# November 2026



QUANTOCK

For Nether Stowey & Over Stowey




# Messenger 50p

On a beautiful, warm, sunny day we held our 13th MacMillan Coffee morning which was another great success. We raised an amazing £1456.20. Thank you to all the helpers on the day and to our talented cake makers. A huge thank you from Lynn and Ruth to everyone who came and gave so generously. We hope to see you again next year.




Front cover: Stowey Shuttle celebrates 10 years with afternoon tea and cake

# November 2026

Welcome to your November Messenger.

Each month we look forward to receiving articles of interest, photos, etc – whatever you think will interest others. If you would like to see something that's not already included, let us know and we'll see what we can do.

If you are not a regular contributor, please email the editor for guidelines of how to contribute. Articles should be sent to the editor by 15th of the preceding month - editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk

Enjoy reading this edition of the Quantock Messenger.

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**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sian | Editor | Email |
| Jan | Editor | Email & 734561 |
| Richard Beer | Printer | 732412 |
| Sally Dymock | Advertising | 326394 |
| Molly Bradner | Distribution | 732166 |

If you would like to subscribe and have your copy delivered, please contact the Editor.

## CLUBS & SOCIETIES IN NETHER STOWEY & OVER STOWEY

**Allotment Association**
Di Faris demfaris@btinternet.com 733180
**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**
Terry Binding 01278 732710 Secretary
Email: nsshortmatbowls@gmail.com
**Nether Stowey & Fiddington Women's Institute**
Margaret Harris 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**
Elise Cable 07435444419
**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**
07734 968940
**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 Trevor Phillips

Jake Dade (Hinkley issues only) @avonandsomerset.police.uk

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Antisocial behaviour call: **0800 298 2009**

Vandalism on the Quantock Hills call **101**

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

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Somerset Councillor:

**Michael Caswell** 01278 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** 01278 733779 clerk@netherstowey-pc.gov.uk

Clerk: **Amanda McMurren** 01278 734689 clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.co.uk

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**Bookings secretaries**

N/Stowey Church Centre **Barbara Beer** 01278 732412
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

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**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 / 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,
Email: sarahb@somersetrcc.org.uk

# DIARY DATES 2026

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

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

2nd Monday each month – Ancestry.com Support - 10am – 12noon TPL

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

Every Tuesday – Stowey Walking

Every Tuesday - Short Mat Bowls 2-5pm - £5 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 – NSC

1st Wednesday of the month – IT drop-in session – 10.30 – 12 noon 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 2.30 – 3.30 - 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 - - Coffee Morning 10.30 – 12noon – NSCC

3RD Saturday each month - SGSG litter picking 10am

3rd Saturday each month – OS Coffee Morning 10.30 – 12noon – OSVH

4th November : Concert with Sebastian Tesuro Mini Arts Festival - TPL
11th November: 20thC Photography talk by Terence Sackett - TPL
18th November: Thomas Hardy evening with Kate Streeter - TPL
25th November: Talk on Costume for films by Alex Bellinger -TPL

*NSCC - Nether Stowey Church Centre* *TPL - Thomas Poole Library*
*OSVH - Over Stowey Village Hall* *SGSG – Stowey Green Spaces Group*

## News From The Quantock Medical Centre October 2026

**A Reminder of Somerset Cancer Self Referral Service PATHWAYS**

There are a number of self referral cancer pathways available to patients where you do not need to wait for a GP appointment. You can Google 'Somerset Cancer Self Referrals' for further links and advice.

### Bleeding after menopause

It is not normal to bleed, spot or have unusual discharge 12 months or longer after your last period. You can rule out womb cancer by self-referring into the Bleeding After Menopause Service.

**Breast lump symptoms self referral via NHS 111 online**

If you live in Somerset and are aged over 30 with symptoms of breast cancer or breast lumps, you can use NHS 111 online to self-refer to our breast clinic without having to go to the GP first.**Somerset Bowel Service**

Allows anyone aged between 40 to 60 and registered with a participating GP in Somerset, to check if they need a test looking for hidden blood in their poo to rule out bowel cancer.

**Somerset Chest X-ray Service**

Allows anyone aged over 40 and registered with a participating GP in Somerset, to check if they need a chest X-ray to rule out lung cancer. You do not need to have been a smoker to check your lung health.

**NOTICE from XRAY Services Taunton**

If your X-ray is **urgent**. You will receive a text message from the bookings centre within 2 days to arrange an appointment. In some cases, we may call you instead of sending a text message. **These calls may appear to come from an unknown number.**

You can also attend for a walk-in X-ray without an appointment.

