



QUANTOCK
for Nether Stowey & Over Stowey

Messenger

March 2021

50p

Quantock Messenger Reader Special Offer for March:



First session free for Julia Shaw's next Breathwork course, starting on March 14th via Zoom.

Breathing classes provide support for health and wellbeing through reducing stress levels.

Visit www.sophiasways.co.uk for full details.

Let Julia know you are taking advantage of the reader special offer and enjoy the peace and tranquillity that her classes bring.



Congratulations to Jake Richardson for completing a challenge to walk at least 20 km during his half term holiday. His longest walk was 13 km, which is the furthest he's ever done.

For challenge inspiration and to order challenge medals, see www.thegreatbritishchildrenschallenge.co.uk

CONGRATULATIONS

Albert and Maureen Hillman are celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary on the 4th March.

Best wishes for a very happy anniversary from Alison, Tori, Ian, Matt, Sabine & Charlotte.



CLUBS & SOCIETIES IN NETHER STOWEY & OVER STOWEY

Allotment Association

Bruce Roper 732 043

Active Living Group

Call 734 613 or 733 040; 733 151; 732 609

Coleridge Probus Club

Philip Comer (01984) 656 720

Coleridge Cottage

Tel: 732 662

Friends of Coleridge

Eliza Sackett 733 660

Thomas Poole Library, Nether Stowey

Eliza Sackett 733 660

Friends of Over Stowey Church

Christopher Stone 732 907

Friends of Quantock

Mary ter Braak (01984) 656 633

Friends of Nether Stowey School

Lisa Rendle 732 508

Nether Stowey Football Club

Chair: Nigel Waterman 732 310

Seniors: Steve Easden 07788 370014

Juniors: Nigel Waterman 732 310

Minis: Richard Marriott 07890 451694

Nether Stowey Playing Fields Committee

Michelle Thomas 734 837

Nether Stowey Short Mat Bowls

Cath Roberts 732 789

Nether Stowey Twinning Association

Open to everyone. Ian Pearson 732 228

Nether Stowey Village hall

Jan Miller 733 436

Nether Stowey Women's Institute

Margaret Harris 734 613

Over Stowey Bellringers

Morley Cavill 732 011

Over Stowey Bowls Club

Wendy Hill 732 194

Over Stowey Cricket Club

Phil Rich 732 675

Over Stowey Rights of Way Group

Richard Ince 733 237

Over Stowey Social Club

Sue Thomas 732 905

Over Stowey Tennis Court

Liz Onions 732 195

Quantock AONB Office, Fyne Court

Tel: (01823) 451 884

Quantock Beekeepers Association

Ken Edwards 671 544

Quantock Players

Wendy Hobbs 733 197

Quantock Quilters

Gill Griffiths 733 709

Quantock Tennis Club

Robin Bendall 732 633

Royal British Legion - N/Stowey & District

Julia McWilliam 732 234

Stogursey Forget-Me-Not Cafe

Helen Cuttell 734 818

Stowey Green Spaces Group

Judith Greig 732 483

The Quantock Flower Club

Mary Pearce 732 297

The Quantock Musical Theatre Co.

Rosie Keen 733 370

Stowey Bears (pre-school)

Lisa Cripwell 734 636

Stowey Book Club

Alison Whittingham 732 446

Stowey Gardeners

Juliet Harkness 733 245

Urban Saints Juniors (years 3 - 6)

Kerry Trout 732 112

Urban Saints Seniors (years 7 and above)

Kathryn Popham 733 745

Wednesday Club (formerly the Day Centre)

Maggie Harrison 741 230

March 2021

Dear All,

Unfortunately the magazine will have been printed before the big announcement on February 22nd regarding a plan for coming out of lockdown. Hopefully part of that announcement will give potential dates for our local pubs, restaurants, hairdressers, beauty salons and wonderful social clubs reopening.

