

STOGURSEY NEWS



Sun Halo, Stolford Common
(17 Feb 2026)

Photo: Fi

March 2026

Deadline for **APRIL 2026** contributions: 10.00am **Sunday 15th MARCH 2026**

Editorial

A slightly warmer March welcome to all our readers, hopefully the volume of rainfall will return to normal levels this month. We have seen the first daffodils bloom, always an encouraging sign that spring is with us.

As ever the village is bustling with activity, we are truly lucky to have so many folk passionate in their interests and happy to share their knowledge and encourage others.

Enthusiasm abounds in the allotment world with both new and established "allotmenters" busy clearing, planting and sometimes just socializing.

It is comforting to read that Mrs Rood, the new Executive Head at the school, is enjoying her first few weeks in post and we hope her time in the village will be long and positive.

The arts as always are a focal point of our community; you have to wonder how so many gifted people gravitated to our little sanctuary. The strummers group and the photographic enthusiasts are all welcoming and would love to see you at their meetings - an interest is all you need. If you have thought for a while that you would like to try something, just go along, they are just "nice" people, not scary at all.

On the "club" front the Quantock U3A goes from strength to strength. U3A is open to anybody and has a huge range of interest groups. This month, the Quantock U3A is putting on the "Ned of the Ripe Show", we understand it's an anagram, but we can't see it! There are at least two "creators" in the village who have contributed, if you are free, it could be very amusing!

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

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

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 colour, style and size. (*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:

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Stogursey-Online

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Jo Cavill

Regular Events			
Monday	*60+ Rehabilitation Fitness Class (weekly) *Spinal Mobility, Balance & Strength Class (weekly) Health Walks - Level One (weekly) <i>Contact: https://www.sasp.co.uk/sedgemoor</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 Hall	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)	Jubilee Rooms Greyhound Inn	10.30am - 12 noon 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Thursday	Health Walks - Level Two (weekly) <i>Contact - https://www.sasp.co.uk/health-walks</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 / JFJnicholson@talktalk.net</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 / 01278 652411*

March			
Wednesday 4	Strummers of Stogursey (Ukulele Session)	Greyhound Inn	7.30pm
Friday 6	Steak & Gammon Night	Victory Hall	
Tuesday 10	Parish Council Meeting	Victory Hall	7.00pm
Wednesday 11	Forget-me-not Café	Jubilee Rooms	10.30am - 12 noon
Friday 13	Quiz Night: "Pot of Gold"	Victory Hall	Doors open 7.00pm
Saturday 14	Murder Mystery	Jubilee Rooms	7.00pm
Sunday 15	Sunday Lunch - Mothers' Day	Victory Hall	
Wednesday 18	Strummers of Stogursey (Ukulele Session)	Greyhound Inn	7.30pm
Friday 20	Charity Bingo in memory of Nikki Turner	Victory Hall	Doors open 6.30pm
Saturday 21	Nature of Quantocks Conference	Victory Hall	10.00am - 4.30pm
Saturday 21	Flower Power Disco-free Evening	Victory Hall	
Wednesday 25	Forget-me-not Café	Jubilee Rooms	10.30am - 12 noon
Friday 27	Stogursey Twinning Association AGM	Jubilee Rooms	7.00pm
Friday 27	Easter Bingo	Victory Hall	Doors open 7.00pm

Please send contributions to: stogurseyparishnews@gmail.com

MARCH SUNDAY SERVICE ROTA for Quantock Gate Parishes

CHURCH	1 st March	8 th March	15 th March	22 nd March	29 th March
	Lent 2	Lent 3	Mothering Sunday	Lent 5	PALM SUNDAY
Cannington St Mary	8.00 & 9.30am Holy Communion	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Service	8.00 & 9.30am Holy Communion	8.00 & 9.30am Holy Communion	8.00am Holy Communion
Combwich St Peter	11.15am Café Church	6.00pm Prayer & Praise	11.15am Holy Communion	4.00pm Family Service	
Fiddington St Martin	9.00am Holy Communion	9.00am Holy Communion	9.00am Holy Communion	9.00am Family Service	
Stockland St Mary Magdalene		11.15am Family Service		11.15am Holy Communion	10.00am Benefice Celebration for Palm Sunday
Stogursey St Andrew	10.30am Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion	10.30am CAFÉ CHURCH at the Jubilee Rooms	
	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Red

All are always welcome to any of our services.

