



STRETEWISE

The Village Magazine



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William Payne 1790



A survey carried out in the 1740s which provides details of "...the cottages att Streate Sands..." Seventeen cottages are listed, with two new ones being built at the time of the survey.

Progress on the revised strategy for the Slapton Line Partnership



About twenty Strete residents turned out to the Parish Hall on the evening of 18th January, one of the coldest nights of the year, to hear Anthony Mangnall MP give an update on the above subject at the January Parish Council Meeting. Anthony was responding as the interim Chairman of the Slapton Line Partnership,

following agitation from the Parish Council over perceived slow progress by various parties to further develop plans to protect the road across the Line.

Anthony gave a brief recap of progress over the autumn of 2023 in the development and agreement of a revision to the strategy for the Slapton Line Partnership. In a nutshell, these amendments changed the approach from 'Managed Retreat' of the shoreline in the face of erosion towards protection of the A379 road over the Line. The old wording of the document had precluded any possibility of further sea defence work, so the change was pivotal and necessary to achieve further progress. The amendments were agreed by the Partnership in November, and Anthony expected that the final text would be published within a fortnight.

Anthony described how the formalisation of the change in strategy is key to the work that he has been undertaking to secure Central Government Funding to enable a joint project by Devon CC and SHDC to design and build further protection for the vulnerable areas of the route, already identified in an update to the scientific studies carried out over previous years. The project will require planning permission to be secured for the work, which will involve formal consultation with a number of parties, and this application is in preparation by the local authorities to cover sea defences and upgrades to the road. He is carrying a target date of July for all this work to come together and seal commitment to funding, so patience will be needed from the local communities.

Questions from the floor were invited following his brief presentation. These centred upon the inevitability of the fact that the sea would eventually prevail and the Line would be lost, and the condition of the local roads to support the resulting traffic. The point was made that it would be prudent to develop a costed plan to properly deal with the back routes before it became necessary as a result of a weather event. AM stated that the value of the road was being re-evaluated as part of the work in progress and that this would provide a sensible outcome.

Strete Parish Council

January 2024





Strete Chapel



Happy New Year from the fellowship to all in the village!

We are continuing to meet every Sunday at 11am in the chapel building. We have had a busy time and have lots to fill you all in on!

As with every new year we have a new chapel motto. This time it was chosen by Tony and Jan Adkins who are long time members of the chapel. Tony also serves as an elder on the leadership team.

‘Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

John 11 v25

We enjoyed a brilliant Carol Service with lots of contributions from those that attended. This included bible readings, poems, songs and blessings. Thank you to all those that came.



We also have had wonderful news that Prem and Blessey are expecting a baby. We had a lovely time celebrating this news with their family and friends at their baby shower. We enjoyed home cooked food that they had prepared and even had a gender reveal with confetti canons. They are having a little boy! A great time was had by all.



We would like to say a big congratulations to Lydia Bancroft who passed out of Dartmouth Navel Collage at the end of last year. She kindly came to visit our Young Searchers in full uniform, with sword and all. They got to ask questions and even learnt how to salute!

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



The Dartmouth Medical Practice

The Dartmouth Medical Practice held its annual meeting at Townstal Community Hall on the evening of Tuesday 28 November. The meeting began with the AGM for the Patients Participation Group and continued with an update about the Practice and discussions about planned developments going forward.



Key points discussed during the evening included:

The PPG has played a major role in securing better access and some free parking at the new Health and Wellbeing Centre.

There is more to do in both these areas.

