



STRETEWISE

The Village Magazine

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Vol 32:02

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email: stretewise@outlook.com

Local Government Elections Timetable of Proceedings for

Thursday 4 May 2023

Publication of Notice of Election	Thursday 23 March 2023
Start of Nomination Process	10:00am Thursday 23 March 2023
Deadline for Receipt of Nominations	4:00 pm Tuesday 4 April 2023
Deadline for withdrawal of Candidate	4:00 pm Tuesday 4 April 2023
Deadline for appointment of Election Agents	4:00 pm Tuesday 4 April 2023
Publication of Notice of Election Agents	4:00 pm Tuesday 4 April 2023
Publication of Statements of Persons Nominated	4:00 pm Wednesday 5 April 2023
Last Date for Registration	Monday 17 April 2023
Deadline for Receipt of Postal Vote Applications	5:00 pm Tuesday 18 April 2023
Publication of Notice of Poll	Tuesday 25 April 2023
Deadline for Receipt of Proxy Vote Applications	5:00 pm Tuesday 25 April 2023
Deadline for Voter ID Card Applications	5:00 pm Tuesday 25 April 2023
Deadline for appointment of Poll and Count Agents	Wednesday 26 April 2023
First Day to Issue Replacement/Lost Postal Ballot Papers	Thursday 27 April 2023
Last Day to Issue Replacement/Lost Postal Ballot Papers	5:00 pm Thursday 4 May 2023
Receipt of Emergency Proxy Vote Applications	5:00 pm Thursday 4 May 2023
Day of Poll	7:00 am to 10:00 pm Thursday 4 May 2023
Return of Election Expenses (Town/Parish)	Thursday 1 June 2023
Return of Election Expenses (District)	Thursday 8 June 2023



King Charles III Coronation Weekend Events in Strete

Saturday 6 May in the Kings Arms

- 11.00 Kings Arms opens : The Coronation will be showing on the bar tv.
12.00 - 14.00 Light Bite Snacks.
14.00 - 17.00 Bar Drinks only.
18.00 - 18.30 Welcome to 'Ticket only King's Supper' guests for bar drinks.
18.30 One winner draw.
19.00 Guests to be seated for the
King's Coronation Supper.
21.30 Glass of wine for the Loyal Toast to King Charles III.
23.00 Kings Arms closes.



Sunday 7 May in St Michael's Church

- 11.00 Celebratory Thanksgiving Service with Music, Prose and Prayers,
followed by tea and cake.

Sunday 7 May in the Kings Arms

- 11.00 Kings Arms opens.
12.00 - 18.00 Light Bite & BBQ food from the kitchen and garden.
14.00 Children's "Crown Jewels Hunt" in the garden.
15.00 Presentation of Coronation Mugs to Strete Parish children,
16 years and under.
15.30 - 18.30 Live Music in the garden, weather permitting.
18.30 Adjourn and meet inside the Kings Arms where the
Coronation Concert at Windsor castle will be showing on the bar tv.
The Kings Arms will close after the Concert.



Monday 8 May in the Village Hall

- 10.00 - 12.00 Village Hall Coronation Big Coffee and Cake Morning. There will
also be a showing of Jean Parnell's film about Old Strete.

Monday 8 May in the Kings Arms

- 11.30 Kings Arms opens.
12.00 - 15.00 BBQ (*meat and seafood*) served in the garden and restaurant.
16.00 Kings Arms closes.



Strete Chapel



Greetings from the fellowship to all in the village!

We are continuing to meet every Sunday at 11am in the chapel building. All are welcome. We have some interesting speakers coming up including our Easter services which include a Good Friday conference and an Easter Sunday service. Come and learn about the true meaning of Easter. Put the dates in your diary!

GOOD FRIDAY

7th April 2023

The Village Hall, Dartmouth Road

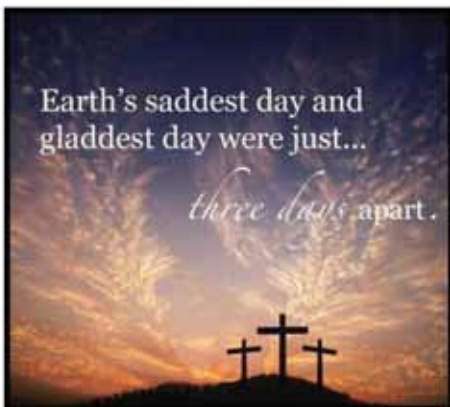
Stoke Fleming TQ6 0QT

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

United Bible Conference

Speakers Mr Charles Bancroft

Mr Mark Fox



For Christians all over the world Easter is a time to remember what Jesus did for each one of us on the cross. As the image states in just three days the world was changed as Jesus brought salvation to all through His death and resurrection.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3 v 16

★ Young Searchers ★

Young Searchers is a Christian children's club based on teaching the Bible through stories, games and craft. We are meeting every Thursday (term time only) from 6-7pm in the chapel. All are welcome!

Joke!

How does the Easter Bunny keep his fur looking so nice?

He uses hare spray!



Prayer

Dear Lord, we give thanks today and always for Your grace, and that by Your grace we can all receive the free gift of salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Let us remember that whilst it is free it was never cheap.

We rejoice that although Jesus died, He rose again on the third day and paid our debt in full, that the victory is won! Amen

St. Michael's Church Strete

Readers Corner:

From St Lukes Gospel, chapter 10, verse 33 we hear the following words, *But a Samaritan who was travelling that way came upon a man, and when he saw him, his heart was filled with joy.*

A few years ago, there was a television comedy called Bread. It centred on a family in Liverpool, mother, father and grown-up children. Grandad lived in the house next door. In one episode, Grandad was unhappy. He felt lonely and showed it in bad temper when they called to see him. The family responded by taking him little gifts, to show they loved him. It didn't satisfy Grandad. "I don't want you to give me things", he complained, "I just want you to stay awhile". In their busyness, it was hard for the family to realise that he didn't want gifts, he just needed them. A little of their time.

Love can be shown through gifts, but the best gift is often one's time. Love is a relationship, reaching out across the gap between people, pulling them closer. When someone's lonely, it's not presents they want, it's presence. Someone to sit with, to talk to, someone to listen. Someone who values them enough not just to give their money, but their time. The important thing about the Good Samaritan wasn't the fact that he had money. It was his willingness to give time, take risks and develop a relationship.

May we have the grace to reach out to all those in need.

The following words were written by an unknown author.

"The Value of Time"

Take time to think, it is the source of power.

Take time to read, it is the fountain of wisdom.

Take time to pray, it is the greatest power on earth.

Take time to LOVE and BE LOVED, it is a God-given privilege.

Take time to be friendly, it is the road to happiness.

Take time to laugh, it is the music of the soul.

Take time to give, it is too short a day to be selfish.

Take time to work, it is the price of success.

Take time to do charity, it is the key to heaven.

May God bless you all. **Jenny Harris.**

Sunday morning service followed by tea and coffee, everyone is very welcome to come along.

Church wardens Trish Robertson 07976 269208 (The Laughing Monk)
and Vincent Dingley



Strete Village Hall

Community Café in the Village Hall

This is open on Mondays, 10.30 - 12.30

Free coffee, tea and biscuits are available.

Table tennis, newspapers, jigsaw puzzle, quiz, crossword puzzle, playing cards, etc are available and interesting, amusing company.

Everyone welcome. Do come and join us.

Sea Shanty Evening with 2-course supper

Saturday, 15th April, 7.00pm

We are welcoming The Old Gaffers, a Sea Shanty group from the Kingsbridge area and will be serving a chicken or vegetarian casserole followed by a fruit crumble and custard.

There will be a bar selling wine, beer and soft drinks plus a raffle.

Cost/person: £12.50

Tickets on sale at Strete Village Shop from Friday, 31st March.

Coronation Big Coffee and Cake Morning

This will take place in the **Community Café**

Monday, 8th May, 10.30 - 12.30

It would be great to see as many people as possible.

Ron will be showing a film of Old Strete so you will be able to see what has and has not changed over the years.

*** HELP! ***

There are two matters the Village Hall would like help with.

- 1/ To all those brilliant cake makers: please, PLEASE would you make some cakes for our Coronation Big Coffee Morning.
- 2/ Is there anyone in the village who would like a project? We are looking for someone to do some research on solar panels, etc for the hall.

Please let me know if you are able to help with either of the above.

Penny: p.g.penhale@hotmail.com Phone: 771005

******* NB VILLAGE DAY NEEDS YOUR HELP! *******

Sea Shanties & Supper

With

The Old Gaffers

15th April 7pm onwards
at the Strete Village Hall

Chicken or Vegetarian Casserole
with **Fruit Crumble**

Bar available for buying wine or beer



Tickets
£12.50
per person

Tickets on sale at the Strete Post Office and Stores
Deadline for booking is 13th April



On the 10th February the Hall hosted a Valentine's Craft and Disco night for local children. Els from Incy organised the event, having built up a relationship with the Hall

through her successful series of summer craft clubs last year. She now has 4 after school craft clubs running in the local area, and approached the Hall with a view to running 4 craft and disco events each year.

Valentines was the first such event, and 41 children and their families were welcomed into a very different hall from the one they are used to seeing! Fairy lights and rows of streamers had been used to create a lovely welcoming atmosphere. As for the activities available, everything had been planned to make for a lovely evening. One corner was used to show off a number of the crafts attendees of afterschool clubs had made with Els this term. Clay dinosaurs fought for space with paintings and puppets, and parents had a chance to see what their children had been up to in the clubs.

Elsewhere Els had set up crafting tables where children could create Valentines cards, and design their own cups. These proved very useful for the squash they needed to cool them down after a bit of dancing around the disco ball which created just the right mood in the glitter corner once the music was on.

Els even made sure parents and grandparents were able to relax, with a coffee corner near the busy popcorn station and next to a range of Els' craft kits, just in case inspired children needed more activities for the weekend.

As if that wasn't enough, the Hall had pizza and cookies available for purchase – and had a stream of customers across the evening.

