

September 2025



QUANTOCK
For Nether Stowey & Over Stowey

Messenger 50p



Front: Top - The Women's Walk, page 8; Janet Phillips:

Bottom - Martin Stacey and Family, page 29.

Inside: Top - Library Second hand book volunteers present a 'Wimbledon Basket' to a lucky raffle winner in July; Sian Stafford:

Bottom: The Wednesday Club try their hands at Quill writing following a talk from a Coleridge Cottage volunteer

September 2025

Hope you enjoy this month's edition - its quite a packed one. There's been a lot going on while we took a break.

With a new term around the corner and the evenings beginning to draw in maybe you'll be thinking of learning a new skill or taking up a new hobby for the autumn. If so, we have just the thing! Come and join us. Just a few hours a month, two or three times a year. Some IT skills and an eye for detail are all you really need, plus a willingness to learn.

If that interests you we would love to hear from you! Please email editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk for more details.

Best wishes from the QM team.

Your Quantock Messenger Team

Please email articles/photos to:

editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk

Please email adverts to;

advertising@quantockmessenger.org.uk

| | | |
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CLUBS & SOCIETIES IN NETHER STOWEY & OVER STOWEY

Allotment Association

Bruce Roper 732 043

Coleridge Probus Club

Geoff Parle 01278 653681

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

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 732741 (Mon & Wed 10-1, Thurs 3.30 - 6.30, Fri 10-1 & 2-5 / 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

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

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

TPL - Thomas Poole Library
SGSG - Stowey Green Spaces Group

The Marion Evered Trust

Keith at the Kitchens has kindly offered to do another Posh tea in September, this was a very popular afternoon last year, details on booking are available on their website.

Tea is £22.00 for adults and £16.00 under 12s. A glass of Prosecco is included with all adult tickets. £10 from every place sold will be donated to the trust.

All bookings via the link below, there is a limit of 120 spaces which will raise £1200 for the trust:

<https://www.kitchenatquantocklakes.com/copy-of-vintage-tea>

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

Sorry July draw not done at time of writing winners will be contacted and info here next month.

200 Club Winners

June - £20 Phil Tolland £10 Darren Hutchings £5 Sara Barrow

July - £20 Mark Sortwell £10 Lionel Uren £5 Archie James Barrow

Dates for the diary

28th September Posh Tea at the Kitchen, Quantock lakes, see website.

217th Women's Walk – 21 June 2025

Thank you to everyone who has helped to keep alive this unique village tradition of celebrating Tom Poole's Female Friendly Society, by coming on the Women's Walk.

Maybe it is just tradition that has kept the women of the Nether Stowey walking for so many years.

However, the more often I do it, I realise it is all about the present. It is a day for connecting: enjoying the company of the women from all the local villages that you know, but more importantly making new friendships and connections.

This year the, Walk Banner, started at the Thomas Poole Library and Community Hub, (formally the village school built by Thomas Poole in 1812), and walked down Castle Street past Poole House where Thomas Poole lived. The organisers hoped this would bring Thomas Poole into the occasion more fully. It also



Photo: Kathleen Peckham

meant that the walkers could see the banner and the Devon Pipers coming towards them, before joining the procession to St Mary's Church.

Luna Aubrey, Esther Barnes, Megan Sharp and Malia Maxamed took it in turns to proudly carry the embroidered banner and lead our walk to St Mary's Church.

We laid our flowers around the grave of Tom Poole who had helped so many women in times of need in his lifetime.

The church service rejoiced in the values that Thomas Poole brought to the local villages of kindness and community.

We enjoyed the Nether Stowey School Choir entertaining us during the Church Service singing a medley of Beatles' songs

The collection in the church raised £200, was for THE QUANTOCK FOOD BANK

And of course, we all enjoyed the Afternoon Tea, when everyone could relax, chat and share in the array of delicious home-made cakes.

Thank you to everyone who made this happen. The Organising Committee, our Reverend Eleanor King for conducting the church service, to Kathy Peckham for playing the organ, to the road marshals, the official photographer, the cake bakers and the washer uppers and especially to everyone who came to walk. It wouldn't happen without you.

