



Chairman's and Treasurer's Annual Reports and
Synopsis of Minutes
For the year to 31 March 2022



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Chairman's Report presented at AGM 17 May 2022

THROUGHOUT 2021-2022 SGSG'S AREAS OF ACTIVITY HAVE INCLUDED STOWEY CASTLE MOUNT, NETHER STOWEY RECREATION GROUND AND SURROUNDS, NETHER STOWEY A39 BYPASS WOOD, STOWEY MILLENNIUM WOOD AND DIAMOND JUBILEE EXTENSION AND STOWEY WOOD ITSELF, AS WELL AS LITTER PICKING IN AND AROUND BOTH VILLAGES EVERY THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH.

SGSG DEPEND TOTALLY ON VOLUNTEERS, FROM OUR VILLAGES, THE AONB'S QUANTOCK COUNTRYSIDE VOLUNTEERS, THE TAUNTON MID-WEEK CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS AND FAMILY GROUPS AND DUKE OF EDINBURGH STUDENTS FROM THE FIELD STUDIES COUNCIL AT NETTLECOMBE COURT. WE HAVE REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE QUANTOCK HILLS AONB, NETHER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL, SEDGEMOOR DISTRICT COUNCIL'S CLIMATE EMERGENCY TEAM, SOMERSET WILDLIFE TRUST'S "TEAM WILDER," QUANTOCK ECO AND FRIENDS OF QUANTOCK. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO EVERYONE FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND FOR ALL THE TIME AND ENERGY THEY PUT IN, WITH PARTICULAR THANKS TO QUANTOCK LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME (QLPS) NETHER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL AND THE SOMERSET FUND FOR GRANTS RECEIVED.

ON CASTLE MOUNT THE FOCUS OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF SEASONS HAS BEEN ON FOOTPATHS AND FENCING, CLEARING BRACKEN AND CREATING THE CONDITIONS FOR WILDFLOWERS TO FLOURISH. A NEW INTERPRETIVE PANEL HAS BEEN INSTALLED, DESIGNED BY TERENCE SACKETT WITH INPUT FROM NIGEL PHILLIPS AND WITH FUNDING GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY THE QUANTOCK LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME.

ON THE A39 BYPASS WOOD WE FINALLY SECURED RECOGNITION FROM THE COUNTY COUNCIL THAT THEY OWN THE LAND AND THAT THEY ARE HAPPY FOR US TO PLANT AND MAINTAIN SAPLINGS THERE. THERE ARE AROUND 70 NOW PLANTED AND DOING WELL.

AT THE ENTRANCES TO THE RECREATION GROUND, WE HAVE INSTALLED INTERPRETIVE PANELS, CARRIED OUT MAINTENANCE WORK, BUILT COMPOSTING STRUCTURES AND PLANTED WILDFLOWERS.

IN STOWEY MILLENNIUM/DIAMOND JUBILEE WOOD AND STOWEY WOOD WE HAVE INSTALLED INFORMATION PANELS. THE MILLENNIUM WOOD HAS RECEIVED LIMITED ATTENTION OVER THE PAST YEAR, APART FROM CLEARING SOME OF THE MULCH MATS AND PINS FROM SAPLINGS PLANTED IN 2012 – SOME OF WHICH ARE NOW 20 FEET TALL - AND INSTALLING BIRD NEST BOXES.

IN STOWEY WOOD SGSG VOLUNTEERS HAVE INVESTED HUNDREDS OF HOURS OF WORK, HELPED BY VARIOUS VOLUNTEER GROUPS. IN RECENT YEARS WE HAVE PLANTED OVER 300 TREES, CHANGING WHAT WAS A DARK MONOCULTURE OF SITKA SPRUCE, PLANTED BACK IN 1970, INTO 28 DIFFERENT NATIVE SPECIES. BOTH STOWEY WOOD AND THE MILLENNIUM WOOD ARE LICENCED TO SGSG BY SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL TO BE MANAGED "FOR THE BENEFIT OF WILDLIFE AND THE COMMUNITY" - AND FAIR TO SAY THAT THE CIRCULAR WALK FROM THE RECREATION GROUND, VIA THE MILLENNIUM WOOD AND STOWEY WOOD HAS BEEN A GODSEND DURING COVID 19. A PATH WHICH WAS LITTLE KNOWN AND LITTLE USED IS NOW POPULAR. IN OCTOBER 2021 SGSG ARRANGED FOR ANOTHER 50-ODD MATURE SITKA TO BE REMOVED, THIS TIME USING HORSES. WE WERE FORTUNATE TO RECEIVE A SUBSTANTIAL GRANT FOR THIS WORK FROM THE GREEN RECOVERY CHALLENGE FUND, FACILITATED BY IAIN PORTER, DEVELOPMENT MANAGER AT THE AONB. PARTICULAR THANKS ARE DUE TO REMKE AND RICHARD PLOWRIGHT AT PLOWRIGHT ORGANIC FARM FOR ALL THEY DID TO PROVIDE ACCESS, GRAZING, FEED AND FACILITIES TO THE HORSE-LOGGING TEAM. TWO OF THE THREE WEEKS WHEN THE HORSES WERE IN ACTION WERE WET, WHICH CAUSED A NARROW QUAGMIRE WHERE THE PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGE STOOD. VOLUNTEERS FIRST FACED THE CHALLENGE OF REMOVING THE BRIDGE AND LATER

