

STOGURSEY NEWS



Photo: MB

December 2023



Deadline for **JANUARY 2024** contributions:



10.00am Tuesday 12th December 2023

EDITORIAL

Season's Greetings to everyone from the Stogursey Editorial team!

Welcome to this festive edition packed with events throughout December and beyond.

During the run up to Christmas notable events across the parish include: the Christmas market held in the Jubilee Rooms. This is an ideal place to buy that special Christmas gift and to support one of our popular places in the village. St Andrew's church is hosting a unique event, the 'Christmas Tree Festival', where you can see a special presentation of trees along the central aisle. Continuing the Christmas theme, the Bridgwater Choral Society is having its first concert since reconvening as 'Harmonia' after lockdown at the Nether Stowey Church Hall.

On a non-festive note, there is an interesting article about how Angus beef cattle have returned to Steart Point after an absence of 30 years!

Hinkley Point C construction continues unabated with another marathon concrete pour for the second reactor building.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank again everyone involved for all their contributions and dedicated good work done throughout the parish.

Have a merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Stogursey-Online.uk

This is the parish website. It hosts pages for events, societies, community links and Parish Council news.

You can post local upcoming events on the parish website www.stogursey-online.uk

Stogursey News is posted every month on the website - useful if the delivery of your paper copy is delayed.

Stogursey News

This is an independent voluntary initiative. It is printed free of charge as a contribution to the community by Hinkley Point B (EdF).

The News offers an extra page monthly for the use of Hinkley Point C (EdF) to keep local residents well-informed.

How to contribute to Stogursey News:

a) by email:

- * Prepare your contribution as a 'word' document.
- * Attach it to an email.
- * Send it to stogurseynews@hotmail.co.uk

b) by hand:

- * Write or type your contribution.
- * Put it into the 'Stogursey News' box in the Post Office.

A few points to remember:

- Submit your contribution by the deadline date.
- Please keep within the 500-word limit.
- Provide your contact details so that we can get in touch if we need to edit.
(Stogursey News Team reserves the right to edit contributions for length and layout.)
- Send your contribution for each and every month you would like it published.
- Your illustrations must be copyright free.
(Stogursey News will not be liable for costs resulting from prosecution if this condition is ignored.)

We look forward to receiving your contributions.

Thank you

Distributors

The magazine is distributed to every household in the parish by a team of magnificent volunteers. We are most grateful to our distributors:

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Regular Events

Monday	Health Walks (weekly) Contact: https://www.sasp.co.uk/sedgemoor	Steart Marshes Car Park	2.00pm
Tuesday	Core Stability (Pilates-based) Tai Chi Shibashi for over-50s (weekly) (Contact AgeUK 01823 345 624) Stogursey Lunches (weekly) Bingo (weekly) WI (second Tuesday of month) Parish Council Meeting (second Tuesday of month) Meditation (first & third Tuesday of month) Short Mat Bowls (weekly) Contact: Ron 01278 732688 Quantock Tennis Club (first Tuesday of month)	Victory Hall Victory Hall Jubilee Rooms St Audries Centre Victory Hall Victory Hall St Andrew's Church, Lilstock Victory Hall Multi-sport court, Victory Hall	9.00am 10.30am Doors Open 12 noon Eyes Down 2.00pm 2.30pm 7.00pm 7.15pm 7.30pm - 9.00pm 6.00pm - 10.00pm
Wednesday	Forget-Me-Not Café (alternate Wednesdays) Bingo Club Ukulele Sessions (alternate Wednesdays) Sea Shanty Singers (alternate Wednesdays)	Jubilee Rooms Youth Club Greyhound Inn Jubilee Rooms	10.30am - 12 noon 7.00pm - 9.00pm 7.30pm - 9.30pm 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Thursday	Mobile Library visit (once every four-weeks) Youth Club (weekly) Stogursey Arts Photographic Society- SAPS (second Thursday of month) Film Night (monthly)	Shurton & Stogursey Youth Club Jubilee Rooms Jubilee Rooms	as per schedule 6.30pm - 8.30pm 7.00pm doors open 7.00pm
Friday	Friday Social Café (weekly) Quantock Tennis Club (weekly) Contact John Nicholson 01278 732711 or jfnicholson@talktalk.net Quiz Night (third Friday of month)	Jubilee Rooms Multi-sport court, Victory Hall Victory Hall	10.00am - 12 noon 10.00am - 12 noon doors open 7.00pm
Sunday	Quantock Tennis Club (weekly)	Multi-sport court, Victory Hall	10.00am - 12 noon

DIARY 2023

December

Saturday 2	Christmas Concert with King Alfred's Band	Victory Hall	7.00pm - 10.00pm
Wednesday 6	Forget-me-Not Café	Jubilee Rooms	10.30am - 12 noon
Wednesday 6	Ukulele Session	Greyhound Inn	7.30pm - 9.30pm
Friday 8	Christmas Quiz	Jubilee Rooms	7.00pm
Saturday 9	Christmas Market	Jubilee Rooms	10.00am - 12 noon
Sunday 10	Christmas Lunch	Victory Hall	12 noon - 2.00pm
Sunday 10	Carols by Candlelight	Stogursey Church	6.00pm
Friday 14	Christmas Bingo	Victory Hall	Doors Open 7.30pm
Monday 18	Christmas Tree Festival Opening	Stogursey Church	6.30pm-8.00pm
Tuesday 19	Christmas Lunch (Stogursey Lunches)	Jubilee Rooms	Serving at 12.30pm
Wednesday 20	Forget-me-Not Café	Jubilee Rooms	10.30am - 12 noon
Wednesday 20	Ukulele Session	Greyhound Inn	7.30pm - 9.30pm
Thursday 21	Film: "Surviving Christmas with the Relatives"	Jubilee Rooms	Doors Open 7.00pm
Sunday 24	Crib Service	Stogursey Church	4.00pm
Monday 25	Family Service	Stolford Church	9.00am
Monday 25	Family Service	Stogursey Church	10.30am

