

November 2025



QUANTOCK
For Nether Stowey & Over Stowey



Messenger 50p



Front Cover & Inside: Macmillan Coffee Morning - article on page 7 / MP Sir Ashley Fox's visit with Stowey Green Spaces at The Thomas Poole Library and Millennium Wood - article on page 10 / Jubilee Apples . Picture courtesy of Terry Abbiss. A recipe for Autumn apple cake with Somerset brandy syrup by chef Evan Evans-Jones can be found on page 13.

NOVEMBER 2025

As always, many thanks to all our contributors.

Please let us know if you have something to contribute — photos, local history, local walks, recipes, news of what's going on in the villages — anything which may be of interest to others.

We look forward to hearing from you!

In the meantime, we hope you enjoy this month's edition.

Best wishes from the QM team.

Your Quantock Messenger Team

Please email articles/photos to:

editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk

Please email adverts to;

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Allotment Association

Diane Faris 733180

Coleridge Probus Club

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Coleridge Cottage Tel: 732 662

Friends of Coleridge

Helen Boyles helenmboyles@gmail.com

Friends of Over Stowey Church

Christopher Stone 732 907

Friends of the Quantocks

Mary ter Braak (01984) 656 633

Friends of Nether Stowey School

Lisa Rendle 732 508

Music on the Quantocks: Fay Chilcott
quantocks@live.co.uk 07938 728829

Nether Stowey Art Group

Rob Potter 07855546883

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

Mark Howells 01278 733215 Chairperson

Terry Binding 01278 732710 Secretary

Email: nssshortmatbowls@gmail.com

Nether Stowey Twinning Association

Open to everyone. Ian Pearson 732 228

Nether Stowey & Fiddington Women's Institute

Ruth Andrews 734 613

Terry Binding 732710

Over Stowey Cricket Club &

Over Stowey Recreation Ground

Les Biffin 732963

Over Stowey Rights of Way Group

Richard Ince 733 237

Over Stowey Social Club

Patrick Tully 732944 or 07802697595

Over Stowey Village Hall

Jackie Barrow 07891 720565

Bridget Tully 07970781087

bridgetjtully@gmail.com

Quantock National Landscape 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

Kate Houghton 07940 836139

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 Barbara (732412) or
Tina (732382)

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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

Email somwestnptsedgemoor@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk
PCSO Supervisor Lora Bray—7528@avonandsomerset.police.uk
PCSO Finlay Wallace
Jake Dade (Hinkley issues only) @avonandsomerset.police.uk

Antisocial behaviour call **0800 298 2009**

Vandalism on the Quantock Hills call **101**

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

Somerset Councillor:

Michael Caswell	01278 652043	mike.caswell@somerset.gov.uk
Brian Bolt	07970 855990	brian.bolt@somerset.gov.uk

Nether Stowey Parish Council / Over Stowey Parish Council

Clerk: Caro Slaymaker	Clerk: Amanda McMurren
01278 733779	01278 734689
clerk@netherstowey-pc.gov.uk	clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.co.uk

Bookings secretaries

N/Stowey Church Centre	Pat Stacey	01278 732518 (9am—9pm)
O/Stowey Village Hall	Jackie Barrow	07891720565

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

Reception 01278 732696 8am - 6:30pm (Mon-Fri)
Dispensary 01278 733385 10am - 11.30am & 4pm - 5pm (Mon-Fri)
Dispensary Collection 10am - 12pm & 4 - 6pm (Mon-Fri)
somicb.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 040506

The Thomas Poole Library 07734 968940 (Mon & Wed 10-1, Thurs 3.30 - 6.30, Fri 10-1 & 2-5 and Sat 10-1)

Quantock Hills National Landscape, Amanda Sampson - 01823 451884,
quantockhills@somerset.gov.uk

Community Car Scheme Stowey Shuttle - 07943 923742

Village Agent: Sarah Bennet, 07985 680269,

DIARY DATES 2025

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 - £4 session, annual subs £20 - 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 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 - 2pm-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

Last Friday of the Month - Library Book Group - 2pm - 3pm - TPL

Every Saturday - Second-hand book sales 10am—1pm TPL

3rd Saturday each month - SGSG litter picking 10am

1st & 3rd Saturday each month - Dungeons & Dragons - TPL

2nd Saturday each month - Dungeons & Dragons DM Workshop - TPL

Nether Stowey Arts Evenings - A mini-festival at The Thomas Poole Library throughout November and December - More details on pages 24 & 25

Saturday 15th November NSVHRC Quiz & Ploughman's 7pm (p41) NSCC

Saturday 22nd November Christmas Craft Fayre 10am—3pm (p34) NSCC

Saturday 29th November Christmas Wreath Workshop 10.30am (p29) NSCC

NSCC - Nether Stowey Church Centre

TPL - Thomas Poole Library

OSVH - Over Stowey Village Hall

SGSG - Stowey Green Spaces Group

MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

MacMillan Coffee Morning 2025

On Friday 26th September Lynn Scales and Ruth Pickard hosted their annual coffee morning in support of this wonderful charity. A good time was had by friends and neighbours eating cake, drinking (tea and coffee!) and chatting to friends old and new.

