



Christmas Day Lunch



Will you be alone on Christmas Day?

If so, why not come and join us for

Christmas Lunch

on 25th December 2022.

Singles or Couples welcome at

Nether Stowey Church Centre.

Contact Beth 07910 342054

or Eleanor 01278 734777

for more details

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

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 & 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

Les Biffin 732963

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

Lucy Haswell 01278 671289

Stowey Green Spaces Group

Rov Osborne 734604

Stowey Walking

Lynne Abbott 732 228

Thomas Poole Library, Nether Stowey

Sian Stafford 732 741

Wednesday Club (formerly the Day Centre)

Maggie Harrison 732 532



December 2022

This edition is packed with articles to delve into while waiting for the rain to stop. The diary is full of opportunities to get together with others - for shared interests, companionship, warmth and to share some festive spirit., including a couple of Christmas dinners!

We're taking a break until February but, in the meantime we wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Take care, Jan

Your Messenger Team

Please email articles / photographs to

editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk

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Sally Dymock	Advertising	732 298	Molly Bradner	Assembly - Distribution	732 166
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Cover Photos: Marion Evered Trust donation presentation to Oak Childrens Ward, MPH; Stowey Castle—Historic England Archive; Nether Stowey FC Saturday Reserve Team - Francis Trout;

Inside front: Stowey Green Spaces volunteers at work—Terry Abbiss:

DIARY DATES 2022

Every Monday (except Bank Holidays) - Story time **** 11am - TPL

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

Every Tuesday - Walk for Health - Quantock Medical Centre

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

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

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

Every Thursday - Quantock Active Living - 2pm - NSCC

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

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

Every 3rd Thursday – Stowey Gardeners 7.30pm - NSCC

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

Fridays 2nd, 9th & 16th December - Soup & Roll lunch, warmth and companionship 12pm No booking required. Donations to charity. NSCC

1st December FONSS Christmas Market Nether Stowey School *** 6:30pm

4th December Breakfast with Santa—tickets available at Nether Stowey School

4th December - Community Christmas Lunch 12.30 NSCC - a free lunch for anyone who would like Christmas lunch cooked for them. Contact Freda on 732768 to book.

7th December - Christingle Celebration 4pm, tea & toast and your own Christingle NSCC

10th December - Christmas Charity Coffee Morning 10.30—12 in aid of Motor Neurone Disease. NSCC

14th December - Festive Evening of poetry and prose, mince pies and mulled wine. 7.30pm TPL - £3.50/£4.50 members/non-members

17th December - Coffee, Cake and Catch Up - 10.30am - 12 noon OSVH

25th December - "Christmas Day Lunch" 12.30pm NSCC see P2 2nd Jan - NS & Fiddington WI Annual Beetle Drive and Quiz 2pm NSCC

11th Jan - 'The Greenhouse Effect' with Terry Abbiss 7.30pm TPL £3.50/£4.50 members/non-members

14th January - Charity Coffee Morning 10.30 - 12. Charity to be confirmed NSCC

NSCC - Nether Stowey Church Centre

OSVH - Over Stowey Village Hall

TPL - Thomas Poole Library, Nether Stowey

Monday 19th December

5.00pm Carols around the tree at **St. Margaret's Church**, **Spaxton**

Tuesday 20th December

6.30pm Carols by Candlelight at All Saints Church, Aisholt

Wednesday 21st December

6.30pm Carol Service at St. Michael's, Church, Enmore

Friday 23rd December

4.00pm Outdoor Crib at St. Edward's Church, Goathurst

Community Christmas Hampers

Once again community members have gathered together to create a number of Christmas hampers for families and anyone for whom a Christmas meal might otherwise be difficult to achieve. If you would like to receive one or know someone else who might please contact the editor of Quantock Messenger or Rev'd Eleanor or Gerry on 734584 and we will be happy to arrange this with full confidentiality.







This year we have been able to remain open all year, which was a relief. Not only have we regularly hosted many external group events such as Mind in Somerset and NHS Wellness checks, but also our regular Knit and Natter group and School Storytime sessions. It was also great to see the return of Toddler Storytime and the Library Book group.

We are so very fortunate and grateful to; our volunteers who operate the library service, our volunteers who lead Storytime for the toddlers and school and our volunteers who work hard behind the scenes. It was quite astounding to find out that between the beginning of September last year and the end of September this year, our volunteers put in 1659 hours of their own time - THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND COMMITMENT!

If you would like to join our wonderful team of volunteers, either for the library service or to help out in other ways, you can leave your contact details on our volunteers page on our website: www.thomaspoolelibrary.org.uk or pop by the library during opening hours and speak to Sian.

As the colder months are approaching, don't forget the library is now registered as a Warm Welcome Space and, during our opening hours, we will provide free hot drinks and a warm, welcoming and safe place for you to go this winter. All are welcome! Our Monthly Talks for December and January are:

- **Wednesday 14th December** A festive evening with readings of your favourite poetry and prose accompanied by mince pies and mulled wine
- Wednesday 11th January A presentation by Terry Abbiss The Greenhouse Effect.

Start time is 7.30pm and entrance fees are £3.50 for members and £4.50 non-members.

