



STRETEWISE

The Village Magazine

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October - November 2024
Vol 33:05

Slapton Ley Guided Walk

Friday 25 Oct 2024 09:00 - 10:30



The Slapton Ley Field Centre Education Team

Join us for an exciting guided walk at **Slapton Ley**, a stunning nature reserve located near **Kingsbridge**. Explore the beautiful **landscape** and immerse yourself in the wonders of this unique area. Our ranger Kieran will lead you through the **reserve**, sharing fascinating insights about the local flora and fauna. This is a great opportunity to learn firsthand what goes into managing and maintaining a nature reserve. This in-person event is a fantastic opportunity to connect with nature and learn more about the incredible biodiversity of Slapton Ley. Don't miss out on this unforgettable experience! This event is suitable for all ages!

Please note:

Access may be limited depending on weather.

Please wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather.

Location:

Field Studies Council - Slapton Ley, Sands Road, Slapton, Kingsbridge.

Event lasts 1 hour 30 minutes.

Slapton Research Seminar (and Marketplace of Ideas)

Saturday 9th November 2024 Slapton Village Hall

Slapton & Slapton Field Centre, Slapton Ley, Field Studies Council and National Nature Reserve is delighted to invite you to our annual Research Seminar, hosted on Saturday 9th November at Slapton Village Hall, Slapton.

This year's event will once again showcase the incredible research conducted in and around Slapton Ley and the surrounding area, with talks from researchers, academics and volunteers in the morning. But this year, running after lunch, we'll be introducing a new session, which we're calling a 'Marketplace of Ideas'. This will be more of a 'meet-and-greet' style session where people can network, share ideas and learn more about wider projects taking place in South Devon, with a range of stands for local charities and organisations. For over 30 years, the Slapton Ley NNR and Field Centre have been hosting an annual research seminar, attracting participants from across the country.

The seminar provides a platform for a diverse range of research interests linked to this unique region. Last year's seminar saw attendees from various backgrounds come together to share their findings, engage in stimulating discussions, and forge valuable connections.





Strete Craft Group

Strete Craft group started earlier in the year and is a small group of people who knit, crochet, sew and embroider. We decided to create a post box topper and as you have seen we succeeded.

A real team effort, Hilary made the fish. Joan the crab, Heather the lobster and Jane crocheted the base. It has been a lot of fun and the village should look out for our next project.



Bow

Ash

Pleasant Valley

Bowden

Rock Vale

Defibrillator Training

Monday 7th October, at 6.30 pm
in the Strete Village Hall

South West Ambulance will be holding
their annual defibrillator training.

This is a hands-on demonstration into
the use of the defibrillator.

Everyone welcome.

Stretton Fleming

Blackpool

Strete



Strete Gate



Slapton

Defib finder
Powered by (The Grid)

Strete Chapel



Greetings from the fellowship to all in the village!



We are continuing to meet every Sunday at 11am in the chapel building. We hope you have all enjoyed the summer. We have had a lovely time as a fellowship over the holidays and have enjoyed many visitors during this period. We have also been blessed through shared ministry with Devon Christian Youth Camps who are located in Strete over the summer break. For more information go to <https://www.dcyv.org.uk/>.

This summer I have enjoyed seeing the many boats, cruise liners and yachts going in and out of Dartmouth harbour. The regatta was a particular highlight celebrating the ports link to the river and the sea.

In one of her many beautiful quotes Corrie Ten Boom reminds us using the analogy of sailing how important prayer is to our lives. As Christians' prayer is central to our relationship with God. We are told in Philippians 4 v6-7 '**Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**'

How amazing is it that we can speak with God whenever and where ever we are. This is something not to be taken for granted.

Why not try today?



HARVEST

Thanksgiving Service

Strete Chapel

Sunday 6th October

11.am

(Followed by lunch at the Parish Hall

R.S.V.P. if possible 01803 770256)

Speaker: Robert Partridge



Young Searchers

Young searchers is a children's club that includes games, crafts and teaching of bible stories. We have started to meet again (term time only) from 5-6pm in the Chapel every Thursday. Please come along if interested.



Sunday School

We are meeting together on a Sunday to learn more about Jesus. If interested please enquire at the start of a Sunday service or email



stretechapel@gmail.com for more information.



St. Michael's

Dates of forthcoming events

28nd September at 3.00 p.m.

Cream Tea at Winter Cottage

Open to all Cost £5.00

15th December Carol Songs of Praise

17th December CAROL SERVICE followed by wine and mince pies

22nd December No Service here we join the Chapel for their Carol Service

24th December Crib Service at 4.00 p.m. with Vicar





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

The Village Hall is run by a Committee which is becoming increasingly concerned about falling numbers of Committee members.

If we cannot find replacements, we cannot run the hall and it would have to close!

**DO YOU WANT THIS TO HAPPEN?
IS THE HALL AN IMPORTANT PART
OF THE VILLAGE?**

WE THINK IT IS BUT WE NEED HELP!

