



QUANTOCK
for Nether Stowey & Over Stowey

Messenger

February 2021

50p

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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

Email somwestnptsedgemoor@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk
 PC Tony Freeman, PC Claire Allen, Kim Wrixon, Jason Wyatt,
 Sue Marks (Hinkley issues only). @avonandsomerset.police.uk

Antisocial behaviour **0800 298 2009**

Vandalism on the Quantock Hills use **101**

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

County Councillor: **Michael Caswell** 01278 652 043
 MCaswell@somerset.gov.uk

District Councillors **Michael Caswell** 01278 652 043
 michael.caswell@sedgemoor.gov.uk
 Julie Pay 01278 732 956
 julie.pay@sedgemoor.gov.uk

Nether Stowey Parish Council
 Clerk: **Caro Slaymaker**
 01278 733 779
clerk@netherstowey-pc.gov.uk

Over Stowey Parish Council
 Clerk: **Amanda McMurren**
 01278 734 689
clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.co.uk

Bookings secretaries

N/Stowey Church Centre	Pat Stacey	01278 732 518 (9am—9pm)
N/S Village Hall	Jan Miller	01278 733 436
O/Stowey Village Hall	Wendy Hill	01278 732 194

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

Reception 01278 732 696 Dispensary 01278 733 385

Centre open 8am-6:30pm (Mon-Fri)

Repeat prescriptions line open 10-11.30am & 4-5pm (Mon-Fri)

Pick up from Dispensary 10am-12pm and 4-6pm (Mon-Fri)

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

Thomas Poole Library 732 741 (Mon, Wed, Fri 10am-1pm / Sat 10am-12)

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

Community Car Scheme Stowey Shuttle - 07943 923 742 (48 hours in advance)

Nether Stowey Post Office 732 235 (9am-1pm & 2-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-12:30 Sat, closed Sun)

CLUBS & SOCIETIES IN NETHER STOWEY & OVER STOWEY

Allotment Association

Bruce Roper 732 043

Active Living Group

Call 734 613 or 733 040; 733 151; 732 609

Coleridge Probus Club

Philip Comer (01984) 656 720

Coleridge Cottage

Tel: 732 662

Friends of Coleridge

Eliza Sackett 733 660

Thomas Poole Library, Nether Stowey

Eliza Sackett 733 660

Friends of Over Stowey Church

Christopher Stone 732 907

Friends of Quantock

Mary ter Braak (01984) 656 633

Friends of Nether Stowey School

Lisa Rendle 732 508

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

Michelle Thomas 734 837

Nether Stowey Short Mat Bowls

Cath Roberts 732 789

Nether Stowey Twinning Association

Open to everyone. Ian Pearson 732 228

Nether Stowey Village hall

Jan Miller 733 436

Nether Stowey Women's Institute

Margaret Harris 734 613

Over Stowey Bellringers

Morley Cavill 732 011

Over Stowey Bowls Club

Wendy Hill 732 194

Over Stowey Cricket Club

Phil Rich 732 675

Over Stowey Rights of Way Group

Richard Ince 733 237

Over Stowey Social Club

Sue Thomas 732 905

Over Stowey Tennis Court

Liz Onions 732 195

Quantock AONB Office, Fyne Court

Tel: (01823) 451 884

Quantock Beekeepers Association

Ken Edwards 671 544

Quantock Players

Wendy Hobbs 733 197

Quantock Quilters

Gill Griffiths 733 709

Quantock Tennis Club

Robin Bendall 732 633

Royal British Legion - N/Stowey & District

Julia McWilliam 732 234

Stogursey Forget-Me-Not Cafe

Helen Cuttell 734 818

Stowey Green Spaces Group

Judith Greig 732 483

The Quantock Flower Club

Mary Pearce 732 297

The Quantock Musical Theatre Co.

Rosie Keen 733 370

Stowey Bears (pre-school)

Lisa Cripwell 734 636

Stowey Book Club

Alison Whittingham 732 446

Stowey Gardeners

Juliet Harkness 733 245

Urban Saints Juniors (years 3 - 6)

Kerry Trout 732 112

Urban Saints Seniors (years 7 and above)

Kathryn Popham 733 745

Wednesday Club (formerly the Day Centre)

Maggie Harrison 741 230

February 2021

Dear All,

Happy New Year! However with another year came another lockdown - not what we wanted but necessary. The continued community spirit has been evident over Christmas, although it has obviously been a lot quieter. Thank you to all who have sent in articles, updates and photos. A special thank you to all those who have given time and energy to help others and bring them some joy!

This issue is an online only version, due to the lockdown. We have a new feature starting this month - Stowey Stars! Each month we are hoping to highlight a local individual - see page 8 for more information and to read about this month's Stowey Star *Jemima Colenso*.

Don't forget to let us, and the community, know about any upcoming events, virtual or otherwise, or if you have an interest/hobby you'd like to share with others through a regular article, please get in touch!

Best wishes, Annabelle

Your Messenger Team

Please email articles to editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk

Please send adverts to advertising@quantockmessenger.org.uk.

