



STRETTON FOCUS

APRIL 2023

COMMUNITY VOICE OF THE STRETTONS £1.30



STRETTON FOCUS



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Founded 1967

Average monthly sales 1,550 copies
(About 67% of dwellings in Church Stretton)

Chairman

Richard Fillenham 723119

Editors

(editor@strettonfocus.co.uk)
Patricia Thomas
Sandra Davies (Events Diary)
David Lyons, Janet Du Cros
Clare Patterson

In-house Journalist

Christine Williams

Cover Editor

Geoff Taylor 723301

Design and Layout

Barrie Raynor 723928
Graham Cossins, Rowland Jackson
Steve Moore, Andrew Fenton

Proof Readers

Catherine Macartney, Bronwen Taylor,
Catherine Redfern, Linda Bishop,
Cynthia Wood, Nina Marsh

Subscriptions and Distribution

Chrys Bonds 724184
Peter Whitlock 725533

Advertising (Business)

Sara Hewitt 658086

Finance Director

John Rowlands

Secretary

Chris Moores 722940

Directors

Richard Fillenham, John Rowlands,
Barrie Raynor, Chris Moores,
Sandra Davies, Geoff Taylor, Andrew Fenton,
Christine Williams, Paul Harding

Advertisements (Business)

Rates for block and occasional business
advertisements may be obtained from the
Advertising Manager, Sara Hewitt,
71 High Street, Church Stretton, SY6 6BY,
or email to adverts@strettonfocus.co.uk
to whom copy should be sent.

The STRETTON FOCUS Directors cannot
accept responsibility for any product
or service advertised. Acceptance of an
advertisement does not imply any form of
approval or recommendation. Advertisers
are required to comply with the British
Code of Advertising Practice.

Disclaimer

STRETTON FOCUS prints a wide range of
articles and letters. The views expressed
in these are those of their authors and
not necessarily those of the Management
Board. The Editors exercise their right to
edit any articles, letters etc submitted
for publication at their discretion without
consulting the author.

Outlets

STRETTON FOCUS may be purchased by
annual subscription (delivered) or directly
from Vine & Co (Sandford Avenue), Co-op,
Family Shopper, Church Stretton Library,
Mayfair and the Churches.

© 2023 STRETTON FOCUS LIMITED
Registration No. 06237590 Inc in England
Registered Office: 8 High Street,
Church Stretton, SY6 6BU
ISSN 1479-7356

Printed by WPG, Welshpool

This Month in Focus

- 21 Amnesty International
- 17 Arts Festival
- 43 Catholic Voice
- 37 Churches Together Easter Services
- 62 Croquet in Church Stretton
- 30 Crossword and March Solution
- 11 CSALHG Talk: Pilleth
- 54 CSTC Community Matters
- 3 Editorial: Janet Du Cros
- 20 Exploring Scouting
- 26 Flicks in the Sticks
- 3 Focus Secretary Wanted
- 42 Forty Years of Traidcraft
- 34 Friends of CS Library
- 38 Gardening Club Spring Show
- 58 Haiti: The 1791 Slaves Revolt
- 10 Historic Church Stretton
- 17 Letters
- 34 Library Events
- 3 Little Stretton Village Hall Grant
- 11 Little Stretton Village Hall Talk
- 50 Mayfair News and Lottery
- 61 Methodist Voice
- 39 National Trust: April Flowers
- 25 Our Changing Language
- 28 Panto Review
- 62 Pétanque
- 40 Quaker Voice
- 11 Rail Users Assoc. Talk and AGM
- 12 Recipe of the Month
- 38 Red Kites
- 18 Rotary Club: A Typical Week
- 19 Rotary Club: Rabbits Competition
- 37 RSPB Local Group
- 63 RSPB Nature Notes: Red Grouse
- 39 SACWG News
- 15 Saturday Morning Music
- 21 Scout Group News
- 14 SHI Events
- 61 St Lawrence School Fair
- 27 StrettFest
- 63 Stretton Cancer Support
- 59 Stretton Civic Society Needs You
- 40 Stretton Climate Care
- 61 Strettondale PPG
- 32 Student Journalists
- 62 Summer Volleyball
- 38 SWT Talk: Regenerative Farming
- 30 Trivia Answers
- 12 Trivia Corner
- 25 Ukelele Group - Stretton Strummers
- 19 UNA Ukraine
- 19 URC Voice
- 4 What's On
- 22 Wig Bank

Helmeth Wood bluebells



Photo: Geoff Taylor

SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES AND PHOTOGRAPHS FOR PUBLICATION

should be made to the editors by
email at

editor@strettonfocus.co.uk

Please use this address even if you are
contacting an individual editor.
If you do not receive a response within
48 hours please check the address
carefully and send your email again.

If you are unable to use email,
your material may be submitted to
Wrights, Estate Agent,
32 Sandford Avenue,
Church Stretton, SY6 6BW
clearly labelled 'Stretton Focus'.
These items are collected on the
deadline date.

When are the deadlines?

The deadline for receipt of all
submissions by all methods is

**12 NOON on the FIRST
MONDAY OF EACH MONTH**

for the following month's edition.
If the Monday is a Bank Holiday,
the deadline will be

**12 NOON on the TUESDAY of
that week.**

No submissions will be accepted
after the deadline unless prior
arrangements have been agreed
with the editors.

For the **May** issue the deadline is
Monday 3rd April, at 12 noon.

For the **June** issue the deadline is
Tuesday 2nd May, at 12 noon.

The **May** issue will be distributed on
Friday 28th April

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Focus can be purchased by
subscription and delivered to your
door for £12 per year.

If you wish to use this facility, please
phone the Subscriptions Manager on
01694 725533 or 724184 or email

focus.subscription@gmail.com
COMMUNITY AWARDS

Focus has a scheme whereby clubs,
societies, organisations and individuals
can apply for a grant up to a maximum
of £1,000 for projects which have a
direct benefit to the community of the
Strettons. For details and an application
form, please see the Focus website

www.strettonfocus.co.uk

Editorial

Welcome to April's edition of *Focus*. One of the challenges of writing an editorial/article for a monthly magazine is that it needs to be completed a few weeks before the edition drops through your letter boxes. (I'm sure that our regular contributors will confirm this!) So, I am looking forward to a month in which I hope we will be well into spring, a time when I will be able to spend lots of time in my garden, but my current view is of several inches of snow covering the landscape.

We are reminded in one article in this edition that TS Eliot referred to April as "the cruellest month" in *The Waste Land* (page 39). However, like me, our contributors all have a much more positive view. April is "welcomed for sunshine and showers, longer days and a blaze of spring flowers" (page 61). We are encouraged to spend more time outdoors. Sports clubs are dusting off their equipment and appealing for new members. The gardening club has set a date for its spring show and the National Trust, RSPB and Community

Wildlife Group invite us to enjoy the best that mother nature has to offer in this beautiful part of the world.

There are, of course, many events featured in both articles and What's On which provide us with opportunities to spend time indoors: Flicks, SHI events and history talks to name a few.

Fingers crossed that should you want to be out and about or would simply like to find time to read through the magazine in the sunshine, April provides us with some lovely warm spring days. Even better if this coincides with the bank holiday weekend – but am I asking too much?

Happy Easter. Enjoy the spring.

Janet Du Cros



Focus Secretary Wanted!

The *Focus* board needs a new secretary to provide secretarial and administrative support. This is an opportunity to join the friendly *Focus* team and to help in the running of the company. The role requires a person who has basic computing skills sufficient to be comfortable with the production of the minutes of board meetings (about four a year) and using emails to communicate with board members. In addition to this core function, some additional administration skills are required to take care of the arrangement of meetings and the maintenance of company records. If you are interested in volunteering with *Focus* and helping in this vital role, please contact the Chairman, Richard Fillenham at chairmansfocus@btinternet.com. If you would like any additional information or to chat about what is involved, please contact the current secretary, Chris Moores, on 01694 722940 or by email to cjmoores14@btinternet.com.

Richard Fillenham

**STRETTON
FOCUS**

Focus Grant to Little Stretton Village Hall

Little Stretton Village Hall (LSVH) occupies a mid-Victorian building that started life as a Wesleyan chapel but was redundant before becoming the village hall in 1974. During the following 50 years it has been at the centre of village life and, following the recent renewal of the 50 year lease from the Diocese of Hereford who own the building, this role can continue.

The hall has the great advantage of being small and therefore very suitable for private parties, music group rehearsals and other small group activities. We have a full-size table tennis table which has been regularly used by couples or foursomes in the past and our charges are very modest compared to larger halls, being £10 per morning, afternoon or evening session.

The last three years have presented many challenges for the LSVH Management Committee as bookings dwindled but the £1,000 per annum running costs had still to be met. Every five years an inspection of the fixed electrical installations has to be carried out at a cost of £150 and last January this process identified that £700 of essential repairs were required if the terms of our insurance policy were to be met. Without completion of this remedial work, we could not renew our insurance cover and the hall would have had to be closed.

At this point the cavalry came over the hill in the form of *Stretton Focus* who very generously gave a grant that covered half of the cost of the electrical work. This support not only had benefit for our finances but it raised the morale of the Management Committee who have now developed a programme of fundraising events for the remainder of 2023.

There is to be a plant sale as well as a series of talks on a range of subjects including the ever-popular ones on local history (see feature in this edition on the Tan House Ancient Fireplace talk on 27th April). In the past these have been so well supported that they have had to be repeated for those people who could not get into the oversubscribed first presentation.

We are confident that with hard work and the support of our community our financial reserves will be replenished but the grant from *Stretton Focus* has enabled us to overcome the many challenges we have had to meet lately and we are very grateful.

If any readers would like to discuss booking the hall please contact our Bookings Secretary on 01694 723627 or email MHaigh3@aol.com.

David Haigh

What's On in the Strettons in April

If you wish to make contact with societies and groups, please see the list in the yellow pages

All the regular weekly meetings are now listed separately from the main diary of less frequently occurring and one-off events.

The 'What's On' diary may also be viewed for free on our website: www.strettonfocus.co.uk.

Any amendments and entries too late for the print edition may be added to the website WO by emailing us at editor@strettonfocus.co.uk

WEEKLY EVENTS/MEETINGS:

Babies and Toddlers Group

A friendly, informal group for babies and children until they start school. Children to be accompanied by a responsible adult. Parents-to-be are also welcome. Every Wednesday in term time. 10am-12noon Methodist Church Hall

Badminton Club

Including Junior, Adult and Disability Badminton. All abilities welcome from age 7 to adult. Sports wheelchairs and rackets available free of charge. Info from Alan Fox 07977 060303. Every Wednesday in term time. 6.30-8pm CS Leisure Centre

Balance/Strength: Be Strong Be Steady

£7 per session (cheaper block booking price available). Improve your balance and strength with Wendy Southorn. Every Tuesday. Book at Mayfair. 12.15-1.15pm Mayfair

Bridge Club, The Strettons

Duplicate Bridge in a relaxing atmosphere for players of all standards. Teaching for those new to the game. Visitors are welcome. Contact: Maxine Lainchbury 07971 191664 www.bridgewebs.com/churchstretton Every Thursday 1-5pm All Stretton Village Hall

**Stretton Focus
Website**



www.strettonfocus.co.uk

Chess Club, CS

All ages and abilities welcome. Contact: Tom Williamson 722767. Please enter via rear entrance to avoid contact in bar area. Every Thursday 7.30pm Kings Arms, CS

Christian Meditation (online via Zoom)

We are a non-denominational group welcoming everyone. Christian Meditation is a modern name for a form of contemplative prayer found in early Christian monastic communities and in other major faith traditions. More information from John Dennison: 1johndennison@gmail.com Every Tuesday and Thursday 8pm via Zoom

Christian Meditation (meeting in person)

Details as above. More information from Janice Hicking: 07889 850265 or email janice@hicking.co.uk Every Friday 2pm URC Vestry

Cuppa and Chat at the Methodist Church

Members of the public are invited to drop in for tea, cake and conversation. This is a good way to meet friends and make new friends. Every Wednesday 2.30-4pm Methodist Church Hall

Dancing: Learn 2 Jive

Great fun, improves fitness, no partner needed, join anytime, easy to learn and no experience needed. £6 per class. Contact Matt or Sarah: 01989 750354, info@coolmovesdance.co.uk, www.coolmovesdance.co.uk Every Monday 7.30pm beginners/8.30pm intermediates SHI

Dancing: Scottish

Former and new dancers welcome to this lively social evening, where tuition and support is available. No previous knowledge needed, so why not come and give it a go? Contact 722107. Every Monday. 7.30-9.30pm All Stretton VH

Energy Advice from Stretton Climate Care

Our knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to offer advice on a wide range of issues to do with energy saving, renewable technology and the growing climate emergency. Info from Jon Cooke: 720353. Drop-in session, every Thursday. 10am-12noon HWBC

Family History Research

Our history volunteers will guide you in your local and family history research. Free internet access to Ancestry. These sessions are open to everyone. Every Thursday 1-4pm CS Library

Football: Three Touch Passing

All over 50s welcome. Contact Ken: 328514. Every Wednesday 5-6pm CS Leisure Centre

Handbell Ringers, Hope Bowdler

New members are most welcome; you do not need to be able to read music. Contact: Ruth Jenkins: 724919. The group is available to ring for local community groups and care home residents in return for a small donation towards their new bell fund. Every Thursday. 2pm Hope Bowdler Village Hall

Knit & Natter Group at Ley Gardens

Would-be knitters welcomed. Details from: 722328. Every Monday 2.30pm Ley Gardens, SY6 6GA

Music: Stretton Strummers Ukelele Group

All abilities welcome to our ukulele group to enjoy playing and singing. Every Thursday 10am-12noon at The Scout Hut

Netball Club, Stretton Scarletts

A fun, sociable club with the focus on enjoyment and taking part, for players of all standards, ages (18 years plus) and experience. £3 pp. Contact Amy: 07837 596297. Every Tuesday 7.30-8.30pm CS Leisure Centre

What's On continued

Pickleball Club, CS

Pickleball is a fun sport that combines many elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis. £3 per hour.
Contact Carol: 07803 329106
Every Monday
7-8pm (or 9pm) CS Leisure Centre

Rhyme Time

Fun, songs, stories and rhymes for children under 5 years of age.
Booking may be required.
Every Tuesday.
10.30-11am CS Library

Singing: Breathing Space Singing Group

Singing for health and wellbeing.
Contact Kate: 720358 or 07974 382989 or kate@playonperformingarts.co.uk
Every Wednesday.
3-4pm Mayfair

Singing: Harmony In The Hills

Formerly Stretton Community Singers.
Stretton's Natural Voice community choir, welcoming all who would love to sing. People who have lost confidence or have been told they can't sing are especially valued.
Contact Kate: 07974 382989 or kate@playonperformingarts.co.uk
Every Thursday.
7.30-9pm Mayfair Activity Room

Singing: Stretton Choral Society Rehearsals

New members welcomed. No need to book in or audition – just arrive at about 7.20pm and introduce yourself to a committee member. Although having basic music-reading experience helps, you do not need to be able to sight-sing or to read music fluently.
Every Thursday.
7.30-9.30pm URC

Strength Balance and Flex with Nina

£7 per session (cheaper block booking price available).
Gentle approach to exercise: no jumping or floor work. Ideal for 55 years plus. Standard class includes more seated exercises. Book with Mayfair.
Every Thursday
12.15-1.15pm Mayfair

Strength Balance and Flex PLUS with Nina

Details as above. Plus class is mainly standing exercises, but still no floor work.
Every Thursday
1.30-2.30pm Mayfair

Table Tennis

New players are most welcome.
Contact Chris Smith:
rushburytabletennisclub@gmail.com
7-9.30pm every Monday (all standards)
9.30am-12noon every Saturday (intermediate and above) Rushbury VH

Whist Drive at Westhope

Come along and join our friendly band of whist players.
Every Monday
7.30pm Westhope VH, SY7 9JL

Yoga at Mayfair

With Liz Curtis. £7.50 per session (cheaper block booking price available). Small class for all levels of experience. Beginners welcome. Includes floor work. Contact Mayfair: 722077
Every Monday
5.15-6.45pm Mayfair

Yoga at SHI

£8 per session. Open to all.
Call David Hedge: 07870 936889
Every Tuesday in term time.
10-11.30am SHI

Yoga at Westhope

With Sue Pugh. Numbers are limited.
Contact Betty Manley: 07860 447397
Every Thursday
10.30-11.30am Westhope VH, SY7 9JL

Yoga: Vita Bona Yoga at CS Library

Booking: Sue 07432 349933
Every Monday
9.30-10.30am Improvers
11-11.45am Chair Yoga

Yoga with Becca

£7 per class or £36 block of 6 classes.
Contact Becca on 07905 236805 or yogawithbecca@hotmail.com
Tues: 6.30-7.30pm Mayfair
Wed: 9.30-10.30am Scout Hut
Wed: 6.30-7.30pm SHI
Thurs: 7-8am Scout Hut
Thurs: 9.30-10.30am Leebotwood VH

Youth Club: CS Youth Drop-In

A relaxed and inviting space for school years 8 to 11 to meet up outside of school hours to participate in a range of activities or just chat. Sessions are staffed by trained and DBS-checked youth workers. Contact: Richard 01743 430005 or email at info@sya.org.uk
Every Tuesday in term time
6-7.30pm Pavilion, Russell's Meadow

April Mayfair Teas

Sandwiches, cakes and pastries on offer on various dates this month. Teas will be served between 12noon and 1pm on the following dates:
Wednesday 12th and Friday 14th, Wednesday 19th and Friday 21st, Wednesday 26th and Friday 28th
Booking essential: 722077

GENERAL DIARY:

1 SATURDAY – 30 SUNDAY

Rotary Find the Rabbits Competition

Free, fun event for under 12s.
The Rotary rabbits will be hiding in plain sight in CS shop windows.
See Rotary article for more details.

1 SATURDAY – 2 MAY

Mike Russell Exhibition at CS Library

'Travels with a sketchbook in a campervan' - pen and wash plein-air paintings by local artist.
With an open evening on the 1st April from 6.30pm. Please call Mike for more information: 07815 127177

1 SATURDAY

Saturday Morning Music

This morning's concert is devoted to the organ music of JS Bach.
Free admission, retiring collection.
The Ragleth Inn has kindly agreed to open early, so that we can go over the road for refreshments after the recital.
10.15am Little Stretton Church

CS Ballroom & Sequence Dance Club

Come and enjoy an informal evening of socialising and dance (Ballroom, Latin and Modern Sequence with the odd line dance thrown in!) £7 per person.
All abilities welcome, with or without a partner. Bring your own refreshments.
Info from Christine: 723386
8-10.30pm SHI

3 MONDAY

Rail Users' Association Talk and AGM

The meeting will include a talk by Nichole Sarra from Transport for Wales, who operates our line.
All welcome.
2.30pm Parish Centre

Continued overleaf...



What's On continued

Royal British Legion 'Drink & Chat' Hour

If you are ex Service or have a connection to the Services and would like to join us, do come along and say hello. Non-RBL members welcome.

We meet first Monday of the month.
5.30-6.30pm King's Arms, SY6 6BY

4 TUESDAY

Stretton Stitchers

A small friendly group with varied experience who enjoy sewing in all its forms. New members welcome.

Further information from: Katie 720200 or Frances 722656
10am-1pm URC Hall

Flicks in the Sticks All Stretton

The Quiet Girl (2022)

Theatrical feature documentary

Cert 12A. RT: 1 hr 35 mins

Tickets £6. No interval

Enquiries: 07812 583113

8pm All Stretton VH

5 WEDNESDAY

CS Library Reading Group

Friendly, informal group.

With Felicity Thomas.

2.15-3.15pm CS Library

C.A.M.E.O. Meeting

Hazel Allen: 'Characters in the drama'

All welcome to attend.

Contact: Margaret: 07802 513315

2.30pm Parish Centre

CS Amnesty Group

Meet first Wednesday of the month.

All are welcome; we are a friendly inclusive group.

Contact csamnesty@outlook.com

7.30pm SHI

Flicks in the Sticks: Cardington

The Banshees of Inisherin (2022)

Cert: 15 RT: 1 hr 54 mins

Tickets: £4. Contact: 771295

7.30pm Cardington VH, SY6 7JZ

Long Mynd Camera Club

Stretton Focus cover competition: produce a suitable cover photo for our local community magazine.

www.longmyndcameraclub.co.uk

7.30pm URC Hall

6 THURSDAY

Citizens Advice at CS Library

Trained advisors on hand to give advice.

Sessions by appointment, 1st and 3rd

Thursday of the month.

10am-12noon CS Library

Westhope Clover Club

A friendly, social group for the over 60s, meeting on the first Thursday of the month with a varied programme of events in the hall and occasional outings. All welcome to come along. Enquiries to Kathleen 01584 841254

2.30pm Westhope Village Hall

Sudha in Concert

A rare opportunity to enjoy an evening of world music, including sacred chants and mantras, with Danish singer and dancer, Sudha.

Tickets: £15, available online: www.

ticketsource.co.uk/lumindra

7.30pm SHI

7 GOOD FRIDAY

Hearing Loss Support Hub

Monthly service, offering hearing aid tube changing, battery collection and advice on hearing aid care. Staffed by NHS audiology trained volunteers. Appointments must be pre-booked: 01743 342168.

10am-12noon Mayfair

Churches Together Services

10.30am Good Friday service, Methodist Church

11.40am Walk of Witness from Central

Avenue (meet from 11.30am)

12noon Good Friday Service in the Square

Roman Catholic Services

Please see this month's Catholic Voice, where Canon Mitchell has kindly listed all the services.

u3a Reading Group 1

1st Friday of the month.

2-3pm CS Library

8 SATURDAY

Monthly Drop-In Council Surgery

Second Saturday of the month.

With Councillor Hilary Luff.

10am-12noon CS Library

Stretton Climate Care Repair Café

The repair café will be on the 15th, to avoid the busy Easter weekend.

9 EASTER SUNDAY

Churches Together Sunrise Service

All welcome to attend.

6.15am Plush Hill, near Jinlye

(OS grid reference SO460959 and nearest postcode SY6 6JX)

10 EASTER MONDAY

Coffee Hour Drop-In with CS u3a

Opportunity to chat with a u3a member and find out about our groups.

We meet second Monday of the month.

10-11am HWBC

Stretton Cancer Support Group Meeting

We are meeting next Monday, because of the Easter bank holiday weekend.

11 TUESDAY

u3a Writers Group

With Jenny O'Shea

2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month

2-4pm CS Library

South Shropshire RSPB Local Group Talk

With guest speaker Alan Reid: 'Working forest and wildlife'.

Members £2, Visitors welcome £5

Enquiries: Carol Wood 07807 068304

7.30pm Diddlebury VH, SY7 9DH

12 WEDNESDAY

Stretton Focus Limited AGM

General public welcome to attend but only members may speak and vote.

10am SHI

Strettons Classical Music Group

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month, until June 2023. A small fee is requested to cover expenses.

Contact Barbara Hall: 724578

10am-12noon URC

Flicks in the Sticks: Hope Bowdler

Ticket to Paradise (2022)

Cert: 12A RT: 1 hr 44 mins

Admission: adults £5, children £3

Tickets on the door. Tea, coffee, cakes & ice cream served in the interval.

Enquiries: 723648

7.30pm Hope Bowdler VH

Long Mynd Camera Club

An 'extra-curricular' opportunity for some practical work based on a local walkabout. Arrangements TBC.

www.longmyndcameraclub.co.uk

7.30pm URC Hall

What's On continued

13 THURSDAY

CS Stroke Support Group

Support for stroke survivors, friends and family. The role of the group is to provide a friendly secure environment where people can chat and feel supported. Meetings take place on the second Thursday of each month.

2-4pm Jubilee Room, Mayfair

Marmaladies CS WI

Local history evening with local historian David Haigh, who will share interesting information about Little Stretton.

We welcome new members to join us for creative, informative and discussion sessions. marmaladieswi@gmail.com
7.30pm Mayfair

14 FRIDAY

u3a Writers Group

With Lesley Dench
2nd and 4th Friday of the month
10am-12noon CS Library

Live Show: Ma Bessie's Prohibition Party

With Ma Bessie and the Pig Foot Band. Bringing you the best of 1920s/1930s blues and jazz. Suitable for age 14+
Tickets: £12 adult, £5 child, £30 family
artsalive.co.uk/live-performances/show/?id=11287
Enquiries: 07812 583113 or email catelatchford@hotmail.co.uk
7.30pm All Stretton VH

15 SATURDAY

Stretton Climate Care Repair Café

Please contact us to book in your item, giving details and a photo if possible: info@strettonclimatecare.org.uk
Walk-ins accepted after 11am.
10am-12noon Scout Hut

CS Ballroom & Sequence Dance Club

8pm (see Sat 1st for details)

16 SUNDAY

Ukraine Fundraising Evening

Re-scheduled from March. An evening of traditional Ukrainian food, dance and song. Please come and support this event. Advance Booking essential: Tickets £20 adult, £10 children, available from Vine and Co or Caroline Crump on 723283.
6-8pm SHI

17 MONDAY

Arts Festival Exhibitor Entries/Workshops

Bookings open today. Visit our website: www.strettonfestival.org.uk for details of how to enter your exhibits online and how to book a workshop place.

See Arts Festival article for more info.

CoCo Talk at Mayfair

Andrew Monday from Mayfair's Digital Support Service is giving a talk on IT 'Hot Topics', a session all about IT-related issues or queries for people needing help or advice. See Mayfair item for more information.

CS Area Local History Group (CSALHG)

Our guest speaker is Marcus Cash: 'Pilleth: The Welsh Battle of Hastings?'

Non-members: £4, pay on the door.

Talks are popular so please arrive in plenty of time for the 2pm start.

Contact: csalhlg@outlook.com

2pm URC Hall

Stained Glass Talk and Demonstration

With glass technician and artist Andy Bennett. A FoCSL event.
Cost £7.50. Advance booking is essential as places will be limited. To reserve a place please email Churchstrettonlibrary@outlook.com or call Ben Warren on 07779 437871
2.30-4pm CS Library

Stretton Cancer Support Group

Nicola Daniels, Chief Officer of Mayfair Community Centre, joins us for a discussion about support for those affected by Cancer in the Strettons and the way forward. This is an important meeting and is open to all. For more information, please contact: Lesley McIntyre: 723427
2.30pm Jubilee room, Mayfair

Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Strettons Branch

Our guest speaker is Lizzie Hulton-Harrop: 'Regenerative farming – our journey so far'
All welcome, no need to pre-book.
Members £3, non-members £4
Further info from Janet Martin 722361
strettons@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk
7.30pm Mayfair

18 TUESDAY

Stretton Stitchers

10am (see Tues 4th for details)

Strettons Civic Society Special General Meeting

Discussing the way forward. If you are passionate about the place in which we live and have views on its future, please come along to the meeting.
Please see main item for more details.
Contacts: Janet Martin on 722361 or David Wilks on 723139
7pm SHI

All Stretton Women's Institute

Line dancing with Sheila Seal
Email: allstrettonwi@gmail.com
7.30pm All Stretton VH

Flicks in the Sticks Acton Scott

Lancaster (2022)
Cert PG RT: 1 hr 50 mins
Tickets: £5 adult, £3 child.
Ample parking and level access
Enquiries: 781260
7.30pm Acton Scott VH

19 WEDNESDAY

Stained Glass Talk and Demonstration

With glass technician and artist Andy Bennett. A FoCSL event.
2.30pm (see Mon 17th for details)

Long Mynd Camera Club

Annual General Meeting.
www.longmyndcameraclub.co.uk
7.30pm URC Hall

20 THURSDAY

Citizens Advice at CS Library

10am (see Thursday 6th for details)

Flicks in the Sticks Church Stretton

Living (2022)
Cert: 12A RT; 1 hr 42 mins
Tickets £5 adults, £2 under 18s, to include a cup of tea/coffee in the interval. Please pay on the door. Enquiries: 07508 072206
7.30pm SHI

Continued overleaf...

