

MARCH 2023



QUANTOCK
For Nether Stowey & Over Stowey



Messenger

50p

Memories and thank you

Christine Chilcott.

Christine sadly passed away at Pitney, where she lived with her family on 13th January 2023. A Service of Thanks Giving was held at St Mary's church on 1st February.

Christine was born at Kilve on 10th August 1941. She had an idyllic childhood growing up in Kilve with trips to the beach, picking whorleberries on the hills, ballet lessons and many performances at Kilve Village Hall in shows and pantomimes. She attended Williton secondary school where she became head girl before qualifying as a shorthand typist at Bridgwater Technical College. She worked for an insurance firm in Bridgwater before marrying Morley Chilcott at Kilve church and moving to Venn Farm, Brompton Regis. Here Morley and Christine ran a small dairy herd with a flock of sheep. Their only child, Deborah was born while they lived there.

In 1965 they sold Venn Farm and moved with Morley's parents to 25 Castle St where Morley, his father and brother established R Chilcott and Sons builders. Christine did the admin and kept the accounts for the business while also working as farm secretary at Durborough Farm until she retired.

Her home was always filled with friends and family with Christine making sure everyone had a drink and something to eat. After many happy years at Castle Street, Christine and Morley retired to Bannesson Road. Christine made the journey to Kilve daily to care for her parents and following her father's death her Mum came to Bannesson Road to live with them. Christine showed the same love and devotion to her Mum as she had to Morley's parents while caring for them.

Sadly, Morley died in 2012 and due to her own ill health, it became necessary for her to move in with Deborah and her husband Alan. She loved been in the heart of the family and frequent visits from her six Great Grandchildren.

Mum was remembered as a kind and loving person. A beautiful soul with a heart of gold and always a smile upon her face. I am very grateful for the kind words of condolence received and for the donations to the Alzheimer's Society and the Musgrove Leukaemia Group Somerset made in Mum's memory.

With volunteer meetings, training, and inductions as well as gardening, quill sharpening and conservation, there has been lots going on at the Cottage to prepare for opening on 22nd March. The closed season provides a great opportunity to care and for the building and our collection. The scaffolding went up last month, and the builders have come to replace some of the tiles on the roof.

We also complete the annual winter clean of our collection. Our volunteers were invited to the cottage to get involved, it was lovely to catch up with them and have the Cottage buzzing with people once again.

Fuelled on tea and cake, our volunteers have done an amazing job hoovering and dusting all the objects and rooms, leaving the cottage sparkling from top to bottom. They have left everything covered up, and our objects have acid free hats on ready to be uncovered in late March.

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes at Coleridge Cottage? Our conservation volunteer look after, check and document our collection so we can continue to share Coleridge's story with our visitors. You do not need an experience or knowledge of conservation to volunteer and be willing to learn new skills and be apart of an enthusiastic team. If this sounds like fun, don't hesitate to email coleridge.cottage@nationaltrust.org.uk or pop in for a chat when we open on 22nd March.

Coleridge Cottage will be open between 22nd March – 29th October this year. We are open for an extra day this year, Wednesday-Sunday, 11am-5pm. With our new site manager, Charlotte Bailey, just started brimming with enthusiasm and new ideas, there is already lots in the works for this year already! Keep an eye out on social media and the website for updates on what will be happening.

Charlotte Hall
Visitor Experience Officer
Coleridge.cottage@nationaltrust.org.uk
01278732662



CLUBS & SOCIETIES IN NETHER STOWEY & OVER STOWEY

Allotment Association

Bruce Roper 732 043

Coleridge Probus Club

Philip Comer (01984) 656 720

Coleridge Cottage

Tel: 732 662

Friends of Coleridge

Helen Boyles helenmboyles@gmail.com

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 Art Group

Mac Muir 01278 732382

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

Over Stowey Village Hall

Jackie Barrow 07891 720565

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

Roy Osborne 734604

Stowey Walking

Lynne Abbott 732 228

Thomas Poole Library, Nether Stowey

Sian Stafford 732 741

Wednesday Club

Maggie Harrison 732 532

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 or email r.beer852@btinternet.com.

Your Messenger Team

Please email articles/photos to:

editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk

Please email adverts to:

advertising@quantockmessenger.org.uk

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

DIARY DATES 2023

Every Monday (except Bank Holidays) - Toddler Storytime - 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 of the month - Evening talk at the Library
7.30pm - 9pm - TPL

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

Wednesday 8th March @ 7.30pm-The Sound of one handBy Author
Satyadasa.

Wednesday- 22nd March 2023 Colerdige Cottage Opens until 29th October 2023.

Sunday 16th April 2023 APCM @ Over Stowey Church @ 10.30 a.m.

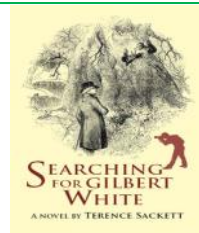
Sunday 126th April 2023 APCM @ Nether Stowey Churvh Centre @ 12 noon.

NSCC - Nether Stowey Church Centre
OSVH - Over Stowey Village Hall

NSVH - Nether Stowey Village Hall
TPL - Thomas Poole Library,
Nether Stowey

Searching for Gilbert White

A Novel By Terence Sackett



Local author Terence Sackett's third novel is now available on Amazon or from Nether Stowey Post Office. It tells of a photographer's quest to rediscover Gilbert White, Selborne's pioneering 18th-century naturalist.

The internationally famous wildlife photographer Peter Sheldon is recuperating after a bad accident. Obstinate and irascible, he reluctantly takes part in a radical art project to reimagine White.

Unused to working in England, Peter finds pursuing White in leafy Hampshire very different from his usual assignments in remote jungles of the world. How can you get close to a long-dead naturalist? What should he be photographing? Is White there to be reimagined? Or is he simply another victim of the heritage industry?

