SEPTEMBER 2026





QUANTOCK

For Nether Stowey & Over Stowey

Messenger 50p







Front cover: Women's Walk (page 7); A floral display from the Flower Show (page 14)
Inside cover: Textile entries for the Flower Show; The Marion Evered Trust's donation to Oak ward, Musgrove hospital (page 20); Wednesday Club having afternoon tea at The Thomas Poole Library

SEPTEMBER 2026

We hope you all had a lovely summer and managed to stay cool during the heatwaves!

Each month we look forward to receiving articles of interest, photos, local history, local walks, recipes, news of what's going on in the villages — whatever you think will be of interest to others.

If you are not a regular contributor, please email the editor for guidelines of how to contribute. Articles should be sent to the editor by 15th of the preceding month - editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk

Enjoy reading this edition of the Quantock Messenger.

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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Molly Bradner	Distribution	732166

If you would like to subscribe and have your copy delivered, please contact the Editor.

CLUBS & SOCIETIES IN NETHER STOWEY & OVER STOWEY

Allotment Association
Bruce Rope 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
Terry Binding 01278 732710 Secretary
Email: nsshortmatbowls@gmail.com
Nether Stowey & Fiddington Women's Institute
Margaret Harris 734 613
Terry Binding 732710
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
Elise Cable 07435444419
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
07734 968940
Wednesday Club Barbara 732412 or Tina 732382

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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

Email somwestnptsedgemoor@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Supervisor Lora Bray—7528@avonandsomerset.police.uk

PCSO Finlay Wallace

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 652043 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 733779 01278 734689
clerk@netherstowey-pc.gov.uk clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.co.uk

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Bookings secretaries

N/Stowey Church Centre **Barbara Beer** 01278 732412
O/Stowey Village Hall **Jackie Barrow** 07891720565

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

Reception: 01278 732696 8am - 6:30pm (Mon-Fri)
Dispensary 01278 733385 10am - 11.30am & 4pm - 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 040506

The Thomas Poole Library 732741 (Mon & Wed 10-1, Thurs 3.30 - 6.30, Fri 10-1 & 2-5 / Sat 10-1)

Quantock Hills National Landscape, Amanda Sampson - 01823 451884, quantockhills@somerset.gov.uk

Community Car Scheme: Stowey Shuttle - 07943 923742

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

DIARY DATES 2026

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

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

2nd Monday each month – Ancestry.com Support - 10am – 12noon TPL

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

Every Tuesday – Stowey Walking

Every Tuesday - Short Mat Bowls 2-5pm - £5 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 – NSC

1st Wednesday of the month – IT drop-in session – 10.30 – 12 noon 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

Last Friday of the month - Library Book group 2.30 – 3.30 - 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 - - Coffee Morning 10.30 – 12noon – NSCC

3RD Saturday each month - SGSG litter picking 10am

3rd Saturday each month – OS Coffee Morning 10.30 – 12noon – OSVH

NSCC - Nether Stowey Church Centre *TPL - Thomas Poole Library*
OSVH - Over Stowey Village Hall *SGSG – Stowey Green Spaces Group*

218th Women's Walk – 20 June 2026

Thank you to everyone who has helped to keep alive this unique village tradition of celebrating Tom Poole's Female Friendly Society, by coming on the Women's Walk.

Maybe it is just tradition that has kept the women of the Nether Stowey walking for so many years.

However, the more often I do it, I realise it is all about the present. It is a day for connecting: enjoying the company of the women from all the local villages that you know, but more importantly making new friendships and connections.

This was the first time on the Women's Walk for Nicola Bloom who only moved into the village last year. Becky Wright who has lived in the village for 20 years came with a new villager friend, Lisa Palmer. They were both sporting beautiful felted Druid Crowns.

Freya U'dell, carried the embroidered Banner. Her mother, aunt and her two grandmothers, were among the walkers and at the tea.

The banner, The Devon Pipers and our vicar Eleanor King started the walk at the Thomas Poole Library and Community Hub. They walked down Castle Street past Poole House where Thomas Poole lived.

(The library building was the original school in the village. It was in fact the second privately funded school in England. It was funded by Thomas Poole.)

The main walkers joined this procession at the Cross.

We walked to the church and laid our flowers around the grave of Tom Poole. A remarkable man who helped so many women in times of need, in his lifetime. The church service rejoiced in the values that Thomas Poole brought to the local villages of kindness and community.

A collection in the church raised money for our local Wednesday Lunch Club, which welcomes 60+ residents of the village, who live alone and are in need of companionship. Barbara Beer gave us all an interesting presentation on the history of this Club.

