

# STRETTON FOCUS

FEBRUARY 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)

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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 the 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.

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*Ragleth Hill*



*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 **March** issue the deadline is **Monday 6th February, at 12 noon.**

For the **April** issue the deadline is **Monday 6th March, at 12 noon.**

The **March** issue will be distributed on **Friday 24th February**

## 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 the February edition of *Focus*. February can often be a rather dreary time of year. We've had three months of cold and wet and there are still another two months to go before we can really start thinking of spring.

Oh dear, that was a depressing start; I do apologise. What have we got to cheer ourselves up? The daylight hours are getting longer, it'll soon be time for pancakes, and I think we've got a good selection of articles for you in the magazine.

There are the usual fun bits: the Trivia Quiz and the Crossword (fun or torture?), a new recipe to try and suggestions for musical and theatre experiences. We have some items to stretch your mind too, reflections on the month of January (page 38) and on aprons (page 33), historical items about Church Stretton (page 12) and Haiti which has a connection to our town through Pazapa (page 22).

Have you ever wondered what goes on at the Long Mynd Adventure Camp? Take a look at the article on

page 15 which tells us about its activities and the young people who visit for an experience of the countryside. And you can find your own way to enjoy nature by taking inspiration from the various nature groups who are active around the Strettons. Have a hunt through the magazine to see what they are doing.

I can't mention everything here or there'd be no reason for you to read any further. One thing I should point out though is Geoff Taylor's piece below. We are always delighted to receive articles from you the readers, and an accompanying photo can often enhance the text. So Geoff, who is our Cover Editor, has written some guidelines about the best way to send photos to us.

Best wishes for an enjoyable February.

*Patricia Thomas*



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## Guidelines for Picture Submissions to *Stretton Focus*

## STRETTON FOCUS

Photographs and other images are very welcome for publication, to accompany an article submission. Please see the magazine for submission deadlines. The *Focus* production team will make any adjustments required for print, although they are limited by the quality of what they receive. Please ensure that pictures are reasonably sharp and that the main subject is decently lit.

Always send the original or best quality file that you have, whatever camera you are using. The quality from a modern smartphone will normally be adequate. When sending a picture from your mobile device, select the 'Actual Size' option, rather than Small or Medium. If using a regular camera, do not reduce the file size. If the total file size is too large to send as an email attachment, consider using WeTransfer, a free online facility. Please

tell us the name of the photographer and ensure that you have copyright permission. Do not assume that pictures downloaded from the internet will be free of copyright – inadvertent use could be expensive. Also, please ensure that you have the permission of any people in the photograph and parental consent for under 16s.

Send your photographs as an email attachment, do not embed them in the body of the email (only possible with some email systems). If pictures are inserted into an article that you have submitted (to help with layout), please also send the picture files as separate attachments. Forward pictures to the editors by email at [editor@strettonfocus.co.uk](mailto:editor@strettonfocus.co.uk).

*Geoff Taylor*

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## 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](mailto: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 [jmoores14@btinternet.com](mailto:jmoores14@btinternet.com).

# What's On in the Strettons in February

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. We welcome your feedback on the new look.

The 'What's On' diary may also be viewed for free on our website: [www.strettonfocus.co.uk](http://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](mailto:editor@strettonfocus.co.uk)

## WARM WELCOME PROJECT:

Over this winter, a 'warm space' initiative aims to offer warmth and shelter for people who are in need. Local 'warm hubs' include:

### Church Stretton Library

Facilities: easy access for all, disabled toilet, books, computers, wifi, info.  
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 9.30am-5pm

### Mayfair Community Centre

You can always expect a warm welcome. We can also offer advice on cost-of-living concerns. Facilities: easy access for all, disabled toilet, café, information and activities. Please see main Mayfair article for more details.  
Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

### St Laurence Parish Church

Facilities: easy access for all  
Open every day

### Warm Welcome at the Methodist Hall

Anyone who wants a warm place to go to is welcome. Hot drinks, and companionship provided.  
Every Wednesday  
12.30-4pm Methodist Church Hall

## 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](http://www.bridgewebs.com/churchstretton)  
Every **Thursday**  
1-5pm All Stretton Village Hall

### 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](mailto:1johndennison@gmail.com)  
Every **Tuesday** and **Thursday**  
8pm via Zoom

### Christian Meditation (meeting in person)

As above, but meeting in person. More information from Janice Hicking: 07889 850265 or email [janice@hicking.co.uk](mailto:janice@hicking.co.uk)  
Every **Friday**  
2pm URC Vestry

### 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](mailto:info@coolmovesdance.co.uk), [www.coolmovesdance.co.uk](http://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

**Stretton Focus  
Website**



[www.strettonfocus.co.uk](http://www.strettonfocus.co.uk)



## What's On continued

### 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

### 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

### Pickleball Club, CS

Pickleball is a fun sport that combines many elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong. £5 pp  
Contact Carol: 07803 329106  
Every **Thursday**  
7-9pm 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**, from January 11th  
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** from January 12th  
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**, from January 12th  
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 55years 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-12 noon 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

£6 per class or £30 for 6 classes.  
Contact Becca on 07905 236805 or yogawithbecca@hotmail.com  
**Tuesday:** 6.30-7.30pm Mayfair  
**Wednesday:** 9.30-10.30am SAPA  
**Wednesday:** 6.30-7.30pm SHI  
**Thursday:** 7-8am Scout Hut

### Youth Club: CS Youth Drop-In

A relaxed and inviting space for school years 8 to 11 to meet up outside 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

## GENERAL DIARY:

### 1 WEDNESDAY

**u3a History of Plants and Gardens Group**  
Please note that the group is not meeting for the foreseeable future.

### CS Library Reading Group

Friendly, informal group.  
With Felicity Thomas.  
2.15-3.15pm CS Library

### 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

*Operation Mincemeat* (2021)  
Cert: 12 RT: 2 hrs 8 mins  
Tickets: £4. Contact: 771295  
7.30pm Cardington VH, SY6 7JZ

*Continued overleaf..*

## What's On continued

### 2 THURSDAY

#### Citizens Advice at CS Library

Trained advisors on hand to give advice.  
Sessions by appointment, 1st and 3rd  
Thursday of the month.  
See main library item for details.  
10am-12noon CS Library

#### HSBC Pop Up Session at CS Library

'Protecting yourself against fraud'  
Free advice, open to customers of all banks.  
See main library item for details.  
10.30-11.15am 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

### 3 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

#### u3a Reading Group 1

1st Friday of the month.  
2-3pm CS Library

### 4 SATURDAY

#### Saturday Morning Music

There will be a recorder consort, music  
for piano accordion and solos for mezzo  
soprano. A varied programme!  
Free admission, retiring collection, with net  
proceeds going to local charities.  
Please note slightly earlier start time.  
10.15am Methodist 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

### 6 MONDAY

#### 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

### 7 TUESDAY

#### Engaging Issues Talk

With guest speaker Christine Trevett: 'Wales  
and Welshness, the dynamics of diversity'.  
To find out more or see full details of this  
season of talks, visit our website:  
[www.engagingissues.org.uk](http://www.engagingissues.org.uk)  
We ask for a £3 donation per talk.  
7.30pm URC

### 8 WEDNESDAY

#### Strettons Classical Music Group

Please note that there is no meeting this  
month. We meet next on 8th March.  
Contact Barbara Hall: 724578

#### RSPB South Shropshire Local Group Walk

Venue: Haughmond Hill. The walk is level  
despite the name, with only a few inclines on  
well-maintained paths.  
See main RSPB item for more details.  
Walk lasts approx. 2.5 hrs  
10.30am meet at main car park. Grid Ref:  
SJ545147

#### Flicks in the Sticks: Hope Bowdler

*Mrs Harris goes to Paris* (2022)  
Cert: PG RT: 1 hr 55 mins  
Admission: adults £4, children £2  
Tickets on the door. Tea, coffee, cakes & ice  
cream served in the interval.  
Enquiries: 723648  
7.30pm Hope Bowdler VH

#### Long Mynd Camera Club

Home Grown – an evening of entertainment  
provided by a selection of members.  
[www.longmyndcameraclub.co.uk](http://www.longmyndcameraclub.co.uk)  
7.30pm URC Hall

### 9 THURSDAY

#### HSBC Pop Up Session at CS Library

'Financially fitter'  
See main library item for details.  
10.30-11.15am CS Library

#### CS Stroke Support Group

Support for stroke survivors, friends and  
family. Meetings take place on the second  
Thursday of each month.  
2-4pm Jubilee Room, Mayfair

#### Marmaladies CS WI

The WI short-listed resolutions will be  
presented and discussed, before voting on  
our preferred option to take forward. A lively  
debate, to be accompanied by cheese &  
wine.  
We welcome new members to join us  
for creative, informative and discussion  
sessions. [marmaladieswi@gmail.com](mailto:marmaladieswi@gmail.com)  
7.30pm Mayfair

### 10 FRIDAY – 27 MARCH

#### Art Exhibition: Inspired by Darwin

Work by local artist, Thelma Thompson,  
including original paintings, photographs and  
poems.  
10am-5pm daily, Discovery Centre, School  
Road, Craven Arms

### 10 FRIDAY

#### u3a Writers Group 2

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

### 11 SATURDAY

#### Monthly Drop-In Council Surgery

Second Saturday of the month.  
With Councillor Hilary Luff.  
10am-12noon CS Library

#### Stretton Climate Care Repair Café

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

#### CS Ballroom & Sequence Dance Club

8pm (see Sat 4th for details)

### 13 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



## What's On continued

### Stretton Cancer Support Group Meeting

Talk by David Howard on Climate Care – ways of conserving our energy.  
We welcome anyone who has been affected by cancer in anyway.  
For more info contact:  
Lesley McIntyre: 723427  
Rosemary Williets: 722112  
2.30pm Jubilee Room, Mayfair

### 14 TUESDAY

#### u3a Writers Group 1

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

### South Shropshire RSPB Local Group Talk

With guest speaker Rosemary Winnal:  
'Nature in Focus'  
Members £2, Visitors welcome £5  
Enquiries to Carol Wood: 07807 068304  
7.30pm Culmington VH, SY8 2DA

### 16 THURSDAY

#### Citizens Advice at CS Library

10am (see Thursday 2nd for details)

### HSBC Pop Up Session at CS Library

'Banking beyond the branch'  
See main library item for details.  
10.30-11.15am CS Library

### Carer Support at Mayfair

Café-style support group for unpaid carers.  
With Shaz Malins of MAYSI and Lisa Wright of the Alzheimer's Society. Please book via Mayfair Reception on 722077 or email us on [information@mayfaircentre.org.uk](mailto:information@mayfaircentre.org.uk)  
2-3.30pm Mayfair

### 17 FRIDAY

#### SHI Event: Little Rumba with Jess Hall

Tickets £12 adult, £6 for 18 and under, available from the CS Town Council office or from the Outdoor Depot, Sandford Avenue, or online:  
[silvesterhorneevents.co.uk](http://silvesterhorneevents.co.uk)  
Enquiries to Mike Walker: 720132  
7.30pm SHI

### 18 SATURDAY

#### CS Ballroom & Sequence Dance Club

8pm (see Sat 4th for details)

### 20 MONDAY

#### CS Area Local History Group (CSALHG)

Our February talk is 'The lost Regency summerhouse site of Attingham Park' by archaeologist Nigel Baker.  
Non-members: £4, pay on the door.  
Talks are popular so please arrive in plenty of time for the 2pm start.  
Contact: [csalhg@outlook.com](mailto:csalhg@outlook.com)  
2pm URC Hall

### FoCSL Talk

Local men David Lyons and Malcolm Phillips will share their ultimate 'boys' day out' in May 2022, flying Spitfires over the south coast.  
Admission: £5 payable on the door.  
All proceeds to support the Library.  
7.30pm URC Hall

### 21 TUESDAY

#### All Stretton Women's Institute

'Knock them for six' – fun Kurling.  
Email: [allstrettonwi@gmail.com](mailto:allstrettonwi@gmail.com)  
7.30pm All Stretton VH

### Engaging Issues Talk

We welcome guest speaker Sally Azzam  
Cook: 'Cultural resistance in Palestine – Life in the occupied territories'  
To find out more or see full details of this season of talks, visit our website:  
[www.engagingissues.org.uk](http://www.engagingissues.org.uk)  
We ask for a £3 donation per talk.  
7.30pm URC

### Flicks in the Sticks Acton Scott

*Downton Abbey – A New Era*  
Cert PG RT: 2hrs 4 mins  
Tickets: £5 adult, £3 child.  
Ample parking and level access  
Enquiries: 781260  
7.30pm Acton Scott VH

### 22 WEDNESDAY

#### Yoga with Sue at CS Library

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

### Long Mynd Camera Club

Club Competition No 4  
Theme: 'The Great Indoors' (print and dpi)  
[www.longmyndcameraclub.co.uk](http://www.longmyndcameraclub.co.uk)  
7.30pm URC Hall

### 23 THURSDAY – 25 SATURDAY

#### All Stretton Am. Dram. Pantomime

Cinderella – the shoe must go on!  
Tickets: adults £8, children £4 (under 16s), available from: Vine & Co, [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk) or Alison Hartshorne: 723060  
Interval refreshments available.  
7.30pm Thursday and Friday  
2pm and 7.30pm Saturday  
All Stretton Village Hall

### 23 THURSDAY

#### Flicks in the Sticks Church Stretton

*Benediction* (2021)  
Cert: 12A RT: 2 hrs 27 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

### 24 FRIDAY

#### u3a Writers Group 2

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

### 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 SATURDAY

#### Bell Peal at St Laurence's

Three-hour peal to mark a royal occasion.  
Please check for details on church noticeboard.  
In the morning, time to be confirmed

### CS Ballroom & Sequence Dance Club

8pm (see Sat 4th for details)

### 27 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 4th Monday of the month.  
Members, guests and visitors are all welcome.  
2.30-4.30pm Jubilee Room, Mayfair

*Continued overleaf...*

## What's On continued

### Shropshire Ornithological Society, CS Branch

We welcome guest speaker John Lightfoot: '20 years of the Shropshire Barn Owl Group – our achievement'  
Refreshments provided.  
All welcome. £3 for non-members.  
7.30pm Methodist Church Hall

### 28 TUESDAY

#### u3a Writers Group 1

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

#### Nature Exhibition Opening Night

'Under Threat' – conserving threatened species and habitats in the Strettons. Town Mayor, Andy Munro and representatives from nature groups of the Strettons will be attending. The exhibition itself is on for three weeks.  
See main library item for more details.  
6.30pm CS Library

### WHAT'S ON IN EARLY MARCH

#### 3 FRIDAY

##### World Day of Prayer Service

WDoP is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women. 2023's service has been written by the women of Taiwan. All are welcome to join us (not just women!).  
10.30am Methodist Church Hall

##### Mayfair Theatre Screening: *Othello*

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

#### Key to Abbreviations/Addresses:

**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 Well Being Centre, next to Mayfair, SY6 6BL  
**Methodist Church** – Watling St South, SY6 7BG  
**SAPA** – Shropshire Academy of Performing Arts, Lutwyche Close, Lutwyche Rd, SY6 6AT  
**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.

