



Coin above Ahmad al-Mansur; Sadian Sharifs; 1578-1603; al-Ketawa; (above) Gold jewellery (right) **Salcombe Cannon Site**. Photos Courtesy of the British Museum



Route of gold from mining to Salcombe British Museum (Salcombe Cannon Site)

THE VILLAGE MAGAZINE

STRETE, BURLESTONE and Surrounds

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EDITORIAL

The concept of a 'golden age' does bring things into focus. Three Golden Oldies have stepped off the stage. Bryan Seymour had served on the Parish Council for nearly 20 years—and is now to give himself the time to catch up on his reading. Tony Crawford, has provided public service both here and in his previous home. I trust their contribution will be recognised. Also, we lose John Bell from St Michael's. after some 12 years—John and Hazel came to this Parish just after the millennium.

It is a few years since I last went to the British Museum. On closer consideration it was shortly after Norman Foster's redesign of the Central Atrium had been opened. That was December 2000. Now, children can sleep over to experience a 'Night at the Museum'. Any takers?

Andrea and I had been to see the impressive display of Gold and other finds of Ron Howell and his colleagues (room 68 display case 7). The Museum staff have been most helpful in assisting in the illustrations and context of this important find, and some of those images are included on the cover.

Past Times are picked up in the report of the lunch that was provided for the Devon History Society Spring Meeting on 25th April 2015 which was hosted by the Blackawton and Strete History Society.

Jean Parnell writes of the months and remembers her first teaching post The editor in Sidmouth in the 1950's and the experiences of Maypole dances.

The ongoing closure of the Kings Arms is a running sore for the community. The meeting in the Parish Hall on 14 April was very well supported, with over 100 people from the Parish raising their voice to complain over the fenced-off car park and the continued closure. The efforts of the action group, led by Ralph Clark and Ian Coates, were successful in persuading the directors of the brewery to take the fencing down—and are now working on the reopening of the pub.

They hope to be able to have a further meeting within the next few weeks to set out what has been achieved so far, and the plans for the future. Please do not think that nothing is being done.

Turning to the future; with elections out of the way, and the dust having settled, the Parish Council is short of two people. The council has an obligation to co-opt to make its numbers up to seven. On the third Thursday of next month those who have put their name forward for co-option will go onto a ballot paper for the parish council to vote.

This is a packed edition, and I have had to reduce the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting to fit everything in. Sadly, there has been no room for the report on the Public Village Meeting—for which I apologise. And talking of saying sorry, Roger Sinnott has written to correct my error in the previous edition. Sorry for my error.

Best wishes

The editor

Goodbye Stoke Fleming, Blackawton & Strete

I have just returned from Loddiswell and the Licensing Service, led by the Bishop of Exeter, of the Revd. Daniel Hartley, now Priest in Charge of the Aune Valley Mission Community (in our Woodleigh Deanery). While there, someone asked me if I remembered the day I was Instituted and Inducted as Rector to the Benefice of Stoke Fleming, Blackawton and Strete. Yes, of course, I did: it took place on Tuesday 23rd October 2001, at St. Peter's Church, at 7.30 p.m. From my filing cabinet I have just pulled out the old Order of Service used on that occasion, and I see that not one of my then clergy colleagues is still in a full-time post, including the officiating Bishop, John Garton! Many of you will know that I am due to retire in June. During Hazel's and my time in the Benefice we have witnessed many changes. Both our mothers and fathers were promoted to glory, but four grandchildren were added to the family. And yes, we have lost a number of dear parishioners along the way both church and non-church attendees, their names too numerous to mention, but you, dear reader, will remember quite a few.

I have found it a great honour to lead

funerals. Saying goodbye to a loved-one is an important part of the journey of life, and it reminds us of our own mortality. And surely life is a series of deaths and resurrections. Even retirement is a kind of death! It's saying goodbye and thank you to people for their life-giving dedication and support over nearly 14 years: but it also feels like a bereavement, a letting go.

The service at Loddiswell ended with that rousing hymn with the refrain, **"Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son, endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won,"** and the organist, choir and the congregation really belted it out! During the last verse I got a bit choked up: this hymn is one of hope, and God's love for me ... and you. And what do you know? That was the last hymn at my Induction Service way back in 2001. For "new boy" Daniel and "old boy" John, the words of this hymn express not an end, but a beginning. What will retirement hold? When we move to our home in Okehampton, on 1st July, time will tell, but new beginnings await us just as they await the churches of this old Benefice. Farewell and thank you for everything people of Stoke Fleming, Blackawton and Strete!

Rev'd John & Dr. Hazel Bell.

ST MICHAEL'S PARISH CHURCH



From the Registers

Nothing to report as of 27th APRIL.
Please contact Joan Kendall or Sally Green to check if any funerals have occurred since this date. Thank you.

Joan Kendall 3 Crestfields, Strete,
Dartmouth TQ6 OSD

There will be special services leading up to John's retirement as follows:-

31st May United Benefice Service at
STRETE 11 a.m

John's last service here at Strete will be 14th June. 11 a.m.

