



**NOVEMBER 2023**

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For Nether Stowey & Over Stowey



**Messenger**

50p



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## November 2023

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Quantock Messenger. Please let us know if you have something to contribute—local history, local walks, recipes, news of what's going on in the villages—anything which may be of interest to others. Articles should be sent to the editor by the 15th of the preceding month -

[editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk](mailto:editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk).

Best wishes from the QM team

### **Your Quantock Messenger Team**

Please email articles/photos to:

**[editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk](mailto:editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk)**

Please email adverts to;

**[advertising@quantockmessenger.org.uk](mailto:advertising@quantockmessenger.org.uk)**

Edwina	Editor	By email	Jan	Editor	734561 & email
Sian	Editor	By email	Richard Beer	Printer	732412
Sally Dymock	Advertising	732298	Molly Bradner	Assembly/ Distribu- tion	732166
Sally & John Dymock	Collating	732298	Pat & Roger Stacey	Collating	

Front Page: Enjoying Harvest Lunch at the Church Centre (photo Ruth Richardson). Halloween Pumpkin! (photo Terry Abbiss)

## 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

### **SGSG (Stowey Green Spaces Group)**

Roy Osborne 734604

stoweygreenspaces@stowey.org.uk

### **Stowey Walking**

Lynne Abbott 732 228

### **Thomas Poole Library, Nether Stowey**

Sian Stafford 732 741

### **Wednesday Club**

Maggie Harrison 732 532

## COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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

Email [somwestnptsedgemoor@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:somwestnptsedgemoor@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk)

PC Claire Allen, PCSO Jason Wyatt, PCSO Jeremy Pidgeon

Jake Dade (Hinkley issues only) [@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

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Antisocial behaviour call **0800 298 2009**

Vandalism on the Quantock Hills call **101**

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

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### Somerset Councillor:

**Michael Caswell** 01278 652 043

[mike.caswell@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:mike.caswell@somerset.gov.uk)

**Brian Bolt** 07970 855990

[brian.bolt@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:brian.bolt@somerset.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](mailto:clerk@netherstowey-pc.gov.uk)

[clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.co.uk)

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### **Bookings secretaries**

N/Stowey Church Centre

**Pat Stacey** 01278 732 518 (9am—9pm)

O/Stowey Village Hall

**Jackie Barrow** 07891720565

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### **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](mailto: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

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### **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](mailto:quantockhills@somerset.gov.uk)

**Community Car Scheme** Stowey Shuttle - 07943 923 742

**Village Agent:** Sarah Bennet, 07985 680269,

Email: [sarahb@somersetcc.org.uk](mailto:sarahb@somersetcc.org.uk)

## DIARY DATES 2023

Every Monday (except Bank Holidays) - Toddler Storytime - 11am - TPL

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

Every Tuesday—Stowey Singers all welcome 6.45pm-8.15pm at NSCC

Every Tuesday - Walk for Health - Quantock Medical Centre

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

1st and 3rd Tuesday each month - SGSG (Stowey Green Spaces) work groups  
2.30pm - 4.30 pm

2nd Tuesday each month - SGSG meeting 2.30pm

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

Every 3rd Thursday – Stowey Gardeners - 7.30pm - NSCC

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

3rd Saturday each month - SGSG litter picking 10am

8th November – Brain Peaks: How each one of us has a genius inside TPL  
(p20)

25th November - Christmas Craft Fayre 10—4 NSCC (p 13)

15th December - Christmas Celebration Hosted by WI - 2pm NSCC (p 25)

The 216th Women's Walk will be held on Saturday 22 June 2024

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

TPL - Thomas Poole Library  
SGSG - Stowey Green Spaces Group

## **Security Alert mobile phone returns scam**

We have been alerted to reports of a Return Fraud Scam where calls are received from people claiming to be O2 or other mobile phone companies.

A fraudster calls the victim offering a good deal on an upgrade for a mobile phone and manages to obtain personal details to allow them to log into the customer's mobile account. The fraudster orders a new phone or product in the customer's name (this will be different to the product the customer thinks they have ordered).