What's On continued

22 SATURDAY

St Lawrence Primary School Spring Fair
Games, tombola, cakes, crafts etc. Annual fundraising event organised by the Friends of St Lawrence Primary School and Nursery.
11am-3pm St Lawrence Primary School

CS Ballroom & Sequence Dance Club
8pm (see Sat 1st for details)

24 MONDAY

u3a Local & Family History Meet
Members of the public are welcome but will need to join the u3a first.
4th Monday of the month.
2-4pm CS Library

Parkinson's Support Group, CS
We meet on the fourth Monday of the month. Members, guests and visitors are all welcome.
2.30-4.30pm Jubilee Room, Mayfair

Bingo Night at Westhope
Licensed bar. Eyes down 7.30pm
Contact Amie on 07486 414742 or Betty on 07860 447397
7.30pm Westhope VH, SY7 9JL

25 TUESDAY

CS & District Gardening Club Spring Show
The show is open to everyone (£2 entrance fee for non-members).
Non-members may also submit exhibits. Please see the gardening club article for details of the classes.
The SHI will be open from 1.30pm for exhibits to be put in place.
2pm SHI

u3a Writers Group
With Jenny O'Shea
2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month
2-4pm CS Library

26 WEDNESDAY

Yoga with Sue at CS Library
4th Wednesday of the month.
Booking: Sue 07432 349933
3-4.30pm CS Library

27 THURSDAY

Mayfair Open Day Event with Guided Tours
An opportunity for local businesses and organisations to find out what Mayfair has to offer. See Mayfair item for more details. Contact Cathy at Mayfair on 722077, to book your place on a tour.

Illustrated Talk at Little Stretton

Madeline Haigh: 'In search of the Tan House's ancient stone fireplace'.
Booking is essential: to reserve a place please call 723627 or email MHaigh3@aol.com.
Entrance is £5, to include refreshments
2.30pm Little Stretton VH

SHI Event: Budapest Café Orchestra

Traditional folk and gypsy music.
Tickets £15 adult, £7.50 for 18 and under, available from the CS Town Council office or from the Outdoor Depot, Sandford Avenue, or online: silvesterhorneevents.co.uk
Enquiries to Mike Walker: 720132
7.30pm SHI

28 FRIDAY

u3a Writers Group
With Lesley Dench
2nd and 4th Friday of the month
10am-12noon CS Library

Mayfair Theatre Screening: *Good* (15)

A 'National Theatre Live' production.
Adults £15, Under 18s £10.
Bar and refreshments available to purchase.
Bookings/enquiries: 722077
See main Mayfair item for more info.
7pm Mayfair

Flicks in the Sticks All Stretton

After Love (2020)
Cert: 12A RT: 1 hr 29 mins
Enquiries: 07812 583113
Tickets £4. Interval refreshments.
7.30pm All Stretton VH

29 SATURDAY

Mayfair Plant, Craft and Book Sale
Return of the ever-popular plant sale.
HWBC will host a craft sale.
10am Mayfair/HWBC

CS Ballroom & Sequence Dance Club

8pm (see Sat 1st for details)

30 SUNDAY

RSPB South Shropshire Local Group Walk
Gilfach and Afon Marteg Nature Reserves (near Elan Valley, Rhayader). See main RSPB item for more details.
All-day walk. Bring a picnic lunch.
10am meet at car park. Grid Ref SN 95305
71500

WHAT'S ON IN EARLY MAY

Coronation Events Advance Notice:

5 FRIDAY

Special Coronation Concert
With the Shrewsbury Concert Band.
Venue: SHI

6 SATURDAY

Live Screening of Coronation
Organised by the RBL

Children's Coronation Activities
Parish Centre

8 MONDAY

Charities and Volunteering Celebration – The big help out

Organisations to showcase their work and raise money for their causes with a free unticketed event in the Market Square. Full details can be found at www.churchstretton-tc.gov.uk

Key to Abbreviations/Addresses:

CMV – Carding Mill Valley
CS – Church Stretton
CS Leisure Centre – Shrewsbury Rd, SY6 6ER. Tel: 720051
CS Library – Church Street, SY6 6DQ Tel: 722535
CS Medical Practice – Easthope Rd, SY6 6BL Tel: 722127
St Laurence's Church/CS Parish Centre – Church St, SY6 6DQ
Mayfair – Mayfair Community Centre, Easthope Rd, SY6 6BL. Tel: 722077
HWBC – Health and Wellbeing Centre, next to Mayfair, SY6 6BL
Methodist Church – Watling St South, SY6 7BG
Scout Hut – Church Street, SY6 6DQ
SHI – Silvester Horne Institute, High St, SY6 6BY. Tel: 720132
St Milburga's Catholic Church – Watling St North, SY6 7AR
URC – United Reformed Church, High St, SY6 6BY
VH – Village Hall
VIC – Visitor Information Centre, in library, see above.
Contact Numbers – only numbers OUTSIDE the CS dialling code area (01694) will include the full number.

...webbex

technical services

Computer Support & Audio/Video Engineering



PC Support
Virus Removal
Spyware/Malware
Slow Computers
Data Recovery
Internet Problems
PC Setup/Buying Advice

Audio / Video
Video to DVD
DVD Copying
Video Editing/Conversion
Vinyl/Tape to CD
Audio Restoration
Photo to CD/DVD

tel: 07905 671945 ~ email: enquiries@webbex.net

web: www.webbex.net est. 1992

Jason Gough

computing services

Hardware - Software
Consultancy

Repairs - Installation - Support
For Business and Home users

Over 20 Year's Experience in the IT Industry

Contact Jason Gough on 01694 724752

Email: jason.gough@jg-compsservices.com

Computer & Home

Guiding you through a
confusing digital world

Computer support from Nic Sansom

Rapid response - most problems
fixed on the spot.
Collection, repair, return & setup.
PCs, tablets, phones, printers,
internet, email and buying advice.
Store passwords and data safely.

Home management

Manage payments more effectively
and switch utility suppliers.
Get to grips with online payments.
Block unwanted callers.
Protect yourself from
cyber-crime and
fraud.

Note new email address

01694 722399

Mobile 07870 949057

computerandhome.help@gmail.com



Stretton Internet

Website Design and Hosting

New Websites
Update and Redesign of Existing Websites
Internet Consultancy
Search Engine Optimisation
Domain Names
Website Hosting
Graphic Design



Tel: 07905 671945 ~ Email: info@strettoninternet.co.uk

Web: www.strettoninternet.co.uk

Norman Jones Domestic Appliances

REPAIRS & SALES

WASHERS - DRYERS - DISHWASHERS

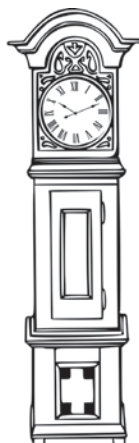
COOKERS - OVENS - HOBS

Built In/Freestanding

Pete 07971 252069

07816 875233

Ansaphone 01588 638677



ANTIQUE LONGCASE CLOCK

(Grandfather clock)

REPAIR AND RESTORATION

ADRIAN M. DONNELLY

Established 1988

07948 327498

adriandonnelyclocks@gmail.com

continental
FIREPLACES

View our displays of designer fireplaces & more
traditional styles with built-in wood, electric or gas
fires or free standing stoves. From free surveys to
installation, Continental offer a complete service.



☎ 01694 724 199 confires.co.uk

Showroom - Main A49, Church Stretton, SY6 6PH



Historic Church Stretton – 57 High Street



The front room of this property was originally attached to the crosswing of the King's Arms. When restoration work in 1985 involved removing the stucco from the upper storey of the front, interesting stonework was exposed which strongly suggested the property had been a barn or stable. In the centre of the upper part of the front wall there is a circular opening framed in dressed stone which has been roughly filled with rubble stone. It is of a type common in barns or stabling (see sketches).

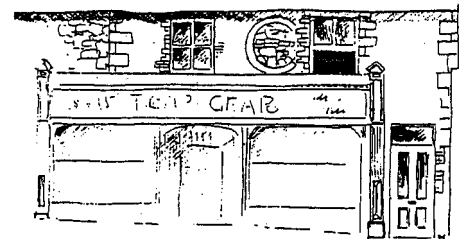
By 1838 the barn or stable had been converted to a house and shop accommodation occupied by John Robinson, a shoemaker. In 1885 Thomas Keenan, a tailor and clothier, lived and had his shop here. About 1899 Henry, the son of Thomas Humphreys, a butcher, inherited his father's business which may have been at no. 55; he certainly was here in 1913. About this time Henry Humphreys took over the licence of the King's Arms in addition to continuing as a butcher. It was effectively one business because the cellar under number 57

continues under the King's Arms and still has a brick plinth for beer barrels and a drip gully and drain. The shop frontage had a central doorway and two large sash windows on either side with the remains of marble meat slabs which now form the window sills.

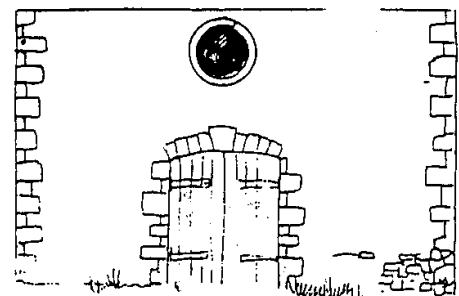
More recently it was a clothing shop called Top Gear, and latterly The Dappled Duck. It is now purely residential, typical of many former shops which have become residences at the lower end of the High Street as it ceased to be part of the main shopping area of the town in favour of Sandford Avenue.

Tony Crowe and Barrie Raynor from Church Stretton through the Ages

Right: The stonework at the front exposed during restoration in 1985



Right: This property may have looked something like this when it was originally built as a barn or stable





Little Stretton Village Hall Talk Church Stretton Area Local History Group

Thursday 27th April at 2.30pm

In Search of the Tan House's Ancient Stone Fireplace: an illustrated talk by Madeline Haigh.

It all began with a handwritten note written by an Edwardian lady who was buying the Tan House in Little Stretton in 1909. In it she reported the vendor's account and speculation about the origins of an unusual ancient stone fireplace.

Clues in the note lead us to Raleigh's search for gold, native Americans at the court of Elizabeth I, plants introduced to the UK from the New World and 17th century merchants. We describe how the fireplace came to Little Stretton from Devon, identify its original location and owner and consider various theories about the two carved figures.

Booking is essential: to reserve a place please call 01694 723627 or email MHaigh3@aol.com.

Entrance is £5 to include refreshments and all proceeds will go to support Little Stretton Village Hall.



Pilleth: The Welsh Battle of Hastings?

This month's talk will take place on Monday 17th April at 2pm at the URC Hall. Our speaker, Marcus Cash is a retired teacher with an interest in military history ranging from the current Ukraine War all the way back to the earliest known warfare. Now living in Little Stretton, having taken early retirement, Marcus keeps busy volunteering in various guises such as Ring and Ride, Rotary, etc. He will give a stimulating talk about the Battle of Pilleth or Bryn Glas (June 1402) which is little known as far as UK battles are concerned. This will outline the lead-up to the battle, the day itself but, more importantly, also home in on the fighting soldiers, their actions, thoughts, and tactics also making comparisons with other battles fought centuries earlier and later. Warfare, it can be argued, has changed little in some ways for the individual, with considerable similarities from Hastings to Ukraine and it is this that the talk intends to explore. Be prepared for gruesome detail, the occasional upset, and a fascinating insight into the mind of the common soldier via the terror and horror of a battlefield; any battlefield.

Here is Shakespeare's account of the battle in Henry IV Part 1:

*Earl Of Westmoreland: "...but yesteryear there came
A post from Wales loaden with heavy news;
Whose worst was that the noble Mortimer,
Leading the men of Herefordshire to fight
Against the irregular and wild Glendower
Was by the rude hands of that Welshman taken,
A thousand of his people butchered."*

Visitors are welcome: please pay £4 on the door and arrive in good time for our 2pm start.

Madeline Haigh

Rail Users' Association Talk and AGM

The AGM of the Church Stretton and District Rail Users' Association will be held on Monday 3rd April at 2.30pm in the Parish Centre. The meeting will include a talk by Nichole Sarra, our main contact with TFW. She will give an update on our train service and any station matters arising.

All are welcome.

Gay Walker

*The new Class 197 rolling stock which will
eventually serve stations in the Marches.*

Photo: Graham Cossins





Recipe of the Month

Chocolate and triple ginger cookies



Time for something sweet this month but oh how I struggled to come up with something to inspire. Finally, I stumbled upon a chocolate cookie recipe which I felt I could adapt. The first baking didn't 'zing' enough for my liking and so Mr Heidi has had to wade through a second, more successful batch.

The marmalade in these cookies keeps them slightly chewy while the ginger notes marry well with the intense chocolate flavour. To balance the additional sugar from the marmalade I have reduced the sugars called for in the original recipe quite considerably. This could possibly be cut further but that's for another time – there's only so many experiments that Mr Heidi's waistline can tolerate!

I used a mixture of plain and wholemeal flour (using up odds and ends) and added in chopped nuts to give some more texture. A pinch of cayenne (something which I learnt long ago to add to ginger biscuits) accentuates the heat just enough for interest.

The dough needs to sit in the fridge for at least 30 minutes before shaping so don't preheat your oven when you start to make these.

Makes around 20 medium cookies.

Ingredients

125g unsalted butter softened
75g light brown soft sugar
50g caster sugar
1 large egg
50g ginger marmalade
2 tsp ground ginger – or to taste
Grated root ginger – about 2.5cm or to taste
Pinch cayenne pepper – optional
200g plain flour
50g cocoa powder
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
80g dark chocolate chips
Handful of chopped walnuts – optional

Method

Beat together the butter and sugars with a wooden spoon until roughly combined then add the egg and mix again.

Stir in the marmalade, gingers and cayenne and mix.

Add the remaining dry ingredients and mix to form a stiff dough.

Stir in the chocolate chips and nuts if using then cover and chill for at least 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 200C, 180 fan, gas 6 and line baking tray/s. These are quite well behaved and spread only a little in the oven.

Taking dessert spoons of dough roll these into balls and then flatten them out to around ½ cm thick for crunchier cookies or thicker for more 'chew'.

Bake on trays for around 12 minutes (depends on thickness). They should be slightly crunchy around the edges although undercooking will leave them more gooey – personal taste.

Cool on the tray. These are lovely warm from the oven but equally good cold and can be stored in airtight tin for a few days.

Open freeze (for up to 6 months) the raw shaped cookies then bag-up and cook from frozen for 14-16 minutes.

The original recipe called for ½ tsp of baking powder added with the bicarb, but I can't for the life of me see why so have omitted. Your choice.

You can of course substitute in your favourite preserve to complement the chocolate flavour. Chopped pecan nuts would be lovely and cacao nibs in place of the chocolate chips would offer a slightly less sweet, crunchier option. I added in chopped glacé ginger into version one but felt this added little in terms of flavour compared to the unnecessary added calories so ditched it in favour of the root ginger second time around. Leave out the ginger and play with spices to suit your taste.

I was of a mind to substitute some of the flour for ground almonds to make these more chewy – perhaps next time.

Heidi

Trivia Corner

by Ken Willis

1. In the game of Noughts and Crosses how many winning combinations are there?
2. What is the Spanish word for *Navy*?
3. Which Caribbean Island is the largest?
4. What was the family name of the owners of the Ponderosa ranch in the TV show *Bonanza*?
5. The hill that overlooks Edinburgh Castle is called what?

BURWAY BOOKS

for BOOKS and MAPS

Our delightful bookshop stocks a huge variety of adult and children's titles and if you can't see what you want on the shelves we can normally get it for you within 24-48 hours.

Our knowledgeable booksellers are here to help you. See our website for news of book groups and author events www.burwaybooks.co.uk (NB we do not stock second-hand books)

18 Beaumont Road, Church Stretton, SY6 6BN
Tel: 01694 723388, email: ros.ephraim@btconnect.com
Home Delivery Service available



A delightful secondhand bookshop in the heart of Church Stretton.

An amazing variety of books looking for new homes!

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10.30-3.30

Between the pages of a book...

...is a lovely place to be

2 Burway Road, Church Stretton SY6 6DL
07903 790005



ABBEY CARPETS

(Mark & Jane Brain)

12 Beaumont Road
Church Stretton SY6 6BN
01694 722719
07527 886531

Over 40 yrs experience is our quality fitting guarantee
Personal Service throughout
Home Choose available.

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30 - 4pm

THE SHROPSHIRE FLOWER COMPANY

Gift Bouquets BEAUTIFUL
Subscription LOCALLY
Flowers GROWN
DIY weddings BRITISH
FLOWERS

07941 558523
info@theshropshireflowercompany.co.uk
www.theshropshireflowercompany.co.uk



Long Mynd Music Academy

Making music, making memories,
making friends

www.longmyndmusic.co.uk



**FLORIST,
GARDEN PLANTS
& PET SUPPLIES**

3 Sandford Avenue
Church Stretton
Shropshire, SY6 6BH
Tel: 01694 722194
www.johnrthomasflorist.co.uk

PHILIP HOOPER

**PIANO &
HARPSICHORD
TUNER**

**REPAIRS &
OVERHAULS**

TEL: 01694 724461

Louise Watney Soft Furnishings

Curtains - Blinds - Fabrics
Cushions - Lampshades

Please contact Louise for
more information
01588 650668
07771 766979

Louisewatneysf@gmail.com

www.louisewatney.co.uk

Harold's Toy Store

1 Shrewsbury Rd
Church Stretton
**family-run toy
shop dedicated
to un-plugged
play for all ages
& interests**

**contact: 07379 171612
or find us on FB & Insta
haroldstoystore.co.uk**

**WOOL
YARNS
KITS
COURSES
HANDMADE
ITEMS**

10 Sandford Ave
Church Stretton
SY6 6BW
01694 724041
info@theprolificcrafter.co.uk
www.theprolificcrafter.co.uk
[@theprolificcrafter](https://www.facebook.com/theprolificcrafter)

Coffee & Craft
1st & 3rd Monday
of the month
4pm - 6pm

SHI Events

The Voice of an Angel

Sudha

Thursday 6th April

It was about twelve years ago, at a music festival, that I first heard a beautiful voice emanating from a crowded marquee and it made me stop in my tracks and go to see who was singing. It was a young Danish performer called Sudha, sitting alone on stage, and entrancing a huge audience with her hypnotic sacred chants and mantras. I watched and listened transfixed. Later that day, I spotted Sudha in the festival café so I went up to her and told her how much I had enjoyed her performance and, as she lives in Denmark, I asked her when she would next be performing in the UK. We swapped email addresses and we have stayed in touch ever since.

Wherever she performs, Sudha's transcendent and angelic voice serves to take her audience on a journey around the world through songs and chants from various cultures and spiritual traditions. Ranging from traditional Buddhist chants from the East to Hawaiian songs in the West – and weaving beautiful Indian Sanskrit mantras with North American tribal chants and songs from the Yoruba traditions of West Africa – every song transports the audience to magical far-off places. Her audiences often join in with these beautiful and simple chants that create a wonderful atmosphere of unity and harmony at every concert.



Music has always been the universal language that brings people together and the human voice is the most powerful instrument of all. In her concerts Sudha embraces both celebration and meditation as equal parts of the musical journey. As world famous singer, Deva Premal, once commented: "Sudha's voice, the innocent sound of pure love will soothe your soul and caress your spirit."

For nearly two decades Sudha has been travelling and performing all over the world, including Australia, Asia, the USA and Europe and she has collaborated with many renowned and famous performers in the field of sacred world music. As a solo artist she has released three albums through Malimba Records: *Planet Love* (2004), *Sharanam* (2007) and *In Her Name* (2014), some of which are available on various streaming platforms as well as iTunes and YouTube. And, as a session singer, she has added her vocals across a diverse range of genres from smooth jazz to dance and ambient world music on more than 20 albums.

Now, at last – and for the first time – Sudha is coming to the Welsh borderlands to give four concerts including one in Church Stretton.

If you wish to be present at one or more of these special occasions a limited number of tickets are still available at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/lumindra. Hope to see you there!

Joe St Clair

Budapest Café Orchestra

Thursday 27 April 2023 at 7.30.pm

Unbound by convention but invigorating with energy comes the Budapest Café Orchestra bringing traditional folk and gypsy music from the Balkans and Russia evoking vivid images of fiddle maestros, Budapest café life and gypsy campfires. BCO is led by Christian Garrick, one of the world's most celebrated jazz violinists, who established BCO in 2009, and has played music with Dame Cleo Lane, Sir John Dankworth, Wynton Marsalis, Nigel Kennedy and Tim Minchin.

The BCO ensemble consists of three further players. Accordionist, Eddie Hession, supreme accordion champion of Great Britain who has accompanied Pavarotti, Plácido Domingo and Jose Carreras.

One of Russia's most enigmatic musical exports, Adrian Zolotuhin is a master of the strummed strings of the guitar, domra, balalaika and saz.

Veteran bass-man Kelly Cantlon has been laying down the low notes for some time having found fame as a Vagabond with Northern Soul sensations Jimmy James and the Vagabonds.



"...the fiery vivacity and awe-inspiring musicianship of the finest purveyors of Eastern European gypsy music will leave you with a grin on your face and rhythm in your feet..." *Times*

Tickets Adult £15, Under 18 £7.50, available online at silvesterhorneevents.co.uk or from CS Town Council Office or The Outdoor Depot, 1 Sandford Avenue.

For more information please phone 01694 720132.

Mike Walker



Shrewsbury Concert Band

Friday 5th May 2023 at 7.30pm

A Concert celebrating the Crowning of His Majesty King Charles III. Music fit for a King!

Celebrate the Coronation of our King with rousing and historic music associated with coronations and other majestic celebrations for over 1,000 years. Our old friend and conductor, Ken Lumley, is bringing the Shrewsbury Concert Band to the Silvester Horne once again for an evening of celebration which will include a glass of sparkling wine, or something else of your choice.

Zadok The Priest is well known as a celebratory choral work. Composed by Handel in 1727, it is one of his most well-known works sung at the coronation of every English/British monarch since. The words go back further. They refer to the occasion when the priest, Zadok, anointed King Solomon at around 970 BCE, and were used in 973 at the coronation of King Edgar at Bath Abbey and at every English/British coronation since.

Drawing on the rich historical tradition of Coronation Music to be performed by the band, the programme includes:

Byrd Suite – James 1 1603+

Royal Fireworks Music (Handel) – George II 1749

Severn Suite (Elgar) – Edward VIII

Crown Imperial (Walton) – George VI



Zadok the Priest (Handel) George I and Victoria

Imperial March (Elgar) – George V

Marching Song (Holst) – George VI

Fantasia on the Alleluia Hymn (Jacob) – Elizabeth II

A fitting tribute to our Monarch on the eve of his Coronation, and we hope that you will join us on this special evening.

Tickets Adult £12, Under 18 £6, available online at silvesterhorneevents.co.uk or from CS Town Council Office or The Outdoor Depot, 1 Sandford Avenue. For more information please phone 01694 720132.

Mike Walker

Saturday Morning Music

The next concert is devoted to the organ music of JS Bach, in Little Stretton Church, Saturday 1st April at 10.15am. Bach was involved with churches for the whole of his life; there are over 13 hours of his organ music in print, and probably almost as much again has been lost. Most of it is of the highest quality, but only a tiny fraction is widely known. No two Bach organ recitals are likely to be identical!

Richard Walker will play a selection on the electronic organ in Little Stretton.

As a staunch churchman, Bach followed the seasons closely and wrote a huge amount for Easter and the weeks leading up to it and this recital will reflect that. 1st April is the day before Palm



Sunday, so we will be listening to music reflecting Passiontide and looking towards Easter.

Bach spent his final years (1723-1750) as Cantor of St Thomas', (Thomaskirche) Leipzig, pictured.

The church miraculously escaped the bombing in WWII, but the organ he played has been replaced. The Little Stretton organ is versatile enough to mimic most sounds a pipe organ can make – and is a good substitute for the sounds of Bach's organ. Nothing like the real thing of course, since the sound comes from small loudspeakers, rather than pipes up to 32 feet long!

These concerts have free admission, with a collection shared between the church and a local charity. The *Ragleth Inn* has kindly agreed to open early, so that we can go over the road for refreshments when the recital ends.

Richard Walker



MAYFAIR

Run for the community by the community

Support 

Day services, child care, hot meals delivery, digital support and befriending.

Signposting 

Information on local services, support and opportunities.

Activities 

Cafe, arts & crafts, dance, exercise, walking groups, lunch club, shop, and events.

And much, much more...

• Volunteer • Fundraise • Donate • Hire a space

Easthope Road, Church Stretton, SY6 6BL
01694 722077
www.mayfaircentre.org.uk

Charity number: 1061049

 **Ring & Ride**
Community transport scheme
01694 720025



First Week Free!

You'll love the way we care

Up to £1,350 of free at-home care*!
Four weeks of high quality care for the price of three weeks!

We build our home-care packages around **you** and your **individual needs** which means that you and your **family** can rest assured you'll receive care and support **exactly** as you **need**. Our care covers everything from a **30-minute** care visit through to **full Live-in** care and everything in between.

Engage with **people** you can **trust**, who are **highly trained**, who **listen**, understand and show compassion.

Call Bluebird Care today.


Bluebird Care Shropshire
01743 874343
bluebirdcare.co.uk/shropshire

 **SCAN ME**

*Available to NEW customers on domiciliary and live-in care packages.
Terms and conditions apply.


Please call
01743 874343
for a friendly chat about care.

Landing in Telford and surrounding areas soon!



