

# STOGURSEY NEWS



*Photo: IE*

## January 2026

# Deadline for **FEBRUARY 2026** contributions: 10.00am **Thursday 15th January 2025**

## Editorial

With Christmas over and looking out of the window during the dark and cold January, why don't you read the article by Lorna Peaster about her adventure to Kenya last year where she volunteered her time for a worthy cause to help vulnerable street children?

Bring in the New Year Somerset style - go to the annual Wassail in Shurton to ward off the bad spirits for a prosperous year ahead, and sample some mulled local cider.

Looking further ahead beyond January, there are two events taking place which promise to be very entertaining: a Comedy Night on 14th February in the Victory Hall; and an intriguing-looking Murder Mystery Dinner in March (with early-bird tickets available to buy from this month!)

As it is now the depths of winter, and before the weather gets even colder, do not forget to top up your heating oil as there is a bulk discount available via the usual application in this month's edition.

Finally, the Stogursey Arts Trust is asking us to complete a survey which you will find on the last page of the magazine.

Happy New Year to all from the Editorial Team!

## 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](http://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 extra pages monthly for the use of Hinkley Point C (EdF) to keep local residents well-informed.

## Guidelines

### for contributing to Stogursey News

- \* Prepare your contribution as a straightforward text document (no boxes, no tables and not pdfs please)
- \* Attach it to an email, and send to: [stogurseyparishnews@gmail.com](mailto:stogurseyparishnews@gmail.com)

### A few more points to remember:

- Please submit by the deadline date published at the top of this page.
- Please keep within a 500-word limit.
- Stogursey News Team reserves the right to edit contributions for length, and for space available.
- Your contribution will be published in our standardised font style, font size and colour. *(We do not print colour or A4 posters).*
- Send your contribution for each and every month that you would like it published.
- If you include an illustration, it 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 very grateful to our distributors:

Belinda Crowther	Lynda Ayre
Carole Mallett	Paul Welbourne
Carlie & Bronte Nicholls	Pete Levy
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## Editorial Team

James Cousins  
Paul Welbourne  
Roger Ashby  
Steve Stoneham  
Suzy Taylor  
Teresa Miller

## Archive

Paul Welbourne

## Stogursey-Online

Jenny Ody  
Jo Cavill

Regular Events			
Monday	*60+ Rehabilitation Fitness Class (weekly) *Spinal Mobility, Balance & Strength Class (weekly) Health Walks - Level One (weekly) <i>Contact: <a href="https://www.sasp.co.uk/sedgemoor">https://www.sasp.co.uk/sedgemoor</a></i>	Victory Hall Victory Hall Stear Marshes Car Park	9.30am - 10.40am 11.00am - 12 noon 2.00pm
Tuesday	*Core Stability - Pilates-based (weekly) Tai Chi Shibashi for over-50s (weekly) <i>(Contact AgeUK 01823 345 624)</i> Stogursey Lunches (weekly, except 1st Tues of month) Bingo (weekly) Parish Council Meeting (2nd Tuesday of month) Meditation (1st & 3rd Tuesday of month) Short Mat Bowls (weekly) <i>Contact: Ron 01278 732688</i> Quantock Tennis Club (1st Tuesday of month)	Victory Hall Victory Hall Jubilee Rooms St Audries Centre Victory Hall St Andrew's Church, Lilstock Victory Hall Multi-sport court, Victory	9.00am - 10.00am 10.30am Doors Open 12 noon Eyes Down 2.00pm 7.00pm 7.15pm 7.30pm - 9.00pm 3.00pm - 5.00pm
Wednesday	Forget-Me-Not Café (alternate Wednesdays) Ukulele Sessions (alternate Wednesdays) Sea Shanty Singers (alternate Wednesdays)	Jubilee Rooms To be arranged To be arranged	10.30am - 12 noon 7.30pm - 9.30pm 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Thursday	Health Walks - Level Two (weekly) <i>Contact - <a href="https://www.sasp.co.uk/health-walks">https://www.sasp.co.uk/health-walks</a></i> Mobile Library visit (once every four weeks) Youth Club (weekly) Sing for Fun Group (every 2nd & 4th Thursday of month) Stogursey Arts Photographic Society (SAPS) <i>(2nd Thurs of month. Contact 5 St Andrews Rd, Stogursey)</i>	Stear Marshes Car Park Shurton & Stogursey Youth Club Victory Hall Various locations	10.00am as per schedule 6.30pm - 8.30pm 7.00pm - 8.30pm 7.00pm
Friday	Toddler & Baby Group (term-time only) Friday Social Café (weekly) Quantock Tennis Club (weekly) <i>Contact John Nicholson 01278 732711 / <a href="mailto:JFNicholson@talktalk.net">JFNicholson@talktalk.net</a></i>	Victory Hall Jubilee Rooms Multi-sport court, Victory Hall	9.30am - 11.30am 10.00am - 12 noon 10.00am - 12 noon
Sunday	Quantock Tennis Club (weekly)	Multi-sport court, V Hall	10.00am - 12 noon

\* Contact [siancocks@btinternet.com](mailto:siancocks@btinternet.com) / 01278 652411