A big thankyou to everyone who made cakes, helped in the kitchen or in various other tasks on the day. Most of all, thanks to all those who came and helped raise a stunning £1339.65. You are amazing!

Lynn and Ruth can't wait to see what next year brings.





Registered Charity No 1181213
WWW.THOMASPOOLELIBRARY.CO.UK

FREE DROP IN IT SUPPORT SESSIONS - We're pleased to offer friendly, free drop-in IT support sessions at the library on the first Wednesday of every month. Whether you're having trouble with your smartphone, want help setting up an email account, or need guidance using online services, our knowledgeable volunteers are here to assist you — no appointment necessary. Bring your questions, devices, or curiosity, and we'll do our best to support you.

**** WHAT'S ON ****

IT SUPPORT SESSIONS - First Wednesday of the month, 10am - 12noon.

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.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS – 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month, 10am to 12.30pm. No experience necessary and all equipment provided.

BOOK GROUP – Enjoy reading? Come and join the Library Reading Group - all are welcome! This is a fun, low key reading group that meets in the library 2pm - 3pm on the last Friday of each month.

NETHER STOWEY ART’S EVENING’S - A MINI FESTIVAL

Wednesday 12th November - Painting the Quantocks
Wednesday 19th November - Charles Dickens and His Legacy
Wednesday 26th November - Cecil Sharp’s Quantocks
Wednesday 3rd December - Writing the Quantocks

More information about these events can be found on
pages 24 and 25

OPENING HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, 10am to 1pm, Thursday 3.30pm to 6.30pm, Friday 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm,
Saturday 10am -1pm

Sir Ashley Fox, MP for Bridgwater and Burnham, visited Nether Stowey on Friday, 17 October. He was welcomed at the Thomas Poole library by Sian Stafford and Nigel Phillips. Sir Ashley was impressed by the facilities at the library and by all that the library has to offer for the local community. Sir Ashley's visit was prompted by his wish to learn more about the activities of Stowey Green Spaces Group, several of whose members were present (sporting their Stowey Green Spaces high-viz jackets)!



Roy Osborne thanked the library for hosting the visit before summarizing for Sir Ashley the areas in and around the Stoweys in which SGSG works. Paul Brierley explained that the group's volunteers pick litter in both villages and their surrounds on the third Saturday of every month. It was fitting that the meeting should take place at the library, which it is hoped will become an information hub for local environmental groups and activities.

Sir Ashley expressed interest in seeing for himself some of the work carried out by SGSG volunteers. After leaving the library he visited Stowey Millennium wood, where it was explained that both the Millennium Wood (and extensions) and Stowey Wood itself form part of a nature friendly farming corridor which extends from Stowey Rocks organic farm through New Stowey farm (now under the management of the Quantock Hills National Landscape) almost to Over Stowey and the fringes of the Quantock Hills.

Unpack the Christian faith together.



Meet new people and explore the Christian faith together. Alpha is for anyone who's curious. No judgement, no pressure. Each session unpacks a big question of life, faith, and purpose, and is designed to spark conversation. Come along, see what you think.

**St.Mary's Church Centre
Nether Stowey
Friday 9th January 2026
Starts 7pm with light refreshments
Contact: Jennifer 01278 733007**

Try Alpha.



Nether Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Here are the lucky winners for October. November will be a Superdraw, with big prize money, just in time for Christmas.

If you are interested in joining please contact either Jane or Sharon or checkout the information on the recreation ground website www.stowey.org.uk



**NETHER
STOWEY**
VILLAGE HALL & RECREATION GROUND

50-50 LOTTERY DRAW

October 2025 Draw

1st Prize	£33.00	Ticket No: 77	A Ricketts
2nd Prize	£16.50	Ticket No: 248	B Godden
3rd Prize	£9.90	Ticket No: 55	I Ricketts
4th Prize	£6.60	Ticket No: 365	J Graham & R Elliott

www.stowey.org.uk

Jane Erksine, Trustee 732025

Sharon Mayell, Treasurer 732311



November 2025

Autumn apple cake with Somerset brandy syrup

As a chef, autumn is my favourite time of year with the arrival of the game season, rich red wine sauces and roaring fires.

