

**MAY 2026**



**QUANTOCK**  
For Nether Stowey & Over Stowey

**Messenger 50p**



Front page: Bishop Michael in front of Coleridge Cottage at the end of his Pilgrimage walk in Holy Week 2026 with (L to R) Archdeacon Simon, Peter Baker, Bishop Michael and Nick Harrison. See article on page 33.  
Top: Easter crafts at the Wednesday Club. Bottom: Quantock Quilting and Sewing Group members with some of the completed lap quilts they have made for one of our local care homes.



## MAY 2026

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Quantock Messenger. Each month we look forward to receiving articles of interest, photos, local history, local walks, recipes, news of what's going on in the villages — whatever you think will be of interest to others.

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](mailto:editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk)

Best wishes from the QM team

### Your Quantock Messenger Team

Please email articles/photos to:

**[editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk](mailto:editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk)**

Please email adverts to;

**[advertising@quantockmessenger.org.uk](mailto:advertising@quantockmessenger.org.uk)**

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

## CLUBS & SOCIETIES IN NETHER STOWEY & OVER STOWEY

### **Allotment Association**

Diane Faris 733180

### **Coleridge Probus Club**

Geoff Parle 01278 653681

**Coleridge Cottage** Tel: 732 662

### **Friends of Coleridge**

Helen Boyles helenboyles@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: nsshortmatbowls@gmail.com

### **Nether Stowey & Fiddington Women's Institute**

Margaret Harris 01278 734613

Terry Binding 732710

### **Over Stowey Cricket Club &**

### **Over Stowey Recreation Ground**

Les Biffin 732963

### **Over Stowey Rights of Way Group**

Richard Ince 733 237

### **Over Stowey Social Club**

Patrick Tully 732944 or 07802697595

### **Over Stowey Village Hall**

Jackie Barrow 07891 720565

Bridget Tully 07970781087

bridgetjtully@gmail.com

### **Quantock National Landscape Office Fyne Court**

Tel: (01823) 451 884

### **Quantock Beekeepers Association**

Ken Edwards 671 544

### **Quantock Players**

Wendy Hobbs 733 197

### **Quantock Quilters**

Anna Boulton 652309

### **Quantock Tennis Club**

Robin Bendall 732 633

**Royal British Legion** - N/Stowey &  
District Viki Fielder 238 691

### **Stogursey Forget-Me-Not Cafe**

Helen Cuttell 734 818

### **Stowey Bears** (pre-school)

Tina Miller 734 636

### **Stowey Book Club**

Alison Whittingham 732 446

### **Stowey Gardeners**

Kate Houghton 07940 836139

### **SGSG (Stowey Green Spaces Group)**

Roy Osborne 734604

stoweygreenspaces@stowey.org.uk

### **Stowey Walking**

Lynne Abbott 732 228

### **Thomas Poole Library, Nether Stowey**

Sian Stafford 07734 968940

**Wednesday Club** Barbara 732412 or

Tina 732382

## COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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

Email [somwestnptsedgemoor@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:somwestnptsedgemoor@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk)  
PCSO Supervisor Lora Bray—[7528@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:7528@avonandsomerset.police.uk)  
PCSO Finlay Wallace  
Jake Dade (Hinkley issues only) [@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:@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](mailto:mike.caswell@somerset.gov.uk)  
**Brian Bolt** 07970 855990 [brian.bolt@somerset.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:clerk@netherstowey-pc.gov.uk) [clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.co.uk)

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### **Bookings secretaries**

N/Stowey Church Centre **Barbara Beer** 01278 732412 (9am—9pm)  
O/Stowey Village Hall **Jackie Barrow** 07891720565

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### **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](mailto: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 and Sat 10-1)

**Quantock Hills National Landscape**, Amanda Sampson - 01823 451884,  
[quantockhills@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:quantockhills@somerset.gov.uk)

**Community Car Scheme** Stowey Shuttle - 07943 923742

**Village Agent:** Sarah Bennet, 07985 680269,

## 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 - 12 noon - TPL  
Every Tuesday - Stowey Singers all welcome 6.45pm - 8.15pm at NSCC  
Every Tuesday - Stowey Walking  
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  
1st Wednesday of the month - IT drop in session - 10.30am - 12 noon - TPL  
2nd Monday each month - Ancestry.com Support - 10am - 12noon - 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 noon - TPL  
Last Friday of the Month - Library Book Group - 2.30pm - 3.30pm - TPL  
Every Saturday - Second-hand book sales 10am - 1pm - TPL  
1st & 3rd Saturday each month - Dungeons & Dragons - TPL  
2nd Saturday each month - Coffee Morning 10.30am - 12 noon - NSCC  
3rd Saturday each month - SGSG litter picking 10am  
3rd Saturday each month - Over Stowey Coffee Morning 10.30 - 12 noon - OSVH  
16th May - Stowey Gardeners Plant Sale 10am - TPL  
20th June - Women's Walk  
27th - 28th June - Big Bash weekend at Over Stowey CC  
11th - 12th July - Art Exhibition - NSCC

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

# 218<sup>th</sup> Women's Walk

to remember Thomas Poole's pioneering Stowey Female Friendly Society which he started in 1806

**Saturday 20 June 2026**

Meet at 3pm at The Cross in Nether  
Stowey

Walk leaves at 3.15pm

All women and children (boys and girls, if accompanied by an adult) are welcome to attend.

