

LOCAL BUSINESS FEATURE

COMBWICH P.O. & STORES

YOUR FAMILY RUN VILLAGE SHOP

**Serving your community for
the past 14 years**

West Country Hams & Cheeses
Local Bakers Bread - Groceries
Wines & Spirits - The Health Lottery



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Juliet at Tranquillity Treatments

Wishes all her customers a

**Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year**



*Why not Indulge yourself or a loved
one to some of our many treatments:-
Massage, Facials, Reflexology, Reiki,
Hopi Ear Candling, Waxing. For full
list contact Juliet on 01278 653300*

You may advertise here.

*It is free if your business is in the
Otterhampton Parish or you run it
from home and live in the parish.*

*Please phone John on 653308 or
by email to jorvik@talktalk.net
(subject to space availability)*

The Anchor
Wishes everybody a
Merry Christmas
and a

Happy New Year!
New menu starting at the
beginning of January.
Phone: 01278 653612

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ARE YOUR FEET PAINFUL?

Toe Nail Cutting / Trimming
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Clinic & Home Visits Available
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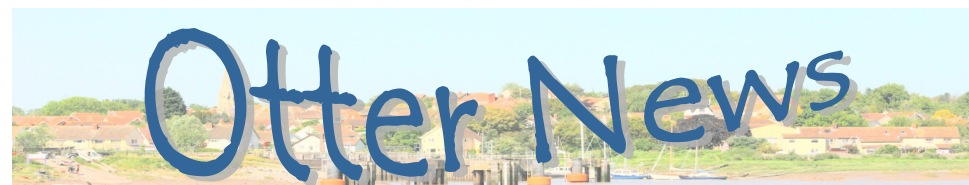
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December 2011

Otterhampton Parish Council Newsletter

DEAR VILLAGERS



**Very best wishes from all your Parish
Councillors for
CHRISTMAS & the NEW YEAR**



Dark nights are back with us once again, autumn was late this year and Christmas is almost upon us. OPRA lit up the skies with another great firework display in November and the Christmas tree switch-on in December. Our thanks to all the volunteers for brightening up the darker nights.

EDF finally submitted their application to the IPC at the end of October and after the 28 day review we now have the task of finding out exactly how we, as a parish, will be affected by HPC. Christmas is cancelled for the Parish Councillors while they read through the application detail. You will be hearing more in the coming days and weeks. Keep your eyes open for details.

While editing the Parish Newsletter I have contact with many of the organisations that are active within the Parish. It is amazing just how much is going on every week, if you look and listen there is a real 'buzz' within the village. I have included a 'What's On' page that gives times, dates and details of the many activities, clubs etc. along with their contact names and details. To all of you who run these activities our grateful thanks, to those who participate, well done, and carry on enjoying them. To anyone who thinks they like the idea of any of these activities, switch off the TV and computer and go along and join in. You don't need to be an expert and will be made welcome whatever the activity. Come and meet different people, make new friends and make the Community buzz even more.

Remember if you would like to feature your club or organization in our newsletter please contact any Parish Councillor or E Mail to: jorvik@talktalk.net

OTTERHAMPTON COMMUNITY PLAN STEERING GROUP.

Earlier this year we completed our Community Plan after an extensive consultation process which included a Saturday Drop-in Session when everyone was encouraged to paint their vision of the future of our parish. A Community Plan Steering Group was set up, and with the help of the Somerset Community Council and Sedgemoor District Council, they eventually produced the Plan which was approved by the parish council. Copies available from the parish council.

This Community Plan which has been submitted to Sedgemoor District Council will influence future developments in the parish.

The Steering Group quickly established a number of working groups to develop the most popular ideas expressed at the drop-in session. As a result: -

A Community Market Group was establish and is working closely with the Village Hall Committee to organise the excellent monthly market in the Village Hall.

A Cycling Group dedicated to improving cycling access throughout the parish and beyond was established and is meeting regularly.

A Ponds Working Group was also set up to consider access and wildlife and other environmental issues with the help of a local wildlife expert.

A Housing Group was established to examine the was a need for affordable housing in the parish. A Housing Needs Survey has recently been conducted and a full analysis is awaited.

