

MAY 2025



QUANTOCK
For Nether Stowey & Over Stowey



Messenger 50p



Front Cover: Cherry Blossom in full bloom. Pat Thatcher's display in the library Community Cabinet during April.

Above: Craft morning at the Wednesday Club and Broome in Stowey Wood taken last year which is now coming into full bloom again. The flower in the foreground is campion which may also be out by May 1st. Courtesy of Terry Abbiss.

May 2025

We hope you all enjoyed the sunny weather over the Easter weekend and are looking forward to more sunshine in the coming months!

The editors are still hoping to recruit one or two more to share the load! A few hours every three or four months and you will be one of the first to know what's going on in the villages. If you have an eye for detail and, ideally, some knowledge of MS Publisher (or a willingness to learn) we would love to hear from you.

Please email editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk for more details.

Enjoy reading this months edition.

Best wishes from the QM team.

Your Quantock Messenger Team

Please email articles/photos to:

editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk

Please email adverts to;

advertising@quantockmessenger.org.uk

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CLUBS & SOCIETIES IN NETHER STOWEY & OVER STOWEY

Allotment Association

Bruce Roper 732 043

Coleridge Probus Club

Geoff Parle 01278 653681

Coleridge Cottage Tel: 732 662

Friends of Coleridge

Helen Boyles helenmboyles@gmail.com

Friends of Over Stowey Church

Christopher Stone 732 907

Friends of the Quantocks

Mary ter Braak (01984) 656 633

Friends of Nether Stowey School

Lisa Rendle 732 508

Music on the Quantocks: Fay Chilcott
quantocks@live.co.uk 07938 728829

Nether Stowey Art Group

Rob Potter 07855546883

Nether Stowey Football Club

Chair: Nigel Waterman 732 310

Seniors: Steve Easden 07788 370014

Juniors: Nigel Waterman 732 310

Minis: Richard Marriott 07890 451694

Nether Stowey Playing Fields Committee - Jane Erskine 732 025

Nether Stowey Short Mat Bowls

Ruth Andrews 01278 786856 President

Terry Binding 01278 732710 Secretary

Nether Stowey Twinning Association

Open to everyone. Ian Pearson 732 228

Nether Stowey & Fiddington Women's Institute

Margaret Harris 734 613

Anne Conway 07533 789841

Over Stowey Bellringers

Wendy Hill 732 194

Over Stowey Cricket Club &

Over Stowey Recreation Ground

Les Biffin 732963

Over Stowey Rights of Way Group

Richard Ince 733 237

Over Stowey Social Club

Patrick Tully 732944 or 07802697595

Over Stowey Village Hall

Jackie Barrow 07891 720565

Bridget Tully 07970781087

bridgetjtully@gmail.com

Quantock National Landscape Office Fyne Court

Tel: (01823) 451 884

Quantock Beekeepers Association

Ken Edwards 671 544

Quantock Players

Wendy Hobbs 733 197

Quantock Quilters

Anna Boulton 652309

Quantock Tennis Club

Robin Bendall 732 633

Royal British Legion - N/Stowey &

District Viki Fielder 238 691

Stogursey Forget-Me-Not Cafe

Helen Cuttell 734 818

Stowey Bears (pre-school)

Tina Miller 734 636

Stowey Book Club

Alison Whittingham 732 446

Stowey Gardeners

Kate Houghton 07940 836139

SGSG (Stowey Green Spaces Group)

Roy Osborne 734604

stoweygreenspaces@stowey.org.uk

Stowey Walking

Lynne Abbott 732 228

Thomas Poole Library, Nether Stowey

Sian Stafford 732 741

Wednesday Club Barbara (732412) or

Tina (732382)

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

Police (emergency: 999 or non-emergency: 101)

Email somwestnptsedgemoor@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk

PC Claire Allen, PCSO Jeremy Pidgeon

Jake Dade (Hinkley issues only) @avonandsomerset.police.uk

Antisocial behaviour call **0800 298 2009**

Vandalism on the Quantock Hills call **101**

Household noise problems (Environmental Health) call **0845 408 2540**

Somerset Councillor:

Michael Caswell 01278 652 043

mike.caswell@somerset.gov.uk

Brian Bolt 07970 855990

brian.bolt@somerset.gov.uk

Nether Stowey Parish Council / Over Stowey Parish Council

Clerk: **Caro Slaymaker**

Clerk: **Amanda McMurren**

01278 733 779

01278 734 689

clerk@netherstowey-pc.gov.uk

clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.co.uk

Bookings secretaries

N/Stowey Church Centre

Pat Stacey 01278 732 518 (9am—9pm)

O/Stowey Village Hall

Jackie Barrow 07891720565

Quantock Medical Centre (if closed call the NHS on 111)

Reception 01278 732 696 8am - 6:30pm (Mon-Fri)

Dispensary 01278 733 385 10am - 12pm & 4 - 5pm (Mon-Fri)

Dispensary Collection 10am - 12pm & 4 - 6pm (Mon-Fri)

somicb.quantock.mc@nhs.net

<https://quantockmedicalcentre.gpsurgery.net>

Cannington Health Centre (if closed call NHS on 111)

Reception 01278 652 335

Prescription line 01278 651 311

Other Community Facilities

Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline 03454 040 506

The Thomas Poole Library 732 741 (Mon & Wed 10-1, Thurs 3.30 - 6.30, Fri 10-1 & 2-5 / Sat 10-1)

Quantock Hills National Landscape, Amanda Sampson - 01823 451 884,
quantockhills@somerset.gov.uk

