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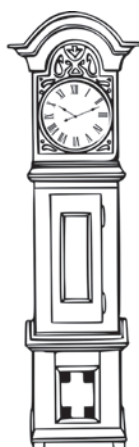
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Welcome



On a recent family visit to Boston, Massachusetts I was persuaded to start doing the daily *New York Times* word game Wordle. It has become something that I now do at the start of each day – my first cup of tea in the morning would not be the same without completing this and other word games that have since been added to the list. The games continue to test and extend my vocabulary. I frequently find myself reaching for the dictionary to check a spelling or definition.

Words are fascinating as a single entity but they become even more interesting in everyday use. Earlier this year *The Sunday Times* published an article about what it considered to be the best places to live in the UK. Bishop's Castle appeared on its list for the West Midlands with a comment that it is "more fun than pretty Clun, or the strait-laced retirement refuge of Church Stretton." I wondered what was being implied here?

The term strait-laced is generally used to describe a person who is excessively formal, strict, or rigid in their behaviour. It has its origins in the 17th century and refers to the notion of being tightly laced into a corset. Synonyms include goody-two shoes and prim (there are many more!)

I wonder how you would describe this community? We moved to the area eight years ago and found everyone to be warm and welcoming. Articles in *Focus* regularly refer to the generosity of the community as illustrated in this month's Thank Yous. In Community Matters Mayor Andy Munro refers to a key feature of the community being "a willingness to volunteer" and numerous articles indicate a compassionate side – support for Ukrainian refugees, the food bank etc. The vibrancy of the Arts Festival, Family Fun Day and many other events seems to suggest that we like to enjoy ourselves. Talking Points in the magazine indicate an interest in looking beyond our local area to consider national and international issues. I could continue but space is limited.

Returning to word games and puzzles – Stan Yelds is back this month with his fiendishly difficult crossword. I wonder how far I can get before I take a sneaky peak at the answers which, as an editor, I have early access to. Would the word to describe that be "cheating"?

Janet

Editor



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)

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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 **November** issue the deadline is

Monday 2nd October, at 12 noon.

For the **December** issue the deadline is

Monday 6th November at 12 noon.

The **November** issue will be distributed on **Friday 27th October**

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.

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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

As well as by subscription (see left) *Stretton Focus* may be purchased directly from
Vine & Co (Sandford Avenue),
Co-op, Family Shopper,
Church Stretton Library and
Mayfair.

Contents

October 2023

This Month

8 Shrewsbury Town FC Women's Team

Following on from the success of the Lionesses in the Women's Football World Cup, we hear about three local ladies beginning their careers at Shrewsbury Town FC.

27 Midland Gliding Club

Young people also feature in this article about aspiring glider pilots participating in a course with local experts.

36 NT Stepping Stones Project

An award from Natural England provides funds for work to continue on the Stepping Stones Project, supporting key species in the Shropshire Hills.

33 SWT Rectory Wood and Field Fungus Foray

If you have ever wondered whether a particular fungus is deadly or delicious this walk may be for you.

18	A New Agenda for Peace	12	Pudding or Dessert?
20	Amnesty Ceilidh	42	Quaker Voice
17	Anglican Voice	47	Read Easy
14	Band on the Edge for Pazapa	13	Recipe of the Month
30	Behind the Counter	19	Rotary News
31	Bridgemaster	34	RSPB Nature Notes: Jays
20	Catholic Voice	34	RSPB programme
11	Council Surgery Times Change	24	Saturday Morning Music
14	Crossword	40	Scout Group News
44	CSTC Community Matters	42	Scrappies Craft Workshop
17	Dementia Friends Memory Café	39	SHI Event: Tango Calor
40	Dragon Spotting Walk	35	SOS Save our Curlews
7	Engaging Issues	35	SOS Talk
38	Flicks in the Sticks	11	Stretton Climate Care
7	Focus Production Team Vacancy	24	Strettons Classical Music Group
7	Focus Survey	28	Thank You
7	Focus Volunteers' Wellbeing Coordinator	33	The Parable of the Sunflower
26	Historic Church Stretton	34	Tree Group Talk
28	Letters	40	Trivia Answers
17	Library Update	13	Trivia Corner
9	Local History Group Talk	47	Charity Christmas Card Sale
24	Mayfair Lottery	47	URC Voice
22	Mayfair News	36	Westhope Village Hall News
45	Methodist Voice	54	What's On



Gaer Stone from Helmeth Hill, photo by Geoff Taylor

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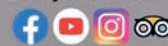
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Volunteers' Wellbeing Coordinator

An exciting new volunteer position

At its recent Board Meeting, the *Focus* Board decided to create this new position to ensure the welfare and wellbeing of our many wonderful volunteers. This will be a year-round job requiring some input most weeks, but it will be a most satisfying job to do. We are currently preparing a comprehensive document on the welfare and wellbeing of our volunteers – including appropriate training and support, comfort and welfare whilst volunteering, acknowledgements of long-service and retirements, and social events. The Volunteers' Wellbeing

Coordinator will be invited to report regularly to the Board as

a Non-Executive Director (without the legal or financial responsibilities of the other Directors) in order to bring to their attention issues relating to the wellbeing of our volunteers. If you think that this position might interest you, or if you need further information, please contact Paul Harding at sfocuschair@gmail.com.

Paul Harding

STRETTON FOCUS

Can You Help with *Focus* Production?

At *Stretton Focus* there is 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.

Invitation to Participate in a Questionnaire Survey

We are repeating our invitation that appeared in last month's *Focus* to participate in a questionnaire survey. It has unfortunately taken us longer than we had expected to prepare for the survey and so it will now take place one month later than we had originally planned. This will be in November as explained below. We look forward to your participation.

In his 'Welcome' to the July issue of *Focus*, our Chairman, Paul Harding described some changes that had been made to the appearance of the magazine including the redesign of the front cover, changes to the 'Contents' page highlighting some of the main articles and repositioning of 'What's On' to follow the 'Yellow Pages'.

In November it will be your turn to provide us with your ideas!

We are preparing a single 2-sided questionnaire to be inserted in next month's (November) issue of *Focus*. We shall be seeking your views on how you feel that *Focus* might be further improved to serve your particular interests and preferences. A Royal Mail pre-stamped and addressed envelope will be provided. However, if you prefer to save *Focus* the cost of the postage, certain locations in the town will also be provided where you will be able to leave your completed questionnaire. These will be explained next month. Also, for those who can do so, we shall be happy to accept a scanned or mobile photo of the questionnaire returned by email.

More information will be provided in November's issue of *Focus*.

John Rowlands

Engaging Issues 2023-24

Once again, after hours of deliberation and frantic emails, Engaging Issues is able to present a fascinating and eclectic range of topics and speakers for its season of talks.

Simon Ross, who was unable to come last year through illness, will be returning to talk about war and peace, while Steve Hutchings asks us to think about Russia. Jan Blain will give us her insight into the impact of computer scams on health and well-being, while a medic's thoughts about death are provided by Neil Turner. The National Trust's struggles with how to address its often questionable

inheritance is the subject for Alex Turrell from Powis Castle.

The programme will also include David Burton from Ludlow on the 'men in sheds' movement, while Nicola Jennings of *The Guardian* will enlighten us on the topic of caricatures.

Full details will appear on the website www.engagingissues.org.uk. The normal programme brochures will appear soon, as will posters. Community Messaging will also show the details of each talk.

David Howard



Shrewsbury Town FC

Shrewsbury Town Women make seven new signings – three are from the Church Stretton Area!

Shrewsbury Town Women are on a roll, winning promotion from the West Midlands Regional Women's League Division 1 without losing a single league game to securing a historic cup double last season that saw the team lift both the West Midlands Regional Women's Premier Division League Cup and the Shropshire County Cup.

Ahead of the 2023/2024 season the team has seen seven new signings – and three of them are from the Church Stretton area.



Kim Bebbington

Kim has spent most of her life in Church Stretton and her parents are still here! She was inspired to play football by her Church Stretton Secondary school teacher Mr Ralph Davies and was part of a very successful girls' school football team who, over her years at the school, won three national titles!

Kim told us "my best memory of those times was riding in an open top bus parade around Church Stretton to celebrate our win!"

Kim's very first football team was Church Stretton Magpies coached by local Carol Trachonitis. Since leaving school and Magpies, Kim has played football for TNS, West Brom and Wem Town.



Megan Joseph

Megan Joseph lives just outside Church Stretton and went to both St Lawrence Primary and Church Stretton Secondary School. Her love of football was also inspired by Mr Ralph Davies who encouraged her talent when he spotted her playing at primary school.

Megan told us "It was Mr Davies who suggested I go for trials at the Shrewsbury Town Girls' Centre of Excellence when I was eight. I was successful and played for them for five years. I am from a football-loving family – my grandad actually used to work on the gate at Gay Meadow."



Sophie Eastwood

Like Kim, Sophie attended Longnor Primary School and played for Stretton Magpies.

Sophie told us “I was walking through Russell’s Meadow when some friends shouted for me to join as they were a player down. That’s when I joined Magpies U12 Girls team, coached by Carol Patent and Johnny Childs and my love of football started. I am so excited about signing for Shrewsbury Town Women’s Team – to have the opportunity to play open age women’s football at just 16 years old is going to be tough, but I am definitely up for the challenge. I am also very grateful to Wenlock Water Coolers for sponsoring me.”

From Magpies, Sophie went on to play for Shrewsbury Town ADC, SAHA, Leominster and Wolves.

Kim, Megan and Sophie are keen to promote the Church Stretton area through their football, so if any local businesses would like to join Wenlock Water Coolers and Longmynd Travel in sponsoring opportunities, please contact local Sara Eastwood in the first instance on 07782 259231 and she can point you in the right direction.

The girls would love to see you at their matches so for fixtures, tickets and more please go to:

www.shrewsburytown.com/shrewsburytownwomen

Sara Eastwood

Photos: J4cksphotography

Church Stretton Area Local History Group

October meeting – Local historian James Parker on Monday 16th October at 2pm in the URC Hall.

James recently completed a Master’s degree in military history at University Centre, Shrewsbury, some 50 years after his first degree in History and Politics. He has been a member and Officer of the Battlefields Trust for 30 years and is Chair of the Friends of Rowley’s House in Shrewsbury and one-time committee member of the Shropshire branch of the Victoria County History.

James will talk about the Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403, following on from our April topic of the 1402 Battle of Pilleth, as the result of that encounter had a direct influence on the later action at Shrewsbury.

In 1399 Henry Bolingbroke, Duke of Lancaster, deposed King Richard II and took the throne of England. This caused insecurity in the realm and Henry IV faced several rebellions during his reign. The two most serious were the revolt of Owain Glyndwr in Wales and the rising in the north by the Percys of Northumberland in 1403. Led by the Earl of

Northumberland’s warrior son, Henry ‘Harry Hotspur’, a formidable, battle-hardened knight, the insurrection was potentially catastrophic for Henry. He had to respond and fast. This culminated in the Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403,



where Henry’s right to the throne met its most serious challenge. A close-fought and bloody encounter endorsed Henry’s claims as King and introduced 15 year old Prince Hal, the future Henry V and victor at Agincourt, to the violent world of medieval battle.

James’ talk is an informal assessment of the causes of the battle, the fighting and the outcome, along with a nod to the myths and legends associated with it, as well as Shakespeare’s influence on our understanding of this climactic event in our local and national history.

As usual visitors are welcome, £4 payable on the door. Enquiries to 723627.

Madeline Haigh



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Making our homes ready for the future

The sudden rise in energy costs because of the war in Ukraine has highlighted the need for our homes to be as energy efficient as possible, with good insulation and a better awareness of the running costs of heating systems and the various pieces of electrical equipment we have.

As many as 60% of homes in the UK are poorly insulated and even those built in the 1980s often have a poor energy performance rating (EPC) of D or below. (A is very good and G is the worst rating.)

When the majority of our housing stock was built, energy was cheap, carbon emissions were unheard of and the dangers of climate change not recognised. Even recently built homes are not necessarily ready for a Zero Carbon future and would benefit from retrofitting within the next twenty years. Very few new homes are built to PAS 2035 passive house standards with full airtightness and a heat recovery and ventilation system. Those that have been built this way often have annual heating costs as low as £30-£40 a year, for in a really well-insulated home, body heat alone is often enough!!

But it's not just energy costs we need to be aware of. Climate change is increasingly also causing overheating in some homes, especially those with a lot of floor-to-ceiling glass on the south side and little shading. The risks from sudden flash floods and extreme weather are also increasing, yet often home-buyers are more interested in the quaintness of the rooms, the views from the windows and a 'to dream for' fitted kitchen etc. They tend to ignore the flooding potential of a nearby stream, the lie of the land or the orientation of the building. How often on the popular television programme *Your Place in the Country* does energy efficiency or resilience ever feature in the list of wants?

Are the above words doom-laden? Perhaps they are, but the reality is that in this country we are only just beginning to see some of the effects of climate change. Scientists warn us that the worst is yet to come, but how prepared are we?

Open Green Doors Event

In October there will again be an Open Green Doors event, this year covering Shropshire, Herefordshire and Powys.

Looking around a home which has already been retrofitted and talking to householders who have been on that journey, is invaluable in giving others the confidence and understanding they need. That's Green Doors in a nutshell, so please join in by opening your own home or visiting some of the other local properties on show!!

Green Doors is taking place on three October weekends: 14th and 15th; 21st and 22nd and 28th and 29th. If opening your home to visitors, you don't have to do all six days! Please let us know which you'd like to do. We would encourage you to do four days as a maximum. This allows greater flexibility for householders and visitors alike, so hopefully you will also be able to get out and visit a few of the other homes on show that interest you. It should also generate greater visitor numbers.

As previously, opening hours will be 10am-4pm, but do change these as you wish, if you'd rather just do the morning, or close for lunch etc. Let me know by email.

There aren't any qualifying criteria really for what makes a Green Home. The greener the better of course! But any home where significant energy-efficiency improvements have been carried out (such as solid-wall insulation, or solar PV with battery, or an air-source heat pump) is very welcome.

If you are willing to take part, please contact Tony Baker at Marches Energy Agency (tony.baker@mea.org.uk).

As last year www.greenopenhomes.net is the link to those homes taking part. Do have a look. There could be homes near you.