If you would be interested in helping to keep this important village asset open, please get in touch with Penny 771005 or p.g.penhale@hotmail.com

Creatures of the Night (2) Steve Smith

A few months ago I suggested that readers look out for bats and glow-worms this summer. I wonder if you did look, and if you found any. By half-way through July I had despaired of seeing either. In fact nearly everything in the natural world seemed to be either delayed or missing this year. However I was eventually



delighted to find a couple of female glow-worms in the front garden putting on a good bright show for any passing male. (Females glow the brightest, but cannot fly (or eat!); males are less luminous, and are able to fly to find a mate). I was encouraged to explore further, and was rewarded one evening to find four of these glowing marvels on a short dark walk at Slapton Ley, and another at the little reserve at Strete Gate.

Bats, too, eventually put in an appearance on Prideaux Lane.

Over the years, I have put up a few bat boxes in trees, but it's not easy to tell if the bats are using them or not. I don't know what variety of bats they are locally as I don't have a bat detector. Any ideas? **Contact Steve at sjcsmith1@outlook.com**

Sweet Peas

Sweet peas are mainly annuals with a few perennial exceptions. The annual varieties tend to be highly fragrant and the vines tall and packed with flowers, the perennials don't tend to have a scent. They are grown up canes, with the new shoots being regularly pinched out to promote a bushy habit and higher flower yields. Plants typically reach heights of (3 ft 3 in – 6 ft 7 in), with the flowers appearing in midsummer and continuing for many weeks into October if regularly deadheaded.

Plant sweet pea seeds in autumn or spring. When plants are 10cm tall, pinch out the tips to encourage bushy growth. Plant out in mid-spring and keep well-watered.

Most varieties have tendrils that will 'self-cling' to supports, but some sweet peas will need tying in. Start feeding sweet peas with a high potash fertiliser when flower buds appear. Regular picking encourages more flowers to form.

Pea-like flowers come in shades of white, pink, coral, red, violet and blue, some combining two colours.

Pastel shades are especially popular and petal edges may be wavy or outlined with a contrasting colour (picotee). A new sweet pea from New Zealand is probably the closest to yellow that we have called 'Primrose' For centuries breeders have been working to develop a yellow flowered sweet pea. This one is the closest we have.

Some sweet peas are renowned for their long stems 'Mammoth Salmon Cream' or 'Mammoth Crimson' with large fragrant blooms. Some of these stems are 18 inches long, with blossoms nearly 2-3 inches in diameter.



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Autumn is always a vibrant time of year at the Kings Arms. The community took over the pub four years ago in October 2020 and every year there's been a number of great things to do at the Kings Arms in October.

The **Autumn Menu** has already launched and **Sunday Roasts** are back. New additions to the menu include Mussels with Leeks, Whipped

Feta and Teriyaki Chicken Wings along with established favourites like Pan Seared Hake, Smashed Steak Burger and of course Beer Battered Haddock & Chips. The team are very proud of this new menu but if you need further convincing check out the excellent reviews on Google and Trip advisor.

A highlight of October is invariably the **Family Halloween Fancy Dress Event**. As well as fancy dress prizes, there is a Scariest Pumpkin competition, face painting and crafting. Afterwards, seeing is believing as a marauding gang of little ghosts and ghouls maraud around the village on the search for tricks or treats. Each year, the generosity of people around the village offering treats is wonderful. If you'd like to join in, please email the pub in advance or leave a pumpkin outside your front door. Always on the nearest Sunday to Halloween itself, this year it falls on Sunday November 3rd from 3pm. Always busy, this is one to book.

Returning after last's year's successful inaugural event is **Traditional Apple Pressing** on Sunday 13th October in the afternoon (timing to be confirmed). As well as a traditional hand turned apple press that's over 100 years old, the plan is to have a hog roast and some live music. Please bring along your pre-washed apples to make some apple juice, cider...or vinegar if you're that way inclined. Last year's event was a big success and very popular so please book ahead.

After a summer break, September saw the return of the highly enjoyable and well supported Open Mic Night. October's **Open Mic Night** is on Thursday 17th at 7.30pm. Each month there are a range of top notch players covering a range of musical styles. If you fancy playing, just pop along and say hello. This month saw the introduction of some mean blues harmonica playing. Full menu available.

The **Village Lunch**, back after it's summer break, is on Thursday 24th at 1pm. An affordable two course lunch and a great chance to meet old and new friends. Please get in touch with Jon to find out more.

In the evening of Thursday 3rd at 7pm, it's the disputatious **Book Club's** usual monthly gathering, a hot bed of a gentle intellectual virtuosity, everyone is welcome.

As everyone knows, every Wednesday is Jon's popular **Weekly Quiz**. The quiz starts at 7.30pm and there seems to be a different winner each week so it really is a quiz for everybody. Wednesday also see the usual **Artisan Pizza Pop-up**, the best pizzas around.

