



COMBWICH, OTTERHAMPTON AND STEART NEWSLETTER



Otter Tales

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General Information

Coming to Combwich



manoAmano Circus Company from Argentina are coming to Combwich

Friday 17th July: Village Common. 7.00 pm
Learn your own circus skills with FUSE.



Otterhampton:
GROWING TOGETHER



Parish Council Brief June 2026

Anchor Inn

A response has been received by the Parish Council from Somerset Council confirming receipt of the Breach of Planning Enforcement Notice and will contact us once their investigations are completed. This is somewhat confusing as it is evident that others have received notification that the matter has been resolved with no action to be taken. We are trying to gain clarity regarding this. We are able to confirm that an application to make the Anchor Inn an Asset of Community Value has been lodged, we await the outcome.

Flooding along Brookside

After the flooding along Brookside at the beginning of the year, we are pleased to confirm that many of the drains and culverts have been cleared. There are a lot of works going on behind the scenes involving the Parish Council, stakeholders from Somerset Council, Sir Ashley Fox MP, FWAG (Farmers Working Action Group) and the landowner/tenant to try to find a longer term solution.

Riparian Responsibilities

Do you have Riparian Responsibility? Do you understand what this is?

If your property is adjacent to the Brook which runs through the village the likelihood is that you do. Please check your property covenants. Want to find out more?

The Council are looking to arrange a Riparian Workshop, please contact the Clerk if you are interested to find out exactly what this means.

Pizza Van is now booked to regularly come into the village once a month and we are delighted that they are being warmly welcomed. Please continue to support them when they visit on a Friday, why not visit the Harbour View Bar, your local friendly meeting place, whilst waiting for them to be prepared. Maestros pizza will post on FB when they are coming as a reminder, as does the Fish and Chip van which continues to be very popular.

Abandoned boats on the Pill – They have gone!

A great example of team work. After many years of the boats being left on the Pill to rot, the Parish Council and EDF by collaborating closely have managed to dispose of the boats, which is great news.



Annual Parish Meeting – 28th May 2026

The Councillors warmly invite all Parishioners to attend the forthcoming Annual Parish Assembly which is being held on the 28th May 2026 at Otterhampton Parish Hall at 7pm.

This is a great opportunity to meet groups/organisations in the village and to put forward to the Councillors any ideas or matter that you would like to see implemented/considered by them for the good of the village.

Want to find out what the Parish Council is doing?

Parish council meetings are open to the public, so if you have a bug-bear you would like to discuss please come along. These take place on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Otterhampton Village Hall starting at 1900. Meeting details are on the website along with Agendas and Minutes.

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 old Post Office, opposite the Anchor Inn and on the wall of Ferricies Farm, Steart) or the www.otterhamptonparishcouncil.gov.uk website, with regular updates on the Facebook page. Regular posts are also made on Facebook.

Contact details for parish councillors

Lindsey Parsons (Chair)	lindsey.parsons@otterhamptonparishcouncil.gov.uk	01278 53700
Connie Sanders	connie.sanders@otterhamptonparishcouncil.gov.uk	01278 653307
Tina Gardener	tina.gardener@otterhamptonparishcouncil.gov.uk	01278 652642
Mike Haycraft	mike.haycraft@otterhamptonparishcouncil.gov.uk	01278 653264
Carol Bradbury	carol.bradbury@otterhamptonparishcouncil.gov.uk	01278 652313
Steven Parker	steven.parker@otterhamptonparishcouncil.gov.uk	07895 239878
Dave Dodge	dave.dodge@otterhamptonparishcouncil.gov.uk	07306 243368

Clerk to the parish council

Stephanie Juniper clerk@otterhamptonparishcouncil.gov.uk 07395 008455

(Stephanie works part-time and flexible hours)

County Ward Members

Mike Caswell 01278 652043. Brian Bolt 079708 55990

**Welcome to Slinky**

Slinky is a demand-responsive transport service operating in this (Sedgemoor) area. This service is available to everyone who does not have access to public transport to make the journey

To use the Slinky, you will need to register and become a member. You must be over the age of 16 to register. Parents,

guardians, once registered can book for their dependents.

Once registered you will be able to request a journey using the Padam App or website, or alternatively contact the booking office at least 1 hour in advance of the time you want to travel. Bookings can be made up to 2 weeks in advance.