Here is a dish to use up some of the windfall apples that are everywhere at the moment. It is a cake but very light as it's made with ground almonds.

Serve with ice cream or dare I say apple brandy flavoured custard. I used " Grenadier" apples for this cake but any cooking apples will do.

Ingredients

300g ground almonds

50g plain flour

200g castor sugar

200g salted butter

5 beaten eggs

8g baking powder

Juice of 1 lemon

2 large cooking apples

For the syrup

80ml Somerset Apple Brandy

200ml apple juice
30g castor sugar
Juice of half a lemon

Method

Peel and core the apples. Slice and cut into cubes. Place in a small saucepan with 20g of butter and gently cook down for about 5mins. Add the lemon juice. Cook for another 2-3 minutes and take off the heat to cool.

Using a stand mixer beat sugar and butter together until fluffy. Add flour and eggs and gently mix to create a batter. Add the baking powder.

Now add the cooled apples into the batter and gently mix through. Now pour the mixture into a 28cm lined and buttered quiche tin and place in a pre heated oven at 180 degrees C for 30-35 mins.

Apple brandy syrup

Into a small saucepan put in the apple juice and sugar and gently heat until the sugar is dissolved. Now add the apple brandy and lemon juice. Let the syrup bubble gently until a nice syrupy consistency is achieved. Take off the heat.

When the cake is cooked, ie when a skewer is pushed in and comes out clean, pierce the cake all over and pour the apple brandy syrup all over the cake. Leave to cool . Serve with ice cream or custard.



The playing fields in Nether Stowey is a valuable resource for the village and surrounding area, home to Stowey's numerous football teams and a green space, well used by dog walkers and many others. With the MUGA, tennis court and children's play area it is a place to be proud of, especially for a village of our size.

On Friday 17th September, the work of the individuals who organise and maintain the field was recognised when the Recreation Ground was 'Highly Commended' at the Somerset Playing Fields Awards evening, hosted by Woolavington Village Hall. Ron Scales accepted the award on behalf of the Recreation Ground and Village Hall Committee from the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, Mohammed Sadiq.

An enormous amount of work goes into keeping the field clean and ready for use. If you would like to get involved in that work, please contact the committee whose details are in the front of the Messenger.



The Marion Evered Trust

The afternoon tea at the Kitchen, Quantock lakes was a great success and we would like to thank Keith and his staff for their hard work putting on a fantastic event.

There is not much else to report this month as our main charity events are now done for the year.

We would like to thank all those that have helped us with events, donated to the charity and those that have attended events to help us this year. News as to how much we hand over to the Oak children's cancer ward at Musgrove will be in the next newsletter.

If you're interested in joining the 200 club and want to be in the draw, then please contact Pauline Barrow on 01278 732522 for details.



Natural Thoughts

Fungi and that autumn feeling!

It's that time of the year when summer is definitely being edged out by autumn but there are so many reasons to welcome autumn and to keep on enjoying our wonderful countryside around the Stowys.

The last few weeks have seen large numbers of fungi suddenly appearing above ground, with one of the very commonest being the Honey Fungus *Armillaria mellea*. This is a typical mushroom looking fungi that is a pale fawny/honey colour. I have seen lots of large patches of this fungi on grassy banks, roadside verges and also in my own garden. Also very noticeable have been Parasols *Macrolepiota procera*. They look a little like umbrellas or parasols and occur as single fungi but often with several growing quite close to each other. The Castle mound in Stowey is a great place to spot them on the grassland there. The third fungi seen growing commonly in recent weeks, has been the stunning Fly Agaric *Amanita muscaria*. This is the one with a bright red cap covered with white dots. This is also the fungi featured in many children's books with fairies or pixies dancing around it. Fly Agarics have been seen in their hundreds on the heathland and woodland edges in the Dead Woman's Ditch and Crowcombe Park Gate area. Despite being highly poisonous to humans they are eaten with great enthusiasm by slugs with no ill effects!

These are just three of the hundreds of fungi found around the Stowey's and on the Quantocks, and the best time to look for fungi is from late summer through to December. Fungi don't like very cold frosty weather or snow. Having said that, It's only the above, fruiting, part of the fungi that can't cope with the cold, their underground part, the mycelium, will be happily growing underground throughout winter.

Having burst out of the ground, many of the typical capped fungi may only last for a few days or even a few hours, rotting quickly away having spread their spores. But huge numbers disappear rapidly as they are eaten by voracious slugs!

Nigel Phillips nigelphillips-quantocks@clara.co.uk



Nether StoweyShort Mat Bowls Club

Come and try Bowling at the Church Centre!

It's for all ages - the young and the not so young!