Regular Weekday Services

Tuesdays	6.00pm	Holy Communion	Cannington, St Mary the Virgin Church
Thursdays	9.00am	Prayer Meeting	Combwich, St Peter's Church
Fridays	9.00am	Holy Communion	Cannington, St Mary the Virgin Church

Babes and Tots Play Group

Tuesdays	9.00-11.30am	Cannington Village Hall
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(term time)

Coffee Mornings

Thursdays	10.00am	Cannington Church
Fridays	10.30am	Jubilee Rooms, Stogursey

Bellringing

Tuesdays	7.30pm	Cannington Church
Wednesdays	7.00pm	Stogursey Church (1 st Wed) / Fiddington Church (2 nd -5 th Wed)
Fridays	7.00pm	Combwich Church (1 st and 3 rd Fri)

Do be in touch if you would like to marry in one of the churches, or to arrange a baptism, or if there is anything else we can help with.

Revd Alison Waters, Rector & Revd Jan Church, Associate Priest
01278 652953 / cannington.benefice@gmail.com



Stogursey Lunches

Jubilee Rooms

TUESDAYS

(except first Tuesday of the month)

Doors open at 12 noon,

Lunch served at 12.30pm

Everyone, especially children, very welcome. Come along with friends or make new friends and enjoy a freshly-cooked meal followed by a cup of tea or coffee.

Payment is by an anonymous cash donation. As an indicator, most donations are between £8 - £12.

No donation is expected for under-12 year olds (but children must be accompanied by a responsible adult).

We can cater for special diets/preferences when requested at time of booking, and a vegetarian option is always on the menu.

**Advance booking is essential -
please phone 07856 147324
by 5pm on the preceding Friday**

MENUS FOR MARCH

Tuesday 10 March 2026

Sausages in onion gravy, OR
Vegetarian sausages in onion gravy,
both with mash and seasonal vegetable medley

* * * * *

Self-saucing citrus sponge with cream

Tuesday 17 March 2026

Turkey & leek pie with vegetables, OR
Nut roast with candied carrots and vegetables

* * * * *

Xmas pudding & brioche bread and butter pudding
with vanilla custard

Tuesday 24 March 2026

Smoked haddock tart and vegetables, OR
Spinach & cheese pie and vegetables

* * * * *

Sticky toffee pudding and vanilla ice cream

Tuesday 31 March 2026

Sauté chicken (bone-in), OR
Greenbean casserole
both with sweet potato mash and vegetables

* * * * *

Orange and Almond Cake, served with whipped cream

STOGURSEY VICTORY HALL MOTHERING SUNDAY LUNCH

Sunday 15th March



1 COURSE 10.00

2 COURSES 15.00

Vegetarian option available on request

PLEASE CONTACT DENISE OLIVER

Tel 01278 733594 or 07453 381844

BAR OPEN FROM 12 NOON



St George's Day:

VILLAGE SUPPER

- with entertainment!

*An event run jointly by the Victory Hall Committee and
Stogursey Twinning Association*

Saturday 25th April*

In the Victory Hall

Doors open at 7.00pm, supper served at 7.30pm

The menu for the two-course supper will be based on
traditional English fair, with vegetarian, vegan and
pudding options available when you book.

Licensed bar

£15 per adult

Why not get together with friends / family, and book a
table for your group?

Places will be limited - so please book ahead,
and make your menu choices when you book:
email stogurseytwinningassociation@gmail.com or
phone Ian on 01278 733052.