The Village Hall Committee was already well established but new active members were required. Volunteers were found and the committee is currently considering various options for the development of this crucial community facility. Expect more on this in the New Year.

The Steering group are planning an AGM in February (date to be announced) to review progress so far and to provide a further opportunity for community involvement in the development of our plans for the future of our parish. If you want to volunteer to help in anyway it would be welcome, please contact us on.

Maureen Lloyd-Williams Chair of the Steering Group Tel: 01278 652998	Maggy Layton Secretary Tel: 01278 652423
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YOUR GUIDE to WHATS ON in COMBWICH

Activity	Date & Times	Venue	Contact Details
Keep Fit	Every Monday & Wednesday 7.30 - 8.30 pm	Otterhampton Village Hall	Michele 07754144844
Short Mat Bowls	Every Mon & Wednesday 7.30 - 9.00 pm	Otterhampton Village Hall	
Art Class	Every Monday 2.30 - 3.30 pm	Otterhampton Village Hall	John Bailey 652540
Brownies	Starts 5.45 pm	Otterhampton School	Liz Brown 652687
Badminton Adults	Every Thursday 6.30 - 9.00pm	Otterhampton School	Colin Beasley 07531808303
Badminton Teens (Limited Numbers)	Every Thursday 5.30 - 6.30 pm	Otterhampton School	Gary Perret 652958
Talks (winter only)	Monthly, Every 3rd Thursday 8.00 - 9.30 pm	Otterhampton Village Hall	Mervyn Brown 652687
Walks	Monthly, every 3rd Sun 10.30 am onwards	Various	Barry Leathwood 652399
Chat & Chill	Every Friday 7.00 - 9.00 pm	Otterhampton Village Hall	Reg Wilkes 652339
Combwich Village Market	Monthly, every 2nd Sat 10.00 am - 12 noon	Otterhampton Village Hall	Elizabeth Marriott 653308
Coffee Morning	Every Friday 10.00 am - 12 noon	Otterhampton Village Hall	Helen Jowett 652322
Little Otters		Otterhampton School	Julie Salter 653052
Patchwork and Quilting	Every Wednesday 10.00 am - 12 noon	Otterhampton Village Hall	Liz Browning 653889
Choir	2nd & 4th Thursday monthly	Otterhampton Village Hall	Nicole Wigley 653431
WI	Monthly, every 3rd Thursday 7.30 - 9.00 pm	Stockland Village Hall	
If your organisation would like to be added to the 'What's on Guide' please contact John on 653308.			

VILLAGE HALL

The existing hall dates back to the late 1800's, it has had a wide variety of uses and has undergone many changes during its life.

The Village Hall committee are about to embark on an ambitious programme to develop a 'vision for the future'. They are looking at the structure, amenities and flexibility needed to ensure the hall meets the needs of the community and to leave a legacy for future generations.

In the new year there will be a questionnaire dropping through your letterbox asking for your opinions to help them build up this vision. The Village Hall belongs to the community and the trustees need your help to decide its future.

Help the committee to build this vision, don't just 'bin' the questionnaire, read it, fill it in and return it.

REMEMBERANCE DAY 2011

This year you raised £394.73 for the Poppy Appeal. The continuing casualties in our Armed Services fighting in Afghanistan means the appeal needs all the help we can give.



A big **THANK YOU** to all you villagers who donated so generously and to my band of helpers who 'walked the village and knocked on doors'. **Well done all of you.**

Liz Sidebotham

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

The Parish Council and OPRA would like to hear from anyone who wishes to organise or be involved in organising a community activity to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. Some funding is available. Please contact Peter Shaw OPC Clerk 652626 or Ann Leathwood OPRA Secretary 652399 .

ST PETERS CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Services at St. Peter's will be:

Saturday 24 Dec. at 11.15pm Midnight Communion.

Christmas morning services; Cannington, 8.00am Eucharist.

9.30am Family Eucharist.

Stockland, 10.45am Family Eucharist.

There are no services on New Year's Day.



AVON & SOMERSET POLICE

A Hinkley Point Police Liaison Team, based at Bridgwater Police Station, will be engaging with local people about the potential impact of the new nuclear build at Hinkley Point C and its effect on the our community.

