

**MAY
2023**



QUANTOCK
For Nether Stowey & Over Stowey



Messenger

50p



John Thomas 1948-2023
Page 34

Photo credits can be found on page 7

MAY 2023

We hope you enjoy reading 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

Enjoy the Coronation weekend!

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

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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 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

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 1st Wednesday of the month - Play Reading at the Library 2pm - TPL

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

Every Thursday - Chess Time at the Library - 5pm-6.30pm - 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 10th May - Library monthly talk - Coleridge: Three Extraordinary Years by author Bethany Askew. TPL

Thursday 18th May - Stowey Gardeners talk by Dr Gavin Haig on Creating a Wildlife Garden. NSCC

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

7th to 11th June - Quantock Hills Walking Festival. Details on page 20.

17th June - The 215th WOMEN'S WALK. Meet on the Cross at 3pm.

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

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

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

Winners for April 2023

Thank you for continuing to support the playing field 50:50 Lottery which is raising funds for the new Stowey Centre. We are still waiting for planning permission to be granted for the new building (delayed due to numerous bat surveys), although we are hopeful of hearing from the new Somerset Council soon. Please see our website for information www.stowey.org.uk. The lucky winners for April are detailed below.



NETHER STOWEY
VILLAGE HALL & RECREATION GROUND

50-50 LOTTERY DRAW

April 2023

1st Prize	£34.12	Ticket No: 289	A Prettejohn
2nd Prize	£17.06	Ticket No: 243	S Mayell
3rd Prize	£10.24	Ticket No: 355	A Fuller
4th Prize	£6.83	Ticket No: 72	N Phillips

www.stowey.org.uk

Jane Erksine, Trustee 732025
Sharon Mayell, Treasurer 732311

Coleridge Cottage

Firstly, hello to all! I'd love to take the opportunity to introduce myself. I am Charlotte Bailey, the new site manager at Coleridge Cottage, taking over from Will Jones. I grew up in Watchet and have been a teacher for the past 15 years, teaching Food, Textiles and Art in schools across the Southwest. I am very creative, and particularly love literature, so I am thrilled to be joining Coleridge Cottage! As the cottage opens again, I hope to meet more of you in the community, but if you need me, please do

give the cottage a ring, or my email is:
charlotte.bailey@natioanltrust.org.uk

Back to the cottage. Along with the normal preparations for opening at the end of the month, our most exciting news is our new kitchen, which was fitted at the beginning of the month. We'd also like to let you know that the residence pass is returning this year- so if you live in Nether Stowey or Over Stowey, you can purchase a pass for £10 which allows entry to the cottage for you and a guest for the full year. So why not buy a pass, especially if you'd like to enjoy the gardens in the summer or visit the tearooms for a tasty scone and cup of tea. It would be lovely to see you more this year.

It's also worth mentioning that this year we are open for an extra day- We're now open Wednesdays to Sundays from 11am, last entry 4pm; until the end of October, so we look forward to welcoming more wonderful visitors to our lovely site and we can't see you soon!

Charlotte Bailey
Site Manager, Coleridge Cottage

Front Page Photo Credits:

- Quantock U3a Local History Group visit to Nether Stowey, article on page 9
- Quantock Medical Centre cheque presentation from 'Books for Life', article on page 24
- The Marion Evered Trust Tractor Run. Photo by Brian Bateman
- A baby's quilt created by Jenny Lane, an experienced Quilter at Quantock Quilters
- Asthma+Lung fund raising event during the Easter holidays. Photo by Terry Abbiss
- Easter at Coleridge Cottage

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The 215th WOMEN'S WALK - 17th June 2023 at 3pm

The organising of the 215th WOMEN'S WALK is being finalised. All local women and children are welcome to attend.

The historic tradition, of the women of Nether Stowey walking each year, on the Saturday closest to mid-summer, is to honour the memory of Thomas Poole.

