

STRETEWISE

Ron Howell talking with Prince Philip

THE VILLAGE MAGAZINE

STRETE, BURLESTONE and Surrounds

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Stretewise has been fortunate to receive further support from The Captain Pearson's Memorial Trust. As a result we are able to maintain the subscription for 2017 at £3. At this time of year we live a hand to mouth existence with the printing costs eliminating the balance of advertising revenue and subscriptions that come in at the start of the year. We have produced a substantial Christmas edition.

Congratulations to the Chapel and to the fellowship within. The 50th anniversary was celebrated last month. Congratulations also to Ron Howell on his fourth visit to Buckingham Palace—the pictures are rather splendid and the one on the cover of him in conversation with Prince Philip is special. Ron and his colleagues were awarded Certificates from the Duke of Edinburgh for their work on the Start Point Project.

Sadly, the loss of the pub has put a damper on the village – with so many people having tried to help the former publicans to run a sensible business, its closure is a slap in the face. If only they had taken the advice that they were offered this need not have happened. This time the failure was no fault of the brewery.

The centenary of the Battle of the Somme does bring back childhood

EDITORIAL

memories. Then, although everyone's memories were of the Second World War, all of the illustrations in the books that we had were of the First World War, especially of those original lozenge shaped tanks.

Anniversaries also bring further pain with the recognition that it is now 50 years since the slide of the colliery waste onto the school at Aberfan.

I have included a few pictures of the veteran cars on their way to Brighton on the first Sunday in November. They make a resplendent sight and over 77% of those who this year entered completed the route. The event has a special significance as Andrea was in St George's Hospital (when it was at Hyde Park Corner) following the birth of Tricia, and saw the start that year.

Kate's piece on making cream is a treasure. The recipe for a Christmas Pudding had to be tried, so I now have four of puddings of varying sizes ready for the Christmas visitors.

And talking of the festive season, I hope you enjoy this Christmas edition and wish you all a **Happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year**

The editor

Dear Friends,

Rev'd Alison

Is it worth the wait? I read this question in a magazine article recently. How many things do we look forward to with eager anticipation, only to find that when the event happens, or we make that long awaited trip, there is a sense of anti-climax?

For me, I enjoy the planning, the organising, the anticipation of a trip maybe only a little less than the experience itself, and sometimes the event or place just doesn't live up to our expectations.

Is it worth the wait? Some people will ask that question about Christmas. Time is spent searching for the perfect cards and presents, preparing wonderful food, decorating the Christmas tree; only to realise that the cards are recycled, the tree is abandoned outside, and there is a huge and endless pile of washing up.

'God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to

a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants for ever; his kingdom will never end.'" (Luke 1: 26-33)

Was it worth the wait? Mary and Joseph waited 9 months for a baby. We don't know what their hopes and expectations were but surely giving birth in a stable with a manger for a cot was not part of the plan; neither I expect were the visits from the shepherds and wise men !

'While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for the baby to be born, and Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.' (Luke 2: 6-7)

Was it worth the wait? I'm sure Mary and Joseph would have said yes, in spite of the surroundings, crying, endless feeding and all the dirty nappies. Would they still have said so even if they knew what was going to happen, including having to flee to Egypt? I expect so, definitely worth the wait for a baby that would grow up and change the world. Was it worth the wait? Israel had spent several hundred years waiting for the Messiah expecting a warrior who would

overthrow the Roman army by power and might. Instead God did the unexpected and sent his Son as a baby who grew up to change the world, in an unexpected way by saying things like 'help each other' and 'love'. Was this an anticlimax or let down? Possibly, depending on how you look at things but life would never be the same

Is it worth the wait? Advent is a time of waiting and preparation for the church, not just the run up to the celebration of the birth of a baby, at Christmas, but a time of looking forward to when this baby, Jesus, will return; not this time as a helpless baby but in all His power and glory as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Will it be worth the wait?

'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light ; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' (Isaiah 9: 2, 6)

Is it worth the wait? Advent and Christmas can be difficult times for some people. But in different ways, they are times of hope, there is light in the darkness;



that no matter how hard things seem it will get better, some day, somehow, but possibly in an unexpected way. A lot of people who have gone through suffering and difficult times say that hope and love were the things that kept them going

Is it worth the wait? Whatever you are hoping and waiting for in 2017 I hope and pray that it will be worth the wait.

May I wish you a stress free Christmas and a peaceful New Year that fulfils your expectations, as we celebrate the birth of a very special baby who grew up to change the world.

Revd Alison

Christmas Fayre will be on 3rd December at the Laughing Monk at 10 a.m. – 11.30.

STRETE CHAPEL 50 Years

Greetings from the Strete Chapel Fellowship.

We offer our greetings to all who live and visit in Strete. Our 'primitive Methodist' chapel dates back to the 1820s and may be found next to the Village shop on the main road.

Celebration of 50 years in Strete

The Chapel celebrated its fiftieth birthday in the Chapel by hosting a day of celebration on 22nd October. There was a service of thanksgiving followed by a tea in the Parish Hall. Thanks to all who attended and made the day special. Two cakes were donated by well-wishers and they are shown in the picture below.

Christmas services

But people's thoughts now turn to the end of year and Christmas. **We hold our Carol service on the 18th of December** in the evening and a warm welcome is ex-

tended to all. A short service is held on Christmas Day just after ten o'clock in the morning.

We extend to you all a very warm welcome to come and join us in fellowship on all of these occasions. The time of our Morning Family Services is normally 11.00 am except Christmas Day.

Chapel Outings and Activities:

We run a children's club at the Chapel on Thursday evenings from 6.30 and a number of children from the village attend. Other children are very welcome.

As this is the last Stretewise of the old year we wish you a peaceful New Year in 2017!



Chapel 50 Anniversary

Pam Wills



This started with a service at the Chapel and an explanation of how the Chapel first started in a room at Stoke Fleming and then at the Chapel at Blackpool, (which was up the old road towards Southwood) and then came to Strete. Jean Parnell told us all about how her and her sister used to go to Sunday school at the Chapel.

After the service we all went to the Parish Hall for tea. A lovely buffet was laid out by two ladies and we all had as much as we could to eat with Derek Harris trying to encourage us to eat more! After this there were two anniversary cakes.

During the tea Andy Williams, who is the "Boss" of Bullfinch (Gas equipment) who designed the burners for the Olympic torch spoke and said he was at the Chapel the day the torch went through Strete and was disappointed that we

did not see the torch so he brought one with him and passed it to Derek to hold who said he had never held so much gold before! Andy is involved with the camps at Southwood. In 1946/47, Sir Ralph Newman was asked by Major General Sir Arthur Smith if one of his tenants would provide a field for boys who had gone through the war to have a holiday under the Crusader Club banner. The Crusader group changed its name to Urban Saints and Andy is the organiser for the camps which still come to Southwood.

During the tea we were given a biro pen inscribed with "Strete Chapel 50 years, John 3 vs16 God is Love"

It was a very pleasant well organized afternoon and I would like to thank the Chapel for inviting us all to the celebration.

It is at this time of the year when we remember our lost heroes. This year is particularly poignant in that not only we remember the war dead but we recently had the centenary of the loss of the Salcombe lifeboat. It is also the thirty fifth anniversary of the loss of the Penlee lifeboat, which was the last time the full crew of an RNLI lifeboat perished on active service.