I look forward to seeing you all again, plus lots of new comers, next time, for the 218th Women's Walk, on 20 June 2026. Get that date in the diary.

Janet Phillips

POSH TEA



in aid of
The Marion Evered Trust
At
THE KITCHEN
QUANTOCK LAKES
September 28th

FROM 4PM

£22.00 per person
£10 from each to go to the charity

includes

glass prosecco
bottomless tea/coffee

To book see The Kitchens website



A season of talks and outings for 2025

- If you love gardens or gardening
- Enjoy hearing about or visiting beautiful gardens
- Want to pick up lots of tips or add to your garden knowledge
- Enjoy a social gathering of enthusiasts
- Like listening to experts on a wide variety of gardening subjects...

then come and join our monthly club!

We meet at the Church Centre, St. Mary's Street,
Nether Stowey. TA5 1LJ
every 3rd Thursday of the month at 7.00 for 7.30

Come as a visitor to try us out. £5 for a talk including tea/coffee & cakes and there is a raffle and garden table too. Annual membership is £25. Car sharing available for visits.

Contact Kate Houghton, Secretary. Phone: 07940 836139 or email:
stoweygardeners@yahoo.com

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

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|--------------|--|
| 18 September | Talk. Pruning. John Addison |
| 16 October | Talk. Gertrude Jekyll's Planting Plans. Claire Greenslade |
| 20 November | Talk. Chelsea or Bust. Claire Hart |
| 12 December | MEMBERS CHRISTMAS PARTY |

NETHER STOWEY & FIDDINGTON WI



The guest at our meeting on 10/07/25 was Wing Commander Anji Schofield, ARRC (Allied Rapid Reaction Corps) who brought along with her a selection of the various uniforms she had worn during her career with the Forces, along with various belts, buckles and badges. It was so interesting to see her three medals, various letters and many photographs, showing her numerous meetings over the years with members of the Royal Family at official events. She has met the late Queen twice and Princess Diana once during her career.

Her first uniform was when she started her nursing career in 1966, and she brought along this uniform, complete with starched headscarf, and the various belt buckles and colours nurses wore then as she progressed from Trainee Nurse to Ward Sister; the belt colours and buckles showed their rank and status. Some might think it was a lot easier to recognise who was treating you then, whereas nowadays most medical and nursing staff look to us rather similar in their "scrubs".

In 1980 Anji joined the Princess Mary Royal Air Force Nursing Service as a Flight Nursing Officer bringing injured and sick soldiers, sailors and airmen home from Iraq, Cyprus and the Middle East. These different battle arenas necessitated wearing many different uniforms, and Anji brought her many uniforms ranging from desert dress to a nuclear/biological warfare suit. Some of these outfits must have been very heavy and uncomfortable to wear but absolutely necessary for the work she was doing. One of her more glamorous and very smart outfits, however, was her Officer's formal dress, which was worn on official occasions and when meeting dignitaries.

Anji represented the PMRAFNS in the Festival of Remembrance

and has also had the privilege of escorting Veterans to the DD Landings 40th anniversary. It was so interesting to hear about her long, varied and rewarding career in the Service.

July 21st saw 46 people, both WI Members and guests, enjoying a coach trip to Sidmouth. The weather was kind and a good day was had by all.

There was no meeting in August, but a visit to one of our Member's garden, with a cream tea included, had been arranged.

Our meeting on **September 11th** will be when we can learn all about what being a Village Agent entails.

Our meetings are open to non-members, who might not want to commit to joining but would like to try us out first. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, in the Church Centre from 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Admission is £1.50, which includes a raffle and refreshments.

AB

Emily Maguire Singer/Songwriter/Poet
supported by **Jody Prewett**

will perform for one night only at

Fiddington Village Hall TA5 1JQ

on

Saturday 13th September at 7.30.pm

Booking essential: £12.50 from

Juliet Harkness- email: fiddingtonnews@gmail.com

Emily is a special talent and this will be a superb evening.
(for a foretaste go to her website: www.emilymaguire.com)

BYO drinks , Nibbles provided. **Raffle and profits to The
Alzheimers Society**

Come along and be spellbound!

