



# STRETEWISE

The Village Magazine



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Vol 30:03

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# Directory

BASH	Ali Denham	01548 854 474
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District Councillor	Richard Foss	01548 511 234
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Doctors (Dartmouth)		01803 832 212
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Parish Council Clerk	Helen Darch	01803 770 018
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Stretewise Editor	Dave Jones	01803 770 059
Totnes Ring and Ride		01803 867 878
Tree Warden	Ian Cumberlidge	01803 770 020

## Local Emergency Services

Emergency Fire, Ambulance, Police and Coastguard	999 or 112
Non-emergency contact with emergency services	101

NHS Direct	0845 4647		
Torbay Hospital	01803 614 567	Derriford Hospital	01752 212 082
Totnes Hospital	01803 862 622	Kingsbridge	01546 852 349

## Strete Post Office and Stores

01803 770 225

Opening Times: Monday-Friday 7.30am to 5.00pm,  
Saturday 7.30am to 1.00pm, Sunday 8.00am to 12.00pm

## Stoke Fleming Library Village Hall

John Lewis 01803 770 075

Monday 3.00pm to 5.00pm, Tuesday 10.30pm to 12.30pm,  
Thursday 3.00pm to 5.00pm. Or 24 hours at [devon.gov.uk/libraries](http://devon.gov.uk/libraries)

## Observations

### Two grateful villagers wrote:

*"We had occasion to visit the Parish Hall recently and were utterly amazed at the transformation that has taken place. The hall has been painted, there is now another new hatch, new photos/pictures on the walls and everything now looks bright and clean. There are new pots and hanging baskets waiting to be planted and the garden is looking neater and tidier than it ever has.*

*The village owes a great debt to Penny, Lesley and their willing team of workers for everything they are doing and we would like everyone to be aware of the amount of hard work they are putting in for our village."*

### Joan Kendal wrote:

*"When we were walking home from Church on Sunday morning, first unusual event was a lady riding a cob type horse down Hynetown Road. We haven't seen a horse on our road ever since we arrived here some 18 years ago.*

*Then as she got to the turning up into the Hynetown Estate, Jonathan Ellis came around the corner from Church Hill driving a vintage David Brown tractor, this was followed by many more vintage tractors, all makes, sizes and colours.*

*Chris was on one of them and I asked him where they were travelling to. Torcross was the answer. Pity I didn't have a camera on me as it was quite a site, very enjoyable to Roy and me as it brought back memories of some of the tractors that we had had on our farm."*

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## Devon County Council Election 2021

### Kingsbridge (Turnout 48.02%)

Name of Candidate	Description (if any)		Votes
BRAZIL Julian	Liberal Democrat	<b>ELECTED</b>	2683
BURGESS Peter Austin	Freedom Alliance. No Lockdowns. No Curfews		89
DENNIS Samantha	The Conservative Party Candidate		1793
FURLONG Paul Francis	Labour Party		237
RIXON Bettina	Green Party		276

## Strete Neighbourhood Plan

### Turnout: 62.92%



	Votes	Percentage
Number cast in favour of a YES	222	85.38%
Number cast in favour of a NO	38	14.62%

## Readers Corner.

Trees are fascinating and their functions are many. In addition to giving shade, fruit and wood, they are crucial in the balance of nature. They absorb carbon dioxide along with other polluting gases, storing the carbon while re-oxygenising the air. They help prevent soil erosion, help slow water evaporation and more. Trees have significant roles in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and Jesus referred to them on many occasions in his teaching. Trees are our friends, they are majestic, they sturdy and strong and they give us hope.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> August 1945 when an atomic bomb reduced the central Nagasaki to ash, incinerating the trees all the way to the tops surrounding hills, it was estimated that nothing would grow again for 75 years. However, a Persimmon (Kaki) tree remained upright and although it was severely damaged, it eventually grew new leaves. It became a powerful symbol of hope among the devastated people of Japan inspiring courage to work towards recovery. Other trees also began to regenerate, two 500yr old Camphor trees lost most of their branches and all sign of life, yet despite huge scars, new buds miraculously sprouted a few months later. These trees remain green today. A different kind of “tree of hope” brought meaning to many on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001.

A cruciform of connected girders stood out from the mangled remains of the twin towers in New York, at what is now called Ground Zero. Some saw it as a sign of Christ's presence, in the midst of their suffering.

In his teaching, Jesus mentions many varieties of trees, including figs, vines, palms, mustard, olive, and mulberry. He would have been familiar with trees because like his earthly Father Joseph, he worked with wood. He learned how to work with raw material, how to use the tools of the trade available at the time, to chop, splice, turn, join, smooth and shape the wood. He would have learned to work with the problems, knots, splits, grain, density and splinters. He spent the larger part of his life as a carpenter, as he awaited his time of ministry. When you next go for a walk, find a tree and just sit or stand beneath it, envisage a myriad of roots beneath you, invisibly filtering water and nutrients from the earth, observe the canopy of the branches, that seasonably burst of the buds, leaves, flowers and fruit, and marvel at the complex structure. Thank God for trees which add such richness to his creation.

In the Bible we read that while resting beneath a fig tree Nathanael was seen and chosen by Jesus, and there's little Zachaeus who sat among the branches of a sycamore tree, and whom Jesus called to the Lord's service.

I wonder what Jesus is saying to you beneath the tree? Many thanks to **Jenny Harris**



*Sanno Shinto Shrine,  
Shigeo Hayashi, 1945.*



# St. Michael's Church

Totnes Road Strete Dartmouth.

**The Vicar is Revd. Alison Shaw.**

*The PCC consists of:*

Church Wardens: Sally Green 01803 712 438

Brenda Range

Andrea Phillips (Treasurer)

Sally Green (Acting Secretary)

PCC members- Sheila Kingsley Smith

and Joan Kendall.



**C**oast & **C**ountry      St Peter's, Stoke Fleming  
St Michael's, Strete      Mission  
St Michael's, Blackawton      Community **+**  
St Andrew's, East Allington

June 2021

	St Peter's Stoke Fleming	St Michael's Strete	St Michael's Blackawton	St Andrew's East Allington
June 6 <sup>th</sup> Trinity +1	11am Holy Communion Revd Alison Shaw	11am Morning Worship Jenny Harris	9.30 am Communion by ext Frank and Lyn Robinson	
June 13 <sup>th</sup> Trinity +2	11am Morning Worship Peter Barker	11am Holy Communion Revd Alison Shaw	9.30 am Morning Worship Jenny Harris	9.30 am Morning Worship Lay led
June 20 <sup>th</sup> Trinity +3	11am Communion by ext Jenny Harris	11am Morning Worship Peter Barker	9.30 am Holy Communion Revd Alison Shaw	6.30pm Evensong Jenny Harris
June 27 <sup>th</sup> Trinity +4	11am Morning Worship Peter Barker	11am Morning Worship Jenny Harris	9.30 am Morning Worship Lay led	11am Holy Communion Revd Alison Shaw

**C**oast & **C**ountry      St Peter's, Stoke Fleming  
St Michael's, Strete      Mission  
St Michael's, Blackawton      Community **+**  
St Andrew's, East Allington

July 2021

	St Peter's Stoke Fleming	St Michael's Strete	St Michael's Blackawton	St Andrew's East Allington
July 4 <sup>th</sup> Trinity +5	11am Holy Communion Revd Alison Shaw <i>? Songs of Praise at Blackpool</i>	11am Morning Worship Peter Barker	9.30 am Communion by ext Frank and Lyn Robinson	
July 11 <sup>th</sup> Trinity +6 <i>Sea Sunday</i>	11am Morning Worship Jenny Harris	11am Communion by ext Peter Barker	9.30 am Morning Worship La led	9.30 am Morning Worship Lay led
July 18 <sup>th</sup> Trinity +7	11am Service for Climate Sunday Peter Barker	11am Morning Worship Jenny Harris	11am Holy Communion Revd Alison Shaw	6.30pm Evensong Revd Alison Shaw
July 25 <sup>th</sup> Trinity +8	11am Communion by ext Jenny Harris	11am Taize Service Lyn and Frank Robinson	9.30 am Morning Worship Lay led	11am Communion by ext Peter Barker



Greetings from the fellowship to all in the village!

We are continuing to meet every Sunday in our chapel building in line with the government guidelines and continue to operate a booking system to plan seating. So far we have been able to accommodate everyone who wishes to attend which has been wonderful. If you would like to attend then please email us at [stretechapel@gmail.com](mailto:stretechapel@gmail.com) and please keep an eye on the noticeboard for up-to-date information.

With restrictions easing further we are now beginning to be able to reconnect with those who we may not have seen for a long time. How lovely to be able to socialise once again in person rather than over a screen! Who are you planning to see and spend time with?

In the Bible Jesus was often criticised for the company he kept by the religious leaders of day. In the book of Luke Jesus uses a story to explain why...

‘Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” Then Jesus told them this parable: “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.’

★ Young Searchers Challenge ★

Young Searchers is a Christian children’s club based on teaching the Bible through stories, games and craft. Due to all of the changes this year and restrictions in place we will not start up the club until September 2021. Keep an eye out for updates! We will continue to set you challenges in Stretewise. All children in the village are invited to take part. Please ask your parent/carer to send in the answers by email to [stretechapel@gmail.com](mailto:stretechapel@gmail.com).



Well done to those who got the answers right to the last set of questions!

- Q. In the Bible we are warned to watch out for what animal that will disguise themselves in sheep’s clothing?
- Q. In the book of John chapter 10 what does Jesus describe himself as?

Dear Lord, we thank you that you love and care for every one of us. We know that we are all sinners and that however far we have wandered from you we can still return to your fold.

Amen

# Stretewise Crossword

Solution on page 80

**Across:** 1: A dilute solution of sodium hypochlorite.

3: Containing as much as possible.

8: A strong cotton fabric.

9: A cut of meat from the breast or lower chest of beef.

11: Title and rank of the nobility.

13: To run off secretly to be married.

14: Slightly open.

15: Flaps of cloth on the front of a jacket.

18: Daisy-like flowers.

22: Meeting plan.

23: An element, compound, or alloy.

24: Not any.

25: Sturdy barrier built on the beach.

**Down:** 1: Group of people who are unaffected by activities. 2: Relating to the natural world. 4: A northern sea duck. 5: Soft timber. 6: A bread made from wheat-based dough. 7: To estimate a value between two known values. 10: Historic punishment on board a ship. 12: A girl or young woman. 16: A device that stimulates atoms or molecules. 17: An attendant or officer in a royal or noble household. 19: Caused by gravitational pull of the moon and the sun. 20: To live in a place.

## Why?

Why is half the "Countdown" clock never used ? . Why do people shout when they are using a mobile phone?. Why can't people admit it when their wrong ?.

Why do some computer applications presume to know what the user should be doing?. Why do some people enjoy complaining almost as much as they enjoy doing nothing about it ? . Why do people photograph their food before they eat it and post it on-line?. Why do people start an order with, "Can I get a...?"

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# Charity Tractor Memorial Road Run

On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May we had a Charity Tractor Memorial Road Run which passed through Strete just before lunch. Next was the scenic section but then the hail came whilst on route from Strete to Torcross and up to Stokenham



with many onlookers giving waves along the way. From Stokenham now back in sunshine via Start to the top of Slapton for our wonderful Lunch stop with Covid restrictions being adhered to. After lunch was off to Coles Cross, Rimpston, Flear, East Allington, Five-mile lane and back to Moreleigh. The tractors ranged from a 1950's

Grey Fergie, to the Classic Fords from the 80's. The list was: Massey Ferguson 35X Multiple Power, Massey Ferguson 35, Massey Ferguson 135, David Brown 770 selectomatic, David Brown 990 Implematic, International 414, International 955, John Deere 2030, Two John Deere 920's, Two Fordson Super Major, Fordson Dexter, Two Ford 4000's, Ford 5000, Ford 6600, Ford 4600, Ford 7810, Two Ferguson TE 20's, Two Nuffield Universal's, Nuffield 3/45 and a Nuffield 10/60.

**Ellis's**







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**Philip Elliott**

Company Director

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## Chillies *Capsicum annuum*

*Capsicum* Chilli fruits have been a part of human diets for over 7,500 years BC, and are one of the oldest crops cultivated in the Americas, origins of cultivating chili peppers can be traced to east and central Mexico over 6,000 years ago. They were one of the first self-pollinating crops cultivated in Mexico, Central America, and parts of South America. Pottery excavated at Chiapa de Corzo in southern Mexico dated from Middle to Late Preclassic periods 400 BCE to 300 CE have tested positive for *Capsicum* sp. residues. In South America, researchers have identified



starch grains of *Capsicum* on artifacts, from milling stones and cooking vessels recovered from house floors in two early village sites at Loma Alta and Real Alto in southwestern Ecuador to ca. 6,000 years ago. Today Chili peppers are widely used in many cuisines around the world as a spice to add a pungent heat to dishes. The substances giving chili peppers their hot intensity when ingested or applied topically are capsaicin and compounds known as capsaicinoids.



Peppers are commonly broken down into three groupings: bell peppers, sweet peppers, and hot peppers. Most popular pepper varieties are seen as falling into one of these categories or as a cross between them. Although the species name *annuum* means “annual”, the plant is frost tender. In the absence of winter frosts it can survive several seasons and grow to a large shrubby perennial herb. The single flowers are an off-white, sometimes purplish colour and the stem is densely branched and up to 60 cm tall. The fruit are berries that vary from green, yellow, orange or red when ripe.



During the Middle Ages, spices had been a luxury food in Europe, imported via convoluted trade links in the Middle East from India and Southeast Asia. While seeking a sea route to the land of spices Christopher Columbus landed in the Caribbean in 1492. Having arrived in the Caribbean they became the first Europeans to encounter the *Capsicum*. They called them "peppers" because, like black pepper of the genus *Piper* known in Europe from the spice trade with Asia, they have a spicy, hot pungent taste unlike any other foods. The Spanish eventually colonised large parts of South America during the 16th century, bringing back many indigenous American plants to Europe, including the chilli, tomato and potato.



When the Portuguese arrived in India, chillies from the new world of the Americas were first introduced to Goa, from there they spread across Southern Indian continent. Within decades Indians from all parts of India were experimenting with the new chillie spice often called Goan mirchi or Brazilian mirchi. Initially chillies were used to prepare pickles and chutneys, adding flavour and heat to the pungent relishes that were popular in the 16th century. Black pepper remained the dominant source for bold pungent hot flavouring in northern Indian food until the 18th century, which was when chillies slowly started to make an appearance in the cuisine of India and Asia being incorporated into most cooking preparations.

Today, India is the largest producer of red dried chilli in the world.



When peppers are consumed by mammals such as humans, capsaicin binds with pain receptors in the mouth and throat, potentially evoking pain via spinal relays to the brainstem and thalamus where heat and discomfort are perceived.

The intensity of the "heat" of chili peppers is commonly reported in Scoville heat units (SHU).

Pure capsaicin is a hydrophobic, colourless, odourless, and crystalline-to-waxy solid at room temperature, and measures 16,000,000 SHU.

**The Scoville Scale and Scoville Heat Unit (SHU)** were named after the scientist Wilbur Scoville in 1912.

At the time, Scoville worked for a pharmaceutical company Parke-Davis where he developed a test called the "Scoville Organoleptic Test" which is used to measure a chili pepper's pungency and heat.