In a parallel narrative set in 1783, White, the Father of Natural History, and author of 'The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne', is nearing old age and increasingly deaf. He employs Samuel Stokes, a young clockmaker's apprentice, to be his eyes and ears. Samuel is bewitched by the beautiful daughter of a visiting actor, and the two embark on a vindictive ruse to throw White's plans for his book into disarray.

Does Peter succeed in his quest? And what is Gilbert White's true legacy and significance to Selborne visitors today? This novel questions the entire direction of the heritage industry.

The novel is illustrated with period engravings, many from early editions of White's book.

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FLOWER STALL

I would like to express my thanks for all the support given this year to the food bank stall. The funds raised- including the gift aid, totalled £2,131. This includes the takings from the car boot sale held at the party in the park day.

It is my hope that next year, the stall be used more extensively as a 'drop off' base for any excess home grown produce/ and or plants and seedings other local people may have. It is certainly a bonus that the stall is located in a such prominent position on st Mary street, with lots of footfall and passing traffic. Any donations provided can be left at the stall and I can bag and price accordingly.

Sadly we are all very much aware of the continuing demand and pressure placed on the functioning and running of the food banks, with few indications that this will change for the year coming -2023.

So thank you once again for your purchases across the months in 2022.

Deb Foy





If you love gardens or gardening, enjoy hearing about or visiting beautiful gardens, want to pick up lots of tips or add to your garden knowledge, enjoy a social gathering of enthusiasts like listening to experts on a wide variety of gardening subjects.....

then come and join our monthly club!

We meet at the Church Centre, St. Mary's Street, Nether Stowey, TA5 1LJ, every 3rd Thursday of the month at 7.00 for 7.30. Come as a visitor to try us out. £5 for a talk including tea/coffee & cakes and there is a raffle and garden table too. Annual membership is £20. Car sharing available for visits.

Contact Lucy Haswell, Secretary. Phone: 01278 671289

website: <https://sites.google.com/site/stoweygardeners>

Spring/Summer Events 2023

Thursday 16th March - A talk by Michael Smith Hanging Baskets and Containers

Thursday 20th April - A talk by Josh Hartnell Orchids

Friday 21st April 2.30pm - Car visit to Barford Park, Spaxton TA5 1AG

Saturday 29th April - Plant Sale at The Thomas Poole Library, Nether Stowey

Thursday 18th May a talk by Dr Gavin Haig Creating a Wildlife Garden

Tuesday 23rd May - Car visit to Hillcrest, Curload, Stoke St Gregory TA3 6JA

Thursday 15th June - A talk by Margaret Adams, Living with the Boss (Tales of a Farmer's Wife)

Thursday 22nd June - Car visit to Vexford Court, Higher Vexford, Lydeard St Lawrence TA4 3QF

Tuesday 11th July - Car visit to Avalon, Higher Chillington, Ilminster TA19 0PT

Thursday 20th July - A talk by Claire Hart, Poultry Keeping for Beginners - you can have hens and a nice garden

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

The Nether Stowey Quantock Quilters Group have just celebrated their 10th Birthday and our membership is still growing. All Sewing and Quilting ladies (or Gentlemen) are welcome, experienced and beginners.

We are a friendly village group with many activities and workshops planned for the next 12 months.

Pop in for a coffee and chat to see what the group is about.

Stowey Green Spaces Group has planted more than a thousand trees over the past few years so it may seem strange that in February the Group, through the Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme supporting “Young Somerset” apprentices, cut down around one in 6 or 7 of the trees in Millennium Wood. There are several reasons for this. The original planting was densely packed which encouraged upward growth (some of the trees are six metres (20feet) or more after 22 years), but also meant many were spindly with lots of dead under-branches. Making more space will allow the remaining trees to become more robust, and gaps in the tree canopy will allow more light to reach the ground in places, encouraging other plants to grow. This will give a more diverse environment, including some young saplings which in turn will eventually mature giving a better age structure to the tree population. The apprentices, under their supervisors, have done an excellent and tidy job and it is hoped in the future to collect up the stacks of timber and sell for firewood.

After the successful November planting, work also continued on Platinum Wood with flowering shrubs being planted on the high ground above the old silage pit. The lower part of this area will then be seeded with a grass and wild flower mix in April, and possibly bulbs planted along the hedge line. One other task since Christmas has been to clear bramble from the hedge planted along Jubilee Wood fence above the junction with Millennium Wood fence. The hedge had not been cared for since planting in 2012 and needed tree guards removing, bramble cutting out, and some pruning to reshape straggly branches. Finally, in Stowey Wood yet more brambles were cut away along a wide strip of the entrance drive in from the gate to the picnic table. This gives a more open look, and it is hoped will encourage a display of primroses and other wild flowers in the spring.

In conclusion both gates, directly to Millennium Wood and through New Stowey Farm, are now open and we hope that the better weather and access will encourage many more people to enjoy the onset of spring

Stowey Centre Project

Building a NEW Community Centre for Nether Stowey

Update of Progress

After a challenging couple of year due to the pandemic, a planning application was submitted in January 2022. Trustees worked incredibly hard to submit a planning application to Sedgemoor District Council for a new village hall with changing rooms, a car park and appropriate vehicle and pedestrian access. The building is to be located in the North-West corner of the recreation ground backing onto the cemetery boundary and alongside the A39 with access off the old A39. Full plans and supporting documents can be viewed on the [Sedgemoor District Planning Portal](#)

An ecology survey established that the site lies within a conservation area for rare species of bats.

Therefore significant delays have hit the project as specialist ecologists assess that the mitigating factors the project proposes, such as planting native trees and low level lighting will not negatively impact the bat population.

