

OCTOBER 2026



QUANTOCK
For Nether Stowey & Over Stowey



Messenger 50p

Stowey Wood Zombie Pond renovation



Clearing the
thick growth
hiding the
Pond



Standing on
the Pond bottom
cutting and
removing
felled branches



The excavated
Pond. When
full water
should reach
half way up
the steep bank

Front cover: Quantock Quilters workshop, recently completed
“The Mayflower” project

OCTOBER 2026

What a lovely warm end to September, hope you have been able to enjoy it.

Each month we look forward to receiving articles of interest, and this month we have the beginning of a serialised reminiscence which we hope you will enjoy – page 18.

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

editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk

Enjoy reading this edition of the Quantock Messenger.

Best wishes from the QM team

Your Quantock Messenger Team

Please email articles/photos to:

editor@quantockmessenger.org.uk

Please email adverts to;

advertising@quantockmessenger.org.uk

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

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

CLUBS & SOCIETIES IN NETHER STOWEY & OVER STOWEY

Allotment Association

Di Faris demfaris@btinternet.com
733180

Coleridge Probus Club

Geoff Parle 01278 653681

Coleridge Cottage Tel: 732 662

Friends of Coleridge

Helen Boyles helenmboyles@gmail.com

Friends of Over Stowey Church

Christopher Stone 732 907

Friends of the Quantocks

Mary ter Braak (01984) 656 633

Friends of Nether Stowey School

Lisa Rendle 732 508

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

Nether Stowey Art Group

Rob Potter 07855546883

Nether Stowey Football Club

Chair: Nigel Waterman 732 310

Seniors: Steve Easden 07788 370014

Juniors: Nigel Waterman 732 310

Minis: Richard Marriott 07890 451694

Nether Stowey Playing Fields

Committee - Jane Erskine 732 025

Nether Stowey Short Mat Bowls

Terry Binding 01278 732710 Secretary

Email: nsshortmatbowls@gmail.com

Nether Stowey & Fiddington Women's Institute

Margaret Harris 734 613

Terry Binding 732710

Over Stowey Cricket Club &

Over Stowey Recreation Ground

Les Biffin 732963

Over Stowey Rights of Way Group

Richard Ince 733 237

Over Stowey Social Club

Patrick Tully 732944 or 07802697595

Over Stowey Village Hall

Jackie Barrow 07891 720565

Bridget Tully 07970781087

bridgetjtully@gmail.com

Quantock National Landscape Office Fyne Court

Tel: (01823) 451 884

Quantock Beekeepers Association

Ken Edwards 671 544

Quantock Players

Wendy Hobbs 733 197

Quantock Quilters

Elise Cable 07435444419

Quantock Tennis Club

Robin Bendall 732 633

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

Stogursey Forget-Me-Not Cafe

Helen Cuttell 734 818

Stowey Bears (pre-school)

Tina Miller 734 636

Stowey Book Club

Alison Whittingham 732 446

Stowey Gardeners

Kate Houghton 07940 836139

SGSG (Stowey Green Spaces Group)

Roy Osborne 734604

stoweygreenspaces@stowey.org.uk

Stowey Walking

Lynne Abbott 732 228

Thomas Poole Library, Nether Stowey

07734 968940

Wednesday Club Barbara 732412 or

Tina 732382

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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

Email somwestnptsedgemoor@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Supervisor Lora Bray—7528@avonandsomerset.police.uk

PCSO Trevor Phillips

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

Antisocial behaviour call: **0800 298 2009**

Vandalism on the Quantock Hills call **101**

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

Somerset Councillor:

Michael Caswell 01278 652043 mike.caswell@somerset.gov.uk

Brian Bolt 07970 855990 brian.bolt@somerset.gov.uk

Nether Stowey Parish Council / Over Stowey Parish Council

Clerk: **Caro Slaymaker**

Clerk: **Amanda McMurren**

01278 733779

01278 734689

clerk@netherstowey-pc.gov.uk

clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.co.uk

Bookings secretaries

N/Stowey Church Centre

Barbara Beer

01278 732412

O/Stowey Village Hall

Jackie Barrow

07891720565

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

Reception: 01278 732696 8am - 6:30pm (Mon-Fri)

Dispensary 01278 733385 10am - 11.30am & 4pm - 5pm (Mon-Fri)

Dispensary Collection 10am - 12pm & 4 - 6pm (Mon-Fri)

somicb.quantock.mc@nhs.net

<https://quantockmedicalcentre.gpsurgery.net>

Cannington Health Centre (if closed call NHS on 111)