Originally, Scoville ground up peppers and mixed them with sugar water, then tested them with a panel of tasters who sipped from these sugar-water-pepper solutions. Diluting the solutions bit by bit until they no longer burned the tongues of the tasters, after which he would assign a number to the chile pepper based on the number of dilutions needed to kill the heat. The weakness of the Scoville organoleptic test is its imprecision due to human subjectivity, depending on the taster's palate and number of mouth heat receptors, which vary widely among people. The data was also subject to the individuals sensory fatigue; the palate is quickly desensitized to capsaicinoids after tasting a few samples within a short time period.



**Wilbur Scoville**



Since the 1980s, spice heat has been assessed by high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), which measures the concentration of heat-producing capsaicinoids.

The Carolina Reaper is currently the hottest pepper in the world, measuring over 2 Million Scoville Heat Units. It was developed by grower Ed Currie. Created this chili pepper plant variety by crossing a Pakistani Naga with a Red Habanero type from St Vincent Island in the West Indies and tested at over 2.2 Million Scoville Heat Units. ) Despite the extremely heat of this super hot pepper, the Carolina Reaper is fruity and sweet.

Canadian, Mike Jack, broke the record for the fastest time to eat three Carolina Reaper chillies, with a time of 9.72 seconds, bringing the record to under 10 seconds for the first time ever. For the purposes of this record, each chilli had to weigh at least 5 grams (0.18 oz), and a certificate proving they were in fact Carolina Reaper chillies had to be provided.

**Bell Pepper** – 0 Scoville Heat Units (SHU)  
**Banana Peppers** – 0 – 500 Scoville Heat Units (SHU)  
**Shishito Peppers** – 50 – 200 SHU  
**Pepperoncini Peppers** – 100 – 500 Scoville Heat Units (SHU)  
**Cholula Hot Sauce** – 500 – 1,000 Scoville Heat Units (SHU)  
**Anaheim Peppers** – 500 – 2,500 Scoville Heat Units (SHU)  
**Texas Pete Hot Sauce** – 747 Scoville Heat Units (SHU)  
**Valentina Hot Sauce (Red Label)** – 900 Scoville Heat Units (SHU)  
**Ancho Peppers** – 1,000 – 2,000 Scoville Heat Units (SHU)  
**Poblano Peppers** – 1,000 – 2,000 Scoville Heat Units (SHU)  
**Hungarian Wax Peppers** – 1,000 – 15,000 SHU  
**Valentina Hot Sauce** – 2,200 Scoville Heat Units (SHU)  
**Crystal Hot Sauce** – 2,000 – 4,000 Scoville Heat Units (SHU)  
**Espelette Peppers** – up to 4,000 SHU  
**Tabasco Hot Sauce** – 2,000 – 5,000 Scoville Heat Units (SHU)  
**Huy Fong Sriracha Hot Sauce** – 2,200 Scoville Heat Units (SHU)  
**Guajillo Peppers** – 2,500 – 5,000 SHU  
**Tapatio Hot Sauce** – 3,000 Scoville Heat Units (SHU)  
**Jalapeno Peppers** – 2,500 – 8,000 Scoville Heat Units (SHU)  
**Tabasco Habanero Hot Sauce** – 7,000+ Scoville Heat Units (SHU)  
**Serrano Peppers** – 10,000 – 23,000 Scoville Heat Units (SHU)  
**Chile de Arbol Peppers** – 15,000 – 65,000 SHU  
**Cayenne Peppers** – 30,000 – 50,000 Scoville Heat Units (SHU)  
**Chiltepin Peppers** – 50,000 – 100,000 SHU  
**Thai Pepper** – 50,000 – 100,000 SHU  
**Datil Peppers** – 100,000 – 300,000 SHU  
**Habanero Peppers** – 100,000 – 350,000 Scoville Heat Units (SHU)  
**Scotch Bonnet Peppers** – 100,000 – 350,000 Scoville Heat Units (SHU)  
**Ghost Peppers** – 1,000,000 + Scoville Heat Units (SHU)  
**Trinidad Scorpion Butch T Pepper** – 800,000 – 1,463,700 SHU  
**Brain Strain Peppers** – 1 Million – 1.25 Million SHU  
**Komodo Dragon Peppers** – 1.4 Million – 2.2 Million SHU  
**Trinidad Moruga Scorpion Pepper** – 2,009,231 SHU  
**Carolina Reaper Chili Pepper** – 2.2 Million + Scoville Heat Units (SHU)



<https://tribalchilli.com>

The South Hams boosts it's very own chilli farm. The South Devon Chilli Farm is based at Loddiswell approximately 1 mile outside the village covering a ten acre site. The farm has six polytunnels. One as a plant nursery, four as production tunnels and one as a display show tunnel. The show tunnel has a fantastic display of around 200 chilli varieties with all sorts of chilli fruit shapes, sizes and colours.



**South Devon Chilli Farm**  
 Wigford Cross,  
 Loddiswell,  
 Devon TQ7 4DX  
 Tel: 01548 550782

**Farm Shop**  
**Café**  
**Plant Nursery**  
**Play Area**  
**Show Tunnel**

We are hoping to re-open our Farm Shop in the school summer holidays, sometime in July 2021.

In the meantime it is still possible to purchase online and then collect from the farm, using our Click&Collect option at the checkout, or have your items delivered to your home using DPD or Royal Mail.



**Health and safety caution:**

When handling and chopping chillies it is advisable to wear disposable Latex gloves used for food. Do not touch any part of the body during the preparation and bottling of the sauce.

Ensure that your kitchen is well ventilated during the cooking process. Remember pepper spray is created from the active compound in hot peppers, *capsaicin*.

## Chilli Jam

### Ingredients:

150 grams long fresh red chilli peppers (deseeded and sliced)  
150 grams red peppers (cored, deseeded and cut into rough chunks)  
1 kilogram jam sugar  
600 millilitres cider vinegar.

### Method:

Sterilise 6 x 250ml / 1 cup sealable jars, with vinegar-proof lids  
Put the finely chopped chillies into a food processor and pulse.  
Add the chunks of red pepper and pulse again.  
Dissolve the sugar in the vinegar in a medium-sized pan over a low heat without stirring.  
Spoon out the chilli-pepper mixture from the food processor and add to the pan. Bring the pan to the boil, then leave it at a steady boil for 10 minutes. Take the pan off the heat and allow it to cool.  
After 40 minutes, ladle into the jars and seal tightly.

## Scotch Bonnet Curry Hot Sauce

### Ingredients:

250g Scotch Bonnet Peppers chopped  
250g Sweet Peppers chopped  
6 garlic cloves finely chopped  
Thumb size piece of finely chopped ginger  
1 teaspoon ground black pepper  
1 teaspoon turmeric  
1 tablespoon curry powder  
1 teaspoon salt  
275ml apple cider vinegar  
275ml water as needed to thin the sauce

### Method:

Add all of the ingredients to a medium saucepan.  
Bring to a quick boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 15-20 minutes until softened. Transfer the mixture to a food processor or blender and process until smooth.  
Add water a couple of tablespoons at a time as you process to thin out the sauce as required.





## CALLING ALL VILLAGERS

Please help to continue bringing us all back to a more normal, sociable way of life.

Join us, at the Hall, for the following events: we should love to see you.

**SATURDAY**  
**26th JUNE**  
**10.00 - 12.30ish**  
**COFFEE MORNING**  
**with STALLS**

Basketware, plants, cakes, books, etc but we do need your help for this so if you would make a cake and/or contribute some plants, we should be really grateful.

Please let us know:

Penny 771005

or

Lesley 770071



**SATURDAY 18th SEPT: 4.00 - 8.00pm-ish**  
**VILLAGE BBQ with JAZZ BAND**

## **UPDATE! UPDATE!! UPDATE!!!**

Much work has been carried out at the Hall.

### **EXTERIOR**

**1/ WEST-END WALL:** Keith and Chris Ellis have completed the third stage of work at this end of the building.

Stage 1: the old internal wooden door has been replaced with a UPVC fire door

Stage 2: the wooden porch and external door have been demolished

Stage 3: once scaffolding had been erected work was carried out on the roof edge, some roof tiles were replaced and the cladding was erected

**NB** Still to be done:

Stage 4: repair and paint lower part of the wall

Stage 5: level, pave and finish off the area outside the fire door and construct a handrail.

**2/ FRONT DOORS:** inside and out painted with black gloss

**3/ HAND RAILS:** painted silver

**4/ GARDENS:** pots and hanging baskets planted with summer bedding and at the rear of the hall wild-flower seeds have been planted (we just need some sun and warmth now!)

**5/ OUTSIDE LIGHTS:** domed tops painted black

**NB** Still to be done: benches cleaned and repainted

### **INTERIOR**

**1/ HALLWAY:** walls, skirting boards, door frames and both sides of the double doors into the main hall painted white.

**2/ KITCHEN HALLWAY:** walls and doors painted white. New brass handles fitted

**3/ REAR STORE ROOM:** a new hatchway has been constructed into the main hall

**NB** Still to be done:

**1/ STORE ROOM AND CLEANER'S CUPBOARD:** walls replastered where necessary and walls and ceilings painted

**2/ KITCHEN, KITCHEN HALLWAY, STORE ROOM AND CLEANER'S CUPBOARD:** new safety flooring to be fitted

**A BIG, BIG THANK YOU to all those who have helped with the work**

There is one major problem we have encountered!

Keith and Chris Ellis gave us the news! We have uninvited guests!

**ANOBIUM PUNCTATUM**, otherwise known as **WOODWORM**.

We have had surveys done by the professionals and our visitors have taken up residence in the whole roof space. Treatment will start on Tuesday, 8th June and we are very grateful that Keith and Chris were in a position to spot the problem!

**Penny**

Come and Join Us

# Coffee Morning

**26th June**

**10.00 - 12.30**

**Strete Parish  
Hall**

**Tea and Coffee • Homemade Cakes  
Books • Plants • Basket Ware**

(any profits will go towards upkeep of the hall)  
Charity Number 270409





## Have Your Say

16<sup>th</sup> May: I have been contacted by numerous people in the village asking if I would air their concerns about the Slapton Line and its future.

*Slapton Line Partnership: Saturday 15 May 2021 'planning for future of slapton line' Funding to plan the future of the Slapton Line in the event of further damaging storms has been secured by the Slapton Line Partnership (SLP). The SLP are delighted to announce that funding has been secured from the Environment Agency, South Hams District Council (SHDC) and Devon County Council to allow for the recruitment of an Adaptation Manager. The purpose of this new post will be to work closely with the community and the Partnership to help to ease traffic issues and to create positive changes to **prepare for the future loss of the Slapton Line A379 road.***  
<http://www.slaptonline.org/news/news.php?id=149>

After eight hours of road closures in the area due to a serious and life-threatening traffic accident people are voicing their concerns about what the scenario would be if we lost the Slapton Line road permanently.

*Devon and Cornwall Police:*

*"Emergency services were called to reports of a collision between a car and a lorry on the A3122 at Dartmouth at around 9.30am this morning (Wednesday 12th May 2021). Police, paramedics and the fire service attended the scene, along with the air ambulance."*

The comments by Strete residents are not founded upon purely selfish frustrations of a single day's disruption caused by a road traffic accident, but are very sincere concerns for the transport infrastructure in the area should we lose a main transport artery that is the Slapton Line.

**"Letting Nature Take Its Course" is not an option when lives will be put at risk because of the lack of an adequate road infrastructure.**

If we can build a rail line at Dawlish, flood protection in Eastbourne, Pevensey, Exeter, Dawlish Warren, Exmouth and rock armour at Scarborough, eight beach areas from Southbourne to Poole will be topped-up with sand from January 2021.

We **can** engineer a permanent and sustainable solution for the Slapton Line.

A solution that ensures the safety of the community with the knowledge that emergency response services can get to the area quickly, essential local transport links that are fit for purpose, the economy of the area is secured, property and the natural environment are protected. It is understandable that funding priorities should be allocated to protect a large number homes from flooding but this should not be the only yard stick for allocating money and resources to new sea defences.

Maybe the "Adaption Manager" would send a rolling update of the plans proposed for life without the Slapton Line?.

# STRETE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Helen Darch

Homer Park, Strete, Dartmouth TQ6 0SJ streteClerk@gmail.com  
01803 770018 www.strete.org.uk

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STRETE PARISH COUNCIL (PC)  
HELD ON ZOOM ON THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> March 2021 AT 7.00 PM**

## **PRESENT**

Cllr Kate Gill (KG) (Chairman); Cllr Ralph Clark (RC); Cllr Louise Newman (LN); Cllr Ian Cumberlidge (IC); Cllr David Rothwell (DR); Cllr Graham Campbell (GC); Cllr Peter Hales (PH); Cllr Julian Brazil, County Councillor, Kingsbridge Division (JB); Cllr Richard Foss, District Councillor, Allington & Strete Ward (RF); Mrs. Helen Darch {Clerk}; two parishioners; the Conservative candidate for the County Council elections.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr Burroughs spoke and offered to take any questions on his planning application at Primrose Cottage. He confirmed the family are committed to Strete and this is their 'forever home'. He understood concerns over site traffic on Vicarage Lane. The large untidy bank on one side will be removed at the start of works so site traffic can get in easily off Vicarage Lane to enable wider access to the site.

Samantha Dennis the Conservative candidate for the County Council elections on 6<sup>th</sup> May spoke briefly. **This visit took place before the 'purdah' rules applied.** She had visited a number of councils and requested an invitation to the Parish Council meeting. Samantha gave a brief biography and explained she was attending the meeting to find out about any issues in the Parish. **This was noted.**

## **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

JB reiterated the increases in Council tax for 2021/22 of 2% and 2.9% across core services and adult social care respectively. This should be explained on the bills received by householders this month. He commented the increases reflected Central government policy to divert the tax burden to local government to raise taxes. Services had then to be paid for by an increased levy on taxpayers.

DCC is the lead partner in respect to COVID. South Hams had the lowest COVID count in the country and Devon has three of the lowest rates in England. This reflects the good attitude of local citizens.

JB had been contacted by a parishioner on road speed in the village in particular along the Totnes Road. He suggested the parishioner speak with LN as the transport lead. IC had also been contacted by the parishioner who had been driven at by a motorist. She reported the vehicle to the police who visited the owner. LN mentioned the problem of speeding down her end of the Village as well.

JB noted Strete is one of the few villages in Devon with a 20mph speed limit which he would like to see across the county. He also noted many of the speeders are locals. RF mentioned the dummy at Modbury mocked up as a policewoman in hi vis and put there by residents with a sign '20 is plenty'. It has had a big impact on drivers. **JB suggested Lisa Edmonds come and inspect the village for speed problems. Resolved: The Clerk to invite Lisa to tour of the problem areas, within COVID guidelines.**

JB also touched on the 37% increase in the police precept in the past few years yet the number of police in the Kingsbridge area has halved. The number of beat managers and PCSOs in Kingsbridge had fallen from 4 and 4 to 3 and 1 respectively over the past 5 years. **The report was received.**

**The meeting closed for a parishioner to speak.** The parishioner was concerned at the height and size of the building proposed in the planning application on the agenda which is across the road from her house. Initially the height was a foot/300mm. The new plans show a considerable increase almost at the roof height of the other building. She commented the traffic on Vicarage Lane will be 'horrendous'. Previous construction traffic had got stuck on the narrow lane and bend in the lane. She requested a construction management plan. Last time it took a year and people had to park away from the lane. So, she is 'desperately concerned'.