If you are not doing the quiz, pop in for a drink while you wait for your order your pizza. Elliot and Jon have been working on the **Christmas Menu**. The plan is to offer traditional Christmas Dinners for parties of all sizes from the end of November through to Christmas. Full details will be published very soon. For larger parties of 8 or more, there is a pub voucher for the organizer. Don't forget, unlike in Dartmouth, parking is free if you have your Christmas get-together at the Kings Arms.

Autumn hours sees the pub once again close Monday and Tuesday – it's just not worth opening at this time of year, we lose money – opening for the quiz on Wednesday evening, then open through to Sunday. Full details below.

A word on the business. We know some people think things could be done differently but pretty much everything is considered and a view is taken. Jon and the committee welcome any suggestions. In reality, village pubs are under threat everywhere. The BBC reported that pub closures in England were up 51% in the first 6 months of 2024. We can't kid ourselves: running a community pub is a constant stream of challengers and it is unlikely to ever become easy. But from October our community pub has been open now for four years and with your support it can continue to stay open. There are three things you can help with:

One, visit more. There seems to have been a tail off, and no doubt people have their reasons, but it's our pub and those reasons will be irrelevant if it's gone.

The impact on our community - and indeed our house prices - will be significant.

Two, volunteer. Volunteering a few hours in the bar can make a meaningful difference to whether a day is profitable or loss making. The committee is also in desperate need of further support, especially with fundraising and grant applications.

Three, subscribe. If you are interested in this, please see the information on the next two pages.

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

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

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

For other enquiries, please contact info@kingsarmsatstrete.

Opening Hours:

Wednesday 5-10pm Pizza Pop-up and Weekly Quiz

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

Saturday 12-10pm

Sunday 12-6pm



The Kings Arms: Fundraising

You can now become a subscriber to the Kings Arms! Why are we doing this when many of you have already contributed a considerable amount?

The Kings Arms Committee has worked hard to ensure sound management of the business, but realistically, trade cannot be accelerated to the extent needed in a village the size and demographic of Strete, especially when set against a particularly brutal economic environment. We have no other option but to raise additional funds for the foreseeable future to offset anticipated losses of c. £45 - £50k annually. (*We'll provide more detail about these numbers in a later newsletter and can be discussed at the AGM later in the year.*) In order to meet the shortfall, we have a multi-pronged approach to raising funds to ensure the future of our pub. But of course...

We continually seek creative ways to grow trade, and push down hard on costs to maximise profits. There have been numerous improvements but keeping a rural pub open will never be easy. Good summers are critical. In the past the committee have used share offers to raise additional funds. This time, rather than another share offer, we aim to do this via a subscription scheme, which we consider to be a fair way of sharing the cost across a broader base and is, hopefully, a more affordable means for more people to contribute. This small monthly payment is akin to a Netflix or magazine subscription. Other community ventures have done this and it has proven successful.

We have three recommended subscription levels: **Bronze** at £10, **Silver** at £20, and **Gold** at £30 per month. Subscribers will be in control of their payments and can cancel at any time. Ordinarily, a different level of subscription would afford different levels of privilege, but that is not the case here. We have explored doing so, but it would cause unintended and unwelcome consequences, detracting from the benefits to the pub and the purpose of this scheme. It is simply that multiples of relatively small monthly payments, with people paying what they can afford, will help keep the pub afloat.

We have already had pledges to subscribe from some shareholders and prospective benefactors. The Kings Arms will, of course, seek additional avenues of funding. We are approaching local benefactors and businesses, for whom preserving the pub within the village is particularly important, and we will run fundraising campaigns throughout the year that reach a wider audience in the effort to spread the financial load beyond the village.

The Kings Arms isn't just a pub — it's our pub, and it's where community spirit thrives.

The pub has been a cornerstone of our village life for generations. Community involvement helps preserve this rich heritage for years to come. In an age of digital connectivity, the pub offers irreplaceable face-to-face interactions where friendships are forged, strengthening the bonds that make our village special.

By keeping the Kings Arms thriving, we're supporting other local businesses that rely on the pub's presence and custom. From celebratory pints to Sunday roasts, the pub is where experiences are shared and lasting memories are made. The pub serves as a vital social hub, combating isolation and promoting mental health through regular social interactions.

If you can help, please complete the standing order form.

Support the Kings Arms Subscribe today!

To Friends of the Kings Arms.

First and foremost, thank you for doing this, your support plays a crucial role in preserving our pub.

Restricted by our bank from offering a direct debit payment route, **we ask that you set up a standing order with your bank.**

This is almost as convenient, and importantly allows you to maintain your generous support while giving you full control over your donations.

A step-by-step guide for setting up a standing order is provided aside, and here is the detail you will need:

Account Name: Stirete Community Pub Limited
Swift Code (BIC): NWBKGB2L
IBAN Number: GB93NWBK60023571418024
Sort Code: 608301
Account Number: 20428277

Please also include the appropriate reference with your monthly payment, reflecting either £30 (gold), £20 (silver) or £10 (bronze) monthly payments.