I have a personal reason to remember the 1966 Aberfan disaster when 144 children and adults lost their lives, 50 years ago. The National

Coal Board employed the company I was working for to investigate the stability of all the coal tips in the Welsh valleys. We started off with a team of just four which was expanded as the work load grew. In my small way I hope I improved the safety by designing drainage works.

This year our Remembrance Day service included, as usual, a gathering around the war memorial outside the church and the names of the village men who lost their lives were read out.



Do not go gently into that good night Dylan Thomas 1914 - 1953

Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,

Do not go gently into that good night,
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Though wise men at their end know dark is right,
Because their words had forked no lightning they
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.



Rescuers frantically searching for victims of the Aberfan disaster in October 1966. The colliery spoil engulfed the school and killed 116 children

Letter to the Editor

Sir

As promised a long time ago, Jane's version of "In the Strete Where I Live", written for the concert at St Michael's, is attached.

The passage of time means the verse about the Kings Arms will need revision for the next such event, I regret to say!

After 23 years of owning a cottage in Strete we are moving to be nearer to family, old and young, and to be more supportive of all of them; but this means we will regretfully be saying goodbye, at least for the moment, to all our friends in Strete -- and we wish all very well and thank them all for their friendship over the years.

Our address and contacts are below and we hope that anyone visiting the South Downs National Park area will give us a call and come to see us in Petworth.

David and Jane Chapman

01798 344435 The House in Pound Street Petworth West Sussex

THE PROBUS CLUB OF STOKE FLEMING & DISTRICT

We meet at the stoke Lodge Hotel on the second and fourth Wednesdays in most months. The purpose of the Club is to provide a regular meeting point for its members and the opportunity to make new social contacts.

Membership is open to professional and business men in Stoke Fleming and District who have fully or partially retired from their normal business or profession or who are approaching retirement. **New members are welcome. If you are interested in joining please contact** Stephen Reading, Chairman, 01803832504 or Bob Hamilton, Secretary, 01803 834970

2016 December 7 Lunch Julie Turner 'The Life of a Store Detective'

2017 events start on January 11 when there a Lunch and a talk by Peter Barker

IN THE STRETE WHERE I LIVE

I have often walked round in Strete before
Pushing Stretewise through the letter-box in ev'ry door
Now it's gone online, I confess that I'm
Walking less than I used to before.
So I take a stroll to the village store
Where the gossip's good and ev'ryone comes back for more.
Milk and Daily Mail, ham and curly kale
All for sale in the Strete where I live.
And oh! the towering feeling
Just to know somehow you're all near
The overpowering feeling
That any second you'll all suddenly appear.
I wander down to the village pub
Where I buy myself a beer and then I have some grub
Scott and Beccs are keen, it's as if they've been
Since Day One in the Strete where I live.
If I'm feeling fit and I'm up to it,
I set off for Strete Gate Beach with all my swimming kit.
Though I have to say, I'm not nude or gay,
It's all part of Strete where I live.

Buckingham Palace to Strete in Twelve Hours Ron Howell

Ron Howell
The Nook

The Duke of Edinburgh's prize for the British Sub-Aqua Jubilee Trust is awarded each year to the best underwater scientific projects carried out by members.



The morning of Tuesday 8th November 2016 found me once again staring at the facade of Buckingham Palace waiting to meet the Duke of Edinburgh, “Is it really your fourth time?” one of my group asked me, yes, I said, but a lot has changed since my last visit in 2011 especially the tight security surrounding the Palace gates. One thing had not changed however, was the multitude of foreign tourists especially of the Far Eastern variety milling about clinging on to their camera phones and selfie sticks, and every taxi and flashy limousines being pounced upon by the police and having the mirror under the chassis and bonnet treatment, no matter who the occupants were.

Once through the gate after proving our identities against a list we walked across the very clean concourse towards the right hand door of the Palace where once again we had to show proof of our identity, when that was over it was coats off along with any cameras which were stored in a large cloakroom for the duration of the visit, we were then free to look around the small entrance area and waiting room to admire the paintings mounted on the walls and read the latest copies of the ‘Queen’ magazines spread about on the tables.

After a few minutes our delegated Equerry called out “follow me folks” and off we went up a very wide red carpeted



occasional cabinets containing beautiful large Chinese / Japanese ivory sailing junks encased in glass. Halfway along we turned left into a room familiar to me, 'the Chinese Room' otherwise known as the Balcony Room whose doors open out to the world famous stage of many Royal occasions.

Once we all had gathered in the room the instructions started, "once his Royal Highness enters the room he will be introduced to, blah, blah and blah, he will then be introduced to each of you individually, shake hands, and present your

staircase that curled round a very large and ancient lift shaft to the first floor. I immediately smacked my head on the one foot deep giant gold oil painting frame, I think it was George V. The Equerry laughed, "that has caught a lot of people out" he said. Rubbing my head I muttered something about hazard tape and suing the Queen.

Once at the top we turned left and faced a very long corridor that seemed to stretch the whole length of the Palace, on each side we walked past huge paintings and portraits of past monarchs and royal occasions, many of them I recognized from books and history lessons. Large vases of all shapes and sizes and

diploma, once he has done his rounds he will then come round and mix with each group for a general chat. On first meeting him, you will nod your head slightly, and address him initially as 'Your Royal Highness' and thereafter, Sir".

When I was at the palace for the first time in 1993 the photographer caught me in nearly a full bow, not a nod, totally unnecessary I discovered in later visits and I am sure the Duke couldn't care less. However, once that was over we all awaited the arrival of the great man. He arrived as usual bang on time, by himself, slightly stooping with his hands behind his back, nothing like the tall man of his youth. The introductions started with the dignitaries of the British Sub Aqua

Club Jubilee Trust, and I could clearly hear that the Duke was his cheeky self with the one or two that appeared to be stuttering in his presence, he hates trying to start a conversation; he leaves that to the person introducing an individual. He soon came over to us dodging the official photographer who he hates, handing over our certificates, moving on after a brief word to each of us to complete his initial hand shaking round.

Breaking away he then wandered around talking to each group and individuals, coming round to my group he asked questions about our work which gave me an opportunity to talk about involving the Dartmouth Royal Naval College in our diving team, I knew that got his interest as he has had much involvement with the College over the years; also his two sons had been cadets there. I asked him "did you ever do any diving in your younger days sir" Now I know that from my previous chats with him you are guaranteed to have a sharp answer accompanied by an intense eye to eye contact, "no way" he said "the only time I got wet was when I was a cadet at Dartmouth, I jumped into a whaler (boat) lost my balance and fell into the Dart much to the amusement of all around me" his face lit up when he was telling me the story, it was only later I realized that it was at that time at

Dartmouth that he met the very young Queen.

He is very easy to talk to, on my first occasion he told me all about the fireplace we were leaning on, "this was originally at Osborne House" he said, "and Queen Victoria had it shipped over to the Palace and placed into this room", he then went on to tell me all about the ornaments on the mantelpiece, all I could do was nod and look interested not believing I was having a long conversation with the Duke of Edinburgh about Queen Victoria, but that is what he is like on a one to one basis, you ask him a question and he will chat forever..

After an hour it was all over and after saying goodbye he turned, waved and walked through the very large doorway. One year he disappeared on walk-a-bout resulting in the lady equerry chasing all over the corridors wondering where he had gone. 'That's the Duke for you', the equerry said at the time.

We all filed back downstairs and after collecting our coats and cameras we exited out on to the concourse and the multitude of tourists behind the railings who thought that amongst us must be a few famous faces, I knew then for a few seconds what it must be like being a pop star and not a lad from Strete.