Once Els and the team had recovered, a quick review highlighted the success of the event, so further dates will take place. You can contact Els directly at Hello@incybox.com, or keep an eye on the noticeboard outside the Hall.



STRETE VILLAGE DAY

Strete Village Day 5th 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
Wednesday 17th May at 7.00pm
at the Strete Village Hall. Everyone welcome.

Or give your contact details to Penny 771005
email: p.g.penhale@hotmail.com



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Strete Social Club

SPRING & SUMMER PROGRAMME 2023

Meetings are usually held in Strete Parish Hall on alternate Tuesdays at 2.30PM		
March	7th	Watercolour Painting - Juliet Collins
	21st	Reflections - Sally Green
April	4th	Feet First - Sam Hodges
	18th	Whimsical Stories - Suzy & John Miles
May	2nd	Coronation Tea
	16th	Cinema Outing at the Flavel - tbc
	30th	Coleton Fishacre - Diane Riddell
June	13th	Avon Mill Afternoon Tea Outing
	27th	Icing Flowers Demonstration - Carole Wills
July	11th	Village Life as a Girl - Pam Wills
	25th	Home produce stall

24th January: There was a good attendance at the meeting of the Social Club where we were welcomed by Dorothy. Very little business time was needed but before our speaker for the afternoon was introduced Joan gave a vote of thanks to Karen who had organised for our members to go to the film 'Mrs. Harris goes to Paris' in the Flavel and for us to all have lunch together in the Flavel Café. This was a very enjoyable event and we are all keen to go to the next morning when a new film will be shown.



Our speaker Dannielle Brien, a resident

of this village, was introduced and spoke to us on the 'Secrets of Shopping'.

Danielle before her retirement had run a business for 14 years into shopper research.

She had dealt with all aspects of shopping dealing with many large companies like coca cola. Another branch was to give advice to supermarkets, researching where it was best to place products, their packaging etc. We learned that the best place to display a product

is at eye level, the top being for more expensive items and the lower down items are displayed usually means the cheaper lines. She told us of how garage forecourts came to have a well-known supermarket alongside their garages and of the way the Petrol company fitted in with M & S which was the one she was illustrating to us even down to the Petrol companies staff dressing in the uniform of the supermarket.



One supermarket came up with the idea for ready meals for 70–85-year-old but got it all wrong cutting the portions small as they said ‘Old people didn’t eat much’.

This item never got past the development stage and never reached the supermarket.

Nowadays men are one third of shoppers. They shop in a very different way on the whole to women, women tend to browse, men go direct for what they want and their shopping is done. We learnt such a lot this afternoon and Danni was thanked by Karen after she had answered a few questions that members put to her.

Our usual social time was then had when we were served with tea by Carol and Chris.

Strete Social Club **7th February.** A warm welcome was extended to members and two guests at our meeting when the usual business was dealt with, in which our Treasurer informed us that to date we have twenty-one paid up members.

Our speaker for the afternoon, Peter Barker, was introduced and he gave us a talk on his recent trip to Nepal.

Seeing an advert come up on his computer and offering many of the things that are of interest to him like seeing the Himalayas, boat trip, visit to schools, Trekking, booked and set off with a small party to partake of this holiday.



Two guides led the party of 15 and with the aid of slides Peter took us on a tour of Nepal.

The mountains were hidden in cloud but did eventually clear so that he had great views of these. We then joined him on a Trek in the hills where the party were taken to a school where they were given a great welcome and presented with a scarf and hat which he modelled for us. The children were delightful but the facilities were very sparse.

A Jungle trip was much enjoyed. He then put up a map of Nepal and pointed out various places including Katmandoo where he paid a visit. One hundred and twenty-three languages are spoken in Nepal. 45% speak the native tongue. Hindu is widely spoken. He had a trip in a small plane over Mount Everest. The roads were quite rough with lots of scooters and motor bikes. Alongside the road were shacks where the people lived and, in the slides, you could see the occupants doing various tasks through the open doors. In Katmandoo there were bikes strewn everywhere. We saw many slides of temples in which were statues of elephants and Lions, Royal palaces.

They have rice paddy fields. The food he said was delicious especially the soup and the omelettes that were a breakfast food. It was very good to visit the area where the Gurkhas trained. There was a school there which the party also visited. There was a parade with the band playing to welcome them to the area with dancing and speeches as they wound their way through the streets.

Peter then touched on the various religions and finished his talk with a few slides on the animals, elephants, monkeys and they were so lucky to see a tiger.

He was thanked by Brenda and tea was served by Sandy and Joan Kendall.

Streets Social Club **21st February:** There was a good attendance at our meeting on 21st February when we had a speaker, Christine Paradine, from Animals in Distress. Christine was the Manager of the centre at Ipplepen and is now a Trustee of the Charity. She also helps with being a dog walker. She assured us that it was not going to be a sad afternoon and began her illustrated talk by saying that they rehome about 400 animals per year.



It all began in 1981 with three ladies who took in an animal when the owner had to go into hospital and from there it snowballed.

When this got too large for their home they used kennels which of course were expensive and then they ventured into opening a centre in Ipplepen. This was officially opened by John Inman, who gave his services free, when appearing in a show in Torquay.

Each animal is vaccinated and chipped. Vet's fees are around £150,000 per annum. They have a volunteer who goes to do home checks when an animal is about to go to a new home. Just to see that it is a suitable place for the animal to live and to check what the prospective adopters have told them is true. One instance she quoted was it was said that they had a secure garden. On checking it was a block of flats with a communal outdoor space.

Helping the homeless pets of South Devon

Caring for and rehoming
over 600 homeless, lost
and abandoned cats, dogs,
rabbits and guinea pigs
every year.

There are seven charity shops in our area and these are a life line at raising money, also they rely on legacies. Fund raising is carried out with many varying things from coffee mornings to sky diving, mud wallowing, dog shows etc.

In 2012 they built their own veterinary surgery which is a great asset with the vet and nurse able to carry out injections, treatment and micro-chipping on the site. Saving time and stress to both staff and animals.

Some of the dogs that have come into the centre have gone on to achieve great things, Two examples were told. One a dog called Diesel who

saved his owner and parents by alerting them to their house being on fire. This dog was awarded the highest honour for animals and a photo was shown of him wearing the medal, our human equivalent of the George Cross. Another springer cross cocker spaniel named Pepper, was taken on by the police and this dog after training is now working to go over venues where the Royal family are due to go to functions, checking for bombs etc.

Dorothy thanked Christine for a very interesting and informative talk. The social club gave her a fee for her talk and a collection box on the table received donations from the members.

Stretton Social Club



7th March: A warm welcome awaited us as we went to the village hall for our Social Club Meeting. Karen read out a letter of thanks from Animals in distress for our donation and money raised in their collection box when a member of their team spoke to us last week. Dorothy dealt with the little business that we had and then our speaker, Juliet an artist who lives in the village, spoke of how she came to do watercolour painting. As a child she won a competition and had her painting hung in an art gallery. She was busy throughout her life and didn't have so much time to enjoy her art but then she was farming and did find time to take up watercolour painting once again. She had brought along a variety of paintings and explained to us the different techniques that were used to create various effects. She has started teaching art locally to small groups and is in charge of the paintings which are displayed in our village pub The Kings Arms, by different local artists which of course are using different materials. These can be purchased.

After questions were answered Juliet was thanked by Dorothy and we were informed that her fee was to be donated to the Red Cross.

Tea and biscuits were served by Shirley and Rita.



Strete Social Club **21st March:** Our speaker for the afternoon really needed no introduction as it was Sally Green who for many years was a reader in the village Church of St. Michaels.

She began her talk by saying that she had divided it up into three parts. The first part up to the first 28 years of her life. The second part was of her 4 years in New Zealand and the third part of the 17 years she spent as a Missionary in the nursing profession in Papua New Guinea.

She was not born in Devon but lived in Bromley Kent 1939 for five years in which time due to the war was evacuated to Oxfordshire with her sister and Mum, her father staying behind. Sally attended school here. In 1943 they moved back to London where she went to high school. When it got dangerous to stay her father and mother stayed but sent the two girls to Dawlish, in Devon. When Sally left school, she decided to take up nursing aged 19. Her first posting was at the Middlesex Hospital doing Midwifery.

After a while her and two friends decided they wanted some adventure and would go to New Zealand. The other two friends got married and never went but Sally sailed on her own and finished in Auckland where she trained other midwives. Along with friends she had made over in N.Z. they decided to go and work on a fruit farm where it was owned by a great Christian family and it was here that her Faith was renewed. After 3 very enjoyable years so went back to nursing. She became a Missionary and was posted to Papua New Guinea. Part three of her life was then spent in P.N.G. which is the second largest island in the world. Here she worked in ten different places and again trained midwives and had to deal with many of the tropical diseases. Life was not easy as the nearest Doctor was a very long way away and it was a long journey to take seriously ill patients to see him. If she knew there was likely to be complications in childbirth they would journey to the big hospital again many many miles away as they could not deal with such cases in the villages. She also visited many outlying places, having to walk to these with a medical support and deal with many illnesses and giving vaccinations etc.

One question asked was if she had ever done a caesarean or amputation. No was the answer but she did sew a finger back on.

She had brought along many items from P.N.G. made by the local people and these were passed around along with some very lovely photos of the facilities and staff who she had trained. A very interesting talk which Karen

thanked her for. We then had our usual cups of tea and this week buns.

The tables had table cloths on which Sally had brought and related to P.N.G.





The Friday Bar Night Draw was greeted with much anticipation and last minute decisions to purchase a number for the draw. For the first draw 40 of the 50 numbers available were purchased before all 50 were entered into the draw box.

The draw coincided with a children's event at the Village Hall that finished at 7pm and resulted in a number of parents making the most of the opportunity to enjoy time together in the pub before going home. The pub enjoyed their company that generated a buzz of chat and laughter. A great way to spend a Friday evening.

