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# Welcome



The month of February signals the beginning of the *Focus* annual subscription cycle as well as the opportunity for our local businesses to have secured their advertising in the magazine for the coming 12 months ahead. I'm pleased to announce that our new website is now live and running; the timing of its launch has been planned to coincide with February's subscription renewal. For those readers that may be interested, an article about the new website (page 30) explains why we needed to replace the previous site, the process we went through and some of its key features.

Like many people of a certain age, I've witnessed the emergence of the internet in the UK from about 1990, when I first worked with Pipex Dial in Cambridgeshire. Since then, the internet, web and 'digital devices' have become ubiquitous; with an estimated UK population in early 2023 of almost 68 million, there were over 66 million internet users, over 57 million social media users, 112 million mobile subscriptions and 87 million active mobile devices. I'll let you work out the percentages and implications!

Despite this ubiquity, a valid question would be to ask if the *Stretton Focus* needs a new website? Despite the rise of digital media, the success of book, magazine and journal publishing is thriving - as is our magazine. Many traditional and new paper-based catalogue retailers and outlet retailers such as Argos, Cotton Traders and many more, have been able to navigate, transition and combine traditional and digital media very successfully. Why do successful retailers like The House of Bruar, with a very successful outlet in Perthshire, a commercial website and email marketing operation, also produce and mail numerous paper catalogues to subscribers each season of the year? It's almost certainly because the combination of media works successfully and reaches a wider demographic range of customers. I believe that the new *Focus* website will work well in tandem with the magazine - have a look and judge for yourself - [www.strettonfocus.co.uk](http://www.strettonfocus.co.uk).

*Andrew* Andrew Fenton, Guest Editor



*Townbrook Sunrise,  
by Richard Childs*

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

# Stretton Focus

Community Voice of the Strettons

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

## Who's Who in Stretton Focus

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## Submission of Articles and Photographs for Publication

These should be made to the editors by email to

[editor@strettonfocus.co.uk](mailto: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 **March** issue the deadline is

**Monday 5th February, at 12 noon.**

For the **April** issue the deadline is

**Monday 4th March at 12 noon.**

The **March** issue will be distributed on **Friday 1st March**

### 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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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](http://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](mailto:focus.subscription@gmail.com)

### Outlets

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

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This is where you can read all about our brand new website. Andrew introduced it on page 3 and explains everything in more detail here.

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Have you been to the library recently? A lot has been going on and the Friends of Church Stretton Library have had a big part in it. This article tells us about some of their recent activities and with a hint of things to come.

### 47 Church Stretton Table Tennis Club

Last month we heard about a model aircraft club. This month we have a new table tennis club for those who would like a little more activity in their lives.

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Have you ever wondered about the various charitable bodies in the town, where they came from and what they do? Most of the time they do their work unseen and unheard but here you can find out about their history and how they function today.

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for Voluntary Service



Linley beeches  
Photo: Geoff Taylor

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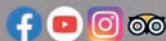
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# Historic Church Stretton – The Second Station



In last month's *Focus*, we wrote about the coming of the railway to Church Stretton and the building of the station to the north side of the Sandford Avenue bridge. By the early 1900s, increased passenger traffic needed longer trains and longer platforms. It was not possible to extend the platforms of the original station because to the north the entrance to the goods yard was in the way and to the south the Sandford Avenue bridge.

Consequently a second station was built to the south of the Sandford Avenue bridge and officially opened in 1914. The platforms were 551 feet long, with the main buildings on the up (west) side, waiting rooms on both platforms and a covered foot bridge over the line to link them. The lighting was by gas. Water columns stood at the end of each platform as well as one on the north side of the bridge.

In 1947 the staff consisted of a stationmaster, five clerks, four signalmen, four porters, one checker, one goods porter,

two lorry drivers, two crossing keepers and ten engineering lengthmen who maintained the track.

Most of the smaller stations along the line were closed on 9th June 1958. Between Shrewsbury and Ludlow only stations at Church Stretton and Craven Arms remain. Goods traffic to Church Stretton ceased on 19th September 1966.

Whilst passenger traffic continued, the station became an unstaffed one on 3rd July 1967.

The station buildings were demolished in February 1970 and replaced by a simple shelter on each platform.

*Barrie Raynor and Tony Crowe*  
from Church Stretton through the ages



*Photos:*

*Top: The second station, looking south*

*Left: The station master's house is all that remains of the old station*

*Right: The weigh bridge and hut*



## £10,000 donation to the library

On 19th December, Friends of Church Stretton Library presented Shropshire Council with a cheque for £10,000 to help pay for the new shelving which has now been installed in Church Stretton Library.

The new shelving can be easily moved around to create a 'flexible space', thus allowing the library to cater more easily for larger audiences. Many different activities already take place at Church Stretton Library including LEGO Club, Rhyme Time, school visits, educational talks, reading and creative writing clubs, Citizens Advice sessions (funded by the Town Council), a craft group and a monthly café for local people with memory problems and their carers.



Margaret Quartly, Sheila Davies and Ben Warren (Friends of Church Stretton Library Trustees) presenting cheque to Rawden Pascoe (Shropshire Library Services), Hayley Reynolds (Library Manager) and Gail Jones (Assistant Library Manager)

However, we are hopeful that Church Stretton Library will not be badly affected and our efforts in raising funds, running events which increase the number of people using the library, as well as our support for the Visitor Information Centre will bear fruit, so that we continue to have a library in Church Stretton in 2024/25 and in future years. Thank you again for all our supporters who have helped, either by making donations or attending our events.



### Why new shelving?

Having a more flexible space will help the library develop and offer even more services which will help meet targets set by Shropshire Council's Library Strategy. The library staff have already started this by offering support to people who struggle with using the internet to, for example, order a bus pass, shop online or access the NHS app. Church Stretton Library also offers free access to computers with internet access and Microsoft Office, scanners, wi-fi and printing (charges applicable).

As more and more business is carried out online, having this facility in the community is essential for people who don't have access to a computer at home or are experiencing IT problems, as well as those who are not confident in using the internet.

### Financial Challenges

We are very mindful of the financial challenges that Shropshire Council is facing in setting a budget for next year and its need to find a further £23 million in savings. Leisure Centres and libraries could well be targeted.

### Russian Literature: Wednesday 28th February 2.30pm in the Library

Following the success of her talk on Turkish Literature, Janet Longstaff is now introducing us to Russian Literature. Having been interested in Russia since she was a teenager, she finally got there in 2009. She has a collection of over 70 books both by Russians and about Russia, some of which will be available to buy at her talk to raise extra funds for the library.

She doesn't intend to get political but will be historical and link books with places she has visited in the six weeks she has spent in Russia. The Russian Federation covers nine time zones so it is quite a challenge to cover it in a one-hour talk!



Martin Sixsmith says, "It is hard to overstate the importance of the Russian language in the development of a unified national identity."

Shalomov asserts that "There are two traditions in the Russian language: Tolstoy – slow and heavy, like turning soil with a spade, and Pushkin – short and sonorous, like a slap on the cheek."

Find out about the lives and works of Osip Mandelstam, Svetlana Alliluyeva, Anna Akhmatova, Mikhail Bugakov, Maxim Gorky, Anna Politkovskaya, Ivan Chistyakov, Solzhenitsyn, Dostoyevsky, Pasternak and others.

Admission £5, pay on the day.



# Church Stretton Library News

**Exhibition: Rosemary Hart 'Birds, Horses and a Dragon'  
Friday 9th February-Friday 8th March.**

Local artist Rosemary Hart will be exhibiting her paintings in the exhibition space. Rosemary became an artist following an independent birdwatching trek in the Himalayas where she took a notebook and pencil to sketch what she had seen. Here are some words from Rosemary about her work: "I've heard that painting with acrylic is easy and watercolour very difficult, but for me it's the other way round! However, I like artists' colour pencils, preferably watercolour pencils, for detail.

"I prefer working from life, or from sketches done from life, and only copy photos if there is no alternative, such as a portrait of a horse I've never seen."

## Visitor Information Centre

From Monday 12th February the Visitor Information Centre will once again be opened by Friends of Church Stretton Library volunteers on Mondays and Wednesdays when the library is closed. We are very grateful to the volunteers who give up their time to help visitors to the town.

*Hayley Reynolds, Community Library Manager*



## Reflections on the COP 28 Climate Summit held in Dubai

At the end of last year, the United Nations held its annual conference on the climate crisis (COP28) in Dubai. The main headline from the COP28 summit was the commitment of countries to transition away from the use of fossil fuels. Given that fossil fuels are the main driver of the climate crisis, it is quite remarkable that this is the first time that fossil fuels have been mentioned in a final communique after 28 years of climate negotiations!

Although the agreement is limited and the language weaker than hoped, this does set a clear direction that can be built upon in future years.

A further achievement saw the launch of a loss and damage fund to support developing countries in mitigating climate impacts. This long-promised fund is finally operational, and has now received its first contributions. Again, the level of funding is far from satisfactory but at least some progress is being made.

During the conference, over 130 countries signed an agreement recognising the climate impacts on agriculture and the intent to start assessing the contribution of food production to the climate crisis. Again, this is another important step forward, given that our current methods of food production are unsustainable and play a major role in the climate and biodiversity crises.

An equivalent number of countries also signed an important pledge to treble the deployment of renewable energy by 2030 while doubling the rate of energy efficiency improvements each year.

There was also recognition that the climate crisis, biodiversity loss and land degradation are all inextricably linked and must be addressed holistically in accordance with the best available science.

In summary, as with many previous climate COPs the overall outcomes were somewhat disappointing with the actions agreed too little and too late to address the existential threats posed by the climate and biodiversity crises. We need to see much greater urgency and ambition from our leaders in future talks. The science is clear that we need to see a 43% decrease in the use of fossil fuels by 2030 but the world is well off track to achieve that.

As we consider what this all means for the Strettons, it's clear that we need to take matters into our own hands. We can all take action at work, within our community groups and as individuals to reduce our production of greenhouse gases and to minimise our negative impacts on nature. We can all start by reviewing our own carbon and ecological footprints, and make positive choices for a better, healthier future.

*David Matthews, Chair, Stretton Climate Care*

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# Flicks in the Sticks



## Acton Scott

**Acton Scott Village Hall, Tuesday 13th February, 7pm**

Adults £5, children £3; There will be an interval during this film.

**Oppenheimer (12)**; 3hrs

*Oppenheimer* is an epic thriller film and follows the life of J R Oppenheimer, the physicist who had a large hand in the development of the atomic bomb, from his university days to World War Two. It stars Cillian Murphy as Oppenheimer and Emily Blunt as his wife, biologist and botanist, Kitty Oppenheimer. The film puts the main focus on the creation of the atomic bomb and Oppenheimer's pivotal role in spearheading the Manhattan Project, a research and development programme undertaken during WW2 to produce the first nuclear weapons, led by the USA in collaboration with the UK with support from Canada.

Please note the earlier start time of 7pm as the film is longer than usual.

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

**Acton Scott enquiries: 01694 781260**



## Church Stretton

**Silvester Horne Institute, Thursday 15th February, 7.30pm**

Adults £5, under 18s £3

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

**Allelujah (12A)**; 1hr 39m

*Allelujah* is a warm and deeply moving story about surviving old age. When the geriatric ward in a small Yorkshire hospital is threatened with closure, the hospital decides to fight back. The film celebrates the spirit of the elderly patients whilst paying tribute to the deep humanity of the medical staff battling with limited resources and ever-growing demand.

**Church Stretton enquiries 07508 072206**



## Hope Bowdler

**Hope Bowdler Village Hall, Wednesday 14th February, 7.30pm**

Adults £5 adults, children £2.50

**Barbie (12)**; 1hr 54m

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

As it's Valentines Day, pink fizz will be on sale in the interval!

**Hope Bowdler enquiries: 01694 721376**



## Engaging Issues

### Scams and Scammers

There cannot be many of us who have not fallen victim to a scam, in however small a way. It is so easy to click on a seemingly innocent email, or listen to a plausible voice on the phone.

On 20th February we have the last of this season's talks, when Dr Jan Blain of the University of Chester will be coming to present her research on how older adults are affected by scams and scammers. The research project's findings have consequences for all of us, in our own lives and in supporting others.

Further details can be found on the website [www.engagingissues.org.uk](http://www.engagingissues.org.uk).

The meeting starts at 7.30pm at the United Reformed Church, and we ask for a donation of £3 to cover expenses.

The committee is currently planning the programme for 2024-25. If you have topics that you think we should consider, or have heard a great speaker who you think would appeal to the Strettons, we would love to hear from you.

*David Howard*

# CSTC Community Matters

2024

**A** belated very happy New Year for 2024. As I sit here on New Year's Eve writing I am reminded of an old classic I watched during 'Chrimbo Limbo' (as the post-Christmas week is now often called). It was the original *Back to the Future* film and it reminded me of two things. The first is the trial of writing for *Focus* each month, trying to reflect on what reality will be when it is published a month into the future. The other is how even small changes made today can have significant impacts in the years ahead and that is the underlying message of the Church Stretton neighbourhood plan.

So, 2024 is going to be important to our community. At national level we will almost certainly have a general election – how good it would be to have the DeLorean to jump forward and learn the outcome of that race. Whilst we won't know the final list of candidates until the election is called, the Town Council remains committed to working with both Mr Stuart Anderson MP (Con) and Mr Chris Naylor (LD) to ensure they are both fully informed about the needs of the parish. Both candidates are taking the time and trouble to attend events and sit in on Council meetings and, in inviting them to join us, the Council wants to provide plenty of opportunities for residents to have an informed debate with those who wish to represent us in Westminster. As other candidates emerge, we will be pleased to engage with them.

Closer to home the Town Council will look to fill the two casual vacancies which have arisen following the resignations of Cllr John Burns and Cllr Sheila Davies. Residents will be aware of the sudden and unexpected loss of John's wife Barbara, and also the huge amount of work which Sheila has undertaken over the past three years. We thank them both for all that they have done for the town. At its meeting on 19th December the Council unanimously elected Cllr John Luck as Deputy Mayor and we wish him the very best in his new role. Church Stretton Town Council is not typical in that we nearly always operate with all 13 roles occupied and I am pleased that there has already been significant interest in the vacancies. This is important because there really is a lot of work to do and every one of your councillors takes the lead on something. However, you don't need to be a full councillor to get involved, and sitting on one of the committees is a great way to test the water and explore whether it is something you may like to do.

However, probably the most significant challenge and greatest opportunity facing the town in 2024 is the production of the neighbourhood plan. A sincere thank you to the team led by Sue Manns who created the drop-in sessions in December, to Vicky Munro for building the website ([www.csneighbourhoodplan.com](http://www.csneighbourhoodplan.com)) and also to all of the residents who have contributed feedback to the process. The team will be meeting on 3rd January 2024 (there's that future event which will be long past when you read this) to get to grips with all of the material, but I can already share

that 4.2% of adults physically visited one of the drop-ins and that there have been 372 unique visitors to the website across more than 700 visits. Thank you too to all of the individuals, clubs and societies who have taken the time and trouble to write in via response forms, emails and hard copy letters via the collection boxes. As trailed in last month's *Focus* these submissions will now be collated and reported back.



*5th December Drop-In Session*

## **SWS, Voneus and the roll out of superfast broadband**

Thank you to all of the residents who have written to the Council expressing their concerns about the cabinets and poles appearing around the town. Last month's *Focus* set out the legal position and although CSTC has no authority I can now share that we will be having our first meeting with Voneus in early January to discuss their proposals. I shall keep *Focus* readers updated, and will report to Council on 30th January 2024, when we would be pleased to see any interested residents.

## **CSTC Year End Financial Forecast and 2024-2025 Budget**

The Town Council's financial year runs from 1st April to 31st March, and at its full meeting held on 19th December 2023 the Council received a forecast for the year ended 31st March 2024. The report formed the basis of a wider discussion on the finances and the initial thinking about next year's budget and precept. The final decision will be made at the Council meeting to be held on 30th January 2024. All of the papers can be found on the Town Council website.

It is a legal requirement that the Town Council sets a balanced budget and the proposals which will be considered on 30th January will deliver this. I am grateful to all staff and councillors who have worked to achieve this goal. The Council has had a busy year which is powerfully demonstrated by the projected results, with both income and expenditure up significantly. The Council is not in business to make a profit, and all funds raised through

the precept should be used to provide the services which residents have paid for. When extra income is generated, it is generally raised to deliver a specific project, and this is what has happened.