Community Car Scheme Stowey Shuttle - 07943 923 742

Village Agent: Sarah Bennet, 07985 680269,
Email: sarahb@somersettrcc.org.uk

DIARY DATES 2025

Every Monday (except Bank Holidays) - Toddler Storytime - 11am - TPL

2nd & 4th Monday each month - Quantock Quilters - 10am-1pm - NSCC

Every Tuesday—Stowey Singers all welcome 6.45pm-8.15pm at NSCC

Every Tuesday - Walk for Health - Quantock Medical Centre

Every Tuesday - Short Mat Bowls 2-5pm - £4 session, annual subs £20 - NSCC

1st and 3rd Tuesday each month - SGSG (Stowey Green Spaces) work groups 2.30pm - 4.30 pm

2nd Tuesday each month - SGSG meeting 2.30pm

Every Wednesday - Nether Stowey Wednesday Club 10am-2pm - NSCC

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month - Evening talk at the Library 7.30pm - 9pm - TPL

Every Thursday - Chess Time at the Library - 5pm-6.30pm - TPL

1st & 3rd Thursday each month - Art Group - 2pm-4pm - NSCC

Every 2nd Thursday each month - Nether Stowey & Fiddington WI - 2pm

Every 3rd Thursday – Stowey Gardeners - 7.30pm - NSCC

Every Friday - Knit & Natter - 10:30am -12:00 noon - TPL

Every Saturday - Second-hand book sales 10am—1pm TPL

3rd Saturday each month - SGSG litter picking 10am

1st & 3rd Saturday each month - Dungeons & Dragons - TPL

2nd Saturday each month - Dungeons & Dragons DM Workshop - TPL

Saturday 17th May - Stowey Gardeners Plant Sale - TPL

Saturday and Sunday 7th - 8th June - Big Bash, cricket weekend OS cricket ground

Saturday 21st June - The 217th Women's Walk

Saturday 5th July - Party in the Park and FONSS Summer Fair

Saturday 16th August - Nether Stowey Flower Show

NSCC - Nether Stowey Church Centre

OSVH - Over Stowey Village Hall

TPL - Thomas Poole Library

SGSG - Stowey Green Spaces Group



FONSS AND PARTY IN THE PARK

Summer fair

**12PM
TILL
LATE**

**SATURDAY
5TH JULY**

**FREE
ENTRY**

**FANTASTIC STALLS
LIVE MUSIC
FOOD STALLS AND BAR
ENTERTAINMENT
FUN DOG SHOW
AND MORE!**

**NETHER STOWEY RECREATION GROUND
TA5 1JR**

FONSS-PTA[AT]HOTMAIL.COM

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY
The 217th WOMEN'S WALK
Saturday 21 June 2025

The organising of the 217th WOMEN'S WALK is being finalised.

The historic tradition, of the women of the Stowey's walking each year, on the Saturday closest to mid-summer, is to honour the memory of Thomas Poole.

Thomas Poole was born in Nether Stowey in 1765. He was a tanner who used his wealth to improve the lives of the poor in the village. In 1806 he started the Stowey Female Friendly Society to help women in times of sickness, childbirth, widowhood and old age.

He funded and built the original village school in Castle Street, which is now our wonderful Thomas Poole Library, café and community hub.

Traditionally, everyone dressed up in their Sunday best for the walk, although this is no longer expected. They also carried a posy of flowers to put on Thomas Poole's grave.

The 217th walk will take place this year on Saturday 21 June.

We will meet at the Cross in the middle of the village at 3pm with the walk to St Mary's Church, headed by bagpipes, starting at 3.15pm. After a short service in the church, and a visit to Thomas Poole's grave we will walk back to the Church Centre for Afternoon Tea.

Two minor variations will be introduced this year:

- 1: To include more aspects of Thomas Poole within the walk.
- 2: For the walkers, to actually see the pipers and the banner

walking towards them, rather than only seeing their backs.

The pipers and the banner will start at the Thomas Poole Library in Castle Street at 3.05pm.

They will walk past Thomas Poole House, which now displays a Blue Plaque, in honour of the place where Thomas Poole lived.

At the Cross the walkers will join the parade.

Further details of registering for this event will be in the next Messenger, but in the meantime please note this date in your diaries.

A few more volunteers are needed to wear high-vis jackets to walk alongside the parade please. Telephone: 01278 732266.

Janet Phillips, on behalf of the Stowey Female Friendly Society



**NETHER
STOWEY**
VILLAGE HALL & RECREATION GROUND

50-50 LOTTERY DRAW

April 2025 Draw

1st Prize	£31.87	Ticket No: 411	J Heslop
2nd Prize	£15.94	Ticket No: 72	N Phillips
3rd Prize	£9.56	Ticket No: 162	F Cooke
4th Prize	£6.38	Ticket No: 22	I Miller

www.stowey.org.uk

Jane Erksine, Trustee 732025

Sharon Mayell, Treasurer 732311

The Latest from the Cricket Club



Well, not long to go now before we hear the sound of leather on willow and the recent dry spell has made ground preparation easier than in years gone by.

The 1stXI are being captained once again by Kieran Barrow, whilst the 2nd XI have a new skipper this season with the experienced Mark Sortwell taking charge.

Senior nets have moved outdoors and take place on Wednesdays between 6pm and 8pm (weather permitting) We are always looking for new players so why not pop along and give it a go!! please contact Kieran Barrow(07932699224) for further details.