Reception: 01278 652 335

Prescription line 01278 651 311

Other Community Facilities

Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline 03454 040506

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

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

Community Car Scheme: Stowey Shuttle - 07943 923742

Village Agent: Sarah Bennet, 07985 680269,

Email: sarahb@somersettrcc.org.uk

DIARY DATES 2026

Every Monday (except Bank Holidays) - Toddler Storytime - 11am - TPL
 2nd & 4th Monday each month - Quantock Quilters - 10am-1pm – NSCC
 2nd Monday each month – Ancestry.com Support - 10am – 12noon TPL
 Every Tuesday—Stowey Singers all welcome 6.45pm-8.15pm at NSCC
 Every Tuesday – Stowey Walking
 Every Tuesday - Short Mat Bowls 2-5pm - £5 session, annual subs £20- NSCC
 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month - SGSG (Stowey Green Spaces) work groups 2.30pm - 4.30 pm
 2nd Tuesday each month - SGSG meeting 2.30pm
 Every Wednesday - Nether Stowey Wednesday Club 10am-2pm – NSC
 1st Wednesday of the month – IT drop-in session – 10.30 – 12 noon TPL
 Every Thursday - Chess Time at the Library - 5pm-6.30pm - TPL
 1st & 3rd Thursday each month - Art Group - 2pm-4pm - NSCC
 Every 2nd Thursday each month - Nether Stowey & Fiddington WI - 2pm
 Every 3rd Thursday – Stowey Gardeners - 7.30pm - NSCC
 Every Friday - Knit & Natter - 10:30am -12:00 noon – TPL
 Last Friday of the month - Library Book group 2.30 – 3.30 - TPL
 Every Saturday - Second-hand book sales 10am—1pm TPL
 3rd Saturday each month - SGSG litter picking 10am
 1st & 3rd Saturday each month - Dungeons & Dragons - TPL
 2nd Saturday each month - - Coffee Morning 10.30 – 12noon – NSCC
 3RD Saturday each month - SGSG litter picking 10am
 3rd Saturday each month – OS Coffee Morning 10.30 – 12noon – OSVH

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

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

TPL - Thomas Poole Library
SGSG – Stowey Green Spaces Group



**NETHER
STOWEY**
VILLAGE HALL & RECREATION GROUND

50-50 LOTTERY DRAW

September 2026 Draw

1st Prize	£31.87	Ticket No: 198	S French
2nd Prize	£15.94	Ticket No: 64	M Crowther
3rd Prize	£9.56	Ticket No: 72	N Phillips
4th Prize	£6.60	Ticket No: 217	R Sedgewick

www.stowey.org.uk

Jane Erksine, Trustee 732025

Sharon Mayell, Treasurer 732311

We are still working hard behind the scenes, trying to get the planning permission for the new Stowey Centre.

More bat surveys are currently being undertaken. We are also maintaining the field, with seeding about to take place, now that we have some rain to water it. Overgrown trees will be cut back over the next few months. The layered hedge will also receive some attention (thanks to Stowey Green Spaces Group).

Congratulations to the latest winners of our monthly draw.

Thank you for your support.

Doreen Walker 1928 - 2026

We would like to thank everyone that attended our lovely mum's funeral on the 6th of August. It was quite overwhelming to see so many there to pay their respects to Mum and support us. I thank each and every one of you.

I would also like to thank all at QMC for their kindness to Mum - district nurses, Doctors, the Hospital at Home Team, Rapid Response nurses and the Loving Care team - you all made Mum's last few days a lot easier on us all at this very sad time.

The collection, in aid of Help for Heroes and Children's Cancer South West, currently stands at over £500.

Thank you.

Marjorie Thomas and family



Since the last article from the Parish Council in the September edition of the Messenger there has not yet been a meeting following the summer break, so there is little to report.

One positive piece of news is that the Public Rights of Way issue in Friarn regarding the old gate has been resolved. A new gate was provided by the Rights of Way Area Warden at

Somerset Council and was subsequently collected by Cllr Bartlett who also arranged for the installation of the gate. The Parish Council hope this makes it easier for people to use this footpath whilst also remaining safe for keeping livestock in the field. Many thanks to all involved.



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

Once again, it is that time of year that the Parish Council ask that as the bird nesting season has ended, please could any landowner/property owners with a boundary that has hedging adjacent to or trees overhanging the highway ensure that these are cut back as soon as possible in the interests of safety to all road users. If you are unable to find a contractor to undertake this, please contact the Clerk. The Clerk vacancy is open again, although applications have been received. If you are interested in finding out more or

applying for this position, please see the Parish Council website for more information:

<https://overstoweyparishcouncil.gov.uk/news/parish-clerk-vacancy/> or phone on 07391 313740.

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

There is no meeting planned for October; therefore, the next meeting will be held on Wednesday 18th November 2026 at 7.00pm at Over Stowey Village Hall. Please see the noticeboard and website for details.

