

Reports from Local Organisations

**Please help yourself to a report.
If you are interested in an organisation
and would like a copy of a report sent
to you, please fill in your details on the
form on the table**

We have received reports and details from
the following organisations:

- Books for Life
- Friends of Nether Stowey Library
- Footpaths Liaison Officer
- The Friends of Coleridge
- Nether Stowey Football Club
- Stowey Gardeners
- Stowey Green Spaces
- Quantock Players
- Quantock Active Living (programme)
- Nether Stowey Recreation Ground
- Nether Stowey Twinning Association
- Nether Stowey Short Mat Bowls
- Nether Stowey WI
- Nether Stowey Urban Saints (previously known as Crusaders)
- Nether Stowey Village Hall
- Nether Stowey Wednesday Club
- Sedgemoor District Council

CHAIRMANS REPORT

Books For Life Registered Charity No. 1074748 Report 2016-30/9/2017

The year has been a very busy one for all of the trustees. The practical help both Margaret and myself have received has enabled us to concentrate on reducing stock, mainly by recycling. Unfortunately, the fluctuation in the price of recycling materials is like being on a roundabout and cannot be relied upon as a main source of income. We have improved the storage area with flooring and shelving and additional lighting in the shop as well as a stall. We have upgraded our Internet both at Nether Stowey and at Durliegh as well. This has enabled both of us to value stock quickly and efficiently.

We have seen a steep decline in committed sponsorship . But an increase in spontaneous donations. Major charities attract income by media advertising which we are unable to contemplate. We desperately need an experienced retired fundraiser who could spare some time in promotion of the successes of our unique charity. I use the word unique in the sense that in the normal pattern of sponsorship of education, once the student has left the schools, It is difficult to evaluate the success of the investment. In our case the situation is totally different. Since we persuaded both institutions to form and "old students reunion" which is held once a year. At St Joseph's this has been particularly successful both in monetary contribution and practical assistance. The majority of students that return year after year are ones that have been very successful and their generosity is an example and an encouragement to the other students, the teachers and the brothers.

At Corlim both the girls and the boys are eager to encourage everyone on how successful and rewarding their education has been in establishing successful businesses in a vast variety of skills. This year has been particularly encouraging as Tata organised an all India competition between vocational training centres to find the best apprentice motor mechanic. Two of the students plus their tutor went to Kerela to take part in the competition and came back with a first and the third. When you consider the size of India, this is a amazing credit to the vocational training centre.

SAFEHOUSES = USED GB-FOREIGN STAMPS: we are so thankful for the thousands of stamps that have been donated mostly anomalously. Our special thanks must go to the Wembdon congregation who must get more Christmas mail of any of us! We separated the foreign from the GB and sold them through local auction houses and have passed on £245 to Hyderabad.

Our weakness as a charity is our technical competence to keep up with the changing patterns of donating and the complicated online form filling. In some cases it would not be so complicated.

Financial report 2016---30/9/2017.

I am pleased to report a very healthy situation in our costs and balances. Our standing orders increased by 8%. Our supporters and donations increased by nearly £5000. This is due to the sale of books on Amazon and small donations in the shop box.

The sale of books has dropped and this is because the shop is closed when we go to trading markets and events.

Our outgoings have shown a great resilience considering all the price increases in practically every area. Travel costs have reduced because fuel price has remained stable and we also travelled to a number of events to learn more about marketing and IT.

Broadband has substantially decreased despite our increased use of Skype for overseas calls.

FRIENDS OF NETHER STOWEY LIBRARY

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2018

During the past year Committee Meetings have been held, on average, every two months, attended by our 9 Committee members and our Librarian Sarah-Jane. Much communication and organisation is now done via email. Membership has held close to 80. Our aims of supporting and increasing the use of the Library have proceeded, with the following activities running during the year:

Book Sales

Occasional book sales are held, particularly at the May Fair, the last raising nearly £120.00 Robin and Paul Brierly kindly held a garage sale of books in March, but it was bedevilled – twice – by snow and rain!

Family History Research

Following training in the use of the Ancestry website, Friends committee members help those interested in family history to use the website - free to Library users - and further their research.

Knit and Natter

Sessions in the Library every Wednesday morning. Large numbers of garments for babies have been knitted and sent to Africa, Romania and, closer to home, Musgrove Park Hospital.