Reference: GOLDDONATION
SILVERDONATION
BRONZEDONATION

Payment date: 1st day of each month

Ideally, we ask that you set up the standing order for the first day of each month, continuing indefinitely. If your circumstances change, you can easily modify or cancel your standing order at any time without providing notice - you will be in control.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to keeping the Kings Arms alive. Every contribution helps!

If you have questions or need help with setting up your standing order, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to help.

With huge appreciation,

The Stirete Community Pub Limited Committee

How to Set Up a Standing Order:

You can do this simply by visiting your local bank branch or calling your bank's customer service line, but for those preferring online banking...

1. Log in to your online banking or mobile banking app.
2. Look for an option like 'Payments' or 'Transfer money'.
3. Select 'Set up a standing order' or 'Regular payments'.
4. Enter the details given above, as requested.
5. Choose the amount you wish to donate monthly.
6. Set the payment date (1st of each month) and frequency (monthly).
7. Enter the appropriate reference - e.g., GOLDDONATION - in the reference field.
8. Select the end date as 'Until further notice' or leave it blank for an indefinite period.
9. Review all details - there's a lot of numbers there! - and confirm the standing order setup.

KINGS ARMS, STRETE

New Autumn Menu



KINGS ARMS

Small Plates

Fresh Local Mussels – In Cider with Diced Apple, Leek and Bacon, with crusty bread	£10.50
Fresh Scallops , with Citrus Beurre Blanc and crispy Fennel	£12.50
Teriyaki Chicken Wings , with Coriander, Yoghurt and fresh Lime	£9.50
Whipped Feta , Lemon zest, Pistachio crumb and Truffle oil, served with Sourdough (V)	£8.50
BBQ Sweet Potato Croquettes , with Mozzarella Ranch Dressing (PB) (V)	£8.50

Mains

Beer Battered Haddock & Chips – Garden peas, homemade Tartare Sauce.	£17.50
Scampi & Chips – served with Buttered Garden Peas, chips and Tartare sauce	£16.50
Oven Roasted Butternut Squash, Tagliatelle – with crispy Sage & Pancetta	£17.50
Pan Seared Hake – With spiced Chickpea Ragout and fresh Samphire	£19.50
Fresh Local Mussels – In Cider with Diced Apple, Leek and Bacon. with Fries (GF)	£17.50
8 oz Ribeye Steak – served with Peppercorn sauce, Fries, Field Mushroom and Grilled Tomato	£22.50
Smashed Steak Burger , - with Dill Pickles, American Cheese, Mustard Aioli And Fries,	£17.50
Add Bacon	£1.00
Moving Mountain Vegan Burger , gherkin, salad and vegan mayo served with skin on fries	£15.50
Add Vegan Cheese	£1.00

Sides Chips - £4.00 Fries - £4.00 Cheesy Fries - £4.50 Garlic Bread - £4.00 Cheesy Garlic Bread - £4.50 Green Leaf Salad - £4.00

Today's Special

Crab, Mussels Chilli Linguine - with fresh lime and coriander	£18.50
Roasted Red Pepper & Courgette Linguine – With Tomato and Basil (PB)	£17.50

A selection of Desserts are listed on the Blackboards - Please ask a server for assistance.

All our food is prepared from fresh so at busy times there could be a wait. Please bear with us

Food Allergens and Intolerances: Before ordering your food and drinks, please speak to a member of the team if you want to know more about the ingredients in any of our dishes.

Service is not included. All gratuities are distributed to the team who served you today.



Sunday Menu

Small Plates

Prawn Cocktail , with Salad & Marie Rose Sauce and Granary bread.	£8.50
Honey & Mustard Elston Farm Sticky Sausages with a Mustard mayo dip.	£7.50
Hummus, crispy shallot , harissa oil and toasted flatbread with garlic butter. (V) (PB)	£7.50
Cauliflower Bites , on a bed of fresh mango salsa, toasted sesame and coriander. (V) (PB)	£7.50
Sticky Chicken Wings with toasted sesame, sweet chilli and coriander.	£8.00
Lamb Kofta – served with Tzatziki and toasted garlic and parsley flatbread.	£9.00
Crispy Salt n Pepper Calamari – with salad and Garlic Mayo.	£9.00

Roasts

Roast Topside of Elston Farm Beef – Yorkshire Pudding, Roasted herb potatoes, Sticky Sausage, Sage & Onion Stuffing and a rich gravy	£18.50
Roast Breast of Elston Farm Turkey – Sage & Onion Stuffing, Sticky Sausage, Yorkshire pudding, Roasted herb potatoes, and a rich gravy	£18.50
Roasted Vegan Wellington – Roasted herb potatoes, and a rich gravy (V) (PB)	£18.50
Today's Special – Honey Roasted Ham – Apple sauce, Yorkshire Pudding, Roasted herb potatoes, Sticky Sausage, and a rich gravy	£18.50

All served with Sweet roasted Carrots, Braised Red Cabbage, Savoy Cabbage, and Cauliflower Cheese
available Gluten Free upon request

A selection of Desserts are listed on the Blackboards- Please ask a server for assistance.