The service can be used for many things, including health appointments, exercise classes, shopping and social events and connecting you to the current public transport network for onward travel.

This service is entirely separate from Otter Wheels, and is funded by government and administered by Somerset Council.

The above is a very brief summary, To find out more go to www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/slinky-services/



20's Plenty

where people are

20's Plenty for Us campaigns for 20mph as the default speed limit for urban and village streets where people live, work, shop, play and learn.
www.20splenty.org

Palace Visit

The aim of a parish council is to support the wellbeing of the community and believe it or not, Otterhampton Parish Council has been recognised countywide for the work it has been doing.

Over the past few years the parish has witnessed a number of challenges including the closure of the village shop and post office, an increase in traffic, 'Fly Parking', flooding along Brookside Road, a deterioration of social infrastructure and recently the loss of the last remaining public house, The Anchor Inn, with its historic seventeenth century 'Fives Wall'.

The foundations of a thriving community include its social infrastructure, cultural heritage and social connections. The infrastructure provides the basis for sustaining social capital. Culture and heritage are part of a community's identity. Social connections are the bonds between people, feelings of belonging, valued, supported and loved. All are essential in maintaining social cohesion and community wellbeing.

Much of the negative impact on the social fabric of the community has been mitigated by the resilience of our community. Parish organisations including the Parish Council, Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association, The Village Hall, St. Peter's Church, Harbour View Community Bar, WI, the Art Group and Garden Club have demonstrated an ability to cooperate and work together.

A read through Parish Council minutes demonstrates how the Parish Council is responding to these challenges and more. It will also show how the council is being proactive and taking advantage of wider government initiatives that can support and maintain the social cohesion and wellbeing of the community. It would seem that Otterhampton Parish Council is well placed to respond to the new Devolution and Community Empowerment Act (2026) which enables parish councils to take on more responsibilities and decision making by engaging with the community.



Otterhampton Parish Council represents one of the smallest parishes in Somerset yet was awarded a grant from Somerset

Association of Local Councils to support social health by promoting social connections through creative activities. The 'Growing Together' project is being achieved through different village groups such as Garden Club, the Art Group, Harbour View Community Bar, St. Peter's Church, the Village Hall, and OPRA.

The 'Otterhampton: Growing Together' project and the other activities of the Parish Council have been recognised by Somerset Association of Local Authorities who nominated Councillor Steven Parker to attend a recent Buckingham Palace Garden Party hosted by His Majesty the King. When Steven was told, he wrote "The Parish Council will be delighted and honoured to have its work recognised in this way.



HARBOUR VIEW BAR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Bar's AGM will be held on **Wednesday 10th June at 7.30pm** in the main hall.

Please come along and hear what is happening to the Bar refurbishment, give your views, enjoy a glass or 2 of wine and hopefully join the Committee. We need 3 more members to volunteer to help organise the running of the Bar and events. You don't need any experience but just be willing to help. We hold short monthly meetings and organise staff rotas, stock taking, ordering/buying stock, arranging repairs, organising, publicising and supporting events so ALL skills are very welcome.

This is a Community Bar so please come along, have your say and hopefully join the Committee or volunteer to help when needed.

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU

Congratulations to Abi Eade and her sister Tamsin Xerzes who took part in a 13 mile walk around Stonehenge earlier this month on behalf of the Alzheimer's Society. They raised nearly £800 via their Just Giving pages and donations from patrons of the Bar. Special thanks to Mike, Maria, Kate and Paul who won Rich's May Quiz and generously donated their prize money of £80 to this worthy cause.

RICH'S MONTHLY QUIZ . After Rich's Special Bank Holiday Quiz on Sunday 24th May, he will return to his usual monthly Saturday slot. Watch out for the dates to be advertised at the Bar.



Combwich Open Gardens.



Last year, Combwich Garden Club organised an open garden event and it was so successful that we are going to do it all again on **Saturday 20th of June. 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM.**

Route maps will be on sale at the Village Coffee Morning on the 19th of June and on the day in the village hall (£3 This is to help with printing and hire of hall).

Once again, there will be a variety of gardens to view, some old cottage styles to view and some very new and zen! Thanks to the hard work and generosity of the participants, there will be lots to see and discuss. All blooming marvellous.