Children's' Storytime

A Class from the School visit the Library every Friday afternoon to choose books and have a story or stories read to them, suitable for the age range of the class.

Programme of Monthly Evening Talks

The fifth series of Wednesday evening talks began in September 2017. The talks have covered a wide range of topics, from English apples, Cole clocks, Cornish tin mining, techniques of enamelling, witch-finding in Somerset, the diplomatic career of Roy Osborne to Daphne Neville on otters, ably supported by her otter Rudi.

Play Reading

The play reading group is now established and is proving very popular. Using scripts borrowed from the County Performing Arts Library, the group meets once a month on Friday mornings. Playwrights have ranged from Moliere to Tom Stoppard, Alan Ayckbourn, Chekhov, Gogol, Phoebe Rees, Norman Robbins, Amy Rosenthal, Dario Fo and Ben Elton

Lego Club

A Lego Club for children has been established, meeting on Saturday mornings.

Jigsaw Club

A jigsaw board is now permanently laid out in the Library and jigsaws can be worked on for as long or as short a time as visitors choose

Stall at the May Fair

A stall taken to promote the work of the Friends and the Library itself. Sadly the 2017 Fair will have been the last one, owing to the lack of volunteers to manage the Fair. For 2018, previous stall-holders have been invited to have a stall at the Party-in-the-Park in June.

Plant Sales

An annual plant sale is held in the Library at the end of September and has become a regular event in the calendar of local gardeners.

Library Service Consultation

FONSL continues to be represented on the Library Service User Group and at Friends of Somerset Libraries meetings with Library Service management.

In October representatives of the Parish Council and FONSL met Oliver Woodhams and Sue Crowley of the County Council, at their request, to consider options for the future of the Library in Nether Stowey. Subsequently a Library Working Group (LWG) of 4 members of the Parish Council was set up to carry forward Library related matters on behalf of the Parish Council.

In January it was announced that a Consultation would be held across the County to determine the future of library services in Somerset. The Consultation began on 29th January and was due to end on 22nd April but has been extended until 13th June.

The Consultation proposed 2 Options for Nether Stowey:

Option A: Provide library services through a partnership with the local community to maintain a library building in Nether Stowey (supported by some funding from the County Council).

Option B: Provide library services through an additional mobile library stop in Nether Stowey (at least once a month). This would mean the closure of the current library building.

A Consultation event was held in the Library over 3 sessions on 14th February. It was headed by the Strategic Manager of the Library Service and a member of the Community Council for Somerset. Large numbers from the village attended, with estimates ranging from well over 100 to nearly 200. From the clearly voiced comments of the attendees, the strength of feeling regarding the retention of the Library in the village would have been clear.

The Friends of Nether Stowey Library have been asked to work alongside the LWG to consider the options for the future. One joint meeting has been held to date and the next will be on 25th May.

21.05.2018



Parish Report May 2018 Nether Stowey CP. Paths

Out of the twenty one public footpaths wholly within the parish boundary and three partial within it, all except for one remain accessible for walkers. The only one where the definitive route cannot be followed is BW22/23. This has the route through hedges completely blocked by growth. The land owner has made it known that diverting around the field edges is permitted. The matter is with the SCC Rights of Way team.

Currently there are eight issues logged for attention. Four are defects and four are suggestions for improvement. None of these issues impedes passage.

There continues to be an encouraging increase in the use of the paths and rights of way within the village boundaries. Also positive feedback concerning the paths is being received.

Over the preceding thirteen months there have been some diversions of paths implemented, combined with improved way marks and path furniture. This improves access and clarifies the definitive routes.

Villagers may have noticed the new way marking within the village which features a quill and ink blue arrows. This is improved route marking for the Coleridge Way.

In the summer of 2018 further new sign posts and way marks will appear. These will be defining the route of a new nation trail which links with Stogursey and the English Coastal path.

The most significant change concerning the paths is that the Parish is now part of an SCC strimmer volunteer project. The Parish Council kindly arranged for this scheme to be joined and financed the training required. Having access to a commercial strimmer greatly assists in the path maintenance.

Finally, I would again encourage everyone to use the paths as often as possible. This is the most assured way of maintaining them. Any information concerning village rights of way, please contact the parish office.