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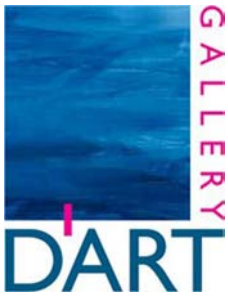
Gluten Free dishes are available, please ask your server about Gluten Free options

Service is not included. All gratuities are distributed to the team who served you today.

Stewart Edmondson is a contemporary Landscape Artist based in Dartmoor National Park in Devon.

His large scale mixed media and watercolour paintings feature in fine art collections around the world.





'Out of the Marvellous' - Stewart Edmondson Solo Show at Dart Gallery
'Out of the Marvellous', a solo show of new work by South Devon artist Stewart Edmondson, launches at Dart Gallery this October half term. The show will comprise over 30 wonderful new paintings. Working on location and in his studio on Dartmoor, Stewart captures the brooding moors, the beautiful River Dart and the timeless South Hams coast in his intense, poetic works. You may well have spotted Stewart working on the banks of the Dart or down on Strete Gate Beach.

Stewart describes his process thus: 'Painting for the Dart Gallery, I go out to places in Devon I really love, I walk, scramble, sit and wait. I sketch, drink tea and gaze into the distance of the marvellous (landscape) and wait for the light to catch. It is the light catching, touching something that brings the painting to life for me. Whether it's the fizzing light kissing the wet granite of a tor up on the moor, or sun behind a cloud, it's light racing across the surface of the sea; the effect is electric. I paint quickly, trying to even just get a touch of that fleeting magic.'

Stewart will be in the gallery for the First View from 6pm on Saturday 26th October. It's the perfect opportunity to meet Stewart and choose your favourite from one of the largest collections of his wonderful work.

'Out of the Marvellous', a solo show of new work by Stewart Edmondson, launches on Saturday 26th October with a First View from 6pm.

Dart Gallery 4 Lower Street Dartmouth Devon TQ6 9AJ
More details: www.dart-gallery.com 01803 834923



A solo show of over 30 new paintings inspired by the South Hams and Dartmoor
Join us at the gallery for the First View from 6.00pm on Saturday 26th October



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BONKERS FOR CONKERS

The first known reference to the game of 'Conkers' using the horse chestnut fruit was on the Isle of Wight in 1848. Prior to this a similar game had been played using sea shells and hazelnuts or cob nuts.

It is unclear how the game came to be called conkers it may have come from a local dialect word for

'hard nut', or from the French 'conque' (conch shell) when the game was originally played with seashells, or 'cogner', meaning 'to hit'.

Horse chestnut trees were not introduced to this country from the Balkans until towards the end of the 16th century. In England the game is known as 'conkers' but different regions had their own names for the game, such as 'cheggars' in Lancaster and references in literature such as 'cobblers' in 'Sons and Lovers' by D H Lawrence. In Puerto Rico the game of conkers is known as 'gullets' and in the USA the game is known both as 'conkers' but also as 'buckeyes'.

The World Conker Championships began in 1965 when a group of anglers in Ashton held a conker contest at the Chequered Skipper public house. The event was held in Ashton for 45 years before moving to a larger venue at the Shuckburgh Arms in Southwick, Northamptonshire in 2009. The tournament has been threatened with conker shortages over the years, late frost killing off the horse chestnut blossom resulting in a failed conker harvest.



WORLD CONKER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Set in the county of Northamptonshire, the World Conker Championships take place each year on the 2nd Sunday of October, in the village of Southwick. Hosted in the grounds of the local pub, the Shuckburgh Arms.

The Rules:

- 1: All conkers and laces are supplied by the World Conker Championships. Laces must not be knotted further or tampered with. Conkers are drawn 'blind' from a bag, players may reject up to three selected conkers.
- 2: The game will commence with the toss of a coin, the winner of the toss may elect to strike or receive.
- 3: A minimum distance of no less than 20cm of lace must be between knuckle and nut for both striking and receiving players.
- 4: Each player takes three alternate strikes at the opponent's conker.
- 5: Each attempted strike must be clearly aimed at the nut with reasonable force.
- 6: The game will be decided once one of the conkers is smashed. A small piece of nut or skin (a third or less) remaining shall be judged out; it must be enough to mount an attack.
- 7: If both nuts smash at the same time, then new conkers shall be drawn.
- 8: Any nut being knocked from the lace but not smashing may be re-threaded and the game continued, or the player may choose to draw a new conker.
- 9: A player causing a knotting of the laces (a snag) will be noted, three snags will lead to disqualification.
- 10: If a game lasts for more than five minutes, then the '5-minute rule' will come into effect. Each player will be allowed nine further strikes at their opponent's nut, alternating three strikes each. If neither conker has been smashed during this time, then the player who strikes the nut the most times during this period will be judged the winner.