We were also delighted to announce the recipients of the Best Women of Stowey Award on behalf of the Female Friendly Society to Molly Bradner and Liz Grandfield. The two women chosen, stood out for their long-standing commitment to our community, their generosity of spirit, and the countless ways they have supported others over many years. They embody the values of the Female Friendly Society and the Women's Walk itself—women helping women, neighbours helping neighbours, and communities caring for one another. Both have also given many years of service to the Women's Walk, helping to preserve and sustain this cherished tradition for future generations.

And of course, we all enjoyed the Afternoon Tea afterwards in the Church Centre, when everyone could relax, chat and share in the array of delicious homemade cakes.

Thank you to everyone who made this happen. The Organising Committee, our Reverend Eleanor King for conducting the church service, to Kathy Peckham for playing the organ, to the road marshals, the official photographer, the cake bakers and the washer uppers and especially to everyone who came to walk. It wouldn't happen without any of you.

I look forward to seeing you all again, plus lots of newcomers, next time, for the 219th Women's Walk, on Saturday 19 June 2027. Get this date in your diary now!

Janet Phillips

Photographs of the Woman's Walk will be on display in The Thomas Poole Library in Castle Street.

THE THOMAS POOLE LIBRARY NETHER STOWEY

Registered Charity No 1181213
WWW.THOMASPOOLELIBRARY.CO.UK

The Summer Reading Challenge 2026 has nearly finished, and we've had a fun six weeks encouraging children to read and make crafts related to the Challenge.

Well done to everyone who participated and congratulations to those who completed the Challenge!

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

ANCESTRY.COM – Find out more about your family history - a new event on the second Wednesday of the month, starting in March. 10.30am – 12 noon

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 and make new friends

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

MONTHLY BOOK GROUP – Enjoy reading? Come and join the Library Reading Group - all are welcome! This is a fun, low key reading group that meets in the library at 2.30pm on the last Friday of each month

DROP-IN IT SUPPORT SESSIONS – Held on the first Wednesday of each month, 10.30am to 12 noon. Need help with your smartphone, email account or online services, then drop by and our volunteers will assist you!

INTERACTIVE KIOSK – Come and explore our interactive kiosk which is full of interesting information about the Quantocks, Nether Stowey

MONTHLY TALK FOR SEPTEMBER

WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER - 7.30PM - Andrew Crosse and the mite that shocked the world. The life of a pioneering Somerset scientist, eccentric republican landowner and poet. A talk by Brian Wright

Entrance fees are £4 for library charity members and £5 for library non-charity members

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!

News from the Quantock Medical Centre

Seasonal Flu Clinics

We will be holding our Seasonal Flu Clinics on Saturday 3rd and 17th October, and Wednesday afternoons in October. We ask that you please support your GP Practice by booking your seasonal flu vaccination with your Practice rather than having it at a Pharmacy, if you are eligible for this vaccine. Your practice has to order it Flu supply in the previous year and would hate to throw these away if patients go elsewhere.

The Practice has made the decision that it will not be able to provide Autumn Covid vaccinations again this year due to a number of reasons including; the unpredictability of the vaccine delivery dates and very short shelf life, it is incredibly difficult to arrange clinics around this.

The immense staff training required to support giving the covid vaccine, and the fact that only registered health care professionals are allowed to take consent from patients and provide these vaccines. This makes it extremely difficult for us to provide these at the same time as our flu clinics, and we do apologise for the inconvenience to our patients by not providing Covid Vaccination. We are hopeful that the Somerset Covid Vaccination Teams will be able to provide these again this year in local village halls

Who will be eligible for an Autumn Covid Vaccination

- Adults aged 75 years and over
- Residents in care homes for older adults
- Individuals aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed

How to Get Your Jab

- The NHS will contact eligible individuals when it is time to book
- You can check for updates or find local walk-in availability via the NHS COVID-19 Services online once the rollout approaches.

Patient Participation Group

Our next patient group meetings will be on Wednesday 16th September and Wednesday 16th December at the Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey from 10 am, come along and join us to discuss what's happening at your local Medical Centre.

Helen Stacey

Practice Manager

Stowey Shuttle Community Car Scheme

Notice to registered members

Stowey Shuttle will no longer retain registration details for those who have not used the scheme for two years. If you wish to use the scheme again, a new registration will be completed which will ensure the information we hold is up to date. Please note, it is not necessary to register 'just in case' as registration can be arranged at the time of the first booking.



Stowey Shuttle is celebrating its

10th Anniversary

Passengers are invited to join us for a celebratory

Afternoon Tea

on

Saturday 19th September

at Nether Stowey Church Centre

3pm—5pm



Please RSVP to 732574 by Friday 4th September



Nether Stowey Flower Show

Saturday 15th August

Despite the arid conditions, we had another hugely successful flower show on 15th August at the church centre. We had 412 entries from 75 competitors. Unexpectedly we still had lots of fruit, veg and flowers entries considering the drought. The number of other entries in the children's, handicraft, produce, photography, plants and arts sections were amazing.