**The nearest Saturday to St George's Day on 23rd April!*

Stogursey Twinning Association AGM

Friday 27th March

Jubilee Rooms

Doors open at 7.00pm - meeting starts at 7.30pm

Following the meeting, there will be a 'bring a plate to
share' supper, and the chance to chat. BYOB.

Everybody is welcome, and it is a good opportunity to
find out about the Twinning Association.



The Strummers of Stogursey

will meet at the Greyhound at 7.30pm on Wednesdays, **4th and 18th of March**, in the back room. We welcome new members and we always have spare ukuleles so do come along if you'd like to give it a try. You'll find us a very friendly group.

For further information:

Rose.palmer280@gmail.com or lanelenor@gmail.com

VICTORY HALL LOTTERY WINNERS

February Draw 2026

1 st Prize	£25.00	Maria Williams	No. 89
2 nd Prize	£15.00	Michelle Dyer	No. 157
3 rd Prize	£10.00	Mel Stone	No. 92

Forthcoming events in Fiddington

Book Swap and Coffee Morning –

Saturday, 7th March, Village Hall, 10.00am to 12 midday, as per the first Saturday of each month. £2 entry incl. coffee and entry; £3 if toast as well; £7 for cooked breakfast.

For details, phone Ruth Brazier on 07721 012178.

Jumble Sale -

Saturday 14th March, 2.00pm
50p Entry. Drinks and cakes available. Contributions to the Jumble Sale can be delivered to the village hall between 10.00 and 11.00am the same day. NO FURNITURE OR LARGE GARDEN ITEMS unless agreed by the committee and to be taken back if not sold.

Tea and Chat -

Thursday 19th March, in the Village Hall,, 2.00 to 5.00pm.
All friendly faces welcome.
Run in association with St Martin's Church

St Martin of Tours - Sausage Sizzle & Quiz -

Saturday 21st March, 6.30pm for 7.00pm.
Enjoy a delicious supper of locally produced sausages and home-baked puddings followed by the quiz.
Tickets £10 each.
Please contact Paul & Jackie on 01278 732175 to book your place and advise of any dietary requirements.
Please bring your own drinks.

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 on 01278 734565.



Friends of the
QUANTOCKS

The Conservation Charity for the Quantock Hills

www.friendsofthequantocks.org



Registered Charity No.1154378

Nature of the Quantocks Conference

Date – March 21st
Time - 10.00am to 4.30pm
Location– Stogursey, Victory Hall

Eventbrite link to book your place:

[https://
NatureoftheQuantocksConference.eventbrite.co.uk](https://NatureoftheQuantocksConference.eventbrite.co.uk)

The *Nature of the Quantocks Conference* brings together a team of people involved in the conservation and protection of the Quantocks and the wildlife you can find on it. The conference is free to all and is brought to you by the Friends of the Quantocks charity who owns 400 acres of the Common and will share about its own conservation work over the last year, including the project that led to the re-discovery of the rare and elusive **White-letter Hairstreak butterfly**, after a gap of 18 years and the planting of over 400 disease-resistant elm. The charity will also be sharing a number of ways in which you can get personally involved in conservation work. **Could you be a species champion?**

You will hear from local naturalist and wildlife author, Nigel Philips, who will share from his new book “**The Nature of the Quantocks**”, (the book will be available on the day and Nigel on hand to sign your copy). We also have author Aidan Meighan, who will be sharing some “tree folklore” and on hand to sign his new book “**The Folklore of Trees**”.

There will also be talks on the rare **Lesser-spotted Woodpecker** and the **heathland birds** nesting just feet away from the paths you walk on. In addition, you will hear about an important scientific research project starting this year on our local **Adder population**.

National landscape manager Iain Porter will also be sharing about the management plan for the hills over the coming years, whilst Paul Rutter will talk about the importance of **wildlife corridors**, and Fiona Jackson & Beth Riches on how **community projects** can play their part in conservation and nature recovery.