THE BIGGER CHALLENGE OF TRYING TO PUT IT BACK, WITH MIXED RESULTS. BUT THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN STOWEY WOOD HAS BEEN BRAMBLE CONTROL, BOTH TO GIVE THE SAPLINGS A BETTER CHANCE OF SURVIVAL AND TO ENCOURAGE GROUND FLORA. WALKERS WILL BE IMPRESSED WITH THE WAY IN WHICH THE TREES ARE BURSTING WITH LIFE.

LITTER PICKING IS AN UNFORTUNATE NECESSITY. SGSG-RUN LITTER PICKS HAVE CONTINUED, EVEN DURING LOCKDOWN, COVERING THE AREA FROM THE COTTAGE INN, ALONG THE A39 FROM INWOOD TO THE STOGURSEY TRAFFIC LIGHTS AND STOGURSEY LANE AS WELL AS IN AND AROUND NETHER STOWEY AND OVER STOWEY. WE MEET AT STOWEY RECREATION GROUND PORTACABIN AT 10 AM ON EVERY THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH. LITTER BAGS ARE COLLECTED BY RICHARD INCE AND TAKEN TO PARSONAGE FARM, OVER STOWEY, FROM WHERE THEY ARE COLLECTED BY SEDGEMOOR DISTRICT COUNCIL'S CLEAN SURROUNDING TEAM.

WHAT NEXT?

MORE OF THE SAME, ALTHOUGH WE CAN'T CONTINUE TO TAKE ON MORE - AT LEAST NOT WITHOUT MORE SUPPORT. THAT SAID:

WE'LL CONTINUE WITH THE PERIODIC LITTER PICKS IN WHICH MANY HELPERS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED.

WE'LL CONTINUE TO DO WHAT WE CAN ON CASTLE MOUNT.

IN THE AUTUMN WE'LL LOOK AT THINNING STOWEY MILLENNIUM WOOD, WHERE NOT ONLY ARE TREES LOOKING STRAGGLY BUT THERE IS A LOT OF ASH, WHICH MAY BE SUFFERING FROM DIE-BACK. SOME WILL BE FELLED AND THE TIMBER SOLD.

THE TIMBER FELLED IN STOWEY WOOD HAS ALREADY BEEN EARMARKED FOR SALE.

WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE QLPS AND SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL'S RIGHTS OF WAY TEAM ABOUT HOW BEST TO IMPROVE THE PATH AND REPLACE THE FOOTBRIDGE IN STOWEY WOOD.

WE'RE HOPEFUL THAT THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL AGREE THAT A SMALL PATCH OF LAND AT NEW STOWEY FARM CAN BE PLANTED IN THE AUTUMN TO COMMEMORATE THE QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE. ALTHOUGH NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE WE ARE IN POSITIVE TALKS WITH CHARLIE FIELD, SCC'S STRATEGIC MANAGER FOR CORPORATE PROPERTY.

OUR OVERALL VISION IS FOR A NATURE -FRIENDLY CORRIDOR STRETCHING FROM STOWEY ROCKS ORGANIC FARM FOR MUCH OF THE WAY TOWARDS OVER STOWEY AND THE QUANTOCK HILLS. DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THIS ARE TAKING PLACE BETWEEN THE COUNTY COUNCIL, AONB, FIPL, WOODLAND TRUST AND FARMERS ABOUT HOW BEST TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN. PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN PUT TO SCC AND SGSG AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES WILL BE INVITED TO PLAY OUR PART WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT.