This years' show was opened by Sian Stafford, supported by Andy Ingram. Sian welcomed everyone and thanked all the volunteers and committee for their hard work to put on the show. She also thanked all the competitors, without whom a show would be possible. Sian reminisced about growing up in Nether Stowey, recalling how village life was in her childhood. She talked about how the village has adapted over the years and how Thomas Poole had the original school, which is now the library built on his own land. She emphasised the amenities available to the community at the library.

Sian and Andy were presented with a bouquet and buttonhole by Penelope and Annabella Brierley.

Cup Winners

Junior – Amelia Palmer 29 points

Junior Runner up – Helena Sysum 22 points

Fruit, Veg & flowers and plants – Mike Carver 78 points

Floral Art – Jill Bramhall 14 points

Produce – Zoe Connaughton 23 points

Handicraft – Joint Liz Merchant & Emma Sysum 7 points each

Photography – Oceaniana Connaughton 17 points

Woodwork – Chris Collier-Smith 5 points

Stowey Gardeners – Jackie Hellier 23 points

WI – Elaine Mills 28 points

Nether Stowey Lady Gaining Most Points – Elaine Mills 28 points

Nether Stowey Gent Gaining Most Points – Andy Hayes 37 points

Adult outside Nether Stowey Gaining most points – Mike Carver 78 points

Child's Best Exhibit in Show – Helena Sysum for Animal from Vegetable

Best Exhibit in Divisions A & B – Rosie Aubrey for Onions

Best Pot Plant – Rosemary Fitzgerald

Best Exhibit in Floral Art – Jill Bramhall for arrangement in unusual container

Best Exhibit in Produce – Kerri Brierley for Traybake

Best Exhibit in Handicraft – Charles Griffiths – Wooden Bowl

Overall Best in Show – Jill Bramhall for arrangement in a sardine tin. Jill was also awarded a £50 voucher curtesy of The Kitchen at the Quantock Lakes.

Jackie Hellier





The 2026 season of talks and garden visits

- 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. 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 Dates

Thursday 17th September - A talk by Christine Skelmersdale about using bulbs in the garden
Thursday 15th October - A talk by Tom Neilson about sustainable gardening



Gardening Notes
September 2026

June, July and August have been challenging months for gardeners with unusually high temperatures, drying winds and minimal rainfall. It is important that water is used sensibly and in the best situations in order to get acceptable vegetable yields and as good a floral display as possible.

The management of our soil is very important ensuring that the organic matter content of the soil is maintained and additionally the benefit of good quantities of organic mulch material cannot be over emphasised helping to slow down water loss and inhibiting weed germination. The benefit of incorporating compost, well rotted farmyard/horse manure or green waste helps to increase the humus content of the soil promoting an increase in moisture holding capacity, nutrient retention and improvement of the soil structure encouraging deeper root systems.

When watering, plants will benefit from a good soaking less often, rather than more often, lighter applications which quickly dry out and encourage rooting nearer the surface.

Plants benefit from early morning or evening applications when less water is lost by evaporation. Perennial weeds with root systems which draw on moisture deeper in the soil should be

controlled as they will still be able to push up through the mulch layer and compete with what is growing.

Vegetables: Spring cabbage should be planted out and sowings of a winter variety of lettuce such as Winter Density can be sown and covered with a cloche. Autumn onion sets can be planted towards the end of the month such as Radar and Swift. Green outdoor tomatoes can be encouraged to ripen by untying from the cane, stripping off most of the foliage and laying down on straw or polythene and placing a cloche over them. Continue to protect cabbages, kales, purple sprouting broccoli and sprouts from cabbage white caterpillars with fine mesh netting. The finer the netting the better as it will also help keep off white fly from the underside of the leaves.

Propagation: cuttings of tender perennials should be done in case plants do not survive the increasingly wet winters. Subjects such as Penstemons, Salvias, Pelargonium, Osteospermums and Fuchsias can all be readily propagated. To aid rooting avoid flowering shoots or if difficult to find pinch the flower bud out. Rosemary and lavender root well at this time.

Fruit: Apples will start to be picked this month and should be handled with care to minimise bruising of any sort. Ensure that the stalk comes away cleanly from the tree and does not include the small piece of growth it is attached to which will have next years fruit bud present on it. Fruit that is to be stored should be handled gently and individual fruits wrapped in paper to avoid them touching each other. They can then be stored in cool conditions in the dark. Alternatively storing small quantities in

polythene bags with a few holes made in them can be successful. Strawberry plants should be cleaned up cutting back the old foliage and unwanted runners. Remove old straw which can harbour pests and disease problems.