Aesculus hippocastanum

(horse chestnut tree or 'conker tree')

The largest horse chestnut tree in the UK has a girth of 7.33 metres. It is 300 years old and stands in the grounds of Disraeli's former home on the Hughenden Estate in Buckinghamshire

Horse chestnuts (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) a non-native species to the UK, introduced in the 16th century from Turkey, and planted widely in parks, streets and gardens.

This is why you rarely find them in woodlands.

In winter and early spring, you can identify horse chestnuts by their buds, which are large, dark reddish-brown, oval shaped, and sticky. By May the trees flower, producing individual flowers with 4 or 5 petals in a white and pale pink colour.

Conkers grow in bright green cases, with a couple of dozen short spikes. The conkers burst out of their cases and drop to the ground in autumn. Conker season is thought to start around September and October, however, this can be affected by the climate factors.

Records show that extracts from Horse Chestnuts have been used to treat malaria, frostbite and even ringworm.

Conkers have been fed to horses as a stimulant, to make their coat shine and as a remedy for coughs, and also made into food for both horses and cattle.

Conkers contain a poisonous chemical called aesculin. Eating a conker is unlikely to be fatal, but it may make you ill. They are poisonous to most animals though, including dogs, but some animal species such as deer and wild boar can eat them.



There are many large sweet chestnut trees throughout Europe, but none can match up to the Hundred Horse Chestnut in eastern Sicily. The exact age of the Hundred Horse Chestnut has estimates varying wildly from 2000 to 4000 years. Rooted less than 5 miles from the active volcano it has survived countless eruptions.

The tree named Hundred Horse Chestnut after the Queen of Naples sheltered from a severe thunderstorm during her visit to Mount Etna providing cover to both her and her company of 100 mounted knights and retainers until the storm blew over. The tree is located in the wood of Carpineto, on the eastern slope of the Etna volcano, near zone D of the Etna park.



Castagnu di Centu Cavaddi in Sicilian

The Horse Chestnut fruit the Conker has had many things attributed to it but one of the most surprising is its part in Britain's WW1 war effort. Cordite is a member of a family of gaseous chemicals used to make smokeless explosives.

From the late 19th century, it replaced black gunpowder as the main propellant for firearms and artillery, and during the First World War huge quantities of it were needed. A vital ingredient in its manufacture was a solvent called acetone.

Although some acetone was produced in Britain, most imported from countries like the United States. Low stocks became a crucial issue from 1914 onwards, and it was clear that an alternative domestic supply would be needed. One substitute came through the science of biotechnology. Chaim Weizmann, a research chemist at the University of Manchester discovered a bacterium that could produce acetone from maize.

In April 1915 a full-scale factory to manufacture maize-derived acetone was built the Royal Naval Cordite Factory at Holton Heath.

German U-boats threatened the ships that carried the maize needed for the fermentation process. A new source of starch was required.

In the autumn of 1917 schoolchildren and Scouts were asked to collect horse chestnuts and acorns, specifically 'without the green husks'. It was never explained to them exactly why this national campaign was required but, for their efforts, children earned 7s 6d for every hundred weight of conkers they handed in.



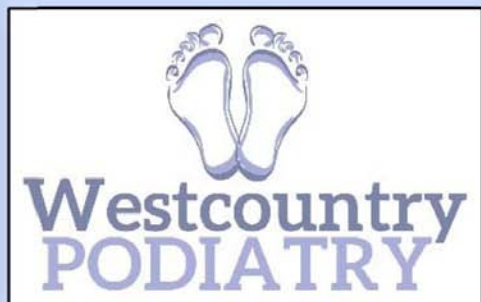
Conkers vary in size depending on how long they're left to grow on the tree, how old the horse chestnut tree is and the season's growing conditions (i.e. how much sun and water they've had). The biggest conkers recorded are 5 to 6 centimetres in diameter.

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SHEILA ADA JOY
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— Funeral Service —
Monday, 2nd September, 2024



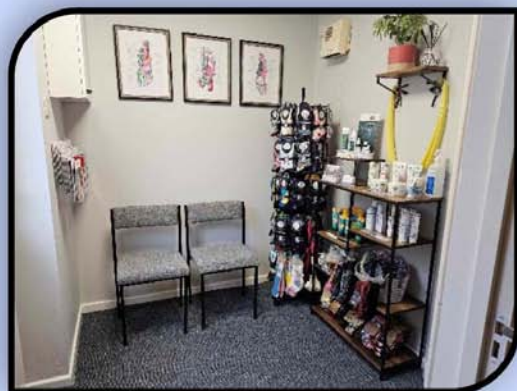
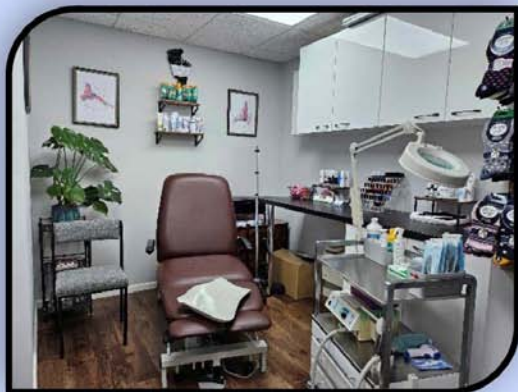


