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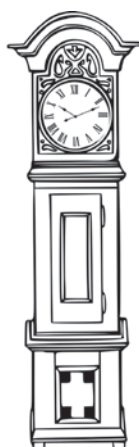
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Welcome



You may have already noticed that in this issue of *Focus* we are introducing several changes to its appearance and content. Most are small changes, but they have all been carefully discussed by the editorial and production teams. Taken together, they represent an improvement in the appearance of the magazine and in navigating its content.

The first change you will notice is to the front cover, where the new layout and font of the header makes it easier to read our strapline 'Community Voice of the Strettons', the month and price. Thanks to our Cover Editor, Geoff Taylor, for this. This page has also been redesigned to look less crowded and to be a welcome to the magazine, although no information has been lost. The List of Contents has been moved to page 5 and redesigned to provide brief information on the main articles, with the regular features listed separately.

The Editorial has been replaced with a 'Welcome' item, which will be more flexible in terms of what it may contain. This will continue to be usually written by the Editor-in-Chief, but occasionally a Guest Editor will be invited to contribute it, as in this issue. The popular 'What's On' pages have moved to the back of the magazine, to follow the 'Yellow Pages', where they can be easily located. This enables the magazine to begin with important announcements, photographs or articles. We hope that you will approve of these changes, but please let us know what you think about them, whether complimentary or otherwise!

With thanks to Janet Du Cros, the Editor-in-Chief of this issue, for inviting me to be a Guest Editor.

Paul Chairman



We welcome the Dante Quartet on Friday 11th August, as part of Church Stretton Arts Festival.

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

Stretton Focus

Community Voice of the Strettons

Average monthly sales 1,500 copies (About 65% of the dwellings in Church Stretton)

Who's Who in Stretton Focus

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Christine Williams, Geoff Taylor
Sandra Davies

Submission of Articles and Photographs for Publication

These should be made to the editors by email to

editor@strettonfocus.co.uk

Please use this address 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 **August** issue the deadline is **Monday 3rd July, at 12 noon.**

For the **September** issue the deadline is **Monday 7th August, at 12 noon.**

The **August** issue will be distributed on **Friday 28th July**

Advertising (Business)

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

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

Community Awards

Stretton Focus has a scheme whereby clubs, societies and organisations can apply for a grant up to £1,000 for projects which have a direct benefit to the community. For details and an application form go to the *Focus* website www.strettonfocus.co.uk

Subscriptions

Stretton 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

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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July 2023

This Month

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Two weeks full of fabulous events including concerts, plays, talks, art exhibition and free concerts.

22 Ukraine – Aid and Rescue

A story of one man's endeavours to make a difference in war-torn Ukraine and the support he has received from our local community.

36 Ian Jones Walk

The first of what we hope will be an occasional series of walks reproduced from the booklets authored by Ian Jones. Many readers will recognise his wonderful drawings.

8 Community Service Awards

We celebrate the winners of the 2023 Town Council Community awards.

28 Historic Church Stretton

Where is Spring Cottage? Why was it built out of line with its neighbours and who has lived there? Questions answered in this month's article.

55 What's On

Same invaluable diary of events but in a new location at the end of the magazine.

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This month's cover

Arts Festival: Fontanella,
Thursday 3rd August,
St Laurence's Church

Our Website
strettonfocus.co.uk



Focus Directors Wanted

The *Stretton Focus* provides an active voice for the community of the Strettons and is a source of creative expression and useful information for residents and visitors alike. It reaches more than 60% of households and sells about 1,500 copies each month.

To produce, publish and distribute a 60-page, high quality, monthly magazine requires the coordinated efforts of almost 100 volunteers, to whom we are all very grateful. Among these volunteers are the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors has oversight of the performance of the magazine and is also responsible for the governance and commercial success of the company (we aim to make a small profit each year, much of which is returned to the local community through our Community Award Scheme). The Board must also be forward-looking with regard to

our policies and strategies in order

to maintain or improve the quality and success of the magazine.

With the recent retirement of two long-serving Directors, *Focus* is now seeking two new Directors. Applicants should be residents who are familiar with contributing at Board level or its equivalent. We welcome applicants with a variety of experience in either public service or the commercial sector, with administrative, marketing, financial, or legal expertise, among others.

Should you be interested, please contact Paul Harding at sfocuschair@gmail.com.

STRETTON FOCUS

Can You Help with *Focus* Production?

Stretton *Focus* has a vacancy for someone who is confident working with computers to join our production team. The work involves the design and layout of the pages of *Focus* each month and will also involve uploading some content onto the new *Focus* website each month. No previous experience of working with magazine or website production is necessary since the procedures involved are very straightforward and full training and support will be given. The work is carried out

partly in the *Focus* office and at home if desired and takes between one and two days each month.

This is an opportunity to work for the well-respected community magazine in a friendly and co-operative atmosphere with other like-minded volunteers. If you are interested or would like to learn more about *Focus* production please contact Andrew Fenton, by email on fentonapf@gmail.com.

Focus Subscriptions Manager (Payments) Wanted

Applications are invited for a newly created volunteer position with *Focus*. The Subscriptions Manager (Payments) will work closely with the Subscriptions Manager (Rounds), in all aspects of requesting, receiving, and depositing annual subscriptions. Much of the activity around this role occurs between October and February when most annual subscriptions are paid. There is currently

a small amount of on-going work during the rest of the year. Should the post holder be interested, there will be other complementary roles emerging in the future that could be added to provide more of a year-round activity.

If you are interested in joining our team of volunteers, and you have some accounting or book-keeping experience, please contact Paul Harding at sfocuschair@gmail.com.

Trivia Corner

by Ken Willis

Answers on page 48

1. Ataturk airport can be found in which city?
2. Beverly Hills is in which US state?
3. Tea Bags were introduced to Britain by which company?
4. Who played Proximo in the film *Gladiator*?
5. Gnasher was whose pet dog?



Save the Children

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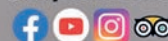


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Community Service Awards Winners

The community life of Church Stretton is greatly enhanced by the voluntary contributions of individuals and community groups. The Town Council Community Service Awards scheme was set up to recognise this work. Members of the community were invited to nominate people for these awards and we are pleased to announce the following winners for 2023.

Liz Bourke

Long Service Award for adults working with young people



Liz has worked for the Brownie organisation for many years and achieved 50 years of service with the Trefoil Guild. Liz also volunteers for the messy church, feeding an increasing number of children of fifty plus in these hard economic times. Liz is also a host to a Ukranian family.

Liz is actively involved in supporting her community in other ways, such as Teas to Please, visiting the elderly and sick, hosting the German Language group and secretary to the Croquet Club.

This is how one member of the community described her:

"She is an incredible human being who is much appreciated by the residents of Little Stretton and all who she comes into contact with."

Trish Howard and Mayfair Health Walk leaders

Long Service Award for working with adults



Trish has been a volunteer walk leader for the Mayfair Health Walks for 15 years and the volunteer administrator for most of that time. She takes a leading role in supporting volunteers and walkers, organising rotas, responding to any worries or concerns, ensuring all the administration is completed. The walks cater for people of all abilities – everything from a half hour walk on the flat to two hours over the hills.

During the pandemic, Trish and the walk leaders ensured that walks which complied with covid restrictions took place as soon as this was allowed. These were treasured social interactions at a time of great loneliness.

Walking in our beautiful countryside and town contributes enormously to the physical health and mental wellbeing of participants and leaders. Over the years, hundreds of walkers have enjoyed and benefited from the weekly walks. This is all thanks to the dedicated work of Trish who has held it all together for so many years.

Christine Richardson and CoCo

Community Group Award



Christine has been a prominent member of this befriending service since it began in 2010. People are referred to CoCo because they are in need of some extra support. CoCo offers one-to-one support from a carefully matched volunteer. As well as friendship and a listening ear, volunteers can offer support to help people get out, pursue their interests and hobbies as well as practical help with paperwork. Christine has undertaken the administration of this scheme.

At the start of the pandemic, Christine helped contact frail and vulnerable people to check how they were and offer support. At that time the need for telephone befriending trebled, new volunteers were recruited and over ninety people were getting weekly calls. Christine played a critical role in helping with this and in this role helped support hundreds of people in our community at a time when they needed it most.

Here are two comments showing what the CoCo service means to two people living locally:

"It helped me whilst my wife was alive to give me a break and when she died it has helped me to feel less lonely and talk over my concerns."

"I can definitely say since my CoCo volunteer started visiting me, her visits are the highlight of my week."

Robin Lloyd

Community Initiative Award

Robin is well known in All Stretton for his initiative in finding solutions to problems, and also having the drive and energy to make them happen.

When All Stretton Village Society needed to raise a large amount of money for play equipment, Robin came up with the idea of holding an auction. With no previous experience of running such an event, Robin went on to project manage it and secured a large number of promises, including holidays, glider flights and hot air balloon trips. The auction event was so successful it raised a total of £10,000.

Another example of his initiative is the way he has supported Ukrainian refugees by offering help to local residents in their gardens, in lieu of donations to support Ukrainian refugees. The money raised from gardening has helped fund aid sent over to Ukraine. Robin is also well known in All Stretton for giving people lifts to church, hospital and other appointments if they need help getting there. He also volunteers for the Ring and Ride service operated by Mayfair.



Sheila Davies



Pictured at the Awards Ceremony are: Mayor Andy Munro, Liz Bourke, Lesley Godwin (for Trish Howard), Christine Richardson, Robin Lloyd and Sheila Davies



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Fund Raiser

Help us reach our target of £55,000 to fund play equipment in Brooksbury Recreation Ground. Children used to love playing there on their way home from school, and during weekends and holidays. Last year the old wooden adventure play equipment had to be taken out of commission because it was in such a state of disrepair. The children and young people really missed not being able to use the adventure play equipment last summer.

Playgrounds are important to children and young people in providing a safe place where they can meet friends to play. As a result of playing, kids develop mental, physical and social skills without even realizing it. And, since playing is so much fun, it's also a great stress reliever. It is also free, so all children can access it when economic times are hard.



Designing a new play area

Last year we consulted with residents on the type of play equipment to put in this area. Most people wanted adventure play equipment, suitable for different ages, and made out of steel which lasts much longer than wooden equipment. 91% of people said they wanted some of the play equipment to be inclusive, accessible to all children including those living with a disability. This is something that has never been available before in the Strettons.

Children were consulted about play equipment at last year's Family Fun Day. They most liked swings, climbing, outdoor gym, adventure, seating and slides. Replacing the zip wire and having basket swings was also extremely popular.

"My children all loved the zip wire and large basket swing."

"The basket swing was extremely popular – maybe we could have more than one as the teenagers used to constantly use it when it was on site and the little ones didn't get to have much of a chance to use it."

"PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE don't get rid of the zip wire (but if it has to be replaced please replace with a bigger one)."

We asked contractors to design a play area based on the results of the consultation. We now have a wonderful play park plan which includes some inclusive play equipment – see below.



A big thank you to JS Roberts Construction who kindly removed the old equipment and prepared the site without charging us for labour or equipment. This has saved us thousands of pounds.

Ages 7 plus play equipment

The town council managed to find sufficient funds to purchase play equipment for the older children to be installed in time for the summer. This included a zip wire, a large pendulum swing with basket seat suitable for multiuse and children lifted from wheelchairs, a swing bar with three normal seats and one inclusive seat for disabled children, steel pull up and horizontal bars, a trim trail and three pieces of spin and bounce equipment. This will have been installed by the time you read this article.

Early years play area

We now need to raise funds for play equipment for children aged Early Years to 7. This will include a multi-play area with slide, a swing with toddler seats, a mini basket swing, a wheelchair-friendly roundabout, a squirrel see saw, a Pixie Sit In Springy and four sensory panels. The play equipment will be installed on a safety surface with a path from the nearby gate entrance, making it accessible all year round for families with buggies and wheelchairs even when the field is muddy.

The play equipment for the older children was installed first, as it is sited further away from the main entrance. This meant lorries could carry the equipment to this end of the field before the safety surface and path were laid for the Early Years play area with inclusive roundabout.

Please contribute generously so ALL children living in this area can find play equipment whatever their age and ability.

Please contribute online on our JustGiving site: [justgiving.com/brooksburyrecground](https://www.justgiving.com/brooksburyrecground) or by cheque made payable to Brooksbury Recreation Ground Charity and send it to the Town Council offices. Please pick up a Gift Aid Form from the Town Councill office while you are there if you are eligible for claiming Gift Aid. Thank you.

Cllr Sheila Davies

Church Stretton Town Council Community Matters

Annual Assembly

Around 70 residents joined Councillors and staff on 23rd May for the Annual Assembly where there was a presentation of the Council's work over the past year. The full report can be found on the Council website or in the June *Focus*. The Annual Report was followed by the presentation of Civic Awards to four residents for exceptional public service (see this month's article in *Focus*) and a talk by Dave Chetwyn about Neighbourhood Planning.

At an earlier Council AGM Councillors re-elected Andy Munro and Sheila Davies as Mayor and Deputy-Mayor respectively.

Visitor Survey

Over the late May Bank Holiday weekend volunteers were out in Church Stretton and Carding Mill Valley to pilot a visitors survey which will be undertaken throughout the summer. The purpose of the pilot was to 'road test' the questionnaire to ensure that it was easy and consistent to administer and also to learn about where best to conduct the survey, what were the best times to meet visitors and how long each volunteer shift should be.

The results will be shared with partner agencies like Visit Shropshire, the AONB Partnership and the National Trust, who also contributed to the design. The purpose is to inform the development of the town's tourism policy.

A total of 78 surveys were completed over the two days, and for those who don't want to wait until October for the full results, some headlines, based on just the pilot sample, include:

- 95% visitor satisfaction, with landscape (33%), tranquillity (17%) and the AONB (17%) cited as the top attractions;
- 66% of visitors were on a day trip from home, with 14% day tripping whilst on holiday elsewhere and 19% staying locally;
- Net promoter score overall was 63%. Calculated by taking the very positive and subtracting any very negative, ie people who will be telling others, anything greater than 0 is good, +20 is very good and +50 is great;
- 91% of visitors arrived by private vehicle and 4% used public transport, although 18% said they would consider public transport – basically the train – if they knew more about it;
- Food and drink was given as a top activity, although on the Sunday visitors would have liked to see more open in the town.

Over the summer it is hoped to complete over 500 surveys which will provide robust information on which to develop policy to make tourism better for residents, businesses, and tourists.

Highways

Following a spate of flooding over winter to residents living between Botvyle and the A49, National Highways have agreed with the Town Council that contractors will be on

site in early June to clear the under-carriageway culverts which are believed to be the root cause of the problem.

More good news, the Police and Crime Commissioner at the end of May agreed to match funding for the Vehicle Activated Speed signs which will be erected on the B5477 north and south of All Stretton and Little Stretton. The remainder of the funds have been raised by the two village societies (£1,500) and the Town Council (£1,500). Shropshire Council have agreed to install the mounting posts. With funding now in place we can now progress with the work. A big thankyou to all involved.

In addition to flashing a message showing a driver's speed, the equipment also records the speed of all passing vehicles (although no number plates). This data will allow the Town Council to debate the issues of speeding with the police on the basis of objective evidence and if the signs prove to be successful the Town Council will look to see if further equipment should be purchased.

Meanwhile, Little Stretton are still waiting for their yellow lines on the very dangerous corners in the village, and this has been followed up with Shropshire Highways.

News received as this article is written is that the Electric Vehicle installations destined for Essex Road and Lion's Meadow car park should become operational in the beginning of August with elements of the work being completed in the preceding three weeks. The town is scheduled to receive eight charging points out of the 270 destined for Shropshire, around twice the average and in part reflecting the high number of tourists. Funding came 50/50 from Westminster and Shropshire, for which we are grateful. Shropshire's Cabinet papers suggest installation was delayed so as to spread the cost over two financial years.