Thomas Poole was born in Stowey in 1765. He was a tanner who used his wealth to improve the lives of the poor in the village. In 1806 he started the Nether Stowey Female Friendly Society to help women in times of sickness, childbirth, widowhood and old age.

We have walked now for 215 years. The only break has been the two years of the Covid Pandemic.

Traditionally, everyone dressed up in their Sunday best for the walk, although this is no longer expected. They also carried a posy of flowers to put on Thomas Poole's grave.

The 215th walk will take place on Saturday 17th June.

We will meet at the Cross in the middle of the village at 3pm with the walk to St Mary's Church, headed by bagpipes, starting at 3.15pm. After a short service in the church, and a visit to Thomas Poole's grave we will walk back to the Church Centre for Afternoon Tea.

Further details of registering for this event will be in the next Messenger, but in the meantime please note this date in your diaries.

Janet Phillips



Quantock U3a Local History Group visit to Nether Stowey 17th April 2023

A group of 14 people from the recently formed Quantock U3a Local History Group visited the village on the afternoon of 17th April for a "walk through time".

The group assembled at The Thomas Poole Library where Roger Stacey gave a detailed introductory talk about the history of the village which dates back over two thousand years. The visitors then divided into two groups which were led by Roger Stacey and Norma Frood, assisted by Sandra Sidaway, Pat Pardoe and Sian Stafford.

The groups progressed from the Library down Castle Street observing its historic pre-Medieval, Medieval and Georgian landmarks, in particular the former Saxon hall house and Poole House, home of Thomas Poole. The groups assembled at the Cross with an overview of the immediate area of the Clock Tower, Clock House and George Inn and site of the old Market Cross, stocks, well and Shambles. Roger read out a very scathing and humorous review from John Taylor (the "Water Poet") of his horrendous overnight stay at the Rose & Crown Inn in 1649.

The visitors then moved on down St Mary Street to the Toll House before returning to Lime Street to view the site of the old Quantock Savings Bank founded by Thomas Poole and the houses and workshops of tradesmen of the past, including the wheelwright's house, the old forge, the saddler and James "Conjuror" Cole the clockmaker.

After viewing Coleridge Cottage (formerly called Gilbards) and the Village Hall, the group returned to the Library via Palmer's Path for refreshments and discussion and viewing of books, maps, old school books (provided by Roger) and photographs.

The visitors remarked how much rich history we have in the village and how they had enjoyed being shown its hidden past.

Norma Frood

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 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 - May 2023



What a mixture of weather so far this year! A very dry February followed by a wet March which included snow and now towards mid April a mix of some warm sunshine, some light frosts and now as I write towards mid April more rain and strong winds. No wonder we are always talking about the weather! When there is a risk of frost still protect frost susceptible crops such as new growth on potatoes by earthing them up or covering with fleece.

Vegetables: it is a busy month and small successional sowings of salad crops can be made to give continuity. Transplants of Brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale and cauliflower which were sown last month can be planted out together with leeks. Alternatively, transplants can be purchased from nurseries and garden centres. Frost tender vegetables may be sown directly into the soil once the risk of frost has gone such as runner beans, French beans and sweetcorn. Container sown marrows, courgettes and squashes sown in April can be planted out from late May onwards. Potatoes should be regularly earthed up helping to prevent tubers turning green. The same can be achieved on 'no dig beds' by applying a good dressing of compost. It also provides a chance to remove any weed, especially perennials such as bindweed and thistle, etc.

Ornamentals: it has been a good spring for the early flowering shrubs such as Ribes (flowering currants), Forsythia and Berberis darwini. Following flowering they respond well to having some of the older wood removed and this stimulates strong new growth for carrying flower the following year. Remember that bedding plants being used for baskets, tubs and hanging baskets do need hardening off before being placed in their final positions. Incorporating water storage granules into the compost will help water retention.

If your established daffodils did not flower well this spring it may be

that the bulbs are too congested. Once the foliage starts to yellow it is a good time to lift clumps and split into smaller clumps and re-plant. Many herbaceous perennials will require some form of support and if supports such as strong twiggy growth are put in early it allows foliage to grow up through the support and be largely hidden from view.