Finance and funding presented at AGM 17 May 2022

Summary Accounts for Stowey Green Spaces Group April 1st 2021 to April 30th 2022

S.G.S.G INCOME (£)

Donations 56.00

Sales

Hi-vis jackets..... 12.00

S.G.S.G. Income **£68.00**

EXPENSES

Hoops for Litter Pick Bags	65.00
Wood Preserver (to treat picnic tables).....	34.98
Platinum Jubilee Oak tree for N.S. Primary School	47.45

S.G.S.G. Expenditure **(147.43)**

S.G.S.G. Income less Expenditure **(79.43)**

S.G.S.G. Funds @ 1.4.2021 **£362.91**

S.G.S.G Funds @ 30.4.2022 (£362.91 – 79.43)..... **£283.48**

GRANTS

Nether Stowey P.C. Carried over from 1st April 2021 = £65.69

plus 2022 Grant of £182.00

247.69

Somerset Fund Carried over from 1st April 2021

406.00

Total Grant Money available **£653.69**

Grant Expenditure

Public & Liability Insurance

**99.31

Hire of Recreation Ground Portacabin & Village Hall

**37.00

Timber, some screws and gloves

***270.85

Non-slip strips for Stowey Wood bridge.....

*** 64.76

Set aside for Garry Bicker's invoice for A39 clearance.....

*** 70.39

Total Grant Expenditure

(** = P.C. £136.31 * ** = Somerset Fund £406.00)..... **542.31**

BALANCE of GRANTS (P.C. = £111.38 and Som. Fund = £0)..... **£111.38**

TOTAL FUNDS

S.G.S.G. **283.48**

Balance of Grants **111.38**

Somerset Fund money allocated to Garry Bickers..... **70.39**

TOTAL CASH **£465.25**

BANK STATEMENT (30.4.2022) **£465.25**

Notes

- 1) Stowey Green Spaces Group has money from donations, sale of timber and so on and this can be spent in any way that furthers the purposes of the Group
- 2) Grant money is “dedicated” and can only be spent on specified purposes. The Parish Council grant is for Insurance and the hire of rooms for meetings. The Somerset Fund, to be used by Oct. 31st 2021, was granted for improvements to access (such as the steps in Stowey Wood) and general upgrading of surroundings
- 3) The Group has an outstanding (and not yet received invoice for bramble cutting on the A39 Bypass) and the balance of the Somerset Fund (£70.39) is dedicated to this.
- 4) The Group has assets of felled timber (approx. £400) and Hi-Vis jackets (£48) as well as an approx. £100 liability for the unpaid invoice.
- 5) The Group received **£6776.00** from the Quantock Hills A.O.N.B. Green Recovery Challenge Fund to pay for the felling and subsequent extraction of timber with horses in October 2021. This money entered the Group’s account on **Oct 26th 2021** and was paid out to Mrs. K.I. Mobbs-Morgan on **Nov. 1st 2021**
- 6) The Parish Council paid £100 directly for 8 Bin Bag Holders and 14 Litter Picking Sticks and gave these plus two further holders in their stock to the Group to add to the 6 bought by the Group in June
- 7) Please note that these accounts are for 13 months as this made for a more coherent set of accounts. Unless decided otherwise the next set of accounts will be for 11 months.

T.P. Abbiss, Treasurer

May 15th 2022

Externally funded projects

Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme

By the end of July 2021 £2,416 had been invoiced to QLPS by the contractors and paid directly to them by the funder. This was for the interpretation panels on the Mount, Recreation Ground, Stowey Wood and Millennium/Jubilee Woods.

Detail	Unit cost £	Quantity	Total	VAT	VAT £	Total cost including VAT - £	Contractor
1 x Stowey Wood, 1 x Millennium/Jubilee Woods, 3 x Recreation Ground	59.75	5	298.75	20%	59.75	358.50	RT Signs, Bridgwater
Millennium Wood	43.75	1	43.75	20%	8.75	52.50	RT Signs, Bridgwater
The Mount	86.00	1	86.00	20%	17.20	103.20	RT Signs, Bridgwater
1 x Stowey Wood, 1 x Millennium/Jubilee Woods, 1 x Recreation Ground 2 x Recreation Ground	496.00	1	496.00	N/A		496.00	Mark Crawford
Recreation Ground	215.00	2	430.00	20%	86.00	516.00	Grandfield and Son, Nether Stowey.

1 x Stowey Wood, 1 x Millennium/Jubilee Woods, 1 x Recreation Ground	247.33	3	742.00	20%	148.40	890.40	Grandfield and Son, Nether Stowey.
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2416.60

Outstanding approved quotations were £198.94 Library Car Park panel, £316.80 3 x 500 fliers (Mount, Millennium and Stowey Woods) and an estimated £1000 on improvements to Stowey Wood and Recreation Ground (along the watercourse) paths that has since been cancelled following Bill Jenman's recommendations for more robust solutions. The Library Car Park panel is under further consideration and the fliers on hold. Bill Jenman has recommended that Stowey Wood footbridge be replaced following the horse logging activity – detail under the Stowey Wood header below - and that the Recreation Ground path work be 'engineered' because of its proximity to the watercourse, for which we would seek further funding if the Nether Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground CIO trustees favour that solution.