Saint Peter's Church will also be open and decorated with floral displays by the WI. This was very popular last year. So many thanks to the WI members and the church for their contribution.

You can also take part by adding points of interest to the trail which starts at the village hall - along Estuary Park - round to Nursery Close - up Church Hill and back down to Riverside and the Hall. For example, front gardens and drives could be used for stalls, plant sales, book sales, Bric a brac, refreshments etc. It is actually the King's official birthday. So, a day to celebrate our gardens and community.

Refreshments will be available from 2:00 PM. In the village hall

\COMBWICH TAPAS & MOCKTAILS/

And cream teas available in a private garden, as indicated on the map.

We hope the weather will be kind, but in the event of rain, snow or floods the show will go on in the village hall with a slideshow of photos of the gardens.

Please support this community event. Contact Maria Narraway for further details. E-mail maria.narraway@yahoo.co.uk.



Otterhampton Primary School - Summer 1 Update

Claire Luce - Executive Head Teacher

Here are our Summer 1 highlights:

Flood Workshops: We had a visit from Bel from Somerset Rivers Authority who gave workshops to each class, about flooding in Somerset. The children learned what floods are, what causes them and a how to stay safe in a flood. They were taught about emergency grab bags and designed their own mini versions.



Y5 Mini Police: This project has come to a close now and the Y5's had an assembly with the school and their parents. They showed them what they learned during their time in Mini Police and had a certificate ceremony.

Little Otters: They have learnt a new song 'popcorn kernel' and have been making animal biscuits, painting and playing outside in the lovely sunshine.



Brook class Reception children have made Easter biscuits and the Y1s went to a Football Festival at Bridgwater College. They also made birds' nests in Science and learned how to cross a road safely and then practised outside.

River Class have used printing blocks they made previously to create a beautiful pattern on fabric in Art and finished their soil topic with an experiment. They have also been using the iPads and learning about the Shang Dynasty in Ancient China. They also

joined a live lesson for World Earth Day with the Author Judy Wise and learned about the importance of looking after the planet.

Swimming: Brook Class enjoyed their first swimming lesson on at the start of the Summer Term and everyone had an amazing time!



Easter Bingo: A huge thank you to everyone who joined the FOPS for the Easter Bingo event in the Village Hall. They raised an amazing £700 towards the outdoor classroom project.

SATS: The Year 6s took their SATs this week and worked really hard on them and on Friday went for a treat to McDonalds to celebrate finishing the exams. They are having a proper trip to Butlins in July for the day.

Young Artists Book: Certificates were given out in assembly to those children who took part in creating some wonderful artwork to be included in the publication of the

Young Artists book.

Allergies: We had a school assembly on allergies. We are an allergy aware school. We have a staff member and a student who have a severe allergy to nuts. So its vitally important to keep our children and staff safe by not sending children to school with nuts or products that may contain traces of nuts.



Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

Registered Charity Number 1124017

Chair Tina Gardener 652642 - Secretary Carol Bradbury 652313

Join us for a Fun Dog Show

2pm on Saturday 27th June
Small Common
Combwich
Free entry
BBQ
Raffle



For more information contact Tina on 01278 652642

**DOG
SHOW**



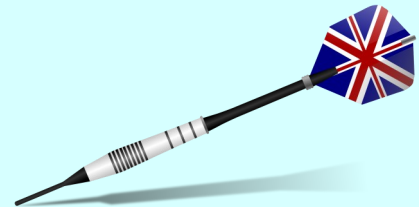
Catogaries

Prettiest bitch
Most handsome dog
Waggiest tail
Most like its owner
Most appealing eyes
Golden Oldie
Puppy
Agility
Best 6 legs



Darts Champion

On Friday May 8th the Quantock and District darts league held their presentation evening where teams and individuals received awards for their success's in the year. This included Paul Tanner from our team the "Harbour Flights". Paul achieved the highest check out, scoring a maximum 180 in a match and winning the individual tournament .



Seen here is Paul receiving the Brian Ayley shield from Sue Ayley who was kind enough to present the shield. Sue's late husband was a keen darts and skittles player.

This was a most enjoyable evening with food prepared by Maria and Lauren. The Harbour Bar was kind enough to sponsor the event.