2024

Weds 3 Jan	Forget-me-Not Café	Jubilee Rooms	10.30am - 12 noon
Saturday 6 Jan	Wassail	Colepool Orchard	Early afternoon

DECEMBER SUNDAY SERVICE ROTA for Quantock Gate Parishes

CHURCH	3 rd December	10 th December	17 th December	24 th December	Christmas Day
Cannington St Mary	8.00 & 9.30am Holy Communion	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Christingle & Toy Service	8.00 & 9.30am Holy Communion 6.00pm Carols by Candlelight	8.00 & 10.00am Holy Communion 4.00pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Celebration
Blackmore Farm Chapel, Cannington			4.00pm Carols in the Chapel		
Combwich St Peter	4.00pm Christingle Service followed by switching on Christmas Lights		11.15am Holy Communion	9.00pm "Not Quite Midnight" Mass	
Fiddington St Martin	9.00am Holy Communion	9.00am Holy Communion	4.00pm Carol Service	9.00pm "Not Quite Midnight" Mass	
Stockland St Mary Madalene		4.00pm Carols by Candlelight			11.00am Family Celebration
Stolford St Peter					9.00am Family Communion
Stogursey St Andrew	10.30am Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion 6.00pm Carols by Candlelight	10.30am Holy Communion	4.00pm Crib Service	10.30am Family Celebration
	Purple	Purple	Purple	Gold/White	

All are always welcome to any of our services.
See our advert for more detail of Christmas Services at Stogursey and Stolford,
and our Christmas Tree Festival.

A very happy Christmas to all and a joyous New Year!
Revd Alison Waters, Rector & Revd Jan Church, Curate
01278 652953 / cannington.benefice@gmail.com

Thank you . . .

From cooks to bingo callers, to people who put out chairs . . . quiz planners . . . firework show organisers . . . cinema operators . . . musicians . . . church wardens . . . Christmas light managers . . . FOSS members . . . Eco Club volunteers . . . Victory Hall and Jubilee Rooms Committee members . . . Mowers of the recreation ground (and white line markers for football) . . . Youth Club supporters and committee members . . . Parish councillors . . . Planter planters, and watering planters people . . . PCC members . . . Stogursey Community Network . . . Forget-me-Not Café . . . Stogursey Lunches . . . Friday Social Café . . . Church cleaners and flower arrangers . . . Stogursey Arts Festival folk . . . Distributors of Stogursey News . . . Twinning Association . . . Food bank - donators and deliverers . . . Volunteer drivers for medical transport and collectors of prescriptions . . . people who look out for neighbours . . . raffle prize donators . . .

Gosh, the list goes on and on (and it's a long list!) but you know who you are! Loads of people are involved, voluntarily, in the parish, in making sure that people are able to get together in a wide range of community activities.

Of course it goes without saying that volunteers are always welcome in different groups!
Details can be found in here in Stogursey News.

Thanks again. Let's wish for a peaceful Christmas.

and more thanks . . .



The Stogursey Jubilee Rooms Committee is very grateful for the donation of £430 raised at the recent 'Raise the Roof' concert in aid of these community rooms, and for a very special musical evening enjoyed by all!

Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of this event.

The funds raised will be used to help pay for the material improvements to the Rooms and are very welcome indeed.

THANK YOU.

Christmas Tree Festival

**"Never worry about the size of your Christmas Tree.
In the eyes of children they are all 30 feet tall."**

Larry Wilde

Stogursey's Christmas Tree Festival opens on the evening of Monday 18th December, from 6.30pm till 8pm in St Andrew's Church. It will run through to the 24th, although the trees will remain on display during the scheduled Christmas services.

Entry to the exhibition is free and refreshments will be available on the opening night.

The exhibition will form an avenue of trees either side of the central aisle, arranged above the pews to elevate and add to the perception that the trees appear 30 foot tall. We will no doubt see if Larry Wilde's theory holds true on the opening night?

Opening times and variations with other events for each day will be posted on the front door of the Church nearer the time. We are hoping to have music at various points during the week, but do put a note in your diaries, as we have already booked two live music recitals in the programme from 12 noon until 1.00pm on the afternoons of the 22nd and the 24th. Again these are free entry and all are welcome to attend.

The artists, decorators, contributors, sponsors etc. have all been invited for The Opening Evening on the 18th, so if you want to find out a bit more about the ideas, the stories of construction and the concepts, including the background of putting the project together; there will be a brief introduction at 7pm on the opening night and a chance to talk to those in attendance who have contributed to this 'festival' project.

At the time of going to press we have around twenty confirmed exhibits from a wide variety of entrants. Exhibits range from traditionally decorated trees to 'Tree Sculptures', as well as novelty constructions and trees of celebration and memory. So there should be something for everyone to enjoy and we look forward to seeing you at some point in the week.

Finally we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

The Arts Trust is a charity, made up of interested volunteers so if you would like to get involved, do contact us via Stogursey News.

Mike Bradshaw, Stogursey Arts Trust

✨ Christmas Events ✨

around the parish

In Stogursey and Stolford Churches

Stogursey Carols by Candlelight

6.00pm Friday 10th December

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service at Stogursey

Dress as a nativity character if you would like

Christmas Day

9.00am Family Service at Stolford

10.30am Family Service at Stogursey

Bring along a pressie to show Revd Alison what Santa has brought you

Christmas Tree Festival

Monday 18th - Saturday 23rd December
Stogursey

The Priory Church of St Andrew, Stogursey
& St Peter's Church, Stolford

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 9th December

10.00 – 12.00

Jubilee Rooms, Castle Street, Stogursey
in aid of Jubilee Room funds

Entry: £2.00 (under-12s free)
includes a mince pie and a hot drink.