Final Service taken by him will be at
Stoke Fleming on

21st June with a Bring and Share
Lunch. 11 a.m.

Christians Together in Strete

A time of fellowship, prayer and Bible Study for Christians of all denominations in the village and those who would like to know more about the Christian faith.

We are reading the New Testament Book of the Acts of the Apostles.
Christians of all denominations welcome

**Venue: Audrey Clarke's home –
Strete Lodge on the main A379**

**Monday afternoon meetings are
2.30 pm. – 4.30 pm.**

**Dates for our fortnightly meetings
for the Summer Term 2015**

Monday 8th June

Monday 6th July

No meeting in August

**Autumn Term Starts Monday 14
September 2015**

For further information
ring Jilly Freeman 770 254

STRETE CHAPEL NOTES

Jim Carver

Greetings from the Strete Chapel Fellowship.

The Good Friday meeting held on the 3rd April 2015 in the Stoke Fleming Village Hall and was very well attended, with up to one hundred people from various parts of the South West, Cornwall; Somerset; Bristol; North and East of Devon and from various local fellowships within the surrounding area of the South Hams. The meeting starting at 11.00am with a sit down lunch at approximately 12.30 pm and reconvening for an afternoon session at 2.00 pm. The Speaker Mr David Coffey who comes from Torquay spoke on the prophesy in Isaiah, Chapter 53 of the death of the Son of Man in the morning session and in the afternoon session on the Ethiopian eunuch from the Book of Acts Chapter 8, how the Ethiopian eunuch met Philip on the desert road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza. The Eunuch was reading the Scripture from Isaiah about the foretelling of the death of the Son of God and Philip told the Eunuch of the good news about Jesus. With that the Eunuch asked to be baptised. When they came out of the water Philip was taken away by the Lord and the Eunuch went on his way rejoicing.

Watch this space!

As reported in the last Stretewise just watch this space for some thing to put in you Diaries: On the 21st October 2016 the Chapel will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary.

When the Strete Methodist Chapel closed, the Chapel was purchased from



Heather being presented with the Ladies Cup



Ten Pin Bowling



Hugh Presented with the men's cup

the Methodist organisation on the 21 October 1966. This will be a great day of celebration and more details will be given nearer the time.

Chapel Outings and Activities:

On Monday 6th April 2015 the Chapel Fellowship visited Torquay and went to the Old Coach House for Lunch then followed by Ten Pin Bowling in Torquay. Heather Robinson won the Ladies Cup for the highest number of points scored and Hugh Crossman won the Men's Cup

Monday 4th May 2015: the Chapel Fellowship visited the House of Marbles at Bovey Tracy for lunch. After lunch we all had a look at many of the fascinating items on display in the Museum, the shop and learnt about the history of making pottery in the Bovey Tracey area. Well worth a visit. From there we went up onto the Moor to Widecombe in the Moor and visited the Church. Afterwards we went to the Way Side Cafe for afternoon tea which was enjoyed by all.

Monday 25th May 2015 - Weston-super-Mare to see Jim and Pat and have lunch with them at Toogoodies followed by either a visit to the sea front or to a Garden Centre.

Monday 31st August 2015 - Exmouth B.B.Q. on the beach, swimming and games.

If any body would like to come and join us on any of these Outings then please get in touch with Derek Darch

Visiting Speakers

Over the past months we have had very excellent visiting speakers which has been very up lifting and encouraging to all of the fellowship. During the forth

coming Sundays we will be welcoming visiting speakers to take our Sunday Morning Services, and the following will be coming.

7th June Maurice Hockridge

14th June Adrian Dawe

21st June Desmond Gahan

5th July Mark Fox

19th July Peter Glasgow

2nd August Charles Bancroft

9th August Charles Bancroft

16th August Charles Bancroft

23rd August Charles Bancroft

30th August Charles Bancroft

20th September - CHURCH Harvest

We extend to you all a very warm welcome to come and join us in fellowship.

The time of our Morning Family Services is 11.00 am and on the first Sunday of the month, we have a shared lunch after the morning service, followed by Communion.

Jim Carter

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH - Not all that it Appears Roger Sinnott

The Editorial in the last issue of Stretewise incorrectly stated that '...it is 179 years since St Michaels was 'built'; the tower being much older.' Our esteemed Editor is not the first to be misled by appearances. The tower was built at the same time as the main part of the Church in 1836.

When Nikolaus Pevsner was preparing his 'The Buildings of England' (46 Volumes!), he categorically stated that the tower of St Michael's was medieval. He was misled by the apparent medieval style of the tower.

Usually what Pevsner says is taken as gospel. He was a German Jew with English maternal grandparents. He was educated in Germany, moved to England and continued his career in art and art history after a brief spell of internment in 1939. His early release from internment was due to influence in English high society, in particular Kenneth Clark and Josiah Wedgewood. However, I digress. It would be undoubtedly fascinating to give more detail of Pevsner's life but the Editor would no doubt delete it as not relevant to this article!

