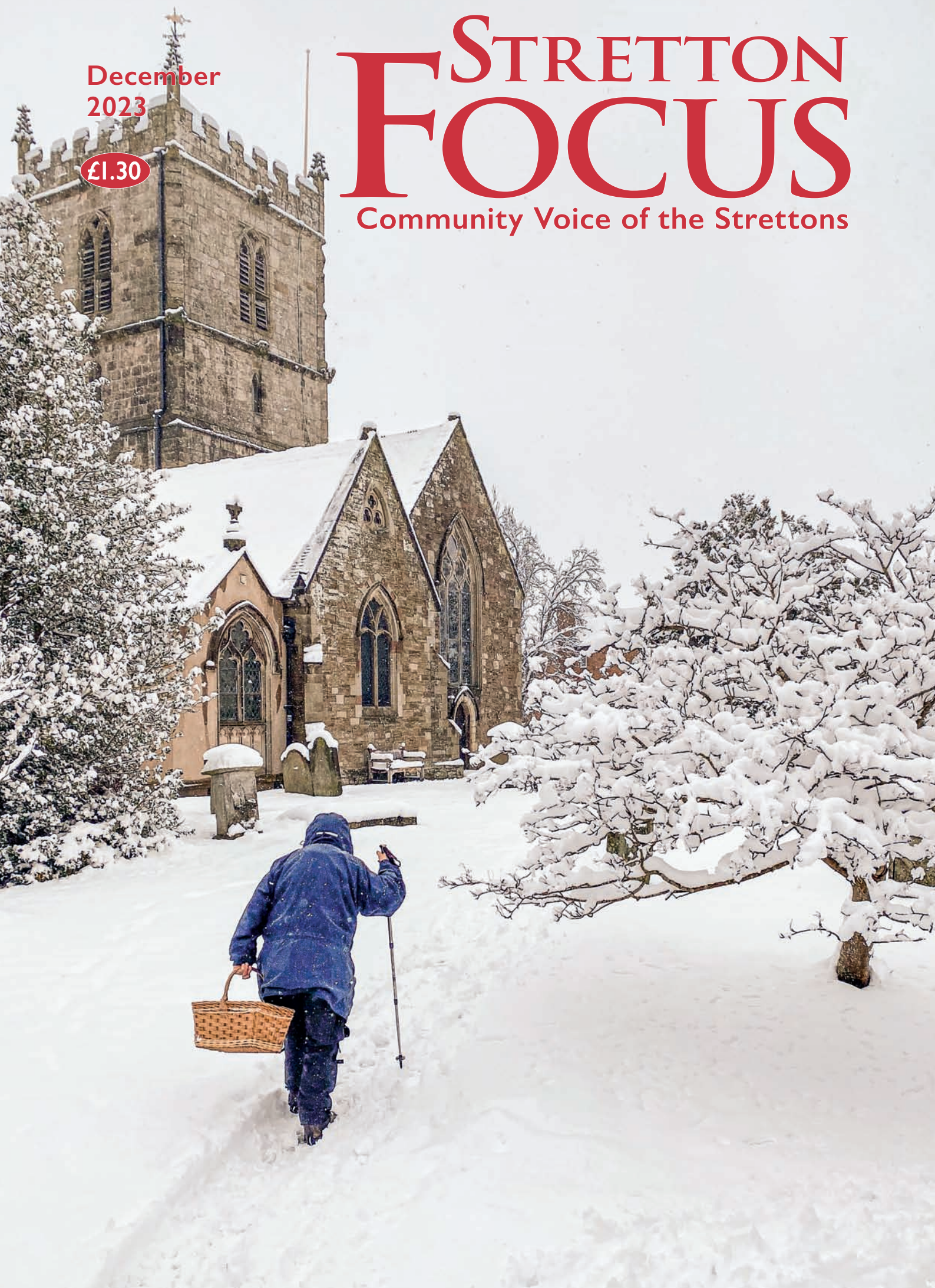


December
2023

£1.30

STRETTON FOCUS

Community Voice of the Strettons



...webbex technical services

Computer Support & Audio/Video Engineering



PC Support

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

Audio / Video

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

tel: 01694 487465 ~ email: enquiries@webbex.net

web: www.webbex.net est. 1992

Jason Gough computing services

Hardware - Software

Consultancy

Repairs - Installation - Support

For Business and Home users

Over 20 Year's Experience in the IT Industry

Contact Jason Gough on 01694 724752

Email: jason.gough@jg-compservices.com

Computer & Home

Guiding you through a
confusing digital world

Computer support from Nic Sansom

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

Home management

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

Note new email address

01694 722399

Mobile 07870 949057 computerandhome.help@gmail.com



Stretton Internet

Website Design and Hosting

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



Tel: 01694 487465 ~ Email: info@strettoninternet.co.uk

Web: www.strettoninternet.co.uk

Norman Jones Domestic Appliances

REPAIRS & SALES

WASHERS - DRYERS - DISHWASHERS

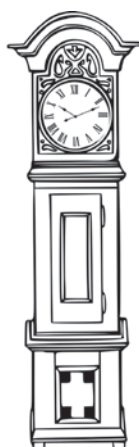
COOKERS - OVENS - HOBS

Built In/Freestanding

Pete 07971 252069

07816 875233

Ansaphone 01588 638677



ANTIQUE LONGCASE CLOCK (Grandfather clock)

REPAIR AND RESTORATION

ADRIAN M. DONNELLY

Established 1988

07948 327498

adriandonnelyclocks@gmail.com

continental
FIREPLACES

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



☎ 01694 724 199 confires.co.uk

Showroom - Main A49, Church Stretton, SY6 6PH

Welcome



It's December and everything we see or hear reminds us that Christmas is coming. You may love everything about it, or you might have a more 'bah humbug' attitude, but it's impossible to ignore it. Christmas means different things to different people of course but we can probably agree that the month of December is usually a busy one. The good part of that is making an effort to see or contact friends and family; the downside is the potential for stress and anxiety. For myself, I enjoy the music (several Christmas-themed concerts in the magazine this month) and the general air of festivity, while disliking the commercialisation and excessive amounts of tinsel.



Another feature of December is the ritual of buying a new calendar (well it's a ritual for me). This year the BBC Countryfile calendar judges awarded their prize to one of our local photographers, Terry Moore. You can see his winning photo later in the magazine and gain an insight into the life of a wildlife photographer. Congratulations Terry.

We are always happy to hear about the activities of people in the Strettons. As Janet mentioned in her Welcome piece a couple of months ago, Church Stretton has a reputation for attracting retired people, but in fact our community is made up of all ages. The older ones probably have more time to write contributions for the magazine, but there are many activities taking place around the town, often involving children or working-age people, such as the various sports clubs, scout and guide groups, the youth club and Scrappies. People of all ages make a contribution to the community and it is good to be reminded of this.

Finally, I need to mention the bag your November magazine came in. I wondered about this but I have been assured that it is environmentally friendly as explained below, so we can all relax.

Patricia

Editor

Happy Christmas and Season's Greetings from all of us at Stretton Focus

Reader Survey Questionnaire

We are taking this opportunity, early in November, to thank all of you who have kindly filled in and returned the Reader Survey Questionnaire enclosed in November's issue of *Focus*. Encouraged by the number of questionnaires received during the first week following publication of the questionnaire, we have begun to become optimistic that we shall be able to reach the number of completed questionnaires needed to enable a statistically sound interpretation of readers' views to be conducted. Hopefully this continues to be the case as the month progresses. But, if you have not yet completed and returned your questionnaire, please do so now – we shall be pleased to hear from you.

Several readers have expressed concern about the polybags used for the November *Focus*, into which the questionnaires and postage paid envelopes were also inserted. We would like to reassure readers that we took great care to ensure that these polybags are environmentally friendly. We have a certificate stating that the material used degrades on exposure to UV light, and once triggered, the degradation will continue even in the dark. Heat will accelerate the degradation. When degraded to a fine powder, biological degradation continues to eventually produce only carbon dioxide and water.

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

Stretton Focus

Community Voice of the Strettons

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

Who's Who in Stretton Focus

CHAIRMAN

Paul Harding, Tel: 01694 722289

Email: sfocuschair@gmail.com

EDITORS (editor@strettonfocus.co.uk)

David Lyons, Janet Du Cros

Patricia Thomas, Clare Patterson

Sandra Davies (Events Diary)

IN-HOUSE JOURNALIST

Christine Williams

COVER EDITOR

Geoff Taylor

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Andrew Fenton, Barrie Raynor

Graham Cossins, Steve Moore

Rowland Jackson

PROOF READERS

Bronwen Taylor, Ann Ashworth,

Cynthia Wood, Jan Hegmann, Janet Guy

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DISTRIBUTION

Chrys Bonds, Tel: 01694 724184

Peter Whitlock, Tel: 01694 725533

Jan Hegmann, Tel: 07743 297190

ADVERTISING (BUSINESS)

Sara Hewitt, Tel: 01694 658086

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Harding (Chairman)

John Rowlands (Finance)

Andrew Fenton, Barrie Raynor

Christine Williams, Geoff Taylor,

Sandra Davies

Non Executive: Sara Hewitt, Chrys Bonds

Fiona Hunt (Admin Support)

Submission of Articles and Photographs for Publication

These should be made to the editors by email to

editor@strettonfocus.co.uk

Please use this address if you are contacting an individual editor.

If you do not receive a response within 48 hours please check the address carefully and send your email again.

If you are unable to use email, your material may be submitted to
Wrights, Estate Agent,

32 Sandford Avenue, Church Stretton SY6 6BW
clearly labelled 'Stretton Focus'. These items are collected on the deadline date.

When are the deadlines?

The deadline for receipt of all submissions by all methods is

12 noon on the first Monday of each month

for the following month's edition.

If the Monday is a Bank Holiday, the deadline will be
12 noon on the Tuesday of that week.

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

For the **January** issue the deadline is

Monday 4th December, at 12 noon.

For the **February** issue the deadline is

Tuesday 2nd January at 12 noon.

The **January** issue will be distributed on **Friday 29th December**

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,
Entertaining Elephants and
Mayfair.

Contents

December 2023

This Month

11 A Moment with Nature

A winning image and an insight into the life of a wildlife photographer.

22 Six

A review of a show put on by some of our amazing school students.
Did you see it?

32 High Leasowes

The ongoing story of the three fields bought with funding from the community. The area is being managed by volunteers to support and encourage wildlife.

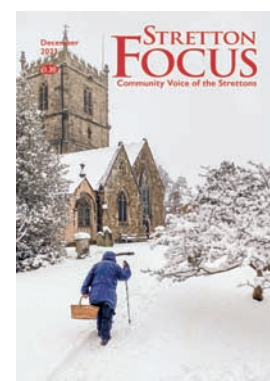
41 Budget

A glimpse of life around Church Stretton in the early 20th century.

50 Recipe of the Month

Something sweet to see you through the month.

29	Acton Scott Heritage Farm	20	Neighbourhood Plan
37	Amnesty International	46	Police News
17	Anglican Voice	26	Quaker Voice
37	Books I Would Recommend	40	Rotary News
49	Bridgemaster	33	RSPB
35	Catholic Voice	33	SACWG
17	Christmas Lunch	35	Saturday Morning Music
37	Classical Music Group	42	Save the Children
38	Cryptic Crossword/November Solution	45	Scout Group News
18	CSTC Community Matters	30	SHI Event
51	Dementia Friends	50	SPPG
37	Engaging Issues	36	Stretton Choral Society
24	Flicks in the Sticks	28	Stretton Climate Care
29	Fungus Foray	17	Stretton Parish Christmas
9	Good Neighbours	44	Strettonia Boxing
8	Jam and Jerusalem	45	Teme Spirit Concert
36	Letters	7	Thank You
25	Library News	46	Trivia Answers
12	Mayfair News and Lottery	14	Trivia Corner
26	More Singers Concert	44	United Nations Day
30	National Trust	42	URC Voice
		46	Westhope Village Hall



*St Laurence's,
heading to the market
Photo: Geoff Taylor*

Our Website
strettonfocus.co.uk



BURWAY BOOKS

for BOOKS and MAPS

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

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

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



Books By Moonlight



A delightful secondhand bookshop in the heart of Church Stretton.
An amazing variety of books looking for new homes!

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10.30-3.30

*Between the pages of a book...
...is a lovely place to be*

2 Burway Road, Church Stretton SY6 6DL
07903 790005



ABBEY CARPETS

(Mark & Jane Brain)

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

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

Tuesday, Thursday and
Friday 9.30 - 4pm

THE SHROPSHIRE FLOWER COMPANY

Gift Bouquets BEAUTIFUL
Subscription LOCALLY
Flowers GROWN
DIY weddings BRITISH
FLOWERS

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



Long Mynd Music Academy

Making music, making memories,
making friends

www.longmyndmusic.co.uk



**FLORIST,
GARDEN PLANTS
& PET SUPPLIES**

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

PHILIP HOOPER

**PIANO &
HARPSICHORD
TUNER**

**REPAIRS &
OVERHAULS**

TEL: 01694 724461

Louise Watney Soft Furnishings

Curtains - Blinds - Fabrics
Cushions - Lampshades

Please contact Louise for
more information

01588 650668

07771 766979

LouiseWatneysf@gmail.com

www.louisewatney.co.uk

Harold's Toy Store

1 Shrewsbury Rd
Church Stretton

**family-run toy
shop dedicated
to un-plugged
play for all ages
& interests**

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



WOOL
YARNS
KITS
COURSES
HANDMADE
ITEMS



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

10 Sandford Ave
Church Stretton
SY6 6BW
01694 724041

info@theprolificcrafter.co.uk

www.theprolificcrafter.co.uk

@theprolificcrafter



~ Thank you ~

The Royal British Legion

On behalf of The Royal British Legion (Church Stretton) branch, I'd like to express the appreciation of the branch to all who participated, collected or supported the annual Remembrance Events.

We do not as yet have the total amount raised, but in light of the town's generous support over the years, not only financially but in giving of their time to support this worthy cause, Church Stretton will not be found wanting.

The turnout and support for the Parade and Wreath Laying was very encouraging, given the difficult financial times we are currently experiencing and the reasons why. There are many demands on our individual charity purses, particularly at this time of year, but the RBL is supporting today's forces as they adjust to life post service, whether it be terrorist attacks, conflicts abroad or domestic events in the United Kingdom.

Sadly, given the world's current turbulent situation, it seems unlikely that your support is not going to be needed for the foreseeable future.

Thank you to everyone concerned.

*Nigel Marsden, Poppy Appeal Organiser,
Royal British Legion, Church Stretton*

All Stretton Village Hall thanks The Yew Tree Inn

All Stretton Village Hall wishes to thank Kev and Andy from The Yew Tree Inn for their generous donation of £200. We very much appreciate this support.

The Village Hall is a charitable trust run by volunteers to serve the local community. The hall is the venue for traditional village events such as All Stretton Pantomime, the flower and produce show and our annual festive variety show known fondly as The Christmas Pudding. Other events include plays, parties, lunches, dinners, quiz nights, murder mysteries, the mobile library café and live music – not forgetting live theatre and big screen films brought to us by Arts Alive/Flicks in the Sticks. The hall is also well-used by local clubs and societies including Bridge, Circuit Training, Pilates, Scottish Dancing, Yoga – and most recently, Qigong!



We have a lovely main hall with a stage and a well-equipped kitchen, as well as a meeting room with tea and coffee making facilities. Our latest innovation has been to upgrade our technology so that hirers of the hall can now enjoy a PA Sound System with Bluetooth, a BluRay CD Player – AND FREE WiFi!

If you are interested in hiring the hall, our contact details are: allstrettonvillagehall.org.uk and www.facebook.com/allstrettonvillagehall or to make a booking, allstrettonvillagehall@gmail.com.

The Yew Tree Inn has been at the centre of village life for many years. Contact details 01694 328953 or on Facebook.



Village Hall Committee

Cancer Research UK

Many thanks to everyone who supported us at the annual Christmas card sale held on Saturday, 21st October. We were delighted with our sales which amounted to a £300 profit.

Also thanks to Alison Bradley for organising the event. Together we will beat cancer.



Sue Toghill

*Chairman Church Stretton local fundraising committee for
Cancer Research UK*

Charity Christmas Card Sale



Thank you to everyone who supported this year's Charity Christmas Card Sale either as a stall holder, helper or customer. Fortunately, the weather had improved considerably from the previous day so we had a steady flow of people coming to the URC hall. All the charities were happy with their sales and we hope to see you again next year.

Alison Bradley

Wear it Pink for Breast Cancer Now

On 20th October, despite Storm Babet and severe local flooding at Hope Bowdler, we raised £838.

A big thank you to everyone who came, wore pink, baked, helped and sent donations.

Su Powell-Jones

Jam and Jerusalem?

Did you know that the Women's Institute (WI) movement began in Canada? Or that it was the brain-child of one woman, Adelaide Hoodless, in response to the death of her child? 'Mighty oaks from little acorns grow' is a 14th C English proverb that has significance to many aspects of our everyday lives, especially the Women's Institute. It inspires us never to give up and was, incidentally, my school motto.

Most teachers among Canada's rural communities, until towards the end of the 19th C, were young, female and poorly paid, with few professional qualifications. Even where education was available it was basic, and not all Canada's rural children were able to attend school. At home, female children learned about cooking, sewing, and other household and farmyard skills, with precious little else unless they were very lucky. The mortality rate in the under-5s was as high as 30% in some parts of the country, where the care of infants and young children were compromised by ignorance, and poor hygiene and nutrition.

In 1897 Adelaide began to campaign for more and better comprehensive education for rural and working-class women and girls. Speaking to members of the Canadian Farmer's Institute (CFI), she suggested setting up a women's branch that would teach farmers' wives and daughters about childcare, healthcare, domestic science and more. The idea sparked the interest of Erland Lee, secretary of the CFI, and his wife, Janet, who set up the first WI in Stoney Creek, Ontario.

After immigrating to Britain from Canada, WI member Madge Watt saw that the same kind of isolation and poverty affected rural communities here. Her initial aim was to mobilise rural women to help with the WWI war effort, and the first British WI was inaugurated on 25th September 1915 in Anglesey. The following year, the Edwardian composer Hubert Parry set words originally penned by William Blake to a tune, and it was adopted by the WI as its anthem because of its links with the suffrage movement. Little did members know that their performance of *Jerusalem*, at the Annual Meeting in London, would start a tradition that continues to this day.

The National Federation of WIs (NFWI) was formed in 1917, and in 1918, with 137 local groups established, the WI began to lobby local authorities to take advantage of the government's first council house building programme. Quite an audacious campaign at any time, let alone with a world war raging.

By 1938, and with war looming again, the Government asked the WI's 5,546 WI groups to help prepare for the evacuation of children from cities. Many of these women became sponsors for displaced inner-city children and those who were appalled by the poor health and general condition of the children applied the principles they had learned through the WI. The WI also began increasing the nation's production of home-grown food and taught the art of

preserving fruit and vegetables by home canning and bottling. One such success came in 1940, when the NFWI managed to obtain (perhaps best not to enquire too deeply as to how) £1,400 worth of sugar, roughly £116,000 in today's purchasing power. As a result, 1,600 tons of food were preserved that would otherwise have rotted. The Shropshire archive reveals that this county was responsible for around 5,000 lbs, or 2.5 tons, of that total. Awesome, as some of our younger residents might say. Unless I'm behind the times, of course!

Ten years later, in 1948, Denman College opened. Gertrude Mary Denman – Lady Denman GBE – founder of the College and active in the promotion of women's suffrage, was the first President of the NFWI, and she held the post between 1917 and 1946.

The WI was a partner in the Keep Britain Tidy initiative during the 1950s, and in the 1960s, supported the Freedom from Hunger Campaign, raising £180,000 (approx. £4,300,000 at today's purchasing values) through its 8,500 groups.

The General Meeting at Wembley Arena in May 2000 made headlines on radio, TV and in the national press. In an extraordinary error of judgment, Tony Blair, the then Prime Minister, gave a party-political address to fiercely non-party political WI members. The audience of 10,000 represented a wide spectrum of Britain's female population, and they responded with sporadic heckling, then slow handclapping and finally undisguised jeering. Many powerful people have good cause to take note of the WI when it's in full hue and cry.

Also in that year, the WI launched a raunchy calendar, which inspired a film called *The Calendar Girls* starring Helen Mirren. The Care not Custody campaign demanded alternative regimes for prisoners with severe mental health problems, which called for an end to the inappropriate detention of people with mental health problems. There was also the campaign to reduce wasteful packaging of all kinds, and to research the plight of bees. A new membership magazine was launched, and the WI Cookery School opened at Denman College.



In 2012, the first WI inside a women's prison was formed as a result of the Action for Prisoners' Families project, and other prisons in the UK have followed that example. 2015 marked the WI's centenary, when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II addressed members at the Annual Meeting, held at the Royal Albert Hall. During this decade, key campaigns also focused on environmental and social issues such as domestic violence against women, mental health issues, climate change and microplastic pollution. There are now WIs at the House of Commons, in hospices and other workplaces, and even 'virtual' WIs for those who are unable to attend meetings physically.

Sadly, the Denman Estate was sold recently, but their extensive learning programmes are now delivered online. Gertrude would be disappointed, but the Covid pandemic proved the final straw in the College's precarious finances, and even the WI must adapt to changing needs.

In our own Church Stretton area, there are two WI groups, quietly – for the most part – continuing the traditions and campaigning spirit of their forebears. There are around 200,000 WI members nationwide in the UK which works, through its collective voice, for a world where all women are able to learn, share skills and work together to influence lives in their local, national and global communities. With more women now achieving higher educational levels, and taking their places in the working population than in previous generations, fewer women are joining the WI. Have its founding aims been achieved, or is there still work and campaigning to be done? I leave two local members to tell you what they believe.



All Stretton Wall Hanging

Jean Huff, of the All Stretton WI, says "I attended the Shropshire Annual Meeting recently, and learned about Chris Lubbe's experiences growing up in South Africa. He became a bodyguard for Nelson Mandela and his talk was moving, enlightening and fascinating. I believe that the WI is still relevant today for continuing education, encouraging friendship, ongoing campaigning and mutual support among our members". Carol Greswell, President of the Church Stretton Marmaladies, says "Marmaladies started in Oct 2012. Why Marmaladies? I'm afraid I don't know, but perhaps one of your readers might be able to tell us. (Ed. note: Please do get in touch, readers, we'd like to know). Each WI group is unique, and we

have a very active craft group, a walking group, and a new book club planned. Our meetings provide an opportunity to connect and support each other locally and throughout Shropshire, while also being part of a national organisation that campaigns on issues that affect everyone."

As the NFWI moves further into the 21st C, Janet Lee's voice says it best "I do beg you to live more dangerously; not recklessly, but to accept the challenge and tackle it."

*Christine Williams
Focus Journalist*

Memberships and setting up a WI:

www.thewi.org.uk/join-and-support-us/start-a-wi

Denman College and Learning Hub: www.denman.org.uk

Tel Enquiries: 020 7371 9300

With grateful thanks to Jane Robinson, author of *A Force to be Reckoned With*.

