

#### Price £1

#### June-July 2020 Vol 29:03

Published with support from the Captain Pearson Memorial Trust, individual donations, advertisers and our readers.

Printed by:

Parish Magazine Printers EX22 6TD

www.stretewise.co.uk

email: stretewise@outlook.com

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#### The Editorial

First of all an apology for the duplication error in the last issue. A hectic few months for everyone. Articles and events being deleted at the last few minutes before the print deadline and others being added minutes before the deadline caused a few page layout issues. I hope you will forgive the chaos.

Desperate to get the garden started having plenty of time locked down, but without any supply of plants for the new season we resorted to rummaging through the garage for a box that we vaguely remembered stored old packets of seeds. Having found said box we found runner beans (dated 2016) Rainbow chard (dated use by 2007) melons (dated use by 2010) Well nothing ventured nothing gained. Using the last of the compost from last year the seeds were sown. This is the last week of April and all the seeds have germinated and are health and strong.

#### Isn't nature wonderful!

A big thank you to Ron Howell for his article which has a fascinating incite into his experiences onboard ship during a previous global pandemic. Liane Baldock gives an alternative approach to gardening that would help our natural environment thriving.

The 2020 May bank holiday Monday was moved to Friday 8th May to mark the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, we were in lockdown with social distancing in place but it did not stop the celebrations. A Big Thank you to Nick Shepherd, Helen Darch and Tony Crawford for the photographs capturing some of the days celebrations and decorations around Strete.

It is with regret that we have decided to cancel Village Day 2020 because of the ongoing situation.



It is hoped that later in the year we shall be able to hold an event, what sort we don't know yet, to celebrate coming through this difficult time. Any ideas would be welcome and your help, as always, will be much appreciated.

We can then start preparing for VILLAGE DAY 2021 SATURDAY 7th AUGUST

(Parish Hall and Village Day Committees)

#### From the Rectory Dear friends,

We are in strange times. Contradictory times.

All around us there are signs of Spring, of new life, of renewal. Lambs gambolling in the fields, birds, swirling and swooping, nesting and raising their young, shrubs perking up, flowers opening to the warm sunshine and a plethora of buds opening on the trees all around. All very positive and 'normal'

But stand on the doorstep and you realise life is far from normal- so quiet- no planes, very few cars, no distant traffic noise at all.

Turn on the radio or the television and be bombarded with the grim statistics about COVID-19, the restrictions, the shortages of essential equipment, the lockdown. How against our human nature to have to distance ourselves from our friends and family?

Virtual hugs and all the internet ways of contact are all very well but doesn't your heart and your arms yearn for a real one?

Christians all over the world recently celebrated Easter- The Resurrection- when Jesus Christ arose from the dead and appeared amongst his people. For the next 40 days he went about, teaching and preparing his disciples for his Ascension when he would physically leave them. He told them then to wait in Jerusalem and on the day of Pentecost when Jews from all over the world gathered there, the Holy Spirit came to the disciples as God's Presence on earth, as Comforter, Empowered, Energiser and bringer of wisdom.

We are in need of all that. People throughout the country, and especially in our villages, are doing amazing things - acts of service and great kindness. People are looking after their families and looking out for all their neighbours. They are bringing comfort; they are enabling others to live well and they are helping in so many ways. And we need energy and we need wisdom, to do what we can and to keep ourselves well too.

Amongst the fears of mental health concerns and the restrictions that mean social isolation at the moment, NOBODY should be feeling alone. We are here for you and for each other, and it is my prayer that this continues long after this worldwide crisis is resolved. If I can help you during this difficult time, please say.

As vicar at St Michael's I am terribly sad that our church building is closed but I hope and pray that it won't be too long before people can again sit in the church for the solace, I know it brings to many of you. So, in Jesus's words I end.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (The Gospel of John 14 verse 27)

Every blessing Reverend Alison

#### 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 Roy Kendall (Treasurer) Sally Green (Acting Secretary)

Sheila Kingsley Smith (Safeguarding Officer) Dorothy Teal, Joan Kendall.

Due to the **Corvid-19 pandemic.** St. Michael's Church is closed for services until further notice.

#### NO LONG QUEUES, NO HASSLE, NO EMPTY SHELVES



#### SHOP LOCAL AT STRETE VILLAGE STORES & PO

Our little shop is providing it's usual great service and support for the village, including delivering. The shop has a list of volunteers who have offered to help with collecting prescriptions and walking dogs etc. 01803 770225 for the shop phoneline. Please ring by 3pm the day before especially if you want fresh bread. They will let know when you telephone roughly what time they can deliver and how you can pay. Katy & Rob Hitchen who live in Strete and own The Boat House, Torcross are operating a take away service, see their website for the menu, orders taken at the service hatch not by phone. The Green Dragon at Stock Fleming will

provide takeaway food. 01803 770238. Monica and Andy would like to thank the generous gift of flowers left at the shop, from (Anon)

#### Coronavirus (COVID-19)

#### Stay at home if you have either:

- a high temperature you feel hot to touch on your chest or back.
- A new, continuous cough this means you've started coughing repeatedly. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home. Testing for coronavirus is not needed if you're staying at home.

#### How long to stay at home?

- if you have symptoms, stay at home for 7 days
- if you live with other people, they should stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person got the symptoms. If you live with someone who is 70 or over, has a long-term condition, is pregnant or has a weakened immune system, try to find somewhere else for them to stay for 14 days.

#### **Strete Chapel Notes**



#### Greetings from the Strete Chapel Fellowship.

As you may have guessed due to the corona virus we are not meeting as usual on a Sunday morning and the Younger Searchers Club has stopped for now, but we are still finding ways to share in fellowship through our weekly written service and newsletter. In times of crisis, despite the worries and concerns it can have the effect of bringing out the best in those around us - a big thank you to Andy and Monica for coordinating the practical support from the village shop and also to Matthew Miller who delighted many of us by leaving a painted stone on our doorstep as a way to spread joy. There are many other acts of kindness going on at this time that are not even known yet within our village.

In bible in the book of Mark (12 v30-31) we are commanded to...

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

#### **Young Searchers Challenge**

Young Searchers is a Christian children's club based on teaching the Bible through stories, games and craft. As we are not able to meet so we thought we would set a challenge 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**. Due to lockdown there has been lots of DIY going on and this inspired us to think about the biggest DIY project in history-Noah's ark!

Q. Noah sent out 2 different kinds of birds from the Ark. What were they?

Q. After the flood, what sign did God give that He would not destroy the earth with a flood again?

Extra points if you can say where to find these answers in the bible!

Joke: How did Noah see in the dark when on the ark?

Despite the chapel building being closed if you would like prayer support or access to the written service then please contact the chapel on **stretechapel@gmail.com**.

Answer to joke: Floodlights!

Prayer Lord, we thank you for our village and how we are helping each other during this crisis and we pray protection over the volunteers and keyworkers. Lord we pray for those that are poorly or fearful and ask that you draw near to them at this time. We know that you are our refuge and strength in times of trouble and no matter where we are or what we are doing we can call on you. Amen

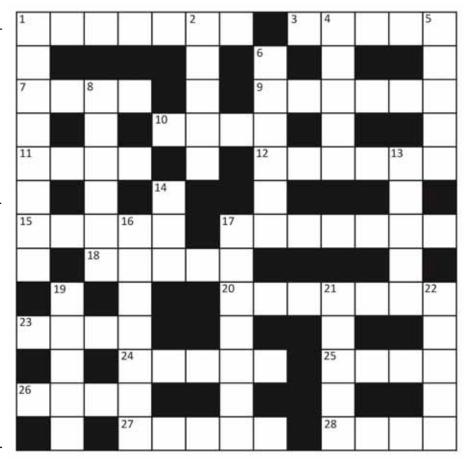


#### Stretewise Crossword

Solution on page

Across: 1. Highly flammable liquid hydrocarbon mixtures 3. An icy, small Solar System body. 7. The action of straining.

- 9. Not spoken aloud.
- 10. Soon, Presently.
- 11. A musical part or section higher than tenor and lower than soprano.
- 12. Deviation from one's original route.
- 15. To avoid adroitly.
- 17. Workshop or studio.
- 18. The third-longest river in Italy. 21. These form a layer at the back of the eyeball.
- 24. A coarse hair or fibre in wool. 25. The price for



these dramatically collapsed in February 1637. 26. Lacking brightness .

27. Extreme physical suffering. 28. An arched blade at right angles to the handle.

**Down:** 1. Give a spoken or written account . 2. Religious songs or poems.

4. The beginning of something . 5. Period between 1485 and 1603. 8. A hole cut in something for decoration. 13. A body of Muslim scholars. 14. Young women of upper-class background presented to society. 17. Bring (someone) before a court to answer a criminal charge. 19. A broom made of twigs tied round a stick. 21. A deity in Hinduism. 22. A species of Marten.

I taught my dog how to play the trumpet on the London underground. He went from Barking to Tooting in 1hr 4m..!



Tim Vine: "Last night me and my girlfriend watched three DVDs back to back. Luckily I was the one facing the telly."

Time Vine: "I saw this advert in a window that said: 'Television for sale, £1, volume stuck on full.' I thought, 'I can't turn that down.'

Tim Vine: "My friend told me he was going to a fancy dress party as an Italian island. I said to him 'Don't be Sicily'."

Tim Vine: "The advantages of easy origami are two-fold." At times like this we need Tim Vine.

#### Stretewise - Events

Strete Parish Hall is available to hire BUT unavailable during this

period of lockdown.

Would you like to join in with a club or activity, even help out with one-off events?

Have you got any ideas for uses of the hall? Do you know anyone who is looking for a venue? Would you like to run a club, activity or give a talk?

Contact the Parish Hall Committee.



Have you a special birthday or anniversary coming up? Why not hire the Hall with all its facilities!

Rates are £10 per hour, with a daily rate of £60.

The Parish Hall is available to rent for events, clubs and activities. Book through Andrea Phillips, 01803 770786. Or email: streteparishhall@gmail.com



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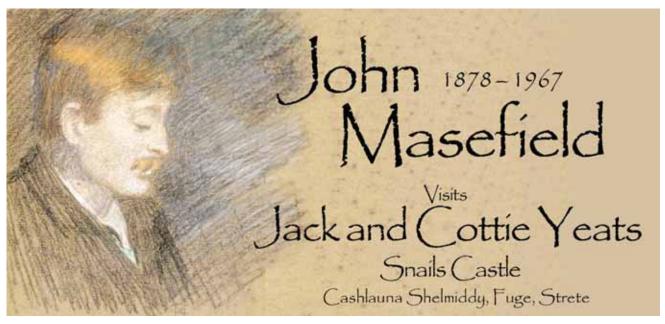
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Portrait of John Masefield by Mary Cottenham Yeats dated 1905 (Courtesy Sotheby's)

John Masefield made his first visit to Jack and Cottie Yeats, Snails Castle (Cashlauna Shelmiddy) Fuge, Strete in 1903 and again two years later. In an unpublished letter to Cottie Yeats, dated 1 May 1905, Masefield writes 'I wish to thank you both so very much for the jolly time at Cashlauna, and for all your kindness to me. I was very sad to come away, for it is a wrench indeed to leave delightful people, and such a country, and so many jolly things to do, for an empty house in town, a garden full of weeds, and a loathsome mass of work..'

(National Gallery of Ireland. Y Archive. L.Mas.4)

John Edward Masefield was born 1 June 1878 in Ledbury Herefordshire. Educated at the King's School in Warwick, where he was a boarder between 1888 and 1891, he left to board HMS Conway. In 1894 Masefield boarded the *Gilcruix*, destined for Chile. On reaching Chile he suffered from sunstroke and was hospitalised. He eventually returned home to England as a passenger aboard a steamship. In 1895 Masefield returned to sea on a windjammer destined for New York City. For the next two years Masefield was employed at the huge Alexander Smith carpet factory in Yonkers. Masefield returned home to England in 1897.

In 1902 Masefield was put in charge of the fine art section of the Arts and Industrial Exhibition in Wolverhampton. By then his poems were being published in periodicals and his first collection of verse, *Salt-Water Ballads*, was published that year. By the 1920s Masefield was an accomplished and respected writer.

1921 Masefield received an honorary doctorate of literature from the University of Oxford. Between 1924 and 1939 he published 12 novels.

On the recommendation of the Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald, King George V appointed Masefield as poet Laureate a role he kept until his death 12 May 1967. His ashes were placed in Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey.

On the night of 27 February 1903 the sea wall in front of the London Inn, Hall Sands slipped. The sea entered behind it, removing the filling at the back of the wall and undermining the inn.

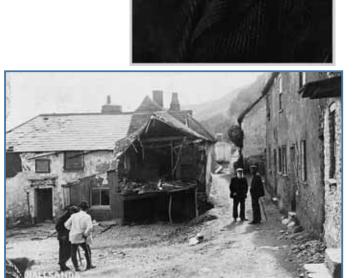
John Masefield's introduction to his poem *Hall Sands*, (followed by three of the verses from the poem) written in 1903 his first visit to Jack and Cottie Yeats, Snails Castle, Strete, prophesying that the village was in danger of being destroyed.

Curtesy of The Society of Authors as the Literary Representative of the Estate of John Masefield for permission to quote this work.

'The village of Hall Sands, between Dartmouth and Start Point, in South Devonshire, is imminently threatened by the sea. Its natural breakwater of sand and shingle was removed a few months ago by a Government contractor, and since its removal the sea has encroached upon the foreshore, and is now undermining some of the houses. The land on which the village stands is beginning to slip and settle. The sea takes a heavy toll of earth at each high tide. The fishermen are in danger of utter ruin, and the first gale from the south-east is likely to sweep the village from sight.' John Masefield.