A RANGE OF STALLS

including:

Quantock Candles;

Local Honey; Blacksmith-made Metalwork items;

Handmade Christmas Gifts & Decorations;

Christmas Stockings, Knitted Socks & Scarves;

Garlands; Usborne Childrens' Books;

Kids' Toys Tombola;

Homemade Cakes and Bakes - Sweet and Savoury;

Homemade Chutneys - 4 varieties;

And... Win a decorated Christmas Cake!

CHILDREN'S COMPETITIONS:

★Festive Indoor Trail -

50p entry; prize for all entries

★Make and Bring a Christmas Tree ornament -
Prizes for the winners (under 14; & 14 - 100 years old!)

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Come and enjoy a fun quiz

on **Friday 8th December**

in the Jubilee Rooms, Stogursey
7.00pm

Entrance £6.00 (per person)
includes a glass of mulled wine and mince pie.

Teams of 4 people

Please register your team by 4th December:

Contact Karen Henson (STA Secretary)

on 01278 732949 or at

stogurseytwinningassociation@gmail.com

Please bring your own drink.

First prize a Christmas hamper.

We will again be supporting a chosen charity with some
of the proceeds.

Stogursey Victory Hall

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

on **SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER**

Lunch will be served between 12 noon and 2pm

2 courses £15.00 or 3 courses £20.00

Both options offer tea/coffee and mince pies to finish

CASH ONLY PLEASE

Booking preferred -

Please contact Denise on 01278 733594 or
07453381844

The bar will be open as usual from 12 noon

Stogursey Victory Hall

CHRISTMAS BINGO

will be held on

Friday 14th December

Doors Open at 7.30pm

Eyes Down at 8.00pm

Many good prizes

Please come along and support us

Bar open as usual

Bridgwater Choral Society

Christmas Concert

Nether Stowey Church Hall

Saturday December 9th at 3.00pm

Tickets for the concert will be £5, free for children.

After the Covid lockdown the society has reconvened as a four-part chamber choir, named *Harmonia*, singing a wide range choral repertoire. Our professional conductor is highly qualified and experienced in a wide variety of music making, and together with our members regards the social aspect of the choir as very important.

We hold several concerts during the year in the local area, and would welcome interest from singers or friends.

For anyone interested, please contact Sue Pow on 01278 662755.



Our Christmas offering this year is a riotous comedy starring a wealth of British acting talent.

'**Surviving Christmas With the Relatives**' sees a large and dysfunctional family reunite in their dilapidated country house to celebrate the festive season together. What could possibly go wrong!

This lovely film will set you up beautifully for the holiday season. We cannot wait to share it with you all. Join us on **Thursday 21st December** at the Jubilee Rooms. Doors will open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Tickets can be purchased on the night or in advance at the Spar.

With a complimentary glass of mulled wine and a mince pie included in the ticket price, as well as a lovely range of wines, beers and refreshments, this really is the perfect way to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year.

Merry Christmas to you all!

The Soap Factory Team

VICTORY HALL LOTTERY WINNERS

October 2023 Draw

1st prize	£25.00	Rose Barrett	No 49
2nd prize	£15.00	Brian Mitchell	No 192
3rd prize	£10.00	Betty Stone	No 70



FORGET-ME-NOT CAFÉ

Jubilee Rooms, Castle Street, Stogursey

EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY 10.30am – 12 noon

Free Entry but a donation towards running costs of this volunteer-run café would be welcome.

Forget-me-Not Cafés provide support, companionship and a warm welcome to those who are recognising issues with their memory, as well as their carers, family, and friends. We enjoy all sorts of activities including music, bingo, singing, puzzles, games, art and craft, in a friendly environment.

We also offer a friendly & confidential chat if you need it.

Please note that it is a requirement that our guests with memory issues must be accompanied by a family member, friend or carer.

All from the surrounding villages are welcome to come along for coffee and a chat. Helen and Rose look forward to seeing you soon.

Please come along to the



Christmas Tree Festival in St Andrew's Church in December and see all the beautifully decorated trees, including our Forget-me-Not tree.

Upcoming Café Dates:

Wednesday 6th December

Wednesday 20th December

CHRISTMAS PARTY with festive music and food!
(in the Jubilee Rooms)

Wednesday 3rd January 2024

Wednesday 17th January 2024 - Our 5th birthday!

****Wednesday 31st January – the Café will be in the AFTERNOON from 2.30pm instead of the morning!****

HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL AT FORGET-ME-NOT!

For more information please contact:
Helen: 01278 733451 cuttellhelen@gmail.com
Rose: 07507 374234 rosechalk@icloud.com
We are on Facebook and Instagram



CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

East Quantoxhead Village Hall

DECEMBER 9TH 10am

Café - Tombola

The Weston area ROCK CHOIR

then join us at 11.30am with festive music

Refreshments available

Stogursey Arts Photographic Society

"Spruce Up Your Next Christmas Post With One Of These Tree-mendous Instagram Caption Ideas"

PS 31 Christmas Tree Instagram Captions

(from internet research)

As Christmas approaches and 'posted' communications continue to become increasingly more digital, all sorts of other more affordable options are emerging to enable us to send Christmas greetings and festive images to friends and relatives.

To 'spruce up' and caption your festive photographs for example, if you were able to access the post above on the Internet:

- at number 26 you will find:

'I'm the best present under the Christmas Tree'

- or at number 29:

'This Christmas tree is almost as bright as my future'

... and if you don't have any festive photos, you can even go to >Getty images.com< and select from 9,858,499 royalty-free festive images and pictures to create a greeting.