Cook wanted to help keep the show on the road.

From its inception more than 30 years ago to the present time, Margaret Hamer BEM has been running the Good Neighbours Thursday Lunch Club. She now feels, however, that the time has come to hang up her apron and oven gloves and retire. Whilst Margaret takes a well-deserved rest, the show must go on! We must build on the very solid foundation that Margaret has laid over the years.

To ensure that the Thursday Lunch Club continues to thrive, we are looking for a volunteer with experience of cooking for some 25 to 30 hungry diners with traditional tastes to work alongside our current lead cook.



- Starting? January 2024
- Where? The kitchen at the Ley Gardens retirement complex, Lawley Close, Church Stretton.
- When? Every Thursday.
- For how long? From 9am to 2.30pm (at the latest).
- To do what? Assist in the preparation and cooking of a two-course lunch.

To find out more, please contact Guy Sjögren on 01694 722291 or email csgoodneighbours@gmail.com.



MAYFAIR Run for the community by the community

Support 	Signposting 	Activities 
--	--	---

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

Information on local services, support and opportunities.

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

And much, much more...

• Volunteer • Fundraise • Donate • Hire a space

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

Charity number: 1061049

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



First Week Free!
 You'll love the way we care

Up to £1,350 of free at-home care*!

Four weeks of high quality care for the price of three weeks!

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

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

Call Bluebird Care today


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

 **SCAN ME**


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

Please call
01743 874343
 for a friendly chat about care.



Landing in Telford and surrounding areas soon!



South Shropshire
 REMEMBRANCE PARK



FERN HOLLOW

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

01584 841 089
www.shropshirewoodlandburial.co.uk

A.S. MORRIS & SON
 FUNERAL DIRECTORS

ESTD 1934

33 SANDFORD AVENUE
 CHURCH STRETTON
 SHROPSHIRE
 SY6 6BH

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



Practical Photography
 Outdoor Sessions


Based Locally in the Shropshire Hills

Learn or better understand

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

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

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



Stretton Mobility Store

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

Service and repairs specialist

Sue: 07748 913537
 Jim: 07388 062823

 Beaumont Road
 Church Stretton
 SY6 6BN
 @smschurchstretton

A Moment with Nature



Swallowed Hole

My name is Terry Moore, and I am an amateur wildlife photographer, living in Church Stretton. As I write this, it is World Migratory Bird Day, 14th October, and I am reflecting on my photograph *Swallowed Hole* being awarded the Judges' Choice in the 2024 BBC Countryfile Calendar competition.

Wildlife photography can be extremely rewarding, getting me up close and personal with some of nature's greatest spectacles. But things don't always go to plan. The major and most basic challenge begins with the age-old game of hide and seek! Animals and insects have evolved to blend into their surroundings, often hiding in plain sight from us. I have spent endless hours, searching in what should be suitable habitats, but often yielding no results.

Even if everything does go to plan, and I find the creature I am after, that doesn't mean things get any easier. I have the animal in sight, yet there is distance between me and my subject, and obstacles in the way. It is imperative that I keep disturbance of the animal to a minimum, so finding a way to get closer can be demanding. I prepare for thorns, brambles, stinging nettles, unidentifiable sludge, various animal deposits, and creatures that nip, sting and bite. Ignorance is bliss on what 'that smell' is!

The greatest thing about working with wildlife is also one of the worst things: animals are unpredictable. They seem to be blessed with a sixth sense, knowing that when

I'm trying to take an image, they can turn away from revealing their 'best side'. In the field, on the odd occasion that my subject faces me directly, I prepare to be photobombed by grass, flowers and branches, usually covering the face or standing out in the composition like a sore thumb. In a bittersweet twist, I may find myself surrounded by several animals, but expect them to time their appearance to ensure they cross or block the frame as I release the shutter.

I have been helping renovate an old cow house into a holiday let at Court Farm, Gretton, near Cardington, and am lucky to have been granted access by Alison and Jim Norris to their fields and outbuildings. For three years, I have watched the arrival of swallows on the farm during their

migration to the UK for food and breeding. The annual migration is incredible, 44% are expected to return to the same nest the following year, yet how do they know to come back to the same location each year? The swallows use several outbuildings to build or repair their nests, one has a barn door with a hole. It is generally locked and the only way in and out to nest and feed their young is through the hole. Normally you can almost guarantee that your subject

will disappear mere moments before the best light, reappearing only when it's back to being grey, dreary, and unusable. For the best light I had to wait for the sun to change its position at midday. Over a period of two years and nearly 8,000 shots, I finally had the image I sought.

For *Swallowed Hole*, my Canon R6 and lens was on a tripod directly facing the hole, triggered remotely by me sitting some 20 yds



Roe deer

away in another outbuilding. I have come to expect the time I spend photographing wildlife to be full of challenges and frustration. I will curse under my breath more times than I'd care to admit, question my sanity regularly and fail to capture a single image time after time. On those magical days when I do succeed and capture amazing images to be proud of, I realise all the suffering was worth it and the personal challenge mentally satisfying.

*Terry Moore
Wildlife Photographer*

Mayfair News

Penguin Fever!

Penguin fever has truly hit Mayfair! If you have been to Mayfair in late November, you will have spotted our Mayfair Penguin trail which was launched at our Frost Fair. Dotted around both of our buildings are some wonderfully decorated little penguins which each represent different services and facilities at Mayfair. Staff and volunteers have really gone all out in decorating these little fellas, so we recommend popping in and seeing how many of them you can find. Amongst them are 'Digi-man' (representing Mayfair Digital Support), 'Mr McVitie' (representing our Catering team) and 'Miss Money Pengy' (representing our Finance team).



A warm welcome at Mayfair

Mayfair remains a registered 'Warm Welcome' space again this year. This Shropshire-wide scheme provides a list of spaces across the county where you will find a warm, safe place to spend time this winter, should you need it. We are open every weekday, 9am to 5pm, so please pop in and receive a warm welcome. Mayfair is an inclusive space for all, and we can also provide information to help with rising energy and living costs and accessing financial support.

Christmas Raffle

As a Charitable Trust, Mayfair relies on donations, grants and fundraising to allow us to provide all of the services we offer to the Stretton's community. This year our Christmas raffle is bigger than ever and we hope it will raise significant funds for Mayfair, whilst offering you the chance to win some wonderful prizes. We are extremely grateful to local businesses and individuals who have contributed prizes for the raffle.

These include:

- A grand cash prize of **£250** generously donated by MSN and Lunts Pharmacy Group.
- **A meal for 4** prepared at, or delivered to, your home by Madeline, one of our fabulous Mayfair Cooks.
- A beautiful, **handcrafted wreath** donated by Wild Wreaths Shropshire.
- A homemade **wax melt and candle hamper and a diffuser gift set** donated from local business Little Scents of Love.
- **6 bottles of wine** given by our own Trustees.
- And many more great prizes!

We will be drawing the raffle on Wednesday 20th December so get your tickets (£1 each) from Mayfair now for the chance to win a fantastic treat just in time for Christmas. If you are able to sell tickets for us, please chat to one of our receptionists about collecting a few booklets.

Fundraising friends

We would like to say a huge thank you to anyone who has helped Mayfair through fundraising and donations this year. Rising living costs have been felt by everyone in recent years. Mayfair has not been immune to this – we have seen a very significant increase in our running costs, such as food and heating bills. This means that any donations we receive at the moment are due our heartfelt thanks for two key reasons: 1. We know that giving has become harder for many people, and 2. Any funding we receive is even more vital to help us keep our community services going.

Thank you to all those who have run events such as the summer Coffee Concerts, Ken's Quiz Parties, Open Gardens, the Frost Fair and our Theatre Screenings. Thank you too to those who sell items for us such as our Book Team, the Crafty Ladies, the Mayfair Card Makers, the plant sale team and those who run our shop. Whether you have given Mayfair your money, your time, your resources, or all of the above – thank you!

A Festive Music Recital

We're pleased to invite you to an afternoon of Christmas music, carols, mulled wine and nibbles to get you in the Christmas spirit on Monday 18th December. Ragleth Recorders and musical friends will be providing this festive recital at 3.30pm in the Community Centre. Tickets cost £5, with all proceeds going to Mayfair. Call 01694 722077 to book.

Christmas Lunches

Christmas Lunches at Mayfair are always popular and provide a fun, festive and friendly atmosphere. Our catering team certainly know how to serve up a delicious roast! This year our Christmas lunches will be on Wednesday 6th, Wednesday 13th, and Thursday 21st December in the Community Centre. For £17.50 you can enjoy a roast meal with all the trimmings, dessert, a welcome drink, and tea or coffee and mints. Our standard lunch hub meal will also still be available on these days. You can book our Christmas Lunches, or standard lunch hub meals by calling our reception on 01694 722077.

Christmas Cakes

Due to popular demand, we have extended the order deadline for our handmade Mayfair Christmas Cakes. Throughout November we have been taking orders for these beautiful, individual cakes which are baked by our Mayfair cooks and make the perfect gift or a Christmas treat for yourself. At £3.50 these cakes can be purchased with an icing or a fruit decoration. We also offer a gluten free option for £4. All orders must be received by Wednesday December 6th. Find out more at www.mayfaircentre.org.uk/christmascakes, or pop into Mayfair for an order form.

Co-op Points

Thank you to Midcounties Co-operative Society and all those members who have generously donated to us your share of Co-op profits. We really appreciate being part of this great community scheme and have recently received the amazing sum of £1,004.43 as a result.

If you are an existing Co-op member or wish to become a new member and donate some, or all, of your points to Mayfair you can do so by going to www.midcounties.coop/membership – follow the instructions and tick the box Mayfair Trust Charity (Church Stretton Shropshire) or call 0800 435902 for help.

Christmas Quiz Party

Don't forget our Christmas Quiz Party takes place on Tuesday 5th December at 7pm in our Health and Wellbeing Centre; a guaranteed night of fact-filled fun hosted by Ken Willis. Tickets are £5 per quizzier so get your team together and give us a call on 01694 722077 to book.

Family Film Fun



In early November we had some very happy young customers at our Arts Alive Family Film screening of the new Disney Pixar film, *Elemental*. It was great to see so many families having fun at Mayfair. Our family film screenings have a lovely, relaxed atmosphere and provide an affordable family



treat during school holidays. At our November screening we were also able to offer an additional treat to each family in the form of a beautiful photography book and CD celebrating Mother Nature's elements. These were kindly donated by local business Elemental Tangents. We asked children to vote on what they would like us to show next and the verdict was resoundingly in favour of the latest action comedy from DreamWorks Animation, *The Bad Guys*, so we will be screening this at 1.30pm on Thursday 4th January. Tickets costs £3 for adults and £2 for children and you can book now at www.mayfaircentre.org.uk/familyfilm.

Upcoming Mayfair Theatre Screenings

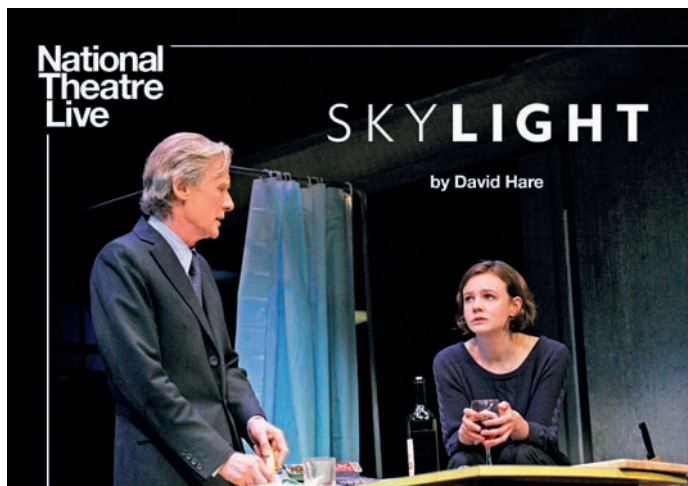
Tickets and further information for all of our Mayfair Screenings are available at www.mayfaircentre.org.uk/whats-on. However, we recommend booking through Mayfair reception, or by calling 01694 722077, to avoid online booking fees.

continued overleaf...

1st December, 7pm, National Theatre Live Screening: *Skylight*

£15 adults, £10 U18s. Bar and interval refreshments available to purchase.

Directed by Stephen Daldry and starring Carey Mulligan and Bill Nighy.



Captured live from Wyndham's Theatre in 2014, this Olivier-award winning production is one of National Theatre Live's most successful shows.

On a bitterly cold London evening, schoolteacher Kyra Hollis receives an unexpected visit from her former lover, Tom Sergeant, a successful and charismatic restaurateur whose wife has recently died. As the pair find sparks flying, they begin to rekindle their romance. Whilst passion for one another may once have been enough, the pair now must overcome some serious conflicts of opinion.

12th December, 7.15pm and 17th December, 2pm Matinee: Live Royal Ballet Screening: *The Nutcracker*

£15 adults, £10 U18s. Bar and interval refreshments available to purchase.

Discover the enchantment of ballet with this sparkling festive treat for the whole family.



Join Clara at a delightful Christmas Eve party that becomes a magical adventure once everyone else is tucked up in bed. Marvel at the brilliance of Tchaikovsky's score, as Clara and her enchanted Nutcracker fight the Mouse King and visit the Sugar Plum Fairy in the glittering

Kingdom of Sweets. Peter Wright's much-loved production for The Royal Ballet keeps true to the spirit of this festive ballet classic, combining the thrill of the fairy tale with spectacular dancing.



Merry Christmas from Mayfair

We would like to wish our invaluable volunteers, supporters, and staff, and everyone in our community a very Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful 2024.

Naomi Coleman

Mayfair Lottery Results for October

556	110	238	401
£100	£50	£20	£10

Trivia Corner

by Ken Willis

1. In what year did Queen Victoria spend her last Christmas?
2. In the festive song what was sent on the ninth Day of Christmas?
3. What was the name of James Stewart's company in the film *It's a Wonderful Life*?
4. In alphabetical order, which reindeer's name comes first?
5. Which group of people followed a star to Jesus in the stable?
6. What was Cliff Richards and the Shadows' first Christmas Number 1 in 1960?
7. Who wrote *The Snowman* and *Father Christmas*?
8. What did Dora Bryan want for Christmas in a 1963 song?
9. The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning what?
10. What was the first festive song relayed from outer space?

Answers on page 46



All types of building work undertaken

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

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



A. Morgan Builders

Local family business

For all your maintenance needs

Extensions, alterations, roofing

UPVC windows, doors & conservatories

Garden walls and paving

No job too small or large

Tel: 01694 751774 07930 332131



K. J. MORRIS
BUILDING CONTRACTORS LTD

New builds - Extensions - Alterations

Professional and Reliable service

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

Call Kevin Morris
07970 146482 / 01694 781498

M J WEBSTER CARPENTRY & JOINERY

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

**01694 771614
07975 713021**

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

For all types of building work:

- New Builds
- Renovations
- Barn Conversions
- Extensions

Joinery Workshop, providing:

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

Tel: 01694 723436
office@groombuilders.co.uk

Mynd Industrial Estate
Church Stretton
SY6 6PG



PAUL FORRESTER

Quality Carpentry & Joinery

COVERING A RANGE OF SERVICES SPECIALISING IN:

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

For a Professional, Friendly and Enthusiastic Response

Call 07795 170938

MARKTERRY

**CARPENTRY AND JOINERY
GENERAL BUILDING**

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



All work carried out to the very highest standards.

**tel: Home 01588 680400
Mobile 07977 148394**

A.2.Z CONSTRUCTION

Stephen Pritchard

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



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

Paul Tinsley Builder

No job too big, fast response, highest standards

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

01694 781371 or mobile 07929 232999



T.B.C

P. S. Williams Builders Ltd of Much Wenlock

*New Builds • Renovations • Extensions
Barn conversions*

Regional
Winner
of



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

For prompt personal attention,
contact:

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

Professionally affiliated to:



Constructionline



A J LEWIS-PRICE CARPENTRY & BUILDING

Castle Hill, All Stretton

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

Email: AJLP-BUILDING@OUTLOOK.COM

Tel: 07787 748763



Keith George CARPENTRY, JOINERY AND GENERAL BUILDING

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

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

please search using advert header

Joe Drury

BUILDER

01743 873999

01694 723302

**ALL TYPES OF BUILDING
WORK UNDERTAKEN**

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





Countdown to Christmas

I find that these days the Advent season is frequently ignored (except for more and more expensive advent calendars), in the rush to get to Christmas itself, which is mostly marked as a happy, merry, and joyful time – but I'm very aware that it's not that way for everybody. In a world full of wars, chaos, and shadows, we find that even close to home, there is frailty and difficulty, pain, and grief in our own families and communities. We may find ourselves longing for light, looking for the God who comes to us in the darkness.

Whatever we are feeling, whether up or down, if we try to take time during Advent to pay attention to the promises of God that we find in the Bible, we might find ourselves watching and waiting more expectantly for Jesus, Immanuel – God with us.

The word Advent simply means 'coming' and we wait... waiting is hard, but as we all know, Christmas is worth waiting for – it's a special time, and at its heart is a gift of love from God to the world – his Son. For that gift, of Jesus Christ, is the reason for Christmas, historically foretold by the Old Testament prophets, He is also known as the Lord, the Messiah, the Saviour of the world, He is recognised as a baby lying in a manger and wrapped snugly in strips of cloth.

He was the light for people who walked in darkness, a light that shined on all where death casts its shadow, and He remains the light of the world for us in the present and the future.

So, let us look again at these remarkable stories and wonder at the God who comes to us as Word made flesh, about the God who comes to us as light in the darkness. We will encounter angels proclaiming new life and singing 'Glory to God on high and peace to all on whom God's favour rests' as we begin to understand how God is working through Jesus to put all relationships right if we turn our lives around and follow Him.

Advent is a really special time for the Church. It begins on 3rd December with our Advent service 'From darkness to light'. We then head straight into our Parish Christmas Tree Festival in St Laurence Church, from Wednesday 6th December to 1st January 2024 and then lots of Carol Services and a special evening of Carol singing at the Carding Mill Valley Pavilion on Monday 11th December. There are many more special events across Stretton Parish as we look forward towards the celebration of the birth of Christ on Christmas Day.

I do hope that you will take the time to join us in one or more of our Christmas Services across Stretton Parish Churches.

On behalf of our Parish, may I wish you and your families the love of Christ, His peace and goodwill this Christmas season and a new year of blessings.

*Rev'd Steve Johnson
Rector, Stretton Parish*

Christmas Tree Festival

**St Laurence Church, Wednesday 6th December to
Monday 1st January**

Stretton Parish is hosting a Christmas Tree Festival in St Laurence Church over the 2023 Advent and Christmas

season. The festival is to give our community a new opportunity to celebrate together and reflect on the Christian message of hope which Christmas brings.

Local community groups and organisations will be providing a tree decorated in the theme of a well-known Christmas song (secular or a traditional carol) with trees made from recycled materials welcome. Visitors to the Tree Festival will be invited to give donations, which will be shared between the charities which the church is supporting this Christmas season.

The festival will run alongside the various Christmas activities and normal church services in St Laurence, adding to the decorations in church for the festive season. The church is open every day, so do come along and take a look.

Jo Aze

Christmas Services 2023, Stretton Parish

Sunday 3rd December

4pm Advent – From Darkness to Light, All Saints

Monday 11th December

5pm-7pm Carols in Carding Mill Valley at the National Trust Pavilion

Sunday 17th December

11am, Carol Service, All Saints

6.30pm, Carol Service, St Laurence

Thursday 21st December

6.30pm Silent Night, a service of lament and hope for all who may find Christmas difficult this year, St Laurence

Saturday 23rd December

6pm, Carol Service, St Michael's

Christmas Eve:

8.30am, Holy Communion, St Laurence

10.30am United Parish Holy Communion, All Saints

3pm The Amazing Nativity, St Laurence

11.30pm Parish Midnight Communion, St Laurence

Christmas Day:

8.30am, Holy Communion, St Laurence

9.30am Holy Communion, St Michael's

10am, Family Communion, St Laurence

10.30am Holy Communion, All Saints

Christmas Lunch Invitation

Stretton Parish is once again hosting a lunch on Christmas Day. All are welcome including elderly or vulnerable members of the community who don't want to be on their own on Christmas Day and those who will struggle to afford a traditional Christmas dinner.

This will be held in the Parish Centre. Arrive from 12.30pm, traditional turkey dinner is served at 1pm, and we will close at 3.15pm after watching the King's speech together.

Booking is essential and numbers are limited. To book a place please book through the church office on 01694 724224 or by clicking the link and completing the form on the home page of our website, strettonparish.org.uk. No payment is needed when booking, please pay as you feel able to on the day.

Church Stretton Town Council Community Matters

Storm Babet causes flooding in Church Stretton

Cllr John Luck writes:

Storm 'Babet' was the second named storm of the autumn this year and moved up from the southwest on Wednesday 18th October. The storm hit Shropshire overnight on Thursday 19th and by Friday 20th October there was extensive flooding throughout Shropshire and many other parts of the UK.

By mid-morning reports were being received of flooding in Swains Meadow, Watling Street South, Churchill Road, Crossways, and other parts of the Strettons. Town Councillors including the Mayor, Andy Munro, attended the flooded areas to offer assistance where possible and to assess the impact on residents. The Mayfair Community Centre who are part of the Church Stretton Community Emergency Plan placed themselves on standby should displaced residents need somewhere to stay, but thankfully they were not needed. The surrounding villages were also visited to see whether they needed assistance, but fortunately flooded homes were restricted to the town. The first area visited was Swains Meadow where the Fire Brigade were pumping out properties including that belonging to local Town Councillor Mark Morris. It transpired that 17 houses were inundated by the floodwaters.



Church Stretton FRS pumping out homes in Swains Meadow on Friday watched by Town Councillors. Note flood waters behind fire engine

Severn Trent Water have a pumping station in Swains Meadow which it was reported had been suffering electrical problems due, it is said by local residents, to water ingress as a result of a blocked culvert reported in September to Shropshire Council.

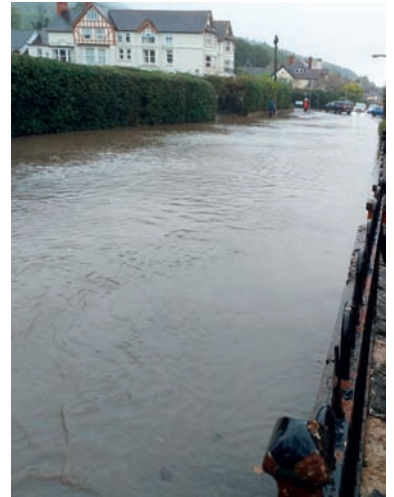
On the morning of the flood the pumping station failed. Severn Trent Water despatched an engineer to fix the problem, but by the time the engineer arrived the area around the pumping station was also flooded. Although the engineer managed to fix the problem with the pumping station it was too late to save the houses.

