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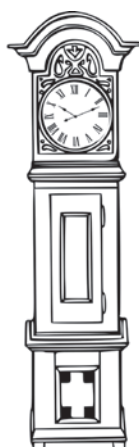
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Welcome



It has always surprised me how many charities there are in this country – about 167,000 at the latest count, with more added every year. If you have lived abroad, you will know that this is unusual, although many religious groups of all faiths do wonderful charitable work in other countries but here people see a gap in what is being provided and try to address the problem with philanthropy.

This started over a thousand years ago in Britain and we have many ancient charities still providing schooling, healthcare and social care. It reached a peak in the Victorian era. People knitted socks for soldiers in the Crimea and had to arrange to get them there. Quaker entrepreneurs and writers like Dickens started the population thinking about those less fortunate than themselves. The Horse Trust, inspired by the novel *Black Beauty*, provided a temporary retreat for ill and exhausted London cab horses.

Many foundered along the way and it has always been particularly sad to see a charity set up for a single very specific purpose, left with donations in their bank, unable to do anything worthwhile because that purpose no longer exists. The Charity Commission has a duty to check that funds can be passed on to a similar cause when that happens.

Volunteering in a charity shop is a fascinating insight into people's perceptions, with some amazing donations from the totally unsuitable to the very generous. Which charity shops (if any) do you support in Church Stretton and why? You may have a favourite (and sometimes that is the attractiveness of the premises, not necessarily your allegiance to their cause) or you may try to support each in turn.

Apart from shops, many of us donate regularly to charities and we all have our favourites. *Focus* has a scheme to give grants up to £1,000 to projects which will benefit the community in the Strettons and we sometimes publish details of where the money goes.

Focus is a company limited by guarantee, not a charity, but we work in similar ways. The company is managed and run entirely by volunteers and neither they nor the members of the company benefit financially in any way.

Although it is, of course, necessary for the company to manage its finances and trade to make a profit in order for it to remain viable, our purpose is not to maximise profits but to serve the community. Let us know if your cause needs support.

Clare Editor

Invitation to Participate in a Questionnaire Survey

In the September and October issues of *Focus* we have described our plans for a questionnaire survey to seek the views of you, our readers, on how well *Focus* serves your particular interests and preferences. We shall also welcome any ideas you may have for possible improvements.

You will have found a copy of the questionnaire inserted in this magazine, together with a Royal Mail pre-stamped envelope. The questionnaire is addressed to both residents and visitors and fits two sides of one sheet of paper. We are asking you to tick a series of boxes and hope that many of you will take a few minutes to give us your answers.

You may either post your completed questionnaire in the envelope provided or alternatively take it to one of the following locations and drop it into the *Focus* box you will find there:

Wrights Estate Agents, Vine & Co., Entertaining Elephants, Mayfair Community Centre or the Library/ Visitor Information Centre.

Also, for those who can do so, we are happy to accept a scanned copy or mobile photo returned by email to sfocussurvey@gmail.com.

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

Stretton Focus

Community Voice of the Strettons

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

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Submission of Articles and Photographs for Publication

These should be made to the editors by email to

editor@strettonfocus.co.uk

Please use this address if you are contacting an individual editor.
If you do not receive a response within 48 hours please check the address carefully and send your email again.

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

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

When are the deadlines?

The deadline for receipt of all submissions by all methods is
12 noon on the first Monday of each month
for the following month's edition.

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

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

For the **December** issue the deadline is
Monday 6th November, at 12 noon.

For the **January** issue the deadline is
Monday 4th December at 12 noon.

The **December** issue will be distributed on **Friday 1st 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
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to whom copy should be sent.

The *Stretton Focus* Directors cannot accept responsibility for any product or service advertised.
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Community Awards

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

Subscriptions

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

Outlets

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

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November 2023

This Month

Remembrance

Several articles this month highlight all the reasons we dedicate November to those who gave their lives in wars. Particularly interesting are the different colour poppies now available and what they represent.

Questionnaire

Please do complete one of our questionnaire surveys if you can. We want to get *Focus* as valuable as possible to everyone who reads it, even (or especially) if you are not a regular subscriber.

Copsill Browns

Every generation probably thinks that things have changed more in their lifetime than ever before in history, but Bill's short article makes you think that this is really true today.

Behind the counter

There seems to be no end to the inventive entrepreneurship with new businesses in Church Stretton and we welcome two more interesting new ideas.

Unfortunately there were some printing problems with a small number of October's issue of *Focus*. If this affected your copy and you would like a replacement copy, please contact Chrys Bonds at chrys.bonds@btinternet.com.

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*Autumn in Rectory Wood,
photo by Geoff Taylor*

Our Website
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Glyn's Garden Illustrated Talk



24th November 2.30pm
United Reformed Church Hall

Please support Glyn's Garden and Friends of Church Stretton Library by coming along to a talk by Hily Clarke, the founder of Glyn's Garden.

The illustrated talk will provide a potted history of gardening as a therapy. Hily will also talk about the Church Stretton project and how it will be available to help a number of different groups locally.

Proceeds from the talk will be shared by Glyn's Garden and the Friends of Church Stretton Library.

Help support these two local projects that are part of our rich local culture.

Admission £5 payable on the door.



Avoid events clashing

In September there were two quizzes in Church Stretton within three days of each other. This was not in the interest of either of the two organisations running these events.

If you are running an event please remember to:

1. **Check the Strettons' Planning Diary** – to make sure no one else is planning to run a similar event around that time.
2. **Add your event to the diary** – so other events organisers know to avoid that date.

The diary can be accessed online from the top right hand side of Friends of Church Stretton Library Home Page – see www.strettonlibraryfriends.org.uk

NB The website is moderated so there will be a short delay after you enter details of your event before it appears online.

Sheila Davies

Church Stretton Local History Group

Meeting Monday 20th November at 2pm in the URC Hall

Excavations at Pole Cottage

Our November speaker will be National Trust archaeologist Janine Young reporting on discoveries made on the Long Mynd, especially around Pole Cottage.

In July last year a community excavation took place at Pole Cottage, a small enclosure in the middle of the common, on the top of the Long Mynd near the highest point. Named after the Ordnance Survey pole that once stood near there, it has been home to shepherds, game keepers and eccentric bird of prey enthusiasts.

The cottage itself has long since vanished but volunteers, under the guidance of National Trust archaeologists, worked there together with Matt Williams whom you may remember from his years at Time Team. They conducted a site survey in addition to archival research and recorded a timeline of its social history.

Visitors are welcome: £4.

For more information about our group email csalhg@outlook.com or call 01694 723627.

Madeline Haigh

Joint Christmas Choir Concert with Two Local Choirs

Once again, two of our Shropshire choirs – **Craven Arms Men's Chorus** and **Shrewsbury Theatre Singers** – are joining together for an evening of music, headed up by local musical director Kimee Cleaton, offering pieces by each choir and some joint songs to end the evening with a bang.



Both choirs boast a rich, mixed selection of musical repertoire throughout the year and, as such, the programme will be varied and enjoyable. It will consist of musical theatre favourites from shows like *Gypsy*, *Mary Poppins* and *The Lion King*, the gospel songs *Siya Hamba* and *Hand me Down My Silver Trumpet*, traditional hymns such as *The Battle Hymn of the Republic* and the Welsh favourite *Gwahoddiad* and, of course, a good few Christmassy pieces and carols to complete the evening. Some of these will be Christmas-themed hits from films and shows like *Elf the Musical*, *Mame* and *The Polar Express*, then older, more traditional Christmas songs like *Italian Piper's Carol* and *When a Child is Born*, and finally, two brand new, fresh arrangements of Christmas pieces you all know – *Silent Night* and *Jingle Bells* – with optional audience participation!

It is set to be a fun evening of variety and entertainment. We hope you will come along and support us on Wednesday 6th December.

The STS and CAMC Joint Christmas Concert is at 7pm on Wednesday 6th December, at the United Reformed Church. (No interval.)

Tickets £8 (child £5). Buy or reserve: phone 07751 960600 or email shrewsburytheatresingers@gmail.com, or purchase on the door.

Scout Group News

Terry Davies, Group Scout Leader of the 2nd Longmynd, gives an enthusiastic report on the autumn term with over 120 young people and 18 adult Leaders now in the Group, one of whom, Angie Walshaw, Explorer Scout Leader, received a County Commissioner's Commendation for her work in leading a unit of Explorers to the sub-Jamboree in Norway.

Despite the darkening evenings the Troop's programme is concentrating on expedition training, particularly on compass work and mapping with a final night hike on Caer Caradoc where the newest members of the Troop will be invested, a memorable occasion for them.

After a visit to Cosford Air Museum both the Tuesday and Wednesday Cub Packs are running programmes for the Air Activities Badge which includes methods of communication and requires learning the phonetic alphabet. Both packs are also working for the Astronomer Badge with a night hike on the Long Mynd to view the moon through telescopes.

The Tuesday Pack is also running a safety programme with a visit to the Fire Station, always popular with the packs, and instruction in personal safety from a police officer.

All meetings are held in the group headquarters in Church Street and are open to both boys and girls. All information from the GSL on 07484 717317.

Monday 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

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

Scout Troop. Ages 10½-14½: 7-9pm

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

(Check with GSL for Explorer dates)

Tuesday 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

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

Wednesday 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

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

Fred Reeve



Christmas Craft Fair



If you are looking forward to Christmas, then this could be an early chance to search for presents and decorative items.

A craft fair will be held at The Parish Centre in Church Stretton on Saturday 11th November from 10am to 4pm.

More than 20 Crafters from all over Shropshire will be there and handmade items from soap, candles and honey to Christmas decorations, knitted goods and jewellery will be available, plus much more.

Those wonderful Marmaladies will be providing the refreshments. There will be a grand raffle and all proceeds will go to Church Stretton Ring & Ride Service.

For more details you can contact Lin Brown on 07808 792314 or email linda_brown294@hotmail.co.uk



Focus Subscriptions

Where's my *Focus*?

Every year dozens of Stretton residents risk not getting their copy of *Focus* delivered to their door. They either don't renew their subscription before the 15th January deadline, or don't put their address as the reference when they pay by bank transfer.

Mrs. A* of Little Stretton said "I thought my husband had paid by bank transfer, so when our distributor called to collect our subscription I told him that we'd done it online, and he said 'That's fine' and went away". Mr. A* of Little Stretton added "Oh dear, I was going to do it on Thursday evening, then John called round and we went up the pub ..."

Peter Whitlock, the *Focus* subscription manager, says that there are nearly a thousand individual subscriptions to collect, and there are always a few people who don't pay on time because they forget or assume someone else has paid for them. He adds that online bank transfer payments can be particularly difficult to trace if people don't put their address in the reference box when they make the payment – sometimes the surname on the bank account doesn't match the one on the list of subscribers, maybe because partners have different surnames, maybe because a friend or a married daughter is making a payment for someone.

Stretton Focus doesn't do subscription payment by direct debit or standing order, so you have to make a new bank transfer payment every year.

Here's what you need to know to ensure that your copy of *Stretton Focus* keeps coming through your letterbox.

Make sure that you've paid before 15th January 2024.

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- **Cash** – just give £12 in cash to your local distributor when he or she calls.
- **Cheque** – write a cheque for £12 payable to **Stretton Focus Limited**, sign and date it and give it to your local distributor when he or she calls.
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If you have any problems making your subscription payment, give Chrys or Peter a call on 724184 or 725533, or send an email to focussubscription@gmail.com.

We look forward to receiving your subscription payment and continuing to deliver *Stretton Focus* to your door every month.

(*Not their real names. OK, so I made the quotes up too.)

Peter Whitlock

Strettons Classical Music Group

Wednesday 8th November meeting, 10am URC Hall

The subject of the talk to be given by Richard Walker is the harp, from its pre-biblical beginnings to the versatile solo instrument of today with its 'soft angelic whispers'.

Some of us may remember a harp concert at one of the coffee concerts of this year's Arts Festival.

To quote a 12th century gentleman "What every man needs is a cushion for his chair, a virtuous wife and a harp well tuned".

All welcome.

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Barbara Hall



Photos: Hilary Chambers (CC), National Trust (CMV)



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You may be relieved to know that this is the last of my three reflections on social norms, morality and power structures in our society. Next month we'll return to more of a spiritual focus, not that spirituality and our social life and attitudes are completely distinct but are facets of our life lived in God. Just to recap, I have written about how we treat one another in the changing social milieu and of the immaturity and moral evil of 'cancel culture' and how we as human beings need to differentiate and categorise everything around us in order to make sense of the world, to build knowledge and communicate with our fellow human beings. In this reflection I wish to discuss the power dynamics and struggles within current society.

In my studies with the Institute of Criminology I became aware of what is now quite an old school of thought in criminology called the 'Marxist school'. This is a school of thought which examines the power relationships within the world of crime and deviance. Those in positions of power determine what is classed as illegal or deviant behaviour and the seriousness of the infractions to the norms. The 'Law' is the label given to one of the means to enforce the interests of the state, or those with particular power. An example of this is why 'white-collar crime' is seen as less serious than 'violent crime' even though the former might devastate many more lives.

We can use this lens of power-dynamics to examine the changing currents in our society. These are most apparent on the contested borders of belief or embedded social norms. The building blocks of social cohesion, the categories on which we rely in creating social meaning, are being deconstructed and challenged by the cult of the 'individual identity'. This is part of the process of changing the objective or absolute to more of a subjective and relative (truth). Lifestyles and gender are a matter of a person's choice or self-identification, rather than being constructed from the God-given truths and norms of human society. Rightly, everyone must be treated with respect and there have been biases, as our contemporary society has been formed and refined over centuries and naturally lagged behind social change and so campaigns served as catalysts for change: Suffragettes leading the feminist campaign, Civil Rights Movement for racial equality, and Stonewall riots for those campaigning for LGBTQ+ equal rights. All these campaigns for equality of status and opportunity in society, must naturally have within themselves the seed for their own redundancy i.e.

when their aim for equality is actualised. Social equality irrespective of gender, race or sexuality needs to be shared, extended and lived in relation to other people and groups in society who are different to us.

In a truly egalitarian society there can be no 'special status' and we need to understand that hate speech or derogatory attitudes can come from both majority and minority groups.

This special status comes from the social psychological phenomena known as self-victimisation, which is a facet of our social identity constructed around victimhood. This is not a denial of suffering, dis-enfranchisement or inequality that someone may have experienced but denotes a form of power dynamic at work in inter-group relations. For example, when a distinct minority group assert their vision or agenda on the whole of society, anyone who questions or disagrees with their perspective is instantly labelled as variously anti-semitic, transphobic or homophobic, or, in the case of more mainstream feminist or ethnic minority groups, misogynistic or racist. This effectively cancels or silences any criticism or disagreement from anyone outside that particular group identification, yet poor behaviour and offence (both publicly and individually) may come from any group or individual. In our world today empathy seems to be on the wane when it comes to living with others and allowing others the space to develop and live in accordance with their respective vision for life or of faith. We may need to try to take a step back from a situation and try to imagine the other person's experience or perspective. We may not agree but we can have charity and generosity when we encounter those around us; let us look for the good and give the benefit of the doubt when we may feel offended by the actions of another. We return to Jesus' golden rule: "Treat others just as you want to be treated." I am also mindful of a couple of pieces of advice given by Pope St John XXIII (1881-1963) which we can apply to ourselves as we live with others: "Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in but with what it is still possible for you to do." and "See everything, overlook a great deal, change a little."

I hope and pray that I have not caused offence which is not my intention, but rather to spark some reflection about the social world which we inhabit. Back to more explicitly spiritual matters next month!

Canon Jonathan Mitchell



Stretton Cancer Support Group

Monday 13th and 27th November – We will be meeting at the Wellbeing Centre, Mayfair at 2.30pm for an informal chat with tea and biscuits for anyone to pop in for a chat and who might need some help and support.

For more info contact: Jane Potts 01694 771264



Remember Remember...

November is often synonymous with remembrance. Whether it is in the celebrations of Bonfire Night or the sad memories of those who have died in wars, we take time to remember.

Guy Fawkes was born in York in 1570. As a young man he converted to Catholicism and later became friendly with Robert Catesby who was obsessed with assassinating King James I to restore a Catholic monarch to the throne. With others they planned to blow up the House of Lords. Fawkes was placed in charge of 36 barrels of gunpowder hidden in the basement, enough to reduce the whole building to rubble. He was discovered guarding the gunpowder in the early hours of 5th November, arrested, and later executed. Disaster had been avoided and many lives saved. The failure of the Gunpowder Plot is celebrated in the UK every year on 5th November when bonfires and fireworks are lit.

