



COMBWICH, OTTERHAMPTON AND STEART NEWSLETTER

Otter Tales

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General Information



Parish Councillors Mike Haycraft and David Dodge plant a Rowan tree on Wharf Road.

The Parish Council is embarking on a programme of tree planting within the Parish.

Otterhampton Parish Council

Otterhampton Offcuts

Snippets from your parish council December 2024 to January 2025 meetings

First Tree Planted on Wharf Road

We are pleased to report that we have planted a rowan tree on Wharf Road to start replacing the trees that had to be removed. With thanks to councillors Dave and Mike for planting the tree.

Tree Planting in Steart

We will be planting trees in the grounds at St. Andrews Chapel in Steart.

Brookside Road Flooding Update

After the severe flooding seen on Brookside Road over the last year, we are pleased to report that investigations are starting to take place; CCTV and jetting are due to take place imminently.

Considerate Parking

Please park considerately in the villages. We know that parking is very limited in Combwich but do ask that you don't park on grass verges, across dropped kerbs or near junctions.

Dog Fouling

Dog fouling is a constant problem when it shouldn't be. Should you witness an owner not cleaning up after their dog, please report it to the dog warden on the Somerset Council website. There are several dog bins/waste bins around the village, please don't leave your poo bag behind!

Attempted Break-in

An attempted break-in on School Lane was reported recently. Please be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the police.

Annual Parish Meeting

Last year's annual parish meeting was a success and we will be holding another this May. The meeting is a chance for local groups and organisations to come to the village hall and talk about their group's successes and if they need support. Light refreshments will be served. The meeting will be held on Thursday 1st May at 7.00pm. Please let the clerk know if you would like to attend.

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 10th April, 8th May and 12th June 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
Steve Parker	01278 653045
Dave Dodge	david.dodge@gmx.co.uk

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

25 Years of OPRA

As reported in previous Otter Tales, OPRA is 25 years old this year and we are putting on some extra events to mark this occasion.

Our first event is a **Silent Disco**. This is for all primary school age children who live in the Parish or attend Otterhampton Primary School. It will be held on Thursday 27th March from 4.30pm to 6.30pm in Otterhampton Village Hall.

Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

To celebrate our 25th anniversary, we are putting on a series of events throughout the year. The first is our:



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Our second event will be the ever-popular **Children's Easter Egg Hunt**. This will start at 11.00am from the Anchor Inn on Good Friday 18th April. This will be followed by the **Easter Quiz** which will also be held at the

Anchor Inn on Easter Sunday 20th April at 7.30pm.

Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA)

To celebrate our anniversary, we are putting on a series of events throughout the year. The fourth is our:



Our fourth event will also commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. This will be a **tea dance** with a 40's theme and will be held in the Village Hall from 3.00pm to 5.00pm on Saturday 3rd May.

Other suggestions for events include; casino night, games afternoon, and food from around the world. We would also like to organize a get together for all past and present OPRA members.

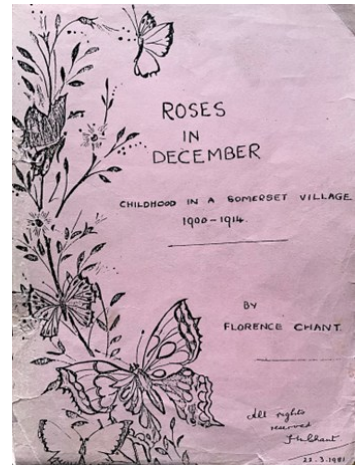
Details of other events will appear in future editions of Otter Tales including the annual cricket match in memory of the late Murray Lister. It is certainly going to be a busy year for us!

We would never have survived this long without the generosity of our 100 Club members, and we can't thank you enough. There are spaces available for new members and if you would like a form, please contact Tina on 652642 or Sue on 653663 or download a form from the website www.combwich.org.uk It costs just £1 per week, collected every 13 weeks by standing order.

Finally, we would like to express our sadness at the passing of Mervyn Brown and send our condolences to his family and friends. Mervyn was one of the founding members of OPRA, who helped to make it the success it is today.