Ornamentals: This month is when the flower border often starts to appear jaded. How can we extend the colour well into the autumn until the first frosts? There are some excellent old faithfuls such as Michaelmas daisies, golden rod and sedums however there are many others which not only contribute colour but also texture and form. Consider Liriope muscari (Lilyturf), Actaea matsumurae previously known as cimicifuga (Bugbane), Liatris spinosa (Gayfeather) and some of the late flowering red hot pokers which are not always red and can be very graceful within the border. It is the month when many of the grasses come into their own such as Miscanthus sinensis – the pink tinged cultivar 'Kleine Fontaine' is a choice form, Stipa tenuissima and Pennisetum villosum. Against the wall Clematis tangutica and Clematis 'Bill MacKenzie' will give a glorious display of yellow lantern like flowers followed by big fluffy seed heads. Plant bulbs such as daffodils, Scilla, crocus and hyacinths in borders and containers ready for spring colour.

Other jobs: Evergreen shrubs can be lifted and moved whilst the soil is warm and it is an ideal month for establishing grass from seed particularly where lawns have suffered as a result of the exceptional weather, children's play, etc.

Nick Rigden

The Marion Evered Trust

Hope everyone has had a great Summer.

We have recently handed over £560 to Oak ward to fund an activity day for the siblings of cancer patients to help support them and the families affected. Hope they enjoy the day.

We would like to thank the Bridgwater shooting club for their very generous donation of £1240.00 raised through the club and handed over at a shoot evening in August.

Keith at The Kitchens has also kindly offered to do another afternoon tea with a percentage of profits being donated to the charity. This is on 27th Sept and can be booked through the Kitchens website or Facebook page.

We also wish Vanessa Knowles all the best in her 100km challenge, there is a link to her JustGiving page on our Facebook page. Vanessa is retiring after 47 years of nursing, 27 of these were spent on the children's ward at Musgrove and she is taking on this challenge in support of our charity. '

Monthly 200 club. If you wish to join, then contact Pauline Barrow on 07724666011

June

£20 Paul Mathews £10 Michelle Gower £5 Kai Baker

July

£20 Toby Guilding £10 Libby Habberfield £5 Harvey Porter

Ian Barrow



Classic French Apple Tart

Well, what a summer!

I don't know about you, but my vegetable beds have been a disaster. The only things I've grown successfully are dahlias and basil—the seeds of which came back with me from Italy and promptly flourished on the compost heap! As a result, the pesto has been fabulous this year.

And so here we are in September. It may not have been a great year for fruit, but apples are, as ever, reliable.

The French call this elegant apple tart a tarte fine aux pommes. It looks impressive but takes only about 15 minutes to assemble.

When I served it in my restaurant, I brought it to the table with vanilla ice cream and a small saucepan of warmed Calvados for a little tableside flambé. Here in Somerset, our Somerset Cider Brandy would be the perfect local alternative.

Serves 6

Ingredients

- 1 ready-rolled sheet of all-butter puff pastry, about 320g
- 3–4 crisp apples, such as Braeburn, Cox or Pink Lady
- 25g butter, melted
- 2 tbsp caster sugar

- ½ tsp ground cinnamon (optional)
- 2 tbsp apricot jam
- Crème fraîche or vanilla ice cream, to serve
- A splash of Calvados or Somerset Cider Brandy (optional)

Method

1. Heat the oven to 200°C/180°C fan/Gas 6. Place the pastry, still on its baking paper, on a baking tray.

2. Score a 1cm border around the pastry, taking care not to cut all the way through. Prick the centre all over with a fork.

3. Peel and core the apples, then slice them very thinly. Arrange the slices in closely overlapping rows inside the pastry border.

4. Brush the apples with the melted butter and sprinkle over the sugar and cinnamon, if using.

5. Bake for 25–30 minutes, until the pastry is crisp and deeply golden and the apples are tender.

6. Warm the apricot jam with a teaspoon of water, then brush it over the hot apples to give the tart its traditional glossy finish.

Serve warm or at room temperature with crème fraîche or vanilla ice cream.

For a more indulgent finish, add a splash of Calvados or Somerset Cider Brandy to the warmed apricot glaze. Alternatively, warm the brandy separately and flambé the tart at the table—taking all the usual precautions with an open flame.

Bon appétit!

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Stowey green spaces

Stowey Green Spaces Group of volunteers work to maintain and enhance the public green spaces in and around Nether and Over Stowey.

HELPING MAKE STOWEY GREENER, HEALTHIER AND STRONGER

OUR GREEN SPACES

Recreation Ground, Millennium Wood, Diamond & Platinum Jubilee Woods, Stowey Wood & Ponds, The Mount, Bypass Wood & Walk and more.