We meet on Tuesdays 2 - 5 pm

Come and try it out for free and then if you like it -

it's £4.00 for the afternoon

Phone Terry Binding on

01278 732710

Or email:

nsshortmatbowls@gmail.com

**New members
are more than welcome!**



The Latest from the Cricket Club



Following the very successful Dinner and Awards ceremony on Saturday 18th October, the following were recognised for their efforts during the 2025 season:

Clubman of the Year: Shay Keohane

Highest Score: K. Barrow 120* Not Out

Best Bowling: S. Easden 6 wickets for 3

1st Team Batting: K. Barrow 660 runs Ave: 60

2nd Team Batting: M. Sortwell 276 runs Ave: 55.2

1st Team Bowling: K. Barrow 24wickets Ave: 17.7

2nd Team Bowling: S. Easden 19 wickets Ave: 6.79

1st Team Catches: S. Burland 16 Catches

2nd Team Catches: D. Rowsell 6 Catches

Most Improved Young Player: W. Bond

Most Improved Club Player: L. Bond

1st Team Player of the Year: K. Barrow

2nd Team Player of the Year: S. Easden

Hole in the Hand : J. Disney

In closing, may I take this opportunity to thank all those involved in making Over Stowey such a friendly and successful club, without you it simply would not happen.

Until the Spring

Over and Out

Nick's Gardening Notes



November 2025

In the next four months we are likely to experience mixed weather which we need to prepare the garden for.

Rain: avoid walking on/working the soil when it is too wet to reduce the chance of compacting the soil.

Wind: check that stakes/plant supports are doing their job and if necessary, cane taller vegetables such as Brussels sprouts.

Frost: protect tender plants with fleece and mulch tender perennials left in the ground such as Dahlias, Salvias, etc.

Plants for free: it is an excellent month for taking hardwood cuttings of black and redcurrants, gooseberries and shrubs such as coloured stem dogwoods, willow, forsythia, flowering currants, roses and buddleia. The cutting is normally 200mm to 300mm long and taken from strong healthy growth produced in 2025 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 peat free/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 2026 growing season.

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 flower-heads and seed pods can look very attractive throughout the winter especially on frosty mornings.

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 and hyacinths planted either in the soil or in containers. I like to use perforated pond containers which can then be plunged into the soil and lifted out after flowering avoiding putting the prong of a fork through a bulb.

Five plants for seasonal interest: bark -Acer griseum and Betula utilis var. jaquemontii, scent - Elaeagnus x ebbingei 'Gilt Edge', berries – Pyracantha 'Watereri' and a grass with winter flower heads - Miscanthus sinensis.

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 2026.

The vegetable plot: press on with the winter digging 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 should be cleared and a dressing of compost applied. Ensure that any perennial weeds are thoroughly removed. The earliest broad beans and peas can still be obtained from a November sowing 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.

Nick Rigden



Nether Stowey Art Group
St Marys Church Centre, Nether
Stowey, TA5 1LJ

1st & 3rd Thursday every month

2pm – 4pm



£3 per session



Beginner's welcome



For more information about our group
Contact Robert 07855546883



Nether Stowey Arts Evenings

A mini-festival at the library

Wednesday 12 November, 7pm

Painting the Quantocks

An illustrated journey through the artistic heritage of the Quantock Hills.

A short talk by Terence Sackett on the history of landscape painting in West Somerset, including the celebrated Victorian Idyllists group.

Local artists, including Claire Devergie, Juliet Harkness, and Annabel Anderson will share insights into their work, their sources of inspiration, and the appeal of this unique landscape. The event will feature a selection of slides and an exhibition of original paintings.



Wednesday 19 November, 7pm

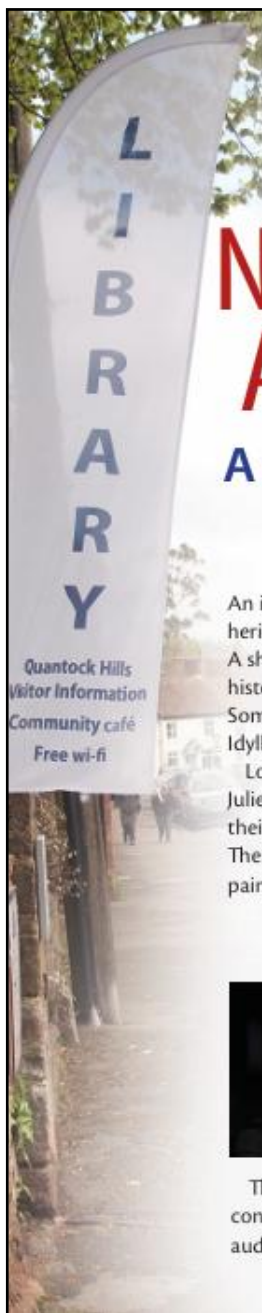
Charles Dickens and his legacy



An evening with writer and broadcaster Lucinda Hawksley, the great-great-granddaughter of Charles Dickens.