Play equipment

Local residents will have noticed the clearance of the old, rotten wooden play equipment in Brooksbury and the construction of the new replacement kit. It should be completed around the time this edition of *Focus* is published. A full article written by Cllr Davies, who leads on this project, is also in this edition of *Focus* and it starts an appeal for the funding needed for Phase II.

Tennis and Crazy Golf in Sandford Avenue Park

Tennis – Pay and Play

If you fancy a game of tennis with friends or family, courts are available on a Pay and Play basis most weekdays during the day between May and September. This has become possible because the Town Council are now employing an additional groundsman to work in the town park during spring and summer.

You can pay the groundsman to play on the court for an hour. He will be there from 8am to 4pm weekdays and will open up the courts for you. He can also lend you a racquet and balls for free. So why not give it a try?

The charges are:

- £9.50 an hour per court (Adult)
- £6.30 an hour per court (Pensioner)
- £1.60 an hour per court (Child)

Tennis Club

If you want to play more regularly, at weekends or meet other people to play tennis, then it makes more sense to join the Tennis Club.



You are welcome to come to social tennis on a Sunday morning a few times to have a hit for free, before deciding whether to become a member. Please contact Claire Hatfield 01694 720123 / 07980 225569 or Bill Hatfield (01694 720123 / 07764 937330) for more details.

Once you have paid your Annual Membership Fee, you will be given a code to access the court so you can play all year round for free except when tennis club events or matches are taking place. During 'Club only sessions' members have court use priority over the general public.

More details, including membership fees can be found in the Newsletter on the tennis club notice board in the park.

You are also welcome to come along to the FREE tennis sessions at the Family Fun Day on 1st July.

Coaching for children

A Six Week LTA Youth Start Course, Starts Saturday 8th July.

Coaching sessions will be:

- 1.30 to 2.15pm: ages 4 & 5
- 2.15 to 3pm: ages 6, 7 & 8
- 3.00 to 3.45: ages 9-12

For more information see wedotennis.co.uk/church-strettonTennis or Tel 01952 984 4894 or Email enquiries@wedotennis.co.uk

Crazy Golf – Fun for all the family

You can also pay the groundsman to play Crazy Golf. He will be there from 8am to 4pm weekdays and will lend you clubs and balls for free. So why not give it a try. This has become

possible as the Town Council are now employing an additional groundsman to work in the town park during spring and summer.

The charges are:

- £1.10 per Adult per round
- 50p per child per round

You can also play for free if you come to the Family Fun Day on the 1st July.

Neighbourhood Plan

Following the talk at the Annual Assembly, a start-up meeting was held between members of the council's Strategy Committee, Dave Chetwyn from Urban Vision who will be the technical advisor and Sue Manns Hoffman who has kindly agreed to chair the project and who was appointed by the Council to this role last year. Although the Council is legally the qualifying body responsible for delivery of the plan, the intention is that the project will be 'arm's length' as far as possible so as to give the town maximum ownership.

The project will be managed on a day-to-day basis by a project team, with a higher-level steering group meeting quarterly with representation from across the town. There will then be a range of task and finish groups to undertake the research and support work.

Dave and Sue are both very experienced town planners and we are pleased to be working with them. Dave has worked on around 150 Neighbourhood Plans, whilst Sue is a recent past president of the Royal Town Planning Institute.

The meeting sketched out the structure of the project and agreed that the first step is to develop the scope and identify which policies will be appropriate. This will form the basis of the first informal consultation.

These initial steps will happen quite quickly, and once the scope is agreed it will then be screened by a range of statutory bodies, for example Natural England, to ensure what is being broadly proposed does not offend against national policy. Meanwhile work will continue to assemble the evidence base to support the draft plan.

Several review stages are then required before the plan is submitted to Shropshire Council who will ensure that it has met its legal requirements before finally being submitted to a plebiscite.

Initial thinking suggests the earliest a referendum could be held would be around Autumn 2024. However, this would require no delays and a more likely timetable might see the referendum held alongside the local elections in May 2025.

There is much to do and any residents who would like to be involved should contact the Town Council.

And finally...

The Family Fun Day will be held on 1st July in the Sandford Avenue Park: fancy dress, dog show, face and hair painting, food, beer, stalls, live music and entertainment, all with free admission...I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

*Andy Munro
Mayor*

Recipe of the month

Chia seed breakfast pot

I find it hard to believe that many people are apparently inclined to skip breakfast – that's not a concept that anyone in the Heidi household understands but I do admit that it can become a little monotonous sometimes. Help was at hand when I found myself in possession of a large bag of chia seeds donated by an offspring.

My research offered a huge variety of ways to use these little seeds including mixed with herbs as a coating for fish or chicken, added to oatmeal to upscale your breakfast porridge, thrown into a smoothie or on top of a salad or turned into a creamy and indulgent dessert.

I must admit that I had a glorious dish of chia seeds as an early breakfast in Denmark ahead of a day out and buried in the bottom of the dish was a hidden spoonful of peanut butter which was absolutely delicious and is, in my opinion (although not one shared by Mr Heidi), the only way to eat this dish.

Chia seeds are packed with protein, fibre, and omega 3 fatty acids as well as essential minerals – calcium, iron, zinc, and magnesium – and antioxidants, and are a great way to set you up for the day. They apparently played a great role in the diets of Aztec and Maya civilisations and have recently been labelled a superfood. As with many foods, chia seeds should be eaten in moderation and especially if you suffer from digestive ailments or are on medication for diabetes or high blood pressure. If in doubt seek advice.

This is my version of a breakfast recipe chosen because of its simplicity of preparation as well as its versatility. It can be easily adapted to suit vegetarian or vegan diets.

Basic recipe – serves 2 but easily scalable:

Ingredients

2 tablespoons chia seeds
1 dessert spoon of sesame seeds or millet/flax seeds etc
1 cup milk of your choice
¼ tsp vanilla extract
Tsp peanut butter – optional to serve



Method

Put all ingredients into a lidded container and mix well, stir occasionally during first half hour to avoid clumping of the seeds then refrigerate overnight.

In the morning, stir and serve with a teaspoon of peanut butter in the bottom of your dish and sprinkle granola over the top with chopped fruit of your choice – try apple or pear and yogurt. For those with a sweet tooth add a drizzle of honey or maple syrup. I've also used the syrup from a jar of stem ginger.

In its basic form this keeps for up to 5 days in the fridge and is a great base for adding to throughout the week for variety.

If you find your chia seeds clumped in the base of your dish in the morning you can rectify with some brisk beating using a balloon whisk.

Coconut version: swap in coconut milk and add ¼ cup desiccated coconut or coconut flakes into the above ingredients at the mixing stage.

Chocolate version: melt small amount of 70% good quality chocolate (less sugar) into 1 cup of milk and cool then add 2 tbsp chia seeds and mix and proceed as above. Serve with raspberries.

Raspberry version: puree raspberries and add 1 cup of milk and optional maple syrup to taste. Add 2 tbsp chia seeds and mix as above. Serve with chocolate chunks stirred in and add a couple of fresh raspberries on top.

Banana version: blend a ripe banana with the milk before mixing with the seeds.

The options are endless – have fun.

Heidi



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Is AI OK?

The Robots are on the way.....

In spectacular fashion, Optimus, the humanoid robot walked on to the stage, waved to the excited crowd, and to Techno music began to sway and dance. "The age of Robots is upon us" claimed the sponsors. Certainly, the realm of science fiction seemed to have become a reality.

For many decades we have had robotic devices helping us build cars, animating cute little toys to amuse our children and even assisting in hospitals with precision surgery. Now Artificial Intelligence (AI) helps us build robots that not only look like us but act and behave like us.

Professor Hiroshi Ishiguro, a roboticist University Lecturer, has created a human-sized identical copy of himself. It replicates his appearance, movement, speech, and mannerisms with uncanny precision. He has even used the robot to give lectures in his place.

Kasper is a cute childlike moving talking robot that is used to help children with special needs such as autism. Play sessions with the robot help the children learn social interaction, including conversation, eye contact, sharing and playing. Robots can also be used in the care of the elderly, companions for the lonely and to do those jobs nobody likes doing.

With a national shortage of doctors, nurses, care givers and a record number of people entering old age, human-looking robots are proving to give real benefits for our physical, mental and emotional well-being. But what about our spiritual well-being?

Mindar is a Buddhist Robot Priest able to conduct a worship service, lead prayers and deliver a sermon. Could

robots be used to lead Christian services in (say) remote rural areas where clergy are scarce? Already, by

uploading their previous sermons, AI can produce a sermon on any Biblical text or subject, that perfectly reflects the character and personality of the minister. Can God really speak to us through a machine?

The Christian faith teaches that each one of us is uniquely made in the image of God (Genesis 1 v 27). We are personally known and loved by God from when we were still in our mother's womb. We are therefore, both physical and spiritual beings, woven into a network of relationships, both with one another and with God. Jesus reminds us to love God and one another, even offering to help us by filling us with His spirit.



Is it therefore possible to have some form of relationship between humans and machines? Surely there can be no substitute for a personal relationship with a loving God or with one another. To receive strength, comfort, and love, to see eyes filled with compassion, arms that care and words that encourage seem beyond the capabilities of any machine. Or is it?

It's just a thought, but if God could speak to Balaam through a Donkey (see Numbers 22 v 21-31) perhaps, after all, he can speak to us through AI, if we ask him!

Yet in spite of all the known brilliance and benefits of AI, I for one, never want it to become an alternative to the real thing.

Jon Hughes

Stretton Summer Volleyball

Record attendances so far (end May) for volleyball. Median of eight, with a range of five to ten. First time for a double digit attendance. The majority are aged 25 years and under and four ladies so far. Really pleased with the attendance. We could do with a few more though as the court and game is for six-a-side.

Whilst the aim is to play, enjoy and socialise, I try and do a training drill early on, as most attendees have not played much volleyball before. Main focus so far has been the dig. Usually, the first part of play for the defending team. In volleyball one team is always attacking and the other defending; the attacking team is the one with the ball. Once the ball goes over the net and is touched by the other team, they become the attacking team and roles are reversed. The players who were attacking now have to get ready for defending.

The dig is about taking control of the ball once it crosses the net into your team's side of the court, maybe taking the power out of the ball, and directing it up for another player in your team to set up an attack and spike it over the net to try and score a point. All of us could do with improving our digging, if the first pass is good then it makes the set and spike more likely to be better too.

Teens upwards welcome – with school and college ending soon why not come along for July and August? First session free, then £5 a month if you're waged, £3 total for July and August if you're student or unwaged.

We play Wednesday evenings between 7pm and 9pm in the Richard Robinson field. Please let me know if you have any questions. Hope you can make it.

Steve Redmond
thebiggestredofall@yahoo.co.uk, 07962 785612

Mayfair News

Volunteer Week and Carers Week

At the time of writing, in early June, we are acknowledging two important awareness weeks in the national, as well as the Mayfair calendar: Volunteer Week (1st-7th June) and Carers Week (5th-11th June). Volunteering and Caring are two cornerstones of Mayfair.

We couldn't possibly exist without the huge number of volunteers who support Mayfair. We currently have 244 active volunteers who contribute over 470 hours of their time each week to help run our services. With volunteer help, the Mayfair kitchen prepares meals 365 days a year and these are delivered to the Strettons community. Our volunteers also serve meals in our Lunch Hub, and coffee and homemade treats in our Coffee Shop. Always accompanied with a warm, friendly welcome. Our Ring and Ride volunteers support around 1,000 journeys per month. Mayfair volunteers provide over 110 hours of befriending and support each week. This includes form filling, phone calls, and practical help. Our walking groups offer a range of walks for all abilities. Our Reception, Hosting and Admin volunteers give over 80 hours each week, keeping Mayfair running smoothly. Youth Support volunteers, care supporters in Beacon, 44Bs, and creche all help to make our day activities as interesting and rewarding as possible. And we mustn't forget our amazing arts and craft volunteers, Digital Support volunteers, book sale volunteers, gardening, fundraising and events volunteers. We are so lucky to have the support of every single one of them, and owe them a huge thank you for keeping Mayfair going. We calculated that, even at minimum wage, if we were to pay for the 470 hours a week that our volunteers give, this would cost well over £250,000 a year. In reality, we cannot put a value on the time, energy and friendship that all our volunteers contribute.



We're so pleased that the input of some of our volunteers was acknowledged through the Town Council Community Service Awards scheme this year (detailed in another article within this edition of *Focus*). Trish Howard and the Mayfair Health Walk Leaders, and Christine Richardson and the Mayfair CoCo volunteers are great examples of the dedication and service Mayfair volunteers give to the community.



Our Mayfair Health Walk Leaders holding one of their planning meetings

Whilst a huge amount of caring is involved in delivering our Mayfair services, it is vital to acknowledge that most care is delivered in the community by unpaid carers supporting their loved ones. It is estimated that there are at least 5 million unpaid carers in England and Wales, that's around 9% of people. Many of these, approximately 800,000, are young carers. Much like volunteers, carers give their time, energy and commitment for others, without pay. But being a carer can present many challenges and have a significant impact on health, finances and wellbeing. So it's a key priority for Mayfair to support carers within our community, as well as those who need care. MAYSI (Mayfair Supporting Independence) offer carers emotional and practical support to help them navigate the social care system and find and access the right services for them and their loved one. All our other care services, whether Beacon (our day care activities), 44Bs (our ALD day opportunities), our Creche, or CoCo (Compassionate Communities) are there for carers as well those who require care. We know that many carers make use of other Mayfair services for some 'me time', whether a friendly coffee, an exercise class or some arts and crafts. We also have specific support groups for carers, such as Care and Share and the Carers Support Group. We are delighted to have recently hosted the Shropshire Parent and Carer Council who held a coffee morning in Mayfair for Parents and Carers of young people with a disability or additional need. We're looking forward to welcoming them back to Mayfair for other activities soon. If you are a carer and would like to know more about how Mayfair may be able to support you, you can call us on 01694 722077.

In next month's *Focus*, we'll be able to report back on some of our Carers week activities, including a free afternoon for carers at National Trust Attingham. We're also holding a volunteer party in June to celebrate our amazing volunteer team so we'll report back on that fun as well!

Plant, Book and Craft Sale success

We're very pleased to announce that the two plant sales in May, alongside a craft and book sale, raised the fantastic sum of £1,423.60 in total. All of this will contribute towards continuing the work that Mayfair does in our community. We're extremely grateful to all those who helped run the sales, contributed their plants, crafts, cards and books, or supported the sales – thank you all.



Upcoming Book Sales

Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th August, 10am to 1pm

We will be holding another sale of fantastic books, with a wide variety of non-fiction, maps and music as well as some quality fiction, in the Health and Wellbeing Centre. Come along to purchase some bargains and perfect holiday reading material. All profits will go to Mayfair.

Theatre Screenings At Mayfair

Sunday 2nd July, 3pm: Matthew Bourne's *Sleeping Beauty* Ballet

Pre-show lunch at 1pm and 3pm matinee screening.

Matthew Bourne's *Sleeping Beauty* is coming to Mayfair's big screen as part of its 10th anniversary celebrations. Now

established as a firm favourite in the New Adventures repertoire, this "utterly brilliant" (★★★★ *Sunday Mirror*) award-winning production has enchanted audiences throughout the UK and across the globe. Enter a wondrous world of magical fairies and vampires, where



the timeless tale of good vs evil is turned upside-down, creating a supernatural love story that even the passage of time itself cannot hinder. Get ready to be transported in time from the halcyon days of the late Edwardian era through to the modern day in this "dazzling" (★★★★ *Sunday Express*) gothic romance.