The A49 was affected by the flooding especially by Caradoc Yard and in the afternoon Shropshire Council operatives were seen unblocking the drains to alleviate the flooding at this location. It was also reported that

post-flood, a team were working on the drains up near Continental Fires.

A thick layer of sludge and debris remained in Watling Street South which the Town Council Outdoor Team cleared on Monday morning.

From our observations and the reports from residents received during both Friday and Saturday from the communities affected, the problems in Swains Meadow appear to have been primarily caused by surface water runoff from the slopes above Watling Street South, which was exacerbated by the failure of the drains alongside the A49 to cope with the water which then flowed into Swains Meadow, inundated the pumping station and properties adjacent to it.



Elsewhere, flood plains filled up as expected particularly in Little and All Stretton, and although they looked dramatic, as one Little Stretton resident noted, the rain would need to be biblical before the waters entered his property. In the town, the wetlands only recently created by altering the flow of the Ashbrook into Coppice Leasowes, did their job facilitating a quicker unrestricted flow underneath the railway line, and thanks to Janet Martin and her team, the Environment Agency, and Network Rail for this work. This quicker rate of flow also joined up with the work carried out by Severn Trent Water and Town Council along Essex Road (previously reported in *Focus*) meaning that Agilent and the Old Station House remained unflooded for the first time in many years.

The Town Council have been working with Highways England and Severn Trent for the past three years to address some known flooding issues, and it is good that these areas performed well despite the very heavy rainfall. Although the Town Council does not have responsibility for highways or drainage, it tries to act in the best interest of the town. Therefore, going forward, the Town Council will seek discussions with all relevant parties to see what work can be completed to improve flood protection. We will keep you updated in future editions of *Focus*.

Neighbourhood Plan

By the time *Focus* readers read this all households in the town will have received leaflets explaining what is happening and how to have your say. The leaflets have been produced by the NHP Stakeholder Group led by Sue Manns who writes in greater detail in this edition of *Focus* about the planning process and why the town needs a Neighbourhood Plan.

The front cover of the leaflet is adorned with the winning picture by Margot chosen from over 60 entries submitted by children at St Lawrence's CE Primary School.



The theme was 'Community' and this image will also feature on posters and on the website.

The NHP team were delighted to receive so many entries and intend to display all of them in an exhibition in the SHI on the day of the Christmas Lights Switch-On.

Judges Sue Manns, NHP Chair, and Andy Munro, Mayor, particularly liked the detail of sheep, people, houses, and the church – all key elements of our community – set against a backdrop of the hills and a giant, happy sun.

The Neighbourhood Plan has its own website www.csneighbourhoodplan.com where residents can respond to the first consultation if they prefer this to a hard copy or email. The site also has details of the Stakeholder Group membership and schedules of upcoming meetings and loads of other materials.

For those with a smartphone simply scan this QR code with your camera and it will take you directly to the NHP website.

Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts on what you like and don't like about the town, and what you'd like to see and let the NHP team have your feedback by 22nd December 2023.



Emergency Plan

The typical thinking in the minds of those producing the Church Stretton Community Emergency Plan (CSCEP) had been the impact caused by major storms like Arwen when large areas of the parish lost power and water – how do we ensure affected residents are warm and have food and water when they may not be able to get out? Other thinking considered acute incidents – fires or crashes. So when Babet created flooding the CSCEP was initiated, and thank you to Mayfair who were on standby to house and feed any flooded residents. Fortunately, talking to affected residents on the day, they preferred to stay with friends and relatives that night, and the plan was stood

down. However, these alerts all serve to practise elements of the plan, and in the event that the issues had arisen at 3am and not 3pm things might have been different. The Town



Council is not legally obliged to have an emergency plan, but if, for example, there were ever 20 older residents out on the lawn in the middle of the night after a fire or flood, the town would expect them to be looked after.

There may not be a legal responsibility, but there is a moral one.

In support of the plan all households should recently have received through the post copies of a leaflet produced by the Town Council with useful information and tips about what you might keep in an emergency kit. Anyone who needs one can get copies from the Town Council Offices

EV Charging Point in Lion Meadow

The town council is aware that the electric car charging station in Lion Meadow is not operating correctly. On following up with the service provider, BP Pulse, the town council has been informed that they consider the charger to be beyond its service life and have removed it from their network. Hence the charger is reporting a data connection issue.

BP Pulse have offered to replace the charger, but it is also possible that the Coop (who currently provide the electricity supply) or Shropshire Council (who own the car park) may wish to use the site for their own EV charger provision, as both have their own installation programmes. We will liaise with the Coop and Shropshire Council to decide the next steps.

It's worth noting that when this charger was installed back in 2014, it was the first EV charger in a public car park in the county; something for which the town should be proud. There are alternative chargers in the Easthope Road car park provided by EV Dot. Furthermore Shropshire Council plans to install eight new chargers, four in Essex Road and four in Lion Meadow car park so the provision in the town will continue to increase.

High Leasowes – first anniversary

A brilliant presentation was given by Sandra Whitlock in the SHI on Saturday 28th October which summarised the work completed over the past year. In a town where the work of local volunteering groups never ceases to impress, this project really stands out.

Meetings

The Town Council recently met separately with Cllr Lezley Picton, Leader of Shropshire Council and Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP to highlight issues facing the town, and we are grateful for their time. During the meetings the issue of the 'missing' pavement just north of Little Stretton was highlighted and CSTC will continue to press for this to be resolved.

The Council also meets with the neighbouring Mayors in South Shropshire to discuss matters of common interest, and is pleased to meet with any of the South Shropshire Prospective Parliamentary Candidates. It can only be in the town's best interests for all concerned to understand the needs of Church Stretton.

continued overleaf...

Emergency stairs at the Silvester Horne Institute

These are currently being fabricated and should be fitted around the time this edition of *Focus* is published. Once installed, the balcony at the rear of the hall and the Council Chamber will again be available for use.

Youth Club

Cllr Julie Lawton writes:

Following Mayfair's very successful recruitment drive at the end of the summer term, a pleasing number of volunteers came along for safeguarding and additional training to enable us to launch our new Junior Youth Club in September. Our qualified and experienced youth worker from Shropshire Youth Association runs the new session for those in school years 6 and 7 from 4-5.30pm each Tuesday afternoon during term time at the Russell's Meadow Pavilion. A range of activities is on offer to suit a variety of interests, and the club has already welcomed a healthy number of members.

This new venture complements our already well-established Youth Drop-In for those in school years 8 to 11, which runs on the same evening from 6-7.30pm. Offering the opportunity to take part in cooking, games and crafts, or just to enjoy a hot drink and a snack while listening to music, chatting and chilling out, the new school year has again brought several new members.

The Town Council is very happy to fund this important addition to the town's resources for our young people and is excited to see both sessions grow and thrive, so do come along, and see whether it's for you.



SWS

Residents may have noticed the recent erection of some telegraph poles around the town on behalf, it is understood, of SWS Broadband. Infrastructure like this does not need planning consent. However, when proposals were first received last year SWS explained that they were going to piggyback on existing infrastructure operated by Openreach and that there would be no need to dig up roads or install telegraph poles. We will find out what is going on and keep residents updated.

And finally...

Very best wishes to all residents and visitors to the parish as we head into Christmas and 2024, and a sincere thank you to the many hundreds of volunteers who help to make the town what it is. I'm sure that at least one of the people in Margot's wonderful picture is a volunteer going about their work.

Andy Munro, Mayor

Neighbourhood Plan

A Neighbourhood Plan for The Strettons It's Your Plan, Have Your Say

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

Local communities have been able to prepare Neighbourhood Plans since 2011. There are now around 1,450 (May 2023) in place across England and over 11,000 at various stages of preparation.

So what is a Neighbourhood Plan and why is it important that everyone across The Strettons gets involved in preparing it?

A Neighbourhood Plan is a document that sets out planning policies for the neighbourhood area, in our case The Strettons. Neighbourhood Plans are written by the local community, the people who know and love the area, rather than the local planning authority, and are a powerful way to ensure that the community gets the right types of development, in the right places.

There is no limit on the number of policies that can be included in a Neighbourhood Plan, the only requirement is that these are planning policies related to the use and development of land. Neighbourhood Plans can be wide-ranging, or deal with one or two issues only. They can be detailed, or simply set general principles for development.

They are not action plans or project plans, but can allocate sites for development and designate Local Green Spaces, to protect spaces valued by the community. The choice is down to the community.

The Strettons Neighbourhood Plan will cover a 15 year period from 2023 to 2038. It must be in general conformity with the Shropshire Local Plan which provides an overall framework for development across the county. For example

whilst it cannot provide for less new housing than has been allocated in the Shropshire Local Plan, it can provide for more if the community wishes.

Once finalised the Neighbourhood Plan will be submitted to Shropshire Council who will appoint an Independent Examiner. The Examiner will examine the plan to ensure that it meets the legal requirements and recommend whether it can proceed to a local referendum. The referendum allows everyone on the electoral role in the Neighbourhood Plan area to vote on the Neighbourhood Plan. If a simple majority of those voting are in

favour of the plan, it comes into force immediately.

Once in place, the planning policies in The Strettons Neighbourhood Plan will be used alongside the Shropshire Local Plan to decide whether to approve planning applications. In addition, Church Stretton Town Council



will also receive a greater share of the Community Infrastructure Levy that developers in the plan area have to pay Shropshire Council. This will increase from 15% to 25% and will be spent across the Neighbourhood Plan area, on our community and our facilities.

One of the recommendations from the Housing Needs Survey prepared for the Town Council in 2022, was the need for a Neighbourhood Plan as it could include local policies to address the imbalance between housing supply and household needs, in particular the need for more one and two bedroom homes and affordable ownership tenures. Likewise the Community Led Plan, which was prepared by a group of local residents in 2021, has an important role in informing the Neighbourhood Plan and needs a Neighbourhood Plan to put in place planning policy to deliver a number of its recommendations.

More information on Neighbourhood Planning, the Housing Needs Survey and the Community Led Plan can be found at www.csneighbourhoodplan.com.

Community consultation

The whole point of a Neighbourhood Plan is that it is community led. It belongs to everyone. It stands to reason that no one person, or group of people, can have all the knowledge or answers to shape a plan that reflects the breadth and diversity of our community. So it is vital that everyone gets involved and has their voice heard.

Whilst the Town Council is legally responsible for the preparation of The Strettons Neighbourhood Plan, you may have seen the invitation in the July edition of *Focus* for members of the community to put themselves forward to join a Stakeholder Group. This group has now

Pupils at St Lawrence CE School were invited to design an image for the Neighbourhood Plan which captured the essence of The Strettons. You will have seen the lovely winning image by Margot on the front cover of the leaflet, the posters and the website.

It is really important that everyone knows about the consultation and you should have seen that posters have gone up around the town. If you can help by displaying a poster or sharing it through your networks, then please download a copy from the website or get in touch by email or phone (details below).

The Neighbourhood Plan website (www.csneighbourhoodplan.com) also has information on neighbourhood planning and this consultation. It will be kept up to date throughout the plan-making period.

Three community 'drop-in' sessions have been arranged by a working group made up of members of the Stakeholder Group. At these sessions, members of the Stakeholder Group and local Councillors will be on hand to listen to your thoughts and opinions on what you think should be the focus of the planning policies included in the Neighbourhood Plan, what you consider is good and bad about The Strettons, what you feel are its special qualities as a place in which to live and work, what issues affect The Strettons (now or in the future) and what positive change you would like to see?

The community is centre-stage in neighbourhood planning and good community consultation starts before work commences on writing the Plan. However it is often hard to think about what should be included when there is nothing to kick start your thinking. So a few possible themes and questions are also included in the leaflet. Please do take a look at these as they may offer some 'food for thought'.

It's your Neighbourhood Plan, so please get involved. Your views matter and will form the starting point for drafting the Neighbourhood Plan policies. If you have not already done so, please let us have your thoughts. There are lots of ways to do this:

- Using the response form on the website (www.csneighbourhoodplan.com);
- By email to support@csneighbourhoodplan.com;
- In writing using one of the many drop boxes around the area (at the Town Council office, the Library, the Mayfair centre and in a number of local shops); or
- In person at one of the Community Drop-in sessions.

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Sue Manns

Independent Chair, The Strettons Neighbourhood Plan



Stakeholder Group in action

been appointed and reflects the diversity of The Strettons, with a mix of local people offering differing expertise and backgrounds.

The first task for the group was to advise on how best to engage with everyone across the local community and explain the importance of getting involved in the Neighbourhood Plan. Working with a local designer, the group advised on the style and content of a leaflet. With lots of different views to balance it took four drafts before everyone was broadly content!

Community Drop-in sessions

Call in at a Community 'drop-in' session for tea, coffee and to share your thoughts:

Silvester Horne Institute

Tuesday 5th December 10am-12noon
3.30-7.30pm

and

Mayfair Community Centre

Saturday 9th December 10am-1pm

Six

If, like me, you thought that a comedy musical about the six wives of Henry VIII was a bit outfield, then watching the recent teen-performance of *Six* at Church Stretton School will have changed your mind. *Six* was written by Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss, who met during their final year at university. Marlow had the idea, and he asked Moss to help him write the show. It's designed as a pop concert complete with choreography, albeit with a serious message, during which each of Henry's six wives take their turn to try to persuade the audience that they had experienced the worst of Henry's mistreatment. Not a story best suited to a musical, you might think, much less one with comedic snatches, but this impressive performance was delivered to a packed audience that applauded and, occasionally, even shouted their approval.

The six Queens were played by Daisy Jones (Catherine of Aragon); Rosie Frankel (Anne Boleyn); Siobhan Morris (Jane Seymour); Poppy Cumberlidge (Anne of Cleves); Maria Loura (Katherine Howard), and Connie Woodhouse (Catherine Parr).

Early nerves quickly calmed, and the performance settled into clever lyrics and sharp dance routines that showed off not only the skills of the production's principals, but also the amazing costumes that were created with parent Clare Heighway-Jones. There was a little wobble in the first song, but once into their stride, the young actors gave it their all with aplomb. The six young people, singing and dancing for over an hour on stage, had lobbied Mr Wise, Head of Drama, to approve the project about a year ago. Since then, they have recruited a team to help and support them and rehearsed weekly until they were ready to face an audience. For such youthful people, their dedication is impressive and inspiring.

With performers Connie and Rosie handling choreography and direction, the behind-the-scenes crew of Chloe Walder, Isla Skelly and Clara Powis handled lighting and sound like true professionals. Stage management, design, hair and makeup was overseen by Beth Perry, Ella McFarlane and Georgina Foster. All these efforts were complemented beautifully by pre-performance cupcakes of wonderful yummy-ness made by students and parents.

The musical was premiered at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, in 2017, by the student cast recruited by Marlow and Moss from Cambridge University, and arrived in London's West End in January 2019. Since then, it has toured the UK and been produced in Sydney, on New York's Broadway and toured the USA twice last year.

The story has serious points to make in spite of its light-hearted delivery. There are themes relating to female beauty,

explored through Holbein's portrait of Anne of Cleves in a parody of a dating app., which presents the Queens as only potential brides to be coerced into marriage on the King's whim. Anne eventually acknowledges that she lived in luxury for the remainder of her life, after Henry's rejection of her, and drops out of the competition.

The Queens then belittle Katherine Howard for being "the least relevant Catherine", but she recounts how she, in her girlhood innocence, became infatuated with men who were interested only in her beauty, but who then abused her, and how her father manipulated her closer to the King's bed in spite of her fear and objections.

The two Queens who were beheaded, repeatedly interrupt the others as they present their evidence to the



audience, with gestures of fingers drawn across their throats. Are they the definitive victims of a King's need for an heir?

Catherine Parr describes how she was coerced into marriage with the ageing Henry in spite of her known infatuation with Sir Thomas Seymour, "A man of much wit but little judgement" as the then Elizabeth Tudor, later Elizabeth I, is quoted as saying.

Eventually, Parr questions the point of the competition. The other Queens, realising that they are simply perpetuating the sorry state of history's interpretations of them, agree to abandon the competition.

No-one could overlook that this was a school production. We drank tea and ate cupcakes while sitting on benches in the dining room, and the raked seating in the theatre auditorium – although safe and sturdy – rattled a bit when some of the younger members of the audience thudded down it during the performance, yet we were transported for an hour into the magical surroundings of a West End theatre as our immediate surroundings faded into the background. My question is, however – what's the next production to be, please, and when?

Christine Williams, Focus Journalist



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

Christopher Roscoe Associates

Architectural Design & Building Consultancy



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



Innovative Building Designs



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

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

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



We're recruiting



We can offer you a rewarding career



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



and so much more.....

For more information
please call

01743 874343



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



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

T: **01694 723818**

www.pcblaw.co.uk

PCB
SOLICITORS

Offices across Shropshire and Mid Wales

Flicks in the Sticks

Acton Scott

Acton Scott Village Hall, Tuesday 19th December, 7.30pm

Adults £5, children £3; 1hr 31m + interval

The Darjeeling Ltd (15)

A year after the accidental death of their father, three brothers – each suffering from depression – meet for a train trip across India. Francis, the eldest, has organized it. The brothers argue, sulk, resent each other, and fight. The youngest, Jack, estranged from his girlfriend, is attracted to one of the train's attendants. Peter has left his pregnant wife at home, and he buys a venomous snake. After a few days, Francis discloses their surprising and disconcerting destination. Amid foreign surroundings, can the brothers sort out their differences? A funeral, a meditation, a hilltop ritual, and the Bengal Lancer figure in the reconciliation.

There is a large carpark and the hall has level access.

Acton Scott enquiries: 01694 781260



All Stretton

All Stretton Village Hall

Tuesday 5th December, 8pm

Adults £6; 1hr 26m, no interval

Blind Ambition (12A)

Having escaped starvation and tyranny in their homeland of Zimbabwe, four refugees have conquered the odds to become South Africa's top sommeliers. Driven by relentless optimism, a passion for their craft and unshakeable national pride, they form Zimbabwe's first ever wine tasting team and set their sights on the coveted title of 'World Wine Tasting Champions'. From the moment they arrive in France to compete, this team of mavericks turns an establishment of privilege and tradition on its head. A truly uplifting documentary that celebrates just how irrepressible the human spirit can be.



Monday 11th December, 2pm

Adults £5; 1hr 55m + interval

Mrs Harris Goes to Paris (PG)

In partnership with the House of Dior, *Mrs Harris goes to Paris* tells the story of a widowed cleaning lady in 1950s London who falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress, and decides that she must have one of her own. After she works, starves and gambles to raise the funds to pursue her dream, she embarks on an adventure to Paris which will change not only her own outlook, but the very future of the House of Dior.



Friday 15th December, 7.30pm

Adults £5; 1hr 22m

Rye Lane (15)

Yas and Dom, two twenty-somethings both reeling from bad break-ups, connect over the course of an eventful day in South London – helping each other deal with their nightmare exes, and potentially restoring their faith in romance.

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



Cardington

Cardington Village Hall, Wednesday 6th December 7.30pm

Adults £5; 1hr 54m

Barbie (12A)

Barbie and Ken are having the time of their lives in the colourful and seemingly perfect world of Barbie Land. However, when they get a chance to go to the real world, they soon discover the joys and perils of living among humans.

Cardington enquiries: 01694 771295



Church Stretton

Silvester Horne Institute, Thursday 14th December, 7.30pm

Adults £5, under 18s £2; 1hr 35m + interval

***A Bunch of Amateurs* (U)**

Only a miracle can save Britain's oldest amateur film club from its final demise. Sometimes miracles come from unexpected places. The most quintessentially British working-class film-making club, Bradford Movie Makers' members grow old amid flickering memories and the brutal reckoning of their final years. Desperately clinging to their dreams, and to each other, fuelled by endless cups of tea, this quietly hilarious, profoundly moving portrait of shared artistic folly speaks to the delusional escapist dreamer in us all and to the need to spend time together face to face in an increasingly lonely, digital age.

Interval Tea/Coffee included in price; choc ices also available.

Church Stretton enquiries: 07508 072206



Hope Bowdler

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

Adults £5 adults, children £2.50; 1hr 55m + interval

***Empire Of Light* (15)**

Hilary is a cinema manager struggling with her mental health, and Stephen is a new employee longing to escape the provincial town where he faces daily adversity. Together they find a sense of belonging and experience the healing power of music, cinema, and community. During the interval, mulled wine and mince pies will be served instead of the usual coffee and ice creams.

Hope Bowdler enquiries: 01694 721376



Church Stretton Library News



Facebook

We have a new Facebook page! Please like and follow to keep up to date with library news and events:
facebook.com/churchstrettonlibvic

LEGO Club

Our LEGO club is now up and running every Saturday 2-3.30pm. Suitable for all ages (under 8s must be accompanied by an adult). No booking required. We also have DUPLO and Mega Bloks for the little ones.

Christmas at the library

The library will be closed for the Christmas break from 5pm on Saturday 23rd December and will re-open at 9.30am on Tuesday 2nd January.

Look out for our tree at the Stretton Parish Christmas Tree festival at St Laurence's Church.

We are selling Friends of Church Stretton Library 2024 calendars at £8. Featuring stunning pictures of the local area, they make wonderful Christmas gifts and help to support our brilliant Friends group.

The More Singers' Festive Carol Concert

Saturday 16th December at 7.30pm



The More Singers – Church Stretton's local Chamber Choir

Celebrations have been the order of the day for the More Singers, whose 50th Anniversary falls this year. It's almost that time of year again when we also celebrate Christmas, with all the wonderful goodwill and good cheer that resonates through our community at this time. How better to start feeling festive than with the annual More Singers' Festive Carol Concert, which will be held on Saturday 16th December at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church, Church Stretton. A truly festive evening of carol singing (with mince pies!) is guaranteed.

This year's programme will include a lively setting of *Angelus ad Virginem* performed with Chris Lacey (solo flute), *Up good Christian folk and listen* (1582) and a moving carol, *Come to Bethlehem*, by English composer Peter Warlock.

As always, there will be seasonal readings and plenty of traditional carols for audience participation!

Come along and get into the festive spirit with this popular local choir. Alistair Auld, now in his ninth year as the More Singers' Musical Director, says "Christmas is a great time for celebrating some wonderful music. This concert will be a most uplifting evening of Christmas choral music. I hope that it will attract a large and enthusiastic audience. A festive treat for all music lovers and a festive event not to be missed!"

- Concert begins at 7.30pm. Doors open 7pm.
- Venue: Methodist Church, Watling Street, Church Stretton.
- Parking and full wheelchair access.
- Duration of concert approx. 60 minutes.
- Mince pies and drink included.
- Entry to the concert is £8 at the door or in advance at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/The-More-Singers
- For any enquiries please call 07896 761149.
- After concert expenses, all profits and donations will go to a chosen charity.

The More Singers are affiliated to *Making Music*, a UK organisation for voluntary music.



For further information about the choir, please contact Alistair Auld on 07981 399482.