WHAT WE DO

Plant trees and wildflowers, care for habitats, maintain footpaths, control invasive species, run litter-picking sessions, work with our school and support biodiversity.

WHO WE ARE

A friendly, sociable group of local volunteers.

All ages welcome – children (with supervision) too!

WHY IT MATTERS

For wildlife, our community, and our own health.

Let's grow a greener future together.

JOIN US!

No experience needed – just enthusiasm and a love for our town and the countryside.

C/O Nether Stowey Parish Council Office, 2a Castle Street, Nether Stowey, Somerset, TA5 1LN

stoweygreenspaces@stowey.org.uk

Find us on Facebook

NETHER STOWEY POST OFFICE

Nether Stowey could be without its Post Office for the first time in over 150 years unless a buyer is found before the current owners retire at the end of the year.

Nether Stowey, Somerset: one of the most important community assets in Nether Stowey has been placed on the market as its long-serving owners, Diane and Colin Penny, prepare to retire, raising the prospect that the village could lose its Post Office altogether from 1 January 2027 unless a buyer comes forward.

The prominent mixed-use property in the heart of the village, currently home to the Post Office, village shop and former tearoom with substantial residential accommodation above, is being marketed with a guide price of just £400,000 (the price does not include the cost of the post office franchise contract). Nether Stowey currently has around 700 properties and another 50+ are planned.

While the building benefits from planning permission to convert the commercial space into residential accommodation, such a change could mean the permanent loss of the village's only Post Office.

Mr and Mrs Penny have decided to retire after almost 16 years of serving the local community, creating what many residents see as a pivotal moment for Nether Stowey.

Although the property presents exciting redevelopment opportunities, it also offers an established and profitable business. The Post Office currently operates under its original contract with a fixed monthly fee and commission on parcels, stamps, banking and other services including DVLA and Foreign Currency, generating more than £30,000 per year in Post Office remuneration alone, before additional income from the retail

business and associated services. Subject to approval and transfer, that contract would continue with a new owner.

The business also serves as a Royal Mail, DPD and Amazon Hub collection and return point, making it an essential service for residents, local businesses and visitors alike.

If no purchaser is found who wishes to continue operating the business, the Post Office will cease trading from 1 January, leaving Nether Stowey and surrounding villages without a local Post Office service indefinitely as the current owners believe there are no other suitable premises for a Post Office within the village.

The consequences would extend well beyond the village itself. The Post Office provides vital services for elderly residents, people without easy access to transport, local businesses and community organisations. Its closure would require many customers to travel elsewhere for everyday services including banking, parcels, bill payments and government transactions.

"This is far more than the sale of a property," said Colin Penny. "It is an opportunity to preserve an important community asset while acquiring an established business with a secure income stream. My wife and I are taking a long overdue retirement, but we hope someone will continue the service we have built up over the past 15 years which has been at the heart of village life for many years."

The property also includes generous living accommodation, a former tearoom with commercial kitchen facilities, a south-facing garden and significant scope for either continued mixed-use occupation or residential redevelopment. However, if converted entirely into housing, whether as a single-family home or two

apartments, Nether Stowey would lose one of its most valued community facilities.

Every week that passes without a buyer brings the village one step closer to losing a service that has been part of community life for generations.

For further information or to arrange a viewing just call Ross Walls of Nest on 01984 636700.

https://nestassociates.co.uk/property/4-bed-detached-nether-stowey-rare-opportunity-shop-post-office-former-tea-room-999337

FONSS Summer Fayre and Party in The Park

4 July 2026

Thank you to everyone who came along & supported this event which was a collaboration between two charities: Friends of Nether Stowey School (FONSS) & Nether Stowey Village Hall & Recreation Ground. It was wonderful to see so many families & members of our community enjoying the afternoon & evening together. We hope you had a wonderful day.

A special thank you goes to all our amazing volunteers, stallholders, performers, sponsors & everyone who donated prizes, equipment & time. Events like this simply couldn't happen without your generosity & community spirit.

Playing field 50:50 lottery winners

Please see below for the lucky winners for June, July & August. Your support of the playing field is very much appreciated. If you would like to join, please contact either Jane on 732025 or Sharon on 732311 or have a look at the Lottery section of the

website www.stowey.org.uk. It is only £2.50 per month (or £30 per year) & you have chance to win cash prizes each month, whilst creating income and evidence of support for the facilities, which is also important when we seek grant funding. Thank you.