So far this year I have been fully occupied with home-schooling. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful team of teachers at Nether Stowey Primary School. Our transition to online learning was seamless from day one and the lessons provided have included fantastic interactive videos with the class teacher. Talking to friends elsewhere whose children have had to be online at fixed times on Teams calls with all their class made me shudder at the thought...frozen screens, multiple children talking at once, aargh! A huge thank you to Mrs. Holt and the entire team.

I was really excited to learn that we have an internationally-renowned weaver in the village and loved talking to Janet Phillips for this month's Stowey Star. Fingers crossed her in-person courses can start up again soon.

Take care, Ruth

Your Messenger Team

Please email articles to editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk

Please send adverts to advertising@quantockmessenger.org.uk

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|---------|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Ruth Richardson | Editor | 229 682 | Annabelle Whitlock | Editor | By email |
| Sally Dymock | Advertising | 732 298 | Richard Beer | Printer | 732 412 |
| Sally & John Dymock | Collating | 732 298 | Molly Bradner | Assembly | 732 166 |

We are always pleased to receive articles in any form (by phone, handwritten, typed or by email). Photos are appreciated and will be returned. You may leave articles for The Messenger at the Church Centre or at the Parish Council Offices, on the Cross in Nether Stowey.

Deadline for articles is the 15th of the preceding month.

Cover Photos: Our Stowey Star, Janet Phillips and various Signs of Spring from all around the village...brighter days are definitely ahead!

DIARY DATES 2021

All village clubs and societies are currently closed, but fingers crossed events and meetings can start up again soon!

THANK YOU

Thank you from the family of Charles Wilkins for all the cards and messages of condolences we received.



NETHER STOWEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

We find ourselves in a very cold February and still in national lockdown. I do hope my communication finds you well and in good spirits.

As always, we are in the midst of a busy school term with our new way of learning. Children, parents and staff have worked exceptionally hard this term with their remote education. There is lots to celebrate with the fantastic learning that has been taking place. Children have continued to work on their maths and English as well as their exciting topics. Key stage one has enjoyed finding out about the egg box dragon. Whilst our older children have learnt about the Tudors, plants and their local environment. I am exceptionally proud of the efforts made by all our families during this time. We continue to work together with the resources we have to deliver the best that we can.

Chloe Holt

TRANSPORT TO COVID-19 VACCINATION CENTRES

If there is anyone having to go to North Petherton Rugby Club or Taunton Racecourse for their Covid-19 vaccine and don't drive, call Community Transport on 01278 434 881. They have increased capacity for this.

LITTLES STORES

We offer free home delivery for groceries by calling 01278 732 249.

Please note, though, that for SAME DAY DELIVERY orders must be placed **before 10am.**

Thank you.



Is Spring is just around the corner?!

At Stowey Gardeners we are particularly aware of how important getting out in our gardens is in these confined times.

However not all of us have gardens and those of us who do sometimes need a break and some inspiration.

As soon as travel restrictions are lifted Stowey Gardeners would like you to join us (whether a member or not), free of charge, on our various planned car visits to gardens in Somerset.

We have arranged dates for visits to Burrow Farm & Courthouse, Kilve ; Greencombe gardens, Porlock in **May** and to Sally Gregson's garden at Mill Cottage Plants in **July**.

If you would like to join a distanced/covid-safe outing **PLEASE** get in touch with us for further details of where we hope to meet; or for enquiries regarding joining the Club in 2021:

Lucy Haswell (Sec.) shbassoon@aol.com

Juliet Harkness (Chair) 01278 733245

Our full (provisional) Programme is available for you to see on our website: <https://sites.google.com/site/stoweygardeners/>

PLAYING FIELDS REGENERATION CLUB DRAW

Congratulations to the February winners of the Playing Field Regeneration (PFR) Club Draw. There will be draws in March & April and then the Super Draw in May, subscriptions for the following 6 months will be collected at the end of May. The draw currently supports the new Stowey Centre Project but in the past has helped us gain grant funding to build the MUGA & the children's play area.