A Quaker Voice

Holidays

One day back in the summer in our Children's Quaker Meeting we were discussing the subject of holidays. They were just about to go on holiday and we talked about what holidays were for. I pointed out that the word is derived from 'holy day', something that would perhaps not have needed pointing out if we had been having our conversation now, at Christmas time. And of course it is not only Christians who have holidays. Most religions have a holy day every week, whether that be Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. The Israelites were told that they should work on six days of the week but on the seventh day they should do no work and keep it holy. There has been much debate among both Christians and Jews about how strictly to interpret that instruction, and indeed as to what counts as work. Whether or not it is a moral or religious imperative, there is a common acceptance that a break from routine, a rest, or a vacation is a good thing.

Some employers have recently tried reducing the working week to four days instead of five. They found that productivity went up. Whether R&R stands for rest, recuperation, rejuvenation, rehabilitation or relaxation, it seems to be beneficial.

When we find ourselves surrounded by a world being torn asunder by man-made folly, by the climate crisis or by shootings and bombings we may feel driven to action and to

urge one another to act. We may feel that the appropriate call is:

'Don't just sit there. Do something.'

More recently, though, a Buddhist teacher called Nhat Hanh has turned the phrase on its head and exhorts us:

'Don't just do something. Sit there.'

Is that what we do in a Quaker Meeting when we sit in silence? Are we sitting, or thinking, or waiting or listening? Maybe all of this and more. What many of us experience is that we may come out of a Quaker meeting to find that something has been resolved. We may have greater clarity on what we should do. A problem may seem to be less of a problem. Or we may simply feel more valued than we had felt before.

It seems that whether in Buddhist meditation or a Quaker meeting for worship we are not just doing nothing.

We often make mistakes by acting or speaking too quickly; we may interrupt someone instead of listening to what they are saying.

So my thought for today is that we should slow down, pause, think before we speak, do nothing for a while and then act. Then maybe our actions will be more effective, more appropriate, and maybe kinder.

Charles West



Pete Carroll

07966 034061


carroll.pjc@googlemail.com

57 Shrewsbury Road
Church Stretton
SY6 6EX

**Plumbing
Heating alterations
Tiling
Bathrooms
General maintenance**

City & Guilds qualified plumber



www.JMorrisPlumbingandHeating.co.uk



J Morris

Plumbing and Heating

For gas, oil and LPG installation, servicing and repairs
Call 01743 491511 / 07896 124862
Or email info@JMorrisPlumbingandHeating.co.uk

Locally based Plumber

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

Call GARY PARIS
01584 861844

WHITING HEATING

Contact
Giles
07867 495559
whitingheating@btinternet.com

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

Boiler, cooker and fire installations
Landlords safety certificates
Unvented cylinders



LOCAL family run heating company



GASCO
Heating your home

Which?
Trusted trader

Boiler Cover
£14.80 per month

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

Same-day response (if faults reported by midday)

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

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

01746 762000 | gasco-uk.com




ACUPUNCTURE AND CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINE IN THE STRETTONS

Amanda Bedding, LicAc, MBACc DipHerbs

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

Phone Amanda today and book your appointment.

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





CONSTANT PAIN GETTING YOU DOWN?

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


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

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



Birch Tree Reflexology - Anne Braddick

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

Contact me :
Mobile : 07496 324401
Email : birchtreereflexology@yahoo.co.uk
Facebook : Birch Tree Reflexology
Web : www.birchtreereflexology.com


INNOVATION IN REFLEXOLOGY
APPROVED RLD PRACTITIONER

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

 
For a registered therapist, so you know I'm qualified and insured.

A Just and Safe Space for Humanity

Enthusiasts for change met at the Silvester Horne Institute on 3rd October to discuss options for the Strettons. ‘Doughnut Economics’ offers a new way of looking at and organising society: living within limits while providing a decent standard for everyone. The outcome of the discussions will be a challenge both to the community as a whole and to those in positions of authority and influence.

At the end of the meeting members of the audience made individual pledges to commit to making a difference.

www.strettonsdoughnut.org



David Howard

Finding common ground in addressing the threats posed by the climate crisis

As we hear about and experience heatwaves, devastating flooding, further loss of nature and rising sea levels, it's now obvious to most that urgent action on the climate crisis is essential. Time is running out to act. So, why are governments, businesses and individuals delaying?

Until recently, a political consensus had emerged regarding the urgent need to address decarbonization, curtail pollution and restore nature for future generations. Our leaders all agreed that the country needed to move towards a ‘net-zero’ future where our carbon emissions were in balance. The UK was seen as playing a global role, attracting investment in new green technologies and increasing its influence worldwide. This was no longer a divisive political issue.

Regrettably, this consensus has been shattered by recent government announcements, delaying critical elements of the net zero plan, presumably in the hope of making short-term political gains. This has been exacerbated by the government's damaging decision to expand the extraction of fossil fuels from the North Sea: ignoring its scientific advisors, the committee on climate change, and the overwhelming evidence for an accelerating climate crisis.

The huge challenge of transition to a healthier, greener, future requires a long-term commitment and focus. This

is very difficult to achieve with short-term thinking in an adversarial political system.

Looking at the media coverage surrounding recent developments, it's clear that scepticism about the feasibility and urgency of reaching net zero still prevails in significant segments of the British press. It is difficult to understand this, given the very visible manifestations of climate change and loss of biodiversity. However, it's essential that we take time to analyse these perspectives, and where they stem from, if we are to understand the reasons for inaction.

Much of the current debate considers how to balance the demands of energy security, affordability, and sustainability. The suggestion that security and sustainability are at odds is misguided; these aspects of energy policy should complement each other, forming the foundation of sound solutions. Yet media debates often oversimplify the situation, and have framed the changes needed as an economic burden on individuals during a cost-of-living crisis. This seems frustratingly short-sighted, failing to consider not only the risks but also the increasing costs of continuing to rely on the very fossil fuels that have contributed to the current squeeze. Forecasts indicate that householders will end up paying more if we continue to delay the transition away from fossil fuels. There will also be increasing social and economic pressure, as increasing numbers of extreme weather events drive localised devastation and large-scale migration.

How can we accelerate the action required now in the face of these arguments for delay?

It's important not to dismiss different opinions but to listen and understand one another.

The monumental changes and the urgency for the action required for achieving net zero are not yet fully understood by the public. Isn't it the responsibility of those who understand what's at stake to communicate these changes more effectively?

Fundamentally, the benefits of climate adaptation should be accessible to all, and the burden of upfront costs should not be borne by those least able to afford it. The idea of a ‘just transition’ has been widely promoted by environmental campaigners, emphasizing the need to ensure fairness and inclusivity. This challenge is not simply technical or economic, it's about people, organisations, and behaviour change.

It's time to adopt a multi-faceted approach, creating narratives that resonate with different stakeholders, addressing their unique priorities and motivations. For those concerned about switching to a heat pump for example – the cost, disruption and unfamiliarity are all concerns. Such concerns can be addressed by providing clearer explanations of why heat pumps are needed, supported by discussions with local householders who have direct experience of installing and using them. Measures to address the upfront costs, such as the increased subsidies recently announced by the Government, can also help pave the way forward.

The discourse amongst politicians and in the media is often polarized – something is either right or wrong, leaving little room for a middle ground. This is exacerbated by social media channels, that act as echo-chambers. This doesn't reflect the way people and organisations typically need to collaborate to make progress. How can we bridge this gap? More listening, engagement and reasoned dialogue

are needed if objective evidence is to prevail. The rhetoric used by politicians and media outlets in recent debates doesn't do justice to the enormity of the challenges we face. The journey we are on is unprecedented and it's imperative that we all work together to forge a better future. We are temporary inhabitants and stewards of this planet; our decisions should be rooted in the well-being of generations yet to come. And we need to act now.

David Matthews, chair, Stretton Climate Care

Stretton Climate Care is looking for people from our community to join our board of trustees. If you would like to join us, we would love to meet you. No experience is needed – just care for the climate!

For an informal chat contact David on 07906 058235 or info@strettonclimatecare.org.uk.

"Diversity doesn't look like anyone, it looks like everyone."

Karen Draper, author of *The Place of Us*

Carding Mill Valley Erosion

The photo shows the damage done in Carding Mill Valley after the extreme rainfall event on 27th October when the bottom of Clive Avenue also flooded. As our climate warms it can hold more moisture and these extreme events will become more common.



Jon Cooke

Fungus Foray

"This one will make you a bit sick and this one will kill you". Wise words of warning from John Hughes, local fungus expert, to one of the many children who joined us on Saturday 21st October for a foray in Rectory Wood and Field. We were delighted that an amazing 41 people came along, and despite the recent very heavy rain were able to search out a total of 34 different species.

John started the walk with an introduction to the complicated business of identifying the over 4,000 types of fungus found in the UK, and we then set off on our hunt, bringing him many rather battered and bruised specimens as well as some more complete ones. The children were some of the best hunters, and among them were some real enthusiasts. The Latin names of the fungi are easily forgotten, but who could fail to remember the Amethyst Deceiver, Lemon Disco, Adipose Scalycap, Hairy Curtaincrust or Chicken of the Woods? The main difficulty would be remembering which were edible, and alas there is no rule of thumb to follow here. As the old saying goes, you can eat all of them, but some only once, so always consult an expert.



Gay Walker

Trustees wanted for Acton Scott Heritage Farm

Acton Scott Heritage Farm is looking for up to three volunteers to join their Trustee Board. You may have seen on social media or in local papers that the museum is hoping to open to the public in Spring 2024. The current Trustee Board (all volunteers) has been meeting together since June 2023. We are all local people with a passion for the site and are excited about the opportunity of opening to the public next year.

We have applied to the Charity Commission to register the museum as a charity and we believe that this will offer a lot of opportunities for fundraising and working with partners.

We already have over 70 volunteers that are helping to get the site back into a condition ready for opening and are keen for more. So, if you want to apply for farm volunteering then please complete the application form which can be found on our Facebook and Instagram pages: Acton Scott Heritage Farm.

We need to make sure that our Board has the right mix of skills to govern the museum efficiently. We are particularly looking for a treasurer with an understanding of charity finance, someone with surveying experience and someone with experience of contract management. You will need to live within reasonable travelling distance of Acton Scott to be able to attend meetings.

If you are interested in being part of the Board then please email farm@actonscott.com for a pack giving details of the requirements of a trustee and an application form.

Closing date 25th December 2023.



A Year with National Trust Ranger Volunteers in Carding Mill Valley



At the beginning of November this year, The Beatles released what is surely the last song from themselves, the John Lennon-led *Now and Then*. It reminded me of another of Lennon's lyrics from the song *Help*, when he reflected on being "so much younger than today". This took me back a couple of decades ago when as a Countryside Warden one of my volunteers said, when he was younger, time seemed to pass slowly, but as he aged the seasons rushed by quicker and faster each year. Looking back in my diary on 2023 and the work of the volunteers I realised how increasingly true that statement really is. This year seems to have flown by, and the volunteers have achieved so much.

There are two distinct groups of dedicated Ranger Volunteers giving their free time to help look after this special part of South Shropshire. The Tuesday Task Force (TTF) has been busy for over 20 years carrying out environmental improvements in Carding Mill Valley and on the Long Mynd, working with others especially the Longmynd Commoners Association to look after this culturally and historically important Common, and ecologically diverse Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Wednesday Action Group (WAGs) are about 8 years old, but they share the same strong desire to work with different groups and embrace opportunities to look after the wild Mynd for everyone for ever.

In early 2022 Denis Kelly, a WAGs member, with a keen interest in taking and developing his own photographs, started a visual project to document the work of the WAGs over the course of 12 months. He was inspired by a newspaper report which highlighted the work of David Collyer, an NHS worker, who documented through photographs the vital work of his team at a Welsh hospital during the Covid crisis. An energised Denis created a collection of photos called The Wednesday Action Group – A Year at Work reflecting the diversity of tasks.

The photographs became part of a slideshow projected on the wall in Carding Mill Valley's tearoom. It vividly

conveys how the volunteers work extremely hard to protect and enhance the semi-natural environment of Carding Mill Valley and the Long Mynd, and to improve access for visitors by carrying out essential jobs.

The Ranger Volunteers are an absolutely incredible group of individuals who pull together week after week in every conceivable weather condition to help Ranger Dave and myself with an ever-increasing list of tasks to complete.

This list of tasks includes, but isn't complete by any means, such important tasks as: repairing footpaths using material collected from the stone trap at the bottom of Carding Mill Valley and planting trees where appropriate to do so on non-common land; repairing and erecting fences, even surveying, and maintaining the 76 significant archaeological sites through training with Historic England and our own National Trust archaeologists; also building boardwalks and bridges to help visitors explore a little further along a stream or valley, or burning heather to encourage red grouse to breed successfully and to create a mosaic of different habitats on the hill, and even tidying up the recent flood damage from Storm Babet.

Denis has also self-published a book of 58 photos which has been made available to the WAGs team. Hopefully in the future we'll carry out a similar project to document the work of the TTF.

Working together we have completed so much this year. As John Lennon recognised the need for help in whatever context as the years passed, I sincerely appreciate the help that the volunteers give so graciously and so often throughout the ever increasingly fast-paced life we live. As Lennon said, "I know that I just need you like I've never done before". Thank you very much for the amazing work you carry out to look after this wonderful diverse important landscape we all cherish.

Patrick Edwards, Area Ranger

SHI Event

A Carnival of Carols
Friday 15th December, 7.30pm
Silvester Horne Institute, Church Stretton



The Carnival Band are one of the best-loved eclectic folk and early music bands and present a unique take on music for the festive season. Many of the familiar Christmas carols that we enjoy have their roots in the music of earlier times, and the concert will include street ballads, songs and dances that range from the middle ages to the present day.

The band play an array of instruments from medieval shawms and bagpipes to contemporary guitar and double bass.

With songs that cover an amazing spectrum, from traditional English folk to cool jazz and Latin beats, there is much variety as the band moves through the centuries. Their Yuletide cocktail is guaranteed to be an evening of consummate musicianship laced with good humour and their rapport with the audience will charm even the most Scrooge-like heart.

Firm favourites with audiences throughout the UK, including Church Stretton when they played here in 2017, thanks to frequent collaborations with Maddy Prior, the band have toured Japan, and the Middle East.

"Full of vivacity, originality and wit" (BBC Stoke).

A perfect start to the Christmas season.

Tickets: Adult £16, under 18 £8 on our website silvesterhorneevents.co.uk or from the Town Council Office or from the Outdoor Depot, Sandford Avenue, Church Stretton.

More information? Please phone 01694 720132

Mike Walker

Promoting Well Being since 1982
THE Health & Beauty Clinic



Treatments Available:

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

Certified Fitness Instructor

Pam Allsop

The Old Bakehouse, Churchway, Church Stretton

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



ALL PLUMBING JOBS

CALL PETER FLOYD
(30 YEARS EXPERIENCE)

RELIABLE SERVICE, REASONABLE PRICES

07885 585849

Bodylogic - Mobile Massage

David - BSc Sports Science, Vtct Diploma Sports Massage Therapy

Fully qualified and insured
Registered with the Federation of Holistic Therapists

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

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

Treatments available: Sports
Deep Tissue
Remedial
Relaxation
K-Taping

w. www.bodylogicshropshiremassage.co.uk
e. Bodylogicmassage@yahoo.co.uk
t. 07776150146



Whitfield

Plumbing, Heating & Cooling

Rated 9.7/10 on Checkatrade with over 170 reviews



**WORCESTER
BOSCH BOILER**
SUPPLIED & INSTALLED
**WITH 12 YEAR PARTS
& LABOUR GUARANTEE**

Call For A
**FREE
Quotation**

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

01694 652123 | www.WhitfieldPlumbing.co.uk

Proud members of
Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters



Homefix
Plumbing & Heating
01588 620250

www.homefixplumbingandheating.co.uk

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

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

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

LEE BROWN PLUMBING AND HEATING

GAS, NATURAL AND LPG, DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL CATERING ENGINEERS

GAS AND BOILER SERVICING, INSTALLATIONS AND BREAKDOWNS

COOKERS AND FIRES

GAS SAFETY CERTIFICATES

LANDLORD SAFETY CERTIFICATES

SMALL PLUMBING WORK ALWAYS UNDERTAKEN

UNVENTED CYLINDERS, POWER FLUSHING

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND
WATER REGULATIONS



TEL: 01694 724429

MOBILE: (DAYTIME): 07870 754201



High Leasowes: the Grass Isn't Growing Under Our Feet!

Since my last *Focus* article in May this year, we have been very busy at High Leasowes and have been extremely well supported by local volunteers, individuals and organisations. During the last six months we have, with the generous help of John Ellis, installed vehicle gates on the access points from Cwms Lane and Watling Street.



Parish Paths Partnership install new kissing gate, photo: Mike Carter

The Parish Paths Partnership have also installed a new kissing gate and some steps to improve access. During the summer, we had several groups of volunteers carrying out regular work to control bracken, thistle and dock and to remove ragwort from the area to be cut for animal fodder.

Christine and John Downes, the farmers from whom we bought the fields, were a great help to us by arranging to cut and bale the grass in late July and again in October.

Twenty volunteers were trained in hedgerow survey techniques as part of CPRE Shropshire's Hedgerow Heroes project and these volunteers surveyed all the hedges to identify the structure of the hedgerow and the species growing there. The same project trained two of our volunteers in hedgerow management while three others learned how to lay hedges, all of which will enable us to make a plan for the long-term management of the hedges, many of which are 200 years old, or even more.

In the summer the National Trust kindly allowed us to gather yellow rattle seed from their meadows and this, together with other locally gathered, native seed, was scattered on our meadows to try to increase the floral diversity. By the autumn our volunteers had contributed an incredible 340 hours of volunteer labour to High Leasowes and hopefully enjoyed every moment.

While this was going on, we received the Baseline Ecological Evaluation from Dr Caroline Uff, whose thorough and enthusiastic report on High Leasowes gave us invaluable information on the grasses, flowers, hedgerows and trees as well as the birds, insects and mammals that either feed at High Leasowes or have made it their home. One of our supporters, John Baines, has set up an iNaturalist page, so that you can record any plants or insects that you see there. To do this, or to see his findings, just go to the High Leasowes recording page using this link: uk.inaturalist.org/projects/high-leasowes-church-stretton

We have used the information in the Ecological Evaluation to draw up a management plan for the fields. Briefly, we hope to add a couple of ponds, renovate hedges, add a new hedge to increase connectivity between habitats



Hedgerow renovation, photo: Richard Woolland

and plant some trees along the eastern boundary and in field corners. The winter is going to be an exciting time as we start to carry out some of these plans, especially the tree planting, so this is the perfect time to get involved in helping us with these activities.

In addition to the work on the fields, we have issued a regular newsletter, conducted a number of guided walks around the fields for 65 people, and held a meeting for our supporters, which was incredibly well supported with over 90 people attending to hear about the work on the fields and our plans for the future.

I'd like to thank everyone who has helped us so much this year. Thank you, we couldn't do it without you!

To join us or to receive our regular newsletters please email highleasowes@gmail.com.

Sandra Whitlock, Chair, High Leasowes Management Committee



Rainbow over High Leasowes. Photo: Lin Harrison



Fieldfare; photo: Shutterstock

During dark, still, autumn nights, there will be a surprising number of birds flying high and unobserved above us. Many of them will be migrating into our wilder areas and also to productive feeding sites further afield. Night time is when these birds feel safest as there are fewer predators about. Even owls stay close to the ground looking for their rodent prey. With modern specialist equipment the sound of curlews,

lapwings and other waders can be detected, but even without this technology on calm evenings listen for a 'seep seep' contact call. This will most likely be redwings, coming to spend winter with us. They are a thrush species, slightly smaller than our familiar song thrushes, about the size of a starling. They have come from Scandinavia, where winter comes earlier and their food is becoming scarce. They mostly travel in small flocks. Redwings have warm shaded brown backs and wings but their main distinguishing feature is their red underwings, best seen when in flight. The red feathering extends to their flanks. Unlike our other thrushes they have a white stripe, called a supercillium, above their eyes. This is quite a striking feature.

If we have a cold spell and the ground is covered with snow and ice, they will come into villages and along roadsides. You may find them tossing over dried leaves to find invertebrates on which they feed.

If some hedges, shrubs and small fruit trees are left uncut, it will help all our birds during months when finding food can be difficult. Birds such as redwings, do not come to our feeding stations, so leaving some wilder areas will be much appreciated by them.

Carol Wood

Stretton Area Community Wildlife Group

Christmas Ideas for Nature Lovers

Are you stuck for a Christmas present idea for someone who has all they need? How about a bird nest box, a bat box, or a hedgehog box? Hedgehogs may not hibernate for the whole of the winter so a cosy house and a regular supply of food can help them to survive until better weather arrives.



Bug house; photo: Shutterstock

Maybe they would like a bee or bug house? Or a garden plant that the bees and other pollinators will love, or one that turns to seed that goldfinches can feed off during the lean winter months? Perhaps a berried shrub or tree for the migratory birds to feast on when they arrive in the autumn?

It doesn't matter what you choose, wildlife will live in it or feed on it. It can be just one small thing, but it WILL make a difference, and if lots of people do the same thing, even better. You might find that a few neighbours may also be interested, and multiple boxes put up along a street can achieve great results, such as swift or sparrow boxes, both species of which are now endangered in the UK.

Please remember to buy your gifts from a reputable source. In the case of boxes, this is to ensure they do not contain harmful wood treatments. Or make your own, there are templates on the internet (try the RSPB or Shropshire Wildlife Trust websites), but again, be mindful of what wood treatment you use.

What a wonderful gift, and not only will our native wildlife benefit from it, the receiver will enjoy its delights too!

Merry Christmas!

Julie Cowley



Wrights Estate Agents

Established 1972

RING OUR TEAM: 01694 722237

Email: sales@wrightschurchstretton.co.uk

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

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

Our local knowledge is second to none.

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



FREE HELP AND ADVICE WITHOUT OBLIGATION



We're first!

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

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

Prime location open 6 days a week.



noea | propertymark



arla | propertymark



SAMUEL WOOD

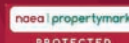
Thinking of selling your property
in Church Stretton?



Contact us 7 days a week on

01694 722723

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



Thinking
of renting?

...put us in the
frame!

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



01694 730003
www.bluestonelettings.co.uk



Celebrating 10 years of lettings!

MILLER EVANS

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

MILLER
EVANS

SOLD

MILLER
EVANS

LET

4 The Square, Church Stretton SY6 6DA

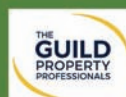
01694 724700

4 Barker Street, Shrewsbury SY1 1QJ

01743 236800

www.millerevans.co.uk

homes@millerevans.co.uk





Writing this at the beginning of November, the Christmas ads are appearing and it is 'full steam ahead' with Christmas merchandising. With these commercial promptings it is natural to start looking forward to the joyful season as described in the beginning lines of one of my favourite Christmas prayers:

"Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us".

