



# STRETEWISE

The Village Magazine



IN MEMORY OF THE 946 AMERICAN SERVICEMEN  
WHO DIED IN THE NIGHT OF 27 APRIL 1944 OFF  
THE COAST OF SLAPTON SANDS (G.B.) DURING  
"EXERCISE TIGER" THE REHEARSALS FOR  
THE D-DAY LANDING ON UTAH-BEACH

A LA MEMOIRE DES 946 MILITAIRES AMERICAINS  
QUI ONT ETE TUES DANS LA NUIT  
DU 27 AU 28 AVRIL 1944 DEVANT LA COTE  
DE SLAPTON SANDS (R. U.) PENDANT  
L'ENTRAINEMENT, "EXERCICE TIGRE" EN VUE DU  
DEBARQUEMENT SUR UTAH-BEACH, LE JOUR J.

5 Juin 2012, l'association " Deep Respect "

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# Exercise Tiger

## 80th Anniversary



### EXERCISE TIGER 80TH ANNIVERSARY FILM

'Exercise Tiger 80th Anniversary Weekend'

The Flavel presents extracts from the films

'Dartmouth at War' (by kind permission of Dartmouth Museum)

and 'Evacuation' (by kind permission of Ian Phillips).

Fascinating footage of archive film from the evacuation of the villages around Slapton Sands and the American preparation for the D-Day Landings.

The films last an hour and are followed by a glass of wine or soft drink (included in the ticket price) afterwards and a chance to speak to others about the films and their significance.

Friday 26 April 5.30pm Tickets £14.

### 80TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

With the Celtic Male Ensemble, Donna Marie Broomfield (soprano), and soloists from BRNC volunteer band.

This concert marks the 80th anniversary of Exercise Tiger, the ill-fated rehearsal at Slapton Sands by American forces practising for the D-Day landings on Utah Beach, Normandy, in June 1944.

Saturday 27 April 7.30pm Tickets £20

### 80th ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL SERVICE

Anniversary memorial service will be held on

Sunday April 28th at 2pm at the Sherman Tank

memorial, conducted by the Royal Tank Regiment Association,

Plymouth Branch. During the Exercise Tiger, 749 servicemen

were killed, while only 197 died during the actual landing on Utah Beach. Though many lost their lives in the exercise, it also prevented the possible bigger loss at the actual landing.



1944 - 2024

# WELCOME TO D-DAY80.UK

This website has been created to organise and commemorate both Exercise Tiger and D-Day for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of these two historic events.

CONTACT US

<https://www.d-day80.uk/>

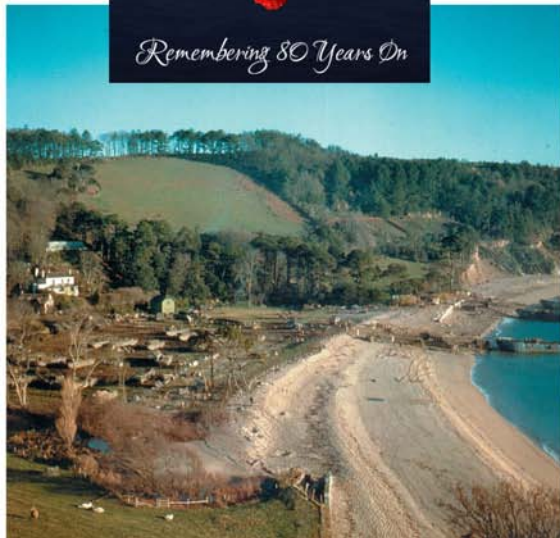


*Remembering 80 Years On*

D-DAY80.UK are currently in the process of planning and populating details of local events taking place in 2024 in Dartmouth and the local areas.

An overview of current events planned can be seen at D-DAY80.UK, however, they will be adding new events and more finite details across the upcoming weeks. Local primary and secondary schools will be invited to participate from Years 4-7, with the opportunity to learn the history of the events of 1944 and engage in either writing a poem or painting and illustrating a scene representative of the time.

The winners will be invited to read or have their poem read at the main service and the best pieces of art will be added to the website. We hope to display some of these in the Flavel on the night of the June 6th as a small exhibition recognising the participation of local schools.



# Strete Chapel



Happy Easter from the fellowship to all in the village!



We are continuing to meet every Sunday at 11am in the chapel building. Since the last edition of Stretewise we have enjoyed Sunday services together with varied speakers and topics as well as a weekly prayer meeting too. If there are any issues you would like prayer support with please let us know.

With Easter approaching we will be taking time to remember the events leading up to the crucifixion and celebrating on Easter Sunday Christ rising from the dead.

**The author C S Lewis states that...**

**'Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.'**

As Christians our faith hinges on Jesus and the events of Easter and if you are someone who is unsure where they stand, please attend one of the services to find out more.



## GOOD FRIDAY

United Bible Conference

**29th March 2024**

Stoke Fleming Village Hall

11am & 2pm (buffet lunch at 12:40)

Speaker: Mr. Chris Spracklen

Please come; we shall value your fellowship.

**'Let us exalt His name together.' Psalm 34 v 3**

## YOUNG SEARCHERS

We continue to meet (term time only) from 5-6pm in the Chapel every Thursday.



Young Searchers is a Christian children's club based on teaching the Bible through stories, games and craft.

**Readers Corner:** The days are getting longer and the nights shorter. Dawn breaks early each day and Spring is finally on its way. Seasonal fatigue from a long-wet Winter can leave us feeling as though it might never end. Yet as one looks around one's garden, there is that pulse of energy, with new beginnings, beautiful flowers and shrubs awakening and there's that feeling of hope and anticipation for warmer times ahead. Countries and cultures around the world have been celebrating the emergence of Spring since ancient time, each partaking in their own rites and rituals. From flower festivals, to scrambled egg parties, water fights to fire rituals, these Spring celebrations inspire one to fully appreciate the richness of this season, and to thank God for the glories of his creation.

Spring is a magical time of the year when cycles of birth and regrowth bring the countryside fully alive. The Canadian Tulip festival held in Ottawa holds the title to be the largest in the world. The festival lasts for ten days and over 100,000 bulbs were gifted to Ottawa in 1945 by the Dutch Royal Family.



It was their gesture of gratitude for keeping their princess and her daughters safe during the war, as well as the role Canadian troops played in the liberation of the Netherlands. Every year the Netherlands keeps the tradition alive by sending bulbs to Ottawa. The gift is known as the Tulip legacy. The Canadian Tulip Festival has been celebrating this spring flower, an international symbol of friendship and peace since 1953. There is a lovely tradition from the Hebrides that the sun dances on Easter morning. Behind this is the belief that the whole of creation is changed by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Not only the human race, but every tree, plant, flower and every creature of the earth, the air and the sea is raised with Christ.

Let us celebrate the joys of creation and especially this season of Spring, and may we rejoice in the risen Lord.

**Jenny Harris**





The Village Hall is available to hire for events, clubs and activities. Book through Danni Brien on 07841 505797

## THE ANNUAL VILLAGE HALL QUIZ SATURDAY, 17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 7.00pm.

The weather was awful, but attendance was really good. As always Jonathan's questions were varied and interesting, although those about Devon left many of us realising we don't know as much about our county as we thought!

The pasties were in the ovens and the baked beans were simmering nicely. We were all prepared for the break when food would be served. HOWEVER, there was a hiccup in the kitchen! Wrong information had been given to the cook resulting in collapsed pasties in the ovens. The quiz continued. People were becoming more and more hungry but still NO FOOD! However, our quick-thinking cook managed to save the day and although, in some cases, there would have been NO prizes for presentation, there was food for all. The Raffle took place – thanks to Derek Darch for helping with that. Everyone seemed to have had a good time and there was only one point difference in the two top quiz teams. Presentation of the prizes followed: the WOODEN SPOON going to the team with the least points and the new STRETE VILLAGE HALL TROPHY to the winners – **The Platters**.



### DID YOU KNOW?

The land on which the hall is built was given to the village in 1948 and the new hall opened in 1951

## **STRETE CRAFT: ALTERNATE THURSDAYS, 2.00-4.00pm**

This has been going now for several sessions since Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> January in the Village Hall and runs every other week. Bring your own work, learn new skills, help to set up a Village Project for Easter, etc. Refreshments will be available and plenty of chat.

## **MONDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 10.00am – 2.00pm**

This day marked the beginning of the National Village Halls Week. The Hall asked for volunteers to help with jobs inside and outside the hall: several people arrived. They worked hard in tidying various areas of the grounds. Inside, windows were cleaned and kitchen cupboards sorted and cleaned. There was a break for tea, coffee and cakes.

**Thank you so much to all who came and did such a great job.**

## **80th Anniversary of Operation Tiger**

weekend we are holding a coffee, cake and film show on the Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> morning. The Film: Dartmouth at War a US Navy film taken during 1943 and 1944 of US troops training in the Dartmouth and South Hams and Exercise Tiger Remembered a special Remembrance Service at sea for those lost on Exercise Tiger 28<sup>th</sup> April 1944

## **VILLAGE DAY:**

### **SATURDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST**

Next planning meeting is on **THURSDAY, 11<sup>th</sup>**

**APRIL, 7.15/7.30pm**

Although August 3<sup>rd</sup> seems a long way away, we need to be planning

**NOW.**

Even if you don't wish to attend planning

meetings, please let. Penny know if you are interested in helping.

