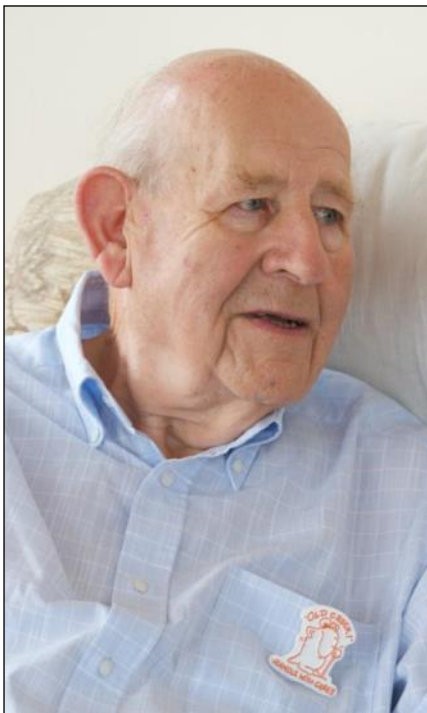


April 2023

QUANTOCK
For Nether Stowey & Over Stowey

Messenger

50p



Alec Page
1923-2023

Page 34

Peter Greig
1939—2023

Page 35



April 2023



We hope you enjoy this edition of the Quantock Messenger. Each month we look forward to receiving articles of interest, photo's, local history, local walks, recipes, news of what's going on in the villages— whatever you think will be of interest to others. If you are not a regular contributor please email the editor for guidelines of how to contribute. Articles should be sent to the editor by 15th of the preceding month - editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk .

In the meantime, we wish you a very Happy Easter and fingers are crossed for some drier weather.

Best wishes from the QM team.

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			

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 Cuttall 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

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

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

Monday 10th April Easter Bingo, eyes down 7.30 OSVH

Wed 12th April Maritime History of Somerset by Adrian Webb TPL

Sunday 16th April APCM 12 noon at Over Stowey Church

Thurs 20th April Stowey Gardeners talk by Josh Hartnell on Orchids NSCC

Friday 21st April Stowey Gardeners Car visit to Barford Park, TA5 1AG

Friday 21st April Bingo Night—NS Football Club. 7 for 7.30 NSCC

Sunday 26th April APCM 12 noon at Nether Stowey Church Centre

Thurs 27th April Stowey Green Spaces AGM & Ploughman's Supper NSCC

Saturday 29th April Stowey Gardeners Plant Sale TPL

Saturday 29th April Curry Night for 'Heart of India' - details page 22.

Quantock Hills Walking Festival—8th to 11th June. Contact enquiries@stoweywalking.org

NSCC - Nether Stowey Church Centre

NSVH - Nether Stowey Village Hall

OSVH - Over Stowey Village Hall

TPL - Thomas Poole Library,



**NETHER
STOWEY**
VILLAGE HALL & RECREATION GROUND

50-50 LOTTERY DRAW

February 2023

1 st Prize	£34.12	Ticket No: 14	K Trout
2 nd Prize	£17.06	Ticket No: 203	S Pickard
3 rd Prize	£10.24	Ticket No: 205	P Thatcher
4 th Prize	£6.83	Ticket No: 50	M Ford

www.stowey.org.uk

Jane Eksline, Trustee 732025
Sharon Mayell, Treasurer 732311

Winners for February and March 2023

Thank you to all those who are supporting the Nether Stowey Playing Field's 50:50 Lottery (formerly known as the PDR Draw). Half of all subscriptions are paid out in prizes and the money raised is going towards the new Stowey Centre which will be built on the playing field. If you would like to know more or get involved please see the information on the Nether Stowey Village Hall & Recreation Ground website www.stowey.org.uk



**NETHER
STOWEY**
VILLAGE HALL & RECREATION GROUND

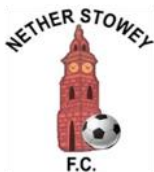
50-50 LOTTERY DRAW

March 2023

1 st Prize	£34.12	Ticket No: 127	J Russ
2 nd Prize	£17.06	Ticket No: 172	J Payne
3 rd Prize	£10.24	Ticket No: 365	J Graham & R Elliott
4 th Prize	£6.83	Ticket No: 116	M Harris

www.stowey.org.uk

Jane Eksline, Trustee 732025
Sharon Mayell, Treasurer 732311



As the season draws to a close, the football club can be very proud in their achievements this past season, with the introduction of a women's side something the club and manager, Steve Easden, can be extremely proud of themselves.

Seniors Saturday: The Saturday 1st Team are sitting a healthy sixth in Division One of the Taunton League, holding their own against all in that division. Most recently denting Old Inn's promotion hopes with a 4-1 away win. A great achievement, particularly eight of the 13 man squad was under 23 years of age.