January 2026			
Thursday 8	Singing for Fun	Victory Hall	7.30pm
Saturday 10	Wassail	Babbling Brook Inn	1.00pm
Tuesday 13	Parish Council Meeting	Victory Hall	7.00pm
Wednesday 14	Forget-me-not Café	Jubilee Rooms	10.30am - 12 noon
Friday 16	Quiz Night - Theme: 'Down Under'	Victory Hall	7.00pm
Thursday 22	Singing for Fun	Victory Hall	7.30pm
Friday 23	Open Mic	Victory Hall	
Sunday 25	Sunday Roast	Victory Hall	12 noon - 2.00pm
Sunday 25	Sunshine Tea	Jubilee Rooms	2.30pm - 4.30pm
Wednesday 28	Forget-me-not Café	Jubilee Rooms	10.30am - 12 noon
February			
Tuesday 3	Photo Show - Local Wildlife	Fiddington Village Hall	7.00pm
Saturday 6	Quiz Night	Victory Hall	7.00pm
Monday 9	Stogursey Arts Annual General Meeting	Jubilee Rooms	7.00pm
Wednesday 11	Forget-me-not Café	Jubilee Rooms	10.30am - 12 noon

## Thank you!

Following my thirty days of Radiotherapy, I want to send huge, huge Thanks to the people who ferried me each day to Taunton Hospital. I am blown away by their generous support. Truly amazing. I will never forget it. Thankyou, Thankyou.

*Belinda Crowther*

## Quantock Quilting and Sewing Group

would like to extend their grateful thanks to everyone who kindly attended our recent Christmas Fayre at Nether Stowey Church Hall on the 22nd of November. It was an extremely successful day despite the dreadful weather. The club managed to raise **£450.00** for the **Alzheimer's Research UK** our chosen charity this year. A special thank you to Nether Stowey Church and their congregation, also to those of your readers who came to our event and supported our fund raising efforts.

*Anna Boulton (Secretary)*

## Thank you

I would like to say a big thank you to all of the news team, and the team of volunteers who deliver the parish news, it is very much appreciated.

Wishing you a Healthy New Year

*Allan Searle*

## Stogursey Victory Village Hall Committee

would like to wish everyone a very prosperous New Year. We would also like to thank everyone for their support and we look forward to seeing you in 2026 at our forthcoming events.

*Heather Ranson,  
Chairperson Stogursey Victory Village Hall Committee*

## Wassail

What does it mean? The word is derived from old English "Was Hael", which means "Good Health". At this time of year as the weather is damp and cold, what better than to drink a toast to those around you with a warming spiced beverage. This winter tradition has developed into a ceremony in orchards to raise a glass and wish good health to the dormant apple trees so that they may produce a good crop.

Come, join in the celebrations on **Saturday 10th January** in Shurton. Meet at the Babbling Brook at 1.00pm. Then follow the Big Noise band to Yellow Door Cottage. Refreshments will be available. Bring something noisy and a drinking vessel.

Was Hael . . .

## STOGURSEY VICTORY HALL

### SUNDAY ROAST



on **SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY**

LUNCH SERVED BETWEEN 12.00 -2.00pm

One Course- £10.00

Two Courses- £15.00

VEGGIE OPTIONS AVAILABLE BY REQUEST

Bar Open at 12 noon

PLEASE CONTACT DENISE OLIVER

Tel: 01278 733594 / 07453 381844

## SUNSHINE TEA

Escape the cold and dark for a Sunshine Tea -

**Sunday 25th January**

Stogursey Jubilee Rooms

From 2.30pm until 4.30pm

£5 adult entry includes a large piece , or 2 small pieces, of homemade cake and unlimited tea or coffee.

The Fortress sales table will be there with lots of beautiful treasures.

All proceeds go to the Fortress Charity in Kampala Uganda.

Don't know about The Fortress?

Come and chat to Hilary over tea & cake and find out about this life-changing charity.

## STOGURSEY VICTORY HALL LOTTERY

Stogursey Victory Hall will again be running a lottery from January. Only £12 per ticket for the year, and prizes of £25, £15 and £10 are drawn every month, with bumper top prizes in June and December.

Details on how to get your tickets will be announced in Stogursey Pulse and at the hall in the New Year.

### LOTTERY WINNERS - November Draw 2025

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	£25.00	Derek Patrick	No. 76
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	£15.00	Polly Cross	No. 104
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	£10.00	Ann Large	No. 88



## Forthcoming events in Fiddington

### Book Swap and Coffee morning –

Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January, Village Hall,  
10.00am to 12.00 midday, as per the first Saturday of  
each month.

£2 entry includes coffee and entry; £3 if toast as well;  
£7 for cooked breakfast.

For details, phone Ruth Brazier 07721 012178.

### Tea and chat -

Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> January, Village hall,  
2.00pm to 6.00pm. All friendly faces welcome.  
Run in association with St Martin's Church.

### Fiddington Art Group –

Village Hall, each Wednesday morning  
from 10.00am to 1.00pm.

If you are interested in joining or would like further  
information please contact

Richard Brazier 01278 734565.

## Summer colour amid winter's drear –

a digital photo show and discussion of wildlife local to  
Fiddington, Stogursey and Stowey Wood.

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February,**  
Fiddington Village Hall, 7.00pm.

£5 entry -

All proceeds going to Somerset Wildlife Trust's  
appeal for land purchase at Catcott.