## Friends, neighbours and Strettonians lend us your ears



### Stretton Theatre & Concert Group

Whilst music and drama were accessible online during the pandemic, one thing that many of us discovered during that time was that there is nothing better than a **live** performance! Here in the Strettons we are very fortunate to enjoy live entertainment held in local churches and at the Silvester Horne Institute plus, of course, the wonderful annual Arts Festival.

However, with social life slowly getting back to pre-pandemic levels, how about the opportunity to hear nationally acclaimed soloists such as the talented members of the Kanneh-Mason family or experience performances of Shakespeare's plays actually in Stratford at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre?

This can all be possible by joining the Stretton Theatre and Concert Group (STCG) which for over 35 years has been offering members bargain-priced opportunities to enjoy top quality arts events further afield. Favourite venues for classical concerts include Symphony Hall in Birmingham and Victoria Hall in Stoke, and for drama productions Malvern and Stratford feature regularly on the programme.

There is a one-off joining fee of £5, then an annual household membership of £10 which enables you to purchase discounted tickets for a wide variety of music and dramatic performances. On average there are up to two events per month to choose from, a mix of matinée and evening performances. Coach transport (with several local pick-up points) drops you off right by the venue.

The current bookings for 2023 include the West End production of *The Mousetrap* at Malvern, as part of its 70th anniversary tour prior to transferring to Broadway, Carl Orff's powerful choral work *Carmina Burana* and the much-acclaimed musical *The Lion King*.

Much more detail can be found online at [www.strettontheatreandconcert.net](http://www.strettontheatreandconcert.net) or by contacting the Hon. Sec. Jenny Heath either on 07957 342345 or via email at [heath@knollcrest.co.uk](mailto:heath@knollcrest.co.uk). Jenny would be happy to tell you more and answer any queries you may have.



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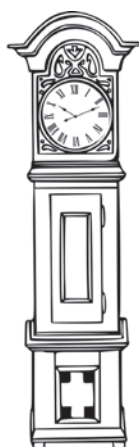
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# Saturday Morning Music

4th February 2023

We begin the new year with a showcase of local talent at the Methodist Church (Watling Street South, SY6 7BG) beginning at the slightly earlier time of 10.15am. There will be a recorder consort, music for piano accordion and solos for mezzo soprano – a really varied and interesting programme.

Ragleth Recorders is a group of friends from the Stretton area who for a number of years have met twice a month to drink tea, chat and play recorders. The ensemble's continuously expanding repertoire encompasses many different musical styles and arrangements, with members playing every size of recorder from Sopranino to Contrabass.

The Contrabass (pictured) is even deeper than the normal lowest member of the ensemble (the Bass recorder). Henry VIII possessed a collection of between 50 and 75 recorders including all the unusual larger and smaller sizes.



Linda Cossins is an accomplished performer on the piano accordion, and this will be a rare opportunity for us to see one in action as a solo instrument. They are more complicated than they look!



And Harriet Ballantyne is a mezzo-soprano living (until very recently) in All Stretton, who will perform a variety of songs from Bach and Fauré to folksong arrangements by Britten and Bantock.



If you haven't attended one of these concerts before, they are free, and no booking is needed. They usually last just under an hour, and there is often refreshment afterwards – in this case in the Methodist Church Hall. Retiring collections are taken, and significant sums have been raised for local charities over the last several years. There is plenty of on-street parking at the Methodist Church.

Further concerts will take place on 11th March and 1st April.

*Richard Walker*

## Catholic Voice

On the Feast of the Epiphany which commemorates the visit of the three Kings (6th January) and in the Catholic Church, we have a tradition called the Epiphany Proclamation. This dates from a time when most people did not have calendars (or the internet!) for their reference. The Epiphany Proclamation is a public announcement of all the feasts for the coming year. The Epiphany Proclamation crystallises the liturgical span of the coming year and, in doing so, generates a sense of our time on earth passing under the eternal truths of God's plan and His desire that all people will come to know His son and be saved.

I forgot the due date for the January edition of *Focus*, and so I am a month behind, but here is the Proclamation for 2023!

"Dear brothers and sisters, the glory of the Lord has shone upon us, and shall ever be manifest among us, until the day of His return.

"Through the rhythms of times and seasons let us celebrate the mysteries of salvation. Let us recall the year's culmination, the Easter Triduum of the Lord: His last supper, His crucifixion, His burial and His rising, celebrated between the evening of the fourth day of April and the evening of

the sixth of April, Easter Sunday being on the ninth day of April.

"Each Easter – as on each Sunday – the Holy Church makes present the great and saving deed by which Christ has for ever conquered sin and death. From Easter are reckoned all the days we keep holy.

"Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, will occur on the twenty-second day of February. The Ascension of the Lord will be commemorated on Thursday, the eighteenth of May. Pentecost, joyful conclusion of the season of Easter, will be celebrated on the twenty-eighth day of May. And this year the first Sunday of Advent will be on the third day of December 2023.

"Likewise the pilgrim Church proclaims the passover of Christ in the feasts of the holy Mother of God, in the feasts of the Apostles and Saints and in the commemoration of the faithful departed.

"To Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come, Lord of time and history, be endless praise, for ever and ever. Amen."

The next Catholic Voice will be in Lent, so have a good celebration on Shrove Tuesday and for Ash Wednesday.

*Prayers, Canon Jonathan*





# SHI Events

## Little Rumba in Concert with Jess Hall

Silvester Horne Institute, Church Stretton, Friday 17th February 2023 at 7.30pm

A warm welcome back to Little Rumba, one of the most popular bands of the Marches, well known for not only their originality but also their humour. The musicians come from different musical genres and present a unique blend of styles.

John Hymas, (violin, viola and accordion) founder member of Hoover the Dog, Pete Mustill (singer and guitarist) led to the formation of the Tango Band, and also joined with Hugh Colvin to gain top third album in the Czech charts! Hugh is the band's saxophonist producing exciting material, and Jacqui Savage is a stimulating bass player who has worked with a series of border bands.

For this concert they will be joined by fabulous Welsh singer and song writer Jess Hall who also features on their album *Café Perdido* as well as performing with the band Poisson Rouge on the video.

The band write all their own music and over the years have developed a recognizable house style owing debts to East European, South America as well as jazz and blues. In fact when I heard Poisson Rouge being played, I could hear shades of Sidney Bechet playing the haunting *Petite Fleur* which was being played all over Paris when I stayed there many years ago.

The band will deliver great melodies, infectious beats that will have your feet tapping as well.

"Absolutely fantastic evening from you guys tonight. Great musical talent, great humour, variety, and warmth of performance."  
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Tickets: Adult £12, 18 and under £6, on line [www.silvesterhorneevents.co.uk](http://www.silvesterhorneevents.co.uk) or from C.S. Town Council office, or from Outdoor Depot, Sandford Avenue.

For more information please phone 01694 720132.

*Mike Walker*



## Scout Group News

Fundraising for the 2nd Longmynd is never far from the thoughts of Group Scout Leader Terry Davies and he was particularly pleased with the results of events over the Christmas period. One was the annual bag-packing at the Co-op when 15 Scouts joined with members of the Guide Company for this activity. The group wishes to thank the shoppers who were generous in their support and the co-operative Co-op which made it possible. Another event was the Tractor Run organised by the Yew Tree Inn at All Stretton where 20 Scouts required buckets to collect the donations from followers of the Run. The Group thanks the Inn for the invitation. The Explorer Scout Unit took part in the popular Santa Sleigh run around the town.

After much hard work and the support of family, friends and the Group, Alex Berry and Freddie Westall, the two Scouts who have won places at the World Jamboree in South Korea this year, have reached their targets of £4,750 each for the camp fee. They are now taking part in activity weekends to prepare them for the visit to a country so different from their own. At the moment the Troop is preparing for its annual winter camp, which last year was wiped out by a blizzard.

The Wednesday Cub Pack is constantly looking for new programme ideas and the latest is a drive-in movie, in which

the Cubs have to construct cars out of cardboard boxes in order to watch a DVD film. Several Cubs have gained the Chief Scout Silver Award and have moved up into the Scout Troop. The Pack now has vacancies for new members. The Tuesday Pack is concentrating on a skills programme with particular emphasis on personal health.

All meetings are held at the Group Headquarters in Church Street and are open to both boys and girls. For more information contact the Group Scout Leader on 07484 177317.

### Monday 6th, 13th, 27th February

Beaver Scout Colony. Ages 6-8: 5.30-6.30pm

Scout Troop. Ages 10½-14½: 7-9pm.

Explorer Scout Unit. Ages 14-18: 7-9pm.

(Check with GSL for Explorer dates).

### Tuesday 7th, 14th, 28th

Cub Scout Pack (Tuesday). Ages 8-10½: 6.30-8pm

### Wednesday 1st, 8th, 15th

Cub Scout Pack (Wednesday). Ages 8-10½: 6.30-8pm

*Fred Reeve*





# Historic Church Stretton – Lion Meadow



*Sheep sale in Lion Meadow*

The importance of sheep, horses and cattle at Church Stretton markets and fairs reflected the predominantly pastoral economy of the area. It was, however, sheep and ponies which provided the majority of animals at the fairs. Fair days included the statute fair (14th May) when sheep and lambs were sorted and sold; the wool fair on 3rd July and the great sheep and colt fair on 25th September.

The animals for sale came from far and wide and were driven along the various packhorse trails and drover's routes across the Long Mynd, together with the Portway itself, showing the importance of these routes linking outlying villages with the markets at Shrewsbury, Church Stretton, Clun and Bishop's Castle.

Livestock sales in Church Stretton were originally held in the town's main street. This wide space soon became too crowded to house the large numbers of sheep and ponies brought for sale and the market was moved to the foot of Burway Road on the green near Longhills Road; even so, it often extended down to Shrewsbury Road.

With the advent of the motor car and increased traffic levels, the sheep fair was moved again to an area of land behind the Lion Inn (the Charity Shop next to Berry's) extending east to the present Easthope Road which became known as the Lion Meadow and more recently Sheep Sales Field. There was once a large cherry orchard on it. After this

was uprooted the area was used for sheep sales in the 20th century, ending about 1982 and King's Court was built on the site in 1984.

*Tony Crowe and Barrie Raynor from Church Stretton through the Ages*



*Outside the Silvester Horne Institute. It was a common sight to see animals being driven through the town to the Sheep Sales Field*



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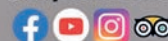
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# Long Mynd Adventure Camp Celebrates its Best Year

## ...and needs new volunteers.

For decades, the Long Mynd Adventure Camp has successfully provided country breaks for young people in a superb woodland setting near Church Stretton. But, on reopening after the pandemic, the Charity's management were concerned that visitor numbers might be much reduced.



*The Camp*

Happily, however, 2022 broke Camp records both in income and the number of visiting organisations. Over 1,000 young people enjoyed the Camp during the year. And bookings for 2023 are looking very healthy.

It seems that, despite pressures of time and resources on the schools and youth groups who use the Camp, they still love its traditional camping/bunkhouse experience. Youth leaders say it's "a great place: location is perfect, facilities are brilliant" and praise its "total seclusion and peace and quiet". As Pam Davies, of Holyhead School, Handsworth wrote recently: "We are having a blast at the Long Mynd, but then again we always do ... keep doing what you are doing ... our kids are loving the outdoor life!"

The Camp is usually let at modest rates to supervised groups including schools, Scouts and Guides and Duke of Edinburgh Award schemes. In the past, most groups have supplied their own food and transport. Now, they can also enjoy tailor-made adventure packages, supervised by accredited local specialists, Arthog Outreach. Activities can include hill walking, rock climbing, paddle sports, bushcraft and teambuilding.

The Camp's letting income, plus donations, helps to maintain and develop its facilities, such as next year's planned refurbishment of the boys' and girls' regular wash blocks and the complete replacement of the disabled wash block. The Camp also supports a fund to meet its founding

objective: helping disadvantaged children to enjoy a country holiday. Trustee Jim Bunce says: "we are always looking for groups who could benefit from a trip to the Camp, but who couldn't come otherwise. We can help with accommodation, transport and catering costs".

Like many smaller charities, the Camp is still chiefly run by volunteers, so new recruits are always needed to give their time and expertise: ideally, enthusiasts with business and practical skills, such as finance, marketing, HR, IT or facilities management. Anyone with hands-on experience in social media would be especially welcome. Volunteers can be Trustees, including officers of the Charity, or Friends, who make their contributions less formally. There are quarterly management meetings, and project work or job-sharing should be possible.

Says Chairman Peter Jenkins: "I think what the Camp offers is more relevant than ever. It's really satisfying to provide a service which is so enjoyable and worthwhile to our visitors. Volunteering shouldn't take up too much of your time. So, if you'd like to contribute to our future success, please be in touch".



*Holyhead School at the Camp*

Find out more at [www.longmyndadventurecamp.org.uk](http://www.longmyndadventurecamp.org.uk). To discuss volunteering or to donate to the Camp, please call:

Peter Jenkins (Chairman): 01694 724919

Jim Bunce (Trustee): 01694 723802

To book the Camp, telephone Jim Bunce or email him at [lmacnquiries@gmail.com](mailto:lmacnquiries@gmail.com)



# Mayfair News

## Charles Simmonds – Thank you from Mayfair

Charles Simmonds sadly passed away on Christmas day. He was a trustee of Mayfair for 21 years, guiding our charity for most of its 25-year existence. He was one of our original volunteers, starting as a waiter in



*Charles Simmonds and Meg Bacon at the opening event for Mayfair's second floor in 2002*

1997 when Mayfair opened its doors, he always joked that he was soon sacked from that role after dropping some plates and that was when he became Vice-Chair of Trustees in 1998. Later Charles became a befriender, which he did through Covid and right up to the end of his life. He made a huge contribution to the growth and development of all we do. A capable and calm Chair of Trustees, from 2000-2008, he led Mayfair, with Meg, through major developments

including the building of the second floor and starting many services and activities. Charles was always up for the challenge, willing to get stuck in and get things done, he was incredibly supportive to staff and other trustees. It is safe to say Mayfair would not be the same without his efforts. We owe him a great deal and will be forever grateful for his input and his dry sense of humour. He will be very much missed.

