



QUANTOCK
for Nether Stowey & Over Stowey

Messenger

March 2022

SPONSORED HEAD SHAVE **FOR NETHER STOWEY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Having spent the past 3 years growing my hair to be able to donate it for children's wigs (The Little Princess Trust), I decided I could do more and should take the plunge to raise money for our local village school by SHAVING MY HEAD COMPLETELY.

My son has had 5 wonderful years at Nether Stowey Primary School and has been supported and developed into the wonderful young man he now is, ready for secondary school in September. What better thank you to all the staff at the school for all their care than raising some of the money they need to further improve facilities at the school.

Schools get funding from the government to pay staff salaries, maintenance, utilities and the everyday items such as pens and paper that they need. However, money for play equipment, outside facilities (benches, tables, shelters etc), licences for music productions, laptops for children to develop computer skills and countless other things needs to be raised through fundraising.

Your donation to my fundraising drive will all go to the school to invest in the children's wellbeing through improving the playground facilities. Playgrounds enable children to develop their emotional, physical and social skills, which in turn refreshes them ready to sit down for more lessons after break time.

If I can reach my target of £2,000 then I will completely shave my head, if the donations don't reach that amount, then I will have a super-short pixie cut.

I am booked at Reds Salon in Nether Stowey on March 17th...so the power is in your hands to turn me bald! Thank you for your support.

Ruth Richardson

www.gofundme.com/shave-for-school

Sponsorship forms also in the school office, Reds Unisex Salon, the Post Office and Littles Stores.

Charity name: Nether Stowey School Fund
Charity number: 1037544



Shaveforschool

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

Sian Stafford 732 741

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

Jane Erskine 732 025

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 & Fiddington Women's Institute

Margaret Harris 734 613

Terry Binding 732 710

Over Stowey Bellringers

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

Anna Boulton 652309

Quantock Tennis Club

Robin Bendall 732 633

Royal British Legion - N/Stowey & District

Viki Fielder 238 691

Stogursey Forget-Me-Not Cafe

Helen Cuttell 734 818

Stowey Bears (pre-school)

Tina Miller 734 636

Stowey Book Club

Alison Whittingham 732 446

Stowey Gardeners

Juliet Harkness 733 245

Stowey Green Spaces Group

Judith Greig 732 483

Stowey Walking

Lynne Abbott 732 228

Wednesday Club (formerly the Day Centre)

Maggie Harrison 732 532

March 2022

Welcome to the March edition of the Quantock Messenger. When I moved to Nether Stowey 8 years ago I relied on this magazine to know what was going on in the village, things I might join in with to get to know people and local businesses and trades to use. I am delighted, now, to be one of four new editors who will share the job on a rota basis.

Many people are involved in producing this magazine, not least those who contribute articles - every month or occasionally - and new contributors are very welcome. Whether it's a one-off piece about a recent experience or a regular item on something close to your heart that others will be interested in, we are looking forward to hearing from you.

Most of those involved in the practical aspects of production are listed below. One group not mentioned are those who meet every month, with Molly, to put the pages together for delivery, almost 400 copies. They are Judy, Irene, Margaret, Pauline, Margaret, Barbara and Liz – thank you. My thanks also to Ruth, outgoing Editor, for her support, not least in mastering the idiosyncrasies of Publisher!

There's lots to read in this edition—hope you enjoy it.

Jan

Your Messenger Team

Please email articles / photos to editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk

Please send adverts to advertising@quantockmessenger.org.uk

We are always pleased to receive articles in any form (by phone, handwritten, typed or by email). 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.**

Agata	Editor	By email	Edwina	Editor	By email
Jan	Editor	734561 & email	Sian	Editor	By email
Sally Dymock	Advertising	732 298	Richard Beer	Printer	732 412
Sally & John Dymock	Collating	732 298	Molly Bradner	Assembly - Distribution	732 166

Cover Photos (L-R): Women's Football Team: L-R back row Natella Parry, Ella Williams, Jodie Cotterall, Izzy Logan Front: Emily Tolchard & Robyn Booth: Mark Sells: page 8: New Village Hall Plans page 24: Bramble clearance in Stowey Wood: T Abbiss page 22: Under 10's Football Team; Warren Bond page 10

DIARY DATES 2022

Every Tuesday - Walk for Health - Quantock Medical Centre (contact them for details)

Every Tuesday - Short Mat Bowls - 2-5pm - NSCC

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

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

Every Thursday - Quantock Active Living - 2pm - NSCC *[from 24th February]*

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

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

Wednesdays from 9 March to 13 April - free Climate Change talks - NSCC (see p.11)

Wed 9 Mar – Exmoor's Dark Skies with Ben Totterdell from Exmoor National Park - 7:30pm - TPL

Thurs 10 Mar - WI: Annual meeting - 2-4pm - NSCC

Fri 1st April—Village Hall Farewell Parties 3.30—5 families:

7—late Cheese & Wine - NSVH

Sun 3 Apr - Annual Tractor Run for The Marion Evered Trust (see p. 8)

Wed 13 Apr – A book launch of The Nature of Somerset's Coast by Nigel Phillips - 7:30pm - TPL

Thurs 14 April - WI: speaker to be confirmed - 2-4pm - NSCC

Mon 18 Apr - Easter Bingo for The Marion Evered Trust - eyes down 7:30pm - OSVH

Wed 11 May - Story and song with Michael J Tinker TPL

Thurs 12 May - WI: Jenny Barnham hanging baskets and tubs - 2-4pm - NSCC

Tuesday 17 May - Stowey Green Spaces evening event - 7pm - OSVH

Thurs 9 Jun - WI: A celebration tea party in honour of our Queen's Platinum Year with music from Adelaide and Claire - 2-4pm - NSCC

Fri 3rd June - Platinum Jubilee Party-in-the-Park

NS CC - Nether Stowey Church Centre

NS VH - Nether Stowey Village Hall

OS VH - Over Stowey Village Hall

TPL - Thomas Poole Library, Nether Stowey

BEST WISHES TO PHIL PECKHAM

Phil has been a lynchpin in the Quantock Messenger for countless years. He has been in hospital since early December recovering from a stroke. All the team at the Messenger would like to wish him a speedy recovery and send him and Kathy all our best wishes. The Messenger would not exist without all the heart and energy he has put into it over the years. We look forward to seeing him back in the village in the near future.