We have been reassured that Planning Permission will be granted once these assessments have been completed and determine that the project will not have adverse impacts upon the ecology of the area,

In the meantime, the project team have secured £50,000 of funding from the Sedgemoor District Council Rural Village Hall Capital fund which will be used to perform preliminary work. Funding applications to the Football Foundation, National Lottery Community Foundation, HPC Community Mitigation Fund and various other grants are progressing - amounting to circa £1,000,000.

Grant providers ask for 'match funding' - this is like a deposit when asking the bank for a mortgage to buy a house. The projects match funding will come from the sale of the old village hall. A revised outline planning application for 4 affordable homes will be submitted to Sedgemoor District Council to increase the value of the land.



Sedgemoor District Council
Bridgwater House, King Square,
Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 3AR
Website: www.sedgemoor.gov.uk
Telephone: 0300 303 7805

Development Management
Reference: 36/21/00030
Contact: Mr A Noon
development.management@sedgemoor.gov.uk

**Trustees of Nether Stowey Village Hall and Recreation
Ground CIO reg 1176413**

By email

Date: 13 December 2022

Dear Sirs,

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (As Amended)

Application No: 36/21/00030

Application Type: Full Planning Permission

Applicant: Nether Stowey Parish Council

Location: Nether Stowey Playing Field, St. Marys Field, Nether Stowey, Bridgwater, Somerset

Proposal: Erection of a replacement village hall with multi-use function hall, community facilities, changing rooms for sports and recreational use and erection of a caretaker/machine store. Demolition of cabin and shelter and formation of 4no. football pitches.

Sedgemoor District Council as the local planning authority wishes to confirm its support in principle for the proposed "*Erection of a replacement village hall with multi-use function hall, community facilities, changing rooms for sports and recreational use and erection of a caretaker/machine store. Demolition of cabin and shelter and formation of 4no. football pitches*", as set out in application number 36/21/00030.

The application has been subject to thorough local consultations and the applicant has made a number of changes to address issues that have been identified. As a result all matters of detail are now agreed to the satisfaction of the local planning authority with the sole exception of possible ecological impact on bats.

Whilst the supporting information indicates that there would be no adverse impact on bats, as the responsible body, the local authority as decision maker, is required to carry out a Habitats Regulation Assessment to demonstrate that there would be no likely significant effect. In this respect, it has been necessary to request further information with regard to flight paths, lighting and habitats. The local planning authority has no reason to assume (with such information) that it would indicate a likely affect that cannot be appropriately mitigated and the applicant's ecologist is in advanced discussions with the County Council ecologist to resolve these outstanding matters.

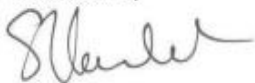
As soon as the additional information has been provided a Habitats Regulation Assessment will be carried out which is likely to recommend that conditions be imposed on the grant of planning permission to secure appropriate mitigation to safeguard bats.

It is only this issue that is holding up the determination of the application. Given that this is simply a matter of agreeing the necessary ecological safeguarding conditions, the local planning authority wishes to provide this letter of comfort to assure the applicant's funding body that planning permission will be issued under our delegated powers as soon as the Habitats Regulations assessment has been carried out. To confirm then, there are no other obstacles to the grant of planning permission for the scheme.

In issuing this letter of comfort the Council has given authority to the CIO for this letter to be forwarded to any prospective Funder in support of the of any application the CIO has made

or intends to make in relation to the Stowey Centre Project. This is in recognition of that the District Council regards the project as an important local community initiative and will continue to use its reasonable endeavours to support its progress as a priority.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Houlet

Assistant Director - Inward Investment and Growth

We aim to comply with current Data Protection legislation; please refer to our Privacy Notice at www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/planningprivacy

Flexercise is returning to Spaxton with Age UK Somerset

Specially designed for people over 60, Flexercise is a gentle, chair-based exercise session which uses fun props and laughter to get you moving. Age UK Somerset invite you to join them at Spaxton Village Hall to get fitter, feel better, meet new people and have some fun!

After a short break, the class will be restarting on Thursday 9th February and will be held fortnightly. The session costs £3 - pre-booking is advised. You can call 01823 345624 for more information or to book your place.

SUBSCRIPTION PAYMENT FOR DELIVERED QUANTOCK MESSENGERS

The Annual Subscription of £5.00 for 2023 (ten copies) will be collected in April or May by our Distributors when they deliver your magazine.

Thank you for your continued support in purchasing the hard copy issues.

News from the Quantock Medical Centre

Our Main news is that Helen Every our Advanced Nurse Practitioner has had to Retire prematurely for health reasons and the Patient Group would like to Thank Helen for all her support, hard work and dedication to the Practice by putting on an afternoon Tea Party for Patients to come and say a big THANK YOU and Good Luck with your Retirement. Helen has been working as a nurse for 43 years and we have been very lucky to have her working with us for the last 7 Years.

The Tea Party will be at the:

St Marys Church Centre on Wednesday 8th March from 3pm – 5pm,

all welcome so please come along and join in. If you would like to make a donation towards a leaving gift you can drop this into the Practice for safe keeping.

AGE UK Walk & Talk

We are aware of many residents in the village that have become increasingly isolated and lonely since Covid, many have lost their confidence, become weaker through not leaving their homes, not joining in with the activities they used to belong to. Age UK Somerset offer a number of services including a Walk and Talk service for anyone over 60 years old.

This free 'Walk and Talk' service aims to support older people who would like to get out and benefit from fresh air and being more active but don't feel very confident about going out by themselves or would just appreciate some company.

After clients have registered, they will be matched with a suitable volunteer. Then over an initial 16-week period, clients will be called for by the volunteer each week, who will then go out with them for a short walk starting from (and returning to) the client's home.