Our Community Cabinet has been a huge success this year and we have had a fantastic variety of displays. If you would like a chance to showcase your craftwork next year, contact Sian either by popping by the library or emailing eventsandpr@thomaspoolelibrary.org.uk

Lastly, we would like to thank all our members and borrowers for your kind words of appreciation and for all your support this year. We wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

With all our very best wishes,
The Trustees of the Thomas Poole Library





Over Stowey Parish Council

The monthly meeting in October took place on Wednesday 19th and some of the issues considered and discussed included RLT2 funding for the play area at the recreation ground in Over Stowey, missed recycling collections, Highways updates and the grant application for the Village Hall roof repair.

The pirate ship at the play area needs to be replaced and it was agreed that the Clerk complete the application for the funds available to the parish with the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee to enable the purchase of a new play tower.

It was also proposed that the balance for the equipment is paid for with funds from the Downing Legacy, which was left to the Parish Council for the benefit of the whole parish and this was agreed.

The Clerk will submit the application as soon as possible.

With regards to the missed recycling collections, Cllr Caswell communicated that he has been in close contact with Somerset Waste Partnership and that the concerns have been fully discussed. Work has taken place to improve the service and in an email, received by the Clerk, it was stated that:

'Whilst we accept that the quality of the service has not met anyone's expectations, much work and expense has been taken to stabilise the situation and we are now beginning to show improvements' The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation.

Forestry England have recently cleared the ditch at Friarn and it is hoped that this will resolve the problem of rainwater flowing down the road during heavy rain. The other items of concern regarding Highways issues are still ongoing – signage at Plainsfield, Quantock Lane traffic calming request, sharp bend signage coming from Bincombe through Over Stowey and general safety concerns throughout the parish on the roads (which now includes the junction at Marsh Mills crossroads). The Parish Council have asked Cllrs Bolt and Caswell to take these further with the relevant officers at the Highways Department as no progress has been made despite the Clerk sending numerous communications and complaints to officers and managers. Cllrs Bolt and Caswell will have updated the Parish Council with any details at the November meeting.

Another highways issue considered was about landowners responsibilities for hedge cutting. The Parish Council request that any landowner with a boundary that is adjacent to the highway undertake hedge cutting as soon as they can and particularly if the boundary is over-hanging or a safety issue. See Travel Somerset and scroll down to 'Hedges and Banks' for further information.

The application for the grant for the repair of the Village Hall will have been considered by Sedgemoor District Council at the end of October and the decision will be shared as soon as the result is confirmed.

Additionally finding a representative for the Somerset Bus Partnership (Bus Back Better) is still ongoing and if you are interested, please contact the Clerk. For details on the upcoming unitary authority, please visit the New Somerset Council website.

The December meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 14th December and the January meeting will be held on Wednesday 18th January 2023. Please check the website and notice board for details.

If you have any concerns or issues you would like to bring to the attention of the Parish Council, please contact the Clerk in the usual ways: Website: https://

www.overstoweyparishcouncil.co.uk/ Email: clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.gov.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.

Nether Stowey Wednesday Club - Volunteers Needed

A social gathering of over 70's for coffee & lunch. We urgently need volunteers to help with the club 4hrs per month. Also drivers who can spare 10-15mins before 10.00am to collect a member to take to the Church Centre and return home at 2.00pm. This will be on a voluntary basis. Term time only.

Please contact: Maggie 732532 or Tina 732382.





Support a Christmas Day lunch

Donations required for a Christmas Day lunch. A community lunch for those people alone in the village is being held in the Church Hall on Christmas day. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.



e.g: Christmas cake, Mince pies, Christmas pudding, drinks, box of crackers Anything you might want for a Christmas lunch.

Please leave donations at The Vicarage, St Mary's Street.



Nether Stowey & Fiddington WI

Slowly, things are getting back to some sort of normality after a challenging 3 years, and the village is gradually coming back to life. The WI have enjoyed getting back together and meeting regularly for the last 18 months or so, with very good attendance, and have enjoyed many activities, as previously reported. On 15th October we held our "Soup 'n' Pud" lunch, our first for 3 years, which was well attended and people were pleased to come out and enjoy home-made fare once again. "Thank You" to all those who came to this lunch, and to all those WI ladies and helpers who provided the soups and puddings and made the Church Centre look so attractive and welcoming.

At our meeting on 10th November, one of our members ran a Christmas craft session. All the necessary materials were provided and members enjoyed rummaging through trays of "Christmassy" stickers, cards, motifs, ribbon, etc. The session gave everyone an opportunity to discover their inner artistic self, and some really original and beautiful cards, boxes and decorations were created. Knitting needles, wools and patterns were also provided and many ladies could be seen beavering away at making Christmas puddings and Santa hats! It was also really nice to welcome three new ladies, and we hope they will join us again.

There will be no regular meeting on 8th December as this will be our Christmas lunch.

We have a full programme for 2033, starting with a quiz at our first meeting of the New Year on 12th January, a good way to clear the Christmas cobwebs and get the brains working again!

At our meeting on 9th February 2023 we will welcome the Free Wheelers Emergency Voluntary Service, which should be very interesting, as a lot of us have heard of them, but maybe don't know just exactly what they do.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, at 2.00pm in the Church Centre. Any new faces would be very welcome, so why not just come along and give us a try. Entrance includes a free raffle ticket and refreshments. We wish you all a Happy Christmas.