## Beacon Bath



Finding a shower uncomfortable? Unable to get in and out of the bath?

Did you know that the Beacon at Mayfair has a reclining bath?

The side lifts up for easy access so that you can just sit in, then the bath tilts back so you can recline and be as submerged as you choose.

Our trained staff can assist you to have a nice relaxing soak. They'll even scrub your back!

Telephone the Beacon at Mayfair on 01694 722077 to find out more or to arrange a visit to view the bath and discuss your needs.

## Ring and Ride reminder



Our Ring and Ride team see some pretty spectacular sights when they are out and about. Ring and Ride, part of the Strettons Mayfair Trust, provides door-to-door transport within a six-mile radius of Church Stretton to the north (Picklescott), south (Wistanstow) and east (Longville). All our vehicles are wheelchair accessible and driven by trained and qualified staff or volunteers. Individual membership costs £30 a year and is open to people who:

- Do not have use of a car
- Live within a town or rural area lacking public transport
- Experience difficulty walking moderate distances or
- Otherwise have physical/mental difficulty using private or public transport.

We operate 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays) and also offer regular monthly shopping trips outside of our area to locations such as Ludlow and Shrewsbury. If you would like to find out more about Ring and Ride, you can call us on 01694 720025, 8.30am to 1pm Monday to Friday, or visit the Mayfair website: [mayfaircentre.org.uk](http://mayfaircentre.org.uk).

If you feel able to volunteer as a driver or passenger assistant for this fantastic community service, we would also love to hear from you. Please give our Volunteer Coordinator, Eve a call on 01694 722077, or email: [eve.simmonds-jones@mayfaircentre.org.uk](mailto:eve.simmonds-jones@mayfaircentre.org.uk).

## New Coffee Machine

We love our coffee here at Mayfair and our coffee shop



in the Health and Wellbeing Centre has just invested in a new coffee machine to ensure we're offering a fantastic cuppa to all our customers. Our new machine provides lovely bean to cup coffee with a wide variety of options whether you like a milky latte, a frothy cappuccino,



or a shot of espresso. We can also offer flavoured coffees and the option of both caffeinated and decaffeinated. It's hard to beat a Mayfair Mocha on both taste and price!

You can pop into our Coffee Shop on any weekday for coffees, breakfasts and light lunches between 10am and 1.30pm.

### Friday Friendship at our Art Group

If you fancy expanding your art skills in 2023, Mayfair Art Group are seeking new members to join them on Fridays from 10 to 12.30. They are a non-tutored friendly group who meet to paint, sketch, share skills and explore different media in good company.

If you are interested in coming along, leave a message with reception for Liz or Daphne or pop in on a Friday and meet the group.

Bring your own arts materials along and get creative!

We also have a number of other interest and activity groups here at Mayfair. Information on friendly Mayfair Health Walks, our dance and exercise classes and a variety of arts and crafts groups is available on our website at [mayfaircentre.org.uk](http://mayfaircentre.org.uk), or by giving us a call on 01694 722077.

### Warm Welcome Days

Remember that anyone is welcome to come and spend time in our Mayfair buildings (the Community Centre and the Health and Wellbeing Centre) when we are open (9 to 5, Monday to Friday). As a registered Shropshire Warm Welcome location, we are also offering a special warm welcome area in the Café at the Community Centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays in February. On these days a hot drink and a soup lunch will be available free of charge to anyone who needs it.



### Youth Drop-in Activities

Another jam-packed programme of activities is underway this term at our Youth Drop-in sessions which are provided by the youth charity, SYA, in partnership with Mayfair and the Town Council. These take place every Tuesday evening during term time from 6 to 7.30pm at Russells Meadow Pavilion (Lutwyche Road, SY6 6AT). Young people from school years 8 to 11 are all welcome to drop-in, try some new activities and have some fun. A small fee of £1 per session helps to cover the wide range of activities we offer. This term, subject to availability, these will include:

- 7th February: Boccia, Valentines crafts and baking rocky road
- 14th February: Card making and shortbread heart biscuits
- 28th February: Bird feeders and pancake making
- 7th March: Hot dogs, friendship bracelets and bingo!
- 14th March: Mug cakes, clay modelling and Uno
- 21st March: Pizza making
- 28th March: Easter activities – you choose!

We are still keen to expand our provision to cater for younger age groups too but we need enough volunteers to enable this to happen. If you would be interested in supporting this and volunteering at a youth club for a few

hours a week, please get in touch with us here at Mayfair on 01694 722077 or email [eve.simmonds-jones@mayfaircentre.org.uk](mailto:eve.simmonds-jones@mayfaircentre.org.uk).



### Mayfair on YouTube

Following the success of our Christmas Snowball Fight video last year, Mayfair now has its own YouTube channel where we will post any future videos we create. You can find us as at [youtube.com/@mayfaircentre](https://youtube.com/@mayfaircentre). We have plans to film more of the activities and facilities that we have here at the Community Centre. So, at the risk of sounding like one of those annoying 'influencer' types, why not 'like and subscribe' to our channel!

### Theatre Screening – Othello

Mayfair as-live theatre screenings are bringing some of the most prestigious productions in the country to Church Stretton. Our next screening will be another exceptional National Theatre Live production:



Friday 3rd

March, 7pm –

**Othello (12A)** by William Shakespeare, directed by Clint Dyer.

An extraordinary new production of Shakespeare's most enduring tragedy, directed by Clint Dyer with a cast that includes Giles Terera (Hamilton), Rosy McEwen (The Alienist), and Paul Hilton (The Inheritance).

She's a bright, headstrong daughter of a senator; elevated by her status but stifled by its expectations. He's a refugee of slavery; having risen to the top of a white world, he finds love across racial lines has a cost. Wed in secret, Desdemona and Othello crave a new life together. But as unseen forces conspire against them, they find their future is not theirs to decide. *Othello* is filmed live on the Lyttleton Stage of the National Theatre.

**Adults £15, Under 18s £10; Bar and refreshments available to purchase.**

**Bookings and enquiries through Mayfair: 01694 722077**

If you would like to be on our mailing list for all future screenings, you can sign up here online, or by calling Mayfair reception: [www.mayfaircentre.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.mayfaircentre.org.uk/whats-on)

## Mayfair Lottery Results for December

58	81	590	215
£100	£50	£20	£10



If you have ever read William Shakespeare's *The Seven Ages of Man* you will recognise his somewhat stark conclusion – "Last scene of all, that ends this strange eventful history, Is second childishness and mere oblivion. Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything". Maybe mildly amusing but all too true for so many of us.

Growing old can often be associated with a range of such losses as health, mobility, friends, loved ones and independence. Longed-for retirement, while opening new opportunity for some, to pursue interests for which work left no time, can also bring a loss of role and focus for others. In fact, growing old can feel like a gradual fading into invisibility. And although the Strettons are unusual in many respects in terms of what they positively offer an older community, these feelings of loss of usefulness and purpose are still present for many. Having had my own challenges, with hearing loss and a cancer diagnosis (thankfully treatable), I am very much aware of entering a different phase of my life; one in which I am conscious of my own mortality. In the words of the funeral prayer "We are but dust and to dust we will return". However, we are so much more than our crumbling physical bodies. We have experience and insights, dare I say 'wisdom', and skills and energy that are so often undervalued, even by ourselves. As we grow old do we too lose confidence in our convictions and our value to the general wellbeing of our community?

It is in this context that one of the great, but lesser-known celebrations within the Anglican Church occurs at the beginning of February, the presentation of Christ in the Temple. The account, carried only in St Luke's Gospel, follows soon after the birth of Jesus and has Mary and Joseph bringing their first-born child, Jesus, to the Temple to offer thanks and praise. In that there

was nothing remarkable.

However, two older people approached Mary and Joseph separately and spoke words of praise, acknowledgement and encouragement over the child and his family. Two people, Simeon and Anna, whom God had blessed and used through long and challenging lives. Lives that had been lived faithfully before God, lives which still had a meaning and purpose, despite their frailty. And that purpose unfolded as Jesus is brought into the Temple. Simeon breaks out in joyful song, aware that God has fulfilled his promises and Anna gives thanks and encourages all who are there to recognise the Holy Child. And this is not just effusive joy at the arrival of a new baby, no this is recognition that God's purposes are caught up in the birth, life and death of this child, Simeon warning Mary of the challenge and pain this child will bring.

Simeon and Anna may be in Shakespeare's seventh age but they are good role models of faithful older people. They remind me that whatever my age or condition, I always have the potential to offer God's blessing into the lives of others. The blessing is of recognition, of gratitude, maybe of offering care and in giving this I will always be relevant and visible.

[www.annachaplaincy.org.uk](http://www.annachaplaincy.org.uk)

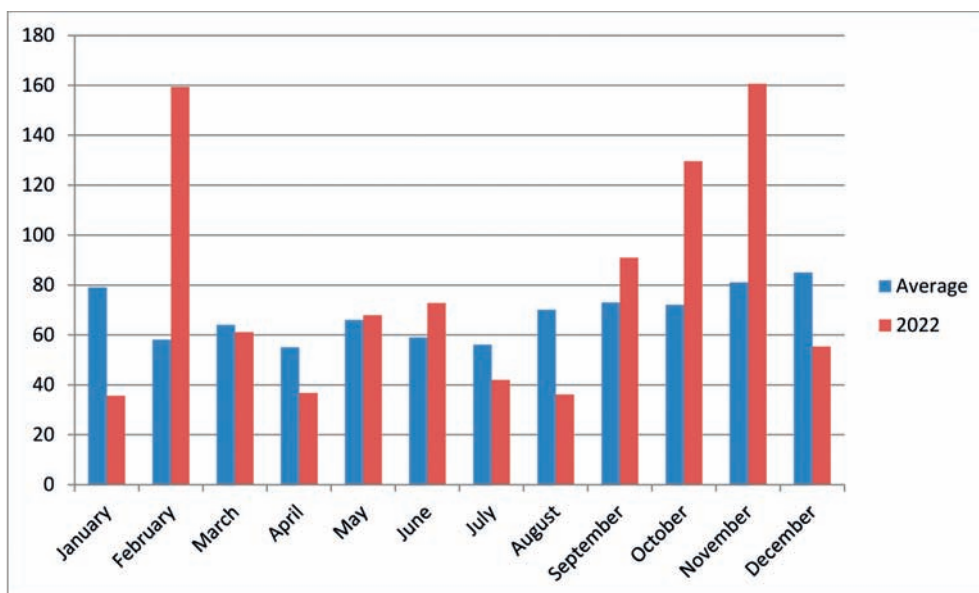
With a rapidly ageing population, older people's ministry has never been more crucial. Anna Chaplaincy for Older People helps volunteers and church workers develop their confidence, practice and impact, as part of a supportive and respected national network. Anna Chaplains are there for people of strong, little or no faith at all.

*Reverend Canon Tim Bryan*

## The Weather in 2022

Do you remember how wet it was last February? After a much drier than usual January, February lived up to its country name of 'February fill-dyke' with 159.4 mm of rain.

The chart shows the ups and downs throughout the year. April, July and August all had rainfall considerably lower than average, while May and June were only slightly wetter than would normally be expected. Rain recorded in September, October and November was much higher with October and November, in particular, being extremely wet. The year ended with rain on and off from the 18th of the month after an extremely cold and frosty earlier part of the month.



Despite the very dry periods we all remember, the overall rainfall for the year was slightly higher than average, but a bit less than 2021.

What will 2023 bring?

*Elizabeth Maddocks*





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# Church Stretton Town Council Community Matters

## 2023 Town Council Budget

At its meeting on 20th December the Town Council approved its provisional budget for the year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. The exact figures may change very slightly, not least because the main source of income – the annual precept – is calculated in February, but any differences are not expected to be material.

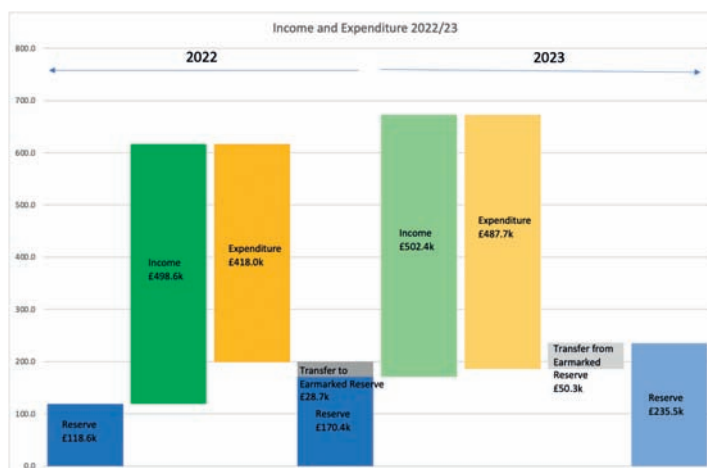
## Overview of income and expenditure

The financial objectives of the Town Council are to balance the need to deliver services whilst maintaining sufficient reserves for 'rainy days' and all the time ensuring that expenditure is effective and offers value for money. The following chart shows the income, expenditure and general reserves for 2022-23 and 2023-24. Additional reserves of £302,000 which are allocated for specific purposes are held in addition to the general reserves and called Earmarked Reserves. They include Greenhill Cemetery (£52K), Library at risk (£53k), Swimming Pool (£53k) and street lighting (£68k).

In summary, the chart shows that on 1st April 2022 the Council started the year with £118,600 of general reserves, and during the year received £489,600 in income. Expenditure during the year of £418,000, and transfers into Earmarked Reserves (EMR) of £28,700 left a total of £170,400 in general reserves.

In 2023-24 budgeted income is almost the same at £502,400 (up 0.7%) whilst expenditure is planned to increase by £84,400 (20%) to £502,400, funded in most part by transfers out of EMR of £50,300. This will leave general reserves of £235,500, an increase of £65,100, which is required because expenditure has also increased, and the rules state general reserves must be a proportion of expenditure.

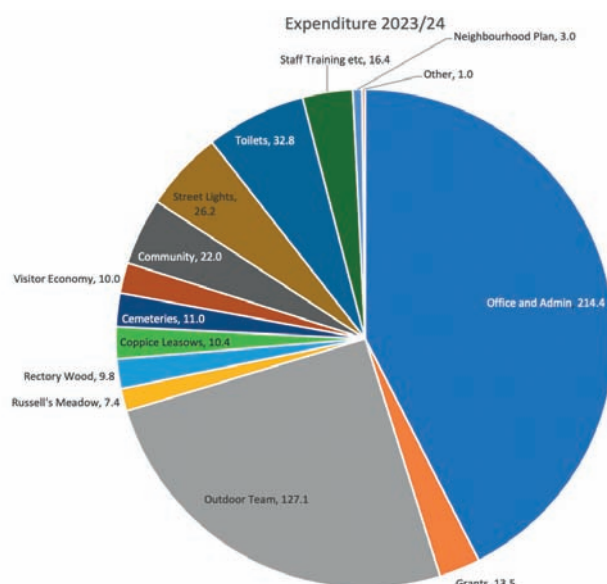
Full details of the budget are available on the Town Council website.