June 2026 Draw

1 st Prize	£31.87	Ticket	No:	322	T Tribe
2 nd Prize	£15.94	Ticket	No:	67	E Freeman
3 rd Prize	£9.56	Ticket	No:	76	L Barrons
4 th Prize	£6.60	Ticket	No:	26	M Scourfield

July 2026 Draw

1 st Prize	£31.87	Ticket	No:	49	I Bullock
2 nd Prize	£15.94	Ticket	No:	29	A Howells
3 rd Prize	£9.56	Ticket	No:	172	J Payne
4 th Prize	£6.60	Ticket	No:	124	C Christie

August 2026 Draw

1 st Prize	£31.87	Ticket	No:	30	H Piper
2 nd Prize	£15.94	Ticket	No:	347	J Davison
3 rd Prize	£9.56	Ticket	No:	48	P Rowe
4 th Prize	£6.60	Ticket	No:	411	J Heslop

The Latest from the Cricket Club
September 2026



Off the pitch things are going really well, our annual BIG BASH fund raising weekend was a great success and both the cricket club and the Marion Evered Trust will benefit hugely from the monies raised. Thank you to all those who came along to support this very worthy event.

On the pitch, it has to be said things are not so healthy ,both our senior sides have struggled over the past two months particularly with players not committing themselves, the 1st XI are towards the bottom of the 1st Division and the 2nd XI, barring a miracle will be relegated from division 3 to division 4.

On a more positive note, our youth sides have done really well, and thanks must go to the team of coaches who have given up their time to nurture the teams towards success. Below I have given a more detailed account of both team's performances.

Under 13

League Position 4th out of 10

Played 13 Won 8 Lost 5

Under 11

League Position 6th out of 13

Played 12 Won 6 Lost 5 Cancelled 1

Next a message to all our Sponsors and Vice Presidents, without your continued financial support we would struggle to survive so THANK YOU!!

Finally if you want to follow the club more closely, we can be found on Facebook, or you can visit the Play Cricket website.

Dates for the diary:

5th/6th September Mountain Bike event at the ground with BBQ and Bar.

17th October Annual Dinner and Presentation Evening.

25th October Club AGM.

Over and Out.

Commander Nicolas H N Wright, RN, MiD

Since my beloved husband Nick's death on 7th August, I have been overwhelmed with the kindness of friends and this community.

So many cards of sympathy, flowers, and even food to keep me and the family going, I would like to thank

everyone who has been so thoughtful. Such generosity and empathy has been a great comfort to us at this trying time. Please accept my apologies for not contacting you each individually but be assured of my deepest appreciation.

A heartfelt thankyou to you all.

Gerry

CHURCH SERVICES – SEPTEMBER 2026

	NETHER STOWEY	OVER STOWEY
6th September 14th Sunday After Trinity	11.00am Morning Worship (Church Centre)	6.30pm Evensong
13th September 15th Sunday After Trinity	11.00am Holy Communion (Church)	9.30am Morning Worship
20th September 16th Sunday After Trinity	11.00am Morning Worship (Church Centre)	9,30am Holy Communion
27th September 17th Sunday After Trinity	11.00am Holy Communion (Church)	No Service

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 12th September

St. Mary's Church Centre

10.30am – 12.00noon

Letter from the Rector

Dear all,

September brings not only the wonderful colours and signs of autumn but also the start of a new academic year. Something new for the littlest ones amongst us as they head for school for the first time and for others transferring into secondary education. For some too, it will be stepping into work, apprenticeships or moving from home to college or university for the first time. These are exciting times but maybe a bit challenging too. We wish them well as they move on with their studies and think too of those supporting them.

Following the dry and hot summer we have had, our hearts also go out to our farmers and all who work the land during this extremely challenging harvest season. With failed or diminished crops and with sheep suffering from blue tongue in Somerset, it has been a tough few months which brings concerns and worries for time ahead. We pray for and thank our farmers for their hard work and the load they carry day in and day out to bring food to our tables. We also give thanks for work of the Farming Community Network which is a voluntary organisation and charity that supports farmers and their families.

September is also the month of Creationtide, when we are particularly mindful of God's creation around us, and God's provision for us as we look around at the beauty that surrounds us. Let's us strive to do what we can to look after the world, to limit climate change and to care for the environment in the best ways we can. Every little bit helps.

With every blessing

Eleanor

CHURCH CONTACT POINTS

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

Rector
Revd. Eleanor King — Tel:734 777
The Rectory, 25 St Mary St, Nether Stowey TA5 1LJ
eleanor.king@hotmail.com

Readers
Mrs Viv Chesterton, B.A. — Tel: 733 568
3 Bishop Road, Nether Stowey TA5 1NP

Mrs Alison Hoare — Tel: 732 350
2 Park Cottages, Over Stowey

Church Warden- Nether Stowey
Mr Nick Harrison — Tel: 732 532
32 Old Farm Road, Nether Stowey, TA5 1PE

Church Warden- Over Stowey
Mr. Peter Higginson — Tel: 732 102
Bincombe Tops, Over Stowey

Church Centre Contact:
Mrs. Barbara Beer — Tel: 732 412

Church Centre Bookings:
Mrs Barbara Beer — Tel: 732 412

Benefice Office: Mrs Alison Hoare
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 Tel: 732 855
Email: qv.benefice@gmail.com

OVER STOWEY
PARISH COUNCIL

Since the last article from the Parish Council in the July/August edition of the Messenger, there has been a planning meeting, the outcome of which can be found at Planning Application 40/26/00003 and a Full Council meeting held on the 8th July 2026.