THE SQUIRE AND THE PARISH

The Squire in 1900 was an elderly gentleman, Captain Andrew Guy Everard, a retired Army-Officer who lived with his wife and daughter, Miss Edith Everard, at Hill House Otterhampton. His estate embraced several farms in the vicinity. He had a son who was rarely seen in the Parish, and three other daughters who were married to husbands in the Diplomatic Service or possibly in the Army. At any rate I know they spent much of their lives abroad and sometimes came home on leave. One of them lived in Chile.



Captain Everard and his wife regularly attended Otterhampton Church. They rode in a carriage-and-pair driven by a young uniformed coachman who doubled as a footman in the house. They also had a very portly and imposing butler, a cook, a housemaid and kitchenmaid. A keeper was employed to keep watch on the game in the woods. The Squire was not often seen in the village of Combwich but he and his family gave ready help in time of need.

Captain Everard must have been a generous patron of various charities. He had in his possession "recommends" which were necessary in order to obtain free treatment in various hospitals. He gave my Father one of these documents when as a small child I was taken for examination and treatment to Bristol Eye Hospital and another a few years later when I had an operation there and was an in-patient for about a month. This did not cost my Father a single penny. The Squire had made all this possible.



My first personal encounter with the Squire was when I was about six years of age. I was with my two elder brothers who were climbing a small tree in the centre of the park. As they knew this was not allowed I was set to watch to make sure they would not be caught in the act. Suddenly I espied the Squire gesticulating angrily and calling out to the boys to come out of the tree. The boys slid to the ground and took to their heels as if their very lives had been in danger; I remained rooted to the spot.

The Squire asked me to give him the names of the boys but as was my custom under such circumstances I did not reply. He did not press the point but instead kindly asked me if I would like to accompany him on a walk around his garden. I was only too delighted to agree and when he unlocked and opened the gate into the walled garden it seemed as if I were entering an enchanted fairyland. On either side of the main gravel path was a row of standard roses blooming late, and looking like a guard-of-honour of soldiers. The Squire told me the names of many of the roses and cut several blooms for me. He added some brightly-coloured flowers from a lovely herbaceous border. I was shown unfamiliar fruits growing on trees trained against the walls and, wonder of wonders, the Squire gave me a ripe peach, the first I had ever seen.

Soon I set off proudly for home, the peach held carefully in my hot little hand to keep it safe for my Mother. Gently I smoothed the tender skin with my finger, admired its soft bloom and enjoyed its delightful scent. I had to climb two high stiles and handle a stiff gate but I managed to take my treasure safely home.

On a much anticipated day in early Summer, Miss Everard regularly arrived at the village school. We always knew she had come to deliver an invitation to the Head-Mistress and the two teachers

to bring the children for their annual school-treat at the Squire's home. On the appointed day every child left home soon after mid-day bearing either a flag or a stick with a nosegay of flowers tied to the top with ribbons, and also a mug. At 2 p.m. we formed a procession and set off from the school along the path to the park. Arriving on the Squire's lawn we were directed to place our mugs, flags and posy-sticks among the low branches of a giant cedar-tree and were then led across a bridge over the "ha-ha" which prevented cattle from roaming onto the beautiful lawn. Games and races then followed and children of all ages had a hilarious time working up an appetite for tea. The delicious tea followed at last and was a much appreciated part of the splendid entertainment we received.

After tea we children were marshalled to stand in a long line facing the house waiting for the front door to open. Soon out came the Squire and his lovely lady (who, as I remember her, was as pretty as a Dresden figurine). Other members of the family and house guests joined them. The Squire then gave a kindly little speech expressing his happiness at the presence of the children. Then out came the butler and footman with laden trays. Each child then received a gift, perhaps a game or a toy and, for the girls, dolls.

When I was about eleven years old Miss Everard came to my home to ask my parents if they would like me to become a member of the choir at Otterhampton Church. They readily agreed and in doing so could not have foreseen how much I was to benefit from their decision. From that time onward Miss Everard did all she possibly could to give me a wider outlook on life and to lead to the development of such small gifts as I possessed. She gave me private singing-lessons and also began to teach me to play the piano. As we had no piano at home I could go at any available time to practice in the schoolroom at "Hill House". The servants knew I had been told I could walk in without ringing, have my practice, and then go out again at will. I have no doubt that, in turn, other children were treated with equal kindness.