The PPG continues work with the Practice to seek ways to offer patients continuity with their chosen doctor and to improve the ease of booking face to face appointments

The PPG Chairman for the last 3 years has stepped down from this role. Dave Cawley was thanked for his hard work and valuable contribution. Paul Green was elected as the new Chairman of the group

There has been a lot of change at the Practice over the past year. Not only has the Practice moved to the Health and Wellbeing Centre, but a new computer system has also been installed. This means that overall, the Practice is still settling into its new ways of working

The Practice is introducing ways to connect patients directly with the most appropriate service, recognising that not all patients need to see a GP. This will be done by receptionists asking a structured set of questions when patients call in

The Practice will become an accredited veteran's practice, enabling the best care to be given to armed forces veterans

Travel to the Health and Wellbeing Centre by bus was discussed, particularly difficulties for people travelling from the villages needing to take a bus into Dartmouth town and another bus up to the Health and Wellbeing Centre. People are working on potential solutions to this

As the new Chairman of the PPG, I am committed to helping develop the best local medical services for people. If anyone in Strete would like to talk to me about their experiences of the Practice, please contact me either on email at **pagreen1961@outlook.com** or give me a call on my mobile on 07799 772709.

Paul Green



A word to residents about the precept for 2024/25

Once a year in December, the Parish Council is charged with setting a budget and precept for the financial year commencing 1st April of the following year. Historically, successive Parish Councils in Strete have adopted a policy of keeping the precept as low as possible, on the basis that this will offer residents the best outcome by keeping their bills as low as possible. This policy has recognised that the Parish precept is ultimately paid from resident household contributions to Council Tax.

Over the past ten years, successive caps have been imposed on the amount of annual increases to Council Tax that local authorities have been able to raise. This has resulted in essential efficiency drives to weed out waste in the local authorities, but also shrinkage of the discretionary activities previously undertaken, as local Councils re-group their efforts around a list of statutory core activities. This year, the effects of galloping inflation are also very keenly felt. Local government pay settlements for staff have already risen steeply in 2023 and even though the headline inflation figure is predicted to fall, they will continue to rise in 2024. The combination of high inflation, higher staff costs and constraints on revenues is increasingly difficult to manage, and many local authorities are in trouble.

At the January meeting of the Parish Council, we heard that Devon County Council will be carrying a running deficit for Children's Services of over £200 million which has accrued over many years. With a rise in tax revenues constrained to 5% (of which 2% is set aside for social care) there is no hope that this deficit can be paid off from Council funds and the council is seeking Central Government help. South Hams District Council finds itself in a slightly better position, but with an imposed 3% cap on revenues and the same inflationary pressures, spending will be very constrained. However, whilst Council Tax levels are limited by Government policy at the District and County levels, the precepts levied by Parish Councils are not. Your Parish Council has been advised to take a wider view of the situation and try to mitigate some of the County and District cuts by taking control of more discretionary services. For example, we received the following advice from the Devon Association of Local Councils:-

“While the pressure to keep precepts low remains, it is essential to recognise the value of investment. Rather than viewing precepts solely as a financial burden on residents, consider them as a means to secure the long-term well-being of our parishes. Investments in community resilience, quality of life, and social inclusion can contribute to a more vibrant and sustainable future.”

Here in Strete, we made the case for social investment in the community with a house-to-house consultation in 2022. We asked the residents which services they wished the PC to support and the outcome was unequivocal. As a direct result, in 2023 the PC has made grants supporting the Ladies Social Club, Blackbird Wood, Dartmouth Caring, Citizen's Advice and the Parish Magazine. We also made one-off grants to the Bowls Club and Gara Water Voles. The PC has also continued to fund street sweeping and road drainage work, filling in the gaps where services have been abandoned by the District and County, but which are essential for the quality of life of local residents.

In this 2023/4 financial year we had a precept of £14,700 which has cost the household of an average Band D property about £48.24 per year, or just over £4 per month. The Parish Council has responded to advice and has taken a unanimous view. We have decided to implement an increase to £18,375 for the financial year 2024/5, which will cost the same average Band D property £60.30 for the year, or just over £5 per month. In other words, for the cost of about a pound per month for an average household, we will be able to continue to support some of the deserving causes. Your Parish Council believes that this is the correct action in order to maintain the vibrancy and community spirit of Strete, so that it can continue to be a pleasant and compassionate place in which to live.