On Sunday 2nd July, Mayfair will be screening this enchanting ballet as a matinee show at 3pm. A gourmet two-course lunch can be booked and will be served before the show from 1pm, providing a wonderful afternoon of food and entertainment, with all proceeds going to Mayfair Community Centre.

Show tickets are £15 and £10 for under 16s and can be booked by telephoning 01694 722077 or visiting Mayfair reception. Booking is essential for both the lunch and the show, and we recommend booking early to avoid disappointment.

The two-course pre-show lunch costs an additional £15 per person. Menu choices will be available to view soon on www.mayfaircentre.org.uk

If you would like to be on our mailing list for all future screenings, you can sign up at www.mayfaircentre.org.uk/whats-on, or by calling Mayfair reception.

Mayfair Lottery Results for May

110	20	550	624
£100	£50	£20	£10

Can Green Gas be part of the solution?

Can Green Gas be part of the solution to addressing the climate and biodiversity crises? Several energy companies (ranked as leaders in providing renewable energy by *Ethical Consumer*) are now promoting 'Green Gas' to domestic consumers for heating and cooking. Green gas, also known as biomethane, is currently made from the breakdown of organic matter such as food waste, agricultural waste, and sewage, using a process known as anaerobic digestion.

Is this the right way forward? Some of the potential benefits of green gas include:

- **Renewable:** Green gas is a renewable source of energy, unlike fossil fuels such as coal and natural gas (methane).
- **Reduced greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution:** The production and use of green gas significantly reduces the amount of methane and carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere when compared to the extraction and use of coal and natural gas. Green gas produces less particulate air pollution than wood burners too.
- **Versatile:** Green gas can be used for a variety of applications, including heating, cooking, and generating electricity.
- **Sustainability:** Green gas production can use waste products. Where land is used to grow pasture to feed gas mills, this can both support biodiversity and sustainable agricultural systems.
- **Ease of transition:** Green gas can be used without making significant investments in existing heating systems and pipelines.

Conversely, there are some significant issues with the use of green gas:

- **Scalability:** There are currently limitations to the amount of green gas that can be produced, with Green Gas having the potential to meet perhaps 10% of the UK domestic gas demand. Further investment would be required to scale up production to meet growing energy demands.
- **Land Use:** Increased promotion and demand for green gas could encourage the growth of crops for the generation of biomethane (or other 'biomass' fuels). This isn't helpful when there are already significant challenges in the UK meeting the demands of food security, renewable energy production and restoration of biodiversity.
- **Distribution:** The infrastructure for distributing green gas needs further development to satisfy the needs of domestic customers outside urban areas.
- **Overall impact:** While green gas is roughly carbon neutral, its use still results in emissions to the atmosphere. The use of green gas may discourage domestic consumers from investing in more sustainable and efficient solutions such as insulation and heat pumps.

Green gas appears to be a reasonable alternative to the use of fossil fuels for domestic heating and cooking in the short term. However, use of food and agricultural waste to generate biomethane may signal that it is OK to continue with the current levels of waste because 'it is being put to a green use'.

When considering home heating and cooking, it is our view that there are better options for decarbonisation, and it is likely that Green Gas will only play a marginal role in the transition to net zero. What do you think?

David Matthews (Chair of Trustees)

A Quaker Voice

On Being Busy

I am busy. Like many of us I have a wide range of demands on my time; and I don't have enough time to do all the things I want to. Being a wife, being a parent, being a teacher, being a sister, being a daughter, being a friend; all of these roles I inhabit willingly and gratefully; but I am also a Quaker. We don't have paid clergy and the responsibilities for caring for the spiritual life of the meeting, the pastoral care of our members and attendees and all the necessary housekeeping jobs, such as keeping financial records, caring for our books and posters, planning who is going to lead Children's Meeting, who is going to write for *Stretton Focus* and even who will open up and buy

the tea, coffee and the all-important biscuits are done by all of us, voluntarily.

Advices and Queries, Number 28, says:

Every stage of our lives offers fresh opportunities. Responding to divine guidance, try to discern the right time to undertake or relinquish responsibilities without undue pride or guilt. Attend to what love requires of you, which may not be great busyness.

Just at the moment, great busyness does seem to be required of me. But it is good to realise why I do all the things I do. It is for love!

Rach Braybrooke





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Ukraine – Aid and Rescue

A 63 year-old former soldier, retired after 25 years of service and living in the Strettons, has found a new calling and has quite a story to tell. In April 2022, Paul N – his 'handle' on social media, began to help sorting and boxing humanitarian aid donations at a charitable organisation in Shrewsbury. Using his own car and a borrowed trailer and at the request of the organisation, he travelled to Poland with his first delivery in May 2022.

In early August he heard about a mother, her two children and their dog, who were stuck in Kyiv. There was a sponsor family waiting for them in the UK but a journey by public transport out of Ukraine was, for various reasons, not possible. So, Paul decided to go and fetch them. "Just like that," as a magician once said. But perhaps not. The return trip of 3,500 miles took nine days and through some battle-scarred areas of Ukraine.

"It just grew," Paul explains, "I've been making, on average, monthly trips to Ukraine since then, delivering humanitarian aid such as food, hygiene and medical products, generators and even vehicles – and, of course, bringing out refugees. I go again in June, (at the time of writing this piece, in May) which will be my fifth trip this year."

The supplies that Paul transports are either donations of goods or those purchased with cash, raised through fundraising. He says, "Last December we started to raise money for a generator. Donations totalled enough for three! Also, we've been given nine secondhand generators by local people. All of them were needed in Ukraine's winter months, when electricity supplies were cut by enemy action against local infrastructure. One of them was given to a small village, and has been used in a community centre to supply heat and warm food to the local population. This is all due to the generosity of people here in the Strettons."

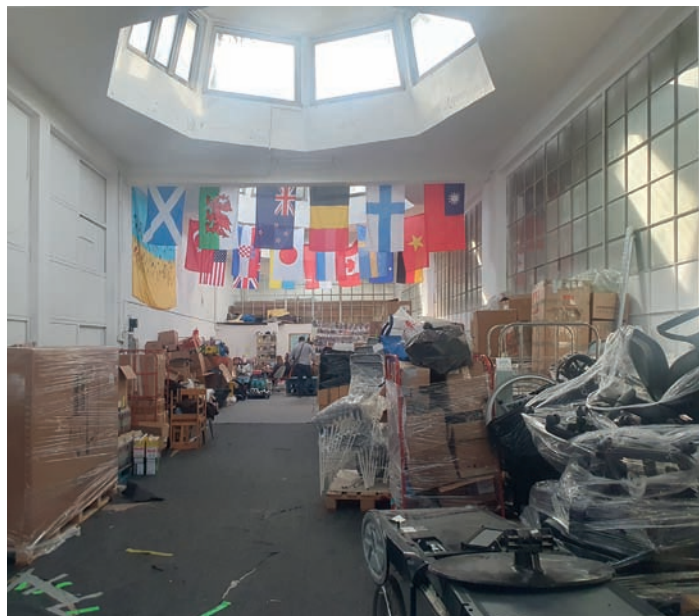
Most of the transport costs are met by monetary donations, but not all. Fuel, ferry tickets, accommodation along the route (when Paul doesn't sleep in his vehicle), and perhaps a flight home if the out-bound vehicle is left in Ukraine, can be costly. Sometimes Paul has paid all these costs himself. He explains, "I've driven my own car sometimes. I've also flown to Warsaw where I've picked up vehicles destined for Ukraine from other organisations. I recently drove to Lviv in a donated vehicle and it is now being used by a military amputee rehabilitation centre in Lviv."

On one trip Paul helped a friend deliver aid to Ukraine from Poland. Driving on his own, Paul was travelling on a route from Warsaw to Dnipro to Kyiv and then back to Warsaw. On leaving Dnipro he was asked to divert to Kharkiv (some 20 miles from the Russian border in the east) to collect an elderly gentleman. A Danish organisation had offered him cancer treatment, but he had to get to Warsaw first, where he would be collected. Paul drove for two extra days. He doesn't speak Ukrainian and the gentleman didn't speak English, but somehow his gratitude was made very clear. Paul says, "I have since heard that the treatment worked and I believe he's doing well."

Paul is in touch with other aid providers through a network of charity and ad-hoc organisations, but there is no team of workers supporting him here in the Strettons.

He says, "Caroline Crump, from All Stretton, is my star helper. She organises aid collection as well as fund raising. She is a human dynamo. It's important to remember that, in addition to the millions of people who have sought refuge outside Ukraine, there are untold numbers of displaced people still there. People who have fled horrific situations, often in fear of their lives. Although it is more than one year since the start of the war, it is important we do not forget them and that we continue to provide help."

Caroline joins in, "I've lived in Church Stretton most of my life and have always been involved in the community. I met Paul when he was walking my neighbour's dog, and



when he started talking to me about his work I wanted to help. Under Paul's guidance I began to appeal for the most needed aid supplies, such as warm clothes, blankets, toiletries and medical supplies. I've also helped with fund raising, such as holding a New Year's Eve Party. In April Paul and I, with some of the refugees who now live in the local area, held a very successful fund-raising event at the Silvester Horne Institute."

Neither Paul nor Caroline has any previous connection with Ukraine, and neither speaks the language. But Paul has been a soldier, and has seen the impact and results of armed conflict, whereas Caroline has an interest in geo-politics and the effect on populations of their country's geography. From those beginnings have come the bountiful results of their tremendous efforts on behalf of the people of Ukraine. Awestruck isn't too big a word, as I'm sure our readers will agree.

Paul and Caroline use Facebook and the Nextdoor social media website to raise awareness, and they took part in the Big Help Out morning in the SHI over the Coronation Bank Holiday.

Paul also gives talks to organisations such as Rotary to help spread the word. Should any readers want to help or donate, or to arrange for Paul to give a talk, please contact Caroline on 01694 723283 or 07480 938639 or email alancrump@sky.com

Christine Williams, Focus Journalist

Additional Works Proposed for Coppice Leasowes



If you're wondering what has been going on with various bits of monitoring that have taken place recently and with the gathering of folk on the west side of Coppice Leasowes on Monday 5th June, it was to discuss a proposal from the Environment Agency to restore the Ash Brook to a more natural state through the reserve to link into the scrapes that were constructed last year. This should not only help reduce flooding locally but also the risk of undercutting the railway embankment.

The reserve has benefitted tremendously from the installation of the scrapes and this work should augment that. It will be funded by both the Environment Agency and Network Rail. The full proposal will be taken to a full Council meeting for decision at the end of July and there will be consultation beforehand.

*Janet Martin & Mike Carter,
Coppice Leasowes Interest Group*

Flicks in the Sticks supports First Responders



On behalf of Church Stretton Flicks in the Sticks, we were really pleased to present Church Stretton First Responders with a cheque for £500.00.

The great response we have had over the last 18 months since Flicks returned to Church Stretton in January 2022 means that we have generated more money than we need to keep the films running. Thank you to all who come to Flicks in the Silvester Horne Institute for your support and thank you to First Responders for your absolutely vital and valued work for our community.

Please join us for our autumn season of films at the SHI on Thursday, 21st September (further details to be announced).

The Church Stretton Flicks team





It was a source of personal pride for our county; the knowledge that the screen surrounding King Charles III at his anointing during the Coronation was largely designed by Shropshire artists. Aidan Hart the internationally renowned iconographer, designed the three-sided panel, whilst Tim Royall of Memorial Arts (Jackfield, Ironbridge) designed the two eagles which sat on the top of the wooden poles of the frame holding the screen; a design then cast into bronze by Paul Kennedy, based at Acton Round, Bridgnorth.

The three-sided screen's central panel featured a tree with 56 embroidered leaves, representing each of the 56 member countries in the Commonwealth. The King's cypher appeared at the base of the tree trunk, "representing the Sovereign as servant of the people," according to Buckingham Palace.

What was not commented upon was the motto embroidered on the base of the screen's central panel: *All shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.*

These are words recorded in the first ever book published in English by a woman. The woman was Mother Julian of Norwich 1343-1416. Julian of Norwich was a mystic and anchoress who had visions of the Passion of Christ and recorded them in her book *The Shewings of Mother Julian of Norwich*, more commonly known as *Revelations of Divine Love*.

We do not actually know Julian's name; she is known by the dedication of the church where she lived in permanent seclusion from the world in a cell (a simply furnished room) which according to tradition has three windows. The first faced inwardly to church, through which Julian would receive communion and hear Mass, the second was external through which a servant would pass food and those elements necessary for life, finally there was a third window through which people could ask for prayers and receive

spiritual guidance. This year marks her 650th anniversary.

Pope Francis in a Message sent to both the Catholic and Anglican bishops of Norwich and East Anglia for the 650th Anniversary stated: "The profound significance of this English mystic for the Christian tradition speaks to us from across the centuries and is increasingly being acknowledged and celebrated. Indeed, her maternal influence, humble anonymity, and profound theological insights stand as timely reminders that faith in God's loving providence and holiness of life expressed in generous service to our brothers and sisters in need, are timeless truths underpinning not only the life of Christian discipleship but the very fabric of a just and fraternal society. Of particular note is Julian's generosity in welcoming those who sought spiritual counsel and encouragement. This willingness to sacrifice self-convenience for the sake of others is especially needed in responding to the endemic problems of isolation and loneliness felt by so many in the more materially affluent nations of the world. In this regard, it is my hope that through a greater appreciation of the life of Mother Julian, Christians today will be encouraged to follow ever more faithfully and joyfully the example of Jesus, the one who came *not to be served but to serve* (Matthew 20:28).

May we come to know and appreciate this woman's insights, wisdom and words of comfort rooted in a profound experience and appreciation of the divine love for humanity. May it feed our souls.

One particular quote from *The Shewings* which I draw upon from time to time is *He said not "Thou shalt not be tempested, thou shalt not be travailed, thou shalt not be diseased"; but He said "Thou shalt not be overcome."* Mother Julian of Norwich – Pray for us!

Canon Jonathan

Westhope Village Hall

Our Coronation celebrations on Sunday 7th May were enjoyed by many. We had a beautiful buffet with an abundance of savouries and cakes, tea/coffee and a complimentary glass of bubbly to toast our new King and Queen. The children really enjoyed a variety of games and competitions with prizes for the best art. The winning scarecrow was Martin and Clare who did a fantastic job. Thank you to all for supporting this momentous occasion.

Our good old fashioned rummage sale in April was again a great success raising much needed funds for our ongoing improvements. Thank you for all the donations we received and most of all to the ladies who helped sort it out and their valued help on the day. We had a great skittles social evening on 12th May, with the licensed bar and hot dogs for refreshments.

All enquiries Betty 07860 447397 or Amie 07486 414742

Betty Manley



Pete Carroll

07966 034061


carroll.pjc@googlemail.com

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Church Stretton Rotary has had yet another very busy month:-

Rotary at StrettFest

Rotary were out in force for StrettFest, helping to set up and break down the 20 stands in Rectory Field, putting out chairs and tables and helping to setup the PA system. A number of our members were also involved in marshalling the event with the help of the police, stopping traffic to allow the parade of dancers, bicycles and climate change people to safely get around the town and for visitors to enjoy the afternoon and understand what was going on. The photo shows Rotarians David and Moira Matthews entering into the spirit of StettFest.



Church Stretton Rotary Quiz team make the District Final

Our intrepid quizzers Don, Graham, Mark and Peter made it through to the final of the Rotary quiz in Market Drayton, having won the first round in Shrewsbury and they came second in round 2 at Bridgnorth. But on the final night they could only manage 7th and were well behind eventual winners Wellington. The only consolation was that we got many more points than our local rivals of Ludlow Rotary Club. This was the first time we had entered for many years and the team thoroughly enjoyed it.