FAREWELL

It has been an absolute pleasure to be involved with the Quantock Messenger over the past few years. I've really enjoyed getting to know my fellow villagers and hearing first hand about all the wonderful things going on in and around Nether Stowey. I'll always remember putting together our special 'Lockdown Edition' with all the lists of important contact details and which shops would do home delivery etc. The whole community came together to help distribute that magazine to every household in Nether and Over Stowey; it brought a beam of light on the kindness all around us at such a dark time. I am handing over the reins to 4 lovely ladies and will look forward to continuing to read the magazine every month, particularly now that events are able to start up again. Thank you to Richard Beer, Sally & John Dymock and Phil Peckham, who have been such a great team to work with. I'm not leaving the village, just will be returning to work (and that will be a major shock to the system after a long career break!)

Ruth Richardson

PLAYING FIELD REGENERATION/50:50 LOTTERY

Congratulations to the winners of the February draw. Thank you for your support.

The Lottery not only provides the charity with funds, it also shows support from the village which is invaluable when applying for grants for the new centre, which we shall be doing later this year.

If you would like to know more, you can contact us or find information on the charity's new website "stowey.org.uk". Best wishes Jane (732 025) and Sharon (732 311).



**NETHER
STOWEY**
VILLAGE HALL & RECREATION GROUND

50-50 LOTTERY DRAW

February 2022

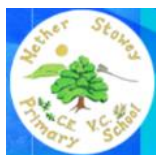
1st Prize	£34.12	Ticket No: 179	D Chidgey
2nd Prize	£17.06	Ticket No: 58	D Knaresborough
3rd Prize	£10.24	Ticket No: 161	D Penny
4th Prize	£6.83	Ticket No: 64	M Crowther

www.stowey.org.uk

Jane Erksine, Trustee 732025

Sharon Mayell, Treasurer 732311

NETHER STOWEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



As we approach March and welcome Spring, it is hard to realise that we are half way through the school year. We are proud of all our children's achievements which come in many forms. I would like to say a huge well done to the children who showcased their musical talents with their instruments. Dedication and hard work really pays off. It is inspiring to see many children learning an instrument and how skilled they are at playing and performing. I would like to say a huge congratulations to our school football team who made it through to the County finals, what an amazing team spirit and sheer love of the sport you all have!

Charity is one of our school values. The Clerk to our Governing Board is carrying out a sponsored head shave (see page 2) to raise vital funds for the school. If you would like to donate please see the link below. Money goes directly back to the school for the children. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/shave-for-school>

Mrs Chloe Holt

NETHER STOWEY FOOTBALL CLUB

Women's Football: History Makers. Nether Stowey Football Club's first ever women's side competed in their first ever competitive tournament in February. At a 5-a-side competition held in Yeovil, the girls played six games, of which they lost four (three off these against experienced league opposition), drew one, and fantastically won one. Well done to all. (front cover photo)

If you are interested in playing Women's football, training takes place on a Tuesday, between 6-7 at the Muga down at the Recreational Ground or contact Steve Easden on 07788 370014.

Seniors: In recent weeks the Saturday Reserve team have been playing the majority of home matches. From what I can see, the Football Club have created a fantastic pathway for the youngsters to transition from youth football to senior football. Great enthusiasm, skill, composure, with an abundance of no fear football, it is no wonder they are competing at the best in the division.

The most pleasing result this year, was a 3-1 victory against, then, undefeated Dulverton. Again well done to all those involved.

A more detailed report on the seniors will be published next month.
Sponsorship: The club are actively seeking new sponsors for 2022 and beyond. There are various sponsorship opportunities available, ranging from match ball sponsor to club main sponsor.

Please contact Mark Sells on 07896 644636 for more information.

More information about being part of the club or you wish to play, please contact Steve Easden on 07788 370014

Quantock Active Living

Due to unforeseen circumstances there will be no Active Living meetings at the moment. We hope to restart them in the not too distant future, we will of course keep people notified about a restarting date through the Quantock Messenger magazine. For further information contact either Margaret Harris on 734613 or Margaret Hogg on 733505.

Nether Stowey Wednesday Club

Join us every Wednesday (term time)

St Mary's Church Centre

10am-2pm

Coffee & Lunch at 12 noon



Raffle



We welcome all ages 50 + from surrounding villages

We look forward to welcoming new members both ladies and gents !

Pop in for a friendly chat meet the members- Transport can be provided

Contact Maggie 01278 741230 or Tina 01278 732382

THE MARION EVERED TRUST

Winners of the last 200 draws are

Julie Long	£20	Sheila Dyer	£10	Charlie Long	£5
Sharon Male	£20	Barbara Fel-ton	£10	Joy Reeves	£5

Also a new year of the 200 club raffle is about to begin, Contact Sara on 01278732942 if you want to join, existing members will receive invites shortly.

Unfortunately the tractor run planned for April 3rd has been cancelled due to diesel restrictions coming into place from the 1st April

Dates for your Diary

Easter Monday Easter bingo at Over Stowey Village hall , always very well attended so arrive in time, Eyes down 7.30

April 3rd Annual Tractor run **Cancelled**

July 16th/17th Charity cricket weekend in conjunction with Over Stowey CC.



