

Appendix 1:



Annual Report 2016-2017

Achievements since April 2016

After our first full year we have lots to report;

Constitution

On 17th May the Steering Group agreed a constitution for Stowey Walking.

Japanese Visitor

In August we were invited by Walkers are Welcome to host a Japanese professor Yoko Shioji visiting the UK to research footpath networks. A small group of us met with Yoko and took her for a short walk taking in part of the Coleridge Way followed by a guided tour of Coleridge Cottage.

Bank Account

After initial administrative problems setting up our bank account with HSBC we finally opened the account in September in 2016 with an opening balance of £900.00 comprised of grants from Nether Stowey Parish Council, Over Stowey Parish Council, Sedgemoor District Council and the Quantock Hills AONB.

Walkers are Welcome Accreditation

On 23rd October 2016 Nether Stowey and Over Stowey were accredited as Walkers are Welcome Communities. The panel at Walkers are Welcome were impressed with the application from Stowey Walking which showed a good cross section of involvement from local businesses and the local community and the support of the local authorities. We held a small launch at the Quantock Tea Room in Nether Stowey in November to celebrate the accreditation and to thank all those individuals and organisations who had supported our application. The launch gained some good publicity for Stowey Walking and Walkers are Welcome from the local press.

Website

We were able to launch our website stoweywalking.co.uk the same week as our Walkers are Welcome launch in November. The website has 8 local walks which can be downloaded free together with links to other walks from organisations such as the National Trust and the Quantock Hills AONB.

The website continues to evolve with new pages on local heritage and natural history recently being added and a page on local amenities and walker friendly businesses to be added shortly. We have also been putting regular news items on our blog page.

Business Engagement

We are currently in the process of meeting with local businesses that are involved with visitors to the villages, including pubs, shops, B&Bs and self-catering accommodation providers. We have put together an information pack for businesses to display in their premises offering local information to walkers and visitors in general, details of local walks and a Walkers are Welcome sticker. We decided to offer the pack free of charge to those businesses within the villages of Nether Stowey and Over Stowey, using our grant funding to pay for the packs. We are also offering a listing on our website directory and for a small additional £10 charge a link to the business owner's website. The response from local business owners has been overwhelmingly supportive with several small business owners agreeing to pay for a web-link and a couple offering small donations to Stowey Walking. These small sources of new funding will help with new projects in the future.

The Quantock Walking Festival – 10th – 11th June 2017

We have been working closely with Sedgemoor Ramblers on the Quantock Walking Festival centred on Nether Stowey in June. Stowey Walking will be leading two of the nine walks on offer over the weekend. We held a 'photo shoot on 9th May to help publicise the event which is to be circulated to the local press. We hope that our close relationship with Sedgemoor Ramblers will continue to grow over coming years.

Rights of Way issues

We have continued to work closely with Somerset County Council, other local authorities and local landowners to maintain rights of way around our villages and to improve accessibility, particularly on footpaths linking Nether Stowey and Over Stowey and other neighbouring villages and on the Coleridge Way trail.

Future projects

Linking with walking for health initiatives, helping to publicise local walking events and volunteering initiatives such as those organised by the Quantock Hills AONB and Somerset County Council and continuing to work to meeting the criteria set by Walkers are Welcome to qualify for accreditation as Walkers are Welcome communities;

1. To demonstrate popular local support for the concept from the local community and the local authorities.
2. To indicate a commitment to ensure that the local public path network will be maintained in good condition.
3. To ensure adequate marketing of our Walkers are Welcome status.
4. To show how use of public transport will be encouraged.
5. To demonstrate how Walkers are Welcome status is to be maintained into the future.

Lynne Abbott
Chair
Stowey Walking

Appendix 2:

**MENDIP COMMUNITY TRANSPORT
BACKGROUND INFORMATION
Tel 01749 880613**

INTRODUCTION

Mendip Community Transport (MCT), a company limited by guarantee, commenced trading on 1st April 2002. It continued the work undertaken over the previous twelve years by the old Mendip Community Transport scheme under the auspices of Voluntary Action Mendip.

MCT is a registered charity (No 1094918) and is a non profit making organisation.

The organisation provides transport services to all community groups and individuals whose needs are not met by conventional transport.

We do not receive any grant funding from either Somerset County Council or Mendip District Council. Some help comes from some of the local Town and Parish Councils and other grant making bodies. In reality this funding only accounts for c£15,000/£20,000 out of total operational costs of c£718000 and Capital Expenditure (e.g. vehicles) of c£155000

The company is managed overall by a board of six Directors/Trustees
(All volunteers.)

Day to day running of the business is handled by the Chief Executive and his team of 62 part time staff plus 81 volunteers.