**The meeting was reopened.**

#### **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

RF offered to help the parishioner on the access issues to Vicarage Lane. **Mr Burroughs said he would draw up a plan to ensure the lane was not blocked for traffic during construction.**

RF then mentioned the Slapton Line. He is putting a plan together with Slapton PC. There is still consultation and advice to be received but the date aimed for is the middle of April. RF and JB had seen an earlier plan officers had put together but sent it back to be reworked. The suggestion is an Aire is designated on the rough part of the carpark to house around 15 of the larger motorhomes which had onboard facilities. They could stay two nights but they would then have to move to flush their systems out. He also noted Slapton had problems with motorhomes in the village which is too narrow to cope with this sort of traffic. PH asked if the Aire would be managed in some way with any water provided for instance? RF said no water would be offered but the site would be managed as far as the four new wardens/locality officers could be on site. Proposed hours at peak season are 6am to 8pm. The site will be managed seven days a week during the high season [May to September] with peak hours as noted. The homes will be charged for occupancy with enforcement by the wardens. RF thought if SHDC got a message across to the motorhome owners that the site is supervised then they would more likely behave

better. He noted if the Aire doesn't work it will be shut down immediately. RF also noted other local sites are being set aside as well.

IC asked what would happen with the smaller vans which can get below the barrier at the middle carpark and often don't have onboard facilities. RF confirmed these won't be allowed to park there overnight and signs will direct them to toilets at the other two carparks. RF thought the smaller vans would have to leave by 10pm.

RF noted holiday makers are going to visit and so we need to be 'positive' about it. Strete Gate is more of a problem as there are some obstacles before motorhomes could access this carpark and be accommodated. First the entrance is quite narrow and DCC would have to deal with this. There is also a slope which they can't get over. For these reasons SHDC won't be making any plans for Strete Gate in 2021 but will review this later once they have seen what has happened in 2021. **He asked for Strete PC to come back with any suggestions.**

RF confirmed the steps at the carpark at Strete Gate will now be reinstated after he argued health and safety concerns because of people using other routes onto the beach and walking in traffic. Councillors expressed their thanks for this. **RF wanted the Parish Council to come up with what would suit as the locals who have best knowledge of conditions and what is needed.** GC observed the recent response from SHDC to the letter on Strete Gate and the Line was disappointing. RF confirmed he had spoken with the officers and explained the local viewpoint to them.

RC asked JB and RF about the two letters which had ended up with Meg Booth: the Stancombe Wood highways issue and the Council tax issue. He asked JB if he could liaise with Meg Booth and get some progress on these. He would also like a site meeting at Stancombe Wood with Highways to discuss the highways problems as perceived by Strete PC. These are the road is a bottleneck even before the proposed enlargement of the site. To encourage large 40 tonne vehicles to use the site will aggravate the current problems. Infrastructure does need to be built up to accommodate the larger and busier traffic expected at the site. **JB said he would check with Highways.** RC said a 's106' [or similar] levy to offset development would help, and this should be directed from the authority and not to rely on the developer to 'make good'

JB responded if the Highways officers didn't see an issue with the highway, from a planning perspective there couldn't be a suggestion of a 's106' or similar to remedy that. Second if the developer doesn't offer any amelioration for the likely issues with infrastructure the PC had few remedies. One of the few routes available is to approach the local government ombudsman. <https://www.lgo.org.uk/make-a-complaint> but the ombudsman recommends complaints are made first to the local Council. Thus, the Parish Council should approach Highways at DCC at first. If this doesn't solve the problem then to take the matter to the ombudsman.

**So, a site meeting would be the best first step to take.** JB wasn't going to promise any of this would sort out the PC's concerns but it was the first route to take. RC noted this but felt Highways' response was unsatisfactory in so far as they seemed to waive the issue entirely and put the responsibility onto the developer. RF counselled that in all his experience and that of JB in planning, the opinion of the Highways officers has great weight. The highways officers do an in-depth review before they make their recommendations. So the Council should not have too great an expectation if a site visit is made to look at the problems envisaged at Stancombe Wood. The Council may employ their own expert witness to review the matter but it will cost money. **JB recommended overall that Lisa Edmonds visit on site to review things and come back with her opinion. The report was received.**

**0321/1 APOLOGIES – none were received.**

**0321/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 18 February 2021**

The above minutes were AGREED as a true and correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

**0321/3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Parish Councillors were invited to declare any unregistered or other interest, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting. **None were declared.**

**0321/4 PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS**

**0435/21/HHO. Householder application for demolition of single storey north eastern wing and replacement with new two storey extension and associated landscape works (resubmission of 0012/20/HHO). Primrose Cottage, Vicarage Lane, Strete TQ6 0RN.** A full discussion took place. The applicant noted the requirement for a construction management plan to be put together by the contractor. RC also asked if the applicant had addressed the reasons for the dismissal of the previous application in particular **references to the Joint Local Plan.** The applicant confirmed there had been discussion on this at the pre application stage. He had also discussed his plans with his neighbours. One neighbour is away but he had spoken with the neighbour across the road to confirm the height would be 'similar'. This was 72cm but the site will be dug down into to keep things as low as possible but also give the applicant's family the space they need. He appreciated the inconvenience that building works generate so he would do everything to minimise disruption during site works and manage his contractors closely to minimise disturbance in the locality. IC observed if the site was being dug down into there would be a significant amount of earth being moved through the village and along Vicarage Lane. The applicant suggested access could be made from the bottom of his garden onto the A379 rather than up Vicarage Lane. The Clerk offered to scan a map of the area and send it to the applicant to mark up where he would like to access the site at the bottom if it was not part of the Village Green. RC noted due to the poor state of

Vicarage Lane had any provision been made to reinstate the road in the construction plan? The applicant said not but he would look at this.

IC said a site visit should be done to clarify some outstanding points. The Clerk pointed out that if a site visit was to take place it would have to be done in a socially-distanced fashion in accordance with the latest COVID regulations. *She later resent the guidance she had sent originally and added to that planning advice on site visits under COVID.* Some Councillors were happy to visit outside the site boundary alone and take photographs and ask questions. Others declined and PH said it was not advisable in lockdown. **As no decision was reached in the meeting, the Councillors were advised to act under delegated planning powers agreed in April 2020, to correspond by email and to make a decision by the due deadline of 25<sup>th</sup> March. The eventual decision submitted on 25<sup>th</sup> March was to object with comments and conditions. These are:**

- *A comprehensive Construction Management Plan must be approved prior to the commencement of any construction works;*
- *Nuisance of construction works to neighbours and potential damage to Vicarage Lane infrastructure and surface;*
- *Ridge height of the proposed new roof to be no more than the ridge height of the existing roof on grounds of overdominance, scale and massing of Camelia Cottage;*
- *The 3D plans submitted with the application include timber cladding in front of the windows below the ridge of the roof on both existing and proposed south facing sides of the property. This should be made a condition as it is not included on any of the other plans and is not present on the already updated section of the property; This will reduce light exposure from the property to comply with Policy SNP5: Tranquillity and Dark Skies in Strete Neighbourhood Plan;*
- *We wish to remind SHDC Planning Department that SNP is at Reg 18 referendum stage and should, therefore, form part of their planning approval considerations.*

### **0321/5(a) FINANCE**

Two cheques were listed for payment on the agenda, invoices circulated before the meeting and both invoices approved for payment at the meeting.

1761 – Clerk salary March £261.	1762 – Brooking Hire Limited February sweep £350 plus VAT.
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**It was proposed and AGREED by all present to authorise the payments as enumerated above.**

### **0321/5(b) FINANCE**

The Clerk noted there was an underspend of £1,692 [£1,518 on budget] In 2020/21 to carry forward to the new year starting 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. **It was resolved the monitoring statements would be put on the website.**

### **0321/5(c) FINANCE**

Cash at bank – £7,520.55CR Current account at 09/03/21, £10,298.07CR Business Reserve account at 09/03/21.

### **0321/5(d) FINANCE**

**Resolved: The final budget for 2021/22 to go on the website.** The outcome of the £3,100 HMCEF highways grant bid was awaited. RC mentioned the extra sweep of £4,256 provided for subject to this funding. He said SHDC should do it but if the Parish was going to arrange the sweep, they should get the funds from SHDC/DCC. RF said that the Parish should precept if it wants these works done. RC noted the deep sweep had last been done 4 years ago by the Parish. **RF said these things were done less frequently now. He would ask the engineers to look at this and maybe argue this on safety grounds.**

**RF announced he had most likely extra grant monies of £3,000 for parishes and local groups for local projects and to bid for 2021/22 toward climate change and biodiversity.** RF reminded Councillors of his email of 15<sup>th</sup> March on Electric Vehicle [EV] charge points which included a provision for On Street Residential ChargePoint Scheme monies whereby DCC can help parishes bid for up to 75% of the capital cost of installation. KG asked about the installation cost for a charge point. This is around £5,000 for an initial installation with ‘three phase’ and thereafter around £1,500.

PH commented there was a need for a strategy for rural areas and EV. RF agreed there was a need to look at making areas/activities sustainable as much as the ‘easy wins. For instance, if there were EV charge points at Strete Gate and Torcross car parks, these would be used. He also noted the infrastructure to support EV was lacking and somewhat behind the plans to go green. RC asked if there was a parking spot in the village that could support EV would there be funding for it? RF thought so and could provide some money toward it. He also thought there was grant funding, as above, that could be claimed toward an EV ChargePoint.

**The report was received.**

### **0321/6 CLERK’S REPORT**

**Report submitted before the meeting.**

**Website accessibility.** Public websites are required to be accessible to all users in particular those who have visual or aural impairments. The full regulations are contained in the international WCAG 2.1AA accessibility standard. Kingsbridge Websites which maintain the Parish website quoted £200 which the Clerk provided for in 2020/1 and has carried forward. **Resolved: to engage Kingsbridge Websites to update the website to comply with accessibility regulations for a cost of £200. To confirm this will not impede RC’s activities updating the website.**

**Problems with motorcycles on Prideaux Lane.** A parishioner contacted the Clerk on 22<sup>nd</sup> February about motorbikes using Prideaux Lane [opposite Seacroft]. Paul McFadden [Public Rights of Way Warden] at DCC confirmed it is a criminal offence

to drive a mechanically propelled vehicle on a Public Footpath or Bridleway without lawful authority. Miscreants would have to be reported to the police so it is important to record the licence plate if one is visible. Paul didn't suggest the use of barriers as the public right of way has a number of users. **This was noted.**

***Dates for cutting hedges and mowing verges.*** A parishioner contacted KG on 28<sup>th</sup> February to complain about the severity of the mowing on the roadside verges down to Frogmore. GC confirmed the grass had been cut by Greenspace. **This was noted.**

***The road warden scheme.*** The Clerk prepared a report on the DCC road warden scheme. A discussion took place. **Resolved: The Clerk consult other parishes which have adopted the scheme for their experiences.**

***Annual Parish Council meeting and meeting of Parish electors.*** Last month Councilors resolved the Council would meet as diarised on 20<sup>th</sup> May, if regulations permit, and consider making the meeting of electors on the same night if parishioners were interested. This was discussed before the latest government rules which are in the 'Roadmap out of lockdown' published on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. The Clerk is booked on a DALC webinar on 30<sup>th</sup> March to get advice on the latest rules and the lapse of the remote meeting regulations. The Clerk spoke with the Parish Hall chairman last month and will contact her after the webinar. **Resolved: to report back.**

***Setting up a direct debit with SHDC to pay bills.*** SHDC no longer accept cheques but advised the Council set up a direct debit to make payment. **It was resolved instead to look again at online banking. The Clerk will seek advice from the Internal auditor.**

Coronavirus updates. The government announced its roadmap out of the pandemic on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021-summary#step-3---not-before-17-may>

The number of positive cases in the South Hams since the start of the pandemic is 1,599 at 16<sup>th</sup> March. Deaths at 39 to that date. On a better note 21,122,514 people had been given a first dose by the end of 15 March 2021. 1,161,526 people had been given a second dose by the end of 15 March 2021. **The report was received.**

### **0321/7 CHAIR'S REPORT**

**Report submitted before the meeting.**

**Chairs Report Strete Parish Council 18.03.21**

**Coronavirus** –Thankfully we have been fortunate in Strete with no known cases. Please let's keep it that way – to do that we shall have to be even more vigilant if that is possible - with the relaxing of some regulations on April 12<sup>th</sup> and all the visitors that is likely to bring.

**Strete Gate and Slapton Line. Strete Gate.** The coffee kiosk has now returned and is



in operation. Friends will now be able to exercise their dogs and enjoy a coffee while social distancing, weather permitting. The allegedly abandoned car has now been rescued with the help and co-operation of Kingsbridge Police and SHDC. The owner is delighted that it has been rescued. Much miss-information has surrounded him and he was very happy to co-operate with its removal to a safe place. **Slapton Line.** Currently our local MP Anthony Mangnall is in conversation with Alan Denbigh about possibilities for the future care of The Line.

**Play Park.** Thankfully we have had some good weather in the last few days which has enabled maintenance to be undertaken on the wood work. We have had our usual report from Helen Hardwicke. She highlighted a dangerous piece of equipment. Fortunately, I was able to get this rectified within an hour and a quarter of receiving her email.

**Speed Monitor.** This has been moved to the Landcombe end of Strete. I have had comments from Parishioners about the great speed at which traffic is now entering the village on Totnes Road. This happens every time it is moved – perhaps it might be worth investing in a second one; bearing in mind the traffic that is generated over the summer period which is likely to be much greater when lockdown is eased.

**Stay safe everyone!!**

RC asked about the plans to move the memorial to Strete Gate but KG had no update. RC asked if KG could request the latest minutes of the Slapton Line Partnership from the chairman. **KG promised to have a word with him. The Chair's report was received.**

### **0321/8 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

**A report was submitted prior to the meeting.**

#### **Neighbourhood Plan Report – March 2021**

The Regulation 18 Decision Statement that confirms Strete Neighbourhood Plan (SNP) can proceed to a referendum has been placed on SHDC's website together with all other relevant documents. SNP must now be considered in planning matters in the Parish as it has substantial material weight.

Arrangements are being made for the referendum to take place in conjunction with the local Council elections. This will be held in the Parish Hall on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

Flyers and display posters have been designed and costed. Costs are within budget and an order for printing is to be placed before Easter to ensure they are ready on time. It is suggested that flyers are hand delivered to each household in the Parish during the weekend 17 & 18 April 2021 by volunteers.

It is suggested that display posters are installed at each approach to the village together with strategic repeaters through the village on the A379 and Totnes Road and all side roads.

It is estimated that 20 should be sufficient and that they be placed in position for

display over weekend 1 & 2 May 2021. RC confirmed the total cost for the publicity materials will be £673.73 inc VAT and possibly an extra [small amount] for timber.

The recent planning award notification for Blindwells dated 12/03/2021 did not consider the current status of SNP. Although the various concerns expressed by Councillors with this planning application were included in the planning officer's report, detailed comments concluded that approval could be recommended.

However, SNP has a policy to restrict 2<sup>nd</sup> homes and two of the three homes proposed on this site should have the restriction applied to them. Correspondence on this matter is ongoing with SHDC Planning Department. RC will continue to follow up on Blindwells following the response of the planner on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

RC mentioned two planning matters the Parish hasn't been consulted on. Start Bay Cottages [an office conversion from a garage]. Also 1 Crestfields which is being worked on to replace the windows. **The NP report was received.**

### **0321/9 CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY**

Report given by PH. **Devon Carbon Plan**

At the last meeting PH agreed to do some research to determine if other local Parishes had adopted any form of strategy in support of the Climate Change Emergency and the Devon Carbon Plan. His research is incomplete, but it is clear that many PCs have produced and ratified a Climate Change Emergency Statement. There is a lot of information out on the internet to assist Parishes to develop such strategies, and a webinar is planned for 7<sup>th</sup> April by Devon Communities Together aimed at putting together a Parish Support Network.