Living Well without Trashing the Planet

If ever there was a time for a new mindset, a different way of looking at and organising our lives, it is now. How do we cope with a climate emergency (and we have seen the apocalyptic images from around the world) while promoting justice and a decent standard of living?

'Doughnut Economics' is not some abstract theory, but a practical model to help us all to thrive.

Join us on Tuesday 3rd October to explore what this could mean for the Strettons:

Climate Conversations 3 will be at 7.30pm at the Silvester Horne Institute.

Jon Cooke

Changes to Monthly Drop-In Council Surgery

I will be changing the days of my surgery from every 2nd Saturday of the month to every 2nd Thursday of the month from 9.30am to 11am.

This will start on 12th October. I will not be holding a surgery in December as this will clash with the full council meeting.

Councillor Hilary Luff

Pudding or Dessert?

Print magazines are ‘slow-mo’ rather than the lightning-fast stuff of the internet so, as I sit at my desk in mid-August, I’m already thinking of what to entertain *Focus* readers with this autumn, with winter around the corner. “Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness” (John Keats), and also comforting puddings. I just love a jam roly-poly pudding – with custard, of course. But what, exactly, is a pudding, and is it the same as a dessert? Is it as simple as being posh? Here’s a little history.



The word pudding derives from the Latin word *botellus*, which was a type of sausage – boiled meat and oats with water to bind it together – encased in animal intestine and eaten cold. The word dessert derives from the French *desservir*, meaning, literally, to de-serve, or clear the table.

The first British puddings evolved gradually from the sausages that the Romans brought here in the first century BC. They were carried easily when the Legions were on the march, and the first British puddings were adaptations of these, such as blood sausage or white (fat) puddings that could be carried into the fields by agricultural workers for their mid-day meals. A change from bread and cheese, perhaps.

Puddings evolved further to include pies and steamed puddings, using animal fat to make dough or crusts, which were made into pockets and filled with meat and home-grown winter vegetables that could be stored for months until needed – the first pasties. So early puddings referred to meaty, homely and rustic foods that were commonly eaten by the lower classes.

The origins of eating meals in different parts, or courses, can be traced back to 9th-century Spain. The Persian polymath Abul-Hasan Ali Ibn Nafi, nicknamed Ziryab, was Chief Entertainer of the Court of Cordoba. He insisted that different dishes be served at intervals, creating a three-course meal of soup, followed by meat or fish, and ending with a sweetened dish of jellies or fruits, after which the table was

cleared. He wasn’t popular. Cooks and serving slaves had to be more organised, and diners couldn’t just help themselves from the numerous dishes that were laid on the table in no particular order. Nor could they continue to eat throughout the whole evening.

Moving on to the 11thC, crusaders returning from their eastern wars brought sugar to Britain. Until then, honey had been the main sweetener in the British diet, but sugar has a cleaner taste, is more stable and without the aftertaste

of honey, nor is it as variable in flavour. It was, however, very expensive, so was within the reach only of the very wealthy for a long time.

Then, in the early 16thC, a new, sweet food recipe began to spread across Europe from Italy. In 1619 James I of England commissioned the first ice-house in Britain, which was built in Greenwich Park. Another was commissioned for Hampton Court. Ice cream and sorbets had arrived and, with them, the new word adopted from French to describe the end of a meal – the dessert.

As the industrial revolution drove an expansion of trade and wealth, sugar, and the ingredients that could be combined with it, created new foods that came within the financial reach of the newly wealthy middle classes. However, the humble origins of baked and steamed savoury dishes remained in the designation name of pudding.

Fruit pies, treacle puddings, rice puddings and that favourite, the sticky-toffee pudding, now come out of British ovens and pots regularly. Ice creams, sorbets, trifles and jellies that first arrived on dinner tables via ice houses are now among the regular contents of domestic fridges and freezers. But where does that leave us with our original question – pudding or dessert? The simple explanation is that we British tend to use the words interchangeably. Yet there’s hope for us still. The dessert (sweet) trolley in a restaurant is always a selection of sweet, cold foods such as fruit tarts and fancy gateaux (another word with French origins), whereas hot, sweet pies and puddings come straight from kitchen ovens. So does cold = dessert and hot = pudding? Mm. Where does that leave that winter favourite of steak-and-kidney, which harks back to its humble origins? Perhaps we haven’t quite let go of our Latin heritage after all. Sausage and mash followed by apple and blackberry pie tonight anyone? Happy baking!

*Christine Williams
Resident Journalist*

Recipe of the month

Aubergine and courgette with honey and cheese

I found a variation of this recipe in a literary tome bought recently from a Mayfair book sale (an event to be heartily recommended by the way). The picture leapt out at me as a sure-fire winner and we certainly weren't disappointed. We happen to adore aubergines but I'd implore anyone to have a go at this delightfully quick and light dish which is just packed with flavour. We ate it warm, and it transported us right back to long-forgotten Mediterranean evenings by the sea. I imagine it would be just as acceptable cool as per the original recipe but sadly none was left to prove this point.

The recipe called for just aubergines but since I had a few courgettes in the garden and find the two veg to be good companions I decided to go large and include both.

I am a great lover of the blue cheese and honey combo and can heartily vouch for the two simply combined on toast – divine. So as soon as I saw this recipe, and in the absence of the recommended cheese, I substituted the suggested feta with some crumbled stilton – that leftover bit at the back of the cheese drawer. Any blue cheese would work just as well in my opinion and I'm not sure I'd even try it with feta!

I left out the suggested pomegranate seeds since I didn't have any at the time, and think it worked well without, bringing out the flavour of the pine nuts – which really do need to be toasted to totally transform their flavour. Go ahead though and add a light sprinkling of the said seeds should you wish – the colour is amazing apart from anything else.

The lovely thick honey dressing is a super addition to any leaves so don't feel restricted to this recipe.

Serves 6

Ingredients

2 aubergines in 1cm slices across the width
2-3 courgettes in 1cm slices
Extra virgin olive oil to brush the slices
Seasoning
30g pine nuts
1 tsp Dijon mustard
2 tsps runny honey
4 tbsp vegetable or groundnut oil
Squeeze of lemon juice
150g blue cheese crumbled (or feta)
Seeds of half a pomegranate – optional
Fresh mint leaves to serve



Method

Brush one side of the aubergine and courgette slices with the olive oil and season to taste then fry this side in a couple of preheated non-stick frying pans – as many as you can fit in. Brush the top side with oil, season as before and flip them over to cook second side. Repeat with remaining slices then leave to cool.

The original recipe called for oven toasting the pine nuts however, in the name of saving fuel, and since the oven isn't needed for anything else, this can be done on the hob instead. Use a dry pan – no oil, a medium heat and shake or stir frequently for around 3-4 minutes. Don't leave the pan – these can burn very quickly.

Make the sauce by combining the mustard and honey in a basin or jug. Whisk in the vegetable oil until you have a thick emulsion. Whisk in a squeeze of lemon juice until you have a thick trickling consistency. This can, of course, be done well in advance and I like to use a lidded jar which I can shake vigorously – choice is yours.

Arrange the aubergine and courgette slices on one large serving plate or six individual ones, drizzle over the sauce and then simply scatter the pine nuts, cheese and pomegranate seeds (if using). Decorate with some torn mint leaves and wait to be transported...

I'm thinking this would work just as well with toasted pecan nuts chopped and sprinkled over just before serving, other than that though, this was so nice as it was that I'm avoiding further 'messaging' – I'm just going to continue reminiscing...

Heidi

Trivia Corner

by Ken Willis

1. In which story would you find Bert the chimney sweep?
2. What was the name of Blue Peter's first dog?
3. Instant coffee was invented in which country?
4. In the names of the days of the week, what is the most common consonant?
5. In the TV show *The Good Life*, which of the main characters comes first alphabetically?

Cryptic Crossword by Stan Yelds

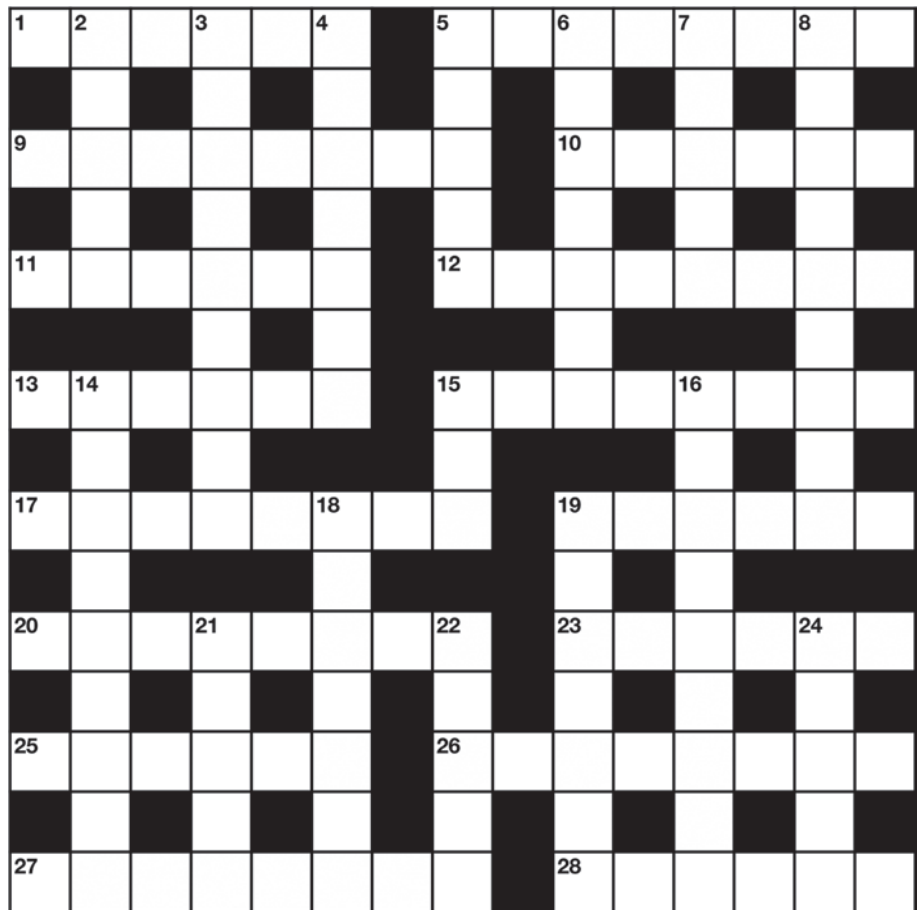
Find 6 1 5a 19a, some of which are undefined.

Across

- 1,5. Short trench cut around town (6,8)
9. Get ready and get on horses in competition (8)
10. Speak about hair gripper producing level-headedness (6)
11. Quickly grasp intricate chants (6)
12. Born in a tree next to a bird (8)
13. It's mostly hazy by the French river (6)
15. Lack of protection leads to hypothermia (8)
17. Spoke ill of dead with curt lunatic (8)
19. Spots something – I forgot to enclose tie (6)
20. Variety of sports drink is nothing beside fizzy water (8)
23. Wild fir may branch out (6)
25. Struggle to get dry when cutting hay (6)
26. A Greek character sits by sign for workers' homes (8)
27. Permit retreating jaguar a way to communicate (8)
28. Novice with sword wrecked spheres (6)

Down

2. One bird taking in or rearing another bird (5)
3. Went down again and retested lake supply (9)
4. Moorland vegetation fire engulfs hotel (7)
5. Part of Jane isn't turning back in Tuscany (5)
6. Stood up trendy syrup maker (7)
7. Note: next to no singer finally gives voice (5)
8. Make courteous arrangement to get work done elsewhere (9)
14. Above and beyond a chocolate bar interval (9)
15. Stop – don't start repair (3)



16. George VI was one male nothing more than imprisoned by celebrity (9)
18. Catholic joins leaderless convent (7)
19. Range yielding mostly neat prospect (7)
21. Put it in the church fund! (5)
22. Brief popularity for outspoken criminal twins (5)
24. Handle an area of expertise (5)

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As a curate in the Church of England one knows that the time spent in curacy is limited even before arriving. Three years is the typical length and this perhaps helps explain why my mind often wanders back to the seasons and the passage of time. Whenever a season passes, I know how many more times I will see that season before I leave the Strettons to look for pastures new.

As a result of this I am very aware of what in the New Testament Greek is called *Chronos*. Chronos is the word that describes the linear passage of measured time: Monday to Friday, 7am when I woke up this morning or the passage of one to three years of time.

I may not be able to count down the exact number of days, weeks or months until I leave the Strettons, but I know broadly when it will take place, this is Chronos time.

Kairos on the other hand is the Greek word often used in the New Testament to describe an opportune moment, the right time, those moments that happen in life that can appear to be operating outside of our normal understanding of Chronos time and that have a profound impact on the course of our lives. These events have a quality to them that has a sense of eternal significance. If Jesus talks about events that concern his coming again and his Father in heaven, it will most likely be as a Kairos event.

In August I attended the two-week long Shropshire Army Cadet Force annual camp as their chaplain. During

this time, I had the privilege of spending time with many of the cadets and instructors during their training as well as during their 'down time', such as it was. Being a chaplain in this context means having the privilege (within reason) to move around the camp and to see and speak to the cadets or staff. It also means I have a commodity that few others have, which is time. I have the time to listen to people's troubles in life or their big questions about faith. It may have something to do with the relatively short space of time we share together, but it seems that when people know you are there just for them, the nature of conversations can change. The nature of interactions takes on the quality of a Kairos experience.

We can experience these Kairos moments for ourselves, those moments that stay with us for the rest of our lives. They can happen when we make time to truly listen to someone, when we take the time to experience the beauty of nature or to spend time in prayer with God.

As we go about our busy lives, we know that our Chronos time is limited, however it is my hope and prayer that we may be able to make time and space for those precious moments of eternal significance, those Kairos moments in our relationships with others and the world around us.

Rev'd David Andrews

Church Stretton Library Events

2nd-8th October Libraries Week

Libraries Week is an annual showcase and celebration of the best that libraries have to offer. The theme this year is Green Libraries, which celebrates the work going on in libraries across the UK focused on sustainability and climate change. If you love libraries pop in to see us and join in the celebrations!