On Remembrance Day, also known as Armistice Day, we remember all those who lost their lives in wars. Ceremonies of Remembrance take place every year on 11th November, the day WW1 ended. They also take place on the second Sunday of November, known as Remembrance Sunday. At both these ceremonies a respectful two minutes of silence is included to remember. Poppies are often worn to remind us of the many battles that took place in WW1 amongst the poppy fields of northern France.



May I mention another man who has become synonymous with war and peace. Alfred Nobel was an inventor, scientist and businessman who became very wealthy. Born in Sweden in 1833 he became famous for the invention of dynamite and established many dynamite factories. He also invented weapons of mass destruction including rockets, sea mines and cannons. Many people died because of Nobel's inventions.

When he died in 1896 his Will caused a great international sensation. He left a fifth of his enormous wealth towards the establishment of an annual Peace Prize, to honour those who have given the greatest benefit to mankind in the preceding year. Nobel's name had always related to weapons of mass destruction – certainly not peace. His interest in the promotion of peace came in his later years and since 1901 his legacy of honouring men and women from around the world who promote peace has been a real blessing to mankind.

As we remember the horrors of conflict and war, may we also remember to leave a legacy of peace, by living at peace and working for peace, wherever we are, whatever our age.

Jon Hughes

Remembrance Poppies

Four kinds of poppies are available. At this time of the year most people wear a red poppy and some people also add one or more other colours. Each poppy emphasises a different aspect of remembrance which can be seen as complementary, rather than competitive.

Red poppies

A Canadian colonel, John McCrae, saw poppies growing amid the ravages of WW1 and was moved to write *In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row* – a poem that soon became well known. The poem inspired an American lady, Moina Michael, to campaign to have the red poppy used as a tribute to those who had been killed in the war. In 1921 a French lady, Anna Guérin, met Lord Haig in London and the poppy was adopted as the emblem of remembrance by the newly founded British Legion. The first poppy day appeal raised £106,000, a huge fortune in those days, for use in supporting the armed forces community. For more than one hundred years, volunteers have been diligently continuing the good work. These days something like forty million poppies are bought each year. Strictly the red poppy commemorates the women and men of the armed forces who lost their lives in the service of their country, but many people attach a wider significance to it. They remember the horrors of war and say “never again”.

Purple poppies

Purple poppies are worn to acknowledge the role played by animals in war. The idea originated in Australia in 2003 when Nigel Allsopp was the President of the Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation. The first purple poppies were sold in this country in 2006. Distribution is organised by the War

Horse Memorial but many other animal-friendly organisations are involved. Purple poppies can be worn for Remembrance Day in November and on 24th February, which is designated Service Animals' Day.

Black poppies

In 2010 black poppies began to be sold to commemorate the war efforts of people of Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific Islands. From the sixteenth century onwards such people have fought and sacrificed in wars not of their making. It was felt appropriate that this largely forgotten history should be marked by a special poppy.

White poppies

Some ten years after the first red poppies appeared in this country, members of the Women's Co-operative Guild conceived the idea of a 'white poppy for peace'. This was soon adopted by the Peace Pledge Union and that organisation has produced white poppies for the past ninety years. The Peace Pledge Union declares “suffering does not stop at national borders and nor should remembrance”. The white poppy commemorates all victims of war, both civilians and members of the armed forces, people of all nations and all ages affected by war. War victims are not only those who have died but all who carry the scars of war in body or mind and all rendered homeless by war. Profit from the sale of white poppies is used to promote peace studies. The Peace Pledge Union claims “the best way to respect the victims of war is to work to prevent war”.

White poppies are available in Church Stretton from Burway Books, Entertaining Elephants and from me at 1 Central Avenue.

Ruth Davies, telephone 724304

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal



By the time this article appears in *Focus*, the Poppy Appeal 2023 will have commenced. Thanks to the unwavering support of many retail outlets, restaurants and other regular supporters the collecting tins, poppies and badges will have been available since mid-October.

The Street collections will be manned on Saturday 4th November and Saturday 11th November and, subject to their consent, at the numerous retailers such as Co-op, Wrights Estate Agents and Family Shopper. Also, depending on the number of collecting volunteers available, on the corner of Sandford Avenue and the High Street.

These are normally one hour stints from between 9am and 3pm. Any volunteers welcome. Please contact Nigel Marsden 01694 722335 or speak to any RBL Committee member.

Remembrance

At the time of going to print, it is hoped that on **7th November** Union Flags will be erected by members of the Junior School on the Commonwealth Graves in Cunnery Road. Pupils, teachers and Rotary members will leave the school at 10.30 to walk to the Memorial Cross and then on to the Cunnery Road Cemetery.

Saturday 11th November

Short Memorial Service and two minute silence. Memorial Cross, Burway Road commencing 10.58am.

Sunday 12th November

9.00am: Mayfair opens for assembly of parade and collection of ensigns.

09.15: Parade assembles for prompt departure.

09.30: Parade Marshall will order the commencement of the Parade, preceded by the horses and riders of the Longmynd Bridleways Association.

09.50: Arrival of Parade at St Laurence, Church Street.

10.00: Remembrance Service led by the Rector and clergy.

10.45: Parade reassembles in Church Street and processes up to the Memorial Cross, Burway Road for 10.58. Rector will commence the wreath laying ceremony after the two minute silence.

The wreath laying ceremony will commence with a wreath being laid by a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire on behalf of HM The King.

The order of wreath laying will be advised to everyone concerned beforehand but also announced at the time. Wooden crosses can be placed in the troughs following the wreath laying ceremony. Parade returns Ensigns to the Church, where applicable.

Following the laying of wreaths, there will be coffee and biscuits available in the Parish Centre, Church Street.

Needless to say, we would encourage everyone who can do so to attend.

There will be a service in the Parish Church commencing at 10.58 for those who do not wish to go up to the Memorial Cross but still wish to pay their respects to the fallen who have, and still are, giving their lives to preserve the freedoms which we in this country enjoy but do not take for granted.

As stated earlier, any enquiries should be made to me or any member of the Royal British Legion, Church Stretton Branch Committee.

Nigel Marsden, Poppy Appeal Organiser, Church Stretton RBL

Armistice Events at Little Stretton Village Hall

Events at Little Stretton Village Hall for 105th Anniversary of the Armistice

A weekend of remembrance events at Little Stretton Village Hall will start on Friday 10th November at 2.30pm with an illustrated talk by Marcus Cash on 'The First Day of the Somme Saturday 1st July 1916'.

Having served both at home and abroad in the 1st Battalion of The Cheshire Regiment prior to a career in teaching, Marcus has an intense interest in military history and bringing it vividly to life.

Setting the scene he asks "What do you do on a Saturday in Church Stretton? A day away from work, watch or play football, take the children out, go shopping or sit and watch a film on television. On Saturday 1st July 1916, hundreds of thousands of soldiers sat nervously in trenches or close to the front line on or around the Somme River awaiting extended whistle blasts, the signal for thousands to leave the comparative safety of their trenches. What was going to happen? How would they react? What of their friends and comrades? It turned into a day of unimaginable terror and left an impression on everyone in some way or another."



Authentic weapons, the sounds of a prolonged initial barrage and film clips will all add to this exploration of the experience of going into battle.

To reserve a place at Marcus's talk call 01694 723627 or email MHaigh3@aol.com. £5 payable on the door.

Continued overleaf..

Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th 10.30-4pm: Exhibition. Free admission.

Following the talk an exhibition will open based on the lives and military service of the eleven local men named on the memorial in All Saints Church including two uncles of the late Bob Keenan whom many of you will remember from his years at Little Stretton's Village Stores. Copies of WW1 posters, newspapers and other memorabilia will also be on display.

In addition, the stories of two soldiers from different backgrounds, who were injured on the Somme but returned from active service to live in Little Stretton, will be told for the first time. One of them kept a diary of his war service, a copy of which will be on display.

Following the weekend's events a folder containing the biographies of the eleven, together with an introduction outlining life in Little Stretton in 1914, will be given to All Saints Church to be kept with the memorial.



Bernard Keenan

Anglican Voice

Lest we forget

I don't know about you, but I often struggle to recall names, particularly of people whom I haven't seen for a little while. It is not because I only knew them a little – some I know very well – but however hard I try the names are gone and I can't remember.

November is a time of Remembrance, a time when we recall those who are no longer with us, who were part of our family. All Saints' Day and the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed on All Souls' Day both allow us time to celebrate the importance of belonging to God's family here on earth. All Saints' Day celebrates men and women in whose lives the Church as a whole has seen the grace of God powerfully at work. It is an opportunity to give thanks for that grace and for the wonderful ways in which it shapes a human life; it is a time to be encouraged by the example of Christians who have gone before us. The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed allows us to remember with thanksgiving before God those whom we have known more directly; those whom we loved and now mourn. There will be a service to remember loved ones at St Laurence's Church on Sunday 5th November at 4pm to which all are invited.

Remembrance Day goes on to explore the theme of memory, both corporate and individual as we confront issues of war and peace, loss and commitment. Whilst Remembrance is always a poignant festival, the loss of service personnel in our lifetime makes it all the more personal. Many of us know someone who has been lost or injured. Details of services on Sunday 12th November at each church will be found on the Stretton Parish website and I do hope you can join us.

Whilst we often exhort people not to look back over past events but to look forward and to look into the face of Jesus, we must remember those who have gone before. They are an example to us all. As life and society change year on year, we should not fall into the trap of believing that things must always stay the same. If we did that, I believe that those who have set an example before us in leading change, be it in a small everyday situation or on a world platform,

would feel let down. We owe it to them to strive for a better world, for a better place. As a Christian I pray "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven". For me a world based on kingdom principles, is the only kind of world I want to inhabit. To continue to strive towards this aim requires courage in order to change things. Few of us will be asked to give our lives towards this goal but we may be asked to be open to new ideas and new ways of doing things. In doing so we must remember the past, take what is good from it and discard what is bad or less than ideal. In doing so we will honour those who have gone before marked with the sign of the Christian faith.

Christobel Hargraves
(Associate Minister – Stretton Parish)



Saturday Morning Music

On 18th November at 10.15am at the United Reformed Church, we have chamber music for the next Saturday morning music event – a piano trio, featuring violinist Anne Tupling (no stranger to these concerts), cellist Fiona Rattray (the leader of the cello section of Shrewsbury Orchestra) and pianist Richard Walker. The programme will include music by Mozart, but also the trio by Robert Schumann's wife, Clara. Her music is very similar to that of her husband, and there is even a suggestion that she might have written some of his compositions!

These concerts are free of charge and last just under an hour. A collection will be taken from which a donation will be made to Self Help Africa, a charity based in Shrewsbury regularly supported by the United Reformed Church.

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David Horsfield in URC Voice 'Context is All' (September's *Focus* edition) is clearly describing man's wisdom and knowledge today as the 'CONTEXT' in which to believe anything; it having 'evolved' in comparison to in his words 'old religious context'. This could be heresy or sacrilege... who wants to say?

To a confused and poverty-stricken, war-torn broken world, which seems to rule out God the creator and showing less understanding of either humanity or gender... here goes!

For me as one who is a heterosexual male human Christian, the following from the first letter to the Corinthian church is the right scripture to point accurately to context!

"Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom."

Clearly it is not about this world's evolving wisdom or knowledge, it's quite the opposite, because Jesus said unless you humble yourself as a little child you cannot enter the kingdom of God.

The message of the cross, Jesus the Son of God, His death and resurrection (what Christians know as God's plan of salvation) is foolishness to those who don't believe it. To those who do believe it is the power of God. I believe and pray to a God who reveals Himself by divine revelation through the message of the good news of the gospel to people all over the world every day.

David Horsfield says, "gods and religions are part of the ongoing story of evolution"; whilst it might be so for him to ponder, this is not so for the Christian believer.

I believe in the God of love demonstrated in the unchanged 'context' that while we were still sinners Christ died for our sins.

I recommend the Good News Bible for anyone who is searching for meaning and purpose and to check out the Alpha course.

God doesn't change and neither has 'context', it remains the same today and can be broken down in this way:

1) God's eternal love, 2) a lost fallen world, 3) God's remedy is Jesus, 4) man's individual response.

If blinded by the 'context' of so called wisdom, or knowledge of this world evolving, changing and confusing people all the time, as it continues to do, debated, fought and argued over, as it is, the blind will lead the blind and, as the psalmist said they will ... fall into a hole!

Mike France

Once again the covid/flu vaccination exercise at the Health Centre on 23rd September resulted in a queue of elderly people snaking all the way down Easthope Road. How can this be acceptable under any circumstances in 2023? Expecting folk to join a huge line shuffling along the pavement is not treating them with dignity and respect. Surely it cannot be impossible to roll out the vaccination offer in a more civilized way that is not reminiscent of the Home Front in the Second World War.

Gordon Williams

I moved into Church Stretton just over a year ago and live along Ludlow Road not far past Cemetery Road. I notice that the speed limit within the town is 20mph but as soon as you leave in the direction of Ludlow Road, it increases to 30mph.

There is a long sweeping bend where I live and a lot of bungalows and houses that have limited vision when exiting their properties. There have been many occasions when cars are using the road far in excess of the 30mph speed limit, which in itself is too fast anyway, given the number of properties that face onto it. I am surprised there have not been any accidents in the past. I would like to see the 20mph limit extended all the way along Ludlow Road, until it exits the populated area, and re-instated in Little Stretton. I would not think signs displaying a vehicle's speed would make much difference as there is no way of enforcing it anyway. An alternative would be to build chicanes at various points limiting the flow to one car with alternating vehicle priorities in each direction.

I believe this issue has been mentioned before in previous editions of *Stretton Focus* and I would be interested to know if any other residents have the same opinion or if any action is being considered regarding this matter.

Rob Mason

UNA Shropshire

Appeal and Town Centres Collection— 2023 Result



We, from United Nations Association (UNA) Shropshire, want to thank all our donors through the town centre collections and appeal made around the week of 23rd September this year.

Church Stretton:	£338.80
Much Wenlock:	£276.37
Ludlow:	£192.79
Craven Arms:	£158.48
Private anonymous donations plus Gift Aid:	£1,502.50
Total:	£2,468.94

Thank you all for these gifts which indicate, in the midst of our own domestic crises, there is a considerable thought and concern for children facing disaster beyond our own borders.

This spirit encourages all of us who are engaged with the global concerns and awareness of the greater problems people in our world are forced to suffer. In the face of narrower views which have emerged in our country, we have to keep alive, that in the UK there is a generous-hearted people. Thank you, on behalf of UNA Shropshire.

Helen and Michael Holden

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unashropshire.org.uk



CSTC Community Matters

Dinmore Tunnel – what a way to run a railway!

It is not often a spokesman listens to ten minutes of criticism on the radio, and then responds by admitting the previous speaker had it about right and apologises profusely for having ‘dropped the ball’ by not publicising the closure fully. Such was the grace of Network Rail’s Head of Communications who, like his counterpart from TFW, is a delight to talk to. With the closure trailed in last month’s *Focus*, the BBC Radio Shropshire interview was part of an urgent campaign to get the message ‘out there’ that we were going to have no trains. Our thanks to the Shropshire Star and the BBC for their coverage, and thanks to councillors who turned out on the first morning to advise travellers about the buses and the works.

Three weeks later, and the full sorry mess has played out ending with the works overrunning, something which might not surprise *Focus* readers but something which caught Network Rail and TFW by surprise. So much so that the rail replacement buses had been sent home and none were available. No trains, no buses, not good enough.

Meetings with senior management have been promised and we will engage constructively. We appreciate the need to replace the track, but these works have been planned for over a year and we could have helped to lessen the impact if there had been meaningful consultation. And whilst we are talking to railway management we will probably mention the consequences of the rolling stock shortage, staff and driver shortages and signalling. The Marches Rail User Group have also been sharpening their pencils.



The above picture was taken by Peter Gibbons during the work. Note the down tunnel to Hereford is unaffected but it remained closed even though for the second nine days it was deemed safe to open. The left ‘up’ tunnel was built in 1853 and the right ‘down’ tunnel in 1891. Both are 1,054 yards long.

Church Stretton on the visitor’s podium

Focus readers will have learned last month about the Visitor Survey which has now been completed. The survey continued over the summer until we had sufficient survey data to provide a statistically significant poll, with around 500 people interviewed on 220 survey sheets. The results will offer 95% confidence in the data.

The sheets have already been analysed and conclusions are being drawn. However, the intention is to combine four

data sources: the Church Stretton Visitor Survey and the business survey mentioned in the last *Focus* together with recent information supplied by Visit Shropshire extracted from mobile phone GPS data. Further, and very excitingly, we will also include the ‘Which?’ survey which identified ‘The UK’s best towns and villages’ in which Church Stretton was placed 10th in England according to more than 9,000 Which? readers.