Lucinda will explore the life and enduring influence of her celebrated ancestor, offering fresh insights into his world and the creative legacy he left behind.

This promises to be a fascinating blend of literary heritage and contemporary perspective, bringing Dickens's relevance for today's audiences.



Wednesday 26 November, 7pm **Cecil Sharp's Quantocks**

An evening celebrating the great folk-music collector, Cecil Sharp, who began his pioneering work on English folk music in Somerset, collecting many pieces from the Quantock area.

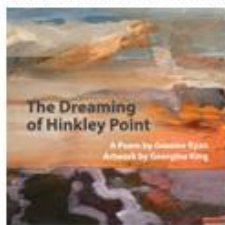
Local folk performer Paul Upton introduces us to Cecil Sharp, and then joins Watchet folk duo Candelford, and singers John Hartoch and Jackie Macbeth, to ensure an informative and entertaining evening with a distinctly local flavour.



Wednesday 3 December, 7pm **Writing the Quantocks**

An inspirational evening of words and music, accompanied by film and image.

Fire River poet Graeme Ryan will read from his powerful poem 'The Dreaming of Hinkley Point', with a film show of stunning paintings by Minehead artist Georgina King. Graeme and Georgina's book will be on sale.



Ralph Hoyte will talk about his innovative Quantock Poetry Trail, and local poets, including Anne Lovejoy and Viv Grant, will read their poems.

There will also be readings from writers of the past about Thomas Poole, and a performance by volunteers from Coleridge Cottage.

Justin Shepherd, Wiveliscombe-based classical guitarist and committee member of the Friends of Coleridge, will provide musical interludes.

To reserve your seat

If you would like to reserve a seat at any of the events please email eventsandpr@thomaspoolibrary.org.uk

indicating which event(s) and how many tickets.

Non-members of the library Trust £10, members £7.50 per event,
payable at the door.

There will be an interval at each event for refreshments

The Thomas Poole Library

Castle Street, Nether Stowey TA5 1LN

Tel: 07734 968940

Website: thomaspoolibrary.org.uk

Quantock Quilting and Sewing Group

Held at St Mary's Church Centre, Nether Stowey
2nd & 4th Monday each month 10am-1pm

Come and join us. New members always welcome.
No experience necessary. We are a very friendly group

**Our Christmas Fayre this Year is on the
22nd of November.
SAVE THE DATE**

**f you would like to book a sales table, please call:-
Gill Griffiths 01278 733709**

For any further queries please contact Sue 07956
925787 or Lyn 01278 732576 or Anna 01278 652307



The Community Council for Somerset (CCS) is a charity working throughout the County. We believe everyone in Somerset should be able to live a healthy, independent, and safe life and be part of a strong and thriving community.

We have a team of over 60 Village Agents working across all corners of Somerset, who use their local expertise to advocate for people and their communities. They provide confidential, practical community-based solutions for you, wherever you are in Somerset. Contact Sarah Bennett for more information - 01823 331222

November 2025

Plugged in Parish News

A round up of the latest news from Hinkley Point C



WATCH NOW



In the latest update video, Hinkley Point C's Project Delivery Director, Simon Parsons takes us behind the scenes as the site focus shifts to a new phase. With the civil construction work nearing completion and the second dome in place, attention is now firmly on the power station's fit out with pipes, cables and equipment.



Scan
the QR code

MEH on the move

By the end of this year, civil construction for Unit 1 will be 95% complete. Unit 2 is following closely behind and is expected to reach the same milestone by the end of next year. With the main structural work nearly finished, we're now moving into the next phase: installing mechanical, electrical, and heating systems. We're also making great progress on room handovers. By year-end, 2,500 rooms will be handed over, bringing us closer to our goal of delivering 7,000 rooms across the entire project.

Big Boost for Victoria Park Community Centre

Victoria Park Community Centre in Bridgwater has been awarded nearly £47,000 from the Hinkley Point C Community Fund to enhance its facilities and support key services like the youth club and Local Pantry. The grant will fund new equipment, staff costs, and help provide affordable food to families—benefiting over 1,000 weekly visitors and strengthening community connections across all ages.



Powering Ahead: First Electrical Cabinets Installed on Nuclear Island

We've reached another exciting milestone — our first electric switchgear cabinets are now installed on Nuclear Island, and ahead of schedule.

These cabinets will play a vital role in powering the safety and operational systems in the Safeguard Buildings.