AΒ

Hinkley Point C - Monthly Update

A round up of the latest news from Hinkley Point C



Reactor dome works complete for 2022

Another key milestone has been reached as the first phase of works on Unit 1's Dome have been completed. Our mechanical and electrical teams have now finished the internal pipe welding and successfully conducted a pressure test of the containment heat removal system. Ahead of lifting the dome into position next year, we will be completing the final painting of the structure whilst also making sure the most sensitive pipework is ready.



2022 Marine Works Programme Completed

The marine works team have officially completed their 2022 programme just off-shore of the Hinkley Point C site. Following the placing of the intake heads in August, the team have now completed the work to create robust, scour resistant gravel beds that will protect the intake heads from the strong currents in the Bristol Channel.



BBC Documentary: The Women Building Nuclear

A recent documentary aired on BBC One focussed on the diversity of the Hinkley Point C Project and specifically the women involved in a diverse set of roles across the site. The "We Are England" production team visited Hinkley Point C in the Spring, to film the episode which was broadcast at the end of October.

You can find out more about the work of Janaan, Aurelia and Courtney for a limited period of time whilst the documentary is available on BBC iPlayer.



Watch the documentary on BBC iPlayer

A Focus on Respect

A new scheme has been launched to recognise people from across the project who embody our culture of respect – both for each other in our work on-site and as part of the local community. The first recipients of the new award represented individuals from our security, site operations and catering teams and were given special pin badges to recognise their actions in doing the right thing.



Get in touch

Website: edfenergy.com/hpc Email: hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com Telephone: 0333 009 7070

GARDENING WITH NICK



December and January are times to reflect on the successes and failures of the previous growing season and plan for the next.

It has been a challenging year with the lack of summer moisture, the high temperatures and good weather. If your year has been like mine I have had some good successes (potatoes, outdoor and greenhouse tomatoes, onions, sweetcorn, courgettes and squashes) but also some disappointments (carrots, runner and climbing beans in particular). Soft fruit was generally good as have been apples, pears, plums and gages. Flowers have appreciated the autumn rains and have given a good lengthy display well into the autumn.

Much continues to be written about the importance of managing our soil and many are moving towards minimal cultivation and more towards the principles of 'no dig'. Whether a traditional 'digger' or 'no dig' the importance of organic matter incorporated into the soil cannot be emphasised too much. Both approaches work well with the bed system of growing where much of the work can be carried out from the paths avoiding compacting the soil. Well decomposed compost, mushroom compost or green waste are all beneficial in improving soil structure, contributing to better root run and increased moisture and nutrient reserves. The latter, particularly, are beneficial with the ever increasing price of fertiliser and feed.

The vegetable plot: Crops such as Brussels sprouts, sprouting broccoli and spring cabbage and kale should be checked for old yellowing leaves which can be removed and composted. Provide protection from hungry pigeons if necessary! Uncropped ground can be cultivated and any well rotted compost or manure dug in or if adopting the 'no dig' philosophy applying generous amounts to the surface of the vegetable beds. Take the opportunity to remove any perennial weed such as dandelion, buttercup, bindweed, thistle and couch grass. All my perennial weeds do not go on the compost heap but into a black plastic compost bin and excluded from light good compost develops in twelve to eighteen months. Avoid adding 'fresh' (undecomposed) organic matter to the plot that is going to grow root crops such as carrots and parsnips as it encourages 'fanging' or splitting of the root. Remember that if the ground conditions are too wet it is much better to stay off the soil rather than risk compacting it. During January onions and leeks can be sown in trays or modules with the aid of a little heat and seed potatoes will start to be available towards the end of the month.

The ornamental garden: this should continue to be tidied and perennial weeds removed and new shrubs and trees planted. The garden in winter has much to offer and it is a good time to choose one or two new woody plants to give display and enjoyment for next year. Here are some suggestions: Lonicera x purpusii 'Winter Beauty' (winter flowering honeysuckle), Viburnum x bodnantense 'Dawn', Sarcoccoca hookeriana var.digyna (Christmas box). Daphne bholua 'Jaqueline Postill', Clematis cirrhosa 'Freckles' and for

Christmas next year the holly Ilex aquifolium 'J. C. van Tol' which is self-pollinating. The coloured stem dogwoods and willows will give an excellent display. Two good trees for winter bark are Prunus serrula and Acer griseum. January can be a good month for sowing sweet peas in pots.

The fruit garden: Pruning of apples, pears, bush and cane fruits can be carried out. There is a lot of mystique with pruning but basic pruning is very much common sense and revolves around the removal of the three'D's, i.e. dead, diseased and damaged wood and the two 'C's, i.e. crossing and crowding branches. Do not be tempted to prune cherries and plums as they are susceptible to silver leaf disease and should, if necessary, be pruned in the late spring when the sap is up which helps seal the wounds.

Armchair gardening: finding time to browse through seed and nursery catalogues and get orders in early!

These are good months to do some of the less popular jobs such as washing pots, seed trays and modules ready for seed sowing and pricking out! Also a good time to get the mower serviced.

I wish all our readers a Happy Christmas, a healthy New Year and good gardening next season!