Afternoon Tea in the Church Centre after the walk.

For further information telephone:  
Janet Phillips: 01278 732266





Registered Charity No 1181213  
WWW.THOMASPOOLELIBRARY.CO.UK

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE  
ABOUT YOUR FAMILY HISTORY?**



Local resident Richard will be in the library every second Wednesday, 10am – 12 noon, to help you navigate Ancestry.com. We have two computers that are available for you to use during this time and all you need is a library card – if you don't have one, pop down to the library and sign up for FREE library membership!

**\*\* 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.

**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!

**ANCESTRY.COM SUPPORT** – Held on the second Wednesday of each month, 10am to 12 noon.

**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.

**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 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 TALK FOR MAY**

**Wednesday 6th May** - 7.30pm - Stowey New Farm – A talk by Iain Porter from Quantock Hills National Landscape

Entrance fees are £6 for adults, children are free

To book a seat for this event, email [eventsandpr@thomaspoolelibrary.org.uk](mailto:eventsandpr@thomaspoolelibrary.org.uk) or pop by the library during opening hours or call the library on 07734 968940.

### **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!**



## The 2026 season of talks and garden visits

- 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!**

<b>DIARY DATES FOR 2026</b>	
19th May	Car visit to Watcombe, Winscombe
16th May	Plant Sale at The Thomas Poole Library, Nether Stowey
19th May	Car visit to Gares Barton, Low Ham, Langport
21st May	Colin Higson – Nature as your Neighbour
17th June	Car visit to Babb's Farm, Highbridge
18th June	Bella Given - Dahlias
21st July	Car visit to Kingsland, North St, Milverton

We meet at the Church Centre, St. Mary's Street, Nether Stowey. 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.co](mailto:stoweygardeners@yahoo.co) Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/stoweygardeners>

## Latest from the Cricket Club



Well we are nearly there and you can almost smell the linseed oil being applied to numerous cricket bats!

The ground is looking lovely, thanks mainly to the sterling work of our dedicated ground staff and the new entrance fence and advertising boards are nearing completion.

Just a reminder that the season starts in the first week of May and I have outlined below the first few fixtures for our teams:-

2/5/26 1st XI v Brompton Ralph (H)

9/5/26 1st XI v Crowcombe (A)

9/5/26 2nd XI v Carhampton (H)

16/5/26 2nd XI v Buckland St Mary( A)

Our youth teams begin their campaigns in the Taunton and District Youth League as follows:-

Under 11 East B League

\*Games are played on a Sunday Morning

3/5/26 v Huntspill Hurricanes (A)

17/5/26 v Butleigh Thunder (H)

Under 13 8's West

\*Games are played on a Friday Evening

1/5/26 v Stogumber (H)

8/5/26 v Taunton Vikings (A)

Outdoor Training for all youth players starts on Tuesday 21st April at 6pm for further details see our excellent Facebook page.

Finally, we are always looking for ways to improve and develop our cricket club so please think about getting involved as a player/coach/sponsor/committee member etc.

Thank You

Over and Out

## **NETHER STOWEY & FIDDINGTON W.I.**

Not P.C.49, but Police Sergeant Andy Murphy, a retired Police Officer, came to our meeting on 9th April. Sergeant Andy Murphy retired in 2021 after 31 years in the Police Service, most of which time was spent in the Avon and Somerset Police Service. When Andy started out as a young cadet, young would-be officers had to undertake 2 year's probation, learning a lot about legal and illegal issues - if you are going to uphold the Law, then you have to know a lot about it! Probationers spend equal amounts of time on the beat, with



a mentor, learning about the people, their "patch" and the issues of concern in the locality. Today officers still have to do 2 year's probation, but university intake probationers don't have to go through exactly the same training, as they will have learnt their relevant specialisms as part of their university course. After successfully completing their probationary period, all Police Officers, have to, and still do, take an oath of allegiance to the Crown and are expected to uphold law & order and the protection and safety of the public.