92 volunteer days were submitted to Bill Jenman of QLPS for the 12 months to the end of March 2022, with a total value for match funding of £5,250, being £50 per volunteer day and £150 per day for professional input. This exceeds the match-funding requirement.

We have benefitted enormously from Terry Sacket's input as a professional volunteer on the graphic design.

The Woodland Trust

Donation of wild cherry and crab trees in Stowey Wood from Bill Jenman.

Synopsis of Minutes: Green Spaces Work

Detail of volunteer work groups, areas and hours is tabulated in Working Parties section and Appendix A

Stowey Wood – management licensed to us by County Council

Horse logging project

Felling and removal by horses (less damaging than mechanical removal) of a third of the Sitka spruce trees over three weeks from Monday 27 September to Friday 15 October, funded with a grant from the Quantock Hills AONB Green Recovery Challenge Fund.

Trees were selected to create glades and to create "halos" around healthy trees, allowing them to flourish and more light to reach the woodland floor, encouraging a greater diversity of species. Following earlier investigative visits with Merlin, an experienced cutter, Kate Mobbs-Morgan of Rowan Working Horses in Monmouth arrived with a team of horses, Merlin and a second professional horse logger. Volunteers carried out preparatory work including removal of the footbridge. Remke and Richard at Plowright Organic were extremely supportive in arranging a suitable area for accommodating horses, people and vehicles on their land, making available washing facilities, grazing, water and hay as well as a designated area for storage of the timber and access for its ultimate removal. The trees were dragged out of the wood along the access track, causing some inevitable disruption. The upper path was signposted to allow the public through the wood, the footbridge having been removed and the footpath considerably churned up. It is again passable but improvement is necessary and this is being thought through with the help of Bill Jenman of QLPS. Brash and some logs were intentionally left in the wood and they are being piled to create bug habitats.

Ian Porter, Development Manager of the Quantock Hills AONB, and Anna Mears, co-ordinator of Sedgemoor's "Environment Champions", visited the site and complimented the project. Kit Houghton spent a day on the site taking professional photographs.

Maple Class from Nether Stowey VC Primary School Children visited the site of the logging on 6 October. Kate Mobbs-Morgan and team put on a special display of the horses in action, explained the work and answered the children's many good questions.

Proceeds from the sale of the timber will boost our finances in the year 2022-23, although rather less than hoped as it is for firewood only.

There is a proposal for a 7-metre length boardwalk on either side of the area where the current wooden bridge crosses the water from the spring and a new 4-metre bridge between, 25 metres in all. Interestingly it is suggested that this be in recycled plastic - the argument in favour is that it lasts forever, doesn't need any treatment (undesirable chemicals) and recycled plastic is mounting up because of a shortage of demand for it. This would be a costly project and new funding would be sought. Access would be required and Remke of Plowright Organic is sympathetic to this.

Inauguration of interpretation panel

Our own volunteers as well as a group of VIPs attended and enjoyed cake and refreshments on 17 August 2021.

Bramble bashing

Removal and destruction by volunteers of the brambles that were throttling the saplings planted in 2018. This major exercise took place throughout the period leading up to the bird-nesting season in March 2022.

Construction of steps and associated handrail

Balfour Beatty volunteers built new steps from the upper path to the stream and our volunteers added the handrail. Materials funded from the Somerset fund.

Other work

Repair to footbridge, planting of replacement saplings including wild cherry and crab apple trees donated by The Woodland Trust, removal of Himalayan Balsam, general maintenance including to the picnic table and benches as well as handrails.

Millennium and Jubilee Woods – management licensed to us by County Council

Work in the Woods covered installation of a new handrail, funded by The Somerset Fund, and maintenance of the picnic table that included repair by Nether Stowey Parish Council following surface burn from a portable barbeque.

In order to give a more open aspect to the Millennium Wood, plans are in hand for thinning of 20% of the trees, including those affected by ash dieback, estimated as 20 cubic metres suitable for sale as firewood for which a funding proposal is to be worked up. Work of carrying out the project to take place in autumn 2022.

The mulch mats that were pinned to the base of the Jubilee Wood at the time of planting are yet to be removed.

The Mount – a Scheduled Monument, privately owned

The main project was professional installation of stage one of replacement of perimeter fencing with chestnut posts and rails. The Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme funded this. Volunteer time on The Mount was allowed as matched funding and a further 46 volunteer days will be required in due course for stage two. Herdwick sheep continue to graze when possible to keep the bracken and gorse at bay.

The Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme also funded a replacement information panel, designed as a professional volunteer by Terry Sacket. A good group of people attended the inauguration party on a sunny Wednesday 14 July.