## Expenditure

The following chart shows the total planned expenditure for 2023-24 of £487,700 broken down into the main areas of spend. The Council owns and manages over 200 acres of parks and nature reserves, and the Office and Administration spend of £214,400 includes the administration of the parks and other land as well as supervision of the Outdoor team. If an estimate of 25% is made, the total spend on the

Council's parks and reserves £208,000 would be 43% of total spend. The monies identified in Cllr Davies' article on play equipment will be on top of this and will come from Community Infrastructure Funds held by the Council, and from the charitable funds held by the town's charities and will give an overall investment in excess of £250,000. However, this level of spend reflects the very highest priority repeatedly given by residents to maintaining the countryside. This priority may also be seen in the approach to planning, the Neighbourhood Plan and Housing Needs.



Included within the forecast precept is an increase of 1.84% which is the equivalent of 7p per week on a Band D property. The Council debated the merits of a zero increase, reflecting the needs of some residents, and also considered the need for delivering services which will focus on the least wealthy, for example the Citizens Advice programme which will start in February. Overall, it was felt that residents appreciated that services cost money, and that it was important not to fall too far behind the cost curve driven by the current levels of inflation. Another budget heading which Councillors were keen to protect was the Section 137 (the statute which enables the Council to make small grants) programme. This will again have £10,000 available in 2023-24 to help support local organisations who in turn help young people, vulnerable residents and other work in support of our community. In the current year over £9,000 has been given by the Council to such organisations.

## Citizens Advice Service for Church Stretton

The Town Council is pleased to confirm that it has agreed funding for a Citizens Advice Shropshire Service, which will be located at the Church Stretton Library. From Thursday 2nd February trained advisers will be available to give advice on issues such as benefits, debt and money, housing, work-related issues and consumer problems. Sessions will be by appointment only between 10am and 12 noon on the first and third Thursdays of the month. For further information and to book an appointment please contact Citizens Advice Shropshire on their Freephone number 0808 278 7894 (Monday-Friday 10am-4pm) Textphone 18001 0800 144 8884. More information on the work of Citizens Advice Shropshire can be found at [www.cabshropshire.org.uk](http://www.cabshropshire.org.uk).



## And finally... Rachel James

Councillors and staff past and present gathered in the Mayfair Centre on 15th December for a surprise presentation to the Town Council's Office Manager, Rachel James, who has clocked up 20 years of service to the town and to the Council. Guests were doubly entertained that Rachel had organised her own event under the guise of a Christmas lunch! Congratulations Rachel and thank you for all that you have done.

*Andy Munro*

## Churchill Road Play Area – Next Steps

### Background



This recreation field, which lies between Russell's Meadow and Churchill Road, was bequeathed to Brooksbury Recreation Ground (charity) through a deed of covenant in 1933 which states it must be used as a recreation and playground for

children and young people for the Parish of Church Stretton (including Little Stretton and All Stretton).

Almost all of the wooden adventure playground equipment can no longer be used because some of the wood has rotted and the manufacturer who provided us with replacement parts has gone out of business. The Town Council consulted with residents about replacing the play equipment at a stand at the Family Fun Day in June 2022 and through a survey which ran from early August to early October.

### Family Fun Day Stand

Eighty five children and young people were each given five stickers to put on pictures of their favourite play equipment. The most popular six pieces of equipment were swings, climbing, outdoor gym, adventure, seating and slides.

Forty two adults also completed a short questionnaire on the day. The overall feeling from those who visited the stand was that they wished the area to be a 'community space', where playing together could be embraced and people of all ages could be catered for, allowing families to enjoy time together.

Concerns were repeatedly raised on the need to exclude dogs from the play area and that the area doesn't cater for teenagers, which led to anti-social behaviour (loud music, shouting etc.).

### Survey

Almost all people responding were aged over 25 (86%) and parents or grandparents (81%). 19% of people responding live close to the recreation field and 14 people said that they are caring for a child living with a disability.

There was strong support for having adventure play equipment (83%), some inclusive play equipment (89%) and equipment made of steel (80%), which lasts much

longer than wooden equipment.

The majority (63%) wanted play equipment in natural colours (brown, grey and green) to blend with the natural landscape. Zip wire and basket swings were frequently mentioned as being popular.

There were mixed views about fencing in the play equipment with 39% wanting a smaller area fenced in, 27% wanting all the play equipment fenced in and 34% wanting no fencing at all. Some people wanted to exclude dogs from the play area but others said they wanted to bring their dog with them when they brought their children to the play area.

Most people were in favour of having play equipment for early years (83%) and ages 7 to 13 (79%) but only 34% wanted equipment for children aged 13 plus.

A significant number of people expressed concern about the anti-social behaviour of bored teenagers in the field close to the play area. This was causing disturbance for local residents and putting some families off taking their children there. Some people suggested that having an area for teenagers with a youth shelter some distance away from the play equipment would help alleviate this problem.

Almost everyone (96%) was in favour of having benches close to the play equipment. There were mixed feelings however over whether the benches should be covered (41%) or not covered (59%). Some people expressed concern that covered benches might encourage teenagers to congregate there.

More detailed analysis of the consultation can be found on the Town Council website [www.churchstretton.gov.uk/shaping-the-future/consultations/](http://www.churchstretton.gov.uk/shaping-the-future/consultations/)

### What Happens Next

We have asked three different play equipment providers to design a play area based on the findings from these consultations. We are also now separately exploring the possibility of installing a youth shelter in a spot away from the play equipment and local residences, including its likely cost.

When deciding which design to go with, the Town Council will also need to consider maintenance costs, availability of spare parts and the long-term financial prospects of the manufacturer.

We will need to raise a substantial amount of money to pay for all of this play equipment, which is expected to cost around £100,000. As well as applying for grants, we are hoping the local community will help contribute through a crowd fundraiser.

Raising this amount of money could take time and the lead time from ordering play equipment to having it installed can take months. At the Town Council meeting on 20th December 2022, councillors voted to allocate money from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) so that we can order some of the play equipment early in 2023 once the final design has been agreed. This will make sure there is some play equipment in place for the summer of 2023. The remaining play equipment will be ordered once sufficient funds have been raised.

*Councillor Sheila Davies*

# Haiti, Church Stretton and Pazapa

You may be aware from a breaking news story in December of another crisis in Haiti. It is a greatly troubled republic and possibly the poorest place on earth, with which the Strettons has a relationship through the local charity of Pazapa Church Stretton. I would like to give a more rounded picture of the people and place that is caught up in the twists and turns of European history, which includes Britain. How did Haiti, once the pearl of the Caribbean, the 'crown jewel' of the French empire and the most lucrative colony in the world, get so low? How does the world look from the other side of the planet?

How does Haiti hold up a mirror to modern society in the West?

In the midst of this present-day Haiti sits this small charity of Pazapa which in complete contrast has become a beacon of hope for so many.

The indigenous inhabitants from at least 4,000BCE were Arawakan-speaking Taino Indian peoples who called their island Ayiti. In 1492 Christopher Columbus arrived on the island and laid claim to it as a possession of the Spanish crown, calling it La Isla Espanola, later known as Hispanola. Soon after the Spanish invasion the original peoples were enslaved. The historian Alex Van Tunzelmann indicates that there are figures of the population being between 60,000 and 600,000 before the Columbian period. Almost all had died off by the end of the 17th century from disease and the brutality of slavery, and were replaced by Africans trafficked into enforced labour.

It was with the advice of the Catholic priest, Bartoleme de las Casas and with the blessing of the Catholic church that the Spanish colonists began to engage in the slave trade directly, by capturing and shipping Africans to Hispanola.

The wars of Louis XIV finally convinced the Spanish to cede the western part of the island of Hispanola to France under the treaty of Rijswijk 1697, and it was renamed Saint Domingue. This island enriched the European world. The Spanish and French became beneficiaries of the lush produce of the island, mainly from the labour of Africans forced into slavery on its plantations. The wealth of nations was made from coffee, cotton, indigo and sugar. It was the Haitian plantations through an enormous number of slaves over decades that enabled the growth of wealth in the West and the emergence of capitalism.

Between the 17th and 18th centuries St Domingue had the largest and wealthiest free population in the Caribbean, known as the *gens de couleur libres* (free people of colour). A 1788 census found that the population included 21,808 such residents, 27,717 whites and 405,464 slaves. Many of the *gens de couleur* were ex-slaves, but most were Creoles of colour, i.e. free-born blacks and mulattoes (mixed race with one European parent). In French-controlled territories a system of *placage* was legalised. This was where white men had a kind of common-law marriage with an enslaved or free mistress and provided for

them a dowry, sometimes freedom, and often education or apprenticeships for their children.

From these liaisons some Creole descendants of planters inherited considerable property. Many entrepreneurial Creoles had already accumulated substantial holdings, and were slave owners themselves. By 1789 they owned one third of the plantations and one quarter of the slaves. Central to their economy was coffee, at a time when coffee houses were increasingly popular and fashionable in European society. Creoles were often restricted to land on the hillsides, in the south west around where Port au Prince, the capital, is now. But coffee thrived there in the highest mountain range in the Caribbean. This was the last region of the colony to be settled, owing to its distance from the Atlantic trade route.

Many Creoles became established in the Americas during the 17th century as a unique ethnicity originating from the mix of French, Indian and African cultures. They held a distinct ethno-cultural identity, a shared antique language – a Creole/French. Their civilisation owed its existence to the overseas expansion of the French empire.

Property gave Creoles of colour positions in society. Although they and free slaves held considerable power, they eventually became the subject of racism and a system of segregation was introduced with policies of separation. The French Bourbon regime feared the united power of the St Dominicans and began to cut Dominican Creoles of colour out of St Domingue society, banning them from positions of public

trust and from becoming professionals. Marrying whites, wearing European clothing, carrying swords or firearms in public, or attending social functions were all forbidden.

Social class systems hardened. This led to the erosion of society values and quality of life and the plantation economy declined. The price of slaves had doubled between 1750 and 1780; land tripled in price; and sugar prices whilst still rising, did not keep pace with these other costs. Coffee profits were falling drastically causing indebtedness among planters. At the same time the slave-owning economy was being questioned in the West.

One third of the Atlantic slave trade in slaves was to Haiti (St Domingue) and the conditions were so atrociously brutal that life expectancy was no more than 21 years of age. In 1791 the first successful slave revolt in history took place which led to the revolution and eventual independence in the first black-led State. The leaders had education, organisational ability and increasingly popular support from people in western States who were seeking the abolition of slavery. It was one of the most heroic achievements of the colonial period and should have made Haiti a significant State in world affairs. Why did this Republic fail? This is for a future article.

Meanwhile, I can say that our donations to the Pazapa School and clinic are safely received there and being used effectively.



*Creole Plantation owner and his wife*



*The mixed society at the linen market*

Noel Beattie



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# The Stretton Players

Many thanks to all who supported our production of *Rumours* back in November. Your support always helps to make a play a success and we were delighted to welcome some new faces to our group and to our audience.

We are now looking forward to selecting a play to perform in May when we will stage our spring production. This will take place at the Silvester Horne Institute on 25th-27th May 2023 and we are currently considering a number of plays including titles by Agatha Christie, Noel Coward and Somerset Maugham, so watch out for further details. We are always happy to welcome new members, so if you fancy taking to the stage or are interested in any of our other activities like set building, lighting, sound production or just generally wanting to get involved, please get in touch with us via our website [strettonplayers.co.uk](http://strettonplayers.co.uk) or contact us by email [rphilpotts226@btinternet.com](mailto:rphilpotts226@btinternet.com)



## Church Stretton Library Events

**HSBC Pop-up Banking Advice Sessions**  
Thursday 2nd, 9th, 16th February 10.30-11.30am

### Together against fraud

Covering types of frauds and scams, what to look out for and how to protect yourself online and over the phone.

### Financially fitter

Covers budgeting, credit score, savings and investing.

### Banking beyond the branch

A useful session for towns where there are no banking facilities – and anyone wanting to bank in a more modern way. It covers digital banking, telephone banking and using the Post Office to bank.

### Citizens Advice

**on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month 10am-12 noon**

From Thursday 2nd February trained advisers 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 the Citizens Advice Freephone Number 0808 278 7894 (Monday-Friday 10am-4pm) Textphone 18001 0800 144 8884.

**New Exhibition from 28th February**

On Tuesday

28th February, a new exhibition 'Under Threat' will open in Church Stretton Library looking at what local nature groups are doing to **conserve threatened species and habitats in the Strettons**. The mayor, Andy Munro will open the exhibition at 6.30pm and all are warmly welcomed to attend.

The exhibition will celebrate the launch of **Nature in the Strettons**, the coming together of Stretton groups focusing on appreciating, recording and conserving the diverse species and habitats which surround us in this area of outstanding natural beauty.

Refreshments will be provided and members of the various groups will be present to chat with people about their activities and the work they are involved with. Do take advantage of this opportunity to come and find out more about what our local nature groups are doing.

**Church Stretton Library**

Phone 01694 722535

[Churchstretton.library@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Churchstretton.library@shropshire.gov.uk)



# A Quaker Voice

## No Home

Unlike all the other voices in *Focus* the Quakers (Society of Friends) alone have no home in the town; all the others have their churches, but we meet for worship every Sunday morning in a side room in the Silvester Horne Institute. So what does that mean for us, our visitors and friends?

In a way, we are at a disadvantage. We have no base we can go out from, or come back to, no special place where we can congregate or to which we can flee, no shrine or sanctuary, no consecrated ground, nowhere to call our own.

Of course there are certain definite advantages. No bricks or mortar, no dry rot, no rising damp, no lead-thefts, no quinquennial inspections, no dilapidations, no buildings insurance, no archdeacon's faculties; no worries about any of that.

And, spiritually much more important, in a real sense the heart of Christianity is not confined in or to buildings. William Cowper, though not actually a Quaker, had Quakerly insight when he wrote "Jesus, where'er your people meet There they behold your mercy seat; Where'er they seek you, you are found, And every place is hallowed ground." God, his welcome, mercy and forgiveness are clearly available and accessible equally everywhere, and certainly not limited to certain premises, or certain times or preconditions or certain people being present or certain words or ceremonies being conducted.