Party-in-the Park goes Platinum

This year on the Friday 3rd June Bank Holiday week-end the playing field is hoping to host a Platinum Jubilee Party-in-the-Park (PitP) to rival the very successful Diamond Jubilee event held in 2012. This event was voted a massive success by those that attended.

With enthusiastic involvement from a variety of local groups we managed to put on entertainment for the young ones, provide free cream teas for the not-so-young and finish the day off with a good old knees up! The residents of Nether Stowey really came together to celebrate such a wonderful achievement and we can do it again.

To be able make the Platinum Jubilee celebrations as good as the Diamond Jubilee ones we need the various organisations, and individuals, around the village to come forward just as they did in 2012.

Last year's PitP was organised by a small group of people some of which are currently engrossed in driving the Community Centre project forward. If we cannot get the input of ideas and support required to deliver a wonderful day then the event will not take place, which would be a great shame.

We are having a meeting in the George at 19:30 on 9th of March to start putting the event together and we would really like to hear your ideas or just come along to offer support.

If you cannot make the meeting but would like to input ideas or volunteer, please contact Jo on 732601 or email joscoins64@gmail.com.

Under 10's Football Club

Congratulations to Nether Stowey Under 10's Football Club on their recent win! And look how pleased they look (front cover).

Thanks to the team at HO Soccer UK for the great competition and the awesome balls.

Keep an eye out in the coming weeks for a great deal from HO Soccer on training and match balls for next season.

Warren Bond



To date the Foodbank has fed 11,350 people of whom 5,975 were children, and increasing numbers on the Foodbank and Pantry are now having an impact on our shelves. However, we still have enough pasta and soup to last another two years and stocks of jam, beans and tinned vegetables are very healthy.

Items which we would really appreciate are: Savoury crackers, drinking chocolate, long life milk, part baked bread, cold meat and packets of microwaveable rice. We greatly value the incredible support you continue to give to those who are least able to survive such difficult times. Thank you all so much .

Tel : 07483 815122 Email : quantockfoodbank@gmail.com

Calling all non girth-challenged Controllers

A plea for help with a major railway infrastructure project, not so much High Speed 2 but Too High Stress!

What started as a fairly limited project brief- assemble a simple train layout to keep the Grandkids happy, has succumbed to mission creep of 'Test and Trace' proportions. A wall-mounted, folding, baseboard has been installed, two complete sets of Hornby OO gauge trains and track purchased plus some assorted accessories from the 'salvage' bin that looked good in the shop but which took on a completely baffling appearance on getting them home.

Since the initial purchasing flurry progress on the project has been akin to watching a British Rail buffet sandwich curl up before your eyes. 'How difficult can it be' we thought? Do you know the difference between electrofrog and insulfrog points? We don't.

We tried that nice Mr Google who kindly spared a little time from making trillions of dollars a second to confuse us further. The headache is yet to subside. So, if you have some expertise in building model railway layouts and you are happy to point (electrofrog or insulfrog) us in the right direction we, and the Grandkids would be extremely grateful.

Just give Dave or Jo a ring on 732601, we are on Wilsons Close.

QUANTOCK QUILTERS (Including Textiles)

We meet 2nd & 4th Monday each month

10am – 1pm

Nether Stowey Church Centre



**Come & Join Us Beginner's
Welcomed**

No experience necessary



Contact: Anna Boulton 01278 652307

Gill Griffiths 01278 733709

Meg Smith 01278 671837



QLPS PHOTO COMPETITION

Rather than the traditional landscape photos of views from and of the hills, we want to look a little deeper and differently at the communities present in the AONB and Landscape Partnership Scheme Area.

We are looking for photos which fit the categories village life; people of the Quantocks and Quantock working.

The competition will run until the 31st March 2022, with photographs judged in April and winners being announced in May 2022.

Find out more at www.qlps.org/qlps-photo-competition/



** CAN YOU HELP RESTART MONDAY MORNING STORYTIME? **

We would love to restart our Storytime activity at the library. This used to be held on a Monday morning between 11am and 11.30am and was aimed at babies and toddlers. If you can help with this activity, call Sian on 07734 968940 or email eventsandpr@thomaspoolelibrary.org.uk

Our monthly evening talk was a highlight in February so thank you to Terence Sackett who gave a fascinating and thought provoking talk about 'Poole and Coleridge - a momentous friendship'. Who knew that so many famous people have walked the streets of Nether Stowey! Look out for a write up of the talk in this edition.

It's that time of the year where the annual subscription to the Thomas Poole Library charity (no. 1181213) is now due for 2022. Only £5 per annum, children and students are free. Members enjoy a discount of £1 per monthly evening talk and the right to vote at the AGM. If you would like to renew or join as a member, pop by the library to sign up.

** WHAT'S ON **

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

MONTHLY TALKS

Join us for our monthly talks in the library. Start time is 7.30pm and bookings will be required. Entrance fees are £3.50 for members and £4.50 non-members. Coming soon:

Wednesday 9th March – Exmoor's Dark Skies - A talk from Ben Totterdell about why dark skies are part of what makes Exmoor a special place, how they are important for people and nature, how we can enjoy them, as well as light pollution and how we can reduce this

Wednesday 13th April – A book launch of The Nature of Somerset's Coast by local author Nigel Phillips

Wednesday 11th May - Story and song with Michael J Tinker - An evening exploring folk tales



Are you interested in finding out more about your family history? We have two computers that are available for you to use during Library opening hours. As a library member, you have free access to Ancestry.co.uk which unlocks one billion searchable UK family history records so if you fancy delving into your family history, then come along and explore.

Our opening hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10am – 1pm,
Friday 2pm – 5pm and Saturday 10am -12pm.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

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



On display in the Old Gaol through March and April
Janes 'Conjuror' Cole - Clockmaker

Wednesday Club Drivers Wanted

The Wednesday Club need drivers who live in the village and can spare 10-15mins before 10.00am to collect a member to take to the Church Centre and return home at 2.00pm. Term time only.