If League cricket is not your thing, then why not join our mid-week friendly XI. Games usually take place on a Thursday evening and focus more on the social aspects of the game. Our Midweek captain is Haydn Langlois (07361593378) Over Stowey are also entering teams in the Taunton and District youth league this year at under 13 and under 11 levels .So if you have got a budding cricketer in the family then please contact Warren Bond(07540619007) for further information.

Dates for your Diary:

3rd May 1stXI v Winsford (A) 2ndXI v Stoke St Mary (H)

10TH May 1stXI v Bagborough (H)

17th May 1stXI V Kilve (A) 2ndXI v Buckland St Mary

Friendly Fixture: 8th May v Stogumber (A)

Finally, if you want to keep up to date with all matters Over

Stowey CC, please visit our Facebook page or log into the West Somerset Cricket League website.

We look forward to seeing you at our lovely Marsh Mills ground.

Over and Out.



**NETHER
STOWEY**
VILLAGE HALL & RECREATION GROUND

LATEST NEWS MARCH/APRIL 2025

What's happened recently?

- Our new planning consultants and our new ecologists have visited the recreation ground to understand all the issues. Reports are being prepared.
- We have chosen an agent to sell the old village hall site for us and are currently negotiating fees.
- We have been working closely with the football club to continue to improve facilities and support events.

What is happening next?

- We are drawing up new plans so that no trees will be cut down on the field.
- Bat surveys are being done in May.
- New reports will be submitted to Somerset Council who will then have to wait for key Consultees to comment.

Thank you to

- Stowey Green Spaces Group (SGSG) and our own volunteers who help keep the recreation ground looking so good.
- The Parish Council for a grant of £1,950 to go towards our annual insurance bill.

Fundraising

- Nether Stowey Football Club youth tournament 14th & 15th June 2025 on the playing field
- Quiz and supper, 28th June in the Church Centre.
- School Fair & Party in The Park Saturday 5th July.

stowey.org.uk

enquiries@stowey.org.uk

Address: C/O 2A Castle Street, Nether Stowey, Somerset TA5 1LN

Registered charity no. 1176413

NETHER STOWEY & FIDDINGTON W.I.



We had Steve from the Avon & Somerset Fire Service at our meeting on 10th April to speak to us about fire safety in the home. He brought along a collection of small every-day items that all of us would have in our homes and told us how small fires can turn into something much more serious, which can be prevented by routine care and checking of our domestic devices, explaining that it is much safer to use an extension gang rather than use an adaptor which we can be tempted to overload, leading to overheating of the plug.

The Fire Service offer free visits for fire risk assessments. Depending on the outcome of the visit, the Fire Service will advise you on areas where you can make your home safer and also fit smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. There are also alarms for people who are hearing or visually impaired. The alarm for hard of hearing people works by flashing lights on the alarm and the visually impaired can have a device which vibrates under their pillow and is fixed to the alarm.

Steve pointed out that the kitchen is an area which deserves great care, as so many house fires start in the kitchen. When you are cooking it is easy to get distracted by a 'phone call or door-bell ringing and forget that you've left something cooking or burning.

He also pointed out that 52% of household fires are caused by chargers we use for our various devices, so we ought to be very careful not to leave a charger on overnight or a warm plug placed on a flammable fabric. I know personally of a teenager who left her hair dryer on her duvet when it was still warm, with disastrous results causing extensive fire damage.

Carbon monoxide alarms should be fitted in every room where there is a gas boiler or solid fuel burner. Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms should be fitted on the ceiling, not on the wall, so they can detect smoke rising or fumes. Smoke and fumes are greater killers than fires as they are silent and can be almost undetectable. That is why it is so important to have appliances such as water/central heating boilers and wood burners cleaned regularly; boilers should be serviced and chimneys cleaned properly once a year.

This talk proved to be very useful and informative, and whilst most of us are safety conscious, I'm sure that members all took away something from this visit.

On the 8th May we will be commemorating the **80th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe.**

"Mary's Meals" will be the subject of our meeting on **12th June.** This is a charity set up by two Scottish brothers to supply meals and education to some of the most impoverished and deprived children in trouble spots around the world.

On **10th July** we will be visited by Wing Commander Anji Scofield ARRC, who will take about **"My Life in Uniform"**, and on **Monday 21st July** we will be having an outing to **Sidmouth.** This has proved to be popular, and there may be places available on a "first come, first served" basis

Our speaker on **11th September** will be informing us about the role of a **Village Agent.**

Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 2.00 - 4.00 pm at the Church Centre. Admission for members is £1.50, which includes refreshments and a raffle, visitors are always welcome and we hope to see you.

AB

News from the Quantock Medical Centre

We would like to thank the family of Phylis Hill for their kind donation following Phylis's Funeral; to the 'Friends of Quantock Medical Centre' Equipment fund. Phylis will be greatly missed by so many friends and family in the village as such a kind-hearted lady. £577 was raised and this will support the ongoing maintenance and consumable costs for the Village Defibrillator held at the Quantock Medical Centre, and fund additional high back armed chairs for elderly and frail patients in our waiting room. We really do appreciate these donations as they allow us to fund additional equipment and items for patients including Blood Pressure Monitors to loan out to patients.

We are in the process of updating and renovating clinic rooms at the Practice to meet Health and Safety and Hygiene requirements. Our next phase will be new flooring in a couple of treatment rooms and the patient toilet to smarten things up a bit, so please bear with us during this disruption.

We have a great Patient Participation Group linked to the Practice where we get together and meet every few months to discuss anything from changes in the NHS to what's happening locally with our Practices, and any concerns from patients or ideas on how to improve things.