Colin Falla
Path Liaison Officer

THE FRIENDS OF COLERIDGE (Hon. Sec.: Eliza Sackett, elizasackett@yahoo.co.uk) ANNUAL REPORT 2017

The focus of the Friends' activities is the production of the biannual *Coleridge Bulletin*, and the organisation of the annual Study Weekends and the biennial Summer Conferences. These are open to all members, and membership is open to all. These activities benefit the public by encouraging wider readership of Coleridge's writings and related works, stimulating new research and analysis, helping to preserve the physical heritage of Coleridge and his circle, and generally educating the public in all aspects of Coleridge's thought and writings. In addition, the Friends foster interest in, and knowledge of, Coleridge as and when they can, trying to respond positively to any requests for assistance. Last year's issues of the Bulletin contained some outstanding contributions from distinguished scholars. The subject of the annual Study Weekend at Halsway Manor was 'Coleridge's Religious Imagination'; the speakers included distinguished senior academics, and younger academics. In April a special conference organised by Professor Tim Fulford under the umbrella of the Friends of Coleridge was held. It was titled *Robert Southey and Romantic-era Literature, Culture and Science: 1797, 1817, 2017, a Bicentennial Conference*, and took place in Clifton, Bristol.

Kubla Khan – Imagined Worlds

In 2016 The Friends of Coleridge celebrated the bicentenary of the publication in 1816 of *Kubla Khan* with an unprecedentedly ambitious project, *Kubla Khan – Imagined Worlds*, which was supported by a grant from the Arts Council. This project ran on into 2017, and the final report by Ian Enters and Terence Sackett can be read on the Friends' website.

Coleridge statue in Ottery St Mary

The Coleridge Memorial Trust held an event in Ottery St Mary, the poet's birthplace, to launch an appeal to raise £100,000 to erect a statue to the poet in the churchyard of St Mary's. The Friends decided to donate £300 to demonstrate our support for this ambitious scheme. Several members of the Committee attended, including Ian Enters, who gave a talk, and the Chairman, Justin Shepherd, also gave a talk the following day at the annual lunch of the Ottery Heritage Society.

Event in Highgate

St Michael's Church, Highgate, contacted the Society to seek support in launching a Coleridge Day in 2018. Coleridge spent the last years of his life in Highgate and is buried in the church. The Friends have been supporting St Michael's in organising this event, which will take place on 2 June 2018.

Event in Calne

Supported by the Friends, an event took place in Calne to celebrate the time Coleridge spent there. Some of the performers at this event will be performing at the 2018 Annual Study Weekend.

Other news

Professor Seamus Perry has accepted the Friends' invitation to become a Scholar to the Friends, following the death of Professor John Beer, one of our founding Scholars.

The Committee voted £200 to Somerset Heritage to help defray the costs of cleaning the portrait of Tom Poole which was recently donated by the present Thomas Poole. The portrait will soon be on display in the Museum of Somerset, Taunton.

Visit our website – friendsofcoleridge.com

On the Friends' website you can find:

- ♦ How to join the Friends
- ♦ Coleridge's poetry and prose
- ♦ Past issues of the Bulletin
- ♦ Information about Coleridge
- ♦ News about events
- ♦ *In Xanadu ...* a book by Justin Shepherd about *Kubla Khan*



Report From Nether Stowey Football Club

The club has grown rapidly over the past two years. We now have over 80 young people playing football regularly. Training takes place throughout the week and along with the seniors, three age groups compete in Somerset FA leagues. Players range in age from five to mid-forties and come from all around the local area including Cannington, Stogursey and Spaxton.

The club works closely with the Playing Field and contributes significant funds towards grass cutting and MUGA hire. Volunteer coaches also support community events such as Party in the Park, running free football related activities for children and adults.

This year we were very grateful to the Parish Council for providing significant funding towards weatherproof jackets for all the young players. The children participated in sponsored events to raise the majority of the remaining funds required. These jackets have proved very useful in the recent long winter and, by looking so smart, promoted the reputation of the club and village.



Stowey Gardeners

I am very pleased to be able to announce that Stowey Gardeners is thriving. We have just over 70 paid-up members and since becoming Chair I have noticed an increase in the number of occasional visitors to our monthly meetings, when we usually have a speaker. We can now welcome more members as in September 2018 we are moving our venue to the Church Centre which will provide more space and car parking.

Our members come from all over the locality and the Committee try to organise a programme for the members which suits their interests. As well as nurturing the serious side of our passion for gardening we meet to enjoy sharing information, expertise, and plants (with our garden table) and most of all we have a lot of fun both in the meetings and in our Summer & Christmas Parties.