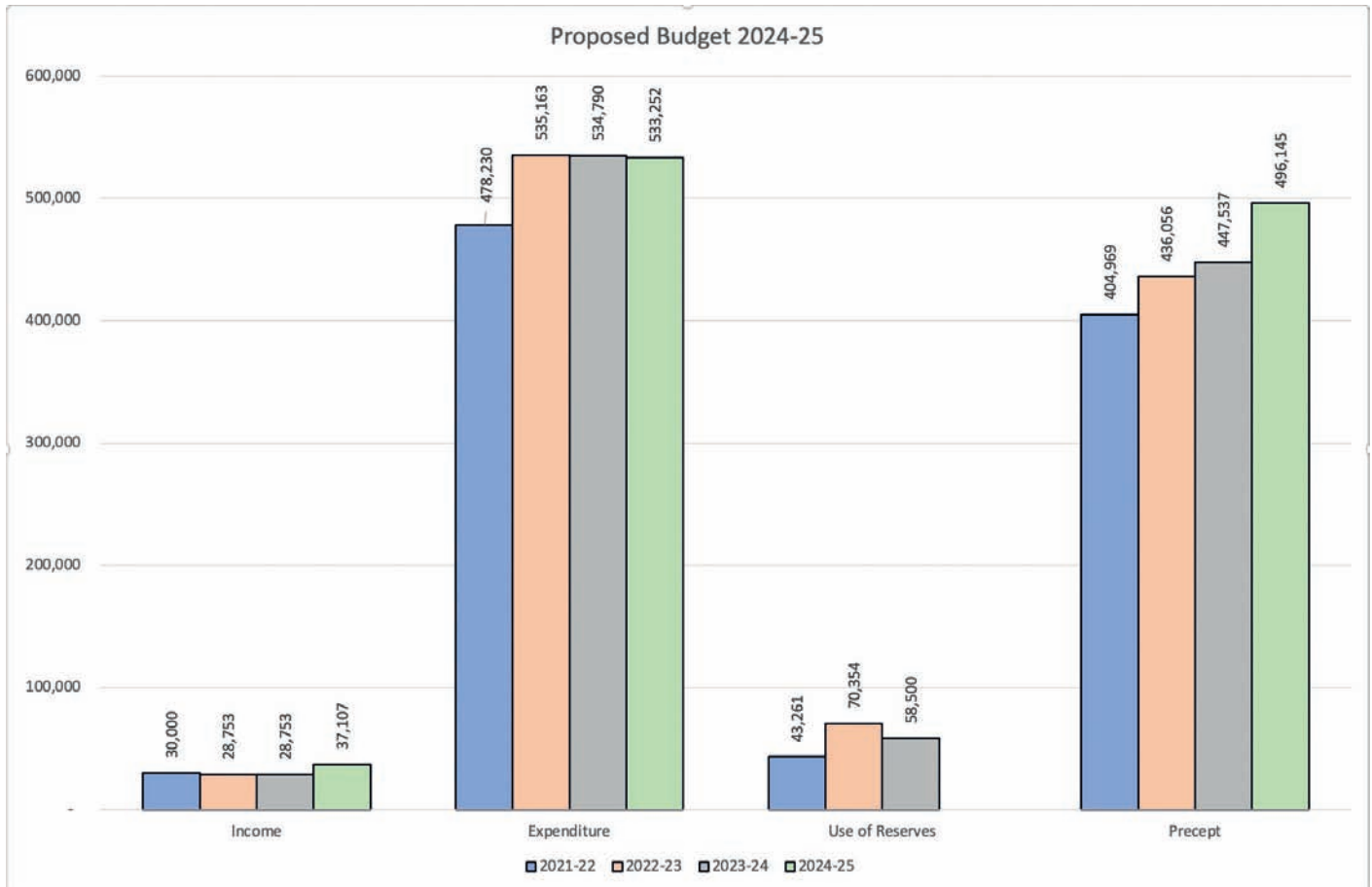
Budgeted income for the year of £476,290 was exceeded by £83,320 and includes grants for the new VAR cameras, income from civic events e.g. the Fun Day, funds from charities towards play equipment and higher interest received. These funds have been offset by the spend on the play equipment and the implementation of a nationally

£74,216 which is expected to be spent by year end).

A presentation of the full year-end results will be made, as usual, at the Annual Meeting in the summer.

### 2024-25

A summary of income and expenditure for the four years since 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2025 is given in the following chart:



agreed pay settlement for all local government staff. CSTC has no control over salary levels which are agreed by government. Total expenditure for the year is forecast at £629,079, an increase of £94,289 over the budget of £534,790 and includes spend on the play park, repairs to paths and the pay settlement. Overall, the net movement against budget for the year is £10,969.

During the year the Council has also been replacing the bulbs in the street lamps with LEDs which reduces energy usage, improves operational control over timers and creates less light pollution by providing greater control over direction and light spill. A programme to replace tired concrete columns is also in place. By year end £73,000 is projected to have been spent from ear marked reserves (EMRs), which represents the majority of the total reduction in EMRs of £80,000.

The current forecast after completing this work leaves general reserves of £140,183 (£4,041 better than budget and within the target range) and EMRs of £216,426 (last year £296,243 which included the streetlighting fund of

Total income plus precept plus any use of reserves equals expenditure for the year and the graph confirms this.

In proposing the precept for 2024-25 Councillors have again weighed up the need to maintain reserves and manage future risks whilst at the same time preserving services. At the full Council meeting on 19th December Councillors welcomed representations from the public who emphasised the need to ensure the work undertaken in the town's Local Nature Reserves is maintained. Residents also highlighted the likely future costs of repair work in Rectory Wood. In response it was pointed out that even after the current work programme is completed, over £27,000 will remain in the 'pot' reserved for Rectory Wood. It was also confirmed that the Council's outdoor team is at its strongest for several years allowing more work to be completed 'in-house', and it is likely in the next couple of years that closer working with Shropshire Council will see contracts transferred to CSTC to look after verges and paths in the parish.

*Continued overleaf...*

However, Councillors strongly resisted proposals from some quarters to simply increase the precept, citing the very real cost of living pressures felt by many in the town, although Councillors recognised that the cost of increased salaries agreed nationally together with the impact of inflation generally need to be found from somewhere. Balancing all views Councillors proposed an increase for a Band D property of 38p a week. This is the equivalent of 8.7% and is an average annual increase of 3.6% since 2019. This proposal will be debated at the full council to be held on 30th January 2024. The meeting is fully open to the public and all papers will be available beforehand on the CSTC website.

### Emergency Planning

Cllr John Luck writes: The Church Stretton emergency plan leaflets were delivered just before Christmas 2023. If you did not receive one, copies are available from the CSTC office or on the website. The leaflets had been a long time in the planning and are designed to encourage residents, and even businesses, to think about how they might deal with an emergency affecting them. The pictorial front of the leaflet gives, in the words of the hosts of University Challenge, a “Starter for ten” of the types of items that should be considered for inclusion in your emergency kit. Every family and business has different needs and we all should consider keeping our own relevant supplies to hand should the day or night arrive when they are needed, quickly. The items should be readily available and all members of the household or business need to know where the emergency kit is stored, just like the first aid kit.

On the reverse of the leaflet are some important numbers and a place to write your own useful numbers. Like most plans they tend not to survive first contact with the enemy but at least you will have considered what

information and equipment you may require at a time other than when the emergency befalls you. We are grateful that an eagle-eyed resident noticed that the last digit of the Severn Trent Water emergency number was missing. Please amend that number so that it reads: 0800 783 444.

The leaflet and emergency plan in its entirety will be reviewed at least annually and should there be any significant changes they will be communicated to all the residents and businesses in the Strettons. Minor changes will be updated on the Town Council Website. Please remember to update your own records and changes especially those such as changes to your insurers. Maybe take a photo of the completed leaflet so you have the details with you on your phone if you cannot get into your home. Storm Babet on 20th October, which flooded nearly 20 houses in Church Stretton, was a prime example of the type of emergency for which we are encouraging people to prepare. Having a plan will not stop a flood, but it will help you to recover should the worst happen.

### And finally...

Improvements to some local roads and highways look set to appear in 2024. Shropshire Council have recently been out to measure up for the poles to mount two VAR speed cameras currently sitting in their boxes in the CSTC office. Meanwhile, yellow lines have appeared in Little Stretton (albeit a bit brighter than imagined) and the EV chargers are now likely to appear in the new financial year. I don't know why these things take so long, but the Town Council never forgets and keeps gently reminding people. In this season of goodwill and presents perhaps we should be grateful for what we are given.

*Andy Munro, Mayor*



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## Methodist Voice

### Do I Mark Only My Gloomy Days?

I think I was around 19 years of age when I was tasked with travelling by train to London to meet a cousin and his wife arriving from Canada for their first visit to these shores. Having been an enthusiastic train spotter in my earlier days this was indeed a pleasure, boarding at Wolverhampton a train pulled by a Great Western Railway Castle Class locomotive. After a couple of days showing them the sights of the capital, we boarded a train at Paddington for the return trip to Wolverhampton Low Level station. About an hour into the journey as we steamed through Oxfordshire my cousin's wife asked me “where are all the people?” Somewhat bemused at this question I asked for clarification.

It transpired that she thought coming from the vast expanses of Canada which then had a population of around 20 million, that we in the UK with a population three times the size on a comparatively small island would be living cheek by jowl. “But the countryside is beautiful,” she said, “it keeps changing, not like the prairies.” The pastoral delights of Northamptonshire and Warwickshire followed in lovely sunshine before we arrived in Wolverhampton to be greeted by a platform full of relatives.



Some days later during yet another family gathering when being quizzed about their time in London and the journey back to the West Midlands, the Canadians said that they were glad when the journey was over as everywhere looked fairly grimy from south of Birmingham to Wolverhampton.

Fair enough, not even the most loyal Black Country-born individual like me can claim the rail journey between Birmingham and Wolverhampton to be a joy to the senses but what about the rest of the trip?

How long did it take to travel through the ‘fairly grimy’ parts of the journey? Miles of sunshine and pastoral beauty and 20 miles of comparative gloom and all they seem to recall were the gloomy bits.

We can be ungrateful people at times; we can dwell on the shadows and forget the shine. We travel the road through our lives. God have mercy upon me that the vast majority of my life has been lived in sunshine and all I dwell on at times are the parts that have been ‘fairly grimy’.

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## Cooking together

I love watching people interact. Different groups work so differently together. For example, how does your family work together in the kitchen?

Some people really don't like help in the kitchen; they know what they're doing and they like to be left to get on with it. For nearly 30 years I lived with Hazel, a good cook, who liked to work like this. It was only when there were a large number of vegetables to prepare, for example when making chutney, that I was welcome in the kitchen to peel and chop. Some jobs were definitely mine; I was in charge of cake decoration. I'd have been happy if she were also working on something else in the kitchen at the same time, but she preferred to leave me to it.

Hazel's son's family work together in the kitchen, each on their own part of the task, chatting as they do so. There doesn't seem to be any conflict and things like the oven temperatures are negotiated. But in the last stages of bringing a meal together, everyone gets out of the way to leave the husband and wife team to get on with putting the finishing touches and serving up all the various dishes.

I happened to phone my sister when four of them were in her mother-in-law's kitchen preparing for a family get-together. My nephew was very pleased to talk. He'd been asked to make white sauce to go on the cauliflower; "I'll do

it," he said, "if you tell me what to do." He was given three different sets of instructions from his mother, his father and his grandmother. Talking to me was a good excuse to get him out of deciding whose instructions he should follow.

My sister, brother-in-law and I cook together quite comfortably, having jointly worked out a plan beforehand. My brother-in-law teaches science and the plan resembles the instructions for a science experiment. It's not how I operate but it does mean that the meal gets cooked in harmony and I enjoy being involved in a joint enterprise.

A kitchen is a microcosm of many situations where groups of people have a task to do; in particular I'm thinking about how churches organise themselves. There isn't a right way of doing things, each will have evolved its own approach. You might like to try to match your church to one of the models I've described for cooking together. And the Quakers? How do they work together? It's probably closest to the last model, of jointly working out a plan beforehand and then each playing their own part. Working out the plan can be tedious, when you sit there thinking, "Just let's get on with it". But planning together, sharing the load, is an important part of how our community holds together.

*Lesley Richards*

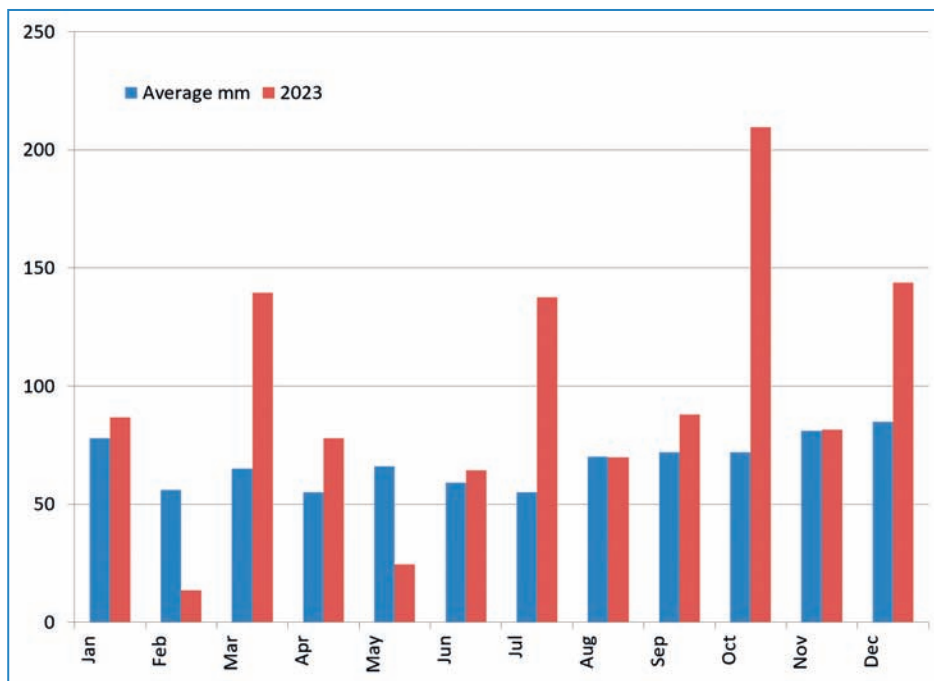
## How Wet Was 2023?

The year started off with 86.8mm of rain, slightly above the average for January, and then February gave us only 13.4mm – certainly not living up to the old name of 'February fill dyke'. March was wet with 139.4mm including snow on two days in the second week of the month. This was followed by 78mm in April and a drier than normal May with 24.5mm. June was fairly average with 64.4mm but then the wet weather set in.

We had 137.5mm in July but August was average. Autumn and the beginning of winter saw more wet days and October broke all records for rainfall – my rain gauge registered 209.5mm. November was average although there were a few extremely wet days, but in December we had 143.6mm and this brought 2023 to an end with a total rainfall of 1,136.3mm.

I started keeping the rainfall record when David died and I have been looking back at his records from 2017. It is interesting to see that the total rainfall for that year was 836mm and 2018 was very similar with 884.5mm. 2019 and 2020 showed increased rainfall to 1,183mm and 1,189mm. I took over recording the rainfall towards the end of 2021 and that year we had 1,022mm while 2022 was less wet with 942.9mm. In spite of so much rain in October and December, the total for the past year is slightly less than that for 2019 and 2020.

What will 2024 bring?



*Elizabeth Maddocks*

# Shropshire Kidney Patients Association

## Journey of a Patient on Dialysis

The SKPA was established some 25 years ago but became dormant some eight years ago in 2015. Fortunately, it was re-established in 2018 and is now active for the Renal units at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital (RSH), Princess Royal Hospital (PRH), and Ludlow. Unfortunately, since the pandemic, fundraising has been limited due to many regulations, but we have been fortunate with generous donations from several companies and indeed collections from ex-patients' bereavement gatherings. There are approximately 200 patients attending the RSH, PRH and Ludlow units with some 80-plus patients on home dialysis. To add to the ever-growing concern with renal failure, there are some 300 persons with chronic kidney disease (CKD) at varying stages prior to treatment or dialysis or, if possible, a transplant.

I have detailed in brief my own personal journey to dialysis but there are many situations that can eventually cause renal failure from the early teens to over 70 years of age.

Over 50 years ago I had my first experience at the age of 29 years with a kidney condition designated as Glomerular Nephritis.

At that time, I was prescribed a course of diuretics to remove unnecessary fluid and had a biopsy. The biopsy in those days was very basic and I remember a cross on my back by a ballpoint pen taken from the detailed X-Ray film. Fortunately, I went into remission after these detailed tests for some 20 years plus. Unfortunately, the symptoms experienced earlier in life re-presented themselves again when I was around 50 years of age and I again went for a series of tests and examinations. Following these tests, I was prescribed the Ponticelli Treatment, which consisted of steroids to help with the inflammation and chemo to eliminate the build-up of white blood cells. Unfortunately, whilst playing golf I felt uncomfortable at the back of one knee which resulted in being admitted into hospital with a deep vein thrombosis (DVT).

Following a series of medications, I recovered from the DVT, to be able to continue in my busy work schedule. Fortunately, once again I went into remission for some 20 years plus until 2015, where I suffered the first signs of a renal failure. This event followed a very delightful cruise around the Croatian Islands, and I thought at the time this

latest episode was due to too much Croatian red wine and brandy – no such luck! My body fluid increased and went to some 15-20kgs over my normal body weight.

Naturally, I did not know what to expect and attended the RSH Renal clinic at the Hummingbird Centre. I went on a series of medications including a fusion, but all was too late, so I was to go on dialysis.

This was a shock to my lifestyle and indeed my mental attitude at the age of 74 years, although I had retired from fulltime working but was still an active person prior to this sudden renal failure.

I did attend the QE2 hospital in Birmingham with the possibility of a transplant, but due to several issues and a negative consultant review I decided to stay on dialysis. There was a steep learning curve in the initial stages of dialysis with diet, physical changes to several body functions, the interaction with patients on the unit, the initial problems associated with the fistula and indeed the dialysis process three times a week for four-hour duration.

I have now been on dialysis for over seven years and gained better knowledge to accept this way of life to ensure I am active, with a balanced diet, fluid control, and an understanding of the mechanical and chemical control of the renal dialysis machines. Fortunately, I have enjoyed holiday dialysis in several areas of the UK and abroad in Mallorca. From my investigations I realise that not all patients venture beyond the weekly renal programme and feel insecure to go to other renal units. This is different it seems, with patients on home dialysis being more adventurous and flexible in their approach.

Fortunately for myself, I have enjoyed excellent care and attention from the renal staff, and indeed my Renal Consultant, which has helped me to accept the way of life on dialysis. I have also come to realise the several issues imposed on the bodily functions being on dialysis and the control of medication. Naturally with age one cannot do the physical exercise once enjoyed, but needs the mind over matter attitude of 'If you did not use it, you lose it'.

If anyone is concerned or interested to learn more about this subject matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on my email [tombeau17@btinternet.com](mailto:tombeau17@btinternet.com). We are a registered charity.

*Tom Beaumont, Chairman, SKPA*

## Trivia Corner

by Ken Willis

1. What was Zimbabwe formerly known as?
2. What are astronauts known as in Russia?
3. What is the capital of the Czech Republic?
4. In February 2012, which newspaper launched its Sunday edition?
5. Who is the spiritual leader of Buddhism?

*Answers on page 40*

## Girlguiding Quiz Night



Girlguiding Church Stretton are holding a Quiz Night on **Saturday 9th March at the United Reformed Church Hall at 7.30pm.**

Teams of four are welcome. £5 per head.  
For more information please contact Sophie Burgoyne on [soph.burgoyne@gmail.com](mailto:soph.burgoyne@gmail.com).

# Scout Group News



It takes thousands of pounds a year to run the 2nd Longmynd and the Group is fortunate in having a dedicated fundraising committee of parents and friends to run such events as Bonfire Night and similar activities to bring in the funds for such things as maintaining (and sometimes extending) the Group headquarters, buying or replacing equipment and subsidising the many activities available to members of the Group. (In my previous Group in Devon one dear lady suggested increasing the salaries of Scouters and was amazed when told that all Scouters are volunteers.)

In addition the young people in the Group carry out fundraising (there's even a badge for it!) and Scouts took part in the Richard Parkes Memorial Tractor Run – which also included vintage vehicles, a tank and a Green Goddess fire engine – and enabled the Group to raise a substantial amount. We wish to thank the Yew Tree Inn for its generous support.

