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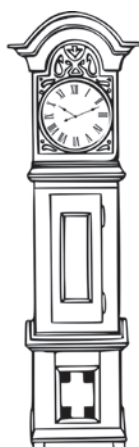
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Welcome



On a recent journey from Crewe to Church Stretton, I was on the Manchester to Tenby train. Two crowded coaches with no working toilets. So TfW's solution? Toilet stops (Shrewsbury, Hereford and Cardiff since you ask). I'm sure that this was welcomed by some passengers but must have played havoc with the schedule and possibly created a dilemma: Do you take your luggage with you in case the loo queue is so long you don't get back on in time? Are you going to lose your seat if you do go?

Anyway, I mention this as an aside to say that when we did arrive in Church Stretton, how lovely and well-tended the station gardens looked. And as you may know, this is all thanks to the volunteers that give their time and commitment to making the station a more beautiful place.

Looking through the content of this month's *Focus*, it seems that volunteering is in crisis. The Civic Society is closing due to lack of volunteers, our own *Stretton Focus* is advertising for volunteers in several disciplines (see page 31) and I am aware of several other organisations in the town that are under stress for lack of volunteers.

Now, volunteering is a great way to give back to your community, help others in need, and make a positive difference in the world. But did you know that volunteering can also benefit *you* in many ways? Here are some benefits of volunteering that you may not have thought of:

Volunteering can help you make new friends and contacts. When you volunteer, you meet people who share your interests, values, and passions. You can form meaningful relationships with them, expand your social network, and have fun together. Volunteering can also help you connect with your community and feel a sense of belonging.

Volunteering can bring fun and fulfilment to your life. It can be a source of joy and satisfaction for you. You can pursue your hobbies, express your creativity, or try something new through volunteering.

With our local demographics, probably most local volunteers are retired. But for younger people, volunteering can advance your career. It can help you gain valuable experience and skills that can enhance your CV and make you more employable. Volunteering can also show potential employers that you are motivated, reliable, and committed to social causes.

So why not make September – Voltember? OK, it may not have the ring of Movember or Dry January but I think it may catch on...

Dave Editor

Stretton Focus

Community Voice of the Strettons

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

Who's Who in Stretton Focus

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Submission of Articles and Photographs for Publication

These should be made to the editors by email to

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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 **October** issue the deadline is

Monday 4th September, at 12 noon.

For the **November** issue the deadline is

Monday 2nd October at 12 noon.

The **October** issue will be distributed on **Friday 29th September**

Advertising (Business)

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

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

Community Awards

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

Subscriptions

Stretton Focus can be purchased by subscription and delivered to your door for £12 per year. If you wish to use this facility, please phone the Subscriptions Manager on 01694 725533 or 724184 or email focus.subscription@gmail.com

Outlets

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.

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Focus magazine needs volunteers for various roles. Join our friendly team and help produce a community magazine. Contact Paul Harding for more information.

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Small Tortoiseshell
on Hope Bowdler Hill
Photo: Geoff Taylor

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Barbering – An Honourable Trade

The art and skill of barbering has been around for a very long time. Egyptian hieroglyphs show that oyster shells and flints, carefully shaped and sharpened, were used by barbers as long as 7,000 years ago, and recognisable razors have been unearthed in Egyptian Bronze Age remains from around 3,500 years ago. Wall paintings and carvings show the intricate styles in hairdressing throughout Egyptian history, much of which reflects the extensive use of wigs among the wealthy and powerful. All these were made and maintained by barbers.

A fashion for barbering scalp and beard hair spread across Mediterranean countries several hundred years BCE, perhaps by sailors who adopted the practice for cleanliness and safety reasons. It became fashionable in Rome where it became popular quickly. A morning visit to a Roman barber (tonsor in Latin, which also became the name of the shaved patch on a Christian monk's scalp) became as much a part of a citizen's routine as a visit to the public baths. A young man's first shave (tonsura) became an essential part of his coming-of-age ritual.

A few Roman barbers became famous and wealthy, very much like society hairdressers of today. Many fashionable shops became public meeting places for the exchange of news and gossip, political debate, gambling and even banking services among clients. (This was the model for the coffee houses of the European Age of Enlightenment period of the 17thC onwards.)

From the European Middle Ages onwards, and until the development of modern medicine, some barbers performed dentistry and rudimentary surgery, much as did the early Egyptians and later Greeks and Romans. These barber-surgeons formed powerful guilds, which were able to exclude from the trade anyone that wasn't a member, and demand higher fees than doctors and surgeons who were traditionally medically trained. Nevertheless, neither group seem to have saved many lives, and patients often seem to have recovered in spite of medical interventions rather than because of them. By the late 17th and on into the 19thCs armed conflicts, and particularly those at sea, were gradually increasing medical and surgical knowledge, skills and experience beyond that of land-based barber-surgeons. Doctors and surgeons began to save more lives and barbers concentrated on barbering.



A count in 2019 showed that there were 13,046 barbershops in the UK in 2019, an increase of 64% in five years. The National Hair & Beauty Federation (NHBF) reported that 60% of people working in hairdressing and barbering in 2020 were self-employed (up from 54% in 2019), which tends to indicate that trade is dominated by small shops and mobile business owners – a precarious but fulfilling occupation for those with skill and dedication.

One such small enterprise has recently opened in Church Stretton. Mohammed Aziz Mohammed opened a barber shop on Sandford Avenue in June, when he saw an opportunity to start his own cutting-edge (yes, dear reader, that's a deliberate pun!) style of barbering when a shop became vacant in just the right location. A rapid re-decoration and the installation of barber chairs and display units saw the shop open in almost record time. Business relocations

and start-ups have to be quick here – premises of the right kind don't remain empty for long.

Mohammed has been a barber for 5 years, having learned his trade in the family business. His shop offers a wide range of services, some of which are traditional and some, such as fades, buzz and edge-cuts using electric trimmers and shavers, have a modern edginess. Your intrepid journalist (that's me, folks) has seen an impressively matching set of one of these styles on a dad and his young son. Both seemed delighted with the result and high-fived each other as they left.

Mohammed has no immediate plans to expand into more shops any time soon, and is quite reserved about his plans. He says, with a winning smile, "This is a nice town. I like it here. My friends are helping so we'll see what happens." Starting a new business is always a risk, and Stretton Barbers is very new, so perhaps Mohammed is wise to be cautious in considering his options. With the shop now running smoothly, Bahroz Kadir has been appointed as manager. So, dear reader, if you see Mohammed, Bahroz or one of his friends sitting outside the shop on a pleasant day, perhaps you'll say "Hello". Who knows – you might even be tempted to have patterns shaved across your scalp.

*Christine Williams
Resident Journalist*

Letters

The Reality of 'Not' Driving an Electric Vehicle

I am I suppose, the antithesis of David Matthews as I have never driven an electric car and have no intention of ever doing so. I am also one of the world's worst examples of polluters as, over a 30 year period, I lived out of a suitcase driving a petrol vehicle often doing more than 1,000 miles a week. In total my mileage, done entirely in petrol or diesel vehicles over 50 plus years adds up to a staggering one and a half million miles. How many gallons of petrol is that? My current vehicle is, a 16 year old, X Type Jaguar estate, also automatic, which does just 25 miles to the gallon of petrol. It cost just £6,000 second hand and is the last car I will buy as it has only done 50,000 miles. I should point out that for this period there were no electric cars and driving the gas guzzlers was my job.

For me to invest in an electric car at my time of life (I am over 80) would be pure stupidity as the cost in CO₂ usage to manufacture an electric car is 1.4 tons so they are not carbon dioxide-free and require maintenance the same as every other vehicle. In terms of money, this equates to around 30,000 miles in my gas guzzler and I will not manage that in my lifetime, so it is cheaper to stay petrol and remain a polluter. You have not mentioned that of late there has been a question mark over the safety of the batteries as there appears to be a fire/explosion risk?

Also, in contrast to David's experience in the Niger Delta which I accept is not one of the better humanitarian sites, my experience was in the North Sea where oil and gas is extracted with virtually no pollution. Though less in terms of size he accepts the humanitarian problems in the mining of cobalt and lithium for electric car batteries which I find a bit strange and contradictory and I do not accept them.

I am an apprenticeship-trained mechanical engineer and for several years I was the UK service engineer for a pipeline valve company named Serck Audco Valves based in Newport Shropshire and I visited by chopper all of the dozen or so production platforms in the North Sea to do maintenance work on the hundreds of valves used on every platform. When the then, mainly gas, came ashore a pipeline travelled across from Easington, the onshore site on the East coast, to go as far as Manchester. There were pigging stations around every three miles and I did maintenance work on every one of them as each had around 100 of our valves and at the final one in Manchester, I was lucky to survive when a damaged valve blew up in front of me and nearly took my head off. Unsurprisingly I have never had any gas appliances in any of our homes.

With or without the Ukraine problems oil and gas production will need to be continually produced in the North Sea and many other locations for, in my estimation, at least the next 20 years as probably not realized by many people you cannot produce plastics or petrochemical products without crude oil. If you doubt that just take a look on Google and you will see over 6,000 products that rely on that horrible vile-tasting stuff and I should know as I have actually tasted it.

Revenue from oil and gas production is necessary to fund the massive amount of research needed to find alternatives and whilst I am in favour of trying to go pollution-free, energies are often wasted by going in the

wrong direction such as the ill-informed, stop oil protestors and I would personally regard an electric car as also the wrong choice and you are better off keeping your petrol or diesel cars to await developments. A modern car will easily top 100,000 miles with only routine maintenance and does not break down or run out of petrol on a regular basis as you have suggested. Replacing them every two years is sheer folly or pride and a massive waste of money and like most engineers, I have never bought a new car. I once bought a Triumph Spitfire for £130 and ran it for 18 years. Hydrogen is currently being used successfully in the commercial vehicle field but it is expensive to catalyse at the moment and technology has not yet solved this problem but I have no doubt that it will in time and will then dominate the market.

There are already a few problems creeping in on the use of electric cars as David has touched on mainly the shortage of top up sites for the distance travellers and purchase of new very expensive electric cars is now falling because of the doubts creeping in by the people having to invest a huge amount of capital in building these new top up sites with the word 'hydrogen' being whispered in their ears.

The efforts of my wife and I to produce all our own fruit and veg as we did in England and then France are matters of history. In France I used my engineering experience to collect all the rainwater off the house and barn and stored it in cheap plastic circular paddling pools so that I could irrigate all the veg through the hot summers which during July and August used 50 gallons a day. Our bible for maybe fifty years was *The Complete book of Self Sufficiency* by John Seymour. So, we have been there and done that but it went to a local charity when we left France five years ago as we knew that age had now caught up with us and our main concern these days is comfort. I am guilty of excessive use of carbon fuels but that was also a generation ago so good luck to the rest of you who do aim for self-sufficiency as we did. Look hard at the options before you jump but you will never convince me that electric cars are the answer for our transportation and if the readers take the trouble to digest all your comments they will support my point of view as the negatives are piling up.

Derek Gambie

I want to thank Clare Patterson for her Editorial (in the August *Focus*). She laments on the declining standards of English (though not in the *Focus*!) and asks whether it matters. It matters to me and I especially notice her comment that the English language is driven by usage. In practice, this means that if enough people use a word incorrectly, that usage becomes seen as correct – so in effect the changes to the language are driven by ignorance.

I expect we all have our pet hates. Some of mine are: *however* used instead of *but*, especially when it has a comma both before and after it (Fowler calls it illiteracy); *epicentre* used anywhere other than to describe the point on the Earth's surface vertically above the focus of an earthquake (it means *above* the centre, not *at* the centre); and *ongoing* used anywhere (what is wrong with *continuing*?). And just to end, whatever happened to the word *probably*?

Michael Price

I am writing in response to the editorial in the August edition of the *Stretton Focus* which explored some of the irritation around current verbal and written inaccuracies. In many ways I completely sympathise with the editor. I was a teacher and can be as pedantic as the next person over grammar. I can rant over the random apostrophe and mutter crossly when I hear a BBC announcer say, "he was sat..."! The "like"s and "so"s which pepper the speech of the young are so very annoying.

However, my years as a teacher have also made me consider that if language can be said to have a purpose, it must be to help us to communicate our thoughts, emotions, and questions to others, in order to promote understanding, strengthen relationships and move society forward. Of course, poor grammar can cause confusion but in most cases

it doesn't and we understand the meaning behind the words or seek clarification. Poor spoken language skills should not be a barrier to self-expression. Equally, excellent skills should not persuade us of the veracity of the speaker. (I have some recent political examples in mind!) The editing of written language is a sensitive skill and requires us to do enough to avoid exposing the writer to ridicule but not so much that the writer is discouraged from writing again.

Like August's Editor I have been guilty of listening in to animated conversations on trains and have gained some fascinating insights into the lives of others. Fortunately the "like"s and "so"s have not hindered my understanding or interest in their lives.

Kate Williams

Celebration Cycle Ride for Stretton Foodbank

We all have ideas about how we would like to spend our special birthdays and the other significant events in our lives, but for John Holden, celebrating sixty wonderful years of marriage to Helga, as well as a very significant birthday, has given him food for thought.

Beginning on Tuesday 29th August, he has made the commitment to cycle 10 miles a day with the aim of achieving an amazing 90 miles (and yes, the distance is very relevant!)

However, John's motivation is about so much more than celebrating life's milestones. He has decided to combine his love of cycling with an opportunity to raise funds for a cause about which he is equally passionate. Having himself been a volunteer with the Stretton Foodbank, he is acutely aware of the growing need for people to be able to access help in such difficult times, and so he is seeking our support by way of sponsorship for his cycling adventure. As he rightly says, "The scale of need nationally is staggering."

Richard McCrohan, who leads the Stretton Foodbank, writes: "Due to the combination of increased numbers of people needing help, and the increase in the cost of food, we are eating into our reserves much faster than last year, increasing our need for financial support. We are delighted John is riding for the Foodbank and hope you will support his efforts generously."

The town's Mayor, Andy Munro, in his message of encouragement for John, highlights the 800% increase in the number of people visiting the Stretton Foodbank each month since the start of Covid in March 2020, and urges us to sponsor him as part of our continuing support.

So, if you are able, do please sponsor John by making a donation.

Two routes for the ride are planned, with one towards Acton Burnell. The other will cover many of our local roads so, if you are up early, you may see John. If so, do cheer him on. We wish him every success in his venture.

Details of how to donate can be found in the Stretton Foodbank section of the Stretton Parish website (www.strettonparish.org.uk). If you need a gift aid form please contact the Treasurer: graham.vince@strettonparish.org.uk.

Julie Lawton – Church Warden Stretton Parish



Trivia Corner

by Ken Willis

1. What is the name of the male mammoth in the *Ice Age* animated films?
2. Which football team play their home games at Pride Park?
3. What does BFG stand for?
4. Panama shares a southern land border with which country?
5. According to Greek mythology, who was the first woman on Earth?



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Methodist Voice

The sea of Faith

Was once, too, at the full, and round the earth's shore
Lay like the folds of a bright girdle furled.
But now I only hear
Its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar,
Retreating, to the breath
Of the night-wind, down the edges drear
And naked shingles of the world.