The pace of the walks will be set by the client and will not be strenuous. Every client is different and so the duration of the walks will be tailored to their needs and wishes. The social aspect of having a friendly chat during the meeting is seen as

just as important as the walk!

What are the benefits of the service?

- ✦ An increase in confidence
- ✦ An increase in fitness
- ✦ A reduction in feelings of loneliness or isolation
- ✦ Improvement in physical, mental and emotional wellbeing
- ✦ Meeting new people, making new connections

Being introduced to new activities in the area

Age Concern are also in need of Volunteers to support this service in our area. If you might be interested in becoming a Volunteer for this service they would be delighted to hear from you! Please [learn more on our Volunteering page](#) of AGE UK Somerset or

email volunteers@ageuksomerset.org.uk or call [01823 345627](tel:01823345627).)

FUND RAISING FOR EQUIPMENT

On another note altogether: we would like to organise some fund raising events this year to raise money for new equipment at the surgery.

There are many new devises that would help save clinical time and free up additional appointments particularly for our nursing team. For example, one procedure we are required to do for patients with leg ulcers and compression hosiery is to take annual Doppler readings – pulse readings of patients.

This process can take over an hour with our current Doppler machine, however there is a new Doppler Machine in the market which will cost approx. £3500 and will only take the nurse 20 minutes instead of an hour with improved readings from new technology, and a much better experience for the patient.

We also maintain the village Defib on the front of the surgery. This costs the practice approximately £1000 a year including heating and lighting to maintain the batter life, its annual health check, defib pads for children and adults (£300 each time they are used) and a new battery (£350).

We would like to ask if anyone would support us by holding a fund raising event to help ? Maybe you could put on a coffee and cake morning, a tea party in your garden when the weather is better, a beetle drive, a quiz night, or support an auction of skills and promises. If you are interested in supporting your village surgery please do get in touch to discuss.

Thank you for your Support.

Helen Stacey – Practice Manager

Over Stowey and Nether Stowey Annual Meetings

Each year, like other organisations, our churches hold an Annual Meeting often referred to as the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). All are welcome to attend one or both of the meetings to hear about the work of the church in the last twelve months and what is ahead.

The meeting for Over Stowey Church is on Sunday 16th April at 10:30am in the Church after the morning service at 9:30am.

The meeting for Nether Stowey Church is on Sunday 16th April at 12noon in the Church Centre after the morning service at 11:00am.

To be able to vote at the meeting, you need to be on the relevant church's Electoral Roll both of which are being revised in preparation for the meeting. If you are on the Electoral Roll, you do not need to do anything. However, if you would like your name to be added, or removed, please contact Kerry Trout, 2 Bishop Road, tel: 732112 for Nether Stowey Church and for Over Stowey Church, please contact Jean Higginson, Bincombe Tops, tel: 732102 both by Tuesday 28th March at the latest. Alternatively, please contact the Benefice Office – 01278 732855.

The new Electoral Rolls will be published on Friday 31st March, in the church and Church Centre porches, and will be available there for inspection until the APCM. If you would like a copy, please contact the Benefice Office.



Now that the weather is getting warmer, evenings are getting lighter and spring is in the air, we have a couple of new activities for you:

Chess Time started on Thursday 9th February. This new group meet every Thursday evening, 5pm to 6.30pm. Join us to learn the basics, discover new moves and have fun! All ages and abilities are welcome.

Or, if you enjoy play reading and are looking for a group of other like-minded people, come and join our **Play Reading Group** which has recently restarted. They meet at the library at 2pm on the first Wednesday of each month.

For more information about either group, contact Sian by popping by the library during opening hours or e-mail: eventsandpr@thomaspoolibrary.org.uk

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

Toddler Storytime: Mondays 11am to 11.30am

Chess Time: Thursdays 5pm to 6.30pm

Knit and Natter: Fridays 10.30am to 12 noon. Bring your own project or just come for a natter

Play Reading: First Wednesday of the month at 2pm

MONTHLY TALKS:

Join us for our monthly talks in the library. Start time is 7.30pm and bookings will be required.

Coming soon:

Wednesday 8th March – 'The Sound of One Hand' - A reading by the author Satyadasa (no entrance fee but all donations will go to Alfoxton Park)

Wednesday 12th April - Maritime History of Somerset by Adrian Webb (entrance fees are £3.50 for members and £4.50 non-members).

Opening Hours

Monday and Wednesday 10am to 1pm, Thursday 4pm to 7pm,
Friday 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm,
Saturday 10am -1pm

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

CLASSIFIEDS ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements are accepted in good faith, but customers should satisfy themselves that advertisers are able to supply the services they offer and that they have valid DBS checks and qualifications as appropriate.

GARDENING WITH NICK

March 2023

February is now behind us and with the days getting longer we can hopefully look forward to a busy March in the garden or on the allotment. This is a month for 'spring cleaning' the garden and getting started on seed sowing and planting.

Ornamentals: borders can be forked over and crowded 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 for friends (or perhaps future village plant sales!) Take care to dig out any perennial weeds such as bindweed, couch grass and buttercup. 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 such as camellias, rhododendrons and heathers as it may contain some chalk (alkaline). 50-75mm (2-3") of mulch will not only keep the moisture in the ground for longer but also act as a suppressant for annual weeds. If done regularly it really helps to improve the structure of the soil resulting in better root run, drainage and water and nutrient retention. Lift, divide and replant snowdrops after flowering helping to establish bigger drifts for the future.

Pruning: This is 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. 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).

It is not too late to plant a choice winter flowering shrub which will provide a good display for future winters. *Lonicera x purpusii* (Winter flowering honeysuckle) is excellent as is *Hamamelis mollis* (the Chinese Witch Hazel and *Daphne bholua* 'Jaqueline Postill') and for climbers one of the winter flowering *Clematis* such as *Clematis cirrhosa* 'Wisley Cream'.