Peter Hales, Chairman, On behalf of Strete Parish Council.

20th January 2024





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

THE ANNUAL VILLAGE HALL QUIZ

This was due to be held on Saturday, 20th January, but sadly had to be postponed because of lack of numbers.

HOWEVER, it will now take place on

SATURDAY, 17th FEBRUARY, 7.00pm.

Jonathan always sets very interesting questions, the pasties are delicious, the company extremely sociable (not at all competitive) and the prizes absolutely amazing!

STRETE CRAFT: ALTERNATE THURSDAYS, 2.00-4.00pm

This started on Thursday, 18th January in the Village Hall and will run every other week (next meeting on 1st February). 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.

HEDGE AND BANK

The hedge between the Hall and The Plat and the bank bordering Hynetown Road will be cut on Friday, 2nd February.

If you usually park your car next to the bank, we should be very grateful if you could park elsewhere from early Friday morning

PARTIES

The Hall is an amazing place for parties, children or adults. It is warm with plenty of tables and chairs and the kitchen is well stocked with all you would need. There is even a dishwasher! If you have never been in the Hall, please contact us and come for a visit. Hiring the Hall is very reasonably priced and booking contact details are on the website

www.stretehall.co.uk

VILLAGE DAY: SATURDAY, 3rd AUGUST

The first meeting to discuss this year's Village Day

will take place on

WEDNESDAY, 7th FEBRUARY

in the Hall, starting at 7.00pm



STRETE VILLAGE DAY

Saturday 3rd August 12.00-16.30

Mewstone Paddock Totnes Road Strete TQ6 0RU

Free Parking in the Mewstone Paddock



Our community pub was at its best over the festive period. Bustling Christmas Day drinks were followed by a lively New Year's Eve Party, with a range of glamorous pop stars showing up, dancing into the night.

But perhaps the more exciting news is that the annual Winter Break has been used to make some big changes. There's a new menu,

a new events calendar and a bold new look. A team of dedicated volunteers put in a tremendous effort supporting Jon and our creative consultant Els, turning our community pub into a cosy, fun and distinctive space.

The Grand Reopening was on January 23rd which saw the launch of the new menu but there are lots of other reasons to visit now...

The Weekly Quiz is a fun quiz for all abilities, with prizes for the first 3 teams. Jon is your quiz master. The new menu will have been launched at the same time. Given this article is written in advance, there is not yet a final menu to share but please look online or call in to the pub.

Throughout February, our popular Winter Warmer Lunch Offer is back with two mains for £15 Thursday, Friday & Saturday lunchtime.

Fishy Friday returns on February 2nd with a weekly fish offer each Friday with two mains for £30.

The first Fishy Friday coincides with the start of the Six Nations Rugby with France vs Ireland at 8pm. All key games will be live and there is a Burger Specials menu with such glorious names as The Mighty Scots, the Welsh Wonder, the Mamma Mia and La French. England's first game is at 2.15 on Saturday 3rd.

The quarterly Spoken Word Night is back on Thursday 8th February at 7pm. Poetry, monologues, readings and witty ditties, to amuse, provoke and delight. Local writer Christine Cooke MCs, with top quality contributors, it is sure to be a special night.

Saturdays are now going to be a bit more special with Curry Night and Pie & Pint Night alternating each week. Which means that, starting Saturday 10th February, there will be curry specials and then on the 17th there will be a Pie & Pint offer, back to the curries on the 24th and so on. And don't forget you can always order your food as a takeaway.

Open Mic Night is on Thursday 22nd, the first for a few months so everyone should be raring to go. Maybe you'd like to do a turn? Just come along and raise your hand, it's a very supportive audience. Or maybe you just want to relax and enjoy the wide range of musical styles.

the Kings Arms at Strete

What's On: January & February

Reopening & Rebooted Wednesday 24th: New menu, new look, new events.