(From *Dover Beach* by Matthew Arnold 1867)

In this poem Arnold is standing on the shore at Dover listening to the roar of the retreating tide and sees in it an illustration of the decline in Christian faith which, at the end of the nineteenth century, was being replaced by an increasing faith in the validity of science. A concern which was characteristic of many of the writers of the period, for whom the decline of religious faith was mirrored by an increasing loss of the values which had created and held society together.

In living memory mankind has passed from a society driven by the mechanical developments, arising from the Industrial Revolution, to a society revolutionised by astonishing advances in science and technology. A time in which we have passed from an age of relative certainties to the uncertainties of daily existence, in which the changes are so immense that we wrestle to comprehend them, and which are not matched by an increase in moral values.

These changes are both rapid and immediately accessible. Information and ideas become available even to young children. World news is revealed 'as it happens', and the threat to the future of humanity appears to lie in the hands of any individual with the ability to manipulate the controls.

But is this true? Some scientists are acknowledging a sense of 'design' underlying the 'ordered' nature of the cosmos. Certainly, it is not true to the Christian believer, for whom the universe is not an inexplicable accident but the carefully wrought out plan of a loving and caring Deity whose love for humanity was demonstrated through His Son. The Bible then becomes the record of the way in which God has been making Himself known to mankind, even when creation persistently denies His existence.

Christian faith is not obedience to ideas, nor the observance of ritual. It is a personal belief in the existence of a supreme God who, through His Son Jesus Christ, has not only created the universe but made it possible for His created beings to share a future existence with Him. An experience which is accessible only through faith, not as a reward for attempts to be good. Faith in God makes it possible for us to understand that He has a purpose in creation, and that He alone, ultimately controls the destiny of created mankind and the whole of this vast universe.

Ken Hathaway



Mysteries of the Calendar

Have you ever wondered why the calendar is so odd, with its jumble of weeks and irregular months – not to mention leap years? Why is the date of Easter not fixed like Christmas? Why, in a year of twelve months, are the last four called September, October, November and December (which is Latin for seven, eight, nine and ten)?

Like the Monarchy, the House of Lords and the Church of England, the calendar is surely a survival of ancient superstitions, ripe for abolition or radical reform?

What alternatives are there? And what has happened to previous attempts to create a more logical system?

30 days hath **September,**
April, June and
November.

All the rest have **31**
except **February** alone
which has but **28** days clear
and **29** in each Leap Year



Come and learn about the origins of the calendar and its relationship to history and astronomy at

Little Stretton Village Hall

Thursday 14th September at 2.30pm

There will be an entry charge of £5 (including refreshments) in aid of Village Hall funds.

Please book in advance by contacting Madeline Haigh on 01694 723627 or email mhaigh3@aol.com.

Madeline Haigh

Church Stretton Town Council Community Matters

Arts Festival

What a cornucopia of music and arts we have had again this year. From the Katona Twins to She'Koyokh, with a range of free concerts, arts, crafts, workshops and photography in between, it has been brilliant. And continuing the theme from last month's Fun Day, what another example of community spirit with the concerts being supported by Ring & Ride, the multiple venues used, the superb organisation, the stewarding and the ticketing.

A warm thank you to the few from the many.

John Holden sponsored 90 mile cycle ride for the Foodbank

Starting on 29th August, just as many of you are reading this, John Holden will be riding 90 miles to support Stretton Foodbank. As John explains, it's been five years since he could ride 50 miles in one day, so he's spreading this one out over 10 days, meaning he'll probably be pedalling as you are reading this. Since the start of lockdown in March 2020, Foodbank users have increased by 800% and in March 2023 it supported 170 people, including 119 children. It is another example of our community at work, for how can a parent explain to a child why they are hungry? There are many ways to give, just email Treasurer graham.vince@strettonparish.org.uk or call CSTC for details on 01694 722113

Post Office – good news

Many residents will have noticed the planning application regarding the town's Post Office, which has created some concern because the plans submitted didn't retain the current Post Office counter. With the loss of the banks the Post Office is a vital resource for the town, and the matter was raised with Post Office Counters whose External Affairs Manager replied promptly as follows:

Dear Andy

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the future of Church Stretton Post Office.

The postmaster at Church Stretton has given notice to leave from operating the post office and is selling the business. The proposed new owners want to retain the post office and have submitted an application which is in progress. You will be aware that they have also submitted a planning application for a store refurbishment and this includes a post office counter. Our new style post office service points are integrated into the retail counter, providing more efficient and flexible ways of working, and there are two post office counter positions planned as part of the store refurbishment...

Whilst the change of ownership is a commercial matter this model is used widely in the county and the Town Council will look forward to working with the new owners.

D Day 80th Anniversary

The Prime Minister has written to all councils highlighting that the 80th anniversary of D Day will occur on 6th June 2024 and inviting them to light a beacon.

The main focus of the commemorations starts at 8.15pm by the lighting of a beacon at the British Normandy

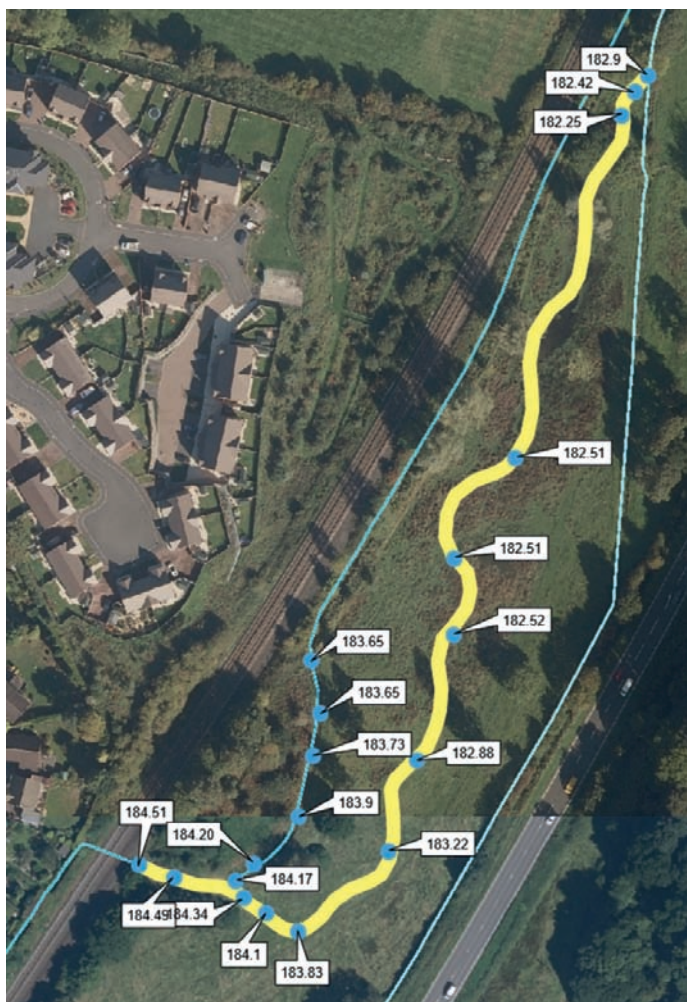
Memorial with other beacons lit on Utah, Omaha, Juno, Gold and Sword beaches at 8.30pm. It is then suggested that all villages, towns, cities and organisations of all sizes mark the 80th anniversary of D Day by lighting a beacon at 9.15pm on 6th June 2024 in celebration of the 'Light of Peace' whilst the International Tribute is recited.

The Town Council has agreed that a beacon should be lit in Church Stretton and will be talking to other organisations to see what might be best. A further, local, suggestion to move the date of the Family Fun Day to Saturday 8th was not considered appropriate, not least because the 80th anniversary is considered to be a sober occasion remembering the fallen and reflecting on the sacrifice made by that generation for us, and the Council felt that this did not sit comfortably with the aims of the Fun Day.

River Restoration for Ash Brook

The Town Council is very pleased to be working with the Environment Agency and Network Rail to restore the path of Ash Brook as it runs through Coppice Leasowes. The Council approved proposals following a public consultation which received over 100 submissions which were 100% supportive. The following extract from the Council papers explains what is proposed:

This Aerial photo shows the existing path and proposed changes. The full paper and range of maps are available on the CSTC website as part of the 25th July Council meeting.



© Crown copyright Ordnance Survey 100024198

Historical context

Ash Brook rises just above Light Spout Hollow in Carding Mill Valley and forms the upper catchment of the Cound Brook which flows into the River Severn near Coundarbour. Flowing through Church Stretton from the eastern slopes of the Long Mynd, Ash Brook has a steep gradient (between 1:55 and 1:180) and a coarse gravel/cobble bed which helps to supply gravel downstream. Historically milling, agricultural improvements, the building of the railway line, and more recently urban development has changed the alignment and character of the Brook (see NLS overlay map above). Consequently, sections of the Brook through Church Stretton have been straightened or engineered and, in some places, culverted underground. This has had a negative impact on the watercourse's ecology and water quality and can, when the Brook is confined in urban areas, increase local flood risk.

Coppice Leasowes Nature Reserve

In Coppice Leasowes Nature Reserve the construction of the railway line in the mid-1850s (the line opened in April 1852) displaced the brook from the bottom of the floodplain and realigned it alongside the railway in a perched channel above the natural floodplain. This has resulted in very little clearance for flows beneath the railway culvert crossing the brook and problems with gravel build up in the channel. Additionally, when there is a blockage in the perched channel, flows can spill out and pond in the lower parts of the nature reserve (as happened this winter).

Proposed River Restoration

The proposed restoration, a partnership between the Environment Agency, Network Rail, and Church Stretton Town Council, seeks to return the brook to a more natural arrangement at the bottom of the valley. This will allow for a meandering alignment between the recently created wetland scrapes and ponds. This will bring a range of benefits to the nature reserve and local area, not least of which will be the restored connectivity to the natural floodplain and improved channel structure and ecology. Any localised flooding in the nature reserve will help sustain the new pools and scrapes and water will also drain back more readily into the brook. Equally importantly the new alignment and regrading of the brook will help to restore the natural movement of gravel downstream and improve flows through the rail culvert. This will help to reduce upstream flood risk, as the culvert will have more capacity and will be less prone to blockages or gravel build-up.

The funding will come predominantly from the Environment Agency and Network Rail, with CSTC paying for a collaborative information board. The work will start at the end of August when the brook will be lowest (although, given the weather, we can only hope!).

Prospective Parliamentary Candidates

Congratulations to Stuart Anderson MP and Chris Naylor for having been selected as Prospective Parliamentary Candidates for the new South Shropshire constituency.

South Shropshire will be formed from the existing Ludlow seat, with the new constituency boundary stretching north up to Dorrington (but excluding Leebotwood). The

existing MP, Philip Dunne, has announced he will stand down at the next General Election, which is expected to take place in 2024. Chris will be standing for the Liberal Democrats whilst Stuart represents the Conservatives. Labour has indicated the seat is on their 'low priority' list.

The Church Stretton Town Council is proudly independent and looks forward to working with both candidates to address the needs of the town and of South Shropshire.

VAR Signs

The Council was recently pleased to receive a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner to match-fund the sums given by the Little Stretton Village Society, the All Stretton Village Society, St Michael's Church and the Town Council. This will now allow the installation of the two signs to progress. (see *Focus* passim). The next step is for Shropshire Council to install the mounting posts. The signs are powered by solar panels, so once the posts are in place we will be good to go. Whilst we had hoped to have them ready a few months ago, they will be worth waiting for and will provide a lot of data about the number of vehicles and average speeds (although no individual registrations) which can support requests for enforcement. If successful, we will look to install further VAR signs to help reduce speeding.

EV charging points

Regular readers of *Focus* will know that the town was allocated eight new charging points by Shropshire Council, which were initially scheduled to be installed in March. Shropshire's cabinet papers then explained that the county-wide programme had been slipped to spread the funding over two financial years and the installer, Connected Kerb, explained that they would be installed in July to be ready in August, in time to support summer visitors to the town as well as residents. Unfortunately, we are now told that issues with the electricity supply (insufficient capacity) is still delaying the four headed for the Lion's Meadow carpark, whilst those chargers destined for Essex Road await the necessary Traffic Order from Shropshire Council.

We are grateful to have had the chargers allocated, and the Town Council will keep chasing gently until they arrive. However, it is an interesting vignette into how the UK's wider requirements may be met.

Street Lighting

Church Stretton Town Council owns and maintains 252 street and footpath lights, located throughout the Parish from Little Stretton through the town to All Stretton.

The lights are a mixture of columns (concrete and aluminium) and pole brackets. There are also some heritage lights.

As concrete columns have failed, these have been replaced with aluminium, and as sox (sodium oxide) lamps have needed replacement, these have been switched to LED.

Electricity bills are paid centrally by Shropshire Council based on number and type. The cost of electricity for

Continued overleaf...

streetlights for 2023/2024 recharged by Shropshire Council increased by 108% from £7,321 to £15,228.

Recent work on the inventory has identified that there are a number of inaccuracies in the information we have relating to the lamp type and wattage and it is essential this information is correct in order that the calculation for the unmetered supply recharge can be made accurately. As the current lamp information is disputed by Shropshire Council, Church Stretton Town Council is paying for the electricity as if all lights are sox, when in fact around a third have been converted.

For both environmental and cost reasons, the Council is committed to converting all lamps to LED. There are approximately 170 lights (67%) left to be converted with the costs for conversion approximately £225 per lamp, or £38,000 in total.

A contractor has therefore been appointed to undertake the condition survey work using the Shropshire Council Template which will then be accepted by SC and allow the energy costs to be reduced. Each streetlight will also be numbered as part of the survey, which will allow residents to report issues more easily and facilitate better mapping ahead of a programme to convert all the lamps.

Looking forward, many of the concrete columns are reaching the end of their life and will need to be progressively replaced over the next few years. Taken together with the LED upgrade, the whole project will cost around £175,000. The Council currently has £75,000 in earmarked reserves for this work, which will allow a quick start with the LED upgrades and any urgent column replacements. The remaining column replacements will be scheduled over the next few years. The electricity savings derived from the LED replacement will also help fund this work.

And finally...

Nestled in the hillside just north of the school sits one of the town's oldest businesses. Today owned by Montgomery Waters, the waterworks has been operating for 140 years since around the time of the late 19th century health improvement programmes. An exhibition curated by Barrie Raynor celebrating the Bottled Waters of Church Stretton opens on 25th August in the library. If you are quick, you may see John Holden pedalling by on your way to see it.

*Andy Munro
Mayor*

Proof-Readers required

How would you like to be part of the proof-reading team at the *Stretton Focus* magazine, the Voice of the Strettons and a holder of a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service? We're looking for people to join our team.

The proof-readers check the magazine text each month after the pages have been prepared ready for sending to the printer. The high standard of good English and spelling in the magazine is largely due to the expertise of the proof-readers.

The person should have a sound knowledge of good English, grammar and punctuation. A keen eye for detail, inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the storyline is very important. The role involves meeting one morning each month for about two hours, working in a small team.

STRETTON FOCUS

Whether you are new to the Strettons or not, this is a great way to meet different people and to make an important contribution to the community.