Furthermore, you could say that Christianity belongs in the open air, outside buildings, church or otherwise – even outside the Silvester Horne Institute! The great spiritual leaders have tended to be more at home out of doors, on the move. Jesus said of himself that, unlike even foxes and birds, "the son of man has nowhere to lay his head", and such prophets as George Fox and John Wesley in their day could have said the same. Yes, buildings have their uses but only as temporary shelters, staging posts on the journey. We can make them spacious and beautiful as befits a royal guest but remember he's just passing through and on his way – woe betide us if we try to seal the doors and hold him inside: if we do he's left and it is we who are locked in.

So, what's the alternative? Surely to keep the doors, the options, the mind and heart open. To some of us he beckons, inviting us to join him on his way. This could mean leaving behind much that has seemed previously so important and reassuring, putting our own plans and securities on hold and stepping out into what the world regards as risky and even reckless. There are people everywhere, including here in Church Stretton, who have done just that, or are doing it right now, and they have found a path open before them and what they need provided.

And are we not all called to be brave, to let go of the safe and familiar and reach out for something better? We did it when we learned to ride a bike and swim a length, so why not do the same when grown up? Let's live adventurously!

*Roger Seal*



## Nature in the Strettons Exhibition

**Under Threat – conserving threatened species and habitats in the Strettons**

**Church Stretton Library, SY6 6DO**

**Tuesday 28th February**

**Doors open 6.30pm**

**Free refreshments, everyone welcome, don't miss it!**

We are pleased to announce an exhibition highlighting threatened species and habitats in the Strettons and the monitoring and conservation efforts of local nature groups.

The exhibition will be held at Church Stretton Library on Tuesday 28th February 2023 from 6.30pm, with the official opening scheduled for 6.40pm by our Town Mayor, Andy Munro. At 7pm the new 'Nature in the Strettons' website will be 'unveiled'.

Representatives from the different nature groups of the Strettons will be attending the evening to showcase their work and provide information about their activities. It will be a great opportunity to find out about all the amazing work that happens in our local area.

The exhibition will remain in the Library for three weeks, so please come along during library opening hours if you are not able to attend the opening night.

## Trivia Corner

**by Ken Willis**

**Answers on page 34**

1. In the Alps, what is the world's oldest republic?
2. In which city was the world's first underground train service?
3. The Notre-Dame cathedral in France is an example of which style of architecture?
4. Which English King fought at the Battle of Agincourt?
5. In *The Muppet Show* what nationality was the Chef?




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# Stretton Area Community Wildlife Group

## Bird surveys

We will continue with all three of our bird surveys in 2023, on lapwing, curlew and other species, red grouse, and dippers, all jointly with the Church Stretton branch of Shropshire Ornithological Society. People who have helped previously will be asked to help again, but new helpers will be very welcome.

*Project Leader Leo Smith*

## Lapwing, Curlew and other species

The bird survey area is bounded roughly by Leebootwood, Marshbrook, Shipton and Hughley. It is divided into 32 squares, each of 2 x 2 kilometres. Participants take on one of these survey squares and visit three times, on dates to suit you, around 1st April, 1st May and 15th June. Each visit takes less than half a day. It's easy to do, and participants are provided with 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, around the end of March, if you feel you need it and want to come.

If you want to find out more about the survey, or you would like to help locate the curlews, please come to the meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 22nd March, at the Methodist Church Hall, Watling St, Church Stretton, or contact [leo@leosmith.org.uk](mailto:leo@leosmith.org.uk).

## Save our Curlews Project and Appeal

The survey directly contributes to the joint work with Shropshire Ornithological Society, 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 found between seven and eight breeding pairs of curlew in 2022. Results have been summarised in previous

issues of *Focus*. We are repeating the project in 2023 if we secure funding. 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.

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](http://www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk). We hope you will consider contributing.

## Red Grouse

The red grouse survey takes place on Long Mynd, for about 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 particular expertise. A briefing meeting for new participants will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 24th March, and again there will be a practical 'on the job' training session for those that want it.

## Dipper

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

More information on all three projects can be found on our website [www.shropscwgs.org.uk/strettons-area-wildlife-group](http://www.shropscwgs.org.uk/strettons-area-wildlife-group). Reports for 2022 will be posted on the website before the SACWG Annual Public Meeting on Wednesday 15th March 2023.

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](mailto:leo@leosmith.org.uk)).

*Dr Penny Bienz*



# Royal Society for the Protection of Birds



*Photo: Roger Littleover*

## Kestrels

If you see a small bird of prey hovering, it will probably be a kestrel. It is a falcon and 'though it has decreased in numbers, it can still be seen in the South Shropshire area. The old name for this little bird was windhover. When hovering it faces the direction of the wind. You will notice that its head barely moves, even as the rest of the bird's body is buffeted. Its prey, mostly mice and voles, are caught on the ground. The bird drops rapidly, seizing its prey in its talons.

I have seen kestrels nesting in holes in trees but nowadays there are few of these about and they will sometimes use wooden boxes installed for owls to use. Their cry, a loud "kee kee kee" will indicate the area they are using for nesting. They begin breeding quite early, so if you are seeing them quite regularly, you may be fortunate later in the year to have a family of kestrels to entertain you.

*Carol Wood*



## Talks and events

The South Shropshire Local Group of the RSPB has a programme of talks and walks throughout 2023. Talks (including refreshments) are £2 to local Group Members and £5 to visitors, under 18s half price. Walks are £2.

### Tuesday 14th February

#### Talk by Rosemary Winnal – Nature in Focus

Rosemary was for many years the Education Officer at the Wyre Forest Discovery Centre and has just published a book *The Nature of the Wyre*.

She has discovered species that have never been reported before in Worcestershire and has led plant surveys at Bishops Wood and elsewhere.

Enquiries to Carol Wood: 07807 068304

7.30pm Culmington VH, SY8 2DA

### Wednesday 8th March

#### Haughmond Hill

10.30am start; approx. 2.5 hours  
Meet at main car park Grid Ref: SJ 54547 14680.

Woodlands on the Haughmond Hill plateau.

Walk is level despite the name with only a few inclines on well-maintained paths. Mainly woodland birds and great views over the Shropshire countryside.

Café and toilets in the car park.

Parking £2 for anything over 2 hours.

Walk Leader: Geoff Hall 07813 570217

For further information visit our website [www.group.rspb.org.uk/southshropshire](http://www.group.rspb.org.uk/southshropshire) or Facebook RSPB South Shropshire Local Group.



## Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project

Monday 6th February 2023 at 7.30pm  
Mayfair Community Centre

Come and hear from Janet Cobb how roadside verges have huge potential to provide important areas of wildflower meadows and, crucially, to act as corridors which link together remaining fragments of meadow and other habitats. Local volunteers, including in All Stretton and Bushmoor, are 'adopting' verges and over 10km of verge have already been surveyed and their condition assessed. RSPB is also working with Shropshire Council to discuss a sustainable and economically viable policy for verge management. A pilot project has been developed to see if cuttings from the verges can be used in a local bio-digester. Cutting verges (at the right time of year) and collecting the clippings is essential for their management as wildflower meadows.

All are welcome – Member £3, Non-members £4. No need to book beforehand but for more information call Janet Martin (01694 722361).

*Janet Martin*



**Shropshire  
Wildlife Trust**

*Strettons Branch*



## Shropshire Ornithological Society

The Church Stretton branch of Shropshire Ornithological Society presents

**Twenty Years of the Shropshire Barn Owl Group – our Achievement**  
by John Lightfoot

Monday 27th February, at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall.

Refreshments will be served.

Members admission is free, non-members £3. All welcome.



# Butterflies in Batch Valley

**I**t was a cold windy day when I first visited Batch Valley. This is an area that has been surveyed for butterflies for many years, though I was finding it difficult to see much wildlife of any sort on this blustery afternoon. I was in danger of being blown over by the storm roaring up to the hill tops, in the hollows rain was pouring down in rivulets. Claggy and squishy, the path needed concentration to descend without slipping.

Mike Williams had asked if I would consider surveying the area. It had been decided to publish a trail leaflet and guide to encourage walkers and butterfly enthusiasts. The work of Heather Hathaway, who lived in the valley for many years was to be remembered. She had regularly surveyed the trail. Diligence and keen observational skills helped her find many of the rarer butterflies hidden in these hollows. Today there were just a few stonechats and meadow pipits seeking shelter amongst the bracken. There are good tea shops in Stretton and they are very inviting. This was not the time for butterflies.

Graylings are uncommon. They require well drained areas

and are largely a coastal species. There are a few inland, isolated colonies, some of which are in the bare and grassy habitats of South Shropshire. Heather recorded them in Batch Valley.



The cleverly camouflaged caterpillars feed on a variety of fescues and bents. Winter is spent in hibernation, snuggled into grassy tussocks. They re-appear and commence feeding again in spring. In June they line a tiny cavity and pupate just below the surface. During July and August, they emerge, a sun-loving butterfly.

Graylings rest with closed wings, they regulate their temperature by angling them towards the sun. Though largely mottled brown the yellow/orange bands on the upper wings are visible when startled into a short, gliding flight.

As they settle onto bare, stony ground their cryptic colouring will make it difficult to see them.

Bracken is encroaching onto the hillsides and the survival of these butterflies needs careful habitat management. Bracken raking days were organised in January to help with this.

*Carol Wood*

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## Ancient Woodland Restoration in the Shropshire Hills

**A**ncient woods are some of our most valuable habitats. Centuries of undisturbed soils and accumulated decaying wood have created the perfect place for communities of plants, fungi, insects and other micro-organisms. Birds and mammals, including vulnerable and threatened species, also rely on ancient woodlands.

Around 5% of the Shropshire Hills AONB is classed as ancient woodland, but two thirds of this is Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS). These are ancient woodlands which have been largely felled and replanted with non-native species. Although damaged, these sites still have the complex soil of ancient woodland and can be restored with careful management.

PAWS woodlands in the Shropshire Hills are mostly conifer trees which are now mature. These may have value when extracted, while also restoring the woodland to a more natural state. In partnership with the Woodland Trust, we have secured funding from the Forestry Commission to work with woodland owners to actively restore PAWS and



ancient semi-natural woodlands in the AONB.

The Ancient Woodland Restoration Project will identify priority and at risk woodlands in the Shropshire Hills and engage with their owners, offering advice and condition assessments, fund practical management and support woodland products or timber marketing/sales.

The project is intended to be at no cost to woodland owners and easy to access with minimal paperwork.

If you own woodland in the Shropshire Hills, you can check whether it is classed as ancient or PAWS by looking on the online Ancient Woodland Inventory. There is a link to it, along with more information about the project on our website ([shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk](http://shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk)).

To register your interest in the project as a woodland owner, please email our Natural Environment Officers [mike.kelly@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:mike.kelly@shropshire.gov.uk), or [Rachel.glover@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Rachel.glover@shropshire.gov.uk).

*Stephanie Hayes*



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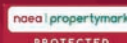
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# Aprons: A Whimsical Reflection

Last week I said goodbye to my favourite apron. The straps had been repaired beyond sensible, the slogan on the front was faded ('I love cooking with wine, I sometimes put it in the food' – make of that what you will!) and the cotton fabric was no protection at all. The sad parting sparked my curiosity about the history of this most humble of garments.



There are many different kinds of apron, but they're all designed for one purpose – to protect the wearer's clothing. 'Apron' is a strange word, when you think of it, but like so many English words this one began life in mediaeval France. *Naperon* means small tablecloth. That makes a lot of sense when we remember that waiting staff in a traditional French restaurant are often seen wearing what looks exactly like a tablecloth around their middles – no straps, just tied with tails made from the corners. *Napery*, meaning table napkin, comes from the same root word. Since *naperon* is easily mispronounced and misheard, its pronunciation eventually became 'an apron' in the 17thC.

As time progressed, the apron became an indispensable part of many uniforms as well as a domestic essential. Their use spread to servants, artists, care workers, medics as well as in kitchens and dining rooms. For many purposes lighter fabrics including cotton and linen were used, and still are, in the apron's manufacture, but for heavy-duty trades such as metal workers, butchers, and traditional craft workers of wood and stone, leather or even rubber has long been the preferred option. Mostly mass-produced, some of these heavy-weights of the apron world are still handmade to

order, nowadays generally for special purposes whether for practical use or for show.

Aprons have also been used as fashion statements and symbols of power – think Egyptian pharaohs and their statues of gods and goddesses. Depictions of the Egyptian apron appear on wall painting, statues and as burial clothing. Don't mistake the sporran for a stylised apron, though – you'll upset a lot of Scots, Irish and many other nationals. The sporran is a traditional part of male Scottish Highland dress and is a pouch that performs the same function as a pocket for the pocketless kilt. I wonder what ... ? Perhaps we won't go there!

Bib, waist, cross back, pinafore, tabard and bungalow apron are some of the most popular past and present styles. Not knowing what a 'bungalow' apron is or was, I delved into the world of research. These garments were most commonly made in a one-piece kimono or wrap-around style. They were popular in the first half of the 20th century (roughly 1910 into the 1940s), and were sometimes worn in place of a dress during housework.

The apron became an emblem of the American domestic goddess during the years of WWII. Several patriotic poster designs featured an idealised woman, left at home for the duration and always smiling, carrying on the American way of family life. It was used as the symbol of family ideals; something for servicemen to fight for and dream of returning to.

During the 1960s the image of an ideal household with the woman-wearing-apron icon, at home in the kitchen or wielding a vacuum cleaner and feather duster in the sitting room, became more and more unpopular, and the apron began to fall out of favour for its domestic symbolism. Even many schools moved to more theory-based learning of cooking and homemaking skills, abandoning practical skills.

Quietly and almost unnoticed, however, the apron remained a staple in the workplace. Chefs, butchers and fishmongers, metal and wood-workers, barbers, carers and waitresses continued to use them as easier accessories than coats or smocks.

The Covid pandemic has had a significant impact on every-day apron usage. Sadly, the use of single-use plastic aprons increased exponentially. On the domestic front, however, interest in craft and cooking skills from people restricted to their homes blossomed. Making a simple waist-tie apron is a good introduction to using a sewing machine and, once made, the apron can be used when learning how to cook, or cook better. Aprons became useful and fashionable again. Online craft sites now design and sell aprons styled for contemporary times, and retro-fashion has made vintage apron styles popular again. So, don your aprons with pride, everyone, you're on-trend.