One lucky number was drawn from the draw box for the £50 voucher to spend in the Kings Arms and, fortunately, the owner of the number was in the bar to collect the voucher. Each number costs £5 and is a one-off purchase which means it's in the draw box each week with a chance to win a £50 voucher. The voucher must be used within two months of winning it. If the person who bought the winning number is not in the bar at the time of the draw, it's a roll-over to the following week and £10 is added to the draw. This continues each week until there is a winner in the bar.

The voucher value is capped at £100. Importantly, customers who have bought a number must be in the bar between 6 and 8pm on a Friday to see their number drawn from the box to win the voucher.

The motivation is to encourage people to visit the Kings Arms for a couple of hours to communicate with each other about anything and everything. It could also provide an opportunity to find out what the community would like to see the pub doing that could encourage them use the Kings Arms more frequently as a community pub.

The Coronation of His Majesty The King

Saturday 6th May, 2023



The Coronation Ceremony will take place at Westminster Abbey, London, and will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Ceremony will see His Majesty King Charles III crowned alongside The Queen Consort.



The Imperial State Crown is the crown that the monarch wears on leave Westminster Abbey after the coronation.



The King will be crowned with St Edward's Crown during the Coronation Service.



Queen Mary's Crown will be used for the Coronation of the Consort.



King Charles III Coronation Weekend at the Kings Arms

Saturday 6 May

- 11.00 Kings Arms opens : The Coronation will be showing on the bar tv.
- 12.00 - 14.00 Light Bite Snacks.
- 14.00 - 17.00 Bar Drinks only.
- 18.00 - 18.30 Welcome to 'Ticket only King's Supper' guests for bar drinks.
- 18.30 One winner draw.
- 19.00 Guests to be seated for the King's Coronation Supper.
- 21.30 Glass of wine for the Loyal Toast to King Charles III.
- 23.00 Kings Arms closes.



Sunday 7 May

- 11.00 Kings Arms opens.
- 12.00 - 18.00 Light Bite & BBQ food from the kitchen and garden.
- 14.00 Children's "Crown Jewels Hunt" in the garden.
- 15.00 Presentation of Coronation Mugs to Strete Parish children, 16 years and under.
- 15.30 - 18.30 Live Music in the garden.
- 18.30 Adjourn and meet inside the Kings Arms where the Coronation Concert at Windsor castle will be showing on the bar tv. The Kings Arms will close after the Concert.



Monday 8 May

- 11.30 Kings Arms opens.
- 12.00 - 15.00 BBQ (*meat and seafood*) cooked and served by volunteers in the garden and restaurant.
- 16.00 Kings Arms closes.



the Kings Arms

Welcome to our community
pub on the South Devon coast.



The days are longer, the daffodils are out and the KA opening hours are changing. It must be Spring. Mother's Day has been and gone, and a fine day was had by all, with a full house through most of the afternoon, as mums enjoyed their free glass of fizz and kids played in the garden.

The Friday Night Lucky Number draw

has proven to be a big success...and a source of much drama. The rules are simple. You have your number, it belongs to you. The prize is a £50 KA voucher. But you have to be in the pub to win, otherwise it is a Rollover. There have been several lucky winners but more than once the owner of the winning number has not been in the pub and the chance goes begging. In one instance, the owner of the Lucky Number came racing into the pub...ten minutes after the draw. So, no win. It's good fun and it's revitalised Friday nights in the bar with much conversation and mirth. Long may it continue.

Over the past two months, there's been lots of other good stuff going on, including a regular Euchre Night, the Monthly Quiz, some very good Open Mic Nights and the Village Lunch, which always offers a great value two course meal and a chance to meet people from the village. We hope that these give people a reason to visit the pub and an entertaining way to support our community asset. The list of events in April can be seen alongside.

Looking ahead to May there's one big event already planned, the celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III. There will be loads going on at the pub, including live coverage of the Coronation on Saturday afternoon, a three course Coronation Supper on Saturday night, a Coronation Big Lunch on Sunday, with live music and 'find the Crown Jewels' fun for kids... and a Bank Holiday Monday BBQ. Full details on the attached poster.

The pub will be open every day for the two weeks over the Easter holiday break, from the 3rd to the 16th of April. This is something of a trial so please do your best to support the pub at this time. Thereafter, the pub will be once again open for lunch on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Full opening hours below. May opening hours will depend on how things go in April. Please check the website, follow us on Facebook or call ahead to confirm.

On Easter Sunday, as well as an Easter Sunday roast, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt in the garden. Something for the kids to enjoy, as long as they share the spoils with their dads of course....

If you are not on the update email list, please email us at info@kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk, or you can follow us on Facebook, go to the website www.kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk or just call the pub. **April planned opening hours:** Open every day during the Easter school holidays -3rd April to 16th April. For the remainder of April opening hours will be: Closed on Mondays & Tuesdays. Wednesday to Friday: Open 12-3 and 5-11pm with food served 12.30 to 2.30pm and 5.30 to 8.30pm Saturday: Open 12-11pm with food served 12.30 to 2.30pm and 5.30 to 8.30pm Sunday: Open 12-8pm with food served 1-6pm.

To book more or find out about events, phone 01803 770027 or email:

bookings@kingsarmsatstrete For other enquiries, please contact info@kingsarmsatstrete

the Kings Arms at Strete

What's On In April

Wednesday 5th. Euchre Night. 7pm

Thursday 6th. Open Mic Night. All players welcome. 7pm

Friday 7th. Friday Bar Club & Lucky Number Draw.

Sunday 9th. Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Sunday Roast.

Monday 10th. Easter Bank Holiday.

Wednesday 12th. Quiz Night. 7pm

Friday 14th. Fishy Friday & Lucky Number Draw.

Friday 21st. Friday Bar Club & Lucky Number Draw.

Sunday 23rd. St. George's Day.

Village Lunch. Thursday 27th. 1pm

Book Club. Thursday 27th. 7pm.

Friday 28th. Fishy Friday & Lucky Number Draw.

And looking ahead....

Coronation Weekend Celebration. May 6-8th.

Support your community pub.

01803 770027

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

www.kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk



Welcome to the new owners of the Strete Estate

**A warm welcome to the Spokes family.
Everyone would wish you well with your new venture.**

I understand that the Strete Estate will be a family run venture.

Would you like to introduce everyone involved?

Nigel & Tracey Spokes (father & mother)

Warren & Brendan Spokes (sons)

*Warren is married to Grace and they have 3 daughters - Aspen (4), Blake (2)
and Rae (newborn) Brendan's partner is Kasope*

It is early days, but do you think some of the family will end up living in the area?

*Brendan is already living in Firstfield, Hynetown Road in Strete and encourages anyone to
pop round for a tea or coffee if they'd like to introduce themselves.*

**What attracted the family to choose Strete above other farms in
the south West?**

*The Strete Estate is a uniquely diverse coastal estate unlike anything we had come across
in our search for a farm.*

**Is there any aspect of the project that you are particularly looking forward to
getting underway?**

*We are currently in the process of recruiting a farm manager and we hope to be farming
in spring 2024.*

There is a very welcoming and positive spirit in Strete village with many community projects and events.

Strete Village Day, held on first Saturday in August. This year it will be on Saturday 5th August and will be held on Mewstone Meadow (adjacent to Manor Farm Caravan site). Funds raised on the day support the Village Hall and other village organisations. The day will include the usual 'Country Fair' mix of dog shows, dancing, vintage displays, stalls and kids games.

Would the Stokes family consider participating in the event in any way?

Unfortunately this year we have a family commitment on the 5th August. We look forward to hearing how it goes and will look for inspiration and ideas on how we can participate for next year.

There will be a vast array of considerations to managing an estate of this size, from agricultural, forestry, coastal, environmental, rural neighbourhoods, etc. Is there anything that you see as being a particular challenge?

We understand the sensitivity of the estate as a whole and will take the relevant advice and work with local competent consultants.

A small part of the Strete Estate is very central to the village and many residents would ask if you have any initial thoughts to the future plans for the land.

Nigel & Brendan have met with Peter Hales & Ralph Clarke and are always open to conversations that will ensure the longevity of the village.

Can we expect to see members of the family around the village or in the pub?

I'm sure all the family will visit the pub at some point in time. Brendan has been down a number of times already and is looking forward to winning the raffle!



INCA THE VULTURE

Running out of her carrying box, Inca our Black Vulture with her wings spread lolloped down the hill at Pennywell Farm and took off on a training flight. Up and up circulating as she went higher and higher, catching a thermal until she was just a dot above us. Karen the Falconer produced her lure which had bait attached to the leather dummy mouse at the end and threw it to the ground in front of her, instead of an instant reaction from Inca the opposite happened, and she started to drift



off towards distant Dartmoor until she disappeared altogether. We waited and waited for her to turn and stoop for her food as she was trained to do. But no, she must have caught a thermal and found it difficult to turn back to Pennywell.

We spent the rest of the day at the Falconry Centre in expectation that she would find her way home, but it was not to be, and we returned home to Totnes fretting about the loss of our very valuable bird.

I tumbled into Falconry after meeting Karen, she had an interest in 'Birds of Prey' and kept a Kestrel and Buzzard in two aviaries at her Totnes home, something I had no knowledge of but was soon to take over my life.

It all kicked off at 'The Shire Horse Centre' near Plymouth where Karen deputised for the resident Falconer one weekend, and found she had a knack for it. Then followed Woodlands Falconry Centre, then Pennywell Farm rebuilding the disused Falconry Centre and making a success of it. Also, over the next eight years calling ourselves 'Saker Falconry' then

'Devon Country Pursuits' we demonstrated at the Royal Cornwall Show, the Devon County Show and most of the smaller County Shows throughout Devon, Dorset and Cornwall. We then set up a bird clearance section assisting places such as Teignbridge docks and local schools to get rid of seagulls and pigeons by flying a Harris Hawk, and Eagle Owl. We also held a contract to



keep seagulls from attacking their reflections on the Biomes at the Eden

Project for several years, flying a Peregrine Falcon and Harris Hawk above them.