When he started his career with the Police Force, there was no body armour or body cameras or other sophisticated equipment, and a pencil & pen was used instead of an i-Pad or smart-phone. Not all officers were issued with "walkie-talkies" which meant that they had to employ the various ways they had learnt for keeping in touch with their colleagues, such as through intelligence and discreet observation. During his career Andy had seen many changes and held many posts, but his preference was for working in and for local communities. He saw the benefits of being an integral part of the community and working with, and alongside, other agencies to hopefully help and serve the community in the best way possible. This could include "fun days" where the Police could mix with families and show a different side to policing - we saw a lovely picture of Andy with a painted Tiger face. He looked upon young offenders as people needing help, whilst making them aware that wrong-doing has consequences.

He had many successful results, and along with colleagues was responsible for apprehending several drug rings operating in Somerset. One year they had to mingle with the crowds at Glastonbury, and having to keep in touch without phones was quite challenging; this again, was where discreet observation

was used.

In 2012, Avon & Somerset Police were asked to carry the Olympic torch through Taunton. Andy was asked to represent them, and at first declined, being worried that he wouldn't be up to the 400 metres run! However, happily he did change his mind and represented the Police, and he brought along his Olympic torch to show us - so some of us have actually held an Olympic torch! You are allowed to keep the torch - but you have to buy it (£240)! Another one of the highlights of his career, was receiving a medal from the Queen.

Our next meeting on 14th May will be about Guide Dogs, followed on 11th June by a visit from SARAID (Disaster Search & Rescue).

The trip to Sidmouth on 27th July costs £14 and the coach leaves from the Fire Station at 9.00 am sharp. Any available places will be allocated on a "first come - first served" basis. Bookings can be made through either Terry Binding, 01278-732710, or Margaret Harris, 01278-734613.

Our regular meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, from 2.00 - 4.00 pm in the Church Centre and new visitors are always welcome. Entrance is £1.50 for members and £4.00 for visitors, which includes refreshments and a raffle.

AB.

## **The Marion Evered Trust**

A big thankyou to all that attended our Easter bingo on Easter Monday. We had a record attendance and raised £1000 for the charity.

A group from Hinkley point are riding the 107mile Carten challenge again this May and are raising money for our Charity, check out our Facebook page for a link to the just giving page and support them.

Plans are now being put into place getting ready for the Big Bash weekend at the end of June, make sure it is in your diaries. This years 200 club is now up and running.

If you wish to join then contact Pauline Barrow on 07724666011

### **200 Club draw**

#### **February**

£20 Paul Mathews £10 Lionel Uren £5 Wendy Williams

#### **March**

£20 Paul Mathews £10 Ricky Burland £5 Winston Davey

#### **Dates for your diary**

27th-28th June - Big bash weekend at Over Stowey CC

**News from the Quantock Medical Centre**  
**(Tel: 01278732696)**

Do come and join our seated exercise class on a Monday lunch time from 12.45 – 13.30 (come a little bit earlier to settle in), this is run by our health and well-being coach Sarah-Jane. These classes are a great way to improve mobility and fitness in a low impact way through a professional. If this is something that interests you, feel free to call reception on 01278 73296 to book your place!

We also have a Musculo Skeletal Specialist Physiotherapist at the Surgery on a Tuesday afternoon so you can book an appointment with Jolene Burkinshaw if you have a new Musculo skeletal condition (neck, shoulder, arms, legs, back) that you have not seen a GP about in the past. Jolene is skilled in assessment, joint injections, able to refer for X Ray and on to the Orthopaedic team if needed, as well as advising on exercises to support your recovery.

We would like to highlight the different teams that work at the Medical Centre each month, and this month we would like to focus on our Dispensary team.

We get a lot of patient feedback asking why the Dispensary Pick up times are limited to 10am-12 noon, 4pm – 6pm Mon- Fri and Saturdays 8.30 – 10 am, and why it takes 3 working days from ordering your medication to being able to collect it. In answer to this...

There are a lot of things that need to happen behind the scenes to process your script, from start to finish that we would like to explain why it takes so long...

Once you have requested your medication, the script has to be checked and signed by the Doctor before we are legally allowed to process the script. Those items will then need to be ordered from our suppliers. The order needs to be delivered. This can be delayed

due to problems sourcing the medications if there are problems in the manufacture with ingredients and other items such as cardboard, ink, etc. There may be delays in the transport systems such as closure of the M5, bad weather, access to fuel etc.

Once Dispensary have received the delivery, it has to be cross checked with the order sheet, added to the stock on the computer and put away on the shelves before the prescriptions can be made up. A photo of an order Dispensary received one morning gives you an insight into the quantity of work they have to deal with.



This process needs to be done carefully without interruption to avoid mistakes.

Hence this is why there are designated times in which prescriptions can be collected in order that all the other parts of the process can be safely and efficiently completed, and why it takes 3 days to process your medication requests.

We hope that this gives you a better understanding of what goes on in our Dispensary and thank you for your patience and understanding of the work that we do!