Vegetables: As the soil warms up, particularly if cloches or poly-thene have been laid on the surface, it is the month to get some early sowings of vegetables underway. 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 Foremost and Pentland Javelin (Casablanca is a very early variety and RHS recommended) 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.

Do remember to avoid working on the soil if it is too wet. Waiting until the ground has dried out sufficiently is always worth it.

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. Take the opportunity to tidy up ragged or weedy lawn edges.

Finally, do not forget wildlife in our gardens. Perhaps a bird box, bee and insect 'hotels', and plants to encourage pollinators or perhaps choosing a wildlife seed mixture for a corner of the garden or allotment.

Nick Rigden



Nether Stowey & Fiddington WI

We had a very informative member of the “Freewheelers” to give a talk about the wonderful work these volunteers carry out. Our speaker, John Taylor, started with a sort of striptease, starting with his specialised crash helmet, costing a staggering £850 with a built-in radio (which they have to buy), then gradually peeling off four layers of protective clothing, including a hi-viz jacket, a heated jacket and an air-inflating jacket should they be involved in an accident. Their powerful motorcycles cost about £18,000, and have trackers, but they don't use blue flashing lights any longer so they are not mistaken for the Police.

The charity started in Weston-super-Mare in 1990, when a group of motor-cycle enthusiasts got together and decided they could put their love of motorcycling to good use by benefiting the community. They have to have been driving for at least a year and must be approved by ROSPA.

They work from 7pm to 7am, for 4 shifts, every evening throughout the year, and all day Saturday and Sunday, so there are 3 bikes available for deliveries every night, which can run to 200+ miles a night. In 2015 the Freewheelers started working with the Great Western and Wiltshire Air Ambulances, 24/7, delivering 2 units of blood every night throughout the year. This additional service and cost is also free to the Air Ambulance and the NHS. They deliver any medical items that can be carried on a bike, but not organs for transplant as this is a specialised job.

In 2022 they did a massive $\frac{1}{4}$ million miles on 3 bikes

All drivers work from home; emergency calls for their services are received from one Coordinator for this area, but they work with other groups in relay if the products they are carrying are to be delivered to a hospital outside of their area, so there is good co-operation between services.

They also occasionally deliver urgent products to private homes, nursing homes and out-on-call midwives, with certain conditions, and only if other transport isn't available. This vital service saves the NHS money that would otherwise have to be spent on taxis and couriers. They save the NHS a staggering amount about $\frac{1}{2}$ million a year. During Covid they delivered 800 gowns to two hospitals and also delivered Covid test samples. During 2020-2021 they made over 7,792 deliveries covering more than 225,000 miles.

They receive corporate sponsorships and during the recent price increases in petrol and oil they received a generous donation from BP. In 2008 they received The Queen's Award for Voluntary Services, something to be really proud of.

Our next meeting will be our AGM, but on 13 April we will be welcoming back retired fishmonger Kevin Little, whose last talk was very funny and we hope this will be just as entertaining. Meetings start of 2.00 pm and entrance includes refreshments and a raffle ticket.

AB

The January meeting was a quiet one for a number of reasons, therefore some of the items on the agenda were deferred to February.

Regarding concerns and requests about the roads and signage that are still ongoing, Cllr Bolt has been following up with the relevant Highways officer who has committed to contacting the Clerk to arrange another visit to the parish to review the issues. To date the Clerk has not had any communications and will contact Traffic Management again. The Clerk will update further at the next meeting.

Various potholes and problems with drains/gullies have been reported and if you notice a pothole that does need reporting, you can do this online at the Somerset County Council web page [Report A Problem on the Road](#) or at [Fix My Street](#)

With regards to problems with drains and gullies, the Parish Council has had the following response from the Highways Department:

‘the budget for cleansing gullies has been spent for this year therefore an order to check the drains and gullies will be issued next financial year. Warning signs can be erected if the route becomes impassable’

Blocked drains and gullies can still be reported, but no action will be taken by the Highways Department until funding allows.

Also, a reminder about the March 15th 2023 meeting - those landowners who have a boundary adjacent to the highway in the parish are invited to attend to put forward any ideas and suggestions they have which might help formulate the plans regarding the proposal that the Parish Council take on the verge cutting service. Support from landowners who have their own boundary maintenance responsibilities will be very much welcomed and appreciated.

For details on the upcoming unitary authority, please visit the [New Somerset Council](https://www.new-somerset-council.co.uk/) website.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 15th 2023 and the following one will be held on Wednesday 15th March. 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.

Notes from Nether Stowey Parish Council

Good News

The Parish Council are delighted to announce that the funding is now in place to deliver the 16 affordable houses originally promised at the Cricketer development. We are very grateful to Duncan Harvey and his team at Housing Development at Sedgemoor District Council who secured grants from Home England and Hinkley Point C in order to buy the houses and ensure the village gets the affordable housing it needs. We also recognise Strongvox's contribution who has kept the houses available at a price that made their purchase viable for Sedg. The terms of the grants mean that the houses will be for rent only. The first four houses will be available in July, with 6 more coming in October and the remaining six a year later in October 2024. Priority will be given to applicants with a local connection who are registered for housing in the Emergency, Gold or Silver categories.

The terms of the grants mean that the houses will be for rent only. The first four houses will be available in July, with 6 more coming in October and the remaining six a year later in October 2024. Priority will be given to applicants with a local connection who are registered for housing in the Emergency,

If you are interested in one of these houses, you must be registered with Homefinder Somerset and we advise that you do this as soon as possible so that you can bid for houses when they are advertised. It can take two months for applications to be assessed, and you cannot bid for homes until the process is complete. You can register online at www.homefindersomerset.co.uk. If you can't do it online there will be opportunities to meet an adviser in Nether Stowey to register you and explain the process.