Volunteers, including the Taunton Midweek Conservation Volunteers, worked on tidying in preparation for the fencing operation and also removing bracken shoots and then the dead bracken in February, March and April after application of Asulux, allowing grass and wild flower

growth. As a Scheduled Monument, all brash had to be removed for destruction elsewhere. The clearance was rewarded with extensive growth of celandines, primroses and some violets

Nether Stowey Bypass Wood

We were helped with funding by The Somerset Fund.

Our main activity, largely carried out by volunteers with a few hours input from a local contractor, was behind Upper Lime Street - clearing some 50 metres of bramble, digging up 40 metres of bramble roots and planting grass and wild flower seed, paid for from The Somerset Fund, along a 30 metre stretch. In August Duke of Edinburgh volunteers removed a considerable amount of ragwort. A kindly anonymous volunteer also cut back and cleared bramble in the area east of the Village Hall pedestrian access.

More saplings were planted and bramble cleared from the existing young trees.

At the beginning of the year the Parish Council issued a letter jointly with the Green Spaces Group explaining our work to the residents of Upper Lime Street. Inspection had shown a significant amount of fly-tipped material in the woodland area and remains on the list of outstanding tasks.

A wooden handrail was installed on the steps previously constructed by Stowey Green Spaces in collaboration with Stowey Walking. The Parish Council subsequently replaced this with a metal handrail.

Recreation Ground

Although not directly represented any more on the Recreation Ground Committee, the Stowey Green Spaces hope to continue a close relationship. An Annual Maintenance Plan has been passed to the Recreation Ground Committee, based on SGSG original and on-going assessment since.

Nether Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground CIO – Planning Application by the Parish Council 36/21/00030, the Block Plan has been updated to reflect the suggestion of SDC Landscape Officer to include new native trees. Some 120 trees have to be removed to allow the new access road. SGSG, as an interested party, supported the Landscape Officer's comments.

A report (SGSGforNSVH&RGCIOMarch2022.docx) was submitted to CIO trustees together with detail of suggested work in light of The Stowey Project and following the Zoom presentation by the Community Council for Somerset with the Woodland Trust which had been passed to us by the Trustees.

Volunteers including from the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme cleared the area in front of the watercourse of docks at the Old A39 end to allow development of the wild flowers planted last year.

Plot 173 aka the secret garden

Three wild crab apple trees successfully planted by volunteers on behalf of NS Parish Council.

Graffiti.

Following the work started last year, our volunteers completed the final removal of graffiti in the Banneson area using materials supplied by the Parish Council and their thanks minuted by the Council.

Synopsis of minutes: Litter Picking

With the help of Sedgemoor Clean Surroundings, Parsonage Farm and our 26 volunteers.

Started the year with individual picking and home disposal under COVID-19 rules. In June we returned to Sedgemoor Clean Surroundings monthly pick-ups from Parsonage Farm and Richard picking-up from Recreation Ground main gate, with briefings at the Portacabin. Sedgemoor provided blue bags as required. Individual collections on days and times of choice increasingly used. Alerts sent out monthly and Judith or Paul on duty on the Recreation Ground for liaison and equipment hand outs as required. Better listing of areas in Nether Stowey, thanks to Paul,

eliminated suggested twice-monthly picks. Overlap of areas by pickers remains a bit of an issue. Most interesting find was the sad corpse of an otter, collected directly by Clean Surroundings. Although we are aware that a lot of anonymous people collect litter regularly, the monthly amount remains substantial – 5-8 bags for Clean Surroundings - waste is not sorted although volunteers working individually put their sorted pickings into their household waste.

With thanks to funding and supply by Nether Stowey Parish Council, we were able to replenish our stocks of picker sticks and hoops with 14 litter picking sticks and 8 bin bag holders plus a further 2 holders from PC stock. Past records show 13 sticks totalling £100.30 and 15 hoops totalling £144.10 purchased from 2018 to date with original stick donations from SDC Clean Surroundings and possible donation of 12 sticks from Richard pre-COVID.