When the new phone is delivered, the customer receives a call to check everything is ok or to activate the device. When it is discovered, the wrong item was sent, the customer is tricked into sending the phone back to what they believe to be O2, in exchange for their correct order.

The fraudster arranges the return and either sends the customer a QR code to visit the Post Office to print the labels or arranges a doorstep collection, where Royal Mail brings the label already printed meaning the victim has no idea of the address the item is going to.

To assist in protecting your customers, please:

- Look out for returns labels stating O2 or other mobile phone companies with a residential address.
- Advise that unexpected calls should always be treated with caution, especially if the caller is offering you a discount, prize or anything else that sounds too good to be true. Advise them to always call the company on a trusted number to verify the information before proceeding.

Colin Penny  
Nether Stowey Post Office

## **QUANTOCK QUILTERS (Including Textiles)**

**We meet 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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**



## **WOW !**

You were amazing, together we raised **£1318.76**

Thank you to everyone who came to our Macmillan coffee morning and those who couldn't come but still donated and to everyone who made cakes and donated raffle prizes.

Thank you also to Laurelle, Simon and Ron for their help in the kitchen and Helen for selling the raffle tickets.

We are so grateful for your support and hope to see you all again next year.

Lynn and Ruth

### Opening talk at the Library - Stowey Green Spaces Group

On 13th September Roy Osborne, Chairman of Stowey Green Spaces Group, gave the first of the new season of talks in The Thomas Poole Library. With the new Green Spaces banner by his side, Roy talked us through the history of the Group, its recent work and what it hopes to achieve in the future.

A week before his talk to us he had given a 15 minute presentation on the work of SGSG at the invitation of The Somerset Climate Team, along with the Woodland Trust, Green Ilminster and Re-imaging the Levels. This demonstrates the high profile of our Group in the county and the esteem in which it is held.

The group manages Stowey Wood, Millennium Wood, Diamond Jubilee Wood, Platinum Wood and its extension in the filled-in quarry.

The age of Stowey Wood is unknown but it is clearly ancient and dates to at least 1700. In 1970 the Forestry Commission cleared two thirds of it and planted Sitka Spruce, about half of which was felled from 2014 by forestry students from Bridgwater College. In 2018 the then Somerset County Council licensed the Wood to Stowey Green Spaces Group.

Further Sitka was removed from the difficult terrain by horse logging in 2021 with the help of funding from the Quantock Hills AONB. Children from Nether Stowey School were able to visit during this work and witness the horses in action. The felled timber has provided significant income for the Group and native broadleaf species have been used to replant whole areas. What were saplings only a few years ago are already two metres or more tall.

The Group is assisted in its work by other organisations including Taunton Midweek Conservation Volunteers, the Field Studies Council at Nettlecombe Court (D of E) and the AONB Countryside Volunteers.

New signs have been designed for the Woods and the Mount by Terry Sacket and erected with the help of a grant from the Quantock Landscape Partnership.

In addition to the work in the woods, SGSG is busy in other parts of the Parish. It has been active on the Mount in recent years, cutting back fern and gorse. This has been so successful that the Mount has been removed from English Heritage's 'at danger' list and wild flowers are much more in evidence.

The land adjacent to the A39 bypass has seen clearance of

brambles, sowing of wildflowers and planting and conservation of more trees. Litter picking is carried out around the village on a regular basis and Plot 173 has received attention. Nigel Phillips leads informative walks through the woods.

The future of the county owned New Stowey Farm land is the subject of debate at the moment. A number of organisations, including Somerset Council itself, have made proposals and it seems the Council understands the importance of retaining control of the land for wildlife related purposes. Whatever the outcome, Stowey Green Spaces Group continues to make a difference to our surroundings and would welcome help from even more volunteers.



The September meeting focused mainly on the financial issues affecting Somerset Council as reported at various meetings and also in the press. It is clear that any projects/concerns that the Parish Council might have planned that are not a statutory obligation from the local authority are unlikely to be undertaken due to lack of funding.

Therefore, the Parish Council will be concentrating on what they can do at a local level for the community. If any statutory obligations need to be carried out by Somerset Council, the Parish Council will continue to follow these up to ensure work is carried out as soon as possible.