As you probably guessed from the Christmas tree references, this month the SAPS discussed how we might contribute to Stogursey's Christmas Tree Festival.

After a very productive evening, we decided that we should attempt to make a 'tree' for display. So if you want to see how we got on, our very 'Flash' tree will be on display in the church, in the week running up to Christmas.

Our next photo assignment will be to capture the Christmas - 'Light Up Stogursey'.

If you fancy joining in, do send your own festive photos to Stogursey News: we could even begin to develop our own >Stogursey images.com< and add these to all the other image banks out there on the internet!

We are still looking for local groups, societies or businesses willing to have their (group) portrait taken, and to be included in our 2020's village archive. Do get in contact if you want to take part.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and an enjoyable new year.

The Arts Trust is a charity made up of interested volunteers including the SAPS. If you would like to get involved, do contact us via Stogursey News.

Mike Bradshaw, SAPS for Stogursey Arts Trust

Good health to you, "was hael"

In 1686 John Aubrey recorded the events of 'Twelve Eve':

"... the ploughmen have their Twelve-cake, and they go into the Ox-house, to the oxen with the Wassell-bowle and drink to the ox with crumpled horn, that treads out the corne; they have an old conserved rhythm: and afterwards they go with their Wassell-bowle into the orchard and goe about the trees to blesse them, and put a piece of toste upon the roots in order to it"

But the cider for the wassail bowl had to be made, and for that apple juice was needed.

Banish the winter blues and join the Wassail at Cole Pool (TA5 1PY) on **Saturday 6th Jan 2024**.

The procession leaves Stogursey Village Hall at **1.00pm**. There will be a bonfire, mulled cider and noisy festivities. There will also be hot snacks and drinks to purchase in aid of Cancer Research UK.

We will be remembering Pete Cross who tended this orchard.

The event will be organised jointly by Stogursey Twinning Association and Cancer Research UK.

NB Bring a drinking vessel and something noisy.

Stogursey Community Network (SCN)



is pleased to be able to offer the use of a self-propelling or push-assisted, very comfortable **WHEELCHAIR** For loan to anyone in need (short-medium term use).

Key Specifications:



Seat Width:
50cm



Max User Weight:
135kg / 21stone



Wheelchair Weight:
15kg

Please contact:

stogurseycommunitynetwork@gmail.com
or Tel: **01278 732149**



Stogursey Community Network

Stogursey Lunches



December 2023

The SCN is a group of volunteers who offer a wide range of services to our community.

MEDICAL TRANSPORT

For residents in the Stogursey parish, our DBS-checked volunteer drivers can take you to a **medical appointment**, including doctor, dentist, optician, physiotherapy etc, if you are unable to get there any other way. Payment is by cash donation of your choice, cheques also accepted.

In addition, SCN volunteers can collect your **prescription** and deliver it to you at home if you are unable to get to the Surgery or the Spar/PO to collect it. Just ask your Surgery to add your name to their list.

Medical transport Tel only: 07485 350560 (phone and leave a clear message please).

STOGURSEY LUNCHES

Delicious 2-course meals, cooked and served in the **Jubilee Rooms, Stogursey on Tuesdays**. Everyone is invited to enjoy our delicious lunches, lovingly prepared by our Food Hygiene Level 2-certified Volunteers. All ages very welcome. You are welcome to bring guests along, just please book in advance (see below).

A vegetarian option is always available, and we can cater for special diets / preferences, on request. *Payment is by a cash donation of the diner's choice*, cheques also accepted.

Advance booking essential. Tel: 01278 733451 by 5 pm on the preceding Friday to book your meal(s). See our Menus on this page.

PLEASE NOTE ~ The SCN Christmas Lunch on 19th December must be booked by Friday 8 December!

FOOD BANK DONATIONS AND DELIVERIES

The SCN is an official outpost of the Quantock Food Bank and Pantry. We can collect and deliver food bags to families and individuals, as required. We are always grateful for donations to the Foodbank collection boxes in our two village shops.

If you, or someone you know, needs food assistance contact us or the **Village Agent** (for a Foodbank referral) and/or **Home Start** (for families with young children). You will find their telephone numbers on the 'Contacts and Parish Information' page of **Stogursey News**.

DECEMBER MENU

Tuesday 5 December

(book by Friday 1 Dec - phone 01278 733451)

Hearty Minestrone soup with cheese
and bread roll

Home-made waffle with maple syrup
and whipped cream

Tuesday 12 December

(book by Friday 8 Dec - phone 01278 733451)

Cottage cobbler pie, OR
Homity pie
both served with vegetables

Chocolate sponge pudding
with chocolate custard or cream

Tuesday 19 December



Must be booked by Friday 8 December
phone 01278 733451

Welcoming drink

Roast Turkey
with all the trimmings,
roast potatoes, vegetables
and gravy.

OR a vegetarian alternative

Christmas pudding with cream,
OR
Sherry Trifle

Stogursey Lunches will be having a break over the Christmas and New Year period; the first lunch in 2024 will be on Tuesday 9 January.

How to contact SCN: Email: stogurseycommunitynetwork@gmail.com / Tel: 01278 732149



Stogursey C of E Primary and Pre-School



Triscombe Class

Triscombe Class have begun reading a beautiful new book for English, called *Winter Sleep: A Hibernation Story*. This book builds well on the children's previous learning about seasonal changes, and also ties in with our Winter Festival topic. The children are enjoying finding out about a little boy's visit to his Granny Sylvie, and all the things he finds out about the natural world while he is there.

For topic work, the children have been learning about The Gunpowder Plot. They have been finding out who Guy Fawkes was, and why Bridgwater Carnival takes place around Bonfire and why Bridgwater Carnival takes place around Bonfire Night.