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

Problems on the highways can be reported online on the Somerset Council web page:

[Report A Problem on the Road](#)

If you experience any problems when using a footpath or bridleway, you can inform the Clerk or access the online reporting tool at:

[Somerset Council – Report A Problem With a Public Right of Way](#)

Website: [Over Stowey Parish Council](#)

Email: clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.gov.uk

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



Christmas



CRAFT FAYRE

♥ SUPPORT OUR LOCAL CRAFTS PEOPLE ♥

BEAUTIFUL HANDMADE GIFTS,
FESTIVE TREATS & UNIQUE FINDS

At the Church Centre, Nether Stowey,
TA5 1LJ

SATURDAY

28 November 2026

10AM – 3PM

Hosted by
The Quantock Quilting
& Sewing Group
Proceeds from our
raffle and tombola go
to our chosen charity
this year

Guide Dogs for the
Blind

CRAFT STALLS
REFRESHMENTS
RAFFLE & TOMBOLA

Entry £1
children -
free

We are looking for a variety of local
businesses, crafters, makers and festive traders to help
make this year's event magical.
To book a table please email quantockquilters@gmail.com





Restoration of the ZOMBIE PONDS of Stowey Wood

Those of you who visit Stowey Wood will have noticed some changes to the three seasonal ponds – the round, the large and the little one. The round one has been excavated down to its clay base; the large U-shaped one is currently clear of its bankside invasive rhododendron, and the little one ... more later. The area between the ponds and New Stowey Farm's field has been cleared of head-high bramble and Blackthorn - and a comfortable bench installed.

This work is to improve the biodiversity in and around the ponds. It was undertaken and is ongoing with professional advice. Contracted excavation in August has removed the built-up organic matter within the round pond that was deterring all kinds of pondlife - other than duckweed. Green Spaces Group volunteers' clearance work over the past 10 months has considerably increased the light levels to further this objective – masses of dragon flies and a few frogs and toads have emerged over the past few weeks. Work by our volunteers will continue through this winter to increase the light to the pond as well as to the treebank to the west by removing the full-grown Blackthorn. We shall dig up bramble roots, cut back Blackthorn regrowth, do our best to create habitat piles and dead hedges to accommodate local wildlife, coppice a few more willow and hazel, as well as

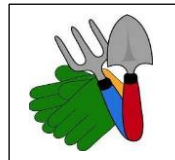
continue to hit any rhododendron around the large pond. And the little pond? It has been the recipient of much of the excavated leaf litter, and we shall be adding the substantial heap of brash accumulated from our efforts over the summer, so that it becomes a hollow of damp scrub - and a valuable habitat in its own right.

If you would like to help us with this project, or just want to know where Stowey Wood is, email:
stoweygreenspaces@stowey.org.uk or drop a note c/o Nether Stowey Parish Office

Judith Greig for Stowey Green Spaces Group

Nicks Gardening Notes

October 2026



This is a good month to reflect on the 2026 season and consider your successes and failures whether it is in the garden or on the allotment. As mentioned last month it has been a challenging growing season with high temperatures, drought conditions and drying winds. The end of August and into September the weather at last gave us some rainfall and water butts soon filled up again. It has always amazed me how resilient plants are and the speed at which some recover yet some plants will have suffered badly and now is an opportunity to evaluate the garden as a whole and perhaps consider changing the planting particularly with climate change in mind. Water is such a precious commodity and it is

sensible to consider further ways that you can save rainfall such as linking one water butt to another. It may be that you would like to reduce the maintenance or even rethink/expand the vegetable/fruit plot.

Vegetables: cold nights and autumnal weather can soon cause damage to late sown salad and root crops such as carrots but covering with fleece or a cloche can provide protection, help maintain quality and extend the season. Overwintering onion sets, such as Radar can still be planted this month and Jermor is a good shallot variety. Garlic, Provence Wight or similar, can be planted now and into November but as with the onion sets fertiliser application is best left until the spring when a balanced dressing should be applied as growth commences. Planting of spring cabbage should be completed. Old yellowing leaves on brassicas should be removed and composted. Very tall brassicas such as Brussel Sprouts may benefit from a cane to give winter support. As ground becomes cleared of summer crops winter cultivations can be commenced and organic matter dug in. No-dig beds should be weeded and organic matter/compost applied.

The Greenhouse: summer crops such as tomatoes, cucumbers, etc will be coming to an end and the greenhouse can be cleared and the opportunity taken to give the inside a thorough wash and clean before it is used again.

Fruit: It has been generally a good year for both tree fruit and soft fruit although size of fruits may well have suffered through lack of soil moisture. Late varieties of apples and pears should be harvested and stored. Weak canes of blackberries, loganberries, tayberries and the old fruiting

canes of main season raspberries can be pruned and new canes tied in. Clean up between strawberry plants removing excess runners and weeds.