This will be on a voluntary basis. If you can help, please contact Maggie on 732532 or Tina 732382

The seasons, and a Swallow out of place

We live in England, a place famous for its weather, it's changeable and unpredictable. But we know we are moving into spring now as Hazel catkins have been in flower for several weeks and daffodils have been in flower in sheltered corners in the Stowey's for some time. It feels right for the time of year.

We take visual clues from what is around us to know how the seasons are changing. We can look at the calendar and see that we are in March, but as we walk about and see bare trees and leaves on the ground, it feels right for the month that we are in.

So you can imagine our surprise when walking the South West Coast Path along cliffs in Cornwall near Bedruthan Steps, in mid December, when we saw a bird totally at the wrong time of year. The weather wasn't icy cold but it was cool and windy enough to be wearing big coats and woolly hats. All the shrubs and near by trees were without leaves, and the cold looking sea was crashing onto the rocks on the beach below, when flying low along the path towards us came a Swallow! This was a very bright day and the Swallow, only a few meters away, looked such a bright blue, but so out of place on these winter cliffs. It just felt so wrong! What could it be finding to eat, they only eat insects which they catch whilst they are flying, and it was mid winter, and seemed insect free to us!

I have to admit seeing this Swallow was not a total surprise, as through the birdwatchers grapevine I had heard that two Swallows had been flying around the Sainsbury's car park in Penzance for a couple of weeks, and thought that that did seem a really strange thing. But to actually see what we know as a summer visiting bird in the depths of winter myself was really unsettling. Our winters have been very mild over the last few years, which might well be due to climate change, but it hardly seems they are mild enough for enough insect food to be on the wing in December. Did these Swallows never leave the UK and go to Africa in the autumn, or did they go some way south across Europe and then turn back? At the moment we just don't know how many Swallows stayed around in Cornwall, or if they can survive with us till spring comes around again.

nigelphillips@thesomersetcoast.co.uk

Nigel Phillips

GARDENING WITH NICK RIGDEN



March 2022

February is now behind us and with the days getting longer March is a busy month in the garden with the soil warming up, spring bulbs in full flush and weeds starting to grow!

Ornamentals: March is a month for 'spring cleaning' the garden and borders can be forked over and plants that were left for winter display such as grasses and sedums with attractive seed heads can be cut down. Overcrowded perennials can be lifted and divided so that the older inner portions are rejected and the vibrant outer sections can be replanted or potted up (perhaps for future plant sales!). Take the opportunity to ensure that there is no perennial weed within the new portions. Once spruced up the borders can be mulched with well rotted compost or farmyard/horse manure. Mushroom compost is fine but beware of mulching around acid loving plants as it usually contains some chalk. By the end of the month (if not already) the soil has received as much winter rain that it can normally hold and a generous 75mm (3") of mulch will not only keep the moisture in the ground for longer but also act as an annual weed suppressant.

It is not too late to plant a choice winter flowering shrub or two which will provide a good display for future winters. *Lonicera x purpusii* (winter flowering honeysuckle) is excellent as is *Sarcococca confusa* (the winter box) and *Viburnum farreri* 'Candidissimum'.

Pruning: Dormant season pruning of top and soft fruit should be completed as should bush roses and later flowering shrubs such as Buddleja (the Butterfly bush). This is also the month when the coloured stem dogwoods and willows should be pruned. This will encourage strong new growth which always possesses the best colour and results from cutting back hard to buds near the base of the plant. Follow up by giving the plants a good feed with a general purpose fertiliser such as Growmore or blood, fish and bone and then apply a mulch around the shrub.

Vegetables: As the soil warms up, particularly if cloches or polythene

have been laid on the surface, it is the month to get some early sowings of vegetables underway. However, if your soil is still damp and sticky it is better to delay until conditions improve. Choose early varieties of crops such as lettuce, rocket, spring onions and later in the month leeks, parsnips, spinach, broad beans and peas. At the end of the month well chitted early varieties of potato such as Casablanca, Rocket and Foremost can be planted. Onion sets, shallots, and autumn sown brassicas (your own young plants or purchased from a garden centre) can now be planted. An alternative is to start the sets off in modules and then plant out with a good root system and about 25-50 mm (1-2") of new foliage.

Lawns: This is the month that provided the surface is dry the lawn will benefit from a good rake and brush and then lightly topped with the mower. Redefine lawn edges and reseed thin or bare patches.

Nick Rigden



Over Stowey Parish Council

The January meeting started with a positive discussion regarding the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. A group of local residents had met to establish what type of event might be suitable for the parish and requested that their initial proposals be considered by the Parish Council. The following points were covered:

The event should be a one-day event, likely to take place at the cricket ground (which has adequate parking), with support and input from the Parish Council, the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee (VH&RGC), the Cricket Club and the Parochial Church Council

This was agreed by the Parish Council and representatives of the VH&RGC advised that the VH&RGC also support the proposal

Date and times are to be confirmed – the date is a particular priority

Funding opportunities will be explored and it was considered by all that any applications should come from the Parish Council. The

Clerk will help to enable this and will also act as an intermediary between the organisers and the Parish Council

Provision for food, drink and entertainment will be discussed as soon as possible to ensure operators are booked well in advance

The organisers have experience of arranging larger gatherings and will liaise with other groups who may be planning events locally

Further research into beacon lighting and tree planting will also take place

The organisers will meet prior to the February Parish Council meeting and this item will be on the agenda up until the event takes place. Further information will be made available as plans progress. The Parish Council are pleased to be able to support the work that is being undertaken and thank those who are giving their time and energy, making plans to celebrate a very special occasion.

Another positive is that the Aley Phone Box – Book and Plant Swap project is now fully up and running. If you would like to take a small number of books and/or plants to donate, please feel free to do so and in return, enjoy a good read of a new (to you) book whilst your new plants grow!