With regards to problems on the roads, these can be reported online at the Somerset Council web page Report A Problem on the Road or at Fix My Street

The second Local Community Network meeting took place on Wednesday 13th September in Spaxton. It was not as well attended as the first one and Cllr Caswell emphasised that these meetings are open to all and anyone wishing to attend would be very welcome. It is an opportunity for local Parish Councils and residents to engage with officers from Somerset Council and to put forward any concerns they wish to be addressed, or requests that may benefit a particular parish or indeed, the LCN area as a whole. Further information can be found at Somerset Local Community Networks

As requested previously, as the bird nesting season has ended the Parish Council ask that all landowners in the parish that have a boundary that abuts the highway, cut back hedging and trees as soon as possible to ensure the roads are safe for all road users. If you have any queries, please contact the Clerk. For further information please use the following link Grass cutting ([somerset.gov.uk](https://www.somerset.gov.uk)) and scroll down to the section Hedges and Banks. Many thanks to those who have already undertaken this work on their boundary.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 15th November 2023 and the date of the December meeting is still 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](mailto:clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Phone: 07391 313740. Please leave a message if there is no reply and leave your contact details, we can then ensure any concerns raised are on the agenda for the next meeting.

# Christmas Craft Fayre

**Saturday 25th November 2023**

**10am-4pm**

**St Marys Church Centre, Nether Stowey TA5 1LJ**

**Refreshments**

**Unique Gifts**

**Tombola**

**Raffle**

*(In aid of Muscular Dystrophy)*

**Entry 50p**

**Kids Go Free**

**To Book A Craft Sales Table Now**

Contact Gill Griffiths 01278 733709

Email : [gillgriffiths2013@gmail.com](mailto:gillgriffiths2013@gmail.com)

*Organised By Quantock Quilters*





# NETHER STOWEY

VILLAGE HALL & RECREATION GROUND

Thank you to all those who are supporting the New Stowey Centre Project through subscribing to our 50:50 Lottery. (No updates on our planning application as yet, although we keep chasing the final piece of information required, which is an ecology report, every few weeks). Details can be found on our website [www.stowey.org.uk](http://www.stowey.org.uk).

The winners for last month were:

## October 2023 draw

1st Prize	£32.25	Ticket No: 74	K Modley
2nd Prize	£16.12	Ticket No: 161	D Penny
3rd Prize	£9.68	Ticket No: 1	T Abbiss
4th Prize	£6.45	Ticket No: 80	D Coombes

[www.stowey.org.uk](http://www.stowey.org.uk)

Jane Erksine, Trustee 732025

Sharon Mayell, Treasurer 732311



## The Latest from the Cricket Club

The season is officially over and the ground has been prepared for the winter and our thanks go out to the small team of dedicated volunteers who help keep the club going in the right direction.

On Saturday 14th October over 60 guests attended the annual awards evening held at Over Stowey Village Hall and as the saying goes 'a good time was had by all'

I have listed below the winners of the various trophies presented on the night many congratulations to the following recipients:-

Clubman: M. Sortwell

Highest Score: K .Barrow 100 not out

Best Bowling: L.Barrow 5 wickets for 4 runs

1st Team Batting: I.Weerawarna Highest score 74 Average 49

2nd Team Batting: M.Sortwell Highest score 74 Average 35

1st Team Bowling:S.Thomas Average 19.12

2nd Team Bowling : L.Barrow Average 9.69

1st Team Catches: H.Langlois 11 Catches

2nd Team Catches: T.Coleman 4 catches

Most Improved Young Player: L.Richards

Most Improved Club Player: O.Hallett

1st Team Player of the Year: J.Swales

2nd Team Player of the Year: W.Merchant-Saunders

Hole in the Hand Award: S.Miller

Until Next Year

Over and Out

# **Nether Stowey Art Group**

**St Marys Church Centre, Nether  
Stowey, TA5 1LJ**

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday every month**

**2pm – 4pm**

**£3 per session**

**Beginners welcome**



**For more information about our group**

**Mac 732382**



## **Carols on the Cross**

St Mary's Church is holding the usual Carols on the Cross on Sunday the 24th of December. We would invite people to come along and celebrate the Nativity. There will be carols and a chance for children to dress up for the Nativity tableaux. Mince pies and hot drinks will be served after the carols. The event will start at 5.30pm.