South Shropshire

REMEMBRANCE PARK



A woodland green burial site located in the heart of south Shropshire

01584 841 089
www.shropshirewoodlandburial.co.uk

A.S. MORRIS & SON

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

ESTD 1934

33 SANDFORD AVENUE
CHURCH STRETTON
SHROPSHIRE
SY6 6BH

TEL: 01694 722876 (24 HOURS)
www.asmorrisandson.co.uk
EMAIL: asmorrisandson@hotmail.co.uk



Practical Photography Outdoor Sessions


Based Locally in the Shropshire Hills

Learn or better understand

- camera settings & the histogram
- semi-automatic and manual modes
- exposure - ISO, Aperture & Shutter Speed
- the common rules of composition
- landscape skills (filters, HDR & more)
- bird photography (available late 2023)

Small Groups (2 to 4) or 1-2-1s
Tailored sessions from £25/hr

Have questions? - contact Peter
Tel 07818 400784
Email peter@peteryoungs.co.uk
www.peteryoungs.co.uk



Stretton Mobility Store

Quality used mobility scooters
Mobility aids
Daily living aids
Accessories
Incontinence products

Service and repairs specialist

Sue: 07748 913537
Jim: 07388 062823

 Beaumont Road
Church Stretton
SY6 6BN
 [@smschurchstretton](https://www.facebook.com/smschurchstretton)



CHURCH STRETTON ARTS FESTIVAL EXHIBITION

Church Stretton Arts Festival Exhibition is getting ready for 2023's event. We will be based at St Lawrence Primary School again, a wonderful venue for a wonderful Exhibition and we hope to welcome even more exhibitors and visitors.

Bookings for exhibitor entries and workshops will open on Monday 17th April at 10am. Visit our website on www.strettonfestival.org.uk for full details of how to enter your exhibits online and how to book a workshop place. Paper copies will also be available at Church Stretton Library and Scrappies.

Once again we will be running our craft workshops: a pottery tile option with Lucinda Lovesey and a mixed media figurine with Stephanie Jacobs, both talented local artists.

We will also have a demonstration of loom weaving with Sue Christian to inspire our visitors.

The Afterschool Craft Club students are already hard at work on their new creations for this year. Last year's amazing display of pottery green man faces will still be on show if you missed them last time. The whole school is decorated with the children's artwork and, if you haven't already

seen it, the new history timeline mural will be on view.

We can't tell you exactly what will be on display this year, as we won't know ourselves until the exhibits arrive just



Two of Lucinda's pottery tiles



One of Stephanie's figurines



Sue at her loom

a few days prior to our opening. That is the excitement of an open exhibition, no advance selection process takes place.

Our Evening Opening Reception will be on Monday 31st July at 7.30pm.

We will then be open every day from 10.30am until 5pm from Tuesday 1st August until Saturday 12th August.

L, E, T, T, E, R,

We run a holiday club for children. While chatting with the children over half term we talked about the amount of dog poo in Rectory Fields and on the football pitch on Richard Robinson Field. The children decided to make posters to encourage dog walkers to pick up after their dogs. We then took their posters and some rolls of poo bags down to Church Stretton Town Council office, asking them if they would display the posters around the town and leave the bags to encourage the dog walkers to pick up after their mess.

*Hilary Luff
Hilary's Childminders Ltd*



A Typical Week for Church Stretton Rotary

Just to show you what Church Stretton Rotary does – A typical week (27th February-5th March 2023)

Monday – Our darts team went to Stafford and lost in the semi-final of the Rotary District Darts Tournament but had a most enjoyable evening.

Tuesday – Our treasurer received a thank you for the donation of £1,000 to Air Ambulance raised from the wonderful people of Church Stretton for our Tree of Light.



with food and medical support.

Member Malcolm Szortowski on holiday in Chile came across the Punta Arenas Rotary Club.

This is not surprising as there are 46,000 Rotary Clubs in 200 countries with a total of 1.4 million members!

All these clubs are busy carrying out activities to serve communities and respond to problems and make a difference to people's lives.



In the UK alone we have 37,000 Rotarians. The strength of Rotary is that it is one of the largest humanitarian organisations in the world all working together.

Friday – We helped support the food bank, Mayfair Centre, Ring and Ride and numerous other areas in our community.

Church Stretton Rotary is keen to welcome men and women of all ages and backgrounds, who want to join us to help make a difference to their Community and have fun with like-minded people.

If you want to know more contact me Don Lovejoy on don@djlovejoy.co.uk or 07738 640570.

Don Lovejoy

A team of Rotarians started knitting clothes for our Rabbit Competition.

Another team met to finalise the details of the Race Night event on 17th March to raise more funds to help Tracy and Warren, our First Responders, to help replace their vehicle (in addition to the £1,500 we have already raised by local donations). How would our community cope without them?

Wednesday – Ten members met at the Wellbeing Centre for coffee and a meeting to plan a recruitment drive for new members.

Member Don Lovejoy started a Fund Raiser for Dementia UK by agreeing to walk his dog 100 kilometres in March (donations to www.justgiving.com/fundraising/don-lovejoy1).

Thursday – In response to the terrible disaster in Turkey and Syria seven of our hardy Rotarians shook buckets on market day and we would like to say a big thank you to the Church Stretton residents and visitors who donated £655 on a cold damp day. The money will go to a charity called Shelter Box which responds to disasters immediately



Find the Rotary Rabbits

Rabbit, Rabbit, Rabbit said out loud on the first of the month is said to bring good luck and, if you are good, a prize by the end of the month. Well, it will certainly be true this April!

The Rotary Rabbits are coming to shops here in Church Stretton, for you to discover hiding in plain view in shop windows. Find the Rotary Rabbits is a **free to enter** competition for children under 12 years, with a prize for the winner.

Entry forms can be collected from Burway Books or John Thomas Florist, with completed entries returned to the same shops.

The competition starts on Saturday 1st April (this is no April Fool) and closes on Sunday 30th April. Competition entries must be received by Tuesday 2nd May.

Come on adults, take the children on a hunt and take part yourself. Sorry no prize is offered for those over 12. Rules and terms and conditions are on the entry form.

Thank you, lady Rotarians for dressing the rabbits in their spring outfits.

Peter Burt



URC Voice

Disaster!

Two disaster areas are in our minds just now. One is the war in Ukraine. This began a year ago. The media bring it to our attention every day. People in the Strettons have been very generous to refugees from the war. Ukrainians are like us – European and Christian. If Russia continues to flex its muscles, we, too, are in danger.

The other disaster is not man-made. The massive earthquakes in Turkey and Syria were so shocking they were almost impossible to comprehend. The people affected are not like us. They are Middle Easterners and mostly Muslim. We find it difficult to identify with them. They are slipping from our minds.

One earthquake is equivalent to 136 nuclear bombs exploding. There have been three quakes, and over 4,000 aftershocks. Fifty thousand people died. Hundreds are injured and homeless.

Again, people in the Strettons are rallying, by collecting money which goes to Disaster Emergency Committee, and Médecins Sans

Frontières. People here are joining an internet petition to help Turks to get visas to enter the UK.

In the past I made several visits to the earthquake regions. Southeast Turkey is where Abraham was born in Urfa. He later moved to Haran, before going on to the Holy land [See Genesis Ch. 11].

We are all people of the Book – Jews, Christians and Muslims. We share the same history.

J.C. Longstaff



United Nations Association: Shropshire rally for Ukraine

Exactly a year after the start of the war on Ukraine, a good number of valiant people, including a number of Ukrainian refugees from around Church Stretton and Ellesmere braved stormy conditions in Church Stretton to rally together and stand for a minute's silent vigil for the present plight of Ukraine and all its fearful suffering, deaths and destructions.

United Nations Association (UNA) Shropshire which launched the rally and vigil were joined by and welcomed the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire Anna Turner, representing King Charles III.

Our Lord Lieutenant said, "I attended the vigil at Church Stretton to think about all those Ukrainians who

have been made homeless, are living in fear, have been forced to flee their own country, have died, and to thank all those who are offering help. It was cold and wet in Church Stretton on Friday but only served to remind me of their circumstances and how much colder and wetter it must be in Ukraine."

The developing Church Stretton community support provides lessons in English to local Ukrainian refugees. This is only made possible by generous households welcoming guests and organised through the Ukrainian inbox of the Hereford Diocese, ukraineinbox@hereford.anglican.org.

John Crowe

Exploring Scouting

Readers will be familiar with this magazine's published reports from our local Scouts, but might not be familiar with its history, so here goes.

The Boy Scout Movement – the original name – was founded in 1908 by retired army cavalry officer, Lieutenant-General Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell (1857-1941). He became famous during the Second Boer War as the defender of the town of Mafeking, capital city of the north-west province of South Africa, which was being besieged by Boer forces. The siege lasted from October 1899 to May 1900, and caught up in it was Lord Edward Cecil, the then British Prime Minister's son, and Lady Sarah Wilson, Winston Churchill's aunt, so the siege earned huge national attention back home. The town's eventual relief was a real boost to British morale.

During the siege, Baden-Powell trained local boys to act as messengers and scouts, reporting back on the enemy's strengths, movements and supply situations. Later, and back in England, he organised a boy's camp on Brownsea Island, in Portsmouth harbour, where boys were taught tracking and reconnaissance skills, mapping, signalling, first aid, and the numerous skills of camping and outdoor survival, through adventurous activities. Boys also made an oath that they would honour and be dutiful to their parents, the Christian God and their Sovereign.

The concept of childhood as we know it today, and the education of children as a beneficial principle of and to society, were becoming established during the latter part of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Baden-Powell believed that developing children's self-reliance, self-respect, and respect for others was as important as the three 'Rs' of school education. He intended that boys' clubs already established in Britain would use the principles he pioneered, but it soon became clear that a new organisation had been born, and the Boy Scouts movement spread rapidly to Sweden, Mexico, Argentina, Canada, Australia and



South Africa as well as the United States. 100 years later the movement had spread to nearly 170 countries.

It was intended for boys aged between 11 and 14 or 15 years of age, but in 1916 Baden-Powell founded a parallel organisation for younger boys (Wolf Cubs, later simply Cubs), and in 1917 one for older boys (Senior Scouts, later Rovers). The word 'boy' was dropped from



Baden-Powell

Photo: The Scouts Heritage Service

and educational programme that encourages young people to earn accomplishment badges. Any adult can become a Leader through the Scout Association Training Programme, which takes around 5 months to complete. Terry Davies, a long-time Scout and Scout leader with a family history in the organisation says, "Leaders gain a great deal of satisfaction in seeing the young people develop. Our motto of 'We prepare young people with skills for life' sums this up." Leaders don't have to be former Scouts, of course, and anyone with a passion for helping young people to become healthy, happy and confident adults is welcome. Terry again, "Of the 24 people to travel to the Moon on Apollo missions, 20 were Scouts, including 11 of the 12 Moonwalkers. Three have travelled there twice. All three of the Apollo 13 astronauts were also Scouts. Our very own space ambassador, Tim Peake, was a Scout. The adventurer Edward Michael 'Bear' Grylls remains the public face of Scouting in the UK.

There are some membership fees associated with membership of Scouting. These are £30 per school term for Beavers, and £33 for other sections. Uniforms range from £15-£24 depending on the section level. The cost of trips varies, depending on the type of activity and travelling distance. Terry again, "However, we don't want costs to be prohibitive, and can assist if necessary. Our focus now is on fundraising so that we can subsidise the costs for our young people, so that no-one is excluded on cost grounds. For example, two of our Scouts will attend this year's World Jamboree in Korea. 'Think Big, Dream Wild, Act Together' is their strap line."

So, parents and carers, here's a wonderful opportunity for your children and young people to 'go wild' – safely, of course – and to learn so much about the world around them, self-reliance, teamwork and, perhaps more importantly, about themselves. What's not to like?

Christine Williams
Focus Journalist

the British organisation, and in the 1980s membership became possible for girls at all Scout levels.

Scouting is thriving in Church Stretton today, with a membership of 16 Beavers, 14 in Tuesday Cubs, 9 in Wednesday Cubs, 38 Scouts, and 8 Explorers (seniors). Leading these troops are 14 volunteers. Cub leaders are all given names from the characters in Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle Book* stories, and the Beaver Leader is called Crazy Horse, after the Apache Chief and war leader. Why? Better not to ask! The Scout Leader is Skip and other Leaders are simply called by their Christian names.

Leaders run their sections and plan an adventurous

Scout Group News

Singing and acting have always been part of the general Scouting programme, right from the campfire songs and sketches of the early days through to the world-wide Gang Shows. (Baden-Powell was an enthusiastic actor, joining repertory companies in his school holidays.) Recently Scouts from the 2nd Longmynd Troop took part in the All Stretton Pantomime to qualify for the Entertainer Badge, a lighthearted change from their more physical activities.

The Tuesday Cub Pack has had a varied start to the spring season which included a night hike over to Bridges where they spent the night in the Youth Hostel before hiking back the next morning. An unusual indoor meeting was presented by Jen Bartl of The Prolific Crafter when she taught the pack the skill of Needle Felting, an activity greatly enjoyed by the cubs,



Left: Jen Bartl demonstrating the art of Needle Felting to the Tuesday Cubs

Below: Three cubs trying their hands at the new skill



and which contributed towards their Art and Skills Badge. The Wednesday Cub Pack is concentrating on a programme of outdoor activities in which backwoods cooking (cooking without utensils) will play a major part. Both packs will take part in StrettFest when the public will be invited to see many of their activities.

All meetings are held at the Group headquarters in Church Street and are open to boys and girls. For more information contact the Group Scout Leader on 07484 717317.

The challenge of our times

There is a common thread running through the troubles of the world. Wherever you look – areas of conflict, autocratic and repressive regimes, the growth of anti-democratic politics – there is an underlying denial of human rights. Freedom of speech, freedom to protest, access to justice, even the right to hold a dissenting opinion – all are under threat, not to speak of the right to life itself.

At Amnesty's Central England Conference in February, we were reminded of the links between the rights and freedoms necessary to protect our common humanity, and of their steady erosion in present times. After an inspiring talk on anti-racism by Ilyas Nagdee, our two delegates attended workshops on China, Kashmir, and human rights in the UK, and came away with ideas to strengthen the network of activists across the region. In addition to information and new ideas, it was good to feel the sense of belonging to a wider (worldwide) movement.

At our meetings – 1st Wednesday of every month, 7.30pm at the Silvester Horne Institute – we will take all this forward, as well as continue our work for our Egyptian prisoner of conscience Alaa Abd El-Fattah. We will celebrate good news such as the recent release of two Iranian women imprisoned for protesting. And we will continue to shine a light on the darker corners of our troubled world. Do come and join us.

If you are not into meetings, but would still like to do your bit, sign up to our Urgent Action Network, where you can be active on-line. Every action counts.

David Howard
davidandtrish@hotmail.co.uk

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 24th June, 2.30-4.30pm, AMNESTEA,
Park House, Churchway

Saturday 2nd September, 9.30am-12.30pm, street collection
Friday 6th October, 7-10.30pm ceilidh, with the Whiffledy Band



Double Donation Surprise for Chemotherapy Wig Bank

It is often said that when the going gets tough, the tough get going. If ever we wanted a perfect example, then look no further than Tracy Reynolds who singlehandedly founded and funded the Shropshire Wig Bank, a social enterprise initiative. According to one research paper, nearly half (47%) of women consider hair loss to be the most traumatic aspect of chemotherapy treatment; some even consider forgoing treatment altogether. The cost of new wigs ranging up to £200 for a synthetic product and £2,000 for a real hair piece only serves to add economic ignominy to the underlying illness!

Step into Tracy Reynolds' Church Stretton based consultation room though, and prospects look markedly different, despite the cost of living crisis. Tracy is not only a qualified hairdresser but also self-funded a certified wig repair and maintenance course plus other related professional qualifications. Her inspiration for undertaking this social initiative was due to the late Agnes Lennox, who established the very first UK Wig Bank in Perth, Scotland. The Wig Bank ethos is to clean, repair and restore donated wigs which can then be retailed to clients experiencing hair loss from as little as £20 for a short hair wig.

So inspired, Tracy opened the Shropshire Wig Bank in 2016, freely offering her expertise to clients from Shropshire and its Welsh Marches surrounds. Just as important, clients benefit from a private fitting service combined with essential maintenance and cleaning advice – all of which are gifted by Tracy. "My clients can try on a range of wigs to identify their best look option; I even have a shocking pink wig which, over the years, has proven to be a great ice-breaking and laughter-inducing friend. My clients generally find the Wig Bank experience to be relaxing and therapeutic."

The final Wig Bank ethos element is the gifting of 25% of wig sale revenues to a local charity – Tracy did not hesitate in choosing The Severn Hospice as her charity partner. The charity also serves as a drop-off point for donated wigs, as does the Hamer Centre. If a client is too unwell or traumatised to travel, Tracy has been known to pack the wig stock into her car for a free home visit.

Tracy's social enterprise service has operated below the radar of community funding organisations for over six years now. That is up until March this year when Tracy unexpectedly received a donation of £405 from Powis Lodge No 7355 in Welshpool which was then boosted to £655 with a £250 top-up donation from North Wales Freemasons' Charity.

This came about because Tracy's husband Tony regularly cuts the hair of Lodge member Kim March who said, "Powis Lodge was keen to support a new local good cause, so I briefly explained Tracy's Wig Bank initiative.



Tracy with a small selection of the Wig Bank Stock

I don't think there was a single member present who did not know of someone who had been through the chemotherapy hair loss experience. Not only did Tracy's social industry strike a chord with my fellow Powis Lodge members, but it also resonated with the Trustees of the North Wales Freemasons' Charity, resulting in the £250 top-up grant."

What will Tracy do with her £650 donation? "I want to try and help more clients become aware of my services, so some of my funding will be applied to providing Wig Bank leaflets to our local cancer diagnostic and treatment centres. This

surprise funding only came about due to Freemasonry's community presence and awareness, so a big thank you from me to all the members of Powis Lodge for helping me to raise the Wig Bank's profile."



Tracy receives good donation news from Kim March

Do get in touch with Tracy if you wish to find out more about Wig Bank services or wish to donate or fund a wig on 07403 253021 or email tntreynolds@hotmail.co.uk. She is on Facebook as Shropshire Wig Bank and her website is www.wigbankshropshire.co.uk. Donor wigs can be sent directly to Tracy or dropped off at the premises of Severn Hospice or the Hamer Centre. Tracy gifts her time, premises and professional training to provide a personal wig consultation and fitting service for women experiencing alopecia. Her Hair Peace consultancy is located above her husband's hair salon, Anthony's Hair Studio in Church Stretton.

Tracy Reynolds



All types of building work undertaken

New Builds Renovations
Extensions Barn Conversions
Insurance Work
Design and Build
Commercial

Contact: Richard on
01743 791815 or 07786 268435
Email: info@sherrattbuilders.co.uk
Website: www.sherrattbuilders.co.uk



A. Morgan Builders

Local family business
For all your maintenance needs
Extensions, alterations, roofing
UPVC windows, doors & conservatories
Garden walls and paving
No job too small or large
Tel: 01694 751774 07930 332131



K. J. MORRIS
BUILDING CONTRACTORS LTD

New builds - Extensions - Alterations

Professional and Reliable service

Complete Project Management
For all your building requirements
Over 30 years in the trade

Call Kevin Morris
07970 146482 / 01694 781498

M J WEBSTER CARPENTRY & JOINERY

- Specialized Kitchen Fittings
- Over 40 Years Experience
- Serving the Strettons & Beyond

01694 771614
07975 713021

E.J. & G.J. GROOM Ltd Building Contractors

For all types of building work:

- New Builds
- Renovations
- Barn Conversions
- Extensions

Joinery Workshop, providing:

- Bespoke Joinery
- Window Frames, Doors, Staircases etc.

Tel: 01694 723436
office@groombuilders.co.uk

Mynd Industrial Estate
Church Stretton
SY6 6PG



PAUL FORRESTER Quality Carpentry & Joinery

COVERING A RANGE OF SERVICES SPECIALISING IN:

Doors ~ Skirting & Architrave ~ Flooring
Kitchens ~ Bedrooms ~ Bathrooms ~ Tiling
Lofts ~ Painting/Decorating ~ Storage Solutions
Work Stations ~ Sheds and Workshops
Gardens & Paving ~ Decking & Pergolas

For a Professional, Friendly and Enthusiastic Response

Call 07795 170938

MARKTERRY CARPENTRY AND JOINERY GENERAL BUILDING

Fitted Kitchens. Renovations. Home Extensions.
Roofing. Purpose-made Joinery.



All work carried out to the very highest standards.

tel: Home 01588 680400
Mobile 07977 148394



A.2.Z CONSTRUCTION

Stephen Pritchard

- ❑ Extensions & Alterations
- ❑ Roofing & Flat Roofing
- ❑ Ground Works
- ❑ Chimney & Leadwork
- ❑ Kitchens Fitted
- ❑ Hardwood & Engineered Flooring
- ❑ 1st & 2nd Fix Joinery



Tel: 01694 751201 (Home)
07970 931658 (Mobile)

Paul Tinsley Builder

No job too big, fast response, highest standards

Specialist in extensions, alterations, porches,
patios and fencing etc.

01694 781371 or mobile 07929 232999



T · B · C

BUILDING CONTRACTORS
P S Williams Builders Ltd

P. S. Williams Builders Ltd of Much Wenlock

*New Builds • Renovations • Extensions
Barn conversions*

Regional
Winner
of



**Building with Vision, Quality
and Pride since 1973**

For prompt personal attention,
contact:

Tel: 01952 728700
Mobile: 07971 089338
or check out our website:
t-bc.co.uk

Professionally affiliated to:



Constructionline



A J LEWIS-PRICE CARPENTRY & BUILDING

Castle Hill, All Stretton

Carpentry ~ Kitchens ~ Bathrooms ~ Landscaping ~ Extensions
General Building Work

Email: AJLP-BUILDING@OUTLOOK.COM

Tel: 07787 748763



Keith George CARPENTRY, JOINERY AND GENERAL BUILDING

- All aspects undertaken
- Small or large projects welcome
- Plumbing, bath/shower rooms, kitchens, ceramic tiling
- Renovations and conversions

30 years experience, City & Guilds qualified
07399 105618 · keith1george@icloud.com

please search using advert header

Joe Drury

BUILDER

01743 873999

01694 723302

ALL TYPES OF BUILDING
WORK UNDERTAKEN

- Extensions
- Alterations
- Bricklaying
- Plastering
- Roofing
- EPDM Flat Roof Coverings



Our Changing Language

Have you noticed how our language has changed significantly in the past few years? If languages never changed, we'd still be speaking like characters in books by Dickens, or in Norman French, or Roman Latin or even Old English. Now there's a thought.

Old English, also known as Anglo-Saxon English, is the earliest recognisable form of the language we use today, and even that was an import. It was brought to Britain by a mix of Angle and Saxon tribes when they colonised England and parts of southern Scotland in the mid-5th century. It merged with the Latin-Romano language of earlier Roman conquerors and the Celtic tongue of the resident British tribes, most of whom were assimilated into the Roman way of life, with the remainder concentrated in Wales and the far south-west of England. This would have been the language of King Arthur and his Knights, had they been real people, of course, and King Cnut. Just like his legendary attempt to prevent the tide from climbing the beach, none of us can stop the evolution of language.

By the 11thC, this mis-mash form of English was gradually merging with an early relative of French. Vikings had settled in the north-west of what we now call France between the 7thC and early 10thC, through a long series of raids and invasions, just as they had in Britain. So north-western France, now called Normandy – the land of the Northmen – and England were joined by a common Viking history through the Norman invasion of England in 1066.

Middle English was born out of this mongrel mixture of Old French, the Scandinavian languages of the Vikings, the Germanic languages of the Angles and Saxon tribes, Latin and the remnants of the Celtic tongue. It remained relatively stable until the 15thC, when Early Modern English emerged fully. We would struggle to understand it if we could time-travel to a 15thC tavern or street, but by the early 17thC this, too, had evolved further, into something we would recognise even though it was much more flowery than our own. Moreover, many words carried meanings that are very different from today's. For example, the word naught, meaning nothing, derives from 14thC Middle English. At that time, with the added 'y' turning the word into naughty, it referred to a person who was poor or needy – someone who had naught. This meaning survived even into Victorian speech, although it had gained the condemnatory meaning that the poor had only themselves to blame. Hence the development to our own meaning, which we generally ascribe to a child who misbehaves deliberately.

Other words that are common in our usage are from more surprising roots. Did you know that, for example, the word penguin has a Welsh root? Or that the word bungalow is from 17thC Hindi? We've adopted words from many other tongues, such as banana, which is from West Africa, ballet, which is French and ketchup, which is Chinese.

Poor punctuation in today's written form, and the lack of it, infuriates pedants and purists. Nouns and verbs are merged to form new words, such as gifting and gifted (to give/be given a gift). Most new words are driven into being by the seemingly endless stream of new discoveries and ways of living. Have you heard of 'nomophobia'? Nor had I, but it means a fear of the lack of access to a mobile device. What about 'helicopter parents', which is a derogatory

term meaning parents who micro-manage their children's lives. What about 'Cryptocurrency', which is an internet-based monetary value of exchange, which doesn't have a physical form, such as coins or notes, which can be traded on the internet like stocks and shares and also used to pay for goods and services.

As the history of our language shows, English has been ever changing. Forged in the crucibles of battle and, in more recent times,

through the shrinking of our wider world by easy travel and the increase in communication methods, we are now a global nation as we haven't been before even in the days of Empire. There will, no doubt, be more changes to our language even in our own lifetimes. Dr Johnson, who compiled the first English dictionary in the hope of forever securing the language of his time into a permanent form, said after ten years of effort, "I ... fear that I have indulged expectation which neither reason nor experience can justify." Who are we to think differently?

Christine Williams, Focus Journalist

Photo: Shutterstock

Stretton Strummers Ukulele Group

Yes! The **Shropshire** Strummers have morphed into **Stretton** Strummers. Since the covid years there have been many changes to our group, so we are having a brand new start in the Strettons.

We are an eclectic group with varying playing and singing abilities who meet every Thursday morning to enjoy playing our ukuleles and having a good singalong. Our group always welcomes new members so if you have played in the past or fancy having a go, or just want to come and sing with us please come along. You don't have to have any playing skills as we will guide you along. Lots of us joined with never having picked up a uke in our lives. We can even lend you a uke to get you started.

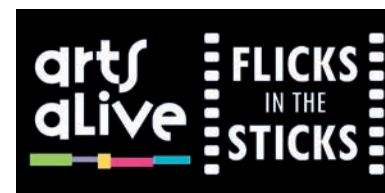
Fancy a go? Then come along on a Thursday morning 10am til noon at The Scout Hut, Church Street, Church Stretton, SY6 6DQ.

Contact: Dave Wilkinson, 07554 624662

Lesley Rae



April Screenings and Shows



Acton Scott

Acton Scott Village Hall, Tuesday 18th April 7.30pm

Tickets on the Door, Adults £5 Students £3; Refreshments available

Lancaster (PG)

From the English coast to the skies of war-torn Europe *Lancaster* tells the story of a young bomber crew as they fly a daring night raid over occupied France in the face of insurmountable odds. With machine gun fire and shells exploding all around them, the crew must remain undetected and focused in the darkness. From an award-winning director and an award-winning producer, *Lancaster* is a powerful and moving film with the plane itself as the star.

The hall has ample car parking available and level access.

Acton Scott enquiries: 01694 781260



Cardington

Cardington Village Hall, Wednesday 5th April 7.30pm

Adults £5

***The Banshees of Inisherin* (15)**

Set on a remote island off the west coast of Ireland, *The Banshees of Inisherin* follows lifelong friends Pádraic and Colm, who find themselves at an impasse when Colm unexpectedly puts an end to their friendship. A stunned Pádraic, aided by his sister Siobhán and troubled young islander Dominic, endeavours to repair the relationship, refusing to take no for an answer. But Pádraic's repeated efforts only strengthen his former friend's resolve and when Colm delivers a desperate ultimatum, events swiftly escalate, with shocking consequences.