During the interval a highest score with a 9 dart challenge was held. This proved difficult as players were not allowed to use their own darts. The winner, with a score of 225 was Dan from Nether Stowey. To take part players were invited to make a donation. All proceeds went to the pre school P.T.A and were presented with a cheque for £101.48 which I hope will be put towards a project to enhance the learning experiences of the pupils.

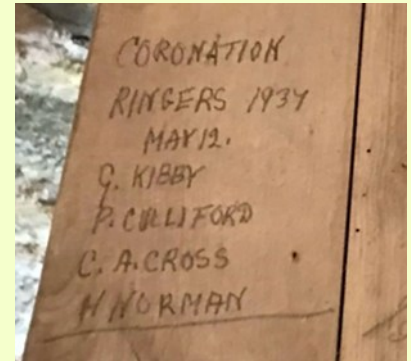
Open Bell Tower at Church Fete

The Bell Tower at Saint Peters Church in Combwich will be open during the church fete on 6th of June.

The bells of Saint Peters Church are a unique set of Victorian chime bells. Victorian engineering focused on mechanical efficiency and making things easier to use. This resulted in a set of functional and accessible bells enabling members of the village to ring the church bells without years of training or practice.

Chime bells also offer a unique opportunity to play a range of tunes including hymns. In the tower there are scraps of paper, probably 150 years old illustrating how tunes can be played. The current bell ringers continue this tradition and have managed to transcribe a range of tunes that can be played on the bells.

Scribbled on the wooden box housing of the clock pendulum is a historic record of bellringers stretching back nearly 160 years. This provides a unique record of births, deaths and marriages, and wedding anniversaries. There are records of significant events, including those who rang the bells for the Coronation in 1937 and who rang the bells on 15th August 1945 when peace was declared after the Second World War. This tradition has continued and more recent scribbles include who rang the bells for the death of Queen Elizabeth II, and the coronation of King Charles III.



During the Church Fete the bell tower will be open. Come and have a look at this unique historical record of village life.

You can also have a go at ringing the bells and play a few tunes.

Please join us for our Sea Farer's Service
 On **Combwich Common (Opposite OVH)**
Sunday 12th July
 @ **3.00pm**
Refreshments after
Everyone welcome

COMBWICH CHURCH FETE

Have a go at ringing the bells

TEA TIME
 Arts and Crafts
 Plant Sale

@ **St Peter's Church**

SATURDAY 6TH JUNE 2026
TIME: 2.00PM 5.00PM

Contact: Rev Jan Church; 07733433526

Raffle

Quantock Gate Parishes of Cannington, Fiddington, Otterhampton with Combwich, Stogursey and Stolford, Stockland and Steart Bay

What we've been up to!

John Hardy paid us a visit in March and gave us an enlightening talk on Dementia. He began by explaining that he set up the local Dementia Alliance after becoming aware of how many people were being diagnosed with it, how many people have family members who are affected by it and how many people are helping to care for sufferers. John went on to tell us that there are approximately 200 different types of Dementia and likened it to a sturdy bookcase. If it were to wobble the books at the top would fall before the lower ones, just the same if Dementia rocks the bookcase, recent memories are lost and older ones remain. Simple ways to help Dementia sufferers are to firstly understand the condition, don't try to talk them out of their reality and to remember that patience and kindness go a very long way. Thank you, John, for a very thought-provoking evening.

In April, Richard Navoy joined us to talk about basic First Aid and Life Support. He explained his background in First Aid and how he is now registered as a first responder. He emphasised the importance of not panicking and ensuring the safety of ourselves before attending any victim. Richard talked through basic injuries such as burns, which should be treated with at least 20 minutes of tepid water, and cuts which should have pressure applied to control the bleeding. He demonstrated how to use a defibrillator and how to give CPR, remembering the song 'Staying alive' to keep the correct rhythm. Hopefully we will not need to use these basic skills but good to know them, thank you Richard!

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Comwich and District WI

Dates for your diaries

Thursday 21st May – Andy Rowden – Simple will and power of attorney – Competition – Old keepsake tin or box

Thursday 18th June – Members evening

Thursday 16th July – Neil Smart – Medical detection dogs – Competition – Something lacy

No meeting in August

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



Combwich Art Group

Combwich Art Group hosted a print workshop by artist Judith Brown in April.

