

JUNE 2026



QUANTOCK
For Nether Stowey & Over Stowey

Messenger 50p



Front: Carten 100 mile charity race for Marion Everard Trust, page 13.
Photo : Ian Barrow.
Above: Palace Reward For Library Duo, page 25. Photo: Ron Scales

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

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

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

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

Antisocial behaviour call **0800 298 2009**

Vandalism on the Quantock Hills call **101**

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

Somerset Councillor:

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

Nether Stowey Parish Council / Over Stowey Parish Council

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

Bookings secretaries

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

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

Reception 01278 732696 8am - 6:30pm (Mon-Fri)
Dispensary 01278 733385 10am - 11.30am & 4pm - 5pm (Mon-Fri)
Dispensary Collection 10am - 12pm & 4 - 6pm (Mon-Fri)
somicb.quantock.mc@nhs.net
<https://quantockmedicalcentre.gpsurgery.net>

Cannington Health Centre (if closed call NHS on 111)

Reception 01278 652 335 Prescription line 01278 651 311

Other Community Facilities

Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline 03454 040506

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

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

Community Car Scheme Stowey Shuttle - 07943 923742

Village Agent: Sarah Bennet, 07985 680269,

DIARY DATES 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 - £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 - 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 - O S Coffee Morning 10.30 - 12 noon - OSVH
20th June - Women's Walk
27th - 28th June - Big Bash weekend at Over Stowey CC
11th - 12th July - Art Exhibition - NSCC
27th September: Harvest Community Lunch - NSCC
23rd October Quiz, Pasties and Pud - NSCC

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

218th 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.

Please Register to attend by telephoning either:
Janet Phillips: 01278 732266
The Benefice Office: 01278 732855
The Thomas Poole Library FACEBOOK page

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Afternoon Tea in the Church Centre after the walk.
Cost of afternoon Tea is £6 per adult and children are free.
Payment for the tea will be taken on the day.

*There will be photographs taken of the event.
By attending you agree therefore to be photographed.*

Volunteers are needed to wear high-vis jackets to walk alongside the
parade please.
Telephone: 01278 732266.



Registered Charity No 1181213
WWW.THOMASPOOLELIBRARY.CO.UK



The Summer Reading Challenge 2026 is almost here! Launching in July, the Challenge invites children to embark on an exciting reading journey, either through their local library or online. This

year's theme, Read to the Beat! celebrates the joy of music and the power it has to move, inspire, and connect us – all through the magic of reading. This year's Challenge is brought to life with illustrations by award-winning author and illustrator, Harry Woodgate.

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

ANCESTRY.COM – Find out more about your family history - a new event on the second Wednesday of the month, starting in March. 10.30am – 12 noon

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

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

KNIT AND NATTER - Fridays, 10.30am to 12 noon. All ages and abilities are welcome! Just bring your own project which could be knitting, sewing, crochet, embroidery etc. or just come for a

natter and see what others are working on. It's a terrific way to get inspired and make new friends

SECOND HANDBOOK SALES IN "THE SHED" - Saturdays, 10.30am to 1pm. We have a wide range of good condition fiction, non-fiction, and children's books. All donations contribute to the running costs of the library

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

MONTHLY BOOK GROUP – Enjoy reading? Come and join the Library Reading Group - all are welcome! This is a fun, low key reading group that meets in the library at 2.30pm on the last Friday of each month

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

MONTHLY TALK FOR JUNE

WEDNESDAY 10TH JUNE - 7.30PM - New Stowey Farm, viable farming on a small holding? 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 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!

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.com

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

Our programme this year included talks on a range of topics from Soft Fruit Growing, A Short History of Growing Food, The Self-Seeded Garden, the Historic Front Garden and Nature As Your Neighbour with our June speaker is a talk on Dahlias by Bella Given.

Garden visits feature prominently in our programme as we ex-

plore gardens preferably within reasonable travelling distance, including Watcombe, nr Winsford, Gares Barton, nr. Langport, Babbs Farm, nr. Highbridge and Kingsland.