**p.g.penhale@hotmail.com**

# **STRETE VILLAGE DAY**

**Strete Village Day Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August**

**12.00 - 16.30**

**Mewstone Paddock Totnes Road Strete TQ6 0RU**

*Your Help is Needed*

Helping by sharing the running of a stall

Helping with parking and gate receipts

Helping to organise children's games

Helping to erect and dismantle marquees

or baking a cake for the Tea Room

**We are also looking for Sponsors and/or offers of Draw Prizes**

The next Strete Village Day planning meeting

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 7.15pm**

at the Strete Village Hall. Everyone welcome.

Or give your contact details to Penny 771005  
email: [p.g.penhale@hotmail.com](mailto:p.g.penhale@hotmail.com)



At the time of writing, the pub is without a full-time chef. This might be sorted by the time Stretewise gets delivered - the team are talking to people and looking at different options. But it is another reminder of how difficult it is to run a village pub. In fact, there is an advert in this Stretewise for a chef as well as a request for more volunteers. If you know of anyone,

please let us know as soon as possible. It can make all the difference.

There are however some exciting guest chef appearances arranged from some of the best local chefs but whether there's food on or not there are loads of reasons to visit the Kings Arms this month...

Ben Handley's Special Pies Night is on Easter Saturday, 30th March. Ben will be making a Dartmoor Venison with cranberries, port and five spices pie, a Chicken, leek and smoked bacon pie and a Roast Cauliflower Cheese and caramelised onion Pie, all served with mash, minted mushy peas and onion gravy.

Serin will be serving his famous Sunday Lunch on Easter Sunday with a mini Easter Egg hunt for small diners.

And on Easter Monday, in the daytime there's The Big Kings Arms Easter Egg Hunt. Come in fancy dress, there will be an Egg Painting Competition before searching out the best of the Easter eggs. In the evening, it's Ben Handley's Fish & Chip Night when Ben will be serving South Coast fillet of hake with hand cut chips, seaweed tartar sauce and mushy peas. The team are making other plans for food in the coming weeks. Please call ahead to confirm.

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>, the pub will be hosting a Volunteer Thank You dinner and Recruitment Evening. Invites will be sent around but if you are interested to volunteer, come along to find out more.

The Friday Night Draw is back, making Friday's special again, with that golden rule that you have to be in the pub at the time of the draw to win. Numbers are on sale from the 30<sup>th</sup> March with the first draw on Friday April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Jon's Weekly Quiz is every Wednesday, starting 7.30pm. This is a quiz for everyone, with cash prizes and good banter.

There is a Bingo Night on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> and a Karaoke Night on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>. In the daytime on the 13<sup>th</sup>, you can make the most of the World's Greatest Steeplechase with the KA Grand National Sweepstake. Sign up that week for a chance to win big....but you have to be in the pub to win!

There's the monthly Open Mic Night on Thursday 18th April. Now with a loyal following, there's a broad range of styles to enjoy, from folk, chart music, rock n'roll, crooning, even a little jazz, but always a good night.



The Village Lunch is being relaunched on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> at 1pm, details to follow.

It is the Eighty Year anniversary of the Exercise Tiger disaster. To commemorate this, on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> there will be an expert speaker and films, capturing the World changing events that took over our village and other local villages in 1944.

Looking a little further ahead, there is the Annual Pirates Day on Monday Bank Holiday 6th May. A very popular day, with fancy dress for all, a talk from an old pirate and sea shanties.

Finally, the Kings Arms is three years old as a community pub. It's never been plain sailing but it is most worthy of celebration.

With that in mind, the first garden event of the year, no doubt with the sunshining, will be held to mark the occasion on the late May Bank Holiday, Monday 27th. A BBQ and live music are planned. We hope everyone can make it.

So, lots and lots going on. Jon and the team hope to see you in the pub soon.

To book or ask a question just call on 01803 770027 or pop into the pub.

Follow on Facebook at [Facebook.com/kingsarmsatstrete](https://www.facebook.com/kingsarmsatstrete)

For other enquiries, please contact [info@kingsarmsatstrete](mailto:info@kingsarmsatstrete).

Opening Hours

In addition to normal hours, the pub is open Easter Monday and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 12-3pm & 5-10pm.

Normal hours are: Wednesday 5-10pm with the Weekly Quiz. Thursday & Friday. 12-3pm & 5-10pm Saturday open all day 12-10pm Sunday 12-6pm

[www.kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk](http://www.kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk)

## the Kings Arms Community Pub

### What's On at the Rebooted KA

Weekly Quiz every Wednesday from 7.30pm  
Ben Handley's Special Pie Night Easter Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March  
Sunday Lunch Easter & Mini Easter Egg Hunt Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>  
The Big KA Easter Egg Event & fancy dress. Easter Monday  
Ben Handley's Fish & Chip Night Easter Monday evening.  
Volunteer dinner & recruitment Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm  
Friday Night Draw Relaunch. Friday 5<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm  
Bingo Night. Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm  
Grand National Sweepstake Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 3pm  
Karaoke Night Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> from 7.30pm  
Open Mic Night Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April  
Village Lunch Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> 1pm  
Exercise Tiger Anniversary Talk & Films Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April  
Annual Pirate Day Bank Holiday Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May

**Support your community pub.**  
**01803 770027**

[Facebook.com/kingsarmsatstrete](https://www.facebook.com/kingsarmsatstrete)  
[www.kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk](http://www.kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk)

## OPPORTUNITIES AT THE KINGS ARMS! VOLUNTEERS

Your Community Pub needs Volunteers to assist with a wide range of activities. Perhaps you would like to work behind the scenes as a handy person on the maintenance of our lovely building, or maybe help in our kitchen or with general cleaning of the pub? Or maybe you secretly would love to be behind the bar making customers happy or would prefer to collect glasses and keep things tidy. It all needs doing and even a small amount of time helping us out really makes a difference.

Full training and support will be offered. Your reward is knowing that you are playing an important part in helping the Kings Arms to thrive and go forward as a hub for the village and surrounding area. We would also warmly welcome new Committee Members, including a Volunteer Fundraiser.

**CHEF:** If you are a chef looking to work for a dynamic friendly pub in a wonderful location as part of a great team then do get in touch. This could be an exciting new start for you to make your mark developing our food offering. Come and be a key part of our success!

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Tim Fowler on 07799 063417 or at [tim.fowler@kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk](mailto:tim.fowler@kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk)

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### REQUEST from KINGS ARMS PUB-GARDEN VOLUNTEERS



**Ingrid Sidell, Sandy Clark, Jill Welham, husband Bob and Chris Burne** are the volunteers responsible for maintaining the pub garden and keeping it in bloom throughout the year. Our next project will be making up the Summer hanging baskets and replanting the pots. If anyone would like to donate plants to help us with this, it would be very much appreciated. Suitable plants would be a strip or tray of trailing lobelia, bedding or trailing begonias, trailing fuchsias, geraniums, verbena, possibly petunias and other hanging basket plants. Or you may want to make a small donation towards the cost of peat free compost. The garden is looking very pretty with daffodils, primroses and forget-me-nots at the moment, so do come, have a look and enjoy a drink!

For health and safety reasons, please do not leave plants at the Kings Arms pub!  
Please contact: **Ingrid Sidell** on 01803 770870 / 07818208721 / [ingsid23@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ingsid23@yahoo.co.uk) or any member of the group.

Plants can also be left at **Roxburgh House** Dartmouth Rd, by the front door, with a note!  
**Many thanks.**

# Strete Estate Information Evening

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Time: 18:30

Location: The Kings Arms Pub, Strete

**Topics discussed:** Introduction and background  
Vision and principles for the Estate Agricultural plan  
Potential future projects Community involvement Q&A



The Strete Estate Evening at The Kings Arms proved to be a very informative evening with Brendon and Peter (farm manager) detailing their full commitment and focus on an agricultural plan for the Strete Estate to a packed audience. They mentioned that the first lambing of their herd of Romney Sheep would be in a fortnight and that potential future projects for the estate could see them building on their Dexter cattle herd, pigs and poultry. The evening also gave the opportunity for them to understand what ideas the community would like Strete Estate to be engaged with in the future.

The Spokes family were applauded for their openness and transparency dispelling any rumours of their intentions and giving the opportunity for residents to comment and become involved in planning for the estates future.

## A Full House @ The KA



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## **A Very Big Thank You to the Stretewise delivery team:**

Brenda Range, Liane Baldock, Colleen Seymour, Heather Robinson, Joan Kendall, Chris Burne, John Goldring, Carol Wills, David Wall and Trudy Rothwell and not forgetting Monica, Andy, Sally at the Strete Post Office and Stores.

A black and white photograph showing soldiers in a trench during Exercise Tiger. The soldiers are wearing helmets and are positioned in a line, looking towards the right. The background shows a sandy beach with some debris and a large structure, possibly a bunker or a building, in the distance.

# Exercise Tiger

**0630 on the 27th of April 1944**

**Altered timings, bad communications and live ammunition resulted in 110 deaths.**

## **Dedication of a memorial to the loss of 110 US personnel Strete Gate Car Park at 2pm on 5th April 2024**

The parish council was made aware of an unreported event involving Exercise Tiger at the meeting in February. This is a summary of those events from Mr Teddy Cranmer.

Over four years of research concerning the early and unreported part of Exercise Tiger the following salient facts apply.

US troops made their first landing at 0630 on the 27th of April 1944. They came ashore from LSTs/Higgins boats on 'red' beach near the middle/end of the Ley, near Strete Gate.