Recently we have developed a website to add to our publicity:

<https://sites.google.com/site/stoweygardeners/home> which some people find very useful and where you can read reviews on speakers and garden visits and also find our Calendar for the year.

Our Programme 2017-2018

The committee prepare the future programme of speakers at least a year in advance as many of the best speakers get booked up well ahead, and we do like to have a high standard. We usually go on 3 or 4 car visits per year and a coach tour every other year.

Last year was extremely varied with a car visit to Durleigh Apiary, one to Sally Gregson's Garden near Wells and another to Venn Cross Gardens (interestingly made on the site of a railway station). We had talks by Mary Payne on 'Grasses and perennials', Caradoc Doy on 'Plant Hunters and Pioneers' and a fascinating talk about 'Gardens off the Beaten Track' by Andrew Tolman.

We also had Chris Beardshaw as our celebrity speaker who was a huge inspiration.

This year we have enjoyed entertaining and informative talks on 'New tricks for old Gardeners' by Katherine Crouch, a demo by Monkton Elm on Hanging baskets and a wonderful car visit to Watcombe, a garden in Winscombe which despite to cold spring had much to offer in superb hard landscaping enhanced by sensitive planting with a few very special shrubs and perennials.

In June we are visiting two wonderful gardens near Stroud, by coach, on a full day tour. These are the Rococo & Miserden Gardens- very contrasting in style and likely to be looking at their very best at the end of June. We still have a few places left and if anyone would like a ticket @ £30 our contact is Polly Triggol (tel: 652248)

We have two further car visits: one in July to JW Blooms, a specialist Annuals Flower Nursey, and Picketts Nursey in August.

Talks on 'Kitchen Remedies' 'Oxford Botanic Gardens' and 'Propagation' will complete our programme for the year.

All details of these talks and speakers are on our website and also on quantock@quantockonline.co.uk

As Chair I am happy to answer any queries on membership or Programme.

Juliet Harkness (Chairman)

julietharkness@gmail.com or 01278 733245

May 2018

**Stowey Green Spaces Group –
Report to Nether Stowey Annual Parish Meeting 24 May 2018**

30-32 Castle Street, Nether Stowey TA5 1LW - Tel:01278732483 – email: mrsjudithgreig@gmail.com

1 Background

In late 2016 the Recreation Ground (RG) charity, with advice from the PC, made an approach to Richard Ince for advice on a long-term strategy for care of the trees, rough grass and undergrowth, hedges and stream on the Recreation Ground and consequently the Recreation Ground Committee (RGC) agreed that SGSG be a sub-committee of the charity.

It was apparent in initial discussions however, that SGS ought to cover a wider remit than just the RG. Whilst the immediate efforts of the sub-committee would be to find means of enhancing the landscaping and natural environment of the Recreation Ground, longer term plans (beyond the scope of RGC charitable activities) would include the green spaces of the surrounding areas and linking routes between them to maximise community interest and introduce visitors to our wider surroundings. The Stowey Green Spaces Group is therefore independently constituted.

2 Overall objectives of the Stowey Green Spaces Group

- Identify, assess and help protect and enhance the natural and developed landscape and features of the landscape in the local area;
- Assist in the long term management of local natural resources especially land based;
- Take a role in building awareness, educating residents and visitors at the local level about the natural environment and introducing the countryside to people who may be hesitant to 'use' it because of unfamiliarity with countryside practice;
- Take on local projects to achieve the above objectives;
- Gather and catalogue information on the natural environment;
- Engage with local schools and colleges - the next generations - to achieve the above objectives;
- Offer advice and recommendations for best management practices on public and private lands as requested;
- Liaise with Nether and Over Stowey Parish Councils, AONB, SCC, SWT and others on green space issues;
- Keep public areas and roadsides in and around Nether and Over Stowey clear of litter, in liaison with Sedgemoor District Council.

3 The Green Spaces

Nether Stowey Recreation Ground; Stowey Millennium Wood; Stowey Wood; The Mount; Public Rights of Way; Area between Banneson Road and Memorial Gate; Nether Stowey Plot 173; The old A39; The Mount; The pedestrian lanes throughout Nether Stowey; Waterways; Rough woodland between RG and A39; Village Hall area, until/if it moves to the playing field; Over Stowey Cricket field; any other green areas in the locality of Nether and Over Stowey.