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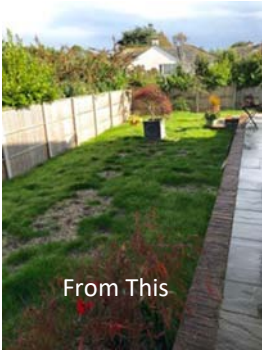
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Houses at Deer Combe, houses by the Green Dragon, Frenchman's Creek.

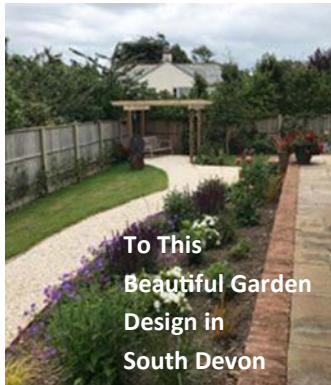
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The Probus Club of Stoke Fleming and District Programme September 2024 to February 2025

Lunch/Coffee	Date 2024	Topic Title/ Further information	Speaker details
Lunch	9th October	William Scoresby - whaling captain, Arctic explorer , scientist and clergyman	David Hinchcliffe
Coffee	23rd October	Haldon Aerodrome	Ian Hanford
Lunch	13th November	DNA and Genetics - what has Ethics got to do with it?	Professor John Bryant
Coffee	27th November	Gibraltar	Christopher Lunn
Lunch	11th December	The South Devon Railway Followed by the AGM at about 12.15	Alan Taylor
	2025		
Lunch	12th February	TBC - First meeting of 2025	

Regrettably, the Ladies Lunch normally arranged in November will not take place this year

There will be no Club meeting in January 2025 due to the unavailability of the Hotel at that time

Gentlemen

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

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

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

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

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

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



The Probus Club of Stoke Fleming and District

Where friendliness matters above all else

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

Wednesday 9th October 2024

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

William Scoresby, born 1789

*A memorial on the wall of a Torquay church can
only hint at the extraordinary life of
Scoresby: whaling captain, Arctic explorer,
scientist and clergyman*



Drinks at the bar and an optional 2-course lunch will follow
*The club is keen to attract new members and a warm welcome
will be given to guests. If you would like to come along and be a
guest please contact our Secretary Peter Hales on*

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



The Probus Club of Stoke Fleming and District

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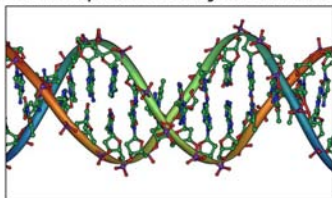
A Lunch meeting will be held beginning at 10.30am
at the Stoke Lodge Hotel, Stoke Fleming on

Wednesday 13th November 2024

The meeting will commence with coffee, followed by
a talk by Professor John Bryant entitled

**DNA and Genetics—What has ethics got
to do with it?**

*Professor John Bryant (Professor Emeritus of
Biological Sciences at the University of Exeter)
is an expert public speaker. He will discuss some
aspects of his specialist subject and life's work.*



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

*The club is keen to attract new members and a warm welcome
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The Probus Club of Stoke Fleming and District

Where friendliness matters above all else

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

Wednesday 27th November 2024

The meeting will commence with coffee,
followed by a talk by Christopher Lunn entitled

Gibraltar

*This British Overseas Territory, home to about
34,000 people, is strategically perched between
Europe and Africa and is often referred to as the
"Gateway to the Mediterranean".*



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

*The club is keen to attract new members and a warm welcome
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Strete Social Club

STRETE SOCIAL CLUB AUTUMN PROGRAMME 2024

Meetings are usually held in Strete Village Hall on alternate Tuesdays at 2.30PM
Everyone very welcome to come along!

October	1st	Riding for the Disabled - Peggy Douglas
	15th	Musical Entertainment - Winston Chubb
	29th	To be confirmed
November	12th	Bees - Liz Westcott
	26th	Thanksgiving Event
December	3rd	Christmas Lunch
	17th	Wine and Mince Pies

3rd September: Back after our summer break the ladies of the social club met, with Karen, our leader, dealing with the business part of the meeting.

Our speaker and demonstrator was Linsay Johns, a florist who came with four arrangements with all the foliage in place. One by one she placed flowers of many varieties and colours creating different shapes and with a range of colour schemes

in each one. Whilst working very quickly working from the front of the design so we could all see what she was doing, a very unusual skill, as most florist that demonstrate use a turn table and every now and then turn it so the audience can see what is being created. In fact, Linsay is the only florist I have seen with this talent.