It was a shambles - Altered timings, bad communications, live ammunition unbeknown to defenders and those coming ashore and bombardment from a cruiser and destroyers lying off-shore coinciding with the landing.

110 deaths - but, due to D-Day five weeks away, these became swallowed up in the great deception that surrounded Tiger.

It would also have had a disastrous effect on morale, both US forces preparing for D-Day and for their families back in the USA.

There has never been a memorial to these 110 (bodies and identities were carefully spirited away) but there were witnesses and Ike noted these losses.

Mr Cranmer has obtained permission from Brendan Spokes of Strete Estate to place a memorial at Strete Gate.

As result of his dedication to acknowledge this tragedy you are invited to the unveiling of a memorial cairn commemorating the loss of over 100 US personnel during the first Tiger landing on Slapton Sands 27/04/1944.

**This will take place in Strete Gate Car Park at 2pm on 5th April 2024.**

Unveiling of the memorial will be by Anthony Mangnall MP followed by tea at the Field Studies Centre, Slapton.

# Our Patient Participation Group (PPG)

## The PPG was created to:

- ❖ Facilitate good relations between the Practice and patients by communicating patient experience, interest, and concerns.
- ❖ Provide constructive feedback to the Practice on current procedures and any proposed new developments.
- ❖ Work collaboratively and positively with the Practice to improve services and facilities for patients.
- ❖ Act as a representative group to support the Practice and influence local provision of health and social care.
- ❖ Help patients to be more informed and responsible for their own health.
- ❖ Each meeting has an agenda that includes Practice updates, together with ideas and suggestions. These are discussed and acted on. Attendance at each meeting is not essential.

## Getting more involved

As the PPG acts as a bridge between patients and the Practice, it is important that we have a broad base of patient involvement and views. We encourage all patients to get involved so we can represent our local patient community across all age ranges, representative of the different geographical areas we serve. We welcome patients of all ages, sex, ethnicity, disability, beliefs, those who are self-employed, employed or unemployed, in full time education, parents and carers. All we require from you is some of your time.

- ❖ So, are you interested and want to find out more?
- ❖ Or would you prefer an informal chat with one of the group members first?
- ❖ If you would like to find out more, please contact Philip Groves by email [philipgroves@hotmail.com](mailto:philipgroves@hotmail.com) or by telephone 01548 531763 who currently co-ordinates the PPG.



## Chillington Health Centre

Orchard Way, Chillington,  
Kingsbridge, TQ7 2LB  
01548 580214



Chillington  
HEALTH CENTRE



## Strete Parish Council

### MINUTES OF STRETE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2024

in

The Strete Village Hall

#### **PRESENT COUNCILLORS:**

Peter Hales (Chairman), Helen Darch (HD), Ian Cumberlidge (IC), Ralph Clark (RC), Graham Campbell (GC), Cllr Kate Gill (KG), Cllr Julian Brazil (JB), Cllr Laurel Lawford (LL)

Also in attendance: Hannah Iles (HI), Parish Clerk

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

There were no apologies for absence

#### **DISTRICT COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

SHDC have now rolled out a single waste system across the district, where previously there were four systems running at the same time, which was expensive to operate. District Council will start looking at further innovation in future.

SHDC budget (to be ratified at the February meeting, is looking to be a 2.99% increase (£55 per average household). There are no big black holes in the SHDC budget for 24/25.

On 25th January the first part of the Delivery Plan with costings will be released. This is planned to be a living, dynamic, evolving document. SHDC is looking to be a bottom-up administration where District Councils will look to Parish Councils to say where they are going right/wrong. Members of the public encouraged to ask questions.

Freeport, item on agenda in December. JB advised that many in the council were very concerned, and the Audit and Governance Committee had reviewed the proposal and produced a report to mitigate some of the concerns reported. They have been asked for regular updates and if at any stage it is not a good deal for the taxpayer the Council will pull out. Council took view that the Freeport was going ahead and wanted to stay within the partnership to best maintain influence.

The Chairman asked if Councillors are aware that in the newly released Planning Platform, Parishes are unable to upload comments. JB advised that a plan is being devised to provide training to councillors and clerks on the new planning system.

#### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

County is in the middle of the budget setting process for 24/25. An increase of 4.99% is expected, to be confirmed at budget setting meeting in February. 2% of that will be ring-fenced for adult social care. The Council is currently carrying a £4.5m overspend forecast (month 8), but in JB's experience this will be balanced by the end of the financial year. Biggest concern is SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) overspend which is a total of £65m. DCC is budgeting to overspend by over £37m next year in this area. Government have announced this can be kept off the budget sheet, until March 2026 to sort out. Criteria for government writing off overspend is to have a plan in place to not overspend in future, which DCC are formulating. JB will share future updates. Councillors queried how (other than by receiving more funding) the council can expect to save that amount of money, without impacting already stretched services. JB stated that it is no secret Devon has been failing in children's services for over ten years and there is a lack of in-county provision for children. There is a protest at county hall on 8th February with a group of parents who feel let down by the County. JB also pointed out that people hear about the poor service in Devon and do not want to work here. Reliance on agency workers is causing a cycle of failure in the sector.

The Devolution deal on the table proposes a collaboration between Devon CC, and Torbay Council linked with the District Councils in the area to form a new level of local Government to interface directly with Central Government, dealing with strategic local issues and funding. Full details have



been published on-line. An extraordinary meeting of County cabinet will take place on 2 February and a public consultation is expected to follow. The Minister has made clear that while District Councils do not have voting rights on the deal, consultation is expected. It is another tier of local government, but JB did not know governance structure, benefits or running costs.

Councillors queried that DCC had landed huge amount of money for road repairs from the cancellation of the HS2 rail project. JB confirmed a one-off capital fund of £6.6 million had been allocated and that a large amount was to be spent on Wallingford Road, Kingsbridge and in Thurlestone. Councillors pointed out huge amount of damage to vehicle tyres due to potholes and that road-workers are repairing one pot hole and ignoring those around it when it would make more sense to repair all of the pot holes in the vicinity while they have the equipment and materials on site. JB advised DCC do not have the capacity to deal with potholes in-house and are reliant on agency workers, who only do the job as specified. JB is looking at working with the companies to improve process. JB is going to find out why potholes in Strete are being circled but not being fixed.

**OPEN PUBLIC FORUM** : Members of the public were present at the meeting.

#### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023.**

These were agreed by the meeting and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are invited to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting. To grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate.

Helen Darch declared an interest due to her employment, in the event that there was a discussion about the precept (although this was not on the agenda)

#### **ANTHONY MANGNALL MP SLAPTON LINE STRATEGY**

The Chairman temporarily suspended the Parish Council meeting for this item, in order that Anthony Magnall MP could brief the gathering about progress on the Slapton Line strategy, and that members of the public present could ask questions. A report of the discussion is appended.

#### **PLANNING AND PLANNING MATTERS**

Application Number 4188/23/COM (Notice of intention to install one new telegraph pole for the provision of FTTP). No comment from councillors.

#### **FINANCE**

- a) Current Account Balance            £14,590.60 as of 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024
- b) Reserve Account                    £11,799.45
- c) Monitoring/Spend to-date - figures were circulated prior to meeting. No comments.
- d) Lloyds, Bank transfer update – no updates
- e) To approve payment of the following cheques/ bank transfers. Invoices have previously been circulated.

Strete Village Hall Rent+ WIFI        £47.50

Userfriendly-Devon (Gmail access) £40.00 paid (22/12/2023)

SLCC membership SLCC                £120.00 carried forward to next meeting.

Peter Hale expenses (new laptop) £634.20

Mark Rowe                                  £444.00

Clerks pay                                  to be calculated by DeeBeePay

Clerks pay                                  £140.20+PAYE

## **s106 LAND MATTERS**

S106 funding update – waiting for delivery of new Playpark equipment.

## **PLAYPARK MAINTENANCE**

Waiting for catalogue for replacement parts.

## **ROAD SAFETY**

Volunteers speed watch training – reminder on website, no volunteers have come forward.

## **SHDC CORPORATE STRATEGY**

Renamed as SHDC Delivery Plan 0- see District Councillor's report.

## **PC BUDGET FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025 – PRECEPT**

Submitted and approved. Action: PH to create paper to be circulated to residents.

## **OTHER ONGOING MATTERS IF NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE**

No updates.

## **CLERK'S REPORT**

None

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.**

Appended

## **COUNCILLORS' REPORTS.**

Appended

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Post: Emails: have been circulated as normal.

## **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: Thursday February 15th at 7pm in the Village Hall**

### **Anthony Mangnall's presentation**

#### **Progress on the revised strategy for the Slapton Line Partnership.**

(As reported in Stretewise February - march issue.)