The Reserves, not having played for a while, find themselves eighth in Division Three of the Taunton League. This is only their second season in senior football, with credit to all those who make themselves available to play. Every game is a learning curve for the reserves, most recently having been 4-1 up against high flying Porlock with 10 minutes to go, it ended up 4-4.

Seniors Sunday: Lying next to bottom of the Bridgwater and District Sunday League, the players who turn out are not disheartened by this. They see each match as a game of football and a massive learning experience for the younger players of the squad.

Sponsorship: The club is still looking for a Womens sponsor, full kit sponsor would cost £500. Alternatively you could just be a front of shirt sponsor for £200. If interested please contact myself Mark Sells on 07896 644636 or Steve Easden on 07788 370014.

That's it from the football club, don't forget the Bingo on April 21st.

Mark Sells

Be a responsible dog owner this spring

As the snowdrops are emerging and the trees come into bud it is a great time to visit the Quantock Hills. The hills are a wonderful place to explore with your dog and many people love to visit with their four-legged friend.

But please remember that it is at this time of year when livestock such as sheep and lambs are at their most vulnerable. Quantock Hills AONB Rangers, local farmers and the Police would like to highlight the problems that some dogs can cause to livestock and wildlife on the hills and in farmland.

Quantock Hills AONB Manager, Iain Porter said: "For many of us our dogs are part of the family and since the pandemic dog ownership in England has increased by nearly 40%. With more people and more dogs accessing the countryside there is the potential for more incidents of dog worrying. We want people and their dogs to visit the Quantock Hills and to do so in a responsible way, by following the Countryside Code and being aware of where their dog is at all times and having them under close control."

From 1st March – 31st July dog owners are required by law to keep their dogs on a lead when being walked across Open Access land including the open Quantock hilltops and combes. In all other areas of the countryside dogs should be kept under close control. It's not just the physical attacks that cause harm but simply allowing a dog to chase sheep may cause ewes to abort or become injured.

Andy Stevenson, Quantock Hills AONB Ranger said: "We'd like to take this opportunity to remind all dog owners to please keep their dogs on leads when walking close to lambs or sheep. Even if lambs are not present in a flock, the ewes may well be pregnant and a dog causing them to run or chasing them could cause them to abort".

There have been many times when Quantock farmers have had to deal with the aftermath of dog attacks on sheep and in all cases, they could have been easily avoided.

Quantock Farmer and Chairman of the Quantock Commoners Association, Anthony Salvidge said: "Livestock worrying can be devastating

causing distress to animals and to farmers. For me it is the worst part of farming the hills, getting that call and going to pick up a sheep which has been ripped to pieces. After the distress and suffering there are also the financial implications of having your animals treated or in the worse cases the loss of that animal."

1st March and 31st July, keeping your dog on a lead on Open Access Land is also to protect ground nesting birds, as dogs run about in the undergrowth they flush birds such as Nightjars and Skylarks off their nests and may cause them to abandon them.

If your dog does kill or cause harm to livestock, you can be liable for a significant fine and for the value of the livestock harmed - your pet may also be dispatched, the cost of which will also have to be borne by you. Moreover, if your dog is seen worrying livestock farmers can shoot them.

If you witness an attack in progress, call **999** otherwise any incidents witnessed should be reported to the Police on **101**.

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.

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



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 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

Gardening with Nick - April 2023



What a mixture of weather we had in March.

Following an unusually dry February we have already had rain, frost and as I write snow! This should be a busy month particularly in the vegetable garden and hopefully we will get some quality spring sunshine to warm the soil required for good germination and plant establishment. Remember to look after your soil and avoid working on it if it is too wet. It is important to avoid compacting the soil which can lead to poor drainage and root run.

Vegetables: it is time to plant potatoes, first, second early and towards the end of the month maincrop varieties. If you were tempted to plant earlies last month it is important to earth up new growth if it has appeared in order to protect it from possible frosts. It is the month when many vegetables can be sown direct into prepared soil such as peas, beetroot, lettuce, spring onion, radish, spinach, carrot, Swiss chard and parsnip. In prepared seed beds or alternatively into modules leeks, Brussels sprouts, summer cabbage, calabrese and summer and autumn cauliflower can be sown and later transplanted. With crops such as lettuce, salad leaves, spring onions, radish and parsley smaller successional sowings are beneficial to provide continuity of supply. Seedlings of rocket, radish, turnips and cabbage are very susceptible to Flea beetle recognised by small holes appearing in the seed leaves and foliage. Protection can be given by covering with fleece or very fine mesh such as Enviromesh. A good month for planting asparagus crowns in prepared beds. If you don't like Brussel sprouts and or Kale do try Kalettes. A cross between sprouts and kale but where sprouts

would appear you get frilly rosettes tasting more like spring greens -delicious!