For further information contact  
Rod Cole 01278 732345.

## 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).



Seat Width:  
50cm

### Key Specifications:



Max User Weight:  
135kg / 21stone



Wheelchair Weight:  
15kg

### Please contact:

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



## STOGURSEY ALLOTMENT NEWS

### Happy New Year!

I hope many of you managed to visit the wonderful  
Christmas tree festival in the Church last month. If you did,  
you may have noticed the Stogursey allotmenters' first  
attempt at a tree and our homage to the late Ron Balaam  
and his chickens – all of whom are sadly missed.

We've had our allotment in Stogursey for about 18 months  
now, luckily right behind our home. What does an allotment  
mean? Different things to everyone. For some it is the  
pleasure and satisfaction in growing and eating your own  
food, it tastes different, better than bought from the shop,  
you know what went into it, and the environment benefits  
from reducing the cost of what you eat.

For some it is the work itself - the exercise and fresh air,  
digging and turning the ground, watering, protecting from  
pests, the ache of used muscles and getting or maintaining  
fitness, the mindfulness of seeding, weeding, harvesting  
and storage. The pleasure of weighing stones of potatoes,  
onions, carrots and parsnips, knowing we did this and the  
financial saving which can be significant.

I have loved having meals this year where the only shop  
bought ingredient was the meat. In this time of financial  
pressures having extra food to supplement your income,  
to be able to gift to family and friends, the emotional boost  
and mental security that offers is very welcome.

The allotment is a continuous cycle of preparation, growth,  
harvest and maintenance. December was a time for  
maintenance, and January is completing your maintenance  
and preparing for the coming year. Depending on the  
weather, you could be digging over the empty patches  
aerating the soil, adding compost or well-rotted manure  
while digging over, or spreading over the surface for it to  
incorporate naturally. If the weather is bad, work indoors,  
finish maintenance of tools, clean pots and seed trays, and  
plan your planting for the year. Order seeds and begin  
chitting early potatoes. Buy shallots and onion sets ahead  
of planting in February and March.

The allotment is not just for one person, it's an investment  
for your family. If you have the time to put into it, I  
encourage you to register for a plot, and begin growing  
some of your own produce, spreading the work as a family.  
It's not instant but in our second year here we had 7 stone  
of potatoes, about the same of tomatoes, more peas and  
beans than we could eat, raspberries, strawberries,  
gooseberries, courgettes and lettuce and cucumber,  
carrots and parsnips, and in 2026 I hope for more again.

*If you are interested in taking on an allotment please  
contact the Clerk to the Parish Council by emailing  
[clerk@stogurseyparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@stogurseyparishcouncil.org.uk)*



**STOGURSEY  
FORGET-ME-NOT CAFÉ**  
Jubilee Rooms, Castle Street,  
Stogursey

FORTNIGHTLY ON WEDNESDAYS.

10.30am – 12.00 noon

**WISHING ALL OUR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS  
A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Café Dates:

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 –

New Year Café and Birthday Celebrations

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February

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. There are a variety of activities, some involving existing local groups, such as music, singing, arts, crafts, poetry, bingo, quizzes, or just a quiet chat over a coffee. We are a voluntary group, financed by donations and fundraising events.

The Café runs fortnightly planned so that the café is open the alternate week to Watchet Forget-me-Not Café. Many friendships have been made over the years. Please come along and see what we do, you will receive a warm welcome.

**VOLUNTEERING** We have a lovely group of friendly volunteers, but we always need extra help at the Forget-me-Not Café, - making teas and coffees, washing up, or chatting to people. Why not pop in one Wednesday for a cuppa and say hello?

All are welcome from the neighbouring villages.

For more information please contact:

Helen: 01278 733451 [cuttellhelen@gmail.com](mailto:cuttellhelen@gmail.com)

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



**Solution to Crossword No 67  
December 2025**

**ACROSS:**

1.Laridae, 5.Tacos, 8.Resentful, 9.Rio, 10.Corgi,  
12.Nippers, 13.English Setter, 15.Chablis, 17.Ihram,  
19.Yeo, 20.Aleutians, 22.Teeth, 23.Faeroes

**DOWN:**

1.Lyric, 2.Ris, 3.Dandini, 4.Elf on the Shelf, 5.Tulip,  
6.Carpenter, 7.Sponsor, 11.Rigmarole, 13.Encrypt,  
14.Epistle, 16.Loach, 18.Masks, 21.Adv



**HOLFORD GARDENERS GROUP**  
present

**'The Year Round Bulb Garden'**

A talk by  
**Christine Skelmersdale**

**Tuesday January 20<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm**

Holford Village Hall

Club Raffle

All Visitors £2.00 Members £1.00

**STOGURSEY ARTS  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Stogursey Arts invites all interested people to attend the Annual General Meeting on  
**MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 7.00pm**  
**IN THE JUBILEE ROOMS, CASTLE ST, STOGURSEY**

We plan to give a presentation of the 2025 ArtsFestival (maybe even see yourself on film!) and offer the opportunity for you to sign up for further activities in 2026.

We need your input on what you want. We hope to have the results of our Survey to help us too.