Flowers: remove summer bedding and replace with winter/spring bedding plants such as violas, wallflowers, primroses/polyanthus, and forget-me-nots. This is the month for planting bulbs whether in containers or in the border or lawn. Lift tender plants such as dahlias to store dry over the winter. In well drained situations dahlia tubers can be left in the ground but protect with a good layer of compost. Start to overhaul herbaceous borders where overlarge clumps can be split and old weak growth removed and replaced with younger vibrant pieces. Fleshy rooted genera such as hostas are best divided in the spring when fleshy wounds heal and quickly make new growth.

Shrubs and trees: while the soil is still warm it is an excellent month for planting hardy trees and shrubs and in particular evergreens. Climbing roses can be pruned by removing dead, damaged and unhealthy looking stems and then tie in shoots that can extend the framework and prune others back to two or three buds. Check that the plant support is in good order for the winter. At the end of the month reduce the height of rose bushes and taller shrubs such as Buddleja and Lavatera that are prone to windrock and complete pruning in the late winter. It is a good month for taking hardwood cuttings of roses.

Weed control: where perennial weeds have become a serious problem it may be worth lifting the plants, cleaning their root systems of invasive weed roots and thoroughly digging the bed, removing weed roots/underground stems, etc. before replanting.

Nick Rigden

AISHOLT & MERRIDGE VILLAGE HALL
Sunday 11 October | 3.30pm

Before Pride & Prejudice
... there was chaos!

LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP

— by Jane Austen —

aged 14½

Adapted & performed by
IMOGEN SMITH

Directed by
JOANNA PROCTER

TICKETS £10
BOX OFFICE: 07 973 663 597
Email quantocks@live.co.uk



16 characters, one actor!

Leading character actor Imogen Smith brings her one-woman show to Somerset dramatising the novel which Jane Austen wrote in her teens.

Tea and cakes ... and great entertainment!



A Season of talks and outing for Autumn 2026

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

then come and join our monthly club!

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

Come as a visitor to try us out for £5 for a talk including tea/coffee & cakes and includes a raffle and garden table. Annual membership is £25.

Car sharing is available for visits.

Contact Kate Houghton. tel: 07940 836139

email: stoweygardeners@yahoo.com

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

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 and a most instructive talk on Dahlias by Bella Given.

Our September speaker is well-known Christine Skelmersdale formerly of Broadleigh Bulbs who is going to talk to us about growing bulbs in the garden. A talk on Sustainable Gardening by Tom Neilson is the **October** subject with local naturalist Peter Baker talking on the subject of Fungi in **November**. We'd be delighted to see you at our next meeting, so do come along.

My war 1939 to 1945

Doreen Walker

My war started in August 1939. I was in the West London hospital, Hammersmith, having my tonsils removed. I remember there were two nurses and as they made my bed one of them said about the war and if it happened, they were both going to join the Fannies or Field Army Nursing Yeomanry. I wonder if they did. After I was discharged, I went to my Aunt Bessie's and Uncle Bill's at Hookwood, Surrey, which is quite near Gatwick Airport. In those days it was just a small airport for private planes. I was going to stay for a couple of weeks.

I was at Hookwood on September 3, 1939, when war was declared. My two cousins from London, Betty and Charlie, came to stay as well so we became evacuees. We weren't allowed to go to school as we had been evacuated privately and not through the government scheme. That suited us fine! Our aunt and uncle had their little boy, our cousin Ken. We lived with them on a poultry farm, so we helped out with looking after the chicks and chickens, we helped with

feeding watering, collecting eggs and cleaning out the houses. As Christmas approached, we wondered if our mums and dads would come down, which they did. I remember my mum had a hat on with a peak. I thought she was a bus conductress.

Betty and I thought we would put on a Christmas show for them so we practised singing some popular songs. "Wish me luck as you wave me goodbye", "They'll always be in England", "I'll be seeing you" and "Run Rabbit Run". We also did a bit of tap dancing. We were so serious about it all but I have to laugh now when I think of it. Dear old Uncle Bill turned out the lights and pointed torches at us. They were supposed to be the spotlights, as you see in the theatre.

Just before Christmas poor Uncle Bill had a bad attack of asthma. He been gassed in the first world war and had breathing problems since. He had a lot of chickens to kill and pluck for customers. Charlie and I were roped in to pluck the hens. He would wring the chickens' necks and we had to do the rest. Betty couldn't help as she had had rheumatic fever as a young child and wasn't allowed to get cold. It was freezing in the poultry houses and everywhere (including Charlie and me) was covered in feathers. We were kept supplied with jugs of hot cocoa and, between it all, Charlie and I had quite a few laughs.

After a few months of hanging around we got bored and although we were allowed to go to Horley once a week to the cinema, we had too much time on her hands - so it was decided we should go home for a week. There weren't any

air rates so it seemed quite safe. My Dad came to fetch us. While I was home, I asked my mum if I could stay as I missed her and Dad and my little sister so much . Mum and Dad gave in and said yes. When Betty and Charlie heard they decided not to go back either.