Remember: if you don't register, you can't bid, and if you don't bid you can't be considered for one of these homes.

Further information will be available in the coming few weeks. Look out on local notice boards, the Parish Council's website and on social media (Facebook and Nextdoor) for details and the dates of events where you can get help and advice.

More good news

Cllr Kevin Ferriday has successfully secured a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund for the climbing frame equipment for the Playing Field. This takes us one step closer to making it a reality for everyone to enjoy.

We are still looking for Volunteer Footpath Strimmers. Training and equipment are provided. Until new volunteers come forward, maintenance of the paths are the responsibility of landowners (in some cases the County Council). Problems can be reported to the footpaths team using the interactive map at <https://roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map> or to the Parish Office.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 13 March at the Church Centre at 7pm.

Website : www.netherstowey-pc.gov.uk

Nether Stowey Wednesday Club

Join us every Wednesday (except Easter)

St Mary's Church Centre

10am-2pm

Coffee & Lunch at 12 noon

Raffle

We welcome all ages 70 + 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



**FORGET-ME-NOT-CAFÉ
JUBILEE ROOMS, CASTLE STREET, STOGURSEY
EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY 10.30 – 12 NOON**

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.

We enjoy all sorts of activities including music, bingo, singing, puzzles, art and craft, in a friendly environment.

We also offer a friendly and confidential chat if you need it.

Please note that our guests with memory issues must be accompanied by a family member, friend or carer.

**Upcoming Café Dates:
Wednesday 15th February
Wednesday 1st March
Wednesday 15th March
Wednesday 29th March
Wednesday 12th April**

**All are welcome to come along for coffee and a chat.
Helen and Rose look forward to seeing you soon.**

For more information please contact:

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

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 call **0800 298 2009**

Vandalism on the Quantock Hills call **101**

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

County Councillor:

Michael Caswell 01278 652 043

MCaswell@somerset.gov.uk

District Councillors

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

Jackie Barrow

07891720565

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

CHURCH SERVICES MARCH 2023

	5th March 2 nd Sunday of Lent	12th March 3 rd Sunday of Lent	19th March Mothering Sunday	26th March 5 th Sunday of Lent
Nether Stowey	11:00am Morning Worship (C/Centre)	11:00am Holy Communion (C/Centre)	11:00am Morning Worship for Mothering Sunday (C/Centre)	11:00am Holy Communion (C/Centre)
Over Stowey	6:30pm Evensong	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9:30am Morning Worship for Mothering Sunday	9:30am Morning Worship
Aisholt	11:00am Matins	3.30pm Evensong	11:00am Holy Communion (BCP)	11:00am Matins
Enmore	11:00am Holy Communion	11.00am Family Worship	11.00am Morning Worship for Mothering Sunday	11:00am Holy Communion
Goathurst	9.30amam Morning Worship	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Worship for Mothering Sunday	6:30pm Holy Communion (BCP)
Spaxton	9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Holy Communion	11:00am Morning Worship for Mothering Sunday	9:30am Morning Worship

I wann'a tell you a story!

I wonder how many of you remember Tommy Cooper and that phrase! His form of comedy was largely slap-stick and not one I found particularly funny but I do remember that he loved to tell silly stories! I am not very good at remembering jokes, but a good story is much easier to remember.

Have you ever thought of writing a book? Do you think there is something really interesting which has happened in your life which would interest and perhaps inspire other people? Truth to tell we all have a story but many of us don't think so. Often others tell a story about us, sadly this occurs at funerals and leaves us wondering how little we knew about the deceased!

Stories are powerful and that is why Jesus did a great deal of his teaching in the form of parables – or stories. The Bible is full of stories – stories which despite their age, ring very true for us still today. Like the funeral stories however, so many people do not know the stories of the characters in the Bible and therefore do not benefit from the support, insight and encouragement that those stories can bring us.

Children love and thrive on stories. Bible stories are told in thousands of schools up and down the country in a way called “Open the Book” which involves small teams acting out over 100 Bible stories. We have three Primary schools in this area – Nether Stowey, Enmore and Spaxton. These are all Church of England schools and they do benefit from Open the Book but we need more people to get involved – to join existing teams and bring the Bible alive through storytelling. Please think about this and if you would like to know more give me a call or e-mail.

Kate.kinkiizi@gmail.com 01278 671168

Thank you!

CHURCH CONTACT POINTS

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

Rector	<u>Revd. Eleanor King</u> The Rectory, 25 St Mary St, Nether Stowey TA5 1LJ eleanor.king@hotmail.com	Tel: 734 777
Associate Priest	<u>Revd. Kate Sax</u> The Vicarage, Church Road, Spaxton TA5 1DA kate.kinkiizi@gmail.com Working days: Sun, Tues, Wed	Tel. 671 168
Curate	<u>Revd. Nicki Bradford</u> nicki.bradford@hotmail.com	Tel. 733 360
Readers	<u>Mrs Viv Chesterton, B.A.</u> 3 Bishop Road, Nether Stowey TA5 1NP <u>Mrs Maggie Harrison</u> 32 Old Farm Road, Nether Stowey, TA5 1PE <u>Mrs Alison Hoare</u> 2 Park Cottages, Over Stowey <u>Mrs Jeanette Bole</u> Putsham Mead, Kilve TA5 1DZ	Tel: 733 568 Tel: 732 532 Tel: 732 350 Tel: 741 297
Church Wardens - Nether Stowey	<u>Mr. Alan Simson</u> Weacombe Gate, West Quantoxhead, TA4 4EB <u>Mrs. Gerry Wright</u> 1 Mount Road, Nether Stowey, TA5 1LU	Tel: (01984) 632 773 Tel: 734 584
Church Warden - Over Stowey	<u>Mr. Peter Higginson</u> 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:	<u>Mrs Alison Hoare</u> 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

Warmth and Welcome in Nether Stowey

There are many ways to find company and warmth in Nether Stowey during the cold weather.