Drinks and eats provided for a small donation.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

**RSVP [stogurseyartstrust@gmail.com](mailto:stogurseyartstrust@gmail.com) or  
Tel: 01278 732149 and leave a message.**

**Did you know?**

**30 years ago: April 5<sup>th</sup> 1983**

*from Bridgwater Mercury April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013*

Bridgwater MP Tom King, Secretary of State for the Environment, was to be asked to 'spot list' the historic Pound at Stogursey to prevent it being demolished to make way for a public lavatory.

The Pound had been proposed as a site for a public loo, even though it was in the heart of the village's conservation area, part of Mr King's constituency.

*Were you here? If so, what did you think?*

## Stogursey Oil-buying Group

The Stogursey Oil-buying Group's next order will be in **January**. The scheme is open free of charge to all households within the Stogursey News distribution area except those whose oil delivery has to be made through the house. The minimum order is 500 litres. We usually get a better price than that quoted for individual orders. **The next order after this one will be in March.** If you have any questions about the oil-buying group I can be contacted on 0755 261 0692.

*Chris Ford*

To place an order please leave the form in the Post Office, or telephone (01278 732191), or email [stogurseyford@gmail.com](mailto:stogurseyford@gmail.com) by

**10.00am Monday 12th January 2026**  
with the following information:-

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode .....

Email (if available) .....

Tel: .....

Amount of oil required ..... litres

*Note - Please specify an amount and not an unknown quantity such as top up.*

Special instructions .....

.....

**Delivery will be in the 2 week period commencing 13th of January.**

## VICTORY HALL NEWS

Hi everyone!

We had a busy start to December with a fabulous Christmas Bingo with lots of wonderful prizes! Thank you to everyone who donated & took part in attending and helping. A special thanks to Allan Searle for calling on the night and organizing.

Christmas Sunday Lunch was a sell out - 55 to lunch! Well done Denise Oliver & team!

We are now looking forward to some exciting events & planning for 2026! Get your diaries ready.

### JANUARY EVENTS

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>**: Singing for Fun, 7.30pm, donation £2.00  
Everyone welcome

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup>**: Quiz Night- Australian Theme -  
Down Under. Bar Open 7.00pm for  
7.30pm start. £2 per person.

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>**: Singing For Fun, 7.00-8.30pm,  
donation £2.00.

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>**: Open Mic organized by Colin Pye.  
Bar Open.

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>**: Sunday Lunch 12noon -2.00pm.  
Bar Open.

### FEBRUARY EVENTS

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup>**: Quiz Night.

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>**: Comedy Night.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>**: Sunday Lunch

After much thought we have decided that in January the social club is to be closed temporarily. This is as it is quieter time so therefore not financially viable. This will be reviewed for February.

### THE BAR WILL BE OPEN FOR ADVERTISED EVENTS

Short Mat Bowls runs every Tuesday evening, this will be continuing.

Singing for Fun will run every 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month. From 7.00pm till 8.30pm. We ask for a £2.00 donation towards the hall. Everyone welcome.

However is there anyone interested in an afternoon bowling club??  
If so please contact Allan Searle on 01278 732820.



# Stogursey C of E Primary and Pre-School



Tel: 01278 732389

email: [stogurseyschool@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:stogurseyschool@educ.somerset.gov.uk)

website: <http://www.stogurseyprimaryschool.co.uk>

*This month's news reflects the exciting things that were going on at school towards the end of the winter term, when all the staff and children were very busy with Christmas activities.*

The Christmas tree is up in the hall; the children are practising carols so it's feeling very Christmassy around school.

I hope everyone enjoyed the nativity play as much as I did. So many stars in the making! It is always a special time to remember when the children are small.

Thank you for supporting the trip to the pantomime, the children had a fabulous time and behaved so well. I have heard all sorts of exciting stories today - excitement about the 'flying' carriage and a little indignation that the Dame called the children 'smelly children!'

On a positive note, we are going to apply for a grant from Hinkley to put with the FOSS money to totally revamp the playground. We have a very exciting plan, but the quote has come in at £47,000 meaning we need another £32,000 to be able to go ahead. The grant application needs letters of support that include why the Stogursey children need the play ground i.e. for after school clubs, holiday clubs etc. and how the power station work is negatively impacting the village, traffic, queues of traffic to get to other parks etc. and how the power station negatively impacts the children.

*Nicki Smith, Interim Headteacher*

## Beacon Class

In Beacon Class, the children got into the Christmas spirit with a hands-on craft activity that brought plenty of colour, creativity, and excitement. Using lolly sticks as the base, everyone set to work creating a wonderful variety of Christmas decorations—reindeers, snowflakes, stars, Christmas trees, and even candy canes made from colourful pipe cleaners. The children enjoyed choosing from a wide range of embellishments, including pom poms, foam stickers, and sparkly stick-on gems.

Each decoration was carefully made and beautifully unique, reflecting the creativity and personality of every child. A big thank you to the parents who came to support and join in with this activity, we hope you enjoyed it as much as the children!



The finished decorations will be displayed around the school to spread holiday cheer—and many students were excited to take theirs home to hang proudly

on their family Christmas tree. It was a wonderful way to begin the countdown to Christmas!

## Triscombe Class

Over the past two weeks, the children have been working incredibly hard preparing for our Nativity performance. Their enthusiasm, dedication, and teamwork have truly shone through. A huge congratulation to every single child – they were absolutely fantastic! It was such a joy to see their confidence growing and their personalities shining on stage.