Synopsis of Minutes: Events, Community Projects, School liaison, Working Parties

Events

- Annual Parish Meetings: Roy gave a summary of SGSG activities to Over Stowey Parish Council on the evening of 28 April and to Nether Stowey on 24 May 2021.
- Party in the Park Saturday postponed from 3 July, due to COVID-19, to 7 August on Recreation Ground. We took responsibility for litter collection, separation and transport of recyclables to Saltlands. Promotional fliers and interpretive panel posters by Terry S, business cards by Terry A. were all available for hand out on our display. Rain dictated set-up of stall in the Youth Shelter but would have been better visited among the 'family' stalls. We must locate a suitable canopy/shelter for future stalls! In spite of poor weather, a reasonable and good-natured turnout.
- The Mount - Inauguration of new panel Wednesday 14 July. Good weather, good group of VIPs and community representatives, good cake thanks to Jo, and refreshment and we have publicity and a photograph
- Stowey Wood panels inauguration on 17 August provided a restful event for the 1st and 3rd Tuesday volunteers
- 21 August Nether Stowey Flower Show at Village Hall. Terry A. and Roy installed a SGSG display.
- Over Stowey Church Barbeque 28 August, Saturday, SGSG Display Stand arranged by Roy at Bincombe House.
- Stowey Walking's Quantock Hills Walking Festival Saturday/Sunday 25/26 September - SGSG display in Church Centre
- Church Centre Climate Change Meetings 9 March 2022 and 13 April 2022 – evening of 23 March SGSG Presentation by Roy and Climate Change display from Terry A. arranged with Maggie Harrison

Community Projects and Outside Organisations

- Sedgemoor District Council Local Environmental Champion Scheme – Roy is a registered Champion, linked to SGSG. He contributed a ten-minute talk at the Annual Event on 15 September 2021 and wrote a contribution for one of the newsletters. SDC has pledged to become carbon neutral by 2030. Roy is registered with link to SGSG. He sent a contribution for their newsletter. On-line launch event was scheduled for the evening of 16 June 2021.
- Somerset Climate Action Network (CAN) - Community Benefit Society registration number 8168 on the FCA Mutuals Public Register that contacted us by email. Somersetcan.org.uk. Roy in communication.
- Somerset County Council Rights of Way, Martin Cooper, sent a letter of appreciation of our work.
- Liaison with Woodland Trust continues.
- We maintain a valued good relationship with the Quantock AONB and the QLPS.

School Liaison

- The visit to Stowey Wood during the horse logging project by Primary School children went well
- Platinum Jubilee Tree planting of an oak on School Grounds in March 2022, with thanks to Mrs Chloe Holt.

Working parties

We have continued to work with the help of the Taunton Midweek Conservation Volunteers and the Field Studies Council at Nettlecombe Court – this year contributing help from their Duke of Edinburgh Award candidates - as well as our own Stowey Green Maintenance Volunteers that this year have increased their schedule to twice a week. Following a suggestion at the Party in the Park we initiated a very successful group of Stowey Weekend Volunteers. A further bonus was made through EDF Community Relations that put us in touch with Balfour Beatty volunteers for a hard day's work. Other inputs much appreciated are the cake supplies from Jo Davison.

Volunteer hours are recorded and submitted for match funding.

Table of volunteer groups and hours

Sum of HOURS	Column Labels												Grand Total
	2021						2022						
Row Labels	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
Aubreys		18					14				4		36
Castle Mount		18					14				4		36
Balfour Beatty Community Day				32									32
Stowey Wood				32									32
Individual	4	2	61	3		17	2	2	7	7	7	8	120
Bypass	2											2	4
Castle Mount	2												2
Recreation Ground		2	3										5
Signage			58	3									61
Stowey Wood						17	2	2	7	7	7	6	48
Nettlecombe Field Studies Centre					36								36
Bypass					10								10
Recreation Ground					16								16
Stowey Wood					10								10
SG1stAnd3rdTuesdayVolunteers	28	2		7	4	16	22	24	7	20	34	15	179
Bypass	10					16	8	18	7				59
Castle Mount	4			2	4					10		15	35
Millennium Wood								6					6
Recreation Ground	10												10
Stowey Wood	4	2		5			14		0	10	34		69
SGexceptional											6	10	16
Castle Mount												10	10
Stowey Wood											6		6
SGweekendVolunteers						33				57	19	14	123
Plot 173												14	14
Stowey Wood						33				57	19		109
Taunton Midweek Volunteers		16		34		66	35			53			204
Castle Mount				34		66							100
Stowey Wood		16					35			53			104
Grand Total	32	38	61	76	40	132	72	26	14	137	70	47	744

For a detailed table of areas, groups and tasks by date, see Appendix A

Synopsis of minutes: Signage, publicity and marketing

- Interpretation panels thanks to Terry S.' voluntary design work, RT Signs of Bridgwater for printing, Grandfield's for carpentry, Mark Crawford for installation and particularly Bill Jenman and the Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme for funding. Three freestanding panels were placed on the Recreation Ground and one each in Stowey Wood and Millennium/Jubilee Wood. On The Mount, a replacement panel was installed in existing frame. Final panel due at NS Library Car Park yet to be arranged, discussion on-going with Bill Jenman.
- Outstanding fliers funded by QLPS to match the interpretation panels – as yet on hold.
- Thanks to the generosity of Nether Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground CIO trustees, we have a presence on their stowey.org.uk website as well as a dedicated email address - stoweygreenspaces@stowey.org.uk.
- Regular Quantock Messenger articles have been submitted and our Facebook entries kept moderately reasonably up to date as well as diary events on PC website and information to nextdoor.co.uk
- The AONB publication Quantock Hills Winter 2021 newsletter, page 9, was a generous tribute to the work of SGSG.
- Duke of Edinburgh Award candidates: We made contact with Carol Authers in early 2022, the Kilve Court coordinator, and at her suggestion placed posters in the Library and Parish Office as well as publicity in March Quantock Messenger inviting candidates to participate in our activities.