If you are interested in coming along, our meetings are on Wednesdays at 10.15am at the Tom Poole Library Nether Stowey on: 4th June, 3rd September, 3rd December. Alternatively, if you would like to get in touch please feel free to email me helen.stacey2@nhs.net or pop into the Medical Centre for a chat.

Helen Stacey - Practice Manager

The Marion Evered Trust

We have a few things going on in 2025 some dates confirmed as shown below and some still to confirm so watch this space.

On May 10th Ian Barrow and a group of lads from Hinkley C are taking on the Carten100, a 100 mile bike ride from Cardiff to Tenby in South Wales. It is being done in aid of our cause please see the Marion Evered trust Facebook page for a link to donate towards this challenge.

We are partnering Over Stowey CC again for the fantastic Big Bash weekend, see dates below. This is always a fantastic couple of days of entertainment with a match on the Saturday followed by a disco at the ground, and then the big bash 6 a side knockout on the Sunday. £5 entry for the Saturday Evening and free entry on Sunday (Donations appreciated) Bar and BBQ all weekend.

The 200 club is now up and running and if you haven't received a reminder/invitation to be in the draw then please contact Pauline Barrow on 01278 732522 for details.

March 200 club draw

£20 Paul Miller £10 Steve Little £5 Ann Roberts

Dates for the diary

7th -8th June Big Bash cricket weekend at Over Stowey cricket ground

Join us for

STOWEY GARDENERS TRIP TO RHS MALVERN SPRING FESTIVAL



Sunday May 11th 2025

Coach to leave Nether Stowey Fire Station at 8.30am.
Returning at 4.30pm

Cost inclusive of entrance to the show and travel
£25.00

Contact: Kate Houghton by email:
stoweygardeners@yahoo.com or 07940 836139

Supported by



Nicks Gardening Notes

May 2025



No wonder the weather is always a topic of conversation! Two weeks into April, as I write this, and no significant rainfall for five or more weeks. I cannot remember such a dry March and where are those April showers? Generally, we are about two weeks earlier compared with an average year and many will have already needed to water containers and seed beds.

We can still experience frosts in early May and when there is a risk for susceptible crops such as the new growth of potatoes provide protection by earthing them up or covering with fleece.

Vegetables: it is a busy month, and small successional sowings of salad crops can be made to give continuity. Transplants of Brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale and cauliflower which were sown last month can be planted out together with leeks. Alternatively, transplants can be purchased from nurseries and garden centres. Frost tender vegetables may be sown directly into the soil once the risk of frost has gone such as runner beans, French beans and sweetcorn. Container sown marrows, courgettes and squashes sown in April can be planted out from late May onwards. Potatoes should be regularly earthed up helping to prevent tubers turning green. The same can be achieved on 'no dig beds' by applying a good dressing of compost. It also provides a chance to remove any weed, especially perennials such as bindweed and thistle, etc.

Ornamentals: it has been a good spring for the early flowering shrubs such as Ribes (flowering currants), Forsythia and Berberis darwinii Following flowering they respond well to having some of the older wood removed and this stimulates strong new growth for carrying flower the following year. Remember that bedding plants being used for baskets, tubs and hanging baskets do need hardening off before being placed in their final positions. Incorporate

porating water storage granules into the compost will help water retention. If your established daffodils did not flower well this spring it may be that the bulbs are too congested. Once the foliage starts to yellow it is a good time to lift them and split into smaller clumps and replant. Many herbaceous perennials will require some form of support and if supports such as strong twiggy growth are put in early it allows foliage to grow up through the support and be largely hidden from view.

The greenhouse: it is planting time for tomatoes, peppers, aubergines and cucumbers whether it be in the soil or grow bags and regular watering and feeding should take place. Give plenty of space between plants for good air circulation. Try to give as much ventilation in the day as possible to prevent excessive temperatures. Shading the house with netting or whitewash may be beneficial as can leaving the door open on hot days.

Fruit: strawberries will be developing trusses of green fruits. Place strawberry mats or straw around the plants which will help to prevent soil splash and ensure that plants are protected from birds with netting. As the fruits of strawberries, raspberries, tayberries, currants and gooseberries start to swell ensure that plants have sufficient water. Plum moth can be an unwelcome pest resulting in the maggot within the fruit. Non-chemical control can be provided using pheromone traps available from garden centres and on line. May is the optimum period to place the traps within the tree.

Lawns: For those that like a pristine lawn this is a good month to feed it and treat it for weeds such as daisy, dandelion and buttercup. Sparse areas can be oversown with a suitable seed mixture. An alternative is to take a more relaxed attitude and allow the grass to grow longer and let the weeds (wild flowers) grow up within the grass. This is good for wildlife and paths can be mown through at normal height of cut to introduce an informal design.

Nick Rigden

QUANTOCK QUILTING & SEWING GROUP

We meet 2nd & 4th Monday each month

10am – 1pm

Nether Stowey Church Centre, TA5 1LJ



**All Aspects of
Needlework & Textiles
in a relaxed and
friendly environment**



Come & Join Us

No experience necessary

Beginners Welcome

Contact: Anna Boulton 01278 652307

Gill Griffiths 01278 733709





Registered Charity No 1181213
WWW.THOMASPOOLELIBRARY.CO.UK

Now that the weather is warming up, if you enjoy walking we are a Stamping Post for the Somerset & Exmoor Coast Trail. Walkers can collect their Trail Passport from the library during opening hours. The 64-mile section of the King Charles III England Coast Path between Brean Down and Porlock Weir takes you on an amazing journey along the Somerset coast and the passport has suggestions for visiting many interesting places along the route! Details of all the stamping points, including special offers for passport holders, are available at www.somerset.gov.uk/coastpath. Drop in during our opening hours to pick up your Passport and whilst you are there, try out our new top-of-the-range coffee machine in our newly reorganised Café area of the library!