We would also like to remind you that there are 2 bank holidays in May ! One of which is on Monday the 5th and the other is on Monday the 25th. This is something to bear in mind when ordering your medication and allowing for the three working day period (we also lose a working day during a very busy time!)

May is national walking month so don't forget to look at Stowey Walking [www.stoweywalking.co.uk](http://www.stoweywalking.co.uk) and Nether Stowey walking group time table advertised on our website and in the surgery, and

11-17<sup>th</sup> May is Mental Health Awareness Week.

We now have a Facebook page where we repost NHS information to keep you up to date, along with specific information and reminders about our surgery! Find us at [Facebook.com/quantockmc](https://www.facebook.com/quantockmc)

Helen Stacey  
Practice Manager

## **RNLI – Support for Minehead Lifeboat Station**

Many thanks to all those people who supported the RNLI at the talk about my book "Daughters of the Sea" in March, given by this ancient mariner, at the Thomas Poole Library and also at the coffee morning in April at the Church Centre, especially those who baked the cakes and served the coffee.

Also to all of you who bought a copy of the book from me. £5 for each book has been donated to the RNLI and between us all we have raised £626 for our local lifeboat station, based in Minehead.

Thank you and I hope you enjoy reading the book.

There are also two copies now available in the Thomas Poole Library.

Gerry Wright



## Gardening Notes for May 2026



Two weeks into April, and as I write this it has been generally typical April weather with three or four days of above average temperatures and lovely sunshine and then followed by chilly weather and showers (even some hail!).

We can still experience frosts in early May resulting from sunny days with clear skies and lack of cloud cover at night causing the warm air to rise and cold air to descend resulting in radiation frosts. There is, then, a risk for susceptible crops such as the new growth of potatoes. Provide protection by earthing them up or covering with fleece. Other tender plants may require protection especially if they have not been hardened off sufficiently.

**Vegetables:** it is a busy month, and small successional sowings of salad crops can be made to give continuity. Transplants of Brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale and cauliflower which were sown last month can be planted out together with leeks. Alternatively, transplants can be purchased from nurseries and garden centres. Frost tender vegetables may be sown directly into the soil once the risk of frost has gone such as runner beans, French beans and sweetcorn. Container sown marrows, courgettes and squashes sown in April can be planted out from late May onwards. Potatoes should be regularly earthed up helping to prevent tubers turning green. The same can be achieved on 'no dig beds' by applying a good dressing of compost. It also provides a chance to remove any weed, especially perennials such as bindweed and thistle, etc.

**Ornamentals:** it has been a good spring for the early flowering shrubs such as Ribes (flowering currants), Forsythia and Berberis darwinii. Following flowering they respond well to having some of the older wood removed and this stimulates strong new growth for carrying flower the following year. Remember that bedding plants being used for baskets, tubs and hanging baskets do need hardening off before being placed in their final positions. Incorporating water storage granules into the compost will help water retention.

If your established daffodils did not flower well this spring it may be that the bulbs are too congested. Once the foliage starts to yellow it is a good time to lift them and split into smaller clumps and replant. Many herbaceous perennials will require some form of support and if supports such as strong twiggy growth are put in early it allows foliage to grow up through the support and be largely hidden from view.

**The greenhouse:** it is planting time for tomatoes, peppers, aubergines and cucumbers whether it be in the soil or grow bags and regular watering and feeding should take place. Give plenty of space between plants for good air circulation. Plants will benefit from trying to avoid too greater temperature differential between day and night. Try to give as much ventilation in the day as possible to prevent excessively high temperatures. Shading the house with netting or white-wash may be beneficial as can leaving the door open on hot days. Ensure that tomatoes and cucumbers get trimmed regularly when necessary.

**Fruit:** strawberries will be developing trusses of green fruits. Place strawberry mats or straw around the plants which will help to prevent soil splash and ensure that plants are protected from birds with netting. As the fruits of strawberries, raspberries, tayberries, currants and gooseberries start to swell ensure that plants have sufficient water. Plum moth can be an unwelcome pest resulting in the maggot within the fruit. Non-chemical control can be provided using pheromone traps available from garden centres and on line. May is the optimum period to place the traps within the tree.

**Lawns:** For those that like a pristine lawn this is a good month to feed it and treat it for weeds such as clover, daisy, dandelion and buttercup. Sparse areas can be oversewn with a suitable seed mixture. An alternative is to take a more relaxed attitude and allow the grass to grow longer and let the native wild flowers mentioned above grow up within the grass. This is good for wildlife, insects particularly, and paths can be mown through at normal height of cut to introduce an informal design.