#### **Hall Sands**

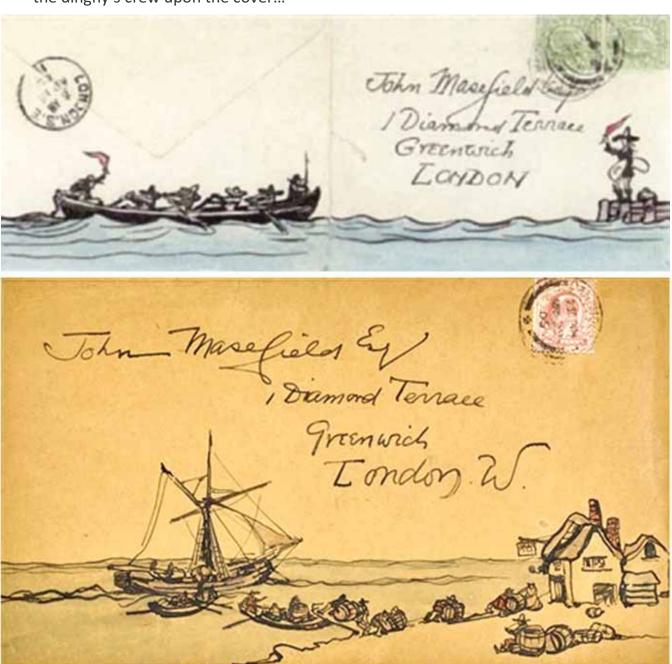
The moon is bright on Devon Sands, The pale moon brings the tide, The cold green water's greedy hands Are clutching far and wide Where the brown nets are dried. The beams are creaking, and the walls Are cracking, while the sea Lips landward steadily and galls Those huts of brick and tree Which men's homes used to be. Soon, when the wind is setting cold And sharp from the south-east, The great salt water running bold Will give the fish a feast, And the town will have ceased But that its wretched ruins then -Though sunken utterly – Will show how the brute greed of men Helps feed the greedy sea.

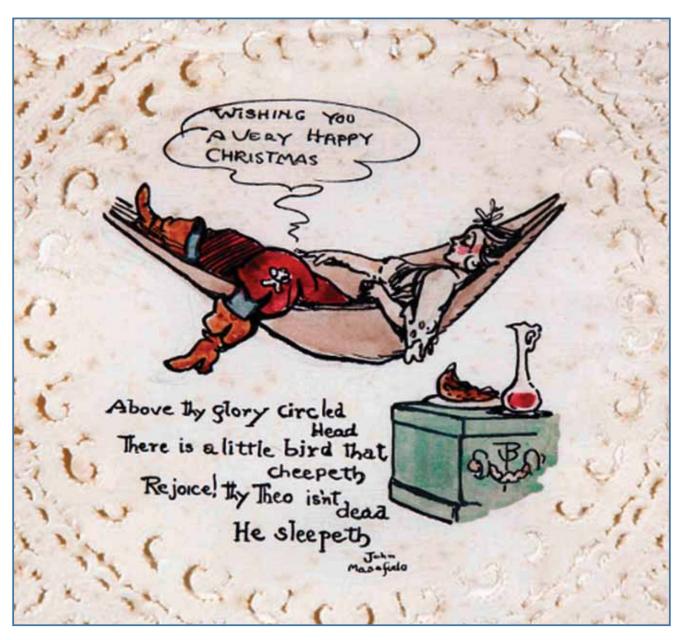


The London Inn after the storms of 1903.

There are in excess of seventy letters from Masefield to Jack Yeats, Snails Cottage, Strete. Masefield, however, disliked the printing of private correspondence and he regularly destroyed them. In 1904 Masefield wrote that Two Years Before the Mast was "full of spirited things". His references in these letters of a cannon and toy ships, are related to the fleet of toy boats that Masefield and Jack Yeats sailed down the Gara River. The fleet of toy ships and the surrounding tales gave birth to the character of Theodore the cabin boy.

A letter from Masefield to Jack B. Yeats, thought to date at the beginning of April 1905, two years after Masefield's first visit to Strete, may include reference to the envelope illustration: "...your bully letter just arrived, with the glorious drawing of the dinghy's crew upon the cover...





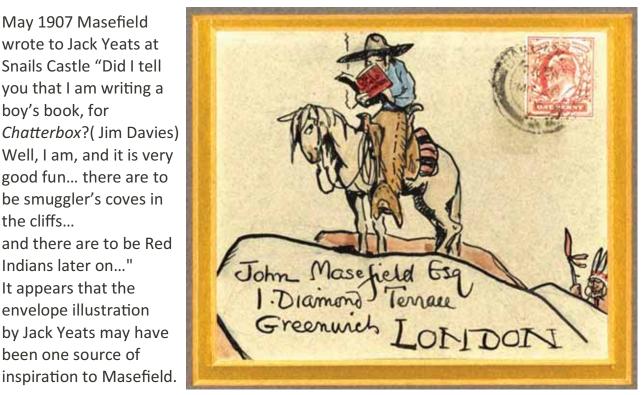
#### Jack Butler Yeats RHA (1871-1957) (by courtesy James Adam & Sons Ltd )

A Christmas card to John Masefield, December 1903, depicting 'Theodore' resting in a hammock. Ink and watercolour on a paper doily, 18 x 18cm (7 x 7") Signed with monogram and inscribed 'Wishing you a very Happy Christmas' and 'Above thy Glory circled Head/ There is a little bird that cheepeth/ Rejoice! thy Theo isn't dead/ He sleepeth' **John Masefield**.

John Masefield wrote the poem called "Theodore". He was influenced by Jack Yeats first miniature play, "James Flaunty", or, "The Terror of the Western Seas", published by Elkin Matthews in London in 1901. This would have been one of the many plays produced and performed for the children of Strete village school. As a result of this play Masefield dedicated the poem "Tarry Buccaneer" published in "Saltwater ballads" in 1902 to Jack Yeats.

May 1907 Masefield wrote to Jack Yeats at Snails Castle "Did I tell you that I am writing a boy's book, for Chatterbox?(Jim Davies) Well, I am, and it is very good fun... there are to be smuggler's coves in the cliffs... and there are to be Red Indians later on..." It appears that the envelope illustration by Jack Yeats may have

been one source of



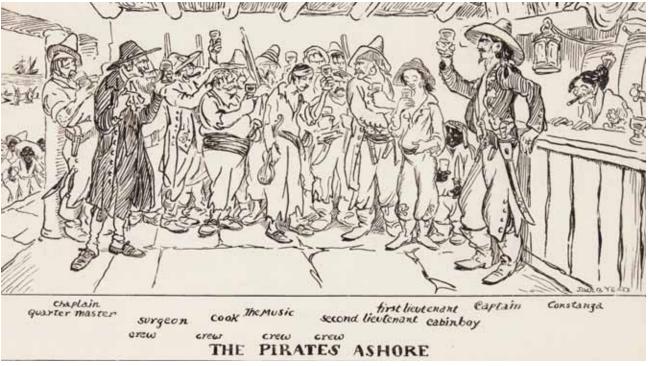


Illustration to 'The Salcombe Seaman's Flaunt to the Proud Pirate', 'The Pirates Ashore', 137 x 258mm., ink and pencil drawing, by Jack Yeats Reproduced in A Broadside number 2 third year (July 1910). The illustration is for a poem by John Masefield incorporating an old refrain. Masefield confessed authorship in a letter to Jack B. Yeats on 4 August 1911 and also included the poem in his anthology A Sailor's Garland (1906).

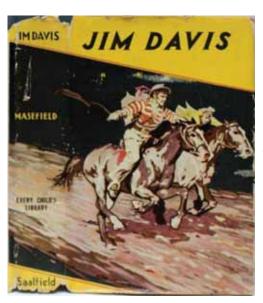
John Masefield wrote Jim Davies, 1911, a thrilling tale for children of smugglers set in the Gara Valley, with many references to locations in the area around Strete. His visits to Jack and Cottie Yeats at Snails Castle, Strete, were a strong inspiration for many of his literary works.

When the orphan Jim Davis is sent to live on the Devon coast he sees a group of smugglers and becomes caught up in their world. Because of what he has seen and knows, he is forced to sign up on a voyage.

#### Jim Davies by John Masefield CHAPTER XII. BLACK POOL BAY

To my surprise, Marah never hesitated. He did not take the Allington road, but spurred uphill towards the "Snail's Castle," and the road to Kingsbridge.

As we galloped, we heard a crash behind us, and the cry of a hurt horse, and the clatter of a sword upon the road. Then more cries sounded; we could hear our



pursuers pulling up. We did not stop to see what they were doing, you may be sure; for when Marah saw that his trick had not shaken them off, he began to hurry his horses, and we were soon slipping and sliding down the steep zigzag road which leads past "Snail's Castle." I had some halfformed notion of flinging myself off my horse as we passed the door, or of checking the horse I rode, and shouting for help. For there, beyond the corner, was the house where I had been so happy, and the light from the window lying in a yellow patch across the road; and there was Hoolie's (The name of Jack Yeats dog) bark to welcome us. We turned down the valley, along the coast-track,

splashing through the little stream that makes it so boggy by the gate, and soon we were on the coach-road galloping along the straight two miles towards Tor Cross.

Earlier in the book Jim talks of ..... For the next month we passed all our afternoons with Marah. In the mornings the Rector gave us our lessons at Strete; then we walked home to dinner; then we played with our gun and cutter, or at the sailing of our home–made boats, till about six, when we went home for tea. After tea we prepared our lessons for the next day and went upstairs to bed, where we talked of smugglers and pirates till we fell asleep.

And ....Now, on one day in each week, generally on Thursdays, we had rather longer school hours than on the other days. On these days of extra work Hugh and I had dinner at the Rectory with Ned Evans, our schoolmate. After dinner we three boys would wander off together, generally down to Black Pool, where old Spanish coins (from some forgotten wreck) were sometimes found in the sand after heavy weather had altered the lie of the beach. We never found any Spanish coins.

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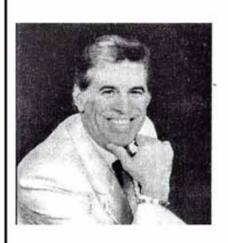
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#### A Very Big Thank You to the Stretewise delivery team

Brenda Range, Liane Baldock, Colleen Seymour, Heather Robinson, Joan Kendall, Pauline Pearce, Chris Burne, Shirley and John Goldring, Rosemarie Stevens, David Wall and Trudy Rothwell and not forgetting Monica and Andy and the team at the Strete Post Office and Stores. Please forgive me if I have left anyone out.



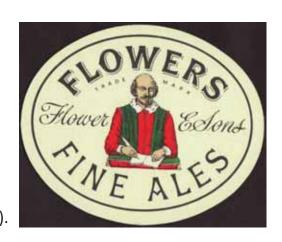
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#### **How Much!** Contributed by Joan Kendall

With being confined to the house and garden, I was turning out and came across a box in which there was a lot of paperwork which I had when I cleared out my Aunties flat. Many years ago, now. The original copy is very torn on the folds.

A letter from Flower & Sons Ltd. The Brewery Stratford-On-Avon to the Manager of the Norwood Arms at Cheltenham. (My Uncle and Auntie were the tenants of this pub).



It was a letter giving the increases of wages by the Catering Wages Act. L.N.R. \*42

#### 9<sup>th</sup> August 1957

Cellar men	2/11 1/4	per	hr
Barmen	2/9 1/4	"	u
Other Men	2/8 ¾	u	u
Barmaids	2/3 1/4	"	u
Other Women	2/0 ½	u	u





### In fond memory of Michael Toms

A Dearly Loved Husband, Dad & Pops Forever in Our Hearts

#### Fay Trudy Tinah



Michaels family wish to express their sincere thanks for All the over-whelming messages of sympathy and the touching tributes paid to him.

Our grateful thanks to Three Corners Nursing Home, Churston for their wonderful care. Also, to Hallett and Perring and Rev Alison Shaw for their kindness and guidance.



Michael and Fay retired to the village of Strete, where they lived at Cobbolds House for the last 20 years. Before retiring they lived 45 years at North Millcombe Farm, Blackawton.

"Throughout his long association with Blackawton Mike was a well-respected member of the local farming community.

He was also a staunch supporter of the Parish and all of its community

organisations, serving on many committees and groups. I personally had the pleasure of sitting on the Parish Council with Mike for many years. During this period his breadth of local knowledge and grounded wisdom was of great support to me as a rookie Chairman. He will be greatly missed and our thoughts are with his wife Fay, daughters Trudy and Tinah and his grandchildren at this difficult time".

#### Chris Dimmelow.

Michael was born and educated in Preston Paignton. His Grandfathers on both sides of the family were farmers, so farming must have been in his blood as he said from the age of six he knew he wanted to be a farmer. He spent his school holidays and spare time on his uncle's farm helping at harvesting time and rabbiting with ferret and nets in the winter. After leaving Montplier school Michael was entered for a two year course at Seale Hayne Agricultural College, after which he was employed as a cowman and later as a farm manager.