Ruth Richardson	Editor	229 682	Annabelle Whitlock	Editor	By email
Sally Dymock	Advertising	732 298	Richard Beer	Printer	732 412
Sally & John Dymock	Collating	732 298	Molly Bradner	Assembly	732 166

We are always pleased to receive articles in any form (by phone, handwritten, typed or by email). Photos are appreciated and will be returned. You may leave articles for The Messenger at the Church Centre or at the Parish Council Offices, on the Cross in Nether Stowey.

Deadline for articles is the 15th of the preceding month.

Cover Photos (clockwise): Stowey Star *Jemima Colenso* (see article on p.8); Carols on the Doorstep (p.21); one of Nether Stowey's Happy to Chat benches; Three Wise Men: (left-right) William, Thomas and Lewis Bond; Christmas hamper preparations (p.19); Christmas lights.

DIARY DATES 2021

All village clubs and societies are currently closed, but fingers crossed events and meetings can start up again soon!

News from the Quantock Medical Centre

Apologies for the seriousness of this article but it has to be said.

For the latest Covid information, please see the Government Website.

We as a Practice (at the time of writing this) have not been given the go ahead to provide the Covid Vaccine from our Surgery. We are however working closely with all the Bridgwater Practices to provide vaccinations from a central location for all our patients. We are following strict Government Guidelines in terms of priority groups for vaccinations. You will be contacted directly by the Practice by telephone when it is your turn to have a vaccination, so please answer your phone if it rings.

Please DO NOT phone us to complain that you have not been called yet or to ask when you will be able to book an appointment - we do not have the answers. You will be taking up the valuable time of the staff and taking the telephone lines up from patients that need medical help from the surgery.

Please do not think that by having a chat with your GP you will progressed higher up the list as a priority - the call system is very strict.

Please do not just turn up at the surgery or the local hospital to enquire about COVID vaccinations (there are no specific dates for vaccination clinics they will be at short notice as and when the vaccine can be delivered), or turn to see if we are open (we are still open), or turn up for a friendly chat, as at the moment we are trying to follow Covid Level 4 Lock down rules.

Lockdown Level 4 rules stipulate you should only come to the surgery if you have an appointment or if you are collecting medication.

To book an appointment you need to call the Surgery or email – please be patient with us, we are all doing our best.

DO NOT turn up at a covid vaccination location without a legitimate appointment as you will NOT be vaccinated and you will cause delays for elderly frail patients who have a real appointment.

Helen Stacey
Quantock.mc@nhs.net

Vaccines: Be aware of fraudsters

Action Fraud is warning the public to remain vigilant as criminals begin to take advantage of the roll out of the coronavirus vaccine to commit fraud.

Remember:

- The vaccine is free of charge.
- The NHS will never ask you for your bank account or card details.
- The NHS will never ask you for your PIN or banking password.
- The NHS will never arrive unannounced to your home to administer the vaccine.
- The NHS will never ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport, driving licence, bills or pay slips.
- If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up.
- If you are suspicious about an email you have received, forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk.
- Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to the number 7726, which is free of charge.
- If you believe you are the victim of a fraud, please report this to Action Fraud as soon as possible by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk.

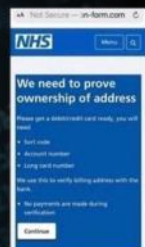
Fake NHS COVID-19 vaccine text alert



NHS: We have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine. For more information and to apply, follow here : uk-application-form.com

The 'hook'

- Cyber criminals are using the roll out of the NHS Covid-19 vaccine to target victims with convincing looking text messages
- The texts appear to be from the NHS and state that the recipient is eligible to receive the vaccine
- Recipients are then encouraged to click on a hyperlink to an application form.
- The link takes you to an extremely convincing fake NHS website which asks for personal and financial details
- Remember, the NHS will **NEVER** ask for your payment details



Other Covid-19 related SMS Scams:

- Fake links claiming a link to the GOV.UK website to claim supposed Covid-19 related payment
- Fines suggesting you have breached lockdown
- Offers of health supplements that will prevent you from becoming infected
- Financial support offers that appear to be from your bank



Stop and Think!

If you receive one of these scam messages:

- Do not respond or click on the link
- Forward the message to 7726
- If you have clicked and supplied your details, report it immediately to Action Fraud

NEWS FROM NETHER STOWEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



I hope you are all safe and well. Instead of welcoming our pupils back to school after Christmas, homes have once again been turned into classrooms. We find ourselves still very much in the middle of a pandemic that is impacting all of our lives. It is a challenging and difficult time for us all. I would like to thank you for your continued support and strength as we work through this together.

In accordance with the government guidance, we continue to be open for vulnerable children and critical workers. We have a robust risk assessment in place in order to maximise the safety of our staff, pupils and their families. Staff are working on a rota system in order to provide in-school learning to those children allowed to attend school and high quality remote learning to those children who are at home. This rota system also minimises the risk of all staff being required to self-isolate should we experience a positive Covid case in school at any point.