One keepsake I do have those days is a photo. We all dressed up as Auntie and Uncle Bill's wedding. Betty was Auntie, I was Uncle Bill, Charlie was Aunt Tis(an old aunt of Uncle Bill's) and little Ken as bridesmaid. It gave us something to do.

To be continued.

Printed by kind permission of Marjory Thomas

Stowey Shuttle

Community Car Scheme

Stowey Shuttle would like to recruit a new Coordinator to join the team. The role involves, on a rota basis, picking up messages and receiving booking requests for trips to various locations, contacting drivers to arrange the trip. The role is flexible and one which you can fit around other daily activities.

If you enjoy getting to know new people and would like to be part of this much appreciated service, please ring Ann on 284085 for more information.

STOGURSEY ARTS FESTIVAL



Thursday 15th – Monday 19th October

Supported by Somerset Community Foundation

Be part of Stogursey's amazing creative community as we come together
for five days of exhibitions, live events and hands-on activities
in the heart of our village.



Be inspired. Get involved. Everyone is welcome



EXPECT



CHILDREN'S PARADE –
masks & walking dinosaur



ART EXHIBITIONS



MUSICAL GALA EVENING



CLOCKS – an opportunity to view
a rare collection of vintage clocks
made in Stogursey & local area



STARS OF STOGURSEY
talent show (16 & under)



**FLOWER FESTIVAL &
ARTISANS EXHIBITS** in the Church



**AN EVENING OF
CONVERSATION & FILM**



CRAFT DEMONSTRATIONS



**BSL (British Sign Language)
FAMILY TASTER SESSION**
'The Art of Communication'



Look out for more info in October's
Stogursey News or online at
www.stogurseyarts.co.uk



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WWW.STOGURSEYARTS.CO.UK

Somerset
Community
Foundation

VOLUNTEERS WANTED



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



OUR GREEN SPACES

Recreation Ground, Millennium Wood, Diamond & Platinum Jubilee Woods, Stowey Wood & Ponds, The Mount, Bypass Wood & Walk and more.



WHAT WE DO

Plant trees and wildflowers, care for habitats, maintain footpaths, control invasive species, run litter-picking sessions, work with our school and support biodiversity.



WHO WE ARE

A friendly, sociable group of local volunteers.

All ages welcome – children (with supervision) too!



WHY IT MATTERS

For wildlife, our community, and our own health.

Let's grow a greener future together.



JOIN US!

No experience needed – just enthusiasm and a love for our town and the countryside.



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



stoweygreenspaces
@stowey.org.uk



Find us on
Facebook

The Latest from the Cricket Club



Following an Extraordinary General Meeting held at Over Stowey Village Hall to discuss the future of Over Stowey Cricket Club, after some healthy discussion was decided, that as from next year (2027) the club 1st XI will transfer from the West Somerset League(WSCL) to the Somerset League(SCL), with the 2nd XI will remaining in the WSCL.

The reasons for this change, revolve mainly around the fact that cricket in general would appear to be in decline and it is no secret that many cricket clubs have folded due to lack of interest.eg 4 clubs have withdrawn from the WSCL this year alone which is obviously a very worrying trend. It is hoped that our 1st XI will flourish in the SCL next year and the newly formed recruitment sub-committee will encourage new players to join Over Stowey over the winter.

SO, if you are looking for a friendly, family orientated club look no further and please get in touch with any of the people below ,it would be very sad to see Over Stowey lose its cricket team.

Kieran Barrow 07932699224

Mark Sortwell 07969207770

Les Biffen 07384381368

*we can also be found on Facebook.

Finally, a reminder to club members, that it is the annual dinner and presentation evening on the 17th October 2026 at

Over Stowey Village Hall and the club AGM is at the same venue on the 25th October, look forward to seeing you all there.

Over and Out

The Marion Evered Trust

A big thankyou to Diane Chappell and helpers for the Coffee morning at Cockerhurst farm, Wembdon. It was well attended and raised a fantastic £680.

We also congratulate Vanessa Knowles on completing her 100km challenge mentioned in last month's newsletter, her JustGiving page is still open with a link on our Facebook page. Vanessa is retiring after 47 years of nursing, 27 of these were spent on the children's ward at Musgrove and she took on this challenge in support of our charity. Thanks again.