Nick Rigden





Congratulations to the winners of the <u>Playing Field 50:50 Lottery</u> (formerly PFR club) SUPERDRAW. These amounts are definitely worth winning! Thank you to everyone who has supported the draw. The trustees and committee continue to work hard behind the scenes and are STILL waiting for the planning application to finally be approved to enable us to move forward with the new Stowey Centre Project.

Subscriptions for the next 6 months are now being collected (or you can set up a monthly or annual standing order). See information under the "About" tab on our website: www.stowey.org.uk or phone Jane Erskine 732025 or Sharon





50-50 LOTTERY DRAW

November 2022

1st Prize	£166.87	Ticket No: 27	M Thomas
2nd Prize	£83.44	Ticket No: 10	L Okopski
3rd Prize	£50.06	Ticket No: 162	F Cooke
4th Prize	£33.38	Ticket No: 361	W & N McAlister

Jane Erksine, Trustee 732025

Sharon Mayell, Treasurer 732311

www. stowey. org. uk



Stowey Green Spaces reports good news with the following Historic England Media Release of 10 November 2022:

Stowey Castle, Somerset (Scheduled Monument)

Much-loved monument cleared of damaging vegetation thanks to a dedicated local group.

Video clip: https://photos.app.goo.gl/Vb5Xq24NJ6KwsXnk9

Stowey Castle in Somerset, nestled between the village and the foot of the Quantock Hills, represents the impressive remains of a medieval motte and bailey fortification with spectacular views across the Bristol Channel.

Motte and bailey castles were introduced into Britain by the Normans and consisted of a motte; a large mound of earth on which would have stood a defensive keep built from stone or timber, and one or more baileys; an enclosed area overlooked by the keep and usually surrounded by an earthen rampart and timber palisade. Not only are motte and baileys particularly important to the story of Norman Britain, they add character and distinctiveness to a place, and can be important community resources, often bringing a wide range of benefits to the physical, mental, and social wellbeing of individuals and communities.

In 2018 Stowey Castle, known locally as 'The Mount', was added to the Heritage at Risk Register due to invasive bracken and gorse which had almost completely taken over the whole site. Bracken and scrub growth can not only cause harm to sensitive archaeological deposits, but they also obscure features from view, making places difficult to see and understand as historic monuments.

Together with help from the landowner, the Quantocks Landscape Partnership Scheme, the Stowey Green Spaces volunteers, and funding from Historic England, the bracken and gorse has been cleared, and the site has been re-fenced to allow a flock of Herdwick sheep to graze the site. The condition of the castle is now much improved, and it is well cared for by the local community and the Stowey Green Spaces Group, allowing it to be removed from the 2022 Heritage at Risk register.

Landowner Sue Aubrey said: "I had struggled over the years to control the spread of bracken and gorse. As a member of Stowey Green Spaces Group I suggested The Mount might be a worthwhile project. Group members, familiar with The Mount as a popular walk and a place where children sledged over the years, were in full agreement."

Chairman of the Stowey Green Spaces Group, Roy

Oborne, **said:** "Clearing the bracken and gorse gave a greater appreciation of the sheer steepness of the motte and the difficulty those attacking would have had in even approaching the bailey. This led, in turn, to a better understanding of the importance of the castle to the village for defence and control in Norman times, and giving the village its identity today."

Dan Broadbent, Historic Heritage Officer at the Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme said: "We are delighted to have been able to support the conservation work at Stowey Castle. The provision of new stock-proof fencing has enabled grazing of the motte and bailey site, which, together with the sterling work of volunteers from Stowey Green Spaces, will help to keep the site in good condition for future generations."

Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme website: https://glps.org.

If you would consider joining Stowey Green Spaces in an annual weekend community work day on The Mount to keep on top of the bracken, contact us: stoweygreenspaces@stowey.org.uk or telephone Judith Greig on 01278 732483.



Nether Stowey Football Club

Here is the latest from the football club: Results round-up

<u>Senior 1st XI</u> - A mixed bag for the 1st team, a great start to the season saw Stowey top of Division One of the Taunton and District Saturday Football League. However, recently results have not gone their way, the lack of goals the problem.

So after six league games, the 1st team are 6th in the league having won three of theor league games. Tom Andrew has been the most prolific in front of goal netting eight times.

In the cup sompetitions, the 1st team have progressed into the 2nd round of both the League Cup and Rowbartn Charity Cup.

<u>Senior Reserves</u> - In their second full season the young reserve side are improving week by week. After nine games in Division Two of the Taunton Saturday League, the Reserves have won two of their games, with one draw, against high flying Porlock.

<u>Sunday XI</u> - In a very competitive league, the Sunday XI are enjoying their games. Having played six games, the side have won one, and drawn one. Even though there is one Division in the Bridgwater League, it already seems obvious that the division is split into two. There are five teams competing for the top spot and the other six competing for fun.

Thats it from the Football club for 2022. Have a great Christmas eveyone, and a wonderful New Year

Mark Sells



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

Campbell Rooms

The annual lease for the Campbell rooms at Adscombe, Over Stowey may shortly become available. This would be an ideal opportunity for a group to secure a venue for regular use.