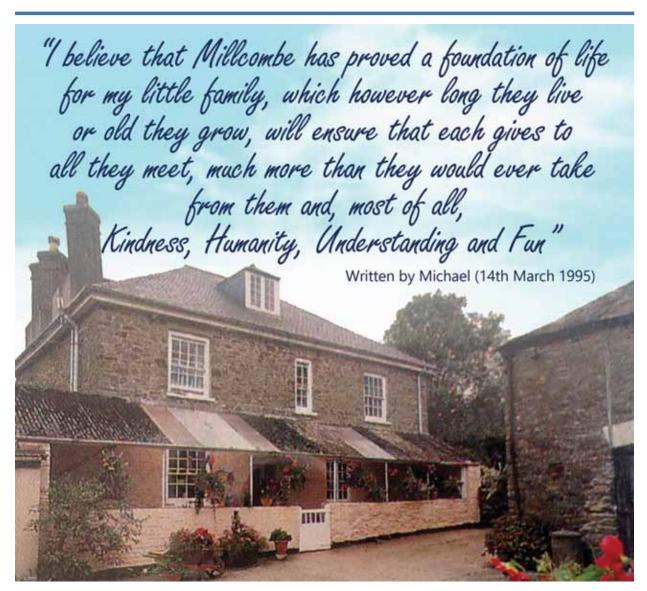
In 1954 he purchased North Millcombe Farm and not only did he farm successfully but he involved himself in helping Blackawton Parish in many ways.

He was co-opted on the Blackawton Parish Council in 1957 to help campaign for the electricity ot be brought into the outlying areas of the parish and he remained a councillor for 41 years (20 as Chairman)

He was also Chairman of the Blackawton school governors and the playing field committee. He was a member of the P.C.C for a short time and was a sides man of this church which he dearly loved.

One of his greatest achievements was organising a community bus the West Dart Bus for the people of Blackawton and Dittisham. He realised the income from fares would not be sufficient to keep the bus running, so he negotiated with Devon County Council for a school transport contract.

Michaels hobbies included: Sailing, Walking (in his younger years) on Dartmoor, Gardening and Wood Turning.



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#### North Millcombe Farm By Michael Toms and Bob Harvey

Although Michael had early experience in his family, his father was a chartered civil engineer who made a successful career with Torquay Water Department. By the age of seventeen Michael had set his sights on a career in farming, but at the time agricultural colleges would accept students only if they had worked for at least a year on the land. So, the aspiring farmer had to work for eighteen months at a farm at Marldon – without pay! The farmer there provided a good lunch each day, but the hours were unspecified and long, and the work was hard. Hoeing by hand for a while day was particularly exhausting, and tedious. Quite unacceptable by today's standards, this 'baptism by toil' was the only way to qualify for the two-year course at Seale Hayne College. Michael completed the course in General Agriculture in 1951.

He started work at Kellaton Farm, and then made his reputation as manager at Gitcombe. By December 1954 he had saved enough, together with a bit of financial help from his father, to buy his own farm, North Millcombe, from Sir Roger Twisden of Kingsbridge.

The farm was then nearly eighty acres, and at the time the value of a farm lay in its acreage. The value of the farm house was incidental. However, he had no stock so had to borrow a further £200 from his father to buy six Ayrshires, some sheep, a tractor and other equipment. His mother and father left their house in Paignton and moved in with him to help. But his mother died in October 1955, within a year of the move, and his father survived only long enough to see his son marry Fay in April 1956. At this time, most farmers had a telephone and some form of transport, but mains electricity, which had arrived in the villages, generally did not extend out to the farms. Water for the house was hand pumped up to the roof tank- a daily task



that took twenty minutes – and a small Petter petrol engine provided power for milking and pumping farm water. Lighting was by Tilley lamps and candles until 1958, when Calor gas lamps became available, and radios where inevitably battery powered.

But the following year the South Western Electricity Board arrived to wire up the house, and the luxuries of electric light, cooking and storage heaters were welcomed. In 1960 they even had television!

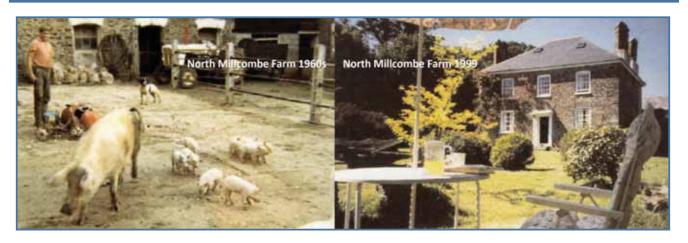
1955 saw the purchase of the first self-binder. This cut and tied the corn sheaves, and until the 1960s they were stoked to dry before being built into ricks. The base of the rick was made from hand-cut 'parings' from the face of the hedges. It was important to 'keep the middle up' when building the ricks, which were well spaced out to allow the thresher to move between them.

There was no permanent tractor on the farm until 1955, when a second-hand grey Ferguson was purchased. The vehicle eventually met an untimely end when one day a hired hand let it crash down the hill, and it was a write off. It was replaced by another Ferguson, a 35X, and then by a David Brown in 1970, which was still in use when the farm was sold twenty-nine years later.

Milking in the early days was done in the old shippen where each cow knew its stall. They walked in to be chained up and miked into stainless steel buckets which were laid outside to cooled. One bucket was darker than the others and was later found to be made of solid brass.

In 1970 the new milking parlour was, built, and from 1972 onwards the milk was collected by the Milk Marketing board refrigerated tanker. By the time milk production ended in 1982 there were 55 cows. Although starting with Ayrshires, these were changed to Frisians in mid 1960s, and a beef suckler herd eventually replaced the dairy cows in 1982.

Ever open to new ideas, North Millcombe was the first farm in the parish to try silage. Rearing pigs in the open, rather than in sties, was another innovation.



.... a first-hand account from Michael Toms. Excerpts from "Our Farming Heritage"

I started farming at Christmas time 1954 – but first I will go back fourteen years to 1940My grandfathers on both sides of the family were farmers, and my uncle farmed 300 acres near Brixham, which is where I spent all my school holidays.

1940 was the beginning of the war years and Devon War Agriculture Committee enforced the ploughing up of all available land to grow food for the nation.

There were very few tractors used on the farms before the war, and then there were none available to but because industry was dedicated to the war effort. It was not until 1943 that my uncle was allotted a Standard Fordson, imported from America. Before then all work on the farm was done by shire horses and three farm workers. In the busy times we had two Land Army girls helping.

I remember hay making with the finger mower pulled by a horse and operator sitting on a spring seat at the rear. When the hay was ready to be picked up a wooden sweep would bring the hay to the spot where the rick was to be built. The sweep would then turnover forward to deposit the hay. A pole with a grab attached to a rope and pully would then hoist the hay on to the rick when another horse was made to pull on the rope.

Corn harvest would start by paring the hedge around the field to provide the bedding on which to build the rick. Sometimes the scythe would be used to cut a width of about eight feet around the whole field so the horses would not trample down the corn when started to pull the self-binder. Three horses would pull the self-binder which would cut the corn and tie it into sheaves.

These sheaves would be stoked in the field and left to dry, and then they would be collected by horse drawn Wagons. Ricks would be built in the field, and if more than one rick was built care was taken to space them the correct distance apart so that the thrashing machine could pass between them in the winter. The ricks would be thatched with wheat straw to keep them dry.

During the war there was Double Summer Time so harvest work continued in the fields until 11 o'clock when it would get dark. The horse would be taken out of the wagon shafts and have their harness removed which would put by the ricks. A sack be put on the largest shire horse (Prince) and I would be lifted up on to it to ride the half mile up the road to the farmstead, leading the other two horses behind me while my uncle took the farm workers quickly home in his car.

In winter time the dung was taken out to the fields by horse and cart and forked off into heaps eight yards apart to spread later with dung forks.

Winter was also the time for rabbiting with a ferret and nets. Not only did they give us meat, at time when it was rationed, but it also gave me my pocket money. The local butcher, Mr Foale, paid me two shillings and sixpence for a large rabbit, and two shillings for small ones.

Moving on to 1948, I had to do a year's practical farming before entering Seale Hayne Agricultural College. I worked on a farm where they grow fifteen acres of swedes and ten acres of mangolds, which all had to be singled out by hand hoeing. Starting at 7am and working until 5pm, day after day in hot June sun, trying to keep up with three skilled men is no joke! – back breaking and monotonous. Often a second hoeing would be necessary, working between rows with a horse drawn scuffle. Nowadays there are precision drills and sprays.

It was on this farm that I learnt to hand milk the South Devon cows — sitting on a three-legged stool. The cows were chained up in a shippen with straw on the floor. When the cow had been milked in the bucket the milk was put through a muslin filter which rested on top of the churn. The method of cooling the milk was to stand the churn in a tank of water in the yard after milking.

By this time American tractors, International W4 Farmalls and Allis Chramers, were beginning to appear, but they were simply being used to replace horses, pulling the wagons and binders. The new range of implements designed specifically for tractors did not come in until the early 1950s.

At Christmas 1954 we bought North Millcombe farm in Blackawton. There was no electricity, mains water or sewerage. Lighting was by Tilley lamps and candles, and we had to pump the water with a hand pump for twenty minutes each evening. Cooking was done on a Rayburn, which also heated the water. There was no other heating in the house except open fires. Can you imagine? These were the conditions to which I introduced my future wife — and she still married me a year later!

I started with four Ayrshire cows, a Ferguson T20 tractor, a trailer, a plough and a 1½ horsepower Petter engine to drive the milking machine. The cows were milked in the shippen by bucket machine, and then the milk was strained and cooled before being put into churns which were collected by lorry to be taken to Daws creamery in Totnes, which later became Uniquite.

We had fifty in-lamb ewes on 'half creace', which meant I kept the ewes and lambed them, and at the end of the season the ewes were returned to the farmer who owned them together with half the lambs reared.

We would order 200-day old chicks which would come in boxes by train to Totnes station, from where they had to be collected. To start off with they were reared in 'Miller' brooders heated by oil lamps. Then they were allowed to roam until they were om the point of lay when were put in the brans with twelve inches of wood shavings on the floor. It was my wife's job to collect the eggs, clean them for collection each week.

I grew eight acres of barley each year for feeding the cows and hens. In the years before combined harvesters the crop was harvested with binder and stoked in the field before being picked up and constructed in to a rick. In the autumn the

contractor would bring in the thrashing machine and five or six men would be needed. It was customary for all men to have lunch at the farmhouse at 1pm. As five very dusty men trudged into the dining room my wife managed to produce a hot meal with only a coke burning Rayburn to work with.

The electricity finally came in 1960, which, apart from simplifying many tasks around the farm, vastly improved the lighting and heating of the farmhouse.

The cows were fed on hay and kale in the winter, and then silage was made with a buck rake and put in a clamp in the field covered with a lorry load of lime to keep it dry – rather different from the plastic sheets used today.

Winters were severe with the milking machine and water freezing, and even the cows had icicles hanging from their mouth.

In the late 60s, I started a pig herd. I kept thirty sows which all farrowed out of doors in isolated huts. The piglets were kept until they were eight or nine weeks old and then sold as weaners. Each sow had tow litters a year, averaging eight piglets a year. The sows were fed on home grown fodder, beet and meal being fed from individual containers.

The dairy herd was increasing each year and eventually reached 55 cows. By then I had built a high-level milking parlour, and a bulk milk tank, with silage clamps in the yard. In 1982 the dairy herd was sold and a single3 suckler beef herd was started. The dams were mostly Hereford X Frisian with some Welsh Black, and the bull used was a Charolais. The cows calved in the fields in March and April, and suckled their mothers until they were weaned in November. They were then housed and fed on silage and beet pulp nuts with a little protein. They were sold as store bullocks at the sales when they were thirteen months old, and achieved an average price of £400-£600 each.

The farm was sold in 1999 and I have since realised that farming in the second half of the 20th century was a joy that will probably never be seen again.

Today's farmers have to cope with TB, BSE, Brucellosis, ME crops – and numerous forms of restrictions.

#### Millcombe was a happy valley with marvellous neighbours – HAPPY, HAPPY DAYS!

PS from Blackawton

Michael completed the course in General Agriculture in 1951. At the final speech day the principal, Dr, Ian Moore, urged the students to "go out and practice all you've learned, but never forget the community you live in." Whatever the demands from his personal needs, Michael acted on this throughout his whole life. In a world where the rights of the individual are so often considered as more important than responsibilities to society and the community, Michael always gave priority to that now rare and precious word, "duty".



#### 'Rainbows'

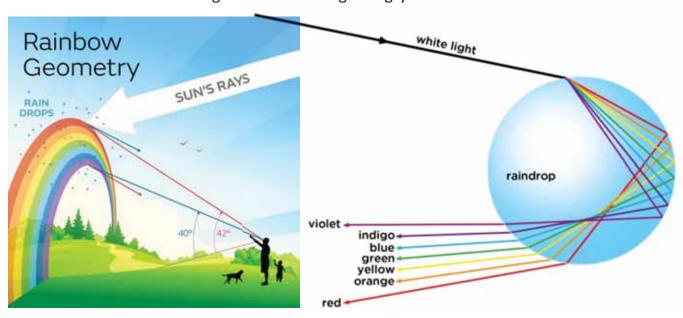
Good and beautiful things often follow the darkest storms.

Rainbows can motivate us to continue and endure through dark times.

In Greco-Roman mythology, the rainbow was considered to be a path made by a messenger (Iris) between Earth and Heaven.

In Chinese mythology, the rainbow was a slit in the sky sealed by goddess Nüwa using stones of five different colours.

Mayan Indians held a similar belief to Christians in regards to rainbows as they believed that after their world was destroyed by fire and rain the appearance of a rainbow meant that the gods were no longer angry.