EV chargers

One subject which frustrates both residents and visitors alike is the town’s EV chargers. The existing charging points are now quite old, which is impacting reliability. Other times users leave their cars on charge whilst heading for the hills, causing problems for those desperate for a recharge. One visiting family didn’t believe they had sufficient range to reach the next machine and had been waiting four hours already.

With this in mind, the Town Council are eagerly anticipating the arrival of eight new chargers supplied by Shropshire Council with the help of a government grant – four in Essex Road and four in Lion’s Meadow car park. These are nearly a year late, partly because Shropshire Council are waiting for the necessary traffic order to be issued by Shropshire Council and partly because there are issues getting the necessary power out of the grid. A Shropshire Council Cabinet paper also made reference to delaying the work to spread the costs over two financial years despite the grant, but that was back in March. The problem with the traffic order is impacting the whole county.

We will keep chasing, but in the meantime *Focus* readers are invited to reflect on the national EV picture.

River Cound restoration in Coppice Leasowes

As detailed in the August edition of *Focus*, work is in hand to divert the course of the River Cound. Funded jointly by Network Rail and the Environment Agency, work started on 25th September with good progress evident six days later. Maps, graphics and a detailed rationale can be found on the Town Council website:

www.churchstretton-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/156/2023/07/Appendix-B-Explanation-for-River-Restoration-Coppice-Leasowes-LNR.pdf

The project will also deliver improved paths and boardwalks once completed, but until then residents are reminded that heavy plant will be moving around the site.



The new riverbed being constructed in Coppice Leasowes

Little Stretton Street Works

At its meeting on 26th September, Church Stretton Town Council concluded that of all of the outstanding street works in the parish the most urgent related to the stretch of 'missing' pavement just to the north of Little Stretton.



The pavement just stops. There have been several near misses.

The lack of pavement has been a concern to villagers for several years, and the matter was raised with the Leader of Shropshire Council at a routine meeting at the end of September. The Leader, Lezley Picton, was most sympathetic and asked that the CSTC write formally to her providing details, which has been done. Ms Picton also explained the delay with Little Stretton's yellow lines, explaining that the work order had been lost between Shropshire Council and the contractor and that this would now be reissued. When her in-tray must be overflowing I am grateful for the time given to the Town Council.

At a time when ambitious plans for active travel corridors are meeting economic pressures, the embryonic thinking which I will feed into the Neighbourhood Plan is to prioritise an active travel spine which connects Little Stretton to the Town, on to the school and then on to All Stretton. A second route would later join Battlefield/Clive Avenue to this primary spine. A further aspiration would be to develop a fitness trail along the spine, starting at the All Stretton Jubilee Park where three adult fitness machines have recently been installed, with equipment placed along the spine down to Little Stretton. I emphasise that this is an aspiration, but I believe such a scheme is affordable if spread over a few years and will address much of the town's active travel need.

The first step on this journey is to get the pavement north of Little Stretton sorted.

Neighbourhood Plan

As trailed in last month's *Focus*, by the end of this month the Neighbourhood Plan will be up and running but I always forget that I need to write this article a month ahead. So, the first training session took place three days ago, the next training will have taken place on 12th October and the first face to face meeting was scheduled for 18th October. The first item on the agenda will be the development of a leaflet which will be posted to every household seeking input to the scope and content of the plan, which will be adorned by a design created by the children at St Lawrence's Primary School. The leaflet will also provide details about Neighbourhood Plans and the timetable and participants. This information will also be in next month's (and not this month's) *Focus*.

Annual Governance and Reporting Statement

As required by law, PKF, the Council's external auditors, have approved the Council's AGAR submission and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 and all relevant documentation has been posted on the Town Council's website. Thanks particularly to our RFO for making it look so easy.

SHI Fire Escape and Streetlights

A contract to fabricate and replace the emergency stairs serving the balcony at the Silvester Horne Institute has been let and once the work has been completed the balcony will be reopened. A further contract, to undertake a full condition survey of the SHI has also been let and full details of the contract and the areas which it will cover are available on the CSTC website:

www.churchstretton-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/156/2023/09/Appendix-Ji-Silvester-Horne-Institute-quote.pdf

The report, once received, will also be made public in the usual way.

And finally...

With the national celebrations to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-day to be held on 6th-8th June, the provisional date for the 2024 Fun Day has been set for 6th July. This year the Fun Day had a net cost of £701 after allowing for income from sponsors and commercial stallholders, which is considered to have been money well spent.

Commemorative services for Remembrance Day 2023 will take place during the week beginning 6th November, with the main Town Parade taking place on Sunday 12th November, when it is expected the Deputy Lord-Lieutenant will be leading the procession.

Organised by the RBL, it is a matter of some pride that the parade continues to be held and that it is so substantial and well organised. I look forward to seeing many of you at these events.

Andy Munro
Mayor

Church Stretton Library

Church Stretton Library: new faces, same welcoming atmosphere



It's been a hectic start for new Library Manager Hayley with the end of the Summer Reading Challenge, appointment of two new library assistants and the introduction of our new library Facebook page.



From left to right: Gail (Assistant Library Manager), Daniel (Library Assistant) and Hayley (Community Library Manager)

Not been into the library for a while? We'd love to see you! We are a safe welcoming space with a friendly knowledgeable team. We can help recommend your next read, give information about the local area and so much more. We hold regular and one-off events throughout the year, there are no overdue charges on children's/teens books and we also provide free wi-fi and PC access.

The team are relishing this exciting time as we prepare to install new moveable shelving which will create a more flexible space for events, as well as giving the library a refreshed, more modern look. This has been made possible by generous funding from the Friends of Church Stretton Library and Arts Council England's Libraries Improvement Fund.

We are thrilled to announce our new Facebook Page – please 'Like' and 'Follow' us to keep up to date with all library news and events: facebook.com/churchstrettonlibvic.

Thanks to those who have so far responded to our appeal for LEGO donations for our new LEGO Club, though we are still looking for more LEGO and DUPLO donations. By the time you read this, the club will have had its first meeting, on 28th October, and will continue every Saturday from 2-3.30pm. It's free and suitable for all ages, though under 8s must be accompanied by an adult. See you there!

What do you want to see in your library? It's a space for everyone in the community and we welcome your ideas so that it continues to thrive. Whether it's a new group you would like to see, you're interested in the exhibition space or have an idea for an event, we would love to hear from you. Pop into the library or contact us via the methods below: churchstretton.library@shropshire.gov.uk, 01694 722535 or message us through our Facebook page.

Finally, remember it's free to join the library! Scan the QR code to join online.



Engaging Issues

In recent years much heat has been generated in arguments about legacy issues: How do we recognize and give due account to the fact that much of our country's wealth was gained in the past from colonialism and slave-trading? Or should we just put uncomfortable facts into the 'too difficult to deal with' box? The National Trust has been in the thick of the debate. So we are pleased to welcome on Tuesday 7th November, Alex Turrell, who is National Trust's Senior Collections and House Officer at Powis Castle. He will look at the issues involved in preserving and presenting historic buildings and artifacts in a way that is both true to the past and relevant to today.

Then on Tuesday 21st November we host Neil Turner and Helen Cameron from the Scottish Medical Humanities Project. They will address the question of how music, stories and poems can help us in a medical setting, particularly in times of crisis, helping us to cope with what life and death can throw at us.

Meetings are at the United Reformed Church, and start promptly at 7.30pm. We ask for a donation of £3 to cover costs.

Further details are on our website: www.engagingissues.org.uk



Church Stretton Masonic Hall

The Hall is opening its doors to the public this November
The Caer Caradoc Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons is inviting the public to a talk on the **History of The Strettons and Surrounding Areas** by local historian David Trumper.

David's talk will be accompanied by photographs dating from the last quarter of the 19th century through to the middle of the 20th century. David was born in Shrewsbury and worked as a teacher in several Shropshire Schools. Since his retirement he has written 26 local history books and is well

known for his slide presentations and leading walks around Shrewsbury town centre and its suburbs.

The talk will be followed by a free buffet and pay bar.

The talk is on Saturday 11th November at 7.30pm at the Church Stretton Masonic Hall, 65 High Street, Church Stretton, SY6 6BY. (Opposite Silvester Horne Institute.)

Entry is free, but due to limited capacity is by ticket only. Tickets are available from secretary@caeracadoclodge.org.uk.

Graham Williams
Secretary, Caer Caradoc Lodge 6346



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A Short History of Letters

Which page do you turn to when you open a new magazine? Is it the 'problem' page, whether personal dilemmas, financial woes or a complaint about a pension, car repair or faulty appliance? What about the letters to the editor column? For me, I confess, it's a problem page every time, followed quickly by letters to the editor. But how many people write a letter nowadays, especially with a fountain pen on good-to-touch paper? In these days of texts, emails and the other numerous outlets of social media, a real letter is a rarity. Yet a letter has power, the pen being mightier as the great Bard wrote.

Letters have influenced the course of history for hundreds of years but have we lost the art of letter writing in recent times or have we simply replaced them with other forms of communication? Writing has been around for thousands of years, ever since cuneiform, which was developed around 5,500 years ago but letter writing arrived much later. The first handwritten letter is believed to have been written by the Persian Queen Atossa in about 500 BCE. She was the eldest daughter of Cyrus the Great.

Most early letters were epistolary in nature, designed to spread knowledge or explore science, mathematics and other emerging learning, although some forms of letter writing were treated as an art form. Before the advent of easily acquired paper products, letters were written on metals, wax-coated wooden or pottery tablets, animal skin or papyrus.

Fast-forward to more recent times. In 1527 King Henry VIII wrote a love letter to Anne Boleyn whilst he was still married to Catherine of Aragon. He wrote to tell her that he had arranged lodgings for her in London, presumably so that she would be within visiting distance of one of his Royal palaces. Naughty Henry. He wrote: "As touching a lodging for you, we have gotten one through my Lord Cardinal's means, the half of which could not have been found around here, for all causes, as this bearer shall more show you." Written in the flowery language of the times, there's one word not in current English usage, namely "gotten", which we think of as American. Mistakenly, as it happens. Henry VIII's infatuation with Anne Boleyn put the development of British society on a new trajectory completely.



Charles Darwin was a prolific letter writer. He exchanged no less than 1,400 letters with his friend, the botanist Joseph Dalton Hooker. In January 1844, Darwin wrote to Hooker, "At last gleams of light have come & I am almost convinced (quite contrary to opinion I started with) that species are not (it is like confessing a murder) immutable." Fifteen years later, Darwin published *On the Origin of Species*, which began to change the way people saw the world and its creatures, including mankind.

In October 1860, 11-year-old Grace Bedell wrote to Abraham Lincoln. She suggested that if he grew a beard more people might think he was electable. She wrote: "I have got four brothers and part of them will vote for you anyway and if you will let your whiskers grow, I will try and get the rest of them to vote for you. You would look a great deal better for your face is so thin. All the ladies like whiskers and they would tease their husbands to vote for you..." Of course, we'll never know for sure whether Grace's letter was the reason Abraham Lincoln grew his beard but less than a month after receiving it, that's exactly what he did.

Martin Luther King wrote an open letter, on 16th April 1963, while he was incarcerated in gaol in Birmingham, Alabama. It has been called "The Negro Is Your Brother". He wrote, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." The powerful letter, written as part of King's call for unity during the 1963 Birmingham civil rights campaign, was published widely and has been described as "one of the most important historical documents penned by a modern political prisoner".

Although electronic forms of communication have now largely taken over from handwritten letters, they still seem to generate strong nostalgic feelings in most people. However, a research project found that over 60% of people would not hand-write a single letter in the course of a year, even though around 70% of those surveyed said that receiving a hand written letter would mean more to them than a text, tweet or Facebook message.



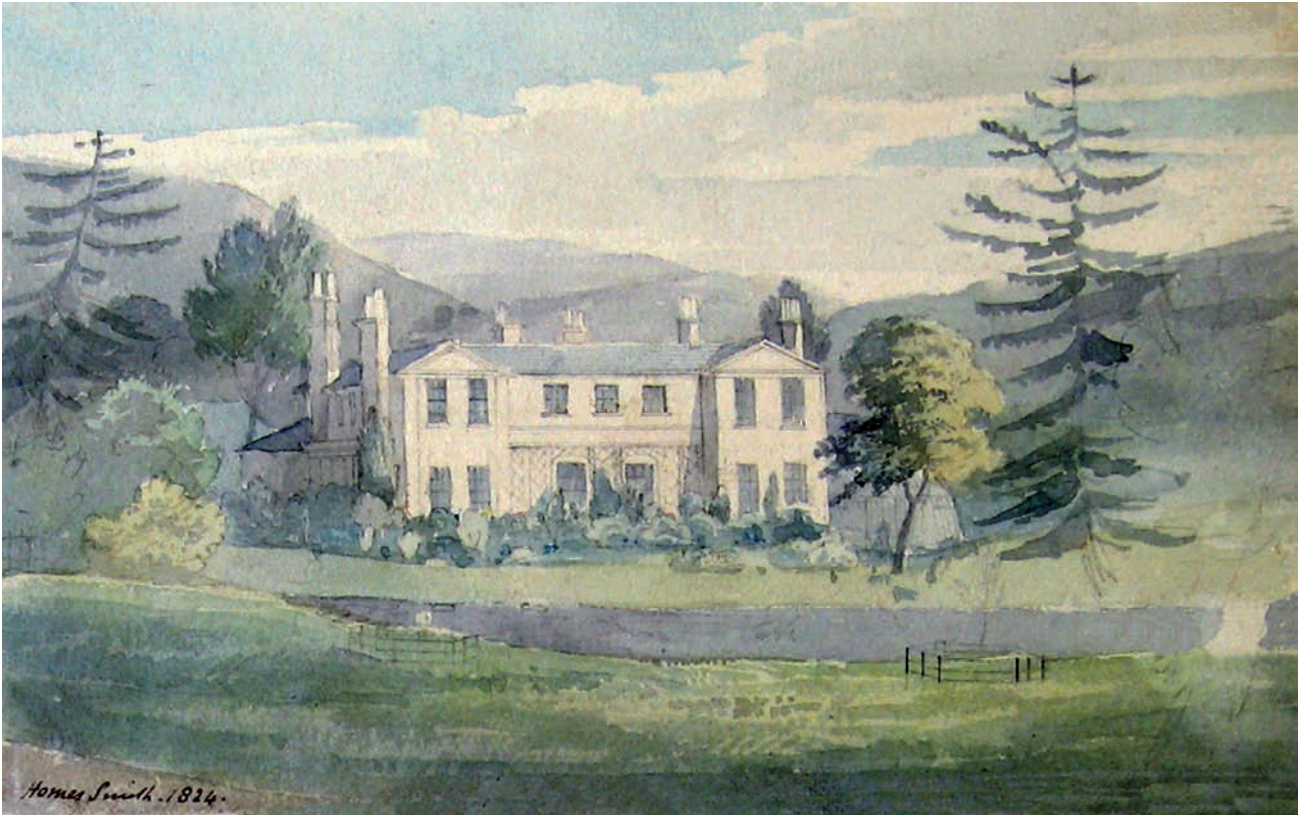
Nowadays, archives of written correspondence – whether political, social commentary or purely personal – serve as sources for historians and memoir writers. But where will that resource come from in this age of technology, when texts, tweets, emails and social media posts of all kinds can disappear in a veritable deluge of others almost as quickly as fingers can scroll down a screen?

Should everyone learn how to write a letter? It's still seen as a necessary skill for those hoping to apply for many types of jobs, complain effectively or convey intimate and personal information securely: a letter between family members, for example, or a love letter. Hand-written letters are still seen as more secure, by many people, than one sent as an attachment to an email.

The passage of time shows us that history does repeat itself – in good ways as well as bad – so perhaps there's hope for a revival in the gentle art of letter writing. Why not give it a go? You never know; you might find a reply on your doormat sometime soon. Put on the kettle, put up your feet, and have a good read.

Christine Williams, Resident Journalist

Historic Church Stretton – the Old Rectory



The Old Rectory, from a watercolour by John Homes Smith, 1824

For much of the early history of Church Stretton, the lord of the manor was the King. He was also patron of the living and thus had the right to nominate the incumbent. With the King as patron, the living could not be appropriated by any monastery so it did not lose its tithes and income. As a result it was for many years one of the richest livings in Shropshire with income from both tithes and a large amount of glebe land together valued at £565 in 1851.

According to an inventory of glebe lands of 1699 Henry Clayton (Rector 1671-1725) lived in a house which comprised “a decent hall, two parlours, two butteries, five chambers, a kitchen, a boulting-house and a malt chamber, a stable and an ox-house all under one roof”. It stood on the site of the present Old Rectory. The Rector was also a farmer as the list of outbuildings included cow houses and the glebe land consisted of a number of fields and closes. There was also a five-bay barn which could have been the old tithe barn which still stood in 1830.

