbGASAsGL60DbaKcyNk47g9EfqqXuSw7Q_aem_7sKTruel78bMQh3jczYzKQ)



## What we've been up to!

Zoe Fox from the 'School in a bag' charity visited us in July, which was formed by Luke Simon following the tragic loss of his brother in the Boxing Day tsunami in 2004 and was originally known as The Piers Simon Appeal (PSA). The aim of School in a bag is to transform lives through education. Backpacks containing a water bottle, cutlery, plate, toothbrush, toothpaste and a range of stationery are distributed to disaster areas around the world. Packs can be sponsored by individuals or groups, with each one being numbered and trackable, so sponsors can see where in the world their pack has been sent. Zoe and the rest of the team do an amazing job and have helped thousands of children to access education.



The Friendly Spirit in Cannington was the destination for the lunch club at the end of July, with generous portions and wide menu choice, everybody enjoyed their meal and a return visit is sure to follow.



## Combwich and District WI

### Dates for your diary!

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

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Oct – Lunch club – The Plough at Holford

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Nov – Nigel Phillips – Wildlife on Somerset Coastline – Competition – Something interesting from the beach.

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 News

### All welcome!

The Harbour View Bar recently hosted its annual paella day. The weather was a little wet and windy but it didn't stop this great event going ahead, with delicious food cooked by Richard Navoy and Sue and Bruce Barton. A huge thank you to all of those who helped out on the day and our wonderful community who came along to support the event



### Upcoming events



**Oktoberfest Saturday 19th**  
**October Music - Food -Dance -**  
**Beer. 7pm – late**  
 £16 pp includes an Oompah  
 band and bratwurst in a roll

**Come along and join in the fun!. Tickets can be purchased from the Harbour View Bar during opening hours, Jim Juniper 07494 269081 Steve Lang 07875 149826 and Marie Beckley 07748 154395**

### Quiz Nights



Our renown quiz nights hosted by our Quizmaster Richard Navoy, will be taking place on

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October and Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 730pm start. £1 per person.**

**Macmillan Coffee morning Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 11 am** in the bar lounge. Please come along to support this fantastic charity. Cake donations welcome. Contact Bev Lang email [Beverly64@me.com](mailto:Beverly64@me.com)

### Membership of Harbour View Bar

A reminder that annual memberships of £6 per person were due for renewal at the end of August. New members are welcome at £6 per person. Guests can accompany a member at £1 per visit.

### We need you! Committee members required

Your support is greatly welcomed to keep this valued community space functioning. We are looking for additional committee members to support the on-going function of the Harbour View Bar for its membership. Come along and contribute to our monthly meetings and regular event organisation.

Contact Steve Lang 07875 149826 [clubber64@icloud.com](mailto:clubber64@icloud.com) or Bruce Barton 07584 502019 [bortonbs@btinternet.com](mailto:bartonbs@btinternet.com)



## WWT Steart Marshes & Bridgwater Bay NNR



Dragonfly Day at the reserve saw a new mural in one of the Quantock Hides get underway. The mural, painted by local artist, Alison Jacobs, captures the wonder of Steart Marshes' wetlands and grazing areas with longhorn cows, cattle egrets and dragonflies featured. Alison was helped by local people, including volunteers from My Day Care Services, who regularly clean the hides at the reserve.

**SPECIES  
SURVIVAL  
FUND**



Funded by  
UK Government

Heritage  
Fund

Visitors to the Dragonfly Day also enjoyed guided walks, pond dipping and other activities. A designated Dragonfly Hotspot by the British Dragonfly Society, WWT Steart Marshes is a hugely significant wetland habitat for dragonflies. It is home to 23 species of dragonfly. The British Dragonfly Society, Recorders of the Avalon Marshes (RoAM), Somerset Otter Group and Bridgwater Blue Heritage all exhibited at the day.



As part of the Wetter for Waders project, we will also be creating new wetland features over the next few months. A rotary ditcher and soil spreader will be on site in September to create wetland features that will support and encourage wading birds and other wetland species. Further works including restoring twelve ponds, re-establishing a ghost pond, and upgrading and expanding predator fencing will begin in the autumn as well.

Regular bird ringing on the reserve has also recently started with the help of two new volunteers who are experienced bird-ringers. Bird ringing is vital to help us understand population trends and track changes in migratory patterns. Sedge warbler pictured here.



Can you believe it is 10 years this month since the reserve was inundated with tidal water for the first time! Thanks to all who have supported us over the past 10 years and to our marvellous volunteer team who help to manage the reserve. More details next time about our celebrations to mark the event.

**Please note:** We have our next open door day at the office on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September from 10am -3pm. Please call in if you have any questions about our work and would like to speak to a team member in person.

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)



Get ready for a

# St Peter's Church

## Harvest

### CELEBRATION

On  
**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

**Otterhampton Village Hall, Combwich**

**6.30pm**  
**£10.00 per person for a 4-course meal**

**Followed by a Service in St Peter's church**  
**11.15am Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

Join us in celebrating Harvest with friends, food, worship and prayers.

Contact: Rev Jan Church to book a seat at the supper  
Tel: 07733433526 or revjanchurch@gmail.com

## 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 14th November.

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

[combwichbells@outlook.com](mailto:combwichbells@outlook.com)

## Otter Tales:

Editor: Barry Leathwood. Assisted by Steven Parker.

Distribution: Bob Birkenhead email:

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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 14th November

## Mobile Library: Dates and Times.

Thursday 3rd October, 31st October, 28th November.

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)