**Stowey Green Spaces Group –
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4 Work to date, in hand and in planning

- For the Recreation Ground - prepared an outline 5-15 year plan of green maintenance and then:
 - Planted new hedging following fly tipping.
 - Identified and marked suitable saplings along the eastern and western boundaries to allow them to develop into trees in the course of time.
 - Repaired the fence at the A39 pedestrian gate entrance and, thanks to the Taunton Midweek Conservation volunteer work, cleared the stream to improve visual aspect, cleared the area by the cemetery wall and on either side and outside of the A39 pedestrian gate entrance and cleared the lower branches of the beech trees to improve the aspect coming in to the Recreation Ground through the Memorial Gates.
 - Constructed a compost bin
- In the green area between Banneson Road and the Memorial Gates planted crocuses, with permission of NSPC and Sedgemoor Clean Surroundings.
- In collaboration with the Recreation Ground, arranged an Autumn Walk for all age groups, from the playing field down to the stream, through Millennium and Stowey Woods and by a circular route back to the playing field for tea and cake. The Spring equivalent walk takes place this coming Monday, Bank Holiday.
- In the interest of the community and our visitors – in collaboration with the Recreation Ground, the help of Sedgemoor Clean Surroundings and our own volunteers, SGSG has arranged a monthly litter pick around Nether and Over Stowey green spaces since September. We have collected over 120 bags of litter, car tyres, a carpet and other substantial pieces of dumped junk. The last litter pick only yielded 8 bags; we may be getting on top of the issue!
- For Stowey Wood (outwith NS boundary!) – 420 saplings are being provided by The Woodland Trust to the SGSG for planting this November. In the meantime, members of the SGSG are working with the AONB, Nettlecombe Court, Somerset County Council, The Taunton Midweek Conservationists, The Quantock Volunteers and anyone else who may be interested, to continue the clearance of the Woods and produce a management plan for its future.
- Signage – informational, educational and directional - is in planning. It is hoped that this project will be of interest to the AONB and their Lottery funding project Reimagining the Manor.

NETHER STOWEY RECREATION GROUND

Charity Merger Update

<http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchMatchList.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=0&SubsidiaryNumber=0>

There are now 3 charities listed with the Charities Commission, 304590, 272780 and 1176413. Further investigation into 272780 and 304590 (Charity Framework tab) will show that both are governed by the same Scheme, dated 28 February 2018.

The two charities - VH and RG are now managed under that Scheme as Charity number 304590 (attached, this is the final Scheme - not the draft, in spite of indication otherwise).

This is an interim situation required by the Charity Commission and will in due course transfer into the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (that already exists as 1176413). The land of the VH and RG is in process of being transferred and registered at the Land Registry, when we expect to be operating finally as 1176413. 304590/272780 can then be removed.

Clause 2 of the Scheme (attached) describes the situation as it is now:

ADMINISTRATION

1. Administration

- (1) This Scheme replaces the former trusts of the charities.
- (2) The property of the Village Hall Charity (including its land and buildings) and the property of the Recreation Ground Charity (including its land and buildings) are to be managed together as one charity under the name Nether Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground.
- (3) Until the first Annual General Meeting of the charity called in accordance with clause 14 the existing trustees will continue to administer the charity in accordance with the provisions of this Scheme.

Phone Mast

Western Power Distribution and Sedgemoor District Council

Tuesday 8th May - Barbara, on behalf of the Recreation Ground, signed the Wayleave for Western Power Distribution to take the electric supply underground to the mast, along the north and down the east side of the Recreation Ground.

Western Power planning tell me that timing of the work is likely to be 6-8 weeks from receipt of our paperwork (it's in the post and will have to work its way through WPD system). Then it will be up to CTIL/Vodafone to commission the mast.

Recreation Ground Update

We've had a very productive year and ongoing work to maintain and improve the Playing Field and its facilities continues. The changing hut has had a full make over and now has a complete and weather resistant external shell and reinvigorated interior.

Having secured funding from the Fairfield Trust, the Parish Council & Viridor Credits we've been able to fence the Children's Play Area. I'm pleased to say the installation is now in place and looks amazing. Thank you.

We ~~were~~^{VE BEEN} awarded Bronze award under the Somerset Playing Fields Association Large Field of the Year 2017 reflecting the efforts of all involved and our sponsors.