Meanwhile back to our escapee, Inca the Black Vulture. Hoping she would have found her way back her aviary at Pennywell Farm we set out early the next morning, but no, she was nowhere to be seen despite lots of food being thrown to the ground to entice her from any of the nearby trees. And then we turned to the obvious, the media, Black Vultures are never seen in our skies and their outline is so different to our native birds, so we contacted the newspapers and TV Channels hoping she would be spotted. And she was, from Dartmoor westwards towards Cornwall, then all went quite for two weeks. Then we received a phone call.



"I believe you have lost a Black Vulture" the man said on the other end of the phone, "I have read about it in the Western Morning News and think it has taken up residence in my barn do you want to come and collect her?" "Yes please", Karen said, "where are you?" "Well, it's a bit difficult" the man said, "I am in the back woods of mid-Cornwall and I will have to give you directions to the nearest town, then you will have to ring me from there." Now in the year 2000 we didn't have Smart Phones only phones like the Nokia and Razor often with dodgy signals, however we made the town and were lucky enough to get a decent signal and further directions. Very strange we thought, why all the secrecy, it would have been easier to have had an address and looked it up on the map as we went.

Eventually we neared the property in the deepest countryside and strangely as we approached saw it was surrounded by a tall wired fence with large cameras mounted on tall poles looking like a secret military establishment. Only it wasn't a military establishment but just a normal farmhouse surrounded by barns. We rang the number again and the gate opened for us to approach the house.

"Your bird is in this barn at the moment", said the nice slightly built man that greeted us, "she has been with us for nearly a week on the top of the barn but lately has been living inside", quietly we looked in and saw

that indeed it was Inca our missing Vulture. So now we had to get her out. We had with us her large Carrying Box and a huge net to do the job, and boy it was one hell of a job. After several attempts by Karen to temp him down with food it was up to me to dive in armed with the net to try and catch a large American Black Vulture with a vicious looking large beak.

I will not go into details about the 15 minutes I spent in that barn with the doors shut, I shall leave that to the readers imagination. I emerged covered in straw, dirt, scratched and bloodied with one Black Vulture in her box. The spectators outside said the sound effects coming from that barn was to be believed.

"Come in for a cuppa', said the barn owner "and meet my wife, I have also got a request to ask of you". So, after a chat, tea and cake, he apologised for the secrecy surrounding our visit and asked if we could keep the visit and location to ourselves, of course we said, no problem. "I will tell you why" he said.

It turned out that our Black Vulture had chosen out of all the buildings in the West Country to make her home in the barn of a wanted man. "I served in Northern Ireland as an SAS Trooper" he said, "and for obvious reasons people would like to do myself and my colleagues some harm, hence the security and I would appreciate it if you would keep this visit to yourselves"
That was 20 years ago.

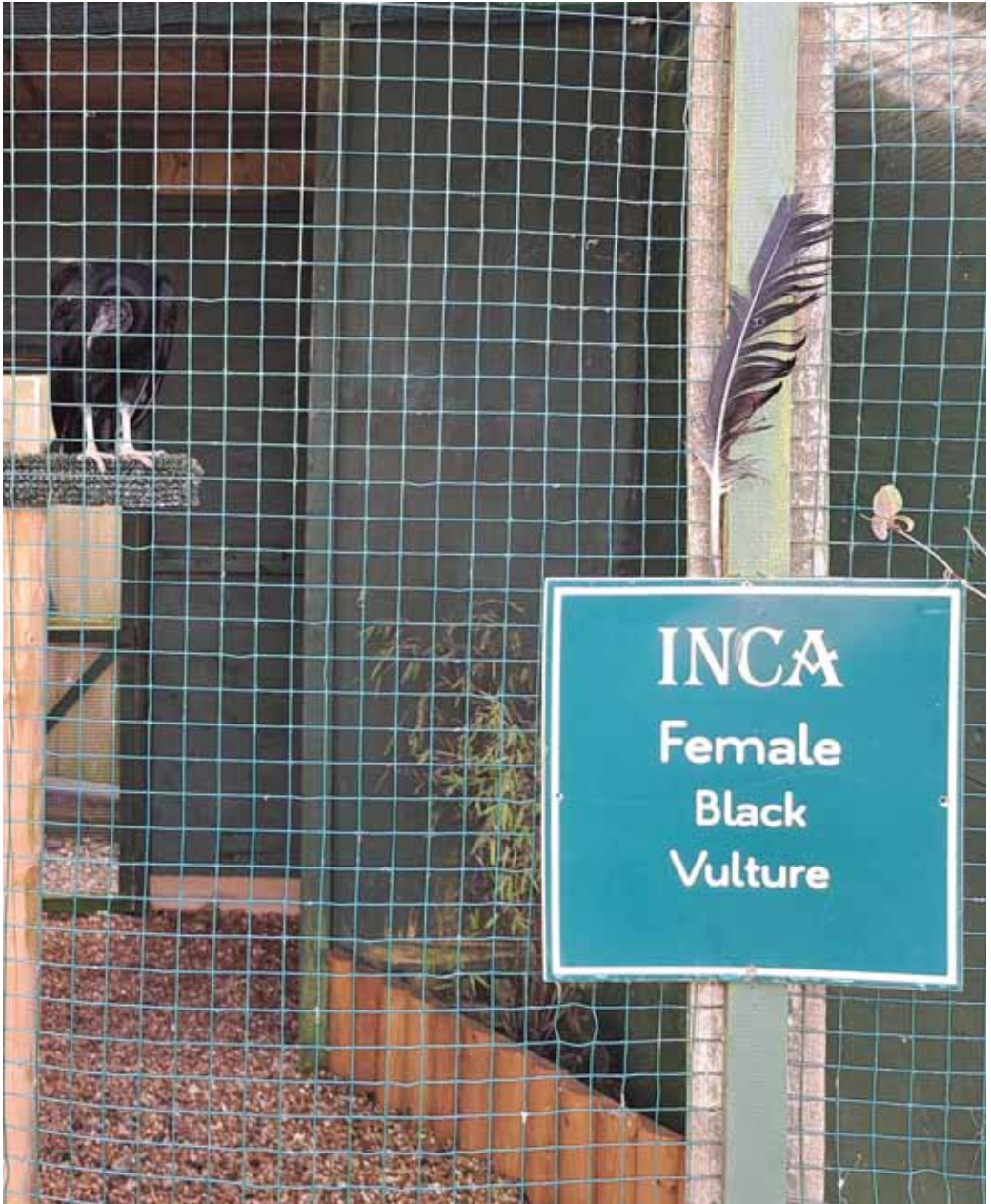
A few days later Inca became very ill and we had to take her all the way to Andover to see a specialist Vet who diagnosed that she had possibly eaten a dead rat that had been poisoned in the SAS soldiers barn, thankfully she made a full recovery.

Inca is still alive and can be seen at the Devon Bird of Prey Centre at Fermoy's Garden Centre, Karen the Falconer will be very pleased to see you.

Ron Howell
The Nook

Inca: 15/02/2023 at the Devon Bird of Prey Centre, Fermoys Garden Centre.

Photograph by Ron Howell



STRETE VILLAGE DAY

Saturday 5th August 12.00-16.30

Mewstone Paddock, Totnes Road, Strete, TQ6 0RU

Free Parking

★ **FAMILY DOG SHOW** ★
★ **and DOG AGILITY** ★
★ Registration at 15.00pm ★

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
£2 Per Adult
Children Free

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Update from the PPG meeting held on 22 February 2023

Paul Green

A meeting of the Dart Medical Practice Patients Participation Group was held on the evening of 22 February 2023. Several key points discussed at the meeting.

Practice move to the HWBC

The move to the HWBC (Health and Wellbeing Centre) has been delayed.

Moving over Easter as previously planned isn't possible as the facility will not formally open until 9 May. The Dartmouth Clinic will move to the HWBC from that date. The GP surgery is planning to move over the Spring bank holiday weekend at the end of May. Dates earmarked for the move are Saturday 27 – Monday 29 May.



Issues are around the HWBC

Two issues the PPG want addressed prior to the move were discussed.

The path that has been built to provide direct access from the bus stop and Sainsburys isn't fit for purpose. The current path is narrow and has a rough gravel surface. This makes it difficult to use both for people with reduced mobility or families with children in prams or pushchairs. Also, the path lacks basic safety precautions as there is no barrier at the end of the path to prevent people going straight onto the road.

Charges for using the car park are still to be resolved. The PPG believes that the first 30 minutes should be free with a minimum charge being made for the first hour. This will facilitate people using the surgery and picking up prescriptions from the pharmacy.

Both the issues will be taken up with the relevant people.

Bookable appointments on Saturdays

These are now up and running. Saturday appointments need to be booked in advance and take place at the Leatside surgery in Totnes. The implementation of the new computer system in the Dart Medical Practice means that patient notes will be available to support appointments at Leatside.

Patient Survey

The survey had over 850 responses. The analysis is now complete and can be viewed on the PPG Facebook pages here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DartmouthPPG/> or on the Surgery website here: <https://www.dartmedical.co.uk/> .

All feedback on the results of the survey is welcome so please find some time to take a look and let us know what you think.

Any issues with the surgery? If anyone living in Strete has any issues with the surgery that they would like me to investigate please get in touch with me. You can contact me either by my mobile phone, 07799 772709, or by email at pagreen1961@outlook.com.

News from Blackawton & Strete History group (BASH)



As you probably know, Strete and Blackawton were a single civil parish until 1935. From time-to-time BASH is given old documents which may refer to either, as they have such a long, shared, history as a single parish.

A while ago BASH was given a set of old parchments which are conveyances and indentures relating to Oldstone House, now a ruin but formerly a grand house belonging to the Dimes family, who owned a lot of land in what is now Blackawton parish. The documents date back to the early 1800s and have now been transcribed. BASH is now going to deposit the originals in the South West Heritage Centre (formerly the Devon Record Office) in Exeter so that they can be held securely and maintained in perfect condition. The originals will be made available if you visit.