In the 17th and 18th centuries the Rectors of Church Stretton were men of wealth and property. One such was John Mainwaring, Rector from 1749 to 1807. He was a Fellow of St. John’s College, Cambridge and later Professor of Divinity, a lucrative appointment. Most of his life was spent in Cambridge so for many years he did not live in the parish but left it in the charge of a curate who was paid a small salary. However he spent the vacations in Stretton and came to live here on his retirement in 1797, where he officiated until his death in 1807. Mainwaring rebuilt the Rectory used by Clayton and Harries soon after his appointment to Church Stretton in 1749. About 1775, he began to improve the glebe land including the planting of Rectory Wood.

The next Rector, T B Coleman (1807-18), remodelled the Rectory by moving the entrance, now flanked by Doric columns, to the west end (illustrated) so that all the rooms on the south face overlook the Rectory Field and have views of Ragleth Hill. He also laid a drive across Rectory Field to the church, emerging opposite the church through imposing gates by the lodge.



The magnificent entrance to the Rectory built by the Rector, T B Coleman, about 1810

His successor, R N Pemberton, was Rector from 1818 to 1848. In 1834, he built a high boundary wall largely from bricks from the old Hall to provide seclusion from the town for the Rectory, part of the glebe and his private estate, these properties comprising virtually all the land between the town and the Long Mynd.

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

Bridgemaster Series

Part 1: When should you use Stayman over a weak (12-14 HCPs) 1NT?

When Partner opens the bidding with 1NT and you hold 11+ HCPs and a 4-card major (♥s or ♠s) then you should use a 2♣* (Stayman) bid which is conventional and asks Opener for his lowest 4-card major. I say 11+ because if you don't find a fit then you must go to 2NT.

W	N	E	S	
1NT		2♣*		Stayman
2♦*		2NT		2♦ denies a major; 2NT shows 11-12 HCPs

If Opener is minimum then he will PASS, but if maximum he will bid 3NT.

W	N	E	S	
1NT		2♣*		Stayman
2♥		2NT		2♥ shows a 4-card ♥ suit; 2NT shows 11-12 HCPs WITH 4 ♠s else why use Stayman. If the 1NT Opener has 4 ♠s he will convert to 3S

W	N	E	S	
1NT		2NT		Responder shows 11-12 HCPs WITHOUT a 4-card major

Example 1: Dealer North; North-South vulnerable

♠ AQJ9	♠ 32
♥ K763	♥ 942
♦ 72	♦ KQJ10
♣ K95	♣ Q1076
♠ 654	♠ K1087
♥ QJ108	♥ A5
♦ A64	♦ 9853
♣ J82	♣ A43

Bidding:

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

2♣ is Stayman, asking for a 4-card major guaranteeing that he holds one himself. 2♥ shows four ♥s and possibly four ♠s as well. 2NT is a game try (11-12 HCPs) and says that South doesn't hold 4 ♥s but MUST have 4 ♠s. North is maximum and has 4 spades so bids game (4♠).

East will lead ♦KQ and a 3rd ♦.



Plan the play?

Declarer ruffs, cashes ♣AK and the ♥AK and cross ruffs ♥s and ♦s making 6 trumps and his contract. If Declarer initially played on trumps (♠s) he/she would not make his contract.

Note: Declarer should cash the 2 club tricks BEFORE cross ruffing.

Note: 3NT can't make, there are only 8 tricks.

Example 2: Dealer North; North-South vulnerable

♠ Q105	♠ AJ842
♥ AJ97	♥ Q
♦ K4	♦ J1086
♣ KJ73	♣ 962
♠ K76	♠ 93
♥ 10863	♥ K542
♦ 9752	♦ AQ3
♣ 108	♣ AQ54

Bidding:

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Lead = ♦J

Plan the play?

It seems an excellent contract, but care is required in the trump suit. You should cash the ♥K first and then lead towards the ♥AJ9. Once the ♥Q falls on the 1st round, the hand is an open book – eventually taking the marked finesse twice for an overtrick.

Next month, Part 2 will show the occasions that you can use Stayman without having the need of 11 HCPs.

Muggins

Trivia Corner by Ken Willis

Answers on p39

1. The hammer and the anvil are in which part of the body?
2. Marie Antoinette was married to which French King Louis?
3. At what time did the clock strike in the opening line of the George Orwell novel 1984?
4. Which country invaded Kuwait in 1990?
5. A cordwainer made what for a living?


Pete Carroll

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Mayfair News

At the time of writing, it still feels like summer is in its last throes; nonetheless, our plans for Christmas at Mayfair are well underway.

We're delighted to announce that Mayfair will be contributing to the Town Christmas Lights switch-on event on 25th November with our 'Frost Fair'. Mayfair will be open from 10.30 until 4pm with wonderful craft stalls, delicious festive refreshments and family entertainment. This Saturday promises to be a wonderful 'whole town' event. With larger Fair stallholders on Sandford Avenue and High Street, Santa visiting the Silvester Horne Institute, entertainment in the Market Square, Messy Church in St Laurence's and of course the light switch-on in the evening.

We hope that everyone will enjoy starting the day's festivities at Mayfair, with the chance to stock up on some wonderful gifts from local crafts people. We'll also have some activities for young families to enjoy, including a penguin hunt! (see below).

March of the Mayfair Penguins

The sharp-eyed amongst you may have spotted our article in the October *Focus* included a note about Christmas Tree Festival plans. This was included before we realised that St Laurence Church had had the same idea. Therefore, instead this Christmas Mayfair will be home to a 'parade' of penguins! Each one of these little fellows will be decorated by a different service area of Mayfair so they will look a lot more exciting than this particular example. You may even spot a belly dancing penguin!

Did you know that, at the last count, we provide 81 different services, classes, or facilities at Mayfair? There won't be 81 different penguins, but there will certainly be enough to keep you busy searching for them around Mayfair and our Health and Wellbeing Centre. The penguins will first appear at our Frost Fair on 25th November.



Christmas Quiz

Thank you to everyone who joined us at Ken's Quiz party this September – another great night was had by all, with a particularly big thanks going to quiz master extraordinaire Ken Willis. The next quiz will be our Christmas Quiz Party on Tuesday 5th December, 7pm in the Health and Wellbeing Centre. Tickets are £5 per quizzier so get your team together and give us a call on 01694 722077 to book your place.

New activities

If you fancy having a go at something new, explore your creative side, or just see what's going on please pop into our Craft Café, in the Health and Wellbeing Centre every Wednesday morning 10.30-1pm. Our team of volunteers have a whole host of different things you can have a go at. They can give you some direction and suggestions, but you're also welcome just to come along and bring your own project; you'll be amazed at what you might take home with you. Pop in and have a look, there's no charge and the kettle is always on.



A new Youth Club for years 6 and 7 takes place Tuesdays term time, from 4-5.30pm at the Russell Pavilion. Activities for November are ten-pin bowling, table tennis, curling, silk art, wooden tile painting and cooking delights such as flapjacks, tortillas and cookies. The Youth Drop-in for years 8, 9, 10 and 11 is from 6-7.30pm.

Stretton Golf Club donation

A huge thank you goes to Church Stretton Golf club who raised £1,200 for Mayfair at their Seniors Open event this summer. A cheque was recently presented to Cathy Thomas, our Central Services Manager, on a visit to the club house. We couldn't help but enjoy the beautiful panoramic views whilst there. Mayfair is extremely grateful for the club's generous donation, which will allow us to continue supporting health and wellbeing in the Strettons area.



Quilt raffle

We're delighted to announce that our Quilt raffle raised £506 for Mayfair and was won by a lady called Anne who was equally delighted to be the new owner of this beautiful item. We are extremely grateful to Marianne Smith who donated the quilt to us, having handstitched it herself over many years.

Request for Fiction Books and Audio Books

Mayfair are seeking donations of quality fiction books and audio books for us to sell in our second-hand book sales please. All book sale proceeds go to Mayfair so we are very grateful for any contributions.

Please note that our book team cannot accept any non-fiction books (such as autobiographies, recipe books, reference books, and so on); we can only accept fiction.

Generous donation for our carbon saving plans from HSBC UK

Mayfair have ambitious Net Zero plans to reduce our carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency. We were delighted to receive a large donation towards these carbon saving plans this month from HSBC UK. A cheque was presented by HSBC UK employees Daniella Rudd (Local



Director, Shrewsbury Market) and Katie Howells (Network Manager, Shrewsbury Market) to members of the Mayfair Community.

The donation will help fund energy saving measures such as solar panels and more energy efficient boilers for the Community Centre building.

Back in February, members of the HSBC UK Shrewsbury Market branch team visited Mayfair to give a talk on banking security and how to avoid banking scams. They met with volunteers from the Compassionate Communities (CoCo) team who offer a befriending service to people in the Strettons area.

Our Chief Officer for Mayfair, Nicola Daniels, has said: "This funding will make a huge difference for Mayfair. As a small community charity, we are reliant on donations from the public, and grants from organisations. We're extremely grateful to HSBC UK for such a generous contribution to

our Net Zero plans. Being more energy efficient will not only be better for the environment, it should also reduce our energy bills and allow us to direct more of our funds to supporting the Strettons community."

Daniella Rudd, Local Director for HSBC UK Shrewsbury Market, said: "HSBC UK is delighted to support Mayfair Community Centre with this donation to aid their transition to Net Zero. We have been amazed by what a fantastic support the centre is to the residents of Church Stretton and are pleased to be able to help them. We look forward to working with them in the future."

Upcoming Theatre Screenings at Mayfair

For details of all our upcoming shows, and to book tickets online, you can visit www.mayfaircentre.org.uk/whats-on. Please note that online ticket purchases incur a booking fee, but you can book directly with Mayfair on 01694 722077, or visit our reception to save on booking fees.

Tuesday 7th November, 7.15pm, Acota/Pepipa

***Don Quixote*, Royal Ballet, LIVE Satellite Broadcast**

Running Time: 210 minutes (including two intervals)



Teeming with wit and an abundance of bravura choreography, this energetic 19th-century ballet is enlivened by Ludwig Minkus' spirited score and is a wonderful showcase for the virtuosity of The Royal Ballet's Principal dancers. Created for The Royal Ballet a decade ago, Carlos Acosta's exuberant production brings the sunshine and charm of Spain to the stage with Tim Hatley's characterful designs.

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

Tuesday 12th December, 7.15pm,

***The Nutcracker*, Royal Ballet, LIVE Satellite Broadcast**
AND

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

Running time 170 minutes (including one interval)

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

Continued overleaf..



Mayfair Lottery Results for September

151

£100

417

£50

389

£20

594

£10

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, with gorgeous period designs by Julia Trevelyan Oman, keeps true to the spirit of this festive ballet classic, combining the thrill of the fairy tale with spectacular dancing.

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

The Stretton Players

Autumn is upon us and the Players are now in full swing with rehearsals for our autumn production.

It's been quite a long time since we last performed a play by Alan Ayckbourn, one of Britain's favourite playwrights and having read a few of his plays recently, we've decided to perform his 1980s play *Bedroom Farce*. This is one of Ayckbourn's tongue-in-cheek views of the British marital condition and one that he skilfully turns into an amusing and thoughtful script.



One of the big challenges for us is to fit three bedrooms on to our quite narrow stage along with telephone tables, dressing tables etc., etc. This will test our ingenuity and we hope it all works when we have the set completed.

We usually decide after a play has been performed to share some of the proceeds from the show with a local charity or community group. This time we have decided this in

advance and will be sharing any surplus with the splendid 'Glyn's Garden'. This organisation aims to help people

with disabilities, both physical and mental, to find peace and pleasure in gardening and also in enjoying the environment that's being created along Cemetery Road. A great deal has already been achieved in clearing mountains of debris from what was a derelict site and preparing growing areas for people to enjoy.

Please see below for details of dates and where to buy tickets and we look forward to welcoming you to the show.

Another development this autumn takes us to the Wellington Drama Festival which is in the week before our main autumn play. For this we have revisited a one-act play that we produced in 2015, *Too Long An Autumn* by Jimmie Chinn and this will be entered for the competition. It was a play that featured Helen Townend who died earlier this year and we feel this would be a tribute both to her and to the late Brian Jones who was our Chairman back then and who directed the play for us.

Our entry to the competition takes place on 9th November at the Belfrey Theatre, Wellington and tickets are available from: www.belfreytheatre.com.

We'd love to see you there to support us.

Ray Philpotts

***Bedroom Farce* 16th-18th November, 7.30pm
at the Silvester Horne Institute, Church Stretton
Tickets £10 (under 16 half price) available from
Vine & Co or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk
and our Facebook page facebook.com/strettonplayers**

Church Stretton Gardening Club

November sees our last meeting of the year. John Scrace, a Plant Pathologist, will be speaking to us on 'Fabulous Fungi and Malicious Moulds', their roles, effects and uses. Tuesday 28th November at the Silvester Horne Institute at 2pm. Non-members are welcome. £2.50 at the door.



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November Screenings

Acton Scott

Acton Scott Village Hall, Tuesday 21st November 7.30pm

Adults £5, children £3

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

***The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* (12A)**

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

Acton Scott enquiries: 01694 781260



All Stretton

All Stretton Village Hall, Tuesday 7th November 8pm

Adults £6; No interval, refreshments served at the start

***Lunana – A Yak in the Classroom* (PG)**

When a daydreaming but discontented young teacher is posted to Lunana, a remote village high in the Himalayan mountains, he is disheartened to find a simple yak herding community lacking basic amenities such as electricity or even a blackboard in its school classroom. But the enthusiasm of his young students and the unassuming warmth of the village folk buoy his spirits and he must decide whether to return to the city before the gruelling winter sets in or remain in this strange and captivating land.



All Stretton Village Hall, Friday 24th November 7.30pm

Adults £5; Possibly an interval, with refreshments

***The Keeper* (15)**

The Keeper tells the extraordinary love story between a young English woman and a German Prisoner of War, who together overcome prejudice, public hostility, and personal tragedy.

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



Cardington

Cardington Village Hall, Wednesday 1st November 7.30pm

Adults £5

***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.

Cardington enquiries: 01694 771295



Church Stretton

Silvester Horne Institute, Thursday 23rd November 7.30pm

Adults £5; Tea/coffee/ice creams in interval

Joyride (15)

Academy Award-Winner Olivia Colman stars in this feel-good, foul-mouthed fairy-tale in which a struggling new mother joins forces with a well-meaning, 12-year-old outlaw on a wild journey across Ireland, stealing cars, hitch-hiking, and evading the police... with the boy's father in hot pursuit.

Church Stretton enquiries 07508 072206



Hope Bowdler

Hope Bowdler Village Hall, Wednesday 8th November 7.30pm

Adults £5, children £2.50; Tea/coffee/home-made cakes/ice creams in interval

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry (12A)

Film details as Acton Scott. **Hope Bowdler enquiries: 01694 721376**

Austria 1962/63... The Dreams That We Dared to Dream

I was privileged to be newly graduated in languages at Edinburgh where we also studied Philosophy (moral and social). A friend and fellow student, Gail, was a Quaker, an exceptional person and very idealistic. We had grown up in the aftermath of the second world war and prayed there would never be another, believing the post-war idealistic United Nations would work to ensure World Peace for us and for future generations.

At that time UNA was offering holiday jobs to students and young people to help with children traumatised by experiencing war in Europe and its effects on their families and friends as well as themselves. Gail suggested we applied to help during the long summer vacations, which continued for us when we began our teaching careers too.

I was happy to be able to do this and joined a team of students bound for Linz in Austria, where a camp for refugees from war-torn Europe had been established.

It was sad to see the children from toddlers upwards traumatised by their terrible experiences. Many could not speak, or relate to others or even play. They were many different nationalities including of course Russian, Yugoslavian and other Eastern Europeans.

We set up a play scheme and tried all manner of ways of getting them to relax and play, most of all to encourage communication. German was the *lingua franca*. We played *Hexe im Speiseschrank* (witch in the pantry) and Sleeping Beauty (*Dornröslein*). We had fun with them.

It was wonderful when the children did learn to trust us and each other. It remains one of the best experiences of my life and a revelation in relating to others of many different nationalities who were volunteering in the camp, as well as the displaced people we were there to help.

I was much moved by the sight of a young medical student, Sarah, one of our 'child support' workers who saw a very old white Russian gentleman suffering terribly with painful, swollen, ulcerated legs. She went for water

and a towel and bathed his poor feet and legs so gently and tenderly. His facial expression and words of deep gratitude were touching to witness.