Stretton Focus is run entirely by enthusiastic, unpaid volunteers who are committed to sustaining its high reputation, built up over 55 years of informing, entertaining and giving a voice to the Strettons.

For details, please contact the Chairman, Paul Harding, by email at sfocuschair@gmail.com.

Invitation to Participate in a Questionnaire Survey

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 October 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 (October) 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 October's issue of *Focus*. We look forward to your participation.

John Rowlands



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Help for Church Stretton Residents



Local charity Megan Baker House (MBH) has started providing its specialist services at the Mayfair Community Centre in Church Stretton. MBH helps people of all ages who have movement issues caused by neurological conditions such as Parkinson's, stroke, multiple sclerosis, acquired brain injury, cerebral palsy and dyspraxia. Started over twenty years ago in Leominster, the charity currently has 140 beneficiaries attending weekly classes throughout Worcestershire, Shropshire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire. Based on the techniques of conductive education (CE), clients are helped to develop or improve motor skills that will lead them to greater independence. The service delivery team is staffed by graduates in CE, assisted by conductive assistants who continue their professional development at MBH and most are currently undergraduates, working towards their CE degree.

People with motor disorders have always suffered from a lack of NHS services and this has now been exacerbated by a backlog caused by the Covid pandemic. Individuals achieve remarkable outcomes from their sessions at MBH as CE reaches the parts that other therapies do not!

The charity still has places available in Church Stretton and the initial assessment and first three sessions are free. After that, clients are asked to contribute a small amount towards the costs but around 75% is paid by charitable trusts, The National Lottery, fundraising events and individual donations. MBH needs to find £8,000 each week!

Case Study

D was left at home and told to sit down to stay safe by the community physio after a fall and broken hip surgery.

After four months MBH rang to check if he and his wife were okay and found that they were not so we offered a home visit. The MBH team got D back on his feet and

walking as staying still is the worst thing you can do with Parkinson's. This message came from D's daughter:



"I was in awe of you all when I watched you with him last week and am so grateful that you got him moving yesterday."

MBH does not usually offer home visits due to pressures on the timetable but will always help if at all possible.

Other recent comments from clients:

"I can't thank you enough for looking after my mum. She's trying so hard and without you she would never have got to using a stick. I'm so proud of

her and thankful to you all, taxi and wheelchair booked, she's back on Thursday."

From a mother: "Megan Baker is just a magical place. The CE staff have gifted her with life-changing skills, both physically and helping her to accept who she is, the difference is phenomenal! I can't express my appreciation; her improvements are more than we could have ever expected! I wouldn't want to think of where she would be without them."

If you, or anyone you know, might benefit from their help, please contact Sue (Head of Client Services) on 01531 633840 or email sue@meganbakerhouse.org.uk

*John Gough
Chief Executive Officer*



Middle Marches Community Land Trust – AGM

Middle Marches Community Land Trust will be holding its Annual General Meeting at the Mayfair Centre at 2pm on **Saturday 7th October**.

If you would like to find out more about the Trust and its activities in the area then please come along.

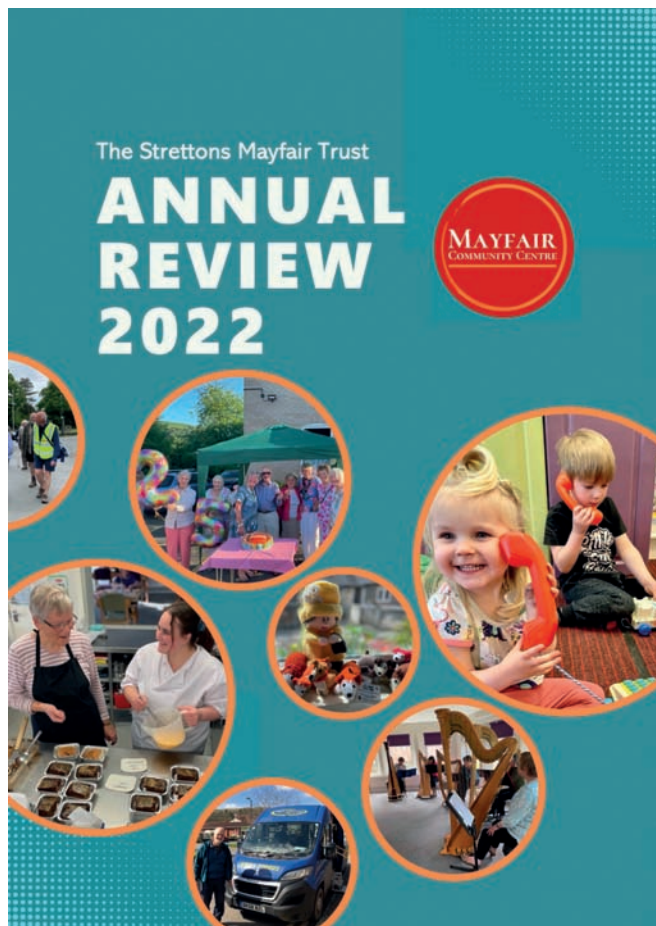
Tea and cakes will be provided.

For more information please see our website or ring 01743 891492 or 07497 142485.

Mayfair News

Reviewing 2022

Have you seen our 2022 Annual Review yet? Our colourful, fact-filled summary of last year is available to view now.



You can download it from our website here: www.mayfaircentre.org.uk/mayfair-annual-review-2022 or you can grab a paper copy from either of our receptions. It's been great to look back on all that Mayfair achieved in 2022. Here's a small selection of 2022 successes:

- Five new trustees joined us, bringing considerable skills and experience.
- We worked with Shropshire Mental Health Support to run a Reconnect course and a Calmer Café for people struggling with their mental health.
- Ukrainian coffee mornings were set up, giving local Ukrainian guests a chance to meet up, learn English and get support.
- 41 individuals were provided with IT Digital Support.
- 10,657 Ring & Ride door to door transport journeys were made.
- MAYSI (Mayfair Supporting Independence) supported 345 different people in 2022. Volunteers helped fill in 153 forms including 51 Blue Badge and 89 Attendance Allowance applications.
- CoCo supported 85 different individuals, offering them social contact and friendship with a carefully matched volunteer.
- 8,903 Mayfair Meals were delivered throughout all 365 days of 2022.

- Our Mayfair Health Walks averaged 60 walkers every week, with 3,000 attendances on walks during the year.
- We offered 14 different weekly dance and exercise classes and there were 2,401 attendances at these.

Next Quiz Party

If you haven't yet been to one of Ken Willis' Quiz Parties in the Health and Wellbeing Centre, then you're missing out. A fun, fact-filled evening is guaranteed! Get your team of six together and join us for the next quiz night on Tuesday 26th September. Tickets are £5 per quizzier, prizes are available for the winners, and we always hold a great raffle too. Give Mayfair reception a call on 01694 722077 to book your team in.

Care and Share

In July one of our Care and Share groups enjoyed an outing, using Ring & Ride, to the British Ironworks Centre in Oswestry. In spite of the rain there was lots to see, including some very impressive metal sculptures and lovely tea, cake and ice creams.



A Transformers Bumblebee statue at the Ironworks Centre

The Care and Share group is an opportunity for people living with a Dementia and their family carer to spend time together doing activities, sharing memories and receiving support. The person with the dementia can be engaged to give the carer a break or the activities are appropriate for everyone to join in together. It is a very informal group with lots of laughter and positivity, despite some challenging

circumstances. There are currently two groups meeting at Mayfair twice a month on a Tuesday afternoon. Outings are popular, but we also have speakers and guests, such as a visit from the National Trust to tell us about their hidden cameras and the local Admiral Nurse recently came to introduce herself and explain the role of the service in this area.



Playing Book Hockey at Care and Share

Please contact Helen Crumpton at Mayfair if you would like to find out more about these groups: helen.crumpton@mayfaircentre.org.uk or 01694 722077

Craft Café – drop in and have a go!

We're excited to tell you about a new Arts and Crafts project launching at Mayfair this September. We know how great craft can be for relaxing, meeting new people and looking after your own wellbeing. So, from the 20th September we will be opening up our Community room in the Health and Wellbeing Centre for a weekly Craft Café. From 10.30am to 1pm we'll have a drop-in space available for anyone to pop in and try different crafts each Wednesday:

- 20th September – Card Making and Patchwork
- 27th September – Tapestry and Needlecraft
- 4th October – Collage and Basic Crochet

There will be no charge to take part, although donations towards resources are very welcome. So come along, get creative and learn something new. The kettle will

always be on for a free cuppa, and the coffee shop is open if you'd prefer a fancy coffee!



Community Resource Events

The Community Resource Voluntary and Community Infrastructure Support Team offers free advice, guidance and support to local charitable groups and organisations. Whether you are thinking of setting up a community group, are a fairly new group or organisation, or have been established for many years, Community Resource can support you.

They offer support with:

- Governance Advice and Guidance including support to start new groups
- Training
- Grant and Funding Advice
- Volunteer Recruitment

Mayfair are very pleased to be hosting two Community Resource information sessions in September:

- **Tuesday 5th September** between 10am and 1pm covering Governance, Grant and Funding Advice and Training
- **Thursday 28th September** between 10am and 1pm covering Volunteer Recruitment and Management

For more information, please email: sipvcsteam@community-resource.org.uk, or call 01743 360641

Room Hire

We are finding that a lot of organisations are now having face to face contact and are in need of meeting spaces. Mayfair is an ideal place for all sorts of professional events, work meetings or social get-togethers and celebrations.

Our selection of rooms to hire ranges from large event spaces to excellent meeting rooms and fully equipped therapy rooms. With good Wi-Fi, an excellent coffee shop on site, all sorts of equipment available (including our top of the range projector and cinema set-up) and very competitive prices, it makes sense to get in touch with us about your room hire needs.



Continued overleaf...

You can get more details on our facilities on the Mayfair website: www.mayfaircentre.org.uk/room-hire. You can also give Mayfair reception a call on 01694 722077 to book a tour of the buildings or discuss your requirements and all the options we have available to you.

By booking your events with us, you are helping to support our work. The fees from room hire feed back into Mayfair, allowing us to operate and to continue offering local services to our community.



Our large Activity Room is adaptable for all sorts of events

Mayfair Lottery Results

June	501	465	285	108
	£100	£50	£20	£10
July	238	416	609	358
	£100	£50	£20	£10

Home – a Site-Sensitive Dance Film

Throughout August, Mayfair have been delighted to show a beautiful local dance video on our reception screens. We've decided to display it until 12th September, so if you haven't seen this dance film yet, pop into the Community Centre or the Health and Wellbeing Centre to watch *Home*. The dance, choreographed and directed by Church Stretton resident Ruth Seager, is filmed in our wonderful local landscape by local cinematographer, Paul Westall (WorkerDronesUK). Covering themes of identity and home, this video is a great community arts project that we are pleased to support.

Naomi Coleman



URC Voice

Context is All

The phrase 'context is all' should be carried with us as we make our way on the journey of life. That is because it is a universal truth, which will prevent us from getting stuck in any one place.

The word 'context' refers to... **the circumstances that form the setting for an event, statement or idea.** This implies that everything we think, say or do, needs to be understood 'in context'.

Religions describe events, make statements and promulgate ideas. Inevitably all of these are conditioned by the knowledge and beliefs of the times in which they were spoken or written down. Today's context is vastly different from what it was in days gone by. We have moved on, and we are not tied to what was believed and written in the past.

It used to be thought that we live in a static three-decker universe, with gods 'up there', the devil down below and ourselves in between. And in that context, religions were (and some still are), offering the option of salvation in heaven, or damnation in hell.

Scientific knowledge now reveals that we are living in a universe which is evolving, and has been for billions of years. The old religious context is obsolete. If we want a meaningful religion it will have to be understood in an evolving context. Everything, including our gods and religions are part of the ongoing story of **evolution**.

Donald Horsfield





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September 2023 Screenings



Acton Scott

Acton Scott Village Hall, Tuesday 12th September, 7.30pm

Adults: £5, Students £3

The Village Hall has a large car park, and the hall has level access.

***The Girl on the Train* (15)**

In this thriller, Rachael, who is devastated by her recent divorce, spends her daily commute fantasizing about the seemingly perfect couple who live in a house that the train passes every day, until one morning she sees something shocking happen there and becomes entangled in the mystery that unfolds.

Based on the Paula Hawkins bestselling novel.

Acton Scott enquiries: 01694 781260



Cardington

Cardington Village Hall, Wednesday 6th September, 7.30pm

Adults £5

***A Man Called Otto* (15)**

Based on the comical and moving number 11 *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.

Cardington enquiries 01694 771295



Church Stretton

Silvester Horne Institute, Thursday 21st September, 7.30pm

Adult £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.

Church Stretton enquiries: 07508 072206



Hope Bowdler

Hope Bowdler Village Hall, Wednesday 13th September, 7.30pm

Adults £5, Under-16 £2.50

***Living* (12A)**

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

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

Hope Bowdler enquiries: 01694 721376



Choral Concert at the URC

An entertaining collaboration

On **Saturday 7th October** at **7.30pm**, the Men from Off and Vocabella will be joining forces to perform at the **United Reformed Church in Church Stretton**. Both groups are Shropshire based, both sing unaccompanied songs, and each group has 12 members. And that is where the similarity ends!

A *cappella* simply means singing without instrumental accompaniment. While it is often seen as its own genre, a *cappella* covers a wide variety of styles, just as a band can play pop, jazz, rock, reggae or many other genres. The difference between these two groups is not only between the pitch of male and female voices but in the style of songs and the kind of arrangements. What they share is a love of music, singing, harmony and a recognition of the value of singing together (with or without an audience), especially after the enforced distance of a pandemic.



The Men from Off describe themselves as the “fairly close harmony singers”. Based in Bishops Castle, none of the members were born there which means, in local parlance, they are all from ‘off’. Their repertoire is based on Shropshire folk songs both traditional and contemporary, some of which were cleverly written and arranged specifically for the group by founder member Ian Wall. Rehearsing weekly in a pub in Bishops Castle, they will not fail to delight you with their lively performance, rich sound, self-deprecating humour and variety of songs.



Vocabella is an all-female *a cappella* group, rehearsing in Albrighton and singing varied genres of fabulous music.



Created and led by talented conductor and composer Beverley Mason, the group has gradually expanded over the years to do justice to the complexity of Bev's arrangements. Perhaps the group is best described by its audiences, with comments such as “worth travelling miles to hear them”, “the arrangements and harmonies were truly magical” and “great tunes, sung beautifully in gorgeous, skilful, witty, delicious arrangements”.

As with many musicians, these two groups have been working hard over the last two years to re-establish themselves post-Covid. They're delighted to be performing again, and you're in for a treat with this double bill – two concerts for the price of one!

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).

Both groups are available for events/bookings.
Vocabella – facebook.com/totallyacappella
Men from Off – menfromoff.wordpress.com
Enquiries – vocabellashropshire@gmail.com



EXHIBITION

Celebrating 140 Years of Bottled Water in Church Stretton

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Further information from: raynor@greengates.org.uk Tel: 01694 723928

Saturday Morning Music

16th September at 10.15am at the Methodist Church

We have four Saturday morning concerts this term, beginning with a musical showcase with solos for clarinet, horn and bassoon.