Thank you so much to all the families who came along to watch and support; your encouragement means the world to the children and to us.

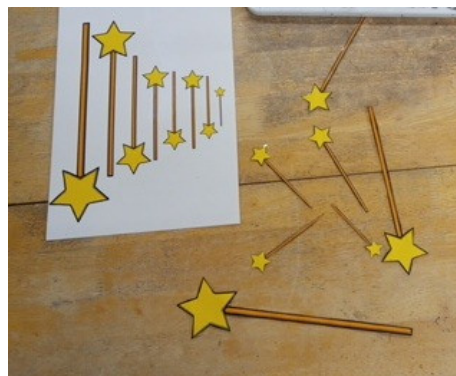
In the classroom, we've also been busy with our writing. Our key text this term has been *Leo and the Octopus*, a beautiful story that has sparked thoughtful discussions and inspired some amazing work. The children have been learning how to use emotional adjectives to bring their writing to life and have been experimenting with exclamation sentences to add excitement and emphasis.





## Preschool

Last week, the children read the story of *Cinderella* and used the characters in our tuff tray to retell the story. We looked at measure, using magic wands to find the longest and shortest and matched pairs of different sized wands. The children played a listening game, where they had to identify different sounds that they may hear in a kitchen and they designed their own crowns fit for a ball! We also held our Stay and Play session, where the children made Christmassy crafts with parents and carers. A massive thank you to all who attended.



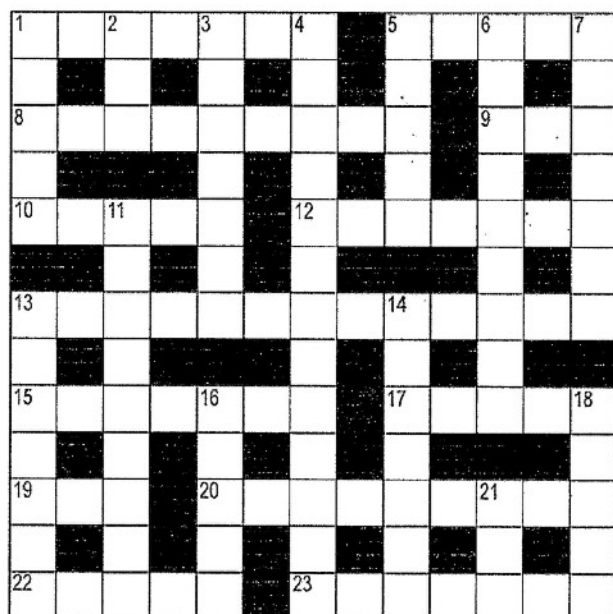
This week we are reading the story of *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. The children have been practising their pen grips and shown skill in following the lines from the goat to the mountain tops. We have been looking at big, medium and small during small world play and weighing objects to see which are heavier and which are lighter. We also acquired a very naughty elf called Crackers, who has been up to all sorts of mischief from tipping breakfast cereal all over our table, putting toilet paper around the room and setting up camp inside our water dispenser. What a naughty elf!



## Crossword No. 68

January 2026

Compiled by Helen Cuttall



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Goes up (7)
5. Hard-shelled nut in an oval shell (5)
8. Patterned with alternating-coloured squares (9)
9. International Olympic Committee (3)

10. Conical tent (5)
12. Cheese loving inventor (7)
13. Food, clothing, appliances (8,5)
15. Cured, salted and lightly smoked herring (7)
17. Basic monetary unit in Turkmenistan (5)
19. A people of the Chin Hills in Myanmar (3)
20. A female performer who combines baton twirling with dance movements (9)
22. Sections of a film (5)
23. Small southern African mongoose (7)

### CLUES DOWN

1. A man's broad, silk necktie (5)
2. Signal to an actor to begin a specific speech or action (3)
3. Modern or up to date (7)
4. Ingredient of a cream tea (10,3)
5. A foot operated throttle, brake or clutch on a motor vehicle (5)
6. Enclave of Chinese people located in a city outside of mainland China (9)
7. Central and most import part of a group, or object (7)
11. Theatrical entertainment, mainly for children (9)
13. A baked fruit dessert with a thick cake like topping (7)
14. Eucalyptus (7)
16. Workers hired for a short period of time (5)
18. Third longest river in the UK (5)
21. Yes in Polish (3)

## Stogursey Parish Council News – January 2026

### Happy New Year!

#### Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **13<sup>th</sup> January 2026**, 7.00pm at the Stogursey Victory Hall. All are welcome.

#### Road Safety - Please watch your speed!

Speed monitoring indicates high levels of speeding through the Parish. Please observe speed limits to keep our roads safe for everyone.

#### Volunteer Defibrillator Guardians needed

We are seeking volunteers to regularly check our Parish defibrillators.

Duties include:

- Confirming the indicator light is green
- Checking batteries are functional
- Ensuring pads are in date

Defibrillator Locations:

1. Burton Farmhouse, Knighton Lane, Burton, TA5 1QB
2. St Peter's Church Porch, Zine, TA5 1TN
3. The Babbling Brook, Shurton, TA5 1QE

If you can help, please contact the Clerk.