The greenhouse: it is planting time for tomatoes, peppers, aubergines and cucumbers whether it be in the soil or grow bags and regular watering and feeding should take place. Try to give as much ventilation in the day as possible to prevent excessive temperatures. Shading the house with netting or whitewash may be beneficial as can leaving the door open on hot days.

Fruit: strawberries will be developing trusses of green fruits. Place strawberry mats or straw around the plants which will help to prevent soil splash and ensure that plants are protected from birds with netting. As the fruits of strawberries, raspberries, tayberries, currants and gooseberries start to swell ensure that plants have sufficient water. Plum moth can be an unwelcome pest resulting in the maggot within the fruit. Non chemical control can be provided using pheromone traps available from garden centres and on line. May is the optimum period to place the traps within the tree.

Lawns: For those that like a pristine lawn this is a good month to feed it and treat it for weeds such as daisy, dandelion and buttercup. Sparse areas can be oversown with a suitable seed mixture. An alternative is to take a more relaxed attitude and allow the grass to grow longer and let the weeds (wild flowers) grow up within the grass. This is good for wildlife and paths can be mown through at normal height of cut to introduce an informal design.

Nick Rigden



Whilst writing this, we are enjoying the Easter holidays and have had a lot of fun with our younger visitors making handprinted rabbits, chicks and flowers - we hope they enjoyed it too! And thank you to all the budding artists who decorated the Easter themed poster, fantastic work!

**** 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. All are welcome!

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 10th May - Three Extraordinary Years: The Coleridge's at Stowey by author Bethany Askew
- Wednesday 14th June - The English Civil War by Adrian Roberts



Are you interested in finding out more about your family history? We have two computers that are available for you to use during Library opening hours. As a library member, you have free access to Ancestry.co.uk which un-

locks one billion searchable UK family history records so if you fancy delving into your family history, then come along and explore.

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!



"YESTERDAYS.....IN NETHER STOWEY"

On display in the Old Gaol on The Cross
through May and June: Thomas Poole's Legacy
– Nether Stowey Female Friendly Society



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



We are very nearly at the start of the new season and our ground staff are getting quite anxious about having everything ready in time for the first game. This is mainly due to the incessant wet weather we have been experiencing and the fact that the soft conditions means no use of heavy machinery, we are keeping our fingers crossed for a prolonged spell of dry and windy conditions.

Senior indoor nets at Chilton Trinity have now finished and it has been encouraging to see both past players and some new faces turning up, just a reminder that senior nets will continue outdoors at the ground from the 12th April 6pm-8pm up at the ground.

Training for our juniors begins on Tuesday 18th April (6pm-7.30pm) we welcome all ages from 5 years up to 13 years and more information on this can be found on the club website or via Facebook.

Our youth sides are affiliated to the Taunton and District Youth League with the under 11's starting on Sunday 7th May at home to Brompton Ralph and our under 13's beginning with a home tie against Wellington Blacks on Friday 5th May, any support would be greatly appreciated.

Can I remind you that we are always on the look out for new players both senior and junior so why not pop up to our lovely Marsh Mills ground and see what we are all about?

Lastly I am detailing below the first fixtures for all our senior teams:

1st XI 6/5/23 v Stoke St Mary (Home)

2nd XI 29/4/23 v Roadwater (Home)

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

Useful contact numbers: 1st XI Captain: Stephen Miller
07972297922

2nd XI Captain : Will Merchant-Saunders 07423579554

Youth Co ordinator : Kieran Barrow 07932699224

Over and Out

Simon Pickard

The Marion Evered Trust

A busy Easter weekend with the charity tractor run on Easter Sunday and 66 tractors plus a few other vehicles enjoying a brilliant route taking in the local scenery and raising over £1500 and also a well attended Easter Bingo on Monday raising just over £600. Thankyou to all who helped and participated in these events.