Many of the strategies have been based upon those adopted by both SHDC and DCC, which are quite specific in nature. By contrast Slapton PC, has adopted a policy which refers only to specific areas where they felt that as a PC, they could really exert influence in order to make a difference. PH commended Slapton on this approach.

PH mentioned a site where it is possible to view carbon footprint details for every community in Devon and attached details of the site and the results for Strete Parish. He summarised the findings for Strete and noted emissions were dominated by agriculture (mostly animal emissions), housing (mostly oil-fired central heating) and transport, as can be seen when the detail of each is displayed. It is possible to compare parishes and larger areas.

**[https://impact-tool.org.uk/footprint/footprint?  
parishId=E04003181&footprintType=territorial&scale=per-  
household&showSubCategories=true](https://impact-tool.org.uk/footprint/footprint?parishId=E04003181&footprintType=territorial&scale=per-household&showSubCategories=true)**

PH recommended the Council discuss how to respond to these stimuli to best serve the interests of parishioners. He asked if the PC wanted to issue a formal policy. It was noted not a lot can be done about agriculture as a large element of it is methane generation but the imperfect state of housing can be remedied and advice

given. RC noted the NP included policies on housing development. GC thought once people could assemble again there was an opportunity to present ideas and educate villagers such as a roadshow at the Parish Hall. Companies, voluntary organisations and individuals with expertise might be invited to give presentations and offer advice. **The report was received.**

#### **0321/10 UPDATES ON PREVIOUS AGENDA ITEMS.**

**Strete Gate was discussed under the District Councillor report.**

#### **0321/11 UPDATE ON CONTRACTS**

**Report received before the meeting.** GC said he had written out to Greenspace to confirm the contract for 2021/22 but not received anything yet though they continued to mow grass. RC asked about the playpark and the contract with SHDC for inspection and insurance. The Clerk confirmed a review of insurance and terms of inspection will take place in August with an annual renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> September. **The reports were received.**

#### **0321/12 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.**

**KG (Chair) Playpark.** This is covered in 0321/07.

**LN Transport and Roads.** There is not much to report on the roads. The work is complete outside the School House. There seem to be a lot of diversion signs left in the village at the bottom of Hyne Town Road and by Strete Gate. The tarmac surface of Vicarage Lane on the hill is getting quite rough and worn. The milestones are fine. RC noted a trench reinstatement down by Old Byre which was now in danger of crumbling. **This could also be raised with Lisa. The contractor for the Byre could be approached once it was established who had caused the defect and be asked to make it good.**

**DR Health and Safety. He raised the** condition of the fence on the seaward side of the A379 toward Dartmouth down by the entrance to the coastal path beyond the car park. LN thought the landowner might be Blackpool Estate or the South West Coast Path. DR noted the fence had been there a long time before the coastal path was established. The fence between Primrose Cottage and the Village Green was also in a poor state. **This would have to be repaired by the PC if not the household-er as they are responsible for the upkeep of the Green.** DR confirmed the Parish was down for defibrillator training as soon as COVID restrictions are lifted.

**IC Rights of Way, tree warden and Strete Gate. Rights of Way.** A grasscutter had damaged a post on the Prideaux Lane section. All the other rights of way appear fine. People are using the paths more as we get into Spring and Summer. There was nothing to report on trees. **Strete Gate.** The parking meter has been resited and turned to face the sun as it runs on solar panels. It was confirmed the meter was taking coins even in the pandemic though Ringgo was also being used if individuals

had mobile phones that could support the app.

**RC Planning and Neighbourhood Plan.** RC reminded the Clerk he wanted contact details for local farmers.

**PH. VAS Monitoring.** The location was changed to the mounting the A389 mounting adjacent to Landcombe on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Operation continues. **PH will move the machine back to the Totnes Road next week.** IC will ask RF if there is funding available for a second VAS machine to combat speeding. He also wondered if sleeping policemen might work. RC suggested variable speed cameras. PH suggested a chicane.

**Local transport liaison.** Scholar services have been resumed on the buses with the re-opening of schools. Otherwise, nothing new to report.

**Strete Residents EV Survey.** Updates in bold.

1. Maintain a watching brief on the development of the public charging infrastructure in the local towns of Kingsbridge, Totnes and Dartmouth. Schemes have been announced but have not yet been implemented  
**Status – ongoing, no visible progress. Slapton have tabled a joint question to Richard and Julian on behalf of both PCs to formally ask what is happening to the programme, which should be well underway by now.**
2. Maintain a watching brief on the availability of grant monies to support rural charging infrastructure. **Status – ongoing. No further progress**
3. Insert a provision of £1250 into the Budget for the 2021/22 financial year to fund a public charging facility, with an intention of having it up and running by the end of Q1 2022. **Status – done**
4. Suggest to Strete Community Pub Limited that a business case for the acquisition of a public fast Charging Unit should be carried out, with a view to it being located in the Kings Arms car park and operated as a revenue stream for the pub. The business case should take into account the benefit of any future grant subsidies which might be announced which would help to make the venture viable (no subsidy is currently available).  
**Status – Discussions are underway with the new owners of Rose Cottage.**
5. Share our survey and results with local neighbouring Parishes and look for synergies in approach.  
**Status – An inaugural Zoom with Slapton was held on 4<sup>th</sup> March with a view to sharing research and opportunities for collaboration. Notes from the meeting are attached. Further sessions are planned.**
6. Provide a facilitation service to offer a conversation between prospective BEV purchasers and existing owners, with the aim of providing education about electric vehicles allaying fears about investing in this new technology.  
**Status – available upon request (PH).**

7. On a wider Climate Emergency point, carry out similar resident surveys aimed at raising the awareness of the availability of new technologies with grant subsidies, for example the phase-out of oil and gas fired boiler systems and their replacement with ground and air source heat exchangers, the widespread availability of Solar Photovoltaic (PV) schemes for heating and power and the availability of home insulation schemes. The PC could play a major role in assisting DCC and SHDC to achieve the aims of their Climate Challenge Declaration. **Status – See above under Climate Change Emergency. Agenda item on March meeting.**

**Parish Benches and picnic table maintenance. This has not been** started yet. Nothing further to report.

**GC Village Green.** Taking advantage of some dry weather the village field and Prideaux lane and sundry verges have been cut: a delayed cut from October. The contractor who cut the hedges in Prideaux Lane managed to demolish one of the posts protecting the lane from vehicles. I have pulled it back to vertical. I would have expected the contractor to have repaired his own damage!!

I have also taken advantage of dry weather to do some of the wood filling and painting in the playground. More to follow. **Reports were received.**

#### **0321/13 CORRESPONDENCE**

This has been forwarded to Councillors as it was received. The Council had recently written out to a number of parties including SHDC, DCC, the MP and the press on Council Tax, Strete Gate and the Slapton Line, and Stancombe Wood. Some replies had been received and some still awaited. As minuted above, JB has promised to find out where DCC are with their responses on Council Tax and Stancombe Wood.

#### **0321/14 OTHER BUSINESS**

**None was raised.**

**0321/15 THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021 AT 7.00 PM. THE VENUE IS LIKELY TO BE ON ZOOM UNLESS OTHERWISE ADVISED. THE MEETING WAS CLOSED** at 9.05 p.m

Signed: Cllr Kate Gill (Chair) Dated: 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021

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What's the best thing about Switzerland? I don't know, but the flag is a big plus.

What do you call an apology written in dots and dashes? Re-Morse code.

I tried to sue the airport for misplacing my luggage. I lost my case.

What is an astronaut's favourite part on a computer? The space bar.

What kind of exercise do lazy people do? Diddly-squats.

What do you get from a pampered cow? Spoiled milk.

Why was six afraid of seven? Because seven ate nine.





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# *Thank You*

The family of the late  
Malcolm and Mary Shuttleworth  
of "Sandpipers" Strete  
would like to thank all the neighbours and  
friends in Strete for their care and compassion  
over their very sad loss.

The cards, flowers and messages have been  
a great comfort.



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## UPON REFLECTION

A few years ago. I was negotiating the bends from the Dartmouth Road to Strete, the village I had recently moved to. On the car radio Terry Wogan was talking to a lady about life in general and she made a statement that made me think, “everyone over the age of sixty has an interesting story in them, and they should put that story into words for their families”. Over the coming months I churned that statement over in my mind and began to think about my own life segmenting the past decades and my small part in them. It was a revelation to me, so much so I sat down and started to write my own life story which I headed, ‘Why Me’. Three years and well over 150 pages long I got to the end of it, what amazed me was how the mind can open up whilst writing, opening long forgotten memories, just like opening up the drawers of a filing cabinet.

People of my vintage have lived through huge changeable times, in the talks I give to organisations I have met many, many people who have led fantastic lives, its only when you stop and think how you yourself fitted into those changes a story can emerge, in my case I was amazed when I realised that the life, I had bumbled through with a smile on my face was, indeed, quite interesting.

What follows is a condensed version of my life, as I said earlier, I am not unique just one of many of us who have lived through these changeable times.

### THE WAR YEARS

My very first memory of life was the smell of the inside of the gas mask I was in as a baby during an air raid, we lived in Chichester not far from Tangmere aerodrome a main RAF station during the Battle of Britain, Portsmouth and Southampton were not far away. My mother, sister and I slept in the back bedroom under a raised reinforced bed, the large window had a bricked wall to prevent blast damage (see photo of the three of us at the wall)

As very young children we watched dog fights and their vapour trails in the sky. We chased a disconnected Barrage Balloon across the fields.

A Doodle Bug (flying bomb) cut out and crashed a few fields away, Mum said she was going frantic wondering where we were.

At the end of our road the ‘Yanks’ and their very large trucks were parked for days on end giving us kids ‘Spearmint’ to chew, then one day they were gone as though they are never there, ‘D’ Day had started, to this day I have never chewed gum although I can still taste their ‘strips of green gum.’

My Dad took me to see ‘Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs’ as we passed the laundry, I remember being fascinated by the sight of a huge plane buried into the roof. (Research recently proved my memory to be correct, it was an American Liberator aircraft that had crashed)

My school had a huge Tortoise with a union jack painted on its back, and we were given book tokens if we collected enough books that were to be salvaged for the war effort.

In 1945 we went from the frying pan into the fire, we moved to my Grandma's in Grimsby, close to the docks, our playground was bombed out buildings, I will never forget the smell of fire ravaged buildings.

In 1946 my Uncle Bill returned from Burma with a huge Japanese sword and a welcome home party in the street.

#### **PEACE AND THE FIFTIES**

IN 1947 we moved to Leeds (Dad was always being promoted) and I promptly contracted Scarlet Fever with a Diphtheria throat, wrapped

up in a red blanket, I was taken to (Jimmys), Leeds Infirmary in an ambulance with bell ringing, I spent 6 weeks in hospital during the coldest winter in memory, needless to say the snow made it impossible for visitors, I remember I was very unhappy, little did I know I was to return to that very hospital with my partner, Barbara from Strete 62 years later.

In 1949 we moved to New Malden in Surrey and sweets came off the ration a couple of years later.

In 1950 we moved to Chillwell in Nottinghamshire and I had to take my delayed 11 plus exam in the Headmasters study in a brand-new school, needless to say I failed because by then I had attended 4 different schools. It had a huge effect on me thinking that I was a failure, however I did finish up as the Head Boy of a large Secondary School, which was some consolation to my disappointed parents.



I watched the Queen's Coronation with a crowd of people on the new fad, a television, through a local shop window.

Had a wonderful boyhood in the early 50's, girls were an inconvenience, we built dirt tracks and with our home-made dirt track bikes we raced ourselves silly with other boys' clubs.

We scrumped apples, gooseberries, pears even golf balls on the golf course. We played in haystacks, went spud bashing (potato picking for a wage), collected newts, played conkers, knocked chestnuts out of trees and went sledging in the winter (we really had winters then), oh yes, we raced each other to school and back on our bikes (I have scars to this day on my knees from going over the top of my handlebars), I am still here because there was not much traffic about then.

I left school in 1953 and enrolled at the Peoples College for further education in Nottingham trying to catch up with what I had missed by not attending Grammar School, however in a few months we were on the move again, Dad was promoted and back we went to New Malden in Surrey.

I was 15 and totally at a loss, Britain was recovering from the war, things were on the change, there was a music revival and 'Teddy Boys' were running around displaying a new fashion and having punch ups on the way. I enrolled at Kingston Technical College taking four GCE's 'O' Levels and became a student. I became a Traditional Jazz freak and haunted the Jazz clubs of London, mainly Humphrey Lyttleton's in Oxford Street. Big Band music slowly went on the back burner being taken over by Modern and Trad. Jazz, Frank Sinatra was the rage and new artists and the style of music was changing, in the space of two years Rock n Roll would take over, then the Beatles, and of course we all know the rest.

Exciting times, never boring, proper dancing in proper dance halls, the Wimbledon Palais and Streatham Locarno where we were told off for jiving during the fast dances, drinking laws were very strict, soft drinks only, it didn't matter what you never had you never missed.

My ancestors were all Mariners the sea was in my blood, I joined the Sea Cadets when I was thirteen and during a week's gunnery course in Portsmouth, I got to sleep on Queen Victoria's yacht 'Victoria and Albert' berthed near the gunnery school at Whale Island, I was hooked. At seventeen years of age my parents signed documents for me to join the Royal Navy and after my initial 'square bashing' and Electrical training I joined a Fleet Destroyer at Chatham bound for the Med. straight into a war in Cyprus where I was shot at on patrol and had the privilege of shooting back hoping to hit a terrorist (yes, in beautiful Cyprus)

The Suez Crisis happened and during 'Action Stations' ("this is not an exercise its the real thing" our Skipper told us over the tannoy) we were then given our will forms to fill in whilst sitting down in full action rig, how bizarre. On reflection I wonder

what good would those wills have been if we had been sunk by an Egyptian aircraft or warship.

After the Med. we patrolled the waters of Europe dodging Russian trawlers bristling with antenna spying on us, we always replied with two fingers and obscene gestures if we got close to them, it was the height of the 'Cold War'.

My first skipper was Commander Terry Lewin who rose to the rank of Admiral of the Fleet during the Falklands War and Chief of the Defence Staff and advisor to the Prime Minister Maggie Thatcher.

He was appointed to the Royal Yacht Britannia when we returned to the UK and was replaced by Commander Godfrey Place VC, winning his Victoria Cross for his part in the Midget Submarine attack on the German battleship Tirpitz.

Another moment worth mentioning during my time on the destroyer was escorting the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to Copenhagen in the Royal Yacht 'Britannia', we came as close to the Royal Yacht as possible to wave to the Royals and our old skipper Terry Lewin who was now the Commander of the Yacht. A few weeks upon returning to Scottish waters I met and spoke to the Queen on the deck of the Aircraft Carrier Ark Royal during divisions, I was amazed how small she was.

My two years were up on the destroyer and I joined a much smaller ship after she had just returned from the Arctic. I have published that story in an earlier copy of Stretewise.