April visit to Watcombe – a superb garden in Winscombe

Later in the summer we hold a party for members in a local garden and in the autumn have talks on Dahlias, Using Bulbs in the Garden, Sustainable Gardening and Honey Fungus and Other Fungi still to come rounding off with the year with a party at Christmas.

Here are the events for the summer – Come and join us!

DIARY DATES FOR 2026	
17th June	Car visit to Babb's Farm, Highbridge
18th June	Bella Given - Dahlias
21st July	Car visit to Kingsland, North St, Milverton

**A Coach is going to SIDMOUTH
for the day**

- Who's coming?

Date - Monday 27th July 2026

**Leave Nether Stowey – 8.45am
from opposite the Fire Station or
from Cannington – 9.00am**

Cost £14

Phone Terry – 01278 732710

or

Margaret – 01278 734613

HAVE A GOOD DAY!

The Marion Evered Trust

Coming up at the end of the month is the Big Bash weekend in conjunction with Over Stowey CC. Following the Presidents game day on Saturday 27th will be a Disco and BBQ at £5 entry and on the Sunday come and get entertained by a 8 a side competition with free entry, Bar available all weekend, come along and enjoy.

The lads from HPC completed the Carten100 mile ride from Cardiff to Tenby early May and raised money for our charity, well done to them.

This years 200 club is now up and running. If you wish to join then contact Pauline Barrow on 07724666011

Dates for your diary

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

What's on at Over Stowey Village Hall and Social Club

12th June	Burgers 6pm – 8pm (last orders 7.45pm)
19th June	LIVE MUSIC *****THE STOGGYMEN***** 7pm
20th June	Coffee Morning 10.30am – 12noon
26th June	Burgers 6pm – 8pm (last orders 7.45pm)
3rd July	LIVE MUSIC *****DAVID PIAZZA***** 6.30pm
10th July	Burgers 6pm – 8pm (last orders 7.45pm)
18th July	Coffee Morning 10.30am – 12 noon
24th July	Burgers 6pm – 8pm (last orders 7.45pm)

Nick's Gardening Notes

June 2026



June continues to be a busy month with plenty to do in the vegetable, fruit and ornamental garden. Keep an eye on water-feeding when necessary, and pest, disease and weed control are all important. Whenever possible try to avoid chemical treatments. With the dry spring we are experiencing it is worthwhile considering how we save rainwater. The more water butts we can have the better and do remember that butts can be linked to each other to save more valuable rainfall. Anything we can do to reduce using mains water is important, particularly if you are on a meter and in future months we may be experiencing a hose pipe ban.

Vegetables: Many vegetables can continue to be sown to provide a succession. This includes lettuce in its many forms, rocket, salad onions, radish as well as carrots, beetroot, peas and dwarf beans. Mid-June to mid-July is the ideal time to sow Florence fennel to avoid it running up to seed (bolting) and still providing time to produce good sized bulbs.

If not planted out in the latter part of May outdoor tomatoes and any other frost tender vegetables such as runner beans, courgettes and sweetcorn should be planted and transplant any brassicas and leeks. Leeks are increasingly susceptible to leek moth and will benefit from being covered with fleece or Enviromesh. Keep potatoes regularly earthed up to prevent green

potatoes and reduce weeds. By mid-June allow asparagus foliage to develop and manufacture carbohydrates which are stored in the plant's fleshy root system. Apply a dressing of general-purpose fertiliser to boost growth and give a good watering if necessary. This will lay a foundation for next year's crop.

Cabbage white butterfly seems to appear earlier every year so make sure small mesh netting is effectively covering all your brassicas.

The greenhouse: Plenty of ventilation and glass shading can help to reduce high day time temperatures. Try to avoid tomato plants drying out as this stresses fruit formation and can cause blossom end rot on tomato fruits (a black sunken depression on the blossom end). Keep tomato and cucumber plants regularly trimmed so the plants energy doesn't go into unwanted growth.