Those who attended were able to make printing blocks using pieces of special print foam. A much safer alternative than using linoleum. The trick was to remember that the image being made would be the reverse of the image created.

If you have any ideas for future Art and Craft workshops please contact The Art Group. We would love to hear from you.

Email: Jean
webbhideaway@gmail.com



Courgette, Walnut and Lime Cake

One of my favourite cake recipes Courgette, Walnut & Lime & is a great way to use the abundant harvest I know we will all have!

This recipe is for a 28cm spring form tin or large loaf tin & serves 12 unless its me eating it!

200g light brown soft sugar
200ml vegetable or sunflower oil
plus extra for the tin
4 eggs
175g self-raising flour
½ tsp baking powder
1tsp allspice
75g roughly chopped walnuts
1 average sized courgette, grated
2 limes zested and juiced

For the frosting

275g soft cheese
100g icing sugar
1 lime
zested and juiced
25g walnuts
roughly chopped



Method

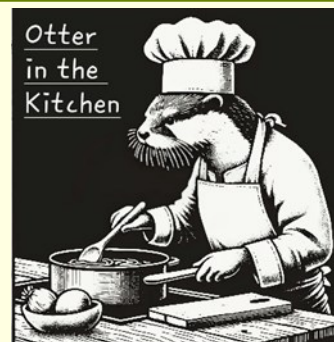
Heat the oven to 170C/160C fan/ gas 4. Grease a spring form or loaf tin and line with baking parchment. Combine the sugar, oil and eggs in a large bowl and mix well. Fold in the flour, baking powder and chopped walnuts.

Some recipes suggest squeezing the moisture out of the grated courgette but I use mine unsqueezed as it makes the cake lovely & moist.

Otherwise, squeeze out as much moisture as you can from the grated courgette using your hands (don't worry about squeezing out every drop), then add this to the bowl along with the lime zest and half the juice, and mix to combine. Bake for 40-50 mins until a skewer inserted into the middle comes out clean.

Check the cake after 30 mins – if it's looking too brown, cover with foil for the remaining cooking time. Leave to cool in the tin for 20 mins, then transfer to a wire rack, poke a few holes in the top using a skewer and pour over the remaining lime juice. Leave to cool completely.

Once cool, it will keep frozen for up to a month. Defrost fully before decorating and serving.



WHAT IF...?

We all have stories that relate to the question 'What if...?' Well, here's just one of mine, one of the strangest and probably most exciting 'Jobs that never actually happened...

In the 1990's I was playing Dame in the Pantomime 'Aladdin' with TV personality Keith Chegwin playing my son 'Wishy-Washy'. We were working for a producer based in Liverpool, who was presenting several pantomimes around the country, including another production of Aladdin in Liverpool starring of all people Lewis Collins as Aladdin! Some of you may remember Lewis Collins for his TV work (*The Professionals with Martin Shaw*) and feature films including 'Who Dares Wins' To say he was a bit of a 'heart throb' of the time is an understatement and the fact that he was starring in Pantomime was a bit of a revelation, but he absolutely loved the medium having played in a few during his early years as an actor. He loved ad-libbing and fooling around during each performance (Not always advisable, but when you're a big name with an audience full of fans!...)

Now, Mr Collins was great friends with none other than 'superstar' Oliver Reed, (*Yes, the one from Gladiator*) who went to a performance one evening to watch his friend starring in Pantomime. You can imagine the audience reaction when Mr Reed appeared and sat on the front row! Oliver Reed loved the show so much he went up to the producer and said 'Next year, I want to be in this pantomime with Lewis. I want to play that evil character Abanazer!' (*Except I don't think he said 'Character'!*)



The producer almost fell through the floor, with many pound signs gleaming and dancing before his very eyes! This is where I came in. One Sunday I had a phone call from said producer which went along the following lines...

'Mr Chris' (*He always called me Mr Chris*) 'Have you heard the latest? Oliver Reed wants to play Pantomime with Lewis Collins, he wants to play Abanazer, Collins as Aladdin, Cheggers as Wishy-Washy and we want YOU to play Dame...' I was silent for a while. 'Why me?' I asked, 'Well, we know that you'll be able to handle it. just in case of any er... mishaps' 'You mean if they mess around with the script a bit'

'Yes. that sort of thing. Oh, and you also like going to the pub every night after the show!'