Briefly it was a few months of sheer hell in violent stormy winter Arctic waters looking after the fishing fleets of Europe. January and February in the Barents Sea and Icelandic waters is not fun especially when Icelandic Gun Boats are trying to ram you, however it was a storm force 11 that claimed us, a huge wave pushed in our breakwater and flooded all the mess decks below. We fled to Tromso for repairs and that was that, on arrival at Chatham we paid off and a new ship awaited me in a few months' time. My new ship turned out to be a boom defense and salvage vessel based in Greenock on the Clyde, eighteen months of adventure and freedom and personal development and my introduction to the underwater world.

## **THE SIXTIES**

Whilst serving on the Reserve Fleet in Chatham I received an order to go to Southampton to board a troopship to Gibraltar to join the fast minelayer HMS Manxman and steam her back to Chatham.

Going across the Bay of Biscay we were hit by a series of violent waves unusual even for the Bay, we learned later that the waves were a tsunami from a huge earthquake that had struck Agadir in Morocco.

Once on-board Manxman there was huge activity loading all sorts of equipment to go and dig people out of the rubble and provide aid, I wrote to my father (I still have

his letter in reply) of my anguish of having to face up to the reality of the job we were about to be sent to, fortunately a plague had set in over there and we were stood down.

The Manxman was the last of the fastest wartime ships in the Royal Navy designed to enter enemy ports at speed to drop mines. During sea trials off Gibraltar, she reached a staggering speed of 43.8 knots, I remember standing by one of her three funnels watching the huge wave being thrown up by her prop wash whilst the huge ship shook and shuddered.

The navy was changing rapidly, the hundreds of wartime ships that were moored in the River Medway since the end of the war had gone to the scrapyards and destroyers, frigates, cruisers and aircraft carriers were being updated and modernised, I was to become part of that modernisation when I was sent to join a post war destroyer that was being refitted with updated weaponry and detection equipment at Chatham. As an Electrician I went from DC (Direct Current) to a AC (Alternating Current) vessel, a whole new learning curve for me. I spent two and a half years on her returning to the Mediterranean showing the flag in about every port. One port came to mind, it was the small town of Benidorm on the Spanish Coast. We moored off the coast for a week whilst we enjoyed the beach and quaintness of the small resort with its one small skyscraper, oh yes, Benidorm has really changed since.

Upon arrival at Chatham I had just returned from leave when there was a panic on, a nuclear war was about to happen, leave was cancelled, ships companies were recalled from leave and ships flashed up (getting steam up) on 12 hours readiness for sea. The US and Russia were close to pushing the button over Cuba, I don't think the population realised just how close we came to an all-out war, you would have known if you had seen the activity in the dockyard.

I have neglected to mention that the Beatles were all the rage at the time and music was changing, fashions had also changed for both male and female, the world was changing big style around me, being at sea all the time I was missing it all, we even had the advent of colour TV's, oh yes, and there was a man who had set foot on the Moon.

On coming to the end of my Naval time I remember we always were treated with respect in every country we visited (except Northern Ireland, which was scary) we went ashore in uniform, had people come up to us to learn their English, talk about the Royal Family, and sign their autograph books. We had a very large Navy in the 60's, squadrons of Frigates, Destroyers, Cruisers and Carriers deployed all over the world, however it was the jet age and many of the older warships couldn't keep up detecting the very fast modern jet fighters. On my first ship I remember being attacked by jets of the US Sixth Fleet during exercises, we never stood a chance and were often 'sunk'.

My time in the active fleet came to an end and I joined the Reserve Fleet. Being a trained electrician in the Royal Navy working on ships was different to working on shore equipment, however I fell on my feet when I was accepted by the Electrical Trade Union as a Skilled Electrician and got my card, I was immediately offered a job at Scotts Shipbuilding in Greenock building a new Leander Frigate for the Royal Navy, I had spent a lot of my time in my last ship switchboard watch keeping so I was on familiar territory, however this was electrical installation work for which I was being paid well.

It was during this time that I observed the decline in the shipbuilding industry, I couldn't believe the amount of Union meetings being held over the stupidest of things and the walkouts and strikes, religion played a huge part as well, Scotts was a Protestant yard and Fairfields up the road in Port Glasgow was a Roman Catholic manned yard, in other words the first to go when a ship was completed was either a RC or Protestant depending on which yard. I couldn't believe it, when asked about my religion I used to say "none of your business, I am English"

Once the frigate had been completed it was time for sea trials to put the frigate through its paces before it was accepted by the Royal Navy, I was chosen to represent the builders by taking the frigate to sea to pass on my work on the Main Switchboard to the Royal Naval crew, and after a month the frigate joined the fleet and time for me to move on.

With my Scottish wife and baby daughter we left Greenock for England, heading for a promising looking County town called Northampton, the M1 was being completed and there seemed to be plenty of work to be had, it certainly proved to be as I started at 'A' in the phone book and by the time I got to 'B' I had a job, making up electronic looms for guided missiles and jet aircraft and after nine months had saved up enough money to put down on a brand new Chalet Bungalow at the foundation stage in a small village on the edge of the town. Looking back and comparing those days to the present day, then an ordinary working man had the work and opportunity to buy their own house thus getting on the housing ladder, I feel terribly sorry for young working people these days. Our priorities however were different then, I had a brand-new house but went to work on a pushbike, then moped, and after a couple of years had saved up enough for a ban the bomb Cortina (second hand of course)

I also had a new job this time in an electronics factory installing complex electrical components to enable the manufacture of the newfangled printed circuit boards (PCB's). Without going into huge details of what the work entailed it is sufficient to say that these PCB'S which were then very large, then in time became miniature PCB'S, and now they are micro PCB'S, just think about them in your laptop and smart phone, with these PCB's and the newly invented micro-chip the electronic industry really took off in the late 60's and 70's.

## THE SEVENTIES AND EIGHTIES

In 1970 I heard that Barclays Bank were looking for an Electrical Engineer at their Cheque Clearing Centre just across from where I was working. I went for the interview and was accepted, they were offering two and a half percent mortgages, three percent car loans and a good pension, plus the added bonus of over 800 women working there over a 24-hour period.

My first job was going to a small building that used to be a shoe factory in the centre of Northampton to install and maintain supplies to a small computer room of the newly set up Barclaycard unit. Barclaycard was in its infancy then and in a matter of five years became huge, they are still in Northampton occupying a very large complex on the outskirts, at least I can claim a small input to the start of credit and debit cards.

Three years into my job at Barclays all hell broke loose in the country, strikes, unrest, power cuts, petrol rationing and the rest. Fortunately, the bank had two large diesel generators that kept the bank going during the power strikes that seemed to go on forever, my time as switchboard watch keeper in the Navy became invaluable to me as I was working day and night to keep the generators running and the staff working.

Petrol stations were running out of fuel and petrol was put on ration there was chaos, can you imagine if that happened now with that many more cars on the road. Another thing I remember was filling massive rubber containers stored in the bank grounds filled with thousands of gallons of water in case there was a water shortage. It was a very, very difficult time for the country however Maggie Thatcher soon sorted it all out and a sort of peace reined over the land.

I spent 25 years at the Bank and observed huge changes in the industry especially technology, when I joined in 1970, they had a massive Reel to Reel computer system that was situated in a large area at the top of the building to cope with the Clearing of cheques bearing in mind that was before Credit and Debit cards, the majority of people in the 70's had a cheque book. Nowadays we can get that computer power in a small desktop computer. The girls then operated 'Key Punch Machines' to record each cheque, now cheques etc. are electronically read and sorted. Computers were taking over our lives during this time, by 1994 I was responsible out of engineering hours for the safe running of the Bank's new Computer Centre, first of all I had a 'Pager' to call me out, then a huge 'mobile phone' that used to be the size of a brick with an antenna attached. Later I could sit in my bed armed with a laptop and operate the 'Building Management System' software in the event of a failure to the Main Frame Computer in our building. That Main Frame was linked to other Bank Computers throughout the country, one fault could cause every Clearing Bank in the country to shut down, I remember it happened once, but that is another story.



Then the day came, I was to be 'outsourced', big changes are occurring in every bank in the country, all bank workers who were not core bank workers were being got rid of to cut costs, Messengers, Catering, Engineers, Security, were the first victims, in my case an outside Engineering firm were given our building contract and I had to attend an interview for my job I had been doing for the last 20 years, in no time I became an ex-Bank Employer with a pension doing the same job in the same building with another firm, same pay, same hours plus a Bank pension and a lump sum, in a nutshell, same job different employer.

One consolation however was the thought that we were not the only ones it was happening in practically every industry, even these days.

### **THE NINETIES AND ON.**

I have not mentioned our diving adventures as I have covered our amazing adventures since 1975 elsewhere, however my life changed hugely when I cracked the surface off Salcombe in April 1995 with two fistfuls of gold coins and jewelry, myself and the team were in a dream for months bringing up more and more 'treasure'.

A few months after the 'Gold' find I was told I had developed Cancer and I was told I had a 40% chance of recovery if they operated on me straight away, they did the operation at Northampton General Hospital, two and a half years later I was summoned to see the Consultant at Torbay Hospital and told to "go away and enjoy the rest of your life, and oh, keep away from doctors."

To be given this sort of news can mess with the mind and once recovered decided to pack up work and take a chance of retiring in South Devon, an area I knew well and where I had been taken care of in my illness by a lovely lady from Totnes whose interest was 'Birds of Prey. Soon we developed a new Bird of Prey Centre at Woodlands, then Pennywell Farm in South Devon. I found myself assisting Karen the Falconer in the main rings at all the County Shows in the SW, who would have thought it, when I started, I didn't know one bird of prey from the next, I soon learnt.

After eight years developing a business, I retired a second time and moved to Strete a village I always passed through after walking the dog at Slapton Sands. Within three years my life changed in a way I would never believe possible, but that is another story that I may tell one day. (I did eventually in Stretewise)

The Bird of Prey business still continues to flourish without me, I am in my fifteenth year in Strete living the dream in a cottage overlooking the sea, and for-filling a boy-hood dream of finding Pirate gold under the sea.

As I finish this saga (Thurs. 17th Aug 2018) I have just been informed that the Salcombe Bronze Age site that we discovered alongside the 17th Century Gold site has been named as the most important Maritime Site of the Bronze Age. The combination of the two have also been named as the tenth richest wreck site in the world.

Not bad eh?      **Ron Howell   Strete**

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# DISCOVER WELLBEING

In many ways, all of us have had to look through the 'frame of life' during the past year. I am lucky enough to be interviewing Gilly Backwith from The Long House, in Strete. I began our interview by asking her a question brought to my attention by the one of the most critically acclaimed painters of our age, David Hockney. In his latest book, *Spring Cannot Be Cancelled*, Hockney wrote the following statement - "We have lost touch with nature, rather foolishly, as we are part of it, not outside it. This will in time be over and then what? What have we all learned?"

**When you go out and breathe in your little piece of paradise, which the garden at the Long House is, what do you love most about it?**

The garden has a monastic feel with what remains of an ancient chapel. The walls protect against the winds so I do feel a sense of peaceful serenity. The garden is laid out as different rooms, each room having its own personality, so requiring different attention. This brings greater reward; it's like having friends or family you love equally but all with quite different needs.

**How have you been coping with your own mental health during this past lockdown?**

I coped and in fact really enjoyed the initial lockdowns. Long walks with Pebbles enjoying the quietness on the coastal paths. I designed our new upper garden and had plenty of projects. I tried things like knitting and reading books that I never had the time to do before. I loved the feel of the village, the quiet pace of life is how I imagined it must of felt going back in time. However in the last lockdown, like many, I felt lonely. I missed my family and wanted my freedom back. The long walks stopped and enthusiasm for things I normally loved waned. I felt unsure of myself and feared that I would find it difficult to reconnect with friends. However, I was amazed at how instantly those feelings disappeared once I did get to see people, even if we couldn't hug we connected. I felt a sense of elation after my visit to the Wirral and a trip to Bath with my friend Anne, so I must have been quite down really

**When you decide to take on a project, perhaps even in your home, do you visualise first what you want, or is the whole process more spontaneous and organic than this?**

I visualise to begin with and do lots of sketches; also I will research a sort of mood board in my head. However, it is never fixed. As a project evolves I can look for the classic alternative and will continue to explore, until the final decisions are made. So more thoughtful than spontaneous, ideas grow and organic I suppose.

**Gilly, have you learnt more about yourself, the importance of being in the moment or even the way so many of us have taken seeing family for granted... what have you missed most about being in Lockdown?**

Freedom is what I missed most. I have friends who were going through tough times, cancer treatment, close family loss and the like. I would normally drop everything and go to see them or be close by for them to call if they needed support or a chat over a coffee or glass of wine. To be restrained from being able to do this was the hardest thing.

**What do you think are the feelings we will take away with us, in a more positive light, from the current pandemic?**

I believe it has helped create a better balance in our lives and a greater appreciation for family and friends. It is what we need, more than material things in life.

## Gluten-free brownies

By Esther Clark - BBC Good Food



### Ingredients

- 250g unsalted butter, cubed, plus extra for the tin
- 250g dark chocolate, roughly chopped
- 4 large eggs
- 300g golden caster sugar
- ½ tsp vanilla extract or paste
- 100g gluten-free plain flour, sieved
- 60g cocoa powder
- ½ tsp fine sea salt
- 150g milk chocolate, roughly cut into chunks



### Method

#### STEP 1

Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Butter a 30 x 20cm non-stick tin with butter and line the base with non-stick baking parchment.

#### STEP 2

Fill a small saucepan a third full with water, bring to a simmer and put a snug-fitting heatproof bowl on top of it. Add the butter and chocolate and gently melt over a low heat, stirring occasionally. Be careful not to let it catch and burn on the bottom. Remove from the heat and leave to cool a little.

#### STEP 3

Beat the eggs and sugar together using an electric whisk for 8-10 mins or until thick enough to leave a trail. Gently fold through the cooled melted chocolate and vanilla, followed by the flour, cocoa and salt. Finally, fold through the chocolate chunks. Pour the brownie batter into the lined tin, place in the centre of the oven and bake for 30-35 mins.

#### STEP 4

Leave to cool a little in the tin before cutting into 12 squares.



### Star Breathing Exercise

1. Stretch out one hand, so that you have space between your fingers.
2. Hold up your first finger from the other hand.
3. On your stretched out hand, start at the base of your thumb and slowly breathe in through your nose while tracing up your thumb.
4. When you get to the top of your thumb, slowly breathe out through your mouth as you trace down the other side.
5. Repeat for all your fingers until you have traced your whole hand.

### "Every cloud has a silver lining..."

- Start each day with a positive thought
- Say 'yes' to new adventures
- With each situation, see the gift and opportunity to be taken
- Accept what is, let go of what was and have faith in what will be

Visit [www.mindbodyandme.co.uk](http://www.mindbodyandme.co.uk) or contact Trish on 07976 269208 for current classes in Mindfulness and Meditation

# STRETE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Helen Darch

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01803 770018 [www.strete.org.uk](http://www.strete.org.uk)

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STRETE PARISH COUNCIL (PC)

HELD ON ZOOM ON THURSDAY 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 AT 7.00 PM

### PRESENT

Cllr Kate Gill (KG) (Chairman); Cllr Ralph Clark (RC); Cllr Louise Newman (LN); Cllr Ian Cumberlidge (IC); Cllr David Rothwell (DR); Cllr Graham Campbell (GC); Cllr Peter Hales (PH); Cllr Julian Brazil, County Councillor, Kingsbridge Division (JB) (arrived later); Mrs. Helen Darch {Clerk}; The Reverend Alison Shaw; one parishioner.