Weekly Quiz every Wednesday starting 24th January

February Two for £15 lunch menu: Thursday, Friday & Saturday lunch 12-3pm

Fishy Friday returns: a weekly fish offer from Friday 2nd February

Six Nations: all key games starting Friday 2nd

Spoken Word Night Thursday 8th

Bi-weekly Curry Night, starting Saturday 10th.

Bi-weekly Pie & A Pint night, starting Saturday 17th

Open Mic Night Thursday 22nd Feb

**Support your community pub.
01803 770027**

Facebook.com/kingsarmsatstrete
www.kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk

After their revamp, Sunday lunches are seeing a number of great reviews and are growing in popularity. And don't forget, there are some special Sundays coming up including:

- Mothers' Day is Sunday 10th March - this invariably gets busy and with Special Desserts and a surprise gift for every Mum you might want to book ahead.
- Easter is early this year but don't worry there will be plenty of eggs at the annual Egg Hunt Sunday on Sunday 31st March.

Please note. The team have decided to move the Third Year Anniversary Party, celebrating the Kings Arms three years as a community pub, to the late May Bank Holiday so we get out into the garden and enjoy the sunshine.

More on this soon.

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

Follow us on Facebook at Facebook.com/kingsarmsatstrete

Or go to the website www.kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk

For other enquiries, please contact: info@kingsarmsatstrete.

Winter Opening Hours:

Wednesday 5-10pm with the Weekly Quiz.

Thursday & Friday. 12-3pm & 5-10pm

Saturday open all day 12-10pm

Sunday with the new improved Sunday Roast 12-6pm



Chocolate

Good news!
chocolate is
good for you



The cacao tree is native to the Ecuadorian Amazon rainforest. It was first domesticated 5,300 years ago

Chocolate's 5,500-year history began in ancient Mesoamerica, present day Mexico. It's here that the first cacao plants were found. The Olmec, one of the earliest civilizations in Latin America, were the first to turn the cacao plant into a chocolate drink which was drunk during rituals and used medicinally. Centuries later, the Mayans revered chocolate as a drink of the gods. Mayan chocolate was a brew made of roasted and ground cacao seeds mixed with chillies, water and cornmeal. They poured this mixture from one pot to another, creating a thick foamy beverage called "xocolatl", (bitter water)





By the 15th century, the Aztecs used cocoa beans as currency. They believed that chocolate was a gift from the god Quetzalcoatl, and drank it as a refreshing beverage, an aphrodisiac, and even to prepare for war. Earlier civilizations such as the Maya and Aztecs placed great importance on the froth-producing process. By transferring the liquid from one vessel to another from a height, foam would be produced. The foam was considered to be the most favourable part of the chocolate drink.

Later the molinillo was developed as a whisk to froth the chocolate. A molinillo is a traditional turned wood whisk, where it is also called a batirol or batidor. Its use is principally for the preparation of hot beverages such as hot chocolate, atole, cacao, and champurrado. The molinillo is held between the palms and rotated by rubbing the palms together; this rotation creates the froth in the drink.



The Maya begin trade with the Aztecs, and give them cacao. The Aztecs called it "cacahuatl" (ca-ca-WAH-tel), meaning warm or bitter liquid.

Xocolatl is flavored with local spices, including chile, cinnamon, musk, pepper and vanilla, and thickened with cornmeal then frothed in a bowl with a molinillo and served at room temperature.

The Aztecs become the first to tax the beans, and restrict it to noblemen, priests, officials, warriors, and the rich traders who supply it. It is a restorative, a medicinal revitalizer, a ceremonial beverage and an abetter of longevity.

1400s 1492 Christopher Columbus is said to have brought back cacao beans to King Ferdinand from his fourth visit to the New World, but they were overlooked in favor of the many other treasures he had found. 1500s 1502 Cacao is tasted by Columbus on his fourth and last voyage to the New World.



The first mention of chocolate in Europe appeared in Spain in 1544, but it was not until 40 years later that the first shipment of Cacao bean reached Europe.