Another event was the annual bag-packing which was carried out with the Guides and thanks are once again due to the Co-op and its shoppers.

It is known that the 2nd Longmynd is well thought of in Church Stretton and this is evidenced by the support that everyone gives to the Group.

Group Scout Leader Terry Davies and his wife, Explorer Scout Leader Angie Walshaw were honoured to be invited to attend the Princess of Wales Carol Service at Westminster Abbey, an event which they thoroughly enjoyed.

At the time of writing, the last days of December, Scouters of all the Group's sections are getting together to plan the year's major events such as camps and expeditions and the nitty gritty of the weekly meetings, the basic programmes which provide the fun and experiences for the 100-plus young people in the Group.

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



## Monday 5th, 19th, 26th

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 6th, 20th, 27th

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

## Wednesday 7th, 21st, 28th

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

*Fred Reeve*

## Church Stretton Area Local History Group



*Stiperstones: The Devil's Chair, Photo: Gordon Dickins*

### Mary Webb and her Shropshire Landscape February 19th at 2pm in the URC Hall

Our speaker on Monday 19th February will be Gordon Dickins, Vice-President and Chair of the Mary Webb Society.

The setting for Mary Webb's first novel, *The Golden Arrow*, is the countryside from the Long Mynd to the Stiperstones. It is the pattern for all her works as she locates each in a specific landscape, depicted with a clear and passionate sense of place. His talk includes a brief outline of Mary Webb's life together with landscape images relating to her five novels.

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

*Madeline Haigh*



So, we are now a month into 2024 (at the time of writing it is New Year's Eve 2023) and I wonder how our New Year Resolutions are going? New Year's Resolutions find their origins four thousand years ago, when the ancient Babylonians had the tradition of vowing to pay their debts in what was their new year. The first modern reference to the tradition comes from a Boston newspaper in 1813. The tradition of New Year's Resolutions draws on the psychological importance about marking time in our lives. The temporal measure, measurements of seconds, minutes, days, weeks, months, years, anniversaries, particular days of celebration and remembrance all serve to create structure in our lives and enable us to liaise and collaborate, coordinate and live with one another. Temporality creates a framework and structure which enables us to distinguish between past time, present time and future time but it is important that we see time as a gift from God that we use deliberately to work, rest, pray and play.

Until recently time was viewed as a universal immutable; however boffins have demonstrated that gravity causes time dilation i.e. stronger gravity bends and slows time so the closer we are to the core of the earth time passes more slowly. It is fractional and needs atomic clocks to measure but we need to adjust the idea of time being a 'set given'. Similarly, whilst we bundle local time into time zones there is a subtle difference according to solar time (time measured by the sun). Shrewsbury, for example, is fourteen minutes ahead of London, but for the purposes of co-ordination (railways) a national time for the timetable needed to be established.

Subjectively we can experience time as passing quickly or really dragging. This is largely to do with stimulation of experiences and memories. For example, a holiday may seem to pass quickly because we are experiencing new things and creating memories, whereas the routine/mundane may seem to drag (as we are not as stimulated and are not making lots of new memories). We also speed up time through our culture with 24 hour shopping and constant availability to employers, family and friends via email and mobiles. All serve to chip away the structures of time necessary for good health and wellbeing i.e. 'work-life balance'. Time is deliberately condensed by retailers with Valentine's Day and Easter displays already being erected in January. Our sense of seasonality is being destroyed by having what were once seasonal fruits and vegetables available all year round.

May this year be a better year for being deliberate in living in the present, entrusting the past to the mercy of God and the future into his providential care. In mid-February we enter the season of Lent in which we are invited to repent and come to our senses with God and one another. Easter this year is earlyish as we celebrate Easter Sunday on the 29th of March (the very earliest Easter can fall being the 22nd of March but the last time this happened was in 1818 and the next time will be 2285). May we develop a strong sense of a temporal structure in which we are free to live and enjoy the time we have, especially as we get an 'extra' day with it being Leap Year!

*Canon Jonathan Mitchell*

## Dementia Friends

Church Stretton Dementia Friends was launched in the summer and since then we have been very busy trying to raise awareness of memory-related problems and supporting those living with them. We have worked closely with Mayfair and are very grateful to Helen and Shaz for their input.

We run a memory café at the library from 1pm to 3pm every second Wednesday in the month and our meetings over the last few months have been great fun. As you will see from the picture, many laughs are generated by the organisers and trust me that happens even when they are not dressed as elves!

We are also holding dementia awareness sessions at the library to help people working and living with people who may be experiencing memory difficulties.



For more information please email [csdementiafriends@gmail.com](mailto:csdementiafriends@gmail.com) or call Vicky on 07813 127558.

*Caroline Crump*

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# Mayfair News

## A day in the life of Mayfair

If you pop into our Coffee Shop for a relaxing cuppa and a cake, you may be forgiven for thinking that Mayfair is a quiet place. But nothing could be further from the truth! It's amazing to review just how much goes on at the Community Centre, and our adjacent Health and Wellbeing Centre (HWBC), every day. We thought we would take you through a typical day at Mayfair – a standard Wednesday. But remember, this is just an example. Every day at Mayfair is different. We have loads of other regular activities on different days of the week, as well as one-off or monthly activities that we host.

### 7.00

Our Cook is in early to prepare Mayfair Meals – these hot lunches (plus a delicious dessert) are delivered to the homes of local residents by Good Neighbours volunteers.

### 8.30

Our Ring and Ride booking line (01694 722077) opens, taking bookings for the door-to-door transport service. Our trained and qualified staff and volunteer drivers operate from 9am and wheelchair accessible vehicles are out and about from their Mayfair base throughout the day.

### 9.00

Our volunteer receptionists arrive to help us open up and welcome visitors to both buildings. The shop in the Community Centre is opened, selling handcrafted items and quality second-hand books and bric-a-brac.

Our MAYSI (Mayfair Supporting Independence) officers may be in their HWBC office, or they may be out and about providing home visits. The MAYSI service helps people to remain independent, providing information and support on issues such as accessing benefits, care provision, equipment, and social opportunities.

Crèche opens, offering a safe place for local children to learn and develop through play. We often provide child-care for parents who have a course or activity at Mayfair, or who just need a couple of hours for an appointment.

### 9.30

44bs arrive to take part in day support activities for adults with learning disabilities or autism. Wednesday activities include practical tasks such as personal shopping and paying bills, to help build life skills.

Beacon, our day-care support service, opens offering activities, social opportunities and personal care that promote independence. Participants will take part in a wide variety of sociable activities throughout the day such as quizzes, singing, crafts and baking reminiscence.

Throughout the day our adaptable bath is hired by customers who require supported bathing. Our Parker bath allows easy access and reclines to suit the individual. Trained Beacon staff are available to give as much or as little help as required for a nice relaxing soak.

### 10.00

Our Coffee Shop opens in HWBC, providing breakfasts, lunches, cakes and coffees until 3pm every weekday.



On Wednesday mornings we welcome local Ukrainian guests to Mayfair for a coffee morning. Some folk come for a drink and chat, others have English lessons or get support and advice on various issues.

The kettle is on in our Art Room in Mayfair at 10am for our Craft Café, which runs until 12.30 every week. This free, friendly crafting group is open to anyone to pop in, meet others and try out different craft activities. The group has recently moved rooms, so if you were expecting to find them in HWBC, just pop across the road instead for the same friendly welcome and crafty chat.

### 10.20

Walkers meet outside HWBC for a Mayfair Health Walk. These free, sociable walks are led by friendly trained walk leaders (all volunteers). Different levels of walk are offered throughout the week. Two walks take place on a Wednesday, setting off at 10.30 (for a moderate, 90-minute walk), and 11.00 (for a gentle, short walk of 30 minutes max).

**10.30**

Over in our Activity Room, the weekly Chair Yoga class, run by Mary Reilly, provides gentle exercise in a seated position or standing with chair as support.

**12.30**

After preparing Mayfair Meals, our Mayfair Cook serves up a delicious roast dinner in the Lunch Hub. For £11 (£10.70 vegetarian), diners can enjoy a main, pudding and tea or coffee, served by our lunch hub volunteers.

One of our friendship volunteers will be in Mayfair offering conversation and friendship for those who may want a chat.

**13.30**

The first of two *Breathing Space* sessions meets, led by Kate Buttolph.

**All Day**

On top of all that, we provide a base seven days a week for the NHS South Shropshire Rapid Response team who have their office in HWBC. There are also a host of regular clinics every day in both buildings. In the Community Centre we have treatment rooms for complementary health specialists who provide private appointments for services such as podiatry, sports massage and counselling. In HWBC, NHS clinics take place, including Diabetic Eye Clinic, Podiatry, Physiotherapy, Midwifery, Audiology, the Primary Care Network (PCN) and Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT).

We also can't forget all the Mayfair activities that happen away from our two buildings. On any given weekday there are CoCo volunteers out in the community who provide a befriending service – one-to-one support for anyone who needs help, or just a friendly face or voice. Other volunteers, like our Trustees, fundraisers, gardeners, crafters, and book team, as well as our cleaning and maintenance staff, will be busy helping things run behind the scenes. Our volunteer hours last year averaged 470 hours every week. With all of this going on each day, it's easy to see why!

**HSBC date**

Your local team are on hand to support you at Mayfair Health and Wellbeing Centre on 19th February 10am-1pm. Meet the branch experts for help and information on:

- HSBC products and services;
- registering for online and mobile banking;
- opening an account online;
- resetting your digital banking;
- reducing the risk of fraud;
- accessing banking services.

**Upcoming Screenings at Mayfair**

All Mayfair shows can be booked online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/mayfair-community-centre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/mayfair-community-centre) however we recommend calling Mayfair on 01694 722077, or visiting reception to book, to avoid online booking fees. See overleaf for what's coming up...



This singing for health group supports wellbeing and reduces stress and isolation by bringing people together to sing and have fun. The first session is a dementia-friendly group, which a number of our Beacon clients and carers join in with. The second session meets from 3-4.15pm.

**17.00**

During term time we welcome lots of young people to our Activity room for Loft Arts. This creative group for 12-16 year olds explores drama, performance and theatre design, providing young people with lots of opportunity for creative expression and fun.

**18.00**

Angela's Just Dance group meets for a session of movement to music, following short combinations or just embracing freestyle dance fun!

**Mayfair Lottery Results for December**

<b>490</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>464</b>
<b>£100</b>	<b>£50</b>	<b>£20</b>	<b>£10</b>



## Digital Tips



### WhatsApp only on your phone??

Other ways of using WhatsApp are:

- Go to whatsapp.com and use the web version.
- Microsoft PC or Desktop: download from the Microsoft Store.
- Apple Mac or iPad: download from the Apple Store.
- Android (Google) tablet: download from the Google Play Store.

(Please note that you will need the phone version as well to use these services.)

Did you know that you can record voice and video messages in WhatsApp on your phone – Voice messages can be left to individuals or groups, Video messages within a particular chat. Great for special occasions such as birthdays!

If you want to know more or need help with your computer, tablet or phone then contact Mayfair on 01694 722077 for an appointment with one of our friendly volunteers.

*Hilary Templeton*

### Friday 2nd February, 7pm

#### National Theatre Live – *Dear England*

Adults £15, U18s £10, refreshments available (donations only).

A new play by James Graham, directed by Rupert Goold.

Gareth Southgate has brought hope back to the England squad but with the nation's expectations upon his shoulders, what happens when football doesn't come home?



Joseph Fiennes (*The Handmaid's Tale*) plays Gareth Southgate in James Graham's (*Sherwood*) gripping examination of nation and game.

### Sunday 11th February, 2pm (Matinée)

#### The Royal Ballet – *Manon*

Adults £15, U18s £10, refreshments available (donations only).

Running time: 195mins (including two intervals).

Choreography – Kenneth Macmillan, Music – Jules Massenet, Orchestra of the Royal Opera House.



Torn between her desire of a life of splendour and riches and her devotion to her true love Des Grieux, the feckless and capricious Manon pays the ultimate price.

### Thursday 15th February, 1.30pm (Matinée)

#### Family Film

Adults £3, Children £2, free drinks provided and refreshments available to purchase.

An affordable family treat this February half term holiday.

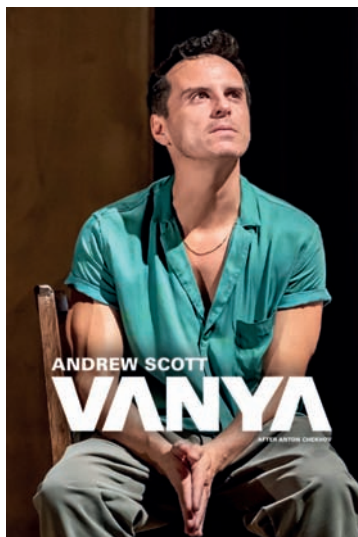
### Friday 23rd February, 7pm

#### National Theatre Live – *Vanya*

Adults £15, U18s £10, refreshments available (donations only).

Adapted by Simon Stephens, after Anton Chekhov, and directed by Sam Yates. Filmed live from its sold-out West End run.

Andrew Scott (*Fleabag*) brings multiple characters to life in Simon Stephens' (*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*) radical new version of Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*. Hopes, dreams, and regrets are thrust into sharp focus in this one-man adaptation which explores the complexities of human emotions.



## School Holiday Craft Workshop

Tuesday 13th February  
10am to 12 noon

Children should be over five, and under-sevens must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

A maximum of eight children per session.

The session will cost £3.50 per child.

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# Church Stretton Consolidated Charities

In the March 2023 *Focus*, Andy Munro (Church Stretton Town Council Community Matters) briefly covered the history and current work of Church Stretton Consolidated Charities. This article aims to expand on both.

Church Stretton Consolidated Charities (CSCC) was formed in 1907, 'consolidating' ten previous charities and legacies dating from 1684 to 1841.

In 1684 Stretton Pools Meadow was settled in trust for the benefit of poor parishioners. William Minton of Minton left £6 in 1701. Thomas Hawkes of Botvyle left £30 in 1704 to buy land to endow weekly bread doles for the neediest churchgoers and in 1708 part of his legacy was used to buy property in the town to be used to generate income or as a dwelling for the poor. Thomas Bridgman left 30 shillings in 1720, Edward Phillips the younger £30 in 1781, John Bridgman £100 in 1804 and the Rev John Mainwaring £100 in 1807.

Sunday bread doles and gifts of bread and cash at Easter and Christmas to the poor of the parish were common ways that those administering the ten charities used to fulfil the wishes of the various benefactors.

The Rev John Mainwaring is well known to Stretton historians – Rector of Church Stretton from 1749, biographer of Handel and friend of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. Rectory Wood once formed part of the grounds of Church Stretton Rectory and in around 1770 Mainwaring made great changes to create a designed woodland landscaped garden. Today, Rectory Wood includes a 'Mainwaring Walk'.

In March 1907 notice was given of the intention to establish the Consolidated Charities body. Advertisements were placed in both the Shrewsbury Chronicle and the Wellington Journal and Shrewsbury News. Notice was also fixed to the door of St Laurence Church. Printed copies of the proposal could be viewed at the Salop Old Bank (Messrs Eyton and Co) in the town. Copies could be purchased from the Office of Charity Commissioners in London priced at 6 pence each, payment to be made by postal order or in penny postage stamps.

Once established, most of the initial Trustees of the new body were members of the elected bodies of the day (Church Stretton Urban District Council, All Stretton Parish Council and Little Stretton Parish Council.) There were however, two 'co-opted' Trustees – John Edwin Proffit, whose occupation was given as 'Draper' and Alan Bertram Hanbury Sparrow, who was described as 'Gentleman'. Again, both will be well known to Stretton historians. The Rector of Church Stretton Parish was designated as an Ex-Officio Trustee.

The annual income of the new charity was to be used to "benefit either the poor of the Ancient Parish of Church Stretton generally, or of such deserving and necessitous persons residing therein as the Trustees select for this purpose". While the Trustees could consider what gifts would be most advantageous to the recipients, specific reference was also made to payments being "conducive to the formation of provident habits".

In 1907 the annual income was recorded as £48 19s 8d. While we have no records detailing exactly how that

income was distributed, it is likely that donations were allocated to Provident Societies or Clubs providing coal or clothing, contributions made towards the provision of nurses for the sick or infirm and financial relief provided directly to individuals in cases of unexpected loss or sudden destitution. It would also have been possible for the Trustees to fund the cost of the specific clothing required by young people entering service or a trade. All the above examples would have been in line with the stated 'Application of Income' instructions given to the 1907 Trustees.

Bringing us up to the present day, CSCC has three principal assets: the Lutwyche Court building, financial investments and land outside Little Stretton which is let for grazing. The objectives of the Charity have been modernised and now simply read "for the benefit of the poor [within the] parish of Church Stretton".

Lutwyche Court has a somewhat chequered history. CSCC purchased the Lutwyche Court building from Scrippies in 2013 and 'make good' work (circa £40k) was required for roofing and the removal of asbestos. Scrippies became our tenants and this arrangement lasted until 2015 when Scrippies moved to their current site. We were then approached by TOFS (The Original Factory Shop) who wished to rent the premises for a realistic commercial rate. However, repairs and alterations amounting to around £450k were required before TOFS could use the premises. CSCC agreed to contribute £80k towards adapting the premises with TOFS paying the rest. Unfortunately, TOFS lasted no more than 18 months and the compensation paid to us did not cover the capital lost.

The present tenants of Lutwyche Court are Shropshire Academy of Performing Arts and Strettonia Boxing and Ironworks Gym, with a current lease until December 2024. Upcoming community discussions on the emerging Neighbourhood Plan may help shape our thinking about the long-term use of the site.

In December 2023, CSCC allocated funds totalling £2,100 to a small number of elderly residents and 15 families with children at Church Stretton schools. Gifts were predominantly in the form of supermarket food vouchers. Nowadays it is difficult to obtain sensitive personal information without consulting professionals involved in social work. As such, we are advised by a variety of experts, enabling us to be effective and equitable in our choices.

For 2024, CSCC have provided funding to St Lawrence Primary School to provide healthy hot meals to nursery age children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Although universal free school meals are funded by the government from Reception to Year 2 and free school meals can be applied for after that, no government funding is available for meals for nursery age children. St Lawrence still has a fantastic canteen on site, unlike many other schools who have had to close their canteen facilities. As such, CSCC are happy to fund food costs and St Lawrence has the existing staff and facilities to then deliver nutritious meals to the children who would benefit most.