Fruit: Strawberries will be ripening and should have straw or matting placed under the fruits to stop soil splash and should damp weather prevail check for fruits with grey mould (botrytis) and remove to avoid it spreading to healthy fruits. Protect strawberries and redcurrants from birds with netting and should it be dry ensure adequate moisture to promote good sized fruits. The new growth of redcurrants and gooseberries can be summer pruned cutting back to five leaves. Heavy sets of plums, apples and pears can be thinned to help increase fruit size and avoid branch breakage.

Flowers: Biennials such as Sweet William and foxglove can be sown in trays or pots as can wallflowers, winter flowering pan-

sies and polyanthus for next year. Remember to regularly dead head perennials following flowering and check any plant support that is required. Strong healthy shoots on fuchsias and pel

argoniums will make good softwood cuttings. Towards the end of the month some early flowering perennials such as Pulmonaria (lungwort) and oriental poppies can start to look tired and cutting back will tidy them and encourage a second flush of foliage and often more flowers.

Shrubs and climbers: plants for free are always welcome and now is the time to take cuttings from many of our shrubs. These are soft wood cuttings and can be taken from shrubs such as berberis, cornus, hebe, deutzia, philadelphus, ribes and weigela. Plants that have been grafted or budded such as roses, fruit trees and some ornamental trees may have thrown up suckers from the rootstock. These should be removed carefully as close to the rootstock as possible. Keep on top of training and tying in strong new shoots on climbing and rambling roses. At their base they are comparatively weak and strong winds can break them. Ensure that any container grown shrubs that have been recently planted are kept well-watered to aid establishment. Spring flowering shrubs that have completed their flowering, such as Berberis darwinii, can be pruned. Removal of some older stems soon after flowering allows the development of new growth which will ripen and produce flowers next year.

Yes, it is a busy month!

Nick Rigden

Art Exhibition
at
St Mary's Church Centre
St Mary Street, Nether Stowey



“Quantock Connections”
on
Saturday 11th July – 10.30 – 4.30pm
Sunday 12th July – 11.00 – 2.00pm

**refreshments available,
Entrance FREE**

Special addition of a school section courtesy of NSPS

showing work by local professional and amateur artists
including:

Juliet Harkness, Annie Shoosmith, Clare du Vergier, Alison Hood
Richard Brazier, Hazel Oates, Laura Crofts, Gill Harcombe,
Gerry Wright, Annabel Gaitskell and the Nether Stowey Art Group

(Further information from Mrs Gerry Wright Tel: 01278-734584)

20% of all sales in support of St Mary's Restoration Fund
Reg. Charity No. 249398
& Nether Stowey C of E Primary School

Quantock u3a learn,
laugh,
live

invites you to

Stearth Marshes

A Wetland Working for People and Wildlife

by

Nicole Turnbull

Engagement and Learning Manager at WWT Stearth Marshes



Photo by Joe Beaney/WWT

2 to 4 pm – Monday 22nd June - Fiddington Village Hall
Non- members welcome - Refreshments will be served

Website <https://quantock.u3asite.uk/>

The Latest from the Cricket Club



The new club flag is flying high at the ground and the season is well and truly up and running, with all teams having played it has been a case of mixed fortunes.

The 1st XI were due to start their campaign on May 2nd but Brompton Ralph conceded the game and so we were awarded 35 points without a ball being bowled! The following week (9/5/26) the 1st XI played Crowcombe in a low scoring encounter and lost by 2 wickets. Over Stowey 124 all out: Crowcombe 129-8.

The 2nd XI played a strong Carhampton side and were comprehensively beaten by 223 runs, it must be mentioned that six catches were dropped by Stowey which obviously did not help the cause.

Our youth sides have also begun their fixtures and I have highlighted the results below:-

Under 11's *Games played on Sundays at 10am.

3/5/26 v Huntspill Hurricanes (match abandoned)

10/5/26 No Game

17/5/26 v Butleigh Thunder (yet to be played)

Under 13's *Games played on Fridays 6pm.