Clarinetist Sally Oak is no stranger to Church Stretton musicians. She has often played in local concerts and is the regular accompanist for the Choral Society. But this is the first time she has appeared as a soloist; we will hear music by Schumann and Brahms, together with a lighter 20th century work by Joseph Horowitz. Many will have come across Horowitz for his cantata *Captain Noah*

and his floating Zoo; Sally's solo is in the same accessible style.



Maggie Walker has not played here before but (as my granddaughter) has visited many times. She is a fine horn player, playing in the National Schools Symphony Orchestra and the Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra amongst

others. She is in her final year at school near Malvern and will be taking A-level music next year. She will be playing movements from concertos by Mozart and Strauss.

Finally, a relative newcomer to the Strettons: Rebecca Furth moved here recently from West Sussex to be closer to family and to enjoy the Shropshire Hills. She is an experienced bassoonist, who has played in Horsham Symphony Orchestra as well as other Sussex orchestras. She will be playing a Concertino by Ludvig Milde, a composer well known to bassoonists but not to the wider public, together with *Solo de Concert* by Gabriel Pierné. This is a real showpiece, written by a man who is relatively unknown now but was at the top of his profession at the turn of the 20th century in Paris. Indeed, he conducted the first performance of Stravinsky's *Firebird Ballet* at the Ballets Russes.

The programme will end with an arrangement for all the performers of a lighter piece by Ernest Reeves, a composer famous in his day on the Light Programme. He is Maggie's great-great-grandfather.

For those who have not joined us before, these 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. Come and support your local musicians and enjoy an hour of quality music!

Richard Walker



Pazapa Jazz Evening

Early notice of the return of the popular **Band on the Edge** for the annual Pazapa Jazz Evening.

Friday at the Silvester Horne Church Stretton
20th October 2023 for 7.30pm

It is not too early to book your place now.
Email Helen: pazapachurchstretton@yahoo.co.uk

Noel Beattie



The Amnesty Ceilidh is back!

Church Stretton Amnesty Group is delighted to announce the return of our popular Ceilidh.

On Friday 6th October we will be dancing in the Silvester Horne Institute to the Whiffledy Band, starting at 7pm.

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

To obtain tickets, ring Barbara Parnell on 01694 720040 or David Howard on 01694 722904.

David Howard




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SHI Events

Janice Day & Martin Litton: The Songs of 1931

Silvester Horne Institute, Church Stretton

Thursday 28th September at 7.30pm

Welcome back to the Horne and the start of our autumn programme, which we hope you will enjoy.

As one of Britain's most celebrated jazz pianists, Martin Litton is an internationally renowned musician, arranger, and bandleader, who has entertained audiences across the world with his skilful playing. He has worked with many legendary British and American musicians, including Humphrey Lyttleton, Kenny Ball, Harry Gold, Clare Teal, Kenny Davern, Scott Hamilton, Bob Wilber, Marty Grosz, and Wild Bill Davison. A frequent guest on BBC Radio 3, Martin regularly shares his knowledge about and demonstrates the music of Jelly Roll Morton, Fats Waller, Earl Hines, and Teddy Wilson. Martin is a highly versatile pianist, equally at home as a solo artist, accompanist, or band pianist, as is evidenced by his work in the popular theatre show 'Swinging at The Cotton Club' and the Tuxedo Jazz Orchestra.

Janice Day is a witty, insightful and entertaining multi-hyphenate. After a successful career as a repertory singer (sharing the repertoire of the dance bands of the 1920s and 30s), she developed a 1930s musical character comedy act and a one-woman show. She is a commissioned screenwriter, author, and award-winning comedian. Original lead singer with both the Piccadilly Dance Orchestra and Keith Nichols' Cotton Club Orchestra, she has performed at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Royal Festival Hall, the Purcell



Room, and the Wigmore Hall for Radio Three, Proms in the Park, Cadogan Hall, and at jazz clubs and festivals worldwide.

Keen to share their joie de vivre, and pooling their talents to create stunning arrangements, they have developed a winning classic jazz concept. The idea is to perform all the best songs written in a specific year between the two World Wars. In separate shows, the series celebrates the songs of 1929, 1939, 1924, 1931, 1928 and 1932.

They're excited to be bringing 'The Songs of 1931' to the Silvester Horne Institute. Both the American and British Songbooks from the golden age of music are represented. Coward's *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*, and a *Pennies from Heaven* medley blend perfectly with Gershwin's *Who Cares*, Chet Baker's cool interpretation of *The Thrill is Gone*, Fats Waller's *Everybody Loves my Baby*, and Cab Calloway's *Minnie the Moocher*. There are romantic, novelty and singalong songs (*Love Letters in the Sand*, *You're My Everything*, *Dream a Little Dream of Me*). Piano solos from Martin include *Jazz Nocturne*, *Tiger Rag* and Billy Mayerl's *Mignonette*.

With just the right mix of humour, charm and virtuosity the couple present a show, which a regular member of our audience said we must have at the Horne! So do come and see them, please.

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

Stretton Traidcraft

Stretton Traidcraft no longer exists. As reported in the April *Focus*, after forty years of trading a pioneer of the fairtrade movement, Traidcraft Plc, has closed down. However Transform Trade which was set up by Traidcraft is still active.

The money held by Stretton Traidcraft, £1,405.45, has now been given to Transform Trade. This was the profit from last year plus the trading capital. Thanks to all who bought goods and enabled that donation to be made. The left-over Stretton stock has been given to the Fairtrade stall in Shrewsbury Market which is continuing to trade.

Transform Trade does not buy or sell merchandise but works together with farmers and workers in South Asia and East Africa. The aim is to cut out corporate greed and to set up trade that values people over profits. In Britain Transform Trade campaigns for fairer trade and for changes to government policies.

Search the website transform-trade.org for more information. Who knows, with more support Transform Trade could lead to a world-wide movement that benefits the producers, the vendors and the purchasers and treats them all fairly. It's called people-centred trade.

Ruth Davies

Strettons Classical Music Group – Bells

On Wednesday 13th September at 10am, Richard Walker will give a talk on bells at the URC Hall. Church bells, carillons, handbells, gongs, cymbals and more.

Do come to hear how to ring changes from handbells used in monasteries to the huge 200,000 kilogram bell in the Kremlin.

Barbara Hall

Come and Join Us!

**Stretton Choral Society New Season:
Thursday 14th September, 7.30pm in the United
Reformed Church, High Street, Church Stretton**

Whether you are new to the Strettons or have been toying with the idea for a while, if you think you might enjoy singing in four-part harmony why not make this the year you join Stretton Choral Society? The Society is made up of a friendly, cheerful group of people who derive pleasure and health benefits from singing together for two hours (with a short break mid-way) on Thursday evenings. Terms run from mid-September to early December, then from mid-January to early May. Each term we prepare one or more choral pieces for performance under the ever-encouraging and insightful musical direction of Michael Turner, skilfully accompanied by pianist Sally Oak. On concert days we have the privilege of performing with nationally – and internationally – acclaimed solo singers and instrumentalists. It's really exciting to hear how the piece which we have been preparing for months finally comes together when accompaniment and soloists join us for the dress rehearsal.

Our concert on Sunday 10th December will include Geoffrey Bush's *A Christmas Cantata* among other works and, as is traditional after the interval, Christmas carols sung by the choir or by the audience and choir together. Few members of the Society have sung the Cantata in the past,

but most of us enjoy exploring new works just as much as revisiting much-loved, more familiar pieces.

Looking ahead, our spring concert will take place on 12th May 2024, with a programme yet to be decided. Both performances will take place at the Silvester Horne Institute.

To get a sense of how 'Stretton Choral' operates please join us for an afternoon of light-hearted music-making on Saturday 9th September. In this **Come and Sing** event, led by Music Director Mike Turner and accompanied by Sally Oak, we will look at a selection of choral 'encores' written or arranged by twentieth-century composers as well as choruses from Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. Come and Sing will be held in the URC church between 2pm and 5pm with a break mid-afternoon for tea, cost £5. To book a place, please contact Mark Tocknell on 01694 722969 or at mark.tocknell@hotmail.co.uk.

Meanwhile, we look forward to welcoming singers young, old and new at the URC church at 7.30pm on Thursday 14th September for the start of another season of singing mucho con gusto together. Please just come along and say hello to our MD, our chair or any member of the committee who will be delighted to help you find your voice in the chorus.

Mark Tocknell



A Quaker Voice

Getting the inside story

I spent some time recently in the garden behind the URC church. There's a multi-stemmed silver birch that was looking glorious, its leaves uniform, clean, almost looking polished. It was the view from the outside, the public face of the tree. I'd quite like people to see me as clean and polished. But the uniformity perhaps made it less interesting; if there had been different shades of green, or even some purple and pink, I might have spent more time looking at it.

I wandered on round the spiralling path to the bench under the tree. The tree looked different from here. You could see the way the branches divided time and again until they were just small twigs. You could see how they worked together to support the leaves. The trunks started almost pure white, with black markings. As they went up they became mottled branches, before finishing as purple brown twigs. The leaves too were less uniform from underneath; some were more yellow in colour, some lighter green,

some darker, a few becoming more brown or perhaps almost dead, even a few that had signs of having been eaten. It was as if the tree was showing me the inside story; it was less flashy, less certain of itself, more vulnerable.

Which face do we show to the world? At what point do we allow others in to see the underside, the less than perfect, not so certain side? There is much talked currently about opening-up, sharing, even over-sharing. But this is in relation to individuals. What about our institutions? And since this is a Quaker Voice, what about our religious institutions? I don't think I'm talking about the 'mea culpa' when things have gone badly wrong. I'm talking about the day-to-day stuff, of a group of humans trying to rub along together, in a way that will help each other explore what their faith might mean. I suspect that it's not only with the Quakers where the view from outside is far more shiny and uniform, than the view from the inside. And I find the view from the inside more interesting.

Lesley Richards



Our next Open Forum is on Wednesday 27th September

In the Methodist Church Hall

Watling Street South

At 7.30pm

**Please come and share your ideas for Churches Together in this area.
Hope to see many of you there.**

Recipe of the month

Creamy fruit tart

September is a beautiful month for early autumn harvests although I'm wondering what they might look like this year after such a strange summer. I'm writing this on a very soggy, windy and chilly early August morning making autumn food seem all the more appealing.

That said, I'm going to give the ingredients for the beautiful summer tart I made back in early July when I picked my first ever homegrown crop of blackcurrants which was small but perfectly formed. My dilemma was that there really weren't enough of the little purple beauties to go around but I wanted to share their wonderful flavour. My solution was this tart which I made half and half, with a few of my rather sparse crop of gooseberries this year.

The ground almonds in the pastry keep it very crisp and light – and the leftover scraps made much appreciated jam tarts for the grandchildren to fight over.

This is a very straightforward recipe which can be adapted to suit whatever fruit you have to hand or even from the freezer. I'm thinking cherries or plums would also be lovely and should just be coming into their own about now.

For these quantities you need a shallow 23cm pie dish but you can readily adapt the quantities. I like to line my dish with a disc of parchment for ease of serving and find it ridiculously satisfying to fold and cut my own little circle to fit my tin!

Ingredients

Pastry

200g plain flour
50g ground almonds
125g unsalted butter cut into cubes
50g caster sugar
A drop of water if necessary

Filling

2 egg yolks
4 tbsp caster sugar
1 tbsp cornflour
1 tsp vanilla extract
300ml double cream
225g soft fruit – I used 115g each of blackcurrants and gooseberries.



Method

Preheat oven 200 deg C/180 fan/gas 6.

Make the pastry case by placing all the dry ingredients into a processor, whizz briefly to mix then add water 1tbsp at a time until the mixture pulls together and leaves the sides of the processor clean. You probably only need a couple of spoonfuls. You can use the rubbing in by hand method of course if you prefer.

Chill pastry in a bag in the fridge for at least 30 minutes. The pastry can be a little crumbly at this stage and difficult to roll, but you can 'patch' any holes successfully.

Roll out dough to fit your dish, prick with a fork. I like to brush the base with a little of the egg white to help it to crisp up, but this is of course optional. Line case with parchment and baking beans and blind bake for 10 minutes. Remove beans and parchment and bake for a further 5 minutes to fully dry the bottom.

Make the filling by whisking the egg yolks, sugar, cornflour and vanilla together until well mixed. Then whisk in the double cream and pour into the prepared and cooked case.

Place your fruit into the mixture – mine was one side blackcurrants, one side gooseberries – then pop it in the oven for about 15 minutes until golden and set.

Cool in the tin and serve warm or cold, sprinkled with a light dusting of icing sugar if you wish.

This is such a simple but light and delicious dessert and makes use of just a small amount of fruit. I'm sure you can jazz this up in a number of ways to suit your occasion or palate. Individual tarts would also be lovely for a more formal occasion. Should you have a more ready supply of fruit than my new little plants gave me, you might like to serve with a little sharp blackcurrant compote. You could add a little cinnamon or mixed spice to your icing sugar dusting if using plums, or maybe add an elderflower sauce or ice cream over a gooseberry version.

Don't forget to refrigerate or freeze your egg whites for later use – perhaps a pavlova to use more of that precious fruit.

Heidi

Calling All Crafters

For a number of years, I have been organising an annual craft fair in Craven Arms and many of the crafters have asked if we could do one in Church Stretton. So, this year will see the first.

The Christmas Craft Fair will take place at The Parish Centre in Church Stretton on Saturday 11th November 10am to 4pm. All proceeds will go to Church Stretton Ring & Ride which provides such a wonderful service to local residents.

Entry to the Fair will be free to visitors and refreshments will be provided by the Marmaladies WI.

If you are a crafter and would be interested in having a table, please contact me for more details: Lin Brown 01694 781634 or linda_brown294@hotmail.co.uk.

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Friends of Church Stretton Library

Write Poetry, Read Poetry

Write Poetry – Thursday 28th September, Silvester Horne Institute Committee Room, 10am to 12.30pm or 1.30pm to 4pm

Read Poetry – Saturday 30th September, Church Stretton Library 7pm to 9pm

Please join us for two poetry events in support of Friends of Church Stretton Library.

First, come to one of two relaxed, friendly workshops on Thursday 28th September, in the Committee Room of the Silvester Horne Institute:

- share your poems-in-progress and receive peer feedback from fellow-writers
- discuss ways that poets hone their work
- practice speaking your poems aloud
- write a first draft of a new poem.

The morning session runs from 10am to 12.30pm. The afternoon session will be 1.30pm to 4pm. Refreshments will be provided. Maximum eight people per session. Booking essential.

Next, we are delighted to announce the return of the 'RFH Gang': poet and writer friends visiting from London (last seen 2018). They are looking forward to being in Church Stretton again and, on the evening of Saturday 30th September, reading from their work alongside writers from the Strettons, in Church Stretton Library.

- Selina Rodrigues will read from *Ferocious* (Smokestack Books, 2021),
- Jeri Onitskansky from *Kayaköy* (Blue Diode, 2023).
- Please bring one of your own or a favourite poem and join them and other friends in reading at the open mic!