If you are interested in seeing the transcriptions, please submit a request through the BASH website (info@historybash.co.uk) when a member of BASH will contact you via email. In future it may be possible to alter the website so that old documents can be posted directly. However, as BASH is in the doldrums and there has been little activity since the pandemic, we need to bring it to life again before undertaking any website work. BASH needs new leadership, so if you are interested in taking an active role in its revival, please contact Kate Gill via email: manorfarmstrete@hotmail.co.uk



Strete Voices

We are a recently formed, small group, coming together to share our enjoyment of singing

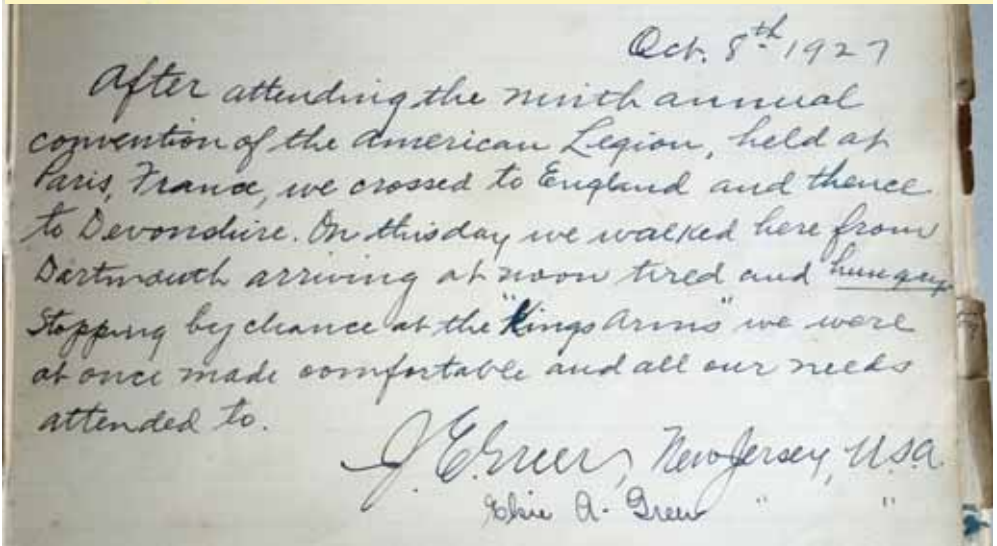
We meet on Tuesday evenings, between 6:00 and 7:30 PM in Saint Michaels church under the direction of our choirmaster Bob Barsby

We welcome any abilities of singing and at the moment we are learning folk songs, songs from the musicals and sea shanties.

For further details please contact Trish at the Laughing Monk (patriciarobertson@fastmail.fm)

or

Pop along to the church on Tuesday evenings to meet us, have fun and sing along.



A 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.

St. Michael's Church Strete: Events

The Church was invited by Louise and Richard Newman to hold an afternoon walk and tea at their home. This despite the most horrible misty, rainy weather was a great success. Those able did a walk through the grounds admiring the spring flowers and the beautiful Camelia bushes. It was a pity but due to the mist the beautiful view of start bay could not be seen. Then the large number who supported this event enjoyed a most delicious tea prepared and served by members of St. Michaels.

All funds raised were for the Church.

The next event was a concert with the Lyric Orchestra, led by Trish Calman, in the Church. This was well attended and the music was much enjoyed. Money raised will be divided between St. Michael's and the earthquake victims. At the end of the programme wine, cheese and biscuits were served.

The mothering Sunday service was led by Joan and Vincent with various ladies taking part reading and lighting of three candles at the start of the service. Coffee and Cake were enjoyed following the service. All ladies present were given a polyanthus plant and some taken to ladies in the village.

20 Years of Gardentime!



As part of our 20th Anniversary celebrations at Gardentime, we have launched a new loyalty card for our Garden Club members. To thank you all for your custom over the last two decades, you can now collect points when you spend. The cards are free, and available instore now.



Club members, not only cumulate points on their purchases, but receive regular, informative emails highlighting exclusive offers, gardening tips and updates on all things Gardentime! If you would like to join our club, pop into the store, sign up and start saving.

We have also set up our informative 'Grow Greener' campaign. Around the garden centre you'll find our 'Grow Greener' logo, highlighting environmentally friendly options

as you shop. Letting us help you to meet your gardening goals in a more responsible, eco-conscious and planet positive way. So, if you are resolving to turn over a new leaf this year, Gardentime can help to show you the way! Find out more by visiting us soon and looking out for the 'Grow Greener' logo.

You will notice a change around our plant area too. We have been busy creating a new section where you can browse our beautiful plants by new categories, such as 'scented flowers', 'ground cover plants' and 'plants for coastal gardens'. Helping you find the right plant for the right place in your garden.

Our Café continues to make and bake fresh produce here at Gardentime, for our famous breakfasts, delicious lunches, and Devon cream teas. You can use your loyalty card through the café, farm shop and garden centre, which are all open 7 days a week.

Chris, Philly and the Gardentime Team

Turn over *eco-friendly* a new leaf this New Year.

20
year

Gardentime wants to help you achieve your 'greener gardening' goals for a more eco-conscious, responsible, and planet-positive future. Look for the Grow Greener logo on our eco-friendly products in store.

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**DARTMOUTH & DISTRICT
FLOWER CLUB**

We are now meeting at
Stoke Fleming Village Hall

On the 1st Thursday of each
month, except in August.

We welcome new members
who are interested in the art
of Flower Arranging to join us
to see guest demonstrators
create beautiful
arrangements which are
raffled.

Contact. Joan 01803 770782
Or Geraldine 07766293878



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You can apply to register to vote either:

Online at: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

Or by completing this form and sending it to your Electoral Registration Office.

You can find the address at: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voter

From 4 May 2023, voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections.

This will apply to:

- Local elections
- Police and Crime Commissioner elections
- UK parliamentary by-elections
- Recall petitions

From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections.

If you don't have accepted photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority Certificate.

www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id/applying-a-voter-authority-certificate

STRETE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Vacancy.

Minutes taken by Councillor Graham Campbell

www.strete.org.uk

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STRETE PARISH COUNCIL (PC)

HELD AT STRETE PARISH HALL ON THURSDAY 19th January 2023 AT 7 PM



PRESENT

Cllr Peter Hales (PH) (Chairman); Cllr Ralph Clark (RC); Cllr Kate Gill (KG); Cllr Ian Cumberlidge (IC); Cllr Graham Campbell (GC); Cllr David Rothwell (DR); County Councillor Julian Brazil (JB); District Councillor Richard Foss (RF);

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

JB The County Councillor gave his report. Reported that before the current cold weather, DCC were having 500 reports per day of road damage and this would now be greatly increased.

The ability to deal with this is compounded by the dire financial state of the County Council. The budget process is underway, building towards the 13 Feb DCC budget meeting.

Road closure in Modbury is delayed for 1 year.

There is a closure on A379 at East Charleton at the end of February at the same time as Totnes Road closure.

JB noted that closures in Stoke Fleming will not be allowed at that time.

There is a DCC motion to push support for pedestrians and cyclists in county. Clearer protocol is being pushed for local financing of highways projects. Cyclical contracting further information requested.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

RF District Councillor gave his report. The waste disposal system is working much better, crew morale is up and wages have been increased.

More recycling boxes are being distributed but this system is impossible in some areas. Subscription brown bins collection service has a 22nd Jan target for sign up if residents wish to benefit from the startup date of 6th March.

No news on the Slapton Line monument.

Our MP is still working to get additional protection of the Slapton Line Road.

RF noted that with elections due in May, little will happen in the month prior.

RF offered possible funding pre-25th March for a village speed check, as the DCC one had not functioned well due to road works.

South Hams new funding is soon to be available especially suitable for small businesses - news and details will be provided soon.

1 APOLOGIES: L Newman

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING held on 15th December 2022 These were approved and signed by PH.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None declared

4 PLANNING.

Fairfield Hynetown Road ref 3747/22/HHO (Readadvertised) **No additional PC comments.** The readvertisement appears to relate to a drawing error in the original application.

Quack Cottage Hansel ref. 4188/22/HHO This was seen as a well presented, sympathetic and well thought out application involving change to an existing house.

The PC resolved to support this application.

5 PC TARGETS

Updates on targets:

PH reported on positive contact with Brendan Spokes, representing the new owners of Strete Estate. BS had offered a meeting on Feb.6th to discuss the PC's proposals re playground and air ambulance site.

New VAR is still awaiting fitting by DCC.

Damage to cars from recent road damage (potholes) was noted.

Money is coming soon for electric charging projects in rural areas.

6. FINANCE

a. 4 cheques were signed as per agenda

b. Monitoring is awaiting appointment of a new finance officer.

c. Bank Balances as at 6th January - £14,596.57 in Current account, £11,334.02 in Reserve account.

d. PC Budget has been finalised with SHDC and the Precept has been set at a 5% rise to £14,700. A number of new households in the tax base have been advised by SHDC, which will lower the effect on parishioners to just over 4% increase on 22/23 for an average Band D property.

7. UPDATE ON CONTRACTS

Sweeping – resolved that next visit planned for Feb be deferred for 1 month until March due to weather conditions. No other new information

8. STRETE VILLAGE DAY PLANNING AND CORONATION BANK HOLIDAY

The Village Hall was reported as awaiting plans of the Kings Arms for the Coronation Weekend in May. RC stated that the Pub has started planning a 3-day event. Coordination will be needed between the two bodies to avoid clashes.

Provision of Coronation Mugs for young people was discussed. RF offered a grant from his locality fund to provide them.

Village Day (Saturday 5th August at Mewstone Paddock) planning meeting had taken place. It was reported that more support will be needed for the day to take place.

9. SLAPTON LINE PARTNERSHIP

A questionnaire has been sent out to existing members by the newly hired Consultant. The responses made have been very honest and expressed all the reservations we have had over SLP. The Partnership meeting convened for Feb 24th will have the MP in attendance.

10. STRETE GATE AND MEMORIAL

No new information since last meeting.

11. SALE OF STRETE ESTATE

Correspondence, and meeting arranged with new owner representative Brendan Spokes

12. DISCUSSION OF VARIOUS S106 MATTERS.

LN has met the Blackbird Wood Trust committee to help formulate an application for S106 money for the Wood.