**You may need a CT scan shortly after your X-ray. If this is required, we will contact you. These calls may appear to come from an unknown number.**

**Walk-in X-ray**
You can attend without an appointment, Monday to Friday, at the following locations:
**Musgrove Park Hospital**
Main X-ray department, ground floor, Duchess Building (not A&E)
8am to 5pm
**Bridgwater Hospital**
9.30am to 4pm

**Booked X-ray appointments**
We can also offer X-rays at the following locations. These require a booked appointment:

- Chard Hospital
- Minehead Hospital
- West Mendip Hospital

**Commander Nicolas Humphrey Nowell Wright RN, MiD**

When he was 8 years old, Nick's father was killed aboard HMS Neptune in WWII. Sent to a Prep school in Dorset then, at 12 yrs old, to Gordonstoun School in Scotland, he delighted in all the sporting activities, learning to take responsibility, becoming a good team member, loving the sailing and the fire fighting, coast guard duties etc. He was well respected and became Guardian, or Head Boy, of Gordonstoun during his last year.



Nick joined the RNVR and began his National Service with the Royal Navy, when an opportunity arose to move across into the regular Navy as a Midshipman. It was the best time to be in the Navy – a couple of skirmishes (Borneo, Suez, etc), sanction patrols (Rhodesia, S. Africa), a few humanitarian acts ( first on the scene to help the people of Zakynthos after the devastating 1953 earthquake) and travelling several times around the world. His last shipboard appointment was in command of *HMS Chichester*, taking around the world one last time before visiting Gibraltar on the way home. At the ship's cocktail party, he met Gerry and they were married 3 months later.

Nick came to marriage and fatherhood relatively late but proved to be the most thoughtful, kind, generous and enthusiastic husband and father. His four children were born in London, Northern Ireland, America and Gibraltar on his final tour there. These were during shore jobs, the most rewarding one being in Northern Ireland where, as Senior Naval Officer Northern Ireland, he was awarded a Mention in Despatches for his work in keeping the sea borders of Northern Ireland free of contraband weapons during the Troubles.

On retirement in 1983, Nick joined the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust as General Secretary, responsible for

restoration of the Kennet & Avon Canal. Eight years later Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II came to officially open the canal in Devizes at Caen Hill, surrounded by thousands of happy boaters and well-wishers. Nick and Gerry set up *Canal Breaks for Special Children* taking disabled children and their carers for sponsored holidays on the Kennet & Avon Canal with the Bruce Trust's specially adapted boats. They did this for 20 years.

In the meantime, Nick moved on to the Cotswolds Canal Trust to get started on serious restoration, before moving with Gerry and the family to Norfolk. There he was able to sail all year round in his own traditional Broads boat as well as lead a working party for the Museum of the Broads and being active within the Nancy Oldfield Trust, taking disabled children sailing.

And, of course, Nick was known in Nether Stowey, over the last 20 years, not just for his model boat re-rigging and building a rocking horse for the grandchildren, but also for walking his black labradors. By the time the last one died, Nick was already suffering from a deteriorating heart, having had two valves replaced in 2008.

Nick and Gerry downsized, moved into the centre of Nether Stowey. They installed a stairlift and adapted the house for Nick's needs to keep him central to all activities and gatherings. Nick's resilience and determination proved to be quite remarkable. He bounced back against all odds several times until finally he slipped away in his sleep on the 7th August, peacefully at home,


Christmas
CRAFT
FAYRE
♥ SUPPORT OUR LOCAL CRAFTS PEOPLE ♥
BEAUTIFUL HANDMADE GIFTS,
FESTIVE TREATS & UNIQUE FINDS
At the Church Centre, Nether Stowey,
TA5 1LJ
SATURDAY
28 November 2026
10AM – 3PM
Hosted by
The Quantock Quilting
& Sewing Group
Proceeds from our
raffle and tombola go
to our chosen charity
this year
Guide Dogs for the
Blind
CRAFT STALLS
REFRESHMENTS
RAFFLE & TOMBOLA
Entry £1
children -
free
We are looking for a variety of local
businesses,crafters,makers and festive traders to help
make this year's event magical.
To book a table please email quantockquilters@gmail.com

**Playing field update & 50:50 lottery winners**

August, September & October have been bat survey months, taking us one step closer to getting planning permission for the new Stowey Centre building on the playing field. Before we can submit our revised plans to Somerset Council, we need the report from the ecologists, with survey results & recommendations, plus a low-level lighting plan. The original company that was going to produce the plan for us can no longer do this, so we are currently seeking details of other companies. As you can see, behind the scenes, the Trustees continue to slowly make progress on this project.