If you have any concerns/issues which can be dealt with by the police team they can be contacted the following ways;

PS Steve CRAGO

steve.crago@avonandsomerset.police.uk Tel 01823363001

PCSO Sue MARKS

sue.marks@avonandsomerset.police.uk Tel 01823363305/07920477014

COMBWICH VILLAGE MARKET

The organisers of the Village Market would like to thank all those who have supported the market since it started and to the stall holders who have worked hard to bring a wide range of produce and crafts. Happy Christmas and a great New Year to all.

The first market of 2012 will be on 14th January, see you there!

MONTHLY TALKS

The first winter talk in November this year had a great attendance. It was great to see so many villagers turning out to hear Helen Toye describe how she cares for abandoned pet owls at her rescue centre in North Newton, 'Spread Your Wings Owl Rescue'.

Helen is absolutely dedicated to her task, in running this centre at Eden House. The topic clearly caught the imagination of animal lovers in the village as there was an attendance of 44 that night.

Everybody had a chance to 'get close' to the birds as they were brought to us. They are beautiful creatures, although I was very saddened to learn about the fate of a particular wandering hedgehog!

The next talk is by Laura Burnette from SCC museum who will be talking about 'Treasure Finds in Somerset' on Thursday 19th January 2012.



BIG CHANGES on STEART PENINSULAR

By now most readers will be aware of two schemes that will radically change the face of the Steart peninsula.

The Bristol Port Company (TBPC) is planning to create 130ha of saltmarsh and intertidal mud flat extending westward from Stert Drove to the coast. This will be achieved by realignment of the flood embankment inland to the pylon line and allowing tidal incursion through a breach in the coastal shingle bank between Wall Common and Catfsford Common. This project is required in mitigation for habitat loss through a planned harbour extension at Avonmouth.

The Environment Agency (EA) is planning to create a more extensive area (500ha) of wetland habitat. This will extend from Stert Drove to the Parrett and also north of Stockland Bristol. A single breach will be made in the Parrett Bank and realigned flood banks built, which will run inland to the Drove and south of Steart village to create intertidal salt marsh. Low-lying land to the north of Stockland Bristol will form a freshwater wetland and the area south of the pylon line will have a controlled salt water inlet to create an area of brackish marsh. This scheme is being implemented by the EA to comply with a legal obligation to create coastal marsh under the EU Habitats Directive.

Both schemes are about to submit full planning applications, and if successful, works might start in 2012; although EA have already done some advanced work alongside Steart Drove to build a trial embankment and as mitigation for the loss of freshwater habitat within the intertidal area.



The TBPC scheme will be managed by the RSPB and the EA scheme by the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust. The declared intention for both schemes is to work together to provide integrated access and limited visitor facilities. These schemes, together with the Bridgwater Bay NNR and associated SSSIs, will create on Steart peninsula an extensive and varied area of significant importance for conserving a diminishing coastal wetland habitat. Although the schemes are primarily intended to create an alternative habitat, they will also improve the current flood defence to threatened residences on and around the peninsula and their access.



HISTORY of COMBWICH

The Historical Village tour, organised by OPRA, earlier this year stimulated huge interest.

The guided tour was enhanced by the attendance of a number of people who have lived in the village for a significant number of years. They highlighted the considerable changes with their memories of growing up in Combwich.



It is important that this history is documented for the future benefit of the community. We are a small village with a long history going back at least to Roman times. What do you know about the history of Combwich? Have you any tales or old pictures? Would you be interested in helping to compile and preserve this history?

Help build a historical archive of pictures, stories, or maybe even small

BADMINTON

There is now 'Teen' and 'Adult' badminton weekly in the School Hall. The adult group has grown smaller over the last year due to regular players having other commitments, so they do need some 'new blood'. You don't need to be experienced, the evenings are friendly, fun and good exercise! The 'regulars' are always ready to welcome new members of any ability, whether complete novice or experienced player. In the new year there will be a 'taster' session for you to 'have a go'. So come along to the School Hall on 19th January between 6.45 and 8.30 pm, all equipment will be provided, you only need a pair of trainers. If you enjoy it come and play regularly.