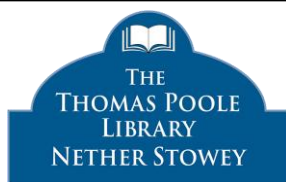
Monthly 200 club. If you wish to join then contact Pauline Barrow on 07724666011

August

£20 Winston Davey £10 Fraya U'Dell £5 Derrick Chappell

Sept

£20 Courtney Burland £10 Thea Ayre £5 Juliet Harkness



Registered Charity No 1181213
WWW.THOMASPOOLELIBRARY.CO.UK

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

non-fiction, and children's books. All donations go towards the running costs of the library

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

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

MONTHLY TALK FOR OCTOBER

WEDNESDAY 7th OCTOBER - 7.30PM - MEET THE AUTHOR RACHAEL WONG

Join Rachael Wong for a special evening exploring both The Book Chain and the journey behind its creation. Come and discover the story behind The Book Chain — how an idea becomes a novel, how fact and fiction can be woven together, and what happens when two very different lives become connected across time.

Entrance fees are £4 for library charity members and £5 for library non-charity members

MINI ARTS' FESTIVAL

4th November : Concert with Sebastian Tesuro

11th November: 20thC Photography talk by Terence Sackett

18th November: Thomas Hardy evening with Kate Streeter

25th November: Talk on Costume for films by Alex Bellinger

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!

NETHER STOWEY & FIDDINGTON W.I.



Our meeting on 10th September was concerning all the issues that need to be considered as we grow older. Brian Rutter, from Silvertime Legal Services, explained what services they provide and gave some very interesting information. These included The Power of Attorney, both Enduring and Lasting, and explaining the difference between them, Wills, Probate, Inheritance Tax, Trusts, and Estate Planning, which is NOT about selling or buying property as Estate Agents do - but your 'Estate' in this case means everything you own and how it will be administered. He also spoke about 'End of Life Care' and the cost implications regarding your personal finances and assets, and whether or not you would be eligible for financial help.

Our trip to Sidmouth in July was well attended and members and guests enjoyed a day at the seaside, the weather being pleasant and not too hot. The Committee decided not have our Garden Cream Tea in August because of the unbearable heat; instead, they provided a cream tea at our meeting, with delicious home-scones, followed by a quiz.

Our meeting on 8th October will be a Craft Afternoon, which should be a nice relaxing and creative few hours. 12th November will see a return visit from Ursula Franklin, who this time will deliver an illustrated talk on the Falkland Islands. The other talks Ursula has given have been really interesting and informative, and this talk will no doubt be up to her usual standard.

10th December will be our members Christmas celebration buffet, and our first meeting of the new year, on 14th January, will be held by Roger Stacey, who will talk about the Thomas Poole Library. Over the last few years, the Library has introduced many changes and new activities to keep functioning and has become a hub for information. Nether Stowey are fortunate to have our own Library, and it will be interesting to learn all about what our Library has to offer.

Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, from 2.00-4.00 in the Church Centre. The entrance fee is £1.50 for members and £4.00 for visitors, which includes a talk or activity, refreshments and a raffle.

AB



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

What's on at Over Stowey Village Hall in 2026

2 nd October	Burgers 6pm – 8pm (last orders 7.45pm)
3 rd October	Quiz
16 th October	Burgers 6pm – 8pm (last orders 7.45pm)
25 th October	Breakfast from 9.30am
30 th October	Pumpkin Carving
13 th November	Burgers 6pm – 8pm (last orders 7.45pm)
21 st November	Coffee Morning 10.30am – 12noon
27 th November	Burgers 6pm – 8pm (last orders 7.45pm)
28 th November	Bingo eyes down 7.30pm
18 th December	West Somerset Brass Band Christmas Carols & Music
19 th December	Coffee Morning 10.30am – 12noon
24 th December	Father Christmas 6pm

CHURCH SERVICES – OCTOBER 2026

	NETHER STOWEY	OVER STOWEY
4th October 18 th Sunday After Trinity	11.00am Morning Worship (Church Centre)	6.30pm Harvest Evensong
11th October 19 th Sunday After Trinity	11.00am Holy Communion (Church)	9.30am Morning Worship
18th October 20 th Sunday After Trinity	11.00am Morning Worship (Church Centre)	9.30am Holy Communion
25th October Last Sunday after Trinity	10.30am Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Nether Stowey followed by a Bring and Share Lunch at Church Centre 3.00pm Evensong at Cannington-Dean of Wells preaching	

COFFEE MORNING

ST. MARY'S CHURCH CENTRE

Saturday 10th October

10.30am – 12.00noon

In aid of Salvation Army

Letter from the Rector

Dear All,

With the Harvest season underway, giving thanks to God for the gathered crops and for the farmers who work the land, and with schools having returned for a new academic year, we are well into the autumn months. We await the changing colours of the falling leaves.

During early October, letters will be sent out inviting folk who have lost loved ones in the previous 12 months to the All-Souls services on 1st November at 3:30pm. Whether you receive a printed invitation or not, all are welcome to come along to a service to remember a loved one. It is a short service during which the names of those who have passed away in times past are read out, and a candle can be lit in memory. After each of the three services held in the Benefice, there will be tea and cake with an opportunity to chat. This year the services are in Nether Stowey Church, Kilve Church and Goathurst Church and all start at 3:30pm.