Sometimes during the Summer holidays I came in contact with the Squire's grand-daughters who were at boarding-schools in England. These young ladies were a little older than I was and whenever I saw them were very kind to me. There was on their part no hint of condescension and never on my part any attempt to presume on their friendly attitude; I knew perfectly well that there was an intangible difference between their status and mine and this I had been taught by my parents to respect. I would never, however, have been subservient nor was I expected to be by any member of the Squire's family whom I met.

Choir practices were held in the schoolroom at Hill House. About twenty people attended and in winter after a chilly walk across the parks we welcomed the blazing fire and cosy atmosphere of the room with its deep-red wallpaper in vertical stripes like silky damask. Miss Everard was an accomplished organist and violinist and we were fortunate to have the advantage of such expert training.

My younger brother Wilfred was the official "organ-blower" for which he was paid a copper or two each Sunday. He had no voice for singing but in view of his official position he was allowed to attend the choir practice. At least he could enjoy his share of little iced cakes and coffee which were provided and brought in by a footman in an interval. On Sundays Wilfred sat on a seat near the back of the organ where his duty was to "pump the handle" up and down and make sure the wind did not run out by watching a lead-weight hanging on a string. The weight moved up and down according to the volume of air available and I often had moments of panic when Wilfred deliberately allowed the weight almost to reach its upper level. Another inch could have produced a disastrous result.

From all that I have related I hope it will be realised that the Squire and his family provided stability in the life of the parish. Hill House [was the] very heart [of] the village.



Otterhampton Primary School - December highlights

Claire Luce - Executive Headteacher

Spring update

World Book Day - Every class enjoyed a dance workshop with West End Schools in the theme of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The children were encouraged to dress up as a character from the book/film. In the evening they went to the McMillan Theatre to see the play of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory performed by the Young Musical Theatre Company.



Well Being - The Well Being Champions have been very busy sharing their good ideas with the rest of the school about well being and what we can do to help

our own wellness. They were very confident in presenting their ideas in assembly to the rest of the school. They also planned activities for Children's Mental Health week.



Children's mental health week Mon 3rd Feb - "Know yourself, Grow yourself". We had an assembly and followed up with other activities around expressing emotions. The week was all about mindfulness, yoga and islands of personality. We were thinking about where we have come from and where we are now in our lives. The wellbeing team presented certificates to those children who produced great plants to represent us as people.



Number Day - We celebrated Number Day by coming in dressed in non-uniform wearing a number! We also held a number themed Bake Off and parents were invited to school for our number themed Stay and Play - We had a number quiz and bingo which were great fun! The Bake off cake sale raised £82.22 for school funds which was amazing!



OPS Friends - Our parent group have purchased more didicars for the playground, art shirts and basketball hoops. The children love using these new resources.

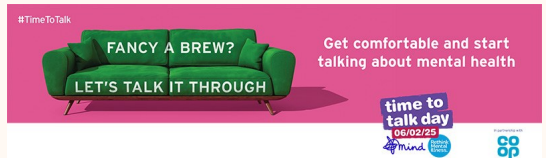


The OPS Friends are now onto their next fundraising challenge. The children have started the **Smartie Challenge** for the month of March. The children were all given a tube of smarties. Throughout the month of March we are hoping the children will partake in random acts of kindness or do helpful jobs to help fill their tube up with 20ps! We look forward to hearing how the children have earned their money.



Rock your Socks - We will "Rock your Socks" for World Down Syndrome Day on 21st March and help people understand and support those with Down Syndrome better. We will wear non uniform with socks of our choice.

Now that the weather is improving, we are hoping to get out and about a bit more.



Harbour View Bar News

You will find us in Otterhampton Village Hall, opening times Friday 7-11pm Sunday 3-8pm. We also open for some major sporting fixtures. All welcome! New individual membership £6 and guests can accompany a member at £1 per visit.



Upcoming events

Quiz Night

Our next quiz nights hosted by our Quizmaster Richard Navoy, will be taking place on Saturday 29th March 8 pm start. £1 per person. The bar will be open from 7pm.