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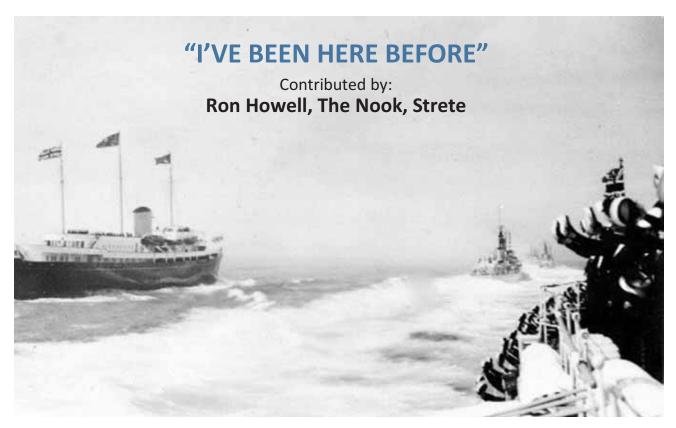
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When you get to my stage of life memories fade, they are still there but you need a reason to open that memory drawer in the mind, mine is the current word, pandemic.

If anyone asks you what you were doing in a certain year you would find it difficult unless that was a special year with special time lines. With me my twelve year Naval career was full of time lines which made it easy to remember the year of 1957.

From the top of my head I remember 1957 for:-

- 1. Returning home after ten months in the Mediterranean with the 4<sup>th</sup> Destroyer Squadron having had to deal with terrorists and the Egyptians.
- 2. Saying goodbye to our Skipper, Commander Terry Lewin\*(1) being replaced by Commander Godfrey Place DSO VC\*(2)
- 3. The review of the Home Fleet by the Queen in the Royal Yacht Britannia in the Moray Firth, and giving her three cheers whilst passing the Yacht.
- 4. Escorting the Royal Yacht across the North Sea for a Royal visit to Copenhagen, and passing the Yacht as closely as possible to enjoy the banter and hand waving from the Queen, and Prince Philip. The reason for that was our former Captain was now the Executive Officer of the Royal Yacht.
- 5. Being struck down with Asian flu.

Corona Virus/ Asian Flu the memories have come flooding back, the picture in my mind of a queue of sailors me included waiting outside the sick bay clinging on to anything fixed down anticipating the motion of the Destroyer as she hit the wild heavy swells of Icelandic waters. My turn came, thermometer placed under tongue by the Petty Officer Sick Berth Attendant looking very ill himself, and the answer "yes you have it, get turned in when you can" he said thrusting some pills into my hand.

The word 'Strikeback' came to mind, and I remember cold and rough seas watching the amazing sight of an Aircraft Carrier dipping into heavy seas with water cascading onto her flight deck her huge propellers spinning freely out of the water. Those screen shots have always been in my mind but now like us all I am in lock down with time to think and look back.

I looked up 'Asian flu on my laptop and was shocked to see that it was also a pandemic that originated in China and was responsible for thousands and thousands of deaths worldwide.

So what was my part in all of that, how did my memory compare with my diary of 1957 hidden away somewhere? I found it amongst many others from different years (have I really lived that long?) I peered closely at the smudged biro and very faint pencil scribbles for the period in question.

First of all the word 'STRIKEBACK' and there it was in my diary:-

**DIARY** Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September Asian Flu hits us, 12 of the crew poorly sent to hospital. Leave Greenock on Tuesday to take part in Strikeback.

**DIARY Tuesday 17th September 1957**, went to sea for Strikeback, started to see the first signs of Asian flu in some of the mess. All the sick bay personnel sick.

**FACT**.....Operation Strikeback was the largest NATO exercise since the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War with all the major NATO countries taking part to simulate an attack on NATO forces by the Soviet Union.

**DIARY Wed. 18**<sup>th</sup> **September**.... War starts, refuel at sea from Carrier. Have the flu. Choppy sea, in my hammock for 8 hours.

**DIARY** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September....Got the Asian flu bad, went to the sick bay. Off the Faeroe Islands. Got the Afternoon and Morning watch, very sick, slept between watches.

**FACT**....The word isolation was banded around during the Asian flu but on board a Battle Class Destroyer it was impossible to isolate when 24 men lived ate and slept in an area the size of the average living room. We had one thing on our side however we were all young men.

**DIARY** Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September.....Crossed the Arctic Circle, action stations three times. Refueled from USS Macon. 4 hours sleep but feeling a little bit better.



**FACT.....**The Cruiser USS Macon was part of a huge US Navy presence along with the Dutch, Canadian, French and Norwegian navies.

**DIARY** Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September..... Well into the Arctic Circle, very cold, still feel very weak.

**DIARY** Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.....Saw the northern lights, fantastic. Action Stations all day, Ships Company like the walking dead.

**DIARY** Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September.....At Action and Defense stations all day and night, very little sleep, not feeling very well.

**DIARY** Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September.....Action stations twice, planes collide both American. Man over board from the Aircraft Carrier HMS Eagle, we are tasked to search for him. Found alive after 5 minutes in the Arctic Ocean, lucky man.

**FACT**.......A US Jet fighter crashed into the sea attempting to land on the Carrier USS Saratoga. Whilst taking part in the rescue two more fighters collide and crash into the sea, two days later a sky warrior jet bomber collided with the stern of the carrier USS Forrestal. A total of eleven airmen were killed.

**DIARY** Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September......Feeling better, many hammocks occupied throughout the day with sick men. Storm Force 10 winds forecast.

**DIARY** Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September.......Very rough weather and mountainous seas. We were crash boat to the Ark Royal\*(3) a few of us observed the Carrier take heavy seas over the flight deck with her props threshing wildly out of the water, amazing site. Ship reverts to four watch routine.

**DIARY** Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September.....Exercise ends, weather abates, enroute Chatham and leave. Still feel a bit grotty.

So my memory of those days was basically supported with my diary entries, the Asian flu spread right through the crews of the many naval ships taking part but there was no time for suffering, we were at war and had to succumb to flu as and when it suited the ships routine, however as I said we were all fit and young.

\*(1)......Commander Terry Lewin left my ship HMS Corunna to join the Royal Yacht, he then rose to be Admiral of the Fleet Sir Terence Lewin and was right hand man to the Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher as Chief of the Defence Staff during the Falklands war. His portrait hangs in the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth and when I saw it I really felt my age having my old skipper painted in oils.

\*(2)......Commander Godfrey Place VC.CB.CVO.DSC. joined the Corunna early in 1957 and reached the rank of Rear Admiral. He won his VC as skipper of the midget submarine X7 during the attack on the German battleship Tirpitz.

\*(3)......Crash boat...A

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#### TOTNES STORAGE ALSO AVAILABLE



# Ine Five Essentials Contributed by Liane Baldock

We are all by now aware of climate change and the need to do what we can to help our natural environment. Remember the days when driving any distance, one arrived with the windscreen and bonnet of the car covered in dead insects? This has not happened for a long while now, as those insects are just not out there any longer. One of the ways that we can help to get this balance back again is to leave some rough and messy areas in our gardens for the insects to inhabit – saves us a bit of extra labour too!

We need to plant things like buddleia, heather, cotoneaster and honeysuckle that the bees and butterflies love; and don't tear down all that ivy that should not really be growing all over your fence – the flowers and berries that come later in the year than most others give nourishment at a time of year when there is not much else to eat.

We could also save ourselves much effort by leaving our lawns to grow and allow the wildflowers to flourish – just mow some pathways to areas that you walk to mostly

- a bench perhaps, two mower widths is ample for a pathway through the grass. You can add some interest to it by not necessarily going in a straight line
- a winding pathway to carry the eye onwards.

But what about all the weeds? you may say; well, weeds are actually wildflowers – just in the wrong place!





The birds also need encouragement from us – Stevie Rogers gives us what they and other small mammals and insects need most below:

#### The Five Essentials

- 1: **FOOD** for both adults and their young, their needs may be different.
- 2: **WATER** ponds are ideal but even a bird bath is better than nothing. Make all water accessible and with an escape route out too.
- 3: **SHELTER and SAFETY -** places to hide from predators and safe places to eat and go about their daily business without interference.
- 4: **GREEN CORRIDORS** access to other, nearby, wildlife habitats to help increase genetic diversity and prevent populations crashing.
- 5: **HABITATS** a wide variety of environments to suit the needs of various creatures both mammals and invertebrates.

So don't trim your hedges drastically – just cut the edges maybe so that they don't crowd out other plants, but leave the tops long. This stops predators from standing easily on the table-like platform you have created for them by cutting the top flat. It gives birds the protection to make their nests safely out of harm's way.

If the farmers could be persuaded to do this along all the lanes and roads and leave the fledgling trees in the hedgerows to grow up, the need to plant many more trees to absorb the bad carbon dioxide we are emitting would be drastically reduced. Anyone who saw Bob Harvey (of Blackawton) on BBC Spotlight in early March must have realised that he was spot on in advocating this. And why had no-one thought of this and encouraged its promotion before?

And if you are horrified by the wanton vandalism of cutting down all the trees along the main road opposite Sainsburys and on to Norton, then write and complain to DCC and SHDC – a letter addressed to the CEO should eventually find the correct person in charge of this at both offices.

The U3A has just recently started a new Climate Change Group – they meet in the Library (Flavel) at 2pm on the first Monday of the month.

Come along for a taster session and then consider if you would like to join.

#### Strete Parish Hall

#### Can You Help?

The Strete Parish Hall Committee need someone to act as Treasurer.

After many years of sterling work our current treasurer is stepping down. You would be taking over healthy well documented accounts, helping to keep the Strete Parish Hall a viable centre for social village life.

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#### STRETE PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STRETE PARISH COUNCIL (PC)
HELD IN STRETE PARISH HALL ON THURSDAY 19 MARCH 2020 AT 7.00 PM

#### **PRESENT**

Cllr Kate Gill, Chairman (KG); Cllr Louise Newman (LN); Cllr Ian Cumberlidge (IC); Cllr Ralph Clark (RC); Cllr David Rothwell (DR); Cllr Graham Campbell (GC); Cllr Peter Hales (PH); Cllr Julian Brazil, County Councillor, Kingsbridge Division (JB); Mrs. Helen Darch – Clerk.

#### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Two members of the public attended the meeting. The public forum was put back to item 4 on the agenda because of the subject matter being discussed.

#### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

JB gave an account of the Coleridge Association meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> February. The monument was discussed but one of the parish responses needed to go forward, that of East Allington, was outstanding as they canceled their parish meeting on Wednesday. The plan now is to hand over the responsibility for maintenance of the monument to Strete Parish Council who will liaise with the Field Studies Council to establish a regime for its upkeep.

The coronavirus [COVID-19] emergency was then discussed. JB noted that parishes were well ahead of the county and district councils in their responses. At the moment a local approach works better if all local needs are identified. This should include the outlying parts of the parish. South Hams District Council's liaison with the parishes would be Sandra Harrison. JB advised the Clerk supply a name, number and email contact for communications with higher tier authorities. In this way any information can be cascaded down to parishes from the county and district councils.

The latest information was that the peak of the pandemic in the UK was expected to be late June. Government advice was to stay put to prevent the spread of the virus. IC mentioned concerns expressed by a few parishioners over paying their council tax especially in the uncertain economic environment. JB thought a hardship fund was being set up and this would be confirmed. He also thought business rates would be waived for 2020/21.

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

JB noted there was nothing extra to add from the district council. JB offered his assistance if anything needed to be done. He then wished everyone well and left the meeting.

**O320/1** APOLOGIES – Cllr Richard Foss, District Councillor, Allington & Strete Ward (RF).

#### 0320/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2020

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

#### 0320/3 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.** 

#### 0320/4 REPORT AND ACTION PLAN ON COVID-19 OUTBREAK

The meeting was closed to allow members of the public to speak.

KG read out her report.

'As a number of our community are self-isolating due to age or heath concerns here are some practical suggestions that can be achieved easily for all of us.

Coronavirus – safeguarding the health of our community at large.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their help and advice. At risk of you getting bored with advice – here are some simplified suggestions.

Carefully risk assess your surroundings for your own and others' wellbeing.

Distance – two metres is the distance you stay away from people you meet and talk to. That is to prevent infected droplets of spittle being transferred. Do not shake hands. Keep contact with friends and family by telephone.

Hygiene – using soap and water wash your hands thoroughly including between the base of your fingers, around any rings you might wear and your wrists. Use antibacterial wet wipes to clean surfaces that might be contaminated by someone who is carrying the virus.

Symptoms – use a thermometer to take your own temperature to see if you have a fever brewing. If you do, self-isolate then tell your nearest and dearest you might be developing the symptoms. If you develop a dry cough following your high temperature, get advice from 111 and take it.

Food – shop- you do not have to drive out of the Village for groceries, milk, fruit and vegetables, papers, prescriptions and other essentials. They are abundantly available from Andrew and Monica Pound. They are creating a system for deliveries. Their phone number is 01803 770225.

Food again – ready made meals and takeaways. Katy and Rob Hitchen who live in Strete and own the Boat House Torcross are operating a drive by service. Their number is 01548 580747.

Contacts – contact Dartmouth Caring on 01803 835384 if you need special help or feel lonely. Please watch out for notices, posters, lists of helpers to ring. Information will be available on our Strete website and posted on the usual noticeboards. We will keep you updated by leaflet and telephone as requested.

Handy numbers again: 01803 770225 for the Shop, 01803 835384 for Dartmouth Caring, 01548 580747 for The Boathouse.