Buckingham Palace to Strete in Twelve Hours Ron Howell



Ron Howell (left) Colin Mathews, Sue Mitchell and Prince Philip

Round the corner from the Palace we entered 'The Bag of Nails' a London Pub for a drink or two or three. Afterwards returning to our hotel 'The Victory Services Club' for our luggage we dived into the very, very hectic London rush hour, and Paddington Station at its worst time, I ended my journey on a very wet and windy late night Totnes station.

The car ride from the Station was, to say the least, one of the wildest ones I had made in years; torrential rain, high

winds, ploughing through fallen leaves and small tree branches. However I soon had the very welcome sight of the Start Point Light flashing in the car, a sight familiar to most Strete villagers, and thought that the reason I was at the Palace in the first place was for the work our team did on the 'Start Point Project'. I was back home to peaceful Strete exactly twelve hours after entering Buckingham Palace and looking forward to our next adventure and my fifth visit.

JEAN PARNELL DECEMBER AND JANUARY

“And is it true, and is it true
This most tremendous tale of all
Seen in a stained-glass window’s hue,
A baby in an ox’s stall
The maker of the stars and sea
Become a child on earth for me,”



[John Betjeman from “A Few Late Chrysanthemums”]

1816 I recently found this Christmas provisions list for Castle Hill, near South-Molton. The Fortesure family, as with other members of the aristocracy were bound by convention to provide for the poor at Christmas and without doubt some of the list would have been distributed to the poor. It stated that the family itself also enjoyed suitable food and drink : at a Christmas meal a few years later they drank a bottle of port and another of sherry among them and only a few guests!

Kitchen account 1816, from December 20th to the 27th

693 lbs of beef from the farm
113lbs of mutton 6lbs of Currant
771/2lbs of veal 4lbs of raisins
A roasting pig 2 lumps of sugar
2 fowls moist sugar
1 duck 4 bags of potatoes
1 turkey 1 bag of turnips
16 lbs of butter 12 quarts of milk
2 1/2 pints of cream 30 eggs

Total cost £21 11s 01/2d!

I imagine many hours of cooking!

A Country Christmas in 1796

I wrote about this particular Christmas 13 years ago but it is a favourite of mine and 220 years ago feelings and the true meaning of Christmas were stronger then than the attitudes of the 21st century.

“The log was burning brightly

Twas a night that should banish all sin

For the bells were ringing the Old Year out

And the New Year in ...”

(William Godwin, from “The Miner’s Dream of Home”)

A farmer’s wife’s diary 1796

December 23rd - Everyone was busy with “goodlie” things to eat. In the stove geese, hens and beef had been roasted while beef and hams were boiled on an open fire. The farmer’s mother had

JEAN PARNELL



made a “verrie pretty” dish called meat cake. Flour and butter were mixed into a thick paste, which was rolled out. Layers of this were placed in a baking tin with alternate layers of beef, onions and herbs. This was cooked slowly and eaten cold. 2 roast hares were also prepared and junkets, puddings, cinnamon cakes and a very rich Christmas cake. The farmer would tap the new beer and honey wine and there was always plenty of home-made “elderberry, primy rose and dandielyon wine”,

December 24th - Guests began arriving by packhorse and the other guests arrived on Christmas morning. Everyone attended the Church service on Christmas Day except those who were preparing the dinner.

The farmer’s wife and his mother pre-

pared the table which looked fine with white linen cloths and gleaming glass with the best silver set neatly. The Church service had been much enjoyed and singing went with a “great roar”. The farmer sat at one end of the table carving the beef and geese while another farmer sat at the opposite end carving the hams and hens. After

the hearty meal everyone sat around discussing the year’s activities while much wine was imbibed!

Later in the day tea was prepared with the table reset with lighted tapers in silver candlesticks and sprigs of holly in large glasses. Meat cake, Christmas cake and mince pies were eaten before guests returned home happy to have enjoyed lovely hospitality and “everybody happy!”

These country folk thoroughly appreciated their day.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Jean Parnell

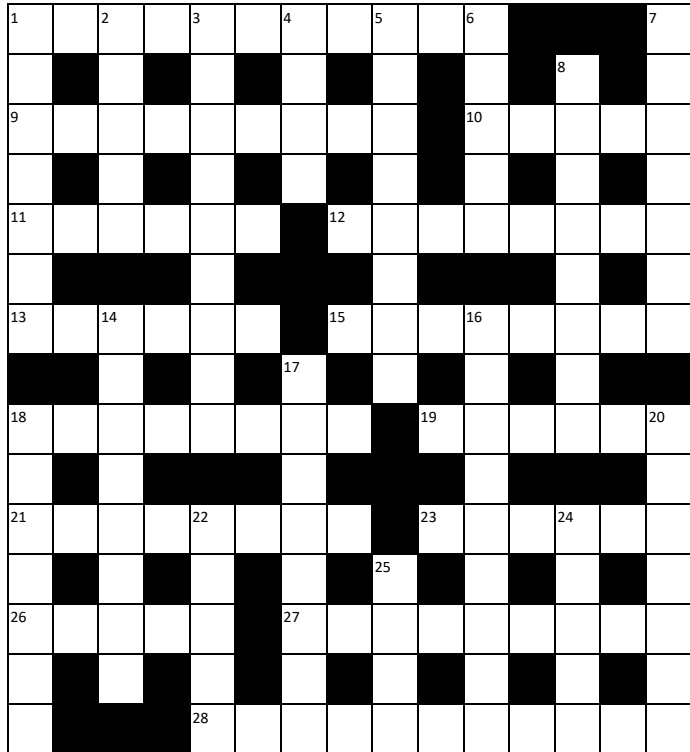
Across

- 1 Laconic entry with no head of research changed for high pressure system (11)
- 9 Heavenly dessert (5,4,)
- 10 Acceptable with a mathematical constant for this African animal (5)
- 11 Broader mission includes a thin layer (6)
- 12 Hand-out and boot for penalty (4,4)
- 13 Crumpled pink not acceptable for this table linen (6)
- 15 Yogi on dole was confused about political ideas (8)
- 18 Mad when called in act (8)
- 19 Topless kitchen equipment for Shylock (6)
- 21 Like a ballerina said before eating and nearly full after (7)
- 23 and 25 down Sonia Walsh new to St Michael's (6,4)
- 26 Account about artist in Ghana (5)
- 27 White rose alternative -or?
- 28 Plate with rubber flange inserts for kitchen equipment (4,7)

Down

- 1 He rubs a lamp for seasonal entertainment (7)
- 2 One of two in flame by Blake (5)
- 3 Impact needs lion repaired with coils (9)
- 4 Sort of trap for rubbish (4)
- 5 Bridleway bridge (8)
- 6 Cockney went on horse to eat in (5)
- 7 Pear for desert, not for dessert! (7)
- 8 Assorted car part (8)
- 14 Average medieval weapon so to speak (8)
- 16 Upper class gents looking for beat up old rovers (9)
- 17 Blouse and topless nun funny ideas if somewhat vague (8)
- 18 From clues 6,27! (7)
- 20 Gives up and puts on coat (7)
- 22 Spanish territory for this beast (5)
- 24 Successful finish? Then do this! (5)
- 25 See 23

Crossword Puzzle No. 7



Stretewise Delivery Team: Brenda Range (Hynetown Road), Liane Baldock (Matts Point) , Colleen Seymour (Crestways and Crestfield), Heather Robinson (Vicarage Lane), Joan Kendall (Hyne Town Estate), Pauline Pearce (The Platt) Rosemarie Stevens (Start Bay Park), Chris Burne (Dartmouth Road East), Jeremy and Lynn Swainston, Shirley Goldring (Village Centre and Dartmouth Road West), David Wall (Burlestone) , Andrea Hollis (Upper Totnes Road) Malcolm Hollis Strete Gate + email).