The Consolidated Charities Trustees next meet in May. While we are a small charity, with limited funds, we would

be happy to hear from organised groups who would benefit from assistance. Any funds allocated need to be “for the benefit of the poor [within the] parish of Church Stretton”. Please contact [churchstretton.consolidatedcharities@hotmail.com](mailto:churchstretton.consolidatedcharities@hotmail.com).

Finally, CSCC also distribute monies raised by the Church Stretton Community Fund, which was set up and publicised by Church Stretton Town Council in response to cost of living pressures and international events. While the Fund continues to be administered by the Town Council, all monies raised are distributed by CSCC independently of the Town Council. The Community Fund monies are shown separately in CSCC accounts and 100% of the funds

raised each year are allocated to good causes. Donation forms can be obtained by emailing [community.fund@churchstretton-tc.gov.uk](mailto:community.fund@churchstretton-tc.gov.uk) or from the Church Stretton Town Council offices. The allocation of all Community Fund monies raised is regularly reported in the *Focus*, through the Church Stretton Town Council Community Matters reports.

*Jim Bunce*

*Sources – Wellington and Shrewsbury Journal, March 1907;  
Charity Commission Document, 27 August 1907;  
British History Online; Church Stretton Town Council*

## Saturday Morning Music

24th February at 10.15am

The first Saturday morning concert of the year will take place in the Methodist Church and will move away from the traditional format. Instead of solos or chamber music you will be treated to a narration of *Babar the Elephant* by Gay Walker, with music by Poulenc. She will also narrate some musical monologues – that form beloved of our Edwardian forebears – including *The Green Eye of the Yellow God* and *The Touch of the Master's Hand*.

Alas, all the published pictures of Babar and his mother are in copyright, but here is a picture in the public domain to whet your appetites.

To complete the entertainment, Paul Mcroft, a regular contributor to the Stretton Festival Coffee Concerts, will sing songs of the period, including such old favourites as *Somewhere a Voice is Calling*, *Pale Hands I loved* and *The Holy City*. Piano accompaniments by Richard Walker.

Admission is free, with a retiring collection which will go to Mayfair after church expenses have been covered. There will be refreshments afterwards in the church hall.

I am looking for more people willing to take part in the Saturday morning music series; ready-made chamber music items and solos are all welcome. Please let me know if you have anything you can offer at some point in the future.

*Richard Walker*  
[gandrwalker@me.com](mailto:gandrwalker@me.com)



### Church Stretton Gardening Club

**The February meeting is on Tuesday 27th at 2pm in the Silvester Horne Institute** when Jack Wilgoss will be speaking on the restoration of the Wild Goose nursery and walled garden at Munslow.

**A reminder** that our AGM is at the end of January on Tuesday 30th at 2pm in the SHI followed by an introduction to Wisteria Tours Garden Holidays.

*Sue Forster*

# Robert Hart, Forest Gardener

A friend told me, recently, that she'd heard about a wonderful garden at Wenlock Edge, which once had a vegan/organic food production system. Intrigued, and wanting to know more, your intrepid reporter set out on a virtual journey of discovery. Here's what I discovered, via rabbit-holes of research.

Robert Adrian de Jauralde Hart (1st April 1913-7th March 2000) was an English pioneer of temperate zone forest gardening. That's quite a mighty handle of a name, so I went down a rabbit hole of research to find out where the name originated. 'de Jauralde' is Spanish in origin, with the first English record being in an English church record for a man of that name who married into the British Thorogood family early in the 17thC. After that, several de Jauralde female descendants married into British and American families, adding the name to some of their offspring's baptismal names. Well, why not? Who would want to lose a name as memorable as that one? It was only in 1891, however, that the family name of de Jauralde appeared on the UK national Census records (the first Census was held in 1801). There were two families with this family name living in London at that time, indicating that a male line had probably been there for some time.

Back to Robert Hart. His father was a lawyer, and his mother a talented soprano. He was born in London and later employed by the Reuters news agency, where he compiled digests of articles by Mahatma Gandhi. Influenced by Gandhi's philosophies, he resisted enlistment when WWII broke out, but changed his mind after Dunkirk and enlisted in the Corps of Military Police. He was transferred to the Intelligence Corps to work in code-breaking as the war progressed. Back in civvy street, he was first a dairy farmer in the West Country before moving to Shropshire, where he took on a smallholding at Highwood Hill, near Rushbury, and began to create a forest garden from the small, 0.12 acre (500m<sup>2</sup>) orchard. His aim was to make a garden that gave pleasure, improved health, provided home-grown food and would be a source of spiritual solace. The motive was born out of family problems, including those of his brother, who had significant learning disabilities and for whom Hart cared for many years.

Here opened another inviting rabbit-hole. Hart based his garden on the principles described by Toyohiko Kagawa of Japan. While studying at Princeton University, Kagawa read *Tree Crops: A Permanent Agriculture* by Joseph Russell Smith. This book was released in 1929, and went on to serve as one of the earliest sources and motivators for the field of agroforestry, though this would not be made into a true scientific field until the 1960s. Inspired by this book, Kagawa managed to persuade many of Japan's upland farmers, during the 1930s, that the solution to their soil erosion problem lay in widespread planting of trees, including fruit and nut bearing varieties. The aim was to conserve the soil whilst also supplying food for humans and fodder for animals – the three 'dimensions' of Kagawa's

system. Kagawa was also a prolific writer and campaigner for peace: he was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1947 and 1948, and for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1954 and 1955.

Back to Robert Hart again. With these influences, Hart began to develop the temperate agroforestry concept that would work in the UK. Through his observations



*Photo: Shutterstock*

of natural forests, he developed his orchard of apples and pears into an edible landscape of layers: first and tallest is a canopy tree layer, next are shorter trees; a shrub layer that includes a layer of saplings that will replace older trees in time, plus bushes; ground cover such as herbs, ferns and mosses; an underground layer of root vegetables and beneath that the spreading mycelium that links trees, mosses and mushrooms. Lastly, between all these, sits a layer of vertical-growth fruits and vegetables that use taller plants as supports. All this takes planning, of course, plus time and patience, but flowers, fruit and vegetables can be produced in the same space, and the concept can be adapted to the smallest of spaces. Hart explained his vision thus: "Few of us are in a position to restore the forests, but tens of millions of us have gardens, or access to open spaces such as industrial wastelands, where trees can be planted. If full advantage can be taken of the potentialities that are available even in heavily built-up areas, new 'city forests' can arise."

Sadly, Hart's garden no longer thrives in the way he designed it. Highwood Hill is now a private residence with no public access to the garden, but he and his ideas survive in his books and in the gardens that others have started around the world under his inspiration. So, what about you, dear reader? Could you make better use of your garden space by layering upwards? Time to make a plan before spring arrives, perhaps.

*Christine Williams  
Resident Journalist*

With thanks to *The Guardian* newspaper, the Global Earth Foundation, the Agroforestry Research Trust and Wikipedia.



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**Andrew 07967 320055**  
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Tree & hedge cutting  
Patio and driveway clean  
Minor Repairs

# Out With the Old and In With the New *Focus* Website

Time has flown by since the autumn of 2022 when, as a recently appointed Director of Stretton Focus Ltd, I was first introduced to the *Focus* website development and hosting company Source. The website had been re-developed during 2016/17 by Source and as far as I could determine, it was built with many sophisticated features and capabilities. However, over a period of only a few years, many of these features had been hidden or retired, mainly because there just wasn't enough volunteer resource to maintain the content of the site or the online processes, such as online subscriptions, that had been planned. For several years, the only content that has been regularly updated on the website is the 'What's On' events calendar and the 'Focus Archive'.

## Time for change

During my initial conversations with the development lead at Source, I was advised that from January 2024, the company would no longer be supporting the technology on which the *Focus* website and its Content Management System (CMS) was built. This was a bit of a bombshell.

The website had been built in a bespoke way to meet the specific requirements agreed by the Board at the time. The technology, whilst still being used today, is not widely used or supported across the UK and so it would be difficult and expensive for another website company to take over the ongoing technical management and support of the site. The jargon used in the digital industry is that we had a 'burning platform'. If we wanted to maintain an online presence, we had to act before the technical equivalent of the fire brigade (apologies) was needed!

The *Focus* Board acted quickly: by November 2022 a task group had been established comprising Paul Harding, Geoff Taylor, Barrie Raynor and myself, and an options paper was presented to the Board in December 2022. The Board agreed the key guiding principles for the new site that were proposed by the task group:

- The primary purpose of the site is to promote the magazine and to support our local community.
- The site will not replicate or compete directly with the editorial content of the current edition of the magazine.
- The site content and features should complement and augment the magazine.
- We rely upon volunteers and so the resources required to maintain the website content will be sustainable and any ongoing cost will be minimised.
- The technology chosen for the site needs to be standardised (i.e. non-proprietary) and well supported in the UK.
- As soon as possible (assuming it will be feasible), the website will generate sufficient income to cover any operational costs.

By the end of February 2023, with support from the task group, I had produced an outline requirements specification and scope for the new website and a competitive procurement process was underway. Prior to issuing formal invitations to tender for the project, a

crucial decision that needed to be made was in relation to the selection of the technology platform and CMS that we were going to be using (hopefully for the long-term). There are numerous systems in this market and it is a daunting challenge to select the solution that is going to work best for the organisation in the short, medium, and long term.

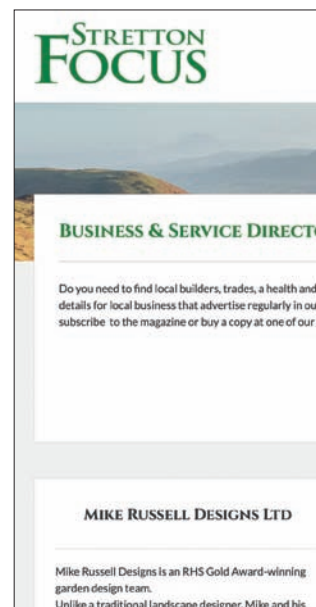
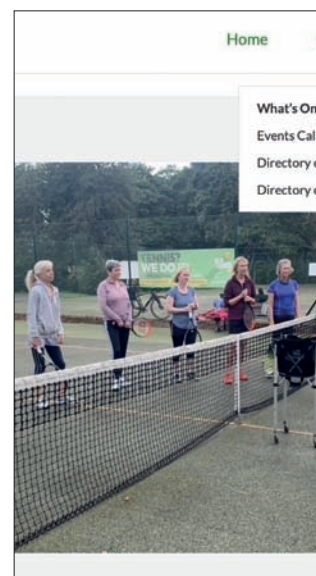
Fortunately, I have recent experience with digital product and services development and so I was able to help the task group navigate this challenge with a degree of confidence. We were able to constrain our options and narrow down the supplier market by choosing WordPress, an open-source (i.e. free-to-use software) platform that boasts a 65% share in the CMS market and is used by over 43% of websites worldwide. A simple Google search of specialist WordPress website development companies produced 15 potential companies within and close to Shrewsbury alone.

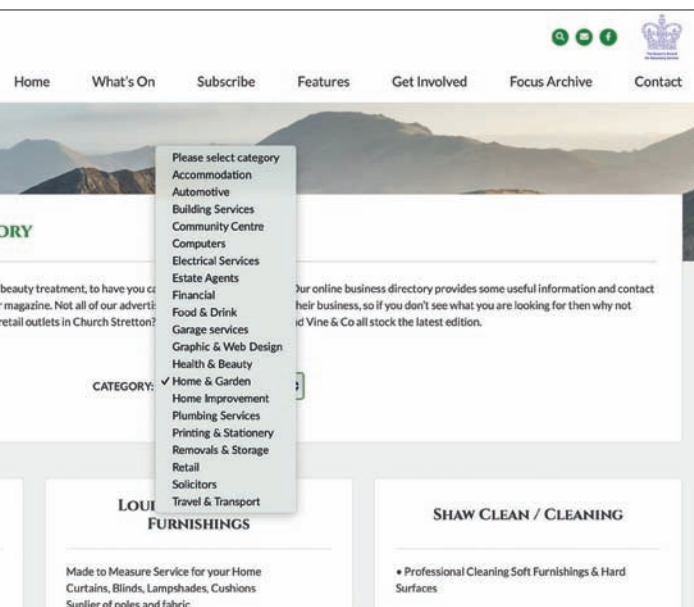
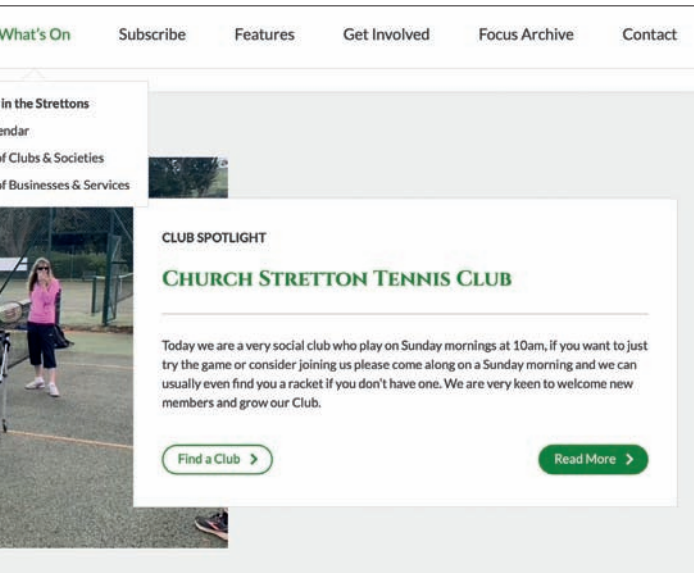
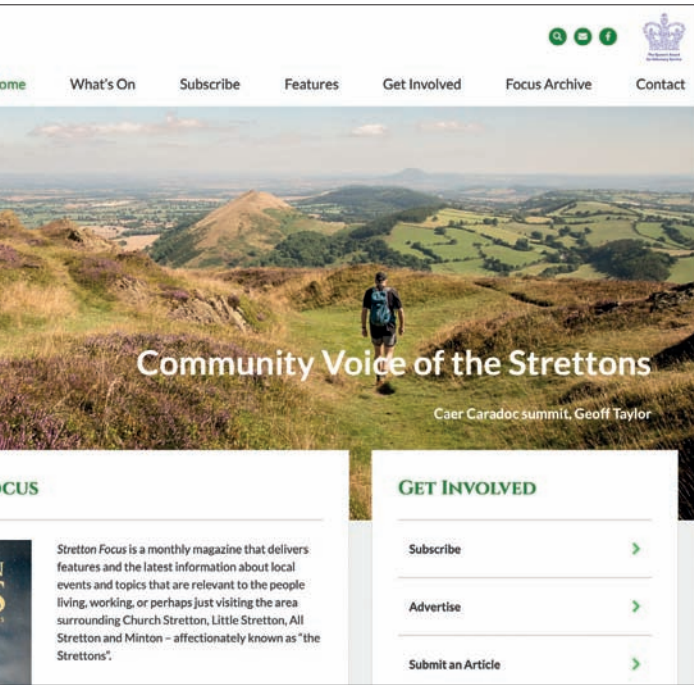
## Website development underway

Following an open and thorough tender process, the website development contract was awarded to Seven Pixels ([www.sevenpixels.co.uk](http://www.sevenpixels.co.uk)), a local web design and WordPress specialist led by Chris Dunst. Chris was able to understand our requirements and circumstances immediately and was very receptive to working at a pace that, as volunteers, would accommodate our own availability and 'learning' requirements. I wanted the task group members to be involved in the development process and in making informed decisions with Chris.

By April 2023 the real work had begun. The task group focussed on designing a site content and navigation structure that met the principles agreed by the Board, and on providing draft content for Chris to work with.

Chris presented his initial designs in early July and with only minor adjustments suggested by task group members, the designs were taken forward to full technical implementation. By September, Chris had delivered a session of CMS training that included our Advertising Manager Sara Hewitt and Events Diary Editor Sandra Davies. We were ready to start building the website content.





**Key website features**

Our new home page builds on the old and will be flexible and relatively easy to add new sections or change in the future.

**What's On** continues to be a key feature of the site, with now a full calendar view of regular activities for the whole year as well as a daily diary view.

A browsable **Directory of Clubs and Societies** supports the 'What's On' calendar, but is now a separate feature itself. The directory will build over time as clubs and society members provide us with more information. The home page now includes a **Club Spotlight** feature that will present different clubs on a rotation basis.

A new **Directory of Businesses and Services** now provides a free searchable and browsable listing of the businesses that advertise in the magazine.

Finally, a new feature of the website is to include a range of interesting editorial articles that have appeared **Recently in The Stretton Focus**. I am hoping that this will encourage residents and visitors, if they do not already, to subscribe or buy the magazine.

**A look ahead**

Many of our subscribers and readers may not have visited our website in the past because, after all, the magazine provides all the community information they need. However, I hope that this article tempts you to at least have a peek; just visit www.strettonfocus.co.uk and have a browse. We have plans to develop the features of the site over the coming year, however I'm really keen to see how popular the site is and to hear our readers' views before investing further. Please email me with your thoughts and suggestions to [webeditor@strettonfocus.co.uk](mailto:webeditor@strettonfocus.co.uk). Happy browsing!

*Andrew Fenton  
Web Editor and Director of Stretton Focus Ltd  
[webeditor@strettonfocus.co.uk](mailto:webeditor@strettonfocus.co.uk)*



"It has been a genuine pleasure to work with the *Stretton Focus* team on the new website. Each and every client project is different, but the emphasis on community really shone through in our planning and strategy discussions with the team.

"The 'What's On' and business and club directories were a fundamental requirement of the site design from the start of the project, with the goal of promoting local organisations, businesses and groups. We feel the final design achieves that aim, offering a dynamic platform for the whole of the community to share and find local events, groups and businesses.

"We built the site on an easy-to-use website platform, providing the team with the capability to edit and post new content remotely. The robust and flexible nature of the system allows us to continually build and develop the website, and looking ahead, we have a number of new features planned to help *Stretton Focus* continue to complement the traditional print editions, with a comprehensive digital platform."

*Chris Dunst, Managing Director, Seven Pixels*

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# National Trust

## Birds on the Long Mynd in winter

The Long Mynd is one of the most important areas for birds in the West Midlands. As such, we have birds visiting through the seasons, including during winter. Peter Carty, former National Trust Countryside Manager for South Shropshire and Kinver Edge, gave a useful insight into what birds to look out for this winter.