Nick's Gardening Notes - September 2025



July and August have been challenging months for gardeners with extremes of heat and severe lack of rain. This has had an effect on the whole garden/allotment particularly vegetables and ornamentals. It is important that we manage our watering in a sensible and efficient way and to do this it is necessary to consider the whole gardening year. By this I mean ensuring that we have sufficient water butts to trap as much rainwater as we can and manage our soil to encourage deeper root run and moisture retention. This means promoting good soil structure by regularly adding plenty of organic matter at the time of soil cultivation and by applying a regular mulch in order to slow down water loss and reduce weed populations all competing for moisture. Do remember that plants will benefit from a good application of water that soaks deeper rather than a lighter sprinkling which quickly dries out and encourages shallower roots.

Vegetables: Spring cabbage should be planted out and sowings of a winter variety of lettuce such as Winter Density can be sown and covered with a cloche. Autumn onion sets can be planted towards the end of the month such as Radar and Swift. Green outdoor tomatoes can be encouraged to ripen by untying from the cane, stripping off most of the foliage and laying down on straw or polythene and placing a cloche over them. Continue to protect cabbages, kales, purple sprouting broccoli and sprouts from cabbage white caterpillars with fine mesh netting held above the plants. The finer the netting the better as it will also help keep off white fly from the underside of the leaves.

Propagation: cuttings of tender perennials should be done in case plants do not survive the increasingly wet winters. Subjects such as Penstemons, Salvias, Pelargonium, Osteospermums and Fuchsias can all be readily propagated. To aid rooting avoid flowering shoots or if difficult to find pinch the flower bud out.

Fruit: Due to their deeper root systems apples, pears and plum/gages have drawn on deep moisture and quality is generally good. Apples will start to

be picked this month and should be handled with care to minimise bruising of any sort. Ensure that the stalk comes away cleanly from the tree and does not include the small piece of growth it is attached to which will have next years fruit bud attached to it! Fruit that is to be stored should be handled gently and individual fruits wrapped in paper to avoid them touching each other. They can then be stored in cool conditions in the dark. Alternatively small quantities in polythene bags with a few holes made in them can be successful. Strawberry plants should be cleaned up cutting back the old foliage and unwanted runners. Remove old straw which can harbour pests and diseases. Water well and apply a feed and quickly new growth appears which will carry within the plant next year's flowers.

Ornamentals: Particularly this month, following the challenging July and August weather, it is when the flower border often starts to appear jaded. How can we extend the colour well into the autumn until the first frosts? There are some excellent old faithfuls such as Michaelmas daisies, golden rod and sedums however there are many others which can not only contribute colour but also texture and form. Consider *Liriope muscari* (Lilyturf), *Actaea matsumurae* previously known as *Cimicifuga* (Bugbane), *Liatris spionosa* (Gayfeather) and some of the late flowering red hot pokeres which are not always red and can be very graceful within the border. It is the month when many of the grasses come into their own such as *Miscanthus sinensis*, *Stipa tenuissima* and *Pennisetum villosum*. Against the wall *Clematis tangutica* and *Clematis* 'Bill MacKenzie' will give a glorious display of yellow lantern like flowers followed by big fluffy seed heads. Plant bulbs such as daffodils, *Scilla*, crocus and hyacinths in borders and containers ready for spring colour.

Other jobs: Evergreen shrubs can be lifted and moved whilst the soil is warm and hopefully now moist and it is an ideal month for establishing grass from seed.

Nick Rigden



Parish Councillor vacancies

Applications are invited to fill three vacant positions that have arisen on our Parish Council

Do you want to help make Nether Stowey a better place to live? Do you want to influence decisions about our community, environment, transport, amenities, planning and housing issues, community events, anti-social behaviour as well as local government finances?