#### **Strete Parish Council Chairman's report – January 2024 Peter Hales**

##### **Bus Services and Road Closures**

Severe disruption to the 93 service through the village is being caused by the road closures of the A379 at Stoke Fleming and Modbury. Disruption is expected to continue until the end of March. The bus detour around the main street at Modbury inserts an extra 40 minutes into the normal journey time from Plymouth to Kingsbridge, which has a knock-on effect on onward services from Kingsbridge to Dartmouth. The service from Kingsbridge diverts at Strete up the Totnes Road and then turns right onto the A3122 at Oldstone to reach Dartmouth. The reverse journeys from Dartmouth to Kingsbridge take the same route and a shuttle service is provided between Dartmouth and Stoke Fleming. A special temporary timetable is in operation, and details of revised bus timings are available via a link on the Parish website or from the shop, who have some paper copies. Residents using the Totnes Road to avoid the work at Stoke Fleming (recommended) will have noticed a substantial increase in traffic requiring even more patience than normal to navigate the narrow parts, and the additional hazard of buses in both directions. The good news amidst all this adversity is that the freeze on the price of a single bus ticket at £2.00 has now been extended until the end of December 2024 with additional Central Government support. Devon CC runs an Enhanced Partnership scheme with all bus operators in Devon, and the quarterly Board minutes are published for public consumption. Much of the attention is focussed upon Exeter, however the following two items may be of interest from the 18th October 23 meeting minutes: - In partnership with DCC, Stagecoach will be putting in a bid for ZEBRA2 (Zero Emission Bus Rural Areas) funding. This does require significant capital investment by Stagecoach. Details will follow as to which areas and routes this will include. -

Stagecoach have seen a 4.6% increase in passenger growth over the last 6 months coupled with a 1.6% increase in bus service operating miles on the Stagecoach network. Let's hope the business case is bright enough to support zero emissions on the 93 service!

### **New Parish Laptop Computer**

In the last month the Parish has invested in a new laptop computer and software for the exclusive use of the Parish Clerk on Council business. The new equipment replaces the present machine which is about 12 years old and beyond practical use. It is the intention that the old equipment will be recycled.

### **SHDC Draft Corporate Strategy**

'The Council Plan' SHDC tabled a Draft Corporate Strategy document in the Autumn for public consultation. The document set out the direction that the new leadership intends to take and proposed a number of significant policies to do with social housing (or the lack of it), the environment and community support. The Parish Council reviewed the document and made a number of comments, mostly regarding ambitions surrounding targets. From the SHDC Executive meeting on 30th November, we know that the Strategy has been updated and renamed as 'The Council Plan' 2024 – 2028. The Executive approved the document and the proposal is to present it to the Full Council for endorsement and adoption as policy at the Full Council meeting scheduled for 15th February. A copy of the document may be obtained by residents on request from the Parish Clerk.

### **South Hams Green Hydrogen and the Freeport at Langage**

Residents may be aware that SHDC is participating in the designated Freeport area at Langage, but the Executive has been carrying out risk assessment work to determine if it should continue. The development includes the Carlton Energy Green Hydrogen project that I outlined here in December. At the SHDC Executive Meeting in November, an analytical risk report was presented and endorsed, which made 17 proposals essentially recommending that the Council should take but also that the Council should remain fully invested in the scheme, The report then went to the Full Council on 14th December, where Julian Brazil tells me it was adopted "These (17 proposals) are to mitigate the undoubted risk and also bring accountability and responsibility under democratic control."

### **Peter Hales, Chairman 15th January 2024**

#### **Ralph Clark PC Report – January 2024**

**Planning:** Nothing to report.

#### **The Kings Arms**

After a successful Christmas Day lunchtime opening and New Years Eve Party, the Kings Arms closed for two weeks from 8th January for routine repairs and decorating. Decorating includes murals on the walls produced by Els Morris. The pub reopens on Wednesday 24th January, and it is hoped the community will visit to take in all the decorative changes.

#### **Strete Village Hall**

A Quiz and Pasty evening on 20th January starting at 7pm in the Village Hall has been arranged. It's dependant on numbers signing up. Maybe postponed until February. The Village Hall now has a post code. – TQ6 0RT.

#### **Village Sweeping and Road Works**

Repeat from last month - The A379 in Stoke Fleming village will be closed from 2nd January to 28th March to re-build the collapsed wall. Please visit Strete website for more details. The A379 (and other adjacent roads) in Modbury will also be closed from Monday 8 January until 9 February 2024 to allow South West Water to reline water pipes. Both of these road closures are on the A379 which is the route for the 93-bus service from

Dartmouth to Kingsbridge & the 3 bus service from Kingsbridge to Plymouth. Please visit

Strete website to see the bus timetables. Also, Norns Lane to Blackpool Sands is closed until 17th January and again in March. The next Village Sweep is planned for 5th March.

### **Ian Cumberlidge PC Report – January 2024**

#### **Playpark**

We have a list of Equipment faults still to 'munch through, and 'fix'. A couple of new ones have emerged, i.e. two safety bars on the larger climbing frame have rusted through, and need replacing. I'm currently looking for a metal-welder who will be able to reproduce these small rails, as it would probably be more expedient than searching through "Play-Dale" site. However, I've just sent for a "Playdale Equipment" catalogue, so maybe worth checking through. Unfortunately, " Playdale" know how to Charge..!! Like the Tannen Land, the grass desperately needs need's a Winter cut. Have left a message with Terry Hallett.

#### **Footpaths/Bridle-way**

They have mostly ALL 'dried out' miraculously since the N. & Easterly wind has done its stuff. That wind does have its uses..!!

**Strete Gate area** Nothing to report here.

**Tree Warden** No issues to bring up here. There is, however, a Slapton Tree-Hub Get-together at Slapton this coming Saturday, with a couple of 'Talks' on trees, & hedges. It was held at the camp-site, last year, just before the Field Centre, on the right as you go towards the village, from Slapton Bridge 10am to 2pm.

#### **Kate Gill PC Report – January 2024**

There will be a tree hub meeting at Slapton Village Hall this Saturday 20th Jan 10am to 2pm with free trees available. There will also be refreshments, a children's corner, and stalls. The beach 'sleeper' has now left Strete Gate.

#### **Graham Campbell PC Report – January 2024**

Despite the cold weather the village field is going to soon need a cut, unusual for January. The field has acquired several areas of damage in the last month, maybe from a dog digging. We do not know that this is definitely a dog, but it seems unlikely that there are any badgers left in the village, the only alternative.

GC will do some light strimming and removal of brambles in the copse so that there is a pathway through the copse, where children seem to like to play.

Ian and Graham will be meeting very soon to fix the location of the new roundabout in the playpark. We await notification of a delivery date.

SLP matters will be further explained at the PC meeting. Citizens Advice, Dartmouth Caring, Dartmouth foodbank and Community Chest continue to receive increased demand for help and support in these difficult times.



## Blackbird Wood Melro de Smithes Wood

Barbara Shepherd has planted two trees in the woods which she has grown from acorns

she got on one of her walks. She has planted them in memory of Beth her collie who used to enjoy running around the wood.

We are looking for volunteers to come and help do some work at the woods. Unfortunately being a small wood there is not a lot of wood to sell to help finance it and also very few grants.

Please help if you can as we rely on grants and donations to keep the woods in the condition stated in the constitution.

One job is controlling the ivy and also brambles, so a good pair of secateurs needed!

If you would like to help please let me know telephone 07948117001 or 01803770587

Thank you Pam.



## STRETE VILLAGE DAY

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 12.00-16.30**

Mewstone Paddock Totnes Road Strete TQ6 0RU  
Free Parking in the Mewstone Paddock

## SCARECROW COMPETITION



## STRETE VILLAGE DAY

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 12.00-16.30**

Mewstone Paddock Totnes Road Strete TQ6 0RU  
Free Parking in the Mewstone Paddock

## Family Dog Show & Dog Agility

Main Arena at 3.15pm





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## Water Vole Update



After 200 water voles were released into the Gara last September near Hutterleigh and Millcombe we were pleased to see the results of a survey showing that they had settled in well with plenty of signs of vole activity.

Keen eyed locals have spotted water voles as far north as Ritson and near Forder which is a kilometre or so south of the release sites. It is possible that they have already reached as far as Slapton Ley.

However these adventurous voles need to find breeding partners on their travels to make the reintroduction sustainable in the long term and so we will be releasing

the next 200 further south along the Gara in early June.

Anyone who would like to know more or get involved in the releases is very welcome to get in touch. Please email Sue (The Habitat Group) at [suehadow@gmail.com](mailto:suehadow@gmail.com) or visit

**<https://www.thehabitatgroup.uk/river-gara-water-vole-reintroduction-project>**

# TUNES ON THE SANDS

2024  
LINEUP

FRIDAY  
12th JULY



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# Exciting news

## Blackpool Sands Café and Takeaway

Exciting news – our cafe is closing for a fabulous refurbishment. Details will follow. Meanwhile, indulge in beachside delights at the Beach Shack, open daily.

Dive into winter beach bliss at Blackpool Sands! Grab a local hot drink, cosy up in our marquee with hot water bottles and blankets, indulge in locally made pasties, freshly baked pastries, and scrumptious cakes. For your furry friends, we've got free dog biscuits and poo bags! The beach shop is open every weekend, and our sauna is ready to add a touch of warmth to your daily routine. Book your sauna session now at: <https://fareharbor.com/embeds/book/saltwaterpaddle/items/> and let the seaside vibes take over!

The marquee is up and ready to shelter you from the winter weather

Enjoy Voyager coffees, teas, hot chocolates with cream and marshmallows, and a selection of beers and wines

Food available: pastries, Chunk of Devon pasties, and freshly made soup, plus locally baked cakes and snacks

We will also be serving bacon baps and fabulous vegan sausage baps

Daily specials like warming Fish Chowder and Spiced Indian Dahl

Come wrapped up warm, we've got hot water bottles and blankets to keep you cosy!



# HEDGEROWS

A new map based on aerial laser scanning of England's landscape using Lidar (Light Detection and Ranging) has revealed that there is a total of 390,000km of hedges in England, measuring between one and six metres in height. Additionally, there are another 67,000 km of lower hedges and a further 185,000 km of overgrown hedges above 6m tall. It is estimated that 40% of UK hedges (95,000 miles) are ancient and species rich.