If you would like to be included next time or would like further information please contact Jane Erskine 732025 or Sharon Mayell 732311. Thank you.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------|------------------|
| 1st | £33.75 | 120 | J Hatt |
| 2nd | £16.88 | 117 | B Rich |
| 3rd | £10.12 | 244 | P Tyndall |
| 4th | £6.75 | 1 | T Abbiss |

Sharon Mayell

THE THOMAS POOLE LIBRARY



The Library was the only Community Library in the county to re-open after Christmas, but closed a week later as the risk to our volunteers and the public was deemed too great.

Since then various upgrades and improvements have been carried out, with the alarm system upgraded to be ready for the replacement by BT of its analogue phone service for an IP network, and a new sensor for the automatic entrance door fitted, to replace the faulty original one. These works have been costly, but fortunately we have the reserves to cover the costs.

We hope that we will be able to resume some sort of service before too long. By the time you read this there will probably have been new guidelines from central government and the Library Service which will allow us to safely open up. We rely on the dedication of our volunteers and they must feel that the arrangements inside the library are safe before they commit to providing the service which is appreciated by so many.

Even though we are closed, we continue to receive deliveries of new stock, so there will be plenty of mint condition books to choose from when we welcome you again.

Roger Stacey

STOWEY STAR

Shining a light on a local individual each month who is worthy of the moniker 'Stowey Star'. If you know of a local artist / craftsperson or someone who has done a lot for charity / worthy causes, please get in touch so we can contact them. editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk or 01278 229 682.

Janet Phillips is an internationally-renowned weaver who, until Covid put a stop to everything, ran regular weaving workshops that attracted weavers from all over the world to Nether Stowey. I was thrilled to catch up with Janet and understand more about her craft.

Inspired after a visit to the Scottish Border tweed mills in 1967, Janet completed a 4-year industrial design course at the Scottish College of Textiles after finishing school. Her initial job involved designing fabrics to be woven on industrial looms but unfortunately this coincided with the decline in large industrial mills. However, a move to London to design coat and suit fabrics for Wallis Shops led to her meeting her husband, Nigel, who writes our Natural Thoughts column every month.

In 1975, Janet bought a hand loom and began designing and weaving her own fabrics, making items with those fabrics and selling them at craft fairs. Her creations ranged from rugs and curtains to cushions, bags and even jewellery. Commissions soon followed and her reputation grew. As Janet explains, *"Weaving is a combination of colour, rhythm, repetition and maths."* In 1983, Janet published her first book, *The Weaver's Book of Fabric Design*, and she has just published her 3rd book, *Exploring Woven Fabrics*.

I was amazed to learn that she buys most of her yarns undyed and then dyes it all herself to the exact colours she requires. There is also a huge variety of materials to choose from: wool, silk, linen... Although she still creates functional fabrics, her main focus since moving to Nether Stowey in 2009 has been on teaching. She provides single day, weekend and week-long workshops, with many attendees coming from the US, where there is a large weaving fraternity. Although in-person classes are her preferred method of teaching, she is currently working on an online course until those can resume.

If you've been inspired to look further into the craft of weaving, Janet's website is www.janetphillips-weaving.co.uk.

Ruth Richardson

NATURAL THOUGHTS

Robins

You probably don't want to hear this, but the average lifespan of a Robin is around eighteen months! So that friendly Robin that seems to be your shadow as you dig over the garden, and it feels like you have bonded with it over the years, is probably many different Robins.

Some very lucky Robins may survive for up to six years in your garden, particularly if you don't have a cat! Around the Stoweys, another big predator of our Robins is the Sparrowhawk.

Having said all that about death and destruction, a very, very, few Robins have been recorded as living for up to fourteen years!!!