1/5/26 v Stogumber : Over Stowey 246 lost to Stogumber 259 by 13 runs

8/5/26 v Taunton Vikings: Over Stowey 317 beat Taunton Vikings 256 by 61 runs

15/5/26 v Wiveliscombe (yet to be played)

Just a few reminders, the club are holding their annual fund raising BIG BASH over the weekend of 27th/28th June and if you want to keep up with things going on at Over Stowey Cricket Club then please visit our excellent Facebook page. Also, if you are at all interested in getting involved in our wonderful club, either as a player/coach/umpire/supporter/sponsor then why not swing by the ground and have a chat.

Over and Out

Nether Stowey Flower Show
Saturday 15th August 2026
At
St Mary's Church Centre
Doors Open 2pm

Art
Children's Section
Fruit & Veg
Photography
Vegetables
Floral Art
Needlework/Handicraft
Produce
Flowers & Plants

Come and support your local Flower Show
Schedules available from local shops

Would last year's cup winners, please return the cups to Rob-in Brierly, Hibemia, The Tannard, no later than 1st August.

Teas & cake Tent

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

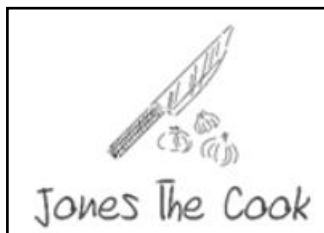
— Sunday: —

6 A Side Knockout Competition

FREE TO WATCH!

BBQ & BAR ALL WEEKEND!

Panna Cotta with Poached Rhubarb & Ginger



As summer approaches and the last of the garden rhubarb lingers, this classic Italian panna cotta is the perfect light dessert. Served with gently poached rhubarb and ginger, it is fresh, elegant and simple to prepare.

Best made the day before so it has time to set fully overnight.

Ingredients

For the Panna Cotta

- 2 platinum gelatine leaves
 - 450ml whipping cream
 - 150ml whole milk
 - 25g caster sugar
- 1 vanilla pod (or 1 tsp vanilla paste)

For the Rhubarb

- 250g rhubarb
- 1cm piece fresh ginger, peeled and finely grated
- 20g caster sugar
- 2 tbsp grenadine syrup

Optional: squeeze of orange juice or a little lemon zest

To Serve

- Fresh mint leaves

Optional soft summer fruits

Method

Prepare the Vanilla

Place the vanilla pod on a chopping board. Using the back of a small knife, press firmly along the length of the pod a couple of times to soften it. Split the pod lengthways and scrape out the seeds.

Add both the pod and seeds to a saucepan.

Make the Panna Cotta

Soak the gelatine leaves in a bowl of cold water for 6–7 minutes until softened.

Add the cream, milk and caster sugar to the saucepan with the vanilla. Heat gently over a medium heat, stirring occasionally, until the mixture just begins to simmer. As soon as the first bubbles appear around the edge, remove from the heat.

Lift the gelatine from the water and squeeze out any excess liquid. Add to the warm cream mixture and whisk until completely dissolved.

Pass the mixture through a fine sieve into individual serving glasses or dishes. Martini glasses work particularly well for an elegant presentation.

Chill for at least 4 hours, preferably overnight, until set.

Prepare the Rhubarb

Cut the rhubarb into roughly 2cm pieces.

Place in a bowl with the grated ginger, caster sugar, grenadine syrup and, if using, a squeeze of orange juice or a little lemon zest. Leave to macerate for about 40 minutes.

Transfer the rhubarb mixture to a small saucepan and bring gently to a simmer. Cook over a low heat for 2–3 minutes until the rhubarb is just tender but still holding its shape. Remove from the heat and allow to cool completely.

To Serve

Spoon the cooled rhubarb and syrup over the chilled panna cotta. Garnish with a small mint leaf and serve with fresh berries if desired.

Enjoy.

CAN YOU ? WILL YOU ?

GIVE BLOOD

IF you need blood, you will probably expect it to be available but
WILL IT ?

3 times a year-on a Friday-the NHS Blood & Transplant Service come to Nether Stowey Church Centre. Usually about 100 people make appointments-but this time (May) only 80 appointments were made. Will YOU consider giving blood ?