The greenhouse: if the greenhouse has not had a thorough clean now is the time to do it: cleaning the glass, framework and benches etc. will pay dividends prior to sowing frost tender crops such as French and runner beans, sweetcorn, courgettes, marrows and squash. These will be ready to plant outdoors once the risk of frosts has gone. The greenhouse will also be prepared for planting tomatoes, cucumbers, aubergines and peppers. The better the quality light entering the greenhouse the better the quality of growth.

Ornamentals: as spring flowering bulbs go over remove the old flower head so that energy is not wasted developing seeds and leave the foliage to die back for at least six weeks which allows time for the bulb to be replenished ready for next year. Dormant dahlia tubers can be planted out and any new growth should appear after the risk of frost has gone. Alternatively start the tubers off in boxes of compost in the greenhouse and the first shoots can be taken as cuttings and then the tubers planted out. Herbaceous perennials can still be divided with the old woody parts rejected in favour of young vibrant growths. Take the opportunity to clean through the border remove any perennial weed and apply a general-purpose fertiliser such as growmore or blood, fish and bone. A mulch, 50-75mm (2-3" deep) will help conserve moisture and provide some weed control, particularly annual weeds. Now is a good time to move or plant evergreens as long as the ground is not too dry or waterlogged.

Nick Rigden



If you haven't visited us for a while, just a reminder that we have a fantastic selection of books and audiobooks for you to choose from. We also have free Wi-Fi and 2 public network computers with free online access to Ancestry.co.uk, which are available to use during opening hours.

If you are unable to visit the library in person, Somerset Libraries have a range of online services such as free Books, Audiobooks and Magazines to download. For more information visit their website at www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries-leisure-and-communities/libraries/ or their Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/somersetlibrariesuk/

**** 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. Entry fees are £3.50 for members and £4.50 non-members. Coming soon:

Wednesday 12th April - Maritime History of Somerset by Adrian Webb

Wednesday 10th May - Three Extraordinary Years: The Coleridge's at Stowey by author Bethany Askew

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!



Nether Stowey Wednesday Club

**A social gathering for older
& disabled people
For coffee, lunch & activities**

Urgently need volunteers

**If you can spare 4hrs per month
Please contact: Maggie 732532
Barbara 732412 or Ann 733027**

The Latest from the Cricket Club



Well it's good to be back!! but looking out into my garden it appears that winter has still got a sting in it's tail as there is a blanket of snow and more on the way according to the forecast.

During the closed season, the club has been busy tidying up the ground and planning for the summer, this has included the purchase of a new sight screen along with a state of the art moveable net which hopefully will improve the skill levels of all age ranges.

The captains of both the 1st and 2nd teams remain the same, namely Stephen Miller and William Marchent-Saunders (07423579554) with the Friendly midweek team being led this year by Hayden Langlois.

We are running two youth sides this year the under 11's will play on Sunday mornings and the under 13's on Friday evenings.

Training for all age groups starts on Tuesday 18th April (6pm-7.30pm) up at the ground at Marsh Mills and we welcome all ages from 5 upwards. For more information please contact Kieron Barrow on (07932699224)

Senior Nets have started indoors at Chilton on Wednesday evenings for more information please contact Stephen Miller (07972297922) outdoor nets start 12/4/23 6-8pm at the ground.

If you are new to the village or have lived here for longer why not come up and see what Over Stowey CC is all about, we are always looking for new players or if you just fancy a bit of spectating in beautiful surroundings then that's fine.

Below are the details of the first fixtures for all of our teams :

1stXI 6/5/23 v Stoke St Mary (H)

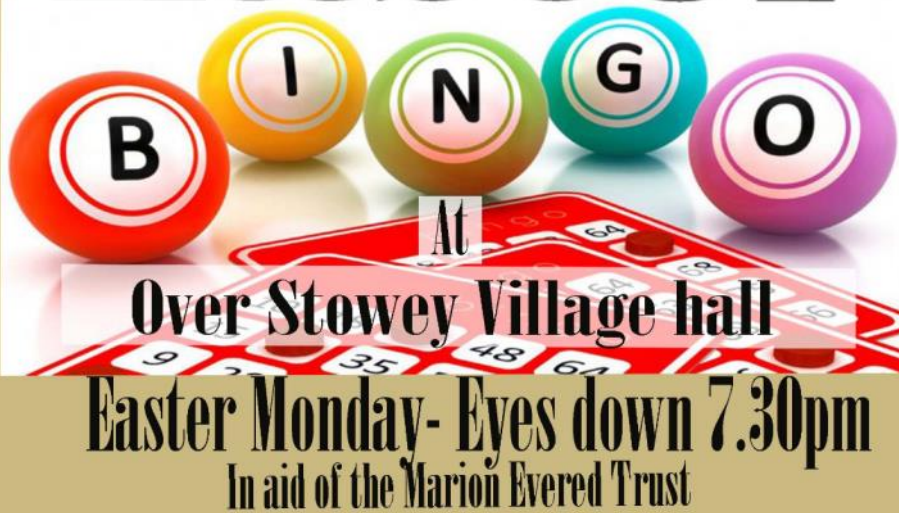
2ND XI 29/4/23 v Roadwater (h)