Cardington enquiries: 01694 771295



Hope Bowdler

Hope Bowdler Village Hall, Wednesday 12th April 7.30pm

Adult £5; Under 16 £2

***Ticket to Paradise* (12)**

David and Georgia, two divorced parents who can't stand each other, head to Bali after their daughter, Lily, announces her plans to marry a local islander she just met while on holiday. They decide to put aside their differences and work together to stop the wedding, believing that doing so will keep Lily from making a dreadful mistake similar to their own.

Tea, coffee, cakes and ice cream served in the interval

Hope Bowdler enquiries: 01694 723648



Church Stretton

Silvester Horne Institute, Thursday 20th April 7.30pm

Adult £5

***Living* (12A)**

An English-language adaptation of the script of *Ikiru* (1952), set in London in the 1950s. A veteran civil servant receives a medical diagnosis that inspires him to move to the south coast and cram some fun into his remaining days. He meets a sunny young female colleague who seems to have the pep that had previously escaped him.

Church Stretton enquiries: 01694 720132



All Stretton

Live Show: All Stretton Village Hall, Friday 14th April 7.30pm

Adults £12; Child £5; Family £30

Ma Bessie's Prohibition Party (14+)

Take a trip back to Prohibition-era America with Ma Bessie & The Pig Foot Band.

An incredible time capsule, this show brings you the very best of 1920s/1930s blues and jazz to the present day, focusing on the life and musical canon of the late, great Empress of Blues herself, Bessie Smith. Mixing the rich, warm vocals of Julia Titus with a dynamic band that look and sound the part, Ma Bessie and her Pig Foot Band perform classic blues and jazz tunes from the inter-war years with a selection of original songs and hand-picked covers.

All bootleggers, gangsters and molls are most welcome.



All Stretton Village Hall, Tuesday 4th April 8pm

Adults £6

The Quiet Girl (12A)

Set in 1981, this film tells the story of a young girl, Cáit, who is sent away for the summer from her dysfunctional family to live with "her mother's people". These are Seán and Eibhlín Cinnsealach; a middle-aged couple she has never met. Slowly, in the care of this couple, Cáit blossoms and discovers a new way of living, but in this house where affection grows and there are meant to be no secrets, she discovers one.

All Stretton Village Hall, Friday 28th April 7.30pm

Adults £5

After Love (12)

Married young and converted to Islam, Mary Hussain (Joanna Scanlan) lives quietly in Dover with her husband Ahmed. Following his unexpected death, she suddenly finds herself a widow. After the burial, she discovers that Ahmed had a secret life just 21 miles away, across the Channel in Calais. The shocking discovery compels her to go there to find out more, and as she grapples with her shattered sense of identity, her search for understanding has surprising consequences.

"Scanlan offers a masterclass in drama" Mark Kermode

All Stretton enquiries: 07812 583113



Keep the date free: Saturday 27th May is StrettFest 2023

There will be a kaleidoscope of creative activities for you to sample and enjoy from the morning onwards on Rectory Field, led by our many talented local artists and organisations.

Following a picnic lunch, our one day festival will culminate in a joyful parade around the streets of Church Stretton and then finish with a celebratory sing for everyone on our return to Rectory Field.

You and your children can make colourful accessories you can then use during the parade itself as we walk and dance our way around our town. Other offerings will

include: drumming, singing, try out sessions with musical instruments, craft activities and a continuous array of music, drama and dance performances and workshops suitable for different ages and tastes.

Everyone in our community is welcome to get involved as a participant or helper to make this special day go with a swing. Please contact us if you would like to have more information and to be kept in touch with updates:

lesleymcknightuk@aol.com
kate@playonperformingarts.co.uk

Noel Beattie



All Stretton Platinum Pantomime: A Thank You

Our Platinum Pantomime, *Cinderella: The Shoe Must Go On*, played to a packed house over four performances in February. Prince Charmless showed us what was in his lunchbox, Fifi and Bubbles showed us what they wore to bed and Cinderella showed us how to hold the tree pose (namaste).

All Stretton Amateur Dramatics Society would like to thank everyone who came along and participated so enthusiastically. We couldn't do it without you and we truly value your support.

Special thanks go to John and Marie of **Vine & Co General Store** (they sell just about everything) who sold tickets, provided refreshments, and postponed their holiday to Venice in order to see the show on Saturday night. (Oh yes they did!)

But All Stretton Panto is more than just a show; it is an institution which has been bringing people together for the last 70 years. The panto fairies summed it up like this...

Many many moons ago in a land not far away
A group of village ladies set to stage a funny play.
A pantomime, they thought, might be a way to have some fun
And little did they know, a new tradition had begun.
The panto, *Cinderella*, happened right here in this hall.
The prince got off with Cinders and he took her to the ball.

That very first production was in 1953
The year the Queen was crowned and people watched it on TV.

So many people came that they were queueing at the door
And everyone had so much fun the crowds demanded more.

A drama group was formed to put a panto on each year
And people came along so they could laugh and boo and cheer.

We've had one almost every year since then, or so they say,
Tonight we thank all those who went before and paved the way.

We're really very lucky to have such a magic crew
Who work together winter long to bring our show to you.

There are writers and musicians, there are people building sets,
There are people making costumes, there are lights and sound effects.

There are people selling tickets, painting faces, making props,
There's a special curtain-puller, a producer and a prompt.
There are people making sandwiches and brewing cups of tea,
There's a bunch of blokes behind the stage who change the scenery.

We're the panto fairies and it's time to cast our spell,
We're taking you to panto-land where all our heroes dwell.
So please suspend your disbelief – come with us if you dare.
Our story starts at Hardup Hall just by the village square.
We hope you like our characters, our songs and silly jokes
... Oh and don't worry if the ladies look a little bit like blokes.

Follow us on facebook @AllStrettonPanto for news, reviews and all the latest updates.

All Stretton Amateur Dramatics Society



Baron and Baroness Hardup



Fifi and Bubbles



Prince Charmless



www.batchvalleydesign.com
or call **Simon White** on **07773 388 837**

Christopher Roscoe Associates



Architectural Design & Building Consultancy



- Residential, Commercial & Industrial Projects
- New Builds, Alterations & Extensions
- 3D Model Views & Walkthroughs
- Planning & Building Regulation Applications
- Supervision and Certification of Building Works



Innovative Building Designs



Contact us or call-in at:
Sherratt Court, Beaumont Road, Church Stretton SY6 6BN
Telephone: 01694 723867
Mobile: 07855 642150
E-mail: c.roscoeassoc@btinternet.com
Website: www.christopherroscoeassociates.co.uk

Expert legal advice for all of
your **personal, business and**
agricultural needs...

☎ **01694 724440**
✉ info@fbcmb.co.uk
🐦 @FBCManbyBowdler
www.fbcmb.co.uk



We're recruiting



We can offer you a rewarding career



Flexible shifts
Loyalty rewards
Career progression
Full induction training
Mileage paid between calls
Earn up to **£16.50** per hr and **extra** benefits



and so much more

For more information
please call

01743 874343



We offer a wide range
of **legal services**
for both the **individual**
and **business**



PCB Solicitors LLP
Old Bank Chambers
2 High Street,
Church Stretton,
Shropshire, SY6 6BU

T: 01694 723818

www.pcblaw.co.uk

PCB
SOLICITORS

Offices across Shropshire and Mid Wales

Cryptic Crossword by Stan Yelds

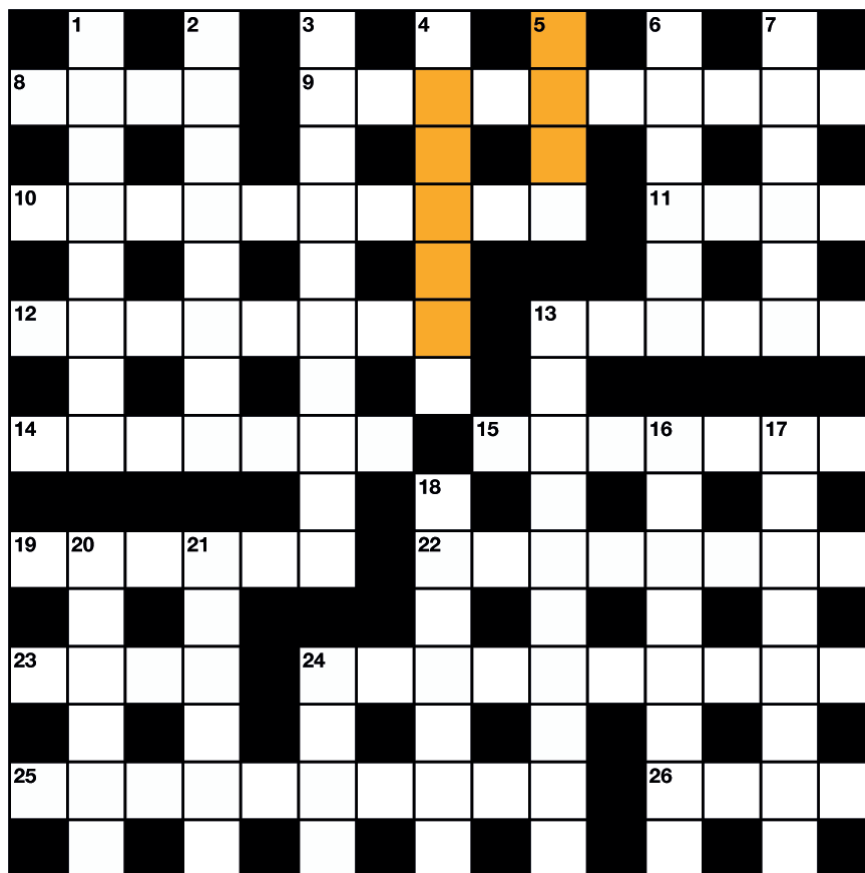
The coloured cells contain our theme; find 8 solutions (all undefined) that are linked to the Strettons by it.

Across

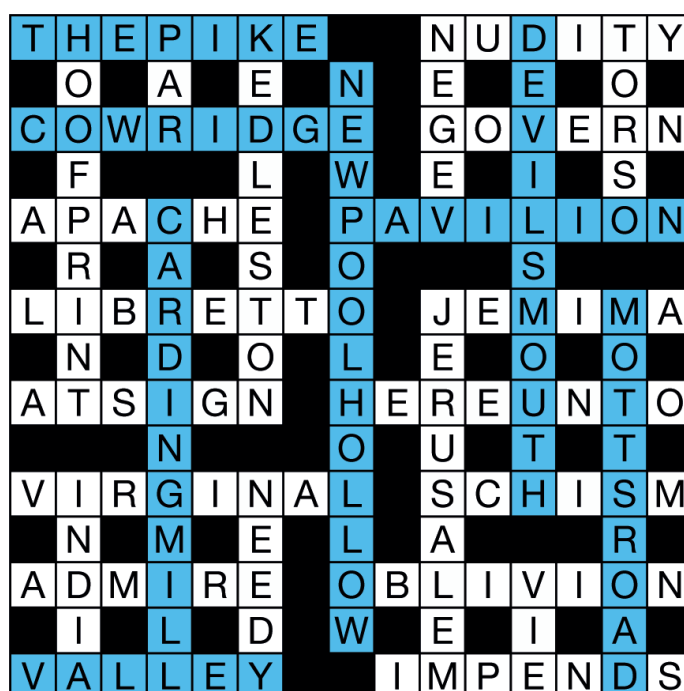
- 8,26. Order to increase catches (8)
9. Broadcast prevailing wind (3,7)
10. Stitches around edges of headgear with hide underneath (10)
11. See 15
12. Worthy of belief and sacred, I bless contents (8)
13. Precision needed with scrubbing of a Catholic Church office (6)
14. Extending considerably in time or space with no reference initially (7)
- 15,11. Wild Libyan sloth (7,4)
19. European reform OK with Slav (6)
22. Large number in the church becoming clerics (3,5)
23. I left touring act a superstar (4)
24. Whiskey is the first article to pack (10)
25. Extremely macho romcom on untidy shared place (6,4)
26. See 8

Down

1. Struck two outsiders, protecting that woman thus far (8)
2. Gosh! Deep churn found on the farm (8)
3. Ruin and upset devouring British right (10)
4. King not in residence; queen does filling in (7)
5. Unknown submarine coming up without a moment to spare (4)
6. Maybe Jill, David or Phil is more playful (6)
7. All together! French in short stoppage (2,4)
13. Wacky racer vs. man (6,4)
16. That very one's one's identity and identical (4-4)
17. Exhausted executives moving away from centre (8)
18. Sound of explosion followed by collapse at the nursery (7)
20. Glum, idle town centres (6)
21. Capacity for work? (6)
24. Left – heading off for an old Welsh county (4)



March Solution



Trivia Answers

1. Eight
2. Armada
3. Cuba
4. Cartwright
5. Arthur's Seat

Pete Carroll

07966 034061
carroll.pjc@gmail.com
57 Shrewsbury Road
Church Stretton
SY6 6EX

**Plumbing
Heating alterations
Tiling
Bathrooms
General maintenance**

City & Guilds qualified plumber

www.JMorrisPlumbingandHeating.co.uk



J Morris
Plumbing and Heating

For gas, oil and LPG installation, servicing and repairs

Call 01743 491511 / 07896 124862

Or email info@JMorrisPlumbingandHeating.co.uk



Locally based Plumber

General maintenance work
25+ years experience
Saniflo Engineer (separate
rates apply)
No job too small
£25.00 first hour/part
£20.00 per hour thereafter
Can price by job if over 1 day

Call GARY PARIS
01584 861844

**WHITING
HEATING**

Contact
Giles
07867 495559
whitingheating@
btinternet.com

Local domestic natural gas and LPG heating engineer
Gas appliance and central heating, service and repair

Boiler, cooker and fire installations
Landlords safety certificates
Unvented cylinders



Boiler Cover

£14.80 per month

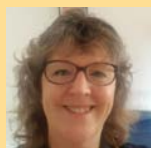
No more unexpected repair bills, with
boiler cover "done the local way"

Same-day response (if faults reported by midday)

- ✓ Unlimited call-outs & annual boiler service
- ✓ Replacement **boiler parts included**
- ✓ Priority over non-members

Join now and get covered by scanning
the QR code, or via:

01746 762000 | gasco-uk.com



ACUPUNCTURE AND CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINE IN THE STRETTONS

Amanda Bedding, LicAc, MBACc DipHerbs

In continual full-time practice for nearly 18 years, Amanda has thousands of hours clinical experience helping people like you recover from all presentations of physical and emotional illness. An experienced Acupuncture College Lecturer, Amanda offers treatment with all modalities including Gua Sha, Cupping, Tui Na massage, Electro-Acupuncture, Nutrition and lifestyle advice as well as dispensing Chinese herbs. She runs a Covid-compliant clinic in Church Stretton.

Phone Amanda today and book your appointment.

Tel: 01694 722522 Mob: 07747 126 570
shropshireacupuncture@gmail.com
www.shropshire-acupuncture.co.uk





CONSTANT PAIN GETTING YOU DOWN?

Do you have a painful knot in your neck?
Upper or lower back pain, sciatica?
Recurrent headaches?
Repetitive strain injury?
Whiplash, shoulder, arm pain?

Cate Gowlett
treats musculoskeletal pain using Trigger Point Release
drawing upon a conventional medical background for analysis
and pain management advice to patients
She has over 20 years experience
Phone Cate to discuss your options

Treatment rooms in Church Stretton
and Shrewsbury
t. 07855 106815 | e. categ@talktalk.net | w. myo-mechs.com

Birch Tree Reflexology - Anne Braddick

Reflexology and Indian Head Massage may be able to
help you relax; improve mood; aid sleep;
relieve tension; relieve anxiety and stress
RLD is a gentle reflexology for the management of
lymphoedema



INNOVATION IN REFLEXOLOGY
APPROVED RLD PRACTITIONER

Contact me :

Mobile : 07496 324401

Email : birchtreereflexology@yahoo.co.uk

Facebook : Birch Tree Reflexology

Web : www.birchtreereflexology.com

BA (Hons) Nursing; ITEC Diploma Reflexology;
Reflexology Lymphatic Drainage Practitioner;
ITEC Certificate Indian Head Massage.





Organisation

Imagine a world where everything is planned for: from waking up on time to creating a schedule for everything. Where organising is the focus. I'm not saying it's the easiest, but putting in a bit of planning, adds up to a less stressful, more enjoyable lifestyle.

So why is organising fun? It's the celebratory moment once you look at what you have accomplished. For example, you move house; boxes are everywhere. But once everything is unpacked and put in its right place, you don't have to complete an obstacle course just to get from the bed to the toilet. Equally, when you organise your attic you could find a box of your childhood possessions and travel down memory lane and think, 'I remember that'. Also, isn't organising a much more productive way of spending your time than binge watching another series?

Another example is that organising makes life easier. I'll tell you a story from a few years ago when it made my life easier. On a cold, winter's morning I started my day oblivious to the fact that the world around me was running around like maniacs, there was a school trip so everyone needed to be at school for precisely 8:00. When I got out of bed at 6:20 (ten minutes earlier than usual because the weather app told me there would be a frost and I knew that I needed an extra ten minutes to walk the frosty pavements with more care so that I didn't slip). I got out of bed, did my usual routine and at 7:40 I started walking to school. I got to school at exactly 8:00 just like I'd planned; and without slipping! Now, I was the first to arrive and it wasn't until 8:07 that anyone else turned up. So, when my friend sat down in a hurry, I put down my

Fact or Fiction: Why Do We Have to Choose?

The mathematicians and scientists of the world undoubtedly keep our planet spinning. They allow us to spot patterns and similarities in order to predict an outcome, moving people out of danger zones and into safety in countless ways. The application of scientific discoveries allows us to perform complex tasks with ease, communicate with loved ones on the other side of the globe, and most importantly, keep ourselves healthy. After all, it was our scientists, with the development of the Covid-19 vaccine, who set us back on the path to normality. Without them, the world would be an infinitely more confusing and dangerous place. We must promote, encourage, support and celebrate science, not only in schools but in further education. But must this be at the expense of the arts? It is often argued that we could exist without the arts but without science, there would

perhaps be no existence at all. This cannot be denied. It is a fact. We could exist without books and cinema, music and fashion. However, it could be argued that an existence without the arts is merely that: an existence. Not a life. Science produces the black and white that we need. You survive or you don't; it works, or it doesn't. The arts add the colour, the design, the emotion. They add the details and the beading, filling the precise lines of science with ebbs and flows, providing the character and the joy. The arts bring culture and meaning and diversity, weaving us all together; the flower blooming at the end of a branch. The recent political questioning of the value of the arts confuses me. The arts aren't just theatres and paintings. They are cinema, TV, books. They are newspapers, magazines, fashion. They are dance and adverts and photos and music and comedy and anything

Feminism

The controversial umbrella term for a person who is an advocate for equal rights between all humans, which is usually mistaken to be radical feminism, where the desire is to create a matristic society. When I first heard of this, I was bewildered that there was any other way, yet I am grateful to be educated in the privileges men have that I don't, and the privileges I have which men do not.

Here is the thing about the way our society is run, it is based on a hierarchal system, where the top of the pyramid has the most power, and the bottom the least. The interesting aspect of a pyramid is no matter how much power each individual aspect of the sector has, if the bottom of that pyramid work together, it will become bottom heavy and flip. Whilst the system itself has its positives and negatives in the way that it is run, I believe feminism isn't about wanting to change the structure of the

system, but rather the system's sector concentration, so as a feminist I aim to flip the hierarchy for even just a moment so that the diversity within our society could rotate, and diffuse, much like a sand timer. Personally, I don't see the point in stretching out the whole hierarchal pyramid into a continuous line, because then who takes charge and who listens to who?

Yet people are versatile and should not be oppressed in their attempts to climb the hierarchal ladder, based on their gender, race or any other qualities. Just because someone looks different does not make them less capable than you... but what makes equality worth fighting for?

As I am writing this, International Women's Day is coming up (8th March), and we've just had an assembly at school, where we celebrated what women have achieved and what often gets missed. Harriett Tubman, Marie Curie,



1 Student Journalists

hot chocolate and calmly said to her, “Have you had a busy morning?” Therefore, it’s proven that by being prepared and organised life can be less stressful and you will always be on time. Was I like my friend and barely had time to breathe that morning – no. I was calm and didn’t show up seven minutes late.

For me, when I have organised my things, it looks much more clean and tidy. Imagine this: your house is a state. You just got back after a weekend at your grandparent’s house. There are old tea mugs creating rings on the window sills, clothes are covering the floor but after a long drive, all you want to do is sit down with another cup of tea. But you can’t, because there is a knock on the door. An unexpected visitor: The Princess of Wales. With the door open, she announces, “I have come for tea!”

But your house is a disaster so when she walks into the horrendous kitchen, she gasps. You have never been more embarrassed. The one day that a Princess comes for tea and you don’t have one clean mug to offer.

But you think to yourself, what if your house had been immaculate. A cupboard full of clean, categorised mugs. So, if that’s not an incentive to keep your house tidy and organised all the time, I don’t know what is!

Overall, organising for me, is an effective way to make things neat and to spend my time in a productive way. It may not work for everyone but, for the people that it does, it makes life much easier.

Daisy Swain

that gives meaning to the life we lead. If you have ever sat on the edge of your seat in suspense, in the palm of the cinematographer’s hand, you have appreciated the arts. If you have ever read a story, a poem, an article that made you feel something, you have appreciated the arts. If you have ever passed a shop window and seen an item of clothing and thought “that’s nice” you have appreciated the arts. If you have ever lost yourself, singing or dancing to a piece of music, you have appreciated the arts. The arts are everything around us that adds colour to the world. They are the universal language of people and although they mean something different to each and every one of us, they bring us together. Why must we promote one above the other? Science and the arts are entwined but equally as important. The Covid pandemic is a prime example: the scientists looked after our physical

health with hygiene, proximity advice and of course, the saviour that was the vaccine. The artists however, played a different but critical role. They looked after our mental health with music, shows and concerts. We turned to the arts more than ever. We read, we danced, we learned instruments, we painted, we wrote, whole communities sang together. The arts provided shared experiences and created topics for conversation. Science brought us the facts; the arts brought us respite from them. The arts provided a community that supported everyone, brought into our homes by science. Each as important as the other. I’d like to think that the current political agenda does not change this.

Daisy Deards

Florence Nightingale and many others get a platform to be celebrated for their success, bravery and hard work. Don’t get me wrong, Women’s Day is a beautiful celebration where we reflect on scientific celebration and lifesaving events, but when I was growing up, I always asked my mum “why do we have Women’s Day?”. My Polish mother had to fight incredibly hard to earn respect in her country where views are still quite old fashioned, and she was always a woman in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths). She had to be constantly near perfect in a class of 27 where she was the only woman in constructing and designing projects. Although she enjoyed it and learnt so much from males, and even borrowed the male magazines because she was more interested in mechanics and watches than cooking and beauty, though she learnt to be honest and kinder, the first 2-3 weeks were incredibly tough, and she absolutely hated

it. So, I will never forget how she looked me in the eye that day and said, “because every day is a man’s day”.

Ever since then (2012, six years old), I started to notice small things around me and unfortunately not much has changed. All our senior leadership staff are males in our school, and even on Women’s Day none of them took part in presenting the assembly and whilst yes, Women’s Day is about women, I feel as if males should celebrate too. I’m not saying women should take over men, ‘make way for women!’, I’m saying that I am now only sixteen, but in ten or fifteen years I don’t want to have to tell my child that “every day is a man’s day”. Instead that: “today is a day to celebrate what women fought for – so that every day, was an everyone day”.

That is the deeper feminist meaning, that every day, is your day.

Wiola Sewry



Stained Glass: Talk and Demonstration

Monday 17th April and Wednesday 19th April from 2.30pm to 4pm.

Glass technician and artist Andy Bennett will be giving a talk and demonstration of glass staining on two afternoons in April.

Andy grew up in Shrewsbury and spent many years walking in the hills around Church Stretton (including taking part in the Long Mynd Hike) and visiting the town. Andy now lives in Cheshire, but joined Friends of Church Stretton Library last year and supports (albeit from afar) the work we are doing to keep the library open.

He creates handmade stained glass artwork to sell and runs workshops for people wanting to learn how to make their own stained glass artefacts.

Andy says "I am quite passionate about the heritage of stained glass / lead light windows and how they complement the character of a building. However it is a shame how often they are removed to be replaced by easier-to-install plain glass, and the intricacy and workmanship

that has gone into making the windows is lost.

"My presentation will cover a brief history of glass manufacture, the tools that are used and some of the techniques we employ. There will be lots of pictures of the before, during and after of making and restoring windows."

Andy's session will be in the library on Monday 17th April and Wednesday 19th April from 2.30 to 4pm.

Advance booking is essential as places (£7.50) will be limited, so those attending will have a good view and the opportunity to participate in Andy's demonstrations.

Some glass craft items will be available to buy. These range in value from £8 to £20 depending on size (and how long they take to make).

To reserve a place please call Ben Warren (Friends of Church Stretton Library Trustee) on 07779 437871 or email Churchstrettonlibrary@outlook.com. To find out more about Andy's work see www.moultonglass.co.uk.

Sheila Davies



Church Stretton Library Events

Travels with a Sketchbook in a Campervan

1st April-2nd May

With an open evening on the 1st April from 6.30pm

An exhibition of pen and wash plein-air paintings by local travel artist Mike Russell. Based in Church Stretton, travel artist and garden designer Mike, loves to explore and record his adventures in a campervan.

Recently back home from an inspirational 7,000-mile road trip through France, Spain and Portugal – 'Coast and Mountains', painting every day for 90 days – Mike has decided to exhibit his paintings for everyone to enjoy and experience the journey through his art.

With his distinctive and quirky style using pen and watercolour, Mike captures moments with people and places along the journey with his partner Jayne.

Growing up in the wild borders between Shropshire and Wales has been an influence and inspiration throughout his

life. Mike studied art and design in Shrewsbury and Oxford and has combined his love of art and nature to become an award-winning garden designer.

Please call Mike for more information 07815 127177.

Citizens Advice – on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month between 10am-12 noon.

Trained advisors will be available to give advice on issues such as benefits, pensions, debt and money, housing and consumer problems and work-related issues.

Sessions will be by appointment on:

Freephone: 08082 787894 (Mon-Fri 10am-4pm)

Textphone: 18001 0800 144 8884.

Alexis Seaborne



Promoting Well Being since 1982
THE Health & Beauty Clinic



Treatments Available:

- Make up for all occasions
- Massage
- Facials
- Manicure/ Pedicure
- Lycon Specialist Waxing
- Lash & Brow tints
- St. Tropez Ultimate Spray Tan

Certified Fitness Instructor

Pam Allsop

The Old Bakehouse, Churchway, Church Stretton

Tel: 01694 723899, Email: pamallsop@churchway.plus.com



ALL PLUMBING JOBS

CALL PETER FLOYD
(30 YEARS EXPERIENCE)

RELIABLE SERVICE, REASONABLE PRICES

07885 585849

Bodylogic - Mobile Massage

David - BSc Sports Science, Vtct Diploma Sports Massage Therapy

Fully qualified and insured

Registered with the Federation of Holistic Therapists

I currently offer a 10% discount on all massage treatments for NHS workers, teachers, police personnel and OAP's.