After reviewing feedback from last year's event, to improve the safety of those attending as well as providing more room for people to enjoy the service the Church has applied for a Temporary Traffic Road Order to allow the roads around the Cross to be closed for a short period covering the service including sections of Castle Street, Lime Street and St Mary Street. Initial reaction has been positive to the closure, and we are hopeful that it will be approved.

The Church is liaising with the council regarding a traffic management plan, signage and event plan as well as taking advice on how best to staff the closure points.

If the closure is granted, we may be asking for volunteers to staff the closure. Anyone interested in being on the closure please let Rev Eleanor know.

## Hinkley Point C - Monthly Update

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



#### Exciting Progress in the Tunnels

The Marine Team has achieved a major milestone in their tunnelling efforts having successfully excavated their way to the first vertical Liner, a crucial component connecting the heads sitting on the seabed with the tunnel below. This achievement was made possible using advanced technology, specifically a remote guidance system, ensuring precise excavation towards the access hatch of the Liner.

Following this achievement, the team has prepared the Liner for the next steps. They have drained the water, used to weigh down the Liner, and are now ready to conduct detailed surveys and geological studies.

Simultaneously, the team is hard at work connecting the Outfall Tunnel to the second vertical Liner, marking ongoing progress.



#### Celebrating six years of positive impact

The Hinkley Point C Community Fund has granted a remarkable £15 million to support local initiatives.

Managed by Somerset Community Foundation, the fund consists of two main programmes: the Small Grants programme offering up to £10,000 over one year or £20,000 over three years and the Open Grants Programme for larger projects.

From enabling support sessions at Bridgwater & Taunton Deaf Club to fostering creativity through music workshops at Dunster Festival and enhancing mental health programs by Seed of Hope CIC, the fund is changing lives.

For detailed information and to apply for funding, please visit [hpcfunds.co.uk](http://hpcfunds.co.uk)

#### Development Consent Order Change

We will soon begin consultation on proposed changes to Hinkley Point C's original planning permission, also known as our Development Consent Order. In the coming months, we will host a series of consultation events designed to provide you with all the information and gather your views on topics such as changes to the way we will store spent fuel, the removal of an acoustic fish deterrent system and our plans for wider habitat creation.

Details of the consultation events will be available through our website, email notifications and updates at public forums.

We welcome you to attend these events.

Website: [edfenergy.com/hpc](http://edfenergy.com/hpc)

Email: [hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com](mailto:hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com)

Telephone: 0333 009 7070



**Thermal Imaging Cameras:** To help Somerset Residents stay warm and safe this winter and identify heat loss to make more efficient energy choices, Somerset Libraries has a Thermal Imaging Camera Scheme where you can loan a camera for free from the Thomas Poole Library for a period of three days. Borrowers must be over 18 and have a valid full adult library membership card. If you would like to know more about the scheme, email [librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk) or pop down to the library to speak to one of our volunteers.

**Blood pressure monitors are available at the library:** You can borrow a blood pressure monitor FREE from The Thomas Poole Library. They are available for a two-week loan to library members and only require 4 AA batteries. To borrow a monitor, speak to one of our volunteers during opening hours.

## **\*\* WHAT'S ON \*\***

### **STORYTIME**

Mondays (except bank holidays), 11am to 11.30am.  
Aimed at babies and toddlers, join us for a fun half hour of stories and nursery rhymes

### **CHESS TIME**

Thursdays, 5pm to 6.30pm. Learn the basics, discover new moves and have fun!

### **KNIT AND NATTER**

Fridays, 10.30am to 12 noon. All ages and abilities are welcome! Just bring your own project which could be knitting, sewing, crochet, embroidery etc. or just come for

a natter and see what others are working on. It's a terrific way to get inspired, pick-up new tips and make new friends

### **SECOND HANDBOOK SALES IN "THE SHED"**

Saturdays, 10.30am to 1pm. We have a wide range of good condition fiction, non-fiction and children's books. All donations contribute to the running costs of the library.