Later we were invited to tea at the home of a recently (in 1945) settled family who came from Romania. They were very kind to us too. It was good to see the future lives that might be available to our refugee families still in the camp. The volunteers and older refugees were taken on a boat down the Danube and I remember how wonderful it was singing international songs as we cruised along.

We lived very frugally as the refugees did and shared their living quarters, an ex-army barracks. But we saw the beautiful Linz cathedral and we visited a *Gasthaus*. I remember dancing there, a Viennese waltz to the lovely tune *The Blue Danube*.

I am thinking of the current situation of children affected by war in Ukraine, spreading into Eastern Europe, Ireland, Libya, Syria, Afghanistan, Israel/Palestine and elsewhere, hoping UN may provide opportunities for young people who are sensitive to the plight of less fortunate children and wish to help however and wherever they can. UNICEF is for every child in need, here in Britain, abroad and almost everywhere else.

I hope other young students will benefit from working with UNA. In supporting this work they would be enabling help for starving people and those in poverty throughout the world and here in England. They would be supporting the only organisation working for international peace and security as well as prevention of conflict. Prevention is after all better than cure.

By thinking and acting for the benefit of future generations volunteers would be enriching their own lives most memorably.

Mine was a drop in the ocean. I wished I could do more. But as the old Chinese proverb tells us "The ocean is made up of many drops".

Jill Clark

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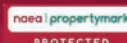
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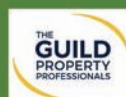
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Copsill Browns

How things have changed over the last sixty odd years on the farm, with workers no longer regarded as labourers.

Brute strength, as well as skill, was required from a farm worker and I can well remember the 240lb (120kg) corn sacks you had to carry on your back up steep granary steps, without a rail, or be dismissed from the job.

In 1959, aged 19, I was carrying some Copsill Browns (hired 240lb sacks) up slippery steps at Mr Cordingly's farm near Craven Arms and slipped. Not wishing to get broken legs, I tossed the sack over the side and it burst, scattering the wheat on the ground.

Mr Cordingly, the boss, saw what happened. I used two 1cwt (112lb) sacks to clear up the spilled grain and then ran up the steps with each, much to his amazement. "Well", said Mr Cordingly, "we won't use those big sacks again. The small ones are much better, safer and quicker."

So I probably was responsible for the demise of the Copshill Brown sacks, awful backbreaking things!

I can't find Copsill Browns on the West of England Sack site but Hansard mentions a debate in 1960 in the Commons on the Lifting of Weights for Farm Workers, where 18 stone is given. This would be just over 114kg and we lifted more than that. Previously there was no limit on the weight an employer could require a worker to carry. Coal delivery men were exempted and had to carry 50kg sacks but the limit men and women can carry today is 20kg – 100kg less than us.

Bill Kerswell

Giving Young People a Voice



Wednesday 15th November, 7pm at the Methodist Church, following our formal AGM business, we are going to listen to the views of young people on the climate and biodiversity crises. We'll discuss what the priorities should be for action and how we can empower new generations by supporting them and taking action now. Too often I hear views expressed such as "I'm too old to switch to driving an electric car" or "If I fit insulation now, I won't see the benefit in my lifetime" or "I'm waiting for the government to do something first". I've never met anyone who isn't concerned about the prospects for future generations, notably their children or grandchildren. So, why don't we listen more to their views and concerns?

We've invited a panel of young people who will get the debate started. Whether young or old, please come along to join the discussion.

Jon Cooke, Publicity Officer, Stretton Climate Care

A Quaker Voice

This month's Quaker Voice is addressed to Andrew (not your real name, but I hope you recognise yourself), though of course I am happy for others to share it. Our single encounter was completely oral and on a busy street, without any record of what we shared, but I am writing while our conversation is still fresh in my mind and my memory is still intact!

I appreciated our time together very much. There were others in the queue, for the Covid/flu jab in September, who found it hard to avoid chuntering about the NHS and its failings but I warmed to someone honest enough to recognise that sometimes we are up against things that no amount of good will or ingenuity can master. Life can be tough for all or any of us and the sooner we come to terms with that reality and move on the better.

We talked about this and that, much of it superficial but not all: I heard that your wife's health has declined to the point that she is much more dependent on you than formerly. You were not complaining, merely telling me how things are and how you have both had to make adjustments accordingly.

We spoke of living in Church Stretton, greatly appreciating the exceptional advantages we have as residents and you referred to *Focus* as one of the outstanding features of the town. In response I mentioned that I contribute the occasional piece under the heading A Quaker Voice, and with that the conversation immediately moved, as it were, into deeper water. You disclosed that you are

yourself a committed Christian, a member of a local congregation. Now, we Quakers sometimes find putting our commitments and convictions into words very difficult but much better to have them, to stand by them and to declare them, than to hide what is in your heart and mind or just be wishy-washy and vague. However, the problem, you said, is when you are told what to think and do. Now, you were no more specific than that, but it struck a chord with me. We Quakers too believe that as grown-ups we all have to work things out for ourselves: to make our own mistakes, possibly and discover our own paths.

Then you said how much you admire Quakers and there was a moment's pause in the conversation. You are probably unaware of how I reacted but this is a tricky area for me. I have often heard that but I really do not know what it means. Historically, certainly, many fine women and men have been Quakers but equally, others have been Anglicans, Catholics, Buddhists and of assorted beliefs. So what, if anything, was special about the Quakers? And does it mean Quakers nowadays are somehow admirable? Of course, everyone likes to be admired, but pedestals are lonely and draughty places and I think you would find the typical modern Quaker a pretty ordinary, regular person, at home in a crowd. You could always check them out...

Anyway, Andrew, thank you for your company and conversation. I wish you well on your journey.

Roger Seal



The Changing Management of the Longmynd

Over two decades ago a significant change began across the dramatic landscape of the Longmynd in Shropshire. Thanks to the Longmynd Commoners who know the hill better than anyone, with generations of knowledge and connection to this extraordinary place, a major shift in management took place, reducing the numbers of livestock on the hill in both summer and winter.

The consequences of this management have been significant, with heathland and grassland habitats growing taller and more plants flowering to provide food sources for pollinators, including the rare bilberry bumblebee, along with habitats for rare and nationally declining birds such as whinchat and snipe, and butterfly species including grayling and small pearl-bordered fritillary.

The National Trust recognises and acknowledges that the grazing and grazing rights held by the Longmynd Commoners are fundamental to the management of the Longmynd. Not only has it shaped the vegetation of the hill over centuries, but it has also protected this strikingly beautiful place from many external drivers of change. Latterly however, the Longmynd has been facing a new threat, a relentless tide of bracken and gorse, galvanised by climate change and atmospheric nitrogen deposition. These two natural vegetation components of this upland landscape are poised to overwhelm with sheer intensity of growth. On the front line



against this unwelcome vegetation are the sheep and ponies.

To support this invaluable grazing management better, which is essential to maintain wildlife habitats and species, an additional ambitious programme of bracken and gorse management has begun. This year, working with the Longmynd Commoners and skilled contractors using specialist equipment funded from Farming in Protected

Landscapes, has made it possible to reduce more bracken and gorse than in any single previous year. In addition, it also helped kickstart the process of restoring the habitats for wildlife, improving access and increasing grazing areas for the sheep and ponies, that will long continue to play an important role in maintaining the delicate balance of habitats within this unique place.

Catherine Hosie, Senior Estate Manager, Area 1, Midlands and East of England



Photos: Courtesy of the Longmynd Commoners Association

Shropshire Ornithological Society

Church Stretton branch presents
'Curlew Country' by Amanda Perkins,
on Monday 27th November.

Methodist Church Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

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





Shropshire Wildlife Trust

Strettons Branch

Strettons branch AGM and talks Monday 20th November at 7.30pm Mayfair community centre

Following a short AGM there will be two talks to update us on the newest wildlife sites in Church Stretton and the development of these areas. All are welcome. No need to book beforehand but for more information contact Janet Martin on 01694 722361 or strettons@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

Cudwell Meadow

Following interest in the wetlands south of Church Stretton, Isabel Carter will tell us how detailed surveying during 2016 and the subsequent findings led to much of the area being designated as a Local Wildlife Site and the purchase of the land by Strettons Area Community Wildlife Group (SACWG) and Middle Marches Community Land (MMCLT) – just as the Covid lockdown began! Isabel will enlighten us on how things have unfolded since then and about some of the wildlife that now flourishes there.



High Leasowes

Pete and Sandra Whitlock launched an appeal last September, supported by MMCLT, to buy a 16.5acre site to the north-east of the town. This successful appeal resulted in three fields, now known as High Leasowes, being purchased entirely by community donations. Much has happened since then and Sandra will talk about the fields and the work that is being done there to manage them as a 'stepping stone' for nature and to engage with the local community.

[Photo: John Baines]



Shropshire Hills AONB

The Conservation Fund: a small grant pot to support community projects in the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund supports projects to deliver practical conservation work in the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and/or educational and awareness-raising activities relating to the Shropshire Hills and its conservation, especially involving young people.

Earlier this year, a total of £15,000 was awarded by the Shropshire Hills AONB Trust to 13 community projects which are helping to look after the Shropshire Hills landscape.

The projects included restoring grassland habitat for the small pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly, installing nesting boxes for swifts on church towers and recording dormouse activity around Abdon to target future habitat management work. Both dormice and the small pearl-bordered fritillary are on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority List, meaning they have been identified as being the most threatened and require conservation action. Swifts

were recently added to the red list of Birds of Conservation Concern.

Other projects include restoring a wildlife pond in the school grounds at St George's, Clun, buying better equipment to enable volunteers to monitor local river water quality, and enabling volunteers to create a wildflower meadow in their 2-acre community gardening space near Church Stretton.

We are inviting applications for projects to start in April 2024. If you, or your community group, have a project idea, please get in touch. Grants range from £500 to £2,000 and are generally awarded for activity within a particular Financial Year (April to the end of March).

Further information about the Fund and how to apply is on our website at www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/help-to-look-after/shropshire-hills-aonb-trust/aonb-conservation-fund

Or email stephanie.hayes@shropshire.gov.uk, or telephone 01743 254746.



Recent Walk at Venus Pools on 23rd September



Many thanks to Ian Baggeley for leading us on this lovely autumnal morning walk around Venus Pools and his help with bird identification, both in the hide and on the walk.

Lots of species of bird were seen, plus some butterflies and other insects. We recorded at least forty bird species, including on and around the water, Greylag, Canada, Barnacle and Egyptian geese, shoveler, teal, little egret, ruff, snipe and great-crested grebe.

In the hedgerows and meadows we saw chiffchaff, reed bunting, meadow pipit, bullfinch and goldfinch, to name a few. High overhead were swallows, house martins, kestrel, buzzard and red kite. Basking in the sunshine were Comma and Red Admiral butterflies, ivy bees and hornets, and in the meadow, common grasshoppers.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

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

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

Walks are £2

See What's On for details of November events.

For further information visit our website

www.group.rspb.org.uk/southshropshire

or Facebook: RSPB South Shropshire Local Group

Autumn Fungi



Earthstar fungi, photo: Karen Maher

With the shorter days and cooler nights of autumn we can expect to see some fungi. We had a wet summer which may bring forth plentiful specimens for fungi spotters and foragers.

Mushroom is the name usually given to those that are edible. Fungi belong in their own kingdom. They do not photosynthesize like plants but obtain nutrients and energy from organic matter.

The visible fruiting bodies we observe provide the spores for reproduction. They can be quite conspicuous and come in a range of shapes and colours. Hidden from view are the minute filaments which thread into decaying vegetation. There are many varieties in various habitats and taking part in a fungi foray can be a fascinating way to spend an autumn day.

Frequently found in drier areas are puffballs, sometimes the size of footballs. When ripe their spores are sent out in a plume if knocked or hit by raindrops. Earthstars are similar but quite rare. When dry they split into rays resembling a star. They can be found resting on the damp ground under deciduous trees in woodlands.

Some folk like to find fungi to eat but most of them will have been already tasted by slugs and woodlice. They can also give you a stomach ache or worse, so probably best left to the experts.

Carol Wood

Acton Scott Gardening Club

Have you been concerned for your garden this year with the very different conditions we have experienced, and wondering how best to cope in the future?

Jack Wilgoss, who with his wife Laura own the independent Wildegoose Nursery at Millichope, will talk to us about 'Gardening in the future' which will be enlightening and will also introduce us to plants best able to cope with the stress of our rapidly changing climate.

Please join us on Thursday 9th November at 7.30pm at Acton Scott Village Hall.

We would be delighted to welcome you. The cost will be £5 per person which will also include refreshments. Looking forward to seeing you.



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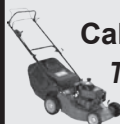
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Behind the Counter

A Bit of a Waffle

Lorraine Berry and Mike Baggott met in 2022 and realised, really quickly, that they shared a dream. Mike is from the Black Country originally, and Lorraine is from Atcham, and they met through a mutual love of hiking. For those of you who might be unfamiliar with Shropshire beyond its A-road network, Atcham is on the River Severn a little south of the National Trust Attingham Park.

They decided to go into business together in May this year, and A Bit of a Waffle, at 54 High Street across the road from



the King's Arms pub, is the result. Why catering, a notoriously challenging business? Lorraine explains, "I was a carer for 20 years, then a postal delivery worker for a while. Meeting Mike made me realise that it was time to make the dream come true before it was too late. Life doesn't stand still and I've always wanted a tea shop or to do catering of some kind."

The first idea was to kit out a trailer as a catering van and tour festivals, but that seemed a little bit precarious as a means of earning a living to our intrepid duo. Then they found the shop unit here, in Church Stretton and set to to fit it out in homage to Alice in Wonderland, with pretty china – artistically mismatched – and chairs upholstered with scenes from the books. One room, laid out as the Mad Hatter's tea party, had already been booked for a photography workshop on the day I visited, and more arts and crafts events are being planned.

How did the name come about, I asked? "Well," Lorraine explained, "When people meet up for tea or coffee, they sit around a table and waffle, and a bit is the part of a horse's head-tackle that it chews on." Obviously.

Neither Mike nor Lorraine has been in business before, but the commitment to this venture becomes clear when Lorraine says that she sold her caravan to provide start-up funds.

Now, they are planning their wedding and have a baby on the way, due to arrive this month. Exhausting? Not when life is full of excitement and anticipation, it seems. Mike says "The shop is going well, and we've regulars already. Customers have told us how unusual it is to find this kind of business outside of a major town or a city, and how they really like the novelty of waffles with almost anything, including American-style bacon and maple syrup, but there are cakes and savouries as well if customers prefer them."

You can reach Lorraine on 07947 239086, or email bitofawaffle@gmail.com, and there some excellent reviews on Yell.com. They're on Instagram, too, at www.instagram.com/bitofawaffle. Who knows what this entrepreneurial couple will get up to next, so watch their window notices for events and menus, or even stop by for a waffle full of surprises.

Seamstress and Design

Olga Zapopadko is one of Church Stretton's Ukrainian guests and, as I write, she is celebrating a moment of joy at being reunited with her beloved overlocker sewing machine, thanks to the almost Herculean efforts of local man Paul and many of his compassionate fellow helpers, who rescued the machine from Kharkiv and transported it safely, in relays, across Europe.

It might not seem like much of an occasion to you and me, but Olga had to leave that critical piece of her livelihood behind when she, her daughter and their little Yorkshire terrier fled. Their first stop was a refugee camp in Poland, then there was a short stop-over in Luxemburg, from where Olga found a UK sponsor family through a dedicated Facebook page. She and her daughter, plus the dog, arrived here on 9th September last year. She explains, "My host family, Hilary and Paul, are wonderful. They have introduced me to this lovely town and have helped me set up my own business. I didn't know how it would work because I am an independent person and I have a child, but they have become like parents to me."

Olga was a skilled seamstress with her own business before war broke out in Ukraine. Her hosts have supported her in setting up on the High Street, in the business premises previously run by Sue Phillips (A Stitch in Time, *Focus* December 2022). Olga now offers personalised dress design, pattern making and dress making services, children's clothing,



curtain making and running repairs to all kinds of articles. She is passionate about recycling and repurposing fabrics, which she turns into gloves, hatbands, waistcoats and other small items of clothing. She says, "I love English wool. It is such wonderful quality and I can't bear to see it wasted. I want to grow my business, and maybe employ people in time. I feel settled here. I like Shropshire and it feels like home. My daughter likes her school – she speaks better English than me but I am learning!"

Olga and her daughter have been through catastrophic upheavals, but she smiles a lot, is enthusiastic about her experiences in Church Stretton, and is determined to work hard to be self-sufficient as soon as possible.