[https://friendsofthequantocks.org/update/
nature-of-the-quantocks-
conference-2026/](https://friendsofthequantocks.org/update/nature-of-the-quantocks-conference-2026/)

Victory Hall News

We have had some great events in this gloomy January!

Quizzes 'Down Under' & 'Around the UK' were well attended, always with discussion & humour. A warm, friendly welcome, so watch out for next quiz night.

Many thanks to Colin Pye & team for organizing & running Open Mic on Friday 23rd. Great music, attendance & social event.

Sunday Roasts are proving very popular, many thanks Denise & team for a delicious lunch. A great opportunity to catch up with friends & family.

COMING UP IN MARCH -

Friday 6th: Steak & Gammon Night -
Pre Order. 3 courses for £25.

Book with Janet 01278 733161 or 07786 706651

Friday 13th: Unlucky for some! Quiz Night 'Pot of Gold'.
Doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start.
£2 per person, teams of 4-6 people.

Sunday 15th: Sunday Roast, Mothers Day.
(Details on separate page.)

Friday 20th: Charity Bingo in memory of Nikki Turner
Doors Open 6.30pm; Eyes Down 7.30pm

Saturday 21st: Flower Power Disco-Free family evening. Bring a plate of food to share.
Raffle, Bar open.
Dressing up encouraged but not compulsory.

Friday 27th: Eyes Down For Easter Bingo!
Doors open at 7.00pm eyes down at 8.00pm.
A £1 a book & raffle £1 a strip. Bar open

Coming in APRIL -

Friday 3rd: Spring & Easter Quiz

Sunday 12th: Sunday Roast

Saturday 18th: Cheese & Wine/Meat plate

Friday 24th: Rock & Roll Bingo

Saturday 25th: St George's Day Village Supper.
(Details on separate page)

Panto is coming back to Stogursey!

Spring 2027 -

Snow White & the Seven Dwarves

Stay tuned for more info!

YOUR VICTORY HALL/ VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

Plans are already well ahead for this year's Flower Show & Fete on **Saturday 18th July**.

We are always looking for extra hands - can you help in any way? If you wish to offer help or want more details please contact Heather Ranson -
heatherranson124@btinternet.com

or Sue Hocking on 07772181740 or email
hocking24@aol.com

FLOWER SHOW & FETE - Saturday 18th July

There will be stalls at the Flower Show & Fete - would your group like to run a stall to raise awareness for your hobby, or the social group you run? If so please get in touch with Vicki at vicki_thomas1981@hotmail.co.uk



Stogursey Community Network (SCN) MARCH 2026

How to contact us:

stogurseycommunitynetwork@gmail.com,

New Tel No: 07856 147324

EXCEPT for Medical Transport

(see dedicated number below).

MEDICAL TRANSPORT

For residents in the Stogursey parish, our DBS-checked volunteer drivers can take you to a **medical appointment**, if you are unable to get there any other way. Payment by **cash donation**.

Please note that 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 hours notice for all requests please.
Medical Transport Tel only: 07485 350560 (please leave a clear message, stating your name, address, the date/time and venue of your appointment).

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 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, need food assistance please contact us or the **Village Agent** (for a Foodbank referral) and/or **Home Start** (for families with young children). Phone Numbers are on the 'Contacts and Parish Information' page in Stogursey News. **The Mobile Pantry comes weekly (3 pm on Tuesdays) to the Victory Hall car park for Pantry clients.**

STOGURSEY FORGET-ME-NOT CAFÉ



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

Café Dates:

MARCH: Wednesdays 11th & 25th

APRIL: Wednesdays 8th & 22nd

MAY: Wednesdays 6th & 20th



FORGET-ME-NOT NEWS:

We enjoyed Valentine's Day poetry from the very talented Jan and Eddy; David read poems too. It was a big success, and we hope to do this again soon.

We look forward to welcoming Claire on March 11th, and she'll bring a rescued African Pygmy Hedgehog. Claire will tell us what is involved in rehabilitating and caring for the rescued animals.