Ticket prices:

Thursday daytime workshop, £10 per session, booking essential; Saturday evening reading and open mic, £10 pre-book, or tickets on the door. £16 if booking a Thursday workshop plus Saturday evening reading.

Refreshments will be provided. All proceeds to Friends of Church Stretton Library. Payment by cash or cheque made payable to Friends of Church Stretton Library. To book, contact: Joanna Clark on 07597 184132 or joannaclark45@gmail.com.

2024 Calendar Now on sale



Oak trees, Plush Hill – Ron Parnell

We have a lovely new selection of local photographs in our 2024 calendar. This year photos have been kindly donated by eight local photographers: Yvonne Beaumont, Richard

Childs, Penny Hayward, Ron Parnell, Andrew Fusek Peters, James Russell, Geoff Taylor and Simon Whaley.

The cover photo is a lovely autumnal shot of oak trees taken from Plush Hill by Ron Parnell.

This calendar will make a wonderful present for friends and family, as well as a treat for yourself.

We have kept the price of the calendar the same as last year at £8. Each photograph is A4 size and comes with an envelope suitable for sending the calendar through the post.

Calendars are on sale in Church Stretton Library and from September in the Outdoor Depot, Peppers and Stretton Print and Supplies.

If you cannot get into town and would like one delivered within the Stretton area then please phone Beth Furlong on 07914 891966, or order one from the Friends of Church Stretton Library website at www.strettonlibraryfriends.org.uk. The cost of postage would have to be added if you would like the calendar delivered outside the Strettons area.

All profits from the sale of this calendar will go towards supporting our local library here in Church Stretton.

There are photos from various local sites such as Ragleth Wood, Long Mynd, Helmeth Hill, Stretton Hills and Rectory Wood. A sample of the photos inside the calendar can be seen below and opposite.



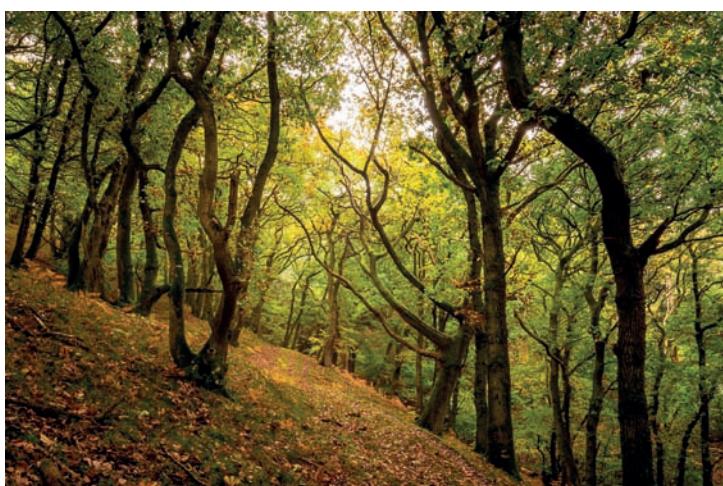
Winter Squall over Church Stretton – Richard Childs



St Laurence's at dusk – Simon Whaley



Coppice Leasowes – Yvonne Beaumont



Ragleth Wood – Geoff Taylor



Quiz Night

Friends of Church Stretton Library are holding a quiz night:

Date: Saturday 23rd

September at 7.30pm

Venue: The Parish Centre, Church Stretton (opposite the church).

Quizmaster Ben Warren will test your quiz skills with his usual mixture of fun and thought-provoking questions.

- Cost £5 per head – all proceeds go to supporting our wonderful local library
- Teams of up to six people
- Please feel free to bring your own drinks/nibbles.

Please book a table in advance if you can.

To reserve a table phone Ben Warren on: 07779 437871. Alternatively, just turn up on the night and we will fit you in somewhere! We can always put together teams on the night if you wish and you do not have six people for a team.

Please pay cash on the night – sorry, we do not have a card reader.

We look forward to seeing you!

Friends of Church Stretton Library, c/o Church Stretton Library, SY6 6DQ. CIO Charity Number 1182554 www.strettonlibraryfriends.org.uk

Why not Volunteer for *Focus*?

As you may know, several recent surveys have shown a dramatic drop in volunteering since the Covid pandemic. One survey reported a 52% drop in the numbers volunteering to run an organisation. There are many reasons for this, including the fact that a large proportion of volunteers are retired people, and these were the age group most impacted by Covid. This means that, even in Church Stretton – long renowned for its volunteers – we can expect to see a downturn in numbers volunteering. This is certainly borne out by the recent experience of *Stretton Focus*. We are seeking volunteers for several positions including Board Members, Secretary to the Board, Subscriptions (Payments) Manager, Computer Production (Design and Layout and Website) Team and Proof Readers.

Stretton Focus is produced every month by a unique team of almost one hundred volunteers, including Board Members, Advertising Manager, Subscriptions Manager, journalist, editors, lay-out and design specialists, proof-readers, and distributors. Each plays a key role, without

which the magazine would not appear through your

letterbox every month. With all positions filled, each volunteer has a relatively small amount of work to do; but with positions vacant, the workload on the remaining volunteers increases. This is not fair to the volunteers, and is not sustainable in the long-term.

Therefore, if you think that you may be able to help with any aspect of the production and distribution of our magazine, please give it careful consideration. You will be joining a happy team of volunteers producing an outstanding community magazine. Full training and support will be given to you, so you do not necessarily need previous experience. If you think that you might be interested, or you would like more information, or even a chat over a cup of coffee, please contact Paul Harding at sfocuschair@gmail.com or call 01694 722289.

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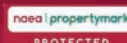
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The United Nations Children's Fund Shropshire Appeal 17th – 23rd September 2023

The post-war consensus, which inspired a generation following two devastating world wars, created a new relationship between the nations in the form of the United Nations. This consensus is seriously at risk. The spirit of the age that is recalled at every Remembrance, that such things should never happen again, has weakened. We live now in the present knowledge of conflicts and interminable wars raging in almost every continent.

Across the world millions of people long for a life that is different from the misery that weighs them down, that sees their children waste away and die from hunger and disease. Industrialised and modern societies have added to that human misery the threat of climate change, which already causes the displacement of millions of people and a global refugee crisis.



These people had hopes and dreams like us, 'though now they stare out in hopeless despair. They are a huge part today of the story of our humanity. They are the background discordant music that should trouble us deeply.

However, when the superpowers themselves are intent on acting without any reference to the body that 193 nations have signed up to, then we cannot be assured of peace and security anywhere.

There is so much more to the UN than the Security Council, that is working day-to-day through its many agencies, treaties, offices and conventions, some of which you may recognise, thirty-five at my last count. For example, WHO (World Health Organisation) is very relevant now; UNHCR (High Commission for Refugees) and FAO

(Food and Agriculture). There are also the humanitarian organisations, the feeding programme and other relief bodies like UNICEF (International Children's Fund).

UNICEF works in almost every country in the world including our own, providing aid and saving lives whilst it is still possible. Today it is seriously overwhelmed by the scale of human devastation. It needs resources from all of us to keep people alive, in war-torn places such as Yemen. The United Nations has called the country's humanitarian crisis one of the worst in the world, with two-thirds of the population – around 21.6 million people – needing some form of aid in 2023. Eight years of fighting between government-aligned forces – backed by a Saudi-led military coalition – and the Iran-aligned Houthi rebels.



We at UNA Shropshire, in the week of our annual town-centre collections, in what is a difficult time for many in the UK, ask of those who can, to make our donations generous.

During UNICEF week (17th – 23rd September) we are asking you to help children and families around the world who are in the most desperate state imaginable. Please dedicate this week to peace and security by a donation to UNICEF.

Cheques payable to: 'UNA Shropshire':

Please contact Treasurer: annmarie.hulme@icloud.com

We will send postal address and Gift Aid Form to your email address.

All of the donation will go to UNICEF.

Thank you.

Noel Beattie

Stretton Cancer Support Group

Over 20 years of supporting people with the diagnosis of cancer things have progressed enormously and there is far more support offered to those affected by cancer by the hospitals, Macmillan, the local Lingen Davies Centre and the Hamar Centre.

We feel our role has now changed, but we still feel people need to talk to someone who understands what they are going through, be it the person diagnosed with cancer, the carer or family and friends. We have decided to have informal

afternoons at the Wellbeing Centre at Mayfair on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 2.30pm for people to pop in for a cup of tea/coffee and have a chat for as long or short a time as they like and get the support and understanding they might need, or just a catch up with someone you know who is going through a difficult time.

In September the meetings will be on 11th and 25th.





The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

The South Shropshire Local Group of the RSPB has a programme of talks and walks throughout 2023.

Talks (including refreshments) are £2 to Local Group members and £5 to visitors, under 18s half price.

Walks are £2.

See What's On for details of September events.

For further information visit our website

www.group.rspb.org.uk/southshropshire

or Facebook: RSPB South Shropshire Local Group

Recent Walks: Upton Warren – Saturday 8th July

Our monthly walk in July was at Upton Warren with a short talk by a Worcester Wildlife Trust volunteer about the fascinating history of the site, which has three main pools, two of which are fresh water, and the other saline.

Altogether 52 species were seen/heard with highlights including green and common sandpiper, avocets and a chick, little ringed plovers, common terns, Cetti's and reed warblers with a bonus hobby, and also a beautiful eclipse-plumage male ruff.

There are several good bird hides there for shelter, so we might plan another return trip in the winter.

With gratitude and thanks to David Hull.

David Stafford



Great crested grebe



Green sandpiper



Avocet

Goldfinches



Results taken from the Big Garden Birdwatch indicate that goldfinches are frequently being seen in our gardens. Quite large numbers of birds are gathering in areas where sunflower hearts and niger seeds are being placed in feeding stations. These brilliantly coloured birds may even be nesting close to our houses. They build a neat little nest, usually quite high in a fork in the branches of a tree. They can have up to three broods. Both male and female goldfinch look alike but the young will not have the

distinctive head markings. You can identify them though, as they stay in family groups.

Males have a pleasing twittering song, often delivered from high on telegraph wires.

During the winter months quite large flocks gather in fields and scrublands where there are seeds of dandelion, thistle and teasels. As they fly, they can be distinguished by the yellow wingbars which are quite striking.

Some birds, particularly the females, may even migrate to the continent during the worst of the winter months.

These birds enjoy a diet of seeds and insects. Leaving some areas a bit untidy during the winter months will be of benefit to them and other garden wildlife.

Karl Shelton

Glyn's Garden – Where are we now?



It is over a year since we started work on the neglected plot in Cemetery Road, Church Stretton.

Just a reminder to highlight the purpose of the project: I founded it last year after working in NHS mental health services. I was very concerned about the lack of positive support in the community for people experiencing mental health problems and wanted to offer a proven form of therapy – gardening and spending time outside enjoying nature.

The combination of hard-working volunteers meeting on a regular basis to dig, move and dig some more, plus the kind donations and fundraising have led to a great deal of progress.

The large vegetable patch has gone from brambles to beans and the wildflower meadow areas have more biodiversity, now that the nettles and thistles have been brought under control. Yellow rattle, otherwise known as meadowmaker, provided by the National Trust, has germinated and flowered, which is great news for having a healthy meadow. The Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Council enabled us to buy native wildflower seed to support pollinators, which will help our produce to grow. The willow hedge we planted is looking good and will offer wonderful winter colour and the roadside hedge has been replanted with native hedging plants. The Woodland Trust provided saplings for this purpose.

We have received a number of grants to help us on our way. The Mid Counties Cooperative and Church Stretton Town Council enabled us to buy materials for wonderful rabbit-proof fencing around the large veg patch. This is now complete, thanks to the great efforts of Ben, John and Ralph. Thanks to all of them for their efforts in variable weather. Also thank you to ACE Farm Supplies who gave us very good service supplying the materials needed.



Our plant sale in May was a great success and David from Milestone Gallery kindly offered to continue selling plants on our behalf. His perseverance led him to raise another £385 for the project. Entertaining Elephants has also stepped in, selling our chemical-free produce on Fridays to help raise funds and raise awareness of the

Continued overleaf...

project. Do pop by to this super wholefood shop and offer your support. We still have a way to go before we can start offering gardening sessions for gardeners with mental health problems, learning disabilities, reduced mobility and early dementia. I am spending time at a well-established project in Leominster to learn from their experience. Certainly the participants really value their project and travel quite a distance to take part in the gardening and outdoor activities. It will be wonderful to offer similar

opportunities in South Shropshire. We need your help to complete the infrastructure. If you would like to know more, please come and visit the project or if you would like to volunteer, we have working parties on Wednesdays or on alternate Saturdays from 9.30am. If you would like to make a donation our bank details are:

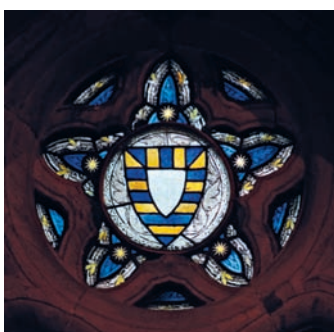
Glyn's Garden CIC at Lloyds Bank, Sort Code 30 99 50, Account 56620968.

Hily Clarke

Church Stretton Area Local History Group

Monday 18th September at 2pm in the URC Hall
Philip Hume presents 'On the Trail of the Mortimers in South Shropshire, Herefordshire and the Marches'

Philip Hume will make a welcome return to Church Stretton this month. His talk provides an overview of the history of the powerful Mortimer family and is illustrated with many photographs of the castles, churches and other artefacts associated with them in south Shropshire, north Herefordshire and the Marches. Arriving soon after the Norman Conquest, the Mortimers grew to be one of the most powerful families in the country. When the last male Mortimer died childless, the vast empire of lands, titles and a claim to the throne were inherited by



*Arms of Mortimer
commemorating Maud Mortimer*

his nephew, Richard, Duke of York. The Mortimer inheritance enabled the house of York to claim and then win the throne.

Visitors are welcome (£4). Please arrive in good time as these talks are popular.

Philip Hume is the author of *The Welsh Marcher Lordships I: Central and North* (Logaston Press, March 2021) and editor of the *Marcher Lordship* series, *On the Trail of the Mortimers* (Logaston Press, 2016), *On the trail of the Mortimers in the Welsh Marches* (Logaston Press 2022), co-author of *The Ludlow Castle Heraldic Roll* (Logaston Press, 2019), and author of articles in various journals. Philip is the Secretary of the Mortimer History Society.

Scout Group News

It has been a particularly busy term for the 2nd Longmynd culminating, as I write, with two Explorer Scouts, Freddie and Alex, flying off to South Korea as part of the UK contingent to the 25th World Jamboree. and at the same time another Explorer, Isaac, is off to the sub-Jamboree in Norway, together with his Explorer Leader, Angie Walshaw, who will be working with the International Service Team.

Over 40 young people from the Group, plus 12 Leaders, took part in Shirejam, the Four-Counties camp held on the Malvern Showground. Scout Leader Neil Crumpton reports that one of the Scouts, George, won the camp talent contest with his singing and guitar playing and was good enough to perform again at the closing ceremony.

There were so many activities on offer that the Troop gained 60 badges. The activities ranged from fire lighting and whittling to Leap into Space (where you hurled yourself off a scaffolding on to an air bag!) and light-sabre fencing (shades of Star Wars!). There was nothing like that in our day, was there, chaps?