Friendly Midweek XI 18/5/23 v The Swan Inn

Over and Out

Simon Pickard

Easter



The Marion Evered Trust

A busy Easter weekend with a charity tractor run on Sunday and the Easter Bingo on Monday see info below.

Latest 200 club winners were £20 Angela Udell £10 Ricky Burland £5 Julie Long

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, Over Stowey village hall, 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



Annual General Meeting

Nether Stowey Church Centre: 7 pm Thursday, 27 April.

All welcome. Admission £5.00 to include a Ploughman's supper. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles.

The AGM (the official part) will be an opportunity for an update on Stowey Green Spaces Group's activities over the past year and should last no longer than 30 minutes. There will then be an informal social and ploughman's supper followed by tea or coffee.

Please confirm attendance by Friday, 21 April by email to stoweygreenspaces@stowey.org.uk or call 01278 734604.

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.

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.



Nether Stowey & Fiddington WI

Our monthly meeting on 9th March was our AGM, where Committee members and Officers, ie our President, Secretary and Treasurer, were elected for the forthcoming year.

The WI is the largest women's voluntary organisation in the UK and is growing annually, welcoming 30,000 new members last year. However, many women are certainly interested in the WI and its aims and achievements but cannot commit themselves, for various reasons, to actually becoming a member. With this in mind, the WI have been working hard to develop ways for the WI to engage with a wider audience, and so have come up with the innovative idea of WI Supporters. WI Supporters will not be actual members of the WI nor be able to determine the WI agenda. They will not have monthly meetings or the right to vote on any WI matters. However, WI Supporters may attend a WI meeting as a visitor. Your WI see this as a good way for people to get involved in a way that suits them and perhaps give them the incentive and encouragement to join the WI. Further details about becoming a WI Supporter will become available in the near future.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 13th April, at 2.00 in the Church Centre, when we will have a return visit from Kevin Little, a retired fishmonger with a host of anecdotes. Entrance fee includes refreshments and a raffle.

AB



NETHER STOWEY FOOTBALL CLUB

PRESENTS

BINGO NIGHT



WITH RAFFLE AND AUCTION

FRIDAY 21st APRIL 2023

7pm for 7:30pm EYES DOWN

Venue: Nether Stowey Church Centre

Bring your own bottle or Hot / Soft Drinks Available.

Cakes / Snacks also available.

CASH ONLY on the night for Bingo Books / Refreshments.

Proceeds raised for ongoing Football Club costs plus donation to charity.

*For more info please contact Nigel (chairman) on 07966430361
or Steve (Head Coach) 07789058564.*

Hinkley Point C - Monthly Update

A round up of the latest news from Hinkley Point C



The first new nuclear reactor for a British power station for more than 30 years

At just 13-metres long and weighing 500-tonnes, the "reactor pressure vessel" will create the heat needed to make steam for the world's largest turbines.

It is the first of two nuclear reactors which will be installed at Hinkley Point C. Each reactor will help provide enough low carbon electricity for 3m homes.

The reactor travelled from France to Britain arriving at Avonmouth Docks, before being transported by barge to Combwich Wharf. The final stage of the journey was a 5 hour trip for 4 miles by a transporter to the construction site.



Introducing Valdo Andrade

We are pleased to introduce Valdo Andrade, our new PCSO to the Project. Valdo has been a PCSO for Sydenham for a year before moving to the project's police team. Valdo has previously worked as a driver with Somerset Passenger Solutions so brings existing experience of Hinkley Point C.

If you see Valdo out and about, he welcomes the opportunity to say hello and is always happy to help.

Guy Martin's visit to Hinkley Point C

Hinkley Point C is featured in an episode of "Guy Martin's Power Trip" on Channel 4. The TV star and former TT racer visited site in the summer, as part of his new series which explores the energy crisis and how the UK generates electricity.

During his visit to the site, Guy was eager to get involved in the construction work itself. The episode sees him taking part in a steel fixing shift, where he is put to the test by BYLOR instructors.

Guy Martin's Power Trip is available to watch now on All4.



Website: edfenergy.com/hpc

Email: hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com

Telephone: 0333 009 7070

IT'S CURRY NIGHT !