You would spend about 4 to 6 hours a month - maybe extra if you wish to more actively involved.

If you feel you would like to actively support our community and want to make a difference, then please apply!

You must be aged 18 years and over, eligible to vote and have lived or worked in the parish for 12 months or more, or within 3 miles of the parish boundary.

If you would like to chat about what a councillor does, please contact John Roberts (732484) or Kevin Ferriday (733155). We'd love to hear from you!



Registered Charity No 1181213
WWW.THOMASPOOLELIBRARY.CO.UK

The Summer Reading Challenge 2025 has nearly finished and we've had a fun six weeks encouraging children to read and make crafts related to the Challenge. We especially enjoyed putting together a quiz based on our new children's reference section, some amazing new books for you to explore!

Well done to everyone who participated and congratulations to those who completed the Challenge!

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

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

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

KNIT AND NATTER - Fridays, 10.30am to 12 noon. All ages and abilities are welcome! Just bring your own project which could be knitting, sewing, crochet, embroidery etc. or just come for a natter and see what others are working on. It's a terrific way to get inspired, pick-up new tips and make new friends.

SECOND HANDBOOK SALES IN "THE SHED" - Saturdays, 10.30am to 1pm. We have a wide range of good condition fiction, non-

fiction, and children's books. All donations contribute to the running costs of the library

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

MONTHLY 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 at 3pm on the last Friday of each month

DROP-IN IT SUPPORT SESSIONS – Held on the first Wednesday of each month, 10.30am to 12 noon. Need help with your smartphone, email account or online services, then drop by and our volunteers will assist you!

MONTHLY TALKS

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

Our talks will resume in October; more details can be found on our website.

OPENING HOURS

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

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!



**“YESTERDAYS.....IN NETHER STOWEY”
In the Old Gaol on The Cross**

On display in the Old Gaol through
September and October

Nether Stowey - Birthplace of Jesuit
Priest Robert Parsons



Forestry England

Update on Rectory Wood, Friarn

You may have noticed that work in Rectory Wood, Friarn has now been completed. Although it was originally due to begin a few months earlier, the start was delayed after the discovery of a Schedule 1 protected species nearby. On advice from our ecologist, we created a large exclusion zone to protect the species, which meant we had to temporarily pause all activity in the area.

Sadly, all the trees in this section of woodland needed to be removed. This is due to a serious tree disease known as *Phytophthora ramorum*, which particularly affects Larch trees, causing significant damage and even death. The outbreak led to the issue of a Statutory Plant Health Notice (SPHN), which required us to remove all affected Larch in order to help prevent the disease from spreading further into the wider forest.

You can find more detailed information about this disease and

our response on our website:

🔗 forestryengland.uk/west-phytophthora-ramorum

The area that has been worked on is what's known as a "clear-fell" site, meaning all the trees within that section have been removed.

We understand that the change to this much-loved local woodland may appear dramatic. However, nature is remarkably resilient. This area will not be replanted, instead, it will be carefully monitored by specialists to encourage the natural regeneration of this ancient woodland over time.

If you have any questions or would like to know more, please don't hesitate to get in touch using the email :

westengland@forestryengland.uk

Tara Maxamed, Community Ranger,
Forestry England

Photo: John Spence





Inside the Turbine Halls : Progress Update

Both Turbine Halls are making strong progress, with Unit 1 completing the Stator installation and preparing for major equipment lifts, while Unit 2 nears completion of its lower-level steelwork.

Across both units, recent heavy lifts, installation of key safety systems, and significant structural upgrades are keeping the project firmly on track for the next stage of delivery.

First Control Cabinets Arrive

The first Instrument and Control (I&C) cabinets have arrived on site and are now being installed!

These cabinets are like the nervous system of the power station. They'll help send important data to the Reactor Operators, making sure everything runs safely and smoothly once the station is up and running. The first seven cabinets are being set up on Level 5 of Unit 1's Electrical Building, with many more to come. In total, there will be hundreds of these cabinets across the site, all playing a key role in controlling the reactors. This marks a major achievement and shows real progress for the MEH (Mechanical, Electrical, and HVAC) programme.