A partnership with Stowey Green Spaces has allowed us to maintain areas of wild flower and otherwise over-grown brush and bramble areas around the perimeter and across the field in general. This work I understand will be on-going and we will work closely together to support Stowey Green Spaces with a small budget and action plan for continued upkeep throughout the year.

I've bought Gareth John along with me as we are hoping to partner with SASP once again. SASP – Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership has been running for a number of years now and have recently been awarded funds from the CIM fund to bring a programme of sports and activities to rural areas affected by the Hinkley C build. Gareth contacted us and I am pleased to say we are currently looking at ways in which a joint venture could bring organised sports and activities to nether Stowey in the very near future. If you'd like to know a little more Gareth will be attending Party in the Park this year and is also happy to answer any questions this evening.

Party in the Park – To be held on Saturday 2nd June this year.

This year we've moved away from the multiple live performances and focused on making this a Free community fun day for all. We still have music throughout the day brought to us by Paul Enever and one live band later in the evening who have been promising to perform for us for 3 years now. I think they made it to stage once in those 3yrs and sadly had to take a rain check last year.



Nether Stowey
Parish Council

QUANTOCK ACTIVE LIVING



Somerset
Active Living

2018 PROGRAMME

*The Fourth Thursday of the Month
At the Church Centre from 2pm till 4pm*

<i>Thursday 25th January</i>	<i>'Mixed Crafts'</i> <i>Claudia Ferriday</i>
<i>Thursday 22nd February</i>	<i>Quiz Fun</i> <i>Brenda Javis</i>
<i>Thursday 22nd March</i>	<i>Seaside Piers</i> <i>Bob Tinker</i>
<i>Thursday 26th April</i>	<i>Story of Wine</i> <i>Robin Kinahan</i>
<i>Thursday 24th May</i>	<i>From Fabric to Flowers</i> <i>Yvonne Whittamore</i>
<i>Thursday 28th June</i>	<i>Entertainment</i> <i>Nether Stowey School</i>
<i>Thursday 26th July</i>	<i>It shouldn't happen to a Writer</i> <i>Micheal Malaghan</i>
<i>August No Meeting</i>	
<i>Thursday 27th September</i>	<i>Chair Yoga</i> <i>Julia Belton</i>
<i>Thursday 25th October</i>	<i>Hands on Clay</i> <i>Hazel Oats</i>
<i>Thursday 22nd November</i>	<i>Quiz</i> <i>Christmas Tea at this meeting</i>

December No Meeting

Cost £2.00 per person
(including tea/coffee, a slice of homemade cake and a raffle ticket)

For further information please contact any of the following:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| • Margaret Harris | 16 Poles Close | Tel: 734613 |
| • Margaret Hogg | 4 Audley Close | Tel: 733040 |
| • Pat Pardoe | 19 Castle Street | Tel: 733151 |
| • Margaret Wells | 40 Mount Road | Tel: 732609 |
| • Sandy Linford | 14 Poles Close | Tel: 733306 |

Report from the Nether Stowey Twinning Association to the Annual Parish Meeting 2018

The Twinning Association membership continues at around 60, making us one of the largest organisations in the village.

This has been a quiet year for the Association.

The annual Boules and Barbecue was held in the garden of The George in September 2017. And the winter round of quizzes was held from October to March, again in The George. Attendances were up on the previous year, and contestants faced quizzes of varying difficulty with fortitude. Our thanks to Bill for his hospitality (and flexibility).

Our friends in Theillay have had difficulty co-ordinating dates for their members to come to us this year, but a small group, led by their President(!), will be paying us a private visit in June.

Following last year's successful pop-up restaurant on a French theme, a similar event with a Spanish theme is planned for 9th June in the Village Hall. The evening is open to all in the village and it is being widely publicised.

The proposed visit to Theillay in November 2018 is now confirmed and we expect about twenty people to go. The visit is for three full days and is arranged to include the 100th anniversary of the Armistice at the end of The Great War, and to commemorate the alliance between our two countries. We have contacted other entities in the village, and other local twinning associations, to see if they would like to join in the visit, without success (sometimes not even a reply).

We have suggested to our friends in Theillay that we take a plaque to mark the visit and our friendship after twenty years of twinning; the plaque to be put up on a suitable site in their village. The suggestion was well received and we will discuss it with them in June, to agree the material, size and wording.