If you would like the name of your loved one read out, please let Alison, our Benefice Administrator know via email: qv.benefice@gmail.com or by phone 01278 732855.

Our season of remembering will continue with Remembrance Sunday, a week later with the usual services and with Kilve and Over Stowey churches remembering the lost in the wars on Armistice Day itself, 11th November.

Remembrance isn't an easy time, but together we can cherish those who we have said farewell to. We are not alone as God is there in the midst of all that is happening for each one of us and walks with us as we grieve our loss.

Enjoy the colours of the leaves often so prevalent in the autumnal month of October.

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

Chicken, Mushroom, and Leek Pie



Cooking in September—a favourite month for chefs—means game, wild mushrooms and all sorts of fruit and nuts. We can also start to look at the wonderful world of pies.

Who doesn't love a pie? There is, of course, the age-old argument about what constitutes a true pie. I think we would all agree that a true pie is one with both a shortcrust pastry base and a lid. However, if you've been at work all day, who has the time—or can be bothered—to make pastry?

This recipe is super-easy, delicious and quick to make. You can also use any leftover puff pastry to cut out leaf shapes to decorate the top.

Ingredients

Serves 4

- 500g boneless chicken thighs, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 2 leeks, sliced and thoroughly washed
- 250g mushrooms, sliced
- 1 tbsp butter
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp plain flour
- 300ml chicken stock
- 100ml single cream
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard

- 1 tbsp chopped fresh tarragon, or 1 tsp dried tarragon
- 1 sheet ready-rolled puff pastry
- 1 egg, beaten, to glaze
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

1. Heat the oven to 200°C fan. Brown the chicken in the butter and olive oil for about five minutes, then lift it onto a plate.
2. Cook the leeks and mushrooms in the same pan for 8–10 minutes, until softened and most of the mushroom liquid has evaporated.
3. Stir in the flour and cook for one minute. Gradually add the stock, stirring continuously, then add the single cream, mustard, tarragon and chicken. Simmer gently for 10 minutes, until the chicken is cooked through and the sauce is thick. Season well.
4. Spoon the filling into a pie dish and allow it to cool for 10 minutes. Lay the pastry over the top, press down the edges and trim away any excess. Cut a small steam hole in the centre and brush the pastry with beaten egg. Decorate with pastry leaves, if desired.
5. Bake for 25–30 minutes, until the pastry is deeply golden and the filling is bubbling.

The trick is to keep the filling quite thick before the pastry goes on; this gives you a creamy pie rather than a watery one. It is particularly good served with peas and buttery mashed potatoes.

News From The Quantock Medical Centre October 2026

Thank you

We would like to sincerely thank the family and friends of the late John Wherry and Nicholas Wright for their generous donations in memory of their loved ones to the Quantock Medical Centre. As always, we use any funds donated to the practice to help purchase equipment for the practice to support patient care. We have recently purchased an additional vaccine fridge for our immunisations at the practice which cost approx. £2000. Thank you for your support it is always greatly appreciated.

Unused Medications

We are always quite shocked when we receive medications back to the Medical Centre that have never been used.

We recently received 4 bin bags full of items which were requested each month by a patient that were never opened. The total amount these scripts was worth as over £5,000 in real money.

Seeing this volume of wasted and returned unused items is a reminder of how wasteful people can be. People tend to think that if they haven't paid for their prescription, it is free and even if they don't need it, they should have it 'just in case'.

We ask patients to consider what they are requesting and to **only order what they actually need and use**, as all of this has an additional cost to the NHS not only the cost of the drugs but the processing of these requests in staff time ordering and

getting ready for collection, unused medications also need to be treated carefully in their destruction and there are detrimental effects of this waste to our planet in terms of our land air and water pollution.

Please think carefully about what you are ordering and only order what you use and need. If you are a family member and see a relative is hoarding their medication please do have a word with them, or contact the practice and ask the Doctor to review this with them.

New Stroke Services launching in Somerset

The NHS in Somerset is introducing improved stroke services designed to ensure patients can access specialist emergency hyper acute stroke care more quickly, 24/7.

Investment has been made in workforce, facilities and clinical pathways, including refurbishment of stroke units, recruitment of additional nursing and medical staff, development of a new standard operating procedure and simulation testing to support implementation.

Getting timely treatment, in the right place, is in the best interest of a stroke patient

Emergency stroke care will be provided through two 24/7 Hyperacute Stroke Units (HASUs) at Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton.

We would like to **remind people to call 999 if they think they, or someone they know, are having a stroke** and the importance of acting FAST.

- FACE (can the person smile, or has one side of the face dropped?)