Lena Roberts, Leader of the Beaver Scout Colony, says that their participation in the recent Strettfest resulted in so

many new members that the Colony has reached the maximum allowed and a waiting list has been started – which won't help the 90,000 on the national waiting list!

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 on 07484 717317.



Monday 11th, 18th, 25th

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 12th, 19th, 26th

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

Wednesday 13th, 20th, 27th

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

Fred Reeve

Church Stretton Gardening Club

We will be making our final visit of the year to the City of Birmingham Botanical Gardens on Thursday 14th September, leaving at 9.30am. Anyone interested in joining the coach trip please contact Wendy Lee on 722844. Our first speaker of the autumn will be at 2pm on Tuesday 26th at the Silvester Horne Institute when Kate and Sam Davies will be advising us on storing and preserving our produce. Kate has asked for a volunteer to help her make sauerkraut so be prepared!

Sue Forster



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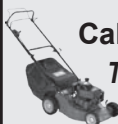
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Church Stretton Rotary News

The New Rotary year began as busily as the previous one finished!

First Wednesday Presentation

Marcus Cash, new secretary for CS Rotary, gave an excellent presentation on the subject of the Battle of Pilleth from June 1402 during the Welsh Rebellion. The smaller of the armies, the Welsh, under the leadership of Owain Glyndwr were attacked by a much larger English force under the control of Henry 'Hotspur' Percy. The Welsh won the battle and Marcus drew many comparisons with the current conflict in Ukraine. An excellent evening was had by the Rotarians and their guests.



Marcus is shown helping out at the bar of the Ragleth

Primary School Leavers Presentations

For many years CS Rotarians have been attending six local primary schools to present dictionaries or calculators to year six leavers. We love attending these wonderful events and always get a very warm welcome from the schools.



Rotarians Don Lovejoy and Tommy Conlon enjoying the recent leavers lunch at Church Preen School

Supporting the Town Council

Our members were out helping Church Stretton look good again this month. Following on from our litter picks, our bollard painting, flower watering on Contemplation Corner etc., we were painting a hut next to the bowling green that has seen better days.



Rotarian Graham Potter and President Pat Stokes-Smith can be seen hard at work

Rotary BBQ and Presentation Event

At the end of the month the Rotary Club held its annual BBQ in the wonderful garden of Peter and Carol Burt at Fold Cottage. Over 40 Rotarians, their friends and families had a wonderful evening with food, fun and games that raised over £450 for Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) training for two young people from the Church Stretton



The evening finished with the presentation of two awards: Julian Hargreaves obtained a well merited award for having made the biggest contribution to our Club over the previous year

area. RYLA is a development course run annually for teenagers aged 16-18 which aims to build up confidence and team skills in a fun environment.

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

Don Lovejoy

Don Lovejoy can be seen receiving a Paul Harris Fellowship from Assistant District Governor, Jane Chaplin. This award is to acknowledge individuals who have contributed significantly over many years to the efforts of the Rotary Team and is the highest award a Rotarian can achieve.



Catholic Voice

There is a story told about a priest caught in the headlights of media attention in the 1960s. He was being asked, in the face of the seismic upheavals, student-priests challenging Church teaching and huge numbers of priests and religious brothers and nuns leaving their vocation, "What can the priest (the rector of the seminary) actually teach?" The man, an elderly but wise priest, after a moment of silence simply made the sign of the cross and said "I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker..." and went on to recite the whole of the Nicene Creed (the defining statement of the Catholic Faith written in 325). Temporal circumstances may change over generations but for Catholics the truths of our Faith remain, we cannot change the Lord's teaching to suit ourselves or make our lives easier. That is not to say that we are to treat those of a different outlook or beliefs with prejudice or fear, or without charity and understanding.

Whenever strong differences of opinion emerge, there is a danger that we fall into the sins of stereotyping, denigrating and abusing those who hold a view contrary to our own. This runs contrary to our Christian faith which calls for charity, reconciliation and forgiveness as we strive for the unity for which Christ prayed at his Last Supper (John 17). This does not mean that we have to be identical, or even agree on every point of life, but we do have to bear with one another charitably and with the respect due to another human being.

I am mindful of a couple of pithy quotes regarding unity for us to contemplate: when Jesus is talking to his detractors he says: "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand" (Mark 3:25); and from one of my favourite psalms: "How good and how pleasant it is, when brothers live in unity!" (Psalm 133:1). For the good of our society, we must always seek mutual understanding and tolerance even in disagreement. Just because someone holds a different view to mine, it does not mean their view is irrational or irrelevant.

True spiritual maturity means that we are secure enough to allow others to have space to speak and have differing opinions to our own, without recourse to vilification or seeking to silence their voice. By dialogue and gentle challenge hearts and minds may be won over, and positions changed (even possibly our own). St Francis de Sales once observed that "a spoonful of honey is often far more effective than a barrel-full of vinegar".

In today's world we can become insulated against other people's views as whole community gathering breaks down and we create our own virtual communities containing those who are like minded. Debate and argument are being sidelined, as we become too self-referential. Universities and society at large are struggling with this new phenomenon labelled as a 'cancel culture'. This culture emerged from the awareness of important social issues especially surrounding those of race, gender, sexual identity, inequality, and from a liberal position of promoting individual rights, civil liberties and democracy. This liberalism is so liberal in promoting equality within society that it does not permit any dissension from its own agenda (unlike the definition of liberalism which is willing to respect or accept behaviour or opinions different from one's own and be open to new ideas).

I remember a debate at the Cambridge Union (1990s) about free speech and the freedom of the press and whilst controversial speakers were invited, students adopted the aphorism "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it" (attributed to Voltaire, actually coined by Beatrice Evelyn Hall 1886-1953). May we be tolerant of others who have very different ideas than ours, and see others as the children of God; they are whom we are called to respect and understand even (especially?) when they are different from our own.

Canon Jonathan Mitchell



Finding the sweet spot for humanity

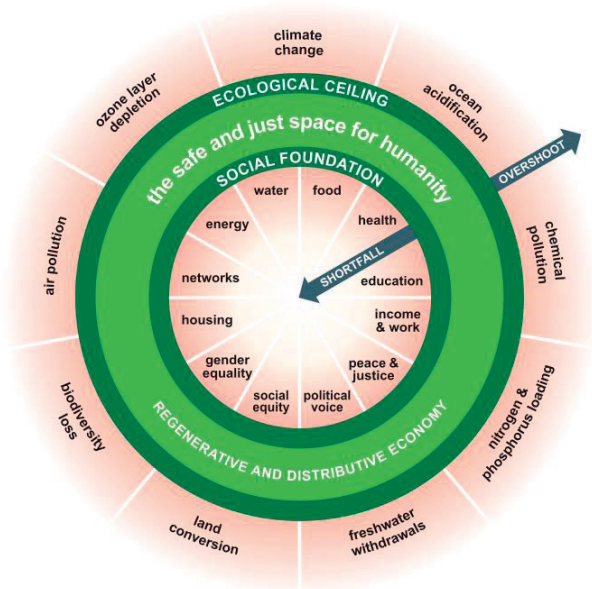
As the world burns and politicians flounder in their attempts to appease different sectors (and lobby groups), it is more than ever apparent that a new way of thinking is needed – desperately.

Last November, in ‘Climate Conversations 2’, we introduced doughnut economics, a model which brings together both keeping within safe ecological limits and providing everyone with a secure foundation for living their lives.

How might this apply to the Strettons? To find out more and to contribute to what is now a matter of urgency, join us at the Silvester Horne Institute for ‘Climate Conversations 3’ on Tuesday 3rd October at 7.30pm.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said: “The climate emergency is a race we are losing, but is a race we can win.” The Strettons Doughnut Group says: “This is a race we must win.”

David Howard



Classic doughnut model: Kate Raworth

A big thank you to Stretton Focus

Thanks to a generous donation from *Stretton Focus*, Church Stretton Repair Café now has its own Portable Appliance Test (PAT) machine!



Every electrical item that we work on has to undergo a safety test, both on entry to the Repair Café and again before we hand it back after a repair. We’ve been able to borrow a PAT machine to date, but this testing step always creates a bottleneck in our processing. With the generous support of *Stretton Focus*, we’ve now been able to purchase a second tester, and this will help us speed up electrical repairs.

We can also help customers when they simply need proof that their fully working appliances have undergone a PAT safety check.

Moirá Matthews

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Lin Jay and the team at the Green Dragon have again kindly agreed to host Little Stretton’s Macmillan Coffee Morning. In addition to the usual coffee and cakes there will be a Grand Raffle, a book stall (if you wish to donate, give fiction only please: no text books or cookery books) plus home-made produce.

If the weather is good this event will be outdoors, if inclement it will be inside the Green Dragon. For more information contact Lin on 07795 268643, or email linjay@live.co.uk.

Madeline Haigh



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Church Stretton Dementia Friends



Church Stretton Dementia Friends are a small charity seeking to make our town more dementia-friendly. Stigma and a lack of understanding mean that many families affected by dementia experience loneliness or social exclusion. Being dementia-friendly would mean that our community and businesses are more aware of how best to support those living with dementia, and that there are small actions we can all take to make a great difference to the lives of those with any form of memory issue.

We are an independent charity currently working with local organisations such as Glyn's Garden CIC, Church Stretton Library, Mad Hatters Soft Play and the Mayfair Community Centre to provide opportunities for additional activities and services for all families affected by dementia in the Church Stretton area. We are a member of the Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Dementia Action Alliance, but we are not aligned to any other national dementia charity. We get information and support from many sources including the Alzheimer's Association, Dementia.org and Age UK.

Much of our role involves arranging additional opportunities for activities for those living with dementia and their families, delivering awareness training sessions, community talks, liaising with local businesses and organisations, and working with the Council to review possible improvements to infrastructure. We can also help to provide information and signposting for individuals and their families, but we cannot provide specific clinical or social care advice.

We currently hold a Memory Café in the Library every second Wednesday of the month between 1 and 3pm.

The session is designed for anyone experiencing any form of memory issue and their carer and is set in the beautiful main section of the library on a day when it is closed to regular visitors. Every month will have a different theme, and there will be some objects from the past to chat about, as well as evocative sights and sounds with plenty of opportunity to reminisce, to play games, move and sing if you feel like it and of course look at some books. It'll just be us in the library, so there will be plenty of quiet space, and of course tea, coffee and cake. Entry is free, but donations always welcome for the refreshments. August's theme was the seaside, and we had great fun making sandcastles and playing crazy golf as well as listening to some poetry. Please come and join us and Lisa Wright from the Alzheimer's Society for future sessions.

We're looking for voluntary groups, businesses and individuals around Church Stretton who are interested in becoming supporters, and be notified of events, training sessions and other exciting updates. We have lots of ideas and ambition and would love to hear from you if you have time to join our committee. Please contact us at csdementiafriends@gmail.com or just search Church Stretton Dementia Friends on Facebook.

So that we can genuinely represent anyone living with any form of dementia, please help us determine our priorities by completing our brief survey. It is available from the Mayfair Centre and Church Stretton Library or from us by email or post.

Vicky Munro 07813 127558

Church Stretton Medical Practice 2023 Flu Vaccination Campaign

This year's flu vaccination campaign is now only a couple of months away and the Practice is busy planning how best to provide patients with their vaccinations. As in previous years we will be running vaccination clinics and will be booking patients into specific time slots, all eligible patients will receive a time slot either on their mobile phone, by e-mail or by letter – whatever is applicable to your personal circumstances.

Whilst we have yet to firm up the timings, the clinics will be held on Saturday 23rd September and Saturday 7th October. As in previous years please do not worry if you cannot make your designated slot, searches are undertaken before each clinic to ensure we send invites to all eligible patients yet to receive their vaccination and we always put on extra, smaller clinics if needed.

We are aware that many patients received their vaccinations last year in Craven Arms. Whilst patients are entitled to get their vaccination from wherever they choose it does have an impact on the Practice if you choose to go elsewhere.

Orders for flu vaccinations are made roughly 13 months before delivery and are paid for by the Practice. Our order is based on the number of eligible patients that need


vaccinating and only 10% of the total order can be returned and reimbursed if it is not used. We acknowledge that there were some mistakes made with the organisation of our first vaccination clinic in 2022 which led to many patients going elsewhere for their vaccinations. We re-designed the format which worked very well at the subsequent clinics we ran. Unfortunately, the number of patients vaccinated by the Practice was very low last year and we lost a significant amount of money on flu vaccinations. We would therefore like to encourage patients to use the Practice's vaccination clinics this year, if at all possible to avoid something similar happening.

We are committed to providing our eligible patients with their flu vaccinations, however if the number of people using our vaccination clinics continues to fall we will need to reduce the service we can offer to avoid losing money.

We have yet to hear what the dates are and who will be eligible for the autumn Covid booster. If it is feasible, we will make the clinics a dual vaccination. If the vaccine is not available, the flu clinics will go ahead as a single vaccination clinic.

Please support your Medical Practice by utilising their vaccination clinics.

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Telephone Switchover

Are you aware that there is a plan to switch off the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), the long-established system that makes landline telephones work, by the end of 2025? Businesses and public services that have their own internal telephone network systems will also be affected, because the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) that many of them use will also be switched off.

Two-and-a-bit years might seem like time enough, but home and business owners in the Strettons are already signing up to the service, and a rolling programme of switch-offs of the old technology is underway in some areas of the country.

Now for a little bit of background... on 29th November 2016 the Office for Communications (Ofcom), which is the regulator and competition authority for mobile and landline telephone services together with television, radio and postal services, ordered British Telecom (BT) to split up its different divisions into separate businesses in order to promote greater transparency and encourage competition. One of these became responsible for the infrastructure of telephone and broadband services. We know it as Openreach. We see their vans around the place quite often, with someone sitting on a little stool nearby with their head almost inside the green junction box.

Here's a short explanation from Openreach. "Telephone services have been provided to homes and businesses through signal-carrying copper wires for over a hundred years. Because it's been around for so long it's no longer as efficient as it could be, is frequently overloaded in some areas and can be difficult to maintain properly. Replacement parts can be hard to come by and the system fails more often than we'd like. By the end of 2025 the nationwide service will have been upgraded to a digital Voice over Internet Protocol, or VoIP for short, which is faster and more reliable. Landline voice calls will be transmitted via light pulses that travel through thin glass or plastic fibres instead of copper wiring in much the same way that broadband works."

But what does this mean to you at home? First things first. Most of us will have seen the TV advertisements from companies such as Sky, BT, Virgin, TalkTalk and others, all of which are involved in delivering this scheme because of their existing broadband coverage. You might have noticed that they've already begun to market VoIP as 'super-fast full-fibre broadband'. These companies will provide the new telephone service direct to customers once the infrastructure (the fibres that are replacing the old copper wiring) has been installed.

Not every householder has a broadband connection, can afford one, wants one or even knows what one is. If this is you, then according to Ofcom, you'll be able to buy a simple 'line only' connection, which will effectively replace your current landline without having to go full broadband. Emergency call pendants and bracelets, however, might still need a separate upgrade so, if you have one of these, speak



to someone at the organisation that answers your emergency calls to see what they can do to help.