Heart For
India



Book by 15th April



29th April

6.00 pm

Nether Stowey Church
Centre

Vegetarian Option

Everyone welcome

Donations towards
Heart for India

To book, contact
Jennifer (01278 733007)
or Miriam (01278 733800).

OVER STOWEY
PARISH COUNCIL

At the February 2023 meeting it was confirmed that a site meeting with the Highways Department would take place in March. However, due to the snow, this has been postponed until April. It is hoped that all issues will be discussed fully and an action plan formulated with timescales for any work that is agreed – further details will be given once they are available. In the meantime if you notice any problems on the roads that 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](#).

Two new grit bins have been purchased by the Parish Council and are at the March Mills crossroads and Bincombe Green. They were both in situ before the snow came, so may have been in use already.

On other matters, the Clerk has been contacted by the supplier of the defibrillator as it needs a software update. The dates for this are still to be confirmed and when they are, notices will be put up to inform people of the removal of the unit and the location of the next closest defibrillator (which is at the Quantock Medical Centre in Nether Stowey).

Also, the Over Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee have informed the Parish Council that on Sunday 7th May 2023 – over the Kings Coronation weekend - they will be holding a sheep racing fund raising event at the cricket ground in Over Stowey to bring the community together. At the April 2023 meeting the Parish Council will consider how they can contribute towards the day.

By the time this is published, the vesting day for the new unitary authority will have taken place. Please visit the [New Somerset Council](#) website for further information.

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for April 19th 2023 and the Annual meetings will be held in May as usual. Dates to be confirmed. 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.

News from The Quantock Medical Centre April 2023

A BIG apology to anyone who was looking forward to attending Nurse Helen Every Retirement Tea Party at the Church Centre on the 8th March – unfortunately it was the Snowiest day we have had for a while and felt it was much safer to cancel and avoid all those slips and trips and broken limbs from the walk to the Church Centre!.

Helen would like to say:

Thank you so much for all your endeavours towards my retirement party for last Wednesday 8th March. Thank you also for the amazing flowers, cards and donations towards my retirement gift. It was so disappointing for all involved that the weather stopped the celebration.

I was very much looking forward to seeing everyone and enjoying a cup of tea and a natter (plus my speech!).

Thank you once again you wonderful, lovely people. I really appreciate all you have done and look forward to seeing you soon. Best wishes Helen Every

A Little Piece about Helen Every's Nursing History

Helen is a third-generation nurse. Her mother Joyce was a nurse and midwife as was her mother, Helen's grandmother, Florence.

Helen started her training in 1980 aged 17. She trained as an orthopaedic nurse at the Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital in Exeter. The training was 20 months and after qualifying she went to Yeovil District Hospital in 1982, to commence her training as a State Registered Nurse, as it was called back then!

In 1985, Helen was awarded the Sir John English Memorial Shield for Outstanding Nurse of the Year and she started her career as a staff nurse on the orthopaedic wards at Yeovil. Helen moved to Oxford in 1986, to work as a senior staff nurse on a rheumatology ward in an orthopaedic hospital, before leaving the NHS to work in the Sanatorium at Eton College, Windsor, for a year, where she cared for the sons

of some famous people.

In 1989 Helen moved to Allhallows school near Seaton, Devon to run her own school Sanatorium. Many a night was spent looking after boys with rugby injuries, hangovers from illicit parties and multiple health issues. While at Allhallows, Helen met and fell in love with the school Catering Manager, Geoff Every. They married, settled down in Chard and had a son, Harry.

While Harry was young Helen, worked nights in a Nursing Home and locumed as a Practice nurse around Somerset before she was offered a permanent post at Taunton Road Medical Centre in Bridgwater in 1998. During her time in Bridgwater Helen, gained many skills and undertook a lot of training and many courses. In 2008 she achieved a Bachelor of Science, First Class Honours Degree, as a Nurse Practitioner. During her time at Taunton Road MC, she became the Clinical Lead for Nursing. She also arranged training courses, supported practice nurses throughout the Bridgwater Federation and lectured a couple of times at Bournemouth University.

After Geoff retired, Helen was thrilled, following 18 yrs at Taunton Road, to be offered a post as Lead Nurse and Advanced Nurse Practitioner, at the Quantock Medical Centre in Nether Stowey, where she lives.

In 2022 Helen was awarded the Alan Nabarro Medal for having Type 1 diabetes for 50 yrs. Shortly after this, Helen caught Covid and unfortunately while recovering, she had a heart attack. Because of this and other health issues, Helen decided to retire after 42.5yrs as a nurse. She wants to spend more time with Geoff, her family and to enjoy her hobbies, especially travelling!