### **MONTHLY TALKS**

Our library monthly talks are held in the library every second Wednesday of the month. Start time is 7.30pm and bookings are required. Entrance fees are £3.50 for members and £4.50 non-members.

**Wednesday 8th November** – Brain Peaks: How each one of us has a genius inside. A talk by Angela Patmore

**Wednesday 13th December** - A festive evening of your favourite poetry or prose with mulled wine, mince pies, a short Christmas quiz, and fun facts

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

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!**



1978 – The Cross

### **YESTERDAYS.....IN NETHER STOWEY"**

"On display – Winter in Nether Stowey

**In the Old Gaol on The Cross**



Knit and natter

**A friendly, social group who meet at  
The Thomas Poole Library**

**Friday's 10.30 to 12 noon**

**All ages and abilities are welcome!**

**For more information, contact  
Elise on 01278 732612**

## Gardening with Nick

November 2023



Hardwood cuttings: it is an excellent month for taking cuttings of black and redcurrants, gooseberries and shrubs such as coloured stem dogwoods, willow, forsythia, flowering currants, roses and buddleja. The cutting is normally 200mm to 300mm long and taken from healthy growth produced in 2023 and must be sufficiently substantial to survive the winter outside, aim for 'pencil' thickness. Make a sloping cut just above a bud and a straight basal cut below a bud. Treat with hormone rooting powder (optional) and making a slit with a spade insert the cuttings into the soil to two thirds their length. If your soil is prone to poor drainage place some grit beneath the cutting. Alternatively, the correct conditions can be produced in a deep container using multi-purpose potting compost and placed outside in a sheltered position and ensuring that they do not dry out. Roots will be produced during the 2024 growing season. Cuttings taken last autumn should now be well rooted and they can be lifted and planted out in a permanent position or potted up and given to friends. All very satisfying!

Ornamentals: Autumn and winter winds can disturb the base of taller bush roses and reducing them in height prior to their main pruning in late February will help prevent wind rock. Herbaceous perennials and some grasses can be tidied up but remember good quality flowerheads and seed pods can look very attractive throughout the winter especially on frosty mornings as well as providing a food source for wildlife.

Leaves should be raked up and turned into valuable leaf mould.

This can be done by stacking them in a wire netting enclosure and occasionally turning them or putting them in black bin bags with some moisture and once tied pierce the bag with a fork. Running the rotary mower over them first creates greater surface area and speeds up decomposition.

Bulb planting: this is a good time to get tulips planted either in the soil or in containers (perforated pond containers are particularly good) which can then be plunged into the ground and lifted out after flowering plus, of course, planting up ornamental containers for display.

The vegetable plot: press on with the winter cultivations provided the ground conditions are not too wet. This allows as much time as possible for frosts to help break down the clods of soil in advance of sowing/planting next year. No dig beds can be cleaned of any weed/crop residue and a substantial layer of compost placed on top of the bed. Ensure that any perennial weeds are thoroughly removed. The earliest

broad beans and peas can still be obtained from November sowings using the correct varieties, i.e. Aquadulce Claudia for the beans and Onward or Feltham First for peas. Soil should be prepared as normal but avoid adding any fertiliser as a compact, hard (tough) plant will withstand the winter weather better. It is still not too late for garlic to be planted.

Fruit: winter pruning can commence this month apples, pears and soft fruits such as the currants, gooseberries, raspberries, etc. But not plums, gages and cherries which are susceptible to silver leaf disease if pruned now. Wait until the sap is rising in spring /early summer to prune and cuts will then 'gum' over and prevent the fungal spores entering through the pruning

cut.

The greenhouse: this can be cleared, cleaned thoroughly, and prepared for winter. Why not try some winter lettuce/salad leaves? Winter Gem is an excellent small cos variety and can be planted either in the soil or in gro-bags. Three or four well rooted strawberry runners can also be planted in a gro-bag or container and these will produce early strawberries in 2024.