2nd-27th October – Susie Davis Exhibition

The Wild Side – Landscape and Abstract paintings by Susie Davis

Appeal for LEGO donations

We are looking to start a weekly LEGO club in the library. If you have any LEGO or DUPLO going spare that you would be willing to donate to the library, it would be much appreciated. Watch this space for the launch date!

Hayley Reynolds

Memory Café

The Second Wednesday of Each Month
1-3pm at Church Stretton Library

Join us for some themed sensory fun and games, a chat and a cup of tea.
Lisa Wright from the Alzheimer's Society will be available for support and advice.

Volunteers

If you would like to get involved, donate or volunteer please contact us:
csdementiafriends@gmail.com



Church Stretton Dementia Friends

A New Agenda for Peace

It is claimed that a quarter of the world's population lives in areas of violent conflict, and such conflicts are more prevalent in 2023 than at any time since World War Two. Global military spending is at an all-time high and rising rapidly. Use of nuclear weapons no longer appears an impossible threat. Violations of international law are increasing.

It is against this background that on 20th July this year the Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres, introduced The New Agenda for Peace. Surely such an initiative should have hit the headlines and given us all pause to hope that this just might lead the way to a more stable world where people of all nations can feel safe from aggression and warfare. In fact, many people (including, I suspect, some of our politicians) know nothing about it. And Hannah Furse (see below) claims that the UK Government is “completely out of step” with The New Agenda. The New Agenda has five major recommendations.

The first is that conflict prevention should be strengthened at global level. It stipulates limitation and eventual elimination of nuclear arms. Diplomacy to prevent war is preferable to peace-making – ‘jaw jaw not war war’.

Secondly, the New Agenda focuses on mediation and social cohesion. It links the promotion of peace with sustainable development, climate action and human rights.

Thirdly, Guterres is calling for a comprehensive review of all peace strategies, including significant improvements in the UN's own peacekeeping operations.

Fourthly, the potential hazard posed by emerging technologies is addressed. Artificial intelligence, biological engineering and the complex possible interactions between such ground-breaking procedures need to be taken into account.

Fifthly, a critical reappraisal is needed of all security procedures, many of which have become dated. In particular, urgent reform of the UN Security Council is recommended, along with reformation of other UN organisations. Radical renewal of the UN has long been called for by (among others) the United Nations Association in Shropshire and nationally.

Reading through the UN General Secretary's speech of 20th July, I sensed the depth of his anguish when he said “If every country fulfilled its obligation under the Charter, the right to peace would be guaranteed.” Part of the work

of UNA (United Nations Association) is to remind the Government of the day that lip-service to United Nations principles is not sufficient: a vote in the Security Council or the General Assembly must be backed up by action.

While diplomats and politicians talk of peace, throughout the world ordinary people have joined together to promote peace in their own communities. An online search reveals a bewildering number of grass root peace networks. In Israel/Palestine with its historic rivalry, community groups consisting of Jews, Muslims, Christians and non-religious, are working together to deal with the entrenched insecurity and animosity that is a root cause of unrest. Of course ‘jaw jaw’ is better than ‘war war’ but talk without action is useless.

24th October is UN Day. On that day in 1995 a group of UNA local members gathered within sight of the war memorial where Miss Serena Stayt, Chair of Church Stretton Parish Council (the precursor of the Town Council) planted a tree to mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. On Tuesday 24th October I plan to be on the hill beside the tree, possibly resting on the wooden bench, around 10.30am. Anyone care to join me?

Ruth Davies, on behalf of United Nations Association – Shropshire. www.unashropshire.org.uk



Photo John Howard: Combatants for Peace

Sources

An article in the Methodist Recorder 18th August 2023, by Hannah Furse, serving as an intern at the House of Commons. UNA Central Region intelligence.

The New Agenda for Peace.

António Guterres' address at the launch of The New Agenda for Peace.

Church Stretton Rotary

New District Governor Visits CS Rotary Club

Dr Mukunda Chidrawar, who heads the Rotary district that includes the West Midlands, Shropshire and Staffordshire, paid his first visit to CS Rotary Club following his appointment. In his speech he threw down the gauntlet for the Club to recruit and retain members. He said Rotary changed his life in 1972 when he was in Mumbai, formerly Bombay.

"My ambition was to be a surgeon," he said. "In 1972 God sent a message for me to be in Rotary. I got the best text books to study through Rotary. Rotary changes people's lives and it changed mine. There are wonderful stories of what Rotary does in the world and in your own little way, change people's lives," he told members. He added: "Whatever we do, however small, can make a real difference to people's lives."



Rotarian Tommy Conlon's Weight Loss Challenge

Thanks to money raised by Tommy Conlon with his Weight Loss Challenge, Rotary has been able to help support two very worthwhile causes. Firstly we have helped Glyn's Garden grow, by putting in a tarmac drive. This will allow visitors coming for therapy to Glyn's Garden to drive onsite and also allow wheelchair access. Hily and Ben (pictured) showed us their latest improvements, a rabbit-proof fence protecting potatoes and their stunning sunflowers. Some of us have also been to their volunteer sessions to help weed and remove stones, so that they can grow some more plants.



Secondly, the major beneficiary of Tommy's Weight Loss Challenge was Little Rascals, a children's play therapy charity set up by Dave Edwards, the ex-footballer of Shrewsbury, Wolves and Wales fame. Little Rascals offers soft play and is currently creating a Sensory Lounge for children with issues such as autism, something which is very close to Tommy's heart. Also in the picture is Jessica Palmer-Jones, who manages fund-raising for the charity and who told us of their plans to offer more programmes to address SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities).



Church Stretton 70th Charter Night

On 23rd December 1953, Church Stretton Rotary Club obtained its charter to formally be part of the worldwide Rotary organisation.

To commemorate our 70 years of existence we are planning an excellent fun event to take place on 1st November at Wistanstow Village Hall, Wistanstow, Craven Arms SY7 8DQ.

This will include a two-course meal, live music and dancing, all with a 1950s/1960s theme. The dress code will similarly be 1950s/60s. The price is £25 per person and any profits from the night will go to support the local foodbanks.

To obtain a booking form email: rotary.church.stretton@gmail.com

If you want to know more about helping our local community or joining Rotary contact me on don@djlovejoy.co.uk

Don Lovejoy



After six years of study for the priesthood in seminary, my (then) bishop asked me to study for a further degree, this time in psychology (he said with a twinkle in his eye that he needed a 'psychologist'). So I repacked my satchel and went to live in Cambridge for three years. There is no department of Psychology at the University of Cambridge (at least there was not one 24 years ago); those wishing to study psychology had to draw from various departments. I spent my first year under the Faculty of Social and Political Science umbrella with courses on Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology and Politics, before going on to study Experimental Psychology and Neurophysiology with the Natural Sciences Faculty, Developmental Psychology and Social Psychology with the Education Faculty, and ending my time studying Economic Psychology with the Faculty for Economics and the Psychology of Crime and Deviance with the Institute for Criminology (I had great delight in telling the bishop I was doing 'Crime and Deviance').

The degree gave me a broad understanding of the human person and their behaviour in a variety of ways. I have given this summary by way of explanation when I write about subjects that do not seemingly relate to Catholicism or to faith in general; not that I believe that one can sideline one's faith from one's outlook on life and the judgements and choices that we make.

Being interested in human beings and concerned about society, I tend to be a people and society watcher and as a priest it is part of pastoral duty to be like a watchman and shepherd of God's people. In my last offering I wrote about the morality (or lack of it) of what is commonly called 'cancel culture'. This is a feature of some of the cultural upheavals which are being fought on the boundaries between individual rights, identity, belonging and society, integration, social expectations and norms. Human social identity is forged through a dialogue between the individual and society, and which is part asserted and part conferred. When we are born, we are born into a society, we have a huge number of accepted behaviours and communal norms that run like mycelium, which form the mycorrhizal networks in the soil under our feet and that lie unnoticed until they are challenged or come up against norms from different societies or groups.

We know that this process of differentiation of identifying and belonging (or not) starts (thanks to psychological research) as babies within the womb, we start making sense of our 'world' through a process of differentiation (recognising our parents' voices and language) leading to post-natal discoveries that 'I' am separate from the world around me, that the world exists even after I closed my eyes, positive and negative experiences, those things I like and those I don't, right the way through to higher learning in which we learn to differentiate, categorise and manipulate these building blocks of knowledge to create meaning and understanding in our lives. Typing, categorisation and differentiating is part of human life, filled with meaning, understanding, and the need to share and to communicate with others. The world in which we live is both particular and peculiar to each individual, but also general and

objective when it comes to society and shared human experience.

This brings us to a problem when the established social categories are perceived as being restrictive in relation to parts of our personal identity e.g. gender, nationality, race, sexuality, or people with physical or mental disabilities. Categorisations can lead to pre-judging the abilities, needs and attitudes of groups i.e. being prejudicial in terms of direct (or personal) or indirect (historical social norms) responses. Ideally prejudice is removed by exposure, education, and acceptance of those 'out-groups' to us. This process involves time, growth and understanding from both groups and it cannot be ultimately imposed or forced, although catalysts for change can be employed. However, society is saturated with structures invested with power which becomes authority in defining laws, morality, acceptable social norms, and social behaviour. [More about this next time.]

But for now let us be mindful of holding on to our particular view of life and moral reality but without prejudice towards others who may disagree. If someone does not agree with my objective reality, it does not give me licence to attack and vilify another person, their social group, or their view of the world which may have an entirely different experience or view of the world. Jesus said, "This is what I say to all who will listen to me: Love your enemies, and be good to everyone who hates you. Ask God to bless anyone who curses you, and pray for everyone who is cruel to you ... Treat others just as you want to be treated." (Luke 6:27-28, 31). For as St Paul puts it, "you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh [for sin], but through love be servants of one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself'. But if you bite and devour one another take heed that you are not consumed by one another." (Galatians 5:13-15). May we be wise and kind and treat one another in charity and with respect.

Canon Jonathan Mitchell

Amnesty Ceilidh

Friday 6th October at 7pm

It is time to put on your dancing shoes!
The Amnesty Ceilidh has returned, with music from the Whiffeldy Band starting at 7pm
Friday 6th October is the date,
Silvester Horne Institute is the place.

A hot supper and soft drinks are provided – bring your own alcohol.

Tickets: £12 adults, £5 children.
Get your tickets from Barbara Parnell (01694 720040) or David Howard (01694 722904).



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Mayfair

We were delighted to host our first film premiere here at Mayfair in August! *Visible Mending* is a short, animated film by Samantha Moore, produced by MediaActive Projects.

The film was made through a collaboration with the Merrymakers crafting group here at Mayfair and other local knitters and crafters. With an audience of Merrymakers past and present, the private launch was both celebratory and poignant, remembering those involved in the film who are no longer with us. The film is dedicated to Kate Johnson, who led the Merrymakers for many years and features heavily in the animation. 'Kate Mouse' talks us through her journey with terminal cancer and the wellbeing benefits of knitting – the film tagline is emotional repair through wool. The film will now be shown at various film festivals over the coming year but we hope to be able to put on some public screenings at Mayfair once *Visible Mending* is available on general release.



Kate Mouse and other models used in the animation were on display

Getting Active with Mayfair

Mayfair hosts a wide variety of dance and exercise classes at the Community Centre throughout the week. Designed to suit all interests and abilities, our programme of classes can be viewed on our website www.mayfaircentre.org.uk/activities/exercise, or you can pop into Mayfair to collect a leaflet with all the information you will need to get involved. Here is a sample of just a few of the classes on offer:

Yoga with Liz on a Monday afternoon (5.15-6.45pm) – a small class for all levels of experience. Beginners are welcome. Floor work is included.

Upright and Active with Wendy on Tuesday mornings (10.30-11.30am) – designed to help you maintain strength and balance as well as promote health and posture.

Chair Yoga with Mary on Wednesday mornings (10.30-11.45am) – a class for anybody who is unable to practise yoga on a floor mat. Gentle exercise and relaxation in a seated position or standing with a chair for support.

Tai Chi with Marc on Friday mornings (9.30-10.45am) – a gentle exercise class involving movements through a series of postures at a slow constant pace – great for improving balance and coordination, strengthening posture and relaxing both mind and body.

Be part of something amazing!

With the nights drawing in and the weather turning colder, it's a great time of year to look at our volunteering opportunities. We are proud to be able to offer a range of roles which can be done on a regular or flexible basis to suit you, and we currently have some great volunteering positions available. We are looking for volunteer drivers to join our fantastic Ring and Ride team. You don't need anything more than a standard driving licence to help out, so please let us know if you'd like to become part of this highly valued service.

We are also seeking kitchen and waitressing volunteers to help us to continue providing daily, affordable hot meals to the community and would love to hear from you if this is something you'd like to contribute to in any way. We have lots of other roles available too, so if you would like to volunteer but have different skills and interests, please just let us know and we'll be happy to work with you to find the right regular or flexible role for you.



You can contact Eve by email (eve.simmonds-jones@mayfaircentre.org.uk) or phone 01694 722077.

Digital skills support at Mayfair

If you, or someone you know, needs help using digital devices or getting online, our Digital Support Service here at Mayfair could help. We run support sessions every Monday from 9.30 to 10.30am with our team of friendly, knowledgeable volunteers. They can talk you through specific digital dilemmas you may have, or work with you to build your general confidence with the internet, computers, phones or tablets.

If you don't have access to a digital device, or the internet, then our team may also be able to offer support with purchasing or borrowing a device and getting online.



These sessions are delivered with support from, and as part of, the Shropshire Council Digital Skills Programme. They must be booked in advance, so give Mayfair a call to book your place on 01694 722077. Alternatively you can email digital.support@mayfaircentre.org.uk

There is no charge for the service, although donations to Mayfair are welcomed.

If you have good IT knowledge and would like to get involved as a volunteer with our Digital Skills team, we'd love to hear from you – please email Eve, our volunteer coordinator: (eve.simmonds-jones@mayfaircentre.org.uk.)

Beacon Crafts

In Beacon (our day activities and care here at Mayfair) there is always a wide variety of activities to take part in: quizzes, reminiscence, singing, puzzles, arts and crafts and much more. Scents of lavender wafted through the air this September as we set about making some lovely lavender bags. We also hope to make some beautiful bird feeders soon to hang in our gardens. We'll be using old china cups and saucers so would welcome donations of these please. Chipped, cracked, mismatched cups and saucers are all fine – please drop these into Mayfair reception.