When conquistadores like Herman Cortes returned to Spain with chocolate, it was consumed in liquid form and the taste was very bitter. In order to counteract this bitterness and appeal to European tastes, the Spanish added sugar or honey to make it sweeter. The first official shipments of cocoa beans begin arriving in Seville from Vera Cruz, Mexico. 1590 Spanish nuns in Oaxaca, Mexico are the first to sweeten chocolate with honey, cinnamon and cane sugar, making the drink popular with colonials.

Spanish monks introduce the first sweetened drink to Spain around 1590. 1606 An Italian traveler, Antonio Carletti, discovers chocolate in Spain and takes it to Italy where chocolate-mania develops: Cioccolatieri open in all major cities. From Italy, chocolate spreads to Germany, Austria and Switzerland. 1615 Spanish Princess Maria Theresa gives her fiancé Louis XIV of France an engagement gift of chocolate. 1657 The first chocolate house is opened in London by a Frenchman. Coffee houses were already popular. The shop is called the The Coffee Mill and Tobacco Roll. Costing 10 to 15 shillings per pound, chocolate is a beverage for the elite. The English introduced several changes: Instead of water, they added milk. Some also added Madeira or beaten eggs.

Samuel Pepys notes in his diary that he had been to a coffee house to drink Jocolatte and that it was very good.

1847 Joseph Fry's grandson Francis Fry, head of the firm J.S. Fry & Sons, discovers a way to mix some of the cocoa butter back into the dutched chocolate (cocoa powder) and adds sugar, creating a paste that can be molded. Calling this "eating chocolate" This is the first modern chocolate bar, although conching has not yet been invented, so it is not the smooth, silky bar we know today but a rough, grainy chocolate.



"A Rake's Progress The Gaming House"
depicts an infamous chocolate house. WILLIAM HOGARTH



Fry's most famous advert was for its Five Boys Chocolate, based on a photo taken in 1886. It featured Lindsay Poulton, the son of the photographer, pulling five different faces headed "Desperation, Pacification, Expectation, Acclamation, Realization it's Fry's". The first 'Desperation' was achieved when Lindsay's father soaked a cloth in ammonia and wrapped it round the boy's neck to make him cry.



The manufacturing line making Cadbury's Easter Eggs in 1930. The eggs had their plain shells enhanced with chocolate piping and marzipan flowers.

J. S. Fry & Sons was a British chocolate company owned by Joseph Storrs Fry and his family. In 1759, Joseph Fry started making chocolate, with Joseph S. Fry gaining control in 1795. That same year, he patented a modified Watt steam engine used to grind cacao beans. This marked the beginning of the mechanization of chocolate production. In 1847, Fry's made the first molded chocolate eating bar by removing excess cocoa butter, then slowly adding it back into the melted chocolate.

Chocolate eggs first appeared at the court of Louis XIV in Versailles and in 1725 the widow Giambone in Turin started producing chocolate eggs by filling empty chicken egg shells with molten chocolate. In 1873, J.S. Fry & Sons produced the first hollow chocolate egg using egg moulds. Manufacturing their first Easter egg in 1875, Progress in the chocolate Easter egg market was very slow until 1893 when Cadbury created the first modern chocolate Easter egg after developing a chocolate that could be poured into moulds. Made of dark chocolate, the eggs had a smooth surface and were filled with sweets. Milk chocolate was not available until after 1875, when Swiss chocolatier Daniel Peter created a recipe, using dried milk. Cadbury's produced the first Dairy Milk chocolate egg in 1905. The innovation of this new type of chocolate was a phenomenal success and sales of Easter eggs increased enormously. The 'crocodile' finish was a German invention, which, by breaking up the smooth surface, concealed minor imperfections and is still used today by some manufacturers.

Every year in the UK, around 80 million Easter eggs are sold, with each child consuming an average of 8 of them.