Keep Safe.'

GC suggested the notice include something on the over 70s and isolation. PH asked for confirmation on the purpose of the meeting.

Belle Harris spoke. She asked how we would contact the most vulnerable and suggested there be a volunteer coordinator to handle approaches. The criterion to approach people should be merely those who have chosen to self-isolate. However, she also warned that the 'oldies' in her experience don't want to be perceived as weak and vulnerable. A person to chat with is most important and out of that should come needs and other issues. Maybe people should be offered something to do such as craft or baking and so they can do something for others which gives them a sense of purpose. Also, many older people won't have technology that allows them to keep in touch. Could the parish increase the frequency of the Stretewise magazine so people are kept up to date even if it is a small publication?

RC suggested a round robin letter go out to the parish with everything in it. The council need to act swiftly to prevent panic.

Andy Pound gave a report. He had been busy enrolling volunteers to do deliveries around the Village and had over fifteen to date. There was a leaflet sketched out with what the Shop can offer to self-isolating customers. He had also liaised with Dartmouth Caring on what is planned. GC commented that Dartmouth Caring are already involved in Strete and have an infrastructure well-established for help and assistance. Belle Harris asked how people could get in touch with Dartmouth Caring. GC replied that Dartmouth Caring had already contacted 194 people in the area and will try get hold of others.

KG then read out Andy Pound's leaflet. 'The Village Shop', Strete Post Office and Stores. If you are self-isolating due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) or another reason

WE CAN HELP- We will deliver groceries, coal, logs, sticks, papers etc.

WHATEVER YOU NEED IF WE HAVE IT. We have volunteers who will walk your dog, collect prescriptions etc.. IF NEEDED PLEASE ASK ON 01803 770225 THE SHOP PHONELINE. PLEASE RING BY 3PM THE DAY BEFORE ESPECIALLY IF YOU WANT FRESH BREAD DEPENDENT ON DEMAND WE WILL LET YOU KNOW WHEN YOU TELEPHONE ROUGHLY WHAT TIME WE WILL DELIVER AND HOW YOU CAN PAY

If you need to take money out of the Post Office please ask. Yours Andrew and Monica Pound. **LET'S PULL TOGETHER AS A VILLAGE'** 

In the discussion which followed, it was decided to combine the report of the Chairman and the leaflet produced by the Village Shop. This would be put out as a joint leaflet to all households in the village.

Resolved: Information would be sent to the Clerk who would put it all together and get a leaflet out by the weekend to the households. The number would be based on the print run for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Resolved: Printing would be done by the Clerk and RC who offered some of his print capacity. Distribution would be undertaken by volunteers who could include the individuals who delivered the Neighbourhood Plan or maybe the Stretewise distributors.

GC suggested that the offer of telephone befriending be added to the mailshot. DR remarked that when deliveries were being made it would be an opportunity to talk with people as well. LN remarked when putting together the leaflet to remember that some under 70 would also be self-isolating. Also, to include something in the leaflet on helping and being helped by neighbours.

Resolved: Andy Pound offered to give a list of volunteers to the Clerk. GC will let Dartmouth Caring know what is going on and make sure there is no duplication. Resolved: RC will keep a watching brief on the website to update it and also let all know when there is email contact.

DR suggested it would be a good idea to review things as they develop. A single point of contact should be nominated. It was suggested it would be Andy Pound for the Shop. Andy Pound and Belle Harris left the meeting and the meeting was then reopened.

#### 0320/5 PLANNING AND PLANNING MATTERS

**0562/20/TCA T1: Turkey Oak - Overall crown reduction by 2m.** The Retreat Totnes Road Strete Dartmouth TQ6 ORU. IC noted this was not the first time the Turkey oak had been crowned and he saw no objection to the proposed works. **It was resolved to support the works in the application.** 

**0320/6 (a) FINANCE** The Clerk supplied the meeting with a list of cheques for payment. One late cheque 1705 was added to the agenda for strimming works done by Mr Chris Ellis. This was agreed in the meeting.

1700 – Helen Solomon Ltd – Clerk payroll September 2018 to February 2020 inclusive £97 plus VAT.	1701- Strete Parish Hall hire February £30.
1702- Clerk salary March £249.	1703 – Clerk expenses October to February inclusive £80 reclaim of broadband costs for service in the Hall.
1704 – Devon Waste Collection - £40 plus VAT to collect and destroy confidential documents.	1705 – Mr Chris Ellis strimming £75.

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

#### 0320/6(b) FINANCE

A monitoring report for the year to March 2020 had been circulated already along with a cashflow projection. The latest projection of 2019/20 to the end of March 2020 gives CR 4,984.93. It was agreed the latest monitoring should be published on the noticeboards. Resolved the Clerk would provide the monitoring statements for the boards and website.

#### 0320/6(c) FINANCE

Cash at bank – £5,460.33 CR Current account at 10/03/20, £10,292.17CR Business Reserve account at 10/03/20.

#### 0320/6 (d) FINANCE.

The Clerk is still to update the budget 'in neat' and circulate it.

**PANDEMIC.** The Clerk sketched out some protocols for the operation of the Council during the pandemic. At the moment in law Councils cannot meet remotely and make decisions. However, this may change. The Clerk is in contact with the SLCC and DALC on developments. The emergency means that the annual parish meeting of electors may not be able to take place in April as originally scheduled. However, there is leeway on when this meeting must take place which is from the 1<sup>st</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> June.

The Annual General Meeting [AGM] of the Parish Council must take place in May. Both annual meetings can be held back until May and take place then.

Resolved: The Clerk keep an eye on developments and liaise with the SLCC and DALC to keep abreast of developments. Then to let the councillors know what is decided on how and when meetings can take place. At present the Council is still to assume the next meeting of the council will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> April. The annual meeting of electors and the AGM for the council would be put back to May in the meantime.

Payments and receipts: The Clerk can still operate the cheque book for payments and scan invoices for approval. Cheques may be signed by two signatories and scanned along with invoices to all. The next expected income is the first 50% of the precept plus CTSG due by the end of April. The annual reclaim of VAT can still be done after the 31<sup>st</sup> March year end. Year-end reporting will still take place. Insurance cover will still be renewed by 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Emails and correspondence would be handled by the Clerk who would receive and pass on all correspondence as normal. It is not expected this would alter.

Resolved: to note powers and responsibilities of the Clerk as outlined above to manage finances, deal with Council business and deal with communications.

#### 0320/8 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN NP Report for PC – March 2020

Duncan Smith (SHDC) has had an email from Mr Dixon confirming the Viability Exercise is proceeding. However, he is experiencing difficulty in getting replies form some of the utility providers. The good news is that all is in hand and Savills are going ahead with the Viability Appraisal.

Duncan has asked him to provide updates and will ensure we are kept in the loop. The examiner's examination extension expires on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

The NP report was received.

#### 0320/9 UPDATE ON ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE (ACV) APPLICATION

The progress on the application was briefly discussed. Two meetings had been held on March 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss the way forward on the application. A deadline of 27<sup>th</sup> March had been set for letters of support to be returned by the community to the Shop/ Clerk or councillors. PH noted the intention was for the application form to be sent to SHDC the week commencing 30<sup>th</sup> March by the Clerk. This had been completed in draft by PH and RC for the meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> March.

Resolved: The Clerk would collate responses and send the final form, once updated, with enclosures to SHDC.

#### 0320/10 THE SLAPTON LINE & PLACING OF THE WAR MEMORIAL

This had been briefly discussed by JB in his report. Nothing was added.

#### 0320/11 UPDATE ON CONTRACTS

RC reported on the quote he had obtained for Brooking Hire and circulated to all on the 15<sup>th</sup> March to do the road sweeping around the village. This was not discussed or any decision taken due to the uncertainty over the immediate future.

He also mentioned the works to the steps at Strete Gate. IC noted he had sent an email to Charles Dixon to request permission from The Strete Estate to go ahead. No reply had been received to date. RC replied that the council should be dealing with SHDC as they manage the area for Strete Estate. Gate. IC observed that SHDC were not responsive but he would report back when he had heard from them.

#### The report was received.

#### 0320/12-0320/14. These items were not taken in view of the state of emergency.

PH suggested if there was any hardship that the parish might make available funds from its reserves. The Clerk confirmed this was acceptable under s137 of The Local Government Act 1972 as expenditure that would bring direct benefit to the parish's inhabitants and was not covered by another power of the Council. The limit on expenditure under s137 is £3,199 in 2019/20.

0320/15 THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY 16 APRIL 2020 AT 7.00 PM UNLESS OTHERWISE ADVISED. VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED.

#### THE MEETING WAS CLOSED at 8.25 p.m.

Signed: Cllr Kate Gill (Chair)

Dated: 16 APRIL 2020

**ACTION POINTS:** 

Clerk: Information would be sent to the Clerk who would put it all together and get a leaflet out by the weekend to the households. The number would be based on the print run for the Neighbourhood Plan; printing would be done by the Clerk and RC who offered some of his print capacity; to provide the monitoring statements for the boards and website; to update the budget 'in neat' and circulate it; to keep an eye on developments and liaise with the SLCC and DALC to keep abreast of developments. Then to let the councillors know what is decided on how and when meetings can take place; to collate responses and send the final form, once updated, with enclosures to SHDC.

RC: printing would be done by the Clerk and RC who offered some of his print capacity; to keep a watching brief on the website to update it and also let all know when there is email contact.

GC: to let Dartmouth Caring know what is going on and make sure there is no duplication.

All: distribution of the leaflet would be undertaken by volunteers who could include the individuals who delivered the Neighbourhood Plan or maybe the Stretewise distributors.

Andy Pound: to give a list of volunteers to the Clerk.



### Devon Air Ambulance

Devon Air Ambulance needs a community of volunteers to keep our 19 charity shops open and our emergency helicopters flying.
Could you spare an hour or two to help your local shop? We have a host of tasks which need to be completed to make our shops a success. From customer service



on the till, sorting through our generous donations, steaming, tagging and creating some great window displays. You do not need to have any previous retail experience as we offer friendly support, training and encouragement.

So why not give volunteering a go? Feel free to call in to your local shop and say hello! Our shop manager will pleased to arange a trial session so that you can get a feel for all the tasks available and what might interest you.



#### Bringing the right care, to the right place, at the right time

Did you know...? You don't have to sign up for regular volunteering with us - many of our volunteers help out at our main events and shows throughout the year as One-Off Event Volunteers. You can find information about events near you on our website and if you see anything that interests you just drop an email to our Volunteer Manager,

g.gisborne@daat.org or call 01392 466666. We are always very grateful if you can spare the time to help save lives.





www.daat.org 01392 466666

The Stoke Fleming and District branch of the Probus Club is currently unable to hold scheduled meetings due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Normally the club meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Stoke Fleming Hotel, to offering a social gathering for members drawn from all walks of life centred around a themed talk by a guest speaker. Rest assured that Probus will be back! As soon as it is safe to re-start our meetings we shall resume our programme, which will be published here. In the meantime, stay home and stay safe.

#### Children's Hospice SW Events

The 17th annual Dartmouth Art & Craft Weekend takes place on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th June from 10am to 4pm daily. An interesting and fun weekend with around 40 artists and craft workers



Registered Charity No. 1003314

in the beautiful setting of Royal Avenue Gardens in Dartmouth. Children's activities plus entertainment from a wide range of musical and dance performers, with teas, homemade cakes and snacks provided by Children's Hospice volunteers and supporters. Pitches for artists and craft workers to display/sell their work are £70 for the two days; a gazebo will be required. 'COVID-19 permitting'?

Contact - Artist bookings: Iain McCall: Tel: 01803 832258, Email:

iain.mccall1940@gmail.com General enquiries: Sue Tweed Tel: 01803 770730,

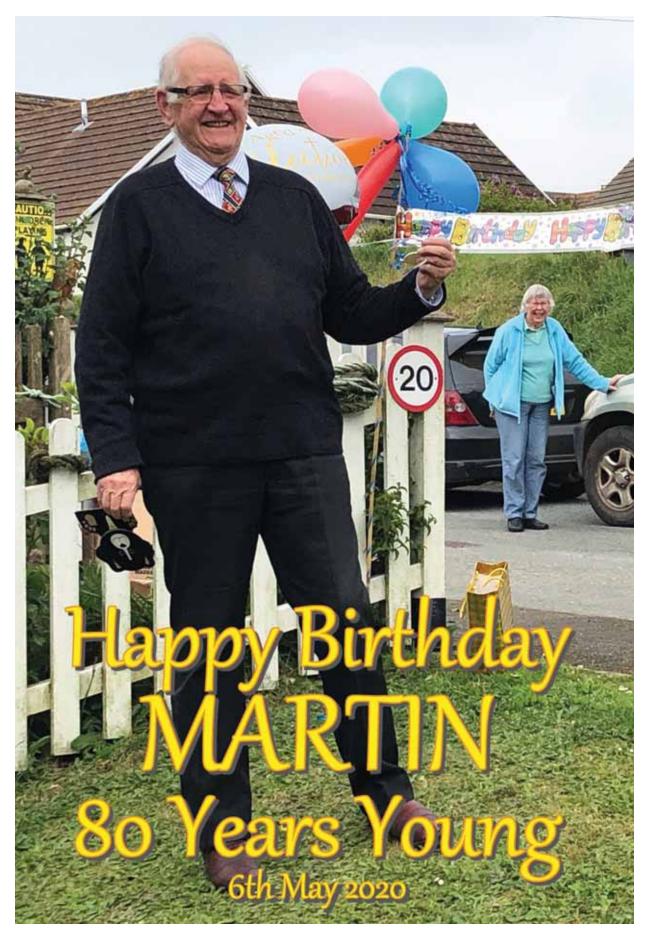
Email: tweed833@btinternet.com

All funds raised from all our events will help Children's Hospice South West Charitable Ladies Events

Stoke Fleming Charitable Ladies' Summer Fair on 11th July. The group meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month (except January and August) to organise three local fundraising events each year. New members from Stoke Fleming and surrounding areas would be most welcome. Contact: Sue Tweed (Secretary) on 01803 770730 or tweed833@btinternet.com for more information. 'COVID-19 permitting'?