*Christine Williams*  
*Focus Journalist*  
*Photos: Shutterstock*



# Cryptic Crossword by Stan Yelds

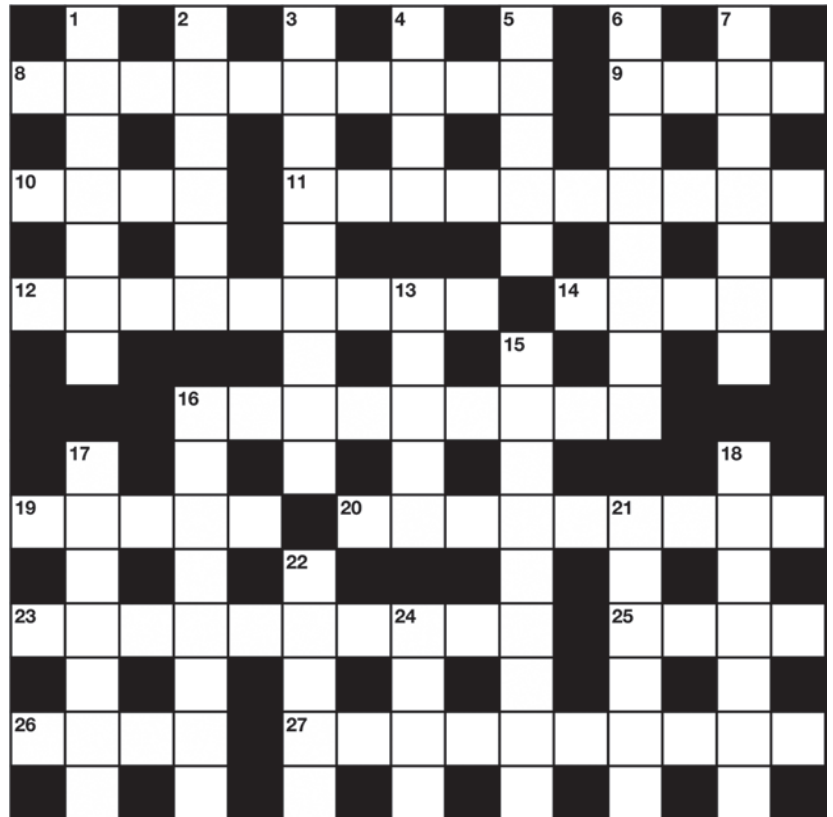
We're off to 16a, with 15 items on our list.

## Across

8. Share a large venue (10)
9. Fix extremities of global underprivilege (4)
10. Noticed Spanish article in English newspaper (4)
11. Di not a substitute for partner in break-up (10)
12. Want to get over any team so disorganised (4,2,3)
14. Good time for old comic (5)
16. Junk food retailer in Stretton (9)
19. First anniversary of primate being found in Puerto Rico (5)
20. Change requirement for reduced value provided by half (9)
23. Religious leader has GM fruit and nuts (5,5)
25. Tie material? (4)
26. Finishes cake and cold desserts (4)
27. Give or supply silently at first, ie tacitly (10)

## Down

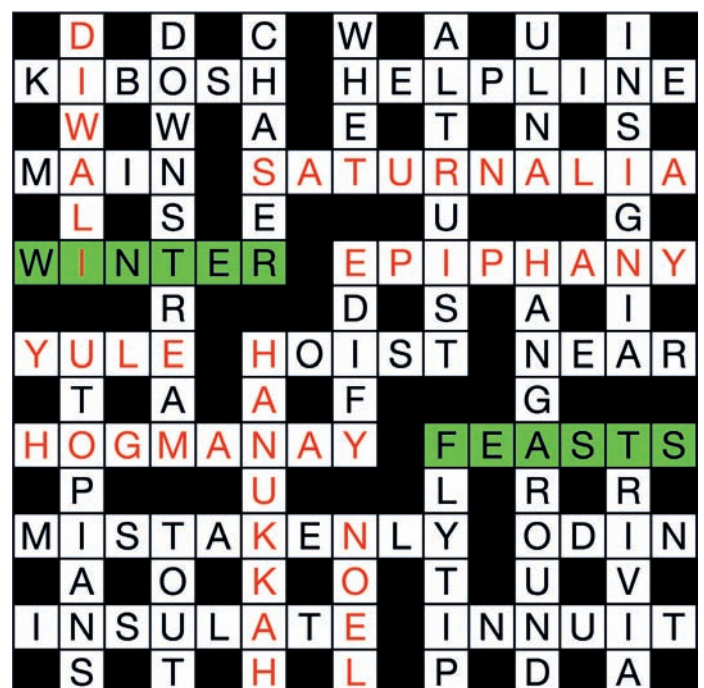
1. Overcharges for outdoor clothing (7)
2. Could be Egyptian capitalist originally associated with excessive working (6)
3. Spooner's poet with no heart lacks substance (9)
4. Flies – quickly and in trousers (4)
5. Where to find new deliveries – in a shrub (5)
6. Guy's buried in headless insects; this doesn't look pretty (8)
7. A pantomime character, yet a heavyweight (7)
13. Beer bottles – politician gets plenty (5)
15. Lubrication with beers outside; a necessity for some artists (3,6)
16. Small vessel leads Tyneside ship to seaside town (8)
17. Groovy surveyors and stuff (7)
18. Rotten meat and left-overs from the sewers (3-4)
21. Material concealed by cynical iconoclast (6)
22. Pigment found in river once source is lost (5)
24. Lather formed when "Fame" cut receives Oscar (4)



## Trivia Answers

1. San Marino
2. London
3. Gothic
4. Henry V
5. Swedish

## January's Solution





# Methodist Voice

It's easy to undervalue the effect our unpremeditated words or actions can have on people.

I remember meeting a friend who had a real shiner of a black eye. Apparently I said "Ooh that looks painful". I say 'apparently' because I had forgotten the incident until some years later when Christine reminded me and told me how she had appreciated my lack of questioning. Most people had reacted to the black eye by asking how it happened, or how the other person had fared, as though it were a joke. I knew that Christine had a daughter with a serious mental disorder but had not realised just how violent she could be. Christine was too embarrassed to explain that to her questioners.

For Christmas some years ago my husband was given a rather elegant diary, hard backed with silver-edged pages. The next year for 365 days he wrote a daily journal. When he was alive I never peeped between the covers, but after his death I formed the habit of reading a page each day. It came as a shock to me that we had both been so busy in our seventies. The other surprise was how often the day's activities were set against a background of community, national or international affairs. Reading his diary has been a therapeutic experience and helped me to adjust to his absence. He could have had no idea how helpful his writing

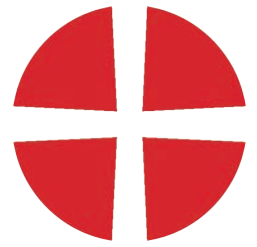
would be, just as I did not know how my words would help Christine.

This subconscious part of us needs to be nurtured. Christians do this by turning to the God shown to us in Jesus Christ. We may do that in different ways. My method is to set aside a short time each day to be still, quietly seeking God's blessing. Often nothing seems to happen, but later in the day I may find a solution to a problem that had been bugging me and I take that as the answer to my seeking.

I am writing this on Sunday 1st January. Today's morning worship took the form of the annual Covenant Service. This is the day when Methodists make or renew their pledge to live as disciples of Jesus Christ and claim the grace that is promised which enables them to keep their vow. (For more about the Covenant Service see the Methodist Voice in last month's *Stretton Focus*, page 33.) What we do deliberately in a covenant context determines how we react in unpremeditated circumstances.

It has been said that the influence of a person whose heart God has touched is like a breath of fresh air in a hot room. Surely we would all like to be a breath of fresh air for someone who is over-heating.

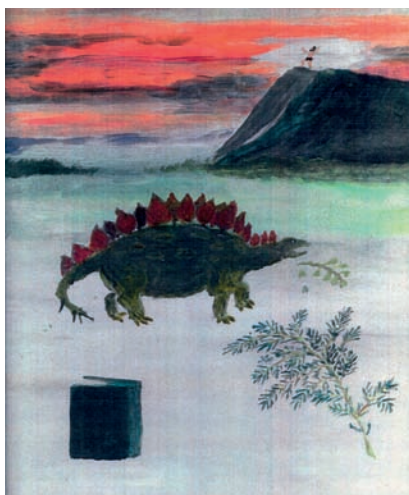
*Ruth Davies*



## Inspired by Darwin

**Art Exhibition, 10th February-27th March 2023**

This exhibition features original paintings, photographs, poems, and explanatory text on Charles Darwin's ground-breaking and world-famous idea, evolution, and how it came about. Darwin was a Shropshire man, born in Shrewsbury in 1809. The artist, Thelma Thompson, worked as a solicitor before becoming a writer and sheep farmer in South Shropshire. It is hoped the exhibition will inspire others to consider the life and work of Darwin, the natural world, conservation, and the role of art in society.



*Survivors?*



The Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre is operated by Grow Cook Learn, a registered charity connecting people to the food, history and landscape of the Shropshire Hills, providing opportunities to local people and visitors to learn and discover.

The Discovery Centre, School Road, Craven Arms, is open seven days a week 10am-5pm. Tel: 01588 676060 [www.shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk](http://www.shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk)

## Thank You

### **Leasowes Fields**

We wish to thank Sandra and Peter Whitlock for their tireless effort to save the three fields adjacent to Coppice Leasowes Nature Reserve. To secure the necessary funding in such a short time and to make a successful bid is a great achievement on their part. Church Stretton is very fortunate to have such dedicated people. We wish them every success in the future.

*Peter and Harriet Wilkins*

## Carols In The Square Was Back

This year after a two year gap we came back bigger and better than ever. Three to four hundred people piled into the Square at 6pm on Christmas Eve, the weather was fine, the atmosphere fantastic, the singing was better than ever and the mulled wine flowed!

Rotarian David Crowhurst was MC again and did a sterling job compering the night with the usual mix of favourite carols including the children coming out to the front to sing *Rudolph*, *Little Donkey* and *Away in a Manger*.

Thanks must also go to the Methodist Minister George Heinz for blessing the proceedings, the Accordion Band led by Ed Moseley, Steve Aze doing the sound and lighting and Sherrie from the Kings Arms providing the mulled wine.

This year we were raising money for Tracey our Church Stretton First Responder who also said a few words – she is more essential than ever to the Strettons with ambulance times being so erratic. She even went into action at the end of the event when someone collapsed. She desperately needs a new vehicle which she has to fund herself without any help from the NHS.

On the night we raised just under £1,000 which will go towards another car and we at Rotary are doing whatever we can to help her achieve this before the old one is taken off the road. Anyone else who wants to contribute can contact Tracey on 07956 428623, [tracey.prosser@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tracey.prosser@hotmail.co.uk) or on her Facebook page. You can also contact Rotary via our Secretary [patstokessmith@hotmail.com](mailto:patstokessmith@hotmail.com).

So everyone had a good time and raised money for an essential cause. I think that can be considered a great success and we look forward to doing it all again next year.

*Julian Hargreaves, Rotary Community Team*

## Church Stretton Rotary Welcomes Another New Member He's here, there and everywhere!

His name is David Bennett and he decided he wanted to have an active involvement with charitable organisations that supported the community. He joined Mayfair's team of volunteers about three years ago and will be seen in either of the reception areas of the two buildings most days of the week. He quickly got to know a huge number of people and is always keen to be of help.

He continued all his duties throughout the pandemic and refused to let down the users of Mayfair despite the risks. Having learnt a great deal about the community and its needs he decided he wanted to give back more support to the wider community who had helped him through some challenging times.

He has taken on other voluntary roles in the community including development of Mayfair's Youth Club, Mayfair's book sales, and a small role supporting Shrewsbury Youth Service.



In conversation with Rotarian Derek Smith he said, "I have become a very active member of the wider community with help and support from Church Stretton Rotary as my confidence has grown. I have gained a lot from my membership of Rotary, and I believe what you put in you get out by being a member, the more I do the more I get out".

For any further information please contact Derek Smith, Publicity and Membership Officer:

Phone 01694 7231189 – mobile 07817 471414  
email [dereksmith42@hotmail.com](mailto:dereksmith42@hotmail.com)

## Race Night on St Patrick's Day – A date for the diary

Church Stretton Rotary Club will be organising a special Race Night in the evening of St Patrick's Day (17th March) at the Silvester Horne Institute.

The event will consist of a series of horse races. Sponsorship for naming the individual races and naming individual horses within races will be available, so that local businesses or individuals can have their own race or horse. Bets can be placed on each horse to win the races and the entrance fee will include food. There will also be a bar for beer and soft drinks.

When previously organised, before the intervention of Covid restrictions, the event was very popular and a great deal of fun was had by all.

The event is to raise funds for Self Help Africa, a Shrewsbury-based international charity that promotes and implements long-term rural development projects in Africa. ([selfhelpafrica.org/uk/](http://selfhelpafrica.org/uk/)).

Please look out for posters for more detailed information nearer to the time of the event.

*Don Lovejoy*



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# Thoughts in January – Why waste a Month?

I began writing this on New Year's Day, so I don't know what will be made of those special efforts and resolutions that we are encouraged to make in January. I'm not always convinced. There's Dry January, as we work off the effects of all that we drank over Christmas and the New Year. Then the drinks trade remind us how strapped our pubs are after lockdown, and suggest that we try to get out more, despite the cost of living. One will help our livers, the other will help our minds as friendship is maintained.

And then there's Veganuary. Try avoiding meat and other animal products for a month, and maybe it'll catch on. If we all did it, it would be good for our health. (Processed meat is linked to some cancers. Maybe we should cut back.) It would be good for the planet too. A third of our greenhouse gas (GHG) worldwide comes from agriculture, so they say, and half of that from livestock. I'm not sure whether it would be good for the animals. Why keep farm livestock if not for food? I'm not sure that it would be good for our local farms either. We are either too wet or too rocky or too steep for ploughing, and that releases GHGs too. Trees, then? That'll give us a hundred years' breathing space, before they too fall and break back down into GHGs. I could go on. It's a complicated matter, with a welter of statistics (and they conflict: the UK Government suggests that only one tenth of our GHGs

come from agriculture, which is still challenging, but not so bad).

But what our Climate Change Committee also suggested in a 2018 report is that about one seventh of our food is wasted, either before it leaves the farm, or from farm to table. That too breaks down into GHGs, either in landfill or other disposal (if that is what worries us, as it should). That perhaps is the most shocking statistic. Food production of any sort does come at a cost in emissions, and to reduce that, as farming science and practice are trying to do, is worthwhile, but to waste so much of that effort is crass. To reduce that waste is something for us all to think about as processors or consumers – out of respect for producers and for the planet from which we shall be demanding more and more to feed a growing population.

So what? Perhaps some new slogans and campaigns may help to remind us after all of the need, and our resolutions, to match Dry January. 'No-Waste-November' has a ring about it, but why wait 'til then? And how? Smaller plates? 'Spare' food to the food-bank as the use-by date draws near? Left-overs into soup, or frozen for a later day?