That's over 8,000 calories! For the 2023 Easter season, parents spent around £25 per child on sweet treats and chocolate and other friends and family will add a further £31, resulting in an estimated expenditure of £56 per child.

From a survey conducted by the British Retail Consortium (BRC) Thorntons made the world's largest chocolate bar to celebrate their 100th birthday. It weighed 6 tonnes and was equivalent to 75,000 of their standard size bars.

On average, each person in Britain eats approx. 9.5 kg of chocolate per year.



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The background of the poster is a vibrant, collage-style illustration of a beach scene. It features a hot air balloon, a sailboat, a lifeguard stand, a beach umbrella, a person sunbathing, and various tropical plants and decorations like string lights and balloons. The overall color palette is warm, with oranges, yellows, and greens.

TUNES ON THE SANDS

**Blackpool Sands-Devon
12TH-13TH July 2024**

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www.tunesonthesands.com



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!





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Hair By Pura Vida

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Stretewise Word Search

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D E Y W A T H E O M Y E A P T A R M I G A D A E O T

Cyclamen Pointer Greyhound Snowdrop Hyacinth Mattiscombe Erme Swan
Dachshund Primrose Crocus Magpie Anemone Pansy Grebe Blackthorn
Hawthorn Hornbeam Sycamore Duck Walnut Lapwing Clover Warbler Aster
Snipe Marigold owl Ptarmigan Grouse Apricot Avocado Guava mango Orange
Pomegranate Tangerine Chicory Almond Kale Samphire Celery Borage Wigeon
Caraway Dandelion Thistle Wagtail

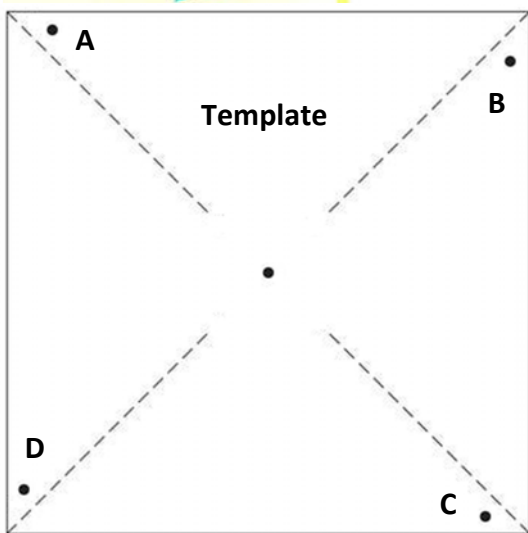
Creative Corner

Pinwheel



Draw the Template enlarged onto flexible card or a flexible plastic square.

Make holes at A, B, C, and D in the Template.
Cut along the dotted lines.
Fold the corners A, B, C, and D into the centre and secure with a pin.



Thread the pin through a button at the back.
(this will help the pinwheel rotate)
Push the end of the pin into a pencil rubber.

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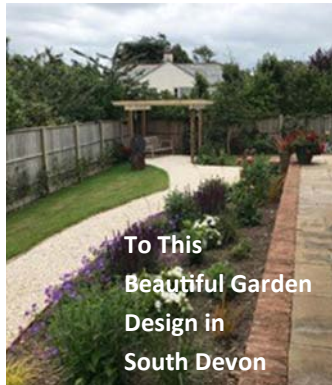
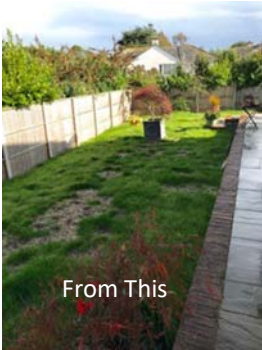
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Houses at Deer Combe, houses by the Green Dragon, Frenchman's Creek.

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The Society was formed in 1959 and is a registered Charity No. 1038254

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.

The Society's committee meets every month to deal with planning and local development matters.

Members enjoy a range of social events and talks during the year.