Family Skittles Evening

We will be hosting a family skittles evening on Saturday 12th April at 6.30. Further details will follow on the local All Things Combach Face Book page 'Harbour View Bar'



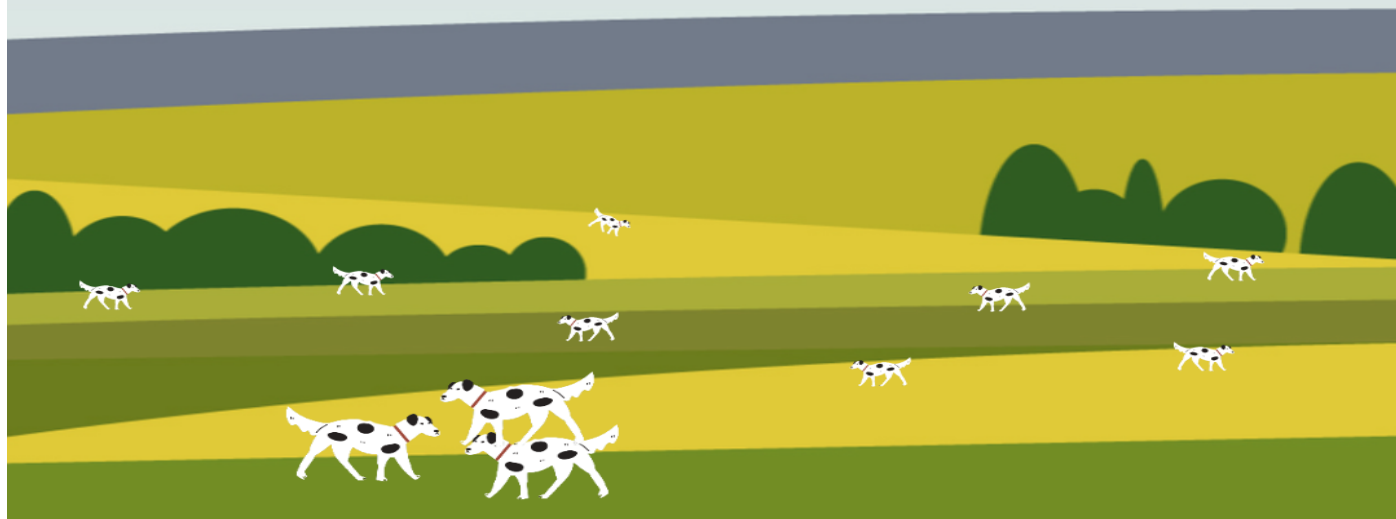
Committee members required

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

Contact Steve Lang 07875 149826 clubber64@icloud.com or Bruce Barton 07584 502019 bartonbs@btinternet.com

DOG OWNERS...

Are fed up with the small minority of people who don't pick up after their dog.



What we've been up to!

On the 16th January Claire Bounds, from Avon and Somerset Police Fraud Protection Team, gave us a very informative talk about fraud and scams. At present 42% of all crime is due to fraud and 216 billion pound is lost to it each year. Recent scams have been text related and concern winter fuel payments and parcel deliveries. Claire emphasised the need to be very careful when answering phone calls, especially if they claim to be from your bank. The golden rule is 'take 5, tell 2', take 5 minutes to think about what you are being asked to do and tell 2 other people (this could be family members, friends, or neighbours; sometimes talking it through helps you focus on what your being asked to do! The Fraud Protect Team produce a booklet all about scams.

The lunch club visited the Friendly Spirit on the 23rd January and had an enjoyable meal.

A quiz night was held on the 20th February with a mix of music and general knowledge questions, members racked their brains for the answers! A challenging night for all, a big thank you to Sue for organising it.



Combwich and District WI

Dates for your diaries

Thursday 20th Mch – John Hardy 'Dementia Alliance' – Competition – Foreign object

Thursday 17th Apr – SARAID – Competition – Baby photo (under 18 months old)

Thursday 15th May – BARB – Competition – Interesting book

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

A statement from the Community Shop Steering Group

"As you maybe aware, the Combwich Village Stores is now permanently closed. The steering group are unable to continue with the preferred option to purchase the existing shop, however we will be meeting again to assess the situation and decide how best to go forward."



If you want to know the time...

(‘Ask a policeman’ – So the saying goes!) by Gary Boldie

Some of us might be guilty these days of taking ‘time’ for granted.’

It’s just something that’s ‘there’ – something that ‘is’.

You can’t argue with time. Can you imagine...

‘What time is it?’