It is an absolute honour to work with such a dedicated team of staff. Once the announcement of the partial closure of schools was made, the staff worked incredibly hard to ensure remote education was good to go for our families immediately in order to minimise disruption as much possible. Staff put our school families very much at the forefront of everything they do. Their dedication and commitment is commendable. We have not lost sight of what a wonderful school this is and the improvements we are committed to making.

Lots of people are feeling stressed and overwhelmed by everything that is happening. We are very mindful of the huge responsibility placed on families trying to balance working from home, whilst managing multiple children and still trying to cook a meal and get to the end of their pile of laundry. None of us are superheroes! I extend my heartfelt thanks to all parents, carers and wider support bubbles who are stepping up to this challenge to support our children.

A school is at a heart of a community, our community and the families within it are in our thoughts and prayers. Stay safe.

Chloe Holt, Headteacher, Nether Stowey Primary



STOWEY STAR

In a new feature for the Quantock Messenger, we are hoping to highlight a local individual each month who is worthy of the moniker 'Stowey Star'. If you know of a local artist / craftsperson or someone who has done a lot for charity / worthy causes, please get in touch so we can contact them.

editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk or 01278 229 682.

Local potter, Jemima Colenso, fell in love with the craft of pottery in 2018 after attending a pottery workshop with the late Suki Lilienthal of Parsonage Farm. She felt a connection with this ancient craft that is steeped in history and loved the fact that she could create amazing objects from natural materials using her hands.

Working evening shifts at her day job afforded Jemima the time during the day to devote to developing her new skill, and hours each day would be spent at Parsonage Farm bent over the potter's wheel, up to her elbows in clay. Luckily for Jemima, her mother already had built a woodwork workshop in her garden on Lime Street and when the space became available, Jemima was able to take this over to create her own pottery studio. What began as a pastime quickly became something more serious and after a couple of years of relentless hard work and determination, she is now able to make a living from her craft.

She describes herself as a potter as opposed to a ceramicist and when I asked her if she could tell me the difference between the two she told me "the way I see it, a ceramicist is more on the art side of 'arts and crafts' whereas I would place my work in the craft camp. The pieces I make are all functional and though of course I try to make them pleasing to look at too, their main purpose is to be used."

Asked if being a potter requires talent, Jemima assures me that it is mainly down to hard work and heaps of patience. Having the time to spend on developing your ability is key, a good teacher helps and a slice of luck are all ingredients for success, not to mention more practical requirements like access to equipment. "There's been a lot of ups and downs along the way and I've had to learn that failure is a part of progress, but in the end my passion has carried me over the bumps in the road. I've still got a long way to go though, and I'll never stop learning."

I visited her workshop on one of her open studio days before lockdown restarted and was amazed at the variety of items on offer: mugs, plates, bowls, tea pots, flower pots, vases and the piece I came home with, a water jug. The range of colours and depth of the glazes was stunning, particularly from the point of view of someone lacking all artistic ability!

When Covid restrictions relax, Jemima offers tuition in throwing on the wheel (think the Patrick Swayze movie 'Ghost') and in handbuilding and can be contacted at jemima@jcpottery.co.uk or via her facebook/instagram page @Jemima Colenso Pottery.

Ruth Richardson



SPECIAL THANKS

Much gratitude and appreciation to all Quantock Medical Centre staff and volunteers involved in the recent covid vaccinations at North Petherton. So much work involved to achieve the well organised, calm, efficient and friendly delivery of this vital service.

Susan Sidery

Obituary – Charles Henry Wilkins – aged 100 years
8 August 1920 – 23 December 2020

The funeral of Charlie Wilkins was held in Nether Stowey Church on 7th January 2021 under the Covid restrictions thus many mourners were unable to attend. The service was conducted by our Revd. Kate Sax and Charlie's granddaughter, Kim Organ, gave an excellent tribute. It is from her tribute that this obituary is based.

Charlie was born in Christchurch, Hampshire over 100 years ago. He was very close to his mother and enjoyed playing with his younger sister. At age 14 Charlie started an apprenticeship with a local garage, but two years later the family moved to Stowey Rocks where he worked on the farm with his Dad. It was here that he met Joan. They married and in time produced 6 sons and 6 daughters.

During the war, Charlie served with the Royal Engineers and was decorated. He returned to his home in Castle St. and worked at various jobs – Stacey Brothers, Royal Ordnance Factory, local quarries – as well as mending shoes at home. Some years later the family moved to Hack Lane. For 30 years Charlie worked shifts at the Cellophane Factory retiring at the age of 65. He continued working in the local community painting and decorating with his son. He was a part time fireman for 19 years serving with the Nether Stowey firemen. His wife Joan died in 1998 but he always had the love of his family and community to help pull him through.

Kim said, "So many of you have beautiful, powerful, great memories, so hold on to them, don't let them go, take a moment, and think of these. He is in all our hearts. A part of us, that will never die.

As Charlie Wilkins would say, 'Let's go up over the top, the air is fresher up there, and the views are better'. He is up there now with Nan Joan looking down on all of us.

Rest now, Charles Henry Wilkins, and be with the love of your life, your Joan".