All the time she was talking on various things that happened to her, on her wedding work, on her job as sole florist at the Thurlestone Hotel and much more. She also gave us a lot of tips on buying supermarket flowers what to look for and how price when from the wholesalers is charged on the length of stem especially roses.

She was thanked by Joan and strayed to enjoy a cup of tea and biscuit served by Colleen and Irene. This was an excellent demonstration to start of the Autumn season.



Strete Social Club

17th September: A lovely September afternoon saw a good attendance at our meeting, which was held in the Kings Arms Pub, which Jon had kindly come in from his day off to open up for us. This was due to an error on our part that the hall had been booked by another person.

As usual apologies were given and Karen then introduced us to our speaker for the afternoon. Mrs. Rebeka Pearson from Lymphstone who has researched the 'Land Army Girls' and gave us a very interesting afternoon.

She was dressed appropriately, even having her hair as they used to wear. She commenced her talk by telling us a little of the formation of the Girls Land Army which did start during the first world war but was much better associated with the second world war.

Girls could register to be in the army from the age of 17 ½, some even lying about their age to get in. These did a short training course, here in Devon at Bicton and Seale Hayne learning all aspects of farming but mainly for dairy to milk the cows.



When they were trained, they were dispatched to farms in the area, arriving at Totnes by train where they were met by the Farmer they had been allocated to.

They soon settled in and participated in all the farm work including harvest. Some were assigned to the forestry section these were known as lumberjills. Some were given the task of rat catching. They socialised in the villages attending local dances.

She had a model with the dress uniform they wore which consisted of corduroy breeched, thick socks, heavy shoes,

green jumpers, coffee-coloured shirts and they could purchase a tie to wear also a hat. These were genuine garments from land girls. If they were lucky, they got a heavy overcoat. They would wear their uniform to dances.

She had a collection of various slides showing them at work, play.

She showed a slide of Mrs. Soper who married Alan Soper, the agricultural engineer at East Allington, which Joan and Roy knew. Several of the girls fell in love with the farmers sons and married them and settled in Devon as farmers wives. Again, Joan and Roy could tell Rebeka of two that they knew, Mrs. Joy Heath and Mrs. Joan Gloyn.

They were not paid much. Could earn proficiency badges.

Time passed so quickly that it was time for our cups of tea which Jon had kindly put on for us.



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Ottery St Mary Tar Barrels

5th November 2024

Ottery St Mary Tar Barrels is an old custom said to have originated in the 17th century. The annual event involves people parading through the town carrying flaming wooden barrels of burning tar on their backs.

Each of Ottery's central public houses sponsors a single barrel. In the weeks prior to the day of the event, November 5th, the barrels are soaked with tar. The barrels are lit outside each of the pubs in turn and once the flames begin, they are hoisted up onto people's backs and shoulders.

The Tar Barrel tradition is hundreds of years old. The exact origins are unknown but probably started after the gunpowder plot of 1605. Opinions differ as to the origin of this festival of fire, but the most widely accepted version is that it began as a pagan ritual that cleanses the streets of evil spirits. Various alternative reasons suggested for burning barrels have included fumigation of cottages and as a warning of the approach of the Spanish armada. November the 5th each year is the traditional day for the Tar Barrels and only changes when the 5th falls on a Sunday. The event then takes place on the Saturday instead. The West Country has a history of torchlight processions and a tradition of burning barrels and rolling them down the streets, but Ottery is the only village where barrels aren't rolled but carried above the head.

Ottery is first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, where it appears as 'Otri' and 'Otrei'. 'Oteri Sancte Marie' in 1242. The town takes its name from the River Otter (named after the animal) on which it stands. The town belonged to the church of St Mary in Rouen in 1086, hence 'St Mary'.



Stir-up Sunday

24th November

Sunday 24 November. Traditionally, each year on the last Sunday before advent the cooks of each home would put aside their usual tasks for the day to start making a pudding for Christmas Day. By making Christmas puddings well in advance of Christmas day, you give the pudding enough time to mature, like a good cheese or fine wine. While recipes for Christmas pudding differ according to households and family traditions, the typical combination is Brandy, sweet raisins, currents and citrus peel sprinkled through a steamed sponge mixture that's coloured with dark sugar and treacle, and spiced with the warmth of allspice, cinnamon and nutmeg.

Traditionally Stir Up Sunday is a family event, with everyone gathering in the kitchen to make the most of the ceremony and everyone would be given a turn to stir the Christmas pudding for good luck. A Christmas pudding is traditionally made with 13 ingredients to represent Christ and His Disciples. The Christmas pudding is always stirred from East to West in honour of the three Wise Men who visited the baby Jesus.

Every member of the family must give the pudding a stir and make a secret wish. A coin was traditionally added to the ingredients and cooked in the pudding. It was supposedly to bring wealth to whoever found it on their plate on Christmas Day. The traditional coin was an old silver sixpence or threepenny bit. Other traditional additions to the pudding included a ring, to foretell a marriage, and a thimble for a lucky life.

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