‘Ten O’clock’

‘I don’t believe you – that’s *false* news!’

Of course, your watch might be slower or faster than someone else’s.

Personally, I don’t wear a watch. Haven’t done so for ‘Donkey’s years’

(How much time in a ‘Donkey’s year’?)

Lots of countries have time zones and the UK used to be no exception..

Time here in the South West used to be ‘behind’ that of London and the South East.

Day light always begins earlier in London and later in Comwich.

Meaning of course that night begins later in Comwich than in London.

So Ten O’clock here in Somerset was always ‘later’ than the Ten O’clock in Essex.

When the railways began, time HAD to be standardised, otherwise we wouldn’t have had a clue as to what time the train was going to depart or arrive... *(Oh! Hang on a minute...)*

Not everyone could afford a watch or time-piece. Even if they had access to one, they couldn’t necessarily understand how to ‘tell’ the time...or read it.

Like many others born in the 1960’s, I learnt to tell the time with the help of a children’s TV programme called ‘Playschool’. Some of you may remember it...

The title song went; *‘Here’s a house... Here’s a door... Windows one, two, three, four...’* How the memories come flooding back!

Many, many years later when I met one of the main presenters, I thanked him for teaching me how to tell the time... And I’ve been late ever since!

So over one hundred years ago, here in our *Not-So-Sleepy* village of Comwich, people would have relied on the village church clock.

Time to get up - Time to go to work - Time to go to bed.

The clock of St Peter’s church has the date 1870 on it and was made by the major British public clock manufacturer William Potts of Leeds.

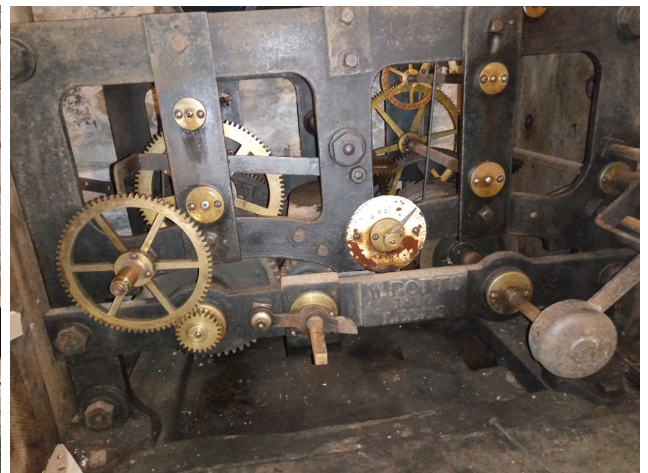
It is believed there are more than 1,600 clocks made by Potts still in existence in England.

These days the clock is serviced by a company in Dorset.

Perhaps next ‘time’ you hear the clock chime, or happen to glance up at the clock face, you can spare a thought to all those people in the village who, around one hundred and fifty years ago relied on that very same clock.

Now... Time for a nap!

Right - clock repairers Chris and Andrew from Nicholson Engineering and the clock mechanism



Garden Club

Bee the Change

David Dodge from 'Made by Bees' at Cox's Farm Park at Steart visited Garden Club to talk about pollinating insect and "Bee the Change".



David explained about the threats to pollinators including honey and wild bees from the over-use of pesticides and herbicides. Thirty five species of bees are in danger of becoming extinct and 2024 had the lowest count ever recorded for pollinators.



Glyphosate, a popular systemic weed killer affects honey and wild bees by weakening a bee colony's potential to survive. The herbicide reduces the bees' sensitivity to nectar, learning and short term memory. As glyphosate is a systemic herbicide it enters the cells of the plants and cannot be washed off. It also affects humans.

David highlighted issues associated with pesticides causing an imbalance in the ecosystem. A particular problem is pet flea treatments that include insecticides that leach off pet fur – and the hands of their owners – into waterways. A recent study also found that songbirds are inadvertently killing their young by making nests out of contaminated pet fur.

By referring to the research evidence David explained how bees and pollinators can be encouraged with a range of plants attractive to bees (see table). He emphasised the need to source plants that have not been subject to chemicals that can be harmful to bees. More information about the research and attractiveness of bee-friendly plants can be found at www.rosybee.com/research

Bees can also be encouraged by stopping the use of chemicals in the garden, planting nectar rich plants, planting wildflowers and giving the lawn mower a rest. It is also important to provide homes for the solitary bees by drilling holes using a 6 an 8 mm drill into walls/logs and wood.