The lease is a very reasonable price and anyone interested is asked to approach the Over Stowey village hall committee to discuss on 07970781087

Ian Barrow



Stowey Green Spaces Group has been busy over the last six weeks or so. Brambles send out long shoots in early autumn hoping to spread their reach even further and, as they age, nettles and bracken tend to collapse towards a footpath and this all makes walking more difficult. Consequently a work party spent a few hours in

Stowey Wood clearing the paths by hand and with a strimmer, ready for the winter. Similarly, the footpath from New Stowey Farm to South Lane needed clearing. However, in this case the problem was more long term as in parts the hedge, especially a holly hedge, had grow much wider over the years making the path unpleasantly narrow in places. This was a difficult task working in a confined space, and it will need to be returned to at some time. Finally, a party from the Taunton Midweek Conservation Volunteers in conjunction with the Group cleared a large area of very dense bramble at the Church Centre end of the A 39 Bypass wood, revealing trees that had been almost completely hidden. Photographs of this and earlier work can be seen on Stowey Green Spaces Group Facebook page (it is not necessary to belong to FB to access this page).

Passers by often congratulate the volunteer workers on what is being carried out, but do please consider becoming a volunteer along side us. We are a friendly bunch and welcome all the help we can get. If this is rather too much then please consider carrying secateurs and snipping off any stray bramble, nettle, low branch and so on that could make walking more difficult.

It is hard to believe that Millennium Wood is now 21 years old (didn't quite make Millennium year) and it is becoming necessary for the health of the trees to do some thinning of the original planting and this may take place this coming winter, further details will be provided when arrangements are completed. In conclusion, by the time readers see this, if all has gone to plan then Platinum Jubilee Wood will have been added to the existing Millennium and Diamond Jubilee Woods. Somerset County Council has given permission to establish Platinum Wood next to the Jubilee Wood and it is hoped planting will have taken place with as many participants as possible on November 26th.

Quantock Active Living

It is with great sadness we have had to take the decision to cease our monthly meetings. Our numbers have decreased significantly since the Covid -19 pandemic and the situation has become unsustainable financially.

We started in 2009 inviting anyone over the age of 55 years to join us and in providing a range of accessible activities within a friendly and welcoming environment have been well supported over that time. In 2010 we made the transition from Somerset County Council to "Somerset you can do" service, and since that support ceased have continued with our meetings all organised and run by a very small group of volunteers.

We will hold our last meeting on the 24th November with a celebratory tea and flower demonstration.

The balance of monies held will be distributed to voluntary or not for profit groups within our local community.

Our grateful thanks to all members past and present and those who have volunteered over the years.

Margaret Harris

The Marion Evered Trust

The Charity are pleased to announce that they have handed over a fantastic £20,000 to representatives from Oak Childrens ward. Dr Linda Whitefoot from Musgrove was very grateful and explained how the money will help with funding a revamp of the play area with a special grass and also an awning to provide cover, Also the purchase of a new Aqui vain machine that helps locate difficult to find veins for blood tests which reduces pain and suffering, 2 beds to enable parents to stay with their Child, a large chalk board and other play equipment. A massive thankyou to all that have contributed to helping raise the Money and a thankyou to Over Stowey Cricket club for their partnership in the Big Bash weekend.

Merry Christmas and a Happy new year to all.

Wishing you a Healthy Christmas from the Quantock Medical Centre

Apologies for not putting any articles in the Messenger for a little while and hope this makes up for it!

You may have noticed a few building issues lately at the Practice – Electronic doors not working, and a touch of subsidence, all due to the extremely hot weather over the summer – we are awaiting further reports and investigations to be done, so apologies the building is looking a little sad and tired. The Good news is we recently had an Infection Prevention and Control Inspection from the Somerset ICB which we passed with flying colours and our documentation will be shared across Somerset Practices.

The Patient Group is meeting for a Second time this year on Wednesday 7th December at 10 am at the Nether Stowey Library. If you would like to find out what's happening at the Practice or raise any issues please come along and join us.

Seasonal Flu Vaccinations: We Still have vaccines available for all eligible age groups phone the Surgery on 732696 to check and book an appointment.

Useful Christmas Gift ideas: If you feel unwell and call the GP or NHS111 they may ask you is you have a blood pressure monitor at home, this is a really useful piece of medical equipment you can buy (approx. £30) and keep in your home to use, as well as a pulse oxygen monitor (pulse oximeter approx. £20). This is particularly helpful if you are concerned about leaving your home and reducing your risk of picking up a virus.

<u>Some Helpful Numbers to Support People outside of normal opening</u> hours:

The Somerset Mindline - 24 hour support for mental health and emotional wellbeing – **01823 276 892**.

Samaritans 24 hour support line 116 123

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

Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM) Offering support to males of any age 0800 58 58 58

A Reminder that Dispensary collection times are Monday to Fri 10am – 12 noon, and 4pm – 6pm.

Dispensary Repeat phone line is available Mon – Fri 10am-11.30 noon, and 4-5pm 733385

Email: <u>somicb.quantock.mc@nhs.net</u> - or Post your Repeat request through the letterbox.

Over the Christmas and New Year Period we will be closed as follows:

Saturday 24th December 2022 - Wednesday 28th December 2022 Saturday 31st December 2022 - Tuesday 3rd January 2023 Outside of our opening times call 111 for medical advice, or 999 in an emergency.

Are you as prepared as you could be?

Very often we are not prepared for difficulties, and this can create a lot of stress that could be avoided with a bit of planning ahead.