Election of Church Stretton President Elect

At our recent business meeting, Pat Stokes-Smith was unanimously elected as our new President Elect. She will be the first lady President of our Club when she receives the chain of office at our hand-over at the end of June.

Pat said: "From 1st July Church Stretton Rotary will be celebrating its 70th Anniversary Year and its first woman President. I'm very honoured and excited to have been chosen to take on this role. I hope it might help to encourage more women to be involved. Rotary these days is definitely not



Pat is shown above playfully attempting to relieve the chain of office from the current President, Graham Shackleton

just a group of older men in suits having dinner together. We aim to support our community by raising funds to help a variety of projects and causes, most recently providing the driveway for the Glyn's Garden project and helping with the running of StrettFest. There's a number of social events too, including in May a very enjoyable evening at the Masonic Lodge when we had the pleasure of presenting a Young Hero Award to Ella, an excellent meal and a great performance by Gareth Jenkins, a very entertaining conjurer. Church Stretton Rotary has lots of ideas, lots to do and lots of fun." If you would like to know more, please contact: patstokessmith@hotmail.com

Don Lovejoy

Young Heroes Award

In January, the search for Church Stretton Rotary – Young Heroes Award 2023 began. This search ended on Wednesday 31st May, when the presentation of Church Stretton Rotary Young Heroes Award took place.

The young person chosen as Church Stretton Rotary's Young Hero is Ella McFarlane. Ella's Nomination stated:

"When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022 Ella started making felt heart keyrings in the colours of the Ukrainian flag. She sold these to family, friends, at school and at Berry's. By February 2023 she had raised almost £1,100, all of which has gone to the Ukrainian appeal of the Red Cross. It is estimated, Ella has so far made 500 hearts.

While Ella's financial contribution is of course a tiny proportion of the UK's overall aid to Ukraine, she has demonstrated to Ukrainians staying locally, the community's support for them and their country, while at the same time showing how an individual can encourage residents of, and

visitors to, the Strettons to come together and support Ukraine as part of a cohesive community.

In more general terms, it would be nice to think that Ella's public example of wanting to contribute to a group effort might encourage younger adults to emulate her example."



Ella receiving her award

The initiative and determination shown by Ella to help those whose country had been invaded made a great impression on the members of Church Stretton Rotary and Ella being presented with the Young Heroes Award is justly deserved.

Ella was presented with her 'Goody Bag' by John McKenzie, of Central Garage who sponsored the Young Heroes Award. Lynwen Gott, standing in for Linda Bolton who was unable to attend, presented Ella with the Len Bolton Memorial Shield, Church Stretton Rotary President Graham Shackleton presented the Young Heroes Trophy with Peter Burt, Church Stretton Youth Team Leader, presenting the golden envelope containing the cash prize.

After the Awards Ceremony Ella said "I was very surprised when I found I was nominated for the Award, and I was even more surprised when I found out that I had won. I don't know much about the Rotary Club, but I am pleased that they want to encourage local young people. I think it is important to help other people especially those that are in really bad situations, so I think that we should all help out to make the world better for everyone."

Church Stretton Rotary wish to thank all who supported the Young Heroes Award 2023. The next Church

Stretton Rotary – Young Heroes Award will be held in 2025, so please when the call for nominations is published, please consider those young often unsung heroes and send in your nominations.

Find the Rotary Rabbits

Church Stretton Rotary's 'Find the Rotary Rabbit' competition for children under 12 years was very successful. The competition ran for the month of April, with the rabbits hidden in the window of various shops and other organisations. Many children, and adults, took part resulting in a good number of correct entries being submitted. Because of the number of entries received the winner was drawn at random, as laid out in the competition rules. All the correct entries have received a Rotary Rabbit and the winner Lottie, who lives in Richmond, Surrey received a £10 note instead of the voucher as she would not have been able to spend the voucher.

It is interesting that of the correct entries, over 30% were from children who do not live in Stretton or surrounding area. The feedback received from parents and grandparents thanks the club for setting up the competition as it provided an interesting and enjoyable activity over the Easter holiday.

Church Stretton Rotary thank the shop keepers for making this event happen.

*Peter Burt
Youth team Leader*

Cardington Village Fête

Saturday 8th July, open 1.30pm

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Historic Church Stretton – Spring Cottage

In plan, Spring Cottage is out of line with its neighbours. It has been suggested that it may be on a building line of a much earlier road; it lines up with an ancient path across the Robinson field and the Old Cardington Road and, in the other direction, with the site of the old Hall and the dry valley across Rectory Field up to the top of Cunneery Road. The house has obviously been altered and extended but parts are very old and the arrangements of doors and rooms does suggest the plan of a hall with a cross passage.



*Burway Road showing Spring Cottage (centre) and Brook House (right), about 1900.
Photo: Oonagh O'Neill*

Manor court document of 1757 records that “Thomas Russell, a maltster, surrendered (i.e. gave up his tenure) a messuage or tenement formerly called Stephens, then called the Swan Inn and now known as the Swan and Malt Shovel, together with malthouse, barns, stables, buildings and folds.”

Later, it was occupied by John Corfield who married Mary Beddoes. In the 1830s their daughters ran a girls’ school from the house before moving to Ragleth House where they set up a boarding school. Spring Cottage was owned by the Beddoes family for much of the 19th century together with the large garden between the cottage and Burway House. In the stone wall of the garden the initials JB are carved with the date 1871. This probably refers to John Beddoes who owned the gardens which are recorded in numerous documents as the site of skin pits.

By 1871 it was let to David Hyslop, a Scottish-born posting horse master, who seems to have started his business there before he extended into premises across the road which became the Church Stretton Posting Establishment. Mary,

his wife, bought Spring Cottage in 1902 and it has remained with the family since then. When the house changed hands during the late 18th and 19th centuries, the property always included a malthouse on the site of what is now the Hollybush Café.

The café got its name in the 1930s when Molly Stanton and her partner, Daisy Lowther, worked a farm at Bryn, near Bishop’s Castle, from where they delivered their own soft fruits, vegetables, and cream to shops in the area. They supplied milk from the farm and named it after Hollybush Farm where they lived, driving into Church Stretton each day in a large Austin car. They later opened the café.

David Hyslop’s son, Charles James Hyslop, ran a coal business from Spring Cottage and had a coal wharf at the railway station.

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

URC Voice

July tea with the Queen

“Absolutely disgusting.” “Should be banned.” “Children should not be subjected to this stuff.” These were some of the views expressed when I happened to mention a book I had come across entitled, I think, *Tea with the Queen*.

Personally I thought the story rather good. It was a story for teenagers which describes the events in the life of a teenage boy gradually coming to terms with the fact that he is gay. The queen referred to in the title refers, of course, to the sexuality of the boy, not to the late Monarch, and it shows how a book can be interpreted completely differently from different perspectives.

According to figures published recently England is the least religious country in Europe with 70% of people saying they have no belief in organised religions. One hundred plus years ago the belief in religion was much higher. Today, in parts of Africa, religious belief has never been stronger. What

can we make of this? Probably not very much.

People ‘believe’ things in various ways. We like to think that we are a scientific, rational society but this is only one way of believing. We are also emotional in our beliefs. Two people can come to different conclusions and their beliefs have very little to do with rationality. For example, people can believe in one political party or another. Their beliefs are hardly scientific or rational but rather based upon emotion. Donald Trump arouses intense emotion in both his followers and his detractors.

A few years ago I looked up the beliefs among Nobel Prize winners of chemistry. 70% of these professed a belief in the Christian faith! Make of this what you will.

At the URC church we are open, thinking and inclusive in our beliefs. I only wish more organisations were the same.

Michael Holden



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Free concerts at the Arts Festival

Since 2007 there have been nine free concerts in every festival – six coffee concerts and three organ recitals. Here, Richard Walker presents an overview of what you can expect this year.



CHURCH
ARTS

Coffee concerts this year take place in St Laurence's Church SY6 6DQ, beginning at 10.15am and ending at about 11.00am when coffee, tea and homemade biscuits will be served by Berry's Coffee House for a ridiculously low price with proceeds to Mayfair Community Centre.

Concerts run daily from Monday 31st July to Saturday 5th August. Come in time to get a good seat!

Organ recitals are in three different churches (see opposite page), beginning at noon and ending around 12.45pm. They all aim to provide programmes combining accessible organ music with music of interest to more seasoned organ-followers.

Coffee Concerts have a varied programme...

Monday 31st July: Baritone Paul Mocroft with pianist John Jenkin are regular contributors, and they open our season this year.

Tuesday 1st August: Piano duet team Gill Styles and Richard Walker play two lovely arrangements – Bach's 4th *Brandenburg Concerto*, and Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

Wednesday 2nd August: We are fortunate to have many fine wind players in the area, so you have the opportunity to hear a rare performance of the *Quintet for Piano and Wind* by the German composer Herzogenberg.



Gill Styles and Richard Walker



Gina Taylor

Thursday 3rd August: Gina Taylor has wowed audiences at other venues. One of the up-and-coming younger generation of harpists, she should not be missed.

Friday 4th August: Another chamber music morning. Mark and Claire Tocknell are joined by pianist Brenda Stephenson in works by (amongst others) Grieg and Schumann.

Saturday 5th August: Two years ago, we ended our coffee concert series with Band on the Edge, and we are delighted that they can return this year. Their repertoire runs from early 1920s ragtime through 1940s swing to the 60s.

Other Concerts, Talks and Drama

The Katona Twins

"The classical world's best known guitar duo"

Saturday 29th July 7.30pm, St Laurence's Church £18

Reiko Fujisawa and Friends: *Forests and Flowers*

Pianist Reiko, joined by flautist and horn player

Tuesday 1st August 7.30pm, St Laurence's Church £16

Pauline Prior-Pitt

Award-winning poet from North Uist

Wednesday 2nd August 3pm, Parish Centre £10

Callum Smart & Richard Uttley

Violin and piano duo

Wednesday 2nd August 7.30pm, St Laurence's Church £14

Fontanella

17th century recorder music from a virtuoso quartet

Thursday 3rd August 7.30pm, St Laurence's Church £16

Kensington Brass

Glorious acoustics for this ten-piece brass ensemble

Friday 4th August 7.30pm, St Laurence's Church £16

Dirty Rockin' Scoundrels

Rock 'n' Roll music from the 50s and 60s

Saturday 5th August 7.30pm, Silvester Horne Institute £14

Finding Chester

Fun-filled fantasy show for the younger audience

Monday 7th August 3pm, Silvester Horne Institute £3

STRETTON FESTIVAL 29th July - 12th August

Organ recitals – a chance to hear three very different organs...

Tuesday 8th August: Richard Walker plays at All Saints' Church, Little Stretton SY6 6RD. This church has a large and versatile electronic instrument with a great range of volume and tone colour. The Ragleth Inn will be open from 11.15am for coffee and afterwards for lunch (booking recommended!)

Thursday 10th August: David Thomas plays at St Margaret's Church, Acton Scott SY6 6QQ. The organ here originally belonged to Pelsall Methodist Church, was moved to Acton Scott in 1969 and was thoroughly restored in 2019. Refreshments at Acton Scott Hall from 11.00am.

Saturday 12th August: Timothy Morris plays at St Laurence's Church, Church Stretton SY6 6DQ. This organ was built for the church in 1883. It was designed by Sir Frederick Gore-Ouseley Bt, who was Professor of Music at Oxford, founder and endower of St Michael's Church, Tenbury and also Precentor of Hereford Cathedral. The builder was Nicholson & Co, now of Malvern, who maintain it to this day. And it sounds splendid in the building!



during the Festival...

Harmoniemusik

A return visit for this five-piece classical ensemble
Monday 7th August 7.30pm, St Laurence's Church £14

Where is Mrs Christie?

Fascinating drama about Agatha Christie's 11-day disappearance
Tuesday 8th August 7.30pm, Silvester Horne Institute £12

The Bayeux Tapestry: 950 years of propaganda, intrigue and spin

A talk about this unique artifact from the Middle Ages
Wednesday 9th August 3pm, Parish Centre £10

Meraki Duo

Diverse arrangements of music for flute and guitar
Wednesday 9th August 7.30pm, St Laurence's Church £12

The Trials of Cato

"One of the real discoveries on the folk circuit in recent times"
Thursday 10th August 7.30pm, Silvester Horne Institute £16

Dante Quartet

Classical string quartet
Friday 11th August 7.30pm, St Laurence's Church £16

She'Koyokh

Multi-talented, award-winning Balkan and klezmer band
Saturday 12th August 7.30pm, Concord College, Acton Burnell £20

Tickets for other events in the Festival are available:

- through the Festival website strettonfestival.org.uk;
- in person until 27th July on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am-12noon at the Visitor Information Centre at Church Stretton Library;
- in person at all Festival events.

Reduced prices are available for under 25s in full time education, on all events except for *Finding Chester*. To book an accessible seat, please phone the Festival on 07436 958499 after you have purchased your tickets.

Art, Crafts and Photography Exhibition

Our ever-popular Exhibition is on throughout the Festival and showcases the work of local artists, with most artwork for sale. It takes place at St Lawrence Primary School.

Opening Reception

Monday 31st July 7.30pm £4

Exhibition Open Tuesday 1st August to Saturday 12th August 10.30am-5pm £1

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URC's Bechstein Boudoir Grand Piano

An article in the May edition of *Focus* by The Stretton Choral Society described the choir's appreciation of Sally Oak's piano accompaniment during rehearsals at the URC. Sally had the privilege of playing on a vintage Bechstein Boudoir Grand Piano that previously belonged to Anthea and Timothy Toft, a lovely and inspiring couple, who lived for many years in Cardington. Anthea sang alto with The More Singers. She and Timothy inherited the Bechstein piano from Anthea's father, Leslie Constable, a gifted pianist who regularly performed on it in Kent where the family lived. Anthea remembered going to sleep each evening to the sound of her father playing the piano. She also recalled him accompanying her while she sang. Leslie was given the piano for his birthday in 1923 by his uncle Harry Gates and it remained in the family for the next 98 years. Harry was an accomplished pianist and organist in his own right and a member of a musical family stretching back to his ancestor Bernard Gates who was Master of The Choristers at Westminster Abbey from 1740 to 1757.

When Anthea's and Timothy's health began to deteriorate their family arranged for them to move closer to them. Unable to take the piano with them they generously offered it to the Stretton community at the remarkably low price of £3,000 for such a vintage musical instrument. Representatives of Strettons Arts Forum and the URC met to discuss how best to accept this gift for the benefit of the local community and it was felt that the URC was best placed to provide a home. The church had sufficient money in a reserve fund to purchase the piano and so we jumped at the chance of becoming its proud owner.

stool. Although the URC already possessed a piano stool it tended to squeak when played by an energetic pianist! With the help of a grant from the *Focus* Community Award Scheme, contributions from individuals in the community and donations from concerts organised by Richard Walker



during the remainder of 2021, an impressive sum was raised to cover virtually all of these additional costs.

The URC hosts regular musical events in the church. As well as providing accommodation for Stretton Choral Society rehearsals, the Strettons Classical Music Group meets once a month and a number of Saturday morning concerts also take place. The More Singers have been holding two concerts a year and the Pazapa charity fundraisers have an annual concert with the next to be held in July with Sarah Westwood (soprano), Chris Lacey (flute) and Richard Silk (piano). In September Stretton Choral Society will be present in the church again when they invite other choral singers from the area to join them for a 'Come and Sing' afternoon.

Gradually more musical groups are becoming aware of what we at the URC have to offer. Claire Tocknell chose the URC for the concert she organised in June to raise funds for Ukraine and in October a men's choir from Bishops Castle will be holding a joint concert with a women's choir from Albrighton.