Something we should all be doing in any public space. I have also been asked to point out this includes private driveways adjoining public spaces.





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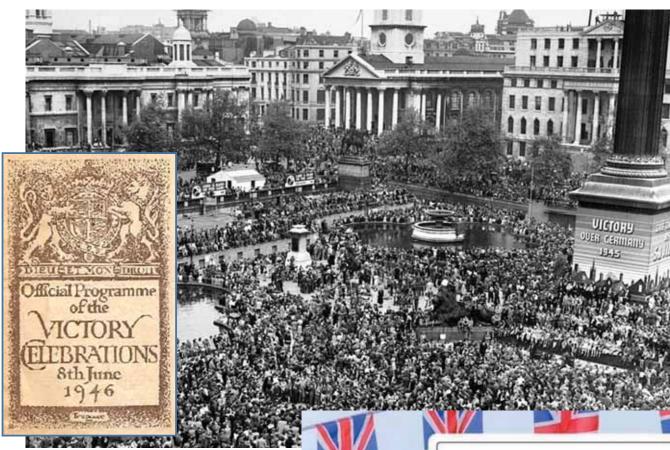






# The Nation Celebrates and Remembers





Friday 8th May marked the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, the moment when fighting stopped on the European battlefields of the Second World War.

The 2020 May bank holiday Monday was moved to mark this event. But in contrast to the celebrations of 1945 we were still in lockdown with social distancing in place.

At 11am, there was a two-minute silence, a moment of remembrance to pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

VE Day 75: The Announcement of Victory, BBC One, 2:45pm. This was a chance to hear Winston Churchill's stirring victory speech when he addressed the British people from Downing Street and announced that war was over in Europe.

# Join your neighbours in a nationwide stay at home street party! Prepare for the day by decorating your house in red, white and blue. 11 am 2 minutes silence on your doorstep

#### Shiii

Churchill speech shown on BBC

Then grab your picnic blankets or garden table and head to your front garden for:

#### 4pm

Tea & scones (or coffee & cake)

#### брт

Dinner and raise your glass to your neighbours

#### 9pm

Nationwide sing-a-long to 'We'll meet again' with Royal British legion after the Queen's address

Please remember to follow the social distancing rules.



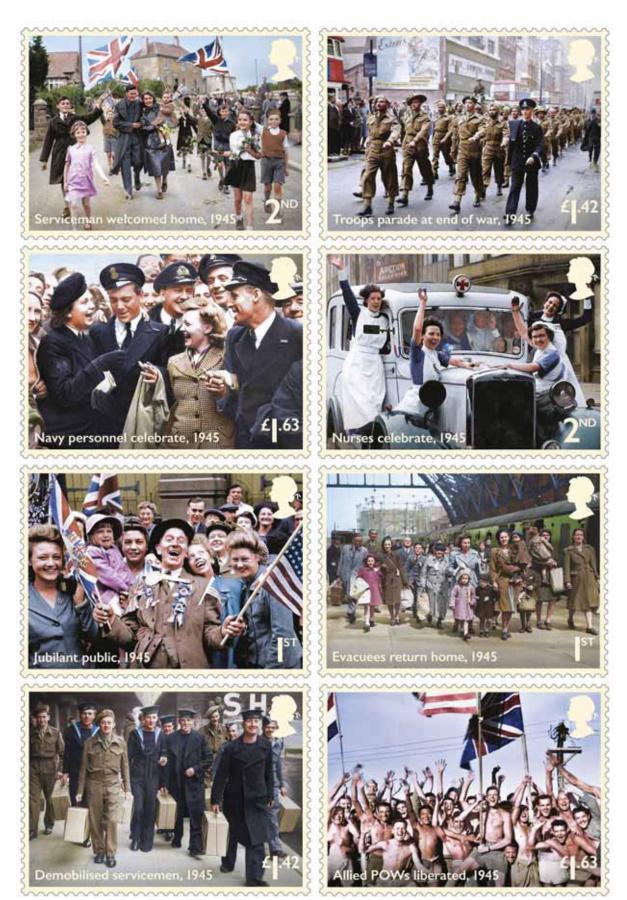
CELEBRATION

8th MAY









The Royal Mail issue of eight stamps which include evocative photographs capturing the relief and jubilation that followed the formal end of the Second World War.







As we face some of the most challenging times since the end of the Second World War, now more than ever it is important to unite in recognition of service to the nation, just as communities did 75 years ago. There are many parallels between the struggles of the Second World War and what we are going through today. We look to our Second World War generation to learn from their experiences.





The nation came together, even when forced apart by lockdown, to remember the end of war in Europe and mark 75 years since VE Day. It was an opportunity for us all to remember the enormous sacrifices that were made at home and abroad and joyously celebrate as people did 75 years ago, the arrival of peace in Europe.

#### Memories of VE Day

#### Phyllis Rowden's VE Day Memories

Phyllis Rowden was 18 years old and living at Lower Bugford Farm at the time of the war and VE Day. The family consisted of Phyllis, her two brothers, John and Wilfred and her mother and father. Her two sisters Blanche and Margaret were living and working at Ash House at the time. The family were gathered in the kitchen to listen to the 9 o'clock news on the radio when Winston Churchill announced the end of the war in Europe. There was great joy and relief in the house that night. The celebrations the following day took place in Blackawton village and Wilfred and the bell ringers rang out the church bells and family, friends and neighbours gathered for great conversations and joy. It was lovely not to hear the sound of the German aircraft going overhead.

#### Sheila Joy's VE Day memories

As a child, Sheila along with her father and mother lived in Mombasa in Kenya during the war. Due to this Sheila had little awareness of the battles going on over Europe. She does remember seeing planes flying over ahead and being excited but not really understanding what was happening. Sheila's father was working on the railways during this time as a Permanent Way Inspector



(this was a Railway Employee who had the responsibility for the condition of the railway track and associated embankments etc in his area of jurisdiction).

Just before the end of the war in Europe, when Sheila was 10 years old, her father received a transfer to Nakuru. So, they packed up their home and belongings and went on an overnight train to their destination. Upon arrival they were greeted with

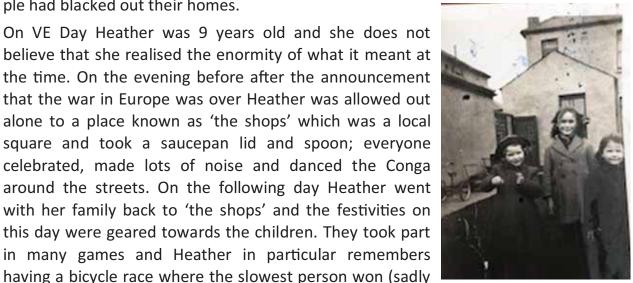


news that it was a bank holiday and that there was no one working that could help them move in to their accommodation. Due to this they had to stay in the Stags Head Hotel for two nights which was exciting in itself (pictured above). Looking back on this memory Sheila now knows that this bank holiday was VE day. Sheila and her parents eventually returned to England and her first outing was for the Queen's coronation in 1953.

#### Heather Robinson's VE Day memories

Heather was only a child during the war and lived with her mother, father and brother. Her father was unable to join the army due to his health. However, as he had particular expertise in mechanical engineering, he was asked to go and work in the 'Royal Ordnance Factory' in Cardiff. So the family left Somerset and relocated. The 'Royal Ordnance Factory was otherwise known as the 'Secret Factory' and Heather remembers that despite the factory being a 'secret' it became a target for the German air force. However, the Germans never achieved their target and instead hit the nearby populace. Heather experienced many air raid sirens and civilian homes destroyed by enemy bombs. As a child she remembers feeling like this became the 'norm' in the area that she lived in and as she walked to school there would be new craters that had appeared overnight. In addition to her father's work in the 'Secret Factory' he was also Air Raid Precautions Warden ensuring that people had blacked out their homes.

On VE Day Heather was 9 years old and she does not believe that she realised the enormity of what it meant at the time. On the evening before after the announcement that the war in Europe was over Heather was allowed out alone to a place known as 'the shops' which was a local square and took a saucepan lid and spoon; everyone celebrated, made lots of noise and danced the Conga around the streets. On the following day Heather went with her family back to 'the shops' and the festivities on

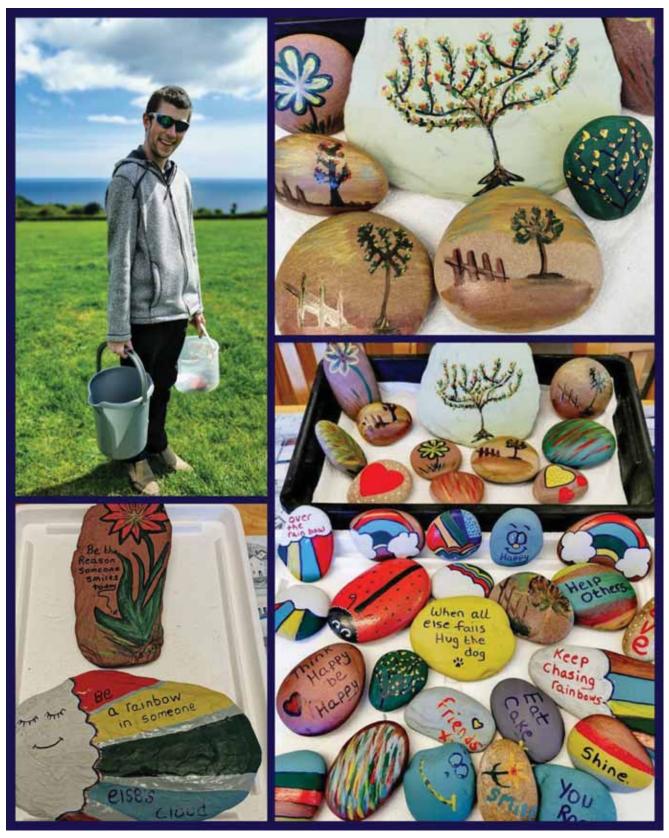


it was not her) with the prize of half a crown. The children also recited poems; Heather was put on a chair outside of the butchers to do her poem. She still remembers the first verse:

> 'The butcher's shop is open wide, so everyone can see inside, he stands there in his coat of blue, and you can see what he can do.'

There was also dancing and Heather remembers doing the Lambeth Walk (The Lambeth Walk is a song from the 1937 musical Me and My Girl and is just an exaggerated idea of how the cockney struts) as well as eating lots of jelly and sandwiches. Heather remembers that there was a tremendous atmosphere of celebration, happiness and release of many emotions that had been pent up over the time we were at war.

(The photograph is of Heather during the war years – she is stood in the middle)



Nick Shepherd has contributed a couple of composites which provide a flavour of the village's support for the NHS and also the stone initiative which has been carried out by Dawn Miller and her son Matthew.

#### "Thank You" to Dawn and Matthew Miller.

Dawn and Matthew have literally spent days painting and distributing the stones with the intention of lifting everyone's spirits whether they are shielding and staying at home or on their daily walk.

Many stones with supportive messages have been left on doorsteps so that they impact whenever the door is opened or when they return home.

In addition, they have been placed at strategic points throughout the village as a reminder that we are all in this together and that as a community



we are here to help and support everyone.

Initially Dawn and Matthew painted hearts and rainbows but more recently have developed their skills further by painting trees, flowers and all things nature. With over 200 stones painted, it is a testament to Dawn and Matthew's ingenuity and commitment. We send our thanks to both of them for brightening up our lives.

"a very thoughtful gesture and specially appreciated very much by those who live alone to know that they are not forgotten" Heather Robinson.

#### 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 23 APRIL 2020 AT 7.00 PM

#### **PRESENT**

Cllr Kate Gill, Chairman (KG); Cllr Ralph Clark (RC); Cllr Louise Newman (LN); Cllr Ian Cumberlidge (IC); Cllr David Rothwell (DR); Cllr Graham Campbell (GC); Cllr Peter Hales (PH); Mrs. Helen Darch – Clerk; two members of the public.

#### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr Green and Ms. Kenny had sent round a report on their planning application for Landcombe House and attended to explain the report and planning situation.

Councillors had read the report and other documents and sent round their comments. All reports submitted to the meeting are on the council website under meetings.

The applicants noted they had received incomplete and conflicting advice from South Hams during their pre-application period. There was some confusion over the status of the House as an undesignated heritage asset and on the materials required for the driveway and entrance. This latter aspect had resulted in the withdrawal of an application for the driveway and entrance. There will be another application put in for the driveway and entrance. RC asked about the status of the plans to develop the barn. It was explained there was an issue with asbestos in the roof which had to be removed. IC noted the barn was a bat sanctuary and this must be considered. Ms. Kenny confirmed that there would be an application submitted for any works to the barn.

#### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

As the County Councillor did not attend this report was not given

#### DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

As the District Councillor did not attend this report was not given.