Below is a list of things to think about and prepare for, so if you are caught out this winter, you can avoid these stresses.

Staying Healthy - in mind and body

Remember to get your FLU jab, eat healthily (have at least 1 hot meal a day), keep hydrated, keep active (wear shoes with a good grip) and a scarf, keep warm (Keep home at 18 C/ 85 F and wear layers of clothing).

Transport

We know fewer roads will be gritted this winter. Make sure you have enough provisions and medication at home for a week or two so that you don't need to go out when the icy weather comes.

Worst Case Scenario

- Think about what you need to have in place if you had to go into hospital?
- Is someone else dependant on you?
- Do you have to look after anyone, cook for them give them their medicine, take them somewhere? Make sure they have thought about a back-up plan if you can't help.
- Do you have any pets? Who could look after them if you need to spend a few days in hospital?

Do you have a list of loved ones, and their contact details, in an obvious place in case someone needs to contact them for you? Do you need to update your Doctors records with your next of kin contact details?

Other People who can help include:

Carers Support – for advice and support if you are caring for someone

0800 3168 600

Independent Age –for help and support to keep you independent **0800 319 6789**

The Silver line – A help line for older people **0800 470 8090**

Thank you for your support.

Helen Stacey- Practice Manager

Nether Stowey C. of E. V. C. Primary School

We have started the term with a very exciting visit from the explorer dome. This gave each of the children a wonderful learning experience climbing through the tunnel to enter the dome where they learnt about space or animals or different places. It was wonderful to see and hear the children's excitement.

Our school councillors spent time researching different local charities. The finalists were Cancer Research UK, Somerset Wildlife Trust and St Giles Animal Rescue Centre. After a whole school assembly where each of the class reps shared their chosen charity, the whole school used democracy to vote for the charity they wanted to support this year. The winner was St Giles Animal Rescue Centre! As a school community, we very much look forward to fundraising for them this year. Charity is one of our school values and fits into our school motto: We are caring. We are active. We are, our best. We will be asking for donations for this charity at our Christmas productions.

This term our school value focus will be fellowship. Fellowship is a vital part of any community. At times we can be independent, but safe in the knowledge that we belong to our school and church family, whether child or adult. Just as Jesus did with God, Christians emulate this with one another, offering friendship, support, company and fun! It is wonderful to be working again with our local community. I am very proud of the children who took part in the Remembrance service that was held at the cross on Sunday 13th November. The children did themselves and the school proud. It has been wonderful this month to be invited to the reveal of the Thomas Poole plaque at Poole's House. It was an inspiration finding out about Poole and his strong historical presence in the village.

You may remember Ruth Richardson who shaved her hair to raise funds for school playground equipment. Thanks to Ruth we now have been able to

purchase two outdoor table tennis tables and a table football for all the children to enjoy. We would also like to say thank you to WPA who have worked with our PE co-ordinator Jordan Meaker, to give us a children's activity climbing frame for Oak Class. This will help with the children's physical development.

Mrs Chloe Holt

Headteacher Tel: 01278 732508

The Stowey Shuttle needs

YOU

Stowey Shuttle is a local community car scheme, which provides car journeys at cost, or sometimes free, 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, we are supported by Somerset County Council and the Shuttle is linked to the bus pass scheme.



Demand for our service is increasing and we URGENTLY need more drivers.

If you can offer yourself and your car or would just like to know more about what is involved, please ring our central number,

07943 923742

and speak to a coordinator.

Paul Brierley, on behalf of the committee of Stowey Shuttle

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

<u>District Councillors</u>

Michael Caswell michael.caswell@sedgemoor.gov.uk

Julie Pay 01278 732 956 julie.pay@sedgemoor.gov.uk

Nether Stowey Parish Council / Over Stowey Parish Council Clerk: Caro Slaymaker Clerk: Amanda McMurren

01278 733 779 01278 734 689

clerk@netherstowey-pc.gov.uk clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.co.uk

Bookings secretaries

N/Stowey Church Centre Pat Stacey 01278 732 518 (9am—

9pm)

O/Stowey Village Hall 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 10am - 12pm & 4 - 5pm (Mon-Fri) Pick up from Dispensary 10am - 12pm & 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.)Village

CHURCH SERVICES – DECEMBER 2022

	4th Dec Advent 2	11th Dec Advent 3	18th Dec Advent 4	24th Dec Christmas Eve	25th Dec Christmas Day
Nether Stowey	11:00am Morning Worship (Church)	11:00am Holy Com- munion (Church)	11:00am Morning Worship (C/Centre)	5.30pm Carols on the Cross	11:00am Holy Commun- ion (Church)
Over Stowey	6:30pm Evensong	9.30am Holy Com- munion (BCP)	6:30pm Christmas Carol Ser- vice	11.30pm Midnight Commun- ion (CW)	9.30am Holy Com- munion
Aisholt	11:00am Matins	3.30pm Christingle	11.00am Holy Com- munion (BCP)	,	11.00am Holy Com- munion (BCP)
Enmore	11.00am Holy Com- munion	11:00am Family Worship	11.00am Holy Commun- ion	3.00pm Crib Ser- vice 10.00pm Midnight Holy Commun- ion	-
Goathurst	3.30pm Christingle	9.30am Holy Com- munion	9:30am Morning Worship	7.00pm Carol Ser- vice	9.30am Holy Com- munion
Spaxton	9.30am Holy Com- munion	11:00am Morning Worship	11.00am Holy Com- munion	5.00pm Carols and Crib Service	9.30am Holy Com- munion