#### Become a Parish Councillor

Join us to represent your community and influence local decisions. Meetings are held monthly, with training provided.

#### Eligibility:

Anyone can stand as a candidate provided they meet the qualification requirements:

- Aged 18+ and a British, Commonwealth, or EU citizen
- Registered elector and resident for 12 months in the parish or within 3 miles
- OR occupied land/premises or worked in the parish for 12 months

**Interested?** Email for further details and an application form.

#### Stearth Habitat Creation Scheme

A public consultation was held on Dec 9<sup>th</sup> at the Stogursey Victory Hall regarding The Bristol Port Company's plans to create new intertidal habitat and improve flood defences on the Stearth Peninsula. Further details see <https://www.bristolport.co.uk/about-us/stearth-habitat-creation-scheme/>

#### Update re Hinkley Point B

Hinkley Point B generated power from 1976 to August 2022. During that 46-year period, the site produced enough electricity to meet the needs of every home in the South West for more than 33 years – a statistic that

makes it the nation's most productive nuclear site. Fuel removal is complete, and all fuel has been sent to Sellafield.

The Civil Nuclear Police will sadly no longer patrol the Parish.

#### Playgrounds

Repairs to Burgage Road playground, costing £9,000, were recently completed. Unfortunately, vandalism has damaged the safety ground surfaces in addition to attempted arson. Please report anti-social behaviour to the Parish Council or call the Police on 101 to report it.

Parish Clerk: ☎ 0127 8732181

✉ [clerk@stogurseyparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@stogurseyparishcouncil.org.uk)

### Comedy Night

at Stogursey Village Hall

**February 14<sup>th</sup>**

Doors open at 6.30pm - Show starts at 7.00pm

Starring:

Sol Bernstein

Steve Harris & Simon Wozniak

Hosted by Davey Ash

Tickets £15 - available at the Post Office  
or click here:



Fundraiser for Stogursey Arts Festival

### MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> March**

7pm start

Jubilee Rooms, Stogursey

2-course dinner (menu choices provided on booking)

Bring your own drinks.

Raffle!

Pre-Booking essential - booking ends 1st March

Early-Bird price (January until 13th February):

£12/head

Late booking price (14th February until 1st March):

£15/head

Book via [saftickets2@gmail.com](mailto:saftickets2@gmail.com)

or Tel: 01278 732149

## From the Quantock Hills to Gilgil, Kenya – my month volunteering with *Restart Africa*

At the beginning of the year, I learnt about *Restart Africa*, a charity that transforms the lives of vulnerable street children in Kenya. It was set up by Mary Coulson MBE, a Scot who went to Kenya to teach in schools. She soon realised that there were many children who were deprived, living alone and subject to abuse . . . so she decided to do something about it.

Mary set up *Restart* as a charity with a purpose to rescue street children and provide them with education, healthcare, food and a safe place to live. I was really moved by this and decided I wanted to help too.

During October, my 'normal' 9-5 was put on hold and I headed to Gilgil - 2 hours north of Nairobi - as a volunteer. I was nervous and excited to travel but grateful for the opportunity to spend my month helping others. I am so glad that I did as it was a life-changing and humbling experience for me.

During my time at *Restart* I helped with cleaning, sports, reading with the children, preparing meals and at the local schools. My downtime was used to learn more about the charity and explore the local area which included a safari where I saw the Big Five.

When I arrived at *Restart*, I quickly began to learn about the heartbreaking backgrounds many of the children had been rescued from.

One of the first stories I heard was about Mark. He was a newborn baby when he was dumped in a drainage ditch at the side of the road. Whoever left him there likely hoped he would drown as the ditches flood during rain. Thankfully, he was found and taken to a local hospital, but heartbreakingly, the hospital then sold him to a disabled woman who could not have children of her own.

When Mark was around 18 months old, the woman moved to Gilgil and began to abuse him. She made him sleep in a goat shed behind her shack and would beat him regularly, even fracturing his skull on one occasion. Mark was starved and forced into long working hours. Believing she might one day kill him, Mark escaped one night and made his way to the Gilgil police station, where he bravely told them what had been happening. He stayed at the station for two weeks before *Restart* was able to take him in. Today, he is safe, healthy, and enjoying his education.

Mark's story is just one of hundreds. Each child who arrives at *Restart* has lived through trauma that's almost impossible to imagine, yet their transformation is extraordinary. Within just a few weeks of being at *Restart*, I saw children who once carried immense pain

begin to smile and laugh which is a reflection of the care and compassion they receive.

One moment that has stayed with me was when I treated the children to what, in their eyes, was a special supper — beef and chapati instead of their regular ugali (cornmeal porridge) that they eat twice a day. It cost just £20 to feed 90 children (22p each!) a special meal and that was the best £20 I've spent in ages as the excitement and joy it brought to them was infectious. It was a simple reminder of how much happiness can come from even the smallest act of kindness. The things we so easily take for granted here in the UK.

This whole experience has made me realise how easy it is to overlook the basic things — safety, warmth, love — that every child deserves but so many have to fight for. Watching the team at *Restart* pour endless love and patience into every child has been a blessing to see and I am so pleased that I could be part of the children's lives for a month.

Now I am back in the UK, I want to continue to help the charity and ask that you consider this too.