For the vulnerable members of our population, whether because of age, financial disadvantage, disability or simply because they live in an internet black spot, all this might well be a frightening prospect. Some might mistake it for a scam, should there be a knock on the door and a stranger tells them he'd like them to buy a new telephone service. Ofcom says this, "(Telephone service) providers should take steps to identify at-risk customers and engage in effective communications to ensure they are all protected throughout the upgrade process. If you believe you or one of your relatives is a vulnerable consumer, or depends on a landline, you should notify the telephone provider so that they can advise on how the migration

could affect you. It is the responsibility of the provider to ensure those who depend on a landline are provided with a resilient solution that will allow customers to make calls to the emergency services in the event of a power outage, and the government is working with Ofcom to ensure this is the case."

According to Ofcom again, your local VoIP provider should supply any new equipment that might be necessary to make your landline work; for example, a new router, plug-in adapters or even a new telephone handset, but it's unclear whether that applies to businesses, too. If you have any additional services that are delivered through a telephone line, such as a home or small business alarm system, point-of-sale systems in shops, or CCTV, these will also need upgrading separately.

A local subscriber to the service says "We decided to sign up for this now because it should save us money on our phone bill. The VoIP company told us that they call the centre of Church Stretton Block 1, and that we'd be switched over by mid-July. It's already been delayed once but we know the fibres have already been installed so we're just waiting for a firm date."

So how does this work? Simply put, the installation of new glass or plastic fibre infrastructure is being undertaken by companies contracted to and paid by the government. The customer signs a contract for 24 months, with that company, when the service is connected. At present, the monthly fee with the local provider is £10.50 per month, for which the customer can make as many calls as they wish to UK registered landline or mobile phone numbers. Contract prices that include calls to overseas registered numbers are a little higher.

For most households and businesses, the transition should be a smooth process. However, for some it will be more complicated, and there are downsides. The current PSTN system powers a telephone handset via the same copper wiring network that transmits the phone signal, so you can still make and receive calls even in a local power cut. The VoIP system, however, works on electricity received from the power grid in the same way as does your fridge,

TV and other appliances. A power cut where VoIP operates means there will be no electricity to the essential broadband router that sits between the telephone wall socket and the telephone handset. Your TV, fridge etc don't work in a power cut, and neither will your VoIP telephone.

Most of you, however, have mobile phones that we can use in an emergency for as long as the battery is charged, and many of us can also make and receive calls via our computers or laptops. Hopefully, gentle reader, you're more forward thinking than your intrepid reporter (that's me) whose phone or laptop batteries are often depleted, sadly. Time to up my game, perhaps.

Mayfair is planning workshops and advice sessions about VoIP services in early 2024. Watch their newsletters for dates.

Christine Williams, Resident Journalist



The Strettons Bridge Club



Based in All Stretton Village Hall, The Strettons Bridge Club has a 30-strong membership. All levels of ability are represented and we invite new members who can already play Bridge to join us. If you can't play and would like to, the tuition programme starts in September.

What we do

The Strettons Bridge Club offers a friendly environment where experienced and new players can enjoy the challenge that Bridge offers – we all like the competition but acknowledge 'it's only a game'! We meet from 1-5pm every Thursday. All Stretton Village Hall provides an excellent setting for Bridge with, if required, free lifts from Church Stretton.

A typical afternoon sees people attend with a range of abilities and experience, playing Duplicate Bridge at five tables. During the 24 hands or so that we play there is a break for much-anticipated refreshments.

Nowadays we are building links with other Shropshire Bridge clubs through shared events and mutual support in recruiting new players who share our fascination with Bridge as a face-to-face social activity and an absorbing mental challenge. Others may click away at Bridge online – and some of us do also – but The Strettons Bridge Club is all about its players, its personalities, its parties and its pre-empts.

When you join, the annual membership is £10 and each afternoon you play the 'table fee' is £2, with refreshments included. We have our own website, too.

For further details call Maxine Lainchbury 07971 191664.

Learn to play Bridge

Our policy of free tuition for both complete beginners and for curious improvers, supports a gentle flow of new members and a lively spirit of experimentation. Nobody cares (much) about the results; we keep coming back for the fun.

If you're a newcomer to Bridge, or feel you need a refresher course, the tuition programme runs from September each year. Tuition is free and without any commitment to membership. We'd be delighted to see you.

For further details on tuition call Dominic Wilson 01694 723128.

The Strettons Bridge Club – past and future

Long, long ago – before the Coronation, before Covid, even before Brexit – a group of friends gathered to play Bridge at the first ever meeting of The Strettons Bridge Club. Ten years later, we are still playing, though there are more of us these days.

We did pause now and then during lockdown and the occasional bank holiday, or when the snow lay too deep and too even around our cosy home in the All Stretton Village Hall.

Some of us moved on and others have arrived. All of us are proud of the friendly, welcoming, supportive traditions of our club, where enjoyment always trumps competition, and everything stops for a good cake.

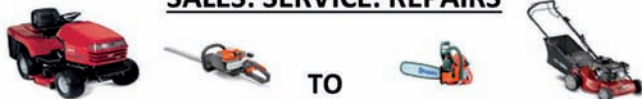
Who knows what the next decade will bring, who would have guessed the last one! But one thing we can rely on – global warming and geopolitics aside – ten years from now we will still be playing Bridge and eating cake.

The Strettons Bridge Club celebrates its 10th Anniversary this September – we hope you'll join us.



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Parish Paths Partnership



Our volunteers have been busy looking after footpaths and bridleways in the Church Stretton area, replacing and repairing stiles and kissing gates, making steps, and, in the summer months, clearing brambles and bracken. Here we are replacing a stile in the lush green fields of the dairy farm near Acton Scott where the whole milk comes from. Nice soft digging and beautiful countryside – no wonder we are smiling!

We have put a few dog-gates in stiles. Apparently statistics show that more than half of the use of footpaths is with dogs. Actually, animals are not allowed on footpaths. I'm unsure about dogs' rights but they have always enjoyed a privileged position in English law since the Dogs Act 1906. Anyway it would take a brave Judge to ban dogs on footpaths! The main thing is to make it so that the dog cannot worry livestock. It does raise the question of should all stiles be fitted with a dog gate? The move to kissing gates

does overcome the issue. Do you know where the dog gate is, shown in this picture?

If you come across blocked paths or stiles needing attention in the area or indeed if you would like to join the group, please do not hesitate to drop an email to either Tim Parker at tim.parker111@gmail.com or myself at lwp@btinternet.com.

Will Priestley



Westhope Village Hall Events

Our refurbishment is now in progress and we can't wait to show off our new kitchen and cloakrooms. There has been so much hard work and fund raising to get to this stage and we appreciate all the help and support we have received from everyone. Thank you. We look forward to welcoming you all in the coming weeks with our forthcoming programme of events:

- **Whist drives** every Monday now starting a little earlier, 7pm for a 7.15 start. £3.
- **Yoga** with Sue Pugh every Wednesday at 4.15pm. £8 per one hour session.
- **Skittles** social evening, Friday 8th September
A fun evening with refreshments and licensed Bar. Admission £1.
- **Community Lunch**, Thursday 7th September 12.30 for 1pm.
2 course homemade lunch with Tea/coffee. £10
Reservations by Monday 4th September please.
- **Grand Jumble and nearly new Sale**,
Saturday 16th September: Ladies, gents, children and babies wear, Bric a Brac, homeware, children's toys. Tombola
Refreshments available. Admission £1 to include a cup of tea/coffee.

A date for the diary Saturday 14th October.

We are still putting together our programme for the winter months and rearranging our Bingo nights. More information next month.

Our village hall is available to hire and catering is available upon request.

All enquires Betty Manley 07860 447397



THE STRETTONS CIVIC SOCIETY

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Closure of the Strettons Civic Society

In accordance with its constitution the Civic Society has now been dissolved and remaining funds transferred to the Middle Marches Community Land Trust (MMCLT) for projects within the Strettons area. MMCLT is a charitable institution with objectives similar to those of the Civic Society to protect, care for and enhance the natural beauty of our area.

The Community Noticeboard outside the Family Shopper has been offered to the Town Council for its care. The Society's records will be offered to the County Archivist for safe keeping.

Members are thanked for their support in the past and are reminded to cancel their Standing Orders.

Janet Martin, Secretary, Strettons Civic Society

Is Age Really Just a Number?

Broadly speaking, when it comes to age, society's message is that the older you get, the worse things become. How depressing is that! Have you ever heard it said, "She's doing very well for her age" or even worse, "he's over the hill now"? Is age just a number that we use to judge or 'pigeonhole' someone or is it simply a measure of time?

The people of South Korea seem to have the answer because they have all become at least a year younger thanks to their government's new initiative. From 28th June 2023 the traditional method of measuring age was replaced by the international standard. Under the previous age system most used in South Korea, people were deemed to be one year old at birth and a year was added every January 1st, rather than their actual birthday. Now the country will use the international standard by calculating from zero at birth and adding a year on every subsequent birthday, which is the same as the UK. A very delighted 27-year-old office worker told the Reuters News Agency, "I was about to turn 30 next year but now I will be younger, and I love it." Perhaps age is just a number not a condition.

Mischa Elman was a respected violinist whose career spanned his entire life. He began performing when he was very young and continued into his old age. When asked if he could tell any difference in audience reaction through the

encircling years, he replied, "Not really. When I was a boy, audiences would exclaim, 'Imagine being able to play the violin like that at his age!' Now they are saying the same thing again!" Abraham Lincoln once said, "It's not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years."

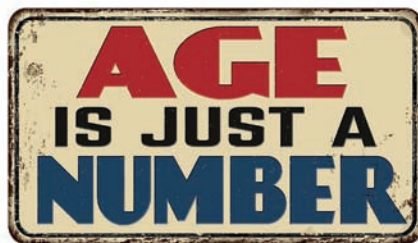
Even so, as a society, we spend thousands of pounds, and a great deal of energy, seeking to look younger and more attractive. We buy makeup, attend exercise classes and read countless books and magazines on how to look and stay younger. But perhaps the most encouraging book of all we could read is

the Bible. For the God who flung stars into space and daubs drab skies with rainbows, finds delight in the people he created, whatever their age. "Come to me," he says to the little children. "Even in your old age, I am with you and will sustain you," he says to the older person.

The Psalmist sums it up by exclaiming, "Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvellous."

Ashly Montague mused, "The idea is to die young, after living for as long as possible." The Peanuts cartoon reminds us, "when you are over the hill, that is when you begin to pick up speed!" So let's pick up speed, for the God who created us, finds us beautiful and loves us, whatever our age.

Jon Hughes



Historic Church Stretton - Rees's Hotel and the Stretton Café

The first occupier of the property on the corner of Sandford Avenue and Easthope Road (now Wright's Estate Agent) was William Rees, a baker and hotelkeeper. He described himself as a family and fancy bread baker as well as a pastry cook and confectioner and operator of the Stretton Café. The upper floors housed the 'Private and Commercial Hotel'.

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



Sandford Avenue about 1910 showing Rees's property on the corner with Easthope Road (nos 28-32). The elegant balcony has since been enclosed

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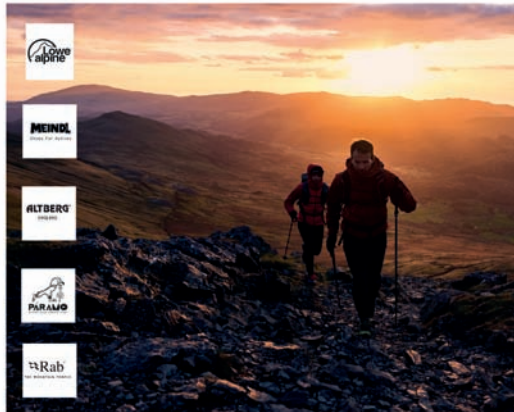
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Chartered Accountants

Ruth Whiting

01694 724527

rlwaccountants@btinternet.com

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Churches in the Strettons



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

Sunday Services

St Laurence's

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

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

St Michael's

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

All Saints

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

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

Midweek Service

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

Online Service

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

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



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

Website: www.churchstretton-methodistchurch.org.uk

Hall bookings: Carole Coles (Tel: 724958)

Sunday Services

10.30am Morning Service

Wednesday Activities

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

Cuppa and Chat 2.30-4pm. All welcome



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

Email: csqm@gorswen.co.uk

Sundays:

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

For details of home discussion groups please telephone the Clerks.



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

St Milburga's, Church Stretton

Email: stmilburga@gmail.com

Sunday: 9.30am Mass

Tuesday-Saturday: 9.30am Daily Mass

Saturday: 5.30pm Evening Mass

St Walburga's, Plowden

11.15am Sunday Mass



UNITED REFORMED CHURCH Minister: (vacant)

Website: churchstrettonurc.org.uk

Sunday Services

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

Communion is celebrated on Sundays notified in URC Church Newsletter

Weekday Activities

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

Wednesdays: Discussion and prayers – currently suspended

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

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

Church and Hall bookings: 722390

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

Allotment Gardens Association	Ben Warren	07779 437871	greenhillsallotments@gmail.com
All Stretton Amateur Dramatics Society			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	amilson@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@csmf.co.uk
Football Club, Stretton Red Rovers (6-15 years old)	Martin Watts	723543	contact@redrovers.org.uk
Footpath maintenance volunteers (Parish paths Partnership)	Tim Parker	07493 659514	tim.parker111@gmail.com
Friends of Church Stretton Library	Sheila Davies	723455	www.strettonlibraryfriends.org.uk
Gardening Club, Acton Scott	Terri Clegg	781572	actonscottgc@gmail.com
Gardening Club, Church Stretton & District	Evelyn Dapling	723648	evedapling@waitrose.com
Gliding, Midlands Gliding Club Ltd	Office	01588 650206	office@midlandgliding.club
Golf Club	James Townsend	722281	secretary@churchstrettongolfclub.co.uk
Good Neighbours Care Group	Office	724242	churchstrettongoodneighbours.org.uk
Guiding, 2nd Church Stretton	Jane Hurst	771622	janehurst77@hotmail.co.uk
Harmony In The Hills	Kate Buttolph	07974 382989	kate@playonperformingarts.co.uk
Hockey Club, Stretton Juniors (5-15 years old)	Martin Watts	723543	mlwatts@yahoo.co.uk
Hope Bowdler Hand Bell Ringers	Ruth Jenkins	724919	
Hope Bowdler Village Hall	Evelyn Dapling	723648	
Horse Show, Church Stretton	Sarah Davies	771370	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@caerocaradocldodge.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	jolendon@hotmail.co.uk
Tennis Club	Claire Hatfield	720123	mail@strataassociates.co.uk
Theatre & Concert Group, Stretton	Jenny or Graham Heath	722216	heath@knollcrest.co.uk; strettontheatreandconcert.net
Thursday Lunch Club (Ley Gardens)	Margaret Hamer	722407	or Dawn Longmore 722328
Traidcraft (fairly traded goods)	Maureen Clow	722000	
Tree Group, Church Stretton	Hilary Hymas	723208	hilaryhymas7@gmail.com
United Nations Association, Shropshire Branch	Ruth Davies	724304	daviescs@btinternet.com
University of the Third Age (U3A)	Lesley Brown	724330	u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/contact
Upright and Active (falls prevention strength & balance)	c/o Mayfair	722077	(Mayfair) www.mayfaircentre.org.uk
Walking Football	Ken Willis	328514	gordonwillis@go-plus.net
Wildlife Group, SACWG, Community	Julie Cowley	722310	sacwg@shropscwgs.org.uk
Wildlife Trust, Strettons Branch	Wally Blake	724040	
Women's Institute, CS Marmaladies WI	Carol Greswell	07803 581580	marmaladieswi@gmail.com
Women's Inst., Rushbury and Cardington	Kaye Smith	771554	kayerubetta.smith@btinternet.com
Women's Institute, All Stretton	Jean Huff	723706	allstrettonwi@gmail.com
Yoga (Mayfair)	c/o Mayfair	722077	(Mayfair) www.mayfaircentre.org.uk
Youth @ St Laurence's	Sally Ciliverd	724224	sally@strettonparish.org.uk