See page 6 for additional Christmas Week Services at Spaxton (Monday 19th Dec) Aisholt (Tuesday 20th Dec) Enmore (Wednesday 21st Dec) and Goathurst (Friday 23rd Dec)

CHURCH SERVICES JANUARY 2023

	8th January Epiphany	15th January Epiphany 2	22nd January Epiphany 3		
Sunday 1 st January Christmas 2 10.30am Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Nether Stowey Church					
Nether Stowey	11:00am Morning Worship (C/Centre)	11:00am Morning Worship (C/Centre)	11.00am Holy Communion (C/Centre)		
Over Stowey	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Holy Communion	9:30am Morning Worship		
Aisholt	3.30pm Evensong	11:00am Holy Communion (BCP)	11.00am Matins		
Enmore	11:00am Family Worship	11.00am Holy Communion	11.00am Morning Worship		
Goathurst	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Worship	6.30pm Holy Communion (BCP)		
Spaxton	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Worship		
Sunday 29 th January Candlemas 10.30am Benefice Service of Holy Communion at					

Spaxton Church

Learn from the past and look to the future with hope!

As I write this short article, we have just remembered our loved ones who are no longer with us; those we have known and those who have given their lives in the service of others. We have also just welcomed the new Bishop of Bath and Wells in a glorious ceremonial service in a packed Wells cathedral on a brilliant sunny autumn day. We are all now approaching the period of Advent when we look forward to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ as a tiny baby.

Past, present and future the warp and weft of our lives – our journey through an often turbulent and challenging time, yet shot through with moments of joy and delight. We look forward to Christmas with mixed feelings no doubt but whether we are "believers" or not, the day has huge significance for us all and has done so for over 2000 years.

This tiny baby was destined to change history throughout the world and the person of Jesus still continues to do so. We might think that Christianity is no longer relevant, and yet millions of people are turning to Christ throughout the world, especially in the most unlikely places like China. Google Bible Society if you want to find out more.

Jesus himself said that he had come to bring life in all its fullness. He promises a new world, a new way of being where mercy and justice rule and love overcomes all, the very things our hearts long for. In the horror and devastation of the trenches of World War One some miraculous things took place. The following poem was sung at the enthronement service:

Everyone suddenly burst out singing And I was filled with such delight As prisoned birds must find in freedom Winging wildly across the white Orchards and dark green fields On and on: and out of sight.

Everyone's voice was suddenly lifted; And beauty came like the setting sun: My heart was shaken with tears; and horror Drifted away···O, but Everyone Was a bird; and the song was wordless The singing will never be done. Siegfried Sassoon (1886-1967)

Rev Kate Sax

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

Curate Revd. Nicki Bradford Tel. 733 360

nicki.bradford@hotmail.com

Readers Mrs Viv Chesterton, B.A. Tel: 733 568

3 Bishop Road, Nether Stowey TA5 1NP

Mrs Maggie Harrison Tel: 732 532

32 Old Farm Road, Nether Stowey, TA5 1PE

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: 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 Tel: 732 855

Email: qv.benefice@gmail.com

Results of the Church/Community Survey

Earlier in the year, the Deanery conducted a survey of communities to discover people's views on what their local church meant to them. The purpose of this was to consider what actions need to be taken to ensure that expectations are met, and the needs of communities addressed in the light of changes which are taking place in churches across the nation.

Here is a brief resume of the findings:

Ranking most highly in the relevance of Church life were Major Festivals (Christmas, Easter etc); Funerals and Weddings. Also, of interest to people were Civic and National Events, Heritage and History of church buildings; Charitable Events and Social activities. Private Prayer and Regular Services were also mentioned.

So far as the content of services is concerned, the highest scores were for Music, Prayer and Teaching. The Church is seen as a focus for social cohesion, stability and a focal point, and a resource for youth and children. There was overwhelming support for the churches input into local schools.

Wider issues mentioned were Environment, Racial Equality, Immigration and Social Problems.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the survey. If you have any further question, please contact Kate on 671168.

Rev'd Kate Sax



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Wednesday 7th December: Christmas Crafts Wednesday 21st December: Christmas Celebrations

Wednesday 4th January: Forget-me-Not Cafe 4th Birthday Wednesday 18th January: Coffee, Chat & Home Made Cake Wednesday 1st February: Coffee, Chat & Home Made Cake

Helen and Rose would like to thank everyone who has supported the Forget-me-Not Cafe throughout the year, especially Kay, Rosemary, Dot, Lynne, Rosamund, Jane, Sulvie, Philippa, Kelly, you are all wonderful.

And Thank You to everyone who has helped our fundraising efforts including HPC, and SPS for buses for our trips out - it is very much appreciated by all of us in the

We wish all our friends and supporters a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



The Strummers of Stogursey came to the Cafe in October, lots of fun was had by all. (Photo: Helen Cuttell)

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 for a cuppa and see what the Café is about.