More information can be found at <https://coxsfarmhoney.com/>

The event raised £100 for Crisis whose aim is to end homelessness.

Propagation Day

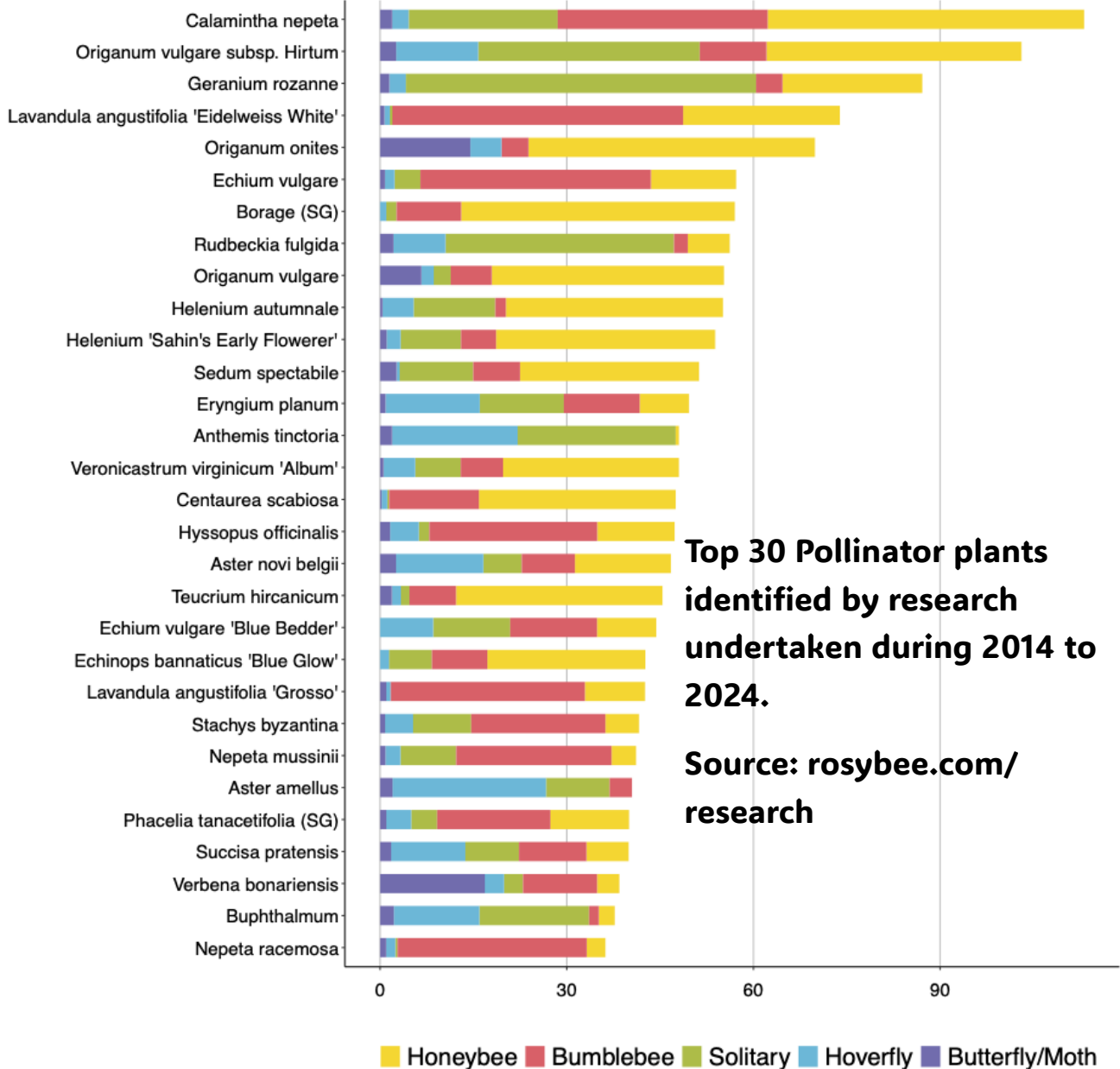
Garden club held it first Propagation Day during market day at the village hall. Seeds were sown and plants propagated. Thanks to everyone who brought plant material. We enabled people to sow seeds, and propagate from lots of plants including sedums, oregano, red-hot pokers, gooseberries, blackcurrants, penstemons, osteospermums and Japanese anemones.