Music means a great deal to members of the United Reformed Church. By giving a new home for the Bechstein grand piano, 100 years old this year, we are doing so primarily so it can be available for concerts, recitals, rehearsals and other musical occasions organised by and benefiting other members of the community. The collaboration with the Strettons Arts Forum remains and Richard Walker advises when the piano needs tuning. We hope that with the piano's acquisition we can continue to play an ever increasing role in serving music lovers in our area.

John Rowlands



The piano arrived at the URC in May 2021 after undergoing extensive renovation at Vale Pianos in Pershore, costing close to a further £2,000. Anthea sadly died before she found an opportunity to see her piano in its new position, and Timothy has now also recently died. A 'Piano Fund' was established to raise money to repay the URC for the costs of renovation, tuning and the purchase of a concert

RSPB Wyre Forest Walk

On Sunday 21st May we had a wonderful walk in the Wyre Forest led by Phil Constable. The weather was perfect, a clear sunny day and not too hot for walking, but warm enough for the butterflies to come out which they most certainly did. It was a circular walk along the lovely rides, which is where we saw the butterflies, crossing streams, walking through lovely open woodland and coming across small meadows that were tucked away, which are managed specifically for the butterflies.

We were certainly not disappointed in seeing the butterflies – the main attraction being the Pearl-bordered Fritillary, which we saw in abundance, together with speckled yellow moth, Green veined white, Orange tip, Brimstone, Speckled wood, Common blue and Common heath moth.

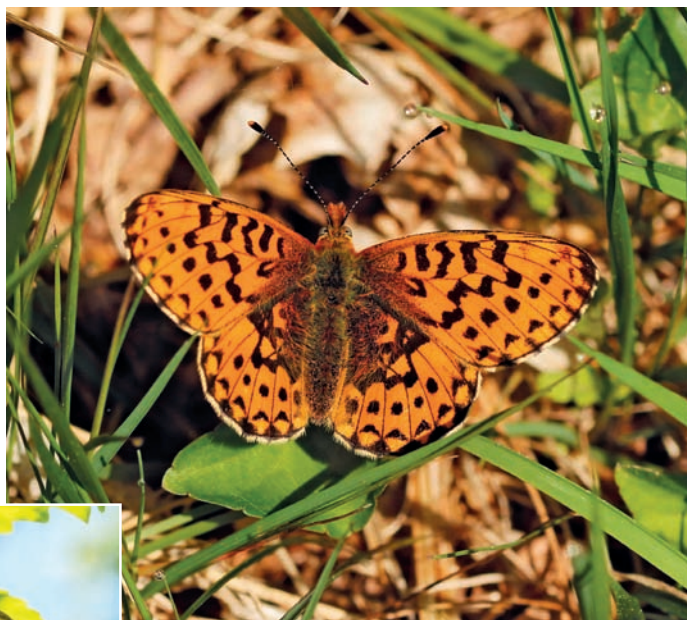
The birds were in abundance too – walking through the different landscapes in the forest we saw Jay, Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Grey Wagtail, Dipper, Great tit, Blue tit, Marsh tit, Pied Flycatcher, Wood Warbler, Nuthatch, Wren, Robin, Dunnock, House Sparrow, Swifts, Long Tailed tits, Redstart, Wood Pigeon, Crow, Magpie, Pied Wagtail, Great Spotted Woodpecker and then we heard the Cuckoo, Bull Finch, Willow warbler, and Chiff Chaff.

As well as the butterflies and birds we also came across Wood Ant mounds, a swarm of honey bees and a Hornet.

The walk lasted a little longer than it was meant to due to it being such a lovely day and there was so much to see!

A big thank you to Phil and his wife who joined us on part of the walk.

Jane Potts



Pearl-bordered fritillary



Pied flycatcher

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

The South Shropshire Local Group of the RSPB has a programme of talks and walks throughout 2022/23

Talks (including refreshments) are £2 to Local Group Members and £5 to Visitors, under 18s half price
Walks are £2

See What's On for details of July events. For further information visit our website www.group.rspb.org.uk/southshropshire or Facebook: **RSPB South Shropshire Local Group**

RSPB Dippers

Where overhanging trees line crystal clear streams flowing through pastureland, look carefully into the shadows for dippers. These greyish, brown, birds, sporting a white shirt, are restless. See them bobbing and jerking while peering into the water for small fish and water insects.

Dippers are great swimmers and plunge from the boulders into the stream for their prey. With short, strong wings they are well adapted to this watery world and appear to be paddling as they hunt the caddisfly larvae and crustacea that hide under stones and weeds.

The old country name for dippers was water ouzel, but while blackbirds were also called ouzels, dippers resemble large wrens, which are also constantly dipping and quivering and have dark cocked tails.

The fast running streams of our hillsides are also places we can see dippers feeding. They move along their territory with a short, rapid flight, alerting us with their zit zit cry.



Up to five eggs will be laid in a nest, which they line with leaves and often build under a bridge. It has become common for people to place boxes in suitable areas, so providing dippers with safe nesting sites. They will frequently have more than one brood.

Carol Wood



Church Stretton Tree Group

Stretton Tree Notes

Wild Service Tree (*Sorbus torminalis*)

Location: In the verge just south of All Stretton

Coordinates: Latitude 52.550803
Longitude -2.801240

Value to wildlife: leaves are eaten by caterpillars of many moths; the berries are eaten by birds and are a particular favourite of wood pigeons whose gut softens the seeds and so prepares them for germination. Insects are attracted to the pollen and nectar of the flowers.

Uses: Little used in recent times but many years ago the berries were picked as a natural sweet for children; used to make a form of beer and also prepared as an infusion to treat colic and dysentery. The wood was considered so durable that millwrights made cogs from it.

General: Deciduous; grows to 25m; native to the UK; although once abundant it is now largely confined to ancient woods and hedgerows where it acts as an indicator species.

Did you know: The name derives from the Latin word for beer, *cervisia*, as the berries were used to make a type of alcoholic drink. The fruits were known as chequers and have a taste similar to dates.

Significant UK specimen: Very few but Hampstead Heath is recorded as having a specimen of 25m height as of 2013.



Photo by Paul Eade, May 2023. Find this tree on the database map at churchstrettontreegroup.co.uk

The Body Language of Trees and Tree Identification

The Tree Group has a new event this month in Rectory Wood and Field focussing on understanding how trees grow and develop and how to identify different species. We have been fortunate to have benefited from the expertise of Terry Merchant in previous years and he has been persuaded to come again to share his expert knowledge and enthusiasm with us looking at how trees adapt to their location and growing conditions, and how best to manage them. Terry is a Chartered Forester and Arborist who knows Church Stretton well. His talks are always fascinating so we are sure to learn a lot.

We will mainly be looking at trees in the Field so we will be avoiding any very steep paths. The event is on Sunday 16th July starting at 2.30pm. The meeting place is the entrance to Rectory Field from Church Street by the gate. If you would like to attend it would be helpful if you could let us know in advance so we have an idea of numbers – just email: cstreegroup@gmail.com

We will have to put a cap on the numbers if it proves very popular.

The cost will be £2 for members of the Tree Group and £4 for non-members, payable on the day.

Hilary Hymas

An Ian Jones Walk – Townbrook Hollow

When many of us first moved to the Strettons, we bought the walking booklets authored by Ian Jones, with his wonderful drawings, and gained tremendous pleasure from using them. Then some were lucky enough to meet Ian and his wife when they joined local walking groups. Ian was an enthusiastic member and walk leader for many years before his death. We wanted to remember Ian by reproducing some of his walks in *Focus* and this is the first of what we hope will be an occasional series.

Whilst we try to do a walk before including it in *Focus*, there may well have been changes in the route such as different gates and stiles. Please carry a map with you and allow for difficult terrain in very dry or wet weather.

Reproduced by kind permission of Ian Jones' family

WALK N° 2 TOWNBROOK HOLLOW Approx 3 miles.

Starting from the SQUARE walk up Church Walk and go through gates, ahead into Rectory field. After kissing gate climb up field, ignore the path to the right. At the top of the field pass through a kissing gate into a small car park. Turn right on road and after 100 metres turn right up a track. Climb up the 100 steps, and turn right after crossing the stile at the top. After a short distance turn left up a steep path. This bends to the left and becomes a very clear path. Keep climbing. The path eventually levels out. Bear to the right on meeting another path. Travel along the edge of Ashlett hill. Bend to the right and go over a rocky area and a stream. Drop down Townbrook Hollow. Go past Reservoir at bottom of valley. Continue ahead into Rectory Wood via a kissing gate. Keep to the low path. Cross through a kissing gate. Down steps and back to start point.

This walk climbs to a high point on the long Mynd and gives excellent views over the Stretton Valley



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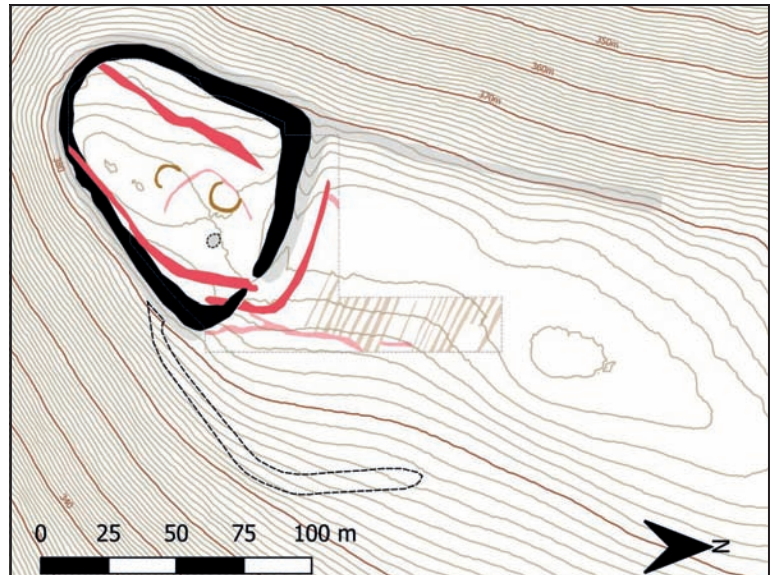
Recent Archaeology in the Shropshire Hills

There has been a range of projects investigating, researching and conserving the rich and varied heritage of the Shropshire Hills over the last few years, leading to a deeper understanding of the archaeology of the area and improved conservation of some of the most precious monuments. Work has taken place as part of the 'Our Upland Commons' (OUC) project, a three-year, £3m, 25-partner project helping to secure the future of upland commons in Dartmoor, the Lake District, Yorkshire Dales and Shropshire Hills, led by the Foundation for Common Land. It is funded by the National Lottery players, grants from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation and the Millichope Foundation, amongst others.

Archaeological work has also been carried out as part of the Stepping Stones project – another partnership programme led by the National Trust which takes an innovative, landscape-scale approach to nature conservation. The aim is ecological connectivity: connecting wildlife habitats by strengthening or creating 'stepping stones' and corridors of habitat between and around the two core sites of Long Mynd and the Stiperstones. Both projects have had a heritage thread which aims to engage local people with understanding the heritage of common land, carrying out archaeological work, research as well as conservation and repair work to scheduled monuments.

The two projects jointly funded a 25cm resolution LiDAR survey of the Long Mynd and surrounding landscape in 2022. Airborne LiDAR measures the height of the ground surface across the landscape with very high resolution. It provides detailed models of the land surface which enables archaeologists to recognise and record previously undetected archaeological features. Some fascinating features in the landscape are already coming to light from the data (see below) which is also available online for anyone to peruse, using this short link: bit.ly/longmynd-lidar.

Between March and July 2022, Archaeological Survey West (ASW), on behalf of the 'Our Upland Commons' project undertook geophysical investigations at two scheduled sites on the Long Mynd common. The aim was to enhance understanding of the sites through non-intrusive means. The results have been really fascinating:

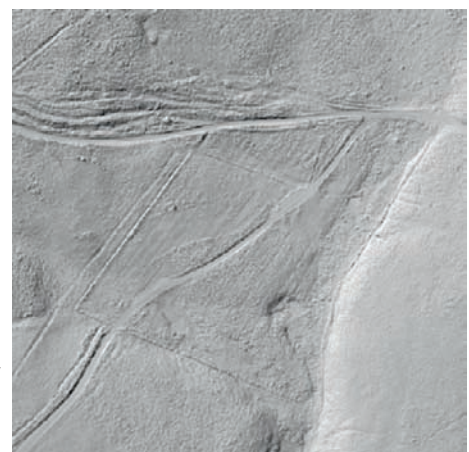


Results image from Bodbury Ring © ASW

Bodbury Ring, a univallate hillfort on the southern tip of Bodbury Hill: At Bodbury Hill the survey identified a broad curving feature, which may represent part of an earlier enclosure than the hillfort. There were also some internal, circular features identified within Bodbury Ring, suggesting that there was occupation inside the fort. Further work would be needed, but they may represent roundhouses, commonly found within Iron Age Hillforts.



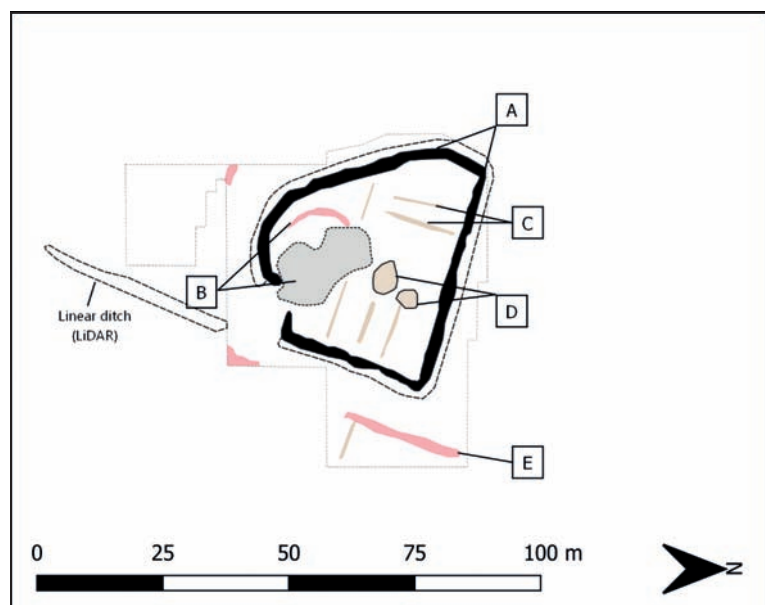
*Earthworks at Myndtown.
LiDAR local relief model*



*Enclosures near the Portway
LiDAR digital terrain model
(DTM) hillshade*

Nover's Hill is a small enclosure and building platform situated below the summit of Nover's Hill on the Long Mynd. It had been assumed that the remains were Medieval and possibly represented a stock enclosure or other feature related to farming. The geophysics results show a circular feature which may be an Iron Age roundhouse; the survey also revealed that the banks are probably made of stone rather than earth.

Age hillforts which are important heritage features in the area. This work has meant that they can continue to be protected and preserved for future generations, as well as providing skills training in heritage conservation for local volunteers.



Results image from Novers Hill © ASW

Other recent work has included volunteer conservation and repair work. As part of the Stepping Stones project, volunteers spent four days carrying out erosion repair to sheep scrapes at Ratlinghope Iron Age hillfort. This followed on from similar repairs that have been done at Bodbury Ring, Caer Caradoc and Nordy Bank – all are local Iron



Repairs at Ratlinghope Hill

*Janine Young
Archaeological Consultant, Midlands and East*

Methodist Voice

“I don’t need a God” said the girl. “Oh?” said the voice. “No, I don’t need a God, I have beauty in art, great sculptures, paintings and buildings,” said the girl. “Ah yes, beauty, like the towering mountains, the rolling seas or the forests of green?” said the voice.