The highways issues continue and it is hoped that a meeting with all relevant parties will take place in the near future. The Clerk is continuing to press hard for action to be taken sooner rather than later, but there are no guarantees that this will happen. Updates will continue until these issues are resolved.

The councillor vacancy will have been considered at the February meeting and if a candidate is co-opted on to the Parish Council, details will be forthcoming in the next issue of the Messenger.

As the general public are aware of where to go for guidance with regards to COVID-19, this information will no longer be included in the Parish Council update, but of course if anyone does need any help or support from the Parish Council, please do not hesitate to contact the

Clerk.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 16th March 2022.

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

Email: clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.co.uk

Phone: 07391 313740 (please 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.

A poster for the Nether Stowey Art Group. At the top, there is a circular logo with a black border. Inside the circle, the text "NETHER STOWEY" is in a small, black, sans-serif font, followed by "ART GROUP" in a larger, bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below a thin horizontal line, the text "ST MARYS CHURCH CENTRE" is in a red, sans-serif font. The background of the poster features abstract, horizontal brushstrokes in shades of blue and red. Below the logo, the text "STARTING JANUARY 2022" is written in a large, bold, blue, sans-serif font. Underneath this, the text "– 1ST and 3RD Thursday every month –" is in a smaller, black, sans-serif font, followed by "2pm - 4pm" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below that, "£3.00 per session" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A red rectangular box contains the text "BEGINNERS WELCOME" in a white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the text "FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR GROUP" is in a small, black, sans-serif font, followed by "CONTACT: ROBERT 733 794 | MAC 732 382 | MAGGIE 685 229" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

NETHER STOWEY
ART GROUP

ST MARYS
CHURCH CENTRE

**STARTING
JANUARY 2022**

– 1ST and 3RD Thursday every month –
2pm - 4pm

£3.00 per session

BEGINNERS WELCOME

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR GROUP
CONTACT: ROBERT 733 794 | MAC 732 382 | MAGGIE 685 229

Hinkley Point C - Monthly Update

A round up of the latest news from Hinkley Point C.

Apprenticeships: Build the future In February Hinkley Point C celebrated National Apprenticeship week with this year's theme: 'build the future'. The week celebrated the 874 apprentices that work on the project and took the time to shine a light on the positive impact that apprenticeships have on the project at HPC, to the individuals and to the local economy. Apprentices at HPC shared their experiences of what it is like to be an apprentice, dispelled some 'apprenticeship myths' around pay, job prospects and the age ranges of those working as apprentices and attended sessions focussed on career development and wellbeing.



Apprentices form a key part of the workforce at HPC supporting construction while developing UK and regional engineering and nuclear expertise. HPC has an ambition to create 1,000 apprenticeships during the construction phase and remains on track to meet this target.



Hinkley vaccine centre opens- Hinkley Point C has become the first construction project in the UK to open its own vaccination centre. Workers are now having their coronavirus jabs on site, by NHS trained nurses. More than 100 vaccines have been given out so far, reducing the pressure on local health services. The clinics are held twice a week in the Hinkley Health Centre, which is staffed by GPs and nurses. The team have been trained in administering doses of the Pfizer vaccine, including the booster jab. The project has now officially joined

the government's vaccine programme, after being given approval by the UK Health Security Agency and the NHS. The vaccine centre is part of a series of covid measures in place at Hinkley Point C, which are designed to protect the workforce and surrounding community. More than 66,500 covid tests have far been carried out at testing hubs across the project. People who access the site are also being asked to either declare their vaccine status or show evidence of a negative lateral flow test.

Proud of our low carbon credentials- Nuclear is part of the Government's future energy mix for good reasons. It produces a lot of reliable, low carbon electricity in a small space and will make a huge contribution to fighting climate change:



Over its life, the electricity produced by Hinkley Point C will generate **less CO₂** than wind or solar power



The number of homes' electricity supplied by Hinkley Point C



Projected availability of the plant, including planned maintenance periods



The number of lorry loads removed from local roads thanks to the use of marine transport



Hinkley Point C's contribution to the UK's electricity needs



Tonnes of CO₂ avoided each year, compared to producing electricity with a gas power plant



The proportion of the recycled steel used in the power station's reinforcement



The number of trees and shrubs planted in and around the construction site to date

Get in touch

Website: edfenergy.com/hpc

Email: hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com

Telephone: 0333 009 7070



**FORGET-ME-NOT-CAFÉ
CHURCH ROOMS, CASTLE STREET, STOGURSEY
EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY 10.30 UNTIL 12.00**

Recent Events at the Café included our 3rd Birthday celebration in January with Jan Ford Reciting some of her own poems for us. In February we celebrated The Chinese New Year of the TIGER, Julie from Age Concern UK demonstrated Tai Chi. She explained the health benefits of this gentle form of exercise which offers harmony between the body and mind. We all joined in with great enthusiasm! February 14th included Saint Valentine's celebrations.

DATES AND EVENTS:

Wednesday 2nd March - Singing

Wednesday 16th March - Coffee and chat

Wednesday 30th March – Coffee and Chat

Wednesday 13th April – Easter crafts

Wednesday 27th April – Bingo

Wednesday 11th May – Coffee and chat



Forget-me-Not Cafés provide support, companionship and a warm welcome to those who are recognising issues with their memory, as well as their carers, family, and friends.

All are welcome to come along even if just for a cuppa and a chat.

There are a variety of activities such as music, Singing, arts and crafts, quizzes.