On a different note we have been very fortunate since my last Messenger Article – we have had amazing offers of support to fund equipment and put on fund raising events over the year, so we have very much to be thankful for and we will update you as things occur. Reaching out for help has been amazing and shown the generosity of the village, I have been really heartened by this.

Helen Stacey – Practice Manager

invites everyone to its brief

AGM

and celebration of another year with drinks, bites & talk

Climate Crisis!

Paradise Lost?

by

Julian Anderson



Friday 28th April – Crowcombe Village Hall
Doors open at 6:30 for 7:00 pm start – Entry Free

For more information email quantockeco@btinternet.com or call 07725 525484

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Quantock Eco
Building Sustainable Lifestyles

Quantock Eco's AGM & Talk:

We shall have our first face to face AGM in two years on Friday 28th April at 7 pm in Crowcombe Village Hall. Everyone is invited. It will be a short business-like meeting, with a large part settled beforehand, after which you are all invited to drinks and bites.

These will be followed by a talk "Climate Crisis! - Paradise Lost? The speaker will be Julian Anderson. Now fully retired he spent 44 years in business (Finance, Marketing and General Management) working in various parts of the world for British and American multinationals, and himself.

He was founding Chairman of Quantock Eco and served as a Parish Councillor twice (2007 and 2019). He is a keen tennis player and gardener and has opened his garden for charity on several occasions.

The talk will analyse the problem of Climate Change using the dialectic. It will consider what Paradise is, how Mankind is changing it, and what might be done to ensure that the threatened crises are resolved before they take their toll.

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.

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

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

Upcoming Café Dates:

Wednesday 12th April
Wednesday 26th April
Wednesday 10th May
Wednesday 24th May
Wednesday 7th June



Burton Springs/ Yellow Door Cottage Fete will take place again on Sunday May 28th. There will be lots to do and see including Stalls/Games, Dog Show, Bar, Music, Food available all day. Forget-me-Not is holding a fund Raising Tombola which was a big success last year. Any unwanted gifts or donations for prizes would be very welcome. Thank you.

For more information please contact:

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rosechalk@icloud.com

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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)

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quantockhills@somerset.gov.uk

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Village Agent: Sarah Bennet, 07985 680269,

Email: sarahb@somersetccc.org.uk

Easter CHURCH SERVICES – APRIL 2023

	2nd April Palm Sunday	9th April Easter Day	16th April Easter 2	23rd April Easter 3
Nether Stowey	11:00am Morning Worship (C/Centre)	11:00am Holy Com- munion (Church)	11:00am Easter Car- ol Service APCM after (C/Centre)	11:00am Holy Com- munion (Church)
Over Stowey	6:30pm Evensong	9:30am Holy Com- munion	9:30am Holy Com- munion APCM after	9.30am Morning Worship
Aisholt	11:00am Matins	11:00am Holy Com- munion (BCP)	6.30pm Evensong APCM after	11:00am Matins
Enmore	11:00am Holy Communion	11.00am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion	11.00am Morning Worship APCM after
Goathurst	9.30am Morning Worship	9.30am Holy Communion	9:30am Morning Worship	6:30pm Holy Com- munion (BCP) APCM be- fore
Spaxton	9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Holy Communion	11:00am Morning Worship	9.30am Morning Worship APCM after
Sunday 30th April Easter 4 10.30 am Benefice Holy Communion at Nether Stowey				

I wonder what first springs to mind when you think of Easter. For many, especially children, it will probably be chocolate eggs, although easter chocolate seems to come in many different shapes now. Sharing chocolate at Easter, but for Christians Easter is about so much more – Easter is when we celebrate the centre of our faith - Jesus who died and rose again so that we might be forgiven all that is wrong in our lives and live with God for eternity. As a reminder of this wonderful story, I have written it below but, because chocolate is good, you might notice something in the story.

It was one Saturday night, after eight, and me and my mate, Freddo, were being paid a bounty to guard this tomb. “Guard a tomb?” you say. Yeah that’s a whole nut of an idea, I know.

There was this guy, see. We’d executed him on the Friday, but he had said that he would come back to life so we were there to make sure he stayed dead! No really, I’m not lion! You think that’s mad? Join the club!

Now my mate is a bit of a smartie, so while we’re stood, guarding a dead body, he says, ‘Why don’t we have picnic?’ And I thought, “Well, why not? I could do with some time out.”

So we sat down and we ate our sandwiches – crème egg and cress for me, then chomping some fruit and nut for one of me five-a-day, all washed down with a nice big glass of dairy milk.

Anyway, back on the topic. After our food we were flaked out and ... well ... I’m not going to fudge the facts, we fell asleep. I know we shouldn’t have, but we did. We loosened our buttons, pulled off our snickers (that’s sneakers, not knickers!), and lay down under the milky way.