“Mmmm? well I don’t need a God. I have wonderful things to listen to: Mozart, Beethoven and the beauty of the human voice in song,” said the girl. “Ah yes, auditory treats like the bird calls greeting the day, the powerful hush of the falling snow, the bleats of lambs heralding the spring,” said the voice.

“Mmmmm? well I don’t need a God. I live in a world where so much has been created, space travel, electricity, computers. I live with creative minds,” said the girl. “Ah yes, the beauty of the creative mind like the maker of the interior of a conch shell, the butterfly that emerges from a

mush-filled chrysalis and the power of the sun that ensures the existence of everything,” said the voice.

“Mmmmm?” said the girl, admittedly getting a little cross with this conversation. “Well, I don’t need a God, I have humans and they give me help if I should ask. They know me... well nearly know me and possibly like me.” “Ah yes, the people who know you and all your faults and darknesses and yet will still hold your hand when you reach out in the night crying with grief and pain. The people who will listen unceasingly to your questions and your doubts and your fears. The people who always want the best for you even if it costs them? The people who love you so much they would die for you.” said the God. The girl said nothing but fell to her knees in thanks.

KN Lewis



~ Thank you ~

May I, through your magazine, thank the friends and neighbours who came to my rescue a few weeks ago when I was taken ill. I am normally boringly reliable but when I failed to turn up at a meeting two of my fellow Committee members decided to come and check that all was well.

I was semi-conscious on my bedroom floor having succumbed to a rather unpleasant infection of the kidneys. Thanks to their concern and the speed of the ambulance response, within just over half an hour of being discovered I was on my way to the Princess Royal Hospital.

The Paramedics were brilliant, efficiently manoeuvring me out to the ambulance. I went knowing that the house would be secured, the cat would be fed and even my seeds watered!

I shan't name anyone to avoid potential embarrassment but they know who they were and what assistance they gave, only in Church Stretton could such care be given to me and mine.

Thank you to everyone involved.

Nigel Marsden

President Royal British Legion, Church Stretton Branch

RNLI

Many thanks to everyone who came to our stall at the Charities Day on 8th May. It was nice to see you all, especially as the weather wasn't pleasant for venturing forth. We were able to send £113 to the RNLI towards their life saving work.



Many thanks to our helpers and to the Town Council for allowing us to use the Silvester Horne Institute. Our next event will be at the Family Fun Day on 1st July in the Town Park.

Church Stretton RNLI Fund Raising Committee

Exciting volunteering opportunity at Scrappies!

Two volunteers wanted to work alternate Saturday mornings 10am-12 noon.

A variety of jobs available including sorting/pricing and displaying items.

Volunteering at Scrappies is great fun. One day you could be helping make a display for Halloween, another day you might be needed to help put together craft kits.

We cannot emphasise enough the importance of volunteers in assisting Scrappies to do our work.



Without them Scrappies could not exist. For more information, please call 01694 328508 or email info@scrappies.org.

Look out for Scrappies Summer Holiday Children's Workshops at the store!

Church Stretton Gardening Club

Ralph Court Gardens

A trip to Ralph Court Gardens, Bromyard has been arranged for Tuesday, 11th July 9am-2.45pm, a garden with 12 themes and water features, and a restaurant overlooking the Malvern Hills. If you would like to join us, please contact Wendy Lee on 07484 824100 or wendylee874@btinternet.com

New Secretary Needed

We are looking for a new secretary to replace the irreplaceable Eve. It is not onerous and involves informing *Focus* of our talks and trips and taking minutes for our small, friendly committee. Anyone who thinks they could fit that bill please contact Sue Forster on 723318 or sdfm22@gmail.com

Sue Forster

The Pazapa Annual Concert



Dreams of Summer

URC on Saturday Morning
8th July 10.30am

With Sarah Westwood, soprano, Chris Lacey, flute, and Richard Silk on the Bechstein piano. Music from Gershwin, Purcell and others.

Noel Beattie

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The Next Generation Group Annual Fair

The Next Generation Group held its second annual fair on 20th May, in Craven Arms. This is a project born from a passion and keen

interest to bring the knowledge and awareness of sustainable living to younger generations. Its mission is to bring the community and local groups together, to close generational gaps and exchange information, educate and spread awareness on topics such as our impact on the environment and small or practical steps that each individual or young family can take to protect their local environment and reduce their carbon footprint, thus contributing to the climate care.

"We don't want to preach to the converted", Hilary Luff, vice chair of the committee said. "...we want to reach out to younger people, busy young families, new homeowners. If one or two people come and take away something that they can then apply and make a small change to the way they operate in their daily lives, then it is all worth it."



The event was attended by charities and not-for-profit groups such as Stretton Climate Care, Save our Shropshire, Zero Carbon Shropshire, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, South Shropshire Climate Action, Marches Energy Agency, Shropshire Master Composters and Grow, Cook Learn. Everyone enjoyed lovely sunshine throughout the day. Opportunities to discuss environmentally friendly alternatives to transport and trial riding on electric bikes were provided by Dave Mellor Cycles.

There was a good number of visitors who, as well as learning about sustainability, were entertained by Shrewsbury Morris Dancers who produced a fantastic show, belly dancing by Eastern Mystique, children's songs by the Mini Glasshouse local drama group from the Mad Hatters Play Group and spectacular dances performed by the SAPA group. There were tears in the eyes of the spectators when the young SAPA performers made a raw and emotional speech on climate change, our mission to save it and the urgency to act on it now:

"... the first thing that comes to mind when we say about climate change is our future families and children won't be able to enjoy the world like we are enjoying it now. Are we all going to step in and do something about it... or

are we gonna ignore it like we've done for so long? [...] but to be honest it can feel like people are going on and on about it and we never end up listening. [...] and realised that the only reason why

people were going on and on about this is because people aren't listening. [...] The reason why we are here today is because of how we want our families to have an amazing life and what if they can't enjoy it? [...] I'm terrified of bringing a child into this world. [...] instead of working against nature by dropping litter and chopping trees we can work with nature and reduce, reuse and recycle all that we can! We can plant new trees and educate younger generations about how restoring the wild will recapture carbon and help us bring back balance to our world. Teaming up with nature can benefit everyone hugely... we just need to work together." (Written by Year 8 and Year 10 Senior Theatre group performers.)

Many thanks also to the Craven Arms Fire Crew who brought in the engine for everyone to see and to find out more about fire safety and possibly a future career with the service. There was even something for the pampered pooches of the family with many four-legged friends walking off with first-prize red rosettes.

The youngest visitors to the event had the opportunity to enter an art competition on specific natural and environmental themes. The competition was hugely successful with nearly 50 entries and some very spectacular displays. Paul Harding, chair of *Stretton Focus* and his wife Anne-Helen had the pleasure and the difficulty in choosing the winners in each age category, ranging from as young as 2 years old to age 12. The winners received packs of seeds as prizes which were donated by Dobbies Garden Centre.


There was something for everyone. The event was a success in achieving its mission and bringing people together, and the positive feedback received from exhibitors



and visitors alike keeps the group committed to continue in this direction. The event wouldn't have been made possible without the generosity of our sponsors such as Craven Arms Town Council, Euro Quality Lambs, *Stretton Focus*, Cyril Bason and Hilary's Childminders. The team at the Next Generation Fair intend to repeat the event and to reach an even bigger audience next year. If you wish to get involved why not contact us at nextgenerationfair@gmail.com.

Catalina Alexandroaie
Secretary of Next Generation Group

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Twentieth Century

When the League of Nations was formed after World War I, support groups grew up under the initials LNU – League of Nations Union. The earliest local reference to LNU yet found is 1934. By the time of the second world war the Stretton Branch had almost 200 members, in days when the local population was much smaller than today.

The League of Nations is often thought of as a complete failure but for twenty years it had some successes in the realm of community health (malaria and leprosy), rehabilitation of refugees, and in international disputes (e.g. between Sweden and Finland and between Greece and Bulgaria). However, it became increasingly obvious that the League had no way of controlling aggressive dictators from invading other nation states and it was replaced by the United Nations in 1945.

This was when the Church Stretton LNU Branch changed its name to UNA – United Nations Association. For the rest of the twentieth century UNA members were active, as can be seen by reading past copies of *Stretton Focus*. People gathered in study groups, learning about the background of current affairs. Such studies often

resulted in letters of protest or recommendations of action which should be taken. Public meetings were addressed by speakers experienced in diplomacy, human rights, peacemaking and peacekeeping. Many such speakers gained a healthy respect for the wide range of knowledge and interests held by residents in a rural area. Kitty Murby (a legend in her own lifetime and organising secretary for almost forty years) was very keen to encourage young people to take an interest in world affairs and some would be invited to offer musical items to add variety to a meeting. Some youngsters were supported financially in foreign travel, and links were made with local schools and with Concord College.

Twenty First Century

There has been a sharp decline in membership of UNA locally but the work goes on.

The most visible activity is the annual street collection for UNICEF, the UN Children's Fund. UNICEF is active in

over 190 countries, including the UK.

The work covers emergency relief as well as ongoing programmes of vaccination, education and protection of human rights. The collection is organised in Church Stretton, Ludlow, Craven Arms and Much Wenlock; this requires a large number of volunteers so UNA is grateful to friends outside the membership who offer an hour or so of their time.

Public meetings for learning and discussion are held from time to time. A series of four such events was held in 2016. These were spectacularly well attended and stimulating. The subject was the European Union, prior to the national referendum. This year there has been a series of forums on different aspects of democracy. However, during May the decision was reluctantly taken to suspend forums and discussion meetings for a period, due to dwindling attendances.

This means that at present the emphasis is on stirring up interest in global matters by publicity in the press and by letters to politicians. The other activity which is still

achievable is having a presence at festivals and other organised events. A stall is set out with literature, flags and posters. People are invited to answer a simple question on e.g. the effectiveness of the United Nations. This often leads to meaningful conversations. The results of the ballot are then recorded and published.

Two examples of how UNA responded to world events occurred in 2001 and 2010.

The day after the twin towers disaster that came to be known as 'Nine Eleven', discussion took place in the Silvester

Horne Institute on how to respond. How could such a small, insignificant group hope to address terrorism in faraway places? In following days the news was full of Afghans fleeing their homes as refugees, so the decision was taken to research into ways of helping to rehabilitate people when they were able to return home. Help and advice was given by the UN refugee agency, UNHCR. £10,000 was raised in donations, garden parties and other events. A number of public meetings were addressed by speakers with extensive knowledge of Afghanistan and the donation bowl was well used on such occasions. The money enabled 182 refugees to be trained in four profitable skills – carpentry, quilt making, tin smithing and poultry farming. A Braille writing machine was also purchased for a Kabul school for visually impaired children. And in the process local people were rewarded by learning about Afghanistan, its people, its history and its problems.

In January 2010 the Caribbean country of Haiti was devastated by earthquake. The death toll was considerably



The Mayor, Tom Beaumont, welcomed senior diplomat, Sir Jeremy Greenstock, to Church Stretton in 2012. Sir Jeremy was the keynote speaker for a two day presentation, 'Uniting for Peace and Prosperity'.

greater than in the nine eleven disaster and many more people became homeless. The poorest country in the western world, with unstable governance, was on its knees. When the UNA group met there was a unanimous cry "We must do something". With some research we identified Pazapa, a school with medical facilities for Haitian children with special needs. Again, money needed to be raised, so public meetings and concerts were arranged. A support group was formed. This later became an independent body under the name of Pazapa Church Stretton. In 2023 Stretton people are still generously supporting this work by donations, regular giving, quizzes, jazz evenings etc.

United Nations Association (UNA) exists to support the work of the United Nations while at the same time constantly questioning its performance. UNA-UK constantly prompts the Government to ensure that the UK plays its full part as a permanent member of the UN Security Council. The national body also monitors the practices of the UN. Locally UNA seeks to encourage members of the public to develop a world



UNA celebrated One World Week and UN Day in October 2016.

perspective and to become proactive in working for a more humane society.

This has been summed up as working for a world which is fairer, safer and more sustainable. If those aims 'scratch where you itch' please get in touch.

Ruth Davies
01694 724304

Anglican Voice

We have just come back from a few days visiting friends and family down on the south coast. It was wonderful to see family and reconnect with friends, some of whom we hadn't seen since before the Covid lockdowns.

We spent time catching up over meals, ice creams and walks along the seafront and the weather even threw in some wonderful sunny days!

This reminded me at so many different points of the readings that we have just heard in the Church's year, of Jesus's resurrection appearances and particularly the story of the beach.

The story is set on the shores of Lake Galilee, a place that must have been very familiar to the disciples. It was the region where some had lived and worked before Jesus had called them to follow him – it was home.

After a night of fruitless fishing, they were returning to shore, but a stranger on the shore encourages them to have one last try. "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some," he says. And "when they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish".

Once they had returned to shore, they discovered that the stranger had already prepared "a fire with burning coals, with fish on it and some bread". And in that time together, eating and talking, the disciples recognised that it was Jesus.

It was over this meal that the disciples remember that faith in Jesus is all about a relationship with him. It was at this breakfast encounter that they once again reconnected with Jesus and things were right again. But also, this

encounter sets the disciples up for the next work that Jesus has planned for them, to go and share the Good News of Jesus; something that the Church has been doing ever since.

As you read this, I wonder where you see Jesus? Do you? In the hills around us? In sharing coffee and cake with friends?

I am sure that the disciples had many questions for Jesus and maybe you have questions about Jesus, faith and the big questions of life?

In September, Stretton Parish will be running Alpha again – which is a great way of exploring faith and the meaning of life. It's been attended by millions of people across the UK and people attend the course for a variety of reasons. Some are looking at the purpose of life or at exploring the role of faith, while others have more specific questions. Some have perhaps been to church in the past but haven't understood what Christianity is all about and want more explanation. Others like to come and just listen to the discussion.

Alpha is a great opportunity to get questions answered in an unpressurised and informal environment. Why not come along? Keep an eye out for information or contact the Parish office.

However you spend your summer, do have a great time.

Revd Steve Johnson,
Stretton Parish Rector

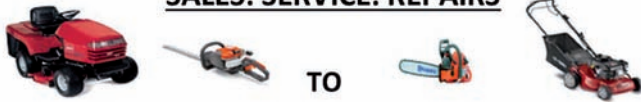


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Eaton Manor – Another Award!

Eaton Manor Country Estate, one of our local visitor accommodation providers, is just a tad more than four miles from the centre of Church Stretton. Did you know that, gentle reader? No, nor did I. It's been in the Madeley family since 1934 – that's four generations, with the fifth, Julian's sons, very much a part of family life on the estate.

Joseph and Elizabeth Madeley were tenant farmers and rented the farm, then 180 acres, from the Sparrow Estate. On the day they moved in they milked the cows in the morning at their old farm in Westbury, put them on the train, walked them down the road to Eaton Manor and then milked them that afternoon! In the summer, the milk went to make cheese on the farm, and in the winter it went to Cadburys. Some of our readers might remember the Cadbury's TV advert, with the glass-and-a-half of milk pouring into every bar. Mind you, a chocolate bar was much larger then! By the mid-1990s Tony and Janet, third generation owners, were joined by their children, Nichola and Julian, who took on active roles in running the businesses.

Nichola lived in the Manor House on her own and, feeling the house was too big for her, the idea of sharing it with other people was born. From little acorns... as the saying goes.

Each generation has farmed the land in different ways, from a dairy herd to beef, with eggs and more. Diversification has become even more imperative for farmers for years, so setting up a holiday accommodation business seemed like the logical next step to Nichola. Julian worked on developing the various buildings whilst Nichola ran the growing visitor side of the business. Over the last 22 years, farm buildings have been converted to accommodation, an events centre, swimming pool and a games barn. Nichola says, "Our family aim has always been to create a beautiful, rural retreat to encourage guests to visit and stay in South Shropshire, and enjoy our lovely area with everything it has to offer. We consider it a privilege to live here and to share this relatively undiscovered but very beautiful corner of England. Some of our guests love it so much that they return year after year. We're also proud to support, and be involved in, many local community and charitable events."