It's easy & relatively painless-and your prize is a quiet lie down, a cuppa, & hopefully a feeling that you have done something really worthwhile...so...

PLEASE DONATE

Next session 4th September

From King's Award To The King

Many of you will be aware that, last November, the Thomas Poole Library here in Nether Stowey received the King's Award for Voluntary Service, equivalent to an M.B.E. for an individual. One result of this honour is an invitation for two representatives from the subject organisation to attend a royal garden party. Lynn Scales co-ordinates the volunteers within the library and we were both pleased to be asked to go to London.

It's not a cheap day out. Lynn required a new frock and accoutrements and, having retired some years ago, my own suit was in need of updating. On top of this, a hotel for a couple of nights and the train would allow us to make the most of the occasion.

On Tuesday 12th May we got to Buckingham Palace where it was clear that we were two of a significant number of invited guests. Many military uniforms were present both from this country and from abroad and we noted a lot of clerical outfits and colourful examples of National Dress.

For refreshments I was disappointed that tales of rapidly refilled wine glasses were inaccurate, this turning out to be an alcohol free event. So I took my tepid tea and little wraps and cakes and later, with the crowd, formed two lanes leading from the rear of

the palace to another marquee reserved for the Royal guests and 'Corps Diplomatique' to which we were not invited. In due course, the King and Queen left the palace and each traversed one of the lanes, all under the watchful eyes of the Yeomen of the Guard, resplendent in their distinctive red uniforms with pikestaffs at the ready. The Royal Couple spoke to pre-selected groups from the invitees as they made their way to their own refreshments.

We had a walk round the gardens which, together with the adjacent Royal Parks, make a peaceful oasis in that part of the capital and then we left to go and find some 'proper food'. All in all though, a great experience and a honour that we won't repeat as we understand that you are only allowed to go to one such party.

Ron Scales

Notes from Nether Stowey Parish Council



The Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council meetings were held on 11 May. The Council thanks those who attended and those local organisations who provided their reports for their support. For those who didn't, the Chairman's Report for 2025/26 and the organisations' reports are available on the Parish website. No issues were raised by

the attending parishioners.

At the Annual Parish Council meeting later that evening, John Roberts was re-elected as Chairman, and Kevin Ferriday as Vice-Chairman. It was agreed to award grants to the Nether Stowey Short Mat Bowls Club for equipment and to Nether Stowey School for football equipment.

The Parish Council is always keen to support local groups and activities which enrich the lives of so many of our community. If your organisation would like to apply for a grant, please contact Caro for details or there is information on our website on the Local Organisations page.

Following many reports of inconsiderate, and sometimes dangerous parking, Somerset Highways will be painting double yellow lines along a section of the road in front of the Post Office. Although it is recognised that parking space is in very short supply in the village, cars are often parked at the junction of Lime Street, Castle Street and St Marys Street in a way which restricts or removes the ability to see around the junction and also forces pedestrians into the road. Accordingly, it was felt that action is required to address this situation.

Parking on the Cross is meant for loading and unloading only but more recently cars are being parked overnight. On occasion this has resulted in the wooden bollards being knocked over, with endless repair costs. In addition, some drivers have taken to lifting the wooden bollards to allow access. As a result, new cast iron bollards will be installed around the Cross which will not be removable and which will be more resistant to being knocked down. They will, we believe also look more in keeping with the look of the Cross, rather than the many

that are damaged and/or rotten.

As many residents are aware, there are three footpaths which cross the A39 and which are not served by either of the pedestrian crossings at the traffic lights. Accordingly the Parish Council requested that road signs be installed in both directions along the stretch of the A39 between the traffic lights, warning drivers that there are pedestrian crossings. We are pleased to say that Somerset Highways have agreed and will be installing these signs in the near future.

We are pleased to say that the Parish Council has purchased two new benches for the use of the village. One will be on the path from Banneson Road to the playing field and the other will be on the grass area behind the old garage on the path to Oak Road.