Adapting to a new country, its people and their ways is never easy, but Olga is an optimistic pragmatist. If you glance her way as you pass her shop, you'll either see her with eyes down over one of her sewing machines or responding cheerily to your wave. Now, where are those trousers that need a new zip?...

Christine Williams, Resident Journalist

The More Singers are 50! 1973-2023 Choral Concert

The More Singers are delighted to be celebrating 50 years of singing and performing and will be presenting a Fiftieth Anniversary Concert on Sunday, 19th November at the United Reformed Church, High Street, Church Stretton at 7.30pm.

As the name suggests, the choir was formed at More near Bishop's Castle as a result of an invitation for a local choir to sing at the 400th anniversary of the granting of a Charter to Bishop's Castle Town. (They celebrated their 450th this year) and the name derives from their first rehearsal venue, the Vicarage at the nearby picturesque village of More. The name has stood the test of time and at some point the group gravitated to Church Stretton, probably in the mid 80s and has since become Church Stretton's own Chamber Choir.

The first conductor was Emlyn Ephraim, father-in-law to Ros Ephraim who still sings with the choir. Other notable conductors include Richard Silk who, with his wife Gill, ran the choir for sixteen years or more and still

The present conductor, Alistair Auld, now in his ninth year, has put together a programme of choral music to suit the occasion. The music will cover several genres and embrace both sacred and secular styles. 'Something old, something new...' as they say! Certainly there will be pieces which were performed by the choir back in the 70s and some favourites, too. There will also be new music never performed before by the choir to reflect the future. It is hoped that some ex members will attend.

As always, the choir supports a chosen charity at each of the concerts after expenses are deducted.

Entry to the concert is by programme which can be purchased at the door or ordered online at £12 at www.ticketsource.co.uk/The-More-Singers

Doors open 7pm for the 7.30pm concert on Sunday 19th November.

- Parking and full wheelchair access.
- Duration of concert approx. 60 minutes. There will be no interval.
- 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-making.



both sing with the group! Some founder and early members' names recur in programmes over the years – Shirley McNicol (still singing with the choir), Michael Gillions (his wife Sally sings with the choir now), Jill Wesson, Anthea Toft, Greta Howell and Janet Mitchell (who rejoined eighteen months ago).

As can be seen in the photos, then and now, the choir has remained a small but thriving chamber group. Concerts are given locally and further afield. The repertoire has varied from Josquin Des Prez (fifteenth century) to Macmillan (a contemporary composer) and has often been *a cappella* (i.e. without accompaniment). Our faithful audience has supported us through tough times, such as in March 2020, just one week before the announcement of the Covid lock-down, when the choir performed Poulenc's wonderful *Gloria* to a packed Methodist Church. We weren't able to perform again until November 2022. Eighteen months of silence prevailed!

Yet the choir has sprung back to life again over the past two years, performing no fewer than four concerts each year, including the annual Christmas Carol Concert.



Trivia Answers

1. Ear
2. Louis XVI
3. 13
4. Iraq
5. Shoes

Church Stretton Rotary News

Frank's 50 Years of Service to Church Stretton Rotary Club

On Wednesday 27th September our Rotary Club held a dinner at the Ragleth Inn to celebrate Frank Keighley's remarkable achievement of serving Church Stretton Rotary Club for over 50 years. He is the first and probably the last to achieve this milestone.

His wife, Margaret, was also thanked for all her support and being the source of inspiration for Frank to carry out his wonderful work.



Now the first question to ask Frank is why someone who has never lived in Church Stretton should spend 50 years in our Club.

Well Frank originally worked for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) and after that for NFU Mutual and his area of work was South Shropshire. Church Stretton was a lunch-time club, so it made sense to join a club where he worked.

Frank was our treasurer for over 30 years and was famous for being very precise with the figures.

He also received Paul Harris awards in 2012 and 2018 for his excellent efforts for Rotary and was Club President in 1982.

After he retired, he also joined the Samaritans for something like 20 years.

Church Stretton Food Bank

For many years we have helped support the Stretton Food Bank and our current President, Pat Stokes-Smith, has chosen the Food Banks of Church Stretton and Craven Arms as her President's Charity. So we were very pleased to have a presentation by CS Food Bank Coordinator, Richard McCrohan, on 13th September, to give us an update on the current situation. His excellent presentation highlighted the dramatic increase in demand and the increasing needs of the individuals who rely on the support of the Food Bank.



Away Day at Shrewsbury Darwin Rotary Club

Just to highlight how being a Rotarian can be fun, five members of our Club took part in a Laser Clay Pigeon Shoot in Shrewsbury organised by the Darwin Rotary Club. Almost £1,000 was raised for Shropshire Mental Health Support and Harlescote Community Hub and everyone had a great time.

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



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Recipe of the month

Salmon pate with cucumber relish

I'm writing this on a dreadfully wet 1st October and so my recipe feels very out of synch with the weather but I had already planned it as a potential Christmas recipe – perhaps for a light starter before the 'big meal' or as a light meal in itself or to support that glorious occasion that is the Boxing Day of leftovers. My journey into Shrewsbury yesterday confirmed that it is now quite acceptable to mention the C-word, full as the shops are of Christmas cards, gifts and the like.

I served this as a starter to a group of friends on a very recent warm late-summer evening (but it feels so long ago now!) and it went down very well alongside the uplifting cucumber relish. I had planned to make oatcakes to serve with it (they are surprisingly easy and satisfying to make and you can vary the flavour to suit) but in the event and knowing what delights the rest of the group were bringing to the table, this felt too much.

The original recipe called for smoked salmon but I fancied the more subtle approach and this is a great way to make a small amount of salmon feed a number of mouths. Horseradish goes brilliantly with fish – I often favour it to

Fresh parsley or dill if preferred
2 tsp hot horseradish sauce – or to taste
100ml single cream

Cucumber relish:

1 cucumber
3 tbsp white wine vinegar – I used cider vinegar
2 tbsp caster sugar
Handful of sesame seeds – optional

Method

Cook the salmon in your preferred way. I chose to pan fry it to deepen the flavour (and have some lovely crispy skin to munch) but you could poach it in your liquid of choice or oven bake it wrapped in foil if you happen to have the oven on for something else. Do this in advance and cool it completely, then flake the fish.

Mix together all the remaining pate ingredients up to and including the horseradish, with a spoon.

Add the cream gradually to reach your desired consistency – I didn't use all of it.

Gently stir in the flaked salmon and chill. If preferred,

you can add the fish and then give it a bit of a blitz for a smooth texture.

You can refrigerate in one serving dish and then spoon lovely quenelles (or dollops) onto serving plates or simply fill individual dishes.

For the relish, thinly slice the cucumber. I cut the cucumber into three and then sliced these very thinly along the length with a sharp knife as I like the ribbon effect, but you might cut circles for ease. Put into a mixing bowl and add the vinegar and sugar. Season generously with salt and refrigerate until needed. Just before serving stir in the sesame seeds if using.

I spooned this into little dishes to serve beside the salmon to keep the liquid from running into the fish.

The original recipe suggests serving this with blinis – maybe alongside the Christmas morning fizz – or on sourdough drizzled with extra-virgin olive oil. You could make little crudités by cutting little circles of bread with a pastry cutter and then brushing with butter or olive oil and baking until crisp. Or why not journey back into the 1970s and use this to fill cooked and cooled vol-au-vent cases?

You could of course make this using smoked mackerel fillets for an easy, no-cook version but omit the herbs and possibly the horseradish, some chilli flakes might liven this up nicely instead.

Heidi



tartare sauce – so it's no surprise that it works so well here, just adding a little fun to the mix. If feeling brave you could always just grate a little fresh horseradish in place of shop bought sauce but I'd advise caution so as not to overpower the fish. This can be made a day in advance and stored in the fridge.


Serves 6-8

Ingredients

Pate:

200g salmon fillet – about 2 of the 2cm wide type pieces
280g cream cheese – light variety is fine
Juice of 1 lemon

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Being 'theologically non-exclusive'

Churches may say they are inclusive but a point can come where those seeking inclusion have to conform to a norm and express exclusive certainties of faith. By being 'theologically non-exclusive' we can be inclusive without needing to express certainties which require conformity and we can get on together with building our understanding.

I would not decry received certainty but expressing doubts and questioning leads to understanding. Faith can be strong but you still have questions. This path is open to believers, no-longer believers and non-believers alike and can bring shared values which uplift daily life.

The great German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, executed by the Nazis in 1945, had the eye of a prophet. He could 'see into the life of things' and he saw that 1,500 years of received religion was just a 'preliminary stage'. We need to 'come of age and move on' he said. He described christianity as clothing, dressed in creeds and doctrines designed by the Church. He added "I am gradually working my way to a non-religious interpretation of biblical concepts". Sadly his life was cut short before he could take those thoughts any further.

The late Bishop Jack Spong (an Anglican) takes this theme too. He described it like this: "If the Gospels are to be for us revelations of truth, we must enter these texts, go beneath the words, discover the experience that made

the words necessary, and in this manner seek the meaning to which the words point."

The Gospels tell stories, some are narrative, others have metaphor wrapped up within them. Parables are more theological, addressing the nature of god and the relationship with man. Many of them are broadly philosophical, carrying messages which are not exclusive to christianity. Jesus is a prophet for Islam too.

Entering these texts, as Spong suggests, is not an exclusive role. Neither should it be a purely academic task, it is down to all of us to be learning from them and 'doing' in an appropriate manner, reflecting their core morality, putting their message into use. Perhaps the Christian world's leading exponent of this is West Hill Church in Toronto, Canada. It says "We are a community living out a progressive faith, striving to make a positive difference in our own lives, the lives of others, and the world. Moved by a reverence for life to pursue justice for all, we inspire one another to seek truth, live fully, care deeply, and make a difference."

West Hill's inclusivity makes no mention of christianity. It has been described as 'atheist' by fundamental churches. The Church calls itself 'theologically non-exclusive'. I like that and I like to think that we are travelling a similar journey.

Roger Wilson

SHI Events

Red Madog

Silvester Horne Institute, Church Stretton
Thursday 9th November at 7.30pm



This Shropshire and Welsh Border-based band make lively and upbeat music with a selection of traditional folk melodies, classic covers, and original songs. Their own brand of 'folk-fusion' blends elements of traditional folk music with other genres, such as rock, jazz, and classical.

Jack Brett, an outstanding guitarist, also plays bouzouki and sings lead vocals. He is also a songwriter whose songs appeal to a wide audience. His recent album *In a More Conventional Way* was very well received.

Andrew Cook on violin and mandolin has a wide knowledge of traditional folk tunes following his ten years at The Floor music venue in St Michaels, near Tenbury Wells.

Nic Rawlinson is an enthusiastic drummer and vocalist. He has played in bands of varying styles and still finds time to run the drum tutoring business Let's Learn Drums.

Stacie Brett on bass guitar has performed with groups in the UK and overseas. Her career highlight was performing at the Mirabell Palace in Salzburg. This event promises to be a lively and enjoyable evening.

Tickets £12 Adult, 18 and under £6, available online at silvesterhorneevents.co.uk or from Church Stretton Town Council Office or from the Outdoor Depot, Sandford Avenue.

For more information please phone 01694 720132.

Mike Walker

u3a Social Meeting

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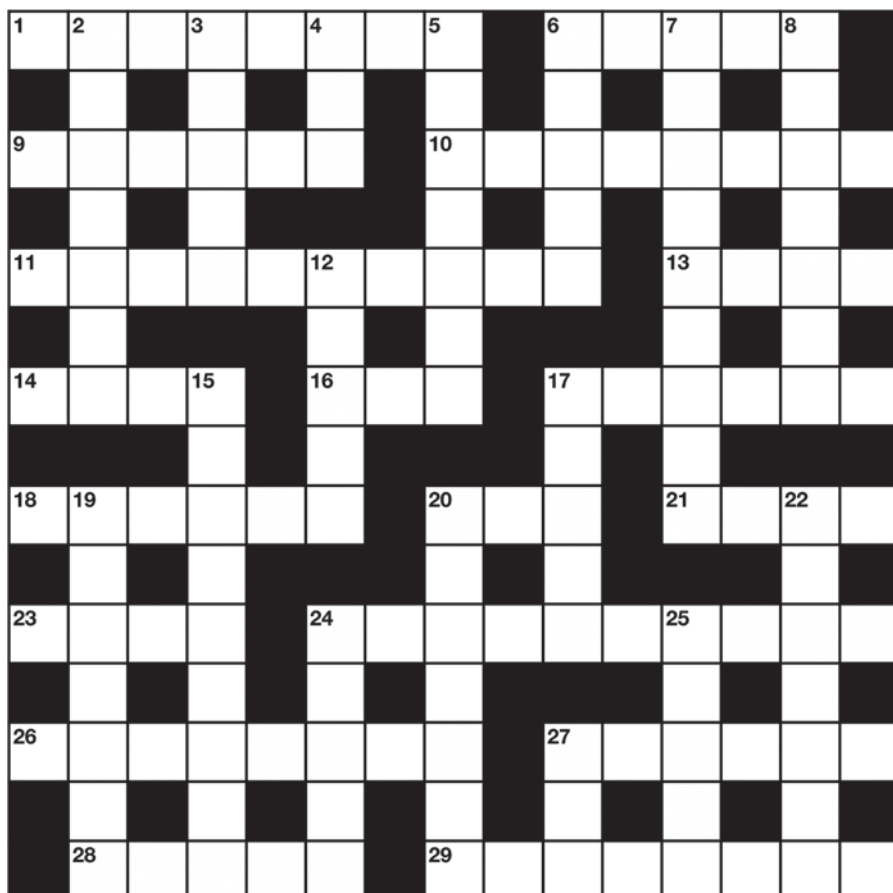
Members free – Visitors welcome £2

The u3a stands for the University of the Third Age, which is a self-help organisation for people no longer in full time employment, providing educational, creative and leisure opportunities in a friendly environment. For further information, contact: 01694 724330 or www.u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton35

Cryptic Crossword by Stan Yelds

Across

1. The issue under scrutiny: stellar explosion without a glowing remnant (8)
6. Interval that's tonic for 20% (5)
9. See 17d
10. Joyous shout – almost maximum volume (8)
11. Having problems walking or jogging into dog pee (6-4)
13. Accompanied by comedian on his debut (4)
14. Fashionable greeting inscribed in small volume (4)
16. 22 top man reading you happy endings (3)
17. On the subject of leads in old films (6)
18. Musicians, don't erase entertaining old recording! (6)
20. Ovine found in Upper Amazonia (3)
21. Old boy in a boat weeps (4)
23. Two setters creating a cultural item (4)
24. Sloop regained momentum? (6,4)
26. Some depart if I celebrate trickery (8)
27. Calm, outwardly playful and then caustic (6)
28. See 15d
29. Get thinner – around 50 kilo – at 22 12 (8)



Down

2. Book one had rewrite after ex-president lost mother (7)
3. Focus worker associated with the German boy (5)
4. Unopposed advance via eastern vale (3)
- 5,6. Playground enclosure about right for local 22 12 venue (7,5)
7. Electrify factory producing aerial displays (9)
8. Keen on surrounding American control centre for 20d (7)
12. See 22d
- 15,28a. Curious whether nice ale available for 22 12 (9,5)
- 17,9a. Meal and corn stew served up on 22 12 (5,6)
19. Examine top feature (7)
20. Loud music and French society seen on 22 12 (7)
- 22,12d. Nothing brief about 1 6a event (7,5)
24. Might be used for 15 28a's ignition or splashdown (5)
25. Hit with clever solution (5)
27. Class 'A' vegetable (3)

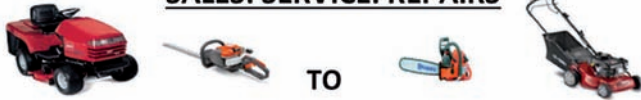
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Not long ago, the *Shropshire Star* reported that 'the Sawaddee menu was a cut above the rest' and that the staff 'were polite, attentive and efficient'. Hardly surprising, therefore, that the Good Neighbours Friday Lunch Club happily chose Church Stretton's Sawaddee Thai restaurant as 'venue of the month' for their September gathering. Unsurprising too as the restaurant had agreed to open specially for the club's hungry diners. Grateful thanks to the staff at Sawaddee!

During the troublesome period of the Covid pandemic, both the Good Neighbours lunch clubs were forced to close, and this was a real blow for the members, particularly for those living on their own. But the gloom and despondency overshadowing us all in the spring of 2020 was never going to last. By the beginning of 2022 we were – like Mole in *The Wind in the Willows* – scraping, scratching and scrooging our way back to normality, and now both clubs are thriving once again. Poop! Poop!