Robins are wonderful little birds that seem so confident and alert and that red breast is so distinctive. But they are really quite small, and fragile birds that can very hard hit by prolonged icy spells and once the ground freezes it is very hard for them to feed. Robins are omnivorous, eating tiny seeds, small insects and worms, nearly all found on the ground. Other similar small birds like Great Tits and Blue Tits for example, are not restricted to feeding on the ground and they find a lot of tiny insects or insect eggs to eat during winter that are hidden away in cracks in tree bark up away from frozen ground.

Blackbirds and Thrushes have much the same ground feeding habits as Robins, but being considerably bigger they are able to cope better with cold weather and also Blackbirds and Thrushes have the advantage of being adept at feeding up off the ground on berries on trees during winter.

In the wild, Robins are great followers of big animals like deer, which scrape the ground with their feet looking for new plant shoots to eat, and where they occur wild boar, which dig over the ground to find things to eat. What Robins are looking for when they follow these animals, are all the tiny insects and worms exposed by the scrapping and digging and they are exactly what a Robin eats. That's why they are so keen to follow you when you are digging in the garden. Robins have been following diggers and scrappers for thousands and thousands of years, long before we invented spades and gardening.

About seven million pairs breed each summer They lay 5-6 eggs in a very well hidden nest, often surprisingly close to the ground.

nigelphillips@thesomersetcoast.co.uk



NEWS FROM THE QUANTOCK MEDICAL CENTRE

As you are aware, we have been working with the Bridgwater Practices providing Covid-19 vaccination clinics at the North Petherton Rugby Club and locally at our own practice when we have been able to get hold of the Astra Zeneca vaccine.

It has been surprisingly hard work making the thousands of phone calls required to persuade people to come forward to have the vaccine. Our patient population at the practice is approx. 3,734. From the start of this year to the time of writing this article, we have been able to vaccinate over 1,429 of our patients with their first vaccine, which is a great achievement.

Somerset came top in the country reaching their target of 96.3% of the over 80 year olds vaccinated, and 93.4% of the over 70 year olds vaccinated. Quite an achievement, with an amazing team effort across the Practices and the help of some wonderful volunteers.

From a local point of view, I would also like to praise our team at the Practice for their hard work and tireless efforts made to contact patients to book these appointments, and the whole team for giving up their time to come in and run these clinics, not forgetting to mention the help from the volunteers manning the car parks helping to keep people safe. Thank you.

Given the number of phone calls we are having to make, we are trialling a text message system whereby, if you have a modern mobile phone, you will receive a text to directly book your appointment. We trialled it for our practice clinic and within 10 minutes 115 appointments out of 200 were booked in, which was brilliant. We will of course still contact people on landlines if you do not respond to the text.

Please make sure we have your correct details, If you are not sure, contact us and we will check. You can email on quantock.mc@nhs.net with your correct details, or drop us a note into the surgery.

If you receive a text from us, it is genuine and you can book your appointment online with the link. The only thing it will ask for is your date of birth to confirm you are the person we have sent the message to.

Helen Stacey, Practice Manager

OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL

Over Stowey Parish Council held their first online meeting on Wednesday 20th January 2021. It was agreed that the process was straight forward and during these times, is an appropriate and safe way to ensure that Parish Council business is able to continue.

You may have noticed that work has been undertaken at Bincombe Green, but additional work is still required, this was in part due to a vehicle being driven over the area. The area will be rotovated in spring when the weather permits and also re-seeded with appropriate wild flowers.

Work has progressed quickly on the upgrade to a MUGA. There are a few issues with regards to the levels and staggered fencing heights that need to be addressed and the Clerk has contacted the contractor to arrange a site meeting. The materials used are of a high quality and it is hoped that the other issues will be rectified quickly. A further update will be made at the February 2021 meeting.

The Clerk has been contacted by the Clean Surroundings department with regards to the dog waste bins and they are due to be delivered very soon.