Charlie's coffin was draped with the flag of the United Kingdom and his Fireman's peaked cap rested on top. Chris Flay, our Fire Chief for many years, wearing his full dress uniform, followed the mourners to Nether Stowey cemetery where Charlie is now buried. Funeral arrangements were by Grandfields and donations were for the Fire Fighters Charity.

Phil Peckham

GARDENING WITH NICK

Once we get into February, Spring and warmer weather does not seem so very far away and we should be planning for the coming season. However, this month and March can still produce some unwelcome weather and it is always better to keep off wet soil and avoid compaction. Early sowings and planting can be tempting but not if your soil is cold and too wet.

Some gardening jobs such as the winter digging, general border maintenance and pruning may have fallen behind and they should be completed providing ground conditions are suitable.

Vegetables: One of the advantages of raised beds in the vegetable garden is that drainage is generally better and you are working from the paths rather than standing on the soil. Covering with black polythene or cloches will help to warm the soil and allow early sowings of broad beans, peas and early carrots to germinate more successfully. Lettuce and salad leaves are also worth sowing under a cloche or fleece. Make sure that the varieties chosen are suitable for early sowing otherwise summer varieties tend to 'bolt' i.e. run up to seed. Seed potatoes should be purchased, and the tubers placed in egg boxes or seed trays to 'chit'. It is a good idea to check through your old seed packets. Carrots and parsnip quickly lose their viability especially if the packet has been opened and it is better to start with fresh seed. Peas, beans and lettuce should be fine even after two or three years.

Pruning: Complete any pruning of tree and soft fruit that is still outstanding, and it is a good month to carry out any renovation pruning of old shrubs including out of control climbers. Hard pruning may cause loss of flower in the first year but it does allow the shrub to be rejuvenated and re-shaped.

Shrubs that flower late in the season such as Buddleja davidii, Lavatera and Hydrangea can be pruned now.

They benefit from being pruned hard to where dormant leaves/buds can be seen and the result will be strong new growths that will carry abundant flower in mid-late summer. Dormant

Wisteria side-shoots can be pruned back to two or three buds. At the end of the month late flowering Clematis such as the Viticella and Texensis types can be pruned hard to encourage quality growth from the base. Late winter is a good time to prune hybrid tea, floribunda and shrub roses.



Ornamentals: summer flowering plants such as pelargoniums, begonias, antirrhinums, gazanias, lobelia and sweet peas can be raised in the warm from seed. Lenten hellebores will be starting to show their flower stems and old leaves can be cut off to show their flowers better. Once winter flowering heathers have finished blooming trim them lightly to prevent them becoming woody and leggy.



Nick Rigden

THE VIRTUAL PUB QUIZ

Lockdown has curtailed many of our leisure activities and many of us are going to have to wait to restart these. One of the simple pleasures put on hold was popping to the pub on a Monday evening for a pint and a fun hour of quizzing. However, with the marvels of modern technology, the quiz element has transferred well to the virtual world and each Monday up to fifty of us get together to while away three quarters of an hour answering a few pointless questions and pretend that everything is normal.

If you would like to join in the fun, let Ian know by e-mail (theoldciderhouse@gmail.com) and he will add you to the mailing list.



The Old Cider House
www.theoldciderhouse.co.uk
01278 732228

SPRINGTIME COMMUNITY MEAL

In view of the popularity of the Christmas Community Lunch we are planning to have another Community Meal in the Spring. Bearing in mind recent developments and restrictions, we wait to see when that will be possible.

Please look out for posters to appear around the village for dates, details and contact numbers.

Sue Attwood

QUANTOCK QUILTERS

We are very sad that we have been unable to meet since last March. Our friendship and companionship has been tested during this time. We have managed some communication through e mails, messaging and telephone; but there is nothing quite as satisfying as a cup of tea and a piece of cake, putting the world to rights and then enjoying a wonderful creative pastime together. We have missed discussion, encouragement, and the sharing of ideas.



This lovely group has been in existence for 8 years this January and during this time we have welcomed several very new sewers to patchwork and quilting and dressmaking; with those already competent helping those with less experience to grow their skills, as well as exchanging skills and tips. We do make a small charge each session to cover the hall rent and refreshments, insurance, also occasionally the purchase of fabric if we embark on a group quilt, for charity. Between us we have supported Canine Partners, RNLI, Project Linus, St Giles Animal Centre, Musgrove Hospital Baby Unit, Musgrove Hospital MRI Scanner Appeal and Gift of Giving Bridgwater.

With continued learning development of our members in mind we have not been totally dormant during the enforced closure. One of our members alerted us to Homes in Somerset "Making a Difference" Fund. As a community group, which has members who reside in Somerset housing, we were eligible to apply for a grant. So we applied for funds towards a sewing machine suitable for use with a quilting frame that the group was given and for a table and supports to enable it to be used safely. This is the way to go to further encourage members to the next stage of quilting. Those of you who attended our last exhibition of our work will have seen a wide range of skills from beautiful first pieces of work to more creative pieces from those established quilters. We encourage members to try new techniques and 'grow' their skills, learning from their peers and visiting tutors as funds permit.