The Friday Lunch Club meets (readers will not be surprised to hear) on a Friday: the last Friday in the month. The fifteen or more members are a lively bunch and, not satisfied with visiting the same pub or restaurant each month, visit a range of local eateries. Ring & Ride provides transport, for which members pay a small fee, and purses and wallets are opened at the end of lunch when each member settles their own bill.



Some of the diners arriving by the very helpful Ring & Ride service, and (below) diners enjoying the congenial company while discussing the menu



The Wind in the Willows ends with Mole and his friends continuing to lead their lives 'in great joy and contentment'.

After an enjoyable meal taken in congenial company so too do our members! Why not join them? Call Lin Brown on 01694 781634 or email us at csgoodneighbours@gmail.com.

Doreen Cornwell

Methodist Voice

How odd, I thought as I watched the birds eagerly guzzling down all the food on the feeding station. How odd, here I am watching creatures attending a station to be fed. To share a communion with each other. It was almost church like, each little character coming forward to meet a need. The more I watched however I spotted a few important differences. The birds seemed to have no agenda, they purely came every day to be fed. There were no birds sitting on the feeder looking at others with a questioning eye, all were genuinely welcome. Seemingly there were no rules on how one could partake in the feeding. Some were restrained and picked a morsel up and politely took it away to eat, others like Sid the wood pigeon sat in the food bowl and took as much as he could in one sitting. Some of the smaller birds were filled with joy at the treats and chirped with ecstasy as they pulled seed from the tubes, never seeming to mind if they spilled lots on the floor. Then came the chaffinches rapidly cleaning up anything that had fallen and of course dear sweet robin who went for the tray munching and happily watching everything else that was happening. The goldfinches

were a little more reserved and chose to eat together but they seemed to rub along with the others, feeding in their own way, but accepting of those who were different. Nothing seemed to intrude on the essential event of being fed. Not one bird took charge or decided on the way to eat 'correctly'; no bird seemed to mind if the two pheasant hens had a close friendship that excluded the male completely. There seemed to be no committees deciding who should be allowed to be there, or how to behave when you are there. It was tremendous to see the unadulterated joy each individual was taking. They ate, sang and tolerated the impish behaviour of the longtailed tits who just liked to swing off the framework. It seemed chaotic and yet it was joyful, all embracing, totally accepting and most importantly of all each bird was fed. Each bird was fed as they were, no roles to fill, no need to be like another bird and no need to do anything but share in a heaven-made communion. Then I went on to compare this outpouring of joy with some of our human experiences... makes you think doesn't it?

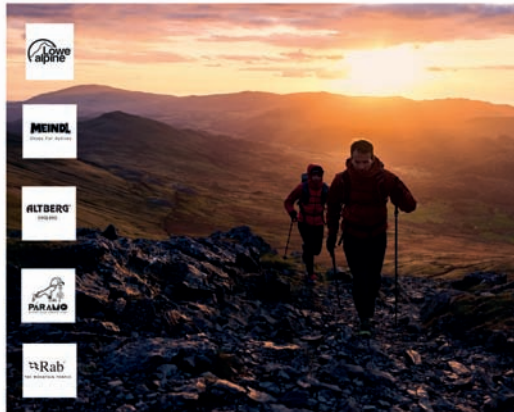
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Churches in the Strettons



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

Sunday Services

St Laurence's

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

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

St Michael's

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

All Saints

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

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

Midweek Service

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

Online Service

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

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



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

Website: www.churchstretton-methodistchurch.org.uk

Hall bookings: Carole Coles (Tel: 724958)

Sunday Services

10.30am Morning Service

Wednesday Activities

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

Cuppa and Chat 2.30-4pm. All welcome



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

Email: csqm@gorswen.co.uk

Sundays:

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

For details of home discussion groups please telephone the Clerks.



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

St Milburga's, Church Stretton

Email: stmilburga@gmail.com

Sunday: 9.30am Mass

Tuesday-Saturday: 9.30am Daily Mass

Saturday: 5.30pm Evening Mass

St Walburga's, Plowden

11.15am Sunday Mass



UNITED REFORMED CHURCH Minister: (vacant)

Website: churchstrettonurc.org.uk

Sunday Services

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

Weekday Activities

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

Wednesdays: Discussion and prayers – currently suspended

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

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

Church and Hall bookings: 722390

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

Allotment Gardens Association	Ben Warren	07779 437871	greenhillsallotments@gmail.com
All Stretton Amateur Dramatics Society			allstrettondrama@gmail.com
All Stretton Village Hall	allstrettonvillagehall@gmail.com		www.allstrettonvillagehall.org.uk
All Stretton History Society	Ruth Grafton	723187	janegra@waitrose.com
All Stretton Village Society	Caroline Crump	723283	carolinecrump68@icloud.com
Alzheimers Carer's Support (Mayfair)	Jackie Pennington	722077	[Monthly, 2nd Friday, 2.00pm] www.mayfaircentre.org
Amnesty, Church Stretton Group	Barbara Parnell	720040	
Ancient Greek Study Group	David Langslow	723538	stretlang@gmail.com
Archers: Bowmen of Caradoc	Ros Healy		Roshealy1@gmail.com
Archers, Long Mynd	Sue Williamson	722767	sue@chelmickforge.co.uk
Army Cadet Force	Lt Wheelden	01743 231779	info.shropshireac@rfca.org.uk
ArtsAlive (Church Stretton)	Michael Walker	720132	fontenay1@btinternet.com
Arts Festival, Church Stretton & South Shropshire		07763 985707	info@strettonfestival.org.uk
Badminton Club (Monday 8-10pm)	James Kirkwood	07979 474326	home@jameskirkwood.co.uk
Badminton Club (Junior and Adult, Wednesday)	Alan Fox	725588	alandavidfox@live.co.uk
Beacon (Activities and Care at Mayfair)	Joy King	722077	(Mayfair) www.mayfaircentre.org.uk
Books (Mayfair/Health & Wellbeing Centre)	Sue Hird	724235	smhird@btinternet.com
Bowling Club, Church Stretton Probus	Glyn Morgan	722388	crocrus2@tiscali.co.uk
Bowling Club, Indoor	Alan Mileson	723999	amileson@lineone.net
Bowling Club, Ladies'	Lucy Taylor	720115	
Breathing Space (Singing for health and wellbeing)	Kate Buttolph	720358	kate@playonperformingarts.co.uk
Bridge Club (Thursday 1-5pm, All Stretton Vlge Hall)	Maxine Lainchbury	07971 191664	www.bridgewebs.com/churchstretton
Bridleways Association, Long Mynd and District	Lynn Townsend	722667	
Brownies, Church Stretton	Judy Russell	724056	davejudy1@googlemail.com
Busy Bees Preschool	Church Stretton School	722209	
Camera Club, Long Mynd	Amanda Page		secretary@longmyndcameraclub.co.uk
Cancer Research UK	Sue Toghill	722713	susantoghill@outlook.com
Cancer Support Group, Stretton	Lesley McIntyre	723427	
Chamber of Trade, Church Stretton	Stuart Wright	722237	
Chess Club, Church Stretton	Tom Williamson	722767	tswilliamson337@gmail.com
Choral Society, Stretton	Mark Tocknell	722969	strettonchoral@gmail.com; www.strettonchoral.org.uk
Churches Together	Canon Rosamund Seal	07925 969821	rosamund.seal@gmail.com
Citizens Advice Bureau			at the Library, by appointment only: 0808 278 7894
Civic Society, The Strettons	Janet Martin	722361	jmartin1947@btinternet.com
Climate Care, Stretton	David Howard	722904	
Country Market (ex WI)	Ann Lloyd	07889 143057	or (01694) 731274
Credit Union	c/o Mayfair	722077	(Mayfair) [Wednesdays] www.mayfaircentre.org.uk
Cricket Club, Church Stretton	Rob Whittall	07967 571044	churchstrettoncricketclub@gmail.com
Croquet Club	Joe Manifold	01588 660534	cscroquet@gmail.com; croquet-websites.org.uk/churchstretton
Cub Scouts, Longmynd (Tuesday Pack)	Jane Wrench	723923	janewrench2@gmail.com
Cub Scouts, Longmynd (Wednesday Pack)	Andrew Spurling	723429	aspurling@btinternet.com
Cycle Group, Stretton Steadies	Clive & Fiona Hunt		strettonsteadies@gmail.com
Darts, Church Stretton and District League	Mark Davies (Verd)	07588 517955	verddavies72@gmail.com
Dementia Carers' Support	Emma Wilde	01743 341800	
Dominoes, Church Stretton and District League	Martin Salisbury	723253	
Explorer Scouts	Angie Walshaw	723477	angiewalshaw@hotmail.com
Extend (Gentle Exercise) Mayfair	Nicola Daniels	722077	[Thursday mornings] www.mayfaircentre.org.uk
Fitness Instructor	Pam Allsop	723899	pamallsop@churchway.plus.com
Fitness for the Young at Heart	Pam Allsop	723899	pamallsop@churchway.plus.com
Flicks in the Sticks (All Stretton)	Kate Latchford	723378	terri@artsalive.co.uk
Flicks in the Sticks (Church Stretton)	Andrew Hall	07508 072206	aahall2002@yahoo.co.uk
Football Club, Church Stretton Town	Nick Cole	724362	nick@eloc.eclipse.co.uk
Football Club, Magpies (5-16 years old)		07816 686139	enquiries@csmf.co.uk
Football Club, Stretton Red Rovers (6-15 years old)	Martin Watts	723543	contact@redrovers.org.uk
Footpath maintenance volunteers (Parish paths Partnership)	Tim Parker	07493 659514	tim.parker111@gmail.com
Friends of Church Stretton Library	Sheila Davies	723455	www.strettonlibraryfriends.org.uk
Gardening Club, Acton Scott	Terri Clegg	781572	actonscottgc@gmail.com
Gardening Club, Church Stretton & District	Evelyn Dapling	723648	evedapling@waitrose.com
Gliding, Midlands Gliding Club Ltd	Office	01588 650206	office@midlandgliding.club
Golf Club	James Townsend	722281	secretary@churchstrettongolfclub.co.uk
Good Neighbours Care Group	Office	724242	churchstrettongoodneighbours.org.uk
Guiding, 2nd Church Stretton	Jane Hurst	771622	janehurst77@hotmail.co.uk
Harmony In The Hills	Kate Buttolph	07974 382989	kate@playonperformingarts.co.uk
Hockey Club, Stretton Juniors (5-15 years old)	Martin Watts	723543	mlwatts@yahoo.co.uk
Hope Bowdler Hand Bell Ringers	Ruth Jenkins	724919	
Hope Bowdler Village Hall	Evelyn Dapling	723648	
Horse Show, Church Stretton	Sarah Davies	771370	daviesblackhurst@aol.com
Interfaith Forum, South Shropshire	Canon Noel Beattie	725530	
Judo, Junior	Roger Houston	01743 358415	RogerHoustonJudo@aol.com
Karate Club	Dave Shephard	724212	daveshepard1379@gmail.com
Keep Fit, Stretton	Lisa Ryan	751369	
Languages Group	David Langslow	723538	stretlang@gmail.com
Leebotwood Village Hall	Colin Bore	07970 523591	cbore@btinternet.com
Leisure Centre, Church Stretton	Sue Wells	720051	info@teme-leisure.co.uk
Lesbian & Bisexual Women, Border Women Social Group			borderwomen.net
Line Dancing	Dave Bishop	07527 264846	southerncrossldc@gmail.com
Lions Club, Middle Marches	Brian Dawson	01584 831508	thefirs38@btinternet.com
Local History Group	Madeline Haigh	723627	csalhg@outlook.com
Long Mynd Adventure Camp	Peter Jenkins	724919	
Martial Arts, Freestyle	Phil Hatton	07852 961675	freestylemartialarts.com/stretton
Masonic Lodge (Caer Caradoc)	Graham Williams	07939 109726	secretary@caerocaradocldodge.org.uk
Masonic Lodge (Longmynd)	Charles Hennell	01584 856716	charles@hennell.net; www.longmyndlodge.org.uk
Mayfair Health Walks	Trish Howard	722077	trish.howard@mayfaircentre.org.uk
MAYSI Project (Mayfair Supporting Independence)	Janet Williams/Shaz Malins	722077	maysi@mayfaircentre.org.uk
More Singers, The	Alistair Auld	07981 399482	
Mothers' Union, Church Stretton	Diana Coles	723548	
Music: Strettons Classical Music Group	Barbara Hall	724578	
Netball Club, Flames			hello@flamesnetball.co.uk; www.flamesnetball.co.uk
Netball Club, Stretton Scarlett's	Amy	07837 596297	
Ornithological Society, Stretton Branch	David John	724772	poolbrook12@gmail.com
Parkinson's UK	Hilary Bowman	07823 523696	hjb Bowman@live.com
Photography, Marches Independent	Geoff Taylor	723301	gtaylor.photo@btinternet.com
Pickleball Club	Carol	07803 329106	
Pilates (exercise)	Sandra Liebrecht	781660	selenaorme@yahoo.co.uk
Play On Performing Arts	Kate Buttolph	07974 382989	kate@playonperformingarts.co.uk
Pride of Place, Church Stretton	Trevor Halsey		trevorhalsey@btinternet.com

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

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

Church Stretton Town Councillors

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

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

Shropshire (Unitary) Councillors for the Area

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

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

StrettonDale Local Joint Committee (Details pending)

Responsibilities for Public Services

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

Some useful numbers

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

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

Police - Non emergency only 101, Emergency 999

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

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

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs):

Daz Barnett: 07866 215007; David Baron: 07870 163156

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

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

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

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

Accommodation see Hotels, B&B, Self Catering	Clock & Watch Repair Adrian Donnelly Clock Repairs... 2	Garden Design, Services, Supplies Ben Carter Landscaping..... 41 Homden Excavations..... 37 Integral Gardens..... 41 John Stephens Services..... 41 Keith Warrington..... 37 Mike Russell Designs..... 37 Paul Forrester..... 15 Paul Tinsley..... 16 Peter Tipton..... 41 Shropshire Lawn Co..... 37 Tidy Garden..... 37 Unique Landscapes..... 41	Outdoor Clothing and Equipment The Outdoor Depot..... 48
Accountants and Bookkeeping James, Holyoak & Parker..... 53 RLW Accountants..... 53	Clothes Entertaining Elephants..... 48	Garden Machinery Newington Garage..... 46	Painters & Decorators Andrew Webster..... 37 D R Tipton Painter & Decorator 43 DWS Property Services..... 37 E B Jones..... 37 G H Jones & Son..... 37 Paul Forrester..... 15
Architects, Town Planning Batch Valley Design..... 21 Christopher Roscoe Assocs..... 21	Coaches Caradoc Coaches..... 46	Hairdressers, Health, Beauty Anthony's Hair Studio..... 43 Health & Beauty Clinic..... 29 Katerina White..... 43 Nails by Nancy..... 43 Shampers..... 43	Pest Control Chris Sansom Pest Control..... 60 Keith Warrington..... 37
Bathrooms see Kitchens, Bathrooms	Community Centre Mayfair..... 10	Health, Therapies see also Chiroprodists & Physiotherapists Birch Tree Reflexology..... 25 Bodylogic Mobile Massage..... 29 Cate Gowlett..... 25 Mayfair..... 10 Shropshire Acupuncture..... 25	Pet Food and Pet Care John R Thomas..... 6
Beauty, Slimming see Hairdressers, Health, Beauty	Computing, Graphic and Web Design Jason Gough..... 2 Nic Sansom..... 2 Stretton Internet..... 2 Webbex Technical Services..... 2	Hobbies Books by Moonlight..... 6 Burway Books..... 6 Harold's Toy Store..... 6 Long Mynd Music Academy..... 6 Peter Youngs Photography..... 10 Philip Hooper..... 6 The Prolific Crafter..... 6	Pharmacy Hillside Pharmacy..... 43
Bed & Breakfast, Self Catering see Hotels, B&B, Self Catering	Decorators see Painters, Decorators	Home & Garden Harold's Toy Store..... 6 The Prolific Crafter..... 6	Physiotherapists Chris Turner..... 43 Marion Murdoch..... 43 Physio Pilates..... 43
Bookshop Books by Moonlight..... 6 Burway Books..... 6	DIY & Hardware Cyril Bason Hardware..... 41 Mynd DIY..... 41	Home Furnishings Abbey Carpets..... 6 Louise Watney..... 6	Piano Tuner and Repairs Philip Hooper..... 6
Builders, Plant & Equipment A J Lewis-Price..... 16 A Morgan..... 15 A.2.Z Construction..... 16 E J & G J Groom..... 15 Homden Excavations..... 37 Joe Drury..... 16 K J Morris..... 15 Keith George..... 16 Mark Terry..... 15 Morris Maintenance..... 41 Paul Tinsley..... 16 Richard Sherratt Builders..... 15 Telford Building Contractors..... 16	Domestic Appliances & Repairs Continental Fireplaces..... 2 Norman Jones..... 2	House and Garden Clearance Peter Tipton..... 41	Plumbers, Heating Gary Paris..... 25 Gasco..... 25 Homefix..... 29 J Morris..... 25 Lee Brown..... 29 Morris Maintenance..... 41 Pete Carroll..... 25 Peter Floyd..... 29 Whitfield Plumbing..... 29 Whiting Heating..... 25
Cafés see Restaurants, Cafés, Pubs	Electrical Services, Lighting AMP Electrical..... 46 Boxall's Electrician..... 46 Charles Ephraim..... 46 M C Electrical..... 46 Stephen Morgan..... 46	Hotels, B&B and Self Catering Eaton Manor..... 53 Mynd House..... 53 Willowbatch..... 53	Printing, Copying, Photo Products Craven Design & Print..... 48 Stretton Print & Supplies..... 48
Cards and Gifts Entertaining Elephants..... 48 Stretton Print & Supplies..... 48	Estate Agents Bluestone..... 32 Miller Evans..... 32 Samuel Wood..... 32 Wrights Estate Agents..... 32	Insurance see Financial Services, Insurance	Restaurants, Cafés, Pubs Berry's..... 48 Royal Oak, Cardington..... 48
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What's On in the Strettons in November

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

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

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

WEEKLY EVENTS/MEETINGS:

Babies and Toddlers Group

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

Badminton Club

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

Balance/Strength: Be Strong Be Steady

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

Bridge Club, The Strettons

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

Chess Club, CS

All ages and abilities welcome. Contact: Tom Williamson 722767. Every **Thursday** 7.30pm Kings Arms, CS

Christian Meditation (online via Zoom)

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

Christian Meditation (meeting in person)

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

Cuppa and Chat at the Methodist Church

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

Dancing: Learn 2 Jive

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

Dancing: Scottish

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

Energy Advice from Stretton Climate Care

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

Family History Research

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

Football: Three Touch Passing

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

Handbell Ringers, Hope Bowdler

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

Knit & Natter Group at Ley Gardens

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

Music: Stretton Strummers Ukulele Group

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

Netball Club, Stretton Scarletts

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

Pickleball Club, CS

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

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

What's On continued

Singing: Breathing Space Singing Groups

Singing for health and wellbeing.