There is still a vacancy for a new Parish Councillor and if you are interested in the role, please contact the Clerk for information and eligibility criteria, or see our website for a link to the application form. If there are any applications forthcoming, these will be considered at the next meeting

With regards to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, if anyone needs any help or support from the Parish Council, please contact the Clerk. Alternatively, if you require more specific information or advice, the Clerk can signpost you to the relevant group or agency, to ensure you get the correct and appropriate response.

If you have any other concerns or issues you would like to bring to the attention of the Parish Council, please contact us in the usual ways:

Website: <https://www.overstoweyparishcouncil.co.uk/>

Email: clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.co.uk

Phone: 01278 734689 (please feel free to 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.

Amanda McMurren, Clerk to Over Stowey Parish Council

GARDENING NOTES WITH NICK RIGDEN



February is now behind us and what a strange month it was weatherwise. Hopefully, we can look forward to a busy March in the garden which is a month for 'spring cleaning' the garden and getting started on seed sowing and planting.

Ornamentals: borders can be forked over and crowded perennials can be lifted and divided so that the older inner portions are rejected and the vibrant outer sections can be replanted or potted up for friends (or perhaps future village plant sales!) Take care to dig out any perennial weeds such as bindweed, couch grass and buttercup. Once spruced up, the borders can be mulched with well rotted compost or farmyard/horse manure. Mushroom compost is fine but beware of mulching around acid loving plants such as camellias, rhododendrons and heathers as it may contain some chalk (alkaline). 50-75mm (2-3") of mulch will not only keep the moisture in the ground for longer but also act as a suppressant for annual weeds. Lift divide and replant snowdrops after flowering as the foliage starts to yellow.

Pruning: This is the month when the coloured stem dogwoods and willows should be pruned. This will encourage strong new growth which always possesses the best colour and results from cutting back hard to buds near the base of the plant. Follow up by giving the plants a good feed with a general-purpose fertiliser such as Growmore or blood, fish and bone and then apply a mulch around the shrub. Dormant season pruning of top and soft fruit should be completed as should bush roses and later flowering shrubs such as buddleja (the butterfly bush). It is not too late to plant a choice winter flowering shrub which will provide a good display for future winters. *Lonicera x purpusii* (Winter flowering honeysuckle) is excellent as is *Hamamelis mollis* (the Chinese Witch Hazel and *Daphne bholua* 'Jaqueline Postill') and for climbers one of the winter flowering Clematis such as *Clematis cirrhosa* 'Wisley Cream'

Vegetables: As the soil warms up, particularly if cloches or polythene have been laid on the surface, it is the month to get some early sowings of vegetables underway. Choose early varieties of crops such as lettuce, rocket, spring onions and later in the month leeks, parsnips, spinach, broad beans and peas. At the end of the month well chitted early varieties of potato such as Foremost and Pentland Javelin (Casablanca is a very early variety and RHS recommended) can be planted. Onion sets, shallots, and autumn sown

brassicas (your own young plants or purchased from a garden centre) can now be planted.

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

Lawns: this is the month that, provided the surface is dry, the lawn will benefit from a good rake and brush and then lightly topped with the mower.

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

Nick Rigden



NOTES FROM NETHER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL

As I write this, we are still in lockdown. In the meantime we are working and you can contact us by e-mail or on the office phone number (01278 733 779) during working hours every day as calls divert to me when no-one is there. Please let it ring a bit longer to allow for the time it takes to do the diversion. Fuller information is available on our website at www.netherstowey-pc.gov.uk.

If you need help you can also contact the **Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline number on 0300 790 6275** who can provide multi-agency help and advice. Our website also has links to other agencies who also offer advice or assistance. Sedgemoor and Somerset Council offices remain closed for the time being, and though service is rather patchy, they can be contacted by phone or e-mail.

Hinkley Point have announced a significant increase to their workforce level in the coming months. It is thought likely that many of these additional workers will choose to live in the local area, including Nether Stowey. Although HPC cannot give a precise timetable for this increase, since much depends on the pandemic and safety constraints, it is expected that numbers will start to increase slowly later this year and reach a peak towards the end of 2022/early 2023.