Family Day

Each year, Hinkley Point C workers have the opportunity to invite their loved ones to the construction site for a Family Day.

Many local families got to see the project up close and learn more about Hinkley Point C through short tours and expert talks.



15,000,000 meals served

Somerset Larder have announced they've served the 15-million meal at Hinkley Point C last month. Last year alone, the project's catering provider, served up a staggering half a million bacon butties, using locally sourced ingredients, with meat and dairy supplied by more than 60 regional farms.

Free Drop-in IT Support Sessions at the Library



*Perhaps you
know the
basics but
would like to
know more ...*

Then come along to our **FREE
workshops on the first Wednesday of
every month (10.30 am to 12.00) and
be enlightened and reassured!**

Having trouble with your smartphone? Need help setting up an email account? Or guidance to using online services?

No problem, our knowledgeable volunteers are here to assist you – no appointment necessary, just turn up!

Delivered in partnership with Spark IT, these relaxed and welcoming sessions are open to everyone, regardless of skill level. Bring your questions, devices, or curiosity, and we'll do our best to support you.

Come along, learn something new, and take your next step with tech!

OVER STOWEY HARVEST SUPPER

Saturday 11th October

6pm bar open, seated by 7pm

Over Stowey Village Hall

Tickets £10 per person, to include:

Homemade Soup & Bread, Ploughman's & Delicious Crumble Puds,
all sourced from local producers & makers

BAR - RAFFLE - QUIZ (optional!)

Raffle prizes to be confirmed, but rest assured they will be fabulous!

Tickets on sale from 1st September. Call to reserve yours now!

Alison: 07587 403425

Lu: 07967 278293

Hilary: 07724 974895

Jane: 07742 632728

News from The Quantock Medical Centre

We were very happy to come 1st in the National Patient Survey for the 3rd year running, Many thanks to our dedicated team at the Medical Centre for their Care and hard work., and many thanks to all our patients who responded to the National Survey when it was sent out, we really do appreciate your views and comments.

The Next Patient Group Meeting is on Wednesday 3rd September in the Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey at 10.15 am come along for a chat and catch up on what's happening with local health care in Somerset

The **Covid Team will be attending the Practice on Friday 10th October 2025** to hold a **Walk in Clinic from 9.15 to 4pm** for anyone locally who needs a covid vaccination (those over 75 years and those who are immunocompromised).

We will be holding our **Flu Clinics** on the following dates this year so please do call us on 01278 732696 to book an appointment.

Wednesday 1st & 8th **October**

Saturday 4th & 18th October

Last year over 300 patients who would usually get their flu vaccination at the Medical Centre went to a Pharmacy or had it during their covid vaccination which meant that we had to throw 300 vaccines the equivalent of £3000 away. So please do **support the Practice and come to us for your vaccine** if you are eligible.

WHO CAN HAVE THE SEASONAL FLU VACCINATION

Eligible groups for the 2025 to 2026 season:

Aged 2 and 3 years on 31 August 2025

Those aged 6 months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups (Diseases of the Heart, Lung, Kidney, Liver, Blood, Asthma, COPD, Diabetes, Weakened Immune System, Stroke, or with a BMI of 40 or higher.

Pregnant women

All those aged 65 years and over

Carers, those in receipt of carer's allowance or main carer of an older or disabled person

Household contacts of immunocompromised individuals

Frontline health and social care staff

Children in Reception to Year 11 to be done in schools

Art in the Waiting Room

We have been very lucky to have local Artist Alison Jacobs colourful work in our waiting room, it is great having such large colourful vibrant pieces up on the walls to help distract and create conversations whilst people are waiting patiently for their appointments. To see more of Alisons work do visit her studio at East Quay Watchet or online <https://alisonjacobs.art>

Quantock Quilting and Sewing Group

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

Quantock Quilting and Sewing **Groups** new term starts on the 8th September. 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