Synopsis of minutes: Environmental records:

It was acknowledged that whilst fauna were generally recorded the records of flora noted were less full, due to there being less familiarity with this subject. Records for this year yet to be formatted.

Synopsis of minutes: AOB

General

- Hopes - that Stowey Wood might eventually be extended westwards, either by tree-planting or natural regeneration, to create a corridor towards the boundary with the AONB
- Stowey Walking – Terry S., a member of the committee together with the NS and OS PPLOs, will liaise between our two organisations.
- SGSG AGM: Over Stowey Village Hall 7 p.m. on 17 May 2022 to include a quiz among the activities and further exploration to be carried out with regard to food. SGSG AGM:
- Footpaths – We have offered support to Parish Path Liaison Officers (PPLOs).

Items outstanding at 31 March 2022

- QLPS outstanding items not yet instructed following original 5K approval.
- Stowey Wood footbridge and approach renovation
- Millennium Wood tree thinning
- Recreation Ground – follow up from VH&RG CIO: hedge and tree planting for Stowey Project; submission of SGSG report of March 2022 following Woodland Trust/CCS presentation online
- DofE follow up in Autumn with Carol Authers (Kilve Court)
- Bypass Wood/Verge removal of fly tipped material behind Upper Lime Street.

APPENDIX

A. Areas of work, working parties and details of tasks by date

Row Labels
Bypass
Individual
22-Apr-21
Finished clearing, sowed final GRASS seed
28-Mar-22
Cutting back bramble
Nettlecombe Field Studies Centre
19-Aug-21
Cutting and stacking ragwort for breakdown. 8 DofE candidates. 11.15 to 12.30
SG1stAnd3rdTuesdayVolunteers
06-Apr-21
Digging out bramble roots at cleared W. end
20-Apr-21
Removing final bramble roots, raking smooth and sowing GRASS/FLOWER seed mixture
07-Sep-21
Clearing brambles for grass and wild flower seeding
21-Sep-21
Clearing bramble ready for grass/wild flower preparation. 2.30-4.30
23-Sep-21
Removing all loose material prior to digging out bramble roots
05-Oct-21
2.30-4.30, JMH only 90mins. Digging out bramble roots at cleared W. end
02-Nov-21
Handrails on Bypass and Millennium Wood
16-Nov-21
Planting saplings on Bypass verge and clearing around existing saplings
21-Dec-21
Clearing around saplings
Castle Mount
Aubreys
01-May-21
With the use of truck removed the large pile of gorse that had been left behind after the fencing was done for disposal elsewhere. Cutting and pulling up bracken - often brought up some of the roots. 6 people x 3 hours.
13-Oct-21
Removing all brash and brambles cut by TMV and taken to Jacobs Barn for burning 3 vols
27-Oct-21
Collecting previously cut bracken and removing to Jacob's Barn for disposal 2 vols
02-Feb-22
Removing bracken brash for destruction elsewhere 2 vols
Individual
25-Apr-21
Sunday 25th April Cutting bracken shoots 2 hours -Sue A
SG1stAnd3rdTuesdayVolunteers
27-Apr-21
Cutting, crushing bracken 2 vols
20-Jul-21
Cutting back bracken 1 vol
03-Aug-21
Cutting back bracken 1 vol
31-Aug-21
Cutting back bracken 1 vol