If you would like more information about the Beacon, please contact Katrina or Helen C at Mayfair on 722077.

Christmas plans at Mayfair

We plan to hold a Christmas tree festival here at Mayfair this year. We want to open our doors for the community to view a beautiful display of different trees, which will be on



show all around Mayfair and our Health and Wellbeing Centre. We are inviting local organisations, schools, charities and businesses to get involved in the festival by sponsoring and decorating a tree.

We hope the festival will help us to fundraise and continue all the work Mayfair does in the Community, whilst being mutually beneficial to sponsors who can publicise their organisation through the event. If your organisation would like to get involved, please contact Naomi at Mayfair on 01694 722077 or email naomi.coleman@mayfaircentre.org.uk.

Film screenings for the next few months

We have an exciting programme of screenings here at Mayfair over the coming months.

We're also going to be showing family films, following a fantastic family film afternoon during the summer holidays where the Super Mario film went down a storm!

Our next family film will be at half-term and will be the new Disney Pixar hit *Elemental*.

Family Film – 1.30pm, Thursday 2nd November

Elemental – In a city where fire, water, land, and air residents live together, a fiery young woman and a go-with-the-flow guy are about to discover something elemental: how much they actually have in common. Directed by Peter Sohn and produced by Denise Ream. Rated PG.

Adults £3, Children £2, Refreshments are available to purchase. Booking essential – visit www.mayfaircentre.org.uk/elemental

Theatre Screenings

Friday 22nd September, 7pm, *Romeo and Juliet*, Ballet Boys.

Sunday 8th October, 2pm (Matinee), *L'Elisir d'Amore*, Royal Opera House.

Cast: Nadine Sierra, Liparit Avetisyan, Bryn Terfel, Boris Pinkhasovich, Sarah Dufresne, Conductor: Sesto Quatrini, Director: Laurent Pelly.

Expect sun, fun and vocal acrobatics in Laurent Pelly's much-loved staging of Donizetti's intoxicating and witty comedy. Conductor Sesto Quatrini makes his house debut, as does soprano Nadine Sierra in the role of Adina, with the incomparable Bryn Terfel as the genial wheeler-dealer Doctor Dulcamara.

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

Tuesday 7th November, 7pm, *Don Quixote*, Royal Ballet, LIVE Satellite Broadcast.

Tuesday 12th December, 7.15pm, *The Nutcracker*, Royal Ballet, LIVE Satellite Broadcast,

Sunday 17th December, 2pm, *The Nutcracker*, Royal Ballet, ENCORE Satellite Broadcast,

Naomi Coleman



Saturday Morning Music

14th October at 10.15am at the United Reformed Church

The second Saturday morning concert of the term sees a return of piano duet team Gill Styles and Richard Walker, putting the Bechstein piano in the United Reformed Church through its paces.

The programme will begin with Elgar's own arrangement of his *Serenade for Strings* for piano duet – which he made to allow people to hear it before the days of radio. This will be followed by movements from a Rachmaninov Suite for piano duet, strongly reminiscent in part of the much-loved second Piano Concerto. The programme will end with a performance of *Souvenirs*, by the American composer Samuel Barber; this is a splendid set of six dances, attractive and witty. There will also be a song by each composer, sung by Gill.

These concerts are free of charge and last just under an hour. A collection will be taken from which a donation will be made to Self Help Africa, a charity based in Shrewsbury regularly supported by the United Reformed Church. There is parking available at the church. Come and join us!

Richard Walker



Strettons Classical Music Group

Pictures at an Exhibition

Wednesday 11th October sees the second scintillating talk of the season, this time given by David Andrew on the Russian 19th century composer Modest Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*. The talk begins at 10am at the URC Hall.

The stimulus for writing this celebrated piano piece came from an exhibition of watercolours and drawings by Viktor Hartmann, a close friend of Mussorgsky. They included those which inspired the composition of *The Old Castle*, *The Hut of the Baba-Yaga* and *The Great Gate of Kiev*.

The talk will include demonstrations and video recordings of the music, including the celebrated orchestration of the whole work by Maurice Ravel.

The talk will last around two hours, including a break for tea.

Barbara Hall, 724578



Mayfair Lottery Results for August

561	409	216	289
£100	£50	£20	£10


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Historic Church Stretton – Scotsman's Field

Scotchman's Piece was the name of a large field on the south side of Burway Road just below Burway Gate, where the cattle grid is now. It was a gathering place for travelling pedlars or hucksters who were always called Scotchmen, whatever their actual nationality might have been. The name is preserved in the house called Scotsman's Field.

Scotsman's Field is an Arts and Crafts style house built in 1908. The architect was Sir Ernest Newton, who was a founder member of the Art Workers' Guild, which aimed to unite the arts and crafts, including architecture and garden craft. In 1914 Newton was elected President of the Royal Institute of British Architects and four years later was awarded the Royal Gold Medal in recognition of his life's work.

The house and its curtilage is recognised by English Heritage to be an important example of an Arts and Crafts



laid out according to Newton's original design for a formal garden with paved south-facing terraces and further steps and balustraded terraces leading down the terraced hillside to separate areas of garden, a tennis lawn and an enclosed area for twin herbaceous borders defined by clipped yew hedges.

A formal box-edged rose garden lies to the west of the house and from here steps lead up to a rockery. To the east lies a less formal area planted with trees, including many conifers. All these features are typical of an ideal Edwardian garden.



Movement house in Shropshire. The house was described by Pevsner as being one of two (the other being Woodcote) especially good houses of the best period of Church Stretton. An important consideration for Newton was the site of the houses he designed and Scotsman's Field stands on a slope which faces south, with views across Church Stretton to the hills beyond.

He believed that a garden was an essential complement to the house plan and the gardens of Scotsman's Field were



The wrought iron grill in the Burway Road wall was designed to allow the public to peep into the gardens so that they could admire them! Photos courtesy of Shropshire Magazine

In 1960 the house was divided into three and the garden too, was divided. Fortunately, the architects responsible for the conversion were able to subdivide the garden following the original walls and hedges. The overall structure remaining as shown in Ernest Newton's plan of 1908.

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

Scholarship Presentations at Midland Gliding Club



In early August, four young people from across the UK spent a week together at the Midland Gliding Club on the Long Mynd, learning the basics of glider flying. Despite the week's rather mixed weather each of them flew every day, usually with volunteer instructor Andy Rands, a retired Virgin Captain.

Each of these aspiring glider pilots was a recipient of a Scholarship from the Honourable Company of Air Pilots (HCAP) for this course, and on the last day of the course a short ceremony to present them with their Scholarship Certificates was held at the club. The event was arranged and attended by Clun resident Professor Marion Wooldridge, who is a Liveryman of the HCAP, plus Midland Gliding Club Chairman, James Moore. Marion explained a little more about the HCAP and encouraged the scholarship winners to apply for further HCAP Scholarships. The event was also attended by Shropshire Deputy Lieutenant Katherine Garnier, whom Marion had invited to make the presentations, and of course Andy, their principal instructor.

Following the ceremony, the students described some of the skills they had learned. All stressed the importance of the teamwork necessary to launch a glider – at least five people are necessary to get a glider into the sky, each taking responsibility for their own actions and the safety of others in the team. Katherine and Marion then went to watch the award winners putting their new skills into action.

Katherine also accepted the generous offer of a flight with instructor Andy, and after watching the young pilots' demonstration of all they had learned that week, Katherine was winched into the sky to soar over familiar South Shropshire landmarks including the Stiperstones, Long Mountain, Bishop's Castle, Church Stretton and Craven Arms.

The Midland Gliding Club was founded in 1934, is one of the oldest Gliding Clubs in the country and welcomes members from all backgrounds and from all over the world, including of course Church Stretton. It is also an approved

Junior Gliding Centre. It depends hugely on volunteer members for the day-to-day tasks that enable the club to operate economically, with weekend instruction being given free to members by trained volunteer instructors like Andy. In addition, two professional instructors are employed to teach on weekday courses, allowing the club to stay open for member flying seven days a week during summer.

The Honourable Company of Air Pilots is a livery company of the City of London and, in common with other City Livery Companies, undertakes many charitable activities; it also specifically represents the interests of pilots and navigators, encouraging and assisting people from any background who wish to undertake any type of flying. Established in 1929 (as The Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators), it became a Livery Company in 1956 and was awarded Honourable status by the late Queen Elizabeth II in 2014. It is unusual amongst Livery Companies in that it has a large worldwide membership of circa 2,200, of which (currently) approximately 570 are Liverymen, run by a Court of approximately 25 elected Liverymen. Before moving to Shropshire, Marion was a Court member for six years, also spending time as Chair of the Technical Committee. The Company is honoured to have His Majesty The King as patron. Each year it offers residential gliding scholarships at various venues, to students aged 16 or older chosen by the awards panel, plus scholarships for Private Pilots' Licence and instructor rating training. All scholarships are awarded competitively. All four of the 2023 scholarship winners at the Midland Gliding Club plan to apply for further Air Pilot scholarships in the hope of securing a future career as a pilot.

Midland Gliding Club contact details: 01588 650206 or email office@midlandgliding.club

HCAP scholarships contact details: Angie Rodriguez 0207 404 4032 or email office@airpilots.org

Marion Wooldridge

Thank You and Letters

Garden party

A significant birthday prompted Lesley McIntyre to hold a fundraising Garden Party at her home in All Stretton. Despite the weather and change of venue from Juniper Cottage to All Stretton Village Hall on 13th August the afternoon was a great success raising £1,200.

Lesley McIntyre and Caroline Crump presented cheques of £600 each to Val Pearce, Shropshire Branch Blood Cancer UK and Paul N, Stretton Ukraine Relief Effort (see photo).

Once again the people of the Strettons showed their great generosity and we would like to thank everyone who supported the Garden Party and to all who helped on the day. *Lesley McIntyre*



Breast Cancer Research

I would like to thank everyone, including the shopkeepers, who contributed to the afternoon tea at Ley Gardens on Saturday 12th August. I am pleased to say we raised £405.00 towards Breast Cancer Research.

Joanne Jackson

Coffee Concerts

Thank you to Jane Blake and her team who baked biscuits for, and served at, the Coffee Concerts in St Laurence's Church – and of course to those who partook after each concert. We raised £700 for Mayfair's Ring-and-Ride.

John Gott, Berry's

Teas to please

Thank you from All Saints Church, Little Stretton. This year's 'Teas to Please' over the August Bank Holiday was another happy event, and the weather remained dry though changeable. A special attraction this year was Little Stretton's splendid Scarecrow Competition, organised by the Village Society, and the presence of the Mayor, Councillor Andy Munro, on the Sunday to announce the winners. As always, we are grateful for the many contributions of gifts, cakes, jams and preserves and sale items, the time and effort given by all our volunteers from across the Strettons, both in setting up and on the two days, and the contributions of the Manor House Open Gardens.

Thanks also to the Shropshire Strummers and the Church Stretton Accordion Band for their excellent and much appreciated musical contributions and the generosity of our many visitors. The total raised was £4,800, of which half will go to Little Stretton Church and a quarter each to the Food Bank and Church Stretton's Community Responders – a magnificent result.

Mike Bourke

Amnesty International

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the September street collection, which raised £276.81. At a time when human rights are increasingly being eroded or abolished by authoritarian regimes all over the world, the work of Amnesty International is ever more urgent.

David Howard

Where have all the letters gone?

When I open a newspaper or magazine I always turn to the letters page. I seldom read all the letters but I like to know what urges people to write and I notice who has written and where the writers live. Letters to *Focus* used to be full of interest but in recent months have been getting fewer.

With increasing use of social media, letter writing is in danger of becoming a forgotten craft. Remember the old saying "Use it or lose it"? Is this why our local Post Office is threatened with being downgraded to an in-store PO counter?



Ruth Davies

Happiness

Lately I have realised how much we all have that we don't really need and that in doing so we have been plundering the Earth to the extent that we are well on the path to destruction. I won't talk about this but something wonderful that happened to me.

I am stuck in bed, so nightdresses are important to me. I noticed in a magazine some very pretty nightdresses for sale but they were very expensive. I decided to buy myself two, then thought that I had just said that we are all being greedy and want more than we need. Does it matter if my nightdresses are getting a bit old as nobody will notice them when I am in bed? I told myself this was absolutely right. I got my cheque book out and wrote a cheque for whales, placed it in an envelope and when it was taken through the bedroom door a great wave of happiness swept through me and stayed with me. Having something happy to tell you about brightens the day I hope.

Anne Halliburton

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Behind the Counter



Belle Maison Home and Lifestyle

The Ragleth Gallery, which was based next to the Old Coppers Malthouse pub at the top of Sandford Avenue, closed its doors in April. Fear not, you fellow shoppers who might be looking for that vintage-style piece of home décor, Belle Maison Home and Lifestyle opened its doors on 17th July. Claire and Peter Atwood moved their business here from Shifnal, and Peter says, “We chose Church Stretton because of the town’s vibrancy, and this is a beautiful building in a good location. We stock a mixture of genuine vintage and reproduction items, alongside unusual home décor pieces, and have been stockists for Annie Sloan paints and products for ten years.” Peter mans the shop during the week, with Claire taking over on Sundays at present. On my visit I spied some lovely cushions, and the vintage chandelier is stunning, perfect for turning an entrance hall or dining room into a mini-chateau. Sadly, it’s too large for my hallway. New signage should be in place by the time this article appears in print, drawing the eye from street level up to large and impressive windows. There’s an Instagram page at www.instagram.com/bellemaisonvintage as well as other social media listings, or you could be old-school and phone 07576 593368 for more information, or just pop in when you’re passing; a warm welcome is guaranteed.