Yet this year for many Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, alongside their Jewish and Muslim neighbours at the time of writing, there is little laughter, joy, or peace. I often think that we can unthinkingly heap some misery on the shoulders of others, when we attempt to celebrate the myth of the 'perfect' or 'luxurious' and/or 'social/family' Christmas as sold in the commercial adverts; or when we yern for the nostalgic 'perfect Christmases of old'. Those who are alone, or who struggle to provide for themselves and their families, or those who are simply fighting to exist in refugee camps and war-torn countries cannot hope to have the 'perfect' Christmas idyll. I do not wish to sound as a 'Christmas killjoy' but to sound a call to be mindful of the reality for many who are less fortunate both near and afar.

The events that we celebrate are found in the reality of the birth of a Jewish baby boy who was the Son of God. A baby born in time of occupation and domination by a larger more powerful state, the Holy Family were temporarily displaced from their home by imperial decree, they were without shelter except for a cave-stable (i.e. 'homeless') shown them by the kindness of a stranger. After the birth those who were on the margins of society sought to see this child (shepherds) and a little later the family would become refugees in a foreign land before being able to return home safely. The Son of God was born into poverty and vulnerability. Jesus identifies with all his disciples

and especially with those who are similarly suffering.

These are the things we sing about in our carols – for *O Little Town of Bethlehem*: "Yet in thy dark streets shineth, The everlasting light, The hopes and fears of all the years, Are met in thee tonight". Again in *Once in Royal David's City*: "He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall: with the poor, and meek, and lowly, lived on earth our Saviour holy." The Lord loves all people, but he has a special care and concern for those who are struggling in the world today. Perhaps we can join His concern by assisting those struggling and the less fortunate this Christmas. Who knows, our festive meals and celebration may taste a little sweeter if we have cut back a little in order to assist others in having shelter, water, food and hope for the year ahead. This would be an authentic celebration of the Feast of our Saviour's birth, who in Him, St John tells us, "was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (Jn 1:4-5).

May we grow in heart and mind to be more like Christ through our preparations and celebrations this year. To conclude, please ponder with me the full version of my favourite Christmas prayer:

"Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: For shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance.

Be with us as we sing the ironies of Christmas, the incomprehensible comprehended, the poetry made hard fact, the helpless Babe who cracks the world asunder. We kneel before you shepherds, innkeepers, wisemen. Help us to rise bigger than we are. Amen."

Canon Jonathan Mitchell

Saturday Morning Music

16th December at 10.15am at the Methodist Church

A concert with a Christmas twist to end the year's Saturday morning concerts. Quintessential is a newly formed quintet of flute, oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon based in Shrewsbury. They are performing in the Strettons for the first time, although you will recognise some of the performers who have played here before but with other groups. There will be refreshments in the hall directly afterwards.

These events are free of charge and last just under an hour. A collection will be taken for Midlands Air Ambulance after church expenses have been deducted.

Richard Walker

Quintessential – Photo: Andy Bell Photography



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

I started to read the letter on speeding vehicles (November *Focus*) and my first thought was “I don’t remember writing this!” Well, of course, I did not write it but the first part was exactly the same as my opinion. As for solutions we differ, as a simple 20mph limit will just be ignored, as indeed the 30mph limit is. As a recently qualified 17-year-old driver, 60-plus years ago, I would charge through my village at 50mph and to hell with anybody else. Luckily I never hit anybody.

One solution would be the one employed on the entry road to Ludlow where they have put in ‘Sleeping Policemen’ plus 20mph signs to slow us down past the school and I can assure you that it slows me down, as fast travel over these humps will damage most cars and can affect your steering. It would unfortunately be expensive to install, as it would need to be done on both sides of the road for a distance of over half a mile. I for one would be willing to put a few bob in the pot towards the cost, as my drive exit is up a slope on a blind bend. Mind you, it would only need to be done once. Alternatively speed cameras are very effective, but again it would need about four to do a good job, but on the plus side they would probably generate quite a bit of income.

On a different tack and perhaps a selfish one I have great difficulty finding an evening parking spot when trying to grab a takeaway meal in Stretton, as overnight parking is a bit of a menace along the Ludlow Road in town and also Church Street. The nearby car parks are empty, but just a bit too far away if you want your meal to be still hot when you get home.

Why not sell a parking voucher to local residents so that they can park between 6pm and 8am on the designated car parks instead of clogging up the side streets? £20 a year sounds about right and it would be a bit of revenue that the authorities are not getting at the moment.

Derek Gambie

We were in the same Health Centre queue as that referred to in last month’s *Focus*, albeit perhaps at a different time, but came away with a very different perspective.

It took 17 minutes from joining the queue to entering the Health Centre, during which time we answered the statutory questions and filled in our attendance forms. Then a couple of minutes waiting for the next available chair, another couple of minutes to receive two potentially life-saving vaccinations, and we were on our way out, dignity fully intact, agreeing that the whole process had been managed extraordinarily efficiently. Arranging individual appointments for that number of people would have been a massive undertaking, and would almost certainly have resulted in a slower throughput on the day. Indeed, I would propose a heartfelt vote of thanks to staff and volunteers who turned out at 7.30am on what should have been a day off, together with those ordering, storing and disposing of the vaccines and syringes, and subsequently updating all the NHS records.

Thank you – we very much appreciated it.

John Gott

It’s a Long Way for Pifferari...



...Christmas Cantatas and Greetings! Sunday 10th December 7.30pm Silvester Horne Institute

This December’s Christmas concert from Stretton Choral Society and its Music Director Michael Turner will be accompanied by the Shropshire Hills Ensemble led by David Joyce. Our soprano soloist will once again be the wonderful Catherine Rooney-Ward. Yesterday, committee members learnt that a single oboe will be in the mix, alongside nine string players and pianist Sally Oak, the Society’s accompanist. I wondered: why one oboe?

Writing this, I opened *A Christmas Greeting* – Edward Elgar’s setting of a poem by his wife, Alice – to remind myself of the phrase which has been intriguing choir members at rehearsal. “The pifferari wander far”... pifferari. I had guessed that it might be an Edwardian term for wandering magi. I thought I’d better look it up and was delighted to learn that I might have discovered the role for the sole oboe. However, looking at the score, it seems not so... We’ll find out at dress rehearsal. As for Elgar’s music in this piece, which is new to most if not all choir members, it is lush, moving and melancholy, redolent of British winters.

The concert opens with a reworking by Michael Turner of his *For a Coronation*, which was enjoyed by singers and audience when premiered last May: we are looking forward to learning and performing *For Christmas*. This will be followed by another Turner piece, his short *Suite for Strings*. The first half of the concert ends with Geoffrey Bush’s *Christmas Cantata*. Mike Turner says of Bush’s Cantata that the work “includes great arrangements of some popular carols, alongside beautiful and joyful original music by a composer whose music has been unjustly neglected”. Having rehearsed it for half a term now, many choir members would agree with him. It is full of tunes, invention and great vim.

We hope you will come along and enjoy all these pieces, then enjoy mince pies and a glass of something to help you warm up, after which: you’re on! The second half of the concert is given over to some choir-only carols, readings, and carols for choir and audience. We look forward to seeing and hearing you there.

Tickets £12. Available from Vine & Co, from Choral Society members, and on the door.



Two Books I Would Recommend

We are coming up to Christmas and thinking of Christmas presents. Here are two books I would wholeheartedly recommend to all who care about the future, of which I know there are plenty in Church Stretton!

The first is *The BBC: A People's History* by David Hendy (2022 Profile Books Ltd). We live in an age where misinformation, lies and uninformed opinion on the rack of social media are rife. In this shifting and uncertain landscape we need sources upon which we, and much of the world, can rely. Such I suggest is the BBC, although sometimes even that can get it wildly wrong. This book details the history of the BBC from its start in the early 1920s. Technical details are included showing the early problems of 'broadcasting', as well as the burden in the early days of having enough material to fill the airwaves. This is an oblique social history as the BBC tries to gauge and keep abreast of public likes and dislikes, whilst keeping to Reithian principles of informing, educating and entertaining. The war is covered, and political struggles with sometimes hostile Governments. At 571 pages it is a long read but it rattles along and is utterly riveting. The author is

an Emeritus Professor of Media and Cultural History at the University of Sussex.

The second is *The Insect Crisis: The fall of the tiny empires that run our world* by Oliver Milman (2022 Atlantic and W W Norton & Company Inc., New York). I think many of us are becoming aware that the insects have decreased in number. Many of us know that bees are struggling. This important book details that insect numbers are declining worldwide, and the cause is not fully known. Yet these tiny intricate creatures are the basis of the ecosystem and are vital for the survival of life on earth. Again, this is a readable and interesting book. The author describes how important insects are, and that some just give us joy like butterflies, then provides evidence of their decline and obvious reasons such as pesticides, habitat destruction and climate change. The reader is taken to various parts of the world where concerned entomologists are studying the signs. The author points out that insects do not perhaps come top of the agenda except for the obvious ones like pollinators. Another very readable and important book. The author is a *Guardian* newspaper journalist.

Thelma Thompson

Amnesty International

Amnesty has always believed in the power of a letter, to support those suffering from injustice, or to call to account those who inflict that injustice. In these troubled times, the simple acts of signing a card, sending a message of encouragement, signing a letter of protest embody the call to a shared humanity. We give hope to the downtrodden, and shine a light on the deeds of the oppressors.

Here are the words of one of those we supported last year: "I will never forget what Amnesty did for me. I will remember it all my life. Even here in prison, people were coming up to me and saying, 'I know who you are, I've seen you in Amnesty publications and in the news'. They even said, 'I've signed your petition.' It's encouraged me so much" (Dorgelesse Nguessan, Cameroon).

Join us at the URC Hall on Saturday 2nd December, 10am to noon, for 'Write for Rights 2023'. Refreshments provided, and a cake sale!

David Howard



Engaging Issues

Men's Shed – Connection, Conversation and Creation



Many men find it difficult to create and join social support networks, and can be reluctant to access mental health resources. Against this background, the global Men's Shed movement exists to create connections and conversations amongst men and promote mental, social, and physical well-being.

The Men's Shed movement began in Australia in the late 90s and has grown to become a worldwide phenomenon. In the UK there are now over 600 Sheds. Engaging Issues is pleased to welcome David Burton who is active in Ludlow Men's Shed, giving local men the opportunity to learn new skills, share their experiences, offer and receive support, and establish new friendships.

Tuesday 5th December, 7.30pm at the United Reformed Church.

A donation of £3 is requested to cover expenses.

www.engagingissues.org.uk David Howard

Stretton Classical Music Group – Vivaldi *The Four Seasons*

Poetry in Sound

On Wednesday 6th December we shall meet for the last talk of 2023. The subject is *The Four Seasons*, a group of four violin concertos by Antonio Vivaldi, composed in the early 18th century, and one of the earliest examples of programme music. The talk begins at 10am at the URC Hall, and is given by David Andrew.

There will be demonstrations and video recordings of the music, including one of an astonishing series of sand animations (yes, sand is correct!).

All are welcome: further details are in the What's On section of *Focus*.

Barbara Hall

Cryptic Crossword by Stan Yelds

Find 18 7 followers, some undefined.

Across

7. Humphreys' first ostrich hiding head in confusion; mother's at the end (9)
8. Introduction to photocopier (5)
10. Water sources brought about disagreement (4)
11. Sixties film following accountant (5)
12. Furniture of the French king (4)
13. According to Dr Spooner, philosopher expressed disapproval of upland weather (4,4)
15. Despatch contains firm support (6)
17. Drinks in bars of e.g. Greig overture and song medley (7)
18. Break up putrid sea rubbish (7)
22. Sets fire to breathing apparatus (6)
25. Vain criminal tops disabled people (8)
26. Drunkenly mumble insulting remark (4)
28. Yearbook missing article is void (5)
29. Is this sword made from very thin metal? (4)
30. Partially redesign ashlar with dogtooth feature (5)
31. His tern egg is fractured (9)

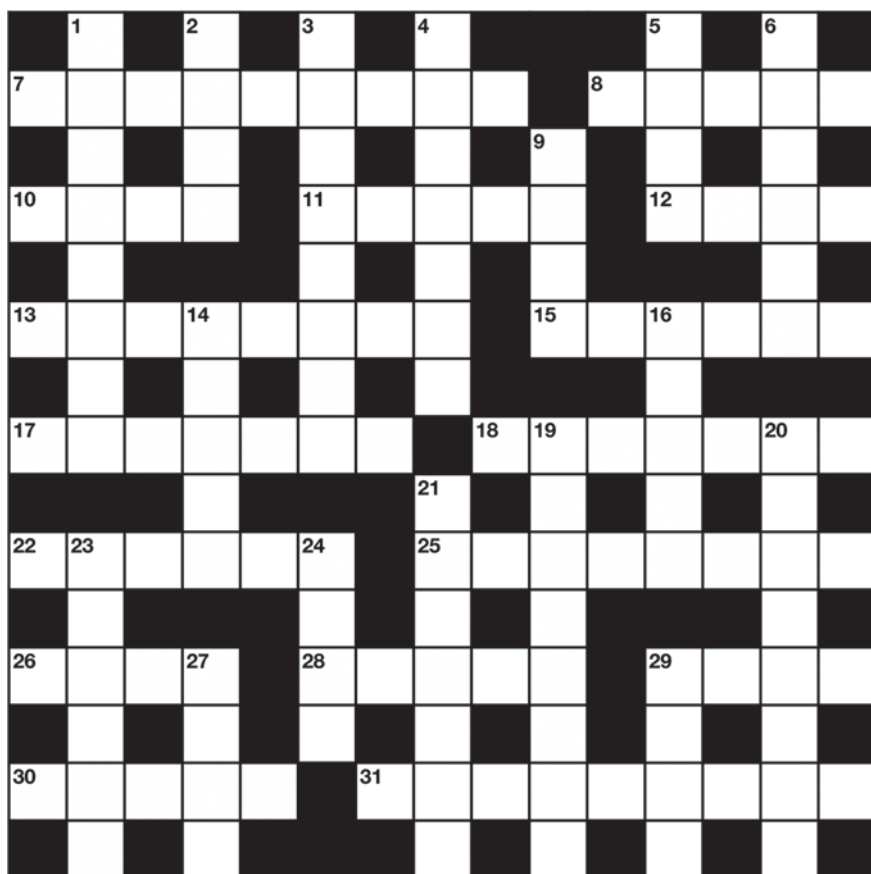
Down

1. Giving information on a leisure activity (8)
2. Largesse provided aboard souped-up vehicle (4)
3. Having in-store footwear (8)
4. Stalls in Paris and is covered in scratches (7)
5. Camilla relaxed on vacation ... (4)
6. ... maybe salt water's working (6)
9. God exists and is the nation of the faithful (4)
14. Invalid abruptly turns taps (5)
16. Transport with overhead line (5)
19. Victor lived on bananas – it's complicated! (8)
20. Ulstermen rising followed by the sound of bells (8)
21. Those who eat around noon, and what they eat (7)
23. I smear without hesitation (6)
24. Celebrity arts broadcast (4)
27. Got out of bed and took up arms (4)
29. Just blonde and beautiful (4)

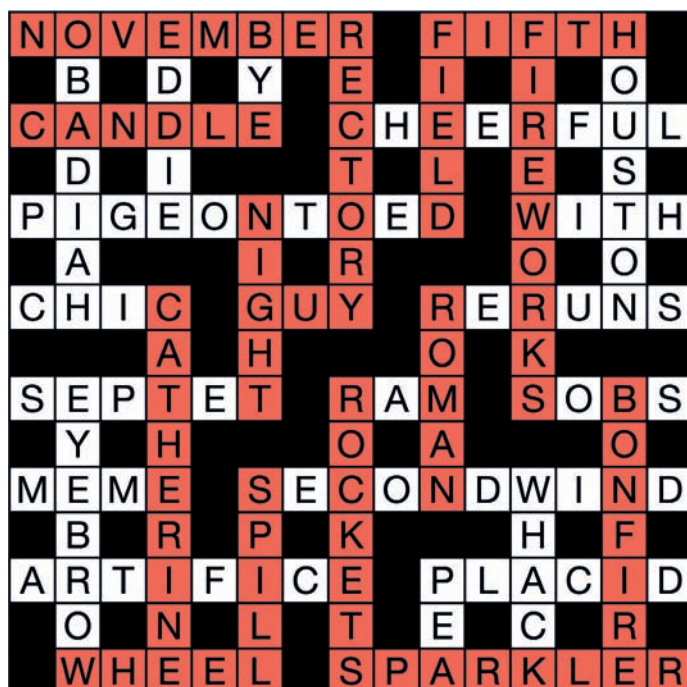
Special note

A careless error by Stan resulted in the solution for 10 across in the October crossword being given as 'senate'; this should have been 'sanity'.

Stan sends his sincere apologies for any distress that this might have caused.



November's Solution





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

*Specialists in wildlife
gardens since 1987.*

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

the shropshire lawn company

The easy way to get a lovely lawn

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

Call Mark for your **free** lawn analysis
07745 510482 01694 771452

www.shropshirelawncompany.co.uk



HOMDEN EXCAVATIONS

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

FOR ALL YOUR CONSTRUCTION NEEDS THINK HOMDEN EXCAVATIONS!

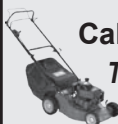
Tel: 01743 719092 Mob: 07812 565684
Email: info@hmdenexcavations.co.uk
Visit: www.hmdenexcavations.co.uk

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

**tidy
garden**

**for all your gardening
needs**

**Planting, pruning
mowing, hedging, etc.**



Call Bob Rogers

Tel: 01743 244402
or 07981 814518

**KEITH
WARRINGTON
LANDSCAPE
SERVICES**

*All aspects of garden
maintenance undertaken*

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

FREE ESTIMATES

Tel: 01584 861884

Mob: 07742 945768

Painter & Decorator

DWS Property Services

All Interior and Exterior Work

Fully Insured

Free Competitive Quotation

dugloussteele@hotmail.com

07860528943

G. H. JONES & SON

PAINTERS & DECORATORS

Est. 1966



Telephone: Church Stretton

(01694) 722148

Mobile: 07808 670806

ANDREW WEBSTER

**PAINTER AND DECORATOR
INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR**

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

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

TEL: 01694 724574

MOBILE: 07779 825908

E. B. JONES

PAINTER & DECORATOR



35 Years Experience

Interior & Exterior

All Work Guaranteed



Tel: Church Stretton 01694 724010

Church Stretton Rotary News

Church Stretton Rotary Celebrated its 70th Charter Night in Style

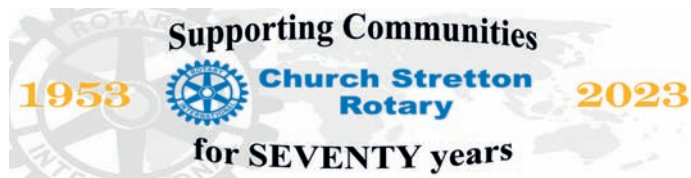


On Wednesday 1st November Pat Stokes-Smith, our current President, welcomed over fifty of the great and the good including Dr Mukunda Chidrawar, our current District Governor and his wife Ujwala, to Wistanstow Village Hall to enjoy an evening of fun, food and music to celebrate the 70 years that our Club has been supporting local and international communities.

Many of the attendees entered into the spirit by donning costumes from the 50s and 60s and the food served and music played also reflected this period. The event's primary purpose was to reflect on the work done throughout its history and to acknowledge the efforts of so many Rotarians over that period and to thank the wonderful support Church Stretton residents have given our efforts. The secondary purpose was to raise funds for our local Food Bank and as a result nearly £500 was raised on the night.



The following photo (above right) from the inaugural meeting in 1954 highlights how much our Rotary Club has changed over the 70 years!



Church Stretton Rotary Annual Walk A Mile for World Polio Day

To mark World Polio Day on 24th October, many members and friends of Church Stretton Rotary Club walked a mile around the centre of Church Stretton. Leading the walk was our own Club President, Pat Stokes-Smith, herself a child victim of polio. The photo shows Pat together with a group of CS Rotarians at the start of the walk.

Why was such a short distance chosen? Well for many who have suffered from polio, such as Pat, even a mile walk



is incredibly hard or even impossible. For many years Rotary International has led the fight to eradicate polio from the world and as a result of our efforts, £735 was raised to help the fight.

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

Don Lovejoy

Church Stretton Rotary Tree of Light

With the ongoing difficulties with the increasing cost of living, it is great to be able to enjoy the Christmas Tree in the Square, Church Stretton Rotary's annual gift to the community, lit up as Church Stretton Rotary's Tree of Light.

The tree, as the focal point for Church Stretton's Christmas decorations, gives people the opportunity to remember friends or loved ones who are departed or not able to be with them at this special time.

All the funds raised through the Tree of Light go to support the work of Hope House Children's Hospice, Midlands Air Ambulance and Severn Hospice.

These three charities, along with almost all charities, are also suffering with a double hit from the cost-of-living crisis. Their costs are increasing but also they are not receiving the number of donations they could expect. Please remember that the Air Ambulance is fully funded by voluntary donations and Hope House and Severn Hospice receive less than a third of their funding from government or statutory sources. We ask you therefore, to please remember this when you consider donating to the Tree of Light.

Rotarians again extend an invitation to you to 'own' a light in memory, with a suggested minimum donation of £5 per light. All names are posted on the 'In Memory' board



located by the tree, on Church Stretton Rotary's website, and acknowledged with a memory card.

Over the years, through the generosity of the people of Church Stretton and the wider community, over £64,000 has been raised for these local charities.

To sponsor a light, complete a sponsor form which can be accessed via Church Stretton Rotary's website or Facebook page or if you have a smartphone or tablet, you can scan this QR code to download the form.



Additional paper sponsor forms can be found by the Tree of Light in the Square, Wrights Estate Agents, or McCartneys Estate Agents (Craven Arms).

Again this year, children, which includes all who are young at heart, will be able to take part in the 'Christmas Message on a Bauble' Children's Appeal. The tree baubles are available for a donation. The funds from this appeal will help Carlos, a child in Guatemala, get an education.

Church Stretton Rotary thanks Church Stretton Town Council, John Stephens Landscapes, Huws Gray (Leebotwood), PCB Solicitors, Stuart Wright (Wright's Estate Agents), McCartney's Estate Agents (Craven Arms), Burwarton Estates and all others who support the Tree of Light.

Peter Burt

Budget

Budget was born at Walls Bank Farm in 1901 which is just under four miles up the Much Wenlock Road out of Church Stretton and doesn't look much different now than it did a hundred years ago. She was the youngest of six children born to William and Roseanne (née George) and they all went to Rushbury school just less than a mile away. The farm was around eight acres and had the usual mix of a couple of milking cows, a few pigs, quite a lot of poultry and the staple, large vegetable garden and each child had to do their bit to look after the farm. So, the main income had to come from William who was a bricklayer. He had a small business with his brother Edwin, a mason, building and repairing properties in the area including the Strettons. As well as the farm, they owned two cottages in Wall and two in Cardington.