**O420/1** APOLOGIES – Cllr Julian Brazil, County Councillor, Kingsbridge Division (JB); Cllr Richard Foss, District Councillor, Allington & Strete Ward (RF).

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 19 MARCH 2020**The above minutes were AGREED as a true and correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

#### 0420/3 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.** 

#### 0420/4 PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

**0829/20/HHO.** Retrospective householder application for a new single storey rear extension and external works including alterations to existing garden walls and windows. Resubmission of 2859/19/HHO. Landcombe House Strete TQ6 0RH. As noted in the Public Forum, the householder, Mr Green, had previously circulated a report which explained the plans for the works to the House and some background into the planning process. Councillors had also submitted comments in advance of the meeting. It was resolved to support the application and this was unanimous.

#### 0420/5(a) FINANCE

The Clerk supplied the meeting with a list of cheques for payment. Invoices had been scanned and sent to all councillors electronically before the meeting.

1705 – Mr Chris Ellis £75 for strimming. Agreed and paid at meeting on 19 <sup>th</sup> March.	1706 – HM Land Registry £7 for a copy of the Title Register for the Kings Arms Strete. Cheque raised and sent 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2020.
1707 – Strete Parish Hall hire March £30.	1708 – Compass Electrical Solutions (SW) Ltd rerouting of WIFI hub £135 plus VAT.
1709 – Mr R Clark print costs £24.14 January to March inclusive plus VAT.	1710 – Clerk salary April £249.
1711 – Devon Association of Local Councils annual membership £114 plus VAT.	1712 – South Hams District Council recharges for 2019 parish election £76.12.
1713 – Annual grant to St Michael's Parish Church £220.	1714 – Reimbursement to Clerk £222.10 inc VAT for purchase of barriers for Prideaux Lane.

It was proposed and AGREED by all present to authorise payments as enumerated above. To note receipt of refund of VAT for 2019/20 year £888.53

To note receipt of Locality Budget grant of £250 toward Prideaux Lane works.

#### 0420/5(b) FINANCE

A monitoring report for the new year which commenced 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 had been circulated already along with a cashflow projection. The first projection for 2020/21 to the end of May 2020 gives CR 10,141.59 including a first half precept of £6,500 and council tax support grant. It was agreed the latest monitoring should be published on the website.

Resolved the Clerk would provide the monitoring statements for the website.

#### 0420/5(c) FINANCE

Cash at bank – £6,157.86CR Current account at 08/04/20, £10,293.97CR Business Reserve account at 08/04/20.

#### 0420/6 CLERK'S REPORT

#### The report had been sent round before the meeting.

**Broadband.** The contract for WIFI in the Hall ended this month. The Clerk cancelled the contract for the moment until lockdown rules are relaxed. The contract can be revisited once we can get back into the Hall. '3' quoted £11 per month to renew but as we are governed by lockdown measures it's not sensible to take up the offer at the moment. **For information only.** 

**Zoom.** The Clerk bought a subscription for a month at £11.99 which allows unlimited chat. It's worth keeping an eye on this though as some groups have been allowed un-limited free chat. **For information only.** 

**ACV.** The completed form and related paperwork were submitted on Monday to Rob Sekula at SHDC. **For information only.** 

**Scheme of delegation**. This was brought up at the last meeting. The resolution is for the Clerk and any two councillors can take on delegated powers during the emergency to decide planning applications and finances. With finances, this means paying cheques to suppliers. Invoices would still be circulated but the payment of cheques be done outside council session if necessary. Planning matters would be decided by two councillors with suitable expertise and no interest in the application along with the Clerk.

This means the full council doesn't have to meet to agree these actions though they still can do especially if they decide to continue meeting monthly. These decisions still have to be minuted and reported in the customary way.

Councillors asked about the duration of these delegated powers and which councillors would represent the council. It was confirmed these would only operate as long as the Council met virtually. At the latest this would be early May 2021. In addition, it was a fallback where there was a possibility that not all councillors were available to take decisions especially if these had to be done quickly. PH noted that for the finances that it would make sense for two signatories to work with the clerk. RC observed there had been problems in the recent past when a Clerk had taken on delegated powers and planning decisions made led to 'uproar'.

It was resolved that delegated powers could be employed to raise cheques and pay invoices during the emergency but that these would only be deployed for planning 'as a last resort'. The report was received.

#### 0420/7 UPDATES ON COVID-19

Reports were provided prior to the meeting. Councillors discussed the current state of assistance in the village and whether anything else was needed. It was noted the list of volunteers had not been passed on to the Clerk by the Shop yet. Councillors wondered if anyone was not being helped by any of the local groups or ad hoc arrangements that existed in the village. GC explained the help Dartmouth Caring was providing in the way of meals and other practical tasks and telephone support. There hasn't been any feedback from the Shop on any problems and they seem to have sufficient help. People are doing shopping and collecting prescriptions for their neighbours. It was resolved to let things continue without further intervention unless things deteriorate.

#### 0420/8 CHAIR'S REPORT

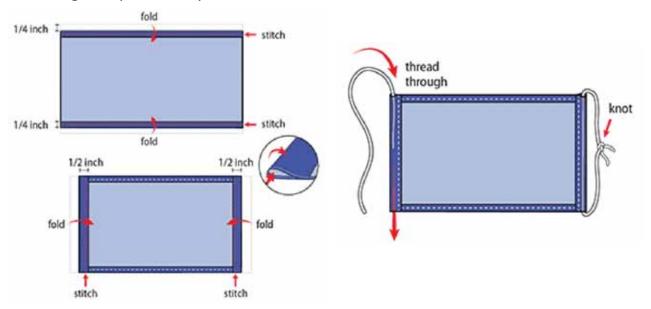
This report was submitted prior to the meeting. 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020\_Firstly a huge thank you to all of our helpful caring souls who are looking after the less able and housebound/locked-down Parishioners. Huge thanks also go to Monica, Andrew and the extended Pound family and their Volunteers for the services they are providing. We are now several weeks into the pandemic. Very fortunately- we in the South West have had relatively few cases compared with the rest of the country and the world. Let's keep it that way! However, there are clearly going to be several weeks more lockdown.

Even so over the last few weeks we have had our share of thoughtless visitors. From what I personally saw and heard reports of - from exceedingly reliable sources - I felt it my duty to report miscreant behaviour officially to the Police who logged my call. As a result, the bad behaviour stopped. I will add that the persons responsible were staying in a holiday/second home and not residents. They have now left the village!

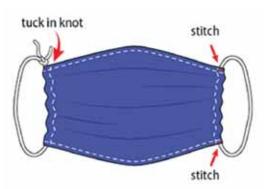
The suggestions in my last report still hold. So that we keep our health slate 'clean' we need to keep up the good work. I thought it might be a good idea to offer some suggestions on PPE. We are all used to the concept that masks are to protect us from breathing in dust and fumes — we now have to turn that idea on its head. Masks now are worn on the assumption that we have the virus and are likely to infect others if we breathe on them — hence social distancing of more than 2metres apart where possible. Bearing in mind that we must continue to wash our hands very thoroughly even though we might be wearing disposable gloves — we can't be sure who has been there before us and contaminated surfaces! Let's look at making some homemade PPE masks. The simplest variety is made from two rectangles of dense cloth stitched together around the edges. Choose old jeans material or something similar for the outer layer and something softer for the inside. You will also require some narrow elastic which will thread through the side slots and will be comfortable around your ears.

**Now the measurements** – for each mask you will need to cut two rectangular pieces of fabric 6 inches by 10 inches plus two pieces of elastic 6 inches by 1/8<sup>th</sup> of an inch. Tape, ribbon or string can be used instead, tied off to the correct length for the wearer.

**Working method/instructions** - place the two pieces of cloth on top of each other. Fold the long edges over by  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and stitch neatly down. Overlock or zigzag any protruding raw edges. Next fold the side edges over by  $\frac{1}{2}$ ". This will be the channel through which you thread the elastic. Stitch down neatly leaving a slot for the elastic. Diagrams provided by CDC – Centre for Disease Control.



Thread the elastic through the side slots using a bodkin or similar and fasten the ends either by sewing neatly with a machine or tie a knot. Check that the length is comfortable for you!! Tuck the join inside the slot and stitch with the side of the mask crumpled as in the diagram. This will mean that the side of the mask fits neatly to the side of your face.





These masks are washable. Make at least two, three if you can – you will always have a spare. If you are able; do make some extra ones for your friends and neighbours. N.B. Look after yourselves STAY SAFE and THANK YOU – NHS. **The Chair's report was received.** 

#### 0420/9 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

This report was submitted prior to the meeting. NP Report for PC – April 2020

Duncan Smith (SHDC) provided details of an email received from Mr Dixon advising that despite problems from the Government imposed lockdown they have been pursuing their researches into the viability of the proposals included in the NP.

The main figure missing from their analysis is that from Western Power Distribution. Western Power have estimated the engineering costs for relocating the sub-station in Cox's Farm Field to be £52,491.71 plus VAT. However Western Power have not yet advised what sum they require as a share of the development value for agreeing to move their sub-station. In addition, there will be professional fees in relation to the land swap with WPD.

In Mr Dixon's opinion the outlook for the viability of CFF site is not promising. Once the final figures from WPD have been provided Mr Dixon has agreed to discuss them with the viability team at Plymouth City Council as well as with his clients.

In addition, Mr Dixon refers to previous emails in which he seeks some further statutory consultations to be undertaken on the proposed enlarged CFF land area.

Subject to the outcome of the Viability Assessment, consultation of the land area in CFF would be the next step.

The Examiner's examination extension is due to expire on 30th April 2020.

It is considered unlikely that all the necessary stages will be completed by this date whilst the present lockdown restrictions are in place.

Mr Dixon has suggested prolonging or deferring the extension indefinitely until the various discussions are complete and the lockdown restrictions have ended.

Duncan has contacted the Examiner and confirmed that Ms McCann is amenable to considering an extension given the progress made and the current circumstances.

However, it has been suggested delaying a formal request for an extension until later in April when perhaps the length of extension required can be confirmed.

Important changes in respect of NPs has been advised by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG).

Regulations linked to the Coronavirus Act 2020 mean that no elections or referendums can take place until 6th May 2021. This includes neighbourhood planning referendums. These provisions will be kept under review and may be amended or revoked in response to changing circumstances. MHCLC understands this will be frustrating for communities that have dedicated significant time and effort to the neighbourhood planning process and naturally want their plans to come into force as soon as possible. With this in mind, they have updated current planning guidance to set out that neighbourhood plans awaiting referendums can be given significant weight in decision making.

There may also be delays in progressing neighbourhood plans due to the social distancing measures currently in place across the UK. The planning guidance update also provides further advice on the implications for conducting publicity & consultation and examinations. **The NP report was received.** 

#### 0420/10 UPDATE ON THE ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE APPLICATION

A report had been sent to all before the meeting. PH updated councillors on the application and the level of support received from parishioners. Over 75 individuals had written to pledge support in a number of ways that included financial backing and practical assistance. PH had also drafted a letter of thanks to the parish for their support and this was to go on the website. Mr Edwards had spoken to RC and PH to let them know he was still interested in the tenancy and looking for new partners as his partner was involved now in his own business. This was also taken in 0420/6, and 0420/14 as the Councillor report. The report was received.

#### 0420/11 UPDATE ON THE SLAPTON LINE

This was not taken as the County Councillor was expected to report into the progress on the monument.

#### 0420/12 UPDATE ON CONTRACTS

Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

**Greenspace.** The grass cutting on the field has resumed and will be monitored. One cut had been done in March. **This was noted.** 

**Broadband.** This was reported on earlier under 0420/6.

#### RC asked for the steps at Strete Gate to be retained on the agenda.

The state of sweeping in the village was discussed. The small sweeper had recently visited Start Bay Park and IC observed it had done a good job to remove the weeds. GC asked if the large sweeper [approved 0120/11d] would deal with road debris as that currently collected at Frogwell. RC confirmed it would if contracted to do so. RC asked that the contract for the big sweeper be retained on the agenda.

#### 0420/13 UPDATE ON THE CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY

No report had been sent before the meeting. Councillors observed pollution had fallen 'monumentally' with the lockdown which must be good for climate change. This was noted.

#### 0420/14 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

**KG (Chair) Playpark.** The grass was cut by Terry Hallet during the lockdown to keep it short. There had been some nuisance with youngsters trying to get into the park and KG and IC have had to evict youngsters from the park despite its closure.

**LN Transport and Roads**. Wheelies were an issue with tyre marks on several roads and in the Strete Gate carpark. Other than that, it was extremely quiet on the roads.

**DR Health and Safety.** DR confirmed the winter service has now come to an end, and snow wardens are being stood down. He had also completed the necessary on line forms registering his availability to carry on next winter.

He will inspect all the grit bins, removing any old grit in readiness for re filling when the time requires. Finally, he will check salt supplies so these are ready for next winter.

IC Rights of Way, tree warden and Strete Gate. Rights of way. These are being used heavily by walkers but there isn't really a lot that can be done to oversee what people do. IC complimented GC on his work with the barriers on Prideaux Lane.

Tree warden. IC had looked at some trees flagged by RC and explained that the drought conditions meant trees tended to conserve water and wait until the rain before they came out. So, the ash down at Strete Gate is waiting for moisture. The sycamore down by the Tannen Land could be a late-leafing one and he was keeping an eye on these trees especially as the recent history of trees being felled there warranted a watching brief. The Monterey pine along Hynetown continued to grow and represent a possible hazard to the road tarmac. Charles Dixon had promised to deal with this when it impinged on Strete Estate land.