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

Church Stretton Town Councillors

Town Clerk: Nicky Hook; **RFO:** Gillian Bailey; **Office Hours:** Monday to Friday 10.00am - 1.00pm and 2.00 - 4.00pm
Council Office: 60 High Street, Church Stretton SY6 6BY. Tel: 722113, Fax: 723608. email: reception@churchstretton-tc.gov.uk

South Ward		North Ward		Little Stretton Ward	
John Burns	07767 477334	Nicola Carter	07581 300498	Colin Carson	722784
Ryan Foulkes	07528 372471	Sheila Davies (Deputy Mayor)	723455	Julie Lawton	723750
Charlie Jones	07971 523125	John Luck	725596	All Stretton Ward	
Mark Morris	722741	Bob Welch	722998	Andy Munro (Mayor)	725554
Andrew Williams	07577 516453			Helen Stowell	07879 848168

Shropshire (Unitary) Councillors for the Area

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

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

StrettonDale Local Joint Committee (Details pending)

Responsibilities for Public Services

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

Some useful numbers

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

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

Police - Non emergency only 101, Emergency 999

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

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

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs):

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

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

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

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

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

Accommodation see Hotels, B&B, Self Catering	Clock & Watch Repair Adrian Donnelly Clock Repairs... 2	Garden Design, Services, Supplies Ben Carter Landscaping..... 41 Homden Excavations..... 37 Integral Gardens..... 41 John Stephens Services..... 41 Keith Warrington..... 37 Mike Russell Designs..... 37 Paul Forrester..... 15 Paul Tinsley..... 16 Peter Tipton..... 41 Shropshire Lawn Co..... 37 Tidy Garden..... 37 Unique Landscapes..... 41	Outdoor Clothing and Equipment The Outdoor Depot..... 49
Accountants and Bookkeeping James, Holyoak & Parker..... 50 RLW Accountants..... 50	Clothes Entertaining Elephants..... 49	Garden Machinery Newington Garage..... 46	Painters & Decorators Andrew Webster..... 37 D R Tipton Painter & Decorator 43 DWS Property Services..... 37 E B Jones..... 37 G H Jones & Son..... 37 Paul Forrester..... 15
Architects, Town Planning Batch Valley Design..... 21 Christopher Roscoe Assocs..... 21	Coaches Caradoc Coaches..... 46	Hairstylists, 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 Chiropractors & 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..... 50 Mynd House..... 50 Willowbatch..... 50	Printing, Copying, Photo Products Craven Design & Print..... 49 Stretton Print & Supplies..... 49
Cards and Gifts Entertaining Elephants..... 49 Stretton Print & Supplies..... 49	Estate Agents Bluestone..... 32 Miller Evans..... 32 Samuel Wood..... 32 Wrights Estate Agents..... 32	Insurance see Financial Services, Insurance	Restaurants, Cafés, Pubs Berry's..... 49 Royal Oak, Cardington..... 49
Care - Homes and At Home Bluebird Care..... 10	Event Venues Eaton Manor..... 50	Keep Fit see Health, Therapies, Keep Fit	Skip Hire John Stephens Services..... 41 Peter Tipton..... 41
Carpenters & Joiners E J & G J Groom..... 15 Keith George..... 16 Mark Terry..... 15 Mike Webster..... 15 Paul Forrester..... 15	Employment Bluebird Care..... 21	Kitchens, Bathrooms A J Lewis-Price..... 16 A.2.Z Construction..... 16 Homefix..... 29 Lee Brown..... 29 Mark Terry..... 15 Paul Forrester..... 15	Solicitors FBC Manby Bowdler..... 21 PCB Solicitors..... 21
Carpets Abbey Carpets..... 6	Financial Services & Insurance Caleb Roberts..... 50 Philippa Gee Wealth Mngment. 50 Wrights Yorkshire Building Soc. 50	Mobility Stretton Mobility Store..... 10	Storage Churton Self-Storage..... 60
Catteries and Kennels see Pet Food, Pet Care	Florist John R Thomas..... 6 Shropshire Flower Company..... 6		Sweep Shropshire Sweep..... 60 Stanton Sweeps..... 60
Chemist Hillside Pharmacy..... 43	Food, Delicatessen Entertaining Elephants..... 49 Saxtons Deli..... 49		Taxi Church Stretton Taxi..... 46
Chiropractors Caroline Crump..... 43	Funeral Arrangements A S Morris and Son..... 10 South Shropshire Remembrance Park..... 10		Watches, Batteries, Straps The Outdoor Depot..... 49
Cleaning and House Care Chris Sansom Pest Control..... 60 Cleanrite Services..... 60 Gordon Ribbons..... 60 In Depth Cleaning..... 60 Shaw Clean..... 60 Shropshire Sweep..... 60 Stanton Sweeps..... 60	Garage Services Burway Garage..... 46 Central Garage..... 46 MOT Clinic..... 46		Windows A Morgan..... 15
			Window Cleaning Handyman Services..... 60

What's On in the Strettons in September

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-12 noon 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 Please enter via rear entrance to avoid coming through the bar area. Every **Thursday** 7.30pm Kings Arms, CS

Christian Meditation (online via Zoom)

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

Christian Meditation (meeting in person)

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

Cuppa and Chat at the Methodist Church

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

Dancing: Learn 2 Jive

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

Dancing: Scottish

Sessions re-commence on **Monday** 18th September and then each following Monday at 7.30pm.

Energy Advice from Stretton Climate Care

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

Gardening: Glyn's Garden Work Parties

Friendly volunteer working party at the site in Cemetery Road, CS. Bring gloves and suitable footwear for gardening or just drop in to hear about the project. Every **Wednesday** 7pm Glyn's Garden

Handbell Ringers, Hope Bowdler

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

Knit & Natter Group at Ley Gardens

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

Music: Stretton Strummers Ukulele Group

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

Continued overleaf...

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

Strength Balance and Flex with Nina

Gentle approach to exercise: no jumping or floor work. Ideal for 55years 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

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 Drive at Westhope

Come along and join our friendly band of whist players.

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

Yoga at SHI

£8 per session. Open to all.

Call David Hedge: 07870 936889

Every **Tuesday** in term time.

10-11.30am SHI

Yoga at Westhope

With Sue Pugh. Numbers are limited.

Contact Betty Manley: 07860 447397

Every **Thursday**

10.30-11.30am Westhope VH, SY7 9JL

Yoga: Vita Bona Yoga at CS Library

Booking: Sue 07432 349933

Every **Monday**

9.30-10.30am Improvers

11-11.45am Chair Yoga

Yoga with Becca

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

Contact Becca on 07905 236805 or

yogawithbecca@hotmail.com

Tues: 6.30-7.30pm Mayfair

Wed: 9.30-10.30am Scout Hut

Wed: 6.30-7.30pm SHI

Thurs: 7-8am Scout Hut

Thurs: 9.30-10.30am Leebotwood VH

Youth Club For School Years 6 to 7

A 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:

25 AUGUST – 27 SEPTEMBER

Stretton Waters Exhibition

Celebrating 140 years of bottled water in Church Stretton.

During opening hours CS Library

1 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

2 SATURDAY

Shropshire Hills Shuttle Bus Service

The two-route service will run on weekends until Sunday 8th October. For routes, timetable, prices and donation information, search 'Shropshire Hills Shuttle Buses'.

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

4 MONDAY

Royal British Legion 'Drink & Chat' Hour

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

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

6 WEDNESDAY

C.A.M.E.O. Meeting

Les and Maggie Cameron: 'South Africa's Garden Route'.

2.30pm Parish Centre

CS Amnesty Group

Meet 1st Wednesday of the month.

All are welcome; we are a friendly inclusive group.

Contact csamnesty@outlook.com

7.30pm SHI

What's On continued

Flicks in the Sticks: Cardington

A Man Called Otto (2022)

Cert: 15 RT: 2 hrs, 6 mins

Tickets: £4. Contact: 771295

7.30pm Cardington VH, SY6 7JZ

7 THURSDAY

Citizen Advice at CS Library

Trained advisors on hand to give advice.

Sessions by appointment, 1st and 3rd

Thursday of the month.

10am-12 noon CS Library

Westhope Community Lunch

Two-course lunch with tea/coffee

£10 pp. All ages welcome

All enquiries 07860 447397

12.30 for 1pm Westhope Village Hall

Cudwell Meadow Work Party

Volunteer work parties take place on the 1st Thursday of each month.

All welcome.

1.30-3.30pm Cudwell Meadow

8 FRIDAY

u3a Writers Group

With Lesley Dench.

2nd and 4th Friday of the month.

10am-12 noon CS Library

9 SATURDAY

Monthly Drop-In Council Surgery

With Councillor Hilary Luff.

2nd Saturday of the month.

10-11.30am CS Library

Stretton Climate Care Repair Café

Please contact us to book in your item, giving details and a photo if possible:

info@strettonclimatecare.org.uk

Walk-ins accepted after 11am.

10am-12 noon Scout Hut

Stretton Choral Society 'Come & Sing' Afternoon

Includes taking a mid-afternoon break for tea. There is a charge of £5 to cover the costs of the event. If you would like to book a place, please contact Mark Tocknell on 722969 or email mark.tocknell@hotmail.co.uk

2-5pm URC Church

CS Ballroom & Sequence Dance Club

8pm (see Sat 2nd for details)

11 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.

2.30pm HWBC

12 TUESDAY

u3a Writers Group 2

With Jenny O'Shea

2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month

2-4pm CS Library

Flicks in the Sticks Acton Scott

The Girl on the Train (2016)

Cert 15 RT: 1 hr, 52 mins

Tickets: £5 adult, £3 child.

Ample parking and level access

Enquiries: 781260

7.30pm Acton Scott VH

RSPB South Shropshire Local Group

Tom Wall: 'Pond and river birds'.

Tom used to be in charge of Natural England in the Shropshire Hills. Members £2,

Visitors £5

Enquiries to Carol Wood 07807 068304

7.30pm Diddlebury VH SY7 9DH

13 WEDNESDAY

Strettons Classical Music Group

See p26 for more details. The cost is £3 per meeting. 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

Flicks in the Sticks: Hope Bowdler

Living (2021)

Cert 12A 1 hr, 39 minutes

Admission: adults £5, children £2.50

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

Enquiries: 721376

7.30pm Hope Bowdler VH

14 THURSDAY

CS Gardening Club Outing

We will be making our final visit of the year to the City of Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

Anyone interested in joining the coach trip please contact Wendy Lee on 722844.

9.30am start

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

Talk at Little Stretton VH

'Mysteries of The Calendar' by Mike Bourke.

£5 (including refreshments) in aid of village hall funds. Please book in advance, with Madeline Haigh, on 723627 or email: mhaigh3@aol.com.

Marmaladies CS WI

Line dancing with Wendy Heighway.

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

7.30pm SHI

16 SATURDAY

Saturday Morning Music

The autumn programme of four concerts starts with a musical showcase with solos for clarinet, horn and bassoon.

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 Methodist Hall

17 SUNDAY – 23 SATURDAY

United Nations Children's Fund Shropshire Appeal

18 MONDAY

CS Area Local History Group (CSALHG)

Philip Hume presents 'On the Trail of the Mortimers in South Shropshire, Herefordshire and the Marches'.

Non-members: £4, pay on the door.

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

Contact: csalh@outlook.com

2pm URC Hall

Continued overleaf..

What's On continued

19 TUESDAY

All Stretton Women's Institute

The Biscuit Club with Victoria Graham.
Email: allstrettonwi@gmail.com
7.30pm All Stretton VH

21 THURSDAY

Citizen Advice at CS Library

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

Flicks in the Sticks Church Stretton

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry (2023)
Cert: 12a; RT 1 hr, 48 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

22 FRIDAY

u3a Writers Group

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

23 SATURDAY

RSPB South Shropshire Local Group

Venus Pool, Nr Cound SY5 6JR
Flat terrain. Sorry No Dogs.
Walk Leader: Ian Baggley from Shrewsbury
RSPB Branch.
Mob 07833 647109
Start at 8.30am, approx 3-4 hrs
Meet in the carpark, grid ref SJ547060

FoCSL Quiz Night

With quizmaster Ben Warren.
Teams of up to 6, £5pp
To reserve a table phone Ben Warren on:
07779 437871
Or just turn up on the night and we will fit
you in somewhere!
7.30pm Parish Centre

CS Ballroom & Sequence Dance Club

8pm (see Sat 2nd for details)

24 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 Essential.
Contact Maria 07985 744038
3pm Scout Hut

25 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

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.
2.30pm HWBC

26 TUESDAY

u3a Writers Group 2

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

CS Gardening Club Indoor Meeting

Our first speakers of the autumn are Kate
and Sam Davies who will be advising us on
storing and preserving our produce. Kate
has asked for a volunteer to help her make
sauerkraut so be prepared!
2pm SHI

27 WEDNESDAY

Churches Together in the Strettons

Open Forum – please come and share your
ideas for Churches Together in this area.
7.30pm Methodist Church Hall

Yoga with Sue at CS Library

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

28 THURSDAY

FoCSL Write Poetry Workshop

Morning/afternoon slots available. There
is a follow-up 'Read Poetry' workshop on
Saturday 30th
Please see main article for details.

SPPG AGM and Open Meeting

All patients of the Church Stretton medical
practice are invited. The very short AGM
will be followed by a presentation by a GP
from the practice regarding current issues.
This will be followed by an opportunity for
comments and questions.
6-8pm Jubilee Room, Mayfair

SHI Events: 'The Songs of 1931'

Janice Day and Martin Litton start our
autumn programme. Tickets £12 adult,
£6 18 and under, available online at
silvesterhorneevents.co.uk or from CS Town
Council Office or from the Outdoor Depot,
Sandford Avenue.
More information from 720132
7.30pm SHI

29 FRIDAY

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.

Little Stretton Macmillan Coffee Morning

Coffee, cakes, raffle, stalls. For more
information contact Lin on 07795 268643 or
email linjay@live.co.uk.
10am-12 noon The Green Dragon

30 SATURDAY

CS Ballroom & Sequence Dance Club


8pm (see Sat 2nd for details)

Occasional Advertisements

Occasional adverts are
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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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