We're looking forward to welcoming our lovely friends the Stogursey Strummers again soon. Date to be advised.

BurtonFete will take place on Saturday 23rd May. Please note the Fete takes place on a Saturday this year, not Sunday, although it is an all-weekend event: a Bar and music on the Friday, Fete on Saturday, a Bar & music on Sunday. Forget-me-Not will be at the Fete for our annual fundraising Tombola. We're looking forward to a fun time at the **Award-Winning Burton Springs Fisheries, TA5 1QB**. The Fete is a fantastic family day and not to be missed!

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 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. All are welcome from the neighbouring villages.

VOLUNTEERING We have a lovely group of friendly volunteers, but we always love to welcome extra helpers - making teas and coffees, washing up, or chatting to people. Why not pop in one Wednesday for a cuppa and say hello?

For more information please contact:

Helen: 07891 547982 cuttelhelen@gmail.com

Rose: 07507 374234 rosechalk@icloud.com



Stogursey Oil-buying Group

The Stogursey Oil-buying Group's next order will be in March. 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 May.** 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 by **10.00am Monday 9th March**

Stogursey Oil-buying Group

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 10th March.

Solution to Crossword No. 69

February 2026

ACROSS:

- 1.Beamish, 5.Braid, 8.Anthurium, 9.IPV, 10.Oasis,
- 12.Ethical, 13.Computer mouse, 15.Cochlea
- 17.Deter, 19.Pal, 20.Abseiling, 22.Tansy, 23.Examine

DOWN:

- 1.Beano, 2.Apt, 3.Iguassu, 4.Haile Selassie, 5.Bumph,
- 6.Agincourt, 7.Divulge, 11.Semicolon, 13.Cockpit,
- 14.Madeira, 16.Leaky, 18.Rogue, 21.IWI



Stogursey C of E Primary and Pre-School



Executive Headteacher: Mrs Rood

Tel: 01278 732389

email: stogurseyschool@educ.somerset.gov.uk

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

From the Headteacher

As I complete my first month as Headteacher at Stogursey, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a joyful, busy and very purposeful start to the term. It has been a privilege to get to know the children, staff and families who make this community so warm and vibrant, and I am truly grateful for the welcome I have received.

These first four weeks have reaffirmed what a special place Stogursey C of E Primary and Pre-School is. The children's kindness, staff dedication, and family support have made this transition both smooth and uplifting. I look forward to continuing our work together as we nurture every child to flourish academically, socially and spiritually.

Beacon Class

In Science, we were exploring the different types of teeth. In groups, we had to create a model of the lower teeth using salt dough ensuring that we included all types of teeth we had looked at: incisors, canines, premolars and molars. We also compared what we made to the teeth we actually have; we realised that some of us still have some of our baby (milk) teeth and have not yet developed premolars. In fact, most people in the class have a mixture of milk teeth and permanent teeth.



Triscombe Class

In Reception, the children have been exploring the story *Little Red*. They have enjoyed role-playing the inn and even tried some ginger beer as part of their imaginative play. They then went on to make smoothies as a healthier option to serve in the inn. The children also created wanted posters for the wolf and designed their own characters, showing great creativity and storytelling skills.

In Geography, the children have been thoroughly enjoying exploring the continents and learning about the North Pole, South Pole, and the Equator.

They have begun comparing life in the UK with life in Kenya, noticing similarities and differences and asking thoughtful questions about the world around them.



In PE, the children have been working hard with Miss Dunwood to develop their balancing skills. They have shown great determination and enthusiasm, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow during these sessions.

Preschool

Preschool children have been continuing with their theme of 'The World of Work'. Last week looked at different occupations and read the story 'All through the Night' about the different jobs people do through the night, when we are all fast asleep.