Upper Cuts

Competition is good, a business mantra suggests, and Jayson Robertson has set out to prove it’s correct. Jayson opened his own barbershop in July, in the unit that houses Shropshire Academy of Performing Arts, the Long Mynd Music Academy and the Strettonia Boxing Club on Lutwyche Road. He heard about the unit through a friend and now travels here every day from Bishop’s Castle on this, his first venture into being self-employed. Jayson says, “Patrons of the boxing club have been my first customers, and word is beginning to spread. I’ve been in barbering for 17 years now, and I achieved a professional qualification a few years ago. I’ve previously worked as a carer for several years and am sensitive to the needs of people, including children, who might need extra reassurance in a barber’s chair for whatever reason. I also have a Level 3 qualification in sports massage, a service I might expand into here.” As if that’s not enough, Jayson offers a nose and ear waxing service, as well as eyebrow waxing. The ambience in Jayson’s space is definitely masculine, with biker artifacts and racks of tools adorning the walls, but everyone is welcome. It’s different but quirkily appealing. For more info, search for Upper Cuts Barbers on Facebook, or just walk in.



Ying Wah

Jiejun Zheng is a student of computer games design at Manchester University but, during the summer vacation, he's been hard at work helping his family prepare their High Street take-away for reopening. Ying Wah, which means 'richness and glory' roughly translated into English, is just across the road from the Silvester Horne Institute. It is only just rising from the after-effects of Covid as well as the lengthy process of negotiating a new lease on the property, redecorating and installing a new shop front. The family are from Fuzhou (pronounced Fugo, with a soft 'g'), which is on the east coast of China across the straits from Taiwan. They came to England via Ireland and are now British citizens. Jiejun's father began the take-away in homage to the food of his homeland. The menu is extensive, with something to suit everyone's taste whether carnivore or vegetarian, mild or spicy, and with intriguing names such as Wandering Dragon and Char Sui Foo Yung, as well as many Indonesian-style and English-Chinese fusion dishes. There's a comfy sofa in the waiting area, and the soothing sounds and sights of an ornamental fish tank keeps customers company while they wait. The take-away is open every day except Tuesdays, including Bank Holidays. Orders can be taken by phone on 01694 720010 or in person, and menus can be picked up from the waiting area counter during opening hours.



Christine Williams, Focus Journalist

Bridgemaster series

An amusing (or not) and educational deal: from a team's match:

North/South Vul, Dealer East

		♠ 94		
		♥ 87		
		♦ 10642		
		♣ K10543		
♠ AK105			♠ Q32	
♥ AK5			♥ Q1042	
♦ Q93			♦ KJ875	
♣ Q72			♣ J	
		♠ J876		
		♥ J963		
		♦ A		
		♣ A986		

West	North	East	South
	-	-	
		Pass	Pass
1♠	-	2♦	-
3NT			

What should North lead?

When the opposition show sufficient values for 3NT AND you have so few HCPs but Partner must have most of defenders HCPs then it is often correct to lead an unbid major – one that you might not have values in.



With this thought in mind, Muggins reasoned that if the ♣ lead were to take the contract off immediately, the partnership would be in the same position if he delayed the attack. He thought there was another chance of defeating the contract if he could find partner with a 5-card ♥ suit and entries to establish and cash the suit. (Partner must have some values across there if there was ever a chance of defeating the contract.)

The ♥8 hit the baize. Muggins gulped as he saw the singleton ♣J in dummy. Well, all is not lost he thought, partner is over there with our goodies!

Declarer wins with the ace (not the king – keep the defence guessing) and runs the ♦Q to South's singleton ace... Like a true partner she returns partner's suit (♥) to partner's... king (er seven). Declarer now cashes the top ♦, finds the layout and sets up the hand for 12 tricks!

After trick 13 Muggins asked partner if she had the ♣A, ... and yes, she did. Muggins disappointed, then got the "Oh no why don't you lead your suit" message from across the table. "If only you lead your suit, I can read the layout and return your suit for 2-off."

Educational tips:

- Look at the lead and work out the distribution – what could the lead mean? (Rule of 11 or 2nd highest etc)
- Play to beat the contract at teams – Would the ♣A tell a story before idly playing a heart back?

Muggins

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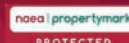
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Shropshire
Wildlife Trust

Strettons Branch

Rectory Wood and Field Fungus Foray
Saturday 21st October, 10am

Last year Strettons Branch of the Shropshire Wildlife Trust held a very successful Fungus Foray in Rectory Wood and Field and are repeating it. Led again by local fungi expert John Hughes, who will take us on a walk round the wood and field explaining how important fungi are and play a key role in our ecosystems.

He will also explain what to look for when trying to identify the different fungus families and if they are deadly or delicious.



Of the 36 species found last year there were many with entertaining names – Chicken of the Woods, Beefsteak Fungus, and Dog's Stinkhorn to name but a few.

Come and see how many we can find this year. The walk will last about 2 hours and stout footwear is advised. Cost is £3 for members, £4 for non-members. No need to book, just turn up.

For further information please contact Janet Martin (01694 722361)

Janet Martin

The Parable of the Sunflower

With their cheerful faces and bright colourful petals, you can't help but smile when you see a sunflower, perhaps because they look rather like the sun. They are a great favourite for artists ranging from Van Gogh who painted a total of 12 pictures and Gauguin who once painted Van Gogh painting, you've guessed it, sunflowers. They come in various shapes and sizes and have been known to have grown to an amazing height of over 30 feet.

Sunflowers can certainly lift our spirits, but did you know that they not only look like the sun yet also, in a trait called heliotropism, will face the sun in the early morning and then follow the sun throughout the day. Overnight the flowers then rotate back to face east anticipating and waiting for the warmth of the morning sun. They stand in bloom throughout the summer and rely on the sun for strength, nourishment, and growth to become the beautiful plants we enjoy so much.

But what about those cloudy days when the sun doesn't shine? Even more amazing, many have noticed how the sunflower will turn to face another sunflower. Each sunflower head is made up of thousands of tiny flowers and



many believe they look to each other to feed off each other's energy and to give mutual support until the sun shines again.

There is no evidence to suggest that Jesus ever told a parable about a sunflower, yet he could have! He could have reminded the crowds how sensible it would be to turn to God's Son in the morning then follow Him throughout the day for strength and nourishment. Then he

could have reminded them of their responsibility to support and encourage one another on those dark days we all may experience.

But the parable of the sunflower does not end there. A sunflower in full bloom, will absorb harmful toxins around us. Millions were planted after nuclear disasters such as Chernobyl and they are planted in areas of high levels of lead or other harmful toxins. They are also made into oils having anti-inflammatory properties or that help reduce cholesterol levels or oils used for healthy cooking. So may we be encouraged by the sunflower, to follow the Son's leading, help make this world a better place and may the fragrance and substance of our lives be a blessing to those around us.

Jon Hughes



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 October events.

For further information visit our website

www.group.rspb.org.uk/southshropshire

or Facebook: RSPB South Shropshire Local Group

Jays

Occasionally a jay may visit your bird table, especially if you live near deciduous woodland, their usual habitat. They are strikingly beautiful birds with pinkish grey feathering and distinctive blue barred patterned wings. But their voice is far from beautiful, being a repetitive screech, like a bird with a sore throat. They are cautious. In the past jays were frequently persecuted by gamekeepers who considered them a nuisance. They do have a varied diet and as opportunist feeders, this does include bird's eggs, but their main diet is insects and acorns. They are the most colourful of our corvids and like other



members of the crow family are intelligent birds. Perhaps they realise that in a garden they are safe.

If you are lucky, you will see them storing acorns in your lawns or flower beds. They use their bill to cover their hoard with leaf litter. If you see oak saplings appearing next year, you can guess who is responsible. Acorns are hard, so jays hold them in place with their feet, while prising open the shell with their bill to get at the inside.

In gardens with good cover, they may even make a nest in a small tree or shrub.

Carol Wood

Church Stretton Tree Group

Ancient woodlands in the Shropshire Hills

As part of the ongoing programme of meetings and talks, the Church Stretton Tree Group's next meeting on Wednesday 11th October will include a talk on ancient woodlands in the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Rachel Glover, Natural Environment Officer for the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership team, will be speaking about a project currently running in the area, focusing on the identification and restoration of these woodlands.

Ancient woodlands are some of the most valuable natural assets and home to many vulnerable and threatened species. The Strettons have several such woodlands on the doorstep, such as Helmeth Hill and Gough's Coppice.

Ancient Semi-Natural woodland sites cover almost 5% of the AONB designated area, including 23 sites that are also Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

Project work is currently underway to work closely with woodland owners to provide advice and guidance about the

long-term management of these woodland sites, to ensure their longevity as wildlife-rich habitats, alongside a sustainable source of hardwood timber in some cases.

The evening talk will include information on the project background, the importance of these woodland sites; possible restoration measures and approaches and wider updates on the work of the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership.

The evening will begin at 7.15pm with a short Tree Group Annual General Meeting. It will be held at the Methodist Church Hall. All are welcome and you will be able to join the Tree Group on the night.

Hilary Hymas



South part of Stretton Valley



Shropshire Ornithological Society

SOS Save our Curlews Campaign

This year, the Shropshire Ornithological Society (SOS) Save our Curlews project continued to work with Strettons Area Community Wildlife Group (SACWG) to find nests and put an electric fence

round them, to guard the eggs from mammalian predation. It was also intended to radio tag and track the chicks that hatched, to find out how they use the landscape, and what happened to them.

SACWG members located seven pairs, and the nests of three of them were found by the project. One was predated before the clutch was complete, one was predated after fencing, and the third was abandoned (the fence was functioning normally, and had not been breached). The pair with the predated fenced nest re-laid, but that nest too was predated. Eggshell fragments were found inside the fence on both occasions, indicating they were eaten by crows, but it is possible that the nest was abandoned before the eggs were eaten. Abandoned nests are believed to be caused by foxes patrolling the perimeter of the fence, scaring the sitting bird away. The nest finders looked for re-lay nests for all pairs, but there is no evidence that the other two attempted to re-lay. Another pair was located and monitored, but no evidence was observed that this pair laid any eggs, although it is possible that in this case too a partial clutch was predated early.

Across the county, breeding success has been very poor again. About 100 pairs are known to have produced six chicks at most, compared with the 50 or so they need for a stable population. Three of these young fledged from nests on the Long Mynd. At the current rate of decline, the population will halve in 12 years, and virtually disappear in 25.

The Strettons area is part of the Stepping Stones area, a project with a 50-year vision led by the National Trust and Natural England, with support from the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership. There are an estimated 500 pairs of curlew left in the south of England (south of a line from the Dee estuary to The Wash). The International Union for Nature Conservation criteria include maintaining the range of threatened species, as well as their populations, so the Shropshire population, now down to 100-110 breeding pairs, over 20% of that in southern England, is nationally and regionally important. Over 60% of the county's curlews breed in the AONB, and 40% of them live in the Stepping Stones area. Efforts are being made to

include a long-term species recovery project in the Stepping Stones programme, and the SOS/SACWG Save our Curlews project will continue in the long term as part of this.



It is also necessary to continue to produce the evidence that predation is currently the main cause of nest and chick loss, driving the population to local extinction; that lethal predator control does not keep pace with the increase in the number of predators resulting from the ever-increasing release of gamebirds for shooting (estimated at over 2,000,000 per year in Shropshire in 2018); and that the only solution is a reduction in the food supply for predators at a landscape scale.

The project has been running since 2018, and in the Strettons area since 2021. A full report, with results 2018-2022, and conclusions, can be found on the SOS website, www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews.

In 2023, we also started project work in two CWG areas around Oswestry, to see if productivity and predation is as great a problem there as it is in the south Shropshire Hills. A full report for 2023 will be published on the SOS website shortly.

Thanks to the *Stretton Focus* Community Award Scheme for a generous grant towards the costs of this work, and thanks also to *Focus* readers who contributed to the SOS Appeal, in 2023 and/or in previous years.

Leo Smith

SOS Save our Curlews Campaign Co-ordinator
Organiser, SACWG Bird Survey

Church Stretton Branch of Shropshire Ornithological Society

presents

'Another Year Birding in Shropshire' by Jim Almond

on Monday 23rd October. Venue Methodist Church Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

Members free, non-members £3. Refreshments provided. All welcome.

Shropshire nature conservation project awarded thousands in 'Species Recovery' funding

A National Trust-led project has been awarded nearly £290,000 in funding to continue its nature conservation work in the Shropshire Hills.

Amidst competition from over a hundred applications across England, Natural England has awarded funding from the Species Recovery Grant to the Stepping Stones Project, which aims to connect and restore patches of wildlife-friendly habitat between the Long Mynd and Stiperstones.

Together with partner organisations, Natural England is driving action nationally to promote the recovery of Britain's most threatened species and reduce the risk of extinction.

£14.5 million has been awarded to conservation projects across England. One hundred and fifty threatened species are being targeted to benefit from the funding which runs until March 2025.

Four key species in the Stepping Stones project area will be supported using money from the grant. These species include otter, willow tit, small pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly and dormouse.

Patches of wildlife-friendly habitat 'stepping stones' and wildlife corridors such as hedgerows, verges and streams which traditionally link areas of habitat are sadly in decline in the Shropshire Hills, and the mammals, birds and insects that use them to move around the landscape are under threat.

Charlie Bell, Project Officer for Stepping Stones said: "We're so pleased that the Stepping Stones bid for the

funding has been successful. It means that we can continue our work with volunteers, local farmers and partnership organisations, to raise awareness of threatened species and undertake work that helps to protect them.

"Dormice are one of the key species we're looking to help. They need habitat connectivity to survive but sadly, the isolation of broadleaved woodland, scrub and hedgerow habitats has led to a decline in this very cute little mammal. To remedy

this, over the next 18 months our teams will be creating or restoring around 7,500m of hedgerow. Volunteers will be helping us plant over 30,000 hedgerow trees on three farms across the project area."

Other planned work includes building artificial otter dens called 'holts' in local streams, growing and planting out thousands of marsh violet plants which are the

favourite food of small pearl-bordered fritillary caterpillars, and creating wet woodland and installing nest boxes for willow tits.

To find out more about the project or to volunteer, email charlie.bell@nationaltrust.org.uk.



Westhope Village Hall News

Another phase of the refurbishment of the village hall has nearly been completed. A new kitchen, a new water heating system and the ladies and gents toilets have been upgraded. We still have to paint and decorate the kitchen and toilets which is work in progress.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all our working parties which have made this possible. They have worked tirelessly to prepare the hall ready for the tradesmen and then to prepare it again ready for our skittles evening on 12th August. A huge thank you to Mark for all his hard work with his drill doing all the jobs that need doing to make such a difference. On behalf of the village hall committee we would like to thank all the suppliers and tradesmen who, at very short notice, due to unforeseen circumstances, completed the works in a very tight timescale.