### PUBLIC FORUM

The Reverend Alison Shaw [Alison], the vicar of St Michael's Strete, attended to talk on the church in Strete. She referred to the open letter she had put in Stretewise [April/May] on the situation of the church in Strete. The church in Strete has a small congregation and a small parochial church council to run the church. At the next annual parochial church meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup> both church wardens will retire. They are both elderly and have served the church for several years. Alison expressed a wish to get the village involved in the church. This was not to raise money or put people in the pews. She reminded people that St Michaels is the Parish church of the people of Strete. If people don't feel an affinity with the church [building] and don't look after it the church will have to close. She approached the Parish Council for our suggestions on how the people of Strete could become involved with the church. The church is somewhere people go for births, marriages and deaths but it still needs to be looked after and run. LN and the Clerk had both responded to the letter in Stretewise and contacted Alison.

A discussion took place. Among ideas was 'friends of the church' which is successful at St Peters in Stoke Fleming. This works as a group who supports the church but aren't necessarily churchgoers. They fundraise and work with the church parochial council to support the local church. There was also a need for people to offer to come onto the parochial church council. The building would still be used as a church but other activities could take place for instance music concerts as we had before Christmas. Councillors noted it had been difficult in the pandemic to keep the church open and people connected. Alison confirmed the church was now open for services. It had to be cleaned every day at the moment and that was difficult for the elderly wardens to do.

**RC offered to put the letter on the Strete website** and, if agreed by the Council, to send a round robin to around a third of the parishioners who have signed up to email.

He noted that people were generally busy and might not be able to offer to volunteer. He asked if the letter could be sent to the Clerk to pass on to him along with an invitation to the meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am at the Church. This will be in-person and socially-distanced. Everyone in the parish is welcome. The first part of the meeting is business where the election of the new wardens takes place. Any parishioner can nominate and stand as a church warden. Then a PCC meeting takes place. Alison suggested she might talk to LN, KG and the Clerk maybe at the meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> May. She mentioned a new treasurer – Andrea Phillips - who had recently taken over and was very active. So that was hopeful with a younger person now involved. **Alison thanked the Council for inviting her to attend.**

Mr Dickinson attended to speak on a planning application at 23 Start Bay Park. He briefly outlined the plans which involved opening up space inside the house and to a small extent outside to accommodate his growing family. He explained the plan was to ‘reconfigure the house’ and had engaged an architect to work on this. The bedrooms on the east will be moved to the west. A small extension will be built on within the footprint of the current L-shaped bungalow and 1.5m out of the front of the house toward the flowerbeds. He referred to an objection received by the Parish council from one of his neighbours. As this was not on the planning portal it was sent to him anonymised by the Clerk. He was happy to take any questions. GC brought up the advert in the paper which mentioned the Prideaux Lane right of way. The plans didn’t appear to be anywhere near the right of way. Mr Dickinson confirmed this: the planned works were on the other side of his garage and a Devon bank which runs next to Prideaux Lane. RC asked if the applicant had spoken to his neighbours about the application. This helped if it was done at an early stage to assess neighbour concerns with the application. Mr Dickinson confirmed his nearest neighbour knew about the application. **This was noted.**

### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**

**The County Councillor attended later.** There was little to report as the Council had been in purdah. The reply from DCC Highways on Stancombe Wood was discussed. RC remarked if there wasn’t justification for a s106 [or similar payment] he hoped DCC would provide money to repair the highway which was being damaged by big vehicles. LN raised the recent complaint by parishioners on the road works marked at Hansel, a minor road, whilst the Fuge Road was not being maintained properly. JB noted the fact a road is marked up does not mean it will be repaired. He confirmed LE was going to do something about the Fuge road as it had not had any works for four years.

RC asked why, according to local press, DCC Highways had an underspend of £500,000 and around £2m on drainage but still there were problems with roads. JB admitted underspends were being put into reserves rather than allocated to road repairs. He commented people were unhappy about the state of the roads.

JB participated in the discussion on motorhomes [see 0421/10]. He then spoke on road safety. Lisa Edmonds [LE] is back from sick leave and a site visit would be arranged as soon as possible. He asked if Councillors could firm up their ideas [an email was circulated by PH and RC already] and he or the Clerk could present them to LE. A number of ideas were discussed. These included speed bumps, chicanes, education, moving the speed signs and the enrolment of the local PCSO in speed measures. **Resolved: The Clerk to collate Councillor ideas. These would be agreed and summarised before being sent to LE. The Clerk to contact PCSO Broadhurst. The report was received.**

#### **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

**The District Councillor did not attend.**

**0421/1 APOLOGIES** – Cllr Richard Foss, District Councillor, Allington & Strete Ward (RF).

#### **0421/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 18 March 2021**

The above minutes were AGREED as a true and correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

#### **0421/3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Parish Councillors were invited to declare any unregistered or other interest, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting. **None were declared.**

#### **0421/4 PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS**

**0999/21/HHO.** Householder application for existing approved single storey front annex (approved 2870/17/FUL). Falloden, Hynetown Road Strete TQ6 0RS.

This was a renewal of an approval issued in October 2017 which had expired.

**Resolved to support.**

**0553/21/HHO.** Householder application for erection of fence and gate to front of property and conversion of section of driveway to lawned area. 2 Crestfields Hynetown Road Strete TQ6 0SD. RC reminded Councillors that the Council had seen a preview of the application when the householder sought advice before they submitted their plans [0121/4]. He believed therefore there was ample time for neighbours to comment on the application. PH confirmed the householder had spoken with him and his neighbour who are on the same 'estate' of houses. **Resolved to support.** IC wished to express his concern at the ripping up of greenery in the back garden during nesting season though he acknowledged this was a separate matter and the front garden was fine in his opinion.

**1202/21/HHO.** Householder application for alterations and extensions. 23 Start Bay Park. Strete TQ6 0RY. PH had looked around the site today. He saw little impact of the proposed works on the street scene. RC had leafletted neighbours on the application.



He looked at the property and didn't see too many issues. DR observed he was happy if the extension was masked by the hedgerow. Mr Dickinson confirmed the majority of the building work will be on the inside of the 'L' north-east facing and the extension will be south-facing over an existing path and flowerbed. He had asked his architect to keep to the original style of homes on the estate. RC asked if Prideaux Lane would be used for construction traffic and he said no. **It was resolved to support the application.** KG reminded the applicant that Strete PC was a consultee on the application. SHDC would make the final decision.

**0421/5(a) FINANCE**

Four cheques were listed for payment on the agenda, invoices circulated before the meeting and invoices approved for payment at the meeting. Two additional payments were added to the list and invoices circulated prior to the meeting.

1763 – Clerk salary April £261.	1764 – St Michaels Parish Church annual grant £240.
1765 – Kingsbridge Websites website accessibility audit and update £200 paid by Clerk.	1766 – Devon Association of Local Councils. Annual membership £115.19 inc VAT.
1767 – Mr P Hales. Reimbursement of materials for Referendum posters. £91.50 inc VAT.	1768 – Mr G Campbell. Reimbursement of costs of wood treatment for Parish noticeboard. £23.00.

**It was proposed and AGREED by all present to authorise the payments as enumerated above.**

**0421/5(b) FINANCE**

The Clerk presented the monitoring statements for the first month of 2021/22. Councillors acknowledged the receipt of the first half precept for 2021/22 of £6,565, Highways grant £1,000 toward road sweeping and VAT reclaim for 2020/21 of £551.67. **It was resolved the monitoring statements would be put on the website.**

**0421/5(c) FINANCE**

**Councillors approved the Certificate of Exemption from external audit for 2020/21 and received the annual report of the Internal auditor.**

**0421/5(d) FINANCE**

Cash at bank – £7,355.22CR Current account at 08/04/21, £10,298.16CR Business Reserve account at 08/04/21. **The report was received.**

**0421/6 CLERK'S REPORT**

**Report submitted before the meeting.**

*Update on Policies and procedures.* Copies of the updated draft financial regulations and the updated fixed asset to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021 had been circulated.

PH asked why the Council didn't depreciate assets. The Clerk explained that the Council as it was small and purchases were generally minor would expense in full in the year of purchase rather than provide for specific replacement over the life of the asset. Large purchases could be paid out of reserves. Also, the accounts were kept on a receipts and payments basis and not presented on an accruals basis so depreciation wouldn't be charged. **It was resolved to carry over discussion of these papers until May when Councillors had been able to read and respond to the papers.**

**To discuss the email sent by the Monitoring officer in March 'In defence of town and parish clerks - preventing bullying and harassment'. This was not discussed.**

**CILCA.** The Certificate in Local Council Administration confers the general power of competence [Localism Act 2011 s 1(1)] if completed. This power allows the Council through the Clerk to undertake any lawful activity rather than to rely on specific powers as at present. The cost currently is £300 plus VAT for DALC who do the training and £410 for SLCC who administer the qualification. It takes a year to complete and comprises various webinars and a portfolio of activities that is marked. The next course starts in October. **This was noted.**

**Grants.** An initial list of grants for Council activities was sent to Councillors. *The Rural Funding Digest* lists a number of other grants that may be of interest to include broadband vouchers and funding toward climate change initiatives <https://www.rsnonline.org.uk/rural-funding-digest-april-2021> **This was noted.**

**Online banking.** The Clerk spoke with NatWest recently on the matter of online banking. Bankline for Communities is now an option for community bank accounts which is free-of-charge provided turnover is below £100,000. This is new since the Council last discussed this in 2019 when it was resolved to keep manual banking as the number of transactions was small and Bankline would cost around £20/month. It complies with the requirement for two of four signatories to sign cheques. An administrator would run the account. As there are currently six signatories, two signatories would have to resign as signatories for a Bankline account. RC asked if the WIFI payment for the WIFI at the Parish Hall would be made online. The Clerk explained this was taken out in her name as it was cheaper to have a personal contract and recharge than take out a business WIFI contract.

GC asked who the administrator would be. The Clerk explained this would be her and she would set up the account and set up the four signatories who could authorise payments. When payments are raised these are sent by the administrator to one of the signatories and then another. The Clerk noted the internal auditor had suggested there were two administrators in case of collusion. RC asked how the dual signatories would work. The Clerk said one and then the other signatory would approve electronically. The bank would then release payments once both signatories had approved the payments. RC asked if the current system of sending out invoices

early for inspection and then approval at the meeting would be retained. The Clerk said this was the most sensible way.

Once the meeting had approved the payments they would be batched and made ready for the signatories to approve online. So, the payment part of the current process is the only part that would change, to online. **Resolved to report to the next meeting on online banking.**

**AGM and meeting of Parish electors.** The Parish Hall Chairman [Penny] has confirmed the Hall will be available on May 20<sup>th</sup> for two meetings. A risk assessment has been sent to Penny and the details of this will be sent round to Councillors.

**The cost of hire is £10/hr. The Clerk has booked the Hall for four hours on May 20<sup>th</sup>.** Representatives from the ten main village societies were written to so they could respond with their thoughts on meeting in person. So far seven of the ten societies are willing to attend in person. Two have declined. There will be two meetings back-to-back as in 2019. One starts at 5.30 which is the annual meeting of the Council to elect a chairman and agree meeting dates, and duties for the following year. The follow-on meeting at 7pm is the annual meeting of electors **where only parishioners who are invited [due to COVID restrictions]** can report on their societies since 2019. **Resolved the Clerk to update Councillors on what the arrangements are as soon as possible.**

**The Clerk reminded Councillors of the purdah rules during an election period with three elections being held in Strete on May 6<sup>th</sup>: County Councillor, Police Commissioner and Neighbourhood Plan.** The clerk had circulated advice on the conduct of Councillors and the stance of the parish during purdah on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

**This was noted.**

**Coronavirus updates.** We have reached Step 2 of the roadmap and all being well will enter Step 3 on 17<sup>th</sup> May. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021-summary#step-3---not-before-17-may>

The number of positive cases in the South Hams since the start of the pandemic is 1,646 at 27<sup>th</sup> April. Deaths at 51 to that date. Daily summary | Chillington, Torcross & Stoke Fleming (data.gov.uk) On a better note **in England** 33,752,885 people had been given a first dose by the end of 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021. 12,897,123 people had been given a second dose by that date. Vaccinations | Coronavirus in the UK (data.gov.uk). **The report was received.**

## **0421/7 CHAIR'S REPORT**

**Report submitted before the meeting.**

**Chairs Report Strete Parish Council 29.04.21. Coronavirus** –Thankfully we have been fortunate in Strete with no known cases. The South Hams has had one of the lowest counts for cases in the whole of England!!

**Strete Gate and Slapton Line. Strete Gate.** The coffee kiosk is now in full operation with the seating spread out for permitted groups to use. On my evening drive through of the car park there have been very few vehicles present and on the **evening of 25<sup>th</sup> April there were no vehicles parked in the free spaces under the wall.**

**Slapton Line.** Memorial Car Park et al. I am aiming to ask specific questions of SHDC with regard to 'Aire' style camping in our South Hams Car Parks. I'm awaiting a return call.

**Play Park.** All is fine at the Play Park. It is looking lovely – well maintained – many thanks. Unfortunately, our resident moles are still having some jolly springtime parties. We shall have to take steps fairly soon to smooth out the ground.

**Speed Monitoring.** Sadly - although the monitor is back in place at the recycle banks some people find it necessary to enter the village at great speed. I have taken special steps to sit in my car for short periods of time at the entrance to my property – I have seen some driving so fast that they are actually past the sign before their presence is registered on it. Apart from our intended approach to Lisa Edmonds about altering/enhancing speed limiting equipment/furniture; I feel we should approach our Police Department about some old-fashioned speed guns as used at the weekend at Torcross. Stay safe everyone!! **The Chair's report was received.**

#### **0421/8 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

**A report was submitted prior to the meeting.**

#### **Neighbourhood Plan Report – April 2021**

Arrangements are in place for the referendum to take place in conjunction with the local Council elections in the Parish Hall on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Flyers were hand-delivered to each household in the Parish during the week commencing 19 April 2021 by volunteers. 17 posters were erected around the Village at approaches and strategic points during the week commencing 26 April. An email would be circulated to the Parish Council email listing on 02/05/2021 together with an attachment containing the Referendum Version of The Strete Neighbourhood Plan. RC will attend the count in Totnes on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May. GC and others confirmed that postal votes included the Neighbourhood Plan. **The NP report was received.**

#### **0421/9 CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY**

Report given by PH. A resident has been in touch to point out that a discussion forum for South Hams parishes is under construction and has suggested that we should follow many of our fellow PC's and join up. PH encouraged Councillors to think about actions the Parish could take to tackle the Climate emergency.