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

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.

Quantock Deanery Singers

Following Stainer's Crucifixion last year, the group of singers from Quantock Deanery will be meeting again to prepare for a service of words and music on the Monday of Holy Week (3rd April).

Rather than prepare a single piece this time, we will be rehearsing a wide range of seasonal music – hopefully something for everyone! The first rehearsal will be held on Thursday 9th February in the Church Centre in Nether Stowey at 6.30pm.

Roger Stacey will be conducting the singers and music will be provided. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Sarah King (sarahrking14@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 01278 734777 to let us know you're coming and so we can make sure we have sufficient copies.

A New Year Resolution to consider - How to use less plastics in 2023:

Some really good suggestions from the Christian charity, Tearfund on how each of us can reduce our use of plastics in the coming year. It really is a global problem and needs addressing not just by big companies but by ordinary people, like you and me. Its so important as it not only protects the environment but it also helps to combat climate change and reduce the impact of waste on our global neighbours?

Find a refill shop (and then start using it)

So much of what we buy in the supermarket comes wrapped in needless plastic. Fortunately, more and more shops are popping up where you can refill your own containers with anything from rice to fabric softener to cashews. Find your local refill store and pay it a visit. Also, keep an eye out for refill stations in your local supermarket as many of the large chain stores have been trialling them: they'll spread if we all use them! Many of the smaller refill shops also sell products to help you with the next resolution...

Use reusables

Whether it's a reusable water bottle, coffee cup or shopping bag, there are many opportunities for us to use reusable products rather than single-use ones. And there are always new products on the market to help us avoid single-use plastics. How about using beeswax (or vegan wax) wraps instead of Clingfilm? Or using refillable spray bottles for cleaning products? Or razors with durable handles and replaceable heads (as many companies now provide a recycling service)? You could also use washable and reusable cotton buds or make-up pads, or buy laundry eggs to cut down on detergent and fabric softener packaging. Plastic-free alternatives can be kinder to your wallet too, in the long run. You don't need to go on a shopping spree now, but consider making the switch next time you run out of something.

Say no to single-use plastic items you don't need

Have you ever received unwanted plastic cutlery with your food? How about an unnecessary plastic straw in your drink? Or even products coming in several plastic bags when one (or none) would have sufficed? The only way we can

stop this from happening is to start refusing these items. Politely let the member of staff or company know that you didn't really want or need this plastic item and it might prompt them to give customers the option in the future.

Choose second-hand clothes

Fast fashion has negative impacts on the climate, human rights and natural resources – and creates vast amounts of plastic waste. In fact, much of the plastic that fast fashion brands produce is brand-new, so-called virgin plastic (including polyester, acrylic and nylon). A 2021 study of four of the largest fast fashion brands in the UK found that 80 per cent of items on sale contained some **virgin plastic and 49 per cent were made entirely of new plastic**. Buying second-hand clothes is not only normally better value for money but it also saves clothes from landfill. You could also try a clothes swap event, where you donate unwanted clothes and swap them for items that others have brought along.

Plastic-free periods

Over recent years there's been huge growth in the number of products and brands providing alternative period products that produce little to no plastic waste. Some solutions have been around for a while but there's now a wider

Reusable nappies

Babies get through a lot of nappies before they're potty-trained: **4,000 to 6,000** per child on average. And each disposable nappy contains plastic. Sometimes reverting to more traditional methods, such as cloth nappies, can allow us to live in a less wasteful way. These nappies are washable, reusable and increasingly poonami-proof, with lots of innovative new designs on the market. Washing and drying them is more convenient than you'd think and they are more cost effective than using disposable nappies. You could even find your local '**nappy library**' where you can borrow a box full of different designs to try before you buy.

Organise a local litter pick – ✓ being done by Stowey Green Spaces monthly But perhaps you could look after the street where you live by picking up and deposing of unwanted

litter just outside your home, it's so unsightly, so let's all become litter aware and make steps to becoming a litter free community

Get someone else to do everything you've just done

Everything we've just talked about can be easily amplified by getting someone else (or several people) to commit to making some changes too. Think about where you might have influence, be it with family, friends or colleagues, and talk to them kindly and openly about their plastic use, what you're doing to reduce yours and whether they might like to do the same.

Maggie Harrison

The Marion Evered Trust

Please note the date change for the Charity tractor run below

Dates for your Diary

April 9th Annual Tractor run email terstractors@icloud.com for details and booking

Easter Monday Easter bingo, always very well attended so arrive in time, Eyes down 7.30

July 15th -16th Big Bash cricket weekend in conjunction with Over Stowey Cricket club

Part time cleaner required

Over Stowey Village hall is on the lookout for a part-time cleaner. If you're all about keeping spaces neat and tidy, then this could be the gig for you! The role will include basic cleaning tasks like vacuuming, mopping, dusting, and sanitizing. We're looking for someone who's dependable, pays attention to the little details, flexible hours to suit. For more information contact Bridget at bridgetjtully@gmail.com

Coleridge Cottage Behind the Scenes

Charlotte Hall, the National Trust's Visitor Experience Officer at Coleridge Cottage, spoke in the Library on 8th February about work behind the scenes at the Cottage. In particular she told us about what happens during the Winter months when it is closed.

The Team at the Cottage comprises a Manager (a new one has just been appointed), Charlotte and 75 Volunteers. This year it will be open for five days a week, from Wednesday until Sunday. A short video was played, showing that the core principles of the National Trust are as relevant today as they were when the Trust was founded 127 years ago. Chief of these is conservation in all its forms.