The Parish Council is still looking for new members by co-option. If you would like to make a difference to the community, please contact me or see the information on our website at <https://netherstowey-pc.gov.uk/your-parish-council/vacancies-and-co-option>.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 8 June at 7 pm at the Church Centre.

Caro Slaymaker

Clerk to the Parish Council

Tel: 01278 733779 or e-mail: clerk@netherstowey-pc.gov.uk

Website : www.netherstowey-pc.gov.uk



Celebrating music in our churches

A weekend of concerts, worship and workshops across Quantock
Deanery

Friday 5th – Sunday 7th June

Friday 5th 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 6th 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 7th 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.

Donations are invited to cover costs.

CHURCH SERVICES – JUNE 2026

	NETHER STOWEY	OVER STOWEY
7th June 1st Sunday after Trinity	11.00am Morning Worship (Church Centre)	-
		6.30pm Deanery Choral Evensong at Stogumber Church
14th June 2nd Sunday after Trinity	11.00am Holy Communion (Church)	9.30am Morning Worship
21st June 3rd Sunday after Trinity	11.00am Morning Worship (Church Centre)	9,30am Holy Communion
28th June 4th Sunday after Trinity	11.00am Holy Communion (Church)	6.30pm Songs of Praise for Patronal Festival

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 13th June

St. Mary's Church Centre

10.30am – 12.00noon

This month we are raising funds for **Mary's Meals**
School Meals for World's Poorest Communities

June 2026

Over the last few weeks, I have been told about several people who are celebrating a significant birthday – one with a ‘zero’ as the second digit! If you are one of these folk, may I wish you a very happy birthday! Whether you will celebrate alone or enjoy time with others, I hope you may be able to cherish your years.

At the end of May, the church worldwide celebrated its birthday! The day we celebrate is called Pentecost; the moment the church recalls the arrival of the Holy Spirit giving the disciples the strength, the skills and the confidence to go and tell the story of Christ. Often, after a church service on that day, a birthday cake appears. The candles remind us of the description of tongues of fire that didn’t burn out which surrounded the heads of the disciples as they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

With thanks to those disciples who told that story to their generation and then that generation to the next generation and so on down the generations to us, we continue to celebrate not only the Feast of Pentecost, but also that the church lives today. It lives today to worship God and to tell and live out the story of Christ and his endless unconditional love for all.

So as we blow out candles on cakes this month - whether it is a significant ‘zero’ birthday or a less special one – let us remember that Christ is with us throughout our lives in the joys and the challenges we all experience.

Happy Birthday!

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:

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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

NETHER STOWEY & FIDDINGTON W.I.



We had a really amusing and interesting talk at our meeting on 14th May from John Hardy and his beautiful Guide Dog, Willow, who behaved impeccably.

John lost the sight in one eye unexpectedly in 2014 and 4 years later he lost the sight in his other eye . Prior to losing his sight, John had been a nurse in the Army and has subsequently worked with the St Dunstan's Blind Army Veterans Association.

When John first lost his sight, he was told how important it was to try to get back into being active and doing things that you thought you wouldn't be able to do again, and perhaps learn other skills. After a few months, in 2016 he was given his first Guide Dog, Sydney, who was with him for 8 years; they had a wonderful relationship, or partnership really, and John was amazed at just how clever and perceptive Sydney was. When you acquire a Guide Dog, the recipient has to spend time with the dog before the dog is assigned to that person.

After losing his first dog, he was teamed up with 5-year old Willow. Willow had previously been with a family who had rather over-indulged her, and she weighed 35 kg; so she had to go on a special diet and eventually lost an amazing 11 kg. He was assigned Willow at the beginning of the year, so she still has quite a lot of things to learn, but she is young and keen.

Having a Guide Dog really made a difference to John's life. He has been on many cruises, accompanied by his Guide Dogs, and he also supports various charities and initiatives, such as the Alzheimer's groups. It is incredible that you can train a dog to be so aware of its owner's needs, e.g. the dog will always be at your side unless you are going up or down stairs, when it will either stay at your side, or in front of you when going upstairs, and never in front if you are going downstairs! As soon as you put its "working harness" on it goes straight into working mode and gets on with the job it's been trained to do.