PROGRAMME 2023/2024

Friday 9 February 2024

Stoke Lodge Hotel tbc *Winter Market Day Lunch*

Tuesday 19 March 2024

The Flavel 5.00 p.m. *Annual General Meeting*

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

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Tuesday 7.30pm-9.30pm at Slapton Village Hall

Beginners welcome. Racquets available.

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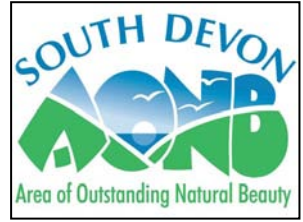
All welcome – existing members have a cross section of experience. A very social club.

Contact Gill Harris 07816 971798 for info.





South Devon National Landscape



Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty renamed National Landscapes

“On 22 November 2023, all Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England and Wales became National Landscapes, as part of a move initiated by the Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (Defra) to make the family of AONBs more recognisable and give them a stronger, more accessible identity, levelling up, to bring them in line with National Parks and National Trails”.



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Strete Social Club

STRETE SOCIAL CLUB PROGRAMME 2023 - 2024

Meetings are usually held in Strete Village Hall on alternate Tuesdays at 2.30PM			All Welcome
January	9th	AGM and Games	
	23rd	Quiz - Nick Shepherd	
February	6th	South Hams Spinners - Christine Cooke and Avril Dowding	
	20th	Paper Folding - Lucy Higston	
March	5th	Acupuncture - Emily Hutchins	
	19th	Sky By Day - John Tucker	

28th November On a bitterly cold afternoon there was a warm welcome for the people who came to our social club meeting, including one guest.

As usual Dorothy and Karen were taking the meeting and quickly dealt with any business including advising members that it would be the funeral of Brenda Crawford who was a member of this club.

It was then a pleasure to welcome Winston Chubb from Stokenham, who sang many songs to us most of which he had written himself accompanied on the guitar and mouth organ. These were greatly enjoyed by all present.



As he would not take a fee, he was presented with a box of chocolates for him and his wife to enjoy.

Our afternoon concluded with as usual welcome cups of tea and cake and biscuits.

"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 6th December Members travelled to The Old Inn at Hallwell to enjoy their annual Christmas Lunch

The tables were beautifully decorated in the usual festive way with each person with their place name and choice of food placed where they were to sit.

Brenda Range said grace and the owners and staff served us up a really fantastic lunch which members tucked into and enjoyed.



During the break between the main course and sweet Karen proposed a toast in memory of Heather Davey as we were treated to our lunch by her daughters because Heather had had such good times with the social club and always enjoyed our Christmas lunch.

All Very full and enjoying our coffee and mince pies for all that had any room left. Pam Wills presented Karen and Dorothy with a garden voucher in appreciation of all the hard work they put in throughout the year, she also gave Derek, Heather Robinson and Joan a little gift for all they contributed with looking after the draw week by week, writing the report for the press and Stretewise and for taking good care of our money.

We were treated to the owners two spaniel dogs showing off their party trick of balancing a beer mat on their nose and then tossing it in the air and catching it. We all joined in the singing of Christmas Carols and ended a very enjoyable time together.



Strete Social Club

9TH JANUARY 2024 Dorothy Teal wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked

everyone for coming out on a cold wintry afternoon. The first part of the session comprised the Annual General Meeting. Formal Minutes are available but in summary the key points are set out below.

Chair's Report – Our Chair Dorothy Teal reported that an interesting and varied programme has been offered covering many topics. Attendance has been an average of 17 out of 24 paid up members. We have had outings to the Flavel Cinema in winter to keep warm and an outing to Avon Mill on the hottest day of the year when we were looking for shade! We have had more than 18 speakers, some with tales from near and far – of travel to Nepal, cruising around Europe, from Sally Green about working as a missionary and midwife in Papua New Guinea, and then Pam Wills describing growing up as a girl in Strete followed by Ron Howell showing us local photographs and a film from the past. Near and far indeed!