Nick Rigden

### What's on at Over Stowey Village Hall in 2026

1 <sup>st</sup> May	Burgers 6pm – 8pm (last orders 7.45pm)
16 <sup>th</sup> May	Coffee Morning 10.30am – 12 noon
29 <sup>th</sup> May	Burgers 6pm – 8pm (last orders 7.45pm)
12 <sup>th</sup> June	Burgers 6pm – 8pm (last orders 7.45pm)
19 <sup>th</sup> June	LIVE MUSIC *****THE STOGGYMEN***** 7pm
20 <sup>th</sup> June	Coffee Morning 10.30am – 12noon
26 <sup>th</sup> June	Burgers 6pm – 8pm (last orders 7.45pm)

## Free Drop-in IT Support Sessions at the Library

THE  
THOMAS POOLE  
LIBRARY  
NETHER STOWEY



*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!**



**NETHER  
STOWEY**  
VILLAGE HALL & RECREATION GROUND

## 50-50 LOTTERY DRAW

### April 2026 Draw

1st Prize	<b>£33.00</b>	Ticket No: 198	S French
2nd Prize	<b>£16.50</b>	Ticket No: 64	M Crowther
3rd Prize	<b>£9.90</b>	Ticket No: 134	K&J Hellier
4th Prize	<b>£6.60</b>	Ticket No: 243	S Mayell

[www.stowey.org.uk](http://www.stowey.org.uk)

Jane Erksine, Trustee 732025

Sharon Mayell, Treasurer 732311



The main issues of the March 2026 meeting were with regard to Public Rights of Way, the cemetery and grant requests.

Two members of the public were in attendance to provide information on how a group of approximately eighty people are supporting Somerset Council with the footpath and bridleway network within the parish. They report any issues they find, suggest how the network can be improved and reflect on how they can be more productive and how Somerset Council and the Parish Council can liaise with them to further develop this.

It was agreed that a dedicated page on the website is added for this purpose with all the relevant links and contact details. The Clerk will contact the website provider to get the page set up as soon as the relevant information is received from the attendees and ensure this information is made available to those that use the footpaths and bridleways.

Work on the cemetery wall is due to start at the beginning of May and signage will be up to ensure visitors to the cemetery are made aware of this.

A review of the cemetery fees was discussed but deferred until the April 2026 meeting for more research to be undertaken by the Clerk regarding fees and also a burial policy.

Instances of dogs not on leads in the cemetery have been reported to the Parish Council, which may be why dog waste is being left as owners might not be aware of where their dogs have been. If you do take your dog to the cemetery, please keep them on the lead at all

times and ensure that any waste is cleared up immediately and taken away for disposal to ensure the health and safety of everyone who visits the cemetery. Please help us keep this space clean, peaceful, and dignified for all.

As ever, various highways issues were discussed. The Clerk will report any new problems and follow up on the ones that have already been reported but have not been resolved.

Two grant requests were received. £250 was awarded to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance Charity and £100 awarded to Crimestoppers South West who will be promoting their anonymous crime reporting system within the parish at a later date.

There is a small pot 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.

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

If you feel that this is something you might like to consider but are unsure if you have the relevant qualifications or experience, please contact the Clerk to discuss further. If you would like to apply for this position, please see the Parish Council website for more information <https://overstoweyparishcouncil.gov.uk/news/parish-clerk-vacancy/>  
The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026, followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

at 7.00pm.

There will not be a meeting in June this year.

Please see the noticeboard and website for details.

If you have any concerns or issues you would like to bring to the attention of the Parish Council, please contact the Clerk. If you provide your full contact details, we can then ensure appropriate and relevant items raised are on the agenda for the next meeting.

Problems on the highways can be reported online at [Fix My Street](#) or on the Somerset Council web page [Report A Problem on the Road](#) Please report any missed waste collections at [Missed Waste Collection](#) if you do not get a satisfactory response, please contact the Clerk.

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

Website: [Over Stowey Parish Council](#)

Email: [clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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

## **STOWEY GARDENERS Bring and Buy Plant Sale**

Come to the Bring and buy plant sale  
Sat 16th May 10.00am Thomas Poole  
Library, Nether Stowey.



## **Nether Stowey Wednesday Club**

**Join us every Wednesday** ( term Time)

**St Marys Church Centre**

**10am-2pm**

**Coffee & Lunch at 12 noon**



Raffle



Speakers & Crafts

**We welcome all ages 70 + from surrounding  
villages**

**We look forward to welcoming newmembers  
both ladies and gents !**

**Pop in for a friendly chat meet the  
members**

**Contact Barbara 01278 732412 or Tina 07761586866**

## **STOWEY GREEN SPACES GROUP AGM - SAVE THE DATE!**

Stowey Green Spaces Group AGM and Social will be held at the Thomas Poole library, Nether Stowey, from 7pm on the evening of Thursday, 8 May. All welcome. Free admission. AGM will include summary Chairperson's, Treasurer's and litter picking reports, updates on the Stowey Wood ponds and A39 Bypass projects and election/re-election of committee members. From 7.30 approx there will then be a social, with the opportunity to mingle, ask questions and learn about SGSG's activities. Food and drinks will be available (donations appreciated) plus of course the library tea and coffee machine.