We now have to continue our fund-raising for the next stage to decorate the outside of the village hall.

Next year the hall will be 100 years old and we plan to celebrate and have a party for all the community and those who have supported the hall throughout the years.

Unfortunately, the Corvedale Tots have decided to relocate their group and will no longer be at the hall. We wish them well.

Events in October

Harvest Supper: 14th October 7 for 7.30pm

£15 for a 3 course meal, tea/coffee and entertainment.

Children under 12 £8.

Bingo: Please note we are moving away from the monthly Bingo. Our next Cash Bingo will be on Saturday 28th October. Doors open 7pm, eyes down 7.30pm.

The hall is available to hire with a licensed bar and catering if required.

All enquiries: Betty Manley 07860 447397



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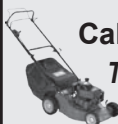
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October Screenings

Acton Scott

Acton Scott Village Hall, Tuesday 17th October, 7.30pm

Adults £5, children £3

There is a large car park and the hall has level access.

Living (12A)

Set in the 1950s this is the story of a veteran civil servant who receives a medical diagnosis that inspires him to move to the south coast and cram some fun into his remaining days. He meets a sunny young female colleague who seems to have the pep that had previously escaped him.

Acton Scott enquiries: 01694 781260



All Stretton

All Stretton Village Hall, Tuesday 10th October, 8pm

No interval, refreshments at start of film; Adults £6

Master Cheng (PG)

Veteran Finnish director Mika Kaurismäki's quiet, tender, lyrical film explores the possibilities of making new connections in far-off places. When Master Cheng (Pak Hon Chu) arrives in a remote Finnish village with his young son Nunjo (Lucas Hsuan), he's in search of someone he used to know in Shanghai. Unable to help find his friend, café owner Sirkka (Anna-Maija Tuokka) offers him accommodation instead, and in return Cheng helps her in the kitchen. Delighting her initially sceptical customers with his cooking, he becomes a celebrated part of the community, and when his tourist visa runs out, the villagers devise a plan so he can stay. Part drolly humorous comedy, part quietly unassuming romance, *Master Cheng* is a tribute to the value of opening yourself up to the unfamiliar. It's beautifully shot by Jari Mutikainen, whose camera does justice to both Finland's spectacular countryside and Cheng's mouth-watering creations.



Friday 20th October, 7.30pm

Adults £5

Juniper (15)

Seventeen year old Sam has been on a self-destructive spiral that could lead to his death. He returns home from boarding school to find his wheelchair-bound English grandmother, Ruth, has moved in. Ruth is an ex-war photographer with a lust for life and a love of the bottle. Sam soon finds himself deeply confronted by her alcoholic wit and nerve. Their first meeting is awkward. Their second meeting is kind of violent. Things get worse when Sam finds himself stranded alone with her and her nurse Sarah for the school holidays. Both strong-willed characters, a battle of supremacy ensues, enabling Sam to embrace life again and for Ruth to face her mortality.

All Stretton enquiries: 07812 583113; catelatchford@hotmail.co.uk



Cardington

Cardington Village Hall, Wednesday 4th October, 7.30pm

Adults £5

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry (12A)

A seemingly unremarkable man in his 60s named Harold one day learns his old friend Queenie is dying. He embarks on a walk, only to keep going for 450 miles until he reaches Queenie's hospice, much to the despair of his wife Maureen.

Cardington enquiries: 01694 771295

Church Stretton

Silvester Horne Institute, Thursday 19th October, 7.30pm

Adults £12, children £6

Tickets available from Town Council Offices or The Outdoor Depot. Cash only on the door.

The Quiet Girl (12A)

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

Church Stretton enquiries: 07508 072206



Hope Bowdler

Hope Bowdler Village Hall, Wednesday 11th October, 7.30pm

Adults £5 adults, children £2.50

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

A Man Called Otto (15)

Based on the comical and moving #1 *New York Times* bestseller, *A Man Called Otto* tells the story of Otto Anderson, a grumpy widower who is very set in his ways. When a lively young family moves in next door, he meets his match in quick-witted and very pregnant Marisol, leading to an unlikely friendship that will turn his world upside-down. Experience a funny, heartwarming story about how some families come from the most unexpected places.

Hope Bowdler enquiries: 01694 721376



SHI Events

Tango Calor

Friday 27th October, 7.30pm

Silvester Horne Institute, Church Stretton

Tango Calor is one of the most exciting tango bands performing in the UK. The trio have performed for tango dances and festivals around the country including WOMAD and special shows in La Ghironda festival in Italy. They are often invited to accompany visiting Argentine artists and have also collaborated with orchestras staging concerts of the music of Astor Piazzolla.

Expect an evening of songs and wonderful stories presented to you by sensational Latin vocalist Indira Roman (Salsa UK, Roberto Pla), Mirek Salmon (Welsh National Opera, Moscow Drug Club) one of the few players of the bandoneon in the country and acclaimed acoustic guitarist Daryl Kellie.

“Such great musicianship and connection with the audience” – Chew Valley Arts

“One of the best tango trios you will hear in the UK”
– Eduardo Bozzo



*Tickets: Adult £12, under 18 £6, online at silvesterhorneevents.co.uk or from Town Council Office or Outdoor Depot, Sandford Avenue.
Info 01694 720132.*

Mike Walker

Scout Group News



The Scouters of the 2nd Longmynd are taking a well-earned break during August, when this was being written, so it gives me an opportunity to reflect on World Jamborees, following the events of the most recent one in South Korea.

Like the Olympics, countries bid for the privilege of holding this four-yearly world camp and South Korea must have put forward a pretty strong case to the World Organisation of Scouting to win it. Whatever else went wrong they could not have forecast the extreme heatwave or the typhoon which hit the camp – Jamborees are as vulnerable as any outdoor event.

In 1957 the Jamboree came to Britain to celebrate 50 years of Scouting. It was held at Sutton Park, Birmingham, and I was privileged to attend. One night a freak thunderstorm occurred and the camp was flooded. I was fortunate enough to be sleeping on a camp bed because when I got up next morning the water was over my ankles in the tent. Newspapers leaped on the flooding, in general the headlines read “Jamboree wiped out”. The UK Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan, held a press conference and told the reporters “Get out of your hotel rooms and get the facts,” because by the afternoon, with 35,000 campers pitching in, the Jamboree was back on programme, if a trifle muddily.

The Jamboree returned to Britain in 2007 to celebrate 100 years of Scouting, this time to Chelmsford in Essex and I visited it, not as just a Scouter but as a journalist and I was able to see the incredible efficiency with which the event was run.

For a start, seven large trucks arrived early each morning with food which had to be distributed to 35,000 campers. Then there was the continual in-camp programme plus the daily fleet of coaches which took thousands of Scouts out to see our fishing and farming industries, our factories, hospitals, schools, country parks and stately homes with London, of course, being the main attraction.

Thousands of visitors from all over the world came each day but there was deliberately no car parking at the

site. Instead the former North Weald airfield, famous in the Battle of Britain and a dozen miles away, was used with a constant stream of shuttle buses to and from the Jamboree.

At that time Heathrow was going through a major crisis (what’s new?) with strikes, flight cancellations and managerial problems. An MP got up in the House of Commons and said, “If we could hand Heathrow over to the Scouts our problems would be solved.” High praise.

At the 2nd Longmynd we now look forward to the reports of the South Korean Jamboree from Alex and Freddy, our two representatives who attended, and that of Angie Walshaw and Isaac who went to the sub-Jamboree in Norway, and the start of the autumn programme.

Group Scout Leader Terry Davies says the Group is already preparing for the next big public event – Bonfire Night.

He would also like to thank Caradoc Coaches which sponsored the Beaver Colony and both Cub Packs for a visit to Cosford Air Museum, which was an enjoyable outing.

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 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd

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, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th

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

Wednesday 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

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

Fred Reeve



Church Stretton Dragon Spotting Walk

October Half Term

28th October to 4th November

Entry is free and everyone is welcome.

There will be ten dragons hiding in shop windows and ten hiding in the Town Parks.

Entry forms from Burway Books or directly from us via email;

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Ceri Smith

Trivia Answers

1. Mary Poppins
2. Petra
3. Switzerland
4. D
5. Barbara Good

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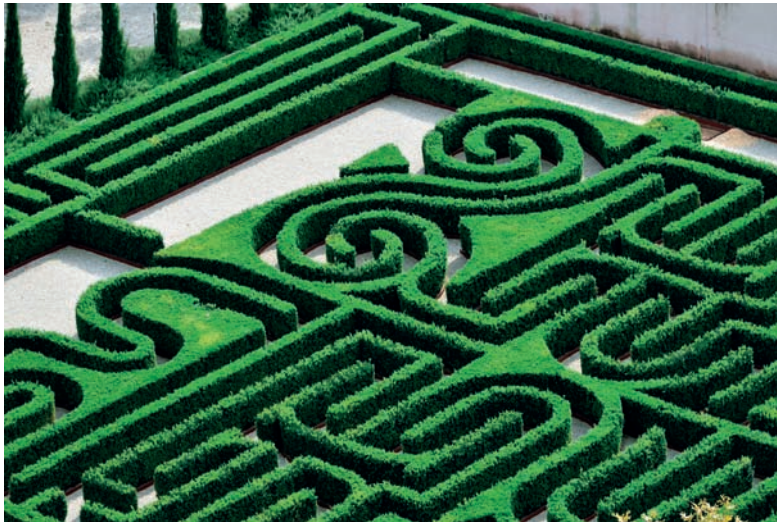
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A Quaker Voice

Walking the Labyrinth

The only labyrinth I had heard of until recently was the one in Greek mythology where the Minotaur – half man and half bull – was imprisoned beneath the palace in Knossos, Crete. That one sounds like a maze, with many paths and blind alleys, built to mislead. A labyrinth, on the other hand, has a single winding path leading to the centre and then out again.



That said, the evidence does seem to point to Greece as the area where the labyrinth evolved. It was found there etched on the walls of caves in Neolithic times and the earliest labyrinth was found there, dated at around 1200BC. It was the 7 circuit Classical Labyrinth now found universally. There have been many designs of labyrinth and many different uses, but this one seems to have stood the test of time for walking meditation and group ritual; the purpose of the early ones.

Local Quakers, together with visiting Friends, had the opportunity to experience one for themselves when a portable labyrinth arrived in Church Stretton! It was brought by Maud Grainger who was our guide, and spread out in the URC Hall. By way of preparation Maud encouraged us to try to achieve a relaxed state of mind, to bring to mind any recent stresses and preoccupations and to leave them behind. Becoming aware of our bodies, our surroundings, our feelings and breathing all helped. I was reminded of Mindfulness practices – also rooted in ancient times.

I found walking the Labyrinth a very soothing activity. We each walked our own path at our own pace, and it was good to be doing this in community as we met others walking theirs. The simple path to the centre can be whatever the walker needs it to be at the time. It has been said to help people see more clearly where they are in life, to rebalance, a journey to the centre of the self. It does seem to produce a feeling of peace and serenity, some choosing to linger at the centre. The unexpected may also be brought to the surface and take time to be absorbed.

If I came across another labyrinth I would want to repeat the experience. They are now finding their way into libraries, hospitals, hospices, and workplaces. It is also now possible of course for labyrinths to be projected on to surfaces as the need arises.

There are about 500 labyrinths and mazes in the UK made of stones, turf, hedges, mosaics, and tiles. Many can be found in churches and in the gardens of stately homes.

Do take the opportunity to walk one of them if you can – allowing yourself plenty of time!

Jane Seabury



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Church Stretton Town Council Community Matters

A summer of charity

August 2023 will not go down in the memory as one of those great summers, but I remain deeply impressed that the community has adapted and managed despite the weather to put on its usual stunning array of events. The Arts Festival seemed to rise to new heights and is reported elsewhere, whilst at the heart of most events has been the desire to bring local communities together and in so doing to raise funds for others both within and often beyond the parish.

A great example, as trailed in last month's *Focus*, has been John Holden's '90 at 90' cycle ride where John has chosen to ride 90 miles in celebration of his 90th birthday with sponsorship in aid of the Foodbank. As I write sponsorship has exceeded £3,000 but with the surrounding publicity the donations to the Foodbank in the Coop have also increased.



John Holden crosses the finish line

The list of events has been extensive: the Little Stretton Scarecrow competition and the annual 'Teas to Please', the All Stretton Village Society cream teas and fete which raised funds for Ukraine and Blood Cancer UK and the staff at Field House who spent 24 hours 'wild camping' off-grid in aid of Church Stretton Dementia Friends. A big thank you to all of the volunteers involved in these and all of the other fundraising events held this summer.

However, in addition to the cake baking and scarecrow making what all of these events had in common was organisation and drive, from people who are prepared to

step forward and deploy skills they may have forgotten they have. So many people have said to me that they lack confidence or that other people are better; people who are now helping organise events and getting a great deal back in return as mentioned so eloquently in the September *Focus* editorial. The charity zone at the Family Fun day identified a number of new volunteers, and other initiatives are in progress: we have got over 20 new volunteers for the Neighbourhood Plan, but the demand is there across every sector. I believe one of the key strengths of the town and its community is the willingness of residents



'Moleman' won the adult class of the Little Stretton Scarecrow competition

to volunteer and we must work hard to facilitate this. If anyone is interested either contact an organisation directly or give me a call: 07899 902832. I'll be only too pleased to talk and to explain how you might be able to help.

Neighbourhood Plan

As mentioned above, a big thank you to all of the people who have come forward to join the Stakeholder Group for the Neighbourhood Plan. By the time you read this everyone involved will have received induction and training and will be hard at work creating an explanatory leaflet which will be delivered to every household. In addition to providing detail about how the Neighbourhood Plan will work, it will be the first opportunity to look at the potential scope of the plan and for residents to be consulted.

A list of all those involved will be provided next month.