Next thing I know, there’s a crunchie sound, like when you rolo-way a stone. I sat bolt upright and ... ‘What kinder surprise is this?’ I said. I couldn’t have been more shocked if a penguin had arrived on a double decker bus!

So what was it, this surprise? Only an angel – clothes all milky bar white and hair all curly wurly – just sat there, on top of the stone! And the tomb was open!

Me and my mate, we were in a complete twirl – we were so scared we called for our mars – but just before we fainted clean away we heard a ripple of fabric from the tomb. Seems the dead guy wasn’t so dead after all! I heard a wispa as he stepped out. He winked at me and said, “aero, mate!”

There are 31 different chocolate bars hidden here – did you spot them all. We will be celebrating Easter across all our churches and there will be many ways to hear the story of Easter, perhaps more conventionally. Do look for details here, on social media and through our weekly benefice news.

I hope to see some of you there, but for now may I wish you a chocolate, resurrection filled Easter.

Rev’d Nicki Bradford (curate)

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

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£3 per session

Beginners welcome



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Alec Page 1923-2023

Alec lived well into his 100th year in his home in Plainsfield, still on his feet, independent, laughing and smiling and enjoying visits from his family and the company of his neighbours and many friends. He led a long and interesting life.

He grew up in the West London pub The Colton Arms that was run by his parents. A keen Boy Scout before the war he and the other Rover Scouts became stretcher bearers during the London Blitz. He used to cycle across London to his first Job in a shipping and insurance company and after work would join the City of London Fire Watch. Turning 18 in 1941 he volunteered for the Royal Navy and was sent to the grandly named HMS Royal Arthur which turned out to be Butlins Skegness where he trained as a Wireless Operator and Telegraphist. He was posted to an Iceland shore station then served on mine-sweepers operating out of Reykjavik before being called home as a 'volunteer' to the Submarine Service.

The RN had lost a lot of submarines many with their full crew and had run out of true volunteers. Alec said that he and his companions were more than a little frightened of what their fate might be as they were tested for bad ears and claustrophobia by descending into a water filled silo wearing weights and breathing apparatus. After further training he went back to sea on HMS Sea Scout, a big, newly built S-Class submarine, 200ft long with a crew of 48. Sea Scout patrolled the North Atlantic between Norway and Iceland before sailing to the Far East in 1944 to take part in operations against Japan alongside the US Navy.

At the end of the war she joined a hastily assembled RN Fleet which entered Hong Kong Harbour and took the surrender of the Japanese forces in the colony. Alec went ashore as part of a very small British force and witnessed what he said were terrible conditions among the people of Hong Kong, and some of the reprisals and brutality between the Chinese, those who had collaborated and the remaining Japanese who had been unable to escape. He eventually got home

safely to his wife Doris who he had met and married in a few short months ashore in Blyth and his daughter Denise who he had never seen.

Returning to work in Insurance in the City of London Alec took the opportunity in 1966 to join the start-up brokerage Cooper Gay as one of three directors with three staff. By 1983 they had over 100 staff and Alec decided to retire aged 60 to Somerset with his second wife Jean to keep horses and maybe do some consultancy work. The consultancy work evolved into another successful expansion of a city firm and he became Chairman of Mears & Co before retiring again at the age of 72. He always said he had enjoyed the best years of the City, travelled widely through business and made many friends.

He loved horses and had many memories of happy times riding out with good friends on the hills. He at one time part owned a racehorse with 'mixed' results but bringing him much pleasure if a little bit too much excitement. To the very end of his life he liked to say how lucky he had been and insisted that he only lived so long because he had been a 'wicked old sod.'

Tim Whittingham

Peter Greig 1939-2023

Peter became Chairman of Nether Stowey Parish Council in February 2012. He was particularly involved in driving forward the Quantock Parishes Cluster, worked with Sedgemoor's Affordable Housing team on the Harry Prowse Close project for which he chaired the Council's not always easy public sessions, regularly interrogated the Hinkley C construction team on the need for a dedicated site traffic route (Peter had worked as a very young engineer on the construction of Hunterston Nuclear Power Station in Scotland) and initiated the "virtual pavement" on Lime Street to reduce risk on the school walk.

He helped revive the Playing Field Committee at its nadir, was a signatory to the Licence for the Millennium Wood Jubilee extension, took a keen interest in the re-presentation of Coleridge Cottage -

believing it would have a positive impact on the local economy - and helping chose local C18th apple tree varieties for the renovated garden. Usually a diplomatic Parish Council chairman, on one occasion however, drily introducing the fourth successive recurrence of an agenda item (still sadly a repetitive issue): "And now we get to the main event – dog fouling".