If you would like to come, please let us know by email:

[stoweygreenspaces@stowey.org.uk](mailto:stoweygreenspaces@stowey.org.uk)

[www.stowey.org.uk](http://www.stowey.org.uk)



### *Nether Stowey & Fiddington W.I.*

**Don't be shy come & join us!**

**We meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday**

**in the month from 2-4pm**

**in Nether Stowey**



**Church Centre**

**Variety of speakers booked**

**Look forward to seeing you there!**



**Tea, coffee & cake/biscuits  
available**



## KEDGEREE

Here is a mostly forgotten dish, Kedgerree. Traditionally found in country house hotels for breakfast along with kippers and devilled kidneys.

It is a variant of an Indian dish, Khichari that was developed for British tastes by the Scottish Highland regiments in India during colonial times.

Usually made with smoked haddock, I have added prawns and poached salmon for a more substantial dish. Great for an evening meal, picnic or as a side dish for a BBQ.

*Tips – Whenever I make a dish with rice, I make extra to be used in a kedgerree or a fried rice dish. Hard boil your eggs before you start.*

### Ingredients

- 250g undyed smoked haddock
- 200g salmon fillet
- 12 raw frozen prawns (thawed!)
- 150g frozen peas
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 250g basmati rice (pre-cooked and cold)
- 4 hard-boiled eggs
- 2 Tsp cumin powder

- 2 Tsp turmeric
- 1 Tsp garam masala
- Flat leaf parsley
- Fresh coriander
- 50g salted butter
- 2 bay leaves

## **Method**

- On a medium heat, in a large frying pan melt 25g of butter and sweat the onion for about 8 minutes
- While you are cooking the onions, take a large saucepan of cold water and add both the salmon and haddock fillets with the bay leaves and a good grind of black pepper. Bring up to a very gentle simmer. This is poaching, not boiling. Cook for 12-15 minutes. Place the fish on a plate to cool.
- Back to the onions, add the rest of the butter and all the spices (cumin, turmeric and garam masala). Stir for a minute or two. Turn the heat to low.
- Add the cold cooked rice and stir,
- Skin the haddock and salmon and break up into large flakes.
- Add the peas and defrosted prawns. Cook very gently, stirring every now and then. When the prawns turn pink, cook for a further minute.
- Chop the herbs, not too finely, and add to the fish and rice, Mix through gently and tip into a serving dish.
- Peel and quarter the eggs and place on top of the dish

Sprinkle with a few more chopped herbs and enjoy!



## Celebrating music in our churches

A weekend of concerts, worship and workshops across Quantock  
Deanery

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

### **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June – St Andrew's Church, Stogursey**

5.00pm-6.00pm                      Workshop for organists\*

*An opportunity for organists (and would-be organists!) to receive hands-on practical support and advice and top tips for service accompaniment. Led by Hugh Morris. Followed by refreshments.*

7.00pm                                  Organ recital given by Hugh Morris  
Director of the Royal School of Church Music

*Tickets: £10 on the door*

### **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June – Nether Stowey Church Centre**

10.00am-12.00pm                  Music in rural churches discussion forum\*

*Exploring practical resources and ideas for smaller and rural churches, for clergy, musicians, LWAs, churchwardens and those responsible for worship. Led by Hugh Morris.*

2.00pm-4.30pm                      Come and Sing\*

*An afternoon of music making, exploring a variety of repertoire designed to enhance the worship of smaller churches, concluding with an act of worship. All welcome! Led by Hugh Morris.*

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June – St Mary's Church, Stogumber**

6.30pm                                  Festal Choral Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)

*with the Quantock Deanery Singers and Stogumber Church Choir, led by Christopher Legrove. Parking in Stogumber Village Car Park, Station Road opposite Slade Close TA4 3TG; disabled parking in Stogumber Churchyard, High Street TA4 3TA.*

**To book a place at starred events, please email the Quantock Villages**

**Benefice Office: [qv.benefice@gmail.com](mailto:qv.benefice@gmail.com).**

**Donations are invited to cover costs.**

## CHURCH SERVICES – MAY 2026

	NETHER STOWEY	OVER STOWEY
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> May</b> <b>Easter 3</b>	11.00am Morning Worship (Church Centre)	6.30pm Evensong
<b>10<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>Easter 6</b> <b>Rogation</b>	11.00am Holy Communion (Church)	9.30am Holy Communion
<b>14<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>Ascension Day</b>	11.00am Ascension Day Service at Holford Church  7.00pm Deanery Service for Ascension Day Holy Communion at Cannington Church	
<b>17<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>Sunday after</b> <b>Ascension Day</b>	11.00am Morning Worship (Church Centre)	9.30am Morning Worship
<b>24<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>PENTECOST</b>	11.00am Holy Communion (Church)	No Service
<b>31<sup>st</sup> May</b> <b>Trinity Sunday</b>	9.30am Holy Communion at Over Stowey Church  11.00am Benefice Service at Nether Stowey Church (Speaker from Deanery Mission Project – Sam Searle)	

### **COFFEE MORNING** **Saturday 9th May**

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH CENTRE**  
**10.30am – 12.00noon - In Aid of Heart for India**

Dear All,

With the sunny and warmer weather returning, I am aware of many folk spending time in their gardens sowing seeds and preparing the ground for summer planting in the hope of long warm summer days and evenings relaxing in beauty of their garden.