Nick Rigden

### A service for Healing and Wholeness

We will be holding a service of healing and wholeness at St Michael and All Angels Church, Enmore on Saturday 25th November from 3pm. This will be a quiet service of prayer and contemplation offering the option of general prayer for healing and specific prayer with anointing for those who would like it. All are welcome whether you desire prayer for yourself or others. For further details please contact Rev'd Nicki Bradford (Tel. 01278 733360 email [nicki.bradford@hotmail.com](mailto:nicki.bradford@hotmail.com))



### **Nether Stowey & Fiddington WI**

Our meeting on 12th October was a craft session hosted by one of our members who supplied a varied and attractive selection on craft materials.



Our ladies had an enjoyable afternoon selecting decorative items to make into their own creation. Our meeting on 9th November will be our 100th birthday party for our members. Yes, your WI is 100 years old on 9th November, the second longest continuous organisation in Nether Stowey, second only to the Ladies Walk held in June each year. Dare I say it! - but Christmas is fast approaching, and on 5th December the WI will be having their Christmas lunch. However, instead of our regular second Thursday in the month meeting, we will be holding a Christmas Celebration on Friday 15th December at 2.00pm in the Church Centre. It will not be the usual Carol Service, but there will be carols, poems and readings with a Christmas theme, followed by Christmas refreshments. All will be welcome, and there will no admission charge for this afternoon. A collection will be taken for the Children's Hospice.

AB



### **Conveyancing Conundrums**

If you have a question about a property sale or purchase, please email it through to [ruth.richardson@amicuslaw.co.uk](mailto:ruth.richardson@amicuslaw.co.uk) and one question will be chosen each month to respond to in the magazine. This column is, of course, no substitute for obtaining legal advice and can only give generic advice that may be of use and interest to a number of readers.

#### ***What is a "Party Wall"?***

I've been asked by a reader what is meant by the term Party Wall and how this affects the ability to do work on your own property. A Party Wall is a section of wall (or fence) that separates two adjoin-

ing properties. The wall can either stand on both sides of the boundary line or can stand on one neighbour's land but is used by both properties.

If you plan to carry out building or maintenance work to the party wall, then you must follow the process set out in the Party Wall etc. Act 1996. This doesn't apply to minor work such as replastering walls, attaching shelves, replacing / fixing electrical sockets /wiring etc.

Serve written notice on all neighbours who share the party wall 2-12 months before you plan to start the work.

If your property is leasehold, serve the notice on all owners.

If you can't identify all the owners despite extensive searches, attach the notice to a visible part of the building.

Explain in the notice what the works are that you propose to do, the start date for the work and the timescales involved.

Your neighbour can either provide their consent by signing the notice and returning it, propose an alternative plan or refuse consent.

If your neighbour doesn't respond within 14 days or refuses consent, this creates a party wall dispute.

If you can't resolve the party wall dispute between yourselves, an independent surveyor will need to be appointed to settle the dispute and draw up an agreement for the work. You will need to cover these costs.

If you don't follow the above process correctly, then your neighbour can challenge the works that you carry out to the party wall and this can lead to significant costs to you.

I look forward to reading your property-related questions,

*Ruth Richardson*

## **CHURCH SERVICES – NOVEMBER 2023**

	<b>NETHER STOWEY</b>	<b>OVER STOWEY</b>
<b>5<sup>TH</sup> November</b>  All Saints	11.00am Morning Wor- ship (Church Centre)  <b>3.30pm All Souls Ser- vice</b> (Church)	6.30pm Evensong (BCP)
<b>Saturday</b> <b>11<sup>th</sup> November</b>		<b>10.50am Service for Armistice Day</b>
<b>12<sup>th</sup> November</b> Remembrance Sunday	10.50am Remembrance Service on the Cross	9.30am Holy Com- munion (said)
<b>19<sup>th</sup> November</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent	11.00am Morning Wor- ship (Church Centre)	9.30am Family/ Morning Worship
<b>26<sup>th</sup> November</b>  Christ the King	11.00am Holy Commu- nion (Church)	9.30am Holy Com- munion

Dear Everyone,

These shorter days mean more television-watching in the evenings and, amongst other things, I have been struck by the Poppy Appeal this month. It reminds us of this time of Remembrance and the work of the Royal British Legion. This year's campaign talks about the thoughts of soldiers heading out to areas of conflict and the human cost, asking us to show support by wearing a poppy.