If 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



**NETHER
STOWEY**
VILLAGE HALL & RECREATION GROUND

50-50 LOTTERY DRAW

August 2025 Draw

| | | | |
|-----------|--------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1st Prize | £33.00 | Ticket No: 31 | M Carpenter |
| 2nd Prize | £16.50 | Ticket No: 116 | M Harris |
| 3rd Prize | £9.90 | Ticket No: 254 | I Pearson & L Abbott |
| 4th Prize | £6.60 | Ticket No: 240 | D Hall |

July 2025 Draw

| | | | |
|-----------|--------|----------------|------------|
| 1st Prize | £33.00 | Ticket No: 45 | A Thorne |
| 2nd Prize | £16.50 | Ticket No: 369 | E Woolcock |
| 3rd Prize | £9.90 | Ticket No: 64 | M Crowther |
| 4th Prize | £6.60 | Ticket No: 36 | C Gunning |

June 2025 Draw

| | | | |
|-----------|--------|----------------|--------------|
| 1st Prize | £33.00 | Ticket No: 350 | C Frampton |
| 2nd Prize | £16.50 | Ticket No: 29 | A Howells |
| 3rd Prize | £9.90 | Ticket No: 244 | P Tyndall |
| 4th Prize | £6.60 | Ticket No: 425 | M Scourfield |



The Parish Council do not meet in August so there is little to report at the moment. The grant application for the repairs to the cemetery is progressing and it is hoped that a decision will be made by the end of September.

The Clerk vacancy is still open and if you are interested in finding out more or applying for this position, please see the Parish Council website for more information <https://overstoweyparishcouncil.gov.uk/news/parish-clerk-vacancy/> or phone on 07391 313740.

The role is varied and interesting and if someone would like to take this opportunity on, the existing Clerk is 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.

The September meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th of September 2025. Please check 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

Phone: 07391 313740 (please leave a message if there is no reply)

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2pm – 4pm



£3 per session



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For more information about our group

Contact Robert 07855546883

ORGAN RECITAL AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH, NETHER STOWEY

A Fundraising Concert, in aid of St. Mary's Church Nether Stowey was held in the Church on Friday 15th August. It was an organ recital performed by Martin Stacey. Martin grew up in Nether Stowey, was an Organ Scholar at Queen's College, Taunton, before joining the Royal Academy of Music. His regular concert appearances in the UK, Europe and Scandinavia over the years established a reputation amongst the foremost exponents of his generation of organists. Martin has now been Director of Music at St. Dominic's Priory in London for twenty-five years.

The recital was given on the Church's Bevington Organ, built around 1865, which is described as a fine example of a large scale one manual 'chancel organ'. Martin first played this instrument as a schoolboy some forty years ago.

The programme included music which highlighted the rich variety of repertoire that the organ is capable of, with music spanning three continents and four centuries. A particular highlight was a performance of Martin's own composition, 'Little Stanmore Suite', a humorous take on the work of 18th century composer G.F. Handel who was organist at a church a short distance away in north London.

Many thanks to Martin for giving us a very entertaining evening.

A splendid buffet was well organised by Gerry Wright and thanks to everyone who contributed food.

CHURCH SERVICES – SEPTEMBER 2025

| | NETHER STOWEY | OVER STOWEY |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| 7th September 12 th Sunday After Trinity | 11.00am Morning Worship (Church Centre) | 6.30pm Evensong |
| 14th September 13 th Sunday After Trinity | 11.00am Holy Communion (Church) | 9.30am Morning Worship |
| 21st September 14 th Sunday After Trinity | 11.00am Morning Worship (Church Centre) | 9.30am Holy Communion |
| 28th September 15 th Sunday After Trinity | 11.00am Harvest Holy Communion (Church) | No Service |

COFFEE MORNING

ST. MARY'S CHURCH CENTRE

Saturday 13th September

10.30am – 12.00noon

Dear Everyone,

This month sees the celebration of God's creation – Creationtide - and beginning of our Harvest services, lunches and suppers.