Latest 200 club winners were:

Feb £20 Diana Evans £10 Angela U Dell £5 Paul Crossland

Mar £20 Arthur Barrow £10 Pauline Barrow £5 Jack Guilding

Dates for your Diary

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

Since last writing in the March issue of the Messenger, Stowey Green Spaces Group has been busy.



In late February there was a very effective clearing of brambles in the A39 Bypass Wood to keep previously cleared areas under control. The next week was a very different task, to repair the steps in Butcher's Lane leading to Castle Mount; one of the step risers had rotted and general improvement and replacement was needed all round. In March, emphasis shifted to Millennium Wood where, earlier, thinning of the trees had been carried out by apprentices and their supervisors from the Quantock Landscape Partnership scheme. A work party spent a pleasant afternoon stacking the 2 metre length trunks from the thinning into small heaps for later collection and possible sale as firewood, and collecting the brash (small branches and twigs) into "Habitat Piles". These piles rot down slowly but provide a useful and safe environment for small mammals and many varieties of insects even though they are a nuisance as they also encourage yet more brambles to grow! At the end of the month attention returned to Platinum Wood where a group from Taunton Midweek Conservation Volunteers did sterling work removing the length of fence between the Diamond and Platinum Jubilee Woods, including cutting a gap in the hedge making easier access between the two. Then, using reclaimed posts, the upper length of fence between Platinum Jubilee Wood and Stowey Rocks farm was repaired, replacing three of the original posts that had been broken by falling trees. At the same time the tree guards collected from Stowey Wood were put back to good use by Green Spaces members so that nearly all the Platinum Wood trees now have guards. To complete a successful day some partially buried tyres from the old silage pit were uncovered and added to the existing heap.

In early April the snowdrops were over in Millennium Wood but daffodils, primroses and a carpet of celandines made a magnificent display. There was also a good display of primroses along the cemetery wall leading to the Recreation Ground Memorial Gate, particularly

pleasing as these were only planted last autumn. By early May prim-roses will mostly be over, but there should be a few bluebells and possibly some wood anemones in Millennium Wood, and apple blossom along the top boundary fence. There should also be a good display of bluebells and wood anemones in Stowey Wood. Do, please, take a walk and see for yourselves. Terry Abbiss

Nether Stowey & Fiddington WI

We had a return visit by Kevin Little at our meeting on 13th April, talking about "My Life With Animals" illustrated with some lovely photos. Over the years Kevin and his wife have acquired/found/adopted/rescued many and various animals and birds, and he told us of some of the clever, amazing, intelligence of many of these creatures. Amongst numerous cats of all shapes, sizes and personalities, these included a handsome retired Police German Shepherd who was now very gentle in his retirement, and an extremely intelligent and amusing jackdaw which they had rescued and cared for after it had fallen from a tree. This bird soon made himself at home, preferring Canadian cheddar cheese over the cheaper types of cheese and eating it inside the house while his fellow birds could only look on with envy from the garden. He became quite a local celebrity, even inviting himself to a child's birthday party.

TRIP TO SIDMOUTH. Do you fancy a trip to the seaside? The WI have organised a coach trip to Sidmouth on 24th JULY 2023. There are seats available and tickets cost £12, non-refundable. If you are interested, please contact Terry Binding on 01278-732710 or Margaret Harris on 01278-734613, first come – first served. The coach will leave from the Fire Station promptly at 8.50.

Our next meeting on 11th May will be our Coronation Celebration. The following month, our speaker on 8th June will be Nigel Phillips, who will talk about Wildlife Along the Somerset Coastline, which should prove interesting finding out what is on our doorstep.

Meetings start at 2.00 in the Church Centre, and visitors will be most welcome. Entrance fee includes refreshments and a raffle.
AB





The Quantock Hills Walking Festival

7th – 11th June 2023

Come and join us for our fifth walking festival in the beautiful Quantock Hills and Somerset Coast. We have a variety of walks with something for everyone, nature trails, ancient history walks, high level hikes and long-distance challenges.