Focus readers will recall the relationship between the Neighbourhood Plan and the Shropshire Local Plan, and how keen the Town Council is to see the Shropshire Local Plan progress. Unfortunately, the Shropshire Local Plan is receiving significant challenges particularly over the total housing target for the county of 30,800. Critics are suggesting that the target doesn't include the minimum 1,500 homes which have been agreed to be built in Shropshire for the Black Country Partnership and that the

total should be 32,300 or more. Developers are challenging the plan as unsound and hope this will help their claim to build maybe 3,000 homes near J3 of the M54. However, if this argument is accepted an increased total will require widespread consultation, for which the consequences and delays are unknown.

In the light of this uncertainty and delay the importance of the Church Stretton Neighbourhood Plan (NHP) only increases. The role of the NHP in protecting the countryside around Church Stretton, whilst at the same time helping ensure the development identified by the Housing Needs Survey inside the settlement boundary is delivered, becomes critical.

Visitor Survey

Following the results from the pilot shared in July, the Visitor Survey has continued to be conducted right across the summer. The full results will be published probably in October, but the findings already confirm what the pilot showed: that visitors old and new think the town, the Local Nature Reserves and Carding Mill Valley are fantastic. The importance of continuing the survey work is that the larger data set increases confidence in the conclusions. It also helps to identify variations between, for example, Mondays, when many retailers may be closed, and days later in the week.

The results will be published alongside another survey exercise led by Cllr Charlie Jones which has been looking at employment and businesses in the town. This work will complement the data from the visitor survey and allow some overall conclusions to be drawn. The data will also feed into the NHP.

Railway Closure 12th-29th September

Focus readers will have learned of the temporary closure of the railway starting mid-September for three weeks, with little advanced notice. The following extract is from a letter sent to Transport for Wales (TfW) by the Chair of the Marches Rail User Group which summarises the position perfectly:

“... To say that rail users in the Marches are disappointed to hear that the line between

Shrewsbury and Hereford is to be closed for nearly three weeks is an understatement. The effect on students attending the colleges at Hereford, Ludlow and Shrewsbury is horrendous, with the day for some students being extended by over two hours.

“I am aware that engineering operations to maintain the infrastructure have to be carried out but surely a more suitable time of year could have been chosen. The summer break at the colleges has just finished so why was this period not selected for the line closure. When similar work was last carried out a reduced train service was maintained, as with the line separation at Dinmore it is possible to carry out the work on one line at a time without the other line being affected.

“The late publicity for this line closure once again illustrates that TfW have no interest in publishing prompt accurate and well distributed information to passengers in England.”

This matter needs to be investigated to ensure that there is no repetition and I am grateful for the work of the Marches Rail User Group.

And finally...

A visit in August by naturalists from the Joy of Wildlife Group to All Stretton identified an example of *Dilophus bispinosus* which was the first time it had been recorded in Shropshire. It is a small fly related to the St Mark's fly which is typically seen around the start of May. The naturalists also enjoyed seeing examples of the Greater Broomrape which is also described as very rare.

Andy Munro, Mayor



Methodist Voice

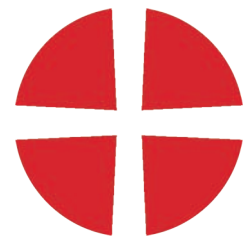
Times of change

It's reached the time of year where I can't kid myself it's still summer. Longer nights are here, the temperature is beginning to drop, leaves beginning to change colour and soon the clocks will be changing. There can be no doubt – autumn is on the way.

September and October can be times of change – the start of a new academic year, weather changing marking the end of summer and the start of autumn. It's a time not everyone looks forward to, change is something that isn't always a welcome thing. When we look at our lives we see times of change. Some of those changes were greeted with excitement and were welcomed. Others were not. Yet throughout our lives we are faced with changes; nothing stays the same.

Some of these changes can be small and we can easily take them in our stride. Others are larger and may take us some time to come to terms with. At times it can feel like everything is changing. When we look around at the world and at our society it can appear so different to how we remember. But some things do stay constant. As a Christian, God is one of the constants in our world and despite all the changes in the world around us, God remains the same, his love for us remaining unchanged throughout the changing seasons of our lives. So, whatever changes we are facing, whatever life is throwing at us, we can know that we are not on our own – God's love for us will always be there.

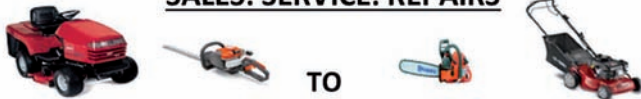
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Learning to read is life-changing for adults

It's taken for granted that we all learned to read and write at school, however many people struggle with this essential life skill. Imagine how different your life would be if you couldn't read forms or letters, or read the labelling on items in the supermarket.

Many local people who struggle with reading have taken advantage of Read Easy, Shropshire Hills' free coaching service and it has literally transformed their lives.

Anthony learns to read at 60

Anthony found learning to read hard when he was young and moving from school to school didn't help. He fell behind his classmates and in later life came to rely completely on his wife, hiding his struggles with reading from the world. He didn't need to know how to read as she took care of everything.

His world fell apart when his wife died suddenly. Anthony had lost his life partner and the one person who could deal with everything which had to be read. He

opened up to a friend who encouraged him to get in touch with Read Easy Shropshire Hills and he began to learn to read with Marianne his coach.

Anthony says his confidence has grown so much since he started learning with Read Easy. He is getting his life and his bills under control. He now reads a newspaper and books and does things he would never have even considered doing in the past. He even has the confidence to go on walking holidays in Anglesey with plans to venture further afield.

How to get in touch

Learning to read as an adult is life changing. If you would like to find out more about their free, confidential, one-to-one coaching service, or you know someone who would like to learn to read, contact Christine Aplin on 07707 762653 or email her at shcoordinator2@readeasy.org.uk. For volunteering enquiries email Ros Payne at shrecruiter@readeasy.org.uk.

Steve Gibbon

URC Voice

Stress

As you walk round the town, look at the faces of people you pass. Many of them seem anxious, stressed out. They look as if they carry the worries of the world.

Is this worse since Covid? Or is modern life stress-making? The new technology makes life much faster – everyone is in such a hurry – or is it just that I'm getting old?

The current economic situation is a worry. The wars around the world don't help, and the media stokes our fears.

The threat of climate change is real. Pollution is worse. People have family and health worries. There is an increase in mental health problems.

Can a faith help? I only ask the question – I don't have the answer – we are all different.

All we can do is smile – even if we don't feel like it. Smiling is infectious, and releases endorphins which make us feel good – after all most of what worries us we can't do anything about – so why waste time and emotion on it?

Janet Longstaff



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Charity Christmas Card Sale

The annual charity Christmas card sale has taken place for many years in Church Stretton. Always popular, many people come along every year to stock up ready for the festive season! Don't miss out!

This year it is being held on **Saturday 21st October** in the URC Hall from 10am to 12 noon.

Please come along and support your favourite charities.



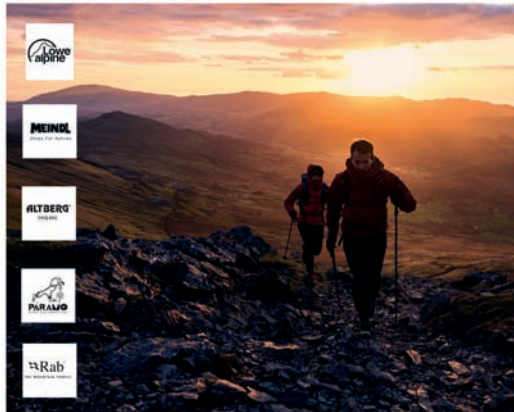
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Churches in the Strettons



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:	4.00pm	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			allstrettondrama@gmail.com
All Stretton Village Hall	allstrettonvillagehall@gmail.com		www.allstrettonvillagehall.org.uk
All Stretton History Society	Ruth Grafton	723187	janegra@waitrose.com
All Stretton Village Society	Caroline Crump	723283	carolinecrump68@icloud.com
Alzheimers Carer's Support (Mayfair)	Jackie Pennington	722077	[Monthly, 2nd Friday, 2.00pm] www.mayfaircentre.org
Amnesty, Church Stretton Group	Barbara Parnell	720040	
Ancient Greek Study Group	David Langslow	723538	stretlang@gmail.com
Archers: Bowmen of Caradoc	Ros Healy		Roshealy1@gmail.com
Archers, Long Mynd	Sue Williamson	722767	sue@chelmickforge.co.uk
Army Cadet Force	Lt Wheelden	01743 231779	info.shropshireac@rfca.org.uk
ArtsAlive (Church Stretton)	Michael Walker	720132	fontenay1@btinternet.com
Arts Festival, Church Stretton & South Shropshire		07763 985707	info@strettonfestival.org.uk
Badminton Club (Monday 8-10pm)	James Kirkwood	07979 474326	home@jameskirkwood.co.uk
Badminton Club (Junior and Adult, Wednesday)	Alan Fox	725588	alandavidfox@live.co.uk
Beacon (Activities and Care at Mayfair)	Joy King	722077	(Mayfair) www.mayfaircentre.org.uk
Books (Mayfair/Health & Wellbeing Centre)	Sue Hird	724235	smhird@btinternet.com
Bowling Club, Church Stretton Probus	Glyn Morgan	722388	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	susantoghill@outlook.com
Cancer Support Group, Stretton	Lesley McIntyre	723427	
Chamber of Trade, Church Stretton	Stuart Wright	722237	
Chess Club, Church Stretton	Tom Williamson	722767	tswilliamson337@gmail.com
Choral Society, Stretton	Mark Tocknell	722969	strettonchoral@gmail.com; www.strettonchoral.org.uk
Churches Together	Canon Rosamund Seal	07925 969821	rosamund.seal@gmail.com
Citizens Advice Bureau			at the Library, by appointment only: 0808 278 7894
Civic Society, The Strettons	Janet Martin	722361	jmartin1947@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	
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	freestylemartialarts.com/stretton
Masonic Lodge (Caer Caradoc)	Graham Williams	07939 109726	secretary@caerocaradoclodge.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	selenaorme@yahoo.co.uk
Play On Performing Arts	Kate Buttolph	07974 382989	kate@playonperformingarts.co.uk
Pride of Place, Church Stretton	Trevor Halsey		trevorhalsey@btinternet.com

Probus, Strettondale	Alan Stockbridge	722317	alan.stockbridge@btinternet.com
Rail User's Association, Church Stretton	Alison Bradley	722138	strettonrailusers.org.uk
Radio Control Model Club, Church Stretton	Tim Goodwin	720392	tmgdwn@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	Marcus Cash	07957 133316	marcuscash205@msn.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 Stitchers	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			churchstrettontabletennisclub@gmail.com
Table Tennis, Leebotwood	Will Priestley	724223	
Table Tennis, Rushbury	Ian Pennington	771410	ianpennington133@btinternet.com
T'ai Chi	Marc Lacey	722077	(Mayfair) www.mayfaircentre.org.uk
Taiko Drumming	James Barrow	720169	James@taikowest.com
Taoist Tai Chi, Longmynd	Jo London	01743 369787	jolondon@hotmail.co.uk
Tennis Club	Claire Hatfield	720123	mail@strataassociates.co.uk
Theatre & Concert Group, Stretton	Jenny or Graham Heath	722216	heath@knollcrest.co.uk; strettontheatreandconcert.net
Thursday Lunch Club (Ley Gardens)	Margaret Hamer	722407	or Dawn Longmore 722328
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	David Andrews	724224	david.andrews@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

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..... 48
Accountants and Bookkeeping James, Holyoak & Parker..... 53 RLW Accountants..... 53	Clothes Entertaining Elephants..... 48	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 Chiroprodists & 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..... 6
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..... 6 Burway Books..... 6 Harold's Toy Store..... 6 Long Mynd Music Academy..... 6 Peter Youngs Photography..... 10 Philip Hooper..... 6 The Prolific Crafter..... 6	Pharmacy Hillside Pharmacy..... 43
Bed & Breakfast, Self Catering see Hotels, B&B, Self Catering	Decorators see Painters, Decorators	Home & Garden Harold's Toy Store..... 6 The Prolific Crafter..... 6	Physiotherapists Chris Turner..... 43 Marion Murdoch..... 43 Physio Pilates..... 43
Bookshop Books by Moonlight..... 6 Burway Books..... 6	DIY & Hardware Cyril Bason Hardware..... 41 Mynd DIY..... 41	Home Furnishings Abbey Carpets..... 6 Louise Watney..... 6	Piano Tuner and Repairs Philip Hooper..... 6
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..... 53 Mynd House..... 53 Willowbatch..... 53	Printing, Copying, Photo Products Craven Design & Print..... 48 Stretton Print & Supplies..... 48
Cards and Gifts Entertaining Elephants..... 48 Stretton Print & Supplies..... 48	Estate Agents Bluestone..... 32 Miller Evans..... 32 Samuel Wood..... 32 Wrights Estate Agents..... 32	Insurance see Financial Services, Insurance	Restaurants, Cafés, Pubs Berry's..... 48 Royal Oak, Cardington..... 48
Care - Homes and At Home Bluebird Care..... 10	Event Venues Eaton Manor..... 53	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..... 6	Financial Services & Insurance Caleb Roberts..... 53 Philippa Gee Wealth Mngment. 53 Wrights Yorkshire Building Soc. 53	Mobility Stretton Mobility Store..... 10	Storage Churton Self-Storage..... 60
Catteries and Kennels see Pet Food, Pet Care	Florist John R Thomas..... 6 Shropshire Flower Company..... 6		Sweep Shropshire Sweep..... 60 Stanton Sweeps..... 60
Chemist Hillside Pharmacy..... 43	Food, Delicatessen Entertaining Elephants..... 48 Saxtons Deli..... 48		Taxi Church Stretton Taxi..... 46
Chiroprodists Caroline Crump..... 43	Funeral Arrangements A S Morris and Son..... 10 South Shropshire Remembrance Park..... 10		Watches, Batteries, Straps The Outdoor Depot..... 48
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



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Ruth Whiting

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What's On in the Strettons in October

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

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

Improve your balance and strength with Wendy Southorn. £7 per session (cheaper block booking price available). 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 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. A good way to meet friends and make new friends. Every **Wednesday** 2.30-4pm Methodist Church Hall

Dancing: Learn 2 Jive

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

Dancing: Scottish

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

Energy Advice from Stretton Climate Care

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

Netball Club, Stretton Scarletts

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

Pickleball Club, CS

Pickleball is a fun sport that combines many elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis. £4 per hour. Contact Carol: 07803 329106 Every **Monday** 7-8pm (or 9pm) CS Leisure Centre

What's On continued

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

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

Contact Kate: 07974 382989 or kate@playonperformingarts.co.uk

Every **Thursday**

7.30-9pm Mayfair Activity Room

Singing: Stretton Choral Society

Rehearsals

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

Every **Thursday**

7.30-9.30pm URC

Strength Balance and Flex with Nina

Gentle approach to exercise: no jumping or floor work. Ideal for 55 years plus. Standard class includes more seated exercises. £7 per session (cheaper block booking price available).