The Parish Council has started discussions with representatives from Hinkley Point to find ways to reduce the impact this will have on the village – in particular as regards parking, but there are other issues of concern.

We ask any landowners who have space close to the village which they could offer as space to create car parking to contact us. Do you have a driveway or garage that you would be interested to rent out? Please contact us at the office or e-mail address below if you do! We would also ask that if you are thinking of offering accommodation to HPC workers, that you consider the impact this will have on your neighbours if you are not able to offer off-road parking. Moving your own vehicle to a verge or other legal place, so that your lodger doesn't get reported is not helpful as this does not reduce the overall number of cars parking on the roads.

HPC do run an effective control for fly-parking (HPC workers who do not live in the village) and if you have a problem please contact me to report it in. They are helpful where workers have parked in dangerous or illegal places, but please remember they cannot take action where a vehicle that has valid tax, MOT and insurance is parked safely on the road.

The next national census will take place on **Sunday 21 March**. This year, as well as the usual printed form, you will have the choice to complete it online. The census happens every 10 years and helps Government, local authorities and others help plan for the services we all need such as health, transport and education. There will be lots of information coming soon or go to www.census.gov.uk. Under the 1920 Census Act it is compulsory to take part in a census.

The Parish Council will continue its meeting schedule on Zoom for the time being, and as ever all are welcome to join. The next meeting will be on Monday 8 March. Details will be on the website nearer the meeting date. Printed copies of the minutes of meetings can be supplied for those who don't do "Online".

Caro Slaymaker, Clerk to the Parish Council

Tel: 01278 733 779 / e-mail: clerk@netherstowey-pc.gov.uk

Website : www.netherstowey-pc.gov.uk

Would you like to give back to your community and have a positive impact on the lives of local children?



Nether Stowey C.E. V.C. Primary School has 2 vacancies on the Governing Board:

1. Governor to join the Business Committee of the Board.
2. Foundation Governor.

For the Business Committee role, we are not looking for a finance expert, just someone with an understanding of budgets, commercial contracts and monitoring of such.

For the Foundation Governor role, it is not required that an applicant be a Church-goer, simply that the individual will monitor that the school's Christian basis is being upheld.

School Governors come from all walks of life and they bring different skills to help our children and our community thrive.

The time commitment is approximately 2 meetings of 1-2 hours every 4-6 weeks plus some extra hours each month to read relevant documents. Meeting timings are flexible to suit the governors (and are currently all virtual due to Covid-19). Training is provided and this is a fabulous opportunity to gain new skills and really make a difference to our community.

For more information, please contact
Ruth Richardson, Clerk to the Governors
rrichardson@educ.somerset.gov.uk or 01278 229 682.

NETHER STOWEY POST OFFICE

CHANGES FOR OVERSEAS MAIL WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT

What's changing?

Royal Mail have changed their process for international items where a customs declaration form is required. Goods and gifts that do not have customs declarations will no longer be despatched overseas. In addition,

custom forms need to be **fully completed in block capitals and clear to read**. If posting from England, Scotland and Wales, completed customs forms are mandatory on all goods being sent to both EU and non-EU destinations. The process for ParcelForce remains unchanged: any items that have insufficient detail to leave the country will be returned to the shipper.

For CN22/CN23 forms customers must include:

- Accurate description of the contents, each item must be listed – it is insufficient to put 'Clothing' or 'Jumper' you need to specify i.e. 'Woolen Jumper' 'Denim Jeans' etc.
- Weight of each item with a total weight shown for all items
- Value of each item with a total value shown for all items

This applies whether the item is a gift or a commercial item

And declarations must be:

Clearly completed in block capitals - Signed and dated - Attached to the outside of the item.

Why is it changing?