We can be amazed by the variety of colours, texture and the uniqueness of the flowers we see thrive. Sometimes it is the magnificence of a tree in full blossom or a small plant that has burst into a single flower for the first time that catches our attention. Or perhaps the sounds of the air that we hear. It is the lighter mornings that maybe make us aware of the bird song that we miss in the winter months. Whether we see the colours of the flowers or hear the birdsong, all are part of God's creation as we are reminded in the first verse of the hymn All things bright and beautiful:

Each little flow'r that opens,  
each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colours,  
He made their tiny wings.

As we prepare our gardens for the summer months, let us also prepare our hearts and minds to take a moment to look out for and listen to the joys of God's creation and marvel at beauty of each individual flower and the wonder of each bird song. As the chorus ends - The Lord God made them all.

Enjoy the sowing and planting!

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](mailto:qv.benefice@gmail.com)

## **Bishop Michael arrives in Nether Stowey A whirlwind 24-hour visit to the Quantock Villages Benefice!**

During Holy Week, the week before Easter, Bishop Michael, the Bishop of Bath and Wells set out on a pilgrimage, walking from Porlock to Nether Stowey along the Coleridge Way. His plan was to visit churches *en route* and to meet people. In this year of a Diocesan especial focus on prayer, Bishop Michael was keen to say prayers in the places where he stopped. Spaxton School children sent him a video of wishing him well for his pilgrimage and saying a prayer as he started his journey.

Leaving Wells after a service in the Cathedral, his walk started in Selworthy, then to Porlock and across Exmoor. He arrived in this Benefice at sunny Holford Church at 4pm on the dot! He was accompanied by Archdeacon Simon and was greeted by people from Holford and Kilve and as well as saying a shortened form of Evening prayer, he shared in a delicious cake and juices. Then he went onwards to Nether Stowey and Coleridge Cottage.

For this part of the walk Bishop Michael and Archdeacon Simon were joined by churchwardens Nick Harrison and Peter Baker arriving at Coleridge Cottage at around 6:15pm. It was then to Over Stowey Village Hall, by car, for supper of a delicious lamb tagine and a vegetarian option which was wonderfully cooked by Sally Bult – Churchwarden at Stringston - with the help of Over Stowey PCC members.

Apart from walking, talking and eating, Bishop Michael joined the churches for worship on these significant days leading to Easter and the celebration of the Risen Christ. The Maundy

Thursday service with its traditional foot washing was held in Over Stowey Church. The foot washing serves to remind us that Christ came to show that we are to serve one another. Twenty-six feet were washed!

Bishop Michael received overnight hospitality in Aisholt and visited a farm and the church in the surrounding Quantocks and then he joined the Good Friday Walk of Witness starting from the top of Nether Stowey Mount and finishing in the church. We were privileged to hear three reflections based around Christ's words on the cross from Bishop Michael on the journey.

After hot cross buns in the Church Centre, Easter gardens and receiving a scrapbook prepared by children from Nether Stowey School, Bishop Michael headed for Spaxton Church for lunch and to meet Spaxton folk. He then travelled by car to Enmore and was greeted by a chalk written 'welcome' just in front of the main door. His mode of transport changed to a green coloured tractor, and he headed off to Goathurst Church driven by Geoffrey Burge for the Last Hour Service during which he reflected onwards from Christ on the cross. This was followed by tea and cake and the presentation of a book brought together by Enmore School's Pupil Chaplains. He headed back to Wells at 4pm!

It was an amazing 24 hours, and we thank Bishop Michael for coming to Quantock Villages to meet the people and share time in worship.

With thanks to all who took part.  
Eleanor

**Nether Stowey Art Group**

**St Marys Church Centre, Nether  
Stowey, TA5 1LJ**

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday every month**

**2pm – 4pm**



**£3 per session**

**Beginner's welcome**



**For more information about our group**

**Contact Robert 07855546883**

May 2026

# Plugged in Parish News



A round up of the latest news from Hinkley Point C

## Ramp up

Hinkley Point C is on a mission to install its mechanical, electrical and heating equipment so that the power station can be commissioned and operated. In all, there are 7,000 rooms to complete.