We were lucky enough to have several visitors over the week. Emma the nurse visited to show us how she looks after people who have been injured. We were visited by Trevor the local PCSO, who talked about the different aspects of working in the police force. Then we met Tom and John from the Fire Brigade who brought in lots of different equipment and showed the children how each item worked and talked about what they do as firemen. Finally, Jodie, our lollipop lady, talked about road safety with the children.

Stogursey Parish Council Newsletter

February 2026 Edition

The next Parish Council Meeting is:

Date: 10 March 2026,

Time: 7:00pm

Venue: Stogursey Victory Hall

There is a public forum at 7.00pm, where parishioners are encouraged to discuss any issues/concerns that they may have. All are welcome to attend.

New Councillors

We are pleased to welcome our newly co-opted councillors: Michael Brookes, Ian Corrigan and Stuart Lake, each bringing valuable expertise and a strong commitment to serving the community.

Precept 2026/27

The Parish Council has kept its precept increase to a minimum while maintaining essential services, requesting a 2.36% rise for 2026/27. Somerset Councillor Hugh Davies notes that Somerset Council is subject to the Government's **4.99% Council Tax cap** which may impact some services.

Reporting Parish Issues - How You Can Help

Recent wet and cold weather has further damaged local roads and pavements. Residents are encouraged to report potholes, pavement damage, fly tipping, planning breaches, and flooding issues via the Somerset Council under "**Report IT**" Visit www.somerset.gov.uk/contact. If you do not have internet access, please contact the Clerk, who will submit reports on your behalf.

Council Monitoring

Councillors continue to travel throughout the parish, identifying and reporting problems to Somerset Council. Cllr Richard Ayre recently collected 140 discarded vodka bottles, in a single day, discarded in the hedges and at the roadside around Farrington Hill and Stolford areas.

Please report any fly-tipping you observe to help address this ongoing issue.

Playgrounds

The annual safety inspection confirms that the **Burgage Road playground** remains safe for use, although the basket swing remains out of service. The Council is reviewing options for repair or replacement. The Council welcomes suggestions, from children and parents, regarding improvements or new equipment for 2026/27. Please submit suggestions to the Clerk **by 31st March 2026**.

Residents are reminded to report anti-social behaviour to the Parish Council, Police or call 101.

Notice Boards

Several Parish Notice Boards are due for replacement, as some are often inaccessible due to cars parked in front of them and others not fit for purpose. Agendas and information are always available on the Parish website, but if you cannot access the internet, please contact the Clerk for assistance.

Contact

Stogursey Parish Council

4 Church Street, Stogursey, TA5 1TQ

Tel: 01278 732181

Email: clerk@stogurseyparishcouncil.org.uk

News From the Quantock Medical Centre

We will be running a Gentle Seated Exercise Class at the Practice. It will be run by our Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership (SASP) Coach 'SJ'.

When: Every Monday, 12:45pm start,
(but do come a little earlier to get settled)

Start Date: **16th March 2026**

Where: Quantock Medical Centre Waiting Area

- Please contact the surgery to book your place on **01278 732696**.
- The class will allow you to try something new with a view to accessing other local activities.
- Please note that the class will be limited to 8 people per session on a 6-week rotational basis.

Our SASP Coach 'SJ', works with our patients to inspire and enable positive life choices through sport & physical activity. They provide accessible opportunities locally for all ages and abilities and support those who are least active.

If you feel that you are ready to make a positive change in your lifestyle to improve your health for your future, please do contact your surgery to book an appointment with a Health Coach - they work in all practices across Bridgwater.

For more information check out their website

<https://www.sasp.co.uk>

Helen Stacey Practice Manager





STOGURSEY ALLOTMENT NEWS

According to one of my (many) gardening books March marks the start of the gardening year for many UK allotment holders. As the days lengthen and temperatures gradually rise, the allotment comes alive with new possibilities. It's a time for preparing the soil, starting early sowings, and getting ahead with essential maintenance tasks. However, given the amount of rain we have had recently, things may be a bit delayed this year (again!).