Treatments available: Sports
Deep Tissue
Remedial
Relaxation
K-Taping

Straight to your door at your convenience, in the comfort of your own home.

w. www.bodylogicshropshiremassage.co.uk

e. Bodylogicmassage@yahoo.co.uk

t. 07776150146



Whitfield

Plumbing, Heating & Cooling

Rated 9.7/10 on Checkatrade with over 170 reviews



**WORCESTER
BOSCH BOILER**

SUPPLIED & INSTALLED

**WITH 12 YEAR PARTS
& LABOUR GUARANTEE**



Call For A
FREE
Quotation

Plumbing, Boilers, Gas, Oil, LPG, Air Conditioning & Heat Pumps
From A Dripping Tap To A Full Heating System Installation

01694 652123 | www.WhitfieldPlumbing.co.uk

Proud members of
Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters



Homefix

Plumbing & Heating

01588 620250

www.homefixplumbingandheating.co.uk

Run by the Richardson family from Church Stretton, we offer a reliable and friendly service that includes:

- All Plumbing and Heating
- Complete bathroom re-fits, including tiling, plastering and flooring
- Gas and Oil Boiler Installation and Service
- Underfloor heating
- Drainage and Groundworks

No call out fees, free quotations
email: homefixplumbing@yahoo.co.uk

LEE BROWN PLUMBING AND HEATING

GAS, NATURAL AND LPG, DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL CATERING ENGINEERS

GAS AND BOILER SERVICING, INSTALLATIONS AND BREAKDOWNS

COOKERS AND FIRES

GAS SAFETY CERTIFICATES

LANDLORD SAFETY CERTIFICATES

SMALL PLUMBING WORK ALWAYS UNDERTAKEN

UNVENTED CYLINDERS, POWER FLUSHING

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND
WATER REGULATIONS



TEL: 01694 724429

MOBILE: (DAYTIME): 07870 754201







Established 1972

RING OUR TEAM: 01694 722237
Email: sales@wrightschurchstretton.co.uk

We sell more properties in Church Stretton than any other Estate Agents.

We give you a professional & personal service you can trust...all at a great price from a team you can rely on.

Our local knowledge is second to none.

We are local agents for Yorkshire Building Society and work in association with Bluestone Lettings.



FREE HELP AND ADVICE WITHOUT OBLIGATION



We're first!

WRIGHTS Church Stretton branch was 1st out of 25 branches in the area on Rightmove for Sales Agreed

WRIGHTS Church Stretton branch was 1st out of 25 branches in the area on Rightmove for Sales Agreed

Ask us about our low price—no sale, no fee...

Prime location open 6 days a week.



noea | propertymark

arla | propertymark

VISIT US AT WWW.WRIGHTSCHURCHSTRETTON.CO.UK



SAMUEL WOOD

Thinking of selling your property in Church Stretton?



Contact us 7 days a week on

01694 722723

The ONLY agent with offices also in Shrewsbury, Craven Arms, Ludlow & Mayfair Office, London 020 7467 5330



Thinking of renting?

...put us in the frame!



- ✓ Residential letting specialists
- ✓ Commercial lettings & sales
- ✓ Rent reviews & lease renewals
- ✓ Covering the whole of Shropshire
- ✓ Working closely with Wrights Estate Agents

01694 730003
www.bluestonelettings.co.uk





Celebrating 10 years of lettings!

MILLER EVANS

The area's most successful, respected & trusted property agent



SOLD



LET

4 The Square, Church Stretton SY6 6DA
01694 724700

4 Barker Street, Shrewsbury SY1 1QJ
01743 236800

www.millerevans.co.uk
homes@millerevans.co.uk



Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Haughmond Hill Walk

On 8th February a dozen members and friends enjoyed a walk on Haughmond Hill on a beautiful bright, sunny and frosty morning. Thankfully mist encountered on the journey had lifted and we enjoyed fantastic views across to the South Shropshire Hills and the Wrekin. Around 23 species were encountered. Highlights on the first part of the walk were treecreeper, marsh tit and a very approachable goldcrest. Near the end we saw a small flock of siskins in which at least one lesser redpoll was seen by a few. Finally, as we enjoyed a cuppa with the obligatory cake or sandwich, we had brief views of a brambling and close up views of a hunting female kestrel. We were all impressed with the facilities and many talked about



Above: goldcrest

returning. Please check their website for details of the café opening times (haughmond-hill-cafe.business.site).

Jane Potts, Photos: Geoff Hall

Talks and Events

The South Shropshire Local Group of the RSPB has a programme of talks and walks throughout 2022/23. Talks (including refreshments) are £2 for local group members and £5 for visitors, under 18s half price. Walks are £2.

Tuesday 11th April

Talk by Alan Reid – Working Forest and Wildlife

Alan is the ranger for the Forestry Commission in South Shropshire, a keen naturalist with considerable knowledge

of the local wildlife.

7.30pm Diddlebury Village Hall, SY7 9DH
Enquiries to Carol Wood: 07807 068304

Sunday 30th April

Gilfach and Afon Marteg Nature Reserves (near Elan Valley Rhayader) LD6 5LF

10am start, full day

This walk will follow a route up an upland hillside, incorporating a disused railway cutting and then back down along the river including a halfway stop at a small café with a separate visitor centre (with a toilet). Walking through the small valley is immensely beautiful – you won't be disappointed!

Meet at entrance to car park (with picnic benches). Turn right off the A470 a few miles north of Rhayader (on a wide sweeping bend). Grid Ref SN 95305 71500.

Please bring picnic lunch and stout walking footwear. Sorry no dogs. Walk Leader: David Stafford 07407 150213 joined by Helen Griffiths. For further information visit our website: www.group.rspb.org.uk/southshropshire or Facebook: RSPB South Shropshire Local Group.



Churches Together in the Strettons

We are very pleased to announce that we commemorate Good Friday, 7th April, with a succession of three events that are open to everybody. The first of these is a service held at 10.30am in the Methodist Church, Watling Street South. After this, there is the Walk of Witness, a dignified and silent procession, which begins at the junction of the station approach road and Central Avenue, meeting from 11.30 and walking at 11.40. This leads to the open Service in the Square, which begins at 12 noon. It consists of prayers, Bible readings and hymns. All are welcome, and hot cross buns are provided.

On Easter Sunday, 9th April, there is a very special service just before sunrise, held on Plush Hill (OS grid reference SO460959 and nearest postcode SY6 6JX) to commemorate Jesus Christ's resurrection. We hold this service so early because it was then at such a time on the first Easter that Jesus' tomb was found empty by Mary and Mary Magdalene, who learnt that he had risen from the dead. The short service of readings, hymns and prayers will begin at 6.15am. Everybody is welcome to attend.

David Andrew





Red Kites

Red Kites are widespread now, with 67 known breeding pairs and 58 nests found across Shropshire in 2022, a spectacular increase since the first known successful breeding in the county as recently as 2006. Four nests were found in the Strettons area; two were successful, and at least two young fledged here. Other sightings suggest that there are more nests to find.

We don't want reports of individual kites, but we are still trying to find all the nests, so if you see evidence that might indicate a nest site (a pair together in spring, or displaying, or one seen several times in the same place, or one going into a wood, any time between March and June, but especially in April), we'd like to know please.

Reports of wing-tagged birds are wanted too, please. Photographers are requested to check for tags on all pictures of kites. Please send reports to Leo Smith: leo@leosmith.org.uk.

Leo Smith



Photo: John Harding

Regenerative farming – our journey so far

Monday 17th April at 7.30pm at Mayfair Community Centre.

Years of intensive farming, the use of fertilisers and pesticides and overstocking have decimated wildlife in this country.

Lizzie Hulton-Harrop grew up on an upland livestock farm in South Shropshire just beneath the Stiperstones. After a decade away from the farm at university and in other roles, Lizzie returned to Shropshire to work with her mum in the farm business. Five years later and they are well into their journey to regenerate the land following the principles of Holistic Management. She will share the steps they have taken so far, as well as their hopes for the future.

Holistic Management seeks to restore the land and livelihoods to good health and to benefit wildlife. It is a whole farm approach to managing resources.

Members £3, non-members £4. No need to book.

For further information contact Janet Martin (01694 722361) or strettons@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk.



**Shropshire
Wildlife Trust**

Strettons Branch



Photo: Lizzie Hulton-Harrop

Gardening Club Spring Show

Church Stretton and District Gardening Club is holding its Spring Show on Tuesday 25th April in Silvester Horne Institute at 2pm

The schedule of classes is as follows :

Class 1. 5 individual flowers picked from garden (in water).

Class 2. 3 sprays of Spring shrubs picked from garden (in water).

Class 3. Foliage arrangement, arranged for a dining table to seat 4 people.

Class 4. 'Tea Time' Cut flowers and foliage arranged in teapot. Flowers from garden or florist.

Class 5. 'Floating Flowers' A glass bowl suitable for a coffee table, with flower heads, either bought or from garden.

Class 6. Napkin and napkin ring – the ring to be made from natural dried plant material.

Class 7. Crafts

(a) A painting or drawing of local landmark.

(b) A handmade bird – any medium.

(c) A hat – knitted, sewn or crocheted.

(d) An object made from salvaged wood.

The Silvester Horne Institute will be open at 1.30pm for exhibits to be put in place.

The judge will be Mr Howard Franklin.

Evelyn Dapling



Stretton Area Community Wildlife Group

Bird Project Update – *Project Leader Leo Smith*
It's not too late to join our three bird surveys.

1. Lapwing, Curlew, and other species

The Curlew and Lapwing survey area is bounded roughly by Leebotwood, Marshbrook, Shipton and Hughley. You would take on a survey square and visit three times, on dates to suit you, around 1st April, 1st May and 15th June. You'll get simple survey instructions and a map to record sightings on. If possible, we'd also like you to record Kestrel, Cuckoo, and other target species, but that's an optional extra. There will be a practical training session, explaining how to go about the survey, and record what you see, in early April, if you feel you need it and want to come.

2. Red Grouse

The Red Grouse survey takes place on the Long Mynd, for around two hours around sunset on several evenings in April and May. Most watchpoints are close to the road, and the Grouse are usually conspicuous and easy to recognise, so the survey doesn't require any expertise. There will be a practical 'on the job' training session for those that want it.

3. Dipper

Dipper monitoring doesn't involve actual survey work, we would just like reports of any you see please. If you get a good view, please check the left leg for a colour-ring.

All these surveys are conducted jointly with the Church Stretton branch of Shropshire Ornithological Society (SOS),

and the National Trust is a partner in the Red Grouse survey.

More information on all three projects can be found on our website www.shropscwgs.org.uk/strettons-area-wildlife-group/ including reports for 2022.

Save our Curlews Project and Appeal

The Curlew survey also directly helps our joint work with SOS, to find Curlew nests and protect them from predation with electric fences. When the chicks hatch, we attach radio tags and track them to see what happens to them.

We are repeating the project in 2023, but it costs money. We had a grant in 2022 from Stepping Stones, but that funding is not available in 2023, so we have relaunched our Strettons area Save our Curlews appeal. At the current rate of decline, we haven't got long to save the Curlews from local extinction, so readers are invited to make donations and the amount of conservation work we can do is dependent on how much the Appeal raises.

You can find a report on the results in 2022, and the Appeal Leaflet, with a donations page on how to contribute, on our website www.shropscwgs.org.uk. We hope you will consider contributing, please.

If you want further information, or to volunteer, or you want to report a Curlew or a Dipper sighting, please contact Leo Smith: leo@leosmith.org.uk.

Dr Penny Bienz



April Flowers

“April is the cruellest month...” said TS Eliot in *The Waste Land*, yet there is much plant life to see in April. Spring is truly 'sprung'!

In Carding Mill Valley there are hidden gems often in plain sight but easily missed. One of these is Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage – a gold speckled, pale green mat beside a small stream. It can be found on wet rocks and shaded springs colonising the banks of streams like the



Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage

Ashbrook. It is a plant of acid or calcium deficient soils. The bluntly toothed, rounded leaves are thin and were at one time eaten as a vegetable. There is a yellow-green head of numerous small flowers, each with four or five sepals but no petals. The plant is pollinated by

tiny insects such as springtails and small flies or can be self-pollinated. A good place to see it is near the road ford above the Chalet Pavilion.

If you venture up to the Reservoir, you will come across bushes of Broom in the fenced off area surrounding the water. Spineless wands of flowering stems with yellow flowers about 20mm long are borne on young twigs. They fruit into flattened oblong pods which ripen black. Broom is pollinated mainly by bumble bees.

So, take a stroll in Carding Mill Valley to see these and other flowers of April.

Rob Webster



Broom



A Quaker Voice

Speaking Truth to Power

I was waiting at the checkout in a clothes department. There were only two tills open and the queue did not seem to be moving at all. At last, when one of the customers was about to complete their transaction, somebody (presumably known to her) appeared at speed down the exit aisle and dropped an armful of clothes on the counter in front of her to be put through the till.

'Looks' were exchanged among the waiting queue and then a brave lady called across politely and pointed out that there was a queue and that we had been waiting quite a while. "Would you please join the queue and wait your turn like everybody else," she said. When I looked, the new arrival and the pile of clothes had vanished.

The rest of us perhaps did not want to 'make a scene', but that would indicate that we had no problem with what had happened. The fact that the unwelcome action was challenged would make people think. It had elements of 'speaking truth to power'. The term is usually used at a national level to describe a non-violent way of opposing injustice and inequality.

Engaging Issues in February welcomed Sally Azzam Cooke of the Amos Trust to talk about growing up as a Palestinian in the State of Israel, and her work with this "creative human rights organisation committed to challenging injustice, building hope and creating positive change". They try (like the lady in the queue) to open the eyes of those who benefit from injustices, to help them become aware of what life is like for those on the other side of unequal power relationships.



Amidst the ongoing violent military exchanges the Amos Trust uses non-violent methods to focus international attention on the situation in Israel. As I write the plan is to have a 7.5k 'Run the Wall' event in March on the 75th Anniversary of the occupation of Palestine. They also observe and record what is going on and offer some hope that one day things will be different. Ways are found to celebrate and publicise Palestinian culture and to offer creative and stimulating activities for young people who see no future. Sally herself tries to raise awareness of the situation by speaking at Meetings.

The work is not for the faint hearted. Martin Luther King Jr wrote powerfully of his reasons for choosing the 'speaking truth to power' way:

"The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it.

"Through violence you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth.

"Through violence you may murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate.

"Returning violence for violence multiplies violence adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Jane Seabury



Generating Electricity at Home

Making the most of your Solar Photo Voltaic (PV) Panels

With electricity prices going up again in April and unlikely to come down much any time soon, increasing numbers of households are considering installing photovoltaic panels. 12 panels should over the year provide free and zero carbon electricity for approximately half the average household consumption. But what happens to any electricity over and above what the house requires? Normally it gets exported back into the grid for others to use and the householder gets paid a small amount in return.

A home battery storage system can be added to the set-up so that surplus electricity charges the battery and is released back into the household supply later in the day when the PV has stopped producing. Some battery systems can also be charged from the mains at off-peak times, to be released back into the house when electricity is more expensive. Any battery system needs to be carefully sized to match the PV array and, to make things a little more complicated, some battery systems provide power to the home during a power cut, whilst others do not. It is also possible with some systems (subject to local regulations) to sell stored electricity back to your supplier during times when electricity is expensive.

PV systems can also be fitted with a smart controller which gives the householder the choice as to where any surplus

electricity goes, e.g. PV to house, then to battery if one is fitted, perhaps to electric car charging or immersion heater and finally to export. As each is satisfied, the smart controller moves the surplus on to the next device. The result is that hardly any electricity gets exported as the household is maximising every amount of electricity the PV panels produce.

Home electricity generation is going to become ever more important in the coming years. Electricity consumption is likely to double with more households ditching their CO² producing gas and oil boilers for an Air Source Heat Pump (there is a Government Grant of £5,000 until April 2024) and also switching to electric cars. The National Grid is decarbonising and will ultimately use only renewable, fossil-free electricity.

For more information why not make use of Stretton Climate Care's free advice service at info@strettonclimatecare.org.uk, ring us on 07528 493181 or come and see us at our drop in advice sessions every Thursday 10am to 12 noon at the Health and Wellbeing Centre.

Jon Cooke







MIKE RUSSELL DESIGNS Ltd.
RHS GOLD AWARD WINNING
LANDSCAPE & GARDEN DESIGN

*Specialists in wildlife
gardens since 1987.*

Contact us: mrdesignsoffice@gmail.com
+44(0)7815 127177 @ [mikerusselldesigns](https://www.facebook.com/mikerusselldesigns)
mikerusselldesigns.com



the shropshire lawn company

The easy way to get a lovely lawn

- seasonal treatments
- moss & weed control
- scarification & aeration
- lawn advice

Call Mark for your **free** lawn analysis
07745 510482 01694 771452
www.shropshirelawncompany.co.uk



HOMDEN EXCAVATIONS

*With over 25 years experience, we specialise in All aspects of
Groundworks, Building & Landscaping*

FOR ALL YOUR CONSTRUCTION NEEDS THINK HOMDEN EXCAVATIONS!

Tel: 01743 719092 Mob: 07812 565684
Email: info@homdenexcavations.co.uk
Visit: www.homdenexcavations.co.uk

The Cottage, Lower Common, Longden, Shrewsbury, SY5 8HB

tidy garden 

for all your gardening needs

Planting, pruning
mowing, hedging, etc.

 **Call Bob Rogers**
Tel: 01743 244402
or 07981 814518

**KEITH
WARRINGTON
LANDSCAPE
SERVICES**

*All aspects of garden
maintenance undertaken*

Grass cutting, pruning,
hedgecutting, trees, patios,
Pest control, wasps,
moles, etc.

FREE ESTIMATES
Tel: 01584 861884
Mob: 07742 945768

Painter & Decorator

DWS Property Services

All Interior and Exterior Work

Fully Insured

Free Competitive Quotation
dugloussteele@hotmail.com

07860528943

G. H. JONES & SON

PAINTERS & DECORATORS
Est. 1966



**Telephone: Church Stretton
(01694) 722148
Mobile: 07808 670806**

ANDREW WEBSTER

**PAINTER AND DECORATOR
INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR**

**CITY AND GUILDS TRAINED
OVER 40 YEAR'S EXPERIENCE**

**FIRST CLASS WORK GUARANTEED
AT VERY COMPETITIVE RATES**

**TEL: 01694 724574
MOBILE: 07779 825908**

E. B. JONES

PAINTER & DECORATOR



*35 Years Experience
Interior & Exterior
All Work Guaranteed*



Tel: Church Stretton 01694 724010

Forty Years of Traidcraft

The Story of Traidcraft plc

Traidcraft, the pioneer of the fairtrade movement, had been in financial difficulties for some time but managed to keep trading through the darkest days of the Covid pandemic. Then, earlier this year, we read the headlines “Traidcraft plc goes into administration”. In 1979 few people showed much concern about the ethical values of trade. In that year Richard Adams, described as a ‘social entrepreneur’, founded Traidcraft. He set out to change, in his words, “the entire, unjust, global economic system”. Adams was motivated by his Christian faith and the equal value of all people. In the early days a high proportion of Traidcraft goods were sold in churches. This close association continued but broadened out so that the large army of volunteers was drawn from people of all faiths and of none. This was certainly the case with Stretton Traidcraft.

Transform Trade

In 1986 the charity Traidcraft Exchange was established. This was a sister organisation which campaigned to challenge the way all business is done. In 2018 the two organisations became entirely separate and Traidcraft Exchange later changed its name to Transform Trade – a name which more accurately describes its purpose. Richard Adams had always insisted that selling goods at a fair price was not sufficient; the whole economic trading system needs to be challenged. Transform Trade is actively supporting farmers, artisans and workers across the world, as well as campaigning for trade justice. Its latest project is Fast Fashion, calling for a fashion watchdog to end unfair buying practices. Because Transform Trade was partly financed by Traidcraft plc, the charity is now seeking new funding. From October 2022 to January 2023 over 100 supporters have set up small regular donations and more donors are being recruited. To learn more visit transform-trade.org.

Stretton Traidcraft



A picture in Stretton Focus in July 1993, with caption “The stalwarts of the Church Stretton Traidcraft Group, Beth Arnold, Kathy Stancliff, John Hoon and June Amor”.

Traidcraft in Church Stretton started in a very small way. On a Thursday morning in 1983 Beth Arnold set up a stall in Tarbuck’s Yard (the forecourt of SAMS, Stretton

Antiques Market). This became a monthly event. For a while Traidcraft items were also sold in the Parish Centre at the Monday lunch club. By 1988 Beth gained other helpers and the organisation that was later called Stretton Traidcraft was born. The founding quartet was Kathy Stancliff (now at Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria), June Amor (now at Christchurch, Dorset), John Hoon (deceased) and Beth Arnold who died in 1996. The four founding members were pictured in *Stretton Focus* in July 1993, in an article explaining the ethos of Traidcraft, written by Alfred Bee. Alfred stated that Traidcraft was an organisation which aimed to benefit the poor of the world by buying their products at fair prices and selling them in the west. In fact when Traidcraft was set up in 1979 the vision was much broader than Alfred realised. Richard Adams, the founder, wrote “it was never primarily about relieving poverty – we were about changing the entire, unjust global economic system”. Very soon John Hoon and his wife Jean made a room in their house, 36 Watling Street South, available as a storeroom for the wide range of goods – coffees, teas, dried fruit, stationery, toilet rolls and a few craft items. On the second Thursday morning each month they were open for trading, with most of the customers enjoying a chat and a hot drink. This continued for some years; even after Jean died John carried on until ill health meant that he had to give it up reluctantly. The breakthrough came when Meg Bacon suggested that the new Mayfair Community Centre would provide a venue for a weekly stall. From then until the Covid pandemic struck in 2020 every Thursday morning a stall was set up in Mayfair. It was staffed by a rota of volunteers. Ward Davies arranged the rota. Maureen and Don Clow ordered the goods and stored them in their home in All Stretton then brought them to Mayfair. In addition to the weekly stall other outlets were Church Stretton School annual fair, Teas to Please in Little Stretton and coffee mornings or other charity or Church events.

Stretton Traidcraft bought its goods at a discount and sold them at catalogue price. This enabled us to pay the rent at Mayfair and account for food that went out-of-date. It sent most of its annual profit to Traidcraft Exchange and a small extra sum was donated to Mayfair as a thank you for all their help and encouragement. Stretton Traidcraft’s remaining funds will be donated to Transform Trade and its bank account will be closed. We thank all our customers and our band of volunteers for raising the profile of fair trade. In all the years that Traidcraft has been on sale in the Strettons the following people helped to promote Traidcraft:

June Amor, Beth Arnold, Jenny Barker, Gaenor Bolton, Maureen and Don Clow, Ann Cooke, Adrian Cullis, Ward and Ruth Davies, Jean and John Hoon, Haro Horsfield, Gill Jackson, Kate Johnson, Barbara and Tim Oakley, Alison Philips, Brenda Ponsford, Pam Rush, Jean and Harold Souter, Kathy Stancliff, Melanie Stancliff, Anne Struthers, Norma Taylor, Sally Walton. *If I have omitted anyone please accept my apology.*

The cloud’s silver lining

- People can no longer say “Fairtrade – what does that mean?”

Catholic Voice



- Fairly traded goods are widely available in shops and supermarkets. Did you know that the Co-op sells a greater percentage of fairtrade than any other supermarket?
- Producers across the world will still be helped by Transform Trade.

Ruth Davies



Stretton Traidcraft gave three fairtrade footballs, handmade in Pakistan, to The Magpies, Church Stretton junior football club. Mrs Kathy Stancliff is seen handing the balls to the boys.



A typical stall of Traidcraft goods

When praying about the homilies for what is now last Christmas, a word lodged in my mind: 'Encounter'.

Reflecting upon 'encounter' leads us to see that it is a key concept (if not a foundational concept) in our relationship with God and the world around us. God chooses to 'encounter' through His creation and specifically in the story of God and humanity – Salvation history. The ultimate encounter is found in, and through, the person of Jesus who entered creation and embraced our humanity, from the moment of his conception at the Annunciation through his life, death, resurrection, and ascension in order to open the way for all humanity to encounter God's divine life and love, in this world and for all eternity.

Encounter has several components whether in human-divine or human-human relationships. It involves a physical movement across traditional boundaries or positions, and a willingness to change plans, i.e. of putting our own wants aside when we see the needs of another (or to be obedient to the will of God). Good discernment requires careful discernment and learning of who and what is around us, of listening and trying to understand (God's will, of ourselves, and of others). This life based on encounter requires a different way of being with God and the world around us i.e. it is not a one-time, feel-good moment, but a series of faithful responses over and over and over again.

In a world of instant communication and rapid gratification, of busyness and distraction we can often become so stretched that it takes a real effort to pause and take time, to be still and truly encounter those around us, creation and ultimately God Himself.

May we learn the art of 'encounter' and make it foundational to how we live with God and in the world. In doing a little research for this version of the 'voice' I have discovered that Pope Francis has called to build a 'culture of encounter'. A culture, which is not just an invitation to bring people together across differences in the spirit of mercy, solidarity, and hope; in which Pope Francis proposes that this is how disciples emulate Jesus Christ's teaching and healing ministry by practicing inclusive outreach, engaging in mutually respectful exchange, and opening up new possibilities.

In short "An encounter with others makes our heart bigger. Take courage!" Pope Francis.

May Holy Week and Eastertide bring you and your families life-affirming encounters with the Risen Lord and those around you.

Canon Jonathan Mitchell

Roman Catholic Services (Thursday 6th-Monday 10th April)

The Sacred Triduum

Holy Thursday: **Mass of The Lord's Supper** 7.30pm

Good Friday: **Celebration The Lord's Passion** 3pm

Saturday: **The Easter Vigil** 8.15pm

Easter Sunday Masses: 9am, St Milburga's

10.30am, St Walburga's, Plowden

Easter Octave Masses: 10am (Monday-Saturday 10th-17th April)

JOHN STEPHENSSERVICES Ltd

Serving South Shropshire and beyond for 58 years

- Drive and Garden Construction
- All Types of Paving and Walling
- Bespoke and Kit Form Garden Rooms, Offices, Summerhouses and Sheds, Fully Serviced to Your Requirements
- Hot Tub and Swim Spa Installations



1 Hotel Place, Shrewsbury Road,
Church Stretton SY6 6DZ
01694 722475
jslandscapes@btconnect.com
www.johnstephensservices.co.uk

Est. 1964



PETER TIPTON

Small loads of
rubbish removed

♦
**Strimming &
Clearing**
♦

Demolition Work

01694 771461

petertipton52@gmail.com

Ben Carter

**Landscaping, Grounds,
Property Maintenance**

Hedge cutting & reductions
lawn care, mowing, spraying
garden clearance
fencing installation/repairs
shed building/repairs
Mini Digger work

*Please call 07891 376638
or 01743 718802
for further information*

**cyril
bason**
(Shirebrook) Limited

Craven Arms 01588 672761

- Household Items
- DIY Goods
- Paint
- Key Cutting
- Electrical Goods
- Kitchen Ware
- Tools
- Wolf Tools
- Carpet Cleaner Hire
- Fertiliser and Compost

*And much much more at our
hardware store*

Integral Gardens

- Borders maintenance
- Garden maintenance
- Garden restoration
- Lawn maintenance
- Garden design and soft landscaping
- Flowering plants pruning
- Wooden structures

Carlo
01743 344417
07963 991533

MORRIS MAINTENANCE

ALL ASPECTS OF GARDEN AND
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

ANDREW MORRIS
CHURCH STRETTON

01694 781427
07967 320055

MINI DIGGER & DRAINAGE WORK.
PATHS & DRIVES. IMPRINTED CONCRETE.
HEDGE CUTTING & PLANTING. FENCING & STRIMMING.
TREES PRUNED, FELLED & DE-STUMPED.
PATIOS, DECKING & LOG SHEDS.
GARDEN RENOVATION AND RESTYLING.