As many will know, the poppy as a symbol of Remembrance came into being at the end of World War I – the world to end all wars. Amid the destruction of towns and cities, farms and fields, the poppy survived and grew. It became a sign of remembrance and hope that war would cease. Sadly, World War II began just twenty years later, and it didn't end there.

Whilst we might wish it were different, the reality is that war continues throughout the world, even today. Victims of war will always need caring for and those who serve on our behalf need support from charities such as the RBL. Perhaps one day – beyond my lifetime – the Poppy Appeal might not be needed. Our hope, our prayer, has to be for war to cease. The poppy is a sign of hope, that there is life beyond the devastation of war. The hope that we can find a way to live together in our differences and celebrate our diversity. And we mustn't forget the places where communities have succeeded in living together well with their differences. As Christians, we might refer to the poppy in a war zone as a sign of resurrection. It reminds us of Christ's Resurrection from the dead, that death had been defeated so that we can have life forever; of life in God's Kingdom of love, joy and peace.

A prayer which has stood the test of time speaks well of our seeking for peace. It is the prayer of St Francis of Assisi.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there

is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness,  
joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be  
consoled as to console, to be understood as to under-  
stand, to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that  
we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

May we never forget those who gave and give their lives in wars  
and let us always pray for peace.

With best wishes, Eleanor

### **Rutter Requiem**

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November, singers from across Quantock Deanery and beyond will be gathering to sing John Rutter's *Requiem* at St Andrew's Church, Stogursey at 6.00pm. All are very welcome to join the congregation for the service. There will be a retiring collection in aid of Heart for India (this year's Deanery Mission Project) and the Royal British Legion.

### **All Souls Services**

At this time of the year, we take the opportunity to remember those who have lived alongside us but who have died and are no longer with us. During a short service we spend time quietly remembering loved ones who have passed away, whether recently or longer ago.

There will be services on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 3:30pm at: St Edward's Church in Goathurst, St Mary's Church in Kilve and St Mary's Church in Nether Stowey. All are welcome.

## CHURCH CONTACT POINTS

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

<b>Rector</b>	<u>Revd. Eleanor King</u> The Rectory, 25 St Mary St, Nether Stowey TA5 1LJ eleanor.king@hotmail.com	Tel: 734 777
<b>Associate Priest</b>	<u>Revd. Kate Sax</u> The Vicarage, Church Road, Spaxton TA5 1DA kate.kinkiizi@gmail.com Working days: Sun, Tues, Wed	Tel. 671 168
<b>Curate</b>	<u>Revd. Nicki Bradford</u> nicki.bradford@hotmail.com	Tel. 733 360
<b>Readers</b>	<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
<b>Church Wardens - Nether Stowey</b>	<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
<b>Church Warden - Over Stowey</b>	<u>Mr. Peter Higginson</u> Bincombe Tops, Over Stowey	Tel: 732 102
<b>Church Centre Contact:</b>	Mrs. Barbara Beer	Tel: 732 412
<b>Church Centre Bookings:</b>	Mrs. Pat Stacey	Tel: 732 518
<b>Benefice Office:</b>	<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: <a href="mailto:qv.benefice@gmail.com">qv.benefice@gmail.com</a>	Tel: 732 855

## ***More Drivers are needed for the Stowey Shuttle***



**The STOWEY SHUTTLE is not a bus or a taxi service, but a way in which neighbours can help each other to travel to local destinations at low cost.**

**It has about 50 registered passengers who can ask for a ride from our co-coordinators who, in turn, will try to find a driver available to take them on their journey.**

**We have 11 drivers at the moment but we need more.**

**All you need is a driving licence and a car, and some free time during the daytime. There are no weekend journeys, no minimum or regular commitment, and you are free to turn down a journey for any reason.**

**You are paid a mileage allowance for each journey you make.**

**If this sounds interesting please contact the chairman, Paul Brierley (01278 732574) or ring the shuttle number (07943 923742)**