Thank you to those residents who support the playing field by taking part in our monthly lottery draw. If you would like to join, please contact either Jane on 732025 or Sharon on 732311 or have a look at the Lottery section of the website www.stowey.org.uk. It is only £2.50 per month (or £30 per year) & you have chance to win cash prizes each month, whilst creating income and evidence of support for the playing field, which is important when we seek grant funding.

## October 2026 Draw

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st Prize | £31.87 | Ticket No: 398 | J Greig |
| 2nd Prize | £15.94 | Ticket No: 80 | D Coombes |
| 3rd Prize | £9.56 | Ticket No: 365 | J Graham & R Elliott |
| 4th Prize | £6.60 | Ticket No: 43 | L White |

www.stowey.org.uk

Jane Erksine, Trustee 732025

Sharon Mayell, Treasurer 732311

## Nicks Gardening Notes
## November 2026



We have got four months of mixed weather ahead of us which we need to prepare for in the garden. **Rain:** avoid walking on/working the soil when it is too wet in order to reduce the chance of compacting the soil. If necessary, place a plank/board on the soil and work from it. I like raised beds which have the advantage of being able to work from the path.

**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, if necessary, 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 (8 – 12'') long and taken from strong healthy new growth produced in 2026 and sufficiently substantial to survive the winter outside, aim for pencil thickness. Make a sloping cut just above a bud and a straight basal cut below a bud. Treat with hormone rooting powder (optional) and making a slit with a spade insert the cuttings into the soil to two thirds their length. If your soil is prone to poor drainage place some grit beneath the cutting. Alternatively, the correct conditions can be produced in a deep container using multi-purpose potting compost and placed outside in a sheltered position and ensuring that they do not dry out. Roots will be produced during the 2027 growing season.

**Ornamentals:** as mentioned above 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 can be tidied up and some grasses 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 (perforated pond containers are particularly good) which can then be plunged into the ground and lifted out after flowering. This helps prevent the prongs of the fork damaging bulbs. Plus, of course, planting up ornamental containers for display.
**Five plants for seasonal interest**: bark -Acer griseum and Betula utilis var. jaquemontii, both are ideal for a specimen tree, 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. Also try three or four well rooted strawberry runners which can be planted in a gro-bag or container and these will produce early strawberries in 2027.

**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



## Christmas Hampers

## Nether Stowey

Members of the Community together with the Parish Council, are pleased to supply a number of hampers to families in need, offering a full Christmas meal for 2026.

At the same time smaller hampers with a few Christmas celebratory extras are available for those who might otherwise be alone this Christmas.

Do you know someone who could do with an extra boost this year? If so, please contact Gerry on 734584.




## STOGURSEY FORGET-ME-NOT CAFÉ
## JUBILEE ROOMS, CASTLE STREET, STOGURSEY TA5 1TG
## FORTNIGHTLY ON WEDNESDAYS 10.30 – 12.00

Our Café Dates:

**Wednesday 7th October**
**Wednesday 21st October**
**Wednesday 4th November: Our friend Colin Pye will sing and play guitar for us**
**Wednesday 18th November: The Blackdown Hillbillies**
**Wednesday 2nd December**
**Wednesday 16th December: Christmas Celebrations**

❖ *Wednesday 13th January 2027 – First Café of the New Year*

***FORGET-ME-NOT NEWS***

- **We will be taking part in this year's Flower Festival, part of Stogursey Arts Festival, which starts with the parade of students from Stogursey Primary School, with masks they have made. This is at 5.30 pm on October 15th, through the village to St Andrews Church.**
- **Plans are well under way for our Christmas Party on December 16th in the Jubilee Rooms.**
- **Helen is selling her hand painted greetings cards to raise money for Alzheimer's UK.**
- **We need helpers please – no experience needed, just a friendly face, a little time and a willingness to help. Making teas and coffees, clearing up, or chatting and spending time with our lovely group. Why not come along and meet us all.**

***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, in a relaxed and informal environment.**

**We enjoy different activities including music, singing, poetry, bingo or just chatting over a coffee.**

**For more information please contact:**
**Helen: 07891 547982 cuttellhelen@gmail.com**
**Rose: 07507 374234 rosechalk@icloud.com**

St Mary's Church annual

# Charity Quiz 'n' Supper



at

The Church Centre, Nether Stowey

On Friday 4th December 2026

at 6.45 for 7.15pm

**Tickets £10.00 each,**

Includes Pasties & Puds,
teas and coffee.

Teams of 4 – 6 people; limited tables so apply early.

Please Bring Your Own Bottle and glasses.
Do bring nibbles too if desired.