The weblink to the forum is <http://www.sustainablesouthhams.org/>

**The report was received.**

#### **0421/10 UPDATES ON PREVIOUS AGENDA ITEMS.**

**Motorhomes and Strete Gate. The County Councillor joined the meeting during this discussion.**

The Clerk had asked RF if he could talk on Strete Gate and the motorhomes but unfortunately, he was unable to attend.

he Clerk asked if Councillors would like representatives from SHDC [Emma Widdecombe and her team] to attend the next meeting to take questions on the motorhomes report and consultation. RC wondered if this would be too late for the consultation which started 29<sup>th</sup> April for 21 days. **The Clerk was to confirm timings with Emma.** *Emma has confirmed she will include any comments from our meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup> in the survey/consultation.*

**The consultation on motorhomes.** The Clerk asked RC if he would put the consultation on the website. She also confirmed that 'TQ6' a Facebook page run by a parishioner would be asked if they could take the survey and spread it to Facebook users. RC said he was disappointed with SHDC 's lack of take-up of comments sent before the motorhomes report went to the Executive [22<sup>nd</sup> April]. These comments were from all seven Councillors and parishioners who had emailed the Clerk. KG said she had spoken with Emma Widdecombe and given advice as a camping site owner. **She had declared an interest in her original response to the report.**

**Councillors then discussed the detail of the proposals in the motorhomes report.** JB explained he supported the initiative. **It is only for twelve months and it will be reviewed at the end of the trial period.** However, if it is to work the carpark must be monitored all day and all night. He said the revenue from parking should be used to pay the localities officers to work longer. **At present their hours will end at 8pm in high season.**

**How the carparks would be managed. Staffing.** GC felt someone would have to be on site all the time to manage the parking to ensure only the correct vehicles parked and left when they should. He noted campers were already on the beach but he saw no SHDC presence down there and we are already in the holiday season. He noted SHDC's only response was to employ the four extra mobile localities officers. PH felt there might be some aggression if people were asked to move later because they were in the wrong spot.

**Signage and bins.** GC noted there was a sign at Strete Gate which forbade camping but that was it. But there were no more bins, and [so far] no traffic prevention measures to stop people parking on the road.

**The barrier and large/smaller motorhomes. Large motorhomes.** More thought was needed on how the parking of the large mobile homes would be managed [as these have permission to park for two nights]. KG explained the owners would have to enter their registrations when they paid to park so a log of times would be kept. But they are allowed to move offsite during the day and to return at night. JB explained only the motorhomes with facilities will be allowed to use the carparks [overnight]. Others will be deterred by the localities officers. LN felt the motorhomes were more likely to be owned or used by people who were more responsible. JB felt it was better to have 15 [say] motorhomes in the middle carpark being monitored than

any number of 'unregulated' vehicles. **The intention is the large motorhomes with onboard facilities will displace other more casual users of the car parks.**

**Smaller motorhomes.** Councillors asked how the smaller 'VW-style' campers be deterred from parking there. IC noted if the barriers were set at a height which only deterred the largest motorhomes, then the smaller ones without facilities could park and then there would be problems with waste and tipping. The larger motorhomes were generally self-contained and could take their waste off site. PH asked about the chemicals in motorhomes. KG wondered if SHDC had thought about where the chemical waste could be disposed. JB felt the motorhome owners would be more responsible and dispose of chemicals carefully at proper sites.

**Other parking/mix of parking.** KG understood cars would be allowed to park there during the day and this could cause problems when the large motorhomes return. The vehicles should be parked 6 metres apart which is standard fire regulations but she understood cars could park between them during the day. This was a fire hazard. IC thought this was not going to be heeded as people will camp where they want and enforcement of strictures such as not having chairs outside is unenforceable. KG reraised her point about cars being allowed to park in-between the motorhomes and not being allowed to take out chairs and tables. JB admitted he didn't know the detail on this but there needs to be pragmatism. Monitoring is the key to this: if the localities officers keep an eye on the parking, then people can be allowed to do more at quiet times.

**Toilets.** IC noted the lack of toilets in the centre carpark and asked what would happen if cars used the carpark [as they can do during the day]. JB restated earlier reasons on why the toilets were removed namely the septic tank was vulnerable to being swept away [after Storm Emma] and it had to be removed. Temporary toilets had drawbacks namely risk of leakage into the SSSI and fears of infection during the pandemic. LN asked if the localities officers could oversee toilets on site. JB agreed as money from carparking could be recycled into this activity.

KG asked where the report figure for £47 spend in the local area came from. She observed motorhomes tend to bring their own supplies. JB acknowledged this but thought some people will want to spend in the local area.

**AONB and SSSI.** KG expressed concern as the car parks down on the Line are in the AONB and the beach is an SSSI. This was not shared by the majority of the other car parks in the report.

**General observations.** PH observed there were too many loose ends in the proposals. IC agreed. He thought the proposals needed more input from those experienced with motorhomes, issues down at the Line and the holiday trade. GC noted there is a trend toward using motorhomes now in the UK and SHDC is attempting to accommodate this trend. RC felt however without toilets in the memorial carpark this would not work. He suggested a time limit on the parking there of 3 hours. He also felt if there were designated camping sites this is where the motorhomes

should go and not into car parks paid for by SHDC taxpayers. Or at least this must be monitored and enforced but the report to Executive did not offer all round monitoring merely to 8 pm.

JB reiterated the only motorhomes allowed on the carpark [overnight] are those with onboard facilities. RC noted the lack of progress on the Council's concerns with Stretre Gate/the Line since the visit of Steve Mullineaux in November. JB acknowledged SHDC was not proactive in managing this or responding to the ongoing concerns of the parishes since at least last September. The detail should have been discussed and refined over the winter. RC asked who knew the detail. JB thought Emma Widdecombe would. RC was concerned that questions on the report had not been acknowledged after the Executive meeting. **JB reminded all the consultation period was live to 20<sup>th</sup> May and people could raise questions during that period.**

#### **0421/11 UPDATE ON CONTRACTS**

**Report received before the meeting.** The internal auditor's report on procurement limits was discussed briefly. **Resolved: Councillors to respond to the Clerk with their detailed comments on the paper for the May meeting.**

Buddle hole contract. **Resolved IC to put a specification together for the contract. The reports were received.**

#### **0421/12 ST MICHAEL'S PARISH CHURCH**

PH asked if it was appropriate that the Council should be involved in this matter as the Council is normally apolitical, and non-denominational. LN responded. The church is the Parish church for the village. People in the village are entitled to be buried in the churchyard and if the church closes and the churchyard closes, people can't use that as a facility. The Clerk explained the situation with closed churchyards. If the church closes and the churchyard also closes then the church can serve notice on the Parish Council that it must take on the churchyard maintenance. This would see costs of over £800 a year incurred on strimming and in addition war graves maintained and any other churchyard costs. DR felt the church should take a lead from Stoke Fleming and how they encouraged 'friends' to support the church. **This was noted.**

#### **0421/13 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.**

**KG (Chair) Playpark.** This is covered in 0421/07.

**LN Transport and Roads.**

The conversation with highways is ongoing regarding the various issues in the village, particularly speeding. We are waiting to hear more from Lisa Edmonds and hope to have a site visit as soon as possible. I note Peter Hales' useful comments which warrant further discussion. Driving round, it is clear the 20-mile painted signs on the road are becoming quite faded, together with other road markings which really could do with refreshing. Vicarage Lane could really do with some repairs

particularly in the edges. A parishioner suggested that there could be a weight limit sign at the beginning of the road to prevent large vehicles using it having be directed by satnav. **Burlestone/Fuge:** a letter has been received from Giles Halliwell and Mark Wall regarding the Fuge, Burlestone road. This is in very bad condition and no plans seem to be in place to repair it, but they are concerned as other roads which are apparently used less are being repaired. **This was discussed with JB in the County Councillor report.** The milestones are all fine. LN then spoke on camping. All private parks in England are lobbying to get wild camping made a criminal offence. The police can then help patrol sites and use powers to move people on. At the moment this is merely a trespass and the landowner must raise the issue.

**DR Health and Safety.** DR raised again the fence which is rotten down by the coastal path toward Skerries. **Resolved: LN to ask the landowner and report back.** He also wondered if a poo bin could be put on the gate/by the fence into the field owned by Philip Knight opposite Manor farm. This site has seen significant dog fouling and litter left in the hedges. KG has a dog bin which can be deployed. The Clerk confirmed that the refuse collectors would have to put the bin on their emptying schedule. **Resolved the Clerk to confirm with SHDC that it would be possible to include a bin at this site in their rounds.**

**IC Rights of Way, tree warden and Strete Gate. Rights of Way.** I have been to look at the broken gate post on the coast path entrance, and have put aside a 'repair post' to be fixed as a temporary "fix". I will see to this, at the weekend. All other footpaths/bridleways do not seem to have any major problems.

**Strete Gate.** I have 'had a word' with a contact from the Slapton Field Centre, regarding the broken gate & fence

at the entrance to the Picnic area at Strete Gate, suggesting that it would be, I think, a very good idea to "make good" this large gap fairly soon, before Mr/Mrs "Camper" drives in to the site, and uses the picnic area as a 'stop-over'. I suggested a metal gate, as this couldn't be used for firewood. He is waiting their response on his suggestions. **Tree warden.** I will 'touch upon' No 2 Crestfields this evening, as I was most "disappointed" that pretty much the entire garden had been eradicated in the middle of the bird nesting season.

**RC Planning and Neighbourhood Plan.** There is now a requirement that two of the three properties at Blindwells must come under the restriction on second homes policy. Primrose Cottage has revised plans to be discussed in May. The sale of Rose Cottage has fallen through. **The thatched roof is caving in so the Council needs to talk to Heavitree on this.**

**PH. VAS Monitoring.** Following discussion at the March meeting the location of the VAS was changed back to Totnes Road on 22nd March. Operation continues. PH reminded Councillors of the discussion about other possible actions to reduce speeding, and his recent email outlining suggestions.



**Local transport liaison.** Nothing to report.

## **Strete Residents EV Survey – Outstanding Actions**

Updates in bold.

**1. Maintain a watching brief on the development of the public charging infrastructure in the local towns of Kingsbridge, Totnes and Dartmouth. (This is known as the Deletti scheme and is part of a County-wide scheme being procured by Devon County Council to put public chargers in Council car parks in major towns. It is essentially a 10-year lease and concession scheme with a private contractor. It was announced for 2020 but has not yet been implemented. SHDC has elected to partner with DCC for the rollout of the scheme). Status**

**In early March Councillor Foss was asked by Slapton Parish on behalf of Strete and Slapton PCs to obtain an update from SHDC on the Deletti Scheme for South Hams. We were advised the following on 23rd March: - *The tender closed just before Christmas and the bids have been evaluated. Unfortunately, there has been a hold up with the DCC procurement team which means the contract hasn't yet been formally awarded. We are waiting for this to be done in the next two weeks. Once the contract has been awarded, we will then be able to work with our partners and the successful bidder to commence on the service delivery and find out their proposed programme of installation. As soon as I know the successful bidder and programme of installation this will be shared.***

The phase one sites are as follows:

*Heaths Nursery car park, Totnes; Quay car park, Kingsbridge; Mayors Avenue car park, Dartmouth;*

*Creek car park, Salcombe; Park & Ride, Dartmouth.*

*The phase two sites (for which funding is not currently believed to be available) are as follows:*

*Fore Street car park, Kingsbridge; Victoria Street car park, Totnes; Pavilions car park, Totnes;*

*Poundwell Meadow car park, Modbury.*

**So, the scheme is running late and it does not look to me as if it will be delivered in time for this summer. It remains the case that there is no SHDC or DCC strategy for the provision of public charge points in rural villages across the South Hams, beyond encouraging Parish Councils to bid for match funded grants.**

**2. Maintain a watching brief on the availability of grant monies to support rural charging infrastructure. Status – ongoing. No further progress.** LN said people were thinking about charge points but grants don't seem to be available for business. PH said there wasn't a strategy for rural areas with charge points.

**3. Suggest to Strete Community Pub Limited that a business case for the acquisition of a public fast Charging Unit should be carried out, with a view to it being located in the Kings Arms car park and operated as a revenue stream for the pub.**

The business case should take into account the benefit of any future grant subsidies which might be announced which would help to make the venture viable (no subsidy is currently available). **Status – No change.**

**4.** Share our survey and results with local neighbouring Parishes and look for synergies in approach. **Status – At the request of Slapton PC a second Zoom meeting planned for Wednesday 21st April has been postponed until the end of June due to the official mourning period for the death of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, and the consequent pressure on dates for Parish Council meetings.**

**5.** Provide a facilitation service to offer a conversation between prospective BEV purchasers and existing owners, with the aim of providing education about electric vehicles allaying fears about investing in this new technology. **Status – available upon request (PH).**

**6.** On a wider Climate Emergency point, carry out similar resident surveys aimed at raising the awareness of the availability of new technologies with grant subsidies, for example the phase-out of oil and gas fired boiler systems and their replacement with ground and air source heat exchangers, the widespread availability of Solar Photovoltaic (PV) schemes for heating and power and the availability of home insulation schemes. The PC could play a major role in assisting DCC and SHDC to achieve the aims of their Climate Challenge Declaration. **Status – See above under Climate Change Emergency. This was discussed as an Agenda item on the March PC meeting but actions need to follow.**

**Parish Benches and picnic table maintenance.** Chris Ellis still seems not to have started. Nothing further to report.

**GC Village Green.** The village field has been cut twice, one new season cut in late March, and one owed from last year, and is in good condition. An issue has arisen re grass cutting. An email has been passed to me from a parishioner (after some 2 months delay) expressing disquiet re the cutting of grass on our verges. In fact, this mainly applies to the large verge below the village field, on the main Dartmouth road, which Greenspace cut rather severely on two occasions. The parishioner speaking on behalf of several others feels that we should review how we cut grass verges to protect wild flowers, pollen sources and insect life etc. He has passed on several links to advice, one leading to some good ideas is in [plantlife.org.uk](http://plantlife.org.uk). I have read the various suggestions from national bodies, and have sympathy with this. **It was resolved to ask the contractor to cut 2 feet either side of the footpath and along the edge of the road. Elsewhere would be a normal cut. This would be cut once every three months and leave it 6 inches long. It was resolved to leave a couple of feet of uncut edge round the Village Green. PH asked for the runway up to the VAS sign to be strimmed. Reports were received.**

**0421/14 CORRESPONDENCE**

This has been forwarded to Councillors as it was received. Meg Booth was still to respond on Council tax. RC wanted a response to consider the condition of the highway and that some roads had not been maintained for three or more years [for instance Fuge].

**0421/15 OTHER BUSINESS** None was raised.

**0421/16 THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021 AT 5.30 PM. THE VENUE IS LIKELY TO BE IN THE PARISH HALL UNLESS OTHERWISE ADVISED. THE MEETING WAS CLOSED** at 9.10 p.m.