It was during one of our latest downpours that I settled down to write a few words for this edition of Stogursey News. I happened to be watching the opening game of the Six Nations Rugby between France and Ireland and started wondering about French allotments . . . Courtesy of Google, this is what I discovered.

Jardins ouvriers (workers' gardens) were created in the late 19th century to help working class families grow food. The modern term is **Jardins familiaux** (family gardens) and these emphasise community and leisure rather than charity and they are often run by associations or municipalities.

French plots are often smaller than UK allotments and many sites have uniform, neat layouts with identical sheds and fencing. Some sites feel more like mini-garden colonies than the rambling, eclectic UK style. Sheds are usually standardised and sometimes provided by the association. Many sites have communal water points, composting areas, shared tool storage and meeting huts or clubhouses. This (apparently) gives them a slightly more "organised" feel.

French allotment associations tend to be stricter than UK councils. Common rules include: No permanent buildings, no large greenhouses, no keeping animals, limits on fruit trees and obligatory participation in communal work days (very French!). There's a strong emphasis on community responsibility.

While UK allotments often mix food growing with wildlife areas, sheds, and relaxation spaces, French allotments are more focused on food production, orderliness and community cohesion. That said, many French gardeners still create beautiful, productive spaces with flowers, vines, and fruit.

So what is grown in French allotments? Unsurprisingly it's very similar to the UK but with a Mediterranean twist depending on the region. Common crops are tomatoes (a national obsession!), courgettes, aubergines, peppers, haricots verts, strawberries, melons and herbs. Fruit trees are usually limited, but you'll often see peach, fig, cherry and apricots in the south.

Many French allotment associations encourage organic methods, water-saving techniques, pollinator-friendly planting and composting. Some ban pesticides entirely.

French allotments often have communal meals, harvest festivals, shared work days and training sessions for new gardeners. It's very much a community-first model.

I wonder if this is accurate? Do any of our French twinning families have a Jardin familiaux?

Despite the rain, things are beginning to happen in Stogursey. Broad beans and rhubarb are going for it whilst winter veg (leeks and red chard) are still in abundance.

Let's hope that by the time you are reading this Spring is well on its way! Happy gardening all.

Stogursey Allotment Holders



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Depressin Innit

Lonely old men wandering by,
Waiting for their turn to die.
Partner gone, children away.
What am I going to do today?

Oi You! - you've jumped the queue.
You're a lucky bugger You.
No more boring, lonely days and nights.
It really should be me by rights.

Gone are the seaside trips,
No more fish and chips,
No more feeling the sun's rays.
Hang on! - Can I stay a few more days.

Chris Ford

Stogursey Flower Show and Fete

Saturday 18th July, 2026

This may seem like a long way away, but for those intending to enter the show, it can be helpful to have some planning and preparation time. Here's a heads up to a few items coming up on the schedule:

Section A: Vegetables & Fruit

Chillies; Tomatoes - including cherry tomatoes, and the heaviest tomato. Also, a plant that everybody can grow only too well - the longest stinging nettle!

Section B: Flowers & Plants

Sweet peas, Snapdragons, Dianthus . . .

Section D: Handicraft, Art and Photography:

The photograph section was well supported last year, and hopefully we'll have even more entries this year for the two classes, the themes are 'Coastal' and 'Animal(s)'.

By popular demand, the pottery class is back (but the base of your work mustn't be bigger than 30cm x 30cm)

Section E: Homecraft

New this year: shortbread fingers, pickled vegetables (or chutney and a bottle of home-made liquor! So keep back a bottle of your sloe gin or raspberry vodka from last year to enter in the show.

CHILDREN

This year there will be two children's sections:

A section for those aged 7 and under on the day of the show; and a separate section for those aged 8-12 on the show day. Although these sections are strictly limited to children only, children are very welcome to enter items for any / all sections in the schedule.

Younger children could start thinking about decorating a pebble, or finding an unusual container to grow cress in. Older children, if you like taking photographs, there's a new class of a photo of an animal, or group of animals.