LONDON to BRIGHTON for over 100 years

This year the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run had 436 entrant, 28 of who did not start and a further 16 were withdrawn.

Of the 392 who started, 55 cars retired and a total of 337 completed the course. Considering that each car entered was made before 1904, that is quite an achievement.

These cars were propelled by electricity (and completed the course), by steam, or by the internal combustion engine.

Below, smoking steadily, is the Stanley Steamer entrant number 323, driven by Andrew Wood, who completed the run. The Stanley Steamer, there being two in the event, was referred to in a popular song of the 1948 film 'Summer Holiday' and could be seen in the film The Great Race. Editor

There were several female entrants and drivers, including the Krastin driven and entered by Ms Austra Priede-Klavina (picture right) who also finished.

The two cars in the final picture, are both owned by the same person, Andrew Boland. The one at the back being a Mercedes driven by Andrew Boland and that to the front, a Gladiator, was driven by John Boland. All finished.

Do you remember 'Genevive', which is a Darracq and was the star of the 1950's film of the same name? Well, this is now owned by the Louwman Museum in Holland (car 379) which completed the course yet again.





A solution at last.....

“My parents are finding it difficult to manage in their own home but don't feel ready to move into a care home environment”

“We would like to retain some independence but need the reassurance of knowing expert help is close at hand if anything goes wrong”

Facilities that respond to these needs have always been difficult to find and, as a result, people have often stayed in their own homes until a crisis occurs leaving them no choice but to move into a care home at a time when they are too frail to enjoy the opportunities on offer to them.

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Residents of the apartments will be invited to join in all social events and professional concerts that regularly take place at Hyne Town House and the home can arrange visits from GP's, District Nurses, Opticians and Dentists as well as the in-house provision of a hairdresser, chiropodist, library and fortnightly Holy Communion.

Reaching a point in life where you need support is difficult. We believe The Gatehouse offers an attractive and comfortable local alternative.

If you would like to discuss this opportunity in more detail or to arrange an appointment to view the plans please ring Jean White, the Manager, at Hyne Town House, on 01803 770011 or email jean@hynetownhouse.co.uk

www.hynetownhouse.co.uk

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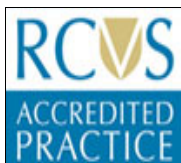
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Stoke Fleming Charitable Ladies come to the aid of Rowcroft Hospice

A Christmas Coffee Morning will be held in Stoke Fleming Village Hall from 10am to 11.30am on Saturday 3rd December. The aim will be to raise much-needed funds for Rowcroft Hospice

which has issued an urgent appeal for funds to enable them to continue to provide support and specialist care to life-limited patients and their families. Tables are available to hire at £5 each. New members from Stoke Fleming and surrounding areas are very welcome to join – the group meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month to organise events to raise funds for deserving charities.

Contact Sue Tweed on 01803 770730 for more information.



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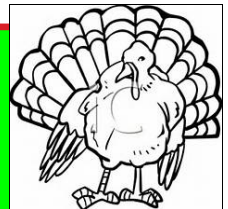
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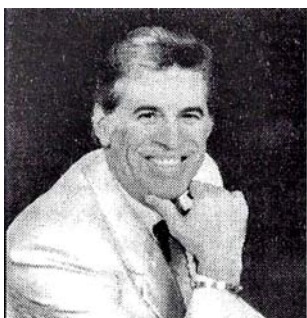
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Report from Strete Social Club

The subject on the Programme for our meeting on Tuesday was 'Surprise'. On entering the Parish Hall were three tables, obviously set up for the surprise event, covered in cloths so no one could see what lay beneath.

The meeting started as usual with Janice Varnam keeping us up to date of various goings on.

Then we were let in on the surprise which happened to be one of our members who gave us a demonstration on preparing for Christmas.

A simple way to display our cards was to use a length of polyribbon with a ring at the top and onto which cards could be pinned.

She then produced a bouquet of flowers and used these to do an arrangement suitable for display on a window ledge with a little bit of bling added for the festive season.

As guests are likely to be present a small bowl was used to do a small arrangement for the guests bedroom using

chrysanthemums of autumnal colours.

To welcome people to the house it was nice to have a garland on the door. This was very simple consisting of conifer, trailing ivy and gold baubles and fir cones tied together finished off with a gold bow at the top. She gave a very useful tip for people who did not have a door knocker or suitable hanging on the outside of their front door. A piece of fine cord or ribbon attached to the garland could be put from the outside over the top of the door and fastened on the inside.

Her final demo was how to decorate the table in less than a minute with ribbon laid along the centre interspersed with candles in holder and silk flowers.

Ann was thanked by Janice for all the time and effort she had put into entertaining us for the afternoon. All the arrangements were raffled and along with a small fee donated by the demonstrator was for the hospice at Torquay.

Welcome tea and biscuits were served

St Michael's Christmas Fayre will be on 3rd December at the Laughing Monk at 10 a.m. – 11.30. We look forward to your support at this. £1.50 entry includes a cup of coffee and biscuit. There will be a grand Christmas Draw and other stalls.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

CAROL SERVICE



Tuesday
20th December
7.00 p.m.

Carols and
Lessons



We will be joined by Strete Chapel

ALL WELCOME

Mulled wine & Mince pies will follow



St. Michael's Church

Members of the Church have been to hear Rev. Alison Shaw take her first two services in the Church. One being Morning Worship and the other one when Holy Communion was served.

During the summer months money raising events have taken place with two very successful times with the Tea Hut in the Avenue Gardens at Dartmouth. The first with a book stall but the second one just serving tea, coffee and refreshments.

The 'open gardens' was a really splendid occasion with ten gardens being open to the public and teas served at Winter Cottage with the magnificent views of the sea.

We thank all who took part and supported us.

Our Christmas Fayre will be on 3rd December at the Laughing Monk at 10 a.m. – 11.30. We look forward to your support at this. £1.50 entry includes a cup of coffee and biscuit. There will be a grand Christmas Draw and other stalls.

A poster for The Carol Service on Tuesday 20th December is on the previous page.

St Michael's PC is as follows

Church Wardens

Sally Green 712438

Hilary Peart 770 067

PCC Members:

Roy Kendall (Hon Treasurer)

Sheila Kingsley Smith (Safeguarding),

Brenda Range, Sue and Martin Sobey

STRETEWISE PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2016

Entries are due by the year end, so must have been emailed to the editor at stretewise@gmail.com so that it is in his inbox by 31 December, or placed through the door at Mewstone prior to the sound of the old year departing.

We already have some very good entries, but there is time for more and an opportunity for your effort to be considered.

The categories for the competition are People, Portrait or Landscape.

WHY IT HAS CLOSED YET AGAIN



The Kings Arms closed in September when, after a successful fund raiser for Macmillan Cancer Relief, Rebecca and Scott closed the doors for their last time. In the past the cause has been undue pressure placed on the publicans by the Brewery. On this occasion the fault lies with the publicans themselves and not the Brewery.

A common requirement for a business is to keep a close eye on the levels of income and expenditure and to regularly

balance takings, credit card payments etc with the bank balance. To achieve that, there should have been a very tight control on the levels of cost on a weekly and monthly basis. They operated no expenditure management, or cost control.