*To book your table or for further information contact Gerry Wright, Tel: 734584*

100% of all profits will be equally donated to
The Deanery Mission Project – for the homeless - through the Salvation Army
Reg Ch No: 214779 and St Mary's Church Restoration Fund

THE THOMAS POOLE LIBRARY NETHER STOWEY

Registered Charity No 1181213
WWW.THOMASPOOLELIBRARY.CO.UK

**** 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

**ANCESTRY.COM** – Find out more about your family history - second Wednesday of the month, 10.30am – 12 noon

**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!

**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 and make new friends

**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 2.30pm on the last Friday of each month

**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 go towards 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

**INTERACTIVE KIOSK** – Come and explore our interactive kiosk, which is full of interesting information about the Quantocks and Nether Stowey

**OPENING HOURS**

Monday, Wednesday, 10am to 1pm, Thursday 3.30pm to 6.30pm, Friday 10am – 1pm and 1.30pm – 4.30pm, Saturday 10am -1pm

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU**!




THE THOMAS POOLE LIBRARY NETHER STOWEY

# Arts Evenings

## A mini-festival at Stowey library

### Wednesday 4 November, 7pm for 7.30pm

### Sebastian Tesouro in Concert



**Sebastian Tesouro** is a resident of Sampford Brett. Argentinian by birth, he has travelled the world with a violin in his rucksack.

As he puts it… *'My show consists of a journey around the rhythms, melodies and styles that I have been picking up through almost 30 years of travelling. I will be playing with my Live looping setup which allows me to record live while I build up layers of sounds using violin, percussion, guitar and bowed saw.'*

Sebastian is fast gaining a huge reputation in the area as a multi-talented musician with a relaxed manner and huge natural charm. His music has its roots in South American dance music, European classical music and Celtic folk music. An evening to be remembered.

### Wednesday 11 November, 7pm for 7.30pm

### A Visual Feast of 20th-Century Photography



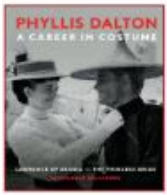
**Terence Sackett** takes you on a beautifully illustrated journey through the stunning images of the 20th-century's most celebrated photographers. Portraits, documentary, war, quirky, hilarious, tragic, minimalist. With insights into their working methods and inspiration. Ansel Adams, Cecil Beaton, Don McCullin, Robert Capa, Henri Cartier Besson, Dorothea Lange, Man Ray, Bill Brandt, Chris Killip, Martin Parr, and many more.

### Wednesday 18 November, 7pm for 7.30pm

### Hardy Perennial - the continuing legacy of Thomas Hardy



Led by Kate Streeter, this cabaret-style evening features a selection of Thomas Hardy's poetry and his prose, brought to life through live music, dramatic readings, specially-made recordings, and film. Now known mainly for his novels, Hardy thought of himself as primarily a poet. He thought of poetry as his 'true calling', since he could 'express more fully in verse ideas and emotions'. The evening promises to be a richly engaging experience.




### Wednesday 25 November, 7pm for 7.30pm

### Phyllis Dalton: A Career in Costume

Illustrated with a generous selection of images, Alexander Ballinger tells the story of Phyllis Dalton MBE (1925-2025), one of the most celebrated film costume designers of the 20th century. You'll be entertained by recollections, insights and revelations from epic films like *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Doctor Zhivago* and *Oliver!* to Kenneth Branagh's *Henry V*, and cult classics *The Princess Bride* and *A Private Function*, starring Maggie Smith and Michael Palin. Alexander Ballinger is an expert on writing about cinema, and his latest book is about Phyllis Dalton.

**Entrance fee £10.**

**To book your ticket visit :**
**www.thomaspoolelibrary.org.uk**
**or email:**
**events@thomaspoolelibrary.org.uk**
**Or call the library on 07734 968940**
**With a free glass of wine,**
**and an interval at each event for refreshments**

Castle Street,
Nether Stowey TA5 1LN

## The Marion Evered Trust

A big thankyou to Keith, Georgia and all the rest of the team at The Kitchen, Quantock lakes for putting on a fabulous afternoon tea and raising an amazing £1020.00 for the charity. Thanks to all that came along to enjoy the afternoon.

We are now nearing the end of our charity raising for the year and would like to thank everyone who has helped us throughout the year at events and donated towards the cause. We are meeting again with representatives from Oak Children's Ward at Musgrove to discuss how money raised will be used within the ward to help the children having to stay at hospital and to provide equipment that they require.

## Stowey Shuttle

### Community Car Scheme

Stowey Shuttle would like to recruit a Driver Coordinator to join the team. The role involves meeting potential new drivers, making sure new drivers have everything they need to complete a trip, replenishing stocks held at the Thomas Poole Library and being the point of contact for driver information.