This change has been introduced in response to the increasing compliance checks by customs authorities. Royal Mail are making these changes to protect customers' mail which otherwise would be at risk of lengthy delays overseas and still being returned.

What will happen to items if a form is not attached or is partially completed?

Items will be processed using the standard Return to Sender process. Anything without a return address will be sent to the National Returns Centre (NRC).

Customs forms are available from Nether Stowey Post Office. Form CN22 for non tracked items or CN23 for Tracked and/or Signed For.

Colin Penny

CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT

If you are self-isolating or need extra support, contact:

See Community Directory for Parish Council and Health Centre contact details.

Somerset Local Authorities' Coronavirus Support Line - 0300 790 6275
- 8am-6pm 7 days a week (they can put you in touch with local groups who can help with fetching shopping, medication and other essentials supplies, as well as other aid).

Somerset Bereavement Support Service - 0800 3047 412 - Monday to Saturday, 9am-5pm

Somerset Mindline - 01823 276 892 - is open 24 hours a day for mental health and emotional wellbeing support.

Samaritans - 116 123 - 24 hour support line.

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

Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM) - 0800 58 58 58 - Offer support to males of any age.

Educational Psychology Service - EPSHelpline@somerset.gov.uk (email best method of contact) or 01823 357 000

Listening Chaplaincy Phonenumber for people of all faiths - 0330 229 1700 - 8am-11pm 7 days a week.

Daily Hope free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers - 0800 804 8044 - 24 hours a day

Over Stowey Neighbourhood Watch - Tam Weeks - Mobile: 07841 866 596 (between 8am-8pm only please) - Email: tam.weeks@yahoo.co.uk

If you want to contact outside of 8am-8pm, please contact using text message, Facebook Messenger, Nextdoor or WhatsApp.

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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

Email somwestnptsedgemoor@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk
PC Tony Freeman, PC Claire Allen, Kim Wrixon, Jason Wyatt,
Sue Marks (Hinkley issues only). @avonandsomerset.police.uk

Antisocial behaviour **0800 298 2009**

Vandalism on the Quantock Hills use **101**

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

County Councillor: **Michael Caswell** 01278 652 043
MCaswell@somerset.gov.uk

District Councillors **Michael Caswell** 01278 652 043
michael.caswell@sedgemoor.gov.uk
Julie Pay 01278 732 956
julie.pay@sedgemoor.gov.uk

Nether Stowey Parish Council

Clerk: **Caro Slaymaker**

01278 733 779

clerk@netherstowey-pc.gov.uk

Over Stowey Parish Council

Clerk: **Amanda McMurren**

01278 734 689

clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.co.uk

Bookings secretaries

N/Stowey Church Centre **Pat Stacey** 01278 732 518 (9am—9pm)
N/S Village Hall **Jan Miller** 01278 733 436
O/Stowey Village Hall **Wendy Hill** 01278 732 194

Quantock Medical Centre (if closed call the NHS on 111)

Reception 01278 732 696

Dispensary 01278 733 385

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

Repeat prescriptions line open 10-11.30am & 4-5pm (Mon-Fri)

Pick up from Dispensary 10am-12pm and 4-6pm (Mon-Fri)

quantock.mc@nhs.net <https://quantockmedicalcentre.gpsurgery.net/>

Cannington Health Centre (if closed call NHS on 111)

Reception 01278 652 335

Prescription line 01278 651 311

Other Community Facilities

Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline 03454 040 506

Thomas Poole Library 732 741 (Mon, Wed, Fri 10am-1pm / Sat 10am-12)

Quantock Hills AONB, Amanda Sampson - 01823 451 884, quantockhills@somerset.gov.uk

Community Car Scheme Stowey Shuttle - 07943 923 742 (48 hours in advance)

Nether Stowey Post Office 732 235 (9am-1pm & 2-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-12:30 Sat, closed Sun)

CHURCH CONTACT POINTS

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

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Rector | Revd. Eleanor King The Rectory, 25 St Mary St. Nether Stowey TA5 1LJ eleanor.king@hotmail.com | Tel: 734 777 |
| Associate Priest | Revd. Kate Sax The Vicarage, Church Road Spaxton TA5 1DA kate.kinkiizi@gmail.com Working days: Sun, Tues, Wed | Tel. 671 168 |
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The wonder of Creation and the tragedy of our destruction of it!