For more information please contact

Helen: 01278 734818 –

cuttellhelen@gmail.com

Rose: 07507 374234



Recycle More's Bright Blue Bags will start arriving on doorsteps during February. As they are delivered, stickers will be stuck on recycling boxes making it clear what needs to go where once Recycle More starts. You may have already received your leaflet "Recycle More is coming soon". The leaflet makes clear your first Recycle More collection day. Please DO NOT put the Bright Blue Bag out for collection until then. With much more being recycled, rubbish is collected every three weeks instead of every two.

SWP is hosting a Facebook Q&A Day about the new service. The next will be on Wednesday 16 March, running from 7am to 7pm. For more information consult your "Recycle More is Coming Soon" leaflet or

<https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycle-more-bright-blue-bags-on-their-way/>



Stowey Green Spaces Group had a most useful month as regular walkers through Stowey Wood will be aware. The trees planted in 2018 had become so smothered by brambles that most of them could not be seen, and clearing this growth had become a major task. The Group holds regular working sessions on the first and third Tuesdays of every month and so met to clear the brambles on the 4th of January and 1st Febru-

ary, supplemented by Taunton Midweek Volunteers on 20th January. However, the greatest impact was made over a special work weekend of January 29th and 30th with an unprecedented turnout of 20 people. Many thanks indeed to all those who came and did such magnificent work. It is hoped that by the time this article is available bramble clearing will be more or less completed. It is pleasing to note that most of the planted trees have survived and, as is apparent, some are growing very well. On the intermediate Tuesday in January, Group members worked on the Castle Mount raking bracken that had been sprayed with Asulox, leaving the soil bare to help germination of seeds

and the growth of grass. Early appearances suggest that there could be a good display of violets just inside the gates to the Mount to complement the primroses that grow so prolifically in and around the moat.

St Mary's Church has always held a series of meetings during Lent and the topic this year is Climate Change. The Group's conservation work is partly a response to climate change and to improve biodiversity, as this has suffered, largely unseen, over many years and ultimately this decrease will affect humanity. The weekly talks start on March 9th and the Group will be discussing its work in the March 23rd session.
Terry Abbiss

DofE - programme ideas?

Stowey Green Spaces offer volunteering opportunities working with the environment.



Carol Authers, Somerset DofE Operations Manager –
I am delighted to hear that our award participants can work alongside Stowey Green Spaces – finding volunteering opportunities in our more rural areas can be difficult, so getting involved with this group will help young people achieve their volunteering section of the award.

Visit us www.stowey.org.uk/stoweygreenspaces

Contact: Judith Greig on 732483 or
stoweygreenspaces@stowey.org.uk.

STOWEY SHUTTLE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Could you be a driver with Stowey Shuttle? Stowey Shuttle is a local community car scheme, providing car journeys at cost to its registered members. It is run entirely by volunteers who manage the scheme, receive and allocate requests for travel, and drive passengers using their own cars. Our drivers receive a mileage allowance for each journey, and we are supported by Somerset County Council and the scheme is linked to the bus pass scheme. We always welcome more volunteers and at present would like to increase the number of our drivers. If you can offer yourself and your car or would just like to know more about what is involved, please ring Dave, our driver representative, on [01278 732466](tel:01278732466).

NEW Village Hall Plans

The present Nether Stowey Village Hall is 100 years old, built-in 1922, and is showing its age in its centenary year. Repair costs are increasing year on year, but the income generated by the hall decreases year on year. This is an untenable situation as there is a risk that if a new village hall is not built, Nether Stowey could be left without a community centre which is unacceptable in the eyes of the charity.

That is why the Nether Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground charity have been working on a project to relocate the village hall to the recreation ground. The project will provide a modern village hall with a kitchen and bar, stage, sizeable multipurpose function room, meeting room and car park. It will also provide changing rooms for recreational activities. With the outside becoming the new indoors throughout the pandemic, the new Village Hall will have a serving hatch and external covered seating area, public toilets as well as large bi-folding doors and windows.



Full plans and supporting documents can be viewed on the [Sedgemoor District Planning Portal](#) planning number 36/21/00030. Comments can be made via the charity's website at stowey.org.uk as well as the usual planning procedure. It is hoped that alternative temporary venues for current user groups can be found to ensure a limited impact whilst the new centre is built.

[illegible]

Time to say goodbye - Village Hall closing 31st March

The current Nether Stowey Village Hall will be closing on Thursday 31st March 2022, in readiness for the eventual sale of the land. All proceeds of the sale will be used to build the NEW Village Hall on the recreation ground and act as match funding for other grant providers. Without the money from the sale of the current Village Hall, a new centre will not be built as it accounts for approximately 30 % of the new build cost. The remaining funds to build the new centre will come from community fund raisers and grant providers. Grant providers insist the charity provides match funding. For example, if they gave the project £10k, towards the cost of a new kitchen at £20k, the charity would have to find another £10k to build the kitchen.

The Village Hall is 100 years old and deserves a good send off!

We welcome all community members to attend one of two planned FREE parties and share their memories of the old hall and view the plans for the new :

Friday 1st April 3.30pm - 5.00pm

Family friendly party with activities such as face painting, lego, competition, party food and music.

Friday 1st April 7.00pm til late

Cheese and Wine Evening

Share your memories and photos...Please bring along any photos or stories and share your memories to enable our archivist Jo Scoins to create a living memory of the Village Hall to be displayed at the new centre.

The charity has a membership base of approximately 150 community members and will always welcome more!

Who can be a member?

Anyone who is over 18; lives in the Parish of Nether Stowey or surrounding areas; agrees to exercise his or her powers in good faith to further the purposes of the CIO .

Why be a member?