The next propagation day is on April 12th.



Top 30 pollinator plants 2014 to 2024

Adjusted for honeybee/solitary bee population skew



Pop Up Spring Flower Show and AGM

Garden Club is celebrating the arrival of Spring with a Pop Up Flower Show on the 8th April. Bring anything from your garden to celebrate the arrival of Spring.

This Free To Enter Show is a celebratory event rather than a competition.

Garden Club will also hold its AGM and present it's planned activities and events for the coming year.

Email: otter.tales@aol.com

E	X	L	O	E	N	A	L	P	I	H	S
S	A	B	L	T	I	N	C	R	M	S	T
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COMBWICH VILLAGE WORDSEARCH PUZZLE

Find the TEN place names associated with Combwich!

Answers in next edition of Otter Tales

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

Holly *Rachel Perrett*

When it was suggested to me to write an article about our family dog, this caused me to stop and reflect on what we really love and value about Holly.

Our previous family dog Poppy had died in the summer of 2016, we had thought that we may try life without a pet, but the hole left only seemed to get bigger. Holly came into our lives on December 23rd 2016, when she was 12 weeks old. She is a Jack Russell, cross Springer, cross not sure, so a good old fashioned mongrel.

When we took Holly to the vets on the Christmas Eve for her first vaccination, the vets words were "you have a good one there" and he was right! She did all the naughty things puppies do, her favourite pastime was to shred paper and collect objects for her bed. She still collects objects to this day, particularly expensive trainers, if left in her reach!

It became evident early on, that she was very loyal and trainable, recall came naturally to her. As a puppy she loved to lie on you like a new born baby, which she still does now, given half a chance. Holly loves her walks and after a little training, she was soon off the lead (where appropriate) without any problems.

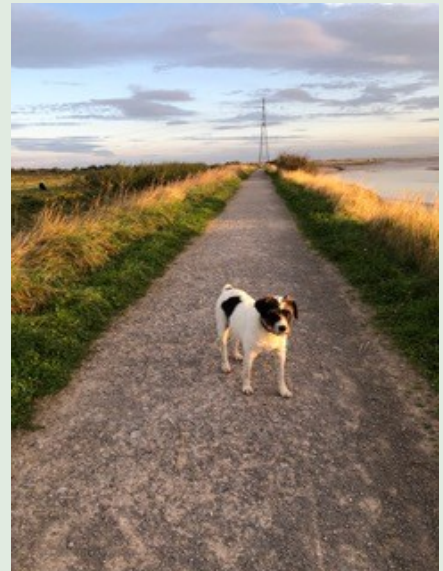
Through the events of 2020 and beyond, many people became aware of just how a pet can help you through challenging times and be a wonderful companion.

When my mum was very poorly and dying, she liked nothing better than to see her family, which always included the dog. I began to really think about how Holly had helped us, as a family through difficult times, being non-judgemental, always loyal, always giving love with only the demand for a walk, shelter and of course food!

Her gentle, calm and loving nature was something I wanted to share with others, as a 'Therapy Dog'. I was put in contact with a local person, who was involved in the organisation 'Canine Concern'. After much form filling we were approved for an assessment. That was completed at our Friday village hall coffee mornings, as a social setting. Holly passed with flying colours.

Since then she has been a regular visitor to the coffee mornings. She visits the children at Otterhampton Primary School every now and then, which is always great fun and most of the children are keen to have contact with her. She also visits patients at Bridgwater Hospital, about once a month. The patients that want to meet her are so happy and grateful to have animal contact. She helps initiate wonderful conversations and many a tear is shed by the patient, and myself.

Having the privilege of being able to visit places with Holly has been a very rewarding experience. Most of all she is our family dog, who is very much loved. But of course not prefect, that fox poo is just too tempting or better still a dead fish to roll on - lovely!



