

LOCAL BUSINESS FEATURE

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COMBWICH VILLAGE MARKET
SECOND SATURDAY EVERY MONTH
10.00 am - 12 noon

AT
OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL
LOCAL FOOD, PRODUCE & CRAFT STALLS
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

Somerset Art Weeks

15th to 30th September
11 am to 6 pm daily

Tom Jacobs Combwich Art Studio
at 8 Church Hill open to all to view his
work. Original Watercolours, cards, cal-
endars and prints displayed, demonstra-

BRIDGWATER
CHORAL
SOCIETY

Why not join us? We are a choir of about 80
members of diverse background and ability.
Help is given in learning parts and we do not
currently audition potential members. We are
performing Handel's Messiah in December and
Bach's Mass in B minor in May 2013 .

For more details visit our website
www.bridgwaterchoral.org

Otter News

AUGUST 2012

NEWS FLASH!

At an emergency meeting of the Parish Council on Monday evening it was learnt that Sedgemoor District Council and SCC had done a **U Turn** on it's support for Otterhampton Parish Council and signed an Agreement of Common Ground with EDF Energy.

Item 8.9 of this agreement states:

"revisions proposed by EDF Energy and submitted to the examination on July 12th (Document ED FE_ADIF39) relating to Combwich are considered appropriate and reasonable and further controls are not considered necessary. For the avoidance of doubt this does not prejudice the case that may be made by local residents and Otterhampton Parish Council"

This agreement leaves Otterhampton PC isolated and without any support from the District and County Councils. Combwich has been sacrificed 'for the sake of the common good'. Whilst there have been some small concessions by EDF regarding Combwich the damaging impact of the major effects are still hanging over our heads.

OPC are determined to fight all the way to minimise the effect on Combwich and it is essential that you support them by attending the Combwich Specific Hearing at the Bridgwater Rugby Club on 24th August at 10.00am. Even if you have not registered there are public spaces available!

It is interesting that significant financial commitments for other areas have recently been made to SDC by EDF.

DEAR VILLAGERS

As you can see our normal front page has been relegated to page 2 due to the significant news of the last few days

I was going to call this our Summer Newsletter as it is now August, however the weather over the last few months has been everything except 'summery'.

There have been lots happening over the earlier part of this year, the Friday Coffee Mornings are ever popular, the Village Market celebrated it's first anniversary, the Jubilee celebrations were great and even the sun shone. Earlier in the year we had two fantastic evening performances entertaining a packed Village Hall, firstly the very entertaining Stoggie Men, and a few weeks later 'Singing in the Reign'. More recently the St Gregory Players & Youth Theatre staged two award winning one act plays. The first was a clever adaptation of 'Alice in Wonderland' by the Youth Theatre, the second a moving performance, by three of the Player's actresses, called ' Sylvia Platt a Dramatic Portrait'. We look forward to seeing these talented groups again soon.

A Cycle Day was held in June to raise funds on behalf of Paralympians and we were fortunate to have a Paralympian with his gold medal, and an Olympic Torch bearer, with his torch, at the event.

The landscape is changing around Steart now the Environment Agency is progressing with the new Wetlands Project. Keen birdwatchers have seen the successful nesting of a pair of avocet on Stert Point - the first record ever for Somerset! Also, lapwing, skylark and yellow wagtails are nesting and breeding again. You can go along to Marsh Farm at Steart on any Friday afternoon to talk to the Team van Oord about the progress of the project.

The Allotments Committee for the Community Plan would like to hear from anyone interested in an allotment or has a large garden that they cannot manage any more? Please contact Maggie Leyton tel: 652423 for more information.

Lastly, a big 'well done' to OPRA, who successfully held their Biennial Fete after having to move everything into the Village Hall and the Anchor Inn due to the torrential rain.

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

YOUR GUIDE to WHATS ON in COMBWICH

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Date & Times</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Contact Details</i>
Keep Fit	Every Monday & Wednesday 7.30 - 8.30 pm	Otterhampton Village Hall	Michele 07754144844
Short Mat Bowls	Every Monday & Wednesday 7.30 - 9.30 pm	Otterhampton Village Hall	
Art Class	Every Monday 2.30 - 3.30 pm	Otterhampton Village Hall	John Bailey 652540
Brownies	Mondays 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 Perrett 652958
Talks (winter only)	Monthly, Every 3rd Tuesday 8.00 - 9.30 pm	Otterhampton Village Hall	Mervyn Brown 652687
Walks	Monthly, every 3rd Sunday 10.30 am onwards	Various	Barry Leathwood 652399
Chat & Chill	Every Friday (Term Time only) 7.00 - 9.00 pm	Otterhampton Village Hall	Reg Wilkes 652339
Combwich Village Market	Monthly, every 2nd Saturday 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	Every School Day	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 of each month	Otterhampton Village Hall	Nicole Wigley 653431
WI	Monthly, every 2nd Thursday 7.30 pm	Stockland Village Hall	Pam Woodley 653908

If your organisation would like to be added to the 'What's on Guide' please contact John on 653308.

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

The Queen and Prince Phillip made a special journey to open the Jubilee Celebrations at the street party in Combwich. The chauffeur driven limousine arrived to a cheering crowd and after a walk through the well wishers her majesty gave a short speech and open the celebrations.



Inside the Village Hall tables were laden with lots of goodies to eat and drink. The bar was open for the adults and outside there were plenty of old fashion sports and games for the children. Pork rolls with stuffing and plenty of onions were available from two of 'Her 'Maj's' patriotic subjects and the Ice Cream van was on hand for that extra cold treat.

Everyone had a great afternoon so our sincere thanks to all the Jubilee committee and their band of helpers for staging the event.