Membership shows commitment and support towards the Village Hall and Recreation Ground facilities; Members can vote at the AGM

How to become a member: Applications by email -

enquiries@stowey.org.uk or post c/o Parish Council office, 2 Castle Street, Nether Stowey TA5 1LN;

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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

Email somwestnptsedgemoor@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk

PC Claire Allen, PCSO Jason Wyatt, PCSO Jeremy Pidgeon

Jake Dade (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)

Dispensary phone line open 10am - 12pm & 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 / Fri 2-5pm / 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)

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

CHURCH SERVICES – MARCH 2022

Ash Wednesday 2nd March

Service of Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
in Nether Stowey Church at 10.00am

	6TH March	13th March	20th March	27th March
	1 st Sunday of Lent	2 nd Sunday of Lent	3 rd Sunday of Lent	Mothering Sunday
Nether Stowey	11:00am Morning Worship (C/Centre)	11:00am Holy Com- munion (C/Centre)	11:00am Morning Worship (Church)	11:00am Holy Communion (Church)
Over Stowey	6:30pm Evensong	9:30am Holy Com- munion (BCP)	9:30am Holy Com- munion	9:30am Morning Worship
Aisholt	11:00am Matins	3:30pm Evensong (BCP)	11:00am Holy Com- munion (BCP)	11:00am Morning Service
Enmore	11:00am Holy Communion	11:00am Family Worship	11.00am Holy Communion	11:00am Morning Worship
Goathurst	9:30am Morning Worship	9.30am Holy Communion	6.30pm Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Morning Worship
Spaxton	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Morning Worship	11:00am Holy Com- munion	9:30am Morning Worship

Dear All,

March has arrived and spring has sprung! The bulbs are in full bloom and the mass of colour lifts our hearts. The daylight hours are increasing which encourages us to get out and about a bit more.

It is also time for spring cleaning as the sunlight seeks to expose the cobwebs and illuminates the dust. We look to clear out the last bits of winter and look to spring and summer. It is hard work. Unused clothes are taken to charity shops, we touch up the paintwork or tidy out cupboards that we have battled to close. Clearing the garden of leaves and pruning back the bushes are all chores to be done. Additionally, this year we welcome the arrival of the blue recycling bags, heralding a new recycling regime which offers a better way to discard our used items. It is a time of looking forward and hoping for sunnier times.

2nd March, Ash Wednesday, also heralds the beginning of a new season in the church's year – Lent. Interestingly, the word Lent also means spring. What might a 'spring clean' of our lives with God mean, and how might we seek to refresh our relationship with him?

Perhaps it is a time to think about how we spend time with God. For some, God is found in the outdoors, and we might have been less outside in the winter months. Can we reignite our prayer life – our conversations with God? Are there people we need to be in touch with but haven't found the time – do the longer days give us more time to visit others? Have we found ourselves getting into habits that we would like to change? Spiritually, we are encouraged to be fed by reading the Bible regularly – perhaps we can explore new ways of reading the scriptures during Lent.

During Lent, the church is organising a series of weekly talks given by a variety of organisations, considering issues around climate change and exploring how we can make a difference. Please do come along to the Church Centre in Nether Stowey at 7pm from Wednesday 9th March. The first Lent soup lunch takes place on Friday 11th March at 12.30pm, also in the Church Centre; all are welcome. On Monday evenings there is also an opportunity to explore prayer via Zoom. Please do contact the Benefice Office for further details of any of these events.

May this March and Lenten season be a time of refreshment and new growth physically and spiritually. May we look to Easter knowing that the resurrected Jesus brings us the hope of new life.

God Bless

Eleanor

CHURCH CONTACT POINTS

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

Rector	Revd. Eleanor King The Rectory, 25 St Mary St, Nether Stowey TA5 1LJ eleanor.king@hotmail.com	Tel: 734 777
Associate Priest	Revd. Kate Sax The Vicarage, Church Road, Spaxton TA5 1DA kate.kinkiizi@gmail.com Working days: Sun, Tues, Wed	Tel. 671 168
Curate	Revd. Nicki Bradford nicki.bradford@hotmail.com	Tel. 733 360
Readers	Mrs Viv Chesterton, B.A. 3 Bishop Road, Nether Stowey TA5 1NP Mrs Maggie Harrison 32 Old Farm Road, Nether Stowey, TA5 1PE Mrs Alison Hoare 2 Park Cottages, Over Stowey Mrs Jeanette Bole Putsham Mead, Kilve TA5 1DZ	Tel: 733 568 Tel: 732 532 Tel: 732 350 Tel: 741 297
Church Wardens - Nether Stowey	Mr. Alan Simson Weacombe Gate, West Quantoxhead, TA4 4EB Mrs. Gerry Wright 1 Mount Road, Nether Stowey, TA5 1LU	Tel: (01984) 632 773 Tel: 734 584
Church Warden - Over Stowey	Mr. Peter Higginson Bincombe Tops, Over Stowey	Tel: 732 102
Church Centre Contact:	Mrs. Barbara Beer	Tel: 732 412
Church Centre Bookings:	Mrs. Pat Stacey	Tel: 732 518
Benefice Office:	Mrs Alison Hoare Church Centre, 27 St. Mary Street, Nether Stowey TA5 1LJ Office hours Monday—Friday 9am - 11am Otherwise phone & leave a message or email Email: qv.benefice@gmail.com	Tel: 732 855

CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT

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

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.

See Community Directory (p.32) for Parish Council and Medical Centre contact details.

Saying 'Goodbye' to the Attwoods

Last month we said 'goodbye' and 'thank you' to Revd Peter and Sue Attwood as they moved to their new home near the south coast to be closer to family. Peter has served as a retired priest in the Benefice and taken many services over the last ten years as well, as being Church Treasurer for Nether Stowey for the last four years. Sue has led the hospitality events at the church with such great skill as well as being on the Church Council. We thank them for all that they have given to us – their time and wisdom, their love and care.

We wish them well in their new home; we'll miss them greatly and their dogs, Prince and Mole, too.