The South West boasts the most hedgerows with about 33,000 miles (53,000 km) of hedge in Devon, more than any other county, though this is not all of Devon hedgebank construction. This is because the traditional farming throughout the county has meant that fewer hedges in Devon have been removed than in other counties. A quarter of Devon's hedges are now thought to be over 800 years old. Some Devon hedges represent ancient boundaries, most likely of early Saxon estates (c. 650–700 A.D.) Ordnance Survey maps reveal a remarkable correlation between the lengths of hedged field boundaries, and multiples of a chain (22 yards, or about 20m). The most common length is 220 yards, or one furlong, i.e. one 'furrow long'.

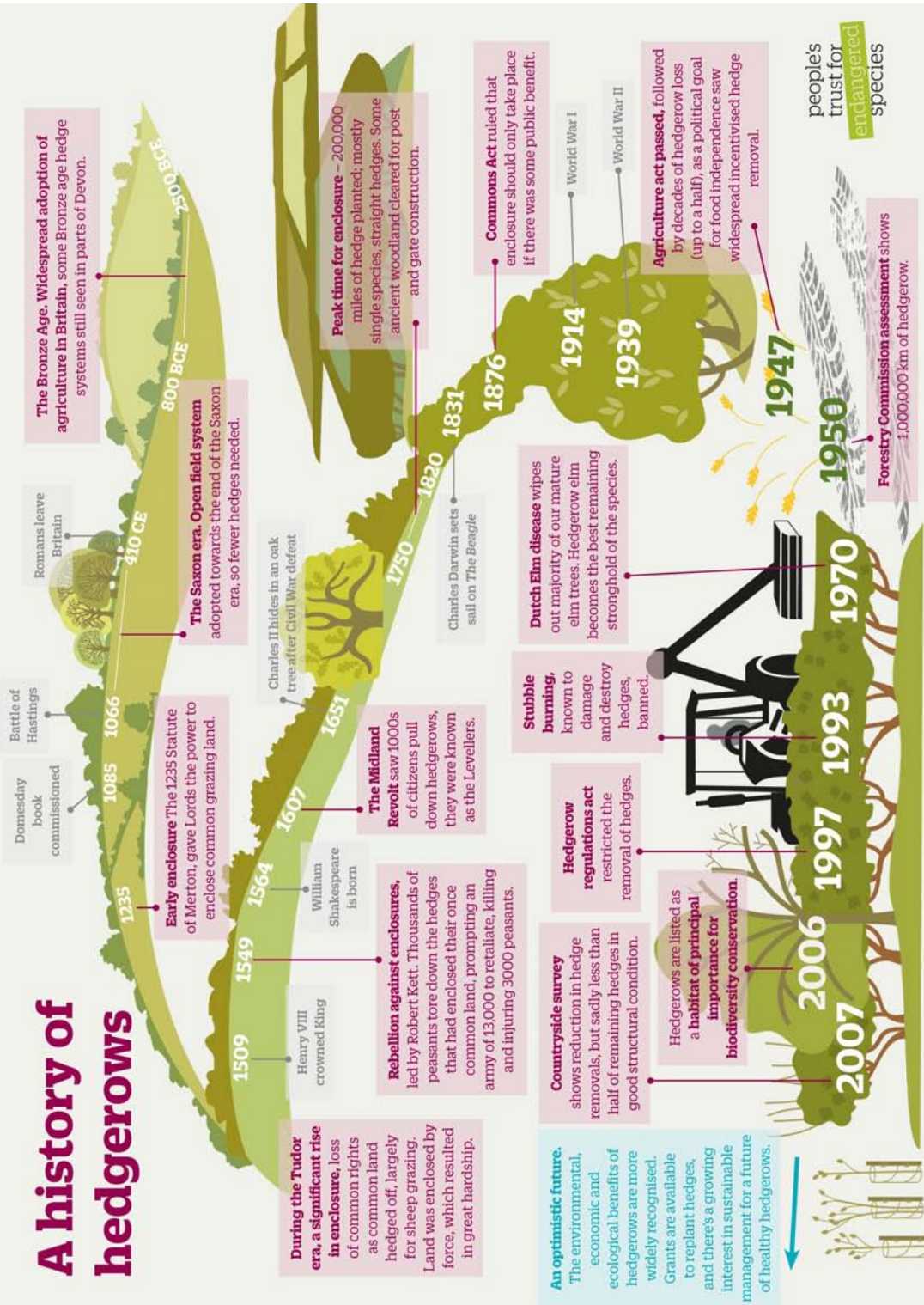
A formula developed for dating hedges based on the number of tree and shrub species, known as the 'Hooper formula', is based around the number of tree and shrub species in a 30 metre length of hedge can indicate its age, with one species for each 100 years. A single species hedge is likely to be less than 100 years old whilst a 1,000-year-old hedge is likely to contain ten to twelve species. **Age = (no of species in a 30 yard stretch) x 110 + 30 years.** Several 30 metre stretches should be counted in each hedgerow. The average number of species equates to the age in centuries. It is advisable not to start counting close to the start of a hedge where anomalous species may occur and only established hedge plants are counted, not seedlings.

Devon's hedges are a particularly important wildlife habitat. Around 20% of the UK's species-rich hedges occur within Devon. Over 600 flowering plants, 1500 insects, 65 birds and 20 mammals have been recorded living or feeding in Devon hedges. If you're not sure which trees and shrubs are already present in a hedge, PTES has put together a handy hedgerow tree and shrub species ID guide which can be found at:

<https://peopletrust.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Hedgerow-shrub-ID-guide.pdf>



# A history of hedgerows



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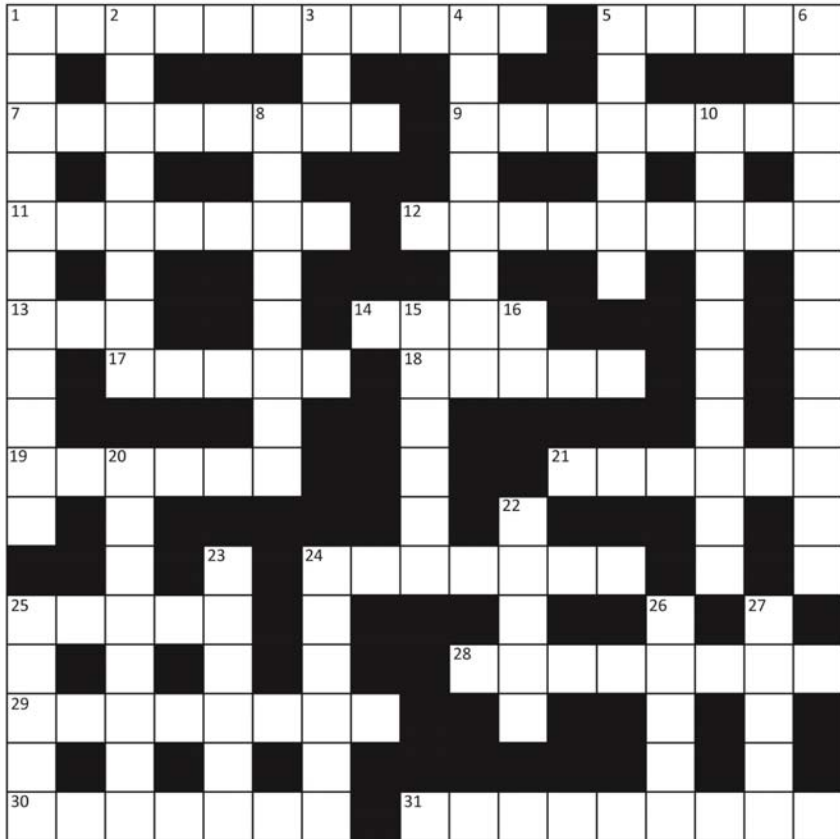
*Strete - Dartmouth - Ivybridge*

**Christopher Jefferson Bland**

Tel: 07480 766671 or 01803 770766 [chrisbsb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chrisbsb@hotmail.co.uk)

[southhamspropertyimprovements.com](http://southhamspropertyimprovements.com)

# Stretewise Crossword



**Across:** 1. Making political, material, or territorial concessions to an enemy. 5. Unpleasantly bitter or pungent. 7. Lecture at length in an aggressive and critical manner. 9. Smooth and beautiful, movement or a dancer. 11. The total or partial obscuring of one celestial body by another. 12. When a golfer scores three strokes under par on a single hole. 13. A sensory organ. 14. A paste, pie, or loaf filled with a forcemeat. 17. A point which something does not or may not extend or pass. 18. A kind of dog, a medieval scent hound. 19. Settle or lie comfortably within or against something. 21. A stick used in women's field sport. 24. A middle timber of a ship's frame. 25. Plain or ordinary clothes of the military. 28. A thin slice of meat without any bone. 29. Used to express good wishes on parting. 30. Used to express good wishes on parting. 31. A type of lighter-than-air aircraft . **Down:** 1. A thing done successfully with effort, skill. 2. Do not touch each other or intersect. 3. A species of flightless bird. 4. Belonging to the aristocracy. 5. Gradually remove material from. 6. The ability to make decisions quickly. 8. Naphtha distilled directly from crude oil. 15. A medieval, extremely powerful protection dog. 16. A unit for measuring the width of printed matter. 20. A person who travels by sea. 22. Largest member of the deer family. 23. A stupid or silly person. 24. Famous, especially by reputation. 25. Criminal organization. 26. Essential oil are used to make medicine. 27. write in a correct sequence.