During this time of the pandemic and lockdown, so many of us have taken to the countryside for our exercise, or if we live in a town or city, we have taken our recreation in parks and green spaces. Recreation is an interesting word: re-creation – a time for renewal, refreshment of mind, body and soul.

The Bible has much to say about creation and it isn't really critical to accept or reject the biblical creation story, but rather to accept that it is something not instigated by man, but surely by a superior power – God for so many of us.

It is with great sadness, shame and even horror that we see just how destructive our human activities have been and continue to be. The BBC's recent documentary, another from the David Attenborough stable – The Perfect Planet brings this home as never before.

I am a member of the Woodland Trust and a keen follower of Countryfile who have introduced their "Plant Britain" campaign this year aiming to inspire local groups and communities to plant a quarter of a million trees in 2 years. There are many other organisations, charities and government initiatives working towards redressing the balance.

In the first book of the Bible, Genesis, we read that God gave all creation to man; to make it fruitful and to be good stewards. It seems we have failed in so many ways and now we are paying the price! The Church therefore surely has a key part to play and indeed has been doing so for quite some time. Eco-Church is an initiative that was introduced quite some years ago and aims to encourage church officers and members to seek ways of being more "green".

Later this year many churches, including those in our own Benefice, will be holding a Climate Sunday when there will be an opportunity "to explore the theological and scientific basis of creation care and action on climate, to pray and to commit to action".

Is there just one thing that you are doing or planning to do to play your part? Just the simple act of planting a tree or something more dramatic like installing solar panels or even changing your car! Perhaps during this time of Lent, rather than giving something up, we can take a positive step to re-creating this wonderful, God-given, "Perfect Plant", if not for ourselves, then for our children and grand-children who will otherwise suffer from the consequences of our action – or in-action.

Rev'd Kate Sax

UPDATE REGARDING SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES

We are missing not worshipping together in the churches Sunday by Sunday, and we hope to be able to do so soon. Please do look out for posters giving details of services, especially for Holy Week and Easter, and for something on Mothering Sunday.

In the meantime, we are still holding YouTube services (search 'Quantock Villages Benefice' on YouTube) and there is a paper service available. I am sorry not to be able to give you a date when we will return to communal worship in the churches, but the churches are open for private prayer as listed below. If you have any queries, please do contact Revd Eleanor.

Opening times for private prayer:

St Mary's Church, Nether Stowey

Wednesdays 11am – 12noon

Sundays 11am to 12noon

St Peter & St Paul, Over Stowey

Wednesdays 12noon - 4pm

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For further details about Church Services and activities, including contacts for safeguarding concerns, please see the church website at:
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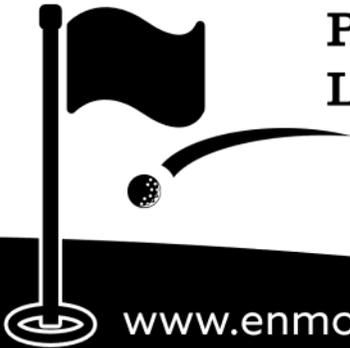
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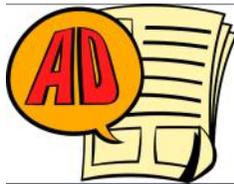
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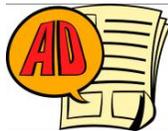
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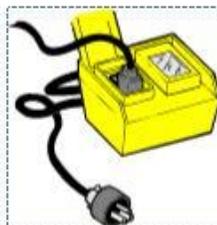
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