Budget got her name because she was the shortest at just five feet tall and a bit on the chubby side and in 1915, she started her first job at Smith's grocery business in Church Stretton. The building is still there on the left side of Sandford Avenue as you go up it, right next to the pedestrian crossing. It would take her just over an hour to get there using the only transport available at the time, Shanks's Pony and her route was a mixture of roads and a few short cuts across fields, so countryfolk needed to be fit and healthy in those days and not afraid of the dark.

Working as just a shop assistant was not without some problems as commodities like sugar and flour were kept in wooden barrels that were about four feet tall. She had a request for two pounds of flour one day so climbed on a stool and reached down into the almost empty barrel and fell in head first. Luckily, she was quickly pulled out as she was in danger of being suffocated but it caused quite a laugh with the rest of the staff as she was now white all over.

A few years later she and her sister Lal (who later married Jim Griffiths from Clun) moved to Alderley Edge, in service, and she met her future husband, known always as Bert, who was a carpenter and an estate handyman there. They married after an extended eight-year courtship to build up a bit of capital, had three children and she lived to the ripe old age of 87. Her ashes were interred in a shallow grave above the double grave of her mother and older sister, who was named Rose, at Hope Bowdler cemetery.

Her real name was Adelaide Preen, just one of the many members of the Preen dynasty which unsurprisingly started in the village of Church Preen and the reason I know so much about her is because she was my mother and with my wife, for the second time, we are now living in Church Stretton which I fondly regard as my ancestral home.

Derek Gambie

'In thy dark streets shineth...'

The Christmas story, as it is meant to be taken, is stories, rather than a factual account of what happened. That kind of story, or myth, goes deeper into the truth of the matter to be experienced. These birth narratives are like prologues containing the main themes of the drama to follow. They draw out the questions we will face in that drama and in our own.

What appears to us is the darkness of the times, the inequalities, and injustices as well as the courage of those who are living through oppression, insecurity, and fear. At the same time they capture elements of a new vision of humanity, the brotherhood and dignity of humans. This brought hope and enabled resilience, inner peace, and joy. Those gathered around him gained from a charismatic young mystic that there are pathways towards a different way of life. One day people will find freedom, peace, dignity, value, and love. It was enough in his empathetic, compassionate, and attentive company, to believe and feel this was already happening, and has continued to happen, though never in an upward straight line, but precarious and not always realised.

Take the shepherds of the field who in the story came to the stable. They are outsiders who hardly belong to civil society (the sheep were of more value than they), but outsiders of any kind are welcome. Kings and leaders were shepherds of the people, i.e. those who were responsible for the protection of the people: they were not present. Herod, the great builder of the most luxurious of palaces and a vast trading port, but an exceptionally cruel despot, sought to learn about the birth, in the other story, but was not invited.

In that other story of the Magi, imagined people from other lands, races and traditions studied and found their way because they are searching after enlarging truth and a widening of their world view, in peaceful co-existence. Of course it did not happen then, but it has happened since, through national and global institutions and community.

What can we understand from these myths, set down perhaps many years after Jesus's death? That this new vision is called the kingdom of God; in our terms today – the good society, the common good, a world at peace with itself – is so



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

much more desirable and imaginable, and is the deep longing of so many human beings then and now.

I am writing this at the end of October. It is the darkest of nights. Our news is filled with the brutal wars between Russia and Ukraine and now the 'holy land' with such human loss of life. It is heart-wrenching to see how innocent lives and those of children on all sides, on a massive scale, are destroyed along with their homes and all they owned. This is the price exacted when a just peace has not been pursued. In the 21st century in 'the holy land', birthplace of three great and global religions, our evolution is incomplete – frozen in an earlier age. These things should not happen in the 21st century. In that area of life, we remain in the darkness.

And yet, there is always light. People are bombed; their property razed to the ground, yet they will still dig the rubble, desperate to find their living and their dead. Supplies are ready to go into the war zone and doctors and nurses and admin. staff are there 24/7 to the end. I lived and worked and struggled in Ireland and thought that there might never be peace there. Impossible as it seemed, but when the arms were put away, there is a peace that is growing and there are shoots of permanent change that never again will there be such darkness in our streets. We must never forget the human cost. Though it will be hard and long, the only way out of this darkness is ultimately a human miracle – a permanent solution for both peoples, who have historically suffered too much and too long. I leave you with a prayer from an interfaith group who have worked for reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians, and are still very much there.

As we stand on the intersection of bereavement and cautious hope, dehumanisation and solidarity, hatred and compassion, and ascending darkness and blinding anger, we are seeking your guidance on how to partake justly and responsibly in the life you have given us. Show us the way of life.

Good News and Peace to All.

Noel Beattie

Save the Children

The end of an era

With a sad heart the committee of the Save the Children's branch in Church Stretton have had to make the decision to close. The reason is that we have found it difficult to find younger volunteers to take over, and as we are ageing, the members are finding it too difficult to carry on.

Over the many years that the branch has been operating, there has been a massive amount of money raised by doing a variety of different activities, including in 1976 when the committee were involved with an air display at Penkridge Hall with planes, gliders, hand gliders and hot air balloons.

Records from headquarters show that from 1986 to 2023 the branch raised £87,000 which has helped children

around the world grow to be happier and healthier.

In the last few years we decided to do what we did best, and that was feeding our supporters with wholesome food, assisted by contributions from local sources, such as Mr Bun the Baker and Wenlock Edge Farm.

I'm sure we will be missed in the future as our supporters enjoyed the community gathering, but everything eventually comes to an end.

So we say goodbye and many thanks to you all for your support and wish you all a healthy and happy future.

The Save the Children Church Stretton Branch Committee and helpers



JOHN STEPHENSSERVICES Ltd

Serving South Shropshire and beyond for 58 years

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



1 Hotel Place, Shrewsbury Road,
Church Stretton SY6 6DZ
01694 722475

jslandscapes@btconnect.com
www.johnstephensservices.co.uk

Est. 1964



PETER TIPTON

Small loads of
rubbish removed

♦
Strimming &
Clearing

♦
Demolition Work

01694 771461

petertipton52@gmail.com



Craven Arms 01588 672761

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

*And much much more at our
hardware store*

Ben Carter

Landscaping, Grounds,
Property Maintenance

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

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

Integral Gardens

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

Carlo

**01743 344417
07963 991533**

ALL ASPECTS OF GARDEN AND
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE



ANDREW MORRIS
CHURCH STRETTON

01694 781427

07967 320055

MINI DIGGER & DRAINAGE WORK.

PATHS & DRIVES. IMPRINTED CONCRETE.

HEDGE CUTTING & PLANTING. FENCING & STRIMMING.

TREES PRUNED, FELLED & DE-STUMPED.

PATIOS, DECKING & LOG SHEDS.

GARDEN RENOVATION AND RESTYLING.

UNIQUE LANDSCAPES

GARDEN DESIGNERS

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

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

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

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

MYND DIY Shop

OPEN TO TRADE & PUBLIC

Gardening Products • Grass Seed • Fertilizers

Compost inc. Peat Free • Top Soil • Bark

Timber available – Cut to size

Coal, Logs & Kindling

FREE DELIVERY IN THE STRETTONS 

Decorating

Construction Tools

Household

Ironmongery • Nails • Bolts • Screws

Sand • Cement • Gravel • Grit

Contact us – 01694 724427

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

 MyndDIYShop
mynddiy@outlook.com

Strettonia Boxing

We held our first Stretton Strongman 2023 in Church Stretton on 24th September and it went really well. All the local lads did great things.

We now have a professional boxer boxing with us. Signed with professional manager Scott Lawton, he'll be training out of the club. It was a brilliant day for Lennox McDonald up at Impact Community Gym after a good test

in the ring with a top boxer.

Lennox is a highly skilled and motivated lad. Being a bit of a maverick in the sport and tough as they come, he will be perfect for the professional ranks of boxing and exciting to watch.

"When he walked into the gym (Strettonia Boxing Club in Church Stretton) I could see he had the grit and skill to make the transition from amateur boxing to professional and we will help him on his

journey as much as we can. He had also been schooled very well from previous gyms in amateur boxing (Shrewsbury School of Boxing ABC and Welshpool ABC).

"He's really easy to train, as he is hungry to learn and wants to be the best at his sport! It takes a lot of commitment, as he has to train six days a week, eat right, and give up a lot of joys a normal 19-year-old lad wants to enjoy. We have had a good talk about this, and this is 100% what he wants!" says manager Scott Lawton, who is excited to have Lennox in the team and says he should have his first professional boxing match soon! We are all very much looking forward to this!



Scott Lawton , Lennox McDonald and Steve Rickets



Competitors at Stretton Strongman 2023



Joe Butler on Farmers Walk

The Stretton Strongman 2023 event was a great success – thank you all for participating, helping out and spectating. All the lads who competed were brilliant and got some good personal bests.

The events were Loading race, Overhead log, Farmers Walk, Truck pull, Atlas Stones and Diamond carry. Sam Hartly came first.

United Nations Day and the UN Charter

By 1939 and the onset of the second world war, it was widely acknowledged that the League of Nations needed to be replaced. Even while the war was raging preparations were being made for a new organisation, a place where national leaders could come together more effectively. In April 1945 the first such gathering was held in San Francisco and a charter was drawn up. The charter was ratified and came into force a few months later on 24th October. That date is observed around the world as United Nations Day.

The Charter forms a rule book for the organisation of the United Nations. The main constituent bodies of the UN are the General Assembly where all 193 member nations are represented, and the Security Council. Fifteen nations are represented on the Security Council. Five of these fifteen are permanent members – China, France, Russia, UK and USA. The other ten seats are held for two year periods by

other nations elected by the General Assembly. Arguably the most contentious feature of the Security Council is the veto.

This stipulates that any one of the permanent five members has the right to block any resolution that would otherwise be adopted.

This year, to observe UN Day, some UNA-Shropshire members and friends gathered on the hill within sight of the war memorial. A UN flag was carried to the top of the hill and flown beside the Amelanchier tree planted in 1995 to mark the 50th anniversary of the UN Charter. After a period of conversation and exchange of ideas, a silent vigil was observed. At the same time some people held a vigil on the grassy area below the war memorial. This was due to incorrect instructions having been issued. Some of the people thus misled have received an apology; if any reader



has still not been contacted please accept this as your apology.

While the vigil was observed, the UNA-Shropshire Coordinator was busy making preparations for a demonstration in the main car park.

The flags on display raised the PEACE flag highest and central. Below, on one side of the raised rotunda, the flags of Ukraine and the Russian Federation; on the opposite side, the flags of Israel and Palestine. Both sets of two flags, while adjacent to each other, were pointed away from each other, visually signifying the continuing destructive conflict in which each is engaged. Passers-by were attracted by the flags and a surprising number of people were ready to talk and to listen. Two parties of primary school children from Longnor attended; they listened and asked questions.

The display stall was staffed by UNA members. Members of the public who wished to take part were encouraged to fill in a ballot card with the question "Should the UN Charter be reformed or replaced?" When the ballot box was opened 57% of the responses supported reform of the UN Charter and 43% supported replacement of the

Charter. It is worth noting that any proposed amendment to the 109 articles of the UN Charter requires approval by the five permanent members plus six of the non-permanent members of the Security Council. If any one of the permanent members applies the veto then the amendment fails!

10th December this year marks the 75th anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That weekend at UNA-Shropshire we shall be remembering that the two main aims of the United Nations are to "rid the world of the scourge of war" and to ensure human rights for all people. The Declaration of Human Rights asserts "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights".

Ruth Davies

United Nations Association-Shropshire

www.unashropshire.org.uk

We stand for the UN.

We stand to challenge the effectiveness of the mechanisms used by the UN for maintaining peace and security.

Scout Group News

Certain end-of-year activities for the two Cub Packs of the 2nd Longmynd follow a traditional path with both producing things for the Christmas home. The Tuesday Pack had the help of the expertise of florists John Thomas to produce table decorations and also repeated a popular activity from the previous year – the production of miniature Christmas cakes.

The Wednesday Pack also worked the making of table decorations into a programme which included how the Diwali Festival of Light is celebrated, to exploring Church Stretton by night and producing a map to show the useful points in the town, from dentists to bus stops.

The two Packs combined to run a Bring-and-Buy sale to raise funds for 'Classrooms in the Clouds', a charity which provides education for children in Nepal.

The Scout Troop finished the year with a programme of outdoor night activities combined with a drive for as many as possible to win the Skills Challenge Badge. This covers a wide range from the traditional Scouting skills to such things as ironing a shirt to sewing on badges – so we may expect to see some smart uniforms next year!

The latest part of the programme is instruction in self-defence, which is proving very popular. Many years ago I wrote a book called *Self Defence for Scouts*. It proved popular, so it was suggested I write a similar one for Guides. However, the Girl Guides Association turned down the idea, saying that such a book would not be suitable for girls. How times change!

The Group is now taking a Christmas break and the Scouters will be thinking up ideas for the coming year. In the meantime we wish all our supporters and friends an enjoyable Christmas.

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 4th, 11th December

Beaver Scout Colony. Ages 6-8:

5.30-6.30pm

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

(Check with GSL for Explorer dates).

Tuesday 5th, 12th

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

Wednesday 6th, 13th

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

Fred Reeve

Miracle Maker – The Story of St Nicholas

**Teme Spirit Choir and Orchestra
St Laurence's Church, Church Stretton
Saturday 9th December at 6pm**

The musical, with its audio/visual presentation is in bite size chunks interspersed with narration read by local young people. It is based on the life of St Nicholas and is a joyous piece to sing, particularly at Christmas time. Written by Andrew Newton and performed by Teme Spirit choir and orchestra, with readings by local young people.

It was written especially for this talented choir last year and played to a capacity audience in Hereford last December.

Hope you can join us.

**Tickets unreserved £7.50 Children under 16 FREE!
from Choir members and tinyurl.com/TemeSpirit**

Hilary Morgan

Church Stretton Police – Safer Neighbourhood Team

A new member of the team

PC Elliot Maslen has joined the Safer Neighbourhood Team in Church Stretton. He has been with West Mercia Police for four years, previously working as a Patrol Constable in South Shropshire. Prior to joining the Police he served 17 years in the Welsh Guards. He lives locally and enjoys mountain walking and running.

PC Maslen says "I am excited to start working with the community in Church Stretton. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss any policing issues. I look forward to getting out in the community in the weeks to come so please stop and say hello!"

Safety first

Now the dark nights are upon us, and the holiday season just around the corner, we thought that this would be the ideal time to remind you of some personal safety tips to ensure that you and your family have a safe and crime-free festive season.

At home:

Remember to lock your doors, even when you are in:

- Don't leave Christmas presents in full view.
- If you are going out for the evening, give the impression the house is occupied by leaving lights and television/radio on. Shut the curtains.



Callers at your door:

Fit a door chain or bar and use it.
Only deal with callers by appointment.

Don't keep large sums of money in your house. Do not let anyone into your home until you have confirmed their identity.

Genuine callers from companies will have identification and won't mind if you ask to see it.

Out and about:

Think about how you are getting home – nominate a driver, pre-book a taxi or pre-arrange someone to collect you.

Do not get into a car if you don't know the occupants.

Know your alcohol limits and stick to them.

Don't carry too much cash and keep your purse or wallet close to your body. If you go for coffee or lunch,

don't put your bag over the back of a chair or anywhere easily accessible to others.

If you would like any more information regarding home security or personal safety, please contact us at csca.snt@westmercia.police.uk.

Happy Christmas from Sgt Price, PC Maslen, PCSO Baron and PCSO Barnett – your local Policing team at Church Stretton.

Westhope Village Hall

October was another busy month. The Harvest Supper was well attended and was a great success, everyone enjoyed the three course meal and entertainment by Paul Ray. He made everyone laugh. Something we all need in these times of such uncertainty. A huge thank you for all the volunteer helpers setting up and laying tables etc., all the kitchen helpers and organisation. Without this teamwork we would not be able to hold this event.

We have now taken delivery of a defibrillator, kindly donated by Sally at the Henry James Memorial Trust. This will be mounted on the outside of the Village Hall in full view of the road.

The skittles season has begun with our first game with Culmington; a lovely sociable evening with Jo and her team. We look forward to the coming season.

Our centenary events for 2024 are still in the planning stage but here are some dates for your diary so far:

Saturday 20th January – A Race Night, which should be great fun. It is proposed to have eight races and we will be looking for sponsors for each race.

Saturday 16th March – Tapas evening and show with Paul Ray 'Unusualist' Comedian, Magician and Vocalist.

Sunday 9th June – Centenary Celebration Party.


The hall is available to hire with a licensed bar and catering if required. All enquiries: Betty 07860 447397

Betty Manley

Trivia Answers

1. 1900
2. Ladies dancing
3. Building & Loan
4. Blitzzen
5. Wise Men
6. *I Love You*
7. Raymond Briggs
8. Two front teeth
9. Arrival
10. *Jingle Bells*

Church Stretton



Physio Pilates

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

Contact: Lucy Thomas
churchstrettonpilates@gmail.com
07894 294362

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

**STATE REGISTERED
CHIROPODIST**

*Private Consultations
and Home Visits*

**ESSEX LODGE
FARM LANE
ALL STRETTON**
Telephone: 723283


Marion H. Murdoch, M.C.S.P.
Registered with the H.P.C.

**PHYSIOTHERAPIST
REFLEX THERAPIST**

"Gleneldon", 94 Watling Street South,
Church Stretton, Shropshire SY6 7BH
Tel: 01694 724152 or 07435 788229



HILLSIDE PHARMACY
R.E. & C.O. ALMAN MPS



18 Sandford Avenue
Church Stretton



01694 722799

**For all your medicines, toiletries and
photographic requirements**

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

**Chris Turner
Physiotherapy**

christurnerphysio@gmail.com
07471 182384
Mayfair Community Centre



NAILS BY NANCY

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

A relaxing home salon with
complimentary refreshments

For Appointments:
 Church Stretton
 NailsbyNancyP@outlook.com
 07942157100



Shampers

Church Stretton
01694 722248
Mon-Thu & Sat 9-5.30
late night Fri 'til 7
One of the largest Salons
in Shropshire
Senior Citizens Mon-Wed
10% off



**D. R. TIPTON
Decorator**



Tel: 01694 723862
Mob: 07946 323819

HD BROWS[®]
HIGH DEFINITION BEAUTY

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

**ANTHONY'S HAIR
STUDIO**





45 High St

LADIES & GENTS
OPEN TUESDAY UNTIL SATURDAY

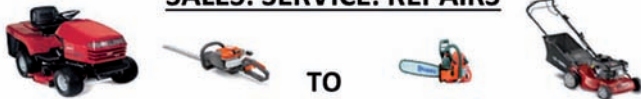


Mobile Services Available By Appointment
Tel. 01694 722 750
Prop: Tony Reynolds- Corporate Member of the Guild of Hairdressers



NEWINGTON GARAGE SERVICES

SALES: SERVICE: REPAIRS



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

FAMILY BUSINESS ESTABLISHED OVER 35 YEARS .

COLLECTION & DELIVERY SERVICE AVAILABLE

TEL: CRAVEN ARMS 01588 673768

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

THE CENTRAL GARAGE

REPAIRS MOT & SERVICING DIAGNOSTICS RECOVERY BATTERIES

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

CROSSWAYS, CHURCH STRETTON
SHROPSHIRE SY6 6PG

Tel: 01694 723939

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



Stephen Morgan
Electrical Contractor

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

APPROVED CONTRACTOR
(W.E. Morgan and Co)

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

BURWAY GARAGE

MOTs • SERVICING • REPAIRS

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



01694 723880

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

e: workshop@burwaygarage.co.uk
www.burwaygarage.co.uk

Family business est. over 30yrs

Boxall's Electrician

A Complete service

For all your electrical
requirements ...

07971 823017

01568 770217

www.boxallselectrician.co.uk

boxallselectrician@outlook.com



CHARLES EPHRAIM

ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS

EST 1974

8 WALL BANK,
WALL-UNDER-HEYWOOD



Tel: 01694 771381

ros.ephraim@btconnect.com

CHURCH STRETTON TAXI

long or short
distance

07487 650889

mervprice@hotmail.com

www.churchstrettontaxi.com

CARADOC

Saints of Travel

Coach and Minibus

Hire for any occasion
Whatever your travel needs!



Contact us on—

01694-724522

enquiries@caradoccoaches.co.uk



LOCAL ELECTRICIAN

AMP Electrical

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

Contact Matt Price

M: 07552 410109

H: 01694 771661

E: amp.elec@outlook.com

MC ELECTRICAL

Martin Cawte

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

07780 007 150

martincawte@gmail.com

Domestic & Commercial

MOT CLINIC

01588 673876

Plus: Servicing
Air Conditioning
Tyres
Batteries
Exhausts

Bridgemaster Series



Part 2: Using Stayman having less than the normal 11 HCPs

Generally, you will need to hold 11 HCPs before using Stayman opposite a weak 1NT opening. For example:

1NT - 2♣
2♦ - ?

If you don't find a major fit you will need 11 HCPs to be able to bid 2NT. If opener is limited to 12-14 HCPs, you will need those 11 HCPs to make your contract.

Is it true that you can't use Stayman on a hand of less than 11 HCPs? No.

You can use Stayman on a hand of zero HCPs upwards, as long as you have a **sensible course of action**. Always consider what difficulty the worse reply could cause. If you can take appropriate action, then it is permissible to use Stayman.

There are two situations where the Stayman convention can be used with weak hands. However, these are not situations which are considered to be the standard use of Stayman. They are:

- A weak hand short in ♣s (typically 4441 or 4450)
- A weak hand containing 5-4 in the major suits

This month we will look at **A weak hand short in ♣s**.

If you are 4-4-4-1 (singleton ♣) or 4-4-5-0 and very weak, you are better to use Stayman and pass any bid from partner. Even if he bids 2♦, you should pass. It could be argued that you may be allowing partner to play in a 4-3 fit, but there are many more situations where he will be playing in a 4-4 fit or better. Remember that he must have at least seven minor cards as he doesn't have a 4-card major.

By taking the chance described above, you can guarantee playing in a 4-4 fit when partner has two 4-card suits. Try it and see!

Example 1: Partner opens 1NT (12-14 HCPs).

With:
♠ 10986
♥ 10974
♦ Q865
♣ 7

Bid 2♣. If opener is kind enough to bid a 4-card major you PASS and smile. Often partners are not so accommodating, mine normally bid 2♦! You should now PASS, he may have a good holding in ♦ and it is probably the best contract. After all he has at least seven cards in the minors.

Example 2: Partner opens 1NT (12-14 HCPs).

♠ J1032
♥ J832
♦ K972
♣ 9

W	N	E	S
1NT		2♣*	
2♥		Pass	

Partner obligingly rebids ♥s so you have found your best contract, so PASS and jump for joy.

Example 3: Partner opens 1NT.