- ARMS Can the person raise both Arms and keep them there?
- SPEECH is the speech slurred or hard to understand
- TIME call 999 immediately if they suspect a stroke, even if symptoms seem mild or temporary.

Helen Stacey Practice Manager

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

Coleridge Cottage



There's plenty happening at Coleridge Cottage t
We're open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sunday
to 3pm until 1st November, and there are lots of opportuni-
ties to explore the area with our friendly volunteer walk lead-
ers. Whether you're new to the Quantocks or know the area
well, our free guided walks are a wonderful way to get out-
doors, meet new people and discover more about the land-
scape that inspired Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

Join our weekly Village Walk every Sunday at 1pm, or explore
the surrounding countryside on our next Stowey Surrounds
Walk on Thursday 8 October (9am-12pm) To book your free
place, visit our website, email us, or pop in for a chat during
opening hours.



Visitors are also welcome to enjoy our tearoom free of charge
during opening hours. Admission charges apply only if you
wish to visit Coleridge Cottage itself and are not a National
Trust member. We look forward to welcoming you this
Autumn!

October 2026

Plugged in Parish News

A round up of the latest news from Hinkley Point C



Unit 2 Reactor Building Progress

Work in Unit 2's Reactor Building has reached an important stage, with welding now set to begin on the Primary Circuit following the successful installation of the main coolant line pipework.

The Primary Circuit is the heart of the reactor's cooling system. It consists of the Reactor Pressure Vessel, four Steam Generators, four Main Coolant Pumps, and a network of large pipes that safely circulate coolant throughout the reactor.

Preparations for the next phase are already underway. The Steam Generators are scheduled to start arriving later this year, while teams continue applying protective coatings to the bunkers that will house these critical components.

This latest achievement represents another significant step forward for Unit 2 and reflects the continued progress being made at Hinkley Point C.



YOUNG HPC

Application and CV Writing Workshop | Wed 7th Oct 2026 | 18:00 - 19:00 | Online
Learn how to write a great CV and complete applications that will get you noticed!

Hinkley Point C Hiring managers will also share what they look for from applicants and answer any questions you have. Plus, all attendees will get the chance to write their own CV and earn two digital badges to showcase the skills they learned throughout the session.

Contact : younghpc@nnb-edfenergy.com

Making Fly Parking Reports Work Smarter

We're enhancing our approach to tackling fly parking with new Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping technology, helping us identify hotspots, track trends, and target patrols more effectively. Every report helps build a clearer picture and supports a more proactive response.

Even a quick report can help us identify issues and focus action where it's needed most.

Submit a report here: edfenergy.com/flyparking or scan the QR code :





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**For more information, contact
Elise on 01278 732612**



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FORTNIGHTLY ON WEDNESDAYS 10.30 – 12.00

Our Café Dates:

Wednesday 7th October

Wednesday 21st October

Wednesday 4th November

Wednesday 18th November: The Blackdown Hillbillies

Wednesday 2nd December

Wednesday 16th December: Christmas Celebrations

FORGET-ME-NOT NEWS

- Plans are well under way for our Christmas Party on December 16th in the Jubilee Rooms.
- Helen is selling her hand painted greetings cards to raise money for Alzheimer's UK. £50 has been raised this year so far.
- All are welcome from the surrounding villages.
- We need volunteers please – making teas and coffees, clearing up, or chatting to people, no experience necessary. Why not pop in, have a cuppa, and say hello one Wednesday.

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

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

For more information please contact:

Helen: 07891 547982 cuttellhelen@gmail.com

Rose: 07507 374234 rosechalk@icloud.com

St Mary's Church annual

Charity Quiz 'n' Supper



at
The Church Centre

Saturday

2026

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Quiz
has been postponed.

7.15pm

Tickets £10.00 each,

Includes Pizza & Puds,
teas and coffee.

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

Please Bring Your Own Bottle and nibbles.

Don't forget to also bring glasses and cutlery.

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

100% of all profits will be equally donated to
The Deanery Mission Project - for the homeless - through the Salvation Army
and St Mary's Church Fabric Appeal

OVER STOWEY HARVEST SUPPER

Saturday 10th October

6pm bar open, seated by 7pm

Over Stowey Village Hall

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BAR - RAFFLE - QUIZ (optional!)

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

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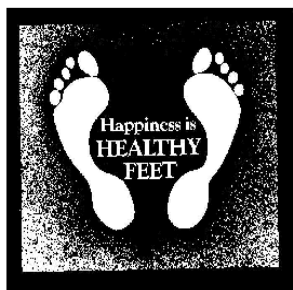
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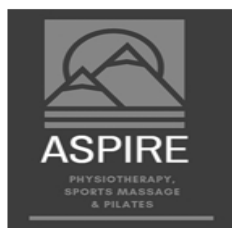
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