Many people in the Village had tried to help them; to manage their power costs, to operate in a prudent manner, to manage their accounts, but those offers and that guidance was rejected. When eventually, after just over a year's operation, they did engage accountancy guidance they found that they had been running at a loss. Many of those who had been to the pub in their year or so of tenure wondered how they could manage the pub in such a different way to others in the locality, and make it work. Well they couldn't. According to the liquidator, Ian Walker, of the Exeter company Begbies Traynor, there were no accounts kept during their tenure. Anyone who has been involved in business knows that this is not the way to run a business. These points have been put to the former publicans—but as of the date of publication, no response has been received.

The editor

STRETE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - 15 SEPTEMBER 2016

PUBLIC FORUM – One member of the public attended.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr. J. Brazil

- The Scrutiny Committee at DCC have agreed to the decision to cut the travel subsidy for 16-18 year olds to attend education the cost of which is £580 p.a. DCC used to subsidise this by 50%.
- Devolution – it is difficult to know whether this will continue now there has been a change of Prime Minister.

• A meeting at Dartmouth Academy with the Clinical Commissioning Group regarding the reorganisation which appears to mean that the minor injuries unit at Dartmouth will not re-open and the hospital will close. The money raised from the closure will be used to fund outreach workers it is hoped.

The next Coleridge meeting will be on the 26th October and a representative of the CCG will be present to discuss the current position.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT – Cllr. R. Foss

- An effort is being made to prevent the danger from raves which are occurring at Strete Gate.
- The area at Strete Gate owned by SHDC may be taken over by the FSC.

- The Toll Estate and perhaps Torcross and Slapton need to be involved in any solution.

Motor homes parked at the central car part are spoiling the view for everyone else.

PRESENT Kate Gill (Chair), Louise Newman (Vice Chair), R. Clark, Ian Cumberlidge, Harry Fenton, David Rothwell In attendance : S. Winstanley (Clerk), Cllr Foss, Cllr Brazil

1. APOLOGIES – None

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 30th June

2016 (I suggest this should be 21 July. Editor)

It was proposed seconded and *re-solved* that the Chair should sign the Minutes as a true and correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

– Members are invited to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting. None

4. CLERK'S REPORT –

The possibility of finding a night landing site for the Devon Air Ambulance was discussed. Contact will be made with Western Power to try and arrange removal of a pole carrying cables so that a site could be made available at Manor Farm.

September 2016 PC

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - K. Gill, Chair

It has come to my attention that there is an error on the Parish Website giving the date of this meeting as 22nd September. My apologies on behalf of whoever was responsible. As a result a potential new Councillor has also sent apologies.

1. I would like to thank Nick Shepherd for kindly taking photographs of the team on the PC. Subject to the individuals approval they will be used on our website. Each person will have the last say. These pictures are to sit aside their resumes.
2. I have asked Malcolm Hollis to place an ad/article in the next **Strete**wise with regard to obtaining the names and addresses of Parishioners who would like to be included in a business directory to promote their work and therefore Strete on our Parish Website.
3. We have had quite a busy two months with regard to tourism since our last meeting on 21.07.16. Cllr Richard Foss has been working hard on the subject and emails have been many.

As a result of the criminal damage which occurred during July there has been a police log number issued.

On the weekend of 13/14th August there was yet another 'rave', which at least 5 police vehicles attended, an ambulance and Andy &

Monica Pound attended in their coastguard capacity. Our thanks to them.

This time the rave nearly ended in tragedy with a young man who had taken a vast cocktail of drugs and alcohol totally out of control attacking beach goers.

Before the next holiday season it is my intention to try to gather all those parties together whose jobs and 'interest' lies around Strete Gate so that we do not have a constant problem with antisocial behaviour.

SHDC have erected new purpose made signs for all the carparks along the line. Enforcement should be the next step.

4. Mark Hanson has been asked to repair the fence along the path to the Play Park.

5. Neil Drew has today kindly cut back the bracken on the bank between 1 Hyne Town and the DCH entrance. It is the responsibility of DCH.

PLANNING: None

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – R. Clark

August & September 2016

- Plymouth & South West Devon Joint Local Plan consultation document sets out housing growth projections for the area. Strete could expect to be classed as a small village with a growth projection target over the next twenty years of 10-20 homes.

- Contact with SHDC revealed five households in Strete, registered with Devon Home Choice, are currently seeking accommodation.
 - Relevant sections of the SHDC Core Strategy have been extracted for inclusion in the NP policy document.
 - The meeting was provided with details of the benefits and costs associated with incorporating energy efficient systems into new build properties. e.g. ground or air source heating together with PV panels to generate electricity. More evidence is needed for this to become part of the NP policy.
 - An AONB Management Plan update is due to be completed by December 2016. The Management Plan includes an Annexe that is expected to set out six tests for all Local Authorities and developers to follow before approving any new development in an AONB.
 - There is a need to establish the level of interest for Commercial Units by contacting SHDC and/or a Local Agent for details of business enquiries for small units in the area.
- Policy Statements for Discussion on the following subjects have been received:
1. Protection of Green areas, Landscape Assessment, AONB and Conservation Area – the effects on tourism, farming methods, wildlife, etc.
 2. Housing – General policy evidence and site suitability
 3. Protection of Shop and Pub – Viability & Tourism importance
 4. Footpaths (existing and proposed) / Rural Development (effects to the coastline and the countryside. e.g. phone masts, barns, etc.)
 5. Extending Strete Village Development Boundary
- Outstanding Statements to be submitted for the next meeting:
- Sustainable Energy
 - Commercial Units
 - A379 Parking
 - Tourism – Camp and Caravan sites
- Contact to be made with Devon C.C. Highways Department to discuss the issue of highway access from Lower Cox’s Field onto the A379.
- The evidence being gathered needs to be presented together with ‘telling a story’ about the parish in a format that the Examiner will find interesting and acceptable.
- A draft is to be available for discussion at the next meeting.

To consider co-opting Rebecca Prideaux and Mark Keane to the Parish Council.

Postponed to next meeting

8. To discuss a proposal that the Parish Council contribute to the cost of WiFi in the Parish hall

Postponed to next meeting when it is hoped to have costings.

9. To discuss the provision of new notice boards.

Members to research the possibilities and consider next meeting.

10. COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

- a) Planning and Neighbourhood Plan - R. Clark - as above
- b) Health & Safety – D. Rothwell – Upgrading the telephone box has been advertised on the website but so far there are no volunteers.
- c) Village Green – H. Fenton – More trees have been planted and the Green looks good.
- d) Play Park – K. Gill – Arrangements have been made to cut back the ivy and the repair to the fence has been organized.
- e) Strete Gate, Rights of Way, Tree Warden – I. Cumberlidge – Some trees have been removed from the picnic area and a tree down in Prideaux Lane has been removed.
- f) Transport & Roads – L. Newman - Japanese Knotweed is a problem. Ivy on the 40mph sign has been removed. Apparently there are go-

ing to be repairs to the road to Fuge – other Members reported that this will only be surface dressing to the first part of the road.

There was a transport meeting in August which it was not possible to attend.

g) R. Clark complained that the overgrown hedges have scratched his car. Cllr. Foss said that hedge owners are constrained by legislation as to when they cut hedges. The Chair said that her car was constantly being scratched due to the nature of the area.