Eleanor

WI "*Where's My Fish?*" was the intriguing title for our talk at our 10th February; we were all wondering how can anybody talk about fish for 40 minutes? In fact, our WI meeting was treated to a very interesting and very entertaining talk given by Kevin Little, who owned and ran a fishmongers in Reading for 54 years. His company was called The Smelly Alley Fish Company, not a reflection on the fish he sold, but named after a narrow footpath at the junction of three streets that was used as an open sewer in the 16th century. Kevin has seen a lot of changes in his long career as a fishmonger, and he regaled us with many anecdotes about all the ups and downs of dealing with all the bureaucracy from various government departments and health inspectors, mostly concerning the food industry, and his often ingenious ways of getting round problems. They had to keep a Fly Log, as you weren't supposed to have more than 5 flies dead or alive in your shop window! Years ago, every high street had a Mac Fisheries which proved to be the family's nemesis, but his father managed to get around their ongoing price war by artificially reducing the price of a product they didn't actually sell (butter), but forced Mac Fisheries to reduce their butter prices – very clever! Kevin often sailed very close to the wind. It was interesting to know how the terms "Holy Mackerel" and "Red Herring" came about and that they definitely have their roots in the fishing industry. Some of his tales concerned lampreys, which you wouldn't want to know about, and a dead dolphin, which you are not allowed to eat, but are inedible anyway. Kevin does several other talks, and we hope that he may revisit us some time.

Our March meeting will be our AGM, but our April 14th meeting will be hosting the Air Ambulance, which is very dear to our hearts in Somerset. Visitors are always welcome if you just want to come along and try out a meeting. Meetings start at 2.00pm at the Church Centre and the entrance fee includes a raffle and refreshments.

AB.

The Thomas Poole Library Evening Talk 9th February

"Coleridge and Thomas Poole – a momentous relationship"

Terence Sackett, local authority on Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Thomas Poole, gave an edifying talk to a sell-out audience on the friendship between Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Thomas Poole.



Although, Poole was denied a formal education by his father, who decreed he was to take over the tannery business, he was a voracious reader, keen to broaden his knowledge. He established an extensive library in his book room. On the recommendation of Henry Poole of Combwich (Thomas Poole's cousin) Coleridge and Robert Southey visited Thomas Poole in Nether Stowey. Poole invited them in for tea and took Coleridge to visit the tannery. Coleridge was enthralled by all aspects of science and technology. Poole was keen to further their friendship, both men having mutual radical interests in philosophy and politics, supporting workers' rights, the anti-slavery movement and the principles behind the French Revolution.

Coleridge lived in Bristol and was desperate to move out of the City having attracted much hostility due to his anti-slavery talks and writings. He wrote to Poole asking for any available accommodation in Nether Stowey. Poole replied that there was only the semi-derelict Gilberts cottage. Poole was very reluctant that Coleridge move there but Coleridge insisted. Coleridge wanted a pastoral life. He loved the cottage but his wife Sara did not. It was little more than a hovel. However, it backed on to Poole's house and Coleridge was able to go back and forth and make use of Poole's library. Coleridge joined a reading group set up by Poole. They read many erudite publications including Mary Woolstonecroft's *"The rights of woman"*. Poole was a constant friend and supported Coleridge and his family both financially and emotionally. His mother befriended Sara and son Hartley and introduced Sara to the Cruikshanks of Castle Hill House.

Coleridge had met William Wordsworth in 1795 while in Bristol and persuaded him to move to be near him in the Quantocks. William Cowper said that Poole was instrumental in bringing the two great poets of Coleridge and Wordsworth together.

The "*Lyrical Ballads*" sprang from Quantock life and it is likely that Poole contributed local stories to inspire the poems.

Through Coleridge's friendship with Thomas Poole, and Poole's generosity, relationships flourished between Coleridge and many of the great thinkers of the time. By 1797 he was surrounded by many friends – Thomas Poole, John Thelwall, Humphry Davy, the Wedgwoods, Charles Lamb, William and Dorothy Wordsworth. Poole facilitated these contacts. Poole was devastated when Coleridge left the village and moved to the Lake District. He left the tannery to be managed in his absence and undertook a Grand Tour of Europe. He met Thomas Paine in Paris and also Napoleon. In 1802 Coleridge attended Royal Institution lectures and Poole accompanied him to a Humphry Davy lecture. He met John Rickman who was Secretary to Parliamentary Commissions. Poole agreed to work on collating the Poor Law returns.

Contrary to common misconceptions Samuel Taylor Coleridge was not purely a poet. He also wrote many essays and discourses on metaphysics and science. He was a philosopher, revolutionary in his ideas, who was fortunate to have the support throughout his life of his loyal friends Thomas Poole and Robert Southey.

Norma Frood, Membership Secretary membership@thomaspoolelibrary.org.uk

STOWEY SHUTTLE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS Could you be a driver with Stowey Shuttle? Stowey Shuttle is a local community car scheme, which provides car journeys at cost to its registered members. It is run entirely by volunteers who manage the scheme, receive and allocate requests for travel, and drive our passengers using their own cars. Our drivers receive a mileage allowance for each journey, and we are supported by Somerset County Council and the scheme is linked to the bus pass scheme. We always welcome more volunteers and at present would like to increase the number of our drivers. If you can offer yourself and your car or would just like to know more about what is involved, please ring Dave, our driver representative, on 01278 732466.

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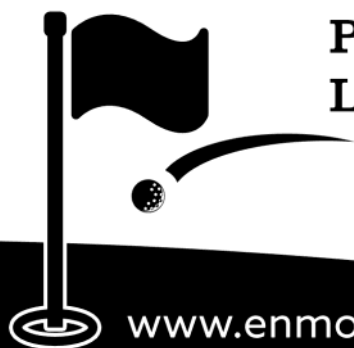


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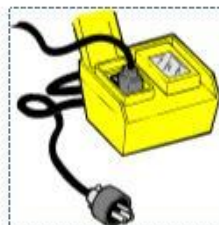
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