Their installation marks a shift in focus from construction work to the next phase: installing mechanical, electrical, and ventilation systems (MEH). The first units are now in place in one of the Safeguard Buildings, setting the stage for the complex network of control systems and cabling needed to support future testing and commissioning.

Historic November

The following historic events happened in November...

2 Nov. 1936 The world's first regular TV service was started by the British Broadcasting Corporation, an estimated 100 TV owners tuned in.

5 Nov. 1605 Guy Fawkes is arrested beneath the House of Parliament as a plot to blow up England's King James I is uncovered.

9 Nov. 1953 Death of the flamboyant Welsh bard Dylan Thomas at the age of 39. His heavy drinking and wild living contributing to his early demise.

11 Nov. 1918 After four years and 97 days the guns finally fell silent as the Great War ended. Around 9 million lives lost with a further 27 million injured.

13 Nov. 1850 Birth of Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson whose classic tales include Treasure Island, Kidnapped and Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.

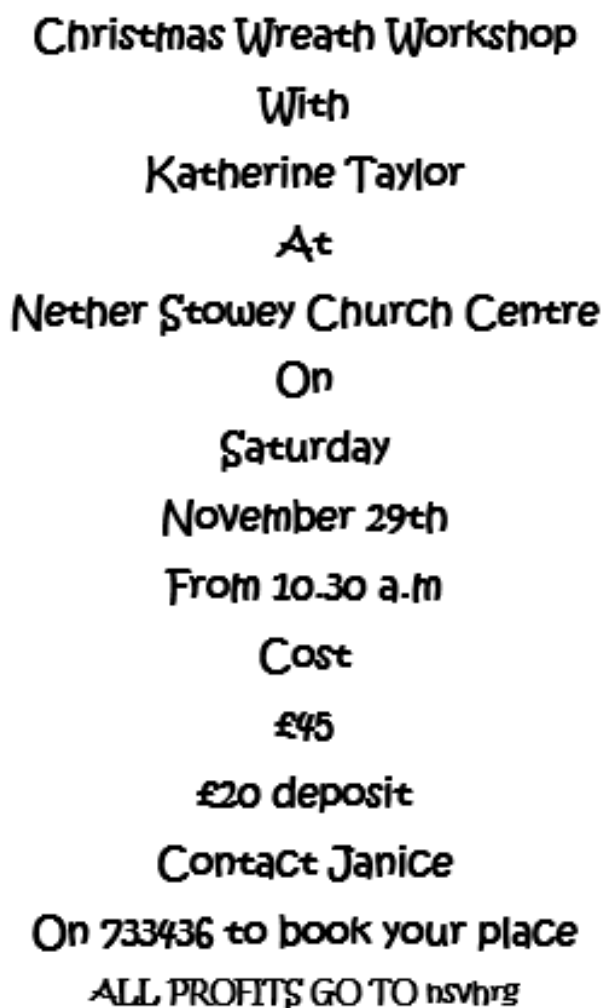
16 Nov. 1724 Highwayman Jack Sheppard is hanged at Tyburn, London in front of an estimated crowd of 200,000.

20 Nov. 1947 Princess Elizabeth (Queen Elizabeth II) married her cousin Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten (Duke of Edinburgh) at Westminster Abbey.

28 Nov. 1919 Nancy Astor is elected Member of Parliament for Plymouth, Devon, becoming Britain's first woman MP.

29 Nov. 1641 England's first newspaper is published.

30 Nov. 1936 One of London's best-loved landmarks, the Crystal Palace burned down. The huge glass building originally housed the Great Exhibition of 1851.



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CHURCH SERVICES – NOVEMBER 2025

	NETHER STOWEY	OVER STOWEY
2nd November All Saints	11.00am Morning Worship (Church Centre) 3.30pm All Souls Service (Church)	4.00pm Evensong
9th November 3rd Sunday Before Advent Remembrance Sunday	10.50am Remembrance Service on the Cross	No Service 10.50am Tuesday 11th November Service for Armistice Day
16th November 2nd Sunday before Advent	11.00am Morning Worship (Church Centre)	9.30am Holy Communion
23rd November Christ the King	11.00am Holy Communion (Church)	No Service
30th November Advent Sunday	11am Benefice Service of Holy Communion At Over Stowey Church	

Dear Everyone,

November seems to be the month for remembering. The leaves are shedding, the trees are nearly bare, and the joys of summer are distant but treasured memories of when the days were lighter, warmer and longer.

Remembering begins at the start of the month with the All Souls services on 2nd November at 3:30pm in Goathurst, Holford and Nether Stowey churches, during which there is a chance to remember with thankfulness those whom we love but see no more.