13. OTHER MATTERS

Road/speed matters were further discussed (already covered elsewhere)

14. CLERK’S REPORT

Clerk vacancy – no report. Candidate for clerk role did not arrive for the meeting as promised. PH will arrange to re-advertise

15. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Previously circulated.

16. COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Reports previously circulated plus:

LN suggested a village litter pick on Saturday 18th February, which was agreed. KG offered Manor farm Barn for refreshments.

DR Reported that Prideaux Lane had been damaged again by a local parishioner driving over very soft ground in a 4x4. GC to meet parishioner and suggest approaching his yard from the other end of the Lane.

PC to write to Mark Wall to ask for action on damaged gatepost at the exit from his land.

GC to write.

RC informed PC of a new weekly cash draw scheme at the Kings Arms, aimed at generating a local trade.

17. CORRESPONDENCE

No new correspondence beyond that already circulated.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 16th February 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Signed as a true record

Peter Hales, Chairman.....16th February 2023

Bumble and Shadow Friends for Life
Kate Gill

Shadow has known and played with Bumble all his life – now that she has departed at the age of 15 years, he appears to visit her grave almost every day, sometimes giving her headstone a pussycat cuddle.



What's on...Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve

It is the start of a new year, and we have lots of exciting things planned. If you fancy learning some new things about wildlife, the local environment, or its history, join us on one of our guided walks or events in 2023.



Here is what we have planned this spring:

Pebbles on the Beach

Monday 3rd April 10am – Midday

Have you ever wondered what the pebbles on the beach are?

Between the tides

Good Friday 7th April 1 – 3.30pm

From giant kelp fronds to miniature anemones, every rock pool holds a secret ecosystem waiting to be discovered.

Tremendous Trees

Monday 11th April May 2pm – 4pm

Experience life in the slow lane: how trees grow, make decisions, and communicate – in our amazing woodland.

What Lurks Beneath?

Wednesday 12th April 10am – Midday

Get ready to explore Slapton Ley and discover anything from damsels to dragons.

Slapton Sands Beach Clean

15th April 9.30am till 12.30pm

Join us to help clean up Slapton Sands, part of our beautiful coastline.

• No booking required • Free event

Horrible History Saturday

15th April 5pm – 7pm

Explore the horrid history that has shaped Slapton and delve into the lives of the people who lived here.

Wild Food Forage

Sunday 16th April 10am-1pm

Taste your way through the National Nature Reserve on a wild-food themed walk.

Dawn Chorus

Saturday 22nd April 6-8am

Listen to the sound of birds waking at dawn on a quiet morning stroll around Slapton Ley.

Flowers of walks and waysides

Sunday 23rd April 9.30 – 11.30am

Explore the hedgerows and lanes of Devon as they burst into a riot of colour with wildflowers.

Bat Watch

Tuesday 30 May approx. 9pm – 11.30pm TBC

Explore the night-time world of these magical creatures.

What Lurks Beneath?

Wednesday 31st May 10am – Midday

Get ready to explore Slapton Ley and discover anything from damsels to dragons.

Reclusive reptiles

Thursday 1st June 10am – midday

Join us for a Reclusive Reptile ramble along Slapton Sands.

Unless otherwise stated, booking is essential and walks and events are £8 per adult and £5 per child. These will be available to book from **early March** on our website: <https://www.field-studies-council.org/whats-on-at-slapton-ley/>

Free Wellbeing Course (6 weeks)

We are also running our free wellbeing course again this year. A sequence of 6 afternoons where we will delve into the nature reserve, connect with nature and learn how to improve our wellbeing at the same time.

The course will run on **Tuesday afternoons from 18th April until 23rd May**

You can book on this at any time by emailing events.sl@field-studies-council.org

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Water Voles were part of our Devon countryside for more than 10,000 years but are now almost extinct. They are crucial in creating and maintaining thriving wetland ecosystems. We are on a 3 year project to re-establish a viable population that will then benefit our rivers and streams.

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Re-introduce water voles to the River Gara and its tributaries.

Water voles are a keystone species that have a disproportionately positive effect on their environment relative to their numbers. They make a dynamic habitat that supports lots of other species and are vital to maintain abundant wetland ecosystems along riverbanks. As the water voles chew down the vegetation, they create flower rich banks with greatly increased plant diversity and this benefits many different species including butterflies, bees, moths and other pollinators. That then creates more food for the birds, mammals and bats that eat those insects. Many other small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians use water vole burrows for refuge and as places to breed and of course the water voles themselves are food for larger creatures like otters, stoats and herons.

Why have all the water voles disappeared?

The water vole has been a feature of our countryside for over 10,000 years. In the early 1900s over 8 million were recorded in Britain, but these charismatic and ecologically important little animals have largely disappeared from our waterways.

It is estimated that we now have less than 100,000 left, reflecting a 90% decline just in the last two decades. Water voles have now been classified as endangered and by 2020 were functionally extinct in Devon and Cornwall.

The rapid drop in water vole numbers was caused by many things, but the three main causes are habitat loss, predation by feral American mink and pollution. This decrease in their populations has then impacted other species that depend on them.



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STRETE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Vacancy.

Minutes taken by Councillor Graham Campbell

www.strete.org.uk



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STRETE PARISH COUNCIL (PC)

HELD AT STRETE PARISH HALL ON THURSDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7PM

PRESENT: Cllr Peter Hales (PH) Chair, Cllr Ralph Clark(RC), Cllr Kate Gill (KG), Cllr Ian Cumberlidge (IC), Cllr Graham Campbell (GC), Cllr David Rothwell (DR), Cllr Louise Newman (LN), County Cllr Julian Brazil (JB), District Cllr Richard Foss (RF).

PUBLIC FORUM

2 members of the public attended, Maureen and Paddy Fanning to give their opinions on a planning application.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: JB reported that the County Council had increased the budget by 5%. At this stage it was difficult to see where actual cuts had taken place.

JB suggested that the mood of the council had changed towards Highways and local issues.

Report that Stagecoach is pulling out of the 93 bus contract. The situation will be reviewed by the Transport Committee.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: RF reported that the South Hams DC Budget increase had been set at 5%.

There is a long-term problem with the capacity of water supply resources in the area.

There are 7 Planning Enforcement Officers but they struggle to keep up with very difficult cases in the area.

RF is going to check on the new grant process for new funding for small businesses which is imminent.

RF reported a serious problem in attracting new younger councillors.

There is a new South Hams DC Tree officer.

Reported that work has been done by Landmark on the Slapton Line and that work has been done on the centre car park, without the knowledge of local councillors.

APOLOGIES None received.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING held on 19th January 2023.

These were agreed and signed by the Chair, PH.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were made.

PLANNING AND PLANNING MATTERS

0124/23/HHO Mr P. Burgoyne 36 Start Bay Park TQ6 0RY

This application was supported. RC to write to South Hams DC.

0057/23/LBC & 0058/23/HHO Mrs Victoria Crane Glen Cottage Strete TQ6 0RW

The PC had objected to the previous application due to its effect on a listed building in a conservation area under SNP2. The PC had also objected to overlooking of the neighbour's garden and loss of privacy. Despite some alterations to the plans, the PC's objections remained the same and both applications will be formally objected to. RC to write to South Hams DC.

MEETING WITH SPOKES FAMILY: PH reported on a very positive friendly meeting with the Spokes family, who are the new owners of the Strete Estate.

PH and RC had positive introductory discussions regarding various land use issues of interest to the PC, including the Playpark, a possible Air Ambulance site, a composting site and potential building site on Cox's Farm land. The suggestion had been made that the Spokes family be introduced to the village via an article in the village magazine Stretewise.

PARISH COUNCIL TARGETS FOR 2023

No new information on these targets.

FINANCE: Cheques were approved and signed as per the agenda. Two additional cheques were also raised, one for John Gilbert to cover hedgecutting in the village (£516.00) and one for Dash (UK) Ltd to cover the procurement of 60 Coronation Bone China mugs for Parish children (£424.80). This latter cost will be offset by a grant from the Ward Member's localities fund. RF was thanked for this. Monitoring of 2022/23 year to February 2023 held over until new RFO available.

Cash at bank – Balance of £14536.79 available in current account. £11,341.97 available in Reserve account. All as at 31/1/23.

It was clear that the end of the year situation is very difficult in the absence of a clerk. There is also the need for a new auditor. PH and RC to contact Shams DC to discuss the situation with them and discover what legally has to happen. PH will also enquire if Shams can carry out the annual audit. The former Clerk has offered to help draw up the end of year accounts, an offer which has been gratefully accepted. It is noted that our clerk role is paid at £12 per hour. Not clear if offering a higher rate would attract more candidates and the Parish may not be able to afford more.

CONTRACTS: There were no new updates.

VILLAGE DAY AND CORONATION PLANNING: Funding from District Councillor's localities funding has paid for the cost of 60 Coronation mugs. These are to be given out at the pub during the Coronation weekend, one free for every young person in the Parish aged 16 or under on 6th May Any not given out will be used by the Pub for prizes at Coronation events or sold on the bar for pub funds – the Pub is organising a 3 day Coronation weekend.

The Village Hall is organising a coffee morning on the Monday of the weekend.

SLAPTON LINE PARTNERSHIP

The meeting will be held at Follaton House on Friday 24th Feb at 12pm. KG and GC to attend. The Agenda is seen as a positive one.

SLAPTON MEMORIAL No new information.

VARIOUS S106 LAND MATTERS LN reported that the Blackbird Wood Trustees have met and are filling in the S106 form. As a part of the application the PC needs to send a letter of support. PH to write a suitable letter.

Playpark. There now appears to be security of tenure for the playpark. A backlog of various repairs needs to be dealt with. IC to organise. There is a possibility of new equipment using S106 money. Suggestion of a full 7 aside pitch but this creates problems with a goal being in front of gardens with greenhouses etc. Discussion re state of ground on playpark. The grass is too long and it was felt that it needs more regular cutting. The Contractor is to be asked to cut the grass shorter now. (IC) There were two offers from KG and DR to use sit on mowers to carry out regular trimming after the first cut.