Golden plover. Photo: The National Trust

“Birds in general desert the hill in winter; it’s cold, it’s exposed, and many insects hibernate. However, some hardy individuals flock to the hill in winter. The two most exciting birds are the hen harrier and the short-eared owl. Short-eared owls are diurnal owls: they hunt during the day, and they search for voles and small mammals. They are a nomadic species, and in areas where there are lots of voles, ten or more can turn up. On the Long Mynd, we usually see one or two every winter.”

Hen harriers breed in northern Scotland and in North Wales. These birds spread out in winter and reach the Long Mynd, where they fly slowly and glide close to the ground over the heather searching for their prey, which is small birds up to the size of a red grouse. The Long Mynd usually just sees visits from females (called ringtails), or juvenile birds. They are both brown in colour with a very prominent white rump. The males are much rarer and are sky blue with black wingtips and a pale underside. Their slow flight gave the plane its name – the Harrier jump jet.

Another winter visitor – probably one of the most attractive ones – is the golden plover; up to 200 birds roost at night on the Long Mynd. These are birds that breed further north and come here in the winter. If they stay until spring, they are beautiful, speckled gold and black, but in winter they are brown and fly around the hill in tight flocks with a two-syllable whistle. They feed on short grass by standing very still then running forward, bending down, picking up prey and then standing still again.

There are others that are frequent visitors during the winter months. These include winter thrushes such as fieldfare and redwing; they come from their cold Scandinavian breeding grounds to feed on the rowan berries. Fieldfares have a laughing chuckle, and you can tell redwings by their bright red underwings. Other thrushes include the mistle thrush, which has white underwings.



Short-eared owl. Photo: The National Trust

Very occasionally snow buntings show up on the hill; these breed in the high Arctic and on mountain tops in Scotland, so the Long Mynd in winter is positively tropical for them.

Although cold winter days can be wild up on the top of the Mynd, with good walking boots and appropriate warm layers, you can not only see these winter birds, but can be treated to a superb winter adventure with stunning views across the hills.

Maria Darlington

## Shropshire Ornithological Society

Shropshire Ornithological Society, Church Stretton branch, presents **Birds, Butterflies and beyond** by Andrew Fusek Peters, at the Methodist Church Hall, on 26th February, starting at 7.30pm. Refreshments provided.

Admission is £3 for non-members. All welcome.

David John, Secretary



# Strettons Area Community Wildlife Group



## News of Local Wildlife

The Strettons Area Community Wildlife Group (SACWG) brings together local people to encourage and enhance their interest in wildlife. We actively promote nature conservation and survey priority wildlife and habitats in the Strettons. Our work is co-ordinated by specific project leaders surveying a wide variety of fauna and flora. At present these projects include curlew, swifts, wildflowers, butterflies, dormice and crayfish. We also focus on habitats such as wildflower meadows, wetlands and streams.

The results of our 'citizen science' findings are used both locally and nationally to help in the conservation of target species. This year we will be holding our annual meeting at **7.15pm on Tuesday 27th February in All Stretton Village Hall (SY6 6JR)**. This is a great



*Photo: Dr Isabel Carter*

opportunity to gain an oversight from all the project leaders who will share their findings; always a fascinating evening. With only five minutes per project, you're guaranteed to hear just the highlights (and sadly sometimes the lowlights). For example – what's the most unusual beetle found in the Strettons this year; how are swifts faring here, are grouse and curlew numbers still falling and which creatures are coping best with the changing climate? There will also be a report from our newest project activity looking at bats.

Do come and join our friendly members and learn more. Refreshments with home-made cakes will be available. For more information and to read our annual reports, do check out our website [www.shropscwgs.org.uk/strettons-area-wildlife-group](http://www.shropscwgs.org.uk/strettons-area-wildlife-group) or join our mailing list for occasional updates and news of training and surveying opportunities.

*Dr Isabel Carter, Chair of SACWG  
SACWG\_Chair@shropscwgs.org.uk*

## Bird Surveys – Project Leader Leo Smith

All three Bird Surveys will continue in 2024 jointly with the Church Stretton branch of Shropshire Ornithological Society (SOS). The three Bird Survey topics are 1) Lapwing, Curlew and other species, 2) Red Grouse and 3) Dippers. People who have helped previously will be asked to help again, but new helpers are needed, and will be very welcome.

### Lapwing, Curlew and other species

The bird survey area is bounded roughly by Leebootwood, Marshbrook, Shipton and Hughley. It is divided into 32 squares, each of 2x2 kilometres. Participants take on one of these survey squares and visit three times, on dates to suit you, around 1st April, 1st May and 15th June. Each visit takes less than half a day, so it doesn't take much time. It's easy to do and participants are provided with simple survey instructions and a map to record sightings on. If possible, we'd also like you to record kestrel, cuckoo and other target species, but that's an optional extra.

If you want to find out more about the survey, or you would like to help locate the curlews, please come to the meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13th March, at the Methodist Church Hall, Watling St, Church Stretton,



*Photo: Terry Moore*

or contact [leo@leosmith.org.uk](mailto:leo@leosmith.org.uk). There will be a practical training session, explaining how to go about the survey and record what you see, around the end of March, if you feel you need it and want to come.

## Save our Curlews Project and Appeal

The survey also directly helps our joint work with Shropshire Ornithological Society, to find curlew nests and protect them from predation with electric fences. When the chicks hatch, we attach radio tags and track them to see what happens to them.

In 2023, we found eight pairs. Other pairs recorded near Stanton Long and Hughley are believed to nest outside the area, in squares to the east and north respectively. Compared to 2022, a pair has been lost from just north-west of Longville. Results have been summarised in previous issues of *Focus*.

We gratefully acknowledge a generous Community Award from *Stretton Focus* in 2023. We are repeating the project in 2024, so we have re-launched our Strettons area Save our Curlews Nest-finding and Protection Project Appeal and readers are invited to make donations.

You can find a report on the results in 2023 and the Appeal Leaflet, with a donations page on how to contribute, on our website [www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk](http://www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk). We hope you will consider contributing, please.

## Red Grouse

The Red Grouse survey takes place on Long Mynd, for around two hours around sunset on several evenings in April and May. Most watchpoints are close to the road and the grouse are usually conspicuous and easy to recognise, so the survey doesn't require any particular expertise. Please read the Recruiting Leaflet on our website and complete the Participant's Form. A briefing meeting for new participants will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 28th March and again there will be a practical 'on the job' training session for those that want it.

## Dipper

Dipper monitoring doesn't involve actual survey work; we would just like reports of any you see please. If you get a good view, please check the left leg for a colour-ring.

More information on all three projects can be found on our website [www.shropscwgs.org.uk/strettons-area-wildlife-group](http://www.shropscwgs.org.uk/strettons-area-wildlife-group). Reports for 2023 will be posted on the website before the SACWG Annual Public Meeting on Tuesday, 27th February.

If you want further information, or to volunteer, or you want to report a curlew or a dipper sighting, please contact Leo Smith ([leo@leosmith.org.uk](mailto:leo@leosmith.org.uk)).

## Caring for Wildlife – Jobs for February

Imagine you get up one late winter's morning and your store cupboard is empty. It's wet and a bit cold. You put your coat and boots on and you go to the shops. Only... all the shelves are empty. That's what it is like for our wildlife, especially in January and February. For instance, hedgehogs don't hibernate all winter, unless it remains below 4°C. They

may be out at night looking for food. Check your garden – signs of black poo? Why not put a bit of hedgehog-specific food out (John Thomas does a good supply and I believe the semi-moist is much sought after by our local hogs). If



*Photo: David Friel*

you see a hog wandering around in the daytime, please call Cuan Wildlife Rescue on 01952 728070 for advice. This is not normal behaviour, as they are nocturnal creatures and so it may be injured or unwell.

When you fill your bird feeders, clean them thoroughly with hot water and leave them to dry for at least 48 hours each time they empty (you might need a spare feeder or two). Bats might also start to stir, especially if it is mild. It might be worthwhile for them to use their energy foraging for food, so what about leaving some of your perennial plant stems in place so that any overwintering insects that may emerge are available to them. Don't forget to leave out some clean water too and if we have a spell of frost, change the iced water for fresh water so that wildlife can drink and bathe.

*Julie Cowley*

## Acton Scott Garden Club

We would be so pleased if you could join us for our first meeting of 2024, on Thursday 8th February at 7.30pm, Acton Scott Village Hall.

Our speaker, Clare Tatler, is the Head Gardener of The Weir in Hereford which is owned by The National Trust. Clare will discuss gardening in host locations; this will be a very unique behind the scenes look at gardening, in private and public places and the compromises that have to be made.

A warm welcome awaits you. For non-members there is a £5 charge per person which does include refreshments.

# Royal Society for the Protection of Birds



## Nature Notes – Peregrines

Descending the steep lane off the hill, we watched a bird plummet, rapidly twist, then straighten. My young passenger knew exactly what it was. A peregrine. They had been nesting on the rocks for some time, delighting the bird watchers.

In the past peregrines had been persecuted by gamekeepers who believed they took game birds particularly grouse. During the 1950s to 1970s the use of pesticides, especially DDT, caused an accumulation of organochlorines in the bird's fatty tissue, resulting in infertility and a thinning of egg shells. They were also targeted by egg collectors. To see a peregrine was an extremely rare occurrence.

Against the odds the peregrines have survived. The harmful chemicals have been banned and nests are now protected. Peregrines are thought to be the fastest animal on the planet, up to 200mph. They hunt by diving steeply at great speed with wings and tail folded in. They strike their victims, usually pigeons, from above at great

speed. This dive, called a stoop, is a sheer acrobatic spectacle, the epitome of grace and manoeuvrability.



© Roger Littleover 2023

Both sexes are similar in appearance, with black moustaches, but the female, called a falcon, is as much as 30% larger than the male, called the tiercel. They can be seen perched on the edges of cliffs and crags on which they traditionally breed. Pairs will soar over their nesting site; this is part of the courtship display. They will stoop and chase each other in a dazzling spectacle, then rise up and repeat. Only in the breeding season is the call heard, a sharp "kek-kek-kek".

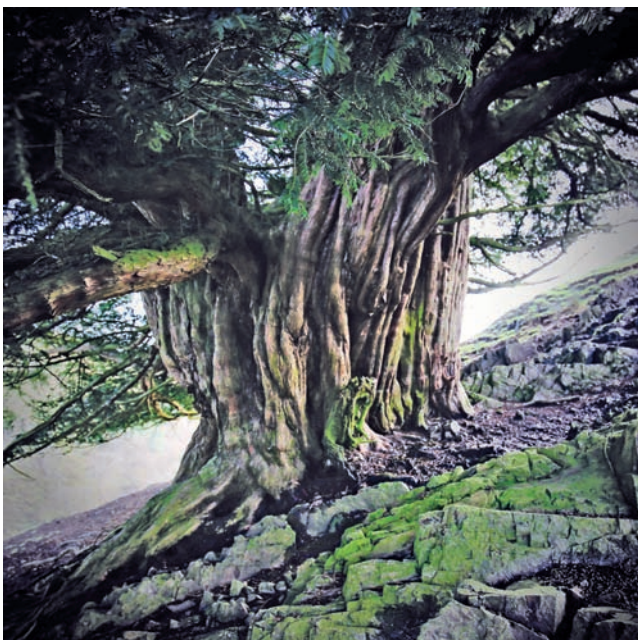
During the nesting season, the tiercel passes food to the falcon in the air, by dropping it for her to catch. Three or four eggs are laid in April and both parents incubate. There is only one brood a year.

When both parents are under pressure to feed hungry chicks, the larger falcon can concentrate on heavier prey like wood pigeons, the smaller tiercel will focus on smaller birds like starlings and blackbirds. The fledglings remain dependent on their parents for at least a month.

An increasing number of peregrines have begun nesting in urban areas. Churches are a perfect replica of their usual cliff nest sites. Ideal places for a peregrine to keep an eye out for prey, like passing pigeons.

*Carol Wood*

## Church Stretton Tree Group



### Can you help us find the wood from the trees?


The Strettons are fortunate in having many, many trees, but which out of all these are the most notable? It could be the tallest, the fattest, the oldest or the most unusual? Or those that if they could talk would have the most interesting stories to tell?

The Church Stretton Tree Group is on a mission to record these trees. So far, the tallest we know of is a Giant Sequoia (or Redwood) at 35 metres, the fattest a Sweet Chestnut with a girth of 6.5 metres and the oldest the Yew in the photo, estimated to be around 1,300 years old.

The Tree Group is planning to create a guide to these most notable trees. If you know of any you think we should include, or ones that may be taller or fatter than those we've found so far, please just send an email with the details to [ctreestreegroup@gmail.com](mailto:ctreestreegroup@gmail.com).

*Graham Hewitt*

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# Church Stretton Rotary News



## Latest Church Stretton Rotary Activity

Church Stretton Rotary is always busy at Christmas; here are some of our actions:

### Carols in the Square

We had wonderful support once again with 250+ people attending and a collection of almost £1,100 for our First Responders.

Rev Steve Johnson of St Laurence's provided the blessing, whilst Rotarian David Crowhurst presided over the proceedings, introducing the songs which were accompanied by Ed Moseley and the Accordion Band.

Thanks to Steve Aze who provided the audio and lighting kit, Tracey and Warren Prosser our excellent First Responders, who were kept busy on the night emphasising again their importance to our community. Thanks also to Nicky Hook and her council team who sorted out the road closures and permits and last



but not least, the excellent mulled wine and mince pies provided by Sherrie and the Kings Arms.

Many people commented that the best thing was the Community Spirit which they felt on the night, which was great to hear.

### Church Stretton Rotary 'Tree of Light'

Despite the continuing economic difficulties that we are experiencing, £2,500 was raised through Church Stretton Rotary's Tree of Light. Church Stretton Rotary wish to thank all who contributed to the appeal. The recipient charities Hope House Children's Hospice, Severn Hospice and Midlands Air Ambulance will each receive an equal share of the total.

Church Stretton Rotary wish to thank Stuart Wright of Wrights Estate Agents for sponsoring the Tree, Will Worthington of Burwarton Estates, Huws Gray (Leebotwood), Matt Stephens of John Stephens Landscaping and his crew, Gareth Jones of Caradoc Tree Care, PCB Solicitors and Church Stretton Town Council for their help and support.

If you would like to support Rotary with the work we do in the local community and further afield why not contact Pat Smith on 01694 723189, patstokessmith@hotmail.com.

*Peter Burt*

*Church Stretton Rotary, Tree of Light Co-ordinator*

### Christmas Hampers

Church Stretton Rotary Christmas hamper draw took place at the Yew Tree Inn, Kings Arms, Ragleth Inn and the Green Dragon.

Rotarian David presented Kate (of Wrights Estate Agents) on behalf of Carole with her hamper; Rotarian Carol presented hampers to Jacque, Josh and Phill.

The money raised is for Church Stretton Rotary's youth project Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and will allow two young people to attend this year.

Church Stretton Rotary wish to thank Hough and Sons, the publicans and staff at the pubs for their support.



### Green CS Rotary

Protecting the environment is one of Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus, so our Environmental Officer David Matthews helped the Members of our Rotary Club to do an online survey to work out their carbon footprint. As a result we have reduced our carbon footprint by offsetting it by the purchase of 350 trees for High Leasowes. In addition many

of the members had an enjoyable and informative morning in late December helping to plant the trees.

This action is not only good for our environment, but also leaves a lasting legacy.



### **RYLA Rotary Youth Leadership Awards**

Release the potential leader within.

What are the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards?

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, or RYLA, is a leadership development programme run by Rotary for young adults, that will take place during August this year.

RYLA helps young people discover their potential and develop the skills needed to be a leader in their community, career and everyday life.

The local RYLA course is sponsored by Church Stretton Rotary.

### **What does RYLA offer?**

The RYLA course is for five days and gives participants the opportunity to:

- Gain exposure to leadership scenarios.
- Explore problem-solving strategies as part of a team.
- Discuss and apply creative approaches to leadership and conflict management.
- Build confidence in yourself and what you can achieve.
- Meet new people and make lasting friendships.
- Learn how to arrange youth activities and community service projects locally and internationally.

Being a leader is not just about being confident enough to speak out and knowing what to say, it is knowing when to listen to others and understand. RYLA teaches this, and other soft skills, to help everyone to be the best they can be.

Teamwork exercises bring people together from different walks of life in a safe environment where everyone can get to know each other without fear of exclusion or negativity.

### **Who is eligible?**

You don't need to be a high achiever with outstanding academic grades, just be willing to try something new through activity-based learning and discover new talents along the way, as well as having fun.

RYLA programmes involve some physical challenges so can be demanding but are designed for all.

Do you know a young person who would gain from attending the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards course and will be 16 or 17 during August this year? Please contact Peter Burt, Church Stretton Rotary – Youth Project Lead, via Church Stretton Rotary's web site [churchstrettonrotary.org.uk/contact-us](http://churchstrettonrotary.org.uk/contact-us) or by phone on 07789 952000.

*Peter Burt*

*Church Stretton Rotary – Youth Project Lead*

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## **Christmas Toy Donations**

### **Church Stretton community gave to needy children at Christmas**

In December the Coop, Rotary and the Foodbank in the town passed on donated toys to local families who would be having a tough time at Christmas 2023.

Church Stretton Rotary regularly transports food donations collected in the Coop to the Foodbank but this Christmas there was something special added – toy donations. The idea came from Coop staff member and Rotarian Pamela Fleming who along with Rotary President Pat Stokes-Smith promoted it to the Coop, Rotary, the Foodbank and on posters in and around the town.

The organisers were very grateful for the numerous donations of toys, given in true Christmas spirit, while many families benefitted from this exceptional local generosity.

Pictured left to right are: Foodbank Organiser Lorraine McCrohan, Coop staff member and Rotarian Pamela Fleming, Coop Assistant Manager Mike Duppa, Foodbank Organiser Richard McCrohan, Church Stretton Rotary President Pat Stokes-Smith.