Later in the month, the focus shifts to Remembrance, including the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on the evening before Remembrance Sunday, 9th November. This is something I have tried to watch since I was a child watching it with my Mum and Dad. I couldn't help but reflect how it must have felt to have a poppy leaf land on your head as a soldier. Remembrance is all the more poignant at this time as the reality of war and its human cost is once again apparent. We should never forget the cost in lives of war.

Memories, and remembering, are such central parts of our personalities and character, and in many ways make up part of who we are. We remember those who have gone before us, who have shared our life journey. They are not forgotten, and each person is remembered in a different way, and God remembers all of us – each of us a child of his.

For Christians, the most significant act of remembering is when we come together to remember the death and resurrection of Jesus through sharing bread and wine. Jesus' willing sacrifice of himself on the cross for the sake of others is, for Christians, the ultimate expression of the self-giving love at the heart of God. "Do this in remembrance of me," Jesus said, as he shared bread and wine with his disciples at the Last Supper.

Gathering to remember – whether in joy, in sadness, or in reflection – continues to be important. It builds and strengthens our community, and ensures that what, or who, we are remembering isn't ever forgotten.

May God bless you in your remembering this November.

Eleanor

COFFEE MORNING
Saturday 8th November
ST. MARY'S CHURCH CENTRE
10.30am – 12.00noon

CHURCH CONTACT POINTS

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

Rector Revd. Eleanor King Tel: 734 777
The Rectory, 25 St Mary St, Nether Stowey TA5 1LJ
eleanor.king@hotmail.com

Readers Mrs Viv Chesterton, B.A. Tel: 733 568
3 Bishop Road, Nether Stowey TA5 1NP

Mrs Alison Hoare Tel: 732 350
2 Park Cottages, Over Stowey

Church Warden - Nether Stowey
 Mr Nick Harrison Tel: 732 532
32 Old Farm Road, Nether Stowey, TA5 1PE

Church Warden - Over Stowey
 Mr. Peter Higginson Tel: 732 102
Bincombe Tops, Over Stowey

Church Centre Contact:
 Mrs. Barbara Beer Tel: 732 412

Church Centre Bookings:
 Mrs. Pat Stacey Tel: 732 518

Benefice Office: Mrs Alison Hoare
Church Centre, 27 St. Mary Street,
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Contact Kate Houghton, Secretary. Phone: 07940 836139 or
email: stoweygardeners@yahoo.com

website: <https://sites.google.com/site/stoweygardeners>

20 November	Talk. Chelsea or Bust. Claire Hart
12 December	MEMBERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Christmas Craft Fayre

Saturday 22nd November 2025

10am- 3.00pm

St Marys Church Centre, Nether Stowey TA5 1LJ

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On 9th October, we had a return visit from Ursula Franklin, who delivered a very informative talk and presentation on the island of Madagascar.

Madagascar came into being about 88 million years ago, when it separated from the mainland's of Africa and Asia after the break-up of the supercontinent Gondwana, leaving it stranded, separated 250 miles from Africa by the Mozambique Channel. It is the 4th largest island in the world, measuring 1000 miles long and 250 miles wide at its widest point and covering an area of 226,656 sq. miles.

It has 4 climate/geological zones, causing extremes of weather conditions, ranging from the dry plains in the west, through the low and central plateaux to the lush remnants of an ancient rain forest in the east coast, home to the few remaining huge, water-storing Baobab trees, and then sloping down to the Indian Ocean.

We are all aware that meerkats are indigenous to Madagascar, but there are actually 100 species and sub-species of this animal, not just the 'cute' ones that appear on our TV screens.

Because of its isolation, Madagascar has outstanding biodiversity. Many of its animals, birds, insects and plants are found nowhere else on earth; 90% of its plants, 95% of its reptiles and 85% of its animals are endemic to the island. Madagascar holds many records for having the smallest, largest, or strangest of

many of its species, and has the world's 5th largest coral reef at approximately 280 miles. It can also boast the smallest known chameleon, unbelievably only 2.2 cm from nose to tail, and the largest - a whopping 68.5 cm (or 27 inches). Whilst 5% of all the world's known animal and plant species exist in Madagascar, they also have the 2nd highest number of endangered mammals in the world, a testament to habitat changes.

Unfortunately, over the last few decades the island has been invaded by the Ghost Crab, probably arriving on a boat, but as they are poisonous and have no predators, have been spreading relentlessly across the island in their thousands.

Our next meeting on 13th November will be about Laser Printing. Visitors will be very welcome. Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, from 2.00 - 4.00 pm in the Church Centre. Admission includes refreshments and a raffle.

****There will be no general open meeting on 11th December, as the Members' will be having their Christmas lunch.****

At our first meeting of 2026, on 8th January, we will be learning about Mary's Meals a charity set up in Scotland in 2002 to feed and educate children in some of the world's poorest communities, followed on 12th February 2026 with a return visit from Brian Wright, who this time will be telling us about the origins of Nursery Rhymes.