This year alone, team members will be installing nearly **67,000 metres of pipe**, around **30,000 supports**, and more than **100 kilometres of electrical cable**.

Activity has been underway to boost parts supply and production. Two 'mini-factories' have been established on-site where the team are busy preparing mechanical supports - currently, around 1,000 a week!



## A new pétanque terrain in Victoria Park, Bridgwater

Funded by the HPC Community Fund, with materials kindly donated by Hinkley Point C contractor Bylor, the project has created a purpose-built space where local residents can enjoy the game at their leisure. Measuring 15m by 14m, the new facility provides a high-quality playing area for the community. Pétanque, similar to boules, is a sport where players throw metal balls aiming to land them as close as possible to a small target ball.



Under 21 and considering your career options? Young HPC could help ...

The Young HPC programme is a free skills and careers initiative linked to the Hinkley Point C project. It is designed to help people between 14-21 years old learn more about job opportunities, training routes, and the skills needed to work on a major local project

To sign up and find out more, scan the QR code



[edfenergy.com/hpc](http://edfenergy.com/hpc)



0333 009 7070



[hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com](mailto:hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com)



Owl by Susan Webber

## Art Exhibition by Susan Webber

Local artist Susan Webber will be celebrating a significant birthday this year. To mark this occasion, Sue will be holding a free to view exhibition of her art and photography at Crowcombe Church House, Crowcombe

TA4 4AA, **from Friday 15th May - Thursday 21st May, 10am-4pm daily. Including a Macmillan coffee morning -**

**Wednesday 20th 10am - 12.30pm.** (Please note that there are stairs to access the exhibition, no disabled access.)

The exhibition entitled "60" will be a reflection of a lifetime spent producing creative work. Sue works mainly in acrylics, painting various subjects such as local landscapes, animals, buildings and has also designed and painted various large sculptures for Charity Art trails throughout the UK. These sculptures have raised over £200,000 for the charities. Famous figures included a Shaun the Sheep which was displayed in Covent Garden, and a World War One "Private Gromit" which is still on display outside Bristol Children's Hospital. In recent years Sue has rekindled her love of photography. Some of her photographs have been published in the prestigious "Black & White Photography" magazine. Sue welcomes everyone to her exhibition and hopes that you come away from it with extra enthusiasm for the world of art, photography and creativity.

The Marion Evered Trust & Over Stowey CC Present

# BIG BASH

CHARITY CRICKET WEEKEND

Saturday 27th June

Sunday 28th June

Saturday:

Presidents XI vs Chairman's XI

Followed by Disco

£5 Entry for the Evening

Sunday:

6 A Side Knockout Competition

FREE TO WATCH!

BBQ & BAR ALL WEEKEND!



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**JUBILEE ROOMS, CASTLE STREET, STOGURSEY TA5 1TG**  
**FORTNIGHTLY ON WEDNESDAYS 10.30 – 12.00**

Our Summer Café Dates:

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July  
Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August



**FORGET-ME-NOT NEWS:**

*We're looking forward to running our annual fundraising Tombola on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at Burton Springs Fete, we have lots of great prizes. Looking forward to seeing you at this lovely event. There will be lots for all the family: games for the children, craft stalls, delicious local food, live music including a brass band, dog show and licensed bar!*

***DONATIONS OF PRIZES WOULD BE VERY WELCOME – THANK YOU***

**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. **All are welcome from the surrounding villages.**

**VOLUNTEERING** We have a lovely group of friendly volunteers, but we always love to welcome extra helpers - making teas and coffees, washing up, or chatting to people. Whynot pop in one Wednesday for a cuppa and say hello.

For more information please contact:

Helen: 07891 547982 [cuttellhelen@gmail.com](mailto:cuttellhelen@gmail.com)

Rose: 07507 374234 [rosechalk@icloud.com](mailto:rosechalk@icloud.com)



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

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

## **CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS**

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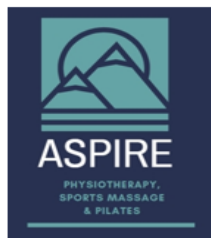
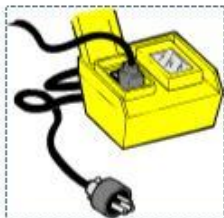
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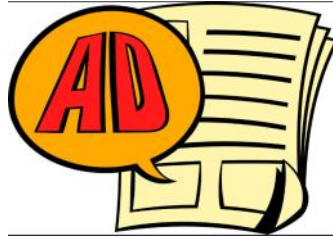
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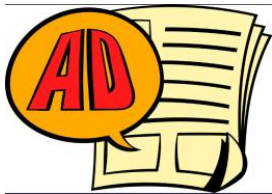
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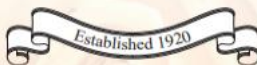
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