18-Jan-22	Scraping dead bracken that has been asuluxed, to allow growth of grass and wild flowers 5 vols
01-Mar-22	Removing bracken brash for destruction elsewhere 7 vols
15-Mar-22	Removing bracken brash for destruction elsewhere 1 vol
SGexceptional	
08-Mar-22	Removing bracken brash and transporting for destruction elsewhere 5 vols
Taunton Midweek Volunteers	
08-Jul-21	Cutting and stacking bracken for removal elsewhere 10 a.m. - 3p.m. 7 Taunton of whom 1 left 1pm and 1 at 1.30. Roy for 1.5 hrs
16-Sep-21	Removing remaining redundant fencing, removing brambles, clearing unnecessary growth. Nobody slipped off early. 11 vols
Millennium Wood	
SG1stAnd3rdTuesdayVolunteers	
02-Nov-21	Handrails on Bypass and Millennium Wood
Plot 173	
SGweekendVolunteers	
06-Mar-22	Planting 3 Crab Apple sturdy young trees supplied by Parish Council.
Recreation Ground	
Individual	
02-May-21	Raked, smoothed, sowed GRASS/FLOWER seed
18-Jun-21	Removing docks and nettles from seeded corner by MUGA
30-Jun-21	Removing docks and nettles from seeded corner by MUGA
Nettlecombe Field Studies Centre	
19-Aug-21	Clearing weeds from wild flower area. Plus 1 tutor and Terry A. 11.20 to 12.30
	Stabilising path along the stream. Plus Terry A. 11.20 to 2.15 including lunch break
SG1stAnd3rdTuesdayVolunteers	
20-Apr-21	Clearing land, digging out docks, buttercups etc. by MUGA area for wild flower seeding
23-Apr-21	Clearing land, digging out docks, buttercups etc. by MUGA area for wild flower seeding
27-Apr-21	Clearing land, digging out docks, buttercups etc. by MUGA area for wild flower seeding
Signage	
Individual	
30-Jun-21	Administration for QLPS funded work: Corresponding email, phone, in person with QLPS, Sue, Terry Sackett, Dr Prior and suppliers.
	Graphic design 7 panels; visits to RT Signs and Grandfield's; corresponding with PC for website, Dr Prior/Sue/Judith for text.
09-Jul-21	Organisation of web content for The Mount
17-Jul-21	5 Jul walk round with Mark Crawford and 17/18 Jul checking and photographing Mark Crawford's signage installations Stowey and Millennium Woods
Stowey Wood	
Balfour Beatty Community Day	
29-Jul-21	

Clearing and widening upper path preparatory to autumn tree felling and building steps and installing non-slip material on bridge. 1-4.30 except Chaplain 1-2.30
Individual
30-Sep-21
Drafting and installing ALERT notices for closure of paths during Rowan Working Horses activity
Planning, organisation and communication for Rowan Working Horses felling and logging of some 50 Sitka spruce
22-Oct-21
Posts and rails secured ready for Taunton Midweekers on 28 in SW. First attempt at habitat pile/bug hotel (Email 10Nov2021)
09-Nov-21
I (10Nov2021 email) have carried out some tidying in Stowey Wood, mainly by piling logs and building brash and habitat piles. This has the additional benefit of clearing space for limited broadleaf planting.
31-Dec-21
General maintenance
31-Jan-22
General maintenance
28-Feb-22
General maintenance and replacing failed saplings
15-Mar-22
2 sessions working replacing failed saplings, including crab apple and wild cherry from Woodland Trust. Clearing and digging up more bramble.
Nettlecombe Field Studies Centre
19-Aug-21
Clearing around saplings. Plus 2 tutors and JMG1 pm to 2.15 including lunch break
SG1stAnd3rdTuesdayVolunteers
06-Apr-21
Repair foot bridge, remove tree guards, take out bramble roots
06-May-21
Surveying and measuring site for proposed steps
07-Jul-21
Judith/Roy clearing upper path. Simon clearing an area at the top entrance to the wood, past the ponds and down to the bridge
19-Oct-21
2-4.30 Restoring the bridge and tidying up post Rowan Working Horses work
07-Dec-21
Cancelled for weather - high winds
04-Jan-22
Clearing around saplings
01-Feb-22
A good day yesterday with 10 people and lots of work clearing brambles and brash achieved. Terry A., Roy, Paul, Sue A (1 hr), Kit & Kate, Tim & Michelle Tribe, Martin Trout, Tom Foy
15-Feb-22
Bramble clearance and stacking
SGexceptional
22-Feb-22
Bramble clearance and stacking
SGweekendVolunteers
18-Sep-21
Clearing storage area for felled timber. Clearing upper path
19-Sep-21
Preparatory work for start of felling 50 trees using horse loggers. 15 Volunteers
29-Jan-22
Clearing bramble in area of and around saplings
30-Jan-22
18 volunteers Clearing bramble in area of and around saplings and destroying brash
26-Feb-22
Call for last bramble clearance

27-Feb-22
Call for last bramble clearance
Taunton Midweek Volunteers
13-May-21
Cleared bramble; also worked in RG and MW
28-Oct-21
Taunton Mid-Week Conservation volunteers have installed the handrail adjacent to the Balfour Beatty steps in Stowey Wood. The Taunton volunteers also improved the main footpath in Stowey Wood and further reinforced the area around the footbridge, (RO 10Nov2021 email
20-Jan-22
Clearing bramble in area of and around saplings