Signed: Cllr Kate Gill (Chair) Dated: 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021



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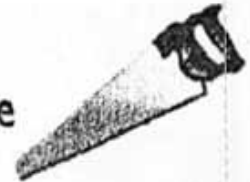
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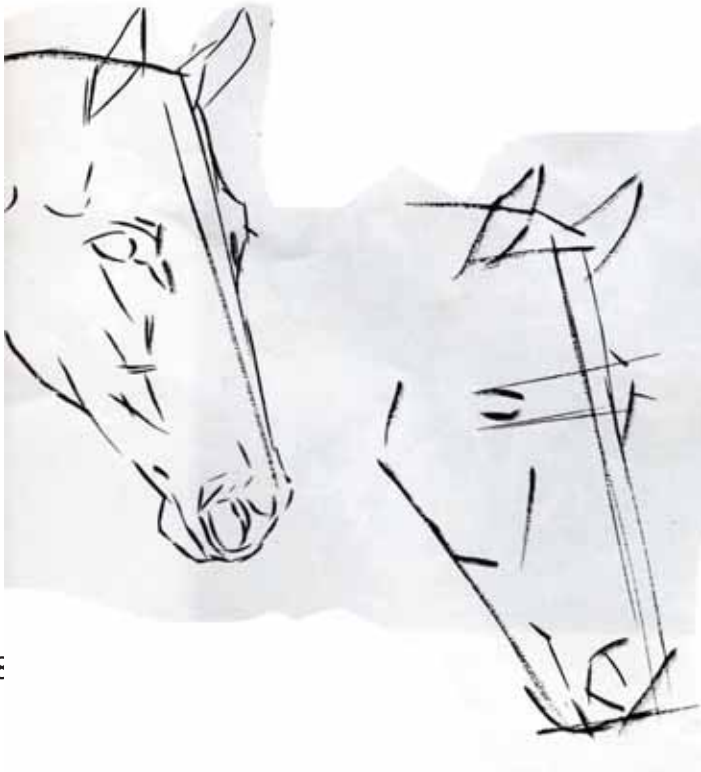
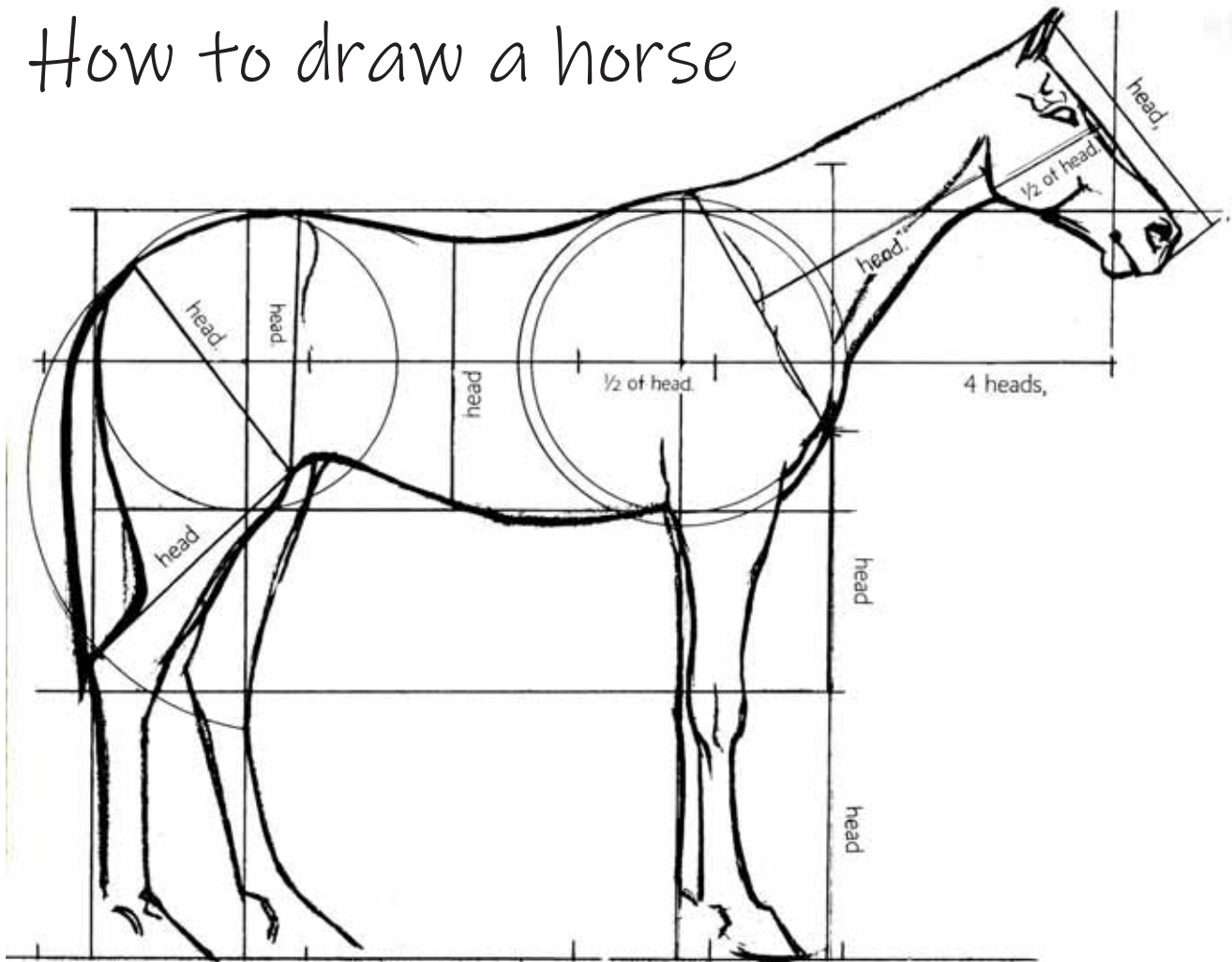


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## Stretewiser Factoids

**1 June. 1946** Television licences were issued in Britain for the first time; they cost £2.

**2 June. 1953** Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II took place in Westminster Abbey.

**5 June. 755** English missionary Boniface, 'the Apostle of Germany'. In 2019 Devon County Council with the support of the Anglican and Catholic churches in Exeter and Plymouth, officially recognised St Boniface as the Patron Saint of Devon.

**6 June. 1944** D-Day invasion of Normandy by 1 million Allied troops to liberate Western Europe from German occupation.

**12 June. 1667** The Dutch fleet under Admiral de Ruyter burned Sheerness, sailed up the River Medway, raided Chatham dockyard, and escaped with the royal barge, the Royal Charles.

**17 June. 1579** Francis Drake drops anchor off the south-west coast of America and proclaims England's sovereignty over New Albion (California).

**21 June. 1675** Construction work starts on Sir Christopher Wren's St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

**26 June. 1483** Richard, Duke of Gloucester, began to rule England as Richard III, having deposed his nephew, Edward V. Edward and his brother,

**29 June. 1613** London's Globe Theatre was destroyed by flames as a cannon is fired to announce the king's entrance in Shakespeare's Henry V.



**1 July. 1838** British scientist Charles Darwin presented a paper to the Linnean Society in London, on his theory of the evolution.

**6 July. 1535** Former favourite of King Henry VIII Sir Thomas More was executed after refusing to recognise the King as the head of the Church.

**9 July. 1877** The first Lawn Tennis Championship was played on top of the croquet lawns at Wimbledon, Spencer W Gore taking the men's singles title.

**10 July. 138** Death of the Roman Emperor Hadrian who ordered the building of a wall in northern England to keep out the barbarian Scottish tribes.

**13 July. 1923** The British parliament passes a law banning the sale of alcohol to under-18's.

**20 July. 1588** The Spanish Armada consisting of 130 warships set sail for England from Corunna.

**21 July. 1969** The Eagle lands on the moon and US astronaut Neil Armstrong.

**30 July. 1966** England win the Jules Rimet trophy, Football's World Cup, at Wembley Stadium.

# Stretewiser Factoids Thanks to Tony Crawford.



The Rolex watch company is run by a non profitable charity trust and they donate 90% of their profit to them. The founder was orphan.



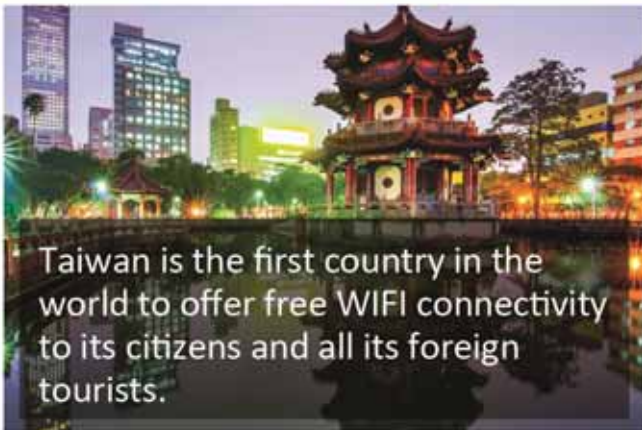
Based on scientific research. People who eat spicy food every day have a 14% chance of living longer compared to people who don't.



Scotland spent six months of research and \$162,972 to create a new slogan to boost tourism. The result "Welcome to Scotland"



India's "Go Air" airlines only hires female flight attendants because they are lighter, so they save up to \$500,000 per year in fuel.



Taiwan is the first country in the world to offer free WIFI connectivity to its citizens and all its foreign tourists.



Pineapples are not a single fruit, but a group of berries that have fused together.



There are metro trains that pass through apartments in China.



Pronghorn antelopes have 10X vision which means that, on a clear night, they can see the rings of Saturn.

## Get growing with Gardentime!

After a dry, cold start to the spring, then gales and rain, we can finally get cracking with all our garden projects. It's time to refresh our patio displays with a riot of summer colour, fill our window boxes and hanging baskets to give our homes a facelift!



Gardentime is fully stocked with everything you'll need to enhance your outside space, and if you're looking for advice or inspiration, we're here to help.

Whilst a colourful display of plants may be a feast for the eyes, we have all you'll need for your tummy too! With the resurgence of 'grow your own' we have increased our ranges of edibles to cater for your allotment and vegetable plot. There's still time to plant glass-house crops such as tomatoes and cucumbers, as we know, they just taste so much better when you've nurtured them yourself. As long as you keep an eye on the watering you could also consider planting fruit bushes and fruit trees. We carry a range right into the summer and the rewards will come quickly, you could be harvesting fruit in no time. Herb plants give almost instant results too, try planting a pot or two near the kitchen door, so that your favourites are easily accessible. Try a pot of strawberries too, they look attractive on the patio, or if you are short of space, they look great in a hanging basket and taste great too.

As we all spend longer spells outside you might find your lawn need some attention. It's a perfect time to use a feed and weed treatment to ensure your lawn is fit and healthy for the summer months. 'All in One' granular treatments are quick and easy to use and will quickly give you a thick, luxurious, green lawn whilst eliminating any weeds. There's still time to sow quick germinating annuals such as Cosmos. Or if you have a patch of ground that needs a quick fix, try our boxes of wild flower mix. They're really easy to use, just shake the pack, rake in the seed and water for a great display that you, the bees and the butterflies will all love.

Our Café remains closed at this time, but we are working toward an opening date soon. Please keep an eye on our social media and website for updates on this and the rest of our Covid guidelines.

### Top 10 jobs for early summer:

- ✿ Sow quick growing salad crops and small batches to ensure continuous supply.
- ✿ Keep up the watering on newly planted trees, shrubs and perennials.
- ✿ Feed your roses to support healthy growth and bountiful blooms throughout summer.
- ✿ Keep on top of weeds, they are easier to tackle when they're small.
- ✿ Trim Box plants and other topiary.
- ✿ Watch out for the arrival of summer pests, aphids are easily controlled if caught early.
- ✿ Feed tomato plants with a high potassium fertiliser such as Tomorite
- ✿ Watch out for slug damage, use an organic pellet (safe for wildlife) when necessary.
- ✿ Mow lawns once a week, avoid cutting low during dry spells.
- ✿ Citrus plants can be hardened off and placed outside for the summer.



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

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

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## The Kings Arms Update



It's been wonderful to open up slowly but surely. First, in April, we were able to open in the garden, which was looking fantastic after an enormous amount of work by the garden volunteers. The play area was also renovated, with new adventures and fun to be had for any young pirate. The weather refused to join in the fun though but the Parish Hall Committee came to the rescue by lending two gazebos. Everyone is very thankful for those. Then in May people were allowed back inside the pub. Bells were ringing, and people sang, at least by the end of the night.

Other than the weather, there have been a few other ups and downs, not having a head chef being the obvious one. This is clearly very frustrating and given there is a lack of chefs all around Devon and beyond right now, the team has been looking to get creative.

One area is to explore temporary ways of providing food without a trained chef. There will be a few trials to see what works. In addition, as I write, two special events are planned over the late May bank holiday weekend. On Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> there is a fish & chip night with chef extraordinaire David Rothwell cooking for the evening (David used to own the Laughing Monk so we are very lucky to have his help). And there what we call Fundays with a BBQ on the bank holiday Sunday (30<sup>th</sup>) and Monday (31<sup>st</sup>), which seems to be generating excitement.

Over the Summer, we are considering things like more guest chef evenings, a quiz, kids mornings and garden events. We are also hoping that people in the village and surrounding areas will want to run their own events and get-togethers. There's been talk about coffee mornings, card nights, and so on – if you'd like to lead the charge on anything like this, please get in touch at the email address on the facing page.



Of course, if restrictions continue, please bear in mind that there will be limited availability for any event so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Events and meetings are great and have always been part of the plan but we do need a more day-to-day solution in the kitchen. If you know of anyone with chef training who is either looking for a long-term opportunity or just some summer work, please contact Nigel Backwith at [nigel.backwith@kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk](mailto:nigel.backwith@kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk). In the meantime, we are looking for certified chef volunteers to help out occasionally.

Because all the focus has been on getting up and running after so much disruption, the front of house volunteer team has not yet been called up. It actually takes quite a bit of work to organize and run this side of things and Lisa, our excellent front of house manager, has had to focus on other things for now. But we are very grateful for people who are volunteering and will be in touch as soon as it makes sense to start that process. Volunteers are one of the things that make the pub so special and we are keen to build on that. If you want to find out more about volunteering, please contact us.

So, things are moving forward. Perhaps not in a perfectly straight line, more like the South West Coastal path. The front of house team are great. The volunteers are doing the village proud. The beer and wine is lovely. The garden looks superb and the views are proving a hit with all who visit. We've just got a few more pieces of the jigsaw to sort out. If you haven't already, please try to come down regularly and help make our community pub a success.

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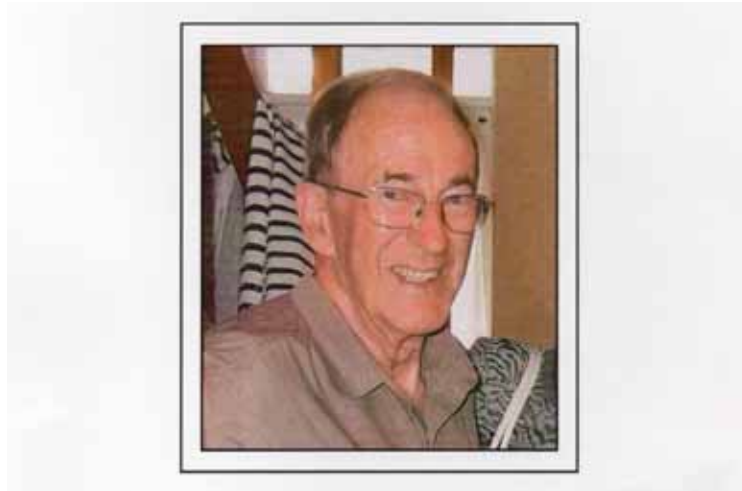


# Stretewise Crossword - Answers

**Across** 1: Bleach 3: Heaped 8: Denim 9: Brisket 11: Earl 13: Elope 14: Ajar  
15: Lapels 18: Aster 21: Email 22: Agendas 23: Metal 24: Nul 26: Groyne

**Down** 1: Bubble 2: Environmental 4: Eider 5: Pine 6: Damper 7: Interpolate  
10: Keelhauled 12: Laser 17: Yeomen 19: Tide 20: Reside

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

Recipes, Crosswords (not cryptic) articles, letters,

but the editor reserves the right as to whether to include, edit or adjust the content. Contributions should be sent to [stretewise@outlook.com](mailto:stretewise@outlook.com) or hard copies of contributions can be left at the to the Post Office or delivered to the Editor: 27 Start Bay Park, Strete, TQ6 0RY.

#### **Copy deadline for the next issue August—September will be 23rd July 2021.**

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