I am very pleased to say that we were successful in our bid and we were amazed to be granted the full amount! Unfortunately Covid-19 has meant we have been unable to venture out to make any purchases and with so many people taking up sewing in the last few months, sewing machines that are suitable for our needs are nearly impossible to buy at the moment. So we must be patient for a bit longer!

Hopefully we will soon be in a position to hold another of our open 'Soup and Sandwich' lunches to which everyone would be welcome to come along and see small demonstrations of the type of work we do and chat to our members about how, for some of us, our sewing has kept us sane during the past year!

Finally two of our members have unfortunately been very unwell recently and others are still facing hospital investigation and treatment. So I am taking this opportunity to wish them all the best and we are looking forward to us all getting together very soon.

New members will also be welcome to come along to Quantock Quilters when we are able to meet again.

*Gillian Griffiths
Co-ordinator
01278 733709*

THE MARION EVERED TRUST

Happy New Year to all, let's hope that 2021 will be an improvement on last year.

We are hoping to resume to some normal charity fund raising events this year and will update as time goes forward.

In the meantime, a new year of our 200 club charity draw is running and monthly prize draws will continue.

If you are interested in joining in this year's draws, please contact Sara on 01278 732942.

Thanks for your continued support.

Ian Barrow

STOWEY GREEN SPACES GROUP



Stowey Green Spaces Group managed some conservation work before the most recent lockdown, in Stowey Wood, on the A39 verge, and most notably on Castle Mount. This privately owned but publicly accessible site had suffered in recent years from increasing gorse and bracken growth, limiting grazing and access. Grants were obtained from Quantock Landscape Partnership and Historic England to enable reduction of this growth and replacement of the perimeter fencing, permitting all year round grazing by sheep and keeping regrowth under control. A condition of all such grants is input by volunteer labour and several members of the Group spent time raking and collecting previously cut bracken and transporting it off site. These cleared areas should encourage regrowth by grass in the spring. A combination of Group and Taunton Midweek Volunteers then followed this work with a full day session on the Mount dismantling an unneeded double fence line. It was almost completely taken down and small shrubs along it removed, giving a more open aspect but leaving the bigger trees to act as shelter for livestock.

Earlier the Group had been able to work in Stowey Wood, cutting bramble and other growth to keep the main access path clear and also prevent strangling of the trees planted a year ago. This work concluded with collecting and successfully burning all the cut material. Since then individual work has continued, cutting back vegetation along the stream edge so that it is now visible and allowing less aggressive species the chance to flourish.

Work also continued on the A39 Verge continuing the cutback of an extensive area of bramble, and digging out some of the roots preparatory to sowing grass and wild flower seed in spring to complement the earlier successful autumn sowing. Again, it is hoped that individual work will continue to extend this cleared area.

Finally, Litter Picking sessions continued, and will continue, on the third Saturday of every month but sadly without the pleasure of coffee, cake and a chat afterwards.

Terry Abbiss

Notes from the Treasurer of the Village Hall & Recreation Ground Charity

My favourite part of this role is delivering the little brown envelopes of cash to the winners of the PFR (Playing Field Regeneration) Club draw.

This draw (also known as the village lottery & to be re-named this year as the Stowey Centre lottery) was re-launched in Spring 2012 & the first draw took place during our Party in The Park to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The previous village lottery was known as the football club lottery.

How has all of the fundraising helped the playing field? This money enabled us to pay for essential reports, planning & admin to attract grants to build the MUGA in 2013 (costing £156,000), Children's Play Area in 2015 (£54,000) and continue work towards the new Stowey Centre. Thank you to all of you who have supported us over the years.

Subscriptions of £15 are paid every 6 months (or can be paid annually or by £2.50 monthly standing order) & the draws take place on the first Friday of the month (although we do a double draw for December & January, also June & July to give us time to sort out the admin). A list of winners is published in the Parish Office window, here & on our website <http://www.netherstoweyrg.co.uk/index.php/news/pfr-draw-winners-info>

If you would like to know more about our work or get involved just contact Jane Erskine on 732025 or Sharon Mayell 732311. Thank you.

Date:	Prizes	Amounts	Winning numbers	Winners
December 2020	1 st	£33.75	2	P&S Linford
	2 nd	£16.88	83	J Neal
	3 rd	£10.12	43	L White
	4 th	£6.75	17	K Booth
January 2021	1 st	£33.75	57	A&G Carr
	2 nd	£16.88	77	A Ricketts
	3 rd	£10.12	14	K Trout
	4 th	£6.75	28	P Pardoe

New Benches on the Playing Field

As reported in the last edition of the Messenger, the Parish Council has funded two new benches and a picnic table for the playing field.

Many thanks to a generous donation from the Sutton and Hayes families to the Village Hall & Recreation Ground charity, the first bench to be installed is in memory of Neil Sutton "Sutt" who was born in Nether Stowey and was a keen and gifted footballer. It is being positioned near the main pitch & is a fitting memorial to him.

The second bench is to be installed outside of the children's play area but looking in, as requested by local residents, to allow parents, grandparents and carers to supervise their children and look after their dogs at the same time.