During this year we have had to think about what we can buy. We may have noticed the increase cost in our weekly food shopping. Some shelves have been unstocked because of cyber-attacks, and we haven't been able to buy the products we seek. The recent heatwaves will also have an impact on availability and prices. Harvests are fragile.

We should cherish our harvests, those who produce them and bring them in. Here in the countryside, we are fortunate in being able to see first-hand the work that goes on in the fields. We can notice an early harvest, a drought affected crop or smaller yields.

In the Lord's Prayer, we ask for our daily bread – 'Give us this day our daily bread'. God provides for us, but God also asks us to use the earth's resources wisely and well, both for ourselves and others. We are to be good stewards of God's world.

As we come to celebrate another harvest, let us give thanks for this year's harvest and those who bring it in, share what we have and consider how we can care for God's creation.

Enjoy September!

Eleanor

Harvest Services, Lunch and Supper

Nether Stowey - Sunday 28th September at 11:00am followed by a Community Harvest Lunch

Over Stowey – Sunday 5th October at 6:30pm followed by Harvest Supper on Sat 11th October

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
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Stowey Green Spaces Group has had a busy 3 months since last writing with lots of necessary but routine work, as more extensive jobs are difficult in the bird nesting season. Regular walkers will appreciate the recent cutting of the spring growth in Platinum Wood, making the footpath much easier to use. The cutting was

carried out by members of the Community Payback Scheme who did an excellent job for the second year, finished by SGSG clearing the cut brash and checking, and in many cases removing, the tree guards now that the trees are becoming more established. The original 2022 planting has been most successful, with greater than a 90% success rate despite the extreme mix of weather over this time.

In Stowey Wood (SW) work has continued on trying to eradicate Himalayan Balsam (HB), which is still apparent despite a major effort to remove it last year. The dry weather has made it easier to work in the stream, gaining access to the HB along the inside of the stream banks, as it needs damp places to grow.

Work has also continued on keeping footpaths reasonably clear, the upper and lower paths in SW, parts of the Bypass Wood (BPW), the path from the Recreation Ground through to South Lane and the path from New Stowey Farm to the west end of SW.

The Saturday Group has continued to flourish after their initial sterling work carrying and spreading wood chippings on the footpath at the west end of SW. In the Millennium Wood footpaths were tidied and last years "Dead Hedge" strengthened and the holding stakes checked for firmness, and on BPW re-

growth from last year's clearances was cut back to control bramble cover and allow grasses and other species more chance to flourish. Despite the extremely dry weather most of the trees here and in the other woods are doing well but now starting to show signs of stress and yellowing leaves.

Smaller tasks have been clearing a short section of the Stowey Brook near the Fire Station, and cutting down the Burdock in the corner by the entrance to Plot 173. As with bramble cutting the aim is more to stop expansion, as these are aggressive species, rather than complete eradication which is not desirable nor practical.

Terry Abbiss

A Big Thank You from the Trustees, of The Books for life Charity.

I am sure many of you were aware of the passing of Mr Mervyn Todd last August. Mervyn had lived in the village since the early 1960s and was the founder and chair person of the Books for life charity.

The charity was founded in the late 90s and over the years has raised a great deal of money, to support children with their education in both India and Africa. In later years the charity also supported projects in the uk including the local community e.g giving monies to the medical centre, Great Ormond Street, Sight Savers and Eurovision work in Ukraine.

It was Mervyn's will that after his death that the house and shop at 12 St Marys Street, Nether Stowey was left to the charity. So it was down to the four trustees of the charity to organise the emptying of the house and shop. As some of you are

aware , especially those living close by it has taken many man hours, skips and trailer load to empty the premises, many of these hours has been voluntary

After eight months the premises are now empty and we are ready to take it to auction, we are hoping that this will take place before the end of the year, but we are in the hands of the solicitor.

On the 19th of April this year we had an 'end of era' sale, which was well attended and we managed to raise £800. The trustees have decided that we would like to spilt this between the local Library and the New village hall funds.

The trustees would like to thank the local community for their support over the years while Mervyn and Margaret were trading, and a big thank you for your patience more recently while the work has taken place.