As a not-for-profit organisation, *Restart* relies entirely on donations and sponsorship to continue its work, with every contribution helping to ensure that more children in Kenya are given the chance to grow up in safety, receive an education, and dream of a brighter future.

There are many ways to help, from a one-time gift or a monthly donation, to sponsoring a child or donating essential items like clothes, stationery, or supplies. *Restart* also welcomes volunteers like me, so if you or someone you know wants to experience this life-changing work firsthand, get involved. If you don't want to physically go to Kenya, you could consider becoming a Trustee to help this charity grow and help more children realise their potential.

If you have any **unwanted clothes** that are still in **good condition** and suitable for **children aged 2–18 years**, *Restart* are continuously collecting items and would be so grateful for your support.

*Restart* also welcomes donations of:

- **Stationery supplies** – pens, pencils, notebooks, etc.
- **Small gifts or toys**

Every contribution, big or small, makes a real difference.

If you have any physical donations, or can help in any other way, please get in contact with Lorna Peaster - 07597 785683 / [lornapeaster@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lornapeaster@yahoo.co.uk)

If you are looking to make a donation please visit [restartafrica.org](http://restartafrica.org)





## Stogursey Lunches JANUARY MENUS\*

---

**Tuesday 6 January**  
NO LUNCH TODAY

---

**Tuesday 13 January**  
(book by Friday 9 January -  
phone 07856 147324)

Beef casserole with cheesy cobbler &  
vegetables,  
OR  
Butterbean & vegetable stew

\*\*\*\*\*

Chocolate brownies

---

**Tuesday 20 January 2026**  
(book by Friday 16 January -  
phone 07856 147324)

Chicken, leek & bacon pie with vegetables,  
OR  
Hearty vegetable stew with potatoes or rice.

\*\*\*\*\*

Apple & mincemeat pudding  
with custard or cream

---

**Tuesday 27 January 2026**  
(book by Friday 23 January -  
phone 07856 147324)

Cottage pie (beef) & vegetables,  
OR  
Vegetable cottage pie

\*\*\*\*\*

Plum surprise

---

\* Menus may be subject to change



**Stogursey Community Network (SCN)**

**JANUARY 2026 - Happy New Year!**

Contact us: [stogurseycommunitynetwork@gmail.com](mailto:stogurseycommunitynetwork@gmail.com),  
or New Tel No: **07856 147324**

(But for Medical Transport call 07485 350560)

**STOGURSEY LUNCHES - Tel: 07856 147324**

**Doors open 12.00, we serve from 12.30 pm.**

Everyone is very welcome to enjoy our wonderful home-cooked meals. Come along with friends or make new friends at the Lunches!

**We welcome children at the Lunches, meals are FREE for under-12 year olds** (children to be accompanied by a responsible adult). A vegetarian option is always available, and we can cater for special diets / preferences on request at time of booking.

Where: Jubilee Rooms, Castle Street, Stogursey

When: Tuesdays (except the first Tuesday of the month)

Cost: Payment is by anonymous cash donation. *(Please pay what you can afford to help cover our costs. If you can afford to pay more, you can help others.)*

**Remember to book your meals first! -**

Please book in advance in order to avoid waste and cater to your individual needs. Tel: by 5.00pm on the preceding Friday.

**See our Menus:** on this page, outside the Jubilee Rooms and on the Gravel community noticeboard. **Tel No to book: 07856 147324**

**MEDICAL TRANSPORT - Tel: 07485 350560**

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 by cash donation.

*Please note, we are all volunteers and sometimes we may not be able to fulfil your request, although we always do our very best.*

**We require 48 hrs notice for all requests please.**

**Telephone only:** 07485 350560 (please leave a clear message)

**PRESCRIPTION DELIVERY**

In addition, SCN volunteers collect prescriptions from the two local Health Centres and deliver these to the **SPAR/POST OFFICE** for collection. If your Surgery has designated you a housebound or home delivery patient, we will deliver to you at home. (Please note: This is only for those patients who are unable to collect from the Surgery or from the SPAR/PO.)

**Food Bank / Pantry Donations and Deliveries**

The SCN supports the work of the Quantock Food Bank and Mobile Pantry. We are always grateful for donations to the Foodbank collection box in the Spar/Post Office. If you, or someone you know, needs food assistance please contact us or the **Village Agent** (for a Foodbank referral) and/or **Home Start** (for families with young children). Phone numbers on the 'Contacts and Parish Information' page in this magazine. The Mobile Pantry comes weekly (3.00pm on Tuesday afternoons) to the Victory Hall carpark for Pantry clients.



January 2026

# Pluggedin Parish News



A round up of the latest news from Hinkley Point C

Happy New Year! On behalf of the project, we would like to thank all of our local communities for their continued support and patience as we continue to build one of the country's most important projects. As always, we hope this update provides you with the most important updates on progress from Hinkley Point C.