The picnic bench is to be installed next to the half pipe/skate ramp. This is close to the path to allow easy access for wheelchairs and pushchairs. It was noticed during summer 2020 that many picnics were held on this part of the field. It allows supervision of children on the half pipe & children's play area & has the best views!

"Thank you" to Kevin Hellier, our volunteer committee member, for all of his hard work in building & installing the benches & table - we couldn't have done it without you.

The Playing Feld Committee

Nether Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground CIO

Funding received from HPC Community Fund for a NEW Website

The Nether Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground CIO are pleased to announce that an application for a small grant to build a single website for the Village Hall, Recreation Ground, Stowey Centre and Stowey Green Spaces has been awarded.

The new website stowey.org.uk is being built by local website designer Barry Iles of Simply Alien and it is hoped the website will be live by March 2020 and will be a modern, user friendly amalgamation of the current separate websites with functionalities such as a live calendar, links to the local groups/activities/facilities and booking forms.

Trustees would like to offer their thanks to the HPC Community Fund and look forward to the community accessing a new and improved website.



Stowey Centre Project - Community Survey Results

An outstanding majority of respondents agree that **Nether Stowey village and the surrounding communities need a high-quality Centre** that combines sports, arts and recreational activities for use by the whole community. The largest number strongly agree (72% - 307 respondents).

Read the full survey results on the website: [Stowey Centre Project - Nether Stowey Village Hall](#)

Musgrove Park Hospital's new surgical centre gets HM Treasury approval



The government has this week given its final approval for the funding of a new surgical centre at Musgrove Park Hospital.

The £87 million state-of-the-art centre will replace the current theatres and critical care unit, which were built during the Second World War as part of a temporary casualty evacuation hospital for the D-Day landings. The surgical centre will also house a brand new endoscopy suite.

Work has already begun to get the hospital site ready and this is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2021, with the major building work starting shortly after.

The new surgical centre will provide:

- Six endoscopy rooms, patient recovery and clinical support areas
- Eight operating theatres (including two state-of-the-art hybrid operating theatres that can be used for both surgery and interventional radiology), recovery areas and clinical support
- 22 critical care beds, all specified for level 2 and 3 critical care patients.

It will mean patients will be cared for in a more modern and comfortable environment that will have greater capacity.

Is there something you would like to read about in the Quantock Messenger? Do you have any interests you would like to share with the community? New features, stories and pictures are always welcomed. Contact editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk.

Christmas Community Spirit

2020 has been tough for everyone but probably particularly the elderly, the alone and families with young children. To help take away some of the pressure of Christmas this year, several hampers were given out and Christmas meals were also supplied from St Mary's church centre on 20th December to make sure that as many people as possible in the community were able to enjoy at least one celebratory meal this Christmas. Many thanks to the teams who put them together and also to those who supplied the money and food to help make this happen, especially to the Parish Council, to St Mary's Church, to the Primary School, to Books for Life who contributed as a direct thankyou for all the donations received in their new boxes outside the shop and to Faun's the butchers, who not only supplied turkey for the price of chicken in the hampers but also cooked the turkeys for the Christmas meal on 20th December. Many thanks too to Sainsbury's for supporting the hampers with extra treats and Morrison's who donated a quantity of food for the Christmas meal. All this together with the sight of the lights around the village, the lovely tree at the Cross and another at the Church Centre, and lots of other small kindnesses around the village, have hopefully helped to ensure as many of you as possible have had an enjoyable Christmas. Sadly the Carols due to be sung in St Mary's Car Park on 23rd December had to be cancelled but the weather was very wet then anyway. Though it begins with another lockdown we wish you a happier and Covid-free New Year.

Gerry Wright



Nether Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground CIO Reg. 1176413

Public Statement relating to the Streetbean Coffee Co. at the Recreation Ground

Trustees were approached by the Streetbean Coffee Co. before the national lockdown to ask permission to set up outdoors on the recreation ground on a Saturday morning for a few hours to provide take-away drinks and cake to local community members accessing the facility for recreational purposes.



When England entered a national lockdown on 04/01/2021 the Trustees reviewed risk-assessments and government guidelines to decide if the attendance of Streetbean Coffee Co. would breach any regulation or pose any additional risks that could not be mitigated. It was decided that if the Streetbean Coffee Co. and local community members adhered to strict social distancing and hygiene practices then the coffee van would offer a positive incentive to local people to get outside and exercise during a very challenging time.

Streetbean Coffee Co. and the trustees of the NSVH&RG CIO remind those that are clinically vulnerable to follow the latest government guidelines for shielding .



During the first 'trial run' session on Saturday 9th January 2021 trustees and committee members of the recreation ground monitored the general public's adherence to guidelines at various intervals and are pleased to report that

customers were local community members using the recreation ground as part of their daily exercise. All members adhered to social distancing guidelines and many local people have expressed their support for the initiative.

Carols On The Doorstep

For Christmas 2020, instead of Carols On The Cross, Carols On The Doorstep took place. A good proportion of people from Castle Street took part and everyone entered into the Christmas spirit. Fortunately the rain held off. It is understood that some others took part also in Wilsons Close and Five Lords.