In Maths, Reception pupils are learning about parts and wholes. This will be very important for their mathematical thinking and learning throughout school. Year 1 and Year 2 are learning about addition and subtraction, also using the concepts of parts and wholes in their calculations.

There was some excitement recently when some new small world toys arrived. They were donated by WildBrain, an animation company. The children have enjoyed playing imaginatively and creatively with the farm, garage and camping sets.

Alfoxton Class

The class has started its new topic in Geography which is to compare the geographical features of a non-European country with the United Kingdom. The children have used an atlas to find the continent of Africa and the country Kenya.

They have also enjoyed another swimming lesson, and have been working hard to progress.

Beacon Class

In Art, the pupils have made stencils, which have been laminated. Next we will be cutting them again so that we have waterproof, washable stencils that we can use again and again. It's nice to be able to work on a piece of art that builds up over time. We can't wait to

show off the end result from all of our hard work!

In English, we've been planning two stories based in space! We're creating a shared story, which will be written by the whole class, about Liam (from Cosmic) crash landing on Mars and meeting some very unfriendly Martians! Our independently written stories will be on a planet of our choice which we are designing horrible aliens for!

Pupils are investigating night and day in their Science lessons, using a torch and globe to see how this happens in different places around the world during different seasons.

Adventurers



Alfoxton finish their 4 weeks of cooking by making rough puff pastry. They used a short crust pastry recipe and layered the pastry with cheese to create some delicious cheese twists.

The children successfully followed the recipe themselves with very little help from the adults.

Wraparound

After school on Wednesday the children made some chocolate apples ready to be sold at the fire work display.



We had to keep a very close eye on the children to make sure that the chocolate didn't go in their mouths.

Important Dates:

Friday 15th December:

Christingle at the church at 2.00pm

Friday 15th December:

Last day of term

Wednesday 3rd January

First day back in the new year.

Salt Marsh Beef Grazing on Steart Point for the first time in 30 years

During the past summer we have been grazing 20 Angus beef cattle at Steart Point on land managed by the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT).

When I say Steart Point - it is also known as 'Stert Point' or 'Fenning Island' locals say one thing, the map says another, both unknown to anyone apart from a few really in the know - so I'll be describing it as 'Steart Point'.

The cattle help improve the quality of the habitat on the salt marsh. Having a low number of animals grazing, with light poaching and trampling helps to break up the dominating sea couch grass. This gives the opportunity for other plants and grasses to grow, such as samphire and sea aster. Cattle have not been grazed at the point for almost 30 years as it was deemed too risky, and many cattle were lost to the sea. However, with the help of modern technology, our cattle will help to maintain and improve the condition of the wetland habitat.

By returning the cattle to the marshland we hope that the selective grazing of the herbs and grasses will help with a few things. The sea couch will be knocked back long enough for other saltmarsh plants to grow. With this increase in plant diversity and subsequent photosynthesis, helps to capture carbon to the ground aiding to the amazing carbon sequestration marshlands already do.

This year the cattle have been allowed to graze throughout the area, including some areas of reedbeds. This may look brutal but it's introducing a variety of age structure much needed to some very rare saltmarsh specialist insects. We will be working with WWT to ensure there is rotational grazing of these areas to ensure recovery and no long-term damage to this important habitat.

All this then hopefully encourages more bird-friendly plants that the birds can graze and nest in, making the habitat more desirable for them. Also, cow pats, although frustrating to stand in, are a super, great dollop of deliciousness for the right eyes. Food for birds, especially in winter when they are full of dung beetles, a great home for the dung beetles (when not being eaten by birds) and in summer they are great source of water for honeybees and other insects.

If you have been to the right out to Steart Point you may have seen the cattle. They are the ones that look like they are wearing cow bells. These are actually GPS trackers called 'no-fence collars.' Worried that the landscape is quite treacherous with the mud flats, fast-moving tides

and large scrapes sculpted by the sea where you could easily lose a Landover, we wanted to make sure the cattle would be safe.

The no-fence collars enable us to set up an invisible boundary. The GPS in the collars connects and when the animal moves close to the boundary, a little tune plays to them as a warning that they are at the edge of their safe area. If they push too far then they receive a little electric shock. It's amazing how they have learnt what the tune means and now very rarely receive a shock.

We have had our fair share of frustrating moments though. Namely, break outs at 2am, lost collars and other livestock breaking in, which caused mass confusion. Every time things like this happen, we get notified through our app and that's when the phone will go mad letting us know there is an issue.

The cattle is not only just great for the insects, birds and the bees. Grass fed beef has extra nutritional benefits for us too over corn fed cattle. By grazing on the salt marsh the animals have been enjoying a completely natural diet meaning that the meat will generally be leaner and nutritionally dense. Grass fed meat is generally higher in Omega-3, rich in Vitamin A and E, and has lower amounts of saturated fats. There are also added antioxidants, which the animals eat when eating the huge variety of grasses that are on the marshes.

All of this means that it costs us more and the process takes longer but we think that it makes a real difference to the health of the cattle as they grow. They choose the different grasses and plants that they want to eat depending on their needs, ultimately adding to the taste.

As and when the cattle are ready there will be salt marsh meat boxes available to order, so please do let us know if you would like one.

£160 meat boxed consists of 10kgs of beef split as follows:

- 2 roasting joints
- 1 slow roasting joint
- 3 packs of 2 steaks
- 2 packs of diced beef
- 3 packs of mince

There may be some variation as the cattle do vary in size.

If you would like to go on the waiting list for a meat box or require more information, please email info@bluecarbonfarming.co.uk.