14. FINANCE

To approve payment of the following cheques:

a) To approve payment of the following cheques:

1427 - £120.00 – SHDC for play-park insurance & inspection

1428 - £33.50 – Strete Parish Hall (PC - £19, NP - £14.50)

1429 - £375.00 – S. H. Planning (NP)

1430 – £150.00 - T. Hallett grass cutting x 3

1431 - £74.50 – C. Ellis – paint benches

1432 - £50.00 – C. Ellis – grass cutting

1433 - £19.98 – R. Clark – to reimburse for printing (NP)

1434 - £228.97 – S. Winstanley (July)

1435 - £228.97 - S. Winstanley (Aug)

1436 - £681.40 – Greenspace –
verge cutting Apr, May, June, July

1437 - £66.00 – Strete Parish Hall
(£47 PC, £19 NP)

1438 - £228.97 – S. Winstanley
(Sept)

1439 - Cancelled

1440 - £78.60 - HMRC

1441 - £375 – SH Planning (NP)
Resolved

b) Cash at bank – £23,593.87
(including £4350 for NP)

15. CORRESPONDENCE -

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 20th October 2016 - Strete Par- ish Hall at 7pm (if necessary)

Signed
K Gill
Chair

The editor has been asked to place a Notice in **Stretewise** with regard to obtaining the names and addresses of Parishioners who would like to be included in a business directory to promote their work, and therefore Strete, on our Parish Website.

Please Submit your details to
Stretewise@gmail.com

ACTION POINTS :

Clerk

1. **Contact Highways re. parking enforcement on DYLS.**
2. **To include new notice boards in next agenda with quotes**
3. **To include WiFi for the village hall next meeting.**
4. **To look up legislation regarding hedge cutting**
5. **To contact Environment re. JKW**
6. **To contact Western Power re. pole at Manor Farm**

STRETE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 20th October 2016

PUBLIC FORUM – One member of the public attended.

A complaint was made about a property which is unoccupied, falling into disrepair and looking unkempt. It was agreed the Chair should speak to a neighbour who is in contact with the owners who have not been at the property for some years.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr. J. Brazil

- The road maintenance contract has been awarded to a company called Skanska. It is hoped that Skanska will communicate effectively with PCs.
- More piles are to be put in place at Torcross which will mean the tank car park will be closed for 4 months.
- Clinical Commissioning Groups – The Coleridge Association Meeting will take place on Wednesday 26th November when a representative of the Torbay CCG will be present. Dartmouth Hospital is to close and the minor injuries unit will be transferred to Townstal. The savings from the hospital closure are to fund new community nurses so that people can be treated at home – it is hoped.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT – Cllr. R. Foss – No report

PRESENT Kate Gill (Chair), Louise Newman (Vice Chair), Ian Cumberland, Harry Fenton,

In attendance : S. Winstanley (Clerk), Cllr Foss, Cllr Brazil

1. APOLOGIES – R. Clark, David Rothwell, Cllr. R. Foss

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 15th September 2016

It was proposed seconded and *resolved* that the Chair should sign the Minutes as a true and correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Members are invited to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting. None

4. CLERK'S REPORT –

- Attended a meeting organised by SHDC to keep Clerks informed about procedures at DC. A significant part of the meeting was devoted to planning and it was noted that SHDC is the only DC still sending out paper copies of planning applications.

The badger cull has caused extra work for Police and 8 badgers found by the hedgerow in the Parish, had been gassed. H. Fenton reported that 1436 badgers had been culled in the South Hams.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

1. Just after our last meeting I met Paul Westlake with regard to working on maintaining our village buddle holes. When further contact is made we will hope to progress, so that we have a road that is flood free this winter.

2. I have liaised with Philip Knight with regard to his having put an electric fence across a public footpath. This was to protect both his cows/bullocks and walkers from one another. He is happy to put plastic handles on the fence so that walkers can move it safely in order to access the path. This is normal and permissible .

3. I attended the induction of our new Vicar Alison Shaw at Blackawton Parish Church on 26th September and also her coffee evening at Strete Parish Hall on 10th October. She lives in Stoke Fleming and has a Border Col-lie called Don.

4. On 29th September I met John Ayres with regard to moving the power pole on my field at Manor Farm to facilitate the creation of The Air Ambulance Helipad. We discussed putting the cables underground. He will be contacting me on Western Power's deliberations.

5. Slapton Line Partnership Meeting was held at Follaton House on 11th of October. The work to pile drive 12 metre sheets and upgrade the defences by the Environment Agency will take 4 months. Inevitably there will be some disruption to car parking and traffic flow which is hoped will be kept to a minimum. The reflector

markers have been removed and the paper and bottle banks have temporarily been re-sited at the Middle Car Park. There is an ongoing Beach Management Plan in place which will study how best to protect the whole length of Slapton Line.

6. The damaged netting on the path to the Play Park has been replaced by Mark Hanson. Please discourage any persons from causing further damage. Thank you Mark.

7. Tomorrow I shall be attending an evening at Stokenham Village Hall to meet our MP Dr Sarah Wollaston. If you would like me to put any specific questions to her please speak to me after the meeting tonight.

8. To my knowledge there have been no further raves at Strete Gate. Before next season I'm hoping together with Cllr Richard Foss to gather all interested.

6. PLANNING: None

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – R. Clark - Report for NP October 2016

- Steering Group members were provided with two OS maps of Strete and were asked to discuss, agree and mark any provisional increase to the existing development boundary for the village. This process included identifying provisional areas within the boundary where housing development could be considered and could not be considered.

- The reason for this is to eliminate the likely risk of receiving a

MINUTES STRETE PARISH COUNCIL October 2016

number of suggestions offering land for development that had already been excluded in the NP when a 'Call for Sites' is advertised.

- Richard Boyt was asked to take the two working maps that had been marked out, to compare and combine them ready for the next meeting. It has also been suggested that, with a pragmatic approach to this issue, members would be better able to communicate the reasoning for this approach to the community during the consultation process.

- Informal discussions with Devon C.C. Highways Department with regards to access from Lower Cox's Field onto the A379 suggested a traffic speed survey should take place to establish how much visibility is required due to passing speeds. What happens to the site of the old village water pump may also need to be considered due to it being part of the Conservation Area.

- However, until it is known what Devon C. C. Highways Department will eventually ask for and members decide how matters should proceed, this issue is to be held in abeyance.

- Some members also commented that another route for traffic to exit Cox's Field via a road through The Plat should be considered.

- This exit would allow traffic to filter out onto the main road through other parts of the village.

- Prepared NP Chapter Headings

and a Responsibility/Completion Charts were circulated and allocated to members. Four groups each with 4 to 5 members were confirmed. The target date for completion is 31st October 2016.

8. To consider co-option

Mark Hanson had volunteered to serve on the Parish Council having previously been a Member. Thanks were expressed to Mark and it was agreed he would officially become a Member at the next meeting of the PC.

9. To discuss the provision of new notice boards.

Members to research the possibilities and consider next meeting.

10. To discuss the Wifi for the Parish Hall

This is being progressed by the Chair of the Village Hall who will report back with more information.

11. COUNCILLOR'S REPORTSK.

K Gill (Chair) – Playpark

Thanks to M. Hanson for repairing the fence.

The report from Allianz was received today and will be considered next month.

L. Newman (Vice Chair) – Transport & Roads

The Dartmouth public transport group - there have been problems with Stagecoach who have Staff issues.

STRETE PARISH COUNCIL October 2016

Free parking is now available at the park & ride.