Well, after such praise I couldn't exactly refuse... So I accepted as long as I could re-write the script accordingly. Adapting it to suit these two 'stars with a reputation'

This also meant that I would know the script back to front and have every eventuality of 'off script' under my sleeve, just for emergencies. I'd learnt at an early age that sometimes when appearing with strong personalities, you have to be able to stand your ground!

Sadly, the whole thing fell apart. Mr Reed accepted a film offer and went off to South Africa to film it. Lewis Collins went over to the USA to discuss a new series. Cheggers ended up in Winchester and I ended up playing Ugly Sister in Weston Super Mare alongside the champion boxer Barry McGuigan...

Occasionally, during the odd quiet moment, I still wonder 'What if...'

(But my liver thanks me every single day!) Chris Ponka

Bishops Palace and Gardens in Wells was the venue for the Garden Club early summer outing, together with members of the church. Subsidised by a Somerset Community and Wellbeing Fund grant provided to the parish council, and administered by the garden club. Entry discounts negotiated by the church also helped to keep the cost down

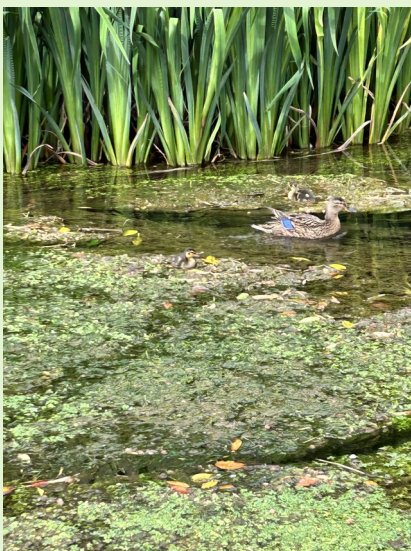
A glorious day was spent in the palace and wandering around the beautiful ancient gardens



The 14 acre gardens have been cultivated for over 800 years with major landscaping in the 19th century



There was time to enjoy a leisurely lunch in the historic city and for some bit of shopping.



Ducks in a pond
&
Community garden



Thanks to the organisers and particularly Maggy and Steve for a wonderful day out

And so, tired but happy after a long day, we waited for the coach to take us home.

Beware!**Rogue Traders / Gardeners (Tree Specialists)**

A reminder relating to bogus "Tree Specialists" who have been preying on the older population within our communities of Avon and Somerset, offering to carry out gardening work. Residents are reported to have paid vast sums of money for poor quality work to the so called Specialists who have also taken the money and never returned to complete the work.

There have also been occasions where the callers have falsely claimed to have completed the work and demanded payment.

There are a few things that you should be wary of before allowing anyone into your home or garden.

1. Did they put a leaflet through your door claiming to offer discounts for OAPs?
2. Do they offer 20 / 30 / 40 % off for calling within a particular time scale of receiving your leaflet?
3. Do they offer Tree work and then claim to offer a host of other services seemingly unrelated?
4. Does it look like a professionally printed leaflet?
5. If you speak to an operator, do not be bullied into committing to their services or an appointment.
6. If they are in your home, phone a friend and ask them to come round.


You can ask them to leave at any point during their sales pitch.

These are just a few points to look out for, but the best rule to go by is that if you require any work you should find the person yourself or go by the recommendation of others that you trust.

There are plenty of websites that can steer you in the right direction to find the right company.



And of course there are some genuine, honest companies so make an informed decision, but remember:

"If you're not sure, don't open the door"



Not sure? Don't open the door!
Be on your guard against bogus callers

Always call 999 if you think a crime is in progress
Call 101 if it's not an emergency or visit:
www.avonandsomerset.police.uk



Otter Tales tries to provide an interesting and informative newsletter serving our community. Its content is supplied by the editors and the regular contributors for whom we are very grateful. However, after 11 years of producing this newsletter we are looking for people to form a small editorial group to advise on all aspects of the production and distribution of Otter Tales. The group will meet from time to time to review. Please contact the Editor if you are interested.