All walks are based at St Mary's Church Centre
in Nether Stowey.

For further information on the various walks and to book your place
contact us at: enquiries@stoweywalking.co.uk
www.stoweywalking.co.uk



Reimagining the Manor

The latest news from the Football Club



Women's Football: The club welcome DSD Auto ID Supplies Ltd as kit sponsors for the ladies side. Many thanks to Darren Davis for this sponsorship.

Fixtures aplenty for the ladies, they recently played Yatton, despite being 1-0 up, they lost 3-1. The game showcased lots of ability, plus how far they have come in their skill level. There is a return fixture against Ytton coming up, plus a fixture against Congresbury.

Training for the women takes place every Tuesday evening, 6.15 to 7.15pm and would welcome new players aged 16+. No previous experience needed.

Seniors: Unbelievably the 2022-23 season is drawing to a close, with only a handful of games to play. All sides are still competing, despite nothing really to play for.

Saturday 1st XI: Some recent encouraging results for the 1st XI, with victories over Bridgwater and Albion 1st XI, Old Inn 1st XI and a cracking 2-2 draw against promotion chasing Galmington. Well done to all those who have played in these fixtures, must admit it has been played in a very good spirit, with a lot of passion showed.

Saturday Reserves: Having only played one league fixture in April, the Reserves fought out a 4-4 thriller against Porlock. Always good to watch the Reserves, always goals.

Sunday Team: In a difficult league, where the division seems to be split into two, top half playing for the title, whereas the

bottom half seem to be playing amongst themselves to see who becomes top of the bottom half. However, some encouraging recent results have moved the Sunday side to mid table respectability.

A full round up of the season will be in May's edition.

Mark Sells



The March 2023 meeting included a discussion about the possibility of taking on the verge cutting service for the parish. The benefits and challenges of this proposal were considered and it was agreed that the most effective option might be to wait until the new Local Community Networks (LCN) are in place and to take the proposal to the first LCN meeting. This could help to ensure that the scheme is taken on locally with the input and expertise required to support this initiative.

Cllr Peaster expressed an interest in being involved with this. It is expected that the LCN's will be formed in the late summer and Over Stowey Parish Council will ask for this item to be included on the agenda for consideration.

The Highways meeting will have taken place on April 19th 2023 and an update from this will be given in the next edition of the Quantock Messenger.

Any problems on the roads can be reported online at the Somerset Council web page Report A Problem on the Road or at Fix My Street.

Vesting day for the new unitary authority took place on April 1st 2023. Please visit the Somerset Council website for further information.

As the March meeting was the last one for Cllr Pay, the Parish Council would like to thank her for the help and support she has provided to the parish over her many years of service as a District Councillor. This was also expressed at the meeting and the Parish Council wish her well for the future.

The April Parish Council meeting will have been held on April 19th 2023.

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on the usual third Wednesday of the month –

May 17th 2023, followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Times 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.overstoweparishcouncil.co.uk/>

Email: clerk@overstoweparishcouncil.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

We have been absolutely amazed by the generosity of the local villages and are so thankful for the generous donations we have had after my last newsletter. The response has been amazing and so heart-warming. Mervyn & Margaret 'Books for Life; Charity have donated the whole cost of the doppler machine £3500, we have had it delivered and now just need to train the team in the next few weeks to use it, I have already seen it demonstrated on Nurse Rose and it will make such a difference to us in terms care to our patients and time saved in diagnosis.

I also attended the Nether Stowey Parish Council meeting who have also generously donated £1500 towards the costs and maintenance of the village defibrillator on the outside wall of the Practice. When you call an ambulance, they will usually ask if you have a defib nearby and to go and get it prior to the ambulance arriving. I will look to replace the box it sits in this year as it is quite damaged and needs a good tug to get it open. When the box is open it gives out a very loud alarm which only stops when it is closed again – so if you need it, please don't be afraid of the noise and to be forceful when getting it out!