The hedge at Brock Hall and the hedge near Vicarage Lane need to be cut back. To be arranged.

D. Rothwell - Health & Safety - no report

H. Fenton – Village Green

There was a problem with wild animals digging up part of the green which encouraged dogs to dig.

I. Cumberlidge – Rights of way, tree warden and Strete Gate

Rights of way - the problem with the electric fence has been resolved.

Strete Gate - Fly tipping has occurred . The fence at the top side of the picnic area no longer exists.

The farmer will be contacted. SHDC need to replace the fence opposite the loo in the car park.

R. Clark – Planning & Neighbourhood Plan – as above

12. FINANCE

a) To approve payment of the following cheques:

1441 - £375.00 – SH Planning (NP)

1442 - £1125.00 – S. H. Planning (NP) – 3 invoices

1443 – £137.60 – M. Hanson (repairing fence)

1444 - £40.25 – Strete Parish Hall (£19 PC, £21.25 NP)

1445 - £228.97 – S. Winstanley (Oct)

b) Cash at bank – £27540.97 (including £4550 for Precept)

c) To approve 6 months accounts reconciled to bank statement
Resolved

d) Report on Audit – the Audit has been successfully completed.

13. CORRESPONDENCE - None

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 17th November 2016 - Strete Parish Hall at 7pm (if necessary)

Signed by Chair

ACTION POINTS :

Clerk 1. Send hedge cutting list to L. Newman

2. To include new notice boards in next agenda with quotes

3. To include WiFi for the Parish hall next meeting.

4. To contact SHDC re. repair to fence adjoining car park

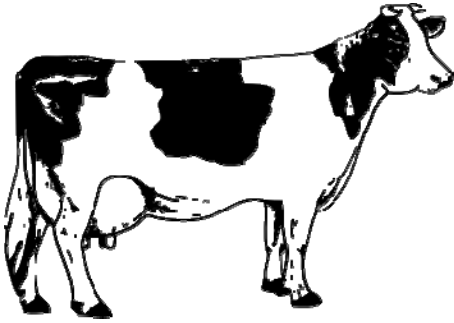
5. To look up legislation regarding hedge cutting

6. To include Allianz report in next agenda

7. I. Cumberlidge To contact farmer re. fence adjoining picnic site

8. L. Newman To organise hedge cutting

Clotted cream the real old fashioned way Kate Gill



Our cows were milked twice a day. When they were brought into their stalls, each cow knew her place and had her protein rations of bruised grain and cattle cake ready waiting for her in the manger. When there wasn't a drinking trough available in the stall, liquid was provided by a mangold wurzel. Each cow had a loose chain put round her neck to keep her in her own place, otherwise there could have been barging to eat someone else's rations.

Every day they were brought in from the field between 7 and 8 am and after milking put out to graze again. They were returned to the parlour again for about 4 pm for the evening milking. However each farm has its own regime. Their practices and times vary to suit their own farming needs.

As a very little girl I liked to help my father when he did the evenings milking, which was done by hand. I was about 3 when the following incident happened.

We both had our own three legged stool and a big milking bucket. My favourite cow a pedigree Friesian Holstein was called Teignhead Molly and I quite often milked her as she gave down her milk easily. I was a couple of cows from my 'Daddy' and we started to milk. I had a few pints of milk in my bucket when she got 'flighty'. She knocked me over, bucket, milk, stool and all. I let out a cry and Dad came over and pulled me out from under her belly, my head was at the 'poo' end. She had done a little dance on my legs up front and one hoof came down and squashed my nose, but she didn't actually kick me. I still have a very tiny reminder of the occasion; a little blimp on the top left hand side of the bridge of my nose. I was alarmed but don't remember crying, and I was very keen to get back doing the job.

At each milking the milk was cooled by passing it through a special water cooling system and then put into 10 gallon churns and left to stand in the 'milk room'. After the morning's milking the churns from the previous evening and that morning were put out onto the milk stand to await collection by the milk lorry. This was collected sometime during the morning. The milk stand still exists because Pam milked her girls and it

was maintained for her use. It is on the bank opposite what is now the Laughing Monk, but at this time the building was the 'big room' of the village school.

Milk Quality

As a given we will acknowledge that the butterfat in milk varies hugely, depending on the breed of cow, the cow's age and the time of year. Summer time produces the best quality milk, possibly up to or over 6% butterfat. That all said; the evening's milk is higher in butterfat than that taken in the morning. So to make clotted cream the evening's milk was used.

My family; grandparents and parents made clotted cream. My Mother did it as a tradition; to give us safe milk to drink and cream to eat. On the other hand my Grandma (father's mother) ran her dairy as a business. Their herd was mainly of Channel Island cattle, and therefore high in butterfat. She had a separator which she used to make 'double cream' and subsequently butter in her butter churn. I remember seeing wonderful stripy rolls of butter all lined up in her dairy that she had finished using wooden butter hands.

However Grandma was renowned for the superb quality of the clotted cream she produced in her dairy at Elm Tree Farm, Yealmpton; for which she won numerous prizes at shows. It was mid

golden yellow in colour, succulent, creamy and crisp textured all at the same time; so delicious!

Now let's think about how it's made! After the evenings milking, the raw milk was taken from the churn and poured into wide shallow enameled cooking pans which contained about one and half gallons/twelve pints of liquid each. The cooking pans used; for good reason had side handles. The pans were set on slate slabs in the pantry overnight. This allowed the 'ream' as it was known to rise to the surface and set as a soft crust. It only became 'c'ream when it was cooked!

In my family's case when all the hustle and bustle of breakfast was over and the temperature of the range had lowered, the set pans of milk were very carefully placed to simmer on the solid hob. The even and low temperature was critical to the quality of the clotted cream.

Here we should note that 212°F is equal to 100°C boiling point! The 'optimum' temperature to make clotted cream is 180°F or about 82°C preferably slightly less.

In my mother's case whilst she got on with the household chores the cream was also doing its own thing for about an hour. If the hob was slightly cooler it could take well over an hour, maybe

more. Every so often a watchful eye was kept on progress. Any movement of the milk below the crust spelt disaster!! At the 'golden' moment, the pans were carefully removed and returned to their slate slab to go cold and set firm. There was always a pan of milk on the go; setting, waiting, making, cooling, setting, waiting again.

When the 'golden wonder' was deemed ready, the crust was taken from the top using an enamelled cream skimmer.



The following recipe is the real deal with a real deal picture:

This quantity of milk is more handle'able than the quantities of the days of yore. As we are no longer able to legally purchase un-pasteurized milk the following recipe uses pasteurized milk and double cream bought from a supermarket.

Devonshire Clotted Cream

Ingredients

2,800 mls whole fat milk

600 mls double cream

Method

Gently mix the milk and cream together and pour into a wide topped pan. Cover with muslin to keep out the dust and leave to stand in a cool place (NOT the fridge) for several hours/ preferably overnight until the cream has risen to the top and formed a soft crust.

Lift the pan carefully onto the stove so that the risen layer of cream is not disturbed or broken up. Warm through on the lowest possible heat, on an asbestos mat if you like.

Keep at this low heat for 40-50 mins until the top of the cream is crinkled and golden yellow.

Remove the pan from the stove, cover and leave to stand for several hours or overnight in a cool place...but NOT the fridge!



So! Now we are into the art of real Devonshire Clotted Cream presentation of show standard!

A dish with sides about one and a half inches high please step forward!