# Creative Corner



# DISCOVER WELLBEING

*'Attitude is the 'little' thing that makes a big difference' Winston Churchill*

I can understand if, at this time of year, the weather can appear to be putting a dampener on moods. Yet it is so easy to forget the many positive aspects of rainfall. Rainwater harvesting, or rainwater recycling, is an integral part of life. Harvested rain water can be a great way to clean your car, driveway and gardening tools without the need to ever turn on the tap! It turns out that the scent of rain, known as petrichor, can have a calming effect on your body and mind. In turn, walking in the rain is a beautiful way to relieve any stress or anxiety you are feeling.

Our interview this time is with local resident extraordinaire Rebecca Macken whose company is Sen and Sea ([www.senandsea.co.uk](http://www.senandsea.co.uk)). Rebecca is a registered Thai Yoga Massage Therapist and Yoga Teacher who can often be spotted walking her beautiful dog, Brodie, round the many walks to be found in Stretre.

## **What is your favourite season and what does it remind you of?**

I would have to say summer is my favourite season as I am a real sun worshipper. I love the light mornings and really long days that summer brings. Summer to me reminds me of all our long family holidays as children. My parents were both teachers, so we would go to a campsite in Spain for the entire school holidays and I have really happy memories with my sisters there spending hours in the sea and on the beach.

## **What does your perfect day look like?**

My perfect day always starts with several cups of tea in bed and then a swim in the sea with friends. After that, being with our son Joe and daughter Anna, and now, our little granddaughter Millie, would complete the perfect day for me. We would go walking with Brodie (our golden retriever), have coffee, a few drinks and lunch in the sun at a country pub and then chill together at home.

## **Who would you choose if you could be friends with a fictional character?**

Hmm, I really struggled with this question as I'm not naturally a voracious reader and no fictional character from literature sprang to mind immediately. There have been several people on television or films though who I've thought would make great company and they would have to include any, or all of the Friends cast (huge fan) and Ted Lasso, who is funny and compassionate in equal measure.

## **What is number one on your bucket list**

I have a lot on my bucket list and almost all of them involve travelling, but if pushed, I would have to choose a trip to Antarctica. The sheer peace and beauty of the landscape and the amazing wildlife would be a breath-taking, once in a lifetime experience.





## Vegan Tiffin

### Ingredients

75g coconut oil, plus extra for the tin  
200g vegan dark chocolate (at least 70%), roughly chopped  
2 tbsp golden syrup  
200g vegan ginger nuts  
100g dried cranberries  
50g pistachios, toasted and chopped



### Method

1. Lightly oil a 20cm square brownie tin with coconut oil and line the base with baking parchment. Melt the chocolate with the coconut oil and golden syrup in the microwave in 30-second bursts until smooth and glossy.
2. Break the ginger nuts into small pieces in a bowl, then add the dried cranberries and pistachios. Scrape in the chocolate mixture and give everything a good mix to combine, then spoon the tiffin into the tin. Use the back of the spoon to smooth out the top and press it down, then chill in the fridge for 2 hours or until set hard. Once set, cut into 25 mini squares. Will keep for a week in the fridge



MIND, BODY & ME

### **Box Breathing**

One simple deep breathing technique is known as Box Breathing. It's named this due to the exercise's four steps which make a box shape.

Take a moment to relax your shoulders, release any tension in your jaw and let your body settle. Then follow the steps below.

1. Breathe in slowly to a count of four. If you want to, place your hands on your belly and feel it expand like a balloon.
2. After breathing in, hold your breath for another count of four.
3. Breathe out slowly and steadily through your mouth, again counting to four in your mind.
4. After breathing out, hold your breath again for another count of four. Repeat the steps until you are relaxed.

Visit [www.mindbodyandme.co.uk](http://www.mindbodyandme.co.uk)

or contact Trish on 07976 269208

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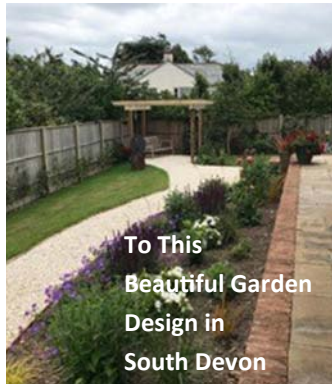
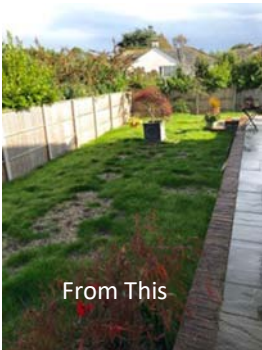
Stoke Fleming Village Hall.

Houses at Deer Combe, houses by the Green Dragon, Frenchman's Creek.

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*President: Sir Geoffrey Newman, Bt.*

The Society exists to preserve and enhance the area covered by the historic town of Dartmouth, the villages of Blackawton, Dittisham, Kingswear, Stoke Fleming and Strete, the River Dart and the neighbouring coastline and countryside. Members enjoy a range of social events and talks during the year.

**June 2024**

**Black Pool Sands tbc      *Summer Party tbc***

For further details contact: Lindsay Charlesworth

01803 834592/Lindsay@jpcharlesworth.plus.com    [www.dandksociety.org.uk](http://www.dandksociety.org.uk)



**STRETE PARISH COUNCIL**

**TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE PARISH OF STRETE**

**ALL RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND**

**THE STRETE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**TO BE HELD IN STRETE VILLAGE HALL ON  
THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024 AT 6.30 P.M.**

This is your opportunity to come along and hear reports from the various voluntary organisations in the village and ask any questions that you may have. The Parish hopes to have an update from Devon Highways to share regarding progress on upgrading back routes as an insurance measure against a future breach of the Slapton Line.

Refreshments will be served at the end of this meeting, prior to the start of the April meeting of the Parish Council at about 7.30, which you are also welcome to attend.



## A Very Big Thank You to the Stretewise Delivery Team:

Brenda Range, Liane Baldock, Colleen Seymour, Heather Robinson, Joan Kendall, Chris Burne, John Goldring, Carol Wills, David Wall and Trudy Rothwell and not forgetting Monica, Andy, Sally at the Strete Post Office and Stores.

## Anyone for badminton....?

**Tuesday 7.30pm-**

**9.30pm at Slapton**

**Village Hall**

Beginners welcome.

Racquets available.

First visit free, then £3 per evening.

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Contact Gill Harris 07816 971798 for info.



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# *Strete Social Club*

## STRETE SOCIAL CLUB PROGRAMME 2024

Meetings are usually held in Strete Village Hall on alternate Tuesdays at 2.30PM Everyone very welcome to come along!		
April	2nd	Easter Tea Party
	16th	Aid To Ukraine - Mary Burden
	30th	Ladies Fashion But Not as You Would Know it - Penny Penhale
May	14th	Spoken Words - Christine Cooke
	28th	Magician - Jude Coram
June	11th	Afternoon Tea Outing
	25th	A Tourist Talks Travel - Brenda Loosemore

On a grey, wet, and blustery January afternoon, the Strete Social Club was an oasis of warmth and camaraderie, defiantly cheerful against the dreary weather. The meeting began with Karen Hales, our new Chair, introducing Lisa Lyne, the Club's freshly minted Secretary. Both were met with encouragement from the members, who were no doubt reassured that the lovely Dorothy Teal, having recently passed the baton to Karen after seven impressive years, sat close by ready to leap into action should the meeting take a wrong turn.

With the wind driving the rain hard against the windows, it was perhaps no surprise that attendance was not quite at its peak, but some were off gallivanting around the globe. "We're looking at you, Brenda, in New Zealand, and Liane, in Australia - extreme measures to miss the meeting!" Joked Karen. Acknowledging the intrepid souls who braved the tempest, Karen shared the heartwarming update that Joan was now back home from hospital and would happily receive morning visitors.

In her address, Karen highlighted the availability of the AGM minutes. She expressed her gratitude to Chris Burns and Carole Wills for the delightful tea arrangements, to Derek for the raffle, always delivered with efficiency and distinctive style, and to Heather, who controls the Club's funds with a mix of charm and steeliness. These contributions epitomise the collaborative spirit that defines the Club. Karen relayed the exciting news of the Kings Arms' reopening, a refurbishment undertaken entirely by volunteers complete with new murals by local artists and a revamped menu, promising a fresh and vibrant social spot for all of us.

The highlight of the afternoon was the quiz organised by Nick and Barbara Shepherd; the latter affectionately dubbed 'Mabel at the Table' for the afternoon. Their quiz was a delightful concoction of fruit and nut dingbats reminiscent of 'Catchphrase', combined with rounds of general knowledge and cryptic local clues. There was much-needed tea, biscuits, and irresistibly addictive meringues, courtesy of Carole to help sharpen brain cells for the final round. Lisa offered heartfelt thanks to Nick and Barbara for their time and effort in crafting and delivering such an entertaining and engaging quiz, and the gift of a box of chocolates was a small token of the Club's appreciation.

The warmth and laughter shared in village hall that afternoon was a testament to the vibrant community spirit of the Strete Social Club, where each member leaves with a sense of connection and expectation for many diverting gatherings yet to come. Come join us! Here, in our little corner of the world, we're more than just neighbours.