EXHIBITING IN THE SHOW

If you've never exhibited in the Flower Show and are wondering how to enter your home-grown goodies, or home-made/home-crafted items, full details can be found in the 'Flower Show Rules' and 'Flower Show Schedule' which will be published in next month's Stogursey News. They will also be published on Stogursey-online.

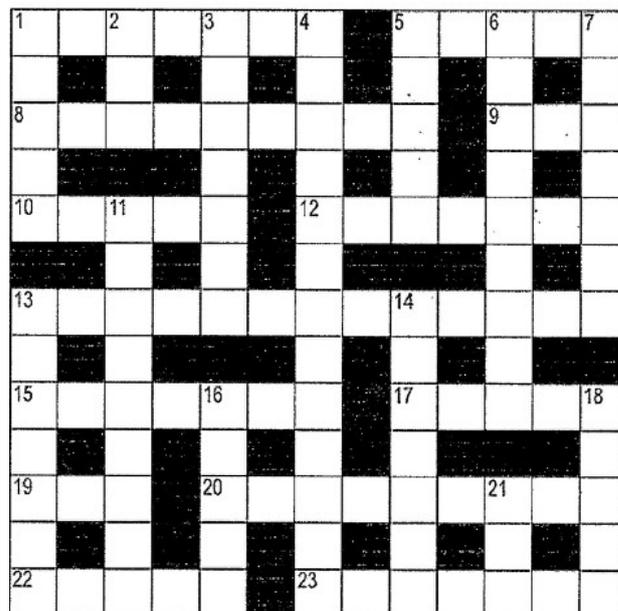


HELP NEEDED!

Extra help would be very welcome, for instance: putting out tables (on the Friday), administration on the day, and clearing away after the show is over. If you can help, please get in touch with Heather Ranson heatherranson124@btinternet.com

Crossword No. 70

Compiled by Helen Cuttell



CLUES ACROSS

1. Smooth sauce made from tomatoes (7)
5. Startled (5)
8. People who sing fluctuating between their normal voice and falsetto (9)
9. Make a mistake (3)
10. Work into dough or paste with the hands (5)
12. Spanish ham (7)
13. The last of the six wives of Henry VIII (9,4)
15. Partial or total loss of memory (7)
17. Devotional paintings of religious figure (5)
19. A lyrical, narrative poem (3)
20. Public path accessible to horse riders and walkers (9)
22. Take an oath (5)
23. Small bunch of sweet scented flowers (7)

CLUES DOWN

1. Canoe (5)
2. A small amount (3)
3. Tree frogs (7)
4. Rain (13)
5. Walkway between blocks of seats (5)
6. Espresso coffee diluted with hot water (9)
7. Sport of running, jumping and climbing over buildings and obstacles (7)
11. Covering a large area (9)
13. Famous bridge in Prague (7)
14. Food (7)
16. Sword used in fencing (5)
18. Hinder, block or thwart (5)
21. To be absent from school without permission (3)

A round up of the latest news from Hinkley Point C

Successful Testing of Acoustic Fish Deterrent

Sea trials carried out by Swansea University have shown that an acoustic fish deterrent developed for Hinkley Point C is highly effective.

The innovative use of ultrasound technology has been shown to keep target fish species away from the power station's water intakes.



Hinkley Point C is the first power station on the Severn with protections for fish built into its design. The systems will give Hinkley Point C more fish protection than any other power station in the world and will cost more than £700m. This will help protect the internationally important Severn estuary.



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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

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♥ Stogursey - on wall outside Stogursey Motors

♥ Shurton - side entrance of Babbling Brook

♥ Stolford - church of St Peter

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Shurton

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Stogursey

Greyhound Inn 1.10pm - 1.40pm

Town Close (No 30) 1.45pm - 2.10pm

2026 dates: 19 March, 16 April, 14 May, 11 June, 9 July

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Complainants' names are not given to the perpetrators.