UNIQUE LANDSCAPES

GARDEN DESIGNERS

- INSPIRATIONAL GARDEN DESIGN SERVICE
- PLANTING DESIGNS
- SOFT / HARD LANDSCAPING

**RHS award-winning landscape garden
design company. Established 1996.**

Please call Shaun to book a consultation:
Mobile: 07778 844878 / Tel: 01584 831733

Email: shaun@uniquelandscapes.co.uk
www.uniquelandscapes.co.uk

MYND DIY Shop

OPEN TO TRADE & PUBLIC

Gardening Products • Grass Seed • Fertilizers
Compost inc. Peat Free • Top Soil • Bark
Timber available – Cut to size
Coal, Logs & Kindling

FREE DELIVERY IN THE STRETTONS

Decorating
Construction Tools
Household

Ironmongery • Nails • Bolts • Screws
Sand • Cement • Gravel • Grit

Contact us – 01694 724427

28 Sandford Avenue
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
Sat 9am-1pm

MyndDIYShop
mynddiy@outlook.com

Churches in the Strettons



ANGLICAN CHURCH, STRETTON PARISH: St Laurence, Church Stretton, St Michael & All Angels, All Stretton, and All Saints, Little Stretton. Rector: Rev'd Steve Johnson (Tel: 722585)
Website: www.strettonparish.org.uk

Sunday Services

St Laurence's

| | | |
|-------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Weekly | 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| 1st & 3rd Sundays | 10.30am | Holy Communion |
| | 6.30pm | Deeper |
| 2nd Sunday | 10.30am | Morning Worship |
| 4th Sunday | 10.30am | Altogether |

On the 1st-3rd Sundays in the month the children's activities are in the Parish Centre. Children join the service at 10.30am and then are taken over to the Parish Centre by the leaders.

St Michael's

| | | |
|--------------------|---------|------------------------------------|
| 1st & 3rd Sundays: | 10.30am | Morning Worship |
| 2nd & 4th Sundays: | 10.30am | Holy Communion (URC on 2nd Sunday) |

All Saints

| | | |
|-------------|---------|--------------------------|
| 1st Sunday: | 11.00am | Holy Communion (Order 2) |
| 2nd Sunday: | 11.00am | Morning Prayer |
| 3rd Sunday: | 11.00am | Holy Communion (Order 1) |
| 4th Sunday: | 3.00pm | Evensong |

Where there is a 5th Sunday in the month, all three churches join together for a United Parish Service at 10.30am in St Laurence Church.

Midweek Service

Holy Communion will be held weekly in St Laurence at 10.30am every Thursday

Online Service

As well as the services above, you can join us from home for our pre-recorded online service available from 10am each Sunday. Please visit www.strettonparish.org.uk and click on the "Online Services" blue button. The same service can be listened to by phoning 01694 631066.

The Parish Office is in the Parish Centre, Church Street. (Tel: 724224).
Open 9am to 12.30pm Monday to Friday. Email: office@strettonparish.org.uk



METHODIST CHURCH Minister: Rev'd George Heinz (Tel: 07538 480626)

Website: www.churchstretton-methodistchurch.org.uk

Hall bookings: Carole Coles (Tel: 724958)

Sunday Services

10.30am Morning Service

Wednesday Activities

Babies and Toddlers (School term time only) 10am-12noon

Cuppa and Chat 2.30-4pm. All welcome



RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS) Co-clerks: Lesley Richards and Charles West (Tel: 722068)

Email: csqm@gorswen.co.uk

Sundays:

10.30am Meetings for Worship in the Silvester Horne Committee Room; Children on 4th Sunday in month
For details of home discussion groups please telephone the Clerks.



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Priest: Canon Jonathan Mitchell (Tel: 01694 658091)

St Milburga's, Church Stretton

Email: stmilburga@gmail.com

| | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------------|
| Sunday: | 9.30am | Mass |
| Tuesday-Saturday: | 9.30am | Daily Mass |
| Saturday: | 5.30pm | Evening Mass |

St Walburga's, Plowden

11.15am Sunday Mass



UNITED REFORMED CHURCH Minister: (vacant)

Website: churchstrettonurc.org.uk

Sunday Services

10.30am Morning worship, followed by refreshments in the church hall
Communion is celebrated on Sundays notified in URC Church Newsletter

Weekday Activities

Mondays/Wednesdays: Monday Group and Ladies Link are currently suspended

Wednesdays: Discussion and prayers – currently suspended

Fridays (non-denominational): Meditation – in the Vestry at 2.00pm

Church Contact: 722123; Email: urcchurchstretton@gmail.com

Church and Hall bookings: 722092

Clubs and Societies in Church Stretton with names of Secretary and contact details

| | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Allotment Gardens Association | Ben Warren | 07779 437871 | greenhillsallotments@gmail.com |
| All Stretton Amateur Dramatics Society | Nicola Simcock | | allstrettondrama@gmail.com |
| All Stretton Village Hall | allstrettonvillagehall@gmail.com | | www.allstrettonvillagehall.org.uk |
| All Stretton History Society | Ruth Grafton | 723187 | janegra@waitrose.com |
| All Stretton Village Society | Caroline Crump | 723283 | carolinecrump68@icloud.com |
| Alzheimer's Carer's Support (Mayfair) | Jackie Pennington | 722077 | [Monthly, 2nd Friday, 2.00pm] www.mayfaircentre.org |
| Amnesty, Church Stretton Group | Barbara Parnell | 720040 | |
| Ancient Greek Study Group | David Langslow | 723538 | |
| Archers: Bowmen of Caradoc | Ros Healy | | stretlang@gmail.com |
| Archers, Long Mynd | Sue Williamson | 722767 | Roshealy1@gmail.com |
| Army Cadet Force | Lt Wheelenden | 01743 231779 | sue@chelmickforge.co.uk |
| ArtsAlive (Church Stretton) | Michael Walker | 720132 | info.shropshireac@rfca.org.uk |
| Arts Festival, Church Stretton & South Shropshire | | | fontenay1@btinternet.com |
| Badminton Club (Monday 8-10pm) | James Kirkwood | 07763 985707 | info@strettonfestival.org.uk |
| Badminton Club (Junior and Adult, Wednesday) | Alan Fox | 07979 474326 | home@jameskirkwood.co.uk |
| Beacon (Activities and Care at Mayfair) | Joy King | 725588 | alandavidfox@live.co.uk |
| Books (Mayfair/Health & Wellbeing Centre) | Sue Hird | 722077 | (Mayfair) www.mayfaircentre.org.uk |
| Bowling Club, Church Stretton Probus | Glyn Morgan | 724235 | smhird@btinternet.com |
| Bowling Club, Indoor | Alan Mileson | 722388 | crocus2@tiscali.co.uk |
| Bowling Club, Ladies' | Lucy Taylor | 723999 | amileson@lineone.net |
| Breathing Space (Singing for health and wellbeing) | Kate Buttolph | 720115 | |
| Bridge Club (Thursday 1-5pm, All Stretton Vige Hall) | Maxine Lainchbury | 720358 | kate@playonperformingarts.co.uk |
| Bridleways Association, Long Mynd and District | Lynn Townsend | 07971 191664 | www.bridgewebs.com/churchstretton |
| Brownies, Church Stretton | Judy Russell | 722667 | |
| Busy Bees Preschool | Church Stretton School | 724056 | davejudy1@googlemail.com |
| Camera Club, Long Mynd | Amanda Page | 722209 | |
| Cancer Research UK | Sue Toghill | 722713 | secretary@longmyndcameraclub.co.uk |
| Cancer Support Group, Stretton | Lesley McIntyre | 723427 | susantoghill@outlook.com |
| Chamber of Trade, Church Stretton | Stuart Wright | 722237 | |
| Chess Club, Church Stretton | Tom Williamson | 722767 | |
| Choral Society, Stretton | Mark Tocknell | 722969 | tswilliamson337@gmail.com |
| Churches Together | Lesley Richards | 722068 | strettonchoral@gmail.com; www.strettonchoral.org.uk |
| Church Stretton School Theatre | Alan Fox | 725588 | |
| Citizens Advice Bureau | c/o Mayfair | 722077 | or 07977 060303; alandavidfox@live.co.uk |
| Civic Society, The Strettons | Janet Martin | 722361 | (Mayfair) [Thursdays] www.mayfaircentre.org.uk |
| Climate Care, Stretton | David Howard | 722904 | jmartin1947@btinternet.com |
| Country Market (ex WI) | Ann Lloyd | 07889 143057 | or (01694) 731274 |
| Credit Union | c/o Mayfair | 722077 | (Mayfair) [Wednesdays] www.mayfaircentre.org.uk |
| Crick Club, Church Stretton | Rob Whittall | 07967 571044 | churchstrettoncricketclub@gmail.com |
| Croquet Club | Fane Conant | 722610 | fanesue@aol.com; www.churchstrettoncroquet.org.uk |
| Cub Scouts, Longmynd (Tuesday Pack) | Jane Wrench | 723923 | janewrench2@gmail.com |
| Cub Scouts, Longmynd (Wednesday Pack) | Andrew Spurling | 723429 | aspurling@btinternet.com |
| Cycle Group, Stretton Steadies | Clive & Fiona Hunt | | strettonsteadies@gmail.com |
| Darts, Church Stretton and District League | Mark Davies (Verd) | 07588 517955 | verddavies72@gmail.com |
| Dementia Carers' Support | Emma Wilde | 01743 341800 | |
| Dominoes, Church Stretton and District League | Martin Salisbury | 723253 | |
| Dramatic Society, All Stretton Amateur | Nicola Simcock | | allstrettondrama@gmail.com |
| Explorer Scouts | Angie Walshaw | 723477 | angiewalshaw@hotmail.com |
| Extend (Gentle Exercise) Mayfair | Nicola Daniels | 722077 | [Thursday mornings] www.mayfaircentre.org.uk |
| Fitness Instructor | Pam Allsop | 723899 | pamallsop@churchway.plus.com |
| Fitness for the Young at Heart | Pam Allsop | 723899 | pamallsop@churchway.plus.com |
| Flicks in the Sticks (All Stretton) | Kate Latchford | 723378 | terri@artsalive.co.uk |
| Flicks in the Sticks (Church Stretton) | Andrew Hall | 07508 072206 | aahall2002@yahoo.co.uk |
| Football Club, Church Stretton Town | Nick Cole | 724362 | nick@eloc.eclipse.co.uk |
| Football Club, Magpies (5-16 years old) | | 07816 686139 | enquiries@csmf.co.uk |
| Football Club, Stretton Red Rovers (6-15 years old) | Martin Watts | 723543 | contact@redrovers.org.uk |
| Footpath maintenance volunteers (Parish paths Partnership) | Tim Parker | 07493 659514 | tim.parker111@gmail.com |
| Friends of Church Stretton Library | Sheila Davies | 723455 | www.strettonlibraryfriends.org.uk |
| Gardening Club, Acton Scott | Terri Clegg | 781572 | actonscottgc@gmail.com |
| Gardening Club, Church Stretton & District | Evelyn Dapling | 723648 | evedapling@waitrose.com |
| Gliding, Midlands Gliding Club Ltd | Office | 01588 650206 | office@midlandgliding.club |
| Golf Club | James Townsend | 722281 | secretary@churchstrettongolfclub.co.uk |
| Good Neighbours Care Group | Office | 724242 | churchstrettongoodneighbours.org.uk |
| Guiding, 2nd Church Stretton | Jane Hurst | 771622 | janehurst77@hotmail.co.uk |
| Harmony In The Hills | Kate Buttolph | 07974 382989 | kate@playonperformingarts.co.uk |
| Hockey Club, Stretton Juniors (5-15 years old) | Martin Watts | 723543 | mlwatts@yahoo.co.uk |
| Hope Bowdler Hand Bell Ringers | Ruth Jenkins | 724919 | |
| Hope Bowdler Village Hall | Evelyn Dapling | 723648 | |
| Horse Show, Church Stretton | Sarah Davies | 771370 | |
| Interfaith Forum, South Shropshire | Canon Noel Beattie | 725530 | daviesblackhurst@aol.com |
| Judo, Junior | Roger Houston | 01743 358415 | RogerHoustonJudo@aol.com |
| Karate Club | Dave Shephard | 724212 | daveshepard1379@gmail.com |
| Keep Fit, Stretton | Lisa Ryan | 751369 | |
| Languages Group | David Langslow | 723538 | stretlang@gmail.com |
| Leebotwood Village Hall | Colin Bore | 07970 523591 | cbore@btinternet.com |
| Leisure Centre, Church Stretton | Sue Wells | 720051 | info@teme-leisure.co.uk |
| Lesbian & Bisexual Women, Border Women Social Group | | | borderwomen.net |
| Line Dancing | Dave Bishop | 07527 264846 | southerncrossidc@gmail.com |
| Lions Club, Middle Marches | Brian Dawson | 01584 831508 | thefirs38@btinternet.com |
| Local History Group | Madeline Haigh | 723627 | csalhg@outlook.com |
| Long Mynd Adventure Camp | Peter Jenkins | 724919 | |
| Martial Arts, Freestyle | Phil Hatton | 07852 961675 | freestylemartialarts.com/stretton |
| Masonic Lodge (Caer Caradoc) | Graham Williams | 07939 109726 | secretary@caeracadocldodge.org.uk |
| Masonic Lodge (Longmynd) | Charles Hennell | 01584 856716 | charles@hennell.net; www.longmyndlodge.org.uk |
| Mayfair Health Walks | Trish Howard | 722077 | trish.howard@mayfaircentre.org.uk |
| MAYSI Project (Mayfair Supporting Independence) | Janet Williams/Shaz Malins | 722077 | maysi@mayfaircentre.org.uk |
| More Singers, The | Alistair Auld | 07981 399482 | |
| Mothers' Union, Church Stretton | Diana Coles | 723548 | |
| Music: Strettons Classical Music Group | Barbara Hall | 724578 | |
| Netball Club, Flames | | | hello@flamesnetball.co.uk; www.flamesnetball.co.uk |
| Netball Club, Stretton Scarlett's | Amy | 07837 596297 | |
| Ornithological Society, Stretton Branch | David John | 724772 | poolbrook12@gmail.com |
| Parkinson's UK | Hilary Bowman | 07823 523696 | hjb Bowman@live.com |
| Photography, Marches Independent | Geoff Taylor | 723301 | gtaylor.photo@btinternet.com |
| Pickleball Club | Carol | 07803 329106 | |
| Pilates (exercise) | Sandra Liebrecht | 781660 | senaorme@yahoo.co.uk |

Play On Performing Arts
Pride of Place, Church Stretton
Probus, Strettondale
Rail User's Association, Church Stretton
Radio Control Model Club, Church Stretton
RAF Roundel Club
Rainbows, Church Stretton
Ramblers, The South Shropshire Group
Rangers (Girl Guides) Church Stretton Group
Readers Group at the Library
RNLi
Rotary Club of Church Stretton
Royal British Legion
Rugby Club, Church Stretton Samurai
Rushbury and Cardington WI
Save the Children
Scottish Dancers, Stretton
Scouts, 2nd Longmynd Group
Scrappies - Shropshire Children's Scrapstore
Singers, The More Singers
Soaring Association, Long Mynd (model gliders)
Soaring Club, Long Mynd (Hangliding & paragliding)
Stepping Stones Nursery
Stretton Players
Stretton Pool Action
Stretton Stitchers
Stretton Strummers
Stroke Group, Church Stretton and District
Swing Band, Stretton
Table Tennis, Church Stretton
Table Tennis, Leebotwood
Table Tennis, Rushbury
T'ai Chi
Taiko Drumming
Taoist Tai Chi, Longmynd
Tennis Club
Theatre & Concert Group, Stretton
Thursday Lunch Club (Ley Gardens)
Traidcraft (fairly traded goods)
Tree Group, Church Stretton
United Nations Association, Shropshire Branch
University of the Third Age (U3A)
Upright and Active (falls prevention strength & balance)
Walking Football
Wildlife Group, SACWG, Community
Wildlife Trust, Strettons Branch
Women's Institute, CS Marmaladies WI
Women's Inst., Rushbury and Cardington
Women's Institute, All Stretton
Yoga (Mayfair)
Youth @ St Laurence's

Kate Buttolph
Trevor Halsey
Alan Stockbridge
Alison Bradley
Tim Goodwin
John L Davies
Judy Russell
Darren
Ana Ireland
Felicity
Brian Bradley
Pat Stokes-Smith
Les Mackey
Martyn Longhurst
Kaye Smith
Ann Hurst
David Thomas
Terry Davies
Alistair Auld
Tim Goodwin
Tim Dunn
Anne Arkwright
Simon Cleaton
David Betton
Katy Webster
Dave Wilkinson
Hilary Parker
Jamie Wrench
Leisure Centre
Will Priestley
Ian Pennington
Marc Lacey
James Barrow
Jo Lendon
Claire Hatfield
Jenny or Graham Heath
Margaret Hamer
Maureen Clow
Hilary Hymas
Ruth Davies
Lesley Brown
c/o Mayfair
Ken Willis
Julie Cowley
Wally Blake
Carol Greswell
Kaye Smith
Kate Ratcliff
c/o Mayfair
Sally Cilverd

07974 382989 kate@playonperformingarts.co.uk
trevorhalsey@btinternet.com
alan.stockbridge@btinternet.com
www.strettonrailusers.org.uk
tmgdwn@gmail.com
davejudy1@googlemail.com
07837 021138 anaireland001@gmail.com
churchstretton.library@shropshire.gov.uk
b.glenmoar@gmail.com
patstokessmith@hotmail.com
sulesmackey@btinternet.com
martynlonghurst@hotmail.com
ann.hurst46@gmail.com
mrterrydavis@hotmail.com
info@scrappies.org
alistairauld@gmail.com
info@lmsa.org.uk www.lmsa.org.uk
coaching@longmynd.org
07981 399482 strettonplayers@gmail.com
dmbetton@googlemail.com
or Frances Williams 722656
01588 672919 jamie.wrench@lineone.net
07510 390981 ianpennington133@btinternet.com
07977 221171 (Mayfair) www.mayfaircentre.org.uk
James@taikowest.com
jolendon@hotmail.co.uk
mail@strataassociates.co.uk
heath@knollcrest.co.uk; strettontheatreandconcert.net
or Dawn Longmore 722328
07554 624662 hilaryhymas7@gmail.com
daviesscs@btinternet.com
u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/contact
0723208 (Mayfair) www.mayfaircentre.org.uk
gordonwillis@go-plus.net
sacwg@shropscwgs.org.uk
0724223 marmaladieswi@gmail.com
kayerubetta.smith@btinternet.com
allstrettonwi@gmail.com
07803 581580 (Mayfair) www.mayfaircentre.org.uk
sally@strettonparish.org.uk
771554
722077
724224

Additions and corrections to this list should be addressed to: The Editor, Stretton Focus, by email: editor@strettonfocus.co.uk

Church Stretton Town Councillors

Town Clerk (Locum): Nicky Hook; **RFO:** Gillian Bailey; Office Hours: Monday to Friday 10.00am - 1.00pm and 2.00 - 4.30pm

Council Office: 60 High Street, Church Stretton SY6 6BY. Tel: 722113, Fax: 723608. email: reception@churchstretton-tc.gov.uk

South Ward

John Burns 07767 477334
Ryan Foulkes 07528 372471
Daniel Hartshorne 07802 610277
Mark Morris 722741
(Vacancy)

North Ward

Nicola Carter 07581 300498
Sheila Davies (Deputy Mayor) 723455
John Luck 725596
Bob Welch 722998

Little Stretton Ward

Colin Carson 722784
Julie Lawton 723750

All Stretton Ward

Andy Munro (Mayor) 725554
Helen Stowell 07879 848168

Shropshire (Unitary) Councillors for the Area

David Evans 01588 672179 email: david.evans@shropshire.gov.uk
Hilary Luff 07890 056084 email: hilary.luff@shropshire.gov.uk

MP for Ludlow Constituency: Philip Dunne, 54 Broad St, Ludlow, SY8 1GP, 01584 872187.

StrettonDale Local Joint Committee (Details pending)

Responsibilities for Public Services

Domestic rubbish: Shropshire Council 0345 678 9007 Street cleaning: Shropshire Council 0345 678 9006
Electricity power failure: 105 Gas emergencies 0800 111999
Last collection at Family Shopper letter box Weekdays 6.00pm, Saturdays 12.00 noon, No collection Sundays and Bank Holidays

Some useful numbers

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--|--------------|
| Medical Centre | | Church Stretton School | 722209 |
| appointments and general enquiries | 722127 | St Lawrence C of E Primary School | 722682 |
| out of hours | 111 | Sports and Leisure Centre (Teme Leisure) | 720051 |
| NHS Choices | 111 | Church Stretton Library | 722535 |
| Ring and Ride | 720025 | South Shropshire Furniture Scheme | 01584 877751 |
| Shropshire Council (Shrewsbury) | 0345 678 9000 | | |

Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0800 783 1359 - 24hr support
Visitor Information Centre and Shropshire Customer First Point: 723133
South Shropshire Housing Association: 0300 3031190 (Housing and Support)

Police - Non emergency only 101, Emergency 999

Church Stretton Safer Neighbourhood Team: Sergeant Jenni Price; Constable Steve Mellor: 07870 218762

Team contact: 101 ext 7704505 or csca.snt@westmercia.police.uk

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs):

Daz Barnet: 07866 215007; David Baron: 07870 163156; Julia St John Martin: 07870 163199

Neighbourhood Watch Crime stoppers: 0800 555 111. Twitter: @SouthShropCops

Police Station closed, but there is a 24 hour telephone service there connected to another centre.

Support at Mayfair Community Centre - run by the Community for the Community 722077

For activities and support groups at Mayfair, please refer to the entries under 'Clubs and Societies' and to their advertisement.

Stretton Directory: Index to Advertisers

Occasional Adverts not indexed

Accommodation

see Hotels, B&B, Self Catering

Accountants and Bookkeeping

James, Holyoak & Parker 60
RLW Accountants 60

Architects, Town Planning

Batch Valley Design 29
Christopher Roscoe Assocs 29

Bathrooms

see Kitchens, Bathrooms

Beauty, Slimming

see Hairdressers, Health, Beauty

Bed & Breakfast, Self Catering

see Hotels, B&B, Self Catering

Bookshop

Books by Moonlight 13
Burway Books 13

Builders, Plant & Equipment

A J Lewis-Price 24
A Morgan 23
A.Z.Z Construction 24
E J & G J Groom 23
Homden Excavations 41
Joe Drury 24
K J Morris 23
Keith George 24
Mark Terry 23
Morris Maintenance 44
Paul Tinsley 24
Richard Sherratt Builders 23
Telford Building Contractors 24

Cafés

see Restaurants, Cafés, Pubs

Cards and Gifts

Entertaining Elephants 57
Stretton Print & Supplies 57

Care - Homes and At Home

Bluebird Care 16

Carpenters & Joiners

E J & G J Groom 23
Keith George 24
Mark Terry 23
Mike Webster 23
Paul Forrester 23

Carpets

Abbey Carpets 13

Catteries and Kennels

see Pet Food, Pet Care

Chemist

Hillside Pharmacy 49

Chiropodists

Caroline Crump 49

Cleaning and House Care

Chris Sansom Pest Control 64
Cleanrite Services 64
Gordon Ribbons 64
In Depth Cleaning 64
Shaw Clean 64
Shropshire Sweep 64
Stanton Sweeps 64

Clock & Watch Repair

Adrian Donnelly Clock Repairs... 9

Clothes

Entertaining Elephants 57

Coaches

Caradoc Coaches 53

Community Centre

Mayfair 16

Computing, Graphic and Web Design

Jason Gough 9
Nic Sansom 9
Stretton Internet 9
Webbex Technical Services 9

Decorators

see Painters, Decorators

DIY & Hardware

Cyril Bason Hardware 44
Mynd DIY 44

Domestic Appliances & Repairs

Continental Fireplaces 9
Norman Jones 9

Electrical Services, Lighting

AMP Electrical 53
Boxall's Electrician 53
Charles Ephraim 53
M C Electrical 53
Stephen Morgan 53

Estate Agents

Bluestone 36
Miller Evans 36
Samuel Wood 36
Wrights Estate Agents 36

Event Venues

Eaton Manor 60

Employment

Bluebird Care 29

Financial Services & Insurance

Caleb Roberts 60
Philippa Gee Wealth Mngment. 60
Wrights Yorkshire Building Soc. 60

Florist

John R Thomas 13
Shropshire Flower Company 13

Food, Delicatessen

Entertaining Elephants 57
Saxtons Deli 57

Funeral Arrangements

A S Morris and Son 16
South Shropshire Remembrance Park 16

Garage Services

Burway Garage 53
Central Garage 53
MOT Clinic 53

Garden Design, Services, Supplies

Ben Carter Landscaping 44
Homden Excavations 41
Integral Gardens 44
John Stephens Services 44
Keith Warrington 41
Mike Russell Designs 41
Paul Forrester 23
Paul Tinsley 24
Peter Tipton 44
Shropshire Lawn Co 41
Tidy Garden 41
Unique Landscapes 44

Garden Machinery

Newington Garage 53

Hairdressers, Health, Beauty

Anthony's Hair Studio 49
Health & Beauty Clinic 35
Katerina White 49
Nails by Nancy 49
Shampers 49

Health, Therapies

see also Chiropodists & Physiotherapists
Birch Tree Reflexology 31
Bodylogic Mobile Massage 35
Cate Gowlett 31
Mayfair 16
Shropshire Acupuncture 31
Hobbies
Books by Moonlight 13
Burway Books 13
Harold's Toy Store 13
Long Mynd Music Academy 13
Peter Youngs Photography 16
Philip Hooper 13
The Prolific Crafter 13

Home & Garden

Harold's Toy Store 13
The Prolific Crafter 13

Home Furnishings

Abbey Carpets 13
Louise Watney 13

Hotels, B&B and Self Catering

Eaton Manor 60
Mynd House 60
Willowbatch 60

House and Garden Clearance

Peter Tipton 44

Insurance

see Financial Services, Insurance

Keep Fit

see Health, Therapies, Keep Fit

Kitchens, Bathrooms

A J Lewis-Price 24
A.Z.Z Construction 24
Homefix 35
Lee Brown 35
Mark Terry 23
Paul Forrester 23

Mobility

Stretton Mobility Store 16

Outdoor Clothing and Equipment

The Outdoor Depot 57

Painters & Decorators

Andrew Webster 41
D R Tipton Painter & Decorator 49
DWS Property Services 41
E B Jones 41
G H Jones & Son 41
Paul Forrester 23

Pest Control

Chris Sansom Pest Control 64
Keith Warrington 41

Pet Food and Pet Care

John R Thomas 13

Pharmacy

Hillside Pharmacy 49

Physiotherapists

Chris Turner 49
Marion Murdoch 49
Physio Pilates 49

Piano Tuner and Repairs

Philip Hooper 13

Plumbers, Heating

Gary Paris 31
Gasco 31
Homefix 35
J Morris 31
Lee Brown 35
Morris Maintenance 44
Pete Carroll 31
Peter Floyd 35
Whitfield Plumbing 35
Whiting Heating 31

Printing, Copying, Photo Products

Craven Design & Print 57
Stretton Print & Supplies 57

Restaurants, Cafés, Pubs

Berry's 57
Royal Oak, Cardington 57

Skip Hire

John Stephens Services 44
Peter Tipton 44

Solicitors

FBC Manby Bowdler 29
PCB Solicitors 29

Storage

Churton Self-Storage 64

Sweep

Shropshire Sweep 64
Stanton Sweeps 64

Taxi

Church Stretton Taxi 53

Watches, Batteries, Straps

The Outdoor Depot 57

Windows

A Morgan 23

Window Cleaning

Handyman Services 64

Church Stretton



Physio Pilates

Small classes for beginners to intermediates led by a Specialist Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist

Contact: Lucy Thomas

churchstrettonpilates@gmail.com
07894 294362

CAROLINE CRUMP

S.R.Ch., D.Pod.M., M.Ch.S.
Dis. Medicine & Medical Science

STATE REGISTERED
CHIROPODIST

Private Consultations
and Home Visits

ESSEX LODGE
FARM LANE
ALL STRETTON

Telephone: 723283

Marion H. Murdoch, M.C.S.P.