We have also received a generous sum of £500 from the Stogursey Community Network which has gone towards Digital scales and we will be funding a more portable fast ECG machine.

St Marys Nether Stowey Church have agreed to put on a coffee and cake fund raiser on Saturday 10th June, and we have also

had some donations from patients. We really do appreciate your kind support, and this all helps towards better care for patients in our community.

If you are interested in joining our Patient Participation Group and finding out more about what's happening with your local health service and supporting your local practice our next meeting is Wednesday 21st June at 10.15am in the Nether Stowey Library.

The photo on the front page is the Cheque presentation from 'Books for Life'. Elisabeth Woolcock Patient Group representative, Jane Erskine, Anna Larsen, Sarah Sawyer, Dr Christopher Stone, John Schwieso, from eth Practice and Meryvn and Margaret Todd Books for Life Charity.

Helen Stacey – Practice Manager

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.

Hinkley Point C - Monthly Update

A round up of the latest news from Hinkley Point C



Final phase of Hinkley Point C's offshore work begins

Two floating heavy lift platforms have arrived into the Bristol Channel, as the offshore work moves into its final stage.

The vessels, named "Neptune" and "Sea Challenger", will be used to link the existing tunnels with the intake heads on the seabed. The link will allow seawater to flow through the power station's cooling water system.

Six vertical shafts will be installed at depth of more than 20-metres – and will connect the six miles of tunnels and the intake and outtake heads. These 5,000-tonne structures were lowered onto the seabed last summer and will circulate water to the two nuclear reactors.

The platforms' cranes have a combined lifting capacity of 1,500 tonnes. At 132m, the "Sea Challenger" is longer than a football pitch, and "Neptune" is 60m long.



HPC visits local schools for British Science Week

The Visits Team attended various Somerset schools as part of British Science Week. This was a 10-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) organised by the British Science Association and was a great opportunity to inform and inspire the next generation.

Over the course of two weeks, the team delivered interactive workshops and assemblies, suitable for the audience at each school.

Pupils were invited to consider what we use electricity for and how we can make it. James Mansfield, Education Specialist, Hinkley Point Visits Team, outlined the fundamental physics, chemistry and biology that helps us to make electricity safely via a nuclear reactor.

Students were thrilled as the project's Education Specialist, James recited almost the entire periodic table in under 90 seconds presenting to them some of the challenges that our chemists have on site.

Big Lift Success

April started with one of the largest and most challenging lifts seen so far. Big Carl successfully lifted the Reactor Cavity and Core Internal Storage Pool, which was in excess of 700 tonnes.

Lying at the heart of our Reactor Building, the Reactor Cavity and Core Internal Storage Pool provides a tank of water that completely covers the Reactor during refuelling and maintenance. This means it can be safely opened when needed, with the water providing a vital layer of shielding to our operatives as they handle nuclear fuel assemblies and other internal components.



Find out about the latest progress being made on site and what's happening in the local community in the Spring 2023 edition of Plugged in - <https://www.edfenergy.com/energy/nuclear-new-build-projects/hinkley-point-c/local-community>

Website: [edfenergy.com/hpc](https://www.edfenergy.com/hpc)

Email: hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com

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Stronger 4 Longer in Bridgwater

The ageing process affects our strength and balance, so keeping active is really important to counteract these age-related changes.

At Age UK Somerset, they want you to stay 'Stronger 4 Longer' so you can keep doing the important things- the activities that make you 'you'.

Whether it's putting your wellies on, playing with your grandchildren or even hanging out the washing, they want to help you keep doing them.

Age UK Somerset are working with Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership (SASP) to deliver the Stronger4Longer campaign across the county, to highlight how important muscle strength is for your wellbeing as you get older.

For inspiration on how to keep active at home, go to the SASP website www.sasp.co.uk/stronger4longer for their Exercises to Get Started and find out how to build your strength through everyday movement, in order to stay well, feel younger and protect your future health.