AB



The September meeting was held on the 17th September 2025 and items discussed included the following:

The application for the grant for the cemetery wall is still ongoing. It has been requested by the Greater Quantock Landscape Development Fund that the work is undertaken using lime mortar. This has a cost implication, however it was agreed that the Parish Council will fund the additional amount on top of the original figure agreed from the relevant reserve. Timescales are to be confirmed with the contractor and we await a response regarding the amended grant application.

There is currently a vacancy for a Councillor. If you are interested, please see the noticeboard and website for further details.

Also, the Clerk vacancy is still open and the Clerk has agreed to continue in the role on an extended notice period, until a replacement is found. The Clerk requested that as this is the case, would the members be willing to reduce the number of meetings from twelve (this includes the two annual meetings in May) to eight. This was considered and then proposed.

Dates for the meetings can be found on the noticeboard and the website.

The role is varied and interesting and if someone would like to take this opportunity on, the existing Clerk would be very happy to job share or shadow someone for an extended period of time to ensure that the new Clerk is confident with the workings of a small Parish Council, with additional training provided free of charge.

If you would like to find out more about the role or apply for this position, please see the Parish Council website for more information

<https://overstoweyparishcouncil.gov.uk/news/parish-clerk-vacancy/>

The Parish Council kindly request that as the bird nesting season has ended, please could any landowner/property owners with a boundary that has hedging adjacent to or trees overhanging the highway ensure that these are cut back as soon as possible in the interests of safety to all road users.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 19th of November. Please see the noticeboard and website 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. If

you provide your full contact details, we can then ensure appropriate and relevant items raised are on the agenda for the next meeting.

Problems on the highways can be reported online at Fix My Street or on the Somerset Council web page Report A Problem on the Road

Please report any missed waste collections at Missed Waste Collection if you do not get a satisfactory response, please contact the Clerk.

If you experience any problems when using a footpath or bridleway, you can inform the Clerk or access the online reporting tool at Somerset Council – Report A Problem With a Public Right of Way

Website: Over Stowey Parish Council

Email: clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Wednesday 5th November

Wednesday 19th November - *The Blackdown Hillbillies will play for us*

Wednesday 3rd December

Wednesday 17th December - *Christmas Celebrations in the Jubilee Rooms*

 *The first Café of the New Year will be on Wednesday 14th January 2026*

NEWS The Plough at Holford held a quiz recently and raised a massive £204 for the Forget-me-Not Café. This will go towards making our Christmas celebrations extra special. Huge thanks to all the Team at the Plough, Quizmaster Peter Smetzer, and all the teams who took part. Our team were made very welcome, had a fun evening, and a delicious meal. *The Quiz is held on the last Thursday of each month.*

FORGET-ME-NOT CAFÉS provide support, companionship and a warm welcome to those who are recognising issues with their memory, as well as their family, friends or carers.

There are a variety of activities, some involving existing local groups, such as music, singing, arts, crafts, poetry, bingo, quizzes, or just a quiet chat over a coffee. We are a voluntary group, financed by donations and fundraising events.

The Café runs twice a month, planned so that the café is open the alternate week to Watchet Forget-me-Not Café.

Many friendships have been made over the years.

Please come along and see what we do, you will receive a warm welcome.

VOLUNTEERING We have a lovely group of friendly volunteers, but we always need extra help at the Forget-me-Not Café, making teas and coffees, washing up, or chatting to people. Why not pop in one Wednesday for a cuppa and say hello.

All are welcome from the neighbouring villages.

For more information please contact:

Helen: 01278 733451 cuttellhelen@gmail.com

Rose: 07507 374234 rosechalk@icloud.com





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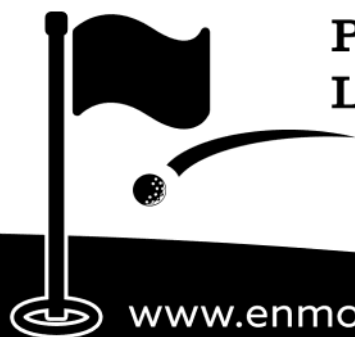
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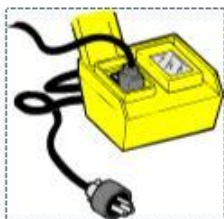
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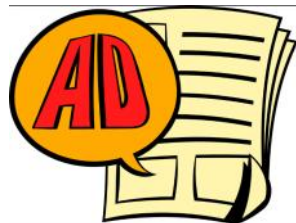
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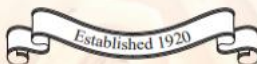
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