## Connecting Neighbours

**"Strete Social Club warmly welcomes anyone to our coming meetings. You can be sure of a friendly afternoon being entertained by a range of interesting speakers. Do come and join us for a happy time socialising with others in the village."**



# *Strete Social Club*

**6<sup>TH</sup> February 2024:** As the wind whistled outside

again, Karen Hales greeted our Strete Social Club members. She introduced Lisa as the new Secretary. Lisa was taking photos and writing a report to capture the day's events. Karen gave a thankful nod to Dorothy, our ever-vigilant Club guardian who continues to play an active role, then thanked Colleen and Derek for refreshments and raffle, our Club's twin pillars of tea and chance.

The room sparkled a little brighter as Joan returned, triumphant and resplendent with polished nails, just three weeks post-surgery. Well done, Joan! Great to have you both back. Apologies from Sally, and from Liane whose Australian adventures continue. To business, and as Karen informed us that March's speaker is now unavailable, she teased us with possible replacements or even an extended tea-time for us all to fill with the latest Strete whispers and laughter. Watch this space!

Excitement was bubbling as Karen introduced February's special guests: Christine Cooke and Avril Dowding from the South Hams Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers (SHGWSD). Karen's chance encounter with them at the Kingsbridge show had spun into the afternoon's engagement. Christine practises her craft alongside her poetic talent, spinning yarns in all directions as she orchestrates the Spoken Word evenings at the Kings Arms, the next one happened two days after her talk.

With expectation in the air, Karen passed the thread of the meeting to the skilled hands of the Club's guests. Avril demonstrated the spinner's artistry and explained techniques, while Christine wove tales of their crafty passion through the fabric of the afternoon. We enjoyed a tapestry of learning and enjoyment as our guides unwound the mystery of their ancient skills through time, sharing with us the history of spinning, and offering fibres and yarns to touch. Our members were engaged by a fascinating narrative unravelling spinning's historical significance, the evolution and impact of techniques, and its role in community, culture and myth. It was only fitting that the speakers' fee will be donated to SHGWSD to help with funding.

Our members responded with their own memories. Joan recalled a woods-dwelling woman who'd spun her dog's fur into garments - a testament to human resourcefulness! Then dipped back in time to her days at Buckfastleigh Carpet Mills remembering how fleeces were chosen, washed and sent for processing; carding, spinning, and dyeing transformed them into vibrant yarns destined for the luxurious carpets of Axminster. A pungent process! Angela, too, remembered the whirring machines and kaleidoscope of colours in the spinning area at Sirdar Yarns Mill in Wakefield where she'd worked. She fondly reminisced that all the knitting patterns were tested on site by experienced knitters and the resulting garments were sold off to the office girls.

As discussion swirled, it was clear that spinning and knitting were not confined to dusty archives or museums - they pulse within our memories! We all left richer for sharing them, and for a newfound appreciation of the timeless art of spinning.





## *Strete Social Club*

**20th February - Book Sculpting** gathering of the Strete Social Club was one for the books!

Karen welcomed members and reminded everyone that Strete Village Day will be on August 3rd, and the Village Hall Committee seeks volunteers. Whether selling raffle tickets or whipping up baked goods, all contributions are invaluable. Dorothy, Penny, or Karen would be thrilled to hear from potential helpers - it takes a village to raise... well, a village day.

Karen introduced her friend, Lucy Higston from the Compass Bookshop. Nestled in Bayard's Cove, this little shop is a trove of paper-made wonders. Lucy assured us she's not in the book-murdering business; she gives a second life to books that are at the end of their chapter and would otherwise be pulped. Her creations are a page-turner, literally! Lucy guided us as we made hedgehogs, turning the written word (in my case, a Dick Francis thriller) into visual poetry - almost.



We concluded with heartfelt applause for Lucy, who had paused her business to inspire us, and we presented her with a gift as a token of gratitude. Lucy's craftsmanship changed our perception of old books, and although Brenda had a literary heartache at the thought of disassembling books, we hope she can appreciate the recycling of stories. Here's to another chapter in our club's adventures - where every meeting tells a story.



## *Strete Social Club*

**5th March:** Although it was a lovely sunny afternoon to start our meeting unfortunately there was a poor attendance due to various apologies. Karen one of our leaders was unable to attend so the afternoon was taken by Lisa and Joan.



Lisa dealt with the usual business which was brief and Joan introduced Ali Soper from Tuckenhay who was our speaker for the afternoon. Joan had met Ali many years ago when they both did a floristry course with Bicton College. However, Ali now is an expert in Mosaics. She started the afternoon with a table which displayed many of her pieces of craft and explained the various ways that she had fabricated these from coasters displaying hedgehogs to a rainbow design house number and many other very interesting shapes and designs. On two tables were trays of coloured tiles, pots of adhesive and each person was given a square on to which they designed their coaster. These were varied ranging from a house, sunrise, fish and the usual arrangement of square tiles. These were taken home by Ali who is going to grout them and delivery them back to the village for us to have at our next meeting. She was thanked by Joan and the afternoon finished with our usual cups of tea served by Rita, Janet and Derek.



## *Strete Social Club*

**19th March:** Another very wet Tuesday afternoon did not put off our members coming to the club.

Lisa and Karen dealt with the usual business and then it was handed over to Joan to introduce the speaker for the afternoon who is a retired meteorologist whose subject was the sky from dawn to dusk. John Tucker illustrated his talk with a pictorial presentation of the way the sky changes during the day and with different types of weather. Most of his picture he had taken around the River Exe and from his garden in Exminster. He showed us a collection of cloud formations and explained each one in detail. Quoting all the various sayings connected with the weather. Then ones that most of us had heard were 'Red sky at Night Shepherd's Delight' and 'Red sky in the Morning Shepherd's warning.'

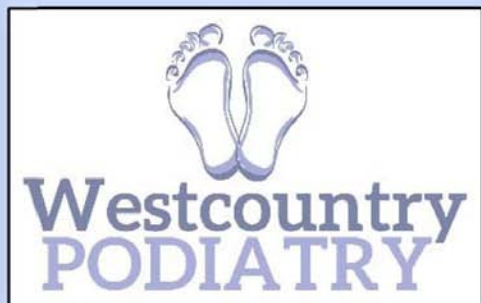
John has visited us several times now speaking on a variety of subjects to do with nature and it is always a pleasure to see him and his wife come down to Strete. Brenda John's wife has been a long-time friend of Joan Kendall's from the age of about three, they were always sat together at school and both attended the Sunday school and Methodist Church at Buckfastleigh.

He was thanked by Joan who said they were hoping he had more talks to give us.

The tiles workshop making coasters we did at a previous meeting had been grouted and delivered back to us and these were given to the ladies who made them.

Derek dealt with an exceptionally large draw and of course we had our usual cups of tea and biscuits by Shirley, Leanne, Dorothy.

Apologies from, me for those I have omitted to name.

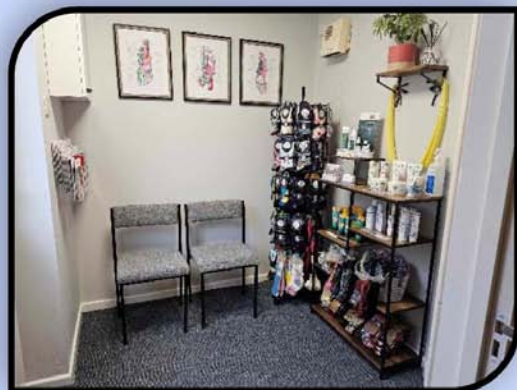
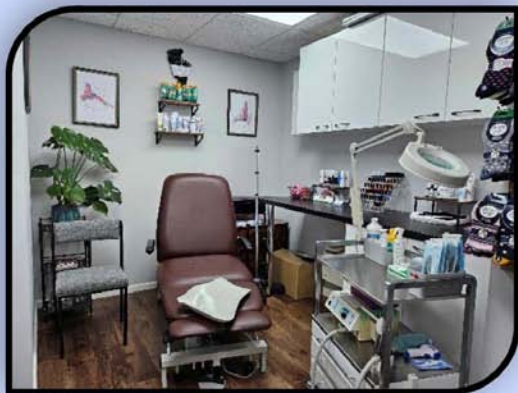


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# NEW MEMBERS NEEDED!