*Lynne
The Old Cider House*



CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT

If you are self-isolating or need extra support, contact:

See Community Directory for Parish Council and Health Centre contact details.

Somerset Local Authorities' Coronavirus Support Line - 0300 790 6275
- 8am-6pm 7 days a week (they can put you in touch with local groups who can help with fetching shopping, medication and other essentials supplies, as well as other aid).

Somerset Bereavement Support Service - 0800 3047 412 - Monday to Saturday, 9am-5pm

Somerset Mindline - 01823 276 892 - is open 24 hours a day for mental health and emotional wellbeing support.

Samaritans - 116 123 - 24 hour support line.

Papyrus - 0800 068 4141 - If you are concerned about a young person who may have suicidal thoughts.

Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM) - 0800 58 58 58 - Offer support to males of any age.

Educational Psychology Service - EPSHelpline@somerset.gov.uk (email best method of contact) or 01823 357 000

Listening Chaplaincy Phoneline for people of all faiths - 0330 229 1700 - 8am-11pm 7 days a week.

Daily Hope free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers - 0800 804 8044 - 24 hours a day

Over Stowey Neighbourhood Watch - Tam Weeks - Mobile: 07841 866 596 (between 8am-8pm only please) - Email: tam.weeks@yahoo.co.uk

If you want to contact outside of 8am-8pm, please contact using text message, Facebook Messenger, Nextdoor or WhatsApp.



Welcome to 2021 and, like everyone, the Parish Council are hoping for better times ahead at some point this year. The December meeting wasn't held for obvious reasons, however the first virtual meeting for Over Stowey Parish Council was held in January – notes from this meeting will be in the next issue of the Quantock Messenger.

Some positive news is that the work taking place to upgrade the old tennis courts to a Multi-Use Games Area has started. Hopefully this will be completed quickly and will then be available for various sports activities, which will benefit the health and well-being of all those who wish to use the facility.

There is still a vacancy for a new Parish Councillor and if you are interested in the role, please contact the Clerk for information and eligibility criteria, or see our website for a link to the application form: [Parish Councillor Vacancy](#). If there are any applications forthcoming, these will be considered at the next meeting.

With regards to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, if anyone needs any help or support from the Parish Council, please contact the Clerk. Alternatively, if you require more specific information or advice, the Clerk can signpost you to the relevant group or agency, to ensure you get the correct and appropriate response.

If you have any other concerns or issues you would like to bring to the attention of the Parish Council, please contact us in the usual ways:

Website: <https://www.overstoweyparishcouncil.co.uk/>

Email: clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.co.uk

Phone: 01278 734689 (please feel free to leave a message if there is no reply)

If you could leave your contact details, we can then ensure any concerns raised are on the agenda for the next meeting.

Dear Everyone,

The Church is open! Church services may have been suspended but the churches are still open.

These are strange and difficult times for all of us and as I write there are very early signs of the number of new cases of the virus slowing down. I pray that this may continue and that by the time you are reading this, we are looking forward in a more positive way. We give thanks for the vaccines and pray for their continued rollout.

Worship in our church, prayer, and space to reflect in are important to many people. Sadly, we have decided for safety reasons to suspend communal worship in the churches until mid-February at the very earliest, but we are keeping this under constant review. The churches continue to be open for private prayer at some time during the week. A member of the Ministry Team will attend the church at some point and pray quietly for the parishes and its needs and concerns. If there is anything that you would like to have prayers said for, please do contact me or a member of the Ministry Team.

We are also holding services online which can be accessed through our YouTube Channel – Quantock Villages Benefice - and weekly Services on Paper are available.

As we come out of the Christmas season, we turn toward Easter. Tuesday 16th February is Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day, so please do get those eggs, milk and flour and wonderful fillings ready to enjoy. The following day is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the forty days of Lent, before the feast of Easter. Please look out for details of Lent Groups being run throughout the villages via Zoom – all are more than welcome to join them.

Finally, as we look forward to the months ahead, it is with great joy that I announce that we are to welcome a Curate to the churches – Nicki Bradford. Nicki will join the team in early July with her husband, Steve, and she has written a short article to introduce herself. We pray for Nicki and Steve as they prepare to come and serve in the churches and communities.

Please keep safe and well in the days and weeks ahead and please do not hesitate to be in contact if we can be of help. The Church is very much open!

God Bless

Revd Eleanor

(01278 734777)

Article from Nicki Bradford who will be joining the Ministry Team in July.

Hello,

As many of you will now know I am hoping to join you later in the year to serve my curacy.

I am currently training for Ordination at Sarum College, in my final year of three. This course is normally run online so the Pandemic has not prevented that, although we all miss our residential weekends together. As we all know two days of zoom meetings is not the same as all being in the same place.

I combine study with my work as a Chaplain at Musgrove Park Hospital and with the Community and Mental Health Chaplaincy Team, supporting patients, relatives, and staff as they face the uncertainties of life. Prior to that I worked as maths lecturer at Bridgwater and Taunton College, a community worker for a church and a primary school teacher and headteacher.