*Pat Stokes-Smith*



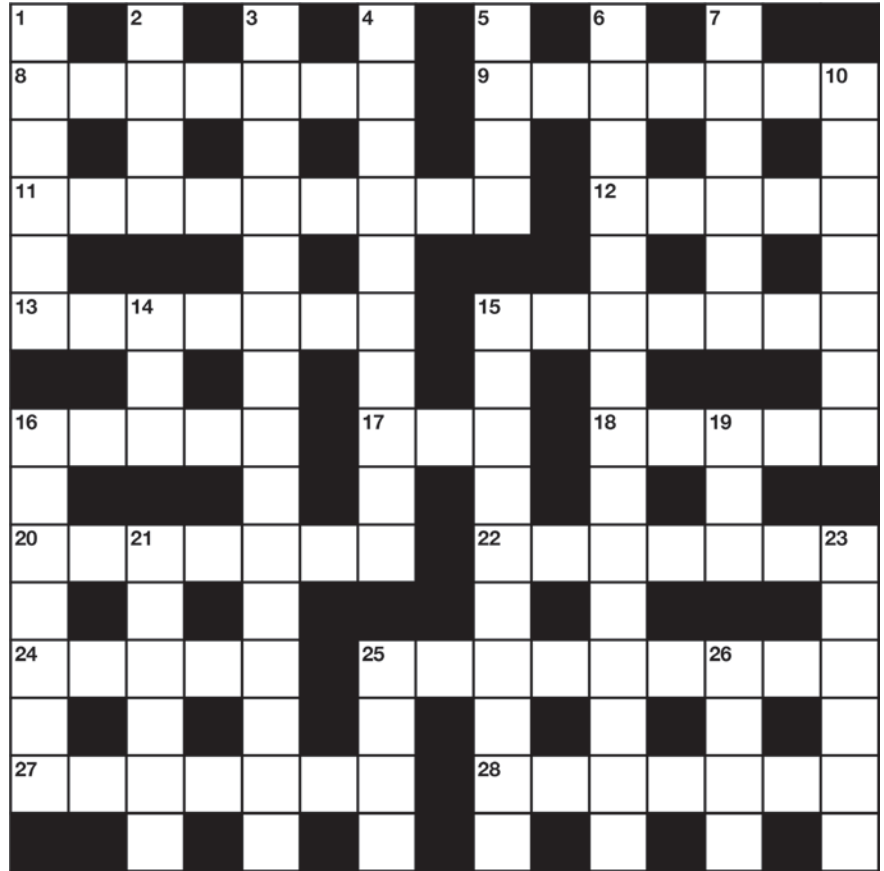
# Cryptic Crossword by Stan Yelds

## Across

8. Touching letters read by 3 (7)
9. Androgynous novice promises to get unpleasant (7)
11. Disparaging hostile action (9)
12. Ulster meteorologist's barometer indicates at first dark clouds (5)
13. Vegans love working in the kitchen (3,4)
15. See you applaud the top score (7)
16. Paragon posed around at home (5)
17. Auditor's finished making us gloomy (3)
18. My 16a 2 solution (5)
20. Two boys possess English governor (7)
22. A bit of fun lad engages in baggage-free (7)
24. Heading off determined to get rent (5)
25. See 6d
27. Weakness found in badly run gaol (7)
28. Several houses – and a flat in the garden! (7)

## Down

1. Old car maker, once on good form (6)
2. Henry (small boy) – one of two parts (4)
3. 16,17,18 now screen and check entry requirements at origin – Sunak in meltdown! (5,8,2)
4. Submissively approved breaking into bank (10)
5. See 26d
- 6,19,10,25d,25a. 16,17,18 previously disabled comrades in centres similar to dole? Ludicrous! (7,8,3,7,4,9)
7. Late for class – I don't know what to say (6)
10. See 6d
14. Travel over snow and almost lose traction (3)
15. Bring to completion with supreme skill (10)
16. Cut everything abruptly for some (7)
19. See 6d
21. All you need is company, French wine and good plasterwork (6)
23. Northern Echo: two journalists required (6)
25. See 6d
- 26,5. Milk deliverer and accomplished food bearer (3,5)



## Trivia Answers

1. Rhodesia
2. Cosmonauts
3. Prague
4. *The Sun*
5. Dalai Lama

## January Solution





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# Recipe of the month

## Pho-inspired soup



As I write this in the aftermath of all the Christmas indulgence, the notion of a light but tasty steaming bowl of broth is a very appealing thing.

This is a traditional Vietnamese recipe simplified for both ease and speed – tradition involves prolonged boiling of beef bones for the stock – but I appreciate that this is therefore a million miles away from the very essence of the meal. This basic recipe is also vegan – which takes it a further step away.

As is often my plan, ingredients can be added to and varied to suit your household, but one essential element is to char the onion and ginger plus dry frying the spices to bring out their warming earthy flavours. Use noodles of your choice but chewy thin rice noodles will replicate a more authentic dish. It's worth taking your time to get as much flavour as you can into your broth. In the traditional version fish sauce would be used in place of the soy and vinegar. You could also substitute miso paste instead if you happen to have any.

The list of ingredients looks daunting, but they are largely store cupboard goodies and vegetables that you may well have lurking in your fridge or freezer, and let's face it – you can make the rest up to suit what you have to hand.

There are four elements to making a Pho: make the broth, cook the veggies, cook the noodles, assemble with toppings.

### Serves 4

### Ingredients

#### Broth

- 1 large onion – peeled and halved
- 3 inch piece fresh ginger – halved lengthwise
- 3 star anise
- 4 whole cloves
- 1 cinnamon stick – about 3" long
- 2 cardamom pods – bashed to release flavour
- 1 tbsp whole coriander seeds
- 8 cups good quality veg stock or mushroom stock
- 1 tbsp brown sugar
- 2 tsps soy sauce\* (or tamari)
- 2 tsps rice vinegar\*

\*a couple of drops of fish sauce can be used instead for non-veggie option

#### Veggies

- 200g mushrooms (a mixture is good) thinly sliced
- 2 pak choi halved
- 1-2 cups mixed veg – thinly sliced carrots, broccoli florets, edamame beans, mangetout, mini corn-cobs etc

#### Noodles of choice

#### Toppings

- Fresh herbs are essential – such as coriander, mint, Thai basil
- Crispy fried garlic – thinly sliced
- Beansprouts
- Chillies of choice – thinly sliced
- Spring onions – sliced
- Lime quarters

#### Method

##### Broth

Char the onions and ginger in a dry pan – 5-10 minutes.

Heat the spices in a large, dry saucepan over a medium to high heat for about 3 minutes. Take care not to burn them.

Add in the onion/ginger mix and stock. Bring to a light boil then cover and simmer for around 30 minutes.

Strain the resulting broth, discard the solids and return liquid to the pan. Stir in the brown sugar, soy sauce and rice vinegar (or fish sauce or miso). Stir well.

I advise tasting and adapting the broth at this point. I added in some water and for my taste it would have been improved with a little more sugar.

Add harder veg like carrots now if you prefer a softer bite and cook for 5 minutes or so.

##### Veggies

Meanwhile heat a little oil in a pan and fry the mushrooms for 5 minutes. Stir these into broth along with remaining vegetables. Cook over a low heat until veg are cooked to your liking.

##### Noodles

Cook your noodles of choice according to the packet. Once cooked drain and cool quickly under running water to stop the cooking process but not cool completely. Stir in a little olive oil to prevent them sticking together.

##### Assemble

Add a handful of noodles to each bowl and ladle the hot broth and veggies over the top. Add plenty of toppings and a squeeze of lime juice. Or you could serve the bowls at the table and let folk help themselves to their toppings. Stirring the toppings into the broth will help to bring out their flavours.

The broth, once cooked through, can simmer happily until you're ready to continue. You could of course add some fried strips of chicken, thinly sliced, briefly fried strips of beef steak or drop some cubes of cod (need about 5 minutes to cook depending on thickness) or prawns into the broth before serving if you don't fancy the veggie option. And of course, if you've got the time you could always boil up those bones...

*Heidi*

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# Footy Anyone?

Football is the world's most popular ball game in numbers of participants and spectators, and is so simple that it can be played almost anywhere, from official football playing fields (pitches) to gymnasiums, streets, school playgrounds, parks or beaches without any equipment other than a ball. In England alone, almost 12 million people play regularly, whether professionally, in the amateur game or for leisure, and an increasing number of those are women and girls. Football's governing body, the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), estimates that there were approximately 250 million professional and amateur players and over 1.3 billion people 'interested' in football around the world at the turn of the 21st century; in 2010 an estimated television audience of more than 26 billion people watched the World Cup finals live – and that didn't include those who watched it via their electronic devices or tuned in for re-runs.

The word sport, meaning 'organised games participation', first appeared in the Oxford English dictionary in the 1863 edition. Before then, and until the early 1880s, pastimes such as football, cricket, horse racing and sailing were the pursuits of gentlemen amateurs from the social elite of English society. The development of modern football really began with industrialisation in Victorian Britain. From the 1850s onward, institutions such as churches, trade unions, and schools organised working-class boys and men into recreational football teams. Industrial workers began to gain new rights to leisure time, and competitive football matches began to be organised between factory workers and then town teams. Rising adult literacy generated press coverage, and modern forms of transport enabled players and spectators to travel to games. Average attendance in England rose from 4,600 in 1888 to 13,200 in 1905, and reached 23,100 by the outbreak of World War I.

Nick Cole has been Chairman of the Church Stretton Town Football Club (CSTFC) for about eight years. He's had a fair amount of experience in the town's various teams across different ages groups, especially with the Church Stretton Magpies Junior Football, which has a girls' team as well as one for boys, and in his playing career with CSTFC.

The club's home ground is on Russell's Meadow, which has been a football ground since the 1930s, when local teams were formed. For newcomers to the Strettons, Russell's Meadow is accessible via the little car park on Lutwyche Road, opposite the northern end of Beaumont Road.

The new pavilion, which replaced the old one in 2015 at a cost of £150k, was 15 years in the planning and fund raising. A 'buy a brick' campaign raised some of the

money in the early 2000s, but not quite enough to get the project off the ground. More community fundraising, grants provided by Shropshire Council and other local



sports clubs, businesses and organisations, plus the Football Association's 'grass roots' fund, finally brought the dream into reality. The building has four changing rooms, two rooms for referees, ample storage space for equipment, a kitchen with a handy serving hatch onto the field, and a common room. It's available to hire, too – always a good option for this busy town.

Nick says, "Ten committee members manage the club on a day-to-day basis, and there is a squad of 25 players with a good local following of supporters to both home and away matches. Training sessions are held weekly on Russell's Meadow in the summer months and Shrewsbury Sports Village, which is at Sundorne Rd, Shrewsbury SY1 4RQ, in the winter. Newcomers are always welcome, but please let us know in advance if you'd like to sample a training session."

Word-of-mouth is the most common method by which new members are introduced, although the majority of players in the adult team come through progression from junior ranks. However, anyone who has the stamina for 90 minutes of game time, and can kick a ball accurately, is welcome to try-out.

The Club is a member of the Salop Leisure Football League, and enters the League Cup and the Shropshire Challenge Cup every year. Last season (2022/23) they won the League Cup and were runners up in the Shropshire Challenge Cup, praiseworthy achievements, certainly. For the majority of away matches players and staff car share or, on odd occasions, there's a mini-bus.

As for training, and the welfare and safety of players and staff, the club is an FA (Chartered Standard) Football Club and operates a welfare/safe-guarding policy according to their principles and methods. Training is provided through the Shropshire Football Association.

Nick, again, "As with most volunteer-led local clubs of all kinds, the CSTFC relies heavily on sponsorship. This year's sponsors are The Ragleth Inn, Wrights Estate Agents, Britpart, SA Accountancy and Tough Furniture. We're very grateful to them all, and we hope we can do them proud." So, dear reader, if you'd like to experience the camaraderie, the benefits and the highs and lows of football at first hand, rather than just from your couch, contact Nick on njcole66@btinternet.com or phone 07778 908012. Have fun!

*Christine Williams  
Resident Journalist*

*Researched with thanks to Britannica.com and  
the Shropshire Star*

# SHI Events

**Harp & a Monkey**  
Silvester Horne Institute, Church Stretton  
Friday 16th February, 7.30pm

We are pleased to welcome back Harp & a Monkey. The trio from Greater Manchester charmed and beguiled a packed house on their last visit (back in 2022) with their poignant, uplifting, and melodic short stories (original and traditional) about everyday life, love and remembrance.

Their work has been described as “bold and brilliant” by the *Observer*, “fantastic and fascinating” by Mark Radcliffe on BBC Radio 2, and “unique” by folk legend Mike Harding.

With four acclaimed albums under their belts, expect banjos, harp, accordions, guitars, violas, and glockenspiels on the national concert circuit and guaranteed poignancy, humour, and great audience rapport at their live shows.

Band frontman and lead storyteller Martin Purdy said, “It is a lovely audience at Church Stretton, and we have lots more tall tales and strange truths to share with them. If we can pick up where we left off last time, with shared



*“Award-winning folk and storytelling trio”*

emotion, sentiment, and laughter, then we will be in for yet another fantastic night.”

This event, which is suitable for all ages, is clearly not to be missed. Tickets will be available from the end of January from the CS Town Council Office, The Outdoor Depot on Sandford Avenue, and online at [silvesterhorneevents.co.uk](http://silvesterhorneevents.co.uk). Tickets: Adult £12, under 18 £6.

*Mike Walker*

## URC Voice

### Why I attend the URC

My wife and I moved to Hope Bowdler three years ago having managed early in the first Covid lockdown to slip secretly from our previous home in Mid-Powys to cross the Welsh border. It was another year before churches started to reopen when we could start to look for a church in Church Stretton that suited us. We decided to do a tour of churches, visiting a different church each Sunday. We started with the URC. The welcome that we received was so incredible that we felt no necessity to continue our tour. So, there we have remained!

What is it that we like about the United Reformed Church here in Church Stretton? Certainly, we enjoy the feeling of warm fellowship. It has also been refreshing to be part of a church that is so open to exploring and questioning fundamentals of Christianity. This has allowed us to think more about our faith: what we can accept as true and what we are not so certain about. Having been without a resident minister for seven years the church has had to call on preachers from outside, often retired clergy, often from a different denomination, to lead the Sunday

worship. We have no set formal ritual and no set structure to our services. This in turn offers visiting preachers the freedom to talk openly about faith without constraint.

Back in Wales, a minister once told me that he was convinced that a number of non-church goers in the community where we lived were on the ‘fringe’, in the sense that they were happy to give thought to the possibility of attending church. But none had the courage to step inside. Very possibly it is the anticipated formal doctrines and rituals often found in church services that are too forbidding. Quoting from Roger Wilson’s article in last November’s URC Voice ‘those seeking inclusion have to conform to a norm and express exclusive certainties of faith’. Not so in the United Reformed Church here in Church Stretton where you will find us to be ‘open, inclusive and questioning’. If you wish to discover more please come along.

*John Rowlands*





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## Happy Valentine's Day

This month is the month of romance and love as we celebrate Valentine's Day. Folk tradition suggests that Valentine, the patron Saint of love, was an extraordinarily brave priest. He risked his life for marrying couples who were in love but couldn't get married because Emperor Claudius II had forbidden anyone to marry. Valentine was imprisoned for his disobedience yet even in prison continued to reach out to people with kindness and love. He was kind to his jailer's blind daughter Julia and she would often visit him in jail, where they became good friends!

In spite of extreme pressure, Valentine refused to renounce his Christian faith or stop his acts of kindness and so was sentenced to death. Before he was killed, Valentine wrote a last note to encourage Julia in her own faith and to thank her for being such a good friend. He signed the note: "From your Valentine." This note has inspired

people from all over the world to write loving messages to their sweethearts on 14th February, the day Valentine was martyred.

Legend says that as Julia opened the card, she was miraculously cured of her blindness so that she was able to read Valentine's note, rather than have someone else read it to her. Many believe that it was the prayers of Valentine that brought about the healing.

Whether this legend is true or not, many can bear testimony that kind loving acts can be a tremendous source of encouragement, and yes, even healing.

Love is a verb, a doing word, an action. It means encouraging others, putting their interests first and always seeking to bring about happiness. Valentine's Day, and every day, is a good day to do loving kind actions to our friends, neighbours, family and of course, our sweetheart.

*Happy Valentine's Day*  
*Jon Hughes*

---

## Church Stretton Table Tennis Club

A new table tennis club has been launched in Church Stretton. The club, based at the Silvester Horne Institute, was set up in June 2023 to provide an opportunity for local people to experience the sport.

The club has four tournament-quality tables at the hall, with a further table located in Ticklerton Village Hall, which is used for league matches.

The club currently runs two sessions per week and caters for all ages and abilities. These are on Thursday evenings from 6 to 8pm and Saturday mornings from 9.30am to 12 noon.

At the time of writing there is one team playing in Division 1 of the Shrewsbury and District Table Tennis League, but it is hoped that a second team will be entered for the start of next season.

The club is committed to supporting the local area, providing a welcoming and friendly environment and making table tennis accessible to all ages and abilities.

For younger and new players, the club offers a progressive coaching pathway with players starting in beginners' sessions. These sessions are designed to be more fun and enjoyable and take place on Thursdays from 6 to 8pm. From there they will be able to develop their skills with coaching from the senior players.

Senior players will have the opportunity to play against experienced players and to play in the local league if they wish. For those players who just want to play for fun and not competitively, there is no pressure to play in the league!

Church Stretton Table Tennis Club is affiliated to YOUTTTCOACH and employs a professional coach who provides weekly one-to-one coaching at Ticklerton Village Hall.



The club welcomes new players of all ages and abilities, whether it be for a casual game at one of our open sessions, taking part in more competitive matches, or simply trying the game for the first time.

Table tennis is entertaining, fun, fast and also has great health benefits. It can be enjoyed by people of all ages and fitness levels, and regular play improves reflexes, hand-eye coordination and balance, while toning and strengthening the core muscles of the upper and lower body. The sport is great for working up a sweat and increasing your heart rate, helping to keep your heart strong and healthy. As well as being a good cardiovascular exercise, it is also a great aerobic workout.

If you are interested in getting involved, or fancy coming along for a taster session, please get in touch!

The club's website is [churchstrettontabletennisclub.org.uk](http://churchstrettontabletennisclub.org.uk) and the club can be contacted at [churchstrettontabletennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:churchstrettontabletennisclub@gmail.com).

# Bridgemaster Series



A continuation from December's article where you can use Stayman with a weak hand. This 2nd part considers: a weak hand containing 5-4 in the major suits.