Another way to keep active and to enhance your strength and balance could be through joining one of Age UK Somerset's fun and friendly exercise sessions.

In Bridgwater, Age UK Somerset delivers Flexercise, Yoga and Strong & Steady exercise sessions. Flexercise is a lively chair-based exercise class which uses fun props and laughter to get you moving in a relaxed, informal way. This relatively new class is held at the YMCA, Friarn Avenue, Thursdays at 10am. This weekly class costs just £3 per session- pre-booking is essential to secure your place.

If yoga is more your style, then you could join a yoga-themed class at Sydenham Community Centre. Combining breathing and relaxation movements to balance the mind and improve flexibility, this yoga session can be enjoyed using a yoga mat, seated on a chair or in standing. The sessions are at 10:30 on Wednesday mornings and cost £5 – pre-booking is advised but drop ins are welcome.

Strong and Steady sessions are designed for people who sometimes feel at risk of falling or unsteady on their feet. Call the Falls Prevention team on 01823 345614 for a chat and to find your nearest class.



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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, games, 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.

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

Upcoming Café Dates:

Wednesday 10th May

Wednesday 24th May

Wednesday 7th June

Wednesday 21st June

Wednesday 5th July

Wednesday 19th July

Wednesday 2nd August

For more information please contact:

Helen: 01278 733451 cuttllhelen@gmail.com

Rose: 07507 374234 rosechalk@icloud.com



Burton Springs/ Yellow Door Cottage Fete

will take place again on **Sunday May 28th** 9am – 9.30 pm at Burton Springs Holidays, Burton, TA5 1QB

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. Any unwanted gifts or donations for prizes would be very welcome. Thank you.

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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

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

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

Dispensary 01278 733 385 10am - 12pm & 4 - 5pm (Mon-Fri)

Dispensary Collection 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 10-1, Thurs 4-7, Fri 10-1 & 2-5 / Sat 10am-1)

Quantock Hills AONB, Amanda Sampson - 01823 451 884,

quantockhills@somerset.gov.uk

Community Car Scheme Stowey Shuttle - 07943 923

Village Agent: Sarah Bennet, 07985 680269,

Email: sarahb@somersetccc.org.uk

CHURCH SERVICES – MAY 2023

	7th May Easter 5	14th May Easter 6	21st May Easter 7	28th May Pentecost
Nether Stowey	11:00am Morning Worship (C/Centre)	11:00am Holy Communion (Church)	11:00am Morning Worship (C/Centre)	11:00am Holy Communion (Church)
Over Stowey	6:30pm Evensong	9:30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9:30am Holy Communion	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 Holy Communion	11.00am Morning Worship
Goathurst	9.30am Morning Worship	9.30am Holy Communion	9:30am Morning Worship	6:30pm Holy Communion (BCP)
Spaxton	9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Morning Worship	11:00am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Worship

Dear All,

It was about this time last year that final plans were being put in place to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. There were anxieties about the public engagements that Her Majesty would be able to undertake, but there was great hope that she would be able to enjoy the celebrations marking 70 years of her reign. We certainly recall her Majesty having tea with Paddington!

How saddened we were to be 'attending' her Majesty's funeral only three months later acknowledging a life devoted to service and an example of dedicated commitment to her faith in Christ. During the period of mourning of a monarch's passing comes the proclamation of the new Monarch. It is a time of different emotions, and so it was after Her Majesty's long reign. For so many the passing of a monarch was a new experience.

This month, some eight months on, we are preparing to celebrate the Coronation of our new Monarch, King Charles III with Queen Camilla alongside him. Rather than the Union Jack flags flying at half-mast as they were in September 2022, they will be raised to full mast in joy and celebration of a new King. King Charles will be crowned in Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6th May during a Christian service which is rooted in longstanding tradition and Christian symbolism. Shortly after Easter, we heard that Bishop Michael, our Bishop here in Bath and Wells will be involved in the service too. So please do look out for him on the television.