The Full Council meeting included highways issues regarding the crossroads at Marsh Mills following an accident in May 2026 and also concerns about parking in Quantock Lane. It has been reported that large vehicles are sometimes finding it difficult to pass when cars are not parked close to the edge of the road. This can include agricultural vehicle and coaches; however this could also be an issue for emergency vehicles if there was an incident that required this type of response. The Parish Council kindly request that residents bear this in mind when parking along this stretch of road. Further details on both items can be found on the Parish Council website.

There remains a small pot of money available for grants and if you represent a group in the parish (or possibly a neighbouring parish) and would like to make an application to the Parish Council for some funding, please contact the Clerk for further information and eligibility.

Once again, it is that time of year that the Parish Council ask that as the bird nesting season has ended, please could any landowner/property owners with a boundary that has hedging adjacent to or trees overhanging the highway ensure that these are cut back as soon as possible in the interests of safety to all road users. If you are unable to find a contractor to undertake this, please contact the Clerk. The Clerk vacancy is open again and if you are interested in finding out more or applying for this position, please see the Parish Council website for more information:

https://overstoweyparishcouncil.gov.uk/news/parish-clerk-vacancy/ or phone on 07391 313740.

The role is varied and interesting and if someone would like to take this opportunity on, the existing Clerk is very happy to job share or shadow someone for an extended period of time to ensure that the new Clerk is confident with the workings of a small Parish Council.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 16th September 2026 at 7.00pm at Over Stowey Village Hall. Please see the noticeboard and website for details.

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 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)

DOREEN MARY WALKER

19 October 1928 – 16 July 2026

A Service to celebrate the life of Doreen was held on Thursday 6th August at St. Mary's Church, Nether Stowey, which was well attended by family and friends.

A eulogy, written by granddaughter Alison, was read out at the Service.

Doreen was born in Chiswick, London, her sister Peg born seven years later and they remained best friends for life. Doreen was recuperating from a tonsil operation at a relatives' farm when war was declared.

After a longer stay than intended, she and her sister returned home to London shortly before the London Blitz began. Doreen left school at 14 and immediately started her first job in a dress shop which lasted just one week; She then became a Shop Assistant at Hawkins the Grocers, this being the start of one of the happiest times of her life.

During this time, she met and married her beloved Charlie in January 1948. Their first child, Marjorie, was born two years later. A few years later, a second child, Christopher, was born. Sadly, he died of cancer at thirteen months. They decided to adopt and Paul completed their family. By now they had moved to Nether Stowey. Doreen became fully involved in the local community including taking on the role of Cub Scout leader, Akala.

Doreen loved everything to do with numbers and took on a number of bookkeeping roles with among others, the Church, Carnival Committee, Wednesday Club, WI and Crusaders. For many years Doreen and Charlie cleaned the Church, including the

brass and the new Church Centre. She continued to do this after Charlie's death in 2003.

Knitting and crochet were Doreen's hobbies. Typically, she used her skills for the benefit of others. Crochet blankets for all family members, knitted hats and scarves for fishermen at sea and for many years knitting clothes and blankets for the people of Rumania.

Doreen's most precious times were spent with the family she adored including five grandchildren, nine great grandchildren and six great-great grandchildren. Doreen loved the Church and always said that she felt at peace there.

A truly Christian person, Doreen will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.



The Community Council for Somerset (CCS) is a charity working throughout the County. We believe everyone in Somerset should be able to live a healthy, independent, and safe life and be part of a strong and thriving community.

We have a team of over 60 Village Agents working across all corners of Somerset, who use their local expertise to advocate for people and their communities. They provide confidential, practical community-based solutions for you, wherever you are in Somerset.