Outside his Council work Peter became chairman of the Somerset Local Action Group responsible for allocating European Regional Development Funds, when he was involved in funding the renovation of the Quantock Lodge swimming pool complex and later with installation of the solar panels on the Church Centre roof.

Within the community Peter worked on the Village Hall committee at the time of its amalgamation into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Recreation Ground. He was an active member of our Twinning Association, regularly winning the annual boules competition and exchanging visits with Theillay. He participated rigorously in Nether Stowey's Neighbourhood Plan Working Group at its outset.

Trained as a civil engineer, Peter's career was substantially associated with construction, flood control and hydro-electric projects on The Thames, The Indus, The Tigris, The Nile and The Yangtze-Yalong. However the only body of water he ever fell into was Stowey Brook – twice, eyes and thoughts on the wide horizon. He loved life in Nether Stowey - reveling in oysters from Porlock, a bottle of red, a lunch in the garden, chatting in the village on any and all subjects.

He was a proud Grandfather to four boys – Robin, Jack, Huw, and Peter, able to enjoy their company "without the awful first-hand responsibility of providing for them".

We remember him as a gentle, kind, humorous, generous, hard working husband, father, grandfather and friend. We are missing him dreadfully.

Judith, John, Hannah and Nick -

thanks to friends and colleagues who worked with Peter and latterly for their shared memories.

Changing Times for Nether and Over Stowey Parishes

Within the next few months, those visiting the Parish Churches in Nether and Over Stowey will see a document pinned to the door outlining proposed changes to the parish groupings in Quantock Deanery. The PCC, and I, would be very grateful if you could take a moment to consider the proposals once they are published.

In the challenging financial environment it faces post-Covid, the Diocese of Bath and Wells has taken the difficult decision to reduce its number of paid clergy. Every area of Somerset will be affected by these reductions and in our area (Quantock Deanery), we are required to reduce our number of those clergy from 5 to 4.

We have considered very carefully how this could happen whilst ensuring that the church continues to serve our rural communities such as yours, maintain regular worship in our church buildings, and provide pastoral care for those in times of sorrow and joy. There were no easy answers but after a great deal of consideration by representatives from across the Deanery, and consultation with all the church councils, the following proposals are being made.

- Kilve, Holford and Stringston parishes will form a new grouping with the Quantock Villages Benefice and Revd Eleanor King (based in Nether Stowey) will be their new Rector.
- Stogursey and Fiddington parishes will become a new benefice with Cannington, Stockland and Steart, and Otterhampton with Combwich, with Revd Alison Waters (me) as their Rector.
- Revd Nicky Morgan (currently Rector of Quantock Coast Benefice) will move to Bicknoller. She will remain the Rector of East and West Quantoxhead, and will also serve the parishes currently known as Quantock Towers Benefice.
- Watchet and Williton Benefice will remain as it is.

In addition, all the parishes of our Deanery will form a new Group Ministry. This is a means by which we can work much more closely together as clergy and church communities, supporting one another, and especially those invaluable and incredibly hardworking wardens and volunteers who keep our churches open and available to villagers and visitors.

The consultation period, once it begins, will last for six weeks during which all residents are welcome to respond to the proposals. If you would like to know more please do not hesitate to contact a Churchwarden or other member of the PCC and you are welcome also to contact me direct.

Getting to the point of this proposal has been difficult, and we are very aware that it will be painful for some. We are glad, though, to have been given the opportunity to put the plan together ourselves, knowing as we do the needs of our churches and our communities, and we believe that this proposal does offer the best potential for our churches going forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Revd Alison Waters, Area Dean

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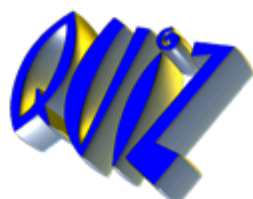
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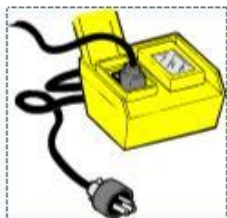
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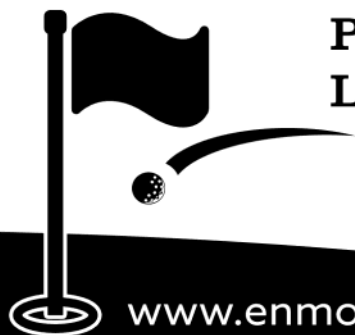


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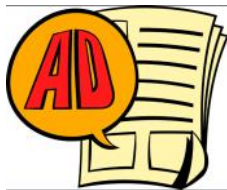
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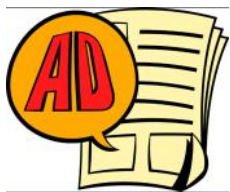
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