Hopefully, the service will be a time when we can come together as a nation and enjoy the great celebrations that follow with the Big Lunch on the Sunday and the 'helping out' day on the Monday. It is a time to be together as community, and we hope and pray for good weather.

As King Charles is anointed as King and then crowned as King of this nation and the commonwealth, we pray for him as he taken on this new role amongst his people in changing times and in a changing world. On Sunday 7th May the services in the churches will be themed around the Coronation, so please do come as we pray for and celebrate the new King and Queen in words and songs.

We remember too that Jesus is the King of his Kingdom, a kingdom for all people, all nations and for all time. Christ is the servant-king, the one who laid down his life for us, and rose again so that we can have life for ever. Life not only in this earthly place but also in heaven. Christ, who serves us, also calls us to serve and care for one another, an essence echoed in the help-out volunteer day on Monday 8th May.

May the Coronation weekend be a time for us to celebrate a new King and Queen and share time with one another.

Eleanor

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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For more information about our group

Mac 732382

Obituary for John Thomas 1948-2023

Known by many as JT John Thomas was born in Castle Street in 1948, the first of the three children of Sam and Phyllis Thomas, John, Ann and Anthony. He lived his entire life in Nether Stowey in Castle Street, Coleridge Road and Mount Road.

His first job leaving school was an apprenticeship in decorating with Roberts Brothers where he had a fortunate accident resulting in a slipped disk. Fortunate because while unable to work and in a plaster cast he met on the Cross a girl he had never seen before in the village and within a half an hour had asked her out. He and Marjorie were married in 1969 and had four children, then nine grandchildren and now great grandchildren as well.

John joined the Fire Service and was for many years part of the team in Bridgwater where stories are still told of JT. One night shift they went out to deal with a minor house fire and on their return to the station saw smoke coming out of their own kitchen window. They had left their own cooking unattended in their hurry to respond to the call-out and had to put a ladder and hose up to their own station window. Luckily the local paper never heard about that incident. Later he became a Postman and was well known on his rounds in Wembdon, Cannington and Nether Stowey

He was colourful character, a great lover of sports of all kinds, a skitter, and a darts player who loved to laugh and joke. His home, his family and his many friends were the things he valued most.

Tim Whittingham

John's family would like to thank everybody for the cards, kind messages and flowers, with special thanks to Ann and Ken, Sue and Anthony, Doreen Walker, Avril and Pam for all their love and support.

Also Thank you to all who attended the service and for the generous donations, with special thanks to Tim for the service and to Sam and the team at Grandfields for their care and support at this very difficult sad time.

John/Dad will be very sadly missed by all those that knew and loved him most.

With love and thanks from Marjorie, Alison, Andrew and Ann-Marie.

Obituary for Gillian Browne

Gillian Browne moved from Newport, South Wales with her Husband Tony some years ago to Taunton and enjoyed living in Somerset. When Tony passed away Gillian moved to Hockpitt Lane, Nether Stowey approximately 14 years ago.

Gillian was involved in voluntary work at Coleridge Cottage, Thomas Poole Library and an active tenant for Sedgemoor Homes.

Gillian was also a valued member of The Quantock Quilters held at the Church Centre also the Knit & Natter Group at the Library.

Gillian passed away at home on 20th March 2023 and will be sadly missed by her friends.

Rest in Peace.

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 Strington 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 Combswich, 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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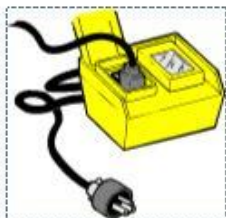
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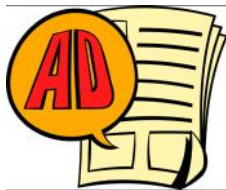
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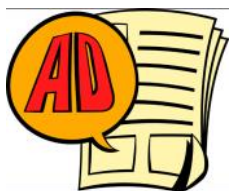
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