While the Association continues to be financially viable, it struggles to attract new members, competing against the many demands of modern life. The Committee is always considering which way the Association should go in the future, and is open to suggestions from the Parish Council and other organisations.

Nether Stowey Short Mat Bowls

We meet at the Church Centre every Tuesday evening at 7pm.

Our subs are £14 per year and £3.00 on the night. The clubs we have played this year are Comwich, North Petherton and Spaxton both at home and away.

Every year we play at Bradford on Tone for Charity.

All are welcome to come and play.

Chairperson Margaret Harris.

NETHER STOWEY WI REPORT FOR 2018

We meet every 2nd Thursday in the month at the Village Hall starting at 7pm, subs for 2018 are £41 visitors £4.

Our programme has a variety of interesting speakers throughout the year.

We had an outing to Lanhydrock National Trust in 2017, some of our members went to the Greyhound Inn Stogursey for the WI fun quiz, we also had two teams entered for the short mat bowls which was held at Burrowbridge.

In the autumn we raised funds by having a Soup & Pud morning, also we had a Tombola at the Village Christmas Market.

The Annual Christmas Dinner was held at the Cottage Inn Keenthorne.

Our Members are currently supporting a Food Bank.

This year see the 95th anniversary of the Nether Stowey WI.

(Outgoing President) Margaret Harris

NETHER STOWEY URBAN SAINTS (PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS CRUSADERS)

The Juniors' group meets weekly in the Church Centre during term-time. We have 16 regular attenders, and all seem to really enjoy what we offer.

We use the Urban Saints Energize website for our weekly programmes, with a mix of games, Bible teaching, discussions about the Christian faith and craft. We have also watched a couple of VeggieTales dvds, and also the 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'.

As in previous years, the children have enjoyed an evening at Cannington Activity Centre, bonfire night with sparklers and toasted marshmallows, and 10-pin bowling in Taunton.

Robin and Kathryn Popham lead the 2 Seniors' groups:

A small group of 11-13 year olds meet fortnightly in the Church Centre, and also use the Urban Saints online session plans, with games, fun, Bible exploration and lots of discussion. Three of the group enjoyed a weekend at Spree last summer, a Christian youth camp in Devon run by Urban Saints.

The other group consists of older teenagers who benefit from a more mature meeting structure.

Highlights for the Seniors' groups have included Airhop (exhausting!), ice skating in Bristol and 10-pin bowling.

Several of the Seniors also go to 'Ignite', the monthly Youth Worship service held at Alive Church in Bridgwater.

Juniors: Kerry Trout 732112
Brenda Jarvis 741227

Seniors: Kathryn and Robin Popham 733745

NETHER STOWEY VILLAGE HALL

ANNUAL REPORT ENDING

MAY 2018

Over the past 12 months there have been many changes and issues that have arisen concerning the hall. We have now joined forces with the playing field and become one committee. Of major concern has been the spiralling cost incurred in setting up the new CIO, costs which have doubled from the estimate originally given at the start of the negotiations. These costs have put a major strain on the finances of the hall, I know that we are now one charity and the village hall committee is now a subcommittee of the CIO with shared finances however the upkeep and repair of the hall is still ongoing.

At the hall we have had a tough year, we have had a number of issues regarding repairs including the heating, drains and the final payments to EDF to cover outstanding electric costs. We have also an ongoing issue with the flat roof above the hallway to the ladies toilets, one quote for this repair was around £7500 plus VAT.

As I said a challenging year but there are many positive's to take from the past 12 months. Our regular fundraising team excelled themselves this year. Our quiz nights still prove to be as popular as ever and thanks to people like Jan, Jane, Jo, Vicky and Shanter who work tirelessly to ensure that these nights are a great success. We also introduced new ideas into the fundraising for the hall. Christmas and Spring Market proved popular, again thanks to Wendy and Hilary for their organisational skills to ensure a smooth running of these annual fundraising functions. Without these events the finances of the hall would be in the red.

Bookings at the hall appear to be increasing, we have now started to see regular visits from Brownie units from around Somerset, the word on how good the hall is for this activity is spreading. I am happy to report that the hall has now been booked for a number of weddings, one of which has already taken place and was a huge success. Parties have also proven to be a good source of income, with the bouncy castle again proving popular helping to increase the bookings for birthday parties. Stowey flower show is another highlight that goes well at the hall and this year proved to be another success.