I am married to Steve, who now works for a local secondary school following his retirement from Devon and Cornwall Police Force last year. We have two children. Jenii is married and lives in Coventry with her husband, daughter and stepdaughter. Luke, our son, lives and works in Bristol.

I am currently worshipping at St James in Taunton which is the church in which I grew up and then returned to when we moved back to Taunton. In between those times we have moved around quite a bit of the country as Steve's or my job changed. This has also meant changes in church attendance, with much of our early married life spent worshipping in Baptist churches. My background is evangelical, but I enjoy worship of all styles and traditions. My passion is creating worship which is accessible and meaningful to people of all ages and interests.

Outside of work and study I like to be creative and usually have some knitting, crochet and embroidery on the go. I enjoy reading. My go to easy reads are crime stories but I also have a policy of reading anything I hear suggested by different people which, when you belong to a Zoom book group, with several young adults, can lead to some very interesting reads!

I am of course looking forward to joining you and possibly admitting to the people who served us lunch in the Ancient Mariner when we first drove around the benefice, that all we said about my husband retiring and us thinking of moving was true just not quite all the truth! Hopefully by the time I start we will be able to meet in person over a cup of coffee.

I will be praying for you all especially as you negotiate lockdown and would ask that you pray for me as there is a minor detail of completing my studies before I can be ordained.

Nicki

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

Associate Priest Revd. Kate Sax Tel. 671 168
The Vicarage, Church Road
Spaxton TA5 1DA
kate.kinkiizi@gmail.com
Working days: Sun, Tues, Wed

Readers Mrs Viv Chesterton, B.A. Tel: 733 568
3 Bishop Road, Nether Stowey TA5 1NP
Mrs Maggie Harrison Tel: 741 230
2 Woodland Cottages, Holford TA5 1SE
Mrs Alison Hoare Tel: 732 350
2 Park Cottages, Over Stowey
Mrs Jeanette Bole Tel: 741 297
Putsham Mead, Kilve TA5 1DZ

Church Wardens - Nether Stowey
Mr. Alan Simson Tel: (01984) 632 773
Weacombe Gate, West Quantoxhead, TA4 4EB
Mrs. Gerry Wright Tel: 734 584
1 Mount Road, Nether Stowey, TA5 1LU

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. Pat Stacey Tel: 732 518

Benefice Office:
Benefice Administrator
Mrs. Rebecca Tinnelly
Church Centre, 27 St. Mary Street, Nether Stowey TA5 1LJ
Office hours Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu. 9am - 11am
Otherwise phone & leave a message or email Tel: 732 855
Email: qv.benefice@gmail.com

Nigel Phillips' Natural Thoughts – Good things to look out for

So, it's been dark and wet for what seems like months, and we can't go out much! But, we live in the Stoweys and that's good, and right on our doorstep we have places like the Castle Mound which already has lots of Primrose leaves pushing up and some with flowers just about opening. The recent removal of some of the Gorse from the upper slopes should encourage more wildflowers to grow here. Possibly the Green Winged Orchid might be seen here again, having disappeared some years back. This orchid flowers from early May so well worthwhile having a hunt for them then.



I know ferns don't sound as exciting as orchids but we have some wonderful ferns literally on our doorsteps. When all is so bare at this time of the year, ferns show up rather well. Growing on garden walls you can find Polypody Fern, Wall Rue Fern, Maidenhair Spleenwort Fern and Rusty back Fern. I have all of these on my Castle Street garden walls. Perhaps the most obvious, and easy to identify, is Harts Tongue Fern which has those clusters of large shiny green strap like leaves. They grow everywhere, along the bottom of hedgebanks and also out of walls.



Again, I have lots of these in my garden.

You only have to walk to the edge of the village to see Male Fern, Lady Fern, Soft Shield Fern, Broad Buckler Fern and Black Spleenwort Fern growing out of hedges and along ditches. Perhaps, when things are more normal, we could organize a fern walk round the village, if anyone is interested?

Spring is just round the corner and already, as I write on January 13th, bird song is getting noisy with Blue Tits, Great Tits, Dunnocks and Robins in particular staking out their breeding territories whenever we have a bright morning, singing loudly from the tops of bushes or fence posts. Even if we have to continue with limits on our travelling about for a little longer, thank goodness we have lots of good wildlife to look forward to, and right on our doorstep!

nigelphillips@thesomersetcoast.co.uk

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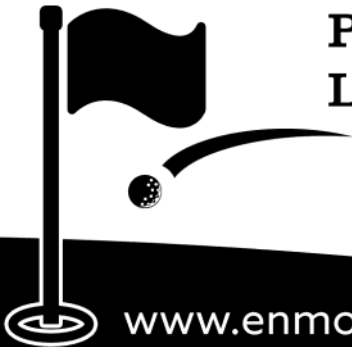
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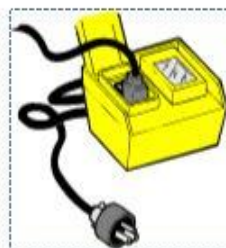
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