Thank you,

*Matt, Andy and Sam -
The Blue Carbon Farming Company*

Strummers of Stogursey

We are a happy, friendly group who meet every second Wednesday at the Greyhound Inn to strum ukuleles, sing, drum or play percussion. You can borrow a uke, or a tambourine or shaker. Maybe you can play spoons - we heard there was a comb and paper player lurking somewhere in the village too. Don't be shy - come along and give us a try, we'll be happy to see you.

Dates for December are Wednesdays 6th and 20th.

Further info:

Rose.palmer280@gmail.com

lanelenor@gmail.com



Stowey Gardeners is a vibrant club based in Nether Stowey, drawing members from all around the Quantock area. We meet monthly in St Mary's Church Centre, Nether Stowey, to enjoy a guest speaker, raffle, and garden table.

The aim of the club is to offer gardeners whatever their enthusiasm, a chance to get together with other gardeners in the locality, to exchange knowledge & information on a huge range of topics to their joint advantage and mutual interest. Novices welcome!

Members free (annual membership £20), guests £5, which includes free tea/coffee & home made cake! All welcome.

Coming up:

Wednesday December 13th –

Members' Christmas party

January 18th 2024 AGM 7pm

For more information about our vibrant club, contact secretary Lucy Haswell 01278 671289 shbassoon@aol.com.

Or visit - <https://sites.google.com/site/stowey-gardeners>

Solution to Quick Crossword No 41 –

OCTOBER 2023

ACROSS:

1. Mattock, 5. Strut, 8. Gambolled, 9. Zed, 10. Audio, 12. Immerse, 13. Meteorologist, 15. Acrylic, 17. Eilat, 19. MBE, 20. Esplanade, 22. Rotis, 23. Snooker

DOWN:

1. Magma, 2. Tum, 3. Oloroso, 4. Kaleidoscope, 5. Sedum, 6. Razorbill, 7. Tidiest, 11. Detergent, 13. Myanmar, 14. Organo, 16. Leeds, 18. Their, 21. Auk

News from the Quantock Medical Centre

Wishing all our Patients a very Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year!

This is an early reminder to think about ordering your medication at least 3 working days before you run out and especially if you are going away for Christmas and the New Year!

We will be closed on the following dates:

Sunday 24th December,

Monday 25th December and Tuesday 26th December;

Sunday 31st December 2023, and

Monday 1st January 2024.

Dispensary collection times are Monday to Friday 10am – 12 noon, and 4pm – 6pm.

We know that patients would like the dispensary to be open all the time for collections, but you will understand that the Dispensary team need time, without interruptions, to process medication requests and to re-stock safely. If you really are unable to pick up during these times, you need to call and let Dispensary know so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Free Seasonal Flu Vaccinations: if you are aged over 65 years, or you are under 65 years old with a medical condition you are entitled for a free seasonal flu vaccination. Please phone the Surgery on 01278 732696 to check and book an appointment.

This time of year can be very difficult and lonely for some; please think of those around you and offer kindness. Some other useful helplines are:

- **Silver Line Free Helpline for older people** offers friendship, conversation and support 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week. **0800 4 70 80 90**
- **The Somerset Mindline** is open 24 hours a day for mental health and emotional wellbeing support – **01823 276 892**.
- **Samaritans** 24 hour support line 116 123
- **Papyrus** If you are concerned about a young person who may have suicidal thoughts 0800 068 4141
- **Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM)** Offering support to males of any age 0800 58 58 58

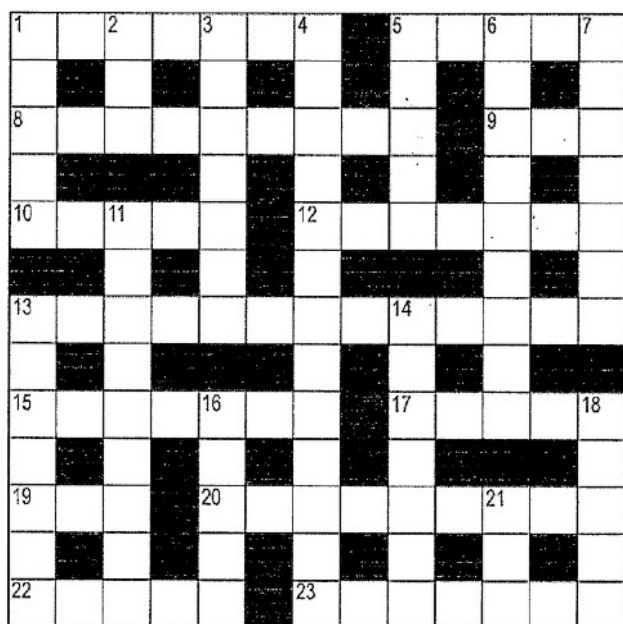
Thank you for your support over the last year, we all really appreciate it.

Merry Christmas

Helen Stacey Practice Manager

Quick Crossword No 43

Compiled by Helen Cuttall



CLUES ACROSS

1. One of Santa's reindeer (7)
5. Flowering plant of the pea family (5)
8. Producing a single offspring at birth (9)
9. Can be added to a sauce for Christmas pudding (3)
10. A pink pig from the animated TV series (5)
12. A person who has long experience in a particular field (7)
13. Town on the River Avon in the New Forest (13)
15. Small piece of cloth left over when most of the cloth has been used (7)
17. To put ones clothes on (5)
19. Used to form words that describe a person with a particular set of beliefs or ways of behaving (3)
20. Something you can chew and blow (9)
22. Relating to the countryside (5)
23. Spiny egg laying mammal native to Australia (7)

CLUES DOWN

1. Having a full rounded shape (5)
2. Mohammad - - - famous boxer (3)
3. Thin pancake of unleavened bread cooked on a griddle (7)
4. Parsnip, carrot, potato (13)
5. Hungarian composer (5)
6. Sometimes found in a pear tree (9)
7. A person who is officially chosen for a position or an honour (7)
11. The outer edge of an area of land (9)
13. A smith who shoes horses (7)
14. He has a shiny, red nose (7)
16. A small, hot pepper from Mexico (5)
18. Brazilian dance of African origin (5)
21. - - - about - flits around in social activity (3)

Points from the Parish Council Meeting

14th November 2023

Christmas Tree on The Gravel

To help brighten the Christmas celebrations, the Parish Council is once again arranging for a Christmas tree to be delivered to The Gravel, but would ask if there are any active volunteers who could assist with erecting it and the Christmas lights. Please speak to one of the Councillors or the Clerk so that we can co-ordinate its delivery with the helpers.