If you would like to support this very much appreciated service, please contact Paul Brierley on **01278 732574**



## Stowey Arts Group

### Children raise a storm over summer

Children from Nether Stowey Primary School were invited to enter an art competition, organised by the Stowey Arts Group, over the summer holidays and they chose the theme of 'A Thunder Storm' to paint, draw or model. There were 36 entries that revealed an impressive range of artistic talent and imagination from the School Years 3,4 and 5. Three judges from the Arts Group had the very tough task of selecting the gold, silver and bronze awards for the entries they felt showed most atmosphere and tension. Vouchers of £75, £50 and £25 for purchasing art materials on-line were handed out to the lucky winners in a presentation at the school early in October. All the children's art works are now on display in Nether Stowey Library and will remain there until Christmas. We thank the parish councils of Nether Stowey and Over Stowey for co-sponsorship of the prizes.



Rob Potter

| What's on at Over Stowey Village Hall in 2026 | |
|---|---|
| 13th November | Burgers 6pm – 8pm (last orders 7.45pm) |
| 21st November | Coffee Morning 10.30am – 12noon |
| 27th November | Burgers 6pm – 8pm (last orders 7.45pm) |
| 28th November | Bingo eyes down 7.30pm |
| 18th December | West Somerset Brass Band Christmas Carols & Music |
| 19th December | Coffee Morning 10.30am – 12noon |
| 24th December | Father Christmas 6pm |




**A Warming Bowl of Tuscan Bean Soup**

Autumn is here—well, not so much during the daytime, with temperatures still reaching 20°C! But it's getting chilly in the evenings, so it's time for soup.

This month's recipe is an Italian bean soup. There are many variations, but this Tuscan-style version is hearty, simple to make and full of flavour. If you want to take it a little further, add a spoonful or two of homemade pistou at the table. The fresh basil and garlic lift the soup to another level altogether. Enjoy!

**Tuscan Bean Soup**

*Serves 4 | Ready in approximately 45 minutes*

**Ingredients**

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 2 carrots, diced
- 2 celery sticks, diced
- 3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon tomato purée
- 1 × 400g tin chopped tomatoes
- 2 × 400g tins cannellini beans, drained and rinsed
- 750ml vegetable or chicken stock
- 1 sprig rosemary
- 1 bay leaf
- 150g cavolo nero or kale, tough stalks removed and leaves sliced
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Grated Parmesan, optional, to serve

**Method**

1. Heat the olive oil in a large saucepan. Add the onion, carrots and celery with a pinch of salt. Cook gently for 10–12 minutes, stirring occasionally, until softened.
2. Add the garlic and tomato purée and cook for a further minute.
3. Stir in the tomatoes, beans and stock, then add the rosemary and bay leaf. Bring to a gentle simmer and cook for 20 minutes.
4. Remove the rosemary and bay leaf. Mash some of the beans against the side of the saucepan to thicken the soup. Alternatively, blend a couple of ladlefuls and return them to the pan.
5. Add the cavolo nero or kale and simmer for another 8–

10 minutes until tender. If the soup is too thick, add a little more stock or water. Season to taste.

6. Ladle into warm bowls and finish with the pistou below, plus a little Parmesan if liked.

**Basil Pistou**

*Makes enough for 4–6 bowls*

Pistou is a Provençal basil and garlic sauce, and a delicious addition to this Italian soup. Unlike pesto, it contains no pine nuts.

**Ingredients**

- 30g fresh basil leaves
- 1–2 garlic cloves, according to taste
- 4–5 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- A good pinch of sea salt
- 2 tablespoons finely grated Parmesan, optional

**Method**

1. Using a pestle and mortar, crush the garlic with the salt.
2. Add the basil leaves a little at a time and pound into a paste.
3. Gradually work in the olive oil until you have a thick, spoonable sauce. Stir in the Parmesan if using. Alternatively, briefly pulse everything in a small food processor.

Add a generous teaspoon of pistou to each bowl and swirl it through, adding more to taste. Avoid boiling the soup after adding it, to preserve the fresh basil flavour.

*For an even heartier, ribollita-style soup, stir in two thick slices of torn stale rustic bread during the final five minutes of cooking, adding extra stock if needed. The soup is particularly good reheated the following day—just add the pistou when serving.*




*A Season of talks and outing for Autumn 2026*

- If you love gardens or gardening 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

*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 7.30pm.
Come as a visitor to try us out for £5 for a talk including tea/coffee & cakes and
includes a raffle and garden table. Annual membership is £25.
Car sharing is available for visits.
Contact Kate Houghton. tel: 07940 836139
email: stoweygardeners@yahoo.com
website: https://sites.google.com/site/stoweygardeners

In **November** local naturalist, Peter Bakerwill, be talking on the subject of Fungi**.**

We'd be delighted to see you at our next meeting, so do come along.