If you are weak and wish to play in one of your majors at the 2-level, you can bid 2♣ (Stayman) and if opener bids 2♦ (denying a 4-card major), you now bid your 5-card suit. Opener **must** now pass. For example:

♠ K6      ♠ QJ1073  
♥ K73      ♥ QJ86  
♦ K964     ♦ 5  
♣ K973     ♣ 743

West opens a Weak NT (12-14 HCPs), East bids 2♣ and follows up with 2♠ if partner bids 2♦ (this bid is to **play**). 2♠ does stand a good chance of success, but 1NT is far from being a good contract. And if opener is kind enough to bid a major, you pass and expect a very good result.

**Example 1: a weak hand with 5-4 in the majors – that can use Stayman:**

♠ 107  
♥ 75  
♦ K10854  
♣ A643

♠ AQ2  
♥ K62  
♦ A763  
♣ 952

♠ 96543  
♥ AQ43  
♦ 92  
♣ 87

♠ KJ8  
♥ J1098  
♦ QJ  
♣ KQJ10

W	N	E	S
1NT		2♣*	
2♦*		2♠	
Pass			

2♣ is Stayman, asking for a 4-card major, and 2♦ denies one. 2♠ is a sign off. The obvious implication of this sequence is that East has four hearts as well as five spades.

South starts with three rounds of clubs. Plan the play?

Declarer ruffs, finesses ♠Q, cashes ♠A and leaves the last trump out because it is a winner. Now he cashes ♥K, A and Q and ruffs his losing heart in dummy. Declarer makes nine tricks. Even with poor distribution in the West hand, the contract is a good one.

**Example 2: of a weak hand with 5-4 in the majors – that can use Stayman:**

♠ KQJ  
♥ KQ3  
♦ J963  
♣ J108

♠ 10632  
♥ J10987  
♦ 42  
♣ 93

♠ 854  
♥ 52  
♦ AKQ5  
♣ A764

♠ A97  
♥ A64  
♦ 1087  
♣ KQ52

W	N	E	S
		1NT	
2♣*		2♦*	
2♥		Pass	

East opens 1NT, showing 12-14 points. West decides his/her hand is useless in NTs and might be doubled so decides he/she wants to play in a major (♠s if a 4-4 fit is found or otherwise ♥s) so Stayman is used. Once East denies a 4-card major East subsides in 2♥.

Lead = ♠K

North starts with ♠K, top of a sequence, and the defenders may take three spade tricks – poor play setting up a ♠ trick for Declarer, but difficult to resist taking these tricks. Then North switches to ♣J.

Plan the play?

Declarer cannot possibly make 2♥, but he can limit the damage by winning ♣A and playing ♦A K Q, discarding a club. Now Declarer plays on trumps. If the defence cash their three trump tricks Declarer will win two heart tricks plus that 13th spade.

Please note that although East/West go 1 off in their 2♥ contract, North/South can easily make 3NT.





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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](http://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](http://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](mailto:office@strettonparish.org.uk)



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

Website: [www.churchstretton-methodistchurch.org.uk](http://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](mailto:csqm@gorswen.co.uk)

### Sundays

10.30am Meetings for Worship in the Silvester Horne Committee Room; Children on 3rd 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:urcchurchstretton@gmail.com)

Church and Hall bookings: 722390

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

Allotment Gardens Association	Ben Warren	07779 437871	greenhillsallotments@gmail.com
All Stretton Amateur Dramatics Society			allstrettondrama@outlook.com
All Stretton Village Hall			www.allstrettonvillagehall.org.uk
All Stretton History Society	allstrettonvillagehall@gmail.com		janegra@waitrose.com
All Stretton Village Society	Ruth Grafton	723187	carolinecrump68@icloud.com
Alzheimers Carers' Support (Mayfair)	Caroline Crump	723283	[Monthly, 2nd Friday, 2.00pm] www.mayfaircentre.org
Amnesty, Church Stretton Group	Jackie Pennington	722077	
Ancient Greek Study Group	Barbara Parnell	720040	
Archers: Bowmen of Caradoc	David Langslow	723538	stretlang@gmail.com
Archers, Long Mynd	Ros Healy		Roshealy1@gmail.com
Army Cadet Force	Sue Williamson	722767	sue@chelmickforge.co.uk
ArtsAlive (Church Stretton)	Lt Wheelden	01743 231779	info.shropshireac@rfca.org.uk
Arts Festival, Church Stretton & South Shropshire	Michael Walker	720132	fontenay1@btinternet.com
Badminton Club (Monday 8-10pm)		07763 985707	info@strettonfestival.org.uk
Badminton Club (Junior and Adult, Wednesday)	James Kirkwood	07979 474326	home@jameskirkwood.co.uk
Beacon (Activities and Care at Mayfair)	Alan Fox	725588	alandavidfox@live.co.uk
Books (Mayfair/Health & Wellbeing Centre)	Joy King	722077	(Mayfair) www.mayfaircentre.org.uk
Bowling Club, Church Stretton Probus	Sue Hird	724235	smhird@btinternet.com
Bowling Club, Indoor	Glyn Morgan	722388	crocrus2@tiscali.co.uk
Bowling Club, Ladies'	Alan Mileson	723999	amileson@lineone.net
Breathing Space (Singing for health and wellbeing)	Lucy Taylor	720115	
Bridge Club (Thursday 1-5pm, All Stretton Vlge Hall)	Kate Buttolph	720358	kate@playonperformingarts.co.uk
Bridleways Association, Long Mynd and District	Maxine Lainchbury	07971 191664	www.bridgewebs.com/churchstretton
Brownies, Church Stretton	Lynn Townsend	722667	
Buddhist group (SGI)	Judy Russell	724056	davejudy1@googlemail.com
Busy Bees Preschool	Jane Edwards	07859 920797	
Camera Club, Long Mynd	Church Stretton School	722209	
Cancer Research UK	Amanda Page		secretary@longmyndcameraclub.co.uk
Cancer Support Group, Stretton	Sue Toghil	722713	susantoghil@outlook.com
Chamber of Trade, Church Stretton	Lesley McIntyre	723427	
Chess Club, Church Stretton	Stuart Wright	722237	
Choral Society, Stretton	Tom Williamson	722767	tswilliamson337@gmail.com
Churches Together	Mark Tocknell	722969	strettonchoral@gmail.com; www.strettonchoral.org.uk
Citizens Advice Bureau	Canon Rosamund Seal	07925 969821	rosamund.seal@gmail.com
Climate Care, Stretton			at the Library, by appointment only: 0808 278 7894
Country Market (ex WI)			or (01694) 731274
Credit Union	David Matthews	07528 493181	(Mayfair) [Wednesdays] www.mayfaircentre.org.uk
Cricket Club, Church Stretton	Ann Lloyd	07889 143057	churchstrettoncricketclub@gmail.com
Croquet Club	c/o Mayfair	722077	cscroquet@gmail.com; croquet-websites.org.uk/churchstretton
Cub Scouts, Longmynd (Tuesday Pack)	Rob Whittall	07967 571044	adelemstyles@gmail.com
Cub Scouts, Longmynd (Wednesday Pack)	Joe Manifold	01588 660534	aspurling@btinternet.com
Cycle Group, Stretton Steadies	Adele Parker	07742 718691	strettonsteadies@gmail.com
Darts, Church Stretton and District League	Andrew Spurling	723429	verddavies72@gmail.com
Dementia Carers' Support	Clive & Fiona Hunt		
Dominoes, Church Stretton and District League	Mark Davies (Verd)	07588 517955	
Explorer Scouts	Emma Wilde	01743 341800	
Extend (Gentle Exercise) Mayfair	Martin Salisbury	723253	angiewalshaw@hotmail.com
Fitness Instructor	Angie Walshaw	723477	[Thursday mornings] www.mayfaircentre.org.uk
Fitness for the Young at Heart	Nicola Daniels	722077	pamallsop@churchway.plus.com
Flicks in the Sticks (All Stretton)	Pam Allsop	723899	pamallsop@churchway.plus.com
Flicks in the Sticks (Church Stretton)	Pam Allsop	723899	terri@artsalive.co.uk
Football Club, Church Stretton Town	Kate Latchford	723378	aahall2002@yahoo.co.uk
Football Club, Magpies (5-16 years old)	Andrew Hall	07508 072206	njcole66@btinternet.com.
Footpath maintenance volunteers (Parish paths Partnership)	Nick Cole	07778 908012	enquiries@csmf.co.uk
Friends of Church Stretton Library	Tim Parker	07816 686139	tim.parker111@gmail.com
Gardening Club, Acton Scott	Sheila Davies	07493 659514	www.strettonlibraryfriends.org.uk
Gardening Club, Church Stretton & District	Terra Clegg	723455	actonsscottgc@gmail.com
Girlguiding, Church Stretton District (general)	Julia Midgley	07960 826413	
Gliding, Midlands Gliding Club Ltd	Sophie Burgoyne	07527 033510	soph.burgoyne@gmail.com
Golf Club	Office	01588 650206	office@midlandgliding.club
Good Neighbours Care Group	James Townsend	722281	secretary@churchstrettongolfclub.co.uk
Guides, Church Stretton	Office	724242	churchstrettongoodneighbours.org.uk
Harmony In The Hills	Jane Hurst	771622	janehurst77@hotmail.co.uk
Hockey Club, Stretton Juniors (5-15 years old)	Kate Buttolph	07974 382989	kate@playonperformingarts.co.uk
Hope Bowdler Hand Bell Ringers	Martin Watts	723543	mlwatts@yahoo.co.uk
Hope Bowdler Village Hall	Ruth Jenkins	724919	
Horse Show, Church Stretton	Evelyn Dapling	723648	
Interfaith Forum, South Shropshire	Sarah Davies	771370	daviesblackhurst@aol.com
Judo, Junior	Canon Noel Beattie	725530	
Karate Club	Roger Houston	01743 358415	RogerHoustonJudo@aol.com
Keep Fit, Stretton	Dave Shephard	724212	daveshepard1379@gmail.com
Languages Group	Lisa Ryan	751369	
Leebotwood Village Hall	David Langslow	723538	stretlang@gmail.com
Leisure Centre, Church Stretton	Colin Bore	07970 523591	cbore@btinternet.com
Lesbian & Bisexual Women, Border Women Social Group	Sue Wells	720051	info@teme-leisure.co.uk
Line Dancing			borderwomen.net
Lions Club, Middle Marches	Dave Bishop	07527 264846	southerncrossldc@gmail.com
Little Stretton Village Society	Brian Dawson	01584 831508	thefirs38@btinternet.com
Local History Group	Linda Moores	720130	lindatyke@hotmail.com
Long Mynd Adventure Camp	Madeline Haigh	723627	csalhg@outlook.com
Martial Arts, Freestyle	Peter Jenkins	724919	
Masonic Lodge (Caer Caradoc)	Phil Hatton	07852 961675	freestylmartiaarts.com/stretton
Masonic Lodge (Longmynd)	Charlie Pearson	07966 138010	secretary@caerocaradocclodge.org.uk
Mayfair Health Walks	Charles Hennell	01584 856716	charles@hennell.net; www.longmyndlodge.org.uk
MAYSI Project (Mayfair Supporting Independence)	John Goyne	723914	johngoyn@btinternet.com
More Singers, The	Janet Williams/Shaz Malins	722077	maysi@mayfaircentre.org.uk
Mothers' Union, Church Stretton	Alistair Auld	07981 399482	
Music: Strettons Classical Music Group	Diana Coles	723548	
Netball Club, Flames	Barbara Hall	724578	
Netball Club, Stretton Scarlett's			hello@flamesnetball.co.uk; www.flamesnetball.co.uk
Ornithological Society, Stretton Branch	Amy	07837 596297	
Parkinson's UK	David John	724772	poolbrook12@gmail.com
Photography, Marches Independent	Hilary Bowman	07823 523696	hjb Bowman@live.com
Pickleball Club	Geoff Taylor	723301	gtaylor.photo@btinternet.com
Plates (exercise)	Carol	07803 329106	
Play On Performing Arts	Sandra Liebrecht	781660	selenaorme@yahoo.co.uk
	Kate Buttolph	07974 382989	kate@playonperformingarts.co.uk

Pride of Place, Church Stretton	Trevor Halsey		trevorhalsey@btinternet.com
Probus, Strettondale	Graham Heath	07539 329832	heath@knollcrest.co.uk
Rail User's Association, Church Stretton	Alison Bradley	722138	strettonrailusers.org.uk
Radio Control Model Club, Church Stretton	Tim Goodwin	720392	tmgdown@gmail.com
RAF Roundel Club	John L Davies	724703	
Rainbows, Church Stretton	Judy Russell	724056	davejudy1@googlemail.com
Ramblers, The South Shropshire Group	Darren	07837 021138	
Rangers (Girl Guides), Church Stretton	Amy Burgoyne	07508 863775	amyburgoyne2001@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	Chris Smith	07905 671945	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 Lendon	01743 369787	jolendon@hotmail.co.uk
Tennis Club	Claire Hatfield	720123	mail@strataassociates.co.uk
Theatre & Concert Group, Stretton	Jenny or Graham Heath	722216	heath@knollcrest.co.uk; strettontheatreandconcert.net
Thursday Lunch Club (Ley Gardens)	Margaret Hamer	722407	or Dawn Longmore 722328
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	
(Vacancy)		Nicola Carter	07581 300498	Colin Carson	722784
Ryan Foulkes	07528 372471	John Luck	725596	Julie Lawton	723750
Charlie Jones	07971 523125	Bob Welch	722998	<b>All Stretton Ward</b>	
Mark Morris	722741	(Vacancy)		Andy Munro (Mayor)	725554
Andrew Williams	07577 516453			Helen Stowell	07879 848168

### Shropshire (Unitary) Councillors for the Area

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

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

**StrettonDale Local Joint Committee** (Details pending)

### Responsibilities for Public Services

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

### Some useful numbers

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

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

**Police** - Non emergency only 101, Emergency 999  
Church Stretton Safer Neighbourhood Team: Sergeant Jenni Price; Constable Elliot Maslen: 07814 944270  
Team contact: 101 ext 7704505 or cscsa.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

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## Accountants and Bookkeeping

James, Holyoak & Parker ..... 16  
RLW Accountants ..... 16

## Architects, Town Planning

Batch Valley Design ..... 46  
Christopher Roscoe Assocs ..... 46  
Strata Associates ..... 46

## Bathrooms

see Kitchens, Bathrooms

## Beauty, Slimming

see Hairdressers, Health, Beauty

## Bed & Breakfast, Self Catering

see Hotels, B&B, Self Catering

## Bookshop

Books by Moonlight ..... 10  
Burway Books ..... 10

## Builders, Plant & Equipment

A J Lewis-Price ..... 25  
A Morgan ..... 32  
A.2.Z Construction ..... 25  
EMT Drives ..... 29  
Homden Excavations ..... 2  
Joe Drury ..... 25  
K J Morris ..... 29  
Keith George ..... 25  
Mark Terry ..... 32  
Mike Barre Carpentry ..... 32  
Paul Tinsley ..... 32  
Richard Sherratt Builders ..... 29  
SMM ..... 29  
Telford Building Contractors ..... 32

## Cafés

see Restaurants, Cafés, Pubs

## Cards and Gifts

Entertaining Elephants ..... 6  
Stretton Print & Supplies ..... 50

## Care - Homes and At Home

Bluebird Care ..... 60

## Carpenters & Joiners

A J Lewis-Price ..... 25  
Keith George ..... 25  
Mark Terry ..... 32  
Mike Barre Carpentry ..... 32  
Mike Webster ..... 25  
Paul Forrester ..... 29

## Carpets

Abbey Carpets ..... 6

## Chiropodists

Caroline Crump ..... 37

## Cleaning and House Care

Chris Sansom Pest Control ..... 10  
Cleanrite Services ..... 6  
Gordon Ribbons ..... 10  
In Depth Cleaning ..... 10  
Shaw Clean ..... 6  
Shropshire Sweep ..... 6  
Stanton Sweeps ..... 6

## Clock & Watch Repair

Adrian Donnelly Clock Repairs. 10

## Clothes

Entertaining Elephants ..... 6

## Coaches

Caradoc Coaches ..... 43

## Community Centre

Mayfair ..... 60

## Computing, Graphic and Web Design

Jason Gough ..... 21  
Nic Sansom ..... 21  
Stretton Internet ..... 21  
SWS Broadband ..... 21  
Webbex Technical Services ..... 21

## Decorators

see Painters, Decorators

## DIY & Hardware

Cyril Bason Hardware ..... 25  
Mynd DIY ..... 25

## Domestic Appliances & Repairs

Continental Fireplaces ..... 41  
Shropshire Stove Care ..... 41

## Electrical Services, Lighting

AMP Electrical ..... 49  
Boxall's Electrician ..... 49  
Charles Ephraim ..... 49  
M C Electrical ..... 49  
Stephen Morgan ..... 49

## Estate Agents

Bluestone ..... 15  
Miller Evans ..... 15  
Samuel Wood ..... 15  
Wrights Estate Agents ..... 15

## Event Venues

Eaton Manor ..... 43

## Financial Services & Insurance

Caleb Roberts ..... 16  
Philippa Gee Wealth Mngment. 16  
Portland Financial Planning ..... 16  
Wrights Yorkshire Building Soc. 16

## Florist

John R Thomas ..... 10  
Shropshire Flower Company ..... 6

## Food, Delicatessen

Entertaining Elephants ..... 6  
Saxtons Deli ..... 6

## Funeral Arrangements

A S Morris and Son ..... 60

## Garage Services

Burway Garage ..... 43  
Central Garage ..... 43  
MOT Clinic ..... 43

## Garden Design, Services, Supplies

Ben Carter Landscaping ..... 2  
Homden Excavations ..... 2  
Integral Gardens ..... 2  
John Stephens Services ..... 2  
Mike Russell Designs ..... 2  
Paul Forrester ..... 29  
Paul Tinsley ..... 32  
Shropshire Lawn Co ..... 2  
Tree Kind ..... 2  
Unique Landscapes ..... 2

## Garden Machinery

Newington Garage ..... 43

## Hairdressers, Health, Beauty

Anthony's Hair Studio ..... 50  
Health & Beauty Clinic ..... 37  
Hilltop Nail Co ..... 50  
Shampers ..... 50

## Health, Therapies

see also Chiroprodists & Physiotherapists  
Birch Tree Reflexology ..... 37  
Bodylogic Mobile Massage ..... 37  
Cate Gowlett ..... 37  
Mayfair ..... 60  
Shropshire Acupuncture ..... 37

## Hobbies

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Burway Books ..... 10  
Philip Hooper ..... 6  
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## Home & Garden