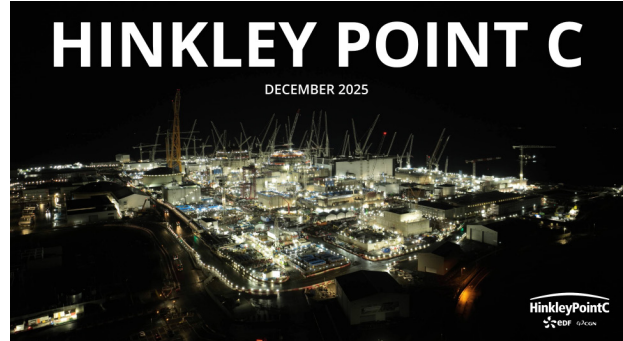
## New Video: Hinkley Point C in 2025

Hinkley Point C has released its End of Year film, showcasing the night shift that keeps Britain's largest infrastructure project moving 24/7. 14,000 people are working around the clock to deliver Britain's first nuclear power station in more than 30 years.

In July, the world's largest crane, Big Carl lifted the 245-tonne domed roof onto the second reactor building.

As most buildings near completion, teams are now focused on fitting thousands of pipes, cables, and critical systems to bring the station to life.

To watch the video for an exclusive behind-the-scenes look, scan the QR code →



## Pressuriser installed

The 14.8 metre high Pressuriser was successfully installed into the Unit 1 Reactor Building (HR). This component is the final large piece of the Primary Circuit to be installed, following the completion of the four Steam Generators last month.

The Pressuriser will play a crucial part in the Reactor Coolant System by maintaining pressure within the Primary Circuit of 155 bar, critical for safe operation



## Wellbeing at St Mary's Church

St Mary's Church in Bridgwater is fostering community connections through its weekly 'Wellbeing Wednesdays'—offering crafts, games, and hot drinks in a welcoming space.

A £20,000 grant from the HPC Community Fund will keep these sessions running for the next three years, helping tackle isolation and support mental health locally. The fund continues to back projects that strengthen communities and create opportunities.



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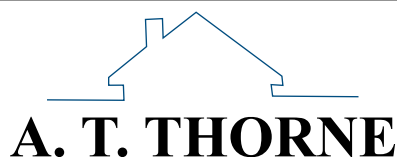
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[Stogursey Spar and Post Office](https://www.facebook.com/StogurseySparandPostOffice)

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## Greyhound Inn

1, Lime Street Stogursey.

01278 734841

**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:

Sue Goss(Chair), Chris Morgan (Vice-Chair),  
Richard Ayre, Chris Ford, Susan E Jones, Jenny Ody,  
Allan Searle

**Clerk:** Ann Corrigan:

clerk@stogurseyparishcouncil.org.uk

**Meetings:** held monthly in the Victory Hall, Stogursey  
7.15pm - 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 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

#### 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

**Dates of next Main Site Forum Meeting:**

### 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 / 07507 374234

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

### Stogursey Community Network (SCN)

stogurseycommunitynetwork@gmail.com / 07856 147324

**Medical Transport:** 07485 350560

**Stogursey Lunches:** 07856 147324

**Homestart** - supporting families & young children.

01643 707304 / [admin@homestart-westsomerset.org.uk](mailto:admin@homestart-westsomerset.org.uk)

**Village Agent** - Sarah Bennett 07985 680269

sarahb@somersetccc.org.uk - NetherStoweyCare

### Health/Medical Centres

**Cannington** 01278 652 335

Repeat prescription line 01278 655 464

**Quantock** (Nether Stowey) 01278 732 696

Repeat prescription line

(10.30 - 11.30am; 4.00pm - 5.00pm) 01278 733 385

[somicb.quantock.mc@nhs.net](mailto:somicb.quantock.mc@nhs.net)

Out-of-hours (both Centres) 111

### Defibrillators - 4 in the parish:

♥ Burton - on garden wall of Burton Farmhouse

♥ 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

**2026 dates:** 22 January; 19 February; 19 March

For more information, contact Libraries Direct:

Tel: 0300 123224, or email [www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries](http://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.*



## Stogursey Arts needs your help

Could you spare a few minutes to complete this survey for us? You can do it on line by accessing the survey here: <https://stogurseyarts.co.uk> or by completing this page and putting it in the Survey Answers box in the Spar/Post Office. Thank you very much. We need your responses as soon as possible please, but no later than February 28th.

### Stogursey Arts Festival Survey

Please complete this Survey to help us to develop and expand the activities we offer to our community. We want to offer what people in our community, of all ages, want. Please help us to know what you and your family would enjoy doing. Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions.

Name (optional)

Phone No (optional)

Email address (optional)

1. Did you, or a family member, take part in any of the activities at the Arts Festival this year?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

2. If yes, which activities did you take part in?

3. What did you or your family enjoy about it?

4. If you did not participate, were you aware that the Arts Festival was happening?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

5. If not, how could we promote the events better?

6. Which of the following workshops or activities would you be interested in participating in? We are hoping to offer such workshops throughout the year if there is sufficient interest. Please tick all that apply:

- ☐ Art classes / workshop, with a professional Tutor
- ☐ Pottery classes / workshop, with a professional Tutor (Adult or Child/Teen)
- ☐ Performing Arts / Theatre classes / workshop, with a professional Tutor
- ☐ Floral art design classes / workshop, with a professional Tutor
- ☐ Photography and Film Making classes / workshop, with a professional Tutor

7. Would you be prepared to make a small donation towards the cost of such classes?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

8. Do you have other ideas for classes or workshops you'd like us to offer?

9. Any other comments or suggestions?