St Mary's Church, Nether Stowey
invites you to a

# Community Christmas Lunch

at St Mary's Church Centre

on

## Sunday 13th December 2026

12.30 for 12.45pm

*Includes Christmas songs and carols with the Stowey Singers*

Call Alison on 732855 or Gerry on 734584 to book a slot, by 8th December and enjoy a full Christmas dinner with very good company. Transport to and from the lunch can be arranged if necessary. All ages welcome.
B.Y.O.B if desired



*We would be grateful for donations towards the cost of the lunch. Any surplus donations will be given to the Quantock Food Bank.*

November 2026

# Pluggedin Parish News

A round up of the latest news from Hinkley Point C

HinkleyPointC

EDF

## Building the backbone of the steam system

A major milestone has been achieved in the second Safeguard Building with the completion of 14 reinforced concrete supports for the future steam and feedwater pipes. The achievement clears the way for installation of the pipework that will connect the reactor and turbine buildings, marking an important transition from construction to equipment installation as the project continues to take shape.



**Big Facts**

- There are 14 whip restraints visible on the external wall
- Each restraint is about five metres long, nearly six metres high, and one and a half metres wide.
- In the unlikely event of an earthquake, they'll hold the pipework so it doesn't rupture or become overloaded by pressure waves in the water and steam.

## Mechanical and Electrical Phase in numbers




edfenergy.com/hpc 0333 009 7070 hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com




**The Alpha course is a great way of meeting new people and exploring and asking questions about the Christian faith.**

**For the curious, for the doubtful, for the wondering, for the intrigued, all welcome.**

**We will meet at the St Mary's Church Centre, Nether Stowey on Friday evenings starting January 15th 7pm – 9pm**

**Light refreshments will be provided**

**Please contact:- Jennifer Lindner 01278 733007**

## COFFEE MORNING
## ST. MARY'S CHURCH CENTRE

## Saturday 14th November
## 10.30am – 12.00noon
## In aid of the Thomas Poole Library

**The October Coffee Morning raised £173 for the Salvation Army**

# CHURCH SERVICES – NOVEMBER 2026

| | NETHER STOWEY | OVER STOWEY |
|---|---|---|
| **1st November**<br>4th Sunday before Advent/All Saints/All Souls Kingdom Season | 11.00am Morning Worship<br>(Church Centre)<br><br>**3.30pm All Souls Service**<br>(Church) | 4.00pm Evensong<br>(BCP) |
| **8th November**<br>3rd Sunday before Advent<br><br>**REMEMBRANCE** | 10.50am Service of the Word at the Cross | No Service<br><br>**10.50 am Wednesday 11th November**<br>Armistice Day Service |
| **15th November**<br>2nd Sunday before Advent<br>*Safeguarding Sunday* | 11.00am Morning Worship<br>(Church Centre) | 9.30am Holy Communion |
| **22nd November**<br>Last Sunday before Advent<br>Christ the King | 11.00am Holy Communion<br>(Church) | No Service |
| **29th November**<br>**ADVENT SUNDAY** | **9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) at Over Stowey - Said Service**<br>**10.30am Benefice Service of Holy Communion**<br>**at Nether Stowey Church Centre** | |

**Letter from the Rector**

Dear Friends

As we arrive in this new month, our minds might be thinking that Christmas isn't far away, and if we are in any doubt the shops remind us!

November is a busy month for the Church, with our All Souls services in Nether Stowey, Goathurst and Kilve all at 3:30pm on Sunday 1st November. This is followed by Remembrance Sunday on the 8th and Armistice Day on the 11th when we remember the fallen in the wars along with those who sustained injuries. Then at the end of the month we arrive at Advent Sunday, the first of the four Sundays of preparation for Christmas.

It's busy! In the midst of the busy-ness, we should find time for God and recall what Christmas is all about. The darker evenings might give us a little more time for prayer and study. Please remember the Deanery Moment of Prayer - 8pm on Thursdays.

We might wonder how God finds time for each one of us and all our prayers. Our prayers aren't met with the response – 'God is away from his desk – please call back later', rather God always has time for us. God is far beyond our human understanding and is able to do far more than we can ever imagine - he has time. He might not answer prayers as we would like him to – but he does hear and he does answer!

So in the busy-ness of the season, please remember that God listens to our prayers.

Every blessing

Eleanor

# 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 Barbara Beer Tel: 732 412

**Benefice Office:** Mrs Alison Hoare
Church Centre, 27 St. Mary Street,
Nether Stowey, TA5 1LJ

Office hours Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am-11am

Closed Wednesday

Otherwise phone & leave a message or email Tel: 732 855
Email: qv.benefice@gmail.com

# Postal Services

With the probable closure of the Nether Stowey Post Office at the end of the year, residents may wish to know about the **"Parcel Collection"** service provided by Royal Mail.