**Strete Gate.** IC also noted a large number of cars down at Strete Gate akin to the height of summer. GC commented that this was not flouting government guidelines if people were not driving too far to take their exercise. However, campervans have been seen there which may or may not suggest people using the car park to stay over. 'Tarmac burners' had left rubber marks in the carpark over the weekend and left the barriers open. Unfortunately, the picnic area is now being used as a latrine possibly as the toilets have been closed. Quadbikes are being driven on the beach. IC commented that these could be local fishermen who use them to get down to their fishing spots.

**RC Planning and Neighbourhood Plan.** RC had nothing to add to his earlier report in 0420/9.

PH The VAS sign and local transport liaison. VAS Monitoring. PH asked GC if he had been able to contact Greenspace to add the Devon bank immediately in front of the VAS to their schedule. Work needed to be done imminently. Strimming back the grass and foliage will need to be carried out for a distance of about 60 feet the next two weeks if the continued reliable operation of the VAS is to be maintained. Resolved: GC offered to do the cut now.

#### **Local transport liaison**

Nothing to report.

#### Renewal of the ACV for the Kings Arms

This was also discussed in 0420/6 and 0420/10. The title deeds have been received now and the application submitted to South Hams.

PH also commented on the state of some of the benches around the village. He wondered which belonged to the parish and whether we could get them fixed. IC offered to do works to the bench at Old Hill once materials could be obtained. The bench in Blackbird Wood belongs to the Melro De Smithes Trust and KG will talk with the trustees about repairs to this bench.

There is a fixed asset register which lists all the assets held by the parish. This is attached.

GC village Green. The barriers for Prideaux Lane have arrived and will be fitted by GC subject to lockdown and material availability and keys distributed. 'No vehicle entry' signs have been fitted though one has to be moved to avoid tractor machinery. Currently the lane damage is so hard and dry that seems a roller will not flatten it unless there is a good amount of rain. It might be worth approaching Mark Wall to see if he will do it for the same price as Greenspace quoted as £70 no VAT. The gatepost for village field needs replacement. Best quote seems to be Chris Ellis at £75. Discussion took place on the difference between the quote from Chris Ellis and an earlier quote of £197.60 from Phil Cruse. It was noted the scope of works differed. However, it was resolved the difference between the two quotes was explained.

#### 0420/15 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was circulated as it was received. The Clerk observed the majority of emails received since the last meeting related to the ongoing COVID-19 emergency. These were forwarded to councillors and placed on the website as appropriate for public viewing.

#### 0420/16 REPORTS

LN informed the meeting that Mark Lobb was offering a delivery service for fresh fish in the village at two pick up points. RC replied that the Shop also had some fresh/frozen fish in stock from Beesands. IC updated the meeting on a car abandoned at the top of Start Bay Park. It had a lacerated tyre and a SORN notice. He asked if he could contact the police to report it.

It was resolved IC contact the police to report the car.

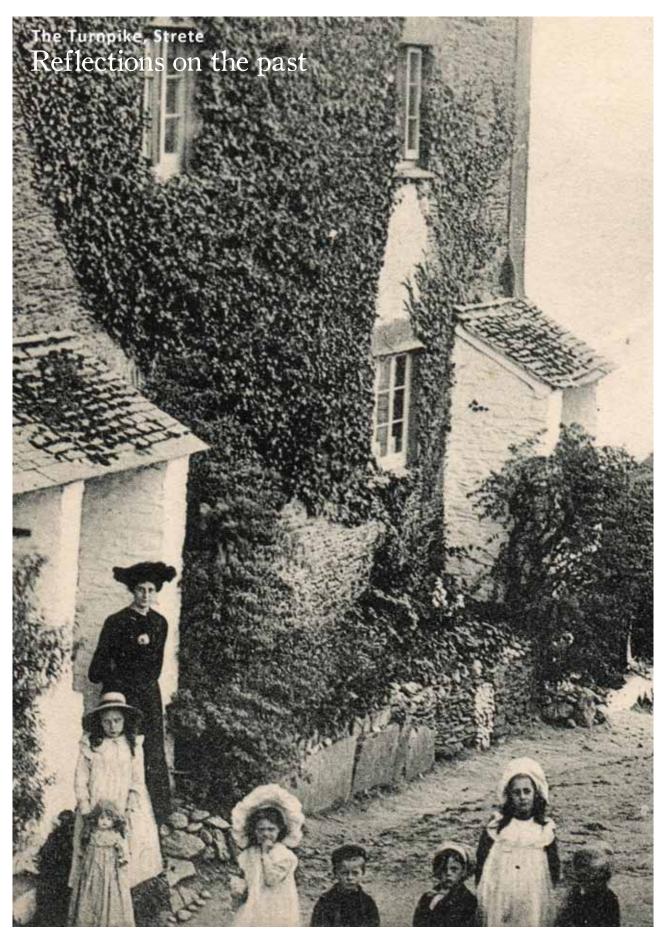
0420/17 THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY 21 MAY 2020 AT 7.00 PM ON ZOOM.

**THE MEETING WAS CLOSED** at 7.53 p.m.

Signed: Cllr Kate Gill (Chair) Dated: 21 MAY 2020

ACTION POINTS: Clerk: to provide the monitoring statements for the website. GC: to cut the growth around the VAS sign, to explain the difference between the two quotes for the gate repair at the Village Green.

IC: to report the abandoned car at the top of Start Bay Park to the police.





# Coronavirus Update Face to Face Services Suspended

We have taken the decision to suspend our face to face services in light of the Coronavirus outbreak. Therefore we are not currently offering advice to the public from our offices or outreach. We apologise for any inconvenience.

We would like to reassure you that our staff and volunteers continue to work behind the scenes and we are able to offer support in the following ways:

Adviceline\*: 03444 111 444 (Monday - Friday 9am - 4pm)

Email: www.southhamscab.org.uk

From the 'Contact us' page select 'Email' and click 'Use our online form'

WhatsApp: 07497 758779

Self Help: www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Letter: Citizens Advice, Follaton House, Plymouth Road, Totnes TQ9 5NE

Our paid staff and volunteers are doing all they can to keep our service operational. However we expect that you may experience a delay before your enquiry is responded to. We apologise for this and hope you will bear with us during these unprecedented times.

Janie Moor Chief Officer

Citizens Advice South Hams

<sup>\*</sup>Calls cost the same as calling landline numbers which begin 01 or 02 and will use minutes from your allowance/package. Your provider will charge you if your package does not include calls to these numbers, if you go over your allowance, or if you do not have a call package. For specific call charges check with your telephone provider.



#### The latest on The Kings Arms at Strete

Starting any business is demanding but the last few weeks has thrown even the most experienced business people. When Dave asked us to write something for Stretewise we had a reasonably clear view of things. But then Cornavirus struck. Now there is so much uncertainty but I thought I could start by trying to answer the questions we are most often asked.

#### What type of pub is it going to be?

We strongly believe it should be more of a village pub and obviously it needs more stability to build momentum. But pubs are changing. We've been looking around the country at the new ways of making village pubs successful. You can't only rely on drinking trade anymore, and the ones that do well play a more central role in the everyday life of the local community. They get used as a meeting place for different groups to come together, and at different times of day. People have mentioned a walking group, a gardeners club, knit and natter, open mike nights, cyclists breakfasts, flower arranging and willow weaving. The list goes on. These are exactly the kind of things we'd love to encourage. Ultimately a good village pub is a place where people feel at home, with a sense of ownership, and are proactive in the way they use it.

#### What will the basic offer be?

To put an end to this open/close cycle that has gone on, the pub needs to appeal across the board, it needs different income streams, and it needs to have the loyal active support of the locals - as well as making the most of the summer trade. Obviously a good pub for a pint or a glass of wine. Good quality, accessible food, for all age groups. To cater for the different groups mentioned above, we might develop the daytime offer differently, so we might experiment with more of a café offering by day. Tied together by a year round activities' calendar, in a more cosy, relaxed environment, making the most of that beautiful view to the coast and the sea.

#### What is the current status?

As it stands, the honest answer is: hard to say. We had planned to open for Easter. We had a manger lined up and we were close to making the kitchen operational when the coronavirus struck. Charlie then had to focus on his existing business at Bayards Cove. Then pubs closed across the country. And now we're doing home schooling! I'm not a publican so I'm looking for help and talking to various people. Let's see where we get to in the coming weeks before committing to a timeline. But, if we can get the stars to align, it shouldn't be too long before the pub is open and serving the community. **Andy Edwards** 



#### Private Domestic Renters Rights to a Warm Home

Citizens Advice South Hams reminds landlords of domestic rental property, of the fast approaching deadline to make sure they meet requirements for minimum energy efficiency standards. The Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES) legislation was introduced in 2015 and it governs efficiency in buildings with tenancies. From 2018 landlords were prohibited from granting new tenancies for properties with an EPC rating below E. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, all existing tenancies which require an EPC will need to have a minimum E rating

Local authorities will enforce compliance and non-compliant landlords could face a financial penalty of up to £4,000.

Nick White of the local charity Citizens Advice South Hams says, "The law is changing soon and, if they haven't already, landlords of private domestic properties must take steps to make sure that homes they rent are energy efficient. By April 2020 any landlord who owns a property with an EPC rating of F or below will no longer be able rent it out to a new tenant or renew an existing contract. **Energy inefficient domestic properties, will no longer be able to be lawfully rented**. The rentability of their property will be severely affected and if they receive a penalty for noncompliance the rateable value of their property could be increased.

Citizens Advice South Hams can also provide help and support to anyone struggling with heating costs or keeping their home warm, comfortable and healthy. We can advise anyone who suspects their home isn't compliant with the new Energy Performance Ratings (EPC). And we have a home visiting service to help residents tackle situations such as draught or damp and mould, bills being too high for no apparent reason and heating systems that don't work or are broken. In some cases, residents may be eligible for funding of up to 100% towards energy efficiency improvements such as insulation, upgrading electric storage radiators and new boilers."

To contact Citizens Advice South Hams Energy Team call 01803 659733 and leave a message, an adviser will ring you back or email <a href="mailto:energy.advice@southhamscab.org.uk">energy.advice@southhamscab.org.uk</a>

# School Term Dates 2020-21 Academic Year

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Harraton Cross	0711	0811	0948	1048	1148	1248	1348	1458	1603	7	803	903	Ü	Office	1331	1811
Aveton Gifford Post Office	0718	8180	0955	1055	1155	1255	1355	1505	1610	8	5	016	Ü		1334	1814
Churchstow Post Office	0725	0825	1002	1102	1202	1302	1402	1512	1617			1917	ĭ		1339	1819
Kingsbridge Bus Station arr	0738	0838	1015	11115	1215	1315	1415	1525	1630	6	830 1	930	S		1341	1821
	010	CHO	010	000	010	010	oro	OIIO	010		oro		S		1348	1828
Kingsbridge Bus Station dep	0745	0880	1020	1120	1220	1320	1420	1535	1635	П	835		8	ds	1353	1833
West Charleton Village Hall	0751	0858	1028	1128	1228	1328	1428	1543	1643		843		S		1358	1838
Frogmore Bridge	0757	0903	1033	1133	1233	1333	1433	1548	1648	7	848		٥	Dartmouth Pontoon	1410	1850
Chillington Post Office	0802	0907	1037	1137	1237	1337	1437	1552	1652 1	752 1	852					
Carehouse Cross	0808	1160	1041	1141	1241	1341	1441	1556	1656	8	928					
Torcross Stores	0813	9160	1046	1146	1246	1346	1446	1601	1701		106					
Slapton Turn	0815	0919	1049	1149	1249	1349	1449	1604	1704	804	904					
Strete Kings Arms	0822	9760	1056	1156	1256	1356	1456	1191	1711	111811	911					
Blackpool Sands	0827	0931	11011	1201	1301	1401	1501	9191	1716	Ξ	916					
Stoke Fleming	0832	0935	1105	1205	1305	1405	505	1620	1720		920					
Dartmouth Pontoon	0849	0953	1123	1223	1323	1423	1523	1638	1738	1838 1	935					

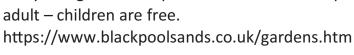
#### Stretewise Crossword - Answers

Across 1: Naphtha 3: Comet 7: Rack 9: Unsaid 10: Anon 11: Alto 12: Detour 15: Elude 17: Atelier 18: Tiber 21: Retinas 24: Kemp 25: Tulip 26: Drab 27: Boar 28: Agony 29: Adze

**Down** 1: Narrates 2: Hymns 4: Onset 5: Tudor 6: Pundit 8: Cut-out 13: Ulema 14: Deb 16: Dioptra 17: Arraign 20: Besom 21: Indra 23. Sable

#### The secret seaside gardens of Blackpool Devon.

In Spring 2000, Sir Geoffrey Newton Bt. set about the restoration of the garden established in 1896 by his ancestor, Robert Lydston Newman, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, on land which had already been in the family for almost 100 years. Robert's eldest son, Sir Ralph Newman BT. extended the garden adding to the collection of semi-tropical plants gathered from the four corners of the world. Open every day from April to the end of September 10am to 4pm, subject to weather conditions. For further information, or to leave a message, please telephone 01803 771801. Entry charges to Blackpool Gardens are £3.00 per adult — children are free.





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TQ6 9LW		2.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. (High)	£3.00
	Coaches	All day (Low Season)	FREE
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