**** WHAT'S ON ****

STORYTIME - Mondays (except bank holidays), 11am to 11.30am. Aimed at babies and toddlers, Join us for a fun half hour of stories and nursery rhymes.

CHESS TIME - Thursdays, 5pm to 6.30pm. Learn the basics, discover new moves and have fun!

KNIT AND NATTER - Fridays, 10.30am to 12 noon. All ages and abilities are welcome! Just bring your own project which could be knitting, sewing, crochet, embroidery etc. or just come for a natter and see what others are working on. It's a terrific way to get inspired, pick-up new tips and make new friends.

SECOND HANDBOOK SALES IN "THE SHED" - Saturdays, 10.30am to 1pm. We have a wide range of good condition fiction, non-fiction,

and children's books. All donations contribute to the running costs of the library

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS – 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month, 10am to 12.30pm. No experience necessary and all equipment provided

MONTHLY TALKS

Our library monthly talks are held in the library every second Wednesday of the month. Start time is 7.30pm and bookings are required. Entrance fees are £3.50 for members and £4.50 for non-members:

Wednesday 14th May – A book launch of "The Nature of the Quantocks" by local author Nigel Phillips

Please note there will be no monthly talks during June, July and August. Talks will return in September.

OPENING HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, 10am to 1pm, Thursday 3.30pm to 6.30pm,
Friday 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm, Saturday 10am -1pm

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

**"YESTERDAYS.....IN NETHER STOWEY"
In the Old Gaol on The Cross**



On display in the Old Gaol through May. In memory of Marion Evered, Somerset's first female fire fighter and founder of the Marion Evered Trust.

Plugged in Parish News

A round up of the latest news from Hinkley Point C



May 2025

Progress on the Polar Crane at Hinkley Point C

Unit 2's **Polar Crane** will sit at the top of the Reactor Building where it will turn full circle to lift key pieces of equipment into place, like the reactor core and steam generators, it will also help with **refuelling and maintenance** when the station is up and running. Building on the learning from Unit 1, the crane for Unit 2 is being pre-assembled in a large building on the construction site. The pre-fabrication indoors and away from the elements is making the process smoother and faster.

Over **200,000 individual parts** are being tracked through a new logistics system to support the assembly. Some extra testing is also being completed on the ground to help speed up later stages of the project, including the Dome Lift and commissioning.

So far, major steps have been completed:

- All four bogies—which allow the crane to rotate—are in place
- Stairs, platforms, handrails, and support beams have been installed
- Work has begun on the crane's runway inside Unit 2



“Building the Polar Crane is a big task. Using what we learned from Unit 1 is helping us go faster on Unit 2. There's been great work across the teams, and we're on track to install the crane in July.”

Simon Stacey,
Project Manager
for the Equipment
Programme, said:

Community Clean-Up in Bridgwater



Teams from Hinkley Point C, Balfour Beatty and Kier BAM took part in a joint litter pick in Bridgwater as part of the Great British Spring Clean campaign.

The group divided into three teams and collected litter from public areas including the Bridgwater Canal, Colley Lane, and Broadway.

Together, they gathered approximately 20 bags of rubbish, helping to tidy up well-used parts of the town and contributing to a cleaner local environment.

Book Now

★ Hinkley Point C Visitor Centre ★

Between January and March, the Visits team welcomed 1,695 visitors and 147 visits to the construction site. If you would like to join a Hinkley Point C bus tour, please contact Sacha Hawthorne:

✉ sacha.hawthorne@edf-energy.com ☎ 0333 009 7070



hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com

edfenergy.com/hpc



0333 009 7070



**NETHER
STOWEY**
VILLAGE HALL & RECREATION GROUND

Quiz evening with Ploughman's Supper And Pud

On Saturday the 28th June 2025
At Nether Stowey Church Centre
Doors open 7pm quiz starts 7.30pm
Teams of up to six
£10 per person
Prize for the winning team
Raffle

Tickets available from The Post Office
All Tickets need to be paid for prior to the event
No reserved tickets and No pay at the door

Tel: Jan 07740 086656 if you have any dietary needs
Bring your own bottle(s)

Nether Stowey Art Group
St Marys Church Centre, Nether
Stowey, TA5 1LJ

1st & 3rd Thursday every month

2pm – 4pm



£3 per session

Beginner's welcome



For more information about our group

Contact Robert 07855546883

OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL

There were only a few new issues brought up at the March 2025 meeting. One item that had been highlighted was that although the gate at the cattle grid at Quarry Breach has been repaired, the post needs renewing. It was proposed that the Parish Council pay half of the cost of the work and it is hoped that the repair will be undertaken very soon.

Councillor Curtis was not in attendance and will feedback details from the LCN Highways Working Group meeting at the April meeting.

A report to the Parish Council has been made regarding dog waste at the cemetery. If dogs are taken into the cemetery, it is requested that any dog waste is removed and disposed of properly. Leaving dog waste is both unpleasant and disrespectful to those who come here to remember loved ones. The Parish Council will monitor this on an ongoing basis.

The Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will both be held on Wednesday 21st May 2025. Times of both meetings are to be confirmed. Please check the website and noticeboard for details nearer the time.

If you have any concerns or issues you would like to bring to the attention of the Parish Council, please contact the Clerk. If you provide your full contact details, we can then ensure appropriate and relevant items raised are on the agenda for the next meeting.