ROAD SAFETY The new VAR needs to be installed in place. The new pole is in place PH to collect VAR from ex-clerk and check over ready to be fitted.

CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk vacancy, so none provided

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Strete Estate: On 6th February myself and Ralph Clark had an initial meeting with Brendan and Nigel Spokes, members of the family who are the new owners of Strete Estate This was by way of being an introductory meeting and was of a general nature where we touched on a number of aspects of village life and village facilities over the course of about an hour. Amongst other subjects, we discussed the Neighbourhood Plan in general terms and the lease on the playpark.

It is evident that the Spokes are still evaluating the extent and condition of their purchase before formulating firm plans for the future. However, they are committed to retaining the land for agricultural use and intend to develop businesses based upon agriculture. At our suggestion, the family will introduce themselves to the village via an article in Stretewise magazine.

Bus Services

From Sunday 1st January 2023, the cost of a single bus journey is capped at £2.00 on most Stagecoach routes in England, including the No.93 bus service through the village. The Bus Fare Cap scheme is a Government initiative which runs from 1st January until 31st March 2023. (Post meeting note – this scheme has been subsequently extended to 30th June 2023)

DevonBus Enhanced Partnership

Nothing to report. The minutes of the meeting on 19th January 23 have not yet been published publicly.

Slapton Line Partnership

A meeting of the Partnership has been convened for Friday 24th February, nearly 11 months since the last meeting. A consultant has been appointed to take over some of the duties of the vacant Adaptation Manager post. No agenda for this meeting has been received at the time of writing. (Post meeting note – an agenda has now been received).

Proposed relocation of the Slapton Line Memorial

Still nothing further to report. A response from the Field Studies Council is awaited. Meantime reinforcing work has been going ahead on Slapton Beach car park this week.

Waste Collections

The new SHDC subscription green waste collection scheme will commence operations on 6th March. Subscribers will receive a bin sticker and notification of collection days in February (collection days will not necessarily be the same as normal recycling & black waste collection days)

Night Landing Site for the Devon Air Ambulance

Nothing further to report. This was one of the items raised and discussed with the Spokes.

Police Hub: Nothing further to report.

Additional Public Holiday – the King's Coronation.

The Coronation of King Charles III will take place on Saturday 6th May 2023.

Monday 8th May 2023 has been declared as an additional public holiday. The Kings Arms is planning a 3-day event over the weekend. The Parish Council intends to provide a free Coronation China mug to all village residents aged 16 or under on 6th May.

Strete Parish Clerk

The situation has now become critical, as the preferred applicant has dropped out and there have

been no further applicants for the post despite extensive local advertising. In my opinion, we are at the point where the lack of a Clerk is impinging upon the ability the Parish Council to properly function. With the upcoming local elections, this situation can only worsen.

Graham Campbell has kindly agreed once again to write the minutes of the February meeting. We have an offer to complete the end-of-year financial accounting statements by Helen, which is most welcome and gratefully accepted.

However, financial monitoring and other activities normally carried out by the Clerk will be held over until a new appointment has been made. Kicking off a new Parish Council in May without a Parish Clerk is likely to be particularly challenging.

Local Elections

Local elections will take place for South Hams District Council and Strete Parish Council on 4th May 2023. The appointment of Councillors is for a period of four years.

The election timetable has been issued and publication of the Notice of Election will take place on Thursday 23 March 2023, at which point nominations for Candidates will open and will remain open until **4pm on Tuesday 4th April**. Nominations have to be hand delivered to Follaton House in Totnes.

If any resident is thinking of standing for election to either District or Parish, I can provide an SHDC guide to the election procedure. Nomination packs will be made available shortly.

Peter Hales, Chairman 13th February 2023

COUNCILLOR REPORTS.

Kate Gill: Kate provided by e-mail some useful photographs of the ongoing underpinning work at the middle car park on Slapton Line, with the following comment:- Please find attached the photos I took of the work on the saving of Slapton Line yesterday (13/2). The humps and bumps have now been smoothed out and people are able to walk on it.

Louise Newman: There is little to report on the roads apart from a pothole in Vicarage Lane and a small bit of wall damage on the road going down towards Coleridge Place.

Most of the hedges have now been cut and I attach the invoice from John Gilbert (John is aware there are still one or two bits to do including Kate's hedge).

This weekend we have the litter pick on Saturday and I am hoping people will come and help collect litter, there is some around the village but the litter is particularly bad on the main roads out of the village.

I have had another meeting with Pam Wills regarding the Melro Smithes wood, the S106 form is with one of the trustees who is working on it. In addition as a Parish Council we need to send the trustees a letter of support for the work on the woods.

David Rothwell: Please find below my report for February. I attended a meeting of the Village Hall Committee on Wednesday 8th February. Points discussed were:

Warm space/hot drinks, it was agreed to re-launch this initiative under the name of the 'Strete Community Cafe, with the hall being available for those wanting to meet for coffee and biscuits between 10.30 and 12.30 on a Monday morning. It was pointed out that in Slapton, it was the parish council that organised a similar event, with each week a member of the council helping out.

I mentioned to the committee that the Parish Council were arranging to purchase bone china coronation mugs and presentation boxes with the cost being off-set from a grant from councillor Foss's locality fund.

Quotes are being obtained to make safe the paving slabs in the entrance area.

Discussions are ongoing into energy saving possibilities for the hall which are now including the installation of batteries which will allow water heating, car charging points, infra red heating.

It was agreed that a quarterly meeting with representatives of the parish council, village hall, pub, church and chapel, should be arranged to agree a co ordinated approach into planning events in the village. As the pub are planning three days of events over the Coronation weekend, the hall will be arranging a Coronation Coffee and Cake morning between 10.30 and 12.00 On Monday 8th May in the hall.

Dog Waste Bins; I reported to South Hams District Council on the morning of Monday 13th February that the dog waste bins on the village green and by Manor Farm had not been emptied for some time. I am glad to say that they were both emptied later that day.

Ian Cumberlidge:

Very little to report this month, on the various subjects

Play Park.

I am aware of the number of items in need of repair, and now, it would seem that the future of the play park is secure. I have not received a "problems" report from S.H.D.C. this month, but now we can maybe set about rectifying some of the timber rot, rust, missing-fittings, etc. The grass is in need of it's first cut.

Rights of Way, footpaths.

Nothing much to report on these, apart from the damage caused to the lower section of Prideaux Lane, which Graham has already mentioned. Due to the calm, and relatively mild weather conditions, the birds are starting to "nest". Dog owners/walkers need to be aware of this, (if they aren't already..) to minimize disturbance to ground-nesting birds, and hedgerow nesting birds.

Strete Gate.

All functioning OK, and the car park was cleared of litter by a chap from S.H.D.C last week.

Ralph Clark:

Neighbourhood Plan

Richard Howell who is the Chair of South Hams Society wrote in August last year to alert everyone to an email received from the Chair of the Ringmore NP Steering Group. He was concerned that the findings of the 'My Place, My Views' (MPMV) consultation being undertaken by South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council, in partnership with Plymouth City Council, would take precedence over policies in made Neighbourhood Plans when the next Joint Local Plan is drawn up. He is pleased and relieved to be able to inform everyone that, thanks to the efforts of the Mayor of Kingsbridge, Philip Cole, the Society has now been assured this will not be the case.

At a recent Mayors & Clerks meeting held at Follaton House, the Mayor of Kingsbridge again raised the issue. He expressed his disappointment that the undertaking made by SHDC that the MPMV consultation would not override any local Neighbourhood Plans had not been included in the Minutes of the previous meeting. Those Minutes were only received a few days before the meeting. Consequently, he tabled a motion that the undertaking should be properly recorded.

The Mayor has informed everyone that Cllr Pearce confirmed that the MPMV consultation has now finished and that the Minute Taker was instructed properly to record the undertaking.

The value of having a Neighbourhood Plan was recently demonstrated in the determination of an appeal and a planning application in the Kingsbridge area.

The Kings Arms

A number of ideas are being developed to encourage customers to use the pub.

This includes the launch of the Friday Bar Night Draw on 10th February. It was greeted with much anticipation and decisions to purchase a number before the draw took place.

40 of the 50 numbers available were purchased before all 50 were entered into the draw box. The pub enjoyed the company of customers that generated a buzz of chat and laughter.

One lucky number was drawn from the draw box for the £50 voucher to spend in the Kings Arms and, fortunately, the owner of the number was in the bar to collect the voucher. Each number costs £5 and is a one-off purchase which means it's in the draw box each week with a chance to win a £50 voucher. The voucher must be used within two months of winning it.

If the person who bought the winning number is not in the bar at the time of the draw, it's a roll-over to the following week and £10 is added to the draw. This continues each week until there is a winner in the bar. The voucher value is capped at £100. Importantly, customers who have bought a number must be in the bar between 6 and 8pm on a Friday to see their number drawn from the box to win the voucher.

The motivation is to encourage people to visit the Kings Arms for a couple of hours to communicate with each other about anything and everything.

It could also provide an opportunity to find out what the community would like to see the pub doing that could encourage them use the Kings Arms more frequently as a community pub.

The Kings Arms Loyalty Card is also being introduced in the next few weeks together with plans for the weekend of the Coronation of Kings Charles III in May.

Totnes Road Gateway Scheme

Nothing further to report.

The next village sweep will be on 28th March.

Graham Campbell:

Mark Wall is going to repair the damaged stone post at the exit to his land opposite Start Bay Park. John Wills has agreed to avoid using the Start Bay Park entrance to Prideaux Lane when the ground is wet.

AOB. The new Pub initiative to attract people into pub on Friday evenings for a draw has been successful.

Next Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 16th March 2023** at 7pm in the Village Hall

Agreed and Signed as a true record of the meeting

Peter Hales, Chairman.....

Date: 16th March 2023



Creative Corner

Cotton Reel Tank



You will need



A strong rubber band



Cotton reel



Candle



Two large kitchen match sticks

1: Cut off a 20mm piece off the candle and make a hole through the centre of the candle.