First loosen the crust all the way round the pan with a sharp knife. Holding the knife in a vertical position make two or three cuts straight across the surface of the cream. Take the skimmer and gently place it below the surface slightly into the milk, push forward and lift, the crust will break, wait a couple of seconds for any excess milk to drain back into the pan and then slide your slice of cream into your waiting dish. Repeat this until all the cream has been lifted, creating layers, but make sure that any rough bits are placed on one side, or sneakily hived off as dairy perks. We now have your perfect golden creation! How would you use it?

Let's not however forget that the milk is left in the pan. This is called 'scald milk'. The equivalent today of the skimmed milk you can buy with a red top, however it is and tastes cooked, and I loved it. My grandparents had so much they just fed it to their pigs. If you don't like drinking 'scald' milk it can be used in cooking for pancakes or scones.

It brings to mind a few things about my youth. One was breakfast at the weekend when I wasn't rushing to catch the bus to Kingsbridge to school. At weekends I had the luxury of eating breakfast with my family. Here we have to remember we still had the remnants of rationing but living on a farm we had a few

perks because we produced our own food.

We had a farming breakfast it consisted of a 'cereal' course, then a 'fried' course, followed by a 'toast' course.

Everyone else had cereal with milk, sugar and clotted cream on top, followed by either fried bacon or egg or sausage, fried potato (left from the previous day's dinner) and half a slice of fried bread, followed by toast with either butter, or 'marg' and homemade marmalade, (Granny's recipe) or jam.

Now I openly admit that what I'm about to tell you sounds extravagant and disgusting, but consider it and compare with what the others ate.

I had cereal with scalded milk and a smidgeon of sugar, followed by the fried protein element and fried potato. My last course was my portion of fried bread topped with my ration of marmalade and my share of the clotted cream. I actually ate less than the rest and enjoyed it more!!! What can I say?!

Fast forward; I saved my cream ration, did without toast and butter (ration totally saved for someone else) and thoroughly enjoyed my breakfast. Wow!! Given the opportunity I would have the fried bread topped with my own homemade marmalade and clotted cream right now. Try it – on reflection, cut in half it sounds rather like two exotic sweet crostinis

Kate Gill's Clotted cream the real old fashioned way

Milking today!

Cows under normal/average circumstances are still milked twice a day as we did. In more recent times they have been milked at 4 a.m. and then again at 4 p.m. – yes I know 'what'? I know the hard way; I did milk recording for the Milk Marketing Board and one of my farms did 4 a.m. milking!!

Some exceptional dairy farms milk three times a day, and some progressive institutions using very big sheds even allow the cows which are kept indoors using zero grazing methods to choose when they want to be milked. They are all now milked by machine. (I have seen this in practice at Hartpury in Gloucester.) Milk is now stored in refrigerated vats and transported in refrigerated lorries to a main dairy.

Clotted cream today!

At this point I'm minded to say that today's clotted cream is still delicious but a shadow of its former self. It is made very commercially by simply putting separated double cream into ovenproof containers and baking it in a very slow oven until just a single top crust appears. You will note on not so close inspection that the cream fits its pot!! So it was cooked in a plastic container!! See photo (right)

If the real deal recipe is too daunting here is a simple recipe if you feel the need to have a go yourself.

Ingredient and method

1 pint of fresh double cream

Pour into a flat, shallow ovenproof dish to a depth of no more than 1"

Bake overnight in a 180F/82C oven

Cool, refrigerate, scrape off the clotted crust and put into a serving dish. Put the remaining cream into a jug and serve as double cream. Job done!

Oh and by the way! If you are serving scones with clotted cream please remember the cream takes the place of butter and must be applied first. And for the record half my family comes from Cornwall (Lostwithiel) and half from Devon. I consider that I am therefore justified in making this statement!!!!



Kate Gill's CHRISTMAS PUD



What are we going to serve our real clotted cream with?

I suggest Christmas pudding at this time of year! Fruit salad and ice cream in the summer!

Really it isn't too late to make a Christmas Pudding to serve this year!!!

I offer the recipe which served us all well when I cooked Lunch Club in the Parish Hall. It is light, succulent, fruity and fat free so you can add clotted cream without any hint of a guilty conscience.

This pudding is suitable for vegetarians and can be made for coeliacs. The breadcrumbs then need to be gluten free and sourced or made accordingly or simply just 'pudding up' the mixed ingre-

dients before you add the breadcrumbs. You will have to alter/modify the nut content for anyone who is nut allergic!!

Happy Christmas Everyone!!!!

This article spans 70 years as a matter of interest

Kate Gill

Editor—when I made these I mixed everything in a 4 litre mixing bowl and it made a 1.5 pint, 1 pint and two smaller puddings. I had very little expansion during cooking. (See picture)

Christmas Pudding

- 8oz fresh Wholemeal Breadcrumbs
- 8oz Lexia Raisins roughly chopped
- 8oz Sultanas roughly chopped
- 8oz Soft Apricots roughly chopped
- 4oz Soft Prunes roughly chopped
- 2oz Amaretti Macaroons crushed
- 2oz Flaked Almonds
- 2oz Ground Almonds
- 1 Apple peeled and grated
- 1 tab Orange Zest and grated
- 1 tsp ground Cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground Mace (or nutmeg)
- ½ tsp ground Cardamom Seeds
- ½ tsp ground Cloves
- ½ tsp ground Allspice
- 2 tabs Seville Marmalade (homemade of course)
- * 1 Orange—juice of
- 4 eggs
- 1 mini bottle Brandy *
- ¼ pint Sherry, Port or similar
- *Add more juice or sherry if the breadcrumbs were on the dry side

(*A mini bottle of brandy is about 5floz or about a sherry glass full. Ed)



Method

Note no fat or added sugar in this recipe. This serves 8-10 very generous portions.

Take a large mixing bowl plastic/ stainless steel.

Assemble all the ingredients, then prep each in turn and add to the large bowl.

Mix thoroughly, cover and leave to mature overnight. Meanwhile decide on your cooking basins, butter/oil each one and prepare the silicone paper and foil for the tops. (I used 1.5 pint, 1 pint,

Divide/fill leaving 1 inch space at the top for expansion. Cover; folding the top closely around the top of the basin. Put basins to simmer in gently bubbling water in a saucepan. Cook for 4-6 hours depending upon size plus 4 more later and then 2 more on the day you eat and enjoy. They can be made the week before eating or indeed a month or so – and it will also keep until the following year!!!!

Do not allow to boil dry!!!



The words written on the wreath were 'In grateful remembrance of all those who gave their lives that we should remain free.' Strete Parish Council

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Devon School Terms

Spring term	Starts: Tuesday 3 January 2017 Half term: Monday 13 February to Friday 17 February 2017 Ends: Friday 31 March 2017
Easter holiday	Monday 3 April to Monday 17 April 2017
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8.22 6.45 10.48 11.46 12.46 13.46 14.45 16.19* 17.06 18.06 19.06 19.06 20.06

Dartmouth to Strete

6.15 6.15 **7.30** 9.15 10.20 11.20 12.20 13.20 14.20 15.30 17.30 and 18.15

Strete to Kingsbridge

6.37 7.07 7.47 9.37 10.42 11.42 12.42 13.49 14.54 15.52 17.39 18.39

Kingsbridge (Bus station) to Strete

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Updated November 2016

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Copy deadline for Next issue 18 January 2017

All contributions are welcome but the editor reserves the right as to whether to include, edit or adjust the content. Contributions should be sent to stretewise@gmail.com

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