Currently the company's minibus fleet comprises 28 vehicles. All vehicles are disabled friendly seating from 9 to 16 people.

PORTFOLIO OF SERVICES

Mendip Slinky (previously known as Mendip Dial a Ride)

Currently this service has two minibuses. One covers the East of the Mendips and one the West. MCT operates this service under a contract from Somerset County Council and provides door to door transport for individuals who cannot use conventional public transport.

Sedgemoor Slinky

Currently this service also has two minibuses. One covers the North of Sedgemoor and the other the South. MCT operates this service under a contract from Somerset County Council and provides door to door transport for individuals who cannot use conventional public transport.

Hospital Car Service

This scheme was set up to augment the Minibus Dial a Ride services. There are now 60 volunteer drivers in the Mendip area & 20 volunteer drivers in the Sedgemoor area who use their own cars to provide the transport. The drivers are paid a mileage allowance by MCT. The service provides door to door transport for health reasons. Journeys are undertaken to hospitals outside of the Mendip & Sedgemoor areas. In 2011 the Hospital Car Service was awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service.

Group Transport

This Minibus service, with driver provided, caters for trips required by community groups. Since April 2002 over 500 different groups have used this service. Journeys are mostly in the South West of England but long distance journeys in the UK are undertaken.

Contract Transport Services.

MCT undertakes regular contract work for Somerset Social Services, Somerset County Council & Bath & North East Somerset Special Needs Education Departments and Health Service Transport through a contract between MCT Trading Ltd (wholly owned subsidiary) and the Shepton Mallet Treatment Centre. Work is also undertaken for Wells Cathedral School

Glastonbury Tor Bus

On behalf of Somerset County Council & Glastonbury Town Council MCT operates the regulated Community Bus Service during the period April – September each year.

Summary of MCT Transport activity as at

	31/03/2015	31/03/2016	31/03/2017
Mendip Slinky Minibus Journeys	16450	16306	18095
Hospital Car Service Journeys	9102	8863	8185
Sedgemoor Slinky Minibus Journeys	7270	10453	11096
Total Miles Travelled	404575	399157	416053
Total passenger journeys	97506	94797	80527

Appendix 3:

Over Stowey Church

Report to Over Stowey Parish Council AGM May 2017

The parish church of St Peter and St Paul is one of the six churches of the Quantock Villages Benefice led by the rector, the Reverend Chloe Kingdon, and associate priest, the Reverend Martin Jones. The church is a building at the centre of the village and along with the village hall is a focal point for the community. This is demonstrated by the congregation at weekly services, attendance at our social events, and the need of the community to use the church for weddings, baptisms and funerals.

Chloe and Martin are supported by the nine members of the Parochial Church Council, which has the responsibility of enabling as many people as possible to worship at the church and to become part of the parish community, and to ensure the continuing availability of the church for the use of the community. Members are elected annually.

During 2016 there were four marriage services, two baptisms, and four funeral services held in the church. Weekly church services have continued to be made available for the community with, in the main, the following arrangements: 1st Sunday 1830 evensong; 2nd Sunday 0800 holy communion; 3rd Sunday 0930 holy communion; and 4th Sunday 0800 holy communion and 0930 morning worship. Additional services are held at Easter and Christmas, and again there was a full church for Carols by Candlelight.

The church has held various social events throughout the year, which added to the spirit of the village as well as raising funds for the church and these were – in the church two concerts by Somerset Opera, in the village hall three themed meals and an open breakfast, and four community coffee mornings organised in partnership with the Village Hall Committee. Carol singing across the parish took place that led to a generous collection donated to UNICEF Syria Appeal. The church donated money to a number of other charities including the Children's Society, Salvation Army, Church Mission Society, Signpost International, Royal British Legion, and Friends of Somerset Church.

In 2016 the cost of running the church was £21193, over half of which is the contribution to the Diocese of Bath and Wells for the provision of clergy. All of these costs are met by parishioners through service collections, donations and regular giving, and fund raising. The church receives no money from the diocese.

During the year we had bushes replaced on some bells by a specialist engineering company (though at present no invoice has arrived)! Progress is taking place to the installation of the kitchen area within the church in memory of Marjorie Downing.

OVER STOWEY
PARISH COUNCIL

Our rector has been with us since September 2015 and so it is with regret that we received from Chloe the news that she will be leaving the post in August 2017 due to family reasons. She has brought a lot to benefice and we wish her well for the future. Her last service in Over Stowey will be 0930 service on 23 July and her final service in the benefice will be 30 July at Spaxton. We will then enter a year without a rector as the recruitment process takes place and services will be led by Martin, our lay reader Alison Hoare, and retired clergy. During this period the churchwarden will be the main contact on any church related queries.

Peter Higginson
Churchwarden