We had demonstrations of icing flowers, water colour painting, painting tiles to become drinks coasters and wonderful flower arranging. We have learned the Secrets of Shopping, how to look after our feet, about the work of the Red Cross and Animals in Distress and our own members shared experiences of running B & B's and hotels in the past. We enjoyed songs from a local musician and have had celebrations too. Our Coronation Tea was a real highlight with stories of meeting royalty from two members, and a wonderful Christmas Lunch was enjoyed by all. The year was rounded off with wine, mince pies and carols. Dorothy thanked Karen Hales for her support, her husband Peter for producing all posters and documents, Derek Darch for running the raffle, Joan Kendall for Reports for Stretewise and the press, and the tea ladies for volunteering over the year. We look forward to another successful year when we hope to encourage more to join in happy comradeship.

Treasurer's Report – Heather Robinson acknowledged the help of Helen Darch in compiling the accounts from her ledger. Overall the Club is in a healthy financial position partly due to the generous donations from the Parish Council and a bequest from Heather Davey's family. Subscriptions will therefore remain the same at £15 per year.

Thanks to Dorothy Teal – before the Election of Officers, Dorothy was given a warm Vote of Thanks by Karen on behalf of the Club as she is stepping down from leading the Club after seven years for a well-deserved rest. She has been hard working, diligent, patient and always smiling. She has improved and developed our Club and our happy well attended meetings are testament to all she has achieved. A bouquet of flowers was presented from the Club.

Officers were elected:

Chair – Karen Hales

Secretary – Lisa Lyne

Treasurer – Heather Robinson

The AGM then closed and we moved on to a hilarious Beetle Drive followed by a welcome cup of tea and biscuits.

All are very welcome to come and join us for another year of companionship and laughter.

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NEW MEMBERS NEEDED!



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.

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

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 Probust Club of Stoke Fleming and District Programme January to June 2024

Lunch/Coffee	Date 2024	Topic Title/ Further information	Speaker details
Lunch	14th February	I K Brunel in Devon	Jim Redman
Coffee	28th February	Wildlife of Devon from Shore to Moor	John Walters
Lunch	13th March	South West Maritime Archaeological Group	Ron Howell
Coffee	27th March	The Machine Gun Corps 1915 -1922	Martin Farrant
Lunch	10 th April	The March of William of Orange	Phil Badcott
Coffee	24 th 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 th June	Bletchley Park	David MacVeigh



The Probust 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 28th February 2024

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

The Wildlife of Devon from Shore to Moor

*Sit back and relax as eminent ecologist, naturalist,
photographer and artist John Walters takes us on a grand
tour of our favourite county, describing the plethora of wildlife
that exists on our doorsteps*



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://stokeflemingprobust.wixsite.com/stokeflemingprobust>



The Probust 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 14th February 2024

The meeting will commence with coffee, followed by
a talk given by Jim Redman entitled

Isambard Kingdom Brunel in Devon

*Brunel is probably the best known and most brilliant of the
Victorian era engineers, ranking as "one of the most ingenious
and prolific figures in engineering history". Jim will tell us all
about IKB's many links to Devon (postponed from Sept 23).*



Drinks at the bar and an optional 3-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*

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A Christmas Retrospective



The KA welcomed, warmed and feasted. Vocal cords were exercised with carols sung by the tree, in the KA, at St Michael's church and the Strete Chapel.



Christmas Started Here event







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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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Directory

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Parish Council Clerk	Hannah Iles	01548 580449
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Village Hall Committee	Danni Brien (Treasurer/Bookings)	07841505797
Probus	John Light	johlight1@gmail.com
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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:

Stretewise, 27 Start Bay Park, Strete, TQ6 0RY.

Copy deadline for the next issue April - May will be 23rd March 2024.

Stretewise is either £1 per copy purchased from the shop or £4 for a yearly subscription of six issues.

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