You name it... For many people this will be second nature, but for all of us, yes, a No-Waste Month (or year!) would be no bad thing, for us, our pockets and our planet.

*Greg Forster*

---

## URC Voice

### *Buen Camino, Buen Camino*

This greeting was repeated endlessly on the Camino de Santiago from one pilgrim to another.

My wife and I had meant to do the pilgrimage for many years and finally we were about to do it in October 2022.

Thirteen of us set out from Leon in northern Spain on our adventure. They were a very varied group including two from Canada and one from Australia. They did many different jobs: three were teachers, two were bankers in London, three were retired (including us). Apart from each other all were strangers.

I was very interested in people's motivations for going on the journey. How many were in search of a spiritual experience? To what extent was it a religious experience? One of the party was a Hindu. She told me that her mother expected her to have something like a spiritual enlightenment, but she rather doubted it! In addition to the group, I met many people en route to Santiago: two people on the pilgrimage had been walking all summer, one man carried his wife's ashes to be scattered at the Iron Cross on the route. Many had been walking for months.

We were on a 'walking for softies' trip where we were picked up by mini-bus at the end of the day and taken to

our accommodation which varied from simple to superb! (It wasn't that soft, we walked about 20 miles on most days.)

The Camino follows in the footsteps of St James, Jesus's beloved apostle, whose remains are at Santiago where a huge cathedral was built.

Beyond Santiago the land stretches about 50 miles to Finisterre, the end of the earth. In mediaeval times the pilgrims saw the earth disappearing into the sea and then presumably ending completely. Theologians have argued that this is the reason for a belief in God. Thomas Aquinas talked of the "unchanged changer". Nothing can go on for ever. At some stage you have to have an "unchanged changer", a God.

The universe we are told is expanding. Into what?

I am quite convinced that these problems are insolvable. In the meantime I am quite happy to attend the URC church and from time to time to go on a pilgrimage, especially with a fine group of people such as went to Santiago.

*Michael Holden*





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# Recipe of the month

## Smoked haddock and spinach bake

Writing this on a cold January afternoon I'm conflicted between a good hearty comforting veg and pulse recipe to gladden and warm the heart or the lighter fish recipe which I'd planned to share. The fish has won on this occasion and so I sincerely hope that February brings some mild weather to suit, otherwise I suggest ramping this up with some flavoursome grains or perhaps jacket potatoes to serve (depending on your topping – see below).

This is essentially a fish pie type mixture but, mindful of the weather permutations in early spring I've added in some lovely white beans to complement it and bring that comfort element and there are a variety of topping options to suit your mood.

Any bake of this nature is a great way to make your main protein go further than by serving it straight, thus potentially saving on pennies.

### Serves 4

#### Ingredients

Smoked haddock fillets – about 300g depending on the appetites of your audience.

Handful of black peppercorns

2 bay leaves

Pinch ground mace – optional but brings out the flavour

400ml milk

30g butter

40g flour

Seasoning

200g young fresh spinach leaves

1 400g tin cannellini beans

Handful of spring onions chopped – optional

Handful of grated cheese of your choice – optional

2 eggs hard boiled & roughly chopped

Freshly grated parmesan cheese

#### Topping options

Mashed potato dotted with butter

Sliced potato (parboiled whole with skins for 5 mins then sliced) with grated cheese and smoked paprika

Puff pastry brushed with beaten egg

Scrunchd filo pastry brushed with melted butter

Savoury crumble mix

Tortillas with chillies and grated cheese

#### Method

##### Preheat oven to 180C, 160 fan, gas 5

Place the fish in a large frying pan with the milk, peppercorns, bay leaves and mace. Bring to the boil then turn off the heat but leave covered for 5 minutes. Strain liquid into a jug and reserve. Set the fish aside.

Make a roux by heating the butter in a pan, stirring in the flour and mixing to form a paste then gradually whisk in the poaching milk to give a smooth thickish sauce – you may need to adjust the quantity of milk. Season to taste.

Add the spinach and stir to wilt for a couple of minutes then add in the tinned beans and spring onions if using and



your chosen grated cheese. This does work very well with just the white sauce and no cheese if preferred. Mix well.

Add in the flaked fish and chopped egg then turn very gently to coat.

Pour into an oven-proof dish. This is now ready to be cooked through ahead of serving with your veg of choice but you can of course add a topping at this stage.

If you're leaving it as is then a sprinkling of parmesan and paprika could be added then bake for 30-40 minutes until bubbling and golden.

Otherwise, add your chosen topping, sealing the edges well then bake as above ensuring all is cooked through and piping hot before serving.

Variations could swap in some salmon, include a handful of prawns or some chopped button mushrooms, some frozen peas and/or sweetcorn etc.

*Heidi*

## World Day of Prayer



Every year, in over 120 countries around the world, on the first Friday in March, a special Christian service is held. These ecumenical services are written by women from a different country each year. The 2023 service has been written by the women of Taiwan, an island rich in natural resources and culturally diverse. In this service the women share their hope for the future as well as sharing issues they face socially, politically and geographically.

There is a small local committee who organize the services in Church Stretton and, after a two year gap (due to the Covid epidemic), there will be a service in the Methodist Church Hall at 10.30am on Friday 3rd March. All are welcome, not just women! It can be interesting to find out how those in other countries live and the challenges they face and moving to think of the same service being used not just in our country but across the world.

*Ann Cook*

# Coronations Past

With the forthcoming Coronation of King Charles III in May it would be interesting to compare any local programme of events celebrating that occasion with the festivities which marked the Coronations of two past monarchs, viz. George V and George VI, as given in the official programmes.

## George V – Thursday 22nd June 1911

On the first page of the programme for the Coronation of George V and Queen Mary it is stated that the day's events were organised by the Church Stretton Urban District Council and the All Stretton Parish Council for the residents of those two communities.

This page contains portraits of the King and Queen and records that "A Telegram, expressing the loyalty of the inhabitants, will be despatched to Their Majesties at 8.30am". Also that "By kind permission of Col. Lord Kenyon KCVO, the Shropshire Yeomanry Band will head the Processions and play at intervals throughout the day".

Page two contains two lists – one of the General Committee, a rather large body of nearly 80 members including many of the local notables, and another of a much smaller Executive Committee, of 15 members. Both were chaired by a Mr B Blower.

The day's events began at 8am with a service of Holy Communion at the Parish Church followed at 10am with services at both the Parish and the "Primitive Methodist" Churches.

These were followed by the first of two tree planting ceremonies – an oak in the name of the King at 11.15 near the fountain, planted by a Mrs Robinson, then at 11.30 a procession made its way to All Stretton where at 12.30 another oak was planted by Mrs Hanbury-Sparrow, this one in the name of the Queen.

The order and route of the procession were carefully set out. Prizes ranging from 10/- to 2/6d were awarded for some participating categories such as the best decorated ladies' (or men's) cycles, whilst prams or go-carts could win 7/6d or 2/6d.

The first part of the afternoon was taken up with the sports programme on the cricket field. Entrants had to live in either Church Stretton or All Stretton. There were races for children up to 7, up to 12 and up to 16 and a number of races for adults, including one of 100 yards for "Veterans". These were defined as "over 50 years of age" with one yard start allowed for every year over 50!

Church Stretton U.D. and All Stretton Parish.

# OFFICIAL PROGRAMME.

Coronation Festivities. *Fred Edward Bagbats*

**"GOD SAVE THE KING AND QUEEN."**



**A Telegram, expressing the loyalty of the inhabitants, will be despatched to Their Majesties at 8-30 a.m.**

**By kind permission of COL. LORD KENYON, K.C.V.O., THE SHROPSHIRE YEOMANRY BAND will head the Processions and play at intervals throughout the day.**

**All persons resident . . . . or employed in Church Stretton, All Stretton & Lower Wood are cordially invited to join in the celebration.**

**"LONG LIVE THE KING AND QUEEN."**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 22nd, 1911.**

George Dean, Printer, Church Stretton

**The National Anthem.**

God save our gracious King!  
Long live our noble King!  
God save the King!  
Send him victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
Long to reign over us,  
God save the King!

O Lord our God arise,  
Scatter his enemies,  
And make them fall.  
Confound their politics,  
Frustrate their knavish tricks,  
On thee our hopes we fix,  
God save us all.

Thy choicest gifts in store  
On him be pleased to pour:  
Long may he reign!  
May he defend our laws,  
And ever give us cause  
To sing with heart and voice,  
God save the King!

4pm was tea time. The organising committee numbered 26 ladies and 9 men. Mr Blower was again the Chairman. The children were served first at 4pm. Each resident child under 14 was given a mug (presumably a coronation mug).

The tea for adults followed. Hopefully this would be on the sports field but there is a note that "If wet, tea will be served in the Barn Theatre".

The band played two sessions during the afternoon, from 3-4.30 and 5.30-6.30. The programme of music is listed. It then played at Longhills from 7 to 8.30 (again the selection is set out) before leaving for the top of Clive Avenue. From here it led a torchlight procession to the top of Caradoc where the day's finale was a bonfire and rockets, beginning at 9.55. The day's proceedings were brought to a patriotic conclusion with the playing of the National Anthem at 11pm.



### George VI – Wednesday 12th May 1937

The programme of the local celebrations (organised by the Church Stretton UDC) cost one penny. As in 1911 the day started with a religious service, at the Parish Church at 9.30.

Nothing is then listed until 1.45 when there was a procession of the carnival classes (which are not listed) through the town centre from the fountain to Russell's Meadow.

Judging of the various classes at 2.15 was followed by a sports event with 19 races (some not very serious, e.g. three legged, egg and spoon and sack races) and two tug-of-war contests, one for boys and one for men. There was at some point a six-a-side football contest (10 minutes each way) and a jazz band display.

A tea for children was held in the Parish Hall at 4pm at which coronation mugs were given out. This was followed by "Professors Clarke and Stubbs, Magicians, etc." presumably to entertain the children. Free refreshments for adults with tickets were provided in Russell's Meadow between 3 and 7pm.

There were two events for adults at 8.15 – a whist drive of 20 tables of 20 hands in the Town Hall was free but there were no advance tickets: "those sitting down first, play". The MC was a Mr L E Aubrey.

The other event was a concert in the Silvester Horne Institute "kindly arranged by F E Burden, Esq.". The programme included *The King Shall Rejoice* by Handel and *The Banner of St George* by Elgar. There is no mention of any admission charge.

The final event of the day was a dance in the Parish Hall from 10pm until 2am. The MCs were Messrs R Wildblood and C J Taylor. The music was provided by the "S.O.S. Dance Band". Again admission was free.

The programme notes also that "Mr T Black has kindly arranged that the Broadcast *The Empire's Homage* will be relayed from 7.10pm in the Town Hall and Silvester Horne Institute".



### Elizabeth II – Tuesday 2nd June 1953

I do not have any information about any events held locally to celebrate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. If anyone has any information, memories, or relevant documents that I might copy, I would be pleased to hear from them. Please call me on 01694 723292.

Tony Crowe

## Church Stretton Local History Group

### 2pm Monday 20th February at the URC Hall

The subject of our February talk is **The Lost Regency Summerhouse Site of Attingham Park** by archaeologist Nigel Baker.

In 2018, while evaluating the course of new roads near the walled garden at Attingham Park, archaeologists found a five-metre square brick building with stone cladding, marble fragments and painted glass in the demolition debris. It was an unknown summerhouse built for the second Lord Berwick c.1813-14 in the Attingham late Georgian Neoclassical style. Four years later it has been revealed as the principal building of a walled enclosure which also contained an oval pool, probably a plunge pool, and a second stone-clad building interpreted as a dedicated service range, all built at the same time and all lost to view since the early/mid-19th century.

Since then, evidence of further building on the site has been uncovered, resulting in increased speculation on the function of the structures, including the theory that they formed a 'love nest' for the spendthrift second Lord Berwick.



Visitors are welcome to attend this talk for £4. Recent talks have been very popular so please arrive in good time for our 2pm start.

Madeline Haigh

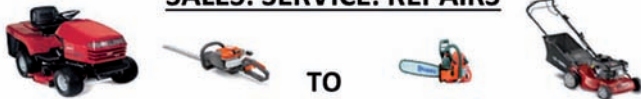
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# Churches in the Strettons



**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](http://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](http://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](mailto:office@strettonparish.org.uk)



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

Website: [www.churchstretton-methodistchurch.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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
Alzheimers 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	stretlang@gmail.com
Archers: Bowmen of Caradoc	Ros Healy		Roshealy1@gmail.com
Archers, Long Mynd	Sue Williamson	722767	sue@chelmickforge.co.uk
Army Cadet Force	Lt Wheelden	01743 231779	info.shropshireac@rfca.org.uk
ArtsAlive (Church Stretton)	Michael Walker	720132	fontenay1@btinternet.com
Arts Festival, Church Stretton & South Shropshire		07763 985707	info@strettonfestival.org.uk
Badminton Club (Monday 8-10pm)	James Kirkwood	07979 474326	home@jameskirkwood.co.uk
Badminton Club (Junior and Adult, Wednesday)	Alan Fox	725588	alandavidfox@live.co.uk
Beacon (Activities and Care at Mayfair)	Joy King	722077	(Mayfair) www.mayfaircentre.org.uk
Books (Mayfair/Health & Wellbeing Centre)	Sue Hird	724235	smhird@btinternet.com
Bowling Club, Church Stretton Probus	Glyn Morgan	722388	crocus2@tiscali.co.uk
Bowling Club, Indoor	Alan Mileson	723999	amileson@lineone.net
Bowling Club, Ladies'	Lucy Taylor	720115	
Breathing Space (Singing for health and wellbeing)	Kate Buttolph	720358	kate@playonperformingarts.co.uk
Bridge Club (Thursday 1-5pm, All Stretton Vlge Hall)	Maxine Lainchbury	07971 191664	www.bridgewebs.com/churchstretton
Bridleways Association, Long Mynd and District	Lynn Townsend	722667	
Brownies, Church Stretton	Judy Russell	724056	davejudy1@googlemail.com
Busy Bees Preschool	Church Stretton School	722209	
Camera Club, Long Mynd	Amanda Page		secretary@longmyndcameraclub.co.uk
Cancer Research UK	Sue Toghill	722713	susantoghill@outlook.com
Cancer Support Group, Stretton	Lesley McIntyre	723427	
Chamber of Trade, Church Stretton	Stuart Wright	722237	
Chess Club, Church Stretton	Tom Williamson	722767	tswilliamson337@gmail.com
Choral Society, Stretton	Ru Trew	724297	strettonchoral@gmail.com; www.strettonchoral.org.uk
Churches Together	Lesley Richards	722068	
Church Stretton School Theatre	Alan Fox	725588	or 07977 060303; alandavidfox@live.co.uk
Citizens Advice Bureau	c/o Mayfair	722077	(Mayfair) [Thursdays] www.mayfaircentre.org.uk
Civic Society, The Strettons	Charles Simmonds	724117	candp.simmonds@googlemail.com
Climate Care, Stretton	David Howard	722904	
Country Market (ex WI)	Ann Lloyd	07889 143057	or (01694) 731274
Credit Union	c/o Mayfair	722077	(Mayfair) [Wednesdays] www.mayfaircentre.org.uk
Cricket Club, Church Stretton	Rob Whittall	07967 571044	churchstrettoncricketclub@gmail.com
Croquet Club	Fane Conant	722610	faniesue@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@csmfcc.co.uk
Football Club, Stretton Red Rovers (6-15 years old)	Martin Watts	723543	contact@redrovers.org.uk
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	southerncrossldc@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	freestylmartiaarts.com/stretton
Masonic Lodge (Caer Caradoc)	Graham Williams	07939 109726	secretary@caeracadocclodge.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
Footpath maintenance volunteers (Parish paths Partnership)	Tim Parker	07493 659514	tim.parker111@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	selenaorme@yahoo.co.uk