Royal Mail can collect your parcel from your **home, place of work** or another **safe place** for just

## 50p per parcel

If you have a parcel to send, rather than going to a Post Office, you will need to buy the postage and book the collection online. In addition, Royal Mail can also print the label and postage for you and bring it with them at the collection time.

**All details and bookings can be made at:**

**https://www.royalmail.com/collection**

Need a hand?

If you struggle with using this service, the monthly IT support sessions in the Thomas Poole Library on the first Wednesday of each month will be able to help you.

However, if there are lots of people wishing to learn more about how to use this service, we are happy to organise a dedicated learning session. If you are interested in this, please email kevin@somersethide.co.uk and, if there is sufficient interest, a dedicated session will be arranged.

OVER STOWEY
PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met following the summer break on Wednesday 16th September 2026.

Items discussed included feedback from Somerset Council via Cllr Caswell who (with regard to broadband rollout throughout Devon and Somerset) communicated that Airband have gone into administration and new plans are in place with regards to rollout of fast full-fibre broadband. However, details and timescales are not available and are likely to be medium to long-term. Another issue highlighted was the upcoming online meeting relating to the National Scheme of Delegation and National Planning Framework. Cllr Caswell advised that councillors should attend as this will affect how planning applications are determined. The Clerk will be in attendance.

Highways concerns that have been raised included a request from a resident of Crowcombe about safety issues at Marsh Mills crossroads, parking issues in Quantock Lane which mean that large vehicles find it difficult to access (which includes agricultural vehicles, coaches and in the event of an incident or accident, potentially emergency vehicles) and the problem of large/long vehicles using the road from Crowcombe (via Bincombe).

The Parish Council has actioned what they can within their remit and additionally all the relevant agencies and departments have been contacted with requests for advice and support on all the above. Responses are awaited.

The ongoing problems with the leat wall and the road from

Halsey Crossroads to the A39 junction will continue to be monitored by the Parish Council, particularly during period of sustained wet weather.

It is hoped the cattle grid on the Crowcombe Road will have been cleared by the time of publication, with other work being undertaken to prevent/reduce wash-away from the Quantock Hills.

The next steps re the cemetery and the need to look at options available for how to extend the area is being considered. These will be followed up by the Clerk.

A new Clerk has been appointed following a robust interview process. Over Stowey Parish Council would like to welcome Robyn Booth to the role, which she will start on November 2nd 2026. The existing Clerk will continue in a support role for a period of time to ensure a smooth handover and will also act as a trainer/mentor to Robyn. The Parish Council send their congratulations and look forward to welcoming Robyn at the November meeting.

There is still a small amount of money available for grants and if you represent a group in the parish (or possibly a neighbouring parish) and would like to make an application to the Parish Council for some funding, please contact the Clerk for further information and eligibility.

It is that time of year that the Parish Council ask 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. Thank you to all who have already

taken action regarding this. If you are unable to find a contractor to undertake this, please contact the Clerk.
There was no meeting in October. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 18th November 2026 at 7.00pm at Over Stowey Village Hall. 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.

Website: Over Stowey Parish Council
Email: clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Phone: 07391 313740 (please leave a message if there is no reply)

**"Rock of Third Ages"** ***First time in Nether Stowey***

Come and listen to the band, join in with the singing or dance the night away on Friday 20th November at 7.30pm at Nether Stowey Church Centre.



Music from the 50s through to the Naughties!
Rock, Jazz and Blues

Bring your own bottle – soft refreshments available.

Entry by donation only – for all ages, families encouraged.
*(NB: there may be some flashing lights at times.)*
All donations to St Mary's Church Centre and the Salvation Army.

## My war 1939 to 1945 (edited)

Doreen Walker

It wasn't long after we got back to London that the blitz started. Dad was working at the Cherry Blossom boot polish factory which was quite near to where his mum lived. She had an Anderson air raid shelter in her garden and, as the air raid usually started at 6 pm, it meant Dad didn't have time to come home. So Mum, my other Gran, Peg and I walked down to Granny Anne's house every night - it must've been a couple of miles. Poor Dad only saw his home at weekends. Mum, Dad, Peggy and I went into Granny's shelter, which was really only for two people. Dad made our shelter as comfortable as he could and made Peg and I a bunkbed each. Him and Mum just sat on a chair all night. The air aid went on for 12 hours until six in the morning then we crawled out and Dad got ready for work and we all went home to our house.