Our meeting on **11th June** will be a visit from Paul Incedon of **SARAID** (Disaster Search & Rescue) an voluntary organisation that rescues and helps people after major disasters across the world, such as earthquakes or

catastrophic flooding.

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 - 400 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.



At the April 2026 meeting, a member of the public who had asked for support from the Parish Council with regard to a proposed accessibility initiative in Great Wood was in attendance.

The proposal is to set up a scheme where people with limited mobility can hire an all-terrain motorised scooter to gain access to some of the walks in the area. Details of the plans for the project were outlined with additional information given regarding potential barriers that will need to be considered and organisations, agencies and other potential stakeholders that have already been approached. All Parish Council members agreed that this should be supported and the Clerk will provide a letter to confirm this as soon as possible.

Work on the cemetery wall will have been completed by the time the Messenger has been published. The Parish Council would like to express their thanks and gratitude to Antler Construct for the support given to the project and the excellent work that has been undertaken. They would also like to thank

the Quantock Hills National Landscape Service (under the Greater Quantock Landscape Development Fund) for providing a grant (applied for by the Parish Council) which will cover approximately 48% of the cost to the Parish Council. The remainder will be paid from the Parish Council Cemetery Reserve fund.



Before

and after

What a transformation!

Also with reference to the cemetery, it was agreed that the fees will be increased in line with the those for the cemetery at Nether Stowey, with some adjustment and a new policy to be put in place for no-resident applications. This is be confirmed at the May 2026 Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Forestry England have informed the Parish Council that timber harvesting work at Great Wood in Over Stowey is expected to start around late summer 2026 for roughly 12 months though exact timescales are still unclear. Face to face meetings will be held in the forest to discuss the upcoming operations, dates of these will communicated by Forestry England nearer the time. If you have any questions, you can contact Forestry England at: westengland@forestryengland.uk

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 although interest in the role has been expressed. If the vacancy is not filled, this will be communicated at a later date.

Both Annual Meetings will have been held on Wednesday 20th May 2026 and there will not be a meeting in June this year.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th July 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.

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](#)

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



**NETHER
STOWEY**
VILLAGE HALL & RECREATION GROUND

50-50 LOTTERY DRAW

May 2026 Superdraw

1st Prize	£165.00	Ticket No: 247	A McMurren
2nd Prize	£82.50	Ticket No: 117	B Rich
3rd Prize	£49.50	Ticket No: 71	S Freeman
4th Prize	£33.00	Ticket No: 25	B Carter

www.stowey.org.uk

Jane Erksine, Trustee 732025

Sharon Mayell, Treasurer 732311

Congratulation to the winners of the Superdraw & thank you all for your continued support of the Recreation Ground.

News from the Quantock Medical Centre

Last month we focussed on the work of the Dispensary, I forgot to mention that most months the team process approx. 10,000 items of medication, which really puts the amount of work they do into perspective!

We have an awful lot of information in the waiting area, and we are regularly asked to promote even more! It can be quite overwhelming for patients trying to find what they are looking for with all the posters and leaflets displayed. Whenever I try to

we are very happy to search and print something off for you.

I recently attended a Carers Conference in Somerset which highlighted the amazing job unpaid carers do for their loved ones, partners, friends, parents, and children; which often goes unnoticed and unrewarded. Many people do not identify themselves as 'unpaid carers', and I would like to spread the word and acknowledge these amazing people and ask them to identify themselves at the Practice when they come in, so that we are aware of what you do and offer you more support and help.

Somerset Carers Support Service have gone through a rebranding and are now known as 'Thrive'. Thrive believe that everyone living in Somerset should be able to access the support they need to meet their basic needs in fuel, food, transport and health.