Problems on the highways can be reported online at Fix My Street or on the Somerset Council web page Report A Problem on the Road

Please report any missed waste collections at Missed Waste Collection if you do not get a satisfactory response, please contact the Clerk.

If you experience any problems when using a footpath or bridleway, you can inform the Clerk or access the online reporting tool at Somerset Council – Report A Problem With a Public Right of Way

Website: Over Stowey Parish Council

Email: clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Phone: 07391 313740 (please leave a message if there is no reply)



A new season of talks and outings for 2025

- If you love gardens or gardening
- Enjoy hearing about or visiting beautiful gardens
- Want to pick up lots of tips or add to your garden knowledge
- Enjoy a social gathering of enthusiasts
- Like listening to experts on a wide variety of gardening subjects……

then come and join our monthly club!

We meet at the Church Centre, St. Mary's Street,
Nether Stowey. TA5 1LJ

every 3rd Thursday of the month at 7.00 for 7.30

Come as a visitor to try us out. £5 for a talk including tea/coffee & cakes and there is a raffle and garden table too. Annual membership is £25. Car sharing available for visits.

Contact Kate Houghton, Secretary. Phone: 07940 836139 or email:
stoweygardeners@yahoo.com
website: <https://sites.google.com/site/stoweygardeners>

Diary 2025

11 May	Coach trip, RHS Malvern Spring Show
15 May	Talk. The Newt. Arthur Cole
17 May	Plant Sale. Thomas Poole Library, Nether Stowey
22 May	Car visit. Wick Gardens, Langport
18 June	Car visit. Lydeard House, Bishops Lydeard
19 June	Talk. Somerset's Glorious Gardens. Abigail Willis
29 July	Car visit. Hangeridge Farm, Wellington
August	SUMMER GARDEN PARTY
18 September	Talk. Pruning. John Addison
16 October	Talk. Gertrude Jekyll's Planting Plans. Claire Greenslade
20 November	Talk. Chelsea or Bust. Claire Hart
12 December	MEMBERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

"Dads' Army" is not just a very funny and successful "sitcom" but based on a real and large organisation. By 1944 it had grown to 1.7 million men, and an average age of around 30 because of the number of under 18s joining before going into the armed forces proper at the age of 18.

Men of the Home Guard were not only readied for invasion, but also performed other roles including bomb disposal and manning anti-aircraft and coastal artillery.

Over the course of the war 1,206 men of the Home Guard were killed on duty or died of wounds.

Stowey Green Spaces Group would like to contact anyone active in that era, or a relative, to discuss how Stowey Wood might have been used at that time. If you think you might be able to help please contact Terry Abbiss on (1278) 733636.



Stowey Community Space

Can we have a community space in Nether Stowey for a post office, cafe and shop? A group of enthusiastic locals think the answer is YES!

With the post office being up for sale, and potentially developed into accommodation, we are at risk of losing a vital resource for the village. That is why a small but growing band of enthusiastic locals have formed a group to save these important community services and keep them in the historic heart of Nether Stowey, available to all. Our vision is for a space that provides post office

services, a welcoming cafe for a light lunch, coffee or tea and cakes, and a shop offering gifts and cards, and products from local artists, crafters and businesses.

We have already started to spread the word about our venture, and are gathering support from across the village and local environs. Our next step is to form a steering committee to plan the tasks ahead and get the show on the road!

There are a lot of questions to consider such as

How can we put all this into action?

How will the enterprise be structured and run?

What do villagers want to see included?

What experience and help can we call on?

How can we raise funds?

Is the current post office location the best option or are there others we should consider?

So, we are calling for your help, whilst there are specific skills needed, the most important ones are enthusiasm and community spirit. We can't do this without you!

We have put together a website on this exciting venture at bit.ly/SOStowey, and are posting updates and notices on Facebook (Save the Heart of Stowey).

To learn more about the committee, volunteer in the future or just be kept in touch with developments, please email us at stoweycommunityspace@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you and updating you on developments!

CHURCH SERVICES – MAY 2025

	Nether Stowey	Over Stowey
4th May Easter 3	11.00am Morning Worship (Church Centre)	6.30pm Evensong
11th May Easter 4	11am Holy Communion (Church) VE Community Lunch (Church Centre)	9.30am Morning Worship
18th May Easter 5	11am Morning Worship (Church Centre)	9.30am Holy Communion
25th May Easter 6 (Rogation)	11am Holy Communion (Church)	No Service 12.30pm Baptism

Joys and Sorrows

I am extremely fortunate to have a bedroom window which over-looks fields and beyond to the Quantock Hills. This year the field opposite my house has been home to a flock of ewes with their lambs. It has been a delight to watch them playing, suckling and sleeping in the morning sunshine over these last three or four beautiful Spring mornings!

Like us all who keep abreast of the news however, I have been horrified and deeply moved by the pictures of horror and suffering live

from Ukraine and Gaza. Just a day or so ago a Russian attack targeted at civilians and killing them and their children – a mother covered in blood trying to console her child brought me to tears. How do we cope with our emotions and especially confronted with such evil, unable to do anything about it? How do we deal with this dichotomy of joy one moment and misery the next? Does our faith help us or do these events challenge it?

Jesus has much to say about suffering. He predicts wars and social unrest. He heals some people but not by any means everyone who comes to him. He endures great suffering leading to his death which we remember at this time of year together with the joy of the resurrection.

Life is not easy. It has never been so and will never be so in our material world. The book of Proverbs in the Old Testament together with the Psalms has much to say about the difficulties and the joys of life. One of my favourite verses (Pr.3) states: "*Lean not on your own understanding but in all things acknowledge God and he will make straight your paths*".