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

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

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

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

Every **Wednesday** at Mayfair

Singing: Harmony In The Hills

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

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

Every **Thursday**

7.30-9pm Mayfair Activity Room

Singing: Stretton Choral Society Rehearsals

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

Every **Thursday**

7.30-9.30pm URC

Strength Balance and Flex with Nina

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

12 noon Ley Gardens, Lawley Close, SY6 6GA

Whist Drives at Westhope

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

All abilities welcome.

Every **Monday**

7.15pm Westhope VH, SY7 9JL

Yoga at Mayfair

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

Every **Monday**

5.15-6.45pm Mayfair

Chair Yoga at Mayfair with Mary

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

Every **Wednesday**

10.30-11.45am Mayfair

Yoga at SHI

£8 per session. Open to all.

Call David Hedge: 07870 936889

Every **Tuesday** in term time.

10-11.30am SHI

Yoga at Westhope with Sue Pugh

Experienced tutor. Numbers are limited.

Enquiries: 07860 447397

Every **Wednesday**

4.15-5.15pm Westhope VH, SY7 9JL

Yoga: Gong Yoga with Grace

Relaxing classes for stress and anxiety.

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

Every **Tuesday** until 19th Dec

7-8.30pm Rushbury VH, Wall under Heywood

Yoga: Vita Bona Yoga at CS Library

Booking: Sue 07432 349933

Every **Monday**

9.30-10.30am Improvers

11-11.45am Chair Yoga

Yoga with Becca

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

Contact Becca on 07905 236805 or yogawithbecca@hotmail.com

Tues: 6.30-7.30pm Mayfair

Wed: 9.30-10.30am Scout Hut

Wed: 6.30-7.30pm SHI

Thurs: 7-8am Scout Hut

Thurs: 9.30-10.30am Leebotwood VH

Youth Club For School Years 6 to 7

A club for ages 10-12.

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

Every **Tuesday** in term time

4-5.30pm Pavilion, Russell's Meadow

Youth Club For School Years 8 to 11

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

Every **Tuesday** in term time

6-7.30pm Pavilion, Russell's Meadow

GENERAL DIARY:

28 OCTOBER – 4 NOVEMBER

Dragon Spotting Walk

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

31 TUESDAY (OCTOBER)

'Make & Take' Halloween Craft Workshop

For children over the age of 5 (under 7s to be accompanied) £3.50 per child. Booking essential: 328508

10am-12 noon Scappies, Beaumont Rd

Spooky Stories and Creepy Crafts

Join us at CS library this half-term for Halloween-themed stories and crafts.

Dressing up encouraged!

Aimed at families with children aged 5+.

Contact the library to book.

2-3.30pm CS Library

CS Gardening Club Indoor Meeting

With guest speakers Alun and Jill Whitehead: 'Coast to coast via gardens'

Non-members are welcome.

2pm SHI

Continued overleaf..

What's On continued

1 WEDNESDAY

C.A.M.E.O. Meeting

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

CS Amnesty Group

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

Flicks in the Sticks: Cardington

Empire of Light (2022)
Cert: 15
Tickets: £4. Contact: 771295
7.30pm Cardington VH, SY6 7JZ

Long Mynd Camera Club

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

Rotary Club 70th Charter Fun Night

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

2 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-12 noon CS Library

Family Film at Mayfair

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

3 FRIDAY

Hearing Loss Support Hub

Monthly service, offering hearing aid tube changing, battery collection and advice on hearing aid care. Staffed by NHS audiology trained volunteers. Appointments must be pre-booked: 01743 342168.
10am-12 noon Mayfair

u3a Reading Group 1

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

4 SATURDAY

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

5 SUNDAY

Gong Immersion with Grace

Let Grace and the gong quartet lead you through a sound immersion for relaxation and deep and powerful vibrations. £13, booking is essential.
Contact Grace on 07903 054577 or via gongs@gracessandels.com
3pm for 3.15pm Rushbury VH

6 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

7 TUESDAY

Stretton Stitchers

An informal, friendly sewing group.
Info: Katy 720200 or Frances 722656
10am-1pm URC Hall

Mayfair Live Theatre Screening

Royal Ballet: *Don Quixote*
Tickets: Adults £15, Under 18s £10. Bar and refreshments available to purchase. Please see Mayfair's main item for more details.
7.15pm Mayfair

Flicks in the Sticks All Stretton

Foreign Language Film:
Yunana – a yak in the classroom (2019)
Cert: PG
Tickets £6. No interval
Enquiries: 07812 583113
8pm All Stretton VH

8 WEDNESDAY

Strettons Classical Music Group Talk

With Richard Walker, whose talk today is on the harp, from its pre-biblical beginnings to the versatile solo instrument of today.
Entry to the talk is £3.
Contact: Barbara Hall, 724578.
10am-12 noon URC Hall

CS Dementia Friends Memory Café

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

Flicks in the Sticks: Hope Bowdler

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry (2023)
Cert: 12a
Admission: adults £5, children £2.50
Pay on the door. Refreshments served in the interval. Enquiries: 721376
7.30pm Hope Bowdler VH

9 THURSDAY

Monthly Drop-In Council Surgery

With Councillor Hilary Luff.
This regular surgery will now be held on the 2nd Thursday of the month.
(Please note: no surgery in December)
9.30-11am CS Library

CS Stroke Support Group

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

u3a Social Meeting

With Lin Brown and Mike McGary:
'Adventures up the family tree'
Free to members, visitors £2
Refreshments provided.
Contact details: 724330 or
www.u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton
2pm URC Hall

What's On continued

Acton Scott Gardening Club Talk

Do join us for a talk by Jack Wilgoss from Wildegoose Nursery at Millichope: 'Gardening in the future'.

Cost: £5, to include refreshments.

7.30pm Acton Scott VH

Marmaladies CS WI

A one-off 'book club', examining the plot and characters of a good read. Book will be available at previous meeting to be read before tonight.

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

7.30pm Mayfair

SHI Event: Red Madog

Tickets: Adults £12, 18 and under £6, available online: silvesterhorneevents.co.uk or from CS Town Council Office or the Outdoor Depot, Sandford Ave.

More information from 720132

7.30pm SHI

10 FRIDAY

u3a Writers Group 1

With Lesley Dench

2nd and 4th Friday of the month

10am-12 noon CS Library

Remembrance Event: Illustrated Talk

Marcus Cash: 'The first day of the Somme, Saturday July 1st 1916'

To reserve a seat, call 723627 or email MHaigh3@aol.com. £5 on the door.

2.30pm Little Stretton VH

11 SATURDAY – 12 SUNDAY

Little Stretton Remembrance Exhibition

The exhibition is based on the lives and military service of the eleven local men named on the memorial in All Saints Church. Also includes WWI memorabilia. Free admission.

10.30am-4pm Little Stretton VH

11 SATURDAY

Christmas Craft Fair

Handmade products from local crafters, refreshments, raffle. Proceeds to Mayfair's Ring & Ride service.

Contact Lin Brown on 07808 792314, email: linda_brown294@hotmail.co.uk

10am-4pm Parish Centre

Stretton Climate Care Repair Café

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

info@strettonclimatecare.org.uk

Walk-ins accepted after 11am.

10am-12 noon Scout Hut

Remembrance Service

Short memorial service and two minute silence.

10.58am Memorial Cross, Longhills Rd

History Talk at CS Masonic Hall

With local historian, David Trumper: 'History of the Strettons and surrounding areas'.

Followed by a free buffet and pay bar.

Free entry but due to limited capacity is by ticket only. Please contact: secretary@caerocaradoc lodge.org.uk.

7.30pm CS Masonic Hall, 65 High St, SY6 6BY (opposite the SHI)

12 SUNDAY

Remembrance Parade and Service

Please see the RBL main item for more details of timings for Remembrance events.

9.15am Assembly of parade at Mayfair

10am Service at St Laurence's

10.45am Parade reassembles and proceeds to the Memorial Cross

10.58am Laying of wreath and two-minute silence

13 MONDAY

Coffee Hour Drop-In with CS u3a

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

We meet 2nd Monday of the month.

10-11am HWBC

Stretton Cancer Support Group

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

2.30pm HWBC

14 TUESDAY

u3a Writers Group 2

With Jenny O'Shea

2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month

2-4pm CS Library

RSPB South Shropshire Local Group Talk

Terry Moore – Illustrated talk on wildlife photography

Members £2, Visitors welcome £5

Enquiries to Carol Wood 07807 068304

7.30pm Diddlebury VH SY7 9DH

15 WEDNESDAY

Stretton Climate Care AGM and Discussion

'Giving young people a voice' – a panel of young people on the climate and biodiversity crises.

Please see the Stretton Climate Care article for more information.

7pm Methodist Church

Long Mynd Camera Club

Guest speaker Colin Trow-Poole:

'Print presentation'

www.longmyndcameraclub.co.uk

7.30pm URC Hall

16 THURSDAY – 18 SATURDAY

Stretton Players Present: *Bedroom Farce*

A comedy by Alan Ayckbourn

Tickets: Adults £10, under 16s £5, from Vine & Co or online, at www.ticketsource.co.uk

7.30pm each evening SHI

16 THURSDAY

Citizens Advice at CS Library

10am (see Thurs 2nd for details)

18 SATURDAY

Saturday Morning Music

A piano trio, featuring violinist

Anne Tupling, cellist Fiona Rattray and pianist Richard Walker.

Concerts are free of charge, normally last just under an hour, and a retiring collection is taken from which donations are made to a local charity.

10.15am United Reformed Church

19 SUNDAY

More Singers 50th Anniversary Concert

Celebrating 50 years of singing.

Entry is £12 at the door or go to

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

Enquiries to 07896 761149

7.30pm United Reform Church

Continued overleaf...

What's On continued

20 MONDAY

CS Area Local History Group (CSALHG)

National Trust archaeologist Janine Young: 'Excavations at Pole Cottage'
Non-members £4, pay on the door.
Talks are popular so please arrive in plenty of time for the 2pm start.
Enquiries to 723627
2pm URC Hall

SWT Strettons AGM and Talk

Following a short AGM there will be two talks to update us on the newest wildlife sites in Church Stretton: Cudwell Meadow and High Leasowes.
£3 for members, £4 for non-members. No need to book, just turn up. For more info, contact Janet Martin 722361
7.30pm Mayfair

21 TUESDAY

Stretton Stitchers

10am (see Tues 7th for details)

All Stretton Women's Institute

Flower brooch – wet felting with Jen from the Prolific Crafter.
Email: allstrettonwi@gmail.com
7.30pm All Stretton VH

Engaging Issues Talk

With Neil Turner and Helen Cameron from the Scottish Medical Humanities Project. They will address the question of how music, stories and poems can help us in a medical setting.
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

Flicks in the Sticks Acton Scott

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry (2023)
Cert: 12a
Tickets: £5 adult, £3 child.
Ample parking and level access
Enquiries: 781260
7.30pm Acton Scott VH

23 THURSDAY

Flicks in the Sticks Church Stretton

Joyride (2022)
Cert: 15
Tickets £5 to include a cup of tea/coffee in the interval. Please pay on the door.
Enquiries: 07508 072206
7.30pm SHI

24 FRIDAY

u3a Writers Group 1

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

Good Neighbours Friday Lunch Club

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

Glyn's Garden Illustrated Talk

With Hily Clarke, the founder of Glyn's Garden. Proceeds from the talk will be shared by Glyn's Garden and the Friends of Church Stretton Library.
Admission £5, payable on the door.
2.30pm URC hall

Flicks in the Sticks All Stretton

The Keeper (2018)
Cert: 15
Enquiries: 07812 583113
Tickets £5.
7.30pm All Stretton VH

25 SATURDAY

RSPB South Shropshire Local Group Walk

Two walks on offer today: Wood Lane and Colemere, near Ellesmere.
Sorry, no dogs on either site. Walk leader: Martin Hegman 07770 941843
For more details, see main RSPB item. 10am meet at Wood Lane Pools carpark, SY12 0HY. Followed by: 12.30pm approx. Colemere SY12 0QW

Mayfair Frost Fair

Craft stalls, delicious festive refreshments and family entertainment.
10.30am-4pm Mayfair

CS Ballroom & Sequence Dance Club

8pm (see Sat 4th for details)

27 MONDAY

u3a Family & Social History Group

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

Parkinson's Support Group, CS

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

Stretton Cancer Support Group

2.30pm (see Mon 13th for details)

Shropshire Ornithological Society Talk

Guest speaker Amanda Perkins: 'Curlew Country'.
Members free, non-members £3.
Refreshments provided. All welcome.
7.30pm Methodist Church Hall

28 TUESDAY

CS Gardening Club Indoor Meeting

With plant pathologist John Scrace: 'Fabulous fungi and malicious moulds – their roles, effects and uses'
Non-members are welcome £2.50.
2pm SHI

u3a Writers Group 2

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

29 WEDNESDAY

Long Mynd Camera Club Meeting

Peer Review: A club favourite where members are invited to bring along some prints for review/discussion.
We will not be seeking scores or judgements but pushing of boundaries and breaking rules will be encouraged.
www.longmyndcameraclub.co.uk
7.30pm URC Hall

Occasional Advertisements

Occasional adverts are
not indexed

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



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KEY TO WHAT'S ON ABBREVIATIONS/ADDRESSES:

CS – Church Stretton

CS Leisure Centre – Shrewsbury Rd, SY6 6ER. Tel: 720051

CS Library – Church Street, SY6 6DQ Tel: 722535

CS Medical Practice – Easthope Rd, SY6 6BL. Tel: 722127

St Laurence's Church/CS Parish Centre – Church St, SY6 6DQ

Mayfair – Mayfair Community Centre, Easthope Rd, SY6 6BL. Tel: 722077

HWBC – Health and Wellbeing Centre, next to Mayfair, SY6 6BL

Methodist Church – Watling St South, SY6 7BG

SAPA – Shropshire Academy of Performing Arts, Lutwyche Close, Lutwyche Rd, SY6 6AT

Scout Hut – Church Street, SY6 6DQ

SHI – Silvester Horne Institute, High St, SY6 6BY. Tel: 720132

St Milburga's Catholic Church – Watling St North, SY6 7AR

URC – United Reformed Church, High St, SY6 6BY

VH – Village Hall

VIC – Visitor Information Centre, in library, see above.

Contact Numbers – only numbers OUTSIDE the CS dialling code area (01694) will include the full number.



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