Flooding on the Roads

Recent weather has heightened the need for residents to be aware of the way to report flooding affecting our local roads. The best route is on Somerset Council's website - www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road or during office hours by phone on **0300 123 2224**.

Local riparian owners can also help reduce the issues of flooding of their own or their neighbours property and the roads by ensuring that the watercourses they are responsible for are well maintained. Information is available on the parish website - www.stogursey-online.uk/guidance-for-riparian-owners

Road Safety Initiative

The long-awaited funding for speed indication devices to be used across several sites identified in the parish has at last been received from the Avon and Somerset Police Community Trust. Hopefully the system will be in use early in the New Year.

Vacancy for Parish Councillor

There is still a vacancy for a Councillor to join the Parish Council. This role can be filled by co-option of an individual who is: a British subject, on the electoral register of the parish, over 18 years of age and is not disbarred from standing. Please contact the Clerk to obtain the necessary form and with any queries you may have about the role. You can speak to any of the current Councillors or the Clerk.

Date of next Meeting

The Parish Council is due to meet on the evening of **Tuesday 12th December 2023**. Next year's council budget will be one item to be discussed. In light of announcements on the state of the finances of Somerset Council, it is likely to be a lengthy discussion regarding the provision of and support given to council services or local groups in the new year.

Please see the agenda and draft minutes of the last meeting on the parish website, www.stogursey-online.uk or any of the parish noticeboards, where you will also find the dates of meetings due to be held until May 2024.

If necessary, please contact the Clerk for any further information ahead of the meeting on 01278 652534 or e-mail clerk@stogurseyparishcouncil.org.uk or clerk@stogurseyparishcouncil.org.uk

Richard Wand, Clerk to Stogursey Parish Council
Richard Wand



somerset **village** &
community agents
part of CCS

'Knit For Your Neighbour' winter campaign

Our Village Agent team has launched its new 'Knit For Your Neighbour' winter campaign.

We are looking for individuals and groups to come together and make beautifully warm blankets that our Village Agents can distribute to the most vulnerable this winter.

We are calling on all knitters, crocheters and quilters in Somerset to make blankets for those in need, helping them stay warm and healthy this winter.

Perhaps you or a family member could knit, crochet, sew or donate a blanket?

If you don't knit or sew, but would like to donate a blanket, we will also accept new blankets with tags on, but we are unable to accept secondhand blankets.

All completed blankets can be dropped off at any of our Talking Café venues across Somerset. Our team of Village Agents will make sure that blankets are delivered to the most vulnerable if unable to get to a Talking Café.

Your local Village Agent is Sarah Bennett
<sarahb@Somersetccc.org.uk>

Check out the CCS Village & Community Agents website here:

www.somersetagents.org

or the CCS website here:

www.ccslovesomerset.org

Over 60s Research

Do you run a group that offers support or activities for people over the age of 60?

We'd like to know more about what you do, and what challenges you are facing.

To contribute to this research, please complete our online survey:

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SCF-olderpeople, or scan this code:



If you prefer to complete the survey by phone, please call: 01823 331222, and ask for Sarah Ollerenshaw.

PRIZE DRAW

Participants could win a £100 shopping voucher to use for its group.

This will help Somerset Community Foundation to be able to make decisions about future grant making to meet smaller organisations and older people's needs in the future.

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Stacy's Update

I am pleased to share the latest updates and milestone moments from Hinkley Point C.

I had the pleasure of attending Bridgwater's world-famous Carnival on 4th November and it was particularly heartening to see many familiar faces from the local community, assuming different responsibilities. I also had the real privilege to take part in the squibbing following the procession – it will be memory that will last as long as the spark burns on my HPC hard-hat. I thoroughly enjoyed the squibbing and I know many come to Bridgwater just to see it!

HPC Campus supports Sea Cadets

Adding to Hinkley Point C's sponsorship of this years' carnival, the projects' accommodation provider HOST added their support in looking after local Sea Cadets taking part in the celebrations. Thanks to the generosity and open doors of the team at the Sedgemoor campus, the cadets were provided with a place to stay warm and enjoyed a meal between their afternoon and evening carnival displays. Their exemplary behaviour throughout the day was a testament to their dedication and discipline.



Unit 2 Concrete Pour

In construction news, we have made significant progress on the second reactor's containment building. Two, 30-hour concrete pours were completed ahead of schedule. The first pour for the outer containment, used over 1,500m³ of concrete, followed by the second pour, for the inner containment, that needed almost 1,00m³. The work to continue building up the containment is all in preparation for lifting the second reactor's next steel liner ring towards the end of the year.



The latest edition of PluggedIn is available online, to view it please click on the QR code. If you would like to receive a copy to your door, please contact us at the email address provided below.

I have enjoyed meeting many of our local community in my first year at Hinkley Point C and I would like to thank you for your contributions.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Email: hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com **Telephone:** 0333 009 7070



Hinkley Point C - Monthly Update

A round up of the latest news from Hinkley Point C

Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset visits Hinkley Point C

The King's representative in Somerset, Lord-Lieutenant Mohammed Saddiq recently visited Hinkley Point C to meet with our chaplaincy team and workers from the Christian and Muslim communities.