Apologies to readers whose front page of last months edition was unaccountably defaced



WWT Steart Marshes & Bridgwater Bay NNR

LOOK WHAT'S GOING ON at Steart Marshes!!! Changes and events are coming thick and fast...

Firstly, **our name**, you may have noticed it has been growing over recent years and we are now officially called 'WWT Steart Marshes and Bridgwater Bay, part of the Somerset Wetland National Nature Reserve.' Quite a mouthful so we are shortening the addition to SWNNR as in the new title above!

The **boardwalk** between Mendip Hide/Polden Screen is open again after a brief closure while cattle were on the flood bank. Please do explore but make sure to keep the gates closed at either end.

New viewing platforms and bird signs have been installed as part of the National Lottery Heritage funded project **Steart: Connecting Coastal Communities**. We have replaced the signs on all platforms and will be moving on to the hides over the coming weeks. The Parrett Hide roof is almost finished and the scaffolding will be down by the time you read this.



Dragonfly Day will be taking place on site Sunday 7th June 10am and 3pm and we will also be launching our **Summer of Saltmarsh**, creating a summer of events right here in the heart of the local community. **Walks, talks and workshops** will take many forms, both drop-in and bookable, including willow weaving, walk & draw, gather and make, clay, monoprint, and even a rap workshop bringing saltmarsh facts together using rhythm and poetry. You can find out more and book places via our website events page at - www.org.uk/steart.



Images: willow weaving with Jane Fletcher and monoprint with Jackie Curtis. These will be two of the offers as part of Summer of Saltmarsh.

Finally, we still have a few *free* places left on our course **Saltmarshes – a Habitat Introduction** running here in partnership with the Field Studies Council on Fri 25 June or Sat 25 July. This is a rare opportunity for training with the respected FSC to learn about the saltmarsh on your doorstep, no prior knowledge required as this is pitched as a beginner course. Please message Nicole on the email below for more details.

The **Steart: Connecting Coastal Communities Project** is made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Thanks to National Lottery players, we are creating opportunities in the heart of the local community designed to deepen engagement with saltmarsh and wetlands.

See our latest updates on @WWTSteartMarshes on Facebook and Instagram, or our website www.org.uk/steart

Contacts - Reserve Office: 01278 651090 info.steart@wwt.org.uk **Duty Manager:** 07717 505966

Site Manager: Alys Laver 07743 502525 alys.laver@wwt.org.uk

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





**HOLFORD
FLOWER
SHOW 2026**

SATURDAY 1st AUGUST

OPENING 2.00PM-4.30PM
PRODUCE, ART
PRESERVES
BAKING &
CRAFT
CREAM TEAS
TOMBOLA

ADMISSION ADULTS £1:00
Free parking

No longer working full-time, or raising a family?
Wanting to make more of life locally?

Join us
for:

- Country Walking
- 10-Pin Bowling
- Table Tennis
- Creative Writing
- Garden Visits
- Bridge
- Scrabble
- Current Affairs Discussion
- Free monthly coffee morning

and much more....

**We welcome
new members**

See www.bwu3a.org
Facebook.com/bridgwateru3a
or contactus@bwu3a.org



BRIDGWATER





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.

This is our 10th Anniversary Year

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 23rd July 2026

Email The Editor:
barry.leathwood@btinternet.com

Church Bellingers

Contact bellringers for Birthday Bells, or if you would like a go at bell ringing.

combwichbells@outlook.com

Defibrillators can save your life.

The 2 Combwich defibrillators are positioned in the telephone box and on the corner of the Anchor in Ship Lane

The Steart defibrillator is positioned at Ferrices Farm.

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: Di Davie. Email dianadavie@hotmail.co.uk

Articles for publication: email barry.leathwood@btinternet.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 Thurs 23rd July 2026

Mobile Library: Dates and Times.

Thursday . 11th June, 9th July, 6th 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

For more information about this service contact Somerset Direct 0300 123224 or visit www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries

To keep up to date with all that is happening in the parish check the various village noticeboards, log onto www.otterhamptonparishcouncil.gov.uk 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 access the parish council website scan the QR code.



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



Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association operates a parish emailing service providing information about local events and other information about the local area.

If you wish to be included, email barry.leathwood@btinternet.com