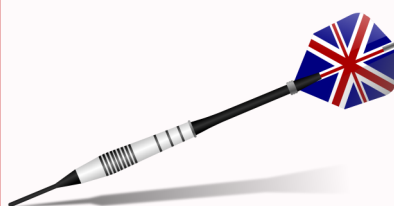
Somerset Aid for Ukraine

Thank you to everyone who donated to the recent appeal. We received lots of good quality baby/children and adult clothing, bedding, food, pet food, medical equipment and supplies. A brilliant amount in just a few days which has been transported to the Ukraine. The last collection was brilliant and this one was incredible. Your generosity is amazing and will truly help Ukrainians who are suffering so much at this moment.

Special thanks to Rich, Marie, Tina, Mike, Vic, Steph, Jim, Steve and Elizabeth for helping to sort, load, transport and unload the vans and cars. You are all truly amazing.



Sue and Bruce Barton



Harbour Flights

Harbour Flights are the Harbour View Bar darts team. They compete in the Quantock & District mixed darts league.

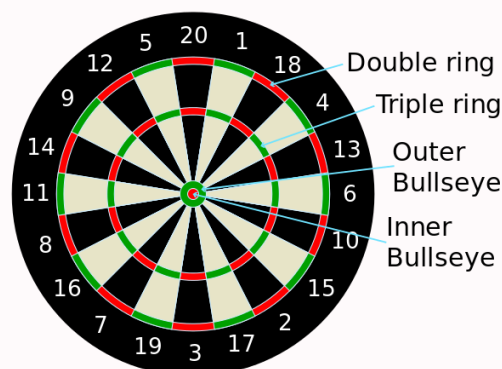
The team plays in the winter league from September to March every Friday. Alternating home/away.

Great banter from all the players sharing a drink or two & some food. Our local teams are from Over Stowey, two from Cannington & two from Nether Stowey.

Otterhampton village hall is the venue for all the competitions, there are about 4 a year and are always well attended.

They are always looking for new players, so if you are interested pop in the bar or contact Steve Lang

07875149826





WWT Steart Marshes & Bridgwater Bay NNR

We are coming into an exciting time of year as breeding season is gearing up to get started. The swans are pairing up close to their usual nest sites around the wetland walkway. If you are dog walking on site, please be mindful of the wildlife **and keep dogs out of ditches**. If your dog *does* like swimming, remember we have the designated dog swim area if you turn right across the lane from the car park. Thank you for your vital support in helping to protect the wildlife of Steart Marshes and Bridgwater Bay NNR.

You may have seen our team of wardens and volunteers busy working on the hedges and ditches recently. Assistant Warden Kathy has written updates on some of the recent tasks on site...

Hedge Clearance at Bridgwater Bay NNR

These ditches have become overgrown with blackthorn shrubs and bramble, and these shrubs have dropped debris which has clogged the water channel. Cutting back and removing vegetation from areas of the ditch banks has opened up the ditches and allowed water to move through the ditch line. This is intended to allow rare and valuable freshwater plants to grow in the ditches again and may allow water voles to use the ditches.



Hedge Laying

Laying hedgerow shrubs such as blackthorn and hawthorn involves partially cutting the trunk and laying the shrub over on its side. New growth will then be produced upwards, along the horizontal line of the trunk. This makes growth in the hedges thicker and more dense close to the ground, which provides better shelter for nesting birds, invertebrates, and small mammals.

Hedges mimic the young trees and undergrowth which would be found in a natural woodland, which connects the habitat in the site's scrub patches together.



Wildlife update

The least sandpiper has been sighted regularly on Otterhampton Marsh since the beginning of January. These are very rare in the UK and it is a first for Somerset, with only around 50 records in the UK ever. They are the world's smallest shorebird and are resident to North/Central America.

Image: Least sandpiper, Brian Sweeting

Engagement Look out for our new willow otter sculptures appearing on site soon! Under construction as I write this.

Find our latest updates on Facebook, Instagram, X and www.wwt.org.uk/steart

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

Duty Manager Mobile: 07717 505966

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

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



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

HAND MADE

Registered Charity No. 1186747



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 8th May..

Email The Editor:
otter.tales@aol.com

Birthday Bells

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

combwichbells@outlook.com

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**



Otter Tales:

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Articles for the next issue by Thursday 8th May.

Mobile Library: Dates and Times.

Thursday 3rd April, 1st May, 29th May.

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



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