Mohammed spoke with the team about the spiritual and pastoral support available and took part in both Christian and Muslim prayer.

Mohammed, said:

"It was fascinating to hear about the progress of the project but also to learn of the efforts the company is making to care for their workforce, and to cater for the needs of people from different faiths. In today's workforce that is so important."



Armistice Day - Remembrance

On November 10th, Hinkley Point C observed a two-minute silence ahead of Armistice Day. Armistice marks an agreement to end the fighting of the First World War as a prelude to peace negotiations. It began at 11am on 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. Armistice is Latin for to stand (still) arms.

A poppy-laying ceremony took place, as we paused to reflect the price of freedom, and to remember those that lost their lives or have been injured in conflicts from 1914 to the present day.

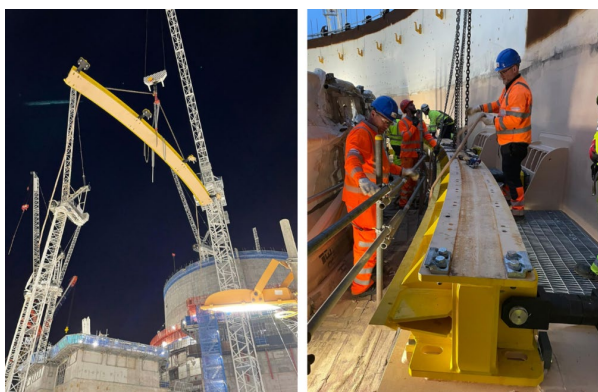


Polar Crane rails land safely

Three (out of 15) rails have been installed on the circular runway that will carry the polar crane as it runs around the circumference of the Unit 1 Reactor Building.

This is part of the vital work that must be completed before we lift the Dome onto the top of Unit 1 at the end of the year.

Each rail weighs 7.5 tonnes.



PluggedIn

Find out about the latest progress being made on site and what's happening in the local community, in the latest edition of Plugged in -

<https://www.edfenergy.com/energy/nuclear-new-build-projects/hinkley-point-c/local-community>



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What's On at the Greyhound:

Open mic: last Saturday each month;

Karaoke: every Friday 8 - 11pm

Ukulele session: 2nd Weds of month

Contacts and Parish Information

Parish Council:

Chris Morgan (Chair), Sue Goss (Vice-Chair), Chris Ford, Julie Jones, Susan E Jones, Greg Millar, Scott Nurton, Jenny Ody, Allan Searle

Clerk: Richard Wand 01278 652534/
clerk@stogurseyparishcouncil.org.uk

Meetings: held monthly in the Victory Hall, Stogursey 7.15 - 7.30pm Public Forum for parishioners to ask questions;
7.30pm Councillors' meeting starts - parishioners welcome to attend and listen.

Somerset Council: Watchet & Stogursey Division
Councillors: Hugh Davies, Rosemary Woods

Site Stakeholders Group Representatives:
Sue Goss, Chris Morgan

Somerset County Council: All services 0300 123 2224

Parish Neighbourhood Welcome Pack

Burton & Knighton:	Sue Goss	01278 733405
Wick & Stolford:	Susan E Jones	01278 652287
Stogursey & Shurton:	Chris Morgan	01278 734887

EdF Main Site Neighbourhood Forum Representatives for the hamlets:

Burton & Knighton

Mike Laver, m_laver@btinternet.com 01278 732069
Sue Jones, suekibjones@yahoo.co.uk 01278 732275

Shurton

Richard Cuttell, cuttellrichard@gmail.com 01278 734818

Stolford

Susan E Jones, suejones279@btinternet.com
01278 652287

Wick

Dick Blomfield, richie.blomfield@btinternet.com
01278 653302

Stogursey Parish Council

Chris Ford and Sue Goss

EdF Contacts

Hinkley Point C Drop-ins/Main Site Forums

Phone 0333 009 7070 or
email: hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com

HPC Hotline for enquiries or complaints: 0333 009 7070

POLICE

Non-Emergencies - Call 101. Emergencies - Call 999

Community Venues

Victory Hall & Youth Club - Allan Searle 01278 732820

Jubilee Rooms - sjrbookings7@gmail.com / 01278 732149
(leave message: contact name/number & date/time venue required)

St Peter's Church, Stolford - Susan E Jones 01278 652287

Stogursey Community Network (SCN)

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StogurseySCN

Phone: 01278 732149

Medical Transport: 07485 350560

Homestart - supporting families & young children.

Tel: 01643 707304

Email: admin@homestart-westsomerset.org.uk

Village Agent - Sarah Bennett 07985 680269
sarahb@somersetccc.org.uk - NetherStoweyCare

Health Centres

Cannington 01278 652335

Quantock (Nether Stowey) 01278 732696

Out-of-hours (for both centres) 111

Defibrillators - 3 in the parish:

♥ Stogursey - on wall outside Stogursey Motors

♥ Shurton - side entrance of Babbling Brook

♥ Stolford - church of St Peter.

Mobile Library - Route G

The library van visits on Thursdays - every 4 weeks

Shurton

Babbling Brook Inn 12.05pm - 12.30pm

Stogursey

Greyhound Inn 1.10pm - 1.40pm

Town Close (No 30) 1.45pm - 2.10pm

Next scheduled Visits in 2023 & 2024

14 December; 25 January; 22 February; 21 March

For more information, contact Libraries Direct:

Tel: 0300 123224, or email www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

If you see any ASB or criminal damage incidents happening in public spaces, **phone the police on 101.**

If you are disturbed by out-of-hours noise problems or ASB relating to businesses, **phone 01823 351411.**

Please make phone calls at the time of the disturbance. The more complaints that are received, the more likely it is that the police will respond.

Complainants' names are not given to the perpetrators.