THE STOGGIE MEN TAKE COMBWICH BY STORM!

A wonderful evening's entertainment took place on Friday 23 March 2012 at Otterhampton Village Hall. A group of rurally clad gentlemen from Stogumber took to the stage and delighted us with Somerset songs of cider, love, and Land Rovers. This was peppered with some distinctly un 'pc' humour, and one or two more thoughtful numbers, including their rendition of Ralph McTell's classic, The Streets of London.



The Stoggie men played to a packed house and received warm applause, and a goodly number of the audience sang along to the rousing choruses.

A ploughman's supper and homemade crumble were served during the interval, with drink flowing freely from the Club bar.

The event was devised and organised by Lesley Burge in support of Cancer Research UK, and raised over £715. The raffle raised £170 for the Musgrove Hospital Leukaemia Group, and the Stoggie Men gave their fee to the Children's Hospice South West.

COFFEE MORNING

Combwich Coffee Club continues to be a popular meeting place for a variety of lovely people not only from the village but also from villages surrounding Combwich.

Several local people starting their own businesses were able to introduce themselves during the coffee mornings. Feed back is that it worked well for them.

I am increasingly amazed at the kindness and generosity of local people who always dig deep into their pockets to support our chosen charities.

Since September 2011 we have raised money for the following;

- Red Cross - £32.50
- Macmillan Trust - £90.54
- Combwich Brownies - £25.80
- Children in Need - £70.00
- Musgrove Leukaemia Group - £43.00
- Musgrove Leukaemia Group Raffle - £43.00
- Sailing Sponsorship for local children - £80.00
- Smile Train - £70.00
- RNLI Burnham - £30.00
- Bridgwater Stroke Unit - £52.00
- Brainwave - £50.00

What a fantastic achievement! A big thank you to all those who have given their time, money and provided things to sell at the tombolas and raffles.

The produce table is popular and also the book and jigsaw exchange. Sometimes we have croissants, tea cakes, cream teas, ploughman's or soup lunch and we have managed to flip 50 pancakes! Father Christmas and Elfin Safety delivered presents at Christmas when we all enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies and nobody fell in the Pill afterwards.

Robert at the Post Office has looked after us very well. We use our local shop for all our provisions, we believe in using villagers money in the village.

Don't forget we open every Friday from 10.00am to 12 noon and a warm welcome awaits you if you are new to the village. See you soon.

Helen Jowett
652322

VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall AGM was held on 22nd May 2012 and the current committee volunteered to serve again for another year. Liz Sidebotham who had been the Chairperson for the last six years stood down and now carries on as a committee member. As there were no nominations for Chairperson, John Marriott volunteered to join the committee and act as Chairperson on a temporary basis.

The Village Hall Committee would like to thank Liz for her commitment as Chairperson over the last six years, having steered them through some difficult times. The last two years have seen an improvement in the hall finances and there is confidence for the future.

Along with the Village Shop and Anchor Inn, the Village Hall is a vital asset. It belongs to the community and needs to reflect the changing needs of our society. Following last years Village Hall Survey a commitment was made for a major refurbishment of the hall and an architect has been appointed to draw up plans based on the survey criteria. Once the plans are completed you will be invited to an open session to view them and make your comments.

VILLAGE MARKET

The Village Market started in July 2011 and has just celebrated their first anniversary, there was a 'buzz in the air' as customers were invited to free refreshments as a thank you for their support during the year.

A special mention must go to all the stall holders for their dedication, innovation and flair which has made the market such a success. The key has been the extensive range of home made produce and crafts on offer with new products and ideas appearing every month, well done to you all.

The market is held on the second Saturday of every month starting at 10.00am and finishing at 12 noon. Refreshments are available, so come along and see what 'goodies' you can find and have a chat and a drink with friends.

SINGING IN THE REIGN

Quantock Music Theatre Company (QMTC) sang many old favourites to an enthusiastic audience at the Village Hall. Everyone was encouraged to sing along to many of the songs and judging by the smiling faces they all enjoyed a great evening of entertainment (much more fun than the 'tele'). We look forward to welcoming them to Comwich again soon.

National Bike Week Fun Cycle Ride

Staff from the Power Stations at Hinkley Point got together to organise a Fun Bike Ride along the Parrett Trail starting at Comwich and passing through Steart, Otterhampton and Hinkley Point and finishing back at Comwich. There was a choice of routes for all ages and abilities, each of varying difficulty and length. A great deal of work had clearly gone into the preparation of this event.

Recent heavy rainfall meant that those undertaking the longest (14 mile route) came back bespattered with mud. Fortunately the clouds cleared and the wind dropped for the duration of the ride, and the celebrations in Comwich were blessed with bright sunshine.

There were a number of family-orientated events at the Anchor Inn – a bouncy castle, magician, and face-painting.

Paralympic marathon runner Steve Brunt, who is blind, came to join the celebrations and proudly showed us his Olympic medals. Apparently he just decided to start running before and after work and things took off from there! A very modest chap, and lovely to talk to.



There was also a chance to see and hold the Olympic torch, and to meet local torch bearer, Dave Stokes, of Hinkley B Station.

Gary Perrett, a keen bike rider, deserves a special mention, having masterminded the whole event literally from start to finish. He and his team are keen to highlight the benefits of cycling, particularly cycling to work, and are actively campaigning to make this as safe as possible, despite the anticipated increase in the volume of traffic to Hinkley Point.

Support for cycle matters was provided by Steve Maidment of Bicycle Chain. The St John Ambulance were there to deal with any injuries or mishaps. Access to the routes was ensured with the kind cooperation of the Environment Agency, Team van Oord contractors, local landowners and the Hill House Christian Centre.