Again, Thank You from the trustees:

Margaret Patel, Ian Dyer, Simon Kidner, Fran Hallam

Nether Stowey Primary School Fair and Party in The Park 5 July 2025

What a great afternoon and evening we had.

Thank you to Sebastian, Jodie, Ron, Alan, Lesley, Dave, Kevin, Dave, Kai, Rob, Steve, Dave, Jo, Rachael, Ade, Jane, Ian, Ali, Jeff, Michelle, Paul, the parents and staff of Nether Stowey C of E Primary School, Over Stowey Cricket Club and every one else who helped. We could not have run it without you.

Also, to everyone who attended the event and supported us financially.

THANK YOU!

From Lesley, Barb & Sharon (Organisers for 2025)
If you would like to help next year, please email enquiries@stowey.org.uk

What did we raise and what are we doing with the money?
Nether Stowey Village Hall & Recreation Ground is a charity (no. 1176413) and it costs thousands of pounds each year to maintain the playing field and facilities. The Party in The Park section of the day raised over £1,300 from the bar and BBQ & we shall use this money towards a new piece of equipment in the Children's Play Area, which we hope will be installed in the autumn. The school fair raised the magnificent sum of £2,500. This will be spent on extra resources to support the children's education.



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MAN V HORSE: AN EPIC RACE ACROSS THE QUANTOCKS

On October 18th, dozens of runners and horse riders will compete against each other to be first to cross the finish line of an epic 23-mile race starting and finishing in Over Stowey.

It began like all good ideas do - over a pint. Philip King and Jon Dolphin were trying to come up with fundraising ideas. They'd heard about a Welsh endurance race called Man V Horse. As Quantock locals, they knew the terrain would be perfect for an English version of the race and set about organising the first one in 2023.

It was a mammoth task, even with Jon's military and logistics background, and Philip's experience as a mental health nurse and barrister. One of the first hurdles was how to ensure good comms in places where phone reception is notoriously bad. They discovered Raynet, a network of radio operators and enthusiasts who would be able to set up mobile radio masts on the course, so the organisers could be in constant communication on the day.

The next challenge was to set a course that would, in theory, give a horse and a runner an equal chance of success. "Over a decent enough distance, a human can outrun a horse as our evolution means that we are persistence hunters. But we still needed to make sure that the course was fair to both," says Jon.

On the day, the event relied on an army of volunteers – and that famous Quantocks community spirit. It was an unseasonably warm October and a wonderful atmosphere, which perfectly encapsulated Philip and Jon's values for the event: Community, Compassion and Friendly Competition. To cheers from the crowd, and with a short head start, forty-six runners set off.



Photo: Clare Luhr

Fifteen minutes later, twenty-eight horse riders were hot on their heels.

The Welsh race has been won just four times by a runner, every other time it's been a horse rider. Incredibly, in 2023, at the inaugural Man V Horse England, a runner and a rider crossed the finish line at the same time.

This year, the race takes place on October 18th, starting and finishing at Quantock Lodge in Over Stowey, and includes a 4 x 4 relay.

All profits from the event go to the Pegasus Project, which provides Equine-Facilitated Psychotherapy for children and young people who have experienced psychological trauma from the use of drugs and alcohol. The Pegasus Project was set up by

Philip with Somerset Drug and Alcohol Service, part of the Turning Point charity.

A Man V Horse (England) – Quantock Hills Facebook group has been set up for information about entering, volunteering, spectating and sponsorship opportunities: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1038387157588816>



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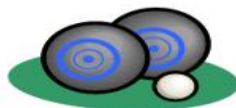
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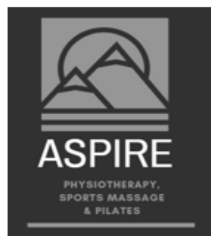
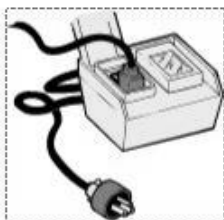
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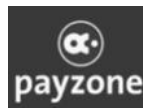
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