Play On Performing Arts	Kate Buttolph	07974 382989	kate@playonperformingarts.co.uk
Pride of Place, Church Stretton	Trevor Halsey		trevorhalsey@btinternet.com
Probus, Strettondale	Alan Stockbridge	722317	alan.stockbridge@btinternet.com
Rail User's Association, Church Stretton	Alison Bradley	722138	www.strettonrailusers.org.uk
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Ramblers, The South Shropshire Group	Darren	07837 021138	
Rangers (Girl Guides) Church Stretton Group	Ana Ireland	723390	anaireland001@gmail.com
Readers Group at the Library	Felicity	722535	churchstretton.library@shropshire.gov.uk
RNLI	Brian Bradley	722138	b.glenmoar@gmail.com
Rotary Club of Church Stretton	Pat Stokes-Smith	723189	patstokessmith@hotmail.com
Royal British Legion	Les Mackey	724992	sulesmackey@btinternet.com
Rugby Club, Church Stretton Samurai	Martyn Longhurst		martynlonghurst@hotmail.com
Rushbury and Cardington WI	Kaye Smith	771554	
Save the Children	Ann Hurst	771622	ann.hurst46@gmail.com
Scottish Dancers, Stretton	David Thomas	722107	
Scouts, 2nd Longmynd Group	Terry Davies	723477	mrtterrydavies@hotmail.com
Scrappies - Shropshire Children's Scrapstore		328508	info@scrappies.org
Shropshire Strummers	David Rae	722459	d.j.rae362@gmail.com
Singers, The More Singers	Alistair Auld	07981 399482	alistairauld@gmail.com
Soaring Association, Long Mynd (model gliders)	Tim Goodwin	720392	info@lmsa.org.uk
Soaring Club, Long Mynd (Hangliding & paragliding)	Tim Dunn	01588 672919	coaching@longmynd.org
Stepping Stones Nursery	Anne Arkwright	722341	
Stretton Players	Simon Cleaton	07510 390981	strettonplayers@gmail.com
Stretton Pool Action	David Betton	07977 221171	dmbetton@googlemail.com
Stretton Stitches	Katy Webster	720200	or Frances Williams 722656
Stroke Group, Church Stretton and District	Hilary Parker	723419	
Swing Band, Stretton	Jamie Wrench	723923	jamie.wrench@lineone.net
Table Tennis, Church Stretton	Leisure Centre	720051	
Table Tennis, Leebotwood	Will Priestley	724223	
Table Tennis, Rushbury	Ian Pennington	771410	ianpennington133@btinternet.com
T'ai Chi	Marc Lacey	722077	(Mayfair) www.mayfaircentre.org.uk
Taiko Drumming	James Barrow	720169	James@taikowest.com
Taoist Tai Chi, Longmynd	Jo London	01743 369787	jolondon@hotmail.co.uk
Tennis Club	Claire Hatfield	720123	mail@strataassociates.co.uk
Theatre & Concert Group, Stretton	Jenny or Graham Heath	722216	heath@knollcrest.co.uk; strettontheatreandconcert.net
Thursday Lunch Club (Ley Gardens)	Margaret Hamer	722407	or Dawn Longmore 722328
Traidcraft (fairly traded goods)	Maureen Clow	722000	
Tree Group, Church Stretton	Hilary Hymas	723208	hilaryhymas7@gmail.com
United Nations Association, Shropshire Branch	Ruth Davies	724304	daviescs@btinternet.com
University of the Third Age (U3A)	Lesley Brown	724330	u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/contact
Upright and Active (falls prevention strength & balance)	c/o Mayfair	722077	(Mayfair) www.mayfaircentre.org.uk
Walking Football	Ken Willis	328514	gordonwillis@go-plus.net
Wildlife Group, SACWG, Community	Julie Cowley	722310	sacwg@shropscwgs.org.uk
Wildlife Trust, Strettons Branch	Wally Blake	724040	
Women's Institute, CS Marmaladies WI	Carol Greswell	07803 581580	marmaladieswi@gmail.com
Women's Inst., Rushbury and Cardington	Kaye Smith	771554	kayerubetta.smith@btinternet.com
Women's Institute, All Stretton	Kate Ratcliff	724422	allstrettonwi@gmail.com
Yoga (Mayfair)	c/o Mayfair	722077	(Mayfair) www.mayfaircentre.org.uk
Youth @ St Laurence's	Sally Ciliverd	724224	sally@strettonparish.org.uk

**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 Barnett: 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.

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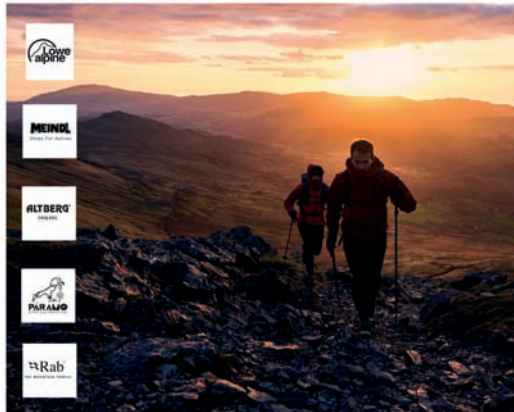
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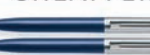
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# Winter Scenes

Winter may be cold but it can be beautiful. Here are a few winter scenes through the lenses of our local photographers.

*Richard McCrohan*



*Peter Staggles*



*Owen Watts*



**Why not save money, live more comfortably, and do something about climate change too?**

**W**e all see the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis around us, and many of us realise that this is largely driven by the increasing cost of energy. Energy prices are particularly high in the UK thanks to our continued reliance on fossil fuels, notably gas. We rely on fossil fuels to heat our homes, travel around and to generate electricity.

In addition, our use of fossil fuels is the primary driver of climate change, which threatens life on earth as we know it. By finding ways to reduce our energy use, we can save on our energy bills, while helping to fight climate change too. The UN has identified ten actions on climate change that every individual can take, the first being 'Save Energy at Home'.

At Stretton Climate Care we offer free advice on reducing energy use, while making your home (or business premises) more comfortable. While many local people have taken advantage of this service over the years, we're very conscious that some people in the community remain unaware of what can be done.

Ask yourself:

- Do you know how much your energy is costing and how this may change in the future?
- Are you receiving all the Government subsidies you are entitled to?
- Is your home as well insulated as it could be?

- Do you want to leave the world in a better state for future generations by taking action on climate change?
- Do you know how you can make a difference in the battle against climate change?

Stretton Climate Care offers advice on all the above topics. Our experienced energy advisers have between them a vast amount of knowledge to share, all free of charge. They can provide advice ranging from simple draught-proofing to smart energy controls, from generating your own electricity to amazing energy-saving heat-pumps. Is your gas boiler running efficiently, have you done all the simple low or zero cost things that can make a difference? Do you know where your home is leaking valuable heat?

We run a drop-in service every Thursday morning at the Wellbeing Centre (Easthope Road) from 10am-12 noon where you can meet us and get help. You can also contact us using the details below.

We work closely with South Shropshire Climate Action, Zero Carbon Shropshire and The Marches Energy Agency. We are all striving to help reduce carbon emissions which are the cause of ever rising global temperatures (remember those incredibly hot days last summer?) The climate crisis is not going away and neither are we!!!

*[www.strettonclimatecare.org.uk](http://www.strettonclimatecare.org.uk),  
[info@strettonclimatecare.org.uk](mailto:info@strettonclimatecare.org.uk), Phone 07528 493181*

## Friends of Church Stretton Library

### Local Men's Spitfire Adventure

**Monday 20th February at 7.30pm at the URC Hall**  
**Includes film footage from the cockpit.**



**D**avid Lyons and Malcolm Phillips will share their ultimate 'boys' day out' in May 2022, flying Spitfires over the south coast.

That day's outing was to undertake a 'fighter appreciation experience' where they flew a simulated combat which involved their two two-seater Spitfires pursuing a third fighter plane, the Messerschmitt 109.

This was filmed live on 360-degree cameras in both the Spitfires, along with a fourth aircraft. Their adventure turned out to be a considerably more dramatic and eventful day than had been originally envisaged.

Admission £5 payable on the door. All proceeds to support the Library.

*Sheila Davies*





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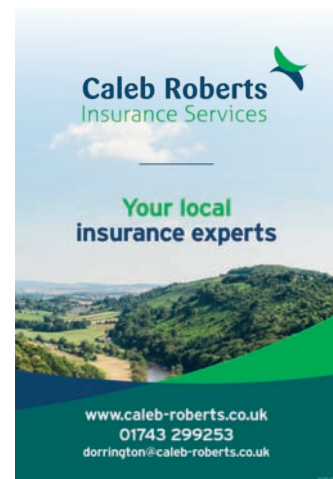
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# February 2023 Screenings



## Acton Scott

Acton Scott Village Hall, Tuesday 21st February, 7.30pm

Tickets on the Door: Adults £5 Students: £3.

*Downton Abbey – A New Era* (PG)



The Crawley family goes on a grand journey to the south of France to uncover the mystery of the Dowager Countess's newly inherited Villa.

The hall has ample car parking available and level access.

**Acton Scott enquiries: Tel. 01694 781260**

## Cardington

Cardington Village Hall, Wednesday 1st February, 7.30pm

Adults £5

*Operation Mincemeat* (12)



In the context of WW2 narratives, the story of *Operation Mincemeat* is unique; a bizarre and seductive cinematic blend of high-level espionage and ingenious fiction, where the stakes could hardly be higher. Michelle Ashford's script fuses multiple strands and moods: tense, romantic, thrilling, unexpectedly funny and endlessly surprising. It tells a richly human story of the soldiers we seldom see, who fight a different kind of war in shadows and deception, haunted by the knowledge that certainty and guarantee of success are nowhere to be found.

**Cardington enquiries: 01694 771295**

## Church Stretton

Silvester Horne Institute, Church Stretton, Thursday

23rd February, 7.30pm

Adult £5; Child £3

*Benediction* (12)



*Benediction* explores the turbulent life of First World War poet, Siegfried Sassoon, through the eyes of the revered filmmaker Terence Davies. Sassoon was a complex man who survived the horrors of fighting in the First World War and was decorated for his bravery but who became a vocal critic of the government's continuation of the war when he returned from service. His poetry was inspired by his experiences on the Western Front and he became one of the leading war poets of the era. Adored by members of the aristocracy as well as stars of London's literary and stage world, he embarked on affairs with several men as he attempted to come to terms with his homosexuality. At the same time, broken by the horror of war, he made his life's journey a quest for salvation, trying to find it within the conformity of marriage and religion. His story is one of a troubled man in a fractured world searching for peace and self-acceptance, something which speaks as meaningfully to the modern world as it did then.

**Church Stretton enquiries: 07508 072206**



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## Hope Bowdler

**Hope Bowdler Village Hall, 8th February 2023, 7.30pm**

Adult £5; Under 16 £3

### *Mrs Harris Goes to Paris* (PG)

A widowed cleaning lady in 1950s London falls madly in love with an haute couture Dior dress, and decides that she must have one of her own.

Starring Lesley Manville, Isabelle Huppert, Lambert Wilson.

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

**Hope Bowdler enquiries: 01694 723648**



## Engaging Issues



Over the centuries borders shift, nations fail and rise again, languages change and identities adapt. Contestation can range from tacit and friendly to open and hostile.

Close to the Strettons the porous border between Wales and England testifies to the to-ing and fro-ing of history, leaving the question: What does it mean to be Welsh and who gets to decide, not least in Wales? On 7th February Christine Trevett will hop over the border, from her position as professor in the history of religion at Cardiff University, to give us her take on the issue of Wales and Welshness, and, no doubt mention in passing, rugby, eisteddfodau and second homes.

Then on 21st February, we welcome Sally Azzam Cook from behind a hard border – the wall which separates Israel and Palestine. Sally is the founder of Liwan, a cultural café in her hometown of Nazareth, but divides her time between there and Bristol, where she works in community engagement with the Amos Trust, supporting peace, reconciliation, and full equal rights for all. From her background of life in the Occupied Territories, Sally will talk on Cultural Resistance in Palestine.

Meetings are held at the United Reformed Church, starting at 7.30pm. We request a small donation of £3 per person, to cover expenses.

The Engaging Issues committee is now actively involved in planning the programme for the 2023-24 season. If you have suggestions for topics, and especially if you would like to join us on the committee, we would love to hear from you at [davidandtrish@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:davidandtrish@hotmail.co.uk)

*David Howard*

## L E T T E R S

### Parking

As one who has exclusively used cash to pay at parking meters, I am becoming concerned about the transfer of payment methods to card or internet. Having looked at the local meters I find no information on how to use alternative methods of payment. Would it be possible for you to publish a detailed article on how to use non-cash systems in the local parking meters, or instead supply a link to where this information can be obtained so that people such as me can at least try to update ourselves.

*Dave Richardson*

*Ed: Does anyone have any advice?*

### Student Journalists

What an incredibly thoughtful and mature trio of articles we enjoyed by our young journalists this month. I am always impressed with this section of the *Focus*, it gives me such hope for the future of this country in my, sometimes, rather jaded old age.

Thank you for the very readable and varied *Focus*.

*Jenny Hodgson*

### Seeing Double

Wow, I thought I was seeing things, but no, the cover of our beloved *Focus* was just the same as a photo on the front of the 24th December edition of *The Times*. Well done Simon Whaley and you. I hope *Times* readers enjoyed their walk through Ashes Hollow as described in the paper.

*Lesley Rae*





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