Registered with the H.P.C.

PHYSIOTHERAPIST
REFLEX THERAPIST

"Gleneldon", 94 Watling Street South,
Church Stretton, Shropshire SY6 7BH
Tel: (01694) 724152



HILLSIDE PHARMACY

R.E. & C.O. ALMAN MPS



18 Sandford Avenue
Church Stretton

01694 722799



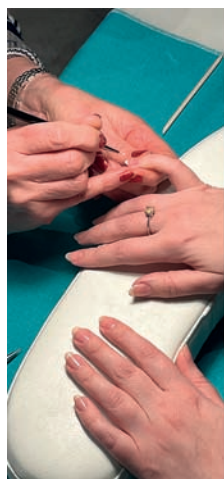
For all your medicines, toiletries and
photographic requirements

low back pain Neck pain
Knee pain Acupuncture
Shoulder pain Injuries
Arthritis Cycling injuries
Movement assessment Sciatica
Whiplash Ankle sprains Dry needling
Trigger point release Ergonomic assessments

Chris Turner
Physiotherapy

christurnerphysio@gmail.com
07471 182384

Mayfair Community Centre



NAILS BY NANCY

- Luxury Manicures and Pedicures
- CND Shellac and OPI Products
- Nail Art

A relaxing home salon with
complimentary refreshments

For Appointments:

- 📍 Church Stretton
- ✉ NailsbyNancyP@outlook.com
- ☎ 07942157100

Shampers

Church Stretton

01694 722248

Mon-Thu & Sat 9-5.30
late night Fri 'til 7

One of the largest Salons
in Shropshire

Senior Citizens Mon-Wed
10% off

D. R. TIPTON
Decorator



Tel: 01694 723862
Mob: 07946 323819

HD BROWS
HIGH DEFINITION BEAUTY

KATERINA WHITE

HD BROW-SCULPT STYLIST
BROW LAMINATION WITH A BESPOKE
HD TWIST
NOUVEAU LVL LASH LIFT & TINT ARTIST
PATCH TEST REQUIRED 48 HRS PRIOR
TO TREATMENT
TEL: 07989 901638

LVL
LENGTH / VOLUME / LIFT



ANTHONY'S HAIR
STUDIO

45 High St

LADIES & GENTS

OPEN TUESDAY UNTIL SATURDAY



Mobile Services Available By Appointment

Tel. 01694 722 750

Prop: Tony Reynolds- Corporate Member of the Guild of Hairdressers

Mayfair News

Plant, Craft and Book Sale 29th April, 10am

The morning of Saturday 29th April will see the return of our popular plant sales at Mayfair again. A wide range of home-grown flowers and vegetables will be available, with all profits going to Mayfair. The Health and Wellbeing Centre will also be open on this date for a craft sale of beautiful handmade items created by the Mayfair Crafty Ladies and our card makers. These one-off hand-crafted items make wonderful gifts, or why not treat yourself?

Our Coffee Shop will be open for the morning, serving delicious coffee and cakes. With a book sale available too, stocking a wide variety of fiction and some modern non-fiction hardbacks, this is a morning not to be missed at Mayfair.

If you have plants to donate for our plant sale, these will be gratefully received. Please leave a message with Mayfair on 722077 and one of our plant sales volunteers will get back to you. A second plant sale will also take place on Saturday 13th May, 10am.

Spring Fun in Beacon

February and March have been action-packed in the Beacon (care and activities). We even welcomed some four-legged guests to the community centre. Some friendly (and thankfully house-trained) alpacas came to visit Mayfair from Admirals View Alpacas. 44Bs, crèche, Care and Share group, and other local residents were also invited along to meet these lovely creatures. Mayfair are used to welcoming everyone within our community, but this was definitely a first!



We were also treated to manicures and hand massages from Nails by Nancy which was a very popular activity. We're looking forward to welcoming Nancy back soon.



Crafts have featured heavily, with stained glass hearts created for Valentine's Day and, of course, some alpaca-themed art!

If you would like more information about what the Beacon will be doing over the next few months, or you are interested in joining us, please contact Katrina or Helen C at Mayfair on 01694 722077.

Mayfair Open Day

Mayfair has invited a wide variety of local businesses, care professionals and organisations to come to an open day event on the afternoon of Thursday 27th April.

We will be hosting a number of guided tours which take in all of our different service areas and facilities. It will be a great opportunity for us to showcase just how much happens here at Mayfair and invite organisations and professionals to publicise our services and build local support.

If you are interested in the services Mayfair offers and would like to book a tour as part of this event, please contact Cathy at Mayfair on 722077.

Mayfair Teas this April

Mayfair is offering a delicious spread of sandwiches, pastries and cakes in our Coffee Shop in the Health and Wellbeing Centre this month. 'Mayfair Teas' will be served between 12 and 1pm on the following dates in April: Wednesday 12th and Friday 14th, Wednesday 19th and Friday 21st, Wednesday 26th and Friday 28th.



For £7.50 or £5.50 for a takeaway (excluding drinks) the vegetarian or non-vegetarian options include a variety of sandwiches, sausage or cheese and onion rolls, scones, macaroons, brownies, profiteroles and cakes as well as tea or coffee. Booking will be essential, so please give our reception a call on 01694 722077. You can view the menus in detail at mayfaircentre.org.uk/Aprilteas.

We know it's not technically 'tea' time, but who says you can't enjoy treats and a cuppa at lunchtime?! To quote the Mad Hatter "it's always tea-time"!

New Mahjong group



A new Mahjong u3a group has been meeting at Mayfair for a few months now and would love to welcome new members. The group have a mixed level of ability from total beginners to at least one person who knows what they are doing! Meeting every Tuesday at Mayfair at 2pm for around two hours, this is a fun, sociable way to learn more about the game of Mahjong. No experience or game tiles needed (although bring yours along if you have a set).

CoCo (Compassionate Communities) Talks

Every month, our CoCo volunteers get together and an interesting talk is provided which is relevant to their roles as befrienders in the community. These talks are also open to the public to attend. If you are interested in attending the following talks they start at 2pm and last about 45 minutes followed by refreshments. Our volunteers then stay for a second hour, but this is a confidential time for the CoCo volunteers and their team leaders.

Monday 17th April – Andrew Monday from Mayfair's own Digital Support Service is giving a talk on IT 'Hot Topics', a session all about IT-related issues or queries for people needing help or advice (people have been asked to submit issues/questions in advance which he can then tackle as part of his talk).

Monday 15th May – Archie Walkerdine, Fire Prevention Officer West (Vulnerable Groups), Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service, speaking on fire safety at home.

Could you help as a kitchen volunteer?

Mayfair has various kitchen roles for volunteers, from washing up, to food preparation, to waitressing. Our volunteers help us to provide hot Mayfair Meal deliveries 365 days a year, as well as meals in our restaurant and coffee shop. We are always keen to welcome new people to our team. If you are interested in volunteering with us please get in touch with our volunteer coordinator Eve by calling 722077, or emailing eve.simmonds-jones@mayfaircentre.org.uk.



High Sheriff Visit

We were honoured to welcome the High Sheriff of Shropshire to Mayfair in February. The Sheriff's visit coincided with one of our CoCo meetings so she was able to thank some of our invaluable befriending volunteers for the work that they do in our community. Whilst we couldn't invite all 250+ of our active volunteers to be there, these words from the Sheriff extend to every single one of our

Continued overleaf...





volunteers: "I can't thank everyone, but I am here today so I can thank you – and I do so from the bottom of my heart."



Remembering Jennifer Bridge

Jennifer was one of the original 60 volunteers that responded to calls to help realise Mayfair Community Centre.

She went on to be one of our most ardent supporters and fundraisers for over 25 years. Jennifer's first volunteering role was in the kitchen putting her catering skills into practice. She was the volunteer every charity loves to have, always willing, supportive, ready to help if needed. As part of the team serving gourmet meals as fundraisers, Jennifer helped raise thousands for Mayfair and provided very memorable evenings.

For many years Jennifer was also a 'Listener', a member of the Mayfair 'Steering Group', and was a key contributor to many of our big events and celebrations. As a totally dependable volunteer for so many years, Mayfair owes Jennifer a great debt of gratitude. Thank you Jennifer, you will be sorely missed.

Remembering Flora Richards

Flora volunteered as a walks' leader early in 2004. Having walked with Stretton Ramblers, she was very familiar with the local terrain.

Flora remained as a walk leader for many years, her band of followers becoming known as 'Flora's Group'. Every week, she would lead them into the hills or around the town, improvising with so-called 'twiddly bits' like nosing over hedges at lovely gardens. Flora's husband Alan brought up the rear, carrying essential goodies for the "sweetie stop". Afterwards there was always coffee and a chat.

Through changing seasons, the group sought out snowdrops, bluebells and lovely walks amongst the heather in autumn. The approach of Christmas involved festive gatherings, meals and Flora's famous mince pies and mulled wine.

Many people will remember this time with affection and will be grateful to Flora for her commitment and enthusiasm. May she sleep peacefully among her 'blue remembered hills'.

National Theatre Live Screening

Friday 28th April, 7pm – *Good* (cert TBC)

by CP Taylor, directed by Dominic Cooke.

David Tennant (*Doctor Who*)

makes a much-anticipated return to the West End in a blistering reimagining of one of Britain's most powerful, political plays.

As the world faces its Second World War, John Halder, a good, intelligent German professor, finds himself pulled into a movement with unthinkable consequences.

Olivier Award-winner Dominic Cooke (*Follies*)

directs CP Taylor's timely tale, with a cast that also features Elliot Levey (*Coriolanus*) and Sharon Small (*The Bay*). Filmed live at the Harold Pinter Theatre in London.

Adults £15, Under 16s £10. Bar and refreshments available to purchase.

Call 722077 to book. Check out www.mayfaircentre.org.uk/whats-on for a full line up of shows and to sign up to our mailing list for future screenings.

Naomi Coleman



Mayfair Lottery Results for February

462

£100

266

£50

273

£20

302

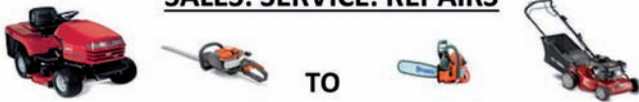
£10





NEWINGTON GARAGE SERVICES

SALES: SERVICE: REPAIRS



LAWNMOWERS, RIDE ON MOWERS, CHAINSAWS,
STRIMMERS ETC. GUARANTEED AFTER SALES SERVICE.

FAMILY BUSINESS ESTABLISHED OVER 35 YEARS .

COLLECTION & DELIVERY SERVICE AVAILABLE

TEL: CRAVEN ARMS 01588 673768

AGENTS FOR: HUSQVARNA, WESTWOOD, TORO, MOUNTFIELD, SANLI, TANAKA, BRIGGES & STRATTON

THE CENTRAL GARAGE

REPAIRS MOT & SERVICING DIAGNOSTICS RECOVERY BATTERIES

Accident Repairs • Diagnostic Specialists
Body & Mechanical Repairs
Tyre Repair and Replacement
Servicing • M.O.T. Testing Station • Local Recoveries

CROSSWAYS, CHURCH STRETTON
SHROPSHIRE SY6 6PG

Tel: 01694 723939

Email: enquiries@thecentralgarage.co.uk
www.thecentralgarage.co.uk



**Stephen Morgan
Electrical Contractor**

Tel: 07989 546964
Tel: 01584 322123
Email: business@smorgan.net

NICEIC
APPROVED CONTRACTOR
(W.E. Morgan and Co)

Domestic - Agricultural - Commercial - PAT Testing
CCTV - Smart Home Networks - AV/Data Distribution

BURWAY GARAGE

MOTs • SERVICING • REPAIRS

- All Makes of Vehicle (inc. Hybrid Electric)
- Bosch Diagnostics
- 3D Digital Imaging Wheel Alignment
- Air Conditioning Service
- Tyres and Exhausts
- Efficient and Friendly!

01694 723880

Unit 1, Crossways Industrial Estate, Church Stretton, Shropshire SY6 6PG

e: workshop@burwaygarage.co.uk www.burwaygarage.co.uk Family business est. over 30yrs

Boxall's Electrician
A Complete service

For all your electrical requirements ...

07971 823017
01568 770217

www.boxallselectrician.co.uk
boxallselectrician@outlook.com

City & Guilds Qualified

CHARLES EPHRAIM

ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS

EST 1974

8 WALL BANK,
WALL-UNDER-HEYWOOD

TRUST MARK
Government Endorsed Standards

Tel: 01694 771381
ros.ephraim@btconnect.com

CHURCH STRETTON TAXI

long or short distance

07487 650889
mervprice@hotmail.com
www.churchstrettontaxi.com

CARADOC

Saints of Travel
Coach and Minibus
Hire for any occasion
Whatever your travel needs!



Contact us on—
01694-724522
enquiries@caradoccoaches.co.uk

amp ELECTRICAL
making connections

**LOCAL ELECTRICIAN
AMP Electrical**

- ~ Domestic & Commercial ~
- ~ Home Automation ~
- ~ Lighting Design ~
- ~ Audio & Visual Systems ~
- ~ CCTV & Alarm Systems ~
- ~ Data Communications ~

Contact Matt Price
M: 07552 410109
H: 01694 771661
E: amp.elec@outlook.com

MC ELECTRICAL

Martin Cawte
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

07780 007 150
martincawte@gmail.com

Domestic & Commercial

MOT CLINIC

01588 673876

Plus: Servicing
Air Conditioning
Tyres
Batteries
Exhausts

Church Stretton Town Council Community Matters

High Sheriff Visit



As trailed in last month's *Focus*, the town was delighted to welcome the High Sheriff of Shropshire, Selina Graham. Thank you to all who made the visit such a success. This is what she posted following her tour:

From allotments to archery, bowling to bridge, ornithology, pickleball, radio-control model club, Scottish dancing, taiko drumming, wildlife groups

and yoga... and another 150 or more other clubs and societies in between. There is almost nothing you can't do in Church Stretton!

150 groups and societies run by volunteers for the benefit of others. The sense of community is palpable – and incredibly effective, with justifiable pride in what they achieve. Effective because public, private and voluntary sectors appreciate each other and work together, effective because people engage in the activities, effective because 40% of residents return views in a survey, effective by raising six figure sums in the space of a week to purchase land for the community! Effective because so many people care for the town and environment and habitats around it.

If community is defined as a group of people that care about each other and feel they belong together, then Church Stretton is a shining example. The magic of a community happens when people care about each other, they develop trust and trust unlocks collaboration, support, hope, safety and much more.

A full day of admiring what goes on here. The place is stunning, with reputedly the least stressful spot in England up in the Rectory field! But the people are stunning too, as conversations during an extraordinarily well-planned day – with at least 70 of the amazing volunteers who make this place tick – exemplified.

I don't think it could have been expressed better, and it is a helpful reminder of just how lucky we all are to live here.

Neighbourhood Plan update

At its Cabinet meeting on 15th February 2023, Shropshire Council approved the establishment of a Neighbourhood Plan for the whole of the parish of Church Stretton, and that Church Stretton Town Council has been identified as the 'qualifying body' for the development of the plan.

Created by the Localism Act 2011, a Neighbourhood Plan is a community-led framework for guiding the future development and growth of an area. It is a formal

plan which, to be adopted, needs to be subjected to a referendum by residents. Because of this greater legitimacy, once adopted it attracts both funding (25% of all the relevant Community Infrastructure Levy collected by Shropshire Council) and powers to designate areas for planning and also for protection. When adopted, a Church Stretton Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the planning policies for the area.

To quote the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC):

Neighbourhood planning enables communities to play a much stronger role in shaping the areas where they live and work and in supporting new development proposals. This is because unlike the parish, village or town plans that communities may have prepared, a neighbourhood plan forms part of the development plan and sits alongside the [Shropshire] Local Plan prepared by the local planning authority. Decisions on planning applications will be made using both the local plan and the neighbourhood plan and any other material considerations.

Guidance on Neighbourhood Planning, DLUHC www.gov.uk ref 41-003-2019509.

Now that consent has been granted, over the coming weeks the structure of the project will be established and shared and discussed at a public meeting. Eighteen months ago the CSTC shared a plan entitled 'Fixing the past, living in the present, planning for the future,' and it now feels that the pages have been turned. With the Housing Needs Survey informing both the Local Plan Examination in Public and now the official start of the Neighbourhood Plan, it really feels like progress. Watch out for updates in *Focus*.

Emergency Plan

On 12th December 1988, 35 people lost their lives in a train crash at Clapham Junction.

On 6th July 1988 the Piper Alpha oil rig caught fire, killing 165 people.

Shortly after 7pm on Friday 21st December 1988, whilst flying over the Scottish town of Lockerbie, Pan Am flight 103 was destroyed by a bomb. All 259 persons on board were killed and a further 11 on the ground also died.

On 8th January 1989, 47 passengers were killed in the Kegworth air disaster.

In 1989, 97 Liverpool fans were killed in the Hillsborough disaster and later the same year 51 people lost their lives in the Marchioness disaster on the river Thames.

As enquiries continued into the handling of these disasters, it became apparent that the response of the agencies involved was in need of improvement and that co-operation was crucial. It was clear that a new approach to dealing with Major Incidents was required. So was born the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, which established a statutory framework for civil protection and community resilience at a local level. The Act established a two-tier obligation on certain services and agencies. Category one responders include the Emergency Services, Local Authorities, Health bodies and the Environment Agency. Category two responders are those who will be involved



in incidents affecting their sectors and include the utility companies, the voluntary sector and agencies such as the Health & Safety Executive.

Local Resilience Forums (LRF), usually on a county basis, have been formed to facilitate co-operation and the sharing of capabilities between those who will likely have an involvement in disasters or Major Incidents. The West Mercia LRF covering Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, Worcestershire and Herefordshire is led by West Mercia Police.

The LRF has a Major Incident Plan which any of the partners may activate in the case of a major incident or disaster, but what about the smaller incidents that may have a large-scale effect in our locality? In 2021 Councillors met with emergency planners from Shropshire Council and it became clear that, due to geographical distances, should an incident occur in the Strettons, residents may need to be self-reliant for some time and in the case of incidents that are not declared 'Major', such as Storm Arwen in 2021, something was needed to fill the gap.

The Town Council felt that we needed to draw up our own plans. A working group led by Cllr. Colin Carson, which included community representatives, was created to explore the capabilities of our community to respond to emergencies and to draw up a Community Emergency Plan.

A critical part of the Community Emergency Plan was to recruit Volunteer Community Wardens. Volunteer Community Wardens will be called upon should a local emergency occur or even to assist in a Major Incident by doing what they would probably do as any good neighbour would and check that their neighbours are OK and if necessary to report back on any who may need assistance. If you live in Church Stretton you may have received a mailshot in March asking for volunteers, and the Town Council would like to thank all those who volunteered. A meeting will be held to fully explain to volunteers what would be asked of them should they be required.

An emergency leaflet entitled 'How to prepare the household for emergencies' is to go to print shortly and will be delivered to every household. This leaflet will give advice on basic preparations any household can take before an incident happens. The leaflet will also be available for download on the Town Council website.

We all hope that these preparations will never be tested, but the Town Council feels that it is incumbent on them as your elected representatives to, in the words of Lord Baden-Powell, "Be prepared".

Cllr John Luck

Project Gigabit, the Government's project to improve rural broadband, SWS and next steps

Commercial providers are keen to promote super-fast broadband across the UK but understandably have sought to enable urban communities first where the unit costs are cheapest and the technical solutions simplest. Having picked all of the low hanging fruit, the government introduced the Superfast Broadband Programme supported by a £5billion fund to identify



**Church
Stretton**
Town Council

areas where there had been 'market failure', or simply those areas where there was insufficient commercial return to persuade providers to roll out fibre to small, rural communities. In Shropshire this programme was administered by Shropshire Council, which identified the next tier of provision. Again, the greatest impact was to be had in the more urban communities, which left towns like Church Stretton and the surrounding villages out of the programme. Step forward 'Project Gigabit', a follow-up programme to the Superfast Broadband Programme but subtly different in that Building Digital UK (BDUK), and not Shropshire Council, will be responsible for procurements, contracts and supplier management.

Shropshire Council and Telford and Wrekin Council areas are included in Phase 1b of the Gigabit programme, which is good news to be near the front of this queue, but which sadly reflects the reality that the first two programmes have already delivered without us.

In April 2021, BDUK undertook an open market review (OMR). The results were published in February 2022 and resulted in two allocations in Shropshire which included most of Church Stretton but which did not extend beyond the town boundary, meaning that the four villages of All Stretton, Little Stretton, Minton and Hordersley are not part of this project.

For more information on the results of the Shropshire review, tables of included and excluded postcodes, and a general overview see: www.gov.uk/government/consultations/uk-gigabit-programme-shropshire-public-review/outcome/shropshire-lot-25-public-review-closure-notice.

In the town a company called SWS has been awarded the contract, and they have already completed the installation of all of the necessary infrastructure, so fears of new masts and disrupted roads are unfounded. (Fibre optic cables have been laid in existing conduits). The Town Council has been talking to SWS to discuss their infrastructure requirements and to ensure that they are a reputable company: CSTC can have no opinion on their product and its terms, but it is important that residents are aware that they have been appointed by the government and are part of this programme. They will be canvassing the town house by house and will carry identification, so all residents should know who they are, but as always, if anyone doesn't feel comfortable, shut the door and, if appropriate, call for help. And let CSTC know.

Meanwhile, CSTC will be looking into the wider question of when the Government plans to facilitate a roll-out of fibre to the more rural parts of Shropshire and the country as a whole.

Continued overleaf...



Brooksbury Recreation Ground – Latest News

By the time you read this the Town Council will have completed a tender process to select a contractor to install the new play equipment in Brooksbury Recreation Ground. Contractors were asked to submit designs which reflected the results from last year's consultation. There have been two very strong submissions, both of which include a zip wire, different types of swings, multi-play equipment, climbing equipment and a Trim Trail. Some of the play equipment is inclusive, allowing children of all abilities to play together. This includes basket swings and a roundabout suitable for all children, including those in wheelchairs and buggies.

There will be two phases to the installation:

Phase 1 – play equipment for children aged 7, in time for the summer.

Phase 2 – play equipment for younger children, when funds become available.

This allows the contractors to install the play equipment furthest away from the gate entrance first. In phase 2 they will also lay a path from the gate to the Early Years play area, which will have a rubber-based safety surface. This will allow children to use the equipment even when the ground is wet.

In selecting a contractor, the council will have taken into account overall costs, quality and durability of the equipment, as well as how well the design accords with last year's consultation.

We will be running a crowd fundraiser in the next few months to raise funds for phase 2.

Cllr. Sheila Davies

Trains

As feared in February *Focus*, the introduction of the new Class 197 is not on track. The new trains will not now start being introduced on the Marches Line through Church Stretton until December 2023, although you may already see some of the new units on training and similar duties. Meanwhile, CSTC will be seeking a meeting with TfW to look at the implications for timetabling and frequency of trains affecting Church Stretton.

King's Coronation Weekend

The King's Coronation is a historic event for our country. This coronation will be the first for the majority of residents, and our late Queen's coronation a distant memory for only a few. Remarkably this will be only the 40th coronation of a monarch since 1066. The weekend's events are an opportunity to come together to mark this moment in our nation's history.

Nationally the coronation weekend will consist of ceremonial, celebratory and community events:

Saturday 6th May – Official Coronation Ceremony at Westminster Abbey. The service will reflect the Monarch's role today and look towards the future, while being rooted in longstanding traditions and pageantry.

Sunday 7th May – The Coronation Big Lunch, at which neighbours and communities are invited to share food and fun together.

Monday 8th May – The Big Help Out which encourages people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas.

Church Stretton's events have been planned with these themes in mind:

Friday 5th May – Music fit for a King with the Shrewsbury Concert Band, ticketed event in the SHI.

Saturday 6th May – Watch the ceremony live, a live screening allowing people to come together to experience the Coronation in a community setting organised by the Royal British Legion.

Saturday 6th May – Children's Coronation activities from the Parish Centre to include a local trail.

Monday 8th May – Charities and Volunteering Celebration – The big help out – invites organisations to showcase their work and raise money for their causes with a free unticketed event in the Market Square.

Full details can be found at www.churchstretton-tc.gov.uk.



Civic Society

As highlighted above, we are lucky to live in such a beautiful and precious location, and the Civic Society has played an important role in helping to maintain and preserve the town and the surrounding countryside. In recent years the Society has spoken with authority and reason, and provides an important function commenting on planning and design in the town. Although the CSTC and the Society work closely together, it has never been afraid to tell the Town Council when it believes we are wrong! This independence is critically important, and elsewhere in this month's *Focus* there is an appeal for more volunteers to become involved with, and to support their work. It is work of great importance.