## THE CLIMATE CRISIS: SOMERSET RESPONDS

Everyone will know that among the biggest long-term challenges we face are the changing climate and associated loss of biodiversity. Here in Somerset people are doing what they can to help slow and hopefully reverse these processes. On 6 June the new Somerset Council unanimously approved a county-wide Tree Strategy. This has five main themes, one of which is to plant 240 hectares of new trees and woodland each year over the next decade, from 2023-2033. The aim is to increase Somerset's tree cover from the current 8 % to somewhere close to the UK national average of 13 %. At the formal launch of the Tree Strategy (at Monks Yard, Ilminster) on 8 September Stowey Green Spaces Group were invited to give a presentation on how our community has responded to the need for more trees. Other presentations included "Reimagining the Levels," South Petherton's "Trees and Wildlife Group" (appropriately abbreviated to TWiG) and "Green Ilminster." Since 2000, when Nether Stowey Primary School children nurtured and planted the saplings that have since become Stowey Millennium Wood, volunteers from in and around the Stoweys have planted around 2500 trees, in the Millennium Wood, with its Diamond Jubilee and Platinum Jubilee extensions, in Stowey Wood itself and along the A39 Bypass. It is hoped that many more will be planted, including an extension westward from Stowey Wood, as soon as Somerset Council finalize their management plan for land at New Stowey farm.

On 14 October Stowey Green Spaces, under the auspices of the Somerset Wildlife Trust, were also present at a "Wilder Somerset 2023" conference at Bridgwater's Canalside Conference Centre. A series of inspiring talks from volunteer organizations



included presentations from the Chardstock Group's "Kit Brook River Restoration" project to "Greener and Wilder Blagdon Hill," Eaton Village Wildlife Group, Wilder Buckland and the amazing work done by Transition Town Wellington. The afternoon session ended with a choice of activities, with a large group opting for a guided walk of the Bridgwater Meads Eco Park.

Plans and strategies are of course all very well, but the real challenge is to put them into practice. It is uplifting that so many people in towns and villages around the County are taking matters into their own hands, often prompted by or with the support of their Parish Councils, local landowners and farmers, to "green" their surroundings in a bid to help nature recover. It's a massive task, and time is of the essence, but every individual contribution is worthwhile and can help make a difference. If you think that you can support Stowey Green Spaces activities in any way, however small, please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can find us on Facebook, at [stowey.org.uk](http://stowey.org.uk) or via the Parish Council or Quantock Messenger.

Stowey Green Spaces Group

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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 from the surrounding villages to come along for coffee and a chat. Helen and Rose look forward to seeing you soon.

Upcoming Café Dates:

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024



**For more information please  
contact:**

Helen: 01278 733451

[cuttellhelen@gmail.com](mailto:cuttellhelen@gmail.com)

Rose: 07507 374234 [rosechalk@icloud.com](mailto:rosechalk@icloud.com)

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### **The Marion Evered Trust**

We will be doing a Christmas raffle again this year, at time of writing I am just finalising prizes before getting tickets printed but already we have some fantastic prizes including a Hamper, Somerrock tickets, Golf day and Meals and local restaurants, please contact Ian on 07984943464 or Pauline on 01278732522 for tickets.

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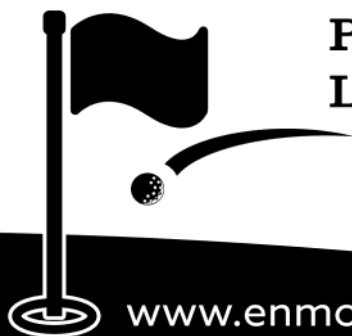
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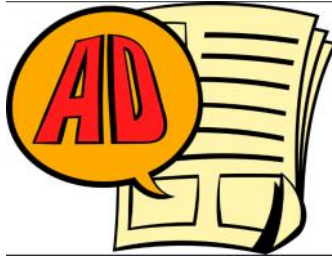
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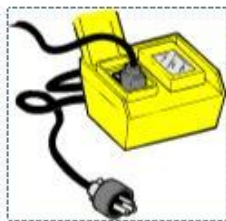
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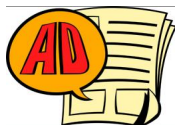
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