Village Hall Cinema still continues to be a really great evening, my thanks to Peter and Jan Simmons for all the hard work they put in to ensuring these night run smoothly. I am also happy to report that we now have a few new members of the set up team, my thanks to Dave Davidson for stepping forward along with Shanter Parsons. If anyone else is interested in how we run the cinema then please speak up and let us know.

I would also at this point like to thank the Parish Council for their continued support, this year with the grant money we were able to upgrade the dishwasher to a commercial unit. This will help enormously with forthcoming functions that the hall is hosting along with our current events.

Since November 2017 Nether Stowey Village Hall has been hosting live music events organised by Steve Hedges and his partner Vicky. There has been a number of acts who have graced the stage at the hall, all of them I can say have been excellent and we look forward to hosting many more in the forthcoming year. We have approached Steve about organising a benefit gig to raise money for the roof, this is still in the discussion stage.

This brings me to the final part of my report. It's a GREAT BIG thank you to everyone who gives their time and indeed their heart and soul to making this hall a great success. Some of you are modest about the work you do however from my heart I thank you as without you we would never be able to continue. With this in mind can I ask you please not only to continue your support for our Village Hall but please support the new CIO and the project as a whole, without your energy, enthusiasm and time this new venture will not work. Please spread the news about the project and let as many people in the area know that Nether Stowey needs their help. This village deserves a hall that it can be proud of and with the advent of the new CIO I am sure we can maintain the upkeep of this precious village resource and also build a new hall that the residents of Nether Stowey can be proud of.

Ian Miller

Chair of sub committee

Nether Stowey Village Hall

24th May 2018

NETHER STOWEY WEDNESDAY

CLUB

We meet every Wednesday from 10am – 2pm and have 15 members at present. The age range is from late 70s to 98 years. Most have physical frailties, but all have lively minds. The club is run by volunteer drivers and helpers.

On arrival at 10am coffee is served followed by different activities, which vary each week. We enjoy quizzes, flexercise, board and card games. Every two months a communion service takes place in the main hall for those who wish to attend. The school provides us with an excellent lunch (usually a roast) and a variety of delicious puddings with cream or “proper” custard. After lunch we have a short story reading followed by more chat and a cup of tea.

We are given some funding by Sedgemoor, but this has been reduced over the last three years however, in February we had a cheque for £500 given to us from Asda from their token scheme collections, this enables us to afford some outside visitors who come and share their expertise and talent with us. We have enjoyed a flower arranging display three members were lucky enough to take a beautiful arrangement home with them. We have a story teller who comes and really manages to capture our imagination and takes us to a different world.

A gifted musician comes pulling a trolley laden with different instruments-mainly from foreign places. It was fun to play them

together as an orchestra, accompanied by the accordion flute or ukulele we ended by singing or whistling some of the war time songs.

Canine Partners, who are bringing Inca a 5-month-old Labrador and already very well behaved. Occasionally we have a themed day.

Last September we focused our meeting on the seaside, the members brought photos of themselves glamorous! We had to match the right name to each photograph, “mini” Knickerbocker glories were served at lunch time.

All but two of our members live alone and Wednesday is the one day in the week when they get away from home and meet others socially, it makes an enormous difference to their lives.

Thank you to all who encourage, support and help to make it a very worthwhile and enjoyable day.

Margret Adam

May 2018

What Sedgemoor has achieved for 2017/2018

- To remain a low Council Tax Authority by ensuring all our activities are managed efficiently, effectively
- We Value our customers and put them at the heart of everything we do. We will listen to and respect their views and aim to shape our services to their needs in a way that provides equality of access to services and equality of outcome.
- The Council had a very positive Local Government Association Peer Challenge late last year
- Finances – Band D council tax was £150.52. The funding gap for the next few years is 397,000 per annum
- 5 Of our high performing areas
 - Planning
 - Benefits
 - Affordable Housing
 - New Homes Bonus
 - Low Council Tax
- In the last few years we have been fortunate to realise investment in
 - The new police HQ
 - The new Community Hospital
 - Private sector care facilities
 - Offices (Innovation Centre)
 - Distribution (Morrison's)
 - Hinkley Point C Project is resulting in a huge investment
 - Cannington Bypass
- Big Issues are
 - New Nuclear at Hinkley Point C
 - National Grid – pylons over the Somerset Levels
 - Barrier over River Parrett
 - Devolution
 - Huntspill Energy Park
 - Building our own houses
 - Commercial Strategy