The Cottage aims to tell the Coleridge story. It is, after all, the only place in the country dedicated to the poet and within its walls were written, over a short space of time, some of the most famous poems in our language.

Spirit of place is the key to the visitor experience promoted at the Cottage and evaluating what makes that special for the visitor is important for the Trust. It aims to inspire and encourage.

A typical day for Charlotte begins with opening the shutters and lighting the fire in the large fireplace in the Second Parlour. This was only uncovered in 2011 and is almost certainly the one by which Coleridge sat to write *Frost at Midnight*.

Features like a real open fire are what endear the Cottage to visitors, with the smells of smoke in this room and of herbs and spices in the Kitchen.

Most of the items in the Cottage are not authentic – original – which means that visitors can touch and handle them. The quills are an example. Nevertheless, every one of the 313 pieces have to be conserved as though they were original. There is a conservation plan that is followed for every item.

Depending on the item, everything is cleaned monthly or even daily, but the annual conservation plan requires gilded picture frames and fabrics to be cleaned with different brushes. Acid free tissue hats will cover each object during the Winter months. Items have to be checked for insect damage, which can occur from woodworm, carpet beetles, clothes moths or book lice. Insect traps are set to check which might be present in the building.

Other considerations concern humidity, which is monitored by humidistats and condensation meters, and light discolouration. For this a light dosimeter is used and blinds have been installed to control the potential problem.

Approximately 10,000 visitors come to the Cottage each year, but it is still important to attract new interest, perhaps through the website or partnerships.

Events such as the Autumn Apple Day and Christmas are always popular.

Following his thanks to Charlotte for her talk, Roger Stacey reminded the audience that The Friends of Coleridge Book Collection, one of the finest relating to the poet in the country and housed in the Computer Room is available for inspection by anyone.



The Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme is on a mission to learn more about the wildlife that calls the Quantock Hills and the surrounding countryside, home. The Quantocks supports a huge diversity of wildlife across its many habitat types, and there is a lot of interesting investigation to be done.

This Spring and Summer, QLPS invites you to get involved, whether you are a landowner that can offer us access or a person interested in surveying the local wildlife, there are many ways you can help. We have some training courses coming up, including Dormouse Ecology and Adder Identification, booking is available on the website: www.qlps.org

We are excited to announce that we have expanded our grant scheme to include “Wildflowers for Wildlife” projects. This addition will allow anyone living within the QLPS area to create or restore a wildflower area. This could include a small verge all the way up to an entire meadow, as long as it will be beneficial to wildlife and offers public good. QLPS can offer up to 75% of costs, including ground preparation, seeds, and sowing equipment, all with project advice throughout. You will need to demonstrate cost reasonableness by providing quotes and organising contractors to deliver the work to a high standard.

Our grant scheme will also continue to support:

- New hedge creation and hedgerow restoration (gapping up, coppicing, hedgelaying)
- Traditional Orchard creation and/or restoration
- Planting of individual trees in a parkland or existing hedgerow setting
- Tree surgery to individual trees of particular landscape or wildlife importance
- Restoration or repair of a heritage building or other historic feature
- Replacement or repair of traditional fingerpost road signs by Parish Councils

We have a small team of supervised apprentices that are always looking for jobs. This team can be used for labour on grant schemes if appropriate. For more information on our grant schemes, or if you would like to get involved with our wildlife surveying, please email QLPS Wildlife Officer, Jem Gibson: jem.gibson@somerset.gov.uk or for heritage projects please email QLPS Historic Heritage Officer, Dan Broadbent: dan.broadbent@somerset.gov.uk

Hinkley Point C - Monthly Update

A round up of the latest news from Hinkley Point C



Apprenticeship News

Four EDF apprentices from Hinkley Point C were invited to parliament to attend a Skills and Apprenticeships Fair as part of Nuclear Week in Parliament.

The event brought together apprentices from across the nuclear industry. The event highlighted the industry's brilliant impact across education, skills and apprenticeships. HPC is proud to have already trained over 1,000 apprentices on the project so far.



Heavy Lift Success

One of the Project's heaviest lifts was completed successfully, when the Lance Storage and Transfer Compartment Pools emerged slowly out of the East Pool Bunker to be set down by Big Carl in the Unit 1 Reactor Building.

Weighing in at around 780 tonnes, the lift marked the end of more than 12 months of intense assembly work in the bunker by the EDF Project team and specialist contractor Darchem.

New Partnership with Bridgwater Food Bank

The Exyte Hargreaves team joined the project in late 2021, undertaking vital design, procurement, manufacture, delivery and installation of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems across five areas of Site.

Earlier this month the team started a partnership with Bridgwater Foodbank and is now encouraging team members across the Project to donate dry food and toiletries, which will help tackle food poverty and hunger in our local community.



Website: edfenergy.com/hpc

Email: hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com

Telephone: 0333 009 7070



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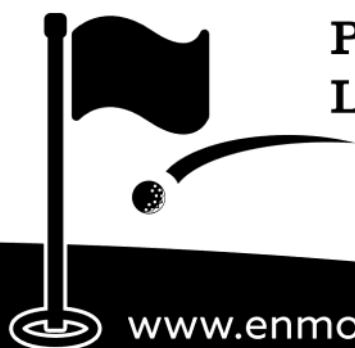


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07711296116*

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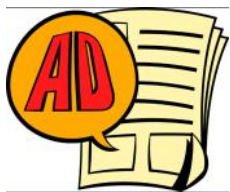
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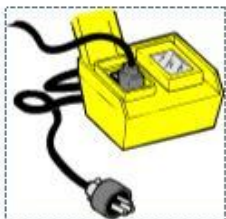
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