Our lives will always be a mixture of joy and sadness and everyone will experience these emotions in different measure and deal with them in different ways. There is no doubt that faith can play a part. Praying enables us to bring our pain and our joy to God, rather than trying to deal with situations beyond our control. Prayer should be a conversation – speaking and listening and, if practised can bring a sense of peace. Our own understanding will seldom resolve situations, but God's peace can enable us to cope and even to flourish.

Rev Kate Sax

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 10th May

ST. MARY'S CHURCH CENTRE

10.30am – 12.00noon

CHURCH CONTACT POINTS

ST. MARY'S, Nether Stowey *with* ST. PETER & ST. PAUL, Over Stowey

Rector	<u>Revd. Eleanor King</u> The Rectory, 25 St Mary St, Nether Stowey TA5 1LJ eleanor.king@hotmail.com	Tel: 734 777
Associate Priest	<u>Revd. Kate Sax</u> The Vicarage, Church Road, Spaxton TA5 1DA kate.kinkizi@gmail.com Working days: Sun, Tues, Wed	Tel. 671 168
Readers	<u>Mrs Viv Chesterton, B.A.</u> 3 Bishop Road, Nether Stowey TA5 1NP <u>Mrs Alison Hoare</u> 2 Park Cottages, Over Stowey	Tel: 733 568 Tel: 732 350
Church Warden - Nether Stowey	<u>Mr Nick Harrison</u> 32 Old Farm Road, Nether Stowey, TA5 1PE	Tel: 732 532
Church Warden - Over Stowey	<u>Mr. Peter Higginson</u> Bincombe Tops, Over Stowey	Tel: 732 102
Church Centre Contact:	Mrs. Barbara Beer	Tel: 732 412
Church Centre Bookings:	Mrs. Pat Stacey	Tel: 732 518
Benefice Office:	<u>Mrs Alison Hoare</u> Church Centre, 27 St. Mary Street, Nether Stowey, TA5 1LJ Office hours Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am - 11am Closed Wednesday Otherwise phone & leave a message or email Email: qv.benefice@gmail.com	Tel: 732 855

FARMING NEWS

I must apologise for forgetting last month's utterings. I have been given a hard smack by one of the Nether Stowey ladies and am still trembling!



What a profusion of flowers we have enjoyed this year. I've never seen such wonderful banks of primroses, such yellowness to behold and the daffodils have been magnificent too. Aren't we lucky to live here! Spring upon us – yippee I say.

My grandfather used to say the time to sow Spring barley was when the elm leaves are as big as a mouse's ears. I have noticed they are now. Ditto for most other seeds too and early spuds.

A good farmer friend of mine says: 'When the clocks go on, it's time to put playing cards and candles away.' – before electricity and television took over our lives.

On the farming front, the wonderful beef trade continues and the lamb prices are good too. But the corn trade is very poor with the current prices not covering the cost of production. We must have something to moan about or we wouldn't be normal!

We could soon do with a drop of nice warm rain. Who would have thought we would be thinking that a month or so ago. Let's hope for a nice warm summer for us all.

John Merchant

May 2025 Spring Risotto



One of the most eagerly awaited seasons in the UK by chefs and by cooks is Spring. Jersey Royals, fresh peas and of course asparagus. Please don't buy that bland stuff that's been flown over from Peru. Have a bit of patience and wait for the glorious spears that are only in season for 3-4 weeks. They seem to taste so much better after the anticipation of their arrival. Here then is a thoroughly British risotto albeit using the Italian Method.

Serves 4

Ingredients

240g Risotto Rice (Carnaroli is ideal)

24 asparagus spears

400g gros fresh peas podded, (keep the pods for stock)

1 litre of chicken or veg stock

120g grated parmesan cheese

Juice of one lemon

Bunch of fresh mint, washed and finely chopped

1 white onion finely chopped

2 celery stalks, peeled and finely chopped

150g butter

2 garlic cloves finely diced

200ml Dry white wine or dry vermouth (I prefer vermouth)

A good glug of olive oil

Method

Pod your peas and place in a bowl. Separate and place the pods into a saucepan containing the stock.

Now cut the tips of the asparagus and put to one side. Cut the rest of the spears into 1 cm sections and add to the stock. Bring the stock to a simmer and cook for 3-4 minutes.

Add half the butter to a large frying pan on a gentle heat and sweat the onion for 6-7 minutes, then the garlic for 2 minutes, add all the

rice and a touch more butter.

Cook for 5 minutes, stirring continuously. Now add your wine and turn up the heat, it will smell fantastic.

Let the wine reduce about 3 minutes.

Now strain your stock, keeping the asparagus but discarding the pods. Add two ladlefuls of hot stock to the rice, still stirring as the rice takes in the stock. Every other minute or so add another ladleful.

In another frying pan, add a glug of olive oil. Quickly fry the asparagus tips on quite a high heat to get a bit of colour on them. Don't overcook.

Now add your peas to the rice and half of the tips. Stir the risotto, it should be quite loose. If not, add more stock. Now add all the parmesan and the rest of the butter. Stir in all this quite vigorously.

Take off the heat to rest and stir in the mint.

If the risotto is too stodgy, add more stock, season to taste and add a squeeze of lemon.

Serve in shallow bowls using the remaining asparagus tips as a garnish with a couple of sprigs of mint and a grind or two of black pepper.

A true risotto is perhaps a touch looser than the Brits are used to. The Italians have an expression regarding risotto "All 'Onda" which means the ripple of the sea. From the start of cooking, a risotto should take between 18-20 minutes to cook. Any more and you have over cooked your rice. We want "al dente" – Enjoy !