Family Fun Day volunteer showcase

The question of volunteer fatigue has featured several times in previous editions of *Focus*, and the appeal by the Civic Society is one of many. Accordingly, the Town Council would like to hear from any organisation in the town who would like to participate in a free Volunteer Showcase and Recruitment Event on the day of this year's Family Fun Day, Saturday 1st July. The event is designed to attract adult volunteers by showcasing the importance of the work which they do, and stalls will be given a prominent position on the day alongside some of the star attractions. Because of that space will be limited, and organisations interested should contact CSTC on admin@churchstretton-tc.gov.uk to express an interest.

And finally...

The All Stretton Amateur Dramatics Society Platinum Pantomime, *Cinderella: the Shoe must go on* played to packed houses every night, with audiences drawn by its reputation from the town and beyond. Written by Nicky Simcock, directed by Steve Butler and supported by a huge team effort, the jokes were allegedly every bit as good as they were at the first performance 70 years ago, in the year of our late Queen's Coronation.

*Andy Munro
Mayor*



the outdoor DEPOT
Shropshire's last Independent Outdoor Retailer

- Custom Boot Fitting
- Technical Outdoor Clothing
- Outdoor Accessories & Gifts



01694 724293
www.theoutdoordepot.co.uk

craven design and print

quality graphic design
quality digital & litho printing
quality large format printing

for the best **quality** around, call...

Unit 1, Craven Arms Business Park SY7 8NR
tel: 01588 673972 fax: 01588 673844
www.cravendesignandprint.co.uk

Stretton Print & Supplies
35 Sandford Avenue, Church Stretton, Shropshire SY6 6BH
Suppliers of good quality pens, ink and cartridges.

LAMY Design. Made in Germany.
PARKER
CROSS EST 1846 USA
SHEAFFER

Tel: 01694 724137
email: sales@stretton-print.co.uk

An Emporium of Good Food, Organic & Local Produce, Ethical Clothing & Gifts


ENTERTAINING ELEPHANTS



01694 723922
42 High Street, Church Stretton, SY6 6BX
www.entertaining-elephants.co.uk

Berry's
17 High Street Church Stretton
01694 724452
www.berryscoffeehouse.co.uk

Everything is home-made: breakfasts, hot and cold meals, snacks, cream teas, cakes, children's menu.
Courtyard; fully licensed; dog-friendly; private room for up to 12 people by prior arrangement.
Open every day from 9 am to 5 pm
Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice 2022*
* in global top 10% of restaurants



SAXTONS
Saxtons deli specialises in quality food, cooked on the premises using fresh ingredients.

Delicatessen | Cheeses | Desserts
Salads | Sandwiches | Pastries
Savouries | Hampers
Pre-prepared meals
Parties and corporate events
www.saxtonsdeli.com



The Royal Oak Cardington SY6 7JZ

The Royal Oak is an ancient free house in a conservation village close to the South Shropshire Hills. We serve quality, homemade food lunchtime and evening Tuesday to Saturday plus Sunday Lunch. Five miles from Church Stretton – closer if you walk! Dog friendly.
01694 771266 www.at-the-oak.com





Haiti – The 1791 Slaves Revolt

In France, the majority of the Estates General, an advisory body to the King, reconstituted itself as the Republican National Assembly, made radical changes in French laws, and on 26th August 1789, published the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen*, declaring all men free and equal. We can place this in the wider European and American period of the Enlightenment. The philosophical and political ideas from people such as Jean Jacques Rousseau and Baron de Montesquieu shaped what was to become the first model document on Human Rights. It was Lafayette in consultation with Thomas Jefferson who wrote the principal drafts.

The French Revolution shaped the course of the conflict in Saint-Domingue and was at first widely welcomed on the island. Wealthy Creole planters saw it as an opportunity to gain independence from France. The elite planters intended to take control of the island and create favourable trade regulations to further their own wealth and power and to restore social and political equality granted to Dominican Creoles.

The rebellion was extremely violent. The rich plain of the North was reduced to ruins and ashes. Within two months, the slave revolt in northern Saint-Domingue killed 2,000 St Dominicans and burned 280 sugar plantations owned by *grand blancs*. As the rebellion in Saint-Domingue dragged on, it changed in nature from a political revolution to a racial war.

After months of arson and murder, Toussaint Louverture, a St Dominican plantation owner and a Jacobin, with his general Jean-Jacques Dessalines, a field slave, took charge of the leaderless slave revolt. They formed an alliance with Spanish invasion forces. The French Republican forces of 7,000 arrived on the island in September 1792, and began fighting against the Rebels, the British, and Spanish forces. Louverture betrayed the Spanish forces, eradicated them, and joined the Republican revolutionary army.

Civil War

Louverture started a civil war known as the War of Knives with Creole general André Rigaud who ruled an autonomous state in the south; Louverture claimed that Rigaud attempted to assassinate him. He then delegated most of the campaign to his lieutenant, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, who became infamous, during and after the civil war, for murdering about 10,000 Dominican Creole captives and civilians. After defeating Rigaud, Louverture became master of the whole French colony of Saint-Domingue.

In November of 1799 during the civil war in Saint-Domingue, Napoleon Bonaparte gained power in France. He created a new civil code; the French Civil Code 'the Napoleonic Code' affirming the political and legal equality of all adult men; it established a merit-based society in which individuals advanced in education and employment because of talent rather than birth or social standing. The Code confirmed many of the moderate revolutionary policies of the National Assembly but retracted measures passed by the more radical Convention.

Napoleon also passed a new constitution, declaring that the colonies would be subject to special laws. Slaves in Saint-Domingue believed this meant the re-introduction of slavery. Napoleon began by confirming Louverture's position and promising to maintain the abolition, though he forbade

Louverture from controlling the eastern side of the former Spanish settlement. That would have given Louverture too much power. In January 1801, Louverture invaded the Spanish territory of Santo Domingo, taking possession of it from the governor, Don Garcia, with few difficulties. The area was less developed and populated than the French section. Louverture brought it under French law, abolishing slavery and embarked on a program of modernization. He now controlled the entire island.

Louverture officially established his authority as governor general "for life" over the entire island of Hispaniola and confirmed most of his existing policies. Article 3 of the constitution states: "There cannot exist slaves (in Saint-Domingue); servitude is "therein forever abolished, all men are born, live and die free and French."

However, when Bonaparte met with St Dominican planters; they urged the restoration of slavery in Saint-Domingue, saying that it was integral to the colony's economy. Louverture as Saint-Domingue's Governor-General enacted forced plantation labour to prevent the collapse of the St Dominican economy. This may have contributed to a rebellion against his regime of forced labour led by his nephew and top general, Moïse, in October 1801. Louverture violently suppressed the labour rebellion, with the result that when the French ships arrived, not all of Saint-Domingue was automatically on his side.

The Flag of the Haiti Revolution from 1802-1804 made a declaration of 'Liberty or Death'. Napoleon despatched troops, led by his brother-in-law, Charles Emmanuel Leclerc with the claim that it was a diplomatic mission to seek peace. However, the Vicomte de Rochambeau attacked Fort Liberte. Both Louverture and Dessalines fought against this new invasion. After the battle Dessalines defected from his long-term ally Louverture to join Leclerc. Eventually a ceasefire was brokered and when Dessalines discovered that Louverture had failed to instruct a local rebel to lay down arms, he wrote to Leclerc denouncing his conduct as "extraordinary". Louverture and his son Isaac were arrested. He and his aides were deported to France claiming that he was the former leader of the uprising. Louverture had warned his enemies that: "In overthrowing me you have cut down in Saint Domingue only the trunk of the tree of liberty; it will spring up again from the roots, for they are many and they are deep."

For a time the island was quiet under Napoleonic rule until it was confirmed that slavery was to be re-established



as had happened on Guadeloupe. Dessalines switched sides again, fought against the French in 1802. Leclerc died from yellow fever, like many of his

army. Rochambeau became Commander. Dessalines led the trashing of the French and they were finally driven out. Meanwhile Toussaint Louverture died in a Paris prison following torture and pneumonia in 1803.

A letter in the British Library, likely dictated to a secretary illustrates that though Dessalines could not read or write he was a brilliant soldier and leader. Toussaint preferred the diplomatic route which Dessalines did not share. The characters of the two men were quite different.

Throughout his life, Toussaint Louverture was known as a devout Roman Catholic. Having been baptized into the church as a slave by the Jesuits, Louverture would go on to be one of the few slaves on the Bréda plantation to be labelled devout. He celebrated Mass every day, when possible, regularly served as godfather at multiple slave baptisms, and constantly quizzed others on the catechism of the church. In 1763 the Jesuits were expelled for spreading Catholicism among the slaves and undermining planter propaganda that slaves were mentally inferior. Toussaint would grow closer to the Capuchin Order that succeeded them in 1768, especially as they did not own plantations like the Jesuits.

Jean-Jacques Duclos was born into slavery on a plantation near Grande-Riviere-du-Nord, Saint-Domingue.

Jean-Jacques Dessalines



Toussaint Louverture

His enslaved father had adopted the surname from his owner Henri Duclos. Most slaves trafficked to Saint-Domingue were exported from west and central Africa. He later took the surname Dessalines, after a free man of colour who had purchased him.

Working in the sugarcane fields as a labourer, Dessalines rose to the rank of *commandeur*, or foreman. He worked on Duclos's plantation until he was about 30 years old. Still enslaved, Jean-Jacques was bought by a man with the last name of Dessalines, a free man of colour, who assigned his own surname to Jean-Jacques. From then on he was called Jean-Jacques Dessalines.

Independence was won and Dessalines after defeating the French in 1803 drafted the Constitution, declaring himself emperor. He too came to a violent end, assassinated on Pont Rouge in Port-au-Prince on 17th October 1806. He had established on 1st January 1804 the first free black republic ever.

The whole business of Slavery brutalised all sides, dehumanising the slave, anaesthetising people who invested in plantations from the cruelty, making the owner vast profits and increasing the governing powers, of whatever race and colour. Together with the good and the bad sides of colonisation it was a legacy that passed down the decades, even on to today.

Though revolutions effect change, it cannot be guaranteed that it sets people wholly free. Often it changes the masters of our fate, not the fate itself.

Noel Beattie

Images from Shutterstock

The Strettons Civic Society Needs You

If you have a passion for where you live and care about the future of Church Stretton and the surrounding villages and wonder how you can have a say in protecting what we have around us, then you may like to think about joining the Civic Society.

Our Civic Society was formed in 1974 with the main aims of conserving and improving Stretton's amenities and quality of life, promoting public interest and encouraging civic pride. It also sought to encourage high standards of design in planning, architecture and development, as well as protecting the natural beauty and historic assets we have in our area. These values still continue today.

We are lucky to be living in a place in the heart of the AONB which contains many listed buildings, two local nature reserves, historic churches and castle remains, all surrounded by magnificent countryside with outstanding tree cover. The Civic Society seeks to protect these assets for future generations.

As many of you will know, the Society's Chairman Charles Simmonds, who has been the lynch-pin of the Society for many years, passed away on Christmas day.

His warm character, untiring enthusiasm, organisational skills and wide knowledge on many topics will be sorely missed. In the months before his death, Charles had been leading the way on the reorganisation of the Society, to expand its reach and increase its membership.

The Civic Society now wishes to continue this work by extending its committee, reviewing its range of activities, and deciding on its future direction. A Special General Meeting will be held on 18th April at 7pm in the Silvester Horne Institute to discuss these issues. Whether you are young or old or have expertise or not, if you are passionate about the place in which we live and have views on its future, please come along to the meeting. You will all be most welcome.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about the Civic Society, please contact either Janet Martin on 722361 or David Wilks on 723139.

Janet Martin





JAMES, HOLYOAK & PARKER LIMITED

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Providing quality service to business and personal clients throughout Shropshire and the Borders.

Our services include accountancy, bookkeeping, payroll, VAT returns, and tax advice. Free initial consultations and professional, experienced service.

Offices at Shrewsbury, Church Stretton and Kington

Please contact Jon Rimmer or Rob Humphreys on **01743 453933** or email: admin@jhpca.co.uk for a no obligation discussion and quote.

sage | Accountant Partner



Philippa Gee
Wealth Management



Independent Financial Advice

As featured in The Times, Telegraph, Independent, Sunday Times, Express & Mail on Sunday

01694 722 222 www.philippagee.co.uk

Philippa Gee Wealth Management Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

RLW

ACCOUNTANTS
Chartered Accountants

Ruth Whiting

01694 724527

rlwaccountants@btinternet.com

Castle Green, Ludlow Road,
Little Stretton, Church Stretton
SY6 6RB

Personal tax
Sole traders and partnerships
Limited companies
Charities

Free initial consultation

Professional personal service over thirty years experience

WILLOWBATCH

CARDING MILL VALLEY

A ground floor, centrally heated one bedroom self catering apartment, set in the beautiful surroundings of Carding Mill Valley 100 yards past the National Trust Pavilion.

Please contact Don Rogers for rates and availability on 01694 722358 or donrogers@gmail.com www.willowbatch.co.uk

YORKSHIRE BUILDING SOCIETY
local agency

HERE FOR YOU IN CHURCH STRETTON

Giving you access to Yorkshire Building Society's range of savings accounts

MEET THE TEAM AT YOUR LOCAL AGENCY

WRIGHTS ESTATE AGENTS,
32 SANDFORD AVENUE,
CHURCH STRETTON, SHROPSHIRE, SY6 6BN

01694 722237

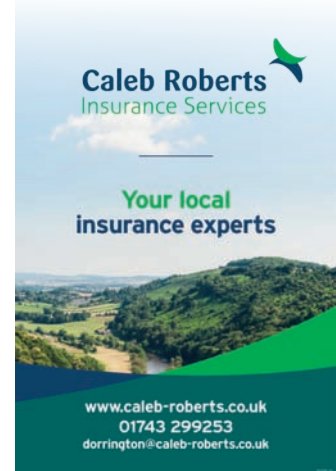
Yorkshire Building Society is a member of the Building Societies Association and is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Yorkshire Building Society is licensed in the Financial Services Register and its registration number is 120685. Head Office: Yorkshire House, Yorkshir Drive, Bradford BD5 8L3. ybs.co.uk



Caleb Roberts
Insurance Services

Your local
insurance experts

www.caleb-roberts.co.uk
01743 299253
dorrington@caleb-roberts.co.uk



MYND HOUSE
— Bed & Breakfast On The Hill —

Ludlow Road, Little Stretton 01694 722212 www.myndhouse.co.uk

EATON MANOR
your country estate

Glorious 5 Star Rural Retreat

For holidays, special celebrations, weddings, retreats...

Luxury cottages
Family friendly
Dog friendly
Venue hire
Accessible
Swimming pool
Games barn & soft play
Wellness treatments

And much more...



01694 724 814
www.eatonmanor.co.uk

Strettondale Patient Participation Group

The SPPG committee met on the 6th February. There was only one comment in the comment box in the practice waiting room. This highlighted the icy entrance to the surgery on an occasion during the winter. The practice will grit this area as necessary, but it usually happens once staff arrive unless there has been an adverse weather warning the previous evening. We do encourage patients to use the comment box. The medical practice reported that staffing levels had improved, particularly regarding the reception and administration teams. However, receptionists are still having to deal with a small minority of patients being quite unpleasant and aggressive. The reception team operate using protocols that have been agreed with the GPs, they are not being deliberately obstructive or nosy and the more information you can provide may result in you being seen earlier by a different clinician.

Some hospital departments are suffering significant delays in dealing with referrals. Once a patient has been referred to hospital the practice is unable to advise on anything specific to the referral and patients should contact the relevant consultant.

When attempting to book an appointment patients may be encouraged to visit a pharmacy, see a different GP or a

nurse if appropriate. This is an attempt to get your problem resolved earlier not an attempt to avoid seeing you. Social media is a useful medium for providing updates, however if you wish to complain, please direct it to the Practice Manager in writing. All concerns raised are taken seriously, discussed at length and reviewed during regular staff training sessions.

Our member on the Joint Overview and Scrutiny committee reported that they are concentrating on five main areas:

1. Access to primary care
2. Urgent care and the Ambulance service
3. Implementation of the Ockenden report recommendations
4. Integrated Care service
5. Mental health

So far the hospital maternity services have made good progress in implementing many of the recommendations. Presently ambulance response times are longer than they should be. Shropshire has a huge rural area to cover with all medical services and there are also difficulties with employing sufficient staff, implementing digital services and virtual care.

Alison Phillips (chair)

ST LAWRENCE
Primary School & Nursery
FRIENDS

Spring Fair

**SATURDAY 22ND
APRIL 11AM-3PM**

At: St Lawrence Primary School, Church Stretton

**GAMES
TOMBOLA
CRAFTS
REFRESHMENTS
CAKES
BOUNCY CASTLE**

Methodist Voice



"All we can"

April is welcomed for sunshine and showers, longer days, and a blaze of spring flowers. It is a month to know Saint George and Shakespeare (23rd). The Church approaches an important part of its story, the ending of Lent and beginning of Holy Week. The first Sunday begins a sombre time for recalling the betrayal and death of Jesus of Nazareth. Then on the second Sunday, Alleluias for Easter Day, Resurrection, new beginnings, hope, joy ... and Easter eggs!

Celebrations seem difficult when in previous months there has been so much suffering and loss in the world near and far. The list of events is long and horrifying. We yearn for peace and justice and wonder if there is anything we should do.

'All We Can' is the strange title for a Methodist organisation which aims to do 'what it says on the tin'. It works especially overseas partnering local people in improving their lives e.g., bringing clean water supplies, training young people for various areas of work. The name comes from some words attributed to John Wesley: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, as long as ever you can" ... Surely we can?

Words from a lovely Easter carol:

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
then your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.*
J.M.C. Crum

Easter peace and joy to all!

P.E.R



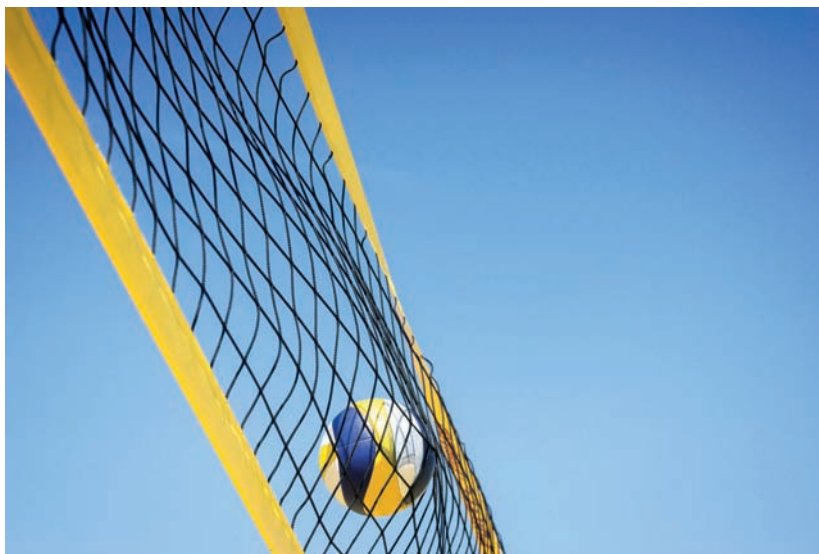
Stretton Summer Volleyball

Hi all. Stretton Summer Volleyball will be back again this summer: Wednesday evenings, 7-9pm, start of May through to end of August. In glorious sunshine of course! Age wise, teens upwards very welcome.

Volleyball is a non-contact sport with two teams of up to six players, male and female, passing a ball over a net. The aim is to ground the ball in your opponents' court or off an opponent's body. Each team has to pass the ball over the net with no more than three touches. Lots of short bursts of activity, the occasional sprint off court to chase and (hopefully) retrieve a ball and lots of humour. Nothing serious, the aim is to play, enjoy and socialise.

The first session is scheduled for Wednesday 3rd May in the Richard Robinson field; pencil in your diary now. There's a small charge, fiver a month for waged, fiver for

whole summer (four months) for unwaged, student etc. First session free.



I have full size court and adjustable net height for men's, women's and mixed teams, and two volleyballs for outdoor play – but could do with a few more. If you have any volleyballs lurking unloved in your garden shed then I'd be happy to take them from you, just for when the masses descend of course and my two volleyballs just aren't enough when we're warming up with a few drills.

Please let me know if you might be interested. No commitment required or indeed much playing experience. I can do some light coaching and training to get you started. Thanks.

Steve Redmond
thebiggestredofall@yahoo.co.uk
07962 785612

Croquet in Church Stretton

Think of relaxation. Think of good exercise. Think of a game that uses your mind strategically. Think of croquet! Seriously, that is what you will find in the park seven days a week or as many as you like. And you get a cream tea once a month and delicious cake on Tuesday. Yes, Tuesday because that is our club afternoon day and when you are guaranteed a game with extra help for newcomers. Indeed, newcomers can also have five coaching sessions as part of membership to see if they take to the game.

Now, think of a warm summer's day with the gentle click of the mallet guiding the ball through the hoop. Oh, but there is certainly strategy about this as you learn how to make not just one but several hoops in one break. Think snooker and think chess. Croquet is often described as comprising both skills. It seems quite a challenge which is why it is a handicap sport. You would be surprised that with a handicap advantage how many newer players give more experienced ones a run for their money.

If your appetite is tickled do get in touch with Joe Manifold who is the Church Stretton Croquet Club Membership Secretary and he would love to help you. Contact him on 01588 660534 or joemanifold90@gmail.com.

Fane Conant

Pétanque 2023

The new pétanque season starts on 3rd week in April. The terrain built in Russell's Meadow by John Woolmer and his gang, which was sponsored by *Stretton Focus* and Connexus, has had time to settle, and volunteers with rakes would be appreciated on the second Tuesday in April to prepare the surface for all interested parties.

Competitions etc will be arranged to suit all interested players, so names and contact details will be collected on site. I will be, weather permitting, attending on site most Tuesdays and Thursdays around 2pm until 3pm and weekends if needed.

Players with their own sets of boules can play anytime they wish. Those who need to borrow sets should call me on 328514 and arrange for access to a set.

Benches should be in place by the start of the season. I am looking forward to the new season, and I hope many of you are too. See you all there.

Ken Willis



Occasional Advertisements

Occasional adverts are
not indexed

Cleanrite services

Pressure washing service
available
Call 07900 932162 for
free no-obligation quote

EZBEE TUTORING
Primary
Years 2-6
learn@ezbeetutoring.uk

KITCHEN RESPRAYS

'The fastest way to a new kitchen'
Martin Robinson
07831 659499
stanyeld@gmail.com

DOG WALKING PET MINDING, PET SITTING, PET VISITING

Fully Insured

To discuss your pet's needs
please contact Tracy Dalton
07530 819079 / 07486 663418

Ear Syringing Home Visits

In and around Church Stretton - £25

Do your ears feel blocked?

Gentle irrigation using warm water may help
Please call / WhatsApp Sophie Corbett (RGN) on
07361 283231

Please note: you will need to apply olive oil drops
for 7 days before this procedure

Daniel Robinson Painting & Decorating

All Stretton

07505 955941 or 01694 720229
danielpeterobinson@gmail.com

To place an occasional advertisement, please contact
adverts@strettonfocus.co.uk
Size: 60 x 35mm,
price £7.50 per month

Red Grouse

The Long Mynd and Stiperstones are areas where red grouse can be seen. They are the most southerly areas where they still breed. These game birds are usually associated with the moors of northern England and Scotland. Here they are managed for people to pay large sums of money to shoot, but in Shropshire the birds are left to roam, undisturbed for us all to enjoy.



Photo: Terry Moore

The population of these birds are carefully monitored by volunteers. On late spring evenings you may witness them surveying these wild birds. This is an essential and pleasant

thing to do. As the sun sets over the heather uplands, male birds display and are easy to both hear and see. Many other birds also can be seen: cuckoos, golden plovers, owls and curlews. Skylarks and pipits are always present.

No special skills are required to help with these surveys. If you are interested, for more information contact:

Shropscwgs.org.uk/strettons-area-wildlife-group/long-mynd-red-grouse-project

Carol Wood

Stretton Cancer Support Group

Our April meeting will take place on Monday 17th April at 2.30pm in the Jubilee Room, Mayfair. Please note change of date due to Easter Bank Holiday.

This will take the form of a discussion with Nicola Daniels, Chief Officer, Mayfair Community Centre about support for those affected by Cancer in the Strettons and the way forward. This is an important meeting and is open to all.

For further information contact Lesley McIntyre 01694 723427

Lesley McIntyre

I THINK IT'S TIME TO CALL GORDON THE CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANER

Academic Cleaning Services
Tel: 07884 002718

SHAW CLEAN
TIM SHAW SUPERB CLEANING

SUPERB CLEANING

- CARPETS
- UPHOLSTERY
- LEATHER
- RUGS
- STAIN REMOVAL & PROTECTION
- CURTAINS
- MATTRESSES
- STONE
- TILE & GROUT
- WOOD
- DRIVEWAYS
- PATIOS
- DECKING

Tim Shaw recommended & used by leading home furnishing retailers since 1997.

07976 559 072 **www.shawclean.co.uk**
0800 612 8817 FREE advice, quotes & fully insured.

Churton Self-Storage

Container Self-Storage – Caravan & Motor Home Storage

Industrial and Domestic Use
10ft, 20ft and 40ft Containers Available
Secure Yard with CCTV Monitoring - 24 Hour Access

Wall Bank, Wall Under Heywood, Church Stretton, SY67HJ

☎ 01694 724880 ☎ 07979 817554
✉ churtonselfstorage@gmail.com 🌐 churtonselfstorage.co.uk

SHROPSHIRE SWEEP

JON PROSSER
Tel: 01785 509333
Mobile: 07946 134783

CHIMNEY SWEEP AND VACUUM SERVICE

Chimney Sweep

Local and Reliable Service

from £55 per sweep
Free Smoke Tests
Certificates issued
Contact: 07805 643422 or www.StantonSweeps.com

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Specialist

- Carpet • Upholstery
- Fine Rugs • Leather

Powerful Truck-mounted Cleaning System
5 star reviews

IN DEPTH

Find out more at www.indepthclean.co.uk
or call Chris for a quotation
T: 07855 499983

Natural Stone Floor Cleaning Specialist

Powerful Truck-mounted Cleaning System
5 star reviews

IN DEPTH

Find out more at www.indepthclean.co.uk
or call Chris for a quotation
T: 07855 499983

Lawns & Hedges **Pest Control**

Cutting, trimming, strimming & scarifying.

Moles, wasps, squirrels, rats, mice, ants, moths, biting & crawling insects.

Chris Sansom
01694 722709 mobile 07891 638662
cs-pestcontrol.co.uk

ISSN 1479-7356

9 771479 735007

CLEANRITE SERVICES

South Shropshire's leading cleaning company

- Domestic & Commercial
- Pressure Washing
- Carpet Cleaning Specialist - from £20 per room

01694 328215 • 07900 932162
enquiries@cleanriteservices.co.uk

Handyman Home Services - Window Cleaning

Window Cleaning Rates, from:

- Small House/Bungalow £10.00
- Medium House/Bungalow £15.00
- Large House/Bungalow £17.50

For a free quote please call or email:
t: 07800 537789 e: andybithell@yahoo.co.uk