There are wellness retreats and skills workshops on offer, as well as business events and celebrations of all kinds. Nichola takes up the story again, "We have a wedding licence, too, and on top of all this, we still farm the land. We grow arable crops, such as wheat, barley and oil seed rape, and grass helps to supply a local dairy farm. We use what

are known as regenerative farming techniques, which means that the earth isn't ploughed, so soil isn't washed away during heavy rain, and natural nutrients in the soil are maintained."

The estate covers 500 acres altogether, which includes the farm as well as the holiday business with its eight cottages and Manor House. Mind you, "cottages" doesn't do them justice if the photography is to be believed. All this employs a small army of local people, including office staff, a housekeeping team and gardeners, several of whom have been at Eaton Manor for over 10 years. Then there are the

contractors – builders, plumbers, electricians and many others – who are also drawn from the local economy. All of this looks after guests who come from all over the world. It seems as though Shropshire as a best-kept secret isn't such a secret after all!

The hard work and dedication has paid off. Eaton Manor is accredited with VisitEngland (including Walkers Welcome and Cyclists Welcome awards), Visit Shropshire Hills and Green Tourism, collecting several business and tourism awards along the way. And this year there's another.

VisitEngland is our national tourism agency, funded by the Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) to support and encourage England's tourism industry. Visit England's Awards for Excellence scheme champions the very best of the country's providers, celebrating quality, innovation, best practice and the very best customer service.

Did you know that tourism is one of England's largest and most valuable industries, supporting hundreds of thousands of businesses and employing about 4.1 million people either directly or in the wider supply chain? In 2021, an estimated £131.5 billion pounds of the country's gross

domestic product was generated, directly and indirectly, by this sector. Those are staggering numbers. In March, Eaton Manor won yet another award, namely the 2023 West Midlands Tourism Gold Award for Self-Catering Accommodation. This put them forward to the national finals of the VisitEngland Awards for Excellence in the self-

catering category as well as the grand final of all 20 categories together. By the time this issue of *Focus* goes to press the Award ceremony will be only days away (June 7th). A win would be quite a triumph. Let us know, Nichola, and we'll pass on the news!

If you want to know more, the website is www.eatonmanor.co.uk, email is info@eatonmanor.co.uk and the phone number is 01694 724814.

Statistics provided by www.statistica.com

*Christine Williams
Resident Journalist*



Scout Group News

Terry Davies, Group Scout Leader of the 2nd Longmynd, reports that having gained two new Leaders the Group has been able to take in several new members in all sections, swelling the ever-growing numbers. The Scout Association has a strict Leaders to young people ratio, mainly for insurance purposes, which restricts most groups and does little to decrease the national waiting list of 90,000 young people anxious to join. Fundraising has been going well and not only helps to maintain the Group headquarters but also to support many extra activities, such as ShireJam, the four-counties mini-Jamboree at which some 50 members of the Group will attend.

The two Cub Packs are well into their summer programmes with the Wednesday Pack concentrating on traditional activities such as backwoods cooking and tracking through to first aid and the correct way to use the emergency services. Both packs took part in StrettFest with the Group's activity tent and were pleased with the co-operation of Jen Bartl of



Photo: Neil Crumpton

Crafter Workshop who, appropriately, ran a workshop with them.

The Troop enjoyed a special session at the climbing wall in Shrewsbury and once again took part in the Batch Burner Mountain Bike event by cleaning all the bikes.

All meetings are held at the Group headquarters in Church Street and are open to both boys and girls. All information from the Group Scout Leader (GSL) on 07484 717317.

Monday 3rd, 10th, 17th July

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 4th, 11th, 18th July

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

Wednesday 5th, 12th, 19th July

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

Fred Reeve

Little Stretton Village Society

Much Wenlock Male Voice Choir
All Saints Church, Little Stretton
Friday 14th July, 7.30pm

We are delighted to be hosting an evening of entertainment, in the venue of All Saints Church, Little Stretton.

The Choir was started in 1968 when a small group of singers met in a pub in Much Wenlock and attracted members from all over Shropshire. It has since made 25 tours, travelling widely through Britain and Europe including Ireland, Spain, France, Holland, Germany, Belgium and Atlanta USA.

So come and enjoy a lovely evening in the atmospheric building. Places are strictly limited so it is important to book early to avoid disappointment.

Admission is £12.50 and includes tea/coffee and cake.

To book or for further information please contact Linda (720130), Gen (720385) or Mike (720132).

Booking payment must be made before 10th July.



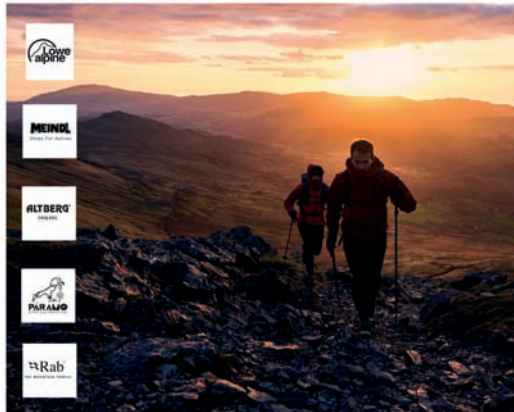
Trivia Answers

1. Istanbul
2. California
3. Tetley
4. Oliver Reed
5. Dennis the Menace

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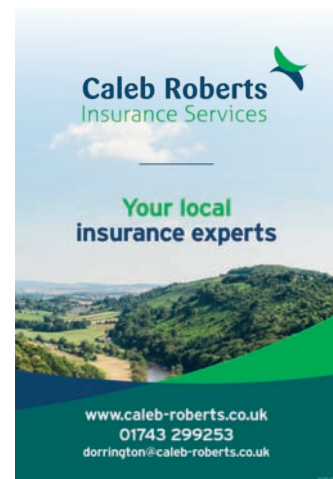
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Churches in the Strettons



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

Sunday Services

St Laurence's

Weekly	8.30am	Holy Communion
1st & 3rd Sundays	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Deeper
2nd Sunday	10.30am	Morning Worship
4th Sunday	10.30am	Altogether

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

St Michael's

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

All Saints

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

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

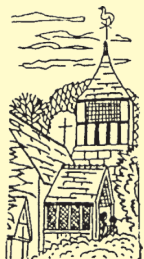
Midweek Service

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

Online Service

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

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



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

Website: www.churchstretton-methodistchurch.org.uk

Hall bookings: Carole Coles (Tel: 724958)

Sunday Services

10.30am Morning Service

Wednesday Activities

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

Cuppa and Chat 2.30-4pm. All welcome



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

Email: csqm@gorswen.co.uk

Sundays:

10.30am Meetings for Worship in the Silvester Horne Committee Room; Children on 4th Sunday in month

For details of home discussion groups please telephone the Clerks.



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

St Milburga's, Church Stretton

Email: stmilburga@gmail.com

Sunday: 9.30am Mass

Tuesday-Saturday: 9.30am Daily Mass

Saturday: 5.30pm Evening Mass

St Walburga's, Plowden

11.15am Sunday Mass



UNITED REFORMED CHURCH Minister: (vacant)

Website: churchstrettonurc.org.uk

Sunday Services

10.30am Morning worship, followed by refreshments in the church hall

Communion is celebrated on Sundays notified in URC Church Newsletter

Weekday Activities

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

Wednesdays: Discussion and prayers – currently suspended

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

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

Church and Hall bookings: 722390

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
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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	crocrus2@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	susantoghil@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	Mark Tocknell	722969	strettonchoral@gmail.com; www.strettonchoral.org.uk
Churches Together	Lesley Richards	722068	
Citizens Advice Bureau			at the Library, by appointment only: 0808 278 7894
Civic Society, The Strettons	Janet Martin	722361	martin1947@btinternet.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	Joe Manifold	01588 660534	cscroquet@gmail.com; croquet-websites.org.uk/churchstretton
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
Footpath maintenance volunteers (Parish paths Partnership)	Tim Parker	07493 659514	tim.parker111@gmail.com
Friends of Church Stretton Library	Sheila Davies	723455	www.strettonlibraryfriends.org.uk
Gardening Club, Acton Scott	Terri Clegg	781572	actonscottgc@gmail.com
Gardening Club, Church Stretton & District	Evelyn Dapling	723648	evedapling@waitrose.com
Gliding, Midlands Gliding Club Ltd	Office	01588 650206	office@midlandgliding.club
Golf Club	James Townsend	722281	secretary@churchstrettongolfclub.co.uk
Good Neighbours Care Group	Office	724242	churchstrettongoodneighbours.org.uk
Guiding, 2nd Church Stretton	Jane Hurst	771622	janehurst77@hotmail.co.uk
Harmony In The Hills	Kate Buttolph	07974 382989	kate@playonperformingarts.co.uk
Hockey Club, Stretton Juniors (5-15 years old)	Martin Watts	723543	mlwatts@yahoo.co.uk
Hope Bowdler Hand Bell Ringers	Ruth Jenkins	724919	
Hope Bowdler Village Hall	Evelyn Dapling	723648	
Horse Show, Church Stretton	Sarah Davies	771370	daviesblackhurst@aol.com
Interfaith Forum, South Shropshire	Canon Noel Beattie	725530	
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
Parkinson's UK	Hilary Bowman	07823 523696	hjb Bowman@live.com
Photography, Marches Independent	Geoff Taylor	723301	gtaylor.photo@btinternet.com
Pickleball Club	Carol	07803 329106	
Pilates (exercise)	Sandra Liebrecht	781660	senaorme@yahoo.co.uk
Play On Performing Arts	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	strettonrailusers.org.uk
Radio Control Model Club, Church Stretton	Tim Goodwin	720392	tmgdown@gmail.com
RAF Roundel Club	John L Davies	724703	
Rainbows, Church Stretton	Judy Russell	724056	davejudy1@googlemail.com
Ramblers, The South Shropshire Group	Darren	07837 021138	
Rangers (Girl Guides) Church Stretton Group	Ana Ireland	723390	anairland001@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	mrterrydavies@hotmail.com
Scrappies - Shropshire Children's Scrapstore		328508	info@scrappies.org
Singers, The More Singers	Alistair Auld	07981 399482	alistairauld@gmail.com
Soaring Association, Long Mynd (model gliders)	Tim Goodwin	720392	info@lmsa.org.uk www.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
Stretton Strummers	Dave Wilkinson	07554 624662	
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 Lendon	01743 369787	jolendon@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	Jean Huff	723706	allstrettonwi@gmail.com
Yoga (Mayfair)	c/o Mayfair	722077	(Mayfair) www.mayfaircentre.org.uk
Youth @ St Laurence's	Sally Clilverd	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: Nicky Hook; **RFO:** Gillian Bailey; **Office Hours:** Monday to Friday 10.00am - 1.00pm and 2.00 - 4.00pm
Council Office: 60 High Street, Church Stretton SY6 6BY. Tel: 722113, Fax: 723608. email: reception@churchstretton-tc.gov.uk

South Ward	North Ward	Little Stretton Ward
John Burns 07767 477334	Nicola Carter 07581 300498	Colin Carson 722784
Ryan Foulkes 07528 372471	Sheila Davies (Deputy Mayor) 723455	Julie Lawton 723750
Charlie Jones 07971 523125	John Luck 725596	All Stretton Ward
Mark Morris 722741	Bob Welch 722998	Andy Munro (Mayor) 725554
Andrew Williams 07577 516453		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.

Accommodation see Hotels, B&B, Self Catering	Clock & Watch Repair Adrian Donnelly Clock Repairs... 2	Garden Design, Services, Supplies Ben Carter Landscaping..... 41 Homden Excavations..... 37 Integral Gardens..... 41 John Stephens Services..... 41 Keith Warrington..... 37 Mike Russell Designs..... 37 Paul Forrester..... 15 Paul Tinsley..... 16 Peter Tipton..... 41 Shropshire Lawn Co..... 37 Tidy Garden..... 37 Unique Landscapes..... 41	Outdoor Clothing and Equipment The Outdoor Depot..... 49
Accountants and Bookkeeping James, Holyoak & Parker..... 50 RLW Accountants..... 50	Clothes Entertaining Elephants..... 49	Garden Machinery Newington Garage..... 46	Painters & Decorators Andrew Webster..... 37 D R Tipton Painter & Decorator 43 DWS Property Services..... 37 E B Jones..... 37 G H Jones & Son..... 37 Paul Forrester..... 15
Architects, Town Planning Batch Valley Design..... 21 Christopher Roscoe Assocs..... 21	Coaches Caradoc Coaches..... 46	Hairdressers, Health, Beauty Anthony's Hair Studio..... 43 Health & Beauty Clinic..... 29 Katerina White..... 43 Nails by Nancy..... 43 Shampers..... 43	Pest Control Chris Sansom Pest Control..... 60 Keith Warrington..... 37
Bathrooms see Kitchens, Bathrooms	Community Centre Mayfair..... 10	Health, Therapies see also Chiropodists & Physiotherapists Birch Tree Reflexology..... 25 Bodylogic Mobile Massage..... 29 Cate Gowlett..... 25 Mayfair..... 10 Shropshire Acupuncture..... 25	Pet Food and Pet Care John R Thomas..... 7
Beauty, Slimming see Hairdressers, Health, Beauty	Computing, Graphic and Web Design Jason Gough..... 2 Nic Sansom..... 2 Stretton Internet..... 2 Webbex Technical Services..... 2	Hobbies Books by Moonlight..... 7 Burway Books..... 7 Harold's Toy Store..... 7 Long Mynd Music Academy..... 7 Peter Youngs Photography..... 10 Philip Hooper..... 7 The Prolific Crafter..... 7	Pharmacy Hillside Pharmacy..... 43
Bed & Breakfast, Self Catering see Hotels, B&B, Self Catering	Decorators see Painters, Decorators	Home & Garden Harold's Toy Store..... 7 The Prolific Crafter..... 7	Physiotherapists Chris Turner..... 43 Marion Murdoch..... 43 Physio Pilates..... 43
Bookshop Books by Moonlight..... 7 Burway Books..... 7	DIY & Hardware Cyril Bason Hardware..... 41 Mynd DIY..... 41	Home Furnishings Abbey Carpets..... 7 Louise Watney..... 7	Piano Tuner and Repairs Philip Hooper..... 7
Builders, Plant & Equipment A J Lewis-Price..... 16 A Morgan..... 15 A.2.Z Construction..... 16 E J & G J Groom..... 15 Homden Excavations..... 37 Joe Drury..... 16 K J Morris..... 15 Keith George..... 16 Mark Terry..... 15 Morris Maintenance..... 41 Paul Tinsley..... 16 Richard Sherratt Builders..... 15 Telford Building Contractors..... 16	Domestic Appliances & Repairs Continental Fireplaces..... 2 Norman Jones..... 2	House and Garden Clearance Peter Tipton..... 41	Plumbers, Heating Gary Paris..... 25 Gasco..... 25 Homefix..... 29 J Morris..... 25 Lee Brown..... 29 Morris Maintenance..... 41 Pete Carroll..... 25 Peter Floyd..... 29 Whitfield Plumbing..... 29 Whiting Heating..... 25
Cafés see Restaurants, Cafés, Pubs	Electrical Services, Lighting AMP Electrical..... 46 Boxall's Electrician..... 46 Charles Ephraim..... 46 M C Electrical..... 46 Stephen Morgan..... 46	Hotels, B&B and Self Catering Eaton Manor..... 50 Mynd House..... 50 Willowbatch..... 50	Printing, Copying, Photo Products Craven Design & Print..... 49 Stretton Print & Supplies..... 49
Cards and Gifts Entertaining Elephants..... 49 Stretton Print & Supplies..... 49	Estate Agents Bluestone..... 32 Miller Evans..... 32 Samuel Wood..... 32 Wrights Estate Agents..... 32	Insurance see Financial Services, Insurance	Restaurants, Cafés, Pubs Berry's..... 49 Royal Oak, Cardington..... 49
Care - Homes and At Home Bluebird Care..... 10	Event Venues Eaton Manor..... 50	Keep Fit see Health, Therapies, Keep Fit	Skip Hire John Stephens Services..... 41 Peter Tipton..... 41
Carpenters & Joiners E J & G J Groom..... 15 Keith George..... 16 Mark Terry..... 15 Mike Webster..... 15 Paul Forrester..... 15	Employment Bluebird Care..... 21	Kitchens, Bathrooms A J Lewis-Price..... 16 A.2.Z Construction..... 16 Homefix..... 29 Lee Brown..... 29 Mark Terry..... 15 Paul Forrester..... 15	Solicitors FBC Manby Bowdler..... 21 PCB Solicitors..... 21
Carpets Abbey Carpets..... 7	Financial Services & Insurance Caleb Roberts..... 50 Philippa Gee Wealth Mngment. 50 Wrights Yorkshire Building Soc. 50	Mobility Stretton Mobility Store..... 10	Storage Churton Self-Storage..... 60
Catteries and Kennels see Pet Food, Pet Care	Florist John R Thomas..... 7 Shropshire Flower Company..... 7		Sweep Shropshire Sweep..... 60 Stanton Sweeps..... 60
Chemist Hillside Pharmacy..... 43	Food, Delicatessen Entertaining Elephants..... 49 Saxtons Deli..... 49		Taxi Church Stretton Taxi..... 46
Chiropodists Caroline Crump..... 43	Funeral Arrangements A S Morris and Son..... 10 South Shropshire Remembrance Park..... 10		Watches, Batteries, Straps The Outdoor Depot..... 49
Cleaning and House Care Chris Sansom Pest Control..... 60 Cleanrite Services..... 60 Gordon Ribbons..... 60 In Depth Cleaning..... 60 Shaw Clean..... 60 Shropshire Sweep..... 60 Stanton Sweeps..... 60	Garage Services Burway Garage..... 46 Central Garage..... 46 MOT Clinic..... 46		Windows A Morgan..... 15
			Window Cleaning Handyman Services..... 60