## The Probus Club of Stoke Fleming and District Programme January to June 2024

Lunch/Coffee	Date 2024	Topic Title/ <i>Further information</i>	Speaker details
Lunch	10 <sup>th</sup> April	The March of William of Orange	Phil Badcott
Coffee	24 <sup>th</sup> April	Life as an Airline Pilot	Stewart Lenton
Lunch	8th May	Great Russian Composers	John Airey
Lunch	22nd May – AWAY DAY - Save the Date!		
Lunch	12 <sup>th</sup> June	Bletchley Park	David MacVeigh

### Gentlemen

**Are you sociable? Do you enjoy male company and getting out of the house in the day to meet new friends?**

**Stoke Fleming and District Probus Club is actively recruiting new members for our regular meetings at the Stoke Lodge Hotel.**

**We are a mixed group of friendly chaps who meet on the second and fourth Wednesday mornings of each month.**

**We always have interesting talks from diverse expert speakers on many varied subjects. After the talk, we adjourn to the bar for a drink and a chat, and at one meeting each month we have lunch together at the Hotel.**

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**Please call Peter Hales on 01803 770739 for more information and to arrange to be welcomed to a trial meeting**

# PROBUS CLUB OF STOKE FLEMING AND DISTRICT



## The Probud Club of Stoke Fleming and District

*Where friendliness matters above all else*

A Lunch meeting will be held beginning at 10.30am  
at the Stoke Lodge Hotel, Stoke Fleming on

**Wednesday 10th April 2024**

The meeting will commence with coffee, followed by  
a talk given by Phil Badcott entitled

### **The March of William of Orange through Devon**

The story of the march of William of Orange through Devon in  
November 1688 on his way to be crowned King in London



Drinks at the bar and an optional 2-course lunch will follow

*The club is keen to attract new members and a warm welcome  
will be given to guests. If you would like to come along and be a  
guest please contact our Secretary Peter Hales on*

**01803 770739**

<https://stokeflemingprobud.wixsite.com/stokeflemingprobud>



## The Probud Club of Stoke Fleming and District

*Where friendliness matters above all else*

A meeting will be held beginning at 10.30am  
at the Stoke Lodge Hotel, Stoke Fleming on

**Wednesday 24th April 2024**

The meeting will commence with coffee, followed  
by a talk by Stewart Lenton entitled

### **Life as an Airline Pilot**

*Stewart is here to prove to us the old saying:  
"There are old pilots and there are bold pilots, but  
there are no old bold pilots!"*

*(Postponed from Nov 23)*



After the talk, drinks will be available at the bar.

*The club is keen to attract new members and a warm welcome  
will be given to guests. If you would like to come along and be a  
guest please contact our Secretary Peter Hales on*

**01803 770739**

<https://stokeflemingprobud.wixsite.com/stokeflemingprobud>



## The Probud Club of Stoke Fleming and District

*Where friendliness matters above all else*

A Lunch meeting will be held beginning at 10.30am  
at the Stoke Lodge Hotel, Stoke Fleming on

**Wednesday 8th May 2024**

The meeting will commence with coffee, followed by  
a talk given by John Airey entitled

### **Great Russian Composers**

*Which is your favourite?*

*Stravinsky, Shostakovich, Mussorgsky, Prokofiev or Borodin? Or per-  
haps you prefer the music of the great Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky?*

*There are so many famous Russians that we all hum along to!*



Drinks at the bar and an optional 2-course lunch will follow

*The club is keen to attract new members and a warm welcome  
will be given to guests. If you would like to come along and be a  
guest please contact our Secretary Peter Hales on*

**01803 770739**

<https://stokeflemingprobud.wixsite.com/stokeflemingprobud>



## The Probud Club of Stoke Fleming and District

*Where friendliness matters above all else*

A Lunch meeting will be held beginning at 10.30am  
at the Stoke Lodge Hotel, Stoke Fleming on

**Wednesday 12th June 2024**

The meeting will commence with coffee, followed by  
a talk given by David MacVeigh entitled

### **Bletchley Park**

*The top secret work carried out by the codebreakers at  
unassuming Bletchley Park was undoubtedly responsible  
for shortening WW2. Brilliant minds designed, built and  
operated decoding machines in order to crack the Enigma  
codes being used to control the German U-Boat fleet.  
This promises to be a truly fascinating talk.*



Drinks at the bar and an optional 2-course lunch will follow

*The club is keen to attract new members and a warm welcome  
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## The RNLI's 200th year of lifesaving

It was Sir William Hillary's vision for a service dedicated to saving lives at sea became a reality in Bishopsgate's City of London Tavern on 4 March 1824. Over 30 eminent gentlemen put their names to the fledgling RNLI at the inaugural public meeting.

The meeting unanimously passed 12 resolutions, including:

- ❖ That an Institution can now be formed to be supported by donations and annual subscriptions.
- ❖ That such immediate assistance be afforded to persons rescued as their necessities may require.
- ❖ That the subjects of all nations be equally objects of the Institution, as well in war as in peace [and] that medallions or pecuniary rewards be given to those who rescue lives.

Little did they know that these 12 resolutions would still stand as part of the RNLI's charter almost 200 years later.

## Your RNLI: 200 years and counting

Dart RNLI is one of the busiest lifeboat stations in Devon, on call to emergencies in the Dart Estuary all the way up to Totnes and out to sea. Facing fast-moving water, constant traffic on the river, a tidal estuary, and coastal conditions like swell and exposure to the elements, the lifeboat crew respond to all kinds of rescues.

An appeal was launched last year 2022 to raise £1.2m to convert Ferry View House, the original lifeboat station in the 1800s, into a purpose-built station with modern facilities for Dart RNLI's volunteer crews. It is hoped building work will begin in spring 2024, the same year the RNLI celebrates its 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. The current lifeboat station in Coronation Park is a temporary building at the end of its lease, so to continue saving lives, the crew need to relocate to a permanent, purpose-built station, with suitable facilities for the lifesaving volunteers.



## Slapton Line Partnership – Report from Peter Hales

A meeting of the Slapton Line Partnership took place on Friday 9th March at Follaton House and was attended by Stretre Parish Councillors.

The meeting was chaired by Anthony Mangnall MP in his role as interim Chairman.

Official minutes of the meeting are not yet published, but a part of the discussion centred around DCC Highways proposals for improving back routes so that residents in affected Parishes would have adequate access in the event of the road over Slapton Line being breached. Prior to the meeting DCC had circulated a proposal for comment which included designation of a back route to Slapton and Stokenham via Gara Mill. Proposed improvements largely included the provision of additional passing places.

Stretre PC made it clear before the meeting that the road through Gara Mill would never be an appropriate or viable proposition for a back route due to its narrowness, steepness and the inherent limitations and alignment of the bridge itself.

It is believed that Stokenham and Slapton PCs had made similar comments, with Stokenham suggesting a route further north, which would include part of Totnes Road to Oldstone.

Stretre PC suggested that public money would be better spent upon making improvements along the length of Totnes Road to Oldstone where it joins the A3122, which would give a more viable back route for Stoke Fleming and Slapton residents assuming the A379 was breached south of the Slapton Beach turning (which the vulnerability study now suggests is more likely than the northern leg)

**During the meeting Highways accepted that the Gara Mill route was a non-starter and promised to provide updated proposals to the Parishes.**

The PC hopes to be able to have these proposals in time to explain them to residents at the Annual Parish Meeting on 18th April.

Your PC and the other affected Parishes have continued to press for immediate action on road improvements, rather than waiting until a breach occurs.

Regarding proposals to reinforce the sea defences to protect Slapton Line and the road over it in line with the revised management strategy, I am afraid that progress is still extremely slow.

SHDC has engaged a consultant with a scope of work which is aimed at delivering outline proposals by the end of the year, as a pre-cursor to seeking planning consent.

This is an uphill struggle to see positive action.





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**Stretewise Crossword Answers: Across** 1. Appeasement 2. Acrid 7. Harangue  
 9. Balletic 11. Eclipse 12. Albatross 13. Eye 14. Pate 17. Limit 18. Lymer 19. Nestle  
 21. Crosse 24. Futtock 25. Mufti 28. Escalope 29. Farewell 30. Aerated 31. Dirigible  
**Down** 1. Achievement 2. Parallel 3. Emu 4. Nobility 5. Ablate 6. Decisiveness  
 8. Gasoline 10. Toothpaste 15. Aluant 16. Em 20. Seafarer 22. Moose 23. Dimwit  
 24. Fabled 25. Mafia 26. Elemi 27. Spell

## STRETEWISE

Subscriptions for Stretewise 2024 are now due. Stretewise Vol 33. 1 to 6. Starting February - March. To order your six issues of Stretewise please complete the slip and give slip and payment to Monica and Andy at the Strete Post Office and Stores.

Payment for six magazine issues for 2024 = £4.00 which includes delivery in Strete.

We thank you in advance and hope for your continued support for the village magazine.

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### **All contributions to the magazine are welcome:**

Recipes, Crosswords (not cryptic) Articles, Letters. However, the editor reserves the right as to whether to include, edit or adjust the content. Contributions should be sent to [stretewise@outlook.com](mailto:stretewise@outlook.com) or hard copies of contributions can be left at the to the Post Office or delivered to the Editor:

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**Copy deadline for the next issue of Stretewise June-July will be 23rd May 2024.**

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Doctors (Dartmouth)	Dartmouth Health/Wellbeing	01803 832212
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Parish Council Clerk	Hannah Iles	01548 580449
Village Hall Committee	Penny Penhale (Chairman)	01803 771005
Village Hall Committee	Danni Brien (Treasurer/Bookings)	07841505797
Probus	John Light	johlight1@gmail.com
RSPCA		01803 859695
Short Mat Bowls Secretary	Gary Taylor	garytaylor@hotmail.com
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Emergency Fire, Ambulance, Police and Coastguard	999 or 112
Non-emergency contact with emergency services	101
NHS Direct	0845 4647
Torbay Hospital	01803 614 567
Totnes Hospital	01803 862 622
Derriford Hospital	01752 202082
Kingsbridge	01546 852349

## Strete Post Office and Stores

Stoke Fleming Library Village Hall	John Lewis	01803 770075
Monday 3.00pm to 5.00pm, Tuesday 10.30pm to 12.30pm, Thursday 3.00pm to 5.00pm. Or 24 hours at <a href="http://devon.gov.uk/libraries">devon.gov.uk/libraries</a>		

## TOTNES & DARTMOUTH RING AND RIDE

Phone between 10:00am and 12:00 midday	01803 867878
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# Ready for your next chapter?

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