2: Cut a groove across the candle on one side, this is to keep the long match stick that will drive your tank firmly in place.

3: If you have a wooden cotton reel cut grooves into both rims of the reel this will give extra traction. This may not be possible if you have a plastic reel.

4: Thread the rubber band through the hole in the cotton reel and segment of candle. Loop one end over half of one match stick then loop the other end of the rubber band over a full match stick. This match stick should be bigger than the reel and will drive your tank along.

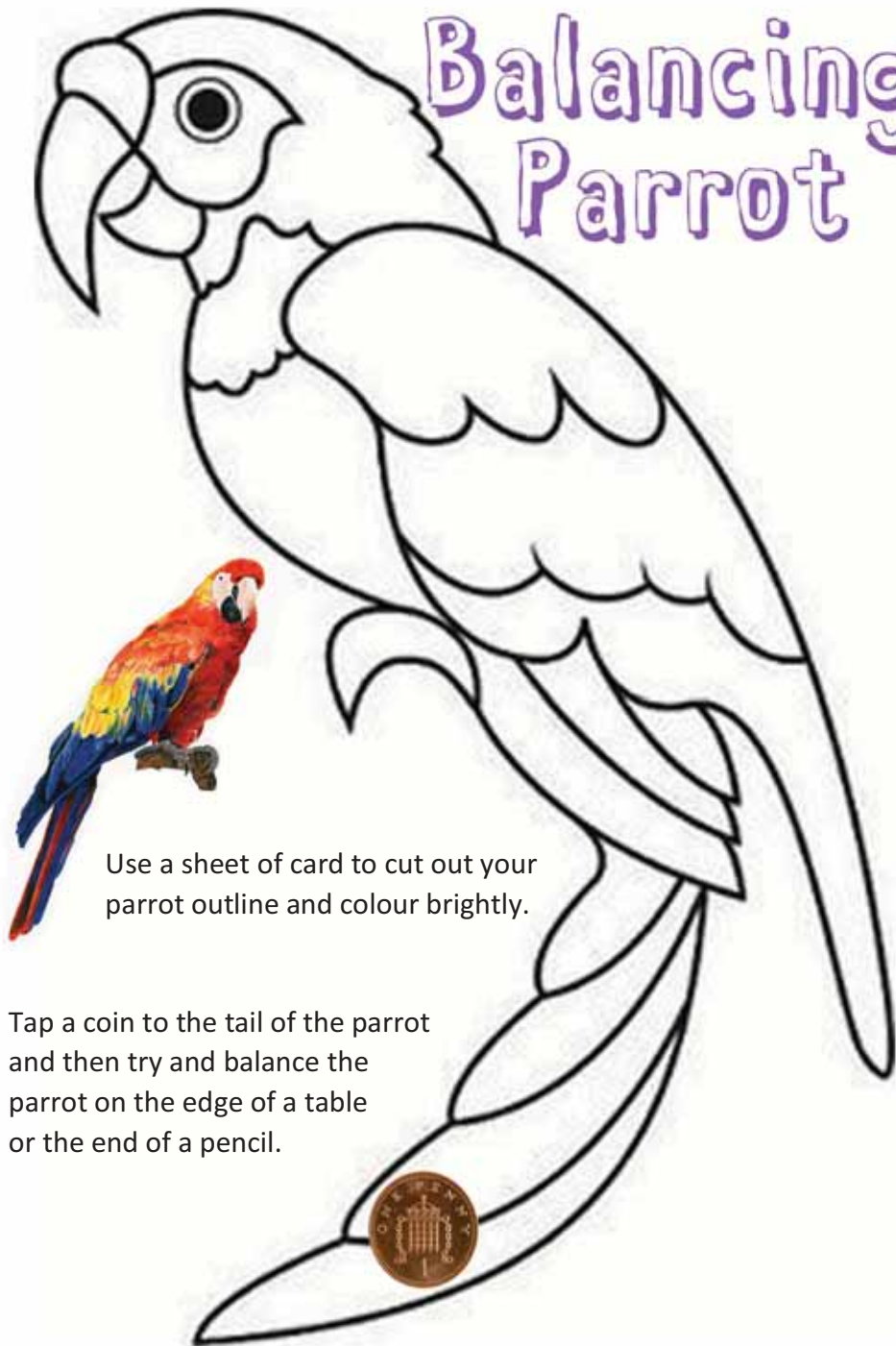
5: Ready to go. Holding the tank in one hand wind by turning the long match until the rubber band is fairly tight.



6: Put it on the floor and watch it crawl. If you wanted to be really experimental you could try attaching a peg instead of the long match stick and clipping a felt pen to the peg and see what patterns your tank makes.



Balancing Parrot



Use a sheet of card to cut out your parrot outline and colour brightly.

Tap a coin to the tail of the parrot and then try and balance the parrot on the edge of a table or the end of a pencil.

DISCOVER WELLBEING

'The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true Art and Science.' Albert Einstein

We can find the 'awe' in many places like listening to music, in contemplation and mindfulness. My favourite approach to cultivating 'awe' is the awe walk, a walk within a place of meaning and beauty, where the whole point of this is to encounter something that amazes and transcends, be it big or small.

Our interview this time is with the delightful Church Warden, Vincent Dingley, who lives in Strete and can be found, very early in the morning, walking his beautiful whippet, Whiskey.

With your diverse and varied lifestyle, how do you manage to switch off? Do you have a moment to do something that gives you immense enjoyment?

I walk Whiskey, a little after 5.30am in all seasons and weathers. My headtorch lights our path and we go out for about an hour. The early morning has a magic to it and as we walk, I disappear into a world of my own.

I believe that you have lived in a variety of different countries and I was wondering what attracted you to this beautiful part of Devon?

There were two signposts which pointed towards Devon. I had a flat in a Victorian house in Hove called Devon Lodge and then I had a flat in London in a block, named Devonshire House. A chance meeting finally led me here to live.

Do you think it helps us to step out of our comfort zone, perhaps to do something extraordinary? What would you like to do?

Challenges help prevent us from stagnating. We need oxygenating. I volunteered for a charity in Romania which depends entirely on prayer for financial and material provision. Their faith was remarkable and I aspire to such faith and to have total trust in God. That would be extraordinary.

What is your favourite piece of music at this moment in time?

I think it is the chorus of the birds in the early morning. The most ancient music.



Carrot and Ginger Recipe

Ingredients

- 1 tsp coconut oil
- 1 white onion
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 4 or 5 carrots, chopped
- 2 tbs freshly chopped ginger
- 3 cups of water
- Tin of coconut milk
- (optional) chopped chives or parsley

Method

1. Melt the coconut oil in a pan and sauté the onion and garlic for 8 mins.
2. Add the rest of the ingredients, except the coconut milk, and bring to the boil.
3. Turn down the heat and add the coconut milk. Cook for 20 minutes.
4. Blend all together. Add chopped chives or parsley.



How to take an Awe Walk

1. Begin your walk by coming back to your breath.
2. Take a deep breath in.
3. Feel your feet on the ground.
4. Shift your awareness to what is around you, things that are vast or unexpected, things that delight or surprise you... count to 6 as you inhale and 6 as you exhale.
5. Let your attention be open in exploration, for what inspires 'awe'. Maybe the small veins of the leaves or the carpet of spring flowers all around you or the vastness of what is in front of you.
6. Bring your attention back to your breath, as you inhale and exhale. Coming out of these experiences, we often feel a sense of wonder & awe, which of course happens when we are moved to find explanations and deep meaning.

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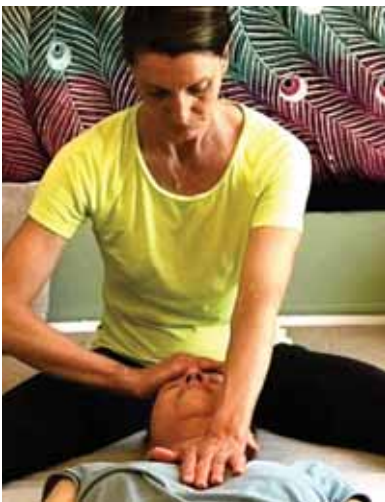
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We are a mixed group of friendly chaps who meet on the second and fourth Wednesday mornings of each month.

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.

Does that sound interesting? - Come and give us a try.

Please call John Light on 01803 834861 for more information and to arrange to be welcomed to a trial meeting

PROBUS CLUB OF STOKE FLEMING AND DISTRICT

Where friendliness matters above all else

The Probud Club of Stoke Fleming and District has been in existence since 1984. It was initiated at the Stoke Lodge Hotel, Stoke Fleming which has been its 'home' ever since. We meet fortnightly on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. The meetings start at 10.30am with coffee followed by a speaker at 11am and on the first meeting of the month we also have lunch at 12.30pm. The following programme for February until July 2023 is as below:



April 12th	Lunch	DAVID RAMSDEN	Climate & Ecological Crisis. What's all the fuss?
April 26th	Coffee	MARK COOPER	Royal Navy Submarines
May 10th	Lunch	STEPHANIE AUSTIN	Turning to crime in Retirement (an author of several crime novels set in and around Ashburton)
MAY 24TH	MEMBERS – AWAY DAY		
June 14th	Lunch	TBA	Devon Air Ambulance
June 28th	Coffee	TRISH AND GEORGE ROBERTSON	A Musical Interlude
July 12th	Lunch	PAM WILLS	Evacuation of Villages in South Hams 1941 – My Story

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A J Rhymes

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Doctors (Dartmouth)		01803 832 212
Paul Green	Dart Patients Participation Group	07799 772709
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Village Hall Committee	Danni Brien (Treasurer/Bookings)	07841505797
Probus	John Light	johnlight1@gmail.com
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PS 3418 Ollie Abercrombie
Dartmouth Neighbourhood Team Leader

Dartmouth Police Station

Mobile: 07736 622761

Email: ollie.abercrombie@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk



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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 or hard copies of contributions can be left at the to the Post Office or delivered to the Editor:

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