Contact Sarah Bennett for more information - 01823 331222

What's on at Over Stowey Village Hall in 2026	
4th September	Burgers 6pm – 8pm (last orders 7.45pm)
18th September	Burgers 6pm – 8pm (last orders 7.45pm)
19th September	Coffee Morning 10.30am – 12 noon
25th September	Live Music Devid Piazza from 7pm
2nd October	Burgers 6pm – 8pm (last orders 7.45pm)
3rd October	Quiz
16th October	Burgers 6pm – 8pm (last orders 7.45pm)
25th October	Breakfast from 9.30am
30th October	Pumpkin Carving
13th November	Burgers 6pm – 8pm (last orders 7.45pm)
21st November	Coffee Morning 10.30am – 12noon
27th November	Burgers 6pm – 8pm (last orders 7.45pm)
28th November	Bingo eyes down 7.30pm
18th December	West Somerset Brass Band Christmas Carols & Music
19th December	Coffee Morning 10.30am – 12noon
24th December	Father Christmas 6pm

Nether Stowey Wednesday Club

Join us every Wednesday (term Time)

St Marys Church Centre

10am-2pm

Coffee & Lunch at 12 noon







Raffle

Speakers & Crafts

We welcome all ages 70 + from surrounding villages

We look forward to welcoming newmembers both ladies and gents !

Pop in for a friendly chat meet the members

Contact Barbara 01278 732412 or Tina 07761586866

STOGURSEY ARTS FESTIVAL

Thursday 15th – Monday 19th October

Supported by Somerset Community Foundation

Be part of Stogursey's amazing creative community as we come together for five days of exhibitions, live events and hands-on activities in the heart of our village.

Be inspired. Get involved. Everyone is welcome

EXPECT....

- **CHILDREN'S PARADE** – masks & walking dinosaur
- **ART EXHIBITIONS**
- **MUSICAL GALA EVENING**
- **CLOCKS** – an opportunity to view a rare collection of vintage clocks made in Stogursey & local area
- **STARS OF STOGURSEY** talent show (16 & under)
- **FLOWER FESTIVAL & ARTISANS EXHIBITS** in the Church
- **AN EVENING OF CONVERSATION & FILM**
- **CRAFT DEMONSTRATIONS**
- **BSL** (British Sign Language) **FAMILY TASTER SESSION** *'The Art of Communication'*

Look out for more info in October's Stogursey News or online at www.stogurseyarts.co.uk

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For more information, contact
Elise on 01278 732612

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FORTNIGHTLY ON WEDNESDAYS 10.30 – 12.00

Our Café Dates:

Wednesday 9th September
Wednesday 23rd September
Wednesday 7th October
Wednesday 21st October
Wednesday 4th November
Wednesday 18th November: The Blackdown Hillbillies
Wednesday 2nd December
Wednesday 16th December: Christmas Celebrations



FORGET-ME-NOT NEWS

- In July we said goodbye to our friend Lynne who has moved away to be nearer to her family. We will miss you Lynne, and Daisy too.
- The Beach'd Buoys Sea Shanty Band entertained us recently. We had lots of fun and laughs and everyone joined in as always.
- BIG THANKS to the lovely Beach'd Buoys and we are delighted to say that more than £189 was raised for "Memories for Caleb" and Children's Hospice South West.

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. ***All are welcome from the surrounding villages.***

VOLUNTEERING We have a lovely group of friendly volunteers, but we do need some extra helpers - making teas and coffees, washing up, or chatting to people. Why not pop in one Wednesday for a cuppa and say hello or contact Helen or Rose.

For more information please contact:
Helen: 07891 547982 cuttellhelen@gmail.com
Rose: 07507 374234 rosechalk@icloud.com

September 2026

Pluggedin Parish News

A round up of the latest news from Hinkley Point C

HinkleyPointC

Supporting Local Tourism - Free Beach Parking at Brean and Berrow this Summer



Hinkley Point C is helping to make a trip to the seaside a little more affordable this summer by providing free parking at both Brean and Berrow beach car parks.

Available throughout the school holidays and into October, the initiative is part of Hinkley Point C's support for tourism businesses in Brean. The initiative has already proved extremely successful with visitors to the beach more than double the number seen in July last year.

Second 2026 Project Goal Achieved



An important milestone has been reached with the successful completion of the first Main Feedwater Line pipe connection inside the Unit 1 Safeguarding Building.

The weld creates the first fixed point for the installation of a 500-metre network of pipes and valves. This secure connection helps maintain alignment and stability as construction progresses.

Work will now focus on welding and installing two additional sections of Main Feedwater Line pipework before connecting them to the newly installed section. Materials and specialist welding equipment are already on site, enabling the next phase to move forward.

The Main Feedwater Line forms part of the Nuclear Steam Supply System (NSSS), which produces and transports the steam needed to drive the turbines.

Completing this pipeline is critical to the commissioning activity of Hot Functional Testing, where our systems will face operational conditions such as temperature for the first time.

edfenergy.com/hpc 0333 009 7070 hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com

Over Stowey Harvest Supper

Saturday 10th October

6pm bar open, seated by 7pm

Over Stowey Village Hall

Tickets £10 per person, to include:

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BAR ~ RAFFLE ~ QUIZ (optional!)

Raffle prizes to be confirmed, but rest assured they will be fabulous!

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Hilary: 07724 974895 Jane: 07742 632728

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