W	N	E	S
1NT		2♣*	
2♦		Pass	

♠	J864	Since Opener doesn't have a major he must have at least 7 cards in the minors, so will have a reasonable fit with your hand
♥	Q753	
♦	QJ85	
♣	4	

Example of a weak hand with a short club suit that can use Stayman:

Dealer South : Love all

♠ 9765
♥ K432
♦ Q8765
♣ -

♠ J42
♥ J9
♦ A10
♣ KQ6542

♠ A108
♥ Q1086
♦ 94
♣ A1083

♠ KQ3
♥ A75
♦ KJ32
♣ J97

W	N	E	S
			1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦
All Pass			

2♣ is Stayman, asking for a 4card major and guaranteeing he holds one unless his next bid is 3♣ (explained on another day). 2♦ denies holding a 4card major, which North passes. Note that North was prepared for any response to his 2♣ enquiry: he would have happily passed any rebid by South.

Plan the play? West leads the ♣K.

You will need to ruff three clubs and lead towards the ♠KQ twice. So, after winning trick 1, you can only afford to play one round of trumps if that round is ducked. (One of the hands may have ♦Axx, wins the 2nd round and plays a third.) The 33 spade break may even give Declarer a third spade trick. So, we make 10 tricks on a combined 19 count. If South had played in 1NT it would have been carnage in the battlefield after a club was led!

Recipe of the month

Christmas flapjack

As the year draws to its end, here is my Christmas version of that all-time favourite – flapjack. This version was born last year in the name of using up the leftovers – a favourite Heidi pastime.

I always seem to have a pot of mincemeat lurking, either in the fridge – it keeps amazingly well, especially if adorned with a little sherry or brandy to assist – or the freezer, but if you don't have any of your own you can use a jar of shop bought; leftover or otherwise. If it's got a little sticky in storage, you can always loosen it a little with a drop more Christmas spirit!

Last year I also decided to use up the leftover marzipan from the Christmas cake too rather than storing it wrapped in the fridge for a while and then secretly eating it!

Simply use your favourite flapjack recipe but reduce the sugar somewhat to combat the sweetness of the mincemeat and the marzipan. The syrup and margarine should ensure it sticks together. This is adapted from Kirsty's mother's recipe which was given to me by my roommate, whilst studying in Liverpool way back when. Her mum was Scottish which might explain the addition of salt, which can be omitted should you wish.

Ingredients

Flapjack: 100g margarine or butter

2-3 level tbsp golden syrup

50g granulated sugar – I prefer light soft brown

225g rolled oats

¼ tsp salt

Topping: Quantity of mincemeat – whatever you have is fine

Marzipan

Method

Preheat oven to 160 deg C, 140 fan, gas 3.

Place marzipan in fridge to chill.

Grease a shallow square tin or line with parchment.

Melt margarine and syrup in a pan over a low heat or in



a non-metal bowl for a few seconds in the microwave.

Remove from heat and add sugar, oats and salt.

Mix thoroughly.

Press half the mixture into the base of the prepared tin – I like to use a potato masher for this.

Then spread a modest amount of mincemeat over the top then crumble the remaining oat mixture over the top and spread it out to cover the mincemeat as best you can. It's good to seal the edges.

Remove marzipan from fridge and grate sufficient to give a sprinkling over the flapjack – or whatever you have left over – it doesn't need to fully cover. This is easier if it's been left over for a while.

Bake in the preheated oven until golden – around 30 minutes.

At this point you can leave to cool in the tin but run a pallet knife around the edge after 5 minutes. Once cool, cut into bars and enjoy. It will also freeze happily at this point and can be thawed and eaten (as Mr Heidi has been doing throughout the year).

Alternatively, at this point you could serve this as a warm pudding with custard, cream, or ice cream.

Variations

You could replace the syrup with honey or other sweetener. A pinch of ground ginger could be added to the oats which will enhance the flavour without making it fiery. Some ground spice could be added but take care not to overpower the mincemeat which should be the star of the show.

You could add seeds or chopped nuts of your choice into the oat mixture to complement the mincemeat and give a little more texture.

You could omit the mincemeat and sprinkle some random glacé cherry halves (left over from that Christmas cake perhaps) in the middle or some chopped ready-to-eat dried apricots to complement the marzipan.

Heidi



AGM and open meeting held on 28th September

At the short AGM two co-opted members were elected to the committee. We now comprise seven committee members but would be happy for a few more to join us. Anyone who might be interested can leave their details in the comments box in the practice. We meet every other month on a Monday afternoon for about 1½ hours.

We have been considering for some time ways to improve communication. We trust you are finding the pieces published in the *Focus* helpful. Is there anything you would like to be included in these articles that is not already covered? Would you be interested in statistics from the practice being published? As your committee, we have had to give up on a dedicated website for comments of a general nature but are well on the way to setting up an email address. Those with comments may prefer this method to using the comments box.

The AGM was followed by an interesting talk by Dr Bennett giving us an insight into 'A typical day of a GP at our medical practice':

8am – Checking recent results on computer and anything that has happened out of hours.

8.36-11.45am – Morning appointments. Dealing with patients can be held up by trying to arrange for any that need to be sent to hospital.

11.45am – Dealing with prescriptions. This can take some time as required drugs may not be available, so alternatives need to be found. The two chemists in town are very helpful for this and other issues.

12.30-1.30pm – Home visits

2.30-5.45pm – Afternoon appointments

5.45pm until finished – Any admin requirements such as dictation, referrals, follow-ups etc.

The state of the NHS is of concern to all of us. Cases are more complex now and there are long waiting times for hospital appointments. This has resulted in extra work for medical practices. The integrated care boards are trying to sort out problems, but more staff including consultants are desperately needed in hospitals. There is a national shortage of GPs, especially in cities and large towns. Our medical

practice has a good reputation for training, so fortunately registrars like to work here. In addition our practice has a pharmacist, mental health worker, advanced nurse practitioner and a respiratory nurse, which helps to lessen the load on the GPs.

On 23rd September almost 1,000 clients were successfully vaccinated against flu and Covid. Unfortunately, one vaccinator had to be sent home due to being unwell and another had to leave early. This had an impact on the queue at its busiest time, patients coming outside of their designated timeslot making the problem worse. Members of the public attending this open meeting said that the very fragile and frail were dealt with exceptionally well and that the queuing was not as bad as the previous autumn. The session on 7th October did not suffer the same problems as the first clinic and there was minimal queuing, with a further 800 patients receiving their vaccinations.

Alison Phillips (Chair)

Church Stretton Dementia Friends

Many thanks to Mary Latter, Chair, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Dementia Action Alliance for giving the keynote speech at our AGM held on 17th November.

It hardly seems possible that Dementia Friends formally launched on 1st July at the town's Family Fun day and

during these four and a half months we have held four dementia cafés, completed a survey of residents and families impacted by dementia to inform our priorities, forged many working relationships with other organisations including the Mayfair Community Centre, Field House Care Home and Glyn's Garden, and are now running Dementia Information Sessions for the general public with the first one scheduled for 15th November in the Library.

The Memory cafés are held every second Wednesday in Church Stretton Library at 1pm and typically follow a theme, with the initial one themed 'seaside', the second 'school days' and the third was themed 'shopping'. Guests and their carers are invited to participate in the activities and enjoy chair-based exercises tailored to that month's theme. Some music and reminiscing and maybe some gentle singing or poetry is all wrapped up with tea and cake.

There was much trepidation before the first café – will anyone come? Will they enjoy themselves? We need not have worried. The first Memory café attracted 22 guests and it has gone from strength to strength.

The success of the Memory cafés has been in large part due to the generosity

of the community, including contributions from the Co-op, Knit and Natter, Field House Care Home and their

overnight wild camping and a section 137 grant from Church Stretton Town Council.

Looking forward, the launch of the Awareness Training on 15th November is intended to introduce the wider community to dementia, explain how it affects a person and what you can do to help people affected by dementia in our community. Big or small, every action counts. Sessions last around 45 minutes and will be delivered by our trained Dementia Friends

Ambassador, Sarah Griffiths. Sessions will also take place monthly in 2024, and to reserve your place contact us on csdementiafriends@gmail.com

2024 will see us working on several new ventures and will also see us teaming with Glyn's Garden to create a dedicated area for those living with dementia and their families to enjoy and tend the gardens in a private and safe session.

If you would like to volunteer to help us with this important work, do please get in touch, and in particular if there is anyone who would like to become secretary to the group we'd love to hear from you.

*Vicky Munro
Chair*





WE'VE MOVED

Same great quality, new location

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



01694 724293

29 Sandford Avenue, Church Stretton

craven design and print

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

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

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

Stretton Print & Supplies

35 Sandford Avenue, Church Stretton, Shropshire SY6 6BH

Suppliers of good quality pens, ink and cartridges.

LAMY
Design. Made in Germany.



PARKER



SHEAFFER



CROSS
EST 1846 USA



Tel: 01694 724137

email: sales@stretton-print.co.uk



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



**ENTERTAINING
ELEPHANTS**



01694 723922

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

Berry's

17 High Street
Church Stretton

01694 724452

www.berryscoffeehouse.co.uk



Everything is home-made: breakfasts, hot and cold meals, snacks, cream teas, cakes, children's menu.

Courtyard; fully licensed; dog-friendly; private room for up to 12 people by prior arrangement.

Open every day from 9 am to 5 pm

Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice 2022*

* in global top 10% of restaurants



SAXTONS

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

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



The Royal Oak Cardington SY6 7JZ

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

01694 771266

www.at-the-oak.com

Churches in the Strettons



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

Sunday Services

St Laurence's

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

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

St Michael's

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

All Saints

1st Sunday	11.00am	Holy Communion (Order 2)
2nd Sunday	11.00am	Morning Prayer
3rd Sunday	11.00am	Holy Communion (Order 1)
4th Sunday	4.00pm	Evensong

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

Midweek Service

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

Online Service

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

The Parish Office is in the Parish Centre, Church Street. (Tel: 724224).

Open 9am to 12.30pm Monday to Friday. Email: office@strettonparish.org.uk



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

Website: www.churchstretton-methodistchurch.org.uk

Hall bookings: Carole Coles (Tel: 724958)

Sunday Services

10.30am Morning Service

Wednesday Activities

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

Cuppa and Chat 2.30-4pm. All welcome



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

Email: csqm@gorswen.co.uk

Sundays

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

For details of home discussion groups please telephone the Clerks.



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

St Milburga's, Church Stretton

Email: stmilburga@gmail.com

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

St Walburga's, Plowden

11.15am Sunday Mass



UNITED REFORMED CHURCH Minister: (vacant)

Website: churchstrettonurc.org.uk

Sunday Services

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

Weekday Activities

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

Wednesdays: Discussion and prayers – currently suspended

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

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

Church and Hall bookings: 722390

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

Allotment Gardens Association	Ben Warren	07779 437871	greenhillsallotments@gmail.com
All Stretton Amateur Dramatics Society			allstrettondrama@outlook.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	martin1947@btinternet.com
Climate Care, Stretton	David Matthews	07528 493181	
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)	Adele Parker	07742 718691	adelemstyles@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	John Goynes	723914	johngoynes@btinternet.com
MAYSI Project (Mayfair Supporting Independence)	Janet Williams/Shaz Malins	722077	maysi@mayfaircentre.org.uk
More Singers, The	Alistair Auld	07981 399482	
Mothers' Union, Church Stretton	Diana Coles	723548	
Music: Strettons Classical Music Group	Barbara Hall	724578	
Netball Club, Flames			hello@flamesnetball.co.uk; www.flamesnetball.co.uk
Netball Club, Stretton Scarlett's	Amy	07837 596297	
Ornithological Society, Stretton Branch	David John	724772	poolbrook12@gmail.com
Parkinson's UK	Hilary Bowman	07823 523696	hjb Bowman@live.com
Photography, Marches Independent	Geoff Taylor	723301	gtaylor.photo@btinternet.com
Pickleball Club	Carol	07803 329106	
Pilates (exercise)	Sandra Liebrecht	781660	selenaorme@yahoo.co.uk
Play On Performing Arts	Kate Buttolph	07974 382989	kate@playonperformingarts.co.uk
Pride of Place, Church Stretton	Trevor Halsey		trevorhalsey@btinternet.com

Probus, Strettondale	Alan Stockbridge	722317	alan.stockbridge@btinternet.com
Rail User's Association, Church Stretton	Alison Bradley	722138	strettonrailusers.org.uk
Radio Control Model Club, Church Stretton	Tim Goodwin	720392	tmgdwn@gmail.com
RAF Roundel Club	John L Davies	724703	
Rainbows, Church Stretton	Judy Russell	724056	davejudy1@googlemail.com
Ramblers, The South Shropshire Group	Darren	07837 021138	
Rangers (Girl Guides) Church Stretton Group	Ana Ireland	723390	anairland001@gmail.com
Readers Group at the Library	Felicity	722535	churchstretton.library@shropshire.gov.uk
RNLI	Brian Bradley	722138	b.glenmoar@gmail.com
Rotary Club of Church Stretton	Marcus Cash	07957 133316	marcuscash205@msn.com
Royal British Legion	Les Mackey	724992	sulesmackey@btinternet.com
Rugby Club, Church Stretton Samurai	Martyn Longhurst		martynlonghurst@hotmail.com
Rushbury and Cardington WI	Kaye Smith	771554	
Save the Children	Ann Hurst	771622	ann.hurst46@gmail.com
Scottish Dancers, Stretton	David Thomas	722107	
Scouts, 2nd Longmynd Group	Terry Davies	723477	mrterrydavies@hotmail.com
Scrappies - Shropshire Children's Scrapstore		328508	info@scrappies.org
Singers, The More Singers	Alistair Auld	07981 399482	alistairauld@gmail.com
Soaring Association, Long Mynd (model gliders)	Tim Goodwin	720392	info@lmsa.org.uk www.lmsa.org.uk
Soaring Club, Long Mynd (Hangliding & paragliding)	Tim Dunn	01588 672919	coaching@longmynd.org
Stepping Stones Nursery	Anne Arkwright	722341	
Stretton Players	Simon Cleaton	07510 390981	strettonplayers@gmail.com
Stretton Pool Action	David Betton	07977 221171	dmbetton@googlemail.com
Stretton Stitchers	Katy Webster	720200	or Frances Williams 722656
Stretton Strummers	Dave Wilkinson	07554 624662	
Stroke Group, Church Stretton and District	Hilary Parker	723419	
Swing Band, Stretton	Jamie Wrench	723923	jamie.wrench@lineone.net
Table Tennis, Church Stretton			churchstrettontabletennisclub@gmail.com
Table Tennis, Leebotwood	Will Priestley	724223	
Table Tennis, Rushbury	Ian Pennington	771410	ianpennington133@btinternet.com
T'ai Chi	Marc Lacey	722077	(Mayfair) www.mayfaircentre.org.uk
Taiko Drumming	James Barrow	720169	James@taikowest.com
Taoist Tai Chi, Longmynd	Jo London	01743 369787	jolondon@hotmail.co.uk
Tennis Club	Claire Hatfield	720123	mail@strataassociates.co.uk
Theatre & Concert Group, Stretton	Jenny or Graham Heath	722216	heath@knollcrest.co.uk; strettontheatreandconcert.net
Thursday Lunch Club (Ley Gardens)	Margaret Hamer	722407	or Dawn Longmore 722328
Tree Group, Church Stretton	Hilary Hymas	723208	hilaryhymas7@gmail.com
United Nations Association, Shropshire Branch	Ruth Davies	724304	daviescs@btinternet.com
University of the Third Age (U3A)	Lesley Brown	724330	u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/contact
Upright and Active (falls prevention strength & balance)	c/o Mayfair	722077	(Mayfair) www.mayfaircentre.org.uk
Walking Football	Ken Willis	328514	gordonwillis@go-plus.net
Wildlife Group, SACWG, Community	Julie Cowley	722310	sacwg@shropscwgs.org.uk
Wildlife Trust, Strettons Branch	Wally Blake	724040	
Women's Institute, CS Marmaladies WI	Carol Greswell	07803 581580	marmaladieswi@gmail.com
Women's Inst., Rushbury and Cardington	Kaye Smith	771554	kayerubetta.smith@btinternet.com
Women's Institute, All Stretton	Jean Huff	723706	allstrettonwi@gmail.com
Yoga (Mayfair)	c/o Mayfair	722077	(Mayfair) www.mayfaircentre.org.uk
Youth @ St Laurence's	David Andrews	724224	david.andrews@strettonparish.org.uk

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

Church Stretton Town Councillors

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

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

Shropshire (Unitary) Councillors for the Area

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

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

StrettonDale Local Joint Committee (Details pending)

Responsibilities for Public Services

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

Some useful numbers

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

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

Police - Non emergency only 101, Emergency 999

Church Stretton Safer Neighbourhood Team: Sergeant Jenni Price; Constable Elliot Maslen: 07814 944270

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

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs):

Daz Barnett: 07866 215007; David Baron: 07870 163156

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

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

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

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

Accommodation see Hotels, B&B, Self Catering	Clock & Watch Repair Adrian Donnelly Clock Repairs... 2	Garden Design, Services, Supplies Ben Carter Landscaping..... 43 Homden Excavations..... 39 Integral Gardens..... 43 John Stephens Services..... 43 Keith Warrington..... 39 Mike Russell Designs..... 39 Paul Forrester..... 15 Paul Tinsley..... 16 Peter Tipton..... 43 Shropshire Lawn Co..... 39 Tidy Garden..... 39 Unique Landscapes..... 43	Outdoor Clothing and Equipment The Outdoor Depot..... 52
Accountants and Bookkeeping James, Holyoak & Parker..... 57 RLW Accountants..... 57	Clothes Entertaining Elephants..... 52	Garden Machinery Newington Garage..... 48	Painters & Decorators Andrew Webster..... 39 D R Tipton Painter & Decorator 47 DWS Property Services..... 39 E B Jones..... 39 G H Jones & Son..... 39 Paul Forrester..... 15
Architects, Town Planning Batch Valley Design..... 23 Christopher Roscoe Assocs..... 23	Coaches Caradoc Coaches..... 48	Hairstylists, Health, Beauty Anthony's Hair Studio..... 47 Health & Beauty Clinic..... 31 Katerina White..... 47 Nails by Nancy..... 47 Shampers..... 47	Pest Control Chris Sansom Pest Control..... 64 Keith Warrington..... 39
Bathrooms see Kitchens, Bathrooms	Community Centre Mayfair..... 10	Health, Therapies see also Chiropractors & Physiotherapists Birch Tree Reflexology..... 27 Bodylogic Mobile Massage..... 31 Cate Gowlett..... 27 Mayfair..... 10 Shropshire Acupuncture..... 27	Pet Food and Pet Care John R Thomas..... 7
Beauty, Slimming see Hairdressers, Health, Beauty	Computing, Graphic and Web Design Jason Gough..... 2 Nic Sansom..... 2 Stretton Internet..... 2 Webbex Technical Services..... 2	Hobbies Books by Moonlight..... 7 Burway Books..... 7 Harold's Toy Store..... 7 Long Mynd Music Academy..... 7 Peter Youngs Photography..... 10 Philip Hooper..... 7 The Prolific Crafter..... 7	Pharmacy Hillside Pharmacy..... 47
Bed & Breakfast, Self Catering see Hotels, B&B, Self Catering	Decorators see Painters, Decorators	Home & Garden Harold's Toy Store..... 7 The Prolific Crafter..... 7	Physiotherapists Chris Turner..... 47 Marion Murdoch..... 47 Physio Pilates..... 47
Bookshop Books by Moonlight..... 7 Burway Books..... 7	DIY & Hardware Cyril Bason Hardware..... 43 Mynd DIY..... 43	Home Furnishings Abbey Carpets..... 7 Louise Watney..... 7	Piano Tuner and Repairs Philip Hooper..... 7
Builders, Plant & Equipment A J Lewis-Price..... 16 A Morgan..... 15 A.2.Z Construction..... 16 E J & G J Groom..... 15 Homden Excavations..... 39 Joe Drury..... 16 K J Morris..... 15 Keith George..... 16 Mark Terry..... 15 Morris Maintenance..... 43 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..... 43	Plumbers, Heating Gary Paris..... 27 Gasco..... 27 Homefix..... 31 J Morris..... 27 Lee Brown..... 31 Morris Maintenance..... 43 Pete Carroll..... 27 Peter Floyd..... 31 Whitfield Plumbing..... 31 Whiting Heating..... 27
Cafés see Restaurants, Cafés, Pubs	Electrical Services, Lighting AMP Electrical..... 48 Boxall's Electrician..... 48 Charles Ephraim..... 48 M C Electrical..... 48 Stephen Morgan..... 48	Hotels, B&B and Self Catering Eaton Manor..... 57 Mynd House..... 57 Willowbatch..... 57	Printing, Copying, Photo Products Craven Design & Print..... 52 Stretton Print & Supplies..... 52
Cards and Gifts Entertaining Elephants..... 52 Stretton Print & Supplies..... 52	Estate Agents Bluestone..... 34 Miller Evans..... 34 Samuel Wood..... 34 Wrights Estate Agents..... 34	Insurance see Financial Services, Insurance	Restaurants, Cafés, Pubs Berry's..... 52 Royal Oak, Cardington..... 52
Care - Homes and At Home Bluebird Care..... 10	Event Venues Eaton Manor..... 57	Keep Fit see Health, Therapies, Keep Fit	Skip Hire John Stephens Services..... 43 Peter Tipton..... 43
Carpenters & Joiners E J & G J Groom..... 15 Keith George..... 16 Mark Terry..... 15 Mike Webster..... 15 Paul Forrester..... 15	Employment Bluebird Care..... 23	Kitchens, Bathrooms A J Lewis-Price..... 16 A.2.Z Construction..... 16 Homefix..... 31 Lee Brown..... 31 Mark Terry..... 15 Paul Forrester..... 15	Solicitors FBC Manby Bowdler..... 23 PCB Solicitors..... 23
Carpets Abbey Carpets..... 7	Financial Services & Insurance Caleb Roberts..... 57 Philippa Gee Wealth Mngment. 57 Wrights Yorkshire Building Soc. 57	Mobility Stretton Mobility Store..... 10	Storage Churton Self-Storage..... 64
Catteries and Kennels see Pet Food, Pet Care	Florist John R Thomas..... 7 Shropshire Flower Company..... 7		Sweep Shropshire Sweep..... 64 Stanton Sweeps..... 64
Chemist Hillside Pharmacy..... 47	Food, Delicatessen Entertaining Elephants..... 52 Saxtons Deli..... 52		Taxi Church Stretton Taxi..... 48
Chiropractors Caroline Crump..... 47	Funeral Arrangements A S Morris and Son..... 10 South Shropshire Remembrance Park..... 10		Watches, Batteries, Straps The Outdoor Depot..... 52
Cleaning and House Care Chris Sansom Pest Control..... 64 Cleanrite Services..... 64 Gordon Ribbons..... 64 In Depth Cleaning..... 64 Shaw Clean..... 64 Shropshire Sweep..... 64 Stanton Sweeps..... 64	Garage Services Burway Garage..... 48 Central Garage..... 48 MOT Clinic..... 48		Windows A Morgan..... 15
			Window Cleaning Handyman Services..... 64



JAMES, HOLYOAK & PARKER LIMITED

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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

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

Offices at Shrewsbury, Church Stretton and Kington

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



Philippa Gee
Wealth Management



Independent Financial Advice

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

01694 722 222 www.philippagee.co.uk

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

RLW

ACCOUNTANTS
Chartered Accountants

Ruth Whiting

01694 724527

rlwaccountants@btinternet.com

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

Personal tax
Sole traders and partnerships
Limited companies
Charities

Free initial consultation

Professional personal service over thirty years experience

WILLOWBATCH CARDING MILL VALLEY

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

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



HERE FOR YOU IN CHURCH STRETTON

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

MEET THE TEAM AT YOUR LOCAL AGENCY

WRIGHTS ESTATE AGENTS,
32 SANDFORD AVENUE,
CHURCH STRETTON, SHROPSHIRE, SY6 6BN
01694 722237

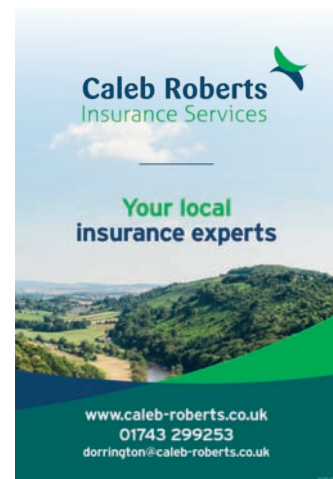
Yorkshire Building Society is a member of the Building Societies Association and is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Yorkshire Building Society is entered in the Financial Services Register and its registration number is 120085. Head Office: Yorkshire House, Yorkshire Drive, Bradford BD5 8LJ ybs.co.uk



Caleb Roberts
Insurance Services

Your local
insurance experts

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



MYND HOUSE

Bed & Breakfast On The Hill

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



Glorious 5 Star Rural Retreat

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

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

And much more...