In particular Thrive provide information and support to 'unpaid' carers. They provide useful links with other helpful organisations such as Dementia Support Services, Age UK, Micro Providers who can provide further support in the home when needed, links with Drug & Alcohol support, Eating Disorders Support etc. They provide very helpful Carers checklists to make sure the carer has all the information they need to support them, along with Carers Cafes and Support Groups that bring carers together to share experiences with others so that they know they are not alone. They can also provide training, and support for completion of 'attendance allowance' and other funding applications.

For more information : Somerset Carers Services 0800 3168600, <http://Somersetcarers.org>

I also met a representative from the Devon & Somerset Fire Services who provide free home safety checks, and are particularly focused on people who are at higher risk of a house

fire – can you guess what the main risks are? I certainly wasn't aware of all of them. Apparently, people are more at risk of dying in a house fire if they have the following 4 common denominators:

Live alone and over 65 years old, have poor mobility, smoke, and use emollient creams

Other risk factors include, charging mobile phones overnight. Modern mobile phones only need a fast charge and can charge in 40 minutes and are prone to the battery overheating (never charge on a carpet floor or on the bed). Cooking with fat/ (deep frying), people who smoke & drink alcohol or are on medications that make them sleepy. The Fire & Resue Service would like to focus on targeting the most vulnerable in the community and we would like to promote this services and identify patients who would like a referral for a 'home safety check', if this is you or you are aware of a neighbour or relative who this might apply to, please do talk to them about this and get in touch for us to refer on to this service.

Helen Stacey

Practice Manager

Nether Stowey Wednesday Club

Join us every Wednesday (Term Time)

St Mary's Church Centre

10am-2pm

Coffee & Lunch at 12 noon

Contact Barbara 01278 732412 Tina 07761586866

June 2026

Plugged in Parish News

A round up of the latest news from Hinkley Point C



Hinkley Point C Socio-economic and Environmental Impact Report 2026

This report demonstrates the wider benefits provided by Hinkley Point C in the three key areas essential for sustainability - People, Planet and Prosperity.

In summary:

- £20 million of community grants to 400 local organisations
- 19,500 people trained in local "Centres of Excellence"
- 1,740 apprentices trained - beating a target of 1,000
- £5.4 billion spent with 1,500 businesses across the South West
- 92 bird species identified around the HPC site and 65,000 trees planted



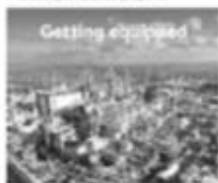
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Missed our Latest ?

Visit our website to see the most recent update and the latest edition of Plugged in magazine.



Plugged in



Nature Trails

Take a walk along Hinkley Point C's very own nature trail. It's beautiful landscape and offers close-up views of the bat house, flower meadows, ponds and more!
The walk, which is 4 miles long, takes around two and half hours.



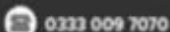
Wednesday 10 June: 13:30-16:30

Thursday 23 July: 13:30-16:30

Wednesday 19 August: 09:00-12:30

Reserve your place :
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Sacha.hawthorne@innb-edfenergy.com





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



FORGET-ME-NOT NEWS:

We're looking forward to running our annual fundraising Tombola on Saturday 23rd 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. Why not pop in one Wednesday for a cuppa and say hello.

For more information please contact:

Helen: 07891 547982 cuttellhelen@gmail.com

Rose: 07507 374234 rosechalk@icloud.com

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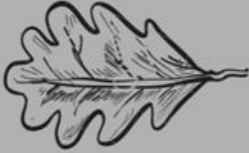
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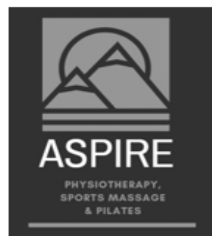
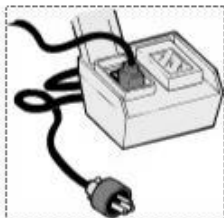
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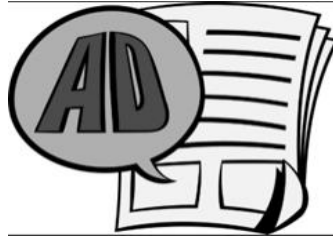
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