What's On in the Strettons in July

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

Regular weekly events are now listed separately from the main diary.

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

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

WEEKLY EVENTS/MEETINGS:

Babies and Toddlers Group

A friendly, informal group for babies and children until they start school. Children to be accompanied by a responsible adult. Parents-to-be are also welcome.

Every **Wednesday** in term time
10am-12noon Methodist Church Hall

Badminton Club

Including Junior, Adult and Disability Badminton. All abilities welcome from age 7 to adult. Sports wheelchairs and rackets available free of charge.

Info from Alan Fox 07977 060303
Every **Wednesday** in term time
6.30-8pm CS Leisure Centre

Balance/Strength: Be Strong Be Steady

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

Bridge Club, The Strettons

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

Chess Club, CS

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

Christian Meditation (online via Zoom)

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

Christian Meditation (meeting in person)

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

Cuppa and Chat at the Methodist Church

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

Dancing: Learn 2 Jive

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

Dancing: Scottish

There are no Scottish dancing meetings in June, July or August.
We shall re-commence on Monday 18th September and then each following Monday at 7.30pm.

Energy Advice from Stretton Climate Care

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

Family History Research

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

Football: Three Touch Passing

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

Handbell Ringers, Hope Bowdler

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

Knit & Natter Group at Ley Gardens

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

Music: Stretton Strummers Ukulele Group

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

Nature: Cudwell Meadows Open Sundays

From late May until early August.
The meadow (SY6 6AB) will be open from 10am onwards for you to come and enjoy the wild flowers and the numerous invertebrates that enjoy the wild flowers in the meadow and wild edges. Please respect the 'no dogs' sign (with the exception of guide dogs on leads).

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

Continued overleaf...

What's On continued

Pickleball Club, CS

Pickleball is a fun sport that combines many elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis. £3 per hour.

Contact Carol: 07803 329106

Every **Monday**

7-8pm (or 9pm) CS Leisure Centre

Rhyme Time

Fun, songs, stories and rhymes for children under 5 years of age.

Booking may be required.

Every **Tuesday**

10.30-11am CS Library

Singing: Breathing Space Singing Groups

Singing for health and wellbeing.

1. Dementia-friendly group – open to people with care needs plus their carer (carer comes free). 1.30-2.30pm

2. Wellbeing group – supporting stress relief and chronic conditions. 3-4.15pm

Fees per session: £5 trial session, £10 thereafter or £7.50 (block booking rate)

Contact Kate: 720358 or 07974 382989 or

kate@playonperformingarts.co.uk

Every **Wednesday** at Mayfair

Singing: Harmony In The Hills

Formerly Stretton Community Singers.

Stretton's Natural Voice community choir, welcoming all who would love to sing. People who have lost confidence or have been told they can't sing are especially valued.

Contact Kate: 07974 382989 or

kate@playonperformingarts.co.uk

Every **Thursday**

7.30-9pm Mayfair Activity Room

Singing: Stretton Choral Society Rehearsals

There are no rehearsals over the summer.

We begin again in September.

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-12noon every **Saturday** (intermediate and above)

Rushbury VH

Thursday Lunch Club (Good Neighbours)

Join us for a two-course lunch with tea and coffee for £8. Everyone welcome.

Contact Lin Brown 781634 or Good

Neighbours 724242

Every **Thursday**

12noon Ley Gardens, Lawley Close, SY6 6GA

Volleyball

Enjoy playing volleyball and socialising. Teens upwards. Taster session is free, then £5 per month (waged) or £5 for whole summer (unwaged).

Every **Wednesday** from May 2nd until the

end of August. Contact Steve:

thebiggestredofall@yahoo.co.uk or

07962 785612

7-9pm Richard Robinson Field, next to

Russell's Meadow, off Churchill Road

Whist Drive at Westhope

Come along and join our friendly band of whist players.

Every **Monday**

7.30pm Westhope VH, SY7 9JL

Yoga at Mayfair

With Liz Curtis. £7.50 per session (cheaper block booking price available). Small class for all levels of experience. Beginners welcome.

Includes floor work. Contact Mayfair: 722077

Every **Monday**

5.15-6.45pm Mayfair

Yoga at SHI

£8 per session. Open to all.

Call David Hedge: 07870 936889

Every **Tuesday** in term time

10-11.30am SHI

Yoga at Westhope

With Sue Pugh. Numbers are limited.

Contact Betty Manley: 07860 447397

Every **Thursday**

10.30-11.30am Westhope VH, SY7 9JL

Yoga: Vita Bona Yoga at CS Library

Booking: Sue 07432 349933

Every **Monday**

9.30-10.30am Improvers

11-11.45am Chair Yoga

Yoga with Becca

£7 per class or £36 block of 6 classes.

Contact Becca on 07905 236805 or

yogawithbecca@hotmail.com

Tues: 6.30-7.30pm Mayfair

Wed: 9.30-10.30am Scout Hut

Wed: 6.30-7.30pm SHI

Thurs: 7-8am Scout Hut

Thurs: 9.30-10.30am Leebotwood VH

Youth Club For School Years 6 to 7

A new club for ages 10-12.

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

4-5.30pm Pavilion, Russell's Meadow

Youth Club For School Years 8 to 11

A relaxed and inviting space for ages 12-16

to meet up outside of school hours to

participate in a range of activities or just

chat. Sessions are staffed by trained and

DBS-checked youth workers. Contact:

Richard 01743 430005 or email at info@sya.org.uk

Every **Tuesday** in term time

6-7.30pm Pavilion, Russell's Meadow

What's On continued

GENERAL DIARY

1 SATURDAY

CS Annual Family Fun Day/Dog Show

Music, entertainment, have-a-go sports, face painting, fancy dress comp, skate jam, climbing wall, crazy golf, demos and much more. For more details and info on dog show classes, please visit:

Website: www.churchstretton-tc.gov.uk/council_events/family-fun-day-2023
11am-4pm Sandford Avenue Park

Shropshire Hills Shuttle Bus Service

The two-route service will run on weekends until Sunday 8th October. The bus has a reduced and simplified ticket pricing scheme but will no longer be free to concessionary bus pass holders. For routes, timetable, prices and donation information, search 'Shropshire Hills Shuttle Buses'

2 SUNDAY

Ballet: Matthew Bourne's *Sleeping Beauty*

Show tickets are £15 (£10 for under 16s) and can be booked by telephoning 722077 or visiting Mayfair reception. A pre-show gourmet 2 course lunch can be booked at an additional £15 per person. For menu choices, visit: www.mayfaircentre.org.uk
1pm lunch, 3pm matinee screening Mayfair

3 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.
5.30-6.30pm King's Arms, SY6 6BY

4 TUESDAY – 21 AUGUST

CS Library Art Café Artists

An informative supportive and sharing network of professional artists – promoting contemporary art in the Marches region. Opening hours CS Library

5 WEDNESDAY

CS Library Reading Group

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

C.A.M.E.O.

Garden Party at Tudor Cottage
Contact: Margaret: 07802 513315

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

6 THURSDAY

Citizen Advice at CS Library

Trained advisors on hand to give advice.
Sessions by appointment, 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month.
Book on 0808 278 7894.
10am-12noon CS Library

Cudwell Meadow Work Party

Volunteer work parties take place on the first Thursday of each month. All welcome.
1.30-3.30pm Cudwell Meadow

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

7 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

First Friday of the month.
2-3pm CS Library

8 SATURDAY

Libraries Summer Reading Challenge 2023

For ages up to 12 years – come and sign up for this year's reading challenge. Ask at the library or check it out online, with events and activities happening during August. The theme this year being 'Ready, Set, Read!'

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
Walk-ins accepted after 11am.
10am-12noon Scout Hut

Pazapa Annual Concert: Dreams of Summer

With Sarah Westwood, soprano, Chris Lacey on flute and Richard Silk on the Bechstein – music from Gershwin and Purcell. No set ticket cost but donations are welcomed.
10.30am URC

RSPB South Shropshire Local Group Walk

Walk at Christopher Cadbury Wetland Reserve – please see main RSPB item for more details. May require £3 for entry. Café and toilets. Sorry, no dogs.
Walk leader: Carol Wood 07807 068304
10.30am Meet at Flashes carpark (Worcestershire Wildlife Trust), near Upton Warren, Worcs B61 7ER

Cardington Village Fete

Children's games and activities, stalls, displays, refreshments, music, BBQ etc. Guide dogs only, please.
Entry: £2 adults, free for under 16s.
1.30pm Grounds of Old Vicarage, Cardington, SY6 7JZ

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

10 MONDAY

Coffee Hour Drop-In with CS u3a

Opportunity to chat with a u3a member and find out about our groups.
We meet on the second Monday of the month. 10-11am HWBC

11 TUESDAY

CS & District Gardening Club Outing

To Ralph Court Gardens, Bromyard. If you would like to join this trip please contact Wendy Lee on 07484 824100 or wendylee874@btinternet.com and she will fill you in with all the details. 9am-2.45pm

Continued overleaf..

What's On continued

Stretton Stitchers

We are a small, friendly group with varied experience who enjoy sewing in all its forms. For more information, please contact Katie 720200 or Frances 722656
10am-1pm URC Hall

u3a Writers Group 2

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

13 THURSDAY

CS Stroke Support Group

Support for stroke survivors, friends and family. The role of the group is to provide a friendly secure environment where people can chat and feel supported. Meetings take place on the second Thursday of each month.
2-4pm Jubilee Room, Mayfair

Marmaladies CS WI Scavenger Hunt

One car per team, the hunt will take us in and around the Strettons to complete clues and collect 'items'.
We welcome new members to join us for creative, informative and discussion sessions. marmaladieswi@gmail.com

14 FRIDAY

u3a Writers Group

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

Little Stretton Village Society Concert

An evening of entertainment with the Much Wenlock Male Voice Choir.
Admission is £12.50, to include refreshments. Numbers are limited so please book early, with Peter 723333, Linda 720130 or Gen 720385
7.30pm All Saints Church, Little Stretton

15 SATURDAY

CS Ballroom & Sequence Dance Club

8-10pm (see Sat 8th for details)

16 SUNDAY

SACWG Spider Survey

Shropshire Spider group is surveying areas of the Stretton wetlands. If you are interested in joining them, please email: shropshire.spiders@gmail.com.

Church Stretton Tree Group

'Understanding the body language of trees' – with Terry Merchant.
Book in advance, members £2, non-members £4 – see article for details.
2.30pm Meet at the entrance to Rectory Field, Church Street

18 TUESDAY

Save the Children CS Branch Summer Lunch

£10, payable on the door, to include a main course, pudding and drink.
To book your place please contact: Ann or Grahame Hurst: 771622 (before 11th July please)
12noon-1.30pm Parish Centre

All Stretton Women's Institute

In a change from the advertised programme, July's guest Jason Davenhill will now be with us in October. Tonight's meeting will be an in-house evening of entertainment!
Contact: Jean Huff 723706
Email: allstrettonwi@gmail.com
7.30pm All Stretton VH

20 THURSDAY

Citizen Advice at CS Library

Trained advisors on hand to give advice. Sessions by appointment, 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month.
Book on 0808 278 7894.
10am-12 noon CS Library

23 SUNDAY

Healing in the Hills Sound Bath

Deeply relax while you are bathed in the healing sound frequencies of Crystal and Himalayan Singing bowls, Wind Gong, rain stick and Koshi chimes. Aids stress and anxiety reduction, rebalances. Suggested £10 donation. Booking essential.
Contact: Maria 07985 744038
7pm Scout Hut

24 MONDAY

u3a Family & Social History Group

Members of the public are welcome but will need to join the u3a.
4th Monday of the month.
2-4pm CS Library

Parkinson's Support Group, CS

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

25 TUESDAY

u3a Writers Group 2

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

26 WEDNESDAY

Yoga with Sue at CS Library

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

As You Like It at Acton Scott Hall

Open air performance of Shakespeare's comedy, with theatre company The Three Inch Fools.
Tickets: adult £20, under-18s £10, under-5s free; family ticket (2+2) £50. (Booking fee applies). Please visit: actonscott.com/whats-on.
Advance booking is advisable.
7pm Grounds of Acton Scott Hall

27 THURSDAY

Lucy Aphramor Nutrition Talk

'Understanding gut health'
Please come along and join us. Lucy is happy to take questions.
Please book in advance although you can turn up on the day. Free event.
10.30-11.30am CS Library

28 FRIDAY

u3a Writers Group

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

Good Neighbours Friday Lunch Club

We meet on the last Friday of each month at a local pub or restaurant.
Members pay for their own meal and contribute to the cost of transport.
For further information, please contact Lin Brown on 781634 or email us at csgoodneighbours@gmail.com.

Bingo Night at Westhope

Licensed bar. Eyes down 7.30pm
Fourth Friday of the month.
Contact Amie on 07486 414742 or Betty on 07860 447397
7.30pm Westhope VH, SY7 9JL

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What's On continued

29 SATURDAY – 12 AUGUST

CS Arts Festival

Please see the main item for listings and
details of all festival events, including the
popular free coffee concerts and organ
recitals.

Arts festival tickets may be purchased online
at www.strettonfestival.org.uk or from CS
Library every Tuesday and
Thursday morning throughout July or in
person at festival events.

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.



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