01694 724 814
www.eatonmanor.co.uk

What's On in the Strettons in December

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

WEEKLY EVENTS/MEETINGS:

Babies and Toddlers Group

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

Badminton Club

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

Balance/Strength: Be Strong Be Steady

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

Bridge Club, The Strettons

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

Chess Club, CS

All ages and abilities welcome. Contact: Tom Williamson 722767 Please note change to day/venue. Every **Monday** 7.30pm Bucks Head, CS

Christian Meditation (online via Zoom)

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

Christian Meditation (meeting in person)

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

Cuppa and Chat at the Methodist Church

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

Dancing: Learn 2 Jive

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

Dancing: Scottish

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

Energy Advice from Stretton Climate Care

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

Family History Research

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

Football: CS Football Club

The team plays in the Salop Leisure Football League. Home games are played at Russell's Meadow and kick-off is 2pm. Home fixtures in Dec: 9th Dec, Newport Town 16th Dec, Wem Town 2pm Russell's Meadow

Football: Three Touch Passing

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

Handbell Ringers, Hope Bowdler

New members are most welcome; you do not need to be able to read music. Contact: Ruth Jenkins: 724919 Every **Thursday** 2pm Hope Bowdler Village Hall

Knit & Natter Group at Ley Gardens

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

LEGO Club at CS Library

Suitable for all ages (under 8s must be accompanied by an adult). No booking required. We also have DUPLO and Mega Bloks for little ones. Every **Saturday** 2-3.30pm CS Library

Music: Stretton Strummers Ukulele Group

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

Netball Club, Stretton Scarletts

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

What's On continued

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

Rhyme Time

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

Booking may be required.

Every **Tuesday**

10.30-11am CS Library

Singing: Breathing Space Singing Groups

Singing for health and wellbeing.

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

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

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

Contact Kate: 720358 or 07974 382989 or kate@playonperformingarts.co.uk

Every **Wednesday** at Mayfair

Singing: Harmony In The Hills

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

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

Every **Thursday**

7.30-9pm Mayfair Activity Room

Singing: Stretton Choral Society Rehearsals

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

Every **Thursday**. Note that the current term ends with our Christmas concert on 10th December. Our new term starts on 11th January, when we'll start working towards our May concert.

7.30-9.30pm URC

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

Tai Chi with Marc

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

Every **Friday**

9.30-10.45am Mayfair

Thursday Lunch Club (Good Neighbours)

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

Contact Lin Brown 781634 or Good

Neighbours 724242

Every **Thursday**

12noon Ley Gardens, Lawley Close, SY6 6GA

Whist Drives at Westhope

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

All abilities welcome.

Every **Monday**

7.15pm Westhope VH, SY7 9JL

Yoga at Mayfair

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

Every **Monday**

5.15-6.45pm Mayfair

Chair Yoga at Mayfair with Mary

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

Every **Wednesday**

10.30-11.45am Mayfair

Yoga at Westhope with Sue Pugh

Experienced tutor. Numbers are limited.

Enquiries: 07860 447397

Every **Wednesday**

4.15-5.15pm Westhope VH, SY7 9JL

Yoga: Gong Yoga with Grace

Relaxing classes for stress and anxiety.

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

Every **Tuesday** until 19th Dec

7-8.30pm Rushbury VH, Wall under Heywood.

Yoga: Vita Bona Yoga at CS Library

Booking: Sue 07432 349933

Every **Monday**

9.30-10.30am Improvers

11-11.45am Chair Yoga

Yoga with Becca

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

Contact Becca on 07905 236805 or yogawithbecca@hotmail.com

Tues: 6.30-7.30pm Mayfair

Wed: 9.30-10.30am Scout Hut

Wed: 6.30-7.30pm SHI

Thurs: 7-8am Scout Hut

Thurs: 9.30-10.30am Leebotwood VH

Youth Club For School Years 6 to 7

A club for ages 10-12.

Sessions are staffed by trained and DBS-checked youth workers. Contact: Richard 01743 430005 or email at info@sya.org.uk

Every **Tuesday** in term time

4-5.30pm Pavilion, Russell's Meadow

Youth Club For School Years 8 to 11

A relaxed and inviting space for ages 12-16 to meet up outside of school hours to participate in a range of activities or just chat. Sessions are staffed by trained and DBS-checked youth workers. Contact: Richard 01743 430005 or email at info@sya.org.uk

Every **Tuesday** in term time

6-7.30pm Pavilion, Russell's Meadow

Continued overleaf..

What's On continued

CHRISTMAS EVENTS:

Christmas Church Services: Anglican

Please see the Stretton Parish items for details of the Anglican services and also for the Stretton Parish Christmas Lunch for elderly/vulnerable/lonely members of the community.

Christmas Church Services: Methodist

Sun 17th no service at 10.30am.

Carol service at 3pm followed by tea and mince pies.

Sun 24th 10.30am usual morning service.

Mon 25th 10.00am short all-age Christmas morning service.

Sun 31st 10.30am usual morning service. Anyone is welcome at any of the above. Methodist Church, Watling St

Mayfair Christmas Lunches

This year our Christmas lunches will be on **Wednesday 6th, Wednesday 13th**, and **Thursday 21st** December.

£17.50 for a roast meal with all the trimmings, dessert, a welcome drink, and tea or coffee and mints.

Call Mayfair to book.

GENERAL DIARY:

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-12noon Mayfair

u3a Reading Group 1

1st Friday of the month.

2-3pm CS Library

National Theatre Live Screening: *Skylight*

Bar and interval refreshments available to purchase.

Tickets: £15 adults, £10 under 18s. We recommend booking through Mayfair reception, or by calling 722077, to avoid online booking fees. 7pm Mayfair

2 SATURDAY

Amnesty Group 'Write for Rights'

Join us for 'Write for Rights 2023'.

Refreshments provided, and a cake sale!

10am-12noon URC Hall

CS Ballroom & Sequence Dance Club

Come and enjoy an informal evening of socialising and dance (Ballroom, Latin and Modern Sequence with the odd line dance thrown in!) £7 per person.

All abilities welcome, with or without a partner. Bring your own refreshments.

Info from Christine: 723386

8-10.30pm SHI

3 SUNDAY

Ukrainian Christmas Charity Event

Experience delicious homemade Ukrainian cuisine and a selection of traditional Ukrainian carols and dances. Hear from volunteers helping those in Ukraine.

Adults £20, children £10. Tickets are limited and must be bought in advance – check availability at Vine & Co or phone Caroline on 723283.

6pm SHI

4 MONDAY

u3a Art History Group

1st Monday of the month.

2-4pm CS Library

Royal British Legion 'Drink & Chat' Hour

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

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

5 TUESDAY

Neighbourhood Plan Community Drop-in

Please see the 'Neighbourhood Plan for the Strettons' article for information.

Call in at a community session for tea, coffee and to share your thoughts.

10am-12noon or 3.30-7pm SHI

HSBC Banking Community Pop-up

The HSBC local team will be on hand to support people with any banking queries they may have, including: registering for online and mobile banking, reducing the risk of fraud and accessing banking services.

10am-1pm HWBC

Stretton Stitchers

An informal, friendly sewing group.

Info: Katy 720200 or Frances 722656

10am-1pm URC Hall

Mayfair Christmas Quiz Party

With quizmaster Ken Willis.

Tickets are £5 per quizzier. Contact Mayfair to book in your team.

7pm HWBC

Engaging Issues Talk

With David Burton, from Men's Shed, the global movement that exists to create connections and conversations amongst men, and promote mental, social, and physical well-being.

To find out more or see full details of this season of talks, visit our website: www.engagingissues.org.uk

We ask for a £3 donation per talk.

7.30pm URC

What's On continued

Flicks in the Sticks All Stretton

Foreign Language Film:
Blind Ambition (2021)
Cert 12a RT: 1 hr, 26 mins
Tickets £6. No interval
Enquiries: 07812 583113
8pm All Stretton VH

6 WEDNESDAY – 1ST JANUARY

Christmas Tree Festival

Stretton Parish is hosting a Christmas Tree Festival over the 2023 Advent and Christmas season.
St Laurence's Church

6 WEDNESDAY

Strettons Classical Music Group Talk

Today's subject is *The Four Seasons*, a group of four violin concertos by Antonio Vivaldi.
With David Andrew.
Entry to the talk is £3.
Contact: Barbara Hall 724578.
10am-12noon URC Hall

C.A.M.E.O. Meeting

Carols and tea.
2.30pm Parish Centre

Joint Christmas Concert

With the Craven Arms Men's Chorus and Shrewsbury Theatre Singers.
Tickets £8 (child £5). Buy or reserve:
Tel. 07751 960600 or email
shrewsburytheatresingers@gmail.com, or purchase on the door.
7pm URC

CS Amnesty Group

Meet first Wednesday of the month.
All are welcome; we are a friendly inclusive group.
Contact csamnesty@outlook.com
7.30pm SHI

Flicks in the Sticks: Cardington

Barbie (2023)
Cert: 12a RT: 1 hr, 54 mins
Tickets: £4. Contact: 771295
7.30pm Cardington VH, SY6 7JZ

7 THURSDAY

Citizens Advice at CS Library

Trained advisors on hand to give advice.
Sessions by appointment, 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month.
Book via freephone number 0800 278 7894 (Mon-Fri 10am-4pm) or textphone 18001 0800 144 8884
10am-12noon CS Library

Marmaladies CS WI

Christmas cheer – our last meeting before Christmas will see informal games, chat, drinks and nibbles.
Prize for best Christmas jumper!
We welcome new members to join us for creative, informative and discussion sessions. marmaladieswi@gmail.com
7.30pm Mayfair

8 FRIDAY

u3a Writers Group 1

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

9 SATURDAY

Neighbourhood Plan Community Drop-in

Please see the 'Neighbourhood Plan for the Strettons' article for information.
Call in at a community session for tea, coffee and to share your thoughts.
10am-1pm Mayfair

Musical: The Story of St Nicholas

With the Teme Spirit Choir. And orchestra.
Narration by local young people.
Tickets unreserved £7:50, children under 16 free. Tickets available from choir members and from
tinyurl.com/TemeSpirit
6pm St Laurence's Church

CS Ballroom & Sequence Dance Club

8pm (see Sat 2nd for details)

10 SUNDAY

Stretton Choral Society Christmas Concert

Includes choir-only pieces and also a chance for the audience to join in. Tickets £12, available from Vine & Co, from Choral Society members, and on the door.
7.30pm SHI

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

Flicks in the Sticks All Stretton

Mrs Harris Goes to Paris (2022)
Cert: PG RT: 1 hr, 55 mins
Enquiries: 07812 583113
Tickets £5
2pm All Stretton VH

Stretton Cancer Support Group

We meet every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month for an informal chat with tea/biscuits for anyone to pop in for a chat and who might need some help and support. For more info, contact Jane Potts: 771264
2.30pm HWBC

12 TUESDAY

Stretton Stitchers

10am (see Tues 5th for details)

u3a Writers Group 2

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

Live Royal Ballet Screening: *The Nutcracker*

Tickets: £15 adults, £10 under18s.
Bar and interval refreshments available to purchase. (see also 17th Dec)
7.15pm Mayfair

All Stretton Women's Institute

The story of Rev. Carr with Chris Stratton.
Email: allstrettonwi@gmail.com
7.30pm All Stretton VH

13 WEDNESDAY

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

Continued overleaf...

What's On continued

Flicks in the Sticks: Hope Bowdler

Empire of Light (2022)

Cert: 15 RT: 1 hr, 55 mins

Admission: adults £5, children £2.50

Pay on the door. Mulled wine and mince pies served in the interval. Enquiries: 721376

7.30pm Hope Bowdler VH

Long Mynd Camera Club

Christmas Social: Chairman's Choice

Supporting our 'Bring and Share' buffet-fest will be some short presentations by members.

Our next meeting is on 10th January.

www.longmyndcameraclub.co.uk

7.30pm URC Hall

14 THURSDAY

Monthly Drop-In Council Surgery

Please note: no surgery this month.

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

Acton Scott Gardening Club Talk

The topic is 'Hardy Geraniums' by guest speaker Sue Clarke, Chair of the Cottage Garden Society.

7.30pm Acton Scott VH

Flicks in the Sticks Church Stretton

A Bunch of Amateurs (2022)

Cert U RT: 1 hr, 35 mins

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

Enquiries: 07508 072206

7.30pm SHI

15 FRIDAY

Flicks in the Sticks All Stretton

Rye Lane (2023)

Cert: 15 RT: 1 hr, 22 mins

Enquiries: 07812 583113

Tickets £5

7.30pm All Stretton VH

Live Music at SHI: The Carnival Band

'A carnival of carols.'

Tickets £16 adult, £8, 18 and under, available online silvesterhorneevents.co.uk or from CS Town Council Office or the Outdoor Depot, Sandford Ave.

More information from 720132

7.30pm SHI

16 SATURDAY

Saturday Morning Music: Quintessential

A concert with a Christmas twist to end the year's Saturday morning concerts. Concerts are free of charge, normally last just under an hour, and a retiring collection is taken from which donations are made to a local charity. Refreshments available afterwards. 10.15am Methodist Church

More Singers Festive Carol Concert

A festive evening of carol singing and seasonal readings.

Tickets: £8 on the door or in advance from:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/The-More-Singers

Enquiries to 07896 761149

7 for 7.30pm Methodist Church

CS Ballroom & Sequence Dance Club

8pm (see Sat 2nd for details)

17 SUNDAY

Live Royal Ballet Screening: *The Nutcracker*

Tickets: £15 adults, £10 under 18s.

Bar and interval refreshments available to purchase. (see also 12th Dec)

2pm matinée Mayfair

18 MONDAY

Mayfair Festive Music Recital

An afternoon of Christmas music, carols, mulled wine and nibbles. With Ragleth Recorders and musical friends.

Tickets: £5, with all proceeds going to Mayfair. Call Mayfair to book.

3.30pm Mayfair

19 TUESDAY

Flicks in the Sticks Acton Scott

The Darjeeling Limited (2007)

Cert: 15 RT: 1 hr, 31 mins

Tickets: £5 adult, £3 child.

Ample parking and level access

Enquiries: 781260

7.30pm Acton Scott VH

21 THURSDAY

Citizens Advice at CS Library

10am (see Thurs 7th for details)

22 FRIDAY

u3a Writers Group 1

With Lesley Dench

2nd and 4th Friday of the month

10am-12noon CS Library

Good Neighbours Friday Lunch Club

We normally meet on the last Friday of each month at a local pub or restaurant, but as it's Christmas, we've moved it to the 22nd. 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.

Christmas 'Strictly' Stretton

Wear your dancing shoes for this big band Christmas party, presented by Broad Band. There will be a cash bar.

Tickets: £10 from Vine & Co.

Tel: 07500 003960/07962 274580

broadbandnotes@gmail.com

7.30pm SHI

23 SATURDAY

Library Closes for Christmas Break

CS library closes at 5pm today and reopens at 9.30am on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

WHAT'S ON IN EARLY JANUARY

4 THURSDAY

Family Film at Mayfair: *The Bad Guys*

Action comedy from DreamWorks Animation. Adults £3, children £2.

Booking is essential:

www.mayfaircentre.org.uk/familyfilm.

1.30pm Mayfair

Occasional Advertisements

Occasional adverts are
not indexed

We're over the moon
Full fibre broadband from
£26/month*

*Terms and conditions apply

Find out more and check your postcode at
www.swsbroadband.net/overthemoon


SWS
BROADBAND



Locksmiths

- Local & Independent
- No Callout Charges
- Free Security Advice

IDP Locksmiths (Ian)
t: 01948 666116 m: 07918 617744
e: idplocksmiths@hotmail.co.uk
w: www.idplocksmiths.co.uk



BESPOKE TIMBER STRUCTURES

Decks and Gazebos

Upgrade your outdoor space with a luxury gazebo, deck or both. Handmade in the UK with a focus on craftsmanship and sustainable materials.

www.bespoketimberstructures.co.uk
info@bespoketimberstructures.co.uk
07845 630045

To place an occasional
advertisement, please contact
adverts@strettonfocus.co.uk
Size: 60 x 35mm,
price £7.50 per month

**DOG WALKING
PET MINDING, PET SITTING,
PET VISITING**

Fully Insured

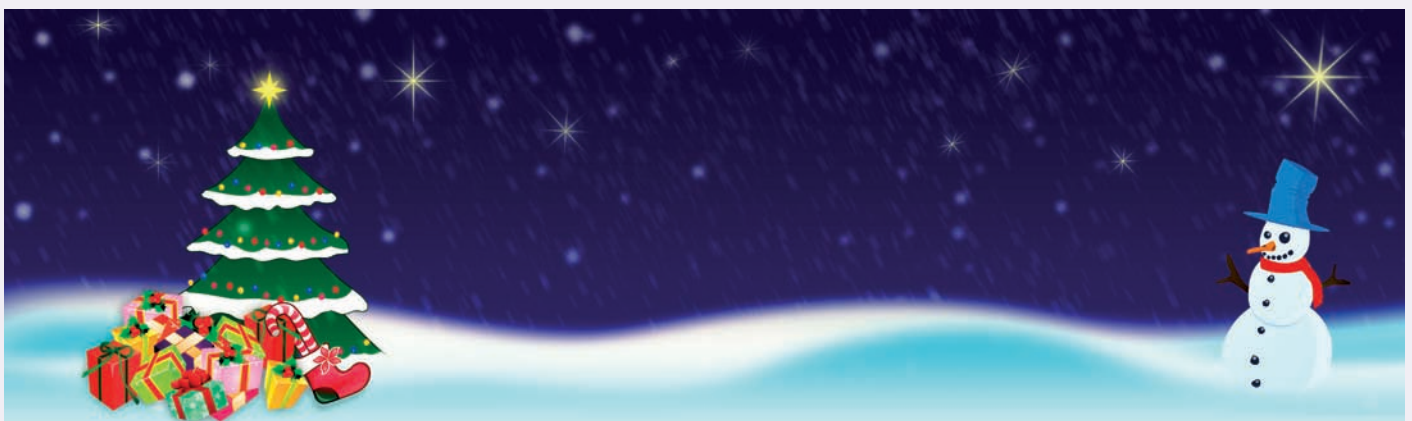
To discuss your pet's needs
please contact Tracy Dalton
07530 819079 / 07486 663418

Ear Syringing Home Visits
In and around Church Stretton - £25
Do your ears feel blocked?
Gentle irrigation using warm water may help
Please call / WhatsApp Sophie Corbett (RGN) on
07361 283231
Please note: you will need to apply olive oil drops
for 7 days before this procedure

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.





Academic Cleaning Services
Tel: 07884 002718



SUPERB CLEANING

- CARPETS
- UPHOLSTERY
- LEATHER
- RUGS
- STAIN REMOVAL & PROTECTION
- CURTAINS
- MATTRESSES
- STONE
- TILE & GROUT
- WOOD
- DRIVEWAYS
- PATIOS
- DECKING

Tim Shaw recommended & used by leading home furnishing retailers since 1997.

07976 559 072 www.shawclean.co.uk
0800 612 8817 FREE advice, quotes & fully insured.



Churton Self-Storage

Container Self-Storage – Caravan & Motor Home Storage

Industrial and Domestic Use
10ft, 20ft and 40ft Containers Available
Secure Yard with CCTV Monitoring - 24 Hour Access

Wall Bank, Wall Under Heywood, Church Stretton, SY67HJ
☎ 01694 724880 📠 07979 817554
✉ churtonselfstorage@gmail.com 🌐 churtonselfstorage.co.uk

SHROPSHIRE SWEEP

JON PROSSER
Tel: 01785 509333
Mobile: 07946 134783

CHIMNEY SWEEP AND VACUUM SERVICE



Chimney Sweep

Local and Reliable Service

from £60 per sweep
Free Smoke Tests
Certificates issued
Contact: 07805 643422 or www.StantonSweeps.com

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Specialist



- Carpet • Upholstery
- Fine Rugs • Leather

Powerful Truck-mounted Cleaning System
5 star reviews ★★★★★

IN DEPTH

Find out more at www.indepthclean.co.uk
or call Chris for a quotation
T: 07855 499983 

Natural Stone Floor Cleaning Specialist



Powerful Truck-mounted Cleaning System
5 star reviews ★★★★★

IN DEPTH

Find out more at www.indepthclean.co.uk
or call Chris for a quotation
T: 07855 499983 



Lawn Care

Lawns cut, scarified, & fertilized.
Patio cleaning.

Chris Sansom
01694 722709



Pest Control

Moles, wasps, squirrels, rats, mice, ants, moths, biting & crawling insects.

mobile 07891 638662
cs-pestcontrol.co.uk

ISSN 1479-7356



9 771479 735007



CLEANRITE SERVICES

South Shropshire's leading cleaning company

- Domestic & Commercial
- Pressure Washing
- Carpet Cleaning Specialist - from £20 per room

01694 328215 • 07900 932162
enquiries@cleanriteservices.co.uk

Handyman Home Services - Window Cleaning



Window Cleaning Rates, from:

- Small House/Bungalow £10.00
- Medium House/Bungalow £15.00
- Large House/Bungalow £17.50

For a free quote please call or email:
t: 07800 537789 e: andybithell@yahoo.co.uk