THE NETHER STOWEY WEDNESDAY CLUB

This volunteer Club, which meets at St. Mary's Church Centre is urgently in need of VOLUNTEER DRIVERS to collect (start 10.00am) and/or take home (2.00pm) members from the Stoweys each week during the School Terms.

ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP?

If you can or require further details, please contact Barbara (732412) or Tina (732382)



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St Mary's Church Centre

Nether Stowey

Sunday 11th May

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Café Dates:

Wednesday 7th May

Wednesday 21st May

Wednesday 4th June

Wednesday 18th June

Wednesday 2nd July

Wednesday 30th July

Wednesday 14th August Wednesday 16th July



FORGET-ME-NOT CAFÉS provide support, companionship and a warm welcome to those who are recognising issues with their memory, as well as their family, friends or carers.

There are a variety of activities, some involving existing local groups, such as music, singing, arts, crafts, poetry, bingo, quizzes, or just a quiet chat over a coffee. We are a voluntary group, financed by donations and fundraising events.

The Café runs twice a month, planned so that the café is open the alternate week to Watchet Forget-me-Not Café.

Many friendships have been made over the years.

Please come along and see what we do, you will receive a warm welcome.

****FORGET-ME-NOT NEWS**

We will be at Burton Fete running our annual fundraising Tombola on *Sunday May 25th* from 10am. *Donations of prizes would be very welcome, thank you.*

We hope to see you at Burton Springs Fishing and Holidays, Burton, TA5 1QB. It's a great day out for all the family, stalls, music, food, bar, dog show and lots more... see your Stogursey News for more details.

VOLUNTEERING

We have a lovely group of friendly volunteers, but we always need extra help at the Forget-me-Not Café, chatting to people, making teas and coffees or washing up. Why not pop in one Wednesday for a cuppa and say hello and see if you'd like to volunteer.

All are welcome from the neighbouring villages.

For more information please contact:

Helen: 01278 733451 cuttellhelen@gmail.com

Rose: 07507 374234 rosechalk@icloud.com



STOWEY GREEN SPACES GROUP



Many Quantock Messenger readers will know that in March 2024 the Quantock Hills National Landscape (formerly AONB) team took over management of the Somerset Council-owned New Stowey farm. The intention is that the land, which spans about 110 acres, will become an exemplar of wildlife-friendly farming. One small aspect of this will be the creation of a community orchard for Nether Stowey. The area identified for this is a paddock on the farm side of the stream, almost opposite Barn Close and close to the recreation ground MUGA.

In the first week of March volunteers from Stowey Green Spaces Group and from the Taunton Mid-Week Conservation Volunteers, planted over 400 small saplings, a mix of blackthorn, rowan, dog rose, elder, hazel and crab apple, around the perimeter of the future orchard (see photo). The saplings were provided free of charge by the Woodland Trust. It is hoped that the apple trees which will form the orchard will be planted in the autumn of this year.

Also, in the first week of March, Somerset Council approved an application, submitted by Nether Stowey Parish Council and supported by SGSG, to add Stowey Millennium Wood to the Council's register of "Assets of Community Value" (ACVs). This means that the wood is recognized as furthering "the social wellbeing, or social interests of the community." If, during the next five years, Somerset Council should decide to sell the land the community will be given an opportunity to express interest and to be treated as a potential bidder under Community Right to Bid legislation.

Roy Osborne

CROWCOMBE HEATHFIELD STATION

Have you ever considered driving to Crowcombe Heathfield station, parking the car, doing the 3.5-mile walk on public footpaths alongside the railway to Stogumber station.... Then catching the train back to Crowcombe to pick up your car?

It is a lovely day's walk.

An adult single rail ticket from Stogumber back to Crowcombe Heathfield will cost £5.50 (plus a £3 'dog fare' if you also have a dog with you).

Andrew Warner - West Somerset Railway Volunteer.



This group has been running for a number of years and has over 130 members in villages round the Quantocks.

Please see their website for more information:

<https://quantock.u3asite.uk/welcome/>

The monthly Ancient Mariner quiz has moved to the first Thursday in the month.

Teams of four, one pound per person. Cash prize. Really easy questions - proper fun. All welcome.

8.00pm, Thursday 3rd April.

Any questions call Ian on 07531 852229

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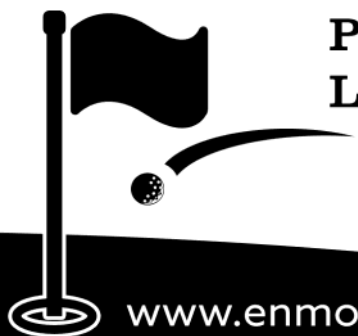
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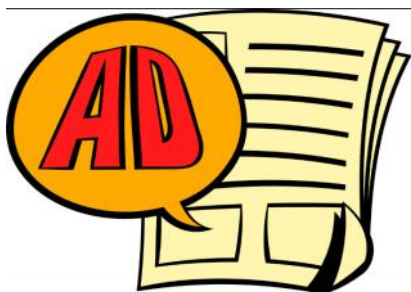
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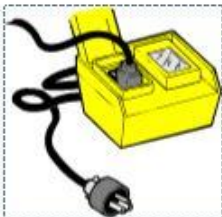
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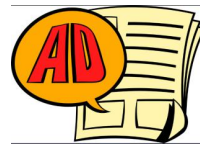
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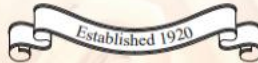
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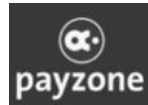
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