I remember one night Dad had gone out of the shelter to Gran's loo, which was in the backyard. He came back and told us to go and look at the sky. It was pretty quiet then so we took a chance. The sky was lit up, blood red, a lovely sight, but later we heard it was London on fire, and the docks in particular. We couldn't believe it. So many people died that night including a lot of firemen. I was never really frightened of the bombing. I thought it couldn't happen to us. We used candles for lighting in the shelter that Dad had made out of beeswax. We had a little saucepan that he made Cocoa for us in, it took hours to get hot but dear Dad did his best for his family.

The blitz went on from September 1940 to May 1941, eight months. There was one time when London was bombed every night for 57 nights in a row. There was a special spirit amongst the Londoners – we were all in the same boat and everyone took whatever happened to them on the chin. They were terrifying times, but I'm glad I went through it and experienced it all. When the bombs came whistling down and then the explosion, you couldn't help feeling "Thank God it wasn't me "

Walking to Grans every night took its toll on us. The blitz seemed to be over so Mum said we should take our chances and stay at home – which we did.

One night an aerial torpedo came down in the next street to us and part of the outer casing came off and went straight through our bedroom window, it pierced our bed clothes. It was about 1 foot long and 6 inches wide. If we'd been in our bed, I'm sure one of us would've been killed.

We had only lived in Antrobus Road for one week when a land mine fell on Kent Road. Land mines came down on a parachute. Kent Road just disappeared into a long crater. There were lots of people killed and injured and many just never found, blown to bits. We had our windows blown out and ceilings down and there was glass, roof tiles and rubble all over the streets. The whole community was shocked and there was a queer sort of quietness everywhere, but gradually things got back to some sort of normality and life went on.

I was now at Beaumont Park School and had to sit what was called the 11+ exam? I didn't want to pass as the schools you had to go to were evacuated to Dorset and I didn't want to go away again. Of course, I had to pass but begged Mum

Mum not to send me away and she didn't. I do remember at school whenever we heard on the radio news that one of our ships was sunk, we always had to sing "For those in peril on the sea ". Even now, when I hear that hymn, I get shivers.

There were some pretty awful things happening in the world. Dunkirk was one; thousands of our soldiers were fought back to the beaches of Dunkirk where they waited for little boats to come and pick them up. Boats of all shapes and sizes went across the channel from England to help our boys get off the beaches and then take them out to sea to get on bigger ships. The German Air Force bombed and machine gunned them and hundreds of them died on the beaches. My Uncle Frank was one of them and he remembered wading out in the sea until he was up to his neck in water. He was one of the lucky ones and got home. Later he was sent abroad with the 8th Army and went to Libya, Italy and finally Germany. He was abroad for over four years.

There was also a raid on Dieppe, in France, that went terribly wrong and over 900 Canadian soldiers died, 460 wounded and 1874 taken prisoner in the nine hour battle. Also, Arnhem, where hundreds of our paratroopers lost their lives as the Germans seems to know they were coming and were ready for them.

England was facing a very black time and to crown it all the battle of Britain started. Fought in the air, mostly over southern England, are lovely brave boys, some only 18 or 19 years old, facing death every day. Our spitfires and hurricanes were up against the German Heinkel and RE 109's, the planes machine gun. I remember hearing a rat-a-tat-tat and looking up to the sky and seeing little silver

dots in the blue sky. The sun shone on the planes and made them appear a silvery colour. We kids would go around the streets looking for shrapnel.

Churchill was completely right when he said his now famous words "Never before in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few". They were few in number but they're guts and determination to win made up for it. We owed so much to those dear young men who gave their all – never to have a wife, children or grow old. We must never forget the debt we owe them.



## Stowey Shuttle Celebrates 10 Years

On Saturday 19th September about 50 passengers, drivers, coordinators and others involved in the scheme came together to enjoy tea and cake, celebrating the first ten years.

Paul Brierley (chairperson) introduced Nigel Phillips (founding chairperson) who spoke of the value of the community car scheme to local residents. Since its inception in 2016, Stowey Shuttle volunteer drivers have completed almost 1400 bookings and travelled over 30,000 miles.

# VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Stowey green spaces

Stowey Green Spaces Group of volunteers work to maintain and enhance the public green spaces in and around Nether and Over Stowey.

**HELPING MAKE STOWEY GREENER, HEALTHIER AND STRONGER**

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## WHO WE ARE

A friendly, sociable group of local volunteers.

All ages welcome – children (with supervision) too!

## WHY IT MATTERS

For wildlife, our community, and our own health.

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C/O Nether Stowey Parish Council Office, 2a Castle Street, Nether Stowey, Somerset, TA5 1LN

stoweygreenspaces @stowey.org.uk

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**10am-2pm**

**Coffee & Lunch at 12 noon**








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