Caradoc Charcoal ..... 41  
The Prolific Crafter ..... 6

## Home Furnishings

Abbey Carpets ..... 6  
Louise Watney ..... 10

## Hotels, B&B and Self Catering

Eaton Manor ..... 43  
Mynd House ..... 43  
Willowbatch ..... 43

## Insurance

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## Kitchens, Bathrooms

A J Lewis-Price ..... 25  
A.2.Z Construction ..... 25  
County Tiles & Bathrooms ..... 29  
Homefix ..... 49  
Lee Brown ..... 49  
Mark Terry ..... 32  
Paul Forrester ..... 29  
SMM ..... 29

## Logs & Charcoal

Caradoc Charcoal ..... 41

## Mobility

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## Outdoor Clothing and Equipment

The Outdoor Depot ..... 21

## Painters & Decorators

Andrew Webster ..... 41  
D R Tipton Painter & Decorator 41  
DWS Property Services ..... 41  
E B Jones ..... 41  
G H Jones & Son ..... 41  
Paul Forrester ..... 29

## Pest Control

Chris Sansom Pest Control ..... 10

## Pet Food and Pet Care

John R Thomas ..... 10

## Physiotherapists

Chris Turner ..... 37  
Marion Murdoch ..... 37  
Physio Pilates ..... 37

## Piano Tuner and Repairs

Philip Hooper ..... 6

## Plumbers, Heating

Gary Paris ..... 49  
Homefix ..... 49  
J Morris ..... 46  
Lee Brown ..... 49  
Pete Carroll ..... 46  
Peter Floyd ..... 49  
SMM ..... 29  
Whitfield Plumbing ..... 46  
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## Printing, Copying, Photo Products

Craven Design & Print ..... 50  
Stretton Print & Supplies ..... 50

## Removals

Homemaster Relocations ..... 50

## Restaurants, Cafés, Pubs

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Royal Oak, Cardington ..... 60

## Skip Hire

John Stephens Services ..... 2

## Solicitors

PCB Solicitors ..... 32

## Storage

Churton Self-Storage ..... 50  
Homemaster Relocations ..... 50

## Sweep

Shropshire Sweep ..... 6  
Stanton Sweeps ..... 6

## Taxi

Church Stretton Taxi ..... 43

## Tree Surgery

Tree Kind ..... 2

## Watches, Batteries, Straps

The Outdoor Depot ..... 21

## Windows

A Morgan ..... 32  
Cartwright Glazing & Maintenance ..... 29

## Window Cleaning

Handyman Services ..... 6

# What's On in the Strettons in February

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 new website: [www.strettonfocus.co.uk](http://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](mailto:editor@strettonfocus.co.uk)

## WEEKLY EVENTS/MEETINGS:

### Babies and Toddlers Group

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

### Badminton Club

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

### Balance/Strength: Be Strong Be Steady

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

### Board Game Afternoon

A free, relaxed afternoon with a wide selection of board games to choose from. Every **Monday** 2-4pm Mayfair Lunch Hub

### 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](http://www.bridgewebs.com/churchstretton) Every **Thursday** 1-5pm All Stretton VH

### Chess Club, CS

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

### Christian Meditation (online via Zoom)

We are a non-denominational group welcoming everyone. Christian Meditation is a modern name for a form of contemplative prayer found in early Christian monastic communities and in other major faith traditions. More information from John Dennison: [1johndennison@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:janice@hicking.co.uk) Every **Friday** 2pm URC Vestry

### Craft Café at Mayfair

A free group for anyone to drop in, try different crafts, and meet new people. No need to book. Call Mayfair for more info. Every **Wednesday** 10am-12.30pm Mayfair Art Room

### 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](mailto:info@coolmovesdance.co.uk), [www.coolmovesdance.co.uk](http://www.coolmovesdance.co.uk) Every **Monday** 7.30pm beginners 8.30pm intermediates SHI

### Dancing: Scottish

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

### Energy Advice from Stretton Climate Care

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

### Family History Research

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

### Football: CS Football Club

The team plays in the Salop Leisure Football League. Home games are played at Russell's Meadow and kick-off is 2pm. Home fixtures in Feb: 3rd February Haughmond 2pm Russell's Meadow

### Football: Three Touch Passing

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

### Handbell Ringers, Hope Bowdler

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

### Knit & Natter Group at Ley Gardens

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

### LEGO Club at CS Library

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

### Music: Stretton Strummers Ukulele Group

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

### Junior Netball Club, Flames

We have spaces for players in school years 4-6. Training is on **Fridays** 5.30-6.30pm (term time only, September – April) at CS Leisure Centre. We also cater for school years 7-13 and we are always looking for potential new players. Training sessions run between 6.30-7.30pm and 7.30-9pm, depending on age group. **Fridays** in term time, at CS Leisure Centre.

*Continued overleaf...*

## What's On continued

### 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. £5 per hour.  
Contact Carol: 07803 329106  
Every **Monday**  
7-8pm (or 9pm) CS Leisure Centre

### Rhyme Time

Fun, songs, stories and rhymes for children under 5 years of age.  
Booking may be required.  
Every **Tuesday**  
10.30-11am CS Library

### Singing: Breathing Space Singing Groups

Singing for health and wellbeing.  
1. Dementia-friendly group – open to people with care needs plus their carer (carer comes free). 1.30-2.30pm  
2. Wellbeing group – supporting stress relief and chronic conditions. 3-4.15pm  
Fees per session: £5 trial session, £10 thereafter or £7.50 (block booking rate).  
Contact Kate: 720358 or 07974 382989 or kate@playonperformingarts.co.uk  
Every **Wednesday** at Mayfair.

### Singing: Harmony In The Hills

Stretton's Natural Voice community choir, welcoming all who would love to sing. People who have lost confidence or have been told they can't sing are especially valued.  
Contact Kate: 07974 382989 or kate@playonperformingarts.co.uk  
Every **Thursday**  
7.30-9pm Mayfair Activity Room

### Singing: Stretton Choral Society Rehearsals

New members welcomed. No need to book in or audition – just arrive at about 7.20pm 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

### Table Tennis Club, CS

Info from Chris: 07905 671945  
Every **Thursday** (All abilities, beginners welcome) 6-8pm SHI  
Every **Saturday** (Intermediate level and above) 9.30am-12noon SHI

### Tai Chi with Marc

Low impact, gentle exercise that helps build strength, co-ordination 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 £9. Everyone welcome.  
Contact Lin Brown 781634 or Good Neighbours 724242  
Every **Thursday**  
12noon Ley Gardens, Lawley Close, SY6 6GA

### Whist Drives at Westhope

Come and join our friendly band of whist players for a light hearted, sociable evening. £3 entry.  
All abilities welcome.  
Every **Monday**  
7.15pm Westhope VH, SY7 9JL

### Yoga at Mayfair

With Liz Curtis. £7.50 per session (cheaper block booking price available). Small class for all levels of experience. Beginners welcome. Includes floor work. Contact Mayfair: 722077  
Every **Monday**  
5.15-6.45pm Mayfair

### Chair Yoga at Mayfair with Mary

For anyone who is unable to practise yoga on a floor mat. Gentle exercise and relaxation in a seated position or standing with a chair for support.  
Every **Wednesday**  
10.30-11.45am Mayfair

### Yoga at Westhope with Sue Pugh

Experienced tutor. Numbers are limited.  
Enquiries: 07860 447397  
Every **Wednesday**  
4.15-5.15pm Westhope VH, SY7 9JL

### Yoga for Sustainable Happiness

Deeply relaxing classes. Beginners welcome.  
Contact Grace: 07903 054577 or gongs@gracessandels.com  
£8 per class for block bookings.  
**Tuesdays:** 7-8.30pm Rushbury VH, Wall under Heywood (4 Jan-22 Feb)  
**Thursdays:** 10-11.30am URC (9 Jan-27 Feb)

### 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

### Saturday Morning 'Winter Warmer'

You'll find a warm welcome, hot drink, and a bacon butty. Drop by for ten minutes or stay for the whole morning. There will also be games, jigsaws, and the daily papers to read. All welcome.  
Available until March  
10am-12noon St Laurence's



# What's On continued

## GENERAL DIARY:

### 1 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 0808 278 7894 (Mon-Fri 10am-4pm) or textphone 18001 0800 144 8884 10am-12noon CS Library

#### Westhope Clover Club

A friendly, social group for the over 60s, meeting on the 1st Thursday of the month with a varied programme of events in the hall and occasional outings. All welcome to come along. Enquiries to Kathleen 01584 841254. 2.30pm Westhope Village Hall

### 2 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. 1st Friday of the month. 10am-12noon Mayfair

#### u3a Reading Group 1

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

#### National Theatre Live – *Dear England*

A new play by James Graham, directed by Rupert Goold. Gareth Southgate has brought hope back to the England squad but with the nation's expectations upon his shoulders, what happens when football doesn't come home? Adults £15, U18s £10, refreshments available (donations only). 7pm Mayfair

### 3 SATURDAY

#### Knit, Crochet and Craft Group

First Saturday of the month. Bring a project to work on in a welcoming, relaxed, supportive environment. No need to book. This will be a drop-in group. All skill levels welcome. 11am-1pm CS Library

#### 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 MONDAY

#### u3a Art History Group

2-4pm CS Library

#### Royal British Legion 'Drink & Chat' Hour

If you are ex Service or have a connection to the Services and would like to join us, do come along and say hello. Non-RBL members welcome. 5.30-6.30pm King's Arms, SY6 6BY

### 6 TUESDAY

#### Stretton Stitchers

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

### 7 WEDNESDAY

#### C.A.M.E.O. Meeting

Philip and Sue Lees: Training our new guide dog. 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

### 8 THURSDAY

#### Monthly Drop-In Council Surgery

With Councillor Hilary Luff. 2nd Thursday of the month. 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

#### Acton Scott Garden Club

Our guest speaker is Head Gardener of The Weir in Hereford (NT), who will discuss gardening in host locations. £5 to non-members (which includes refreshments). A warm welcome awaits you. 7.30pm Acton Scott VH

#### Marmaladies CS WI

Resolutions and pizza: the WI short-listed resolutions to be discussed, before voting on our preferred option. A lively debate, accompanied by delicious pizza! We welcome new members to join us for creative, informative and discussion sessions. marmaladieswi@gmail.com 7.30pm Mayfair

### 9 FRIDAY – 8 MARCH

#### Exhibition: Rosemary Hart

Paintings by local artist Rosemary will be on display in the exhibition space, until Friday 8th March During opening hours CS Library

### 9 FRIDAY

#### u3a Writers Group 1

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

### 10 SATURDAY

#### Stretton Climate Care Repair Café

Please contact us to book in your item, giving details and a photo if possible: info@strettonclimatecare.org.uk Walk-ins accepted after 11am. 10am-12noon Scout Hut

#### CS Ballroom & Sequence Dance Club

8pm (please see Sat 3rd for details)

### 11 SUNDAY

#### The Royal Ballet: *Manon*

RT: 195 minutes (including 2 intervals) Adults £15, u18s £10, refreshments available (donations only). 2pm Mayfair

### 12 MONDAY (HALF-TERM WEEK)

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

### 13 TUESDAY

#### Scrappies Half-Term Craft Workshop

Children should be over five, and under 7s must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. A maximum of 8 children per session. Cost £3.50 per child. Booking essential: 01694 328508 10am-12noon Scrappies, Beaumont Road

#### u3a Writers Group 2

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

*Continued overleaf..*

# What's On continued

## Flicks in the Sticks Acton Scott

*Oppenheimer* (2023)  
Cert: 15 RT: 3 hours  
Tickets: £5 adult, £3 child.  
Ample parking and level access  
Enquiries: 781260  
Please note earlier start.  
7pm Acton Scott VH

## 14 WEDNESDAY

### CS Dementia Friends Memory Café

Free event for all those living with dementia and their carers/loved ones. Each month has a different theme, so join us for chat, some fun, some reminiscing and of course tea and cake! No need to book.  
1-3pm at CS Library

## Flicks in the Sticks: Hope Bowdler

*Barbie* (2023)  
Cert: 12a RT: 1 hr 54 mins  
Admission: adults £5, children £2.50  
Pay on the door. It's Valentines Day! Pink fizz will be on sale in the interval.  
Enquiries: 721376  
7.30pm Hope Bowdler VH

## 15 THURSDAY – 17 SATURDAY

### All Stretton Panto: *Peter Pan-to*

Tickets: Adults £10, children (u16) £5, available from Vine & Co, Sandford Ave, or [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk) or Alison Hartshorne: 723060  
Doors open 30 mins before show time.  
7.30pm Thursday and Friday  
2pm matinee Saturday

## 15 THURSDAY

### Citizens Advice at CS Library

10am (see Thurs 1st for details)

## Family Film at Mayfair

Adults £3, Children £2, free drinks provided and refreshments available to purchase.  
1.30pm Mayfair

## Flicks in the Sticks Church Stretton

*Alleluiah*  
Cert: 12a; RT: 1 hr 39 mins  
Admission: adults £5, under 18s £3  
Interval Tea/Coffee included in price; choc ices also available.  
Enquiries: 07508 072206  
7.30pm SHI

## 16 FRIDAY

### Live Music at SHI: Harp & a Monkey

We welcome back this award-winning folk and storytelling trio.  
Tickets £12 adult, £6, 18 and under, available online [silvesterhorneevents.co.uk](http://silvesterhorneevents.co.uk) or from CS Town Council Office or the Outdoor Depot, Sandford Ave.  
More information from 720132  
7.30pm SHI

## 17 SATURDAY

### CS Ballroom & Sequence Dance Club

8pm (please see Sat 3rd for details)

## 19 MONDAY

### HSBC Bank Local Team Support

Helping with products and services, online and mobile banking, etc  
10am-1pm HWBC

### CS Area Local History Group (CSALHG)

'Mary Webb and her Shropshire landscape' by Gordon Dickins of the Mary Webb Society. 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

## 20 TUESDAY

### Stretton Stitchers

10am (please see Tues 6th for details)

### Engaging Issues Talk

With Dr Jan Blain of the University of Chester: 'Scams and scammers'  
To find out more or see full details of this season of talks, visit our website: [www.engagingissues.org.uk](http://www.engagingissues.org.uk)  
We ask for a £3 donation per talk.  
7.30pm URC

## 21 WEDNESDAY

### Dementia Awareness Session

Short, thought-provoking sessions, intended to introduce the wider public to dementia, explain how it can affect an individual and what you can do to help people living with dementia in our community. Sessions are free.

To reserve a place, contact: [csdementiafriends@gmail.com](mailto:csdementiafriends@gmail.com)  
10.30-11.30am CS Library

## 23 FRIDAY

### u3a Writers Group 1

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

### National Theatre Live: *Vanya*

Adults £15, u18s £10, refreshments available (donations only).  
Adapted by Simon Stephens, after Anton Chekhov, directed by Sam Yates  
7pm Mayfair

### All Stretton Women's Institute

Knock 'em for six – an evening of Kurling.  
Email: [allstrettonwi@gmail.com](mailto:allstrettonwi@gmail.com)  
7.30pm All Stretton VH

## 24 SATURDAY

### Saturday Morning Music

Instead of solos or chamber music you will be treated to a narration of *Babar the Elephant* by Gay Walker, with music by Poulenc. Also with Paul Mocroft and Richard Walker.  
Concerts are free of charge, normally last just under an hour, and a retiring collection is taken from which donations are made to a local charity.  
10.15am Methodist Church

### CS Ballroom & Sequence Dance Club

8pm (please see Sat 3rd for details)

## 26 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 12th for details)

### Shropshire Ornithological Soc. CS Branch

Andrew Fusek Peters: 'Birds, butterflies and beyond' Refreshments provided. Admission is £3 for non-members.  
All welcome.  
7.30pm Methodist Church Hall

## 27 TUESDAY

### CS Gardening Club Indoor Meeting

Jack Wilgoss will be speaking on the restoration of the Wild Goose nursery and walled garden at Munslow.  
2pm SHI

### u3a Writers Group 2

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

### SACWG Annual Public Meeting

Please see main article for details of the agenda. Refreshments with home-made cakes will be available  
7.15pm All Stretton VH


# Occasional Advertisements

Occasional adverts are not indexed

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## WHAT'S ON IN EARLY MARCH

### 1 FRIDAY

**Women's World Day of Prayer**  
This year's service has been written by  
Palestinian women.  
You are all welcome to attend our local  
service, whatever your faith or if you don't  
have one.  
10.30am St Laurence's

## 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.



# MAYFAIR

Run for the community by the community

<b>Support</b> <p>Day services, befriending, creche, digital advice, hot meal delivery, support groups</p>	<b>Signposting</b> <p>Information on local services, support and opportunities, warm welcome venue, community Wi-Fi</p>	<b>Activities</b> <p>Cafe, lunch hub, walks, arts &amp; crafts, dance, exercise, youth clubs, events, theatre screenings, family films</p>
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And much, much more...

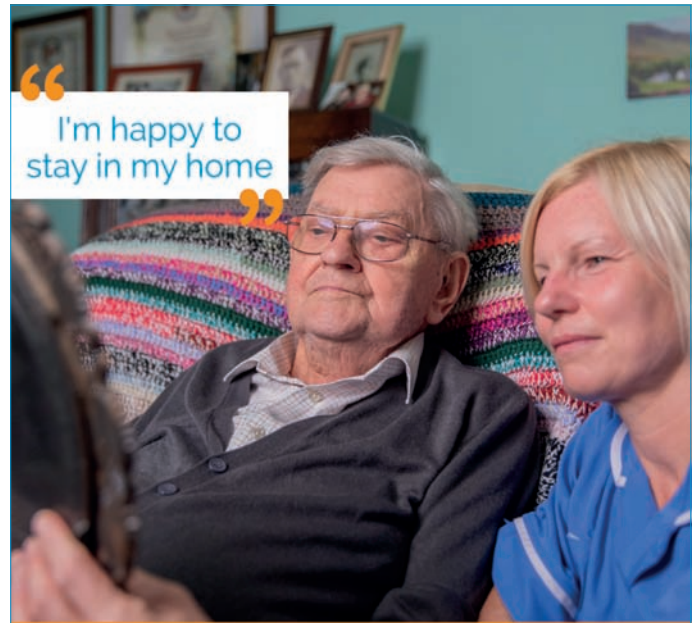
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Easthope Road, Church Stretton, SY6 6BL  
[www.mayfaircentre.org.uk](http://www.mayfaircentre.org.uk)



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**Home**  
 is where the heart is  
*Let's keep it there*



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