For more information please contact:

Helen: 01278 733451 cuttellhelen@gmail.com Rose: 07507 374234 rosechalk@icloud.com

ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with deep sadness that his family announce the death of Jack McWilliam, who passed away peacefully on 9th November aged 92 years. Beloved husband of Julia, and much-loved father, grandfather and great grandfather. Jack was first and foremost a family man, who used his gifts generously for the good of others, earning the affection and respect of the local and wider communities whom he served without reserve. The funeral service is at Over Stowey Parish Church on Thursday 1st December at 11am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for the Royal British Legion and Alzheimer's Research UK. Please visit www.jackmcwilliam.muchloved.com or alternatively send to Grandfield & Son, Funeral Directors, Nether Stowey, Bridgwater, TA5 1HZ.

Warmth and Welcome in Nether Stowey

As the days get shorter and colder there are many ways to find company and warmth in Nether Stowey.

St Mary's Church Centre

Wednesday Welcome: weekly from 3-5.30pm: An opportunity to get together in a warm space for hot drink, toast and social time. All ages welcome for as little or as long as you wish.

Wednesday Club: weekly in school term time from 10-2. Social activities and lunch for older members of the community. Please contact Maggie (732532) or Tina (732382) for further details

Advent lunches: Fridays from November 26th – December 16th 12 – 2pm. Join us for home-made soup and bread.

Christmas Community lunch: Sunday 4th December 12.30 for 1pm. All welcome for a free Christmas dinner. Please prebook by contacting Freda (732768) or the benefice office.

Christingle service: Wednesday 7th December 4pm Free to all. Any donations will be given to the Children's Society

Christmas Coffee Morning: Saturday 10th December 10.30 – 12pm. Come chat over coffee and home-made cake. Donations in aid of Motor Neurone Disease.

Christmas Day Lunch: December 25th. Singles or Couples welcome at Nether Stowey Church Centre.

Contact Beth 07910 342054 or Eleanor 01278 734777

New Year Coffee morning: January 14th 10.30 – 12 Come chat over cake and coffee or tea

For further details about any of these events please contact Rev'd NIcki Bradford (733360) or the benefice office (732855)

Thomas Poole Library

The Thomas Poole library is registered as a warm space. All are welcome to come in during opening hours for free tea and coffee, warmth and signposting advice. You do not need to be a member to use this facility.

The Quantock Messenger Team are looking for one or two people who could offer a couple of hours a month, usually a weekend, to help put the Messenger together. This is a mechanical process and you would be working with at least one other person. Full training will be given. If you think you could help please contact Richard on 732412, email r.beer852@ btinternet.com.



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If you are interested please send your CV and cover letter to stoweybearspreschool@outlook.com as soon as possible

QUANTOCK FOODBANK

The Quantock Foodbank at Watchet - collections of your donated non-perishable (and in-date!) foods, toiletries, and cleaning products are taken by a team of volunteers every Monday by 11am from the doorway of the Church Centre in Nether Stowey.

No-one likes to admit they are in need, but with a voucher from a GP, a Health Visitor, a Social Worker or Citizens Advice Bureau, arrival at the Foodbank is dealt with kindly and professionally - and always non-judgmentally.

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NETHER STOWEY FOOTBALL CLUB



TRAINING DATES AUTUMN 2022

DAY	TIME	AGE	CONTACT	INFORMATION
MON	5:30- 6:30PM	U12 (YR 7)	MATT ATHERTON 07903 231891	Training and matches. Please call Matt to confirm
MON	6:30- 8PM	U13 (YR 8)	MIKE MUNT 07775 808417	Training and matches. Please call Mike to confirm.
TUES	4:15 - 5:15PM	U7 & U8 (YR 2&3)	JENNI THORNE 07899 804119	Training only. First session Tues 13 th Sept. Feel free to just turn up!!!
TUES	5:30- 6:15PM	U6 (YR 1)	MIKE DEAR 07715 576340	Training only. First session Tues 20 th Sept. Feel free to just turn up!!!
TUES	6:15- 7:15PM	WOMENS (16+)	STEVE EASDEN 07788 370014	Training and Occasional matches. Just turn up!
WEDS	5-6PM	GIRLS Age 13-15 (Yrs 9-11)	STEVE EASDEN 07788 370014	Training only at present. Just turn up! First session Tues 20th Sept
WEDS	6:15- 8PM	MENS (16+)	STEVE EASDEN 07788 370014	Training and League matches Sat and Sun. Call for more info.
THURS	6-7PM	U9 (YR 4)	07890 451694	Training and matches. Please call Rich to confirm.
FRI	5:15- 6:15PM	U12 (YR 7)	MATT ATHERTON 07903 231891	Training and matches. Please call Matt to confirm.

All training takes place weekly at Nether Stowey Recreation Ground on the MUGA 4g Pitch. Please contact individual coaches for more info including costs. Suitable footwear (Trainers / Moulded boots) needed along with tracksuit / sports top / shorts).

Registration for U6 and U7/8 Sessions will be done at first training session that the child is able to attend.

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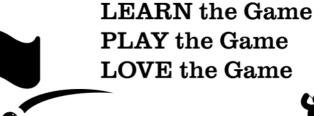
07921920113 - Lisa White

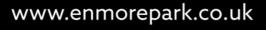
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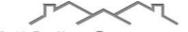
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