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

Tai Chi with Marc

Low impact, gentle exercise that helps build strength, coordination and balance, and relax both mind and body.

Every **Friday**

9.30-10.45am Mayfair

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**

12 noon Ley Gardens, Lawley Close, SY6 6GA

Whist Drives at Westhope

Come and join our friendly band of whist players for a light hearted, sociable evening. £3 entry.

All abilities welcome.

Every **Monday**

7.15pm 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

Chair Yoga at Mayfair with Mary

For anyone who is unable to practise yoga on a floor mat. Gentle exercise and relaxation in a seated position or standing with a chair for support.

Every **Wednesday**

10.30-11.45am Mayfair

Yoga at Westhope with Sue Pugh

Experienced tutor. Numbers are limited.

Enquiries: 07860 447397

Every **Wednesday**

4.15-5.15pm Westhope VH, SY7 9JL

Yoga: Gong Yoga with Grace

Relaxing classes for stress and anxiety.

Beginners welcome. £10 per class or £8 for block bookings. Contact Grace on: gongs@gracessandels.com or on 07903 054577

Every **Tuesday** until 19th Dec

7-8.30pm Rushbury VH, Wall under Heywood.

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 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

GENERAL DIARY:

2 MONDAY – 27 FRIDAY

Susie Davis Exhibition at CS Library

'The Wild Side' – landscape and abstract paintings.

Viewable during library opening hours.

2 MONDAY

u3a Art History Group

2-4pm CS Library

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.

Please note the later start time, for this month only.

6.30-7.30pm King's Arms, SY6 6BY

Continued overleaf..

What's On continued

3 TUESDAY

Stretton Climate Care: Climate Conversations 3. Please join us to discuss 'Living well without trashing the planet'

Please see the Stretton Climate Care article for more information on this and October's 'Green Doors' event.

7.30pm SHI

4 WEDNESDAY

C.A.M.E.O. Meeting

With Christobel Hargraves:

'A Chequered Past'

2.30pm Parish Centre

CS Amnesty Group

Meet first Wednesday of the month.

All are welcome; we are a friendly inclusive group.

Contact csamnesty@outlook.com

7.30pm SHI

Flicks in the Sticks: Cardington

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry (2023)

Cert: 12a; RT 1 hr 48 mins

Tickets: £4. Contact: 771295

7.30pm Cardington VH, SY6 7JZ

Long Mynd Camera Club

Club Competition No 1

Subject: Close Up (dpi) and open prints.

An opportunity to get close to your subject to show detail that might otherwise go unnoticed. It could be a natural or man-made subject that entices the viewer to explore the scene.

Judge: Peter Gennard

www.longmyndcameraclub.co.uk

7.30pm URC Hall

5 THURSDAY

Citizen Advice at CS Library

Trained advisors on hand to give advice.

Sessions by appointment, 1st and 3rd

Thursday of the month.

Book via freephone number 0800 278 7894

(Mon-Fri 10am-4pm) or textphone 18001

0800 144 8884

10am-12 noon CS Library

6 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-12 noon Mayfair

u3a Reading Group 1

1st Friday of the month.

2-3pm CS Library

CS Amnesty Group Ceilidh

With the Whiffledy Band.

Tickets are £12 (£5 children) and include a hot supper and soft drinks (bring your own alcohol).

Tickets: Barbara Parnell 720040 or David

Howard 722904

7pm SHI

7 SATURDAY

Shropshire Hills Shuttle Bus Service

Last weekend of the service for this year.

For routes, timetable, prices and donation information, search 'Shropshire Hills Shuttle Buses'.

Flu Vaccination Clinic

Patients eligible for the jab will receive notification of their time slot.

CS Medical Practice

Middle Marches Community Land Trust AGM

If you would like to find out more about the Trust and its activities, please come along. Refreshments provided.

More information on our website:

middlesmarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk or

ring 01743 891492 or 07497 142485

2pm Mayfair

Concert: 'the Men from Off' and 'Vocabella'

A double bill of Shropshire-based singing groups.

Tickets are available online at ticketsource.co.uk/vocabella or cash purchases on the door, subject to availability (£10 adult, £7 children and those on reduced incomes).

7.30 URC

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

8 SUNDAY

RSPB South Shropshire Local Group Walk

Bodenham Lake and Oak Tree Farm Wetland

Reserve, Herefordshire HR1 3JT. Sorry No

Dogs. Walk leader: David Stafford 07407

150213

For more details, see main RSPB item.

10am Meet at the car park

Royal Opera House Live Screening

L'Elisir D'Amore

Tickets £15 adults, £10 under 18s.

Please book early: 722077

2pm (Matinee), Mayfair

9 MONDAY

Coffee Hour Drop-In with CS u3a

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

We meet 2nd Monday of the month.

10-11am HWBC

Stretton Cancer Support Group

We will be meeting every 2nd and 4th

Monday of the month for an informal chat with tea/biscuits for anyone to pop in for a chat and who might need some help and support. For more info contact Jane Potts:

771264

2.30pm HWBC

10 TUESDAY

Stretton Stitchers

An informal, friendly sewing group.

Info: Katy 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

RSPB South Shropshire Local Group Talk

Allan Heath: 'Shropshire raptors'.

Allan is a well-known respected ornithologist and is a member of the

Shropshire Raptor Study Group.

Members £2, Visitors welcome £5

Enquiries to Carol Wood 07807 068304

7.30pm Diddlebury VH SY7 9DH

Flicks in the Sticks All Stretton

Foreign Language Film:

Master Cheng (2019)

Cert PG; RT 1 hr 54 mins

Tickets £6. No interval

Enquiries: 07812 583113

8pm All Stretton VH

What's On continued

11 WEDNESDAY

Strettons Classical Music Group Talk

The subject of today's talk is Russian 19th century composer Modest Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*. Entry to the talk is £3.

Contact: Barbara Hall 724578.

10am-12 noon URC Hall (not Church, as previously)

CS Dementia Friends Memory Café

Join us on the 2nd Wednesday of the month for some sensory fun and games, a chat and a cup of tea! Lisa Wright from the Alzheimer's Society will be available for support and advice
1-3pm at CS Library

Tree Group Talk

'Ancient Woodlands' by Rachel Glover from the Shropshire Hills AONB.
All welcome, members £2, non-members £3
7.15pm Methodist Church Hall

Flicks in the Sticks: Hope Bowdler

A Man Called Otto (2022)

Cert: 15; RT 2 hrs 6 mins

Admission: adults £5, children £2.50

Pay on the door. Refreshments served in the interval. Enquiries: 721376

7.30pm Hope Bowdler VH

12 THURSDAY

Monthly Drop-In Council Surgery

With Councillor Hilary Luff.

This regular surgery will now be held on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

(Please note: no surgery in December)

9.30-11am CS Library

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 2nd Thursday of each month.
2-4pm Jubilee Room, Mayfair

Marmaladies CS WI AGM and Talk

After the business of our AGM, we'll hear a fascinating talk from Beverley Harris on 'Forensic Psychology'.

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

13 FRIDAY

u3a Writers Group 1

With Lesley Dench

2nd and 4th Friday of the month

10am-12 noon CS Library

14 SATURDAY

Monthly Drop-In Council Surgery

Please see Thursday 12th for details of new day and time for this event.

Stretton Climate Care Repair Café

Please contact us to book in your item, giving details and a photo of it if possible: info@strettonclimatecare.org.uk

Walk-ins accepted after 11am.

10am-12 noon Scout Hut

Saturday Morning Music

With piano duet team Gill Styles and Richard Walker. Concerts are free of charge, normally last just under an hour, and a retiring collection is taken from which donations are made to local charities.
10.15am URC

Westhope Harvest Supper

£15 for a 3-course meal, with tea/coffee and entertainment.

£8 for children under 12.

7 for 7.30pm Westhope VH

CS Ballroom & Sequence Dance Club

8pm (see Sat 7th for details)

16 MONDAY

CS Area Local History Group (CSALHG)

Local historian James Parker will talk about the Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403.

Non-members £4, pay on the door.

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

Enquiries to 723627

2pm URC Hall

17 TUESDAY

Flicks in the Sticks Acton Scott

Living (2021)

Cert 12A; RT 1 hr 39 mins

Tickets: £5 adult, £3 child.

Ample parking and level access

Enquiries: 781260

7.30pm Acton Scott VH

All Stretton Women's Institute

Evening of in-house entertainment.

Email: allstrettonwi@gmail.com

7.30pm All Stretton VH

18 WEDNESDAY

Long Mynd Camera Club

Indoor Workshop. We will break into six workstation groups. Each station will have a table top display – e.g. food, jewellery. Each group will have a range of lighting options and will have to problem-solve the best arrangements for lighting their subjects.
www.longmyndcameraclub.co.uk
7.30pm URC Hall

19 THURSDAY

Citizen Advice at CS Library

10am (see Thurs 5th for details)

Flicks in the Sticks Church Stretton

The Quiet Girl (2022)

Cert 12A; RT 1 hr 35 mins

Tickets £5 adults, £2 under 18s, to include a cup of tea/coffee in the interval. Please pay on the door.

Enquiries: 07508 072206

7.30pm SHI

20 FRIDAY

Flicks in the Sticks All Stretton

Juniper (2021)

Cert 15; RT 1 hr 34 mins

Enquiries: 07812 583113

Tickets £5.

7.30pm All Stretton VH

Annual Pazapa Jazz Evening

With 'Band on the Edge'

Please BYO drinks/refreshments.

Tickets: £10 (cash, pay on the door).

To reserve your ticket please contact

pazapachurchstretton@yahoo.co.uk

Day contact 723149 or evening 723061

7.30pm SHI

Little Stretton Harvest Supper

Two-course supper for £10, plus a seasonal auction.

Enquiries/reservations: 723627 or MHaigh3@aol.com

Places are limited so please book early.

7.30pm Little Stretton VH

Continued overleaf..

What's On continued

21 SATURDAY

SWT Strettons Branch Fungus Foray

With local fungi expert John Hughes.
The walk will last about 2 hours and stout footwear is advised. £3 for members, £4 for non-members. No need to book, just turn up. For more info, contact Janet Martin 722361.
10am Rectory Wood and Field

CS Ballroom & Sequence Dance Club

8pm (see Sat 7th for details)

22 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 & anxiety reduction, rebalances. Suggested £10 donation. Booking is essential. Contact Maria 07985 744038
3pm Scout Hut

23 MONDAY

u3a Family & Social History Group

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

Parkinson's Support Group, CS

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

Stretton Cancer Support Group

2.30pm (see Mon 9th for details)

Shropshire Ornithological Society Talk

Guest speaker Jim Almond:
'Another Year Birding in Shropshire'
Members free, non-members £3.
Refreshments provided. All welcome.
7.30pm Methodist Church Hall

24 TUESDAY

Stretton Stitchers

10am (see Tues 10th for details)

u3a Writers Group 2

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

27 FRIDAY

u3a Writers Group 1

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.

SHI Event: 'A Night in Buenos Aires'

With tango trio Tango Calor.
Tickets: adults £12, 18 and under £6, available online at silvesterhorneevents.co.uk or from CS Town Council Office or the Outdoor Depot, Sandford Ave.
More information from 720132
7.30pm SHI

28 SATURDAY – 4 NOVEMBER

Dragon Spotting Walk

Entry is free and everyone is welcome. There are ten dragons hiding in shop windows and ten hiding in the town parks. Entry forms available from Burway Books or by emailing shropshiredragonsopg@aol.com.

28 SATURDAY

Cash Bingo Night at Westhope

Licensed bar. Eyes down 7.30pm
Contact Amie on 07486 414742 or Betty on 07860 447397
7pm Westhope VH, SY7 9JL

CS Ballroom & Sequence Dance Club

8pm (see Sat 7th for details)

30 MONDAY

u3a Family and Social History

4th Monday of the month
2-4pm CS Library

31 TUESDAY

'Make & Take' Halloween Craft Workshop

For children over the age of 5 (under 7s to be accompanied) £3.50 per child. Booking essential: 328508.
10am-12 noon Scrappies, Beaumont Rd

Spooky Stories and Creepy Crafts

Join us at CS library this half-term for Halloween-themed stories and crafts. Dressing up encouraged!
Aimed at families with children aged 5+.
Contact the library to book.
2-3.30pm CS Library

WHAT'S ON IN EARLY NOVEMBER

1 WEDNESDAY

C.A.M.E.O. Meeting

Ian and Hilary Templeton: 'The Elan Valley' and 'Heroes and Villains'.
2.30pm Parish Centre

Flicks in the Sticks: Cardington

Oppenheimer (2023) (TBC)
Cert 15; RT 3 hrs
Tickets: £4. Contact: 771295.
7.30pm Cardington VH, SY6 7JZ

Rotary Club 70th Charter Fun Night

A two-course meal, live music and dancing, all with a 1950/1960's theme. The dress code will also be 50/60's.
£25pp, with any profits supporting local foodbanks. Booking form from: rotary.church.stretton@gmail.com
Wistanstow VH, SY7 8DQ

Long Mynd Camera Club

Club Competition No 2
Subject: 'Colour' (dpi) and open prints
This could be a predominant colour that creates impact in the scene, or perhaps a kaleidoscope of multiple colours. Judge: Bob Goode.
www.longmyndcameraclub.co.uk
7.30pm URC Hall

2 THURSDAY

Family Film at Mayfair

Disney Pixar's *Elemental* (PG)
Adults £3, children £2.
Booking is essential: www.mayfaircentre.org.uk/elemental
1.30pm Mayfair

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KEY TO WHAT'S ON 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 Wellbeing 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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