The Church design in 1835 had a tower and a plain rectangular main body with no chancel and without any internal columns to support the roof. This followed

the austere pattern of Georgian England, both architecturally and in the form of worship. The 'columns' and chancel were added later in Victoria's reign to reflect the requirement for a more theatrical style of worship. The 'columns' and connecting arches may look to be stone but are in fact built up in wood sections and do not contribute to the support of the roof.

The land was given by Henry Limbrey Toll who also donated £100 towards the construction. His descendants have continued to support the Church. Construction, including the tower, was rapid with a mere 15 weeks between laying the foundation stone and consecration. The three services on each Sunday were well attended with over 50 baptisms in the first five years (though only three burials).

A fuller history is given in the booklet which I prepared with BASH. Copies can be obtained in the village shop. The research was spread over two years and involved digging into archives at Exeter. I found it all quite fascinating. I clearly had more time to gather facts than had Nikolaus Pevsner!

Housing Needs Survey for Parish of Strete 2015

The outline outcome of this survey, managed and operated by South Hams District Council, was reported at the April Parish Council Meeting. The suggestion from this preliminary indication was that there is a need for three or four affordable rental homes in the Parish. The final report will probably be used in the compilation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Stretewise Delivery Team

Brenda Range (Hynetown Road), Liane Baldock (Matts Point), Colleen Seymour (Crestways and Crestfield), **Heather Robinson**— Totnes Road South and Vicarage Lane), Joan Kendall (the Platt and Hyne Town Estate), **Rosemarie Stevens** (Start Bay Park), Chris Burne (Dartmouth Road East), John and Shirley Goldring (Village Centre and Dartmouth Road West), David Wall (Burlestone), Andrea Hollis (Upper Totnes Road), Malcolm Hollis Strete Gate / email).

**Welcome to Heather Robinson,
Pauline Pearce and Rosemarie
Stevens who have joined the
Delivery Team.**

VILLAGE DAY

**Meeting in Parish Hall
Monday 1st June
at 7.30 p.m.**

Your Help is needed to put together a programme of events for Village Day which this year will be held in the hall and surrounding area on
1 AUGUST 2015

Dartmouth Art & Craft Weekend

The 12th annual Dartmouth Art & Craft Weekend in aid of Children's Hospice South West will take place on Saturday **27th & Sunday 28th June**, from 10am to 4pm daily in Royal Avenue Gardens, Dartmouth. An interesting and fun weekend to watch, talk to and buy from artists and craft workers displaying their talents. Great children's activities. Teas, homemade cakes and snacks will be provided by Children's Hospice volunteers. This event raised over £2,200 for Children's Hospice South West in 2014. **Bigger than ever this year** – don't miss it! Further information - **Sue Tweed 01803 770730.**

All proceeds to Children's Hospice South West - making the most of short and precious lives.

20 Years on

Ron Howell



Twenty years ago this month an astonishing underwater discovery was made that resulted in the history of Northern Europe to be re-written.

On the 25th of April 1995 a small team of five amateur marine archaeologists were blown out of the Erme Estuary where they had been diving for the past six years, they decided not to waste the weekend having travelled all the way down from Northampton where they were based. They chose to dive in the sheltered waters of Salcombe on a recently discovered cannon site, and the rest is history.

I was one of those divers, all diving mates of mine going further back to 1975

when we all met up in the training pool at the Mounts Baths, Northampton. We are, and have always been, a team, but I was lucky enough on that day to spot the unmistakable bright yellow object sticking out of a crevice in the soft rock of the seabed, a swift waft of the open hand revealed more, gold nuggets, jewellery and coins everywhere, after calling my dive buddy over and showing him what I had in my hands I took my excited body off to the surface, 15 minutes later my buddy hit the surface his fists clenching more gold.

Little did we all know at the time, just how that day was to change our lives and bring further amazing discoveries that continue to this day, 20 years on.



Ron Howell and
Mick Palmer

Two of the divers relocated to the South Hams from Northampton as the result of the 'Gold Wreck' and I was one of them, first to Totnes then Strete. The other diver moved to South Milton and raised his family in the safe environment of a South Devon village, never regretting leaving the Midlands town.

What has happened to the 'Gold Wreck' as it is known over the last twenty years?

The large pre 1640 vessel, well armed with cannon, still remains unidentified despite finding a merchants seal and a pewter bowl stamped with the owners mark, the pity is that pewter and merchant seal mark records were destroyed in the great fire of London in 1666. The strongest theory is that it is a Dutch Merchantman returning from the Medi-

terranean with a bullion cargo of gold due to be melted down, judging from the gold found that melting down process had already started. Another popular theory is that she is a Barbary Pirate vessel raiding the southern coastline looking for white slaves to take back to Africa for ransom, the gold coins were all Islamic, and some of the jewellery is manufactured with gold from the mines of Timbuktu, lending weight to the Barbary Pirate theory.

Work on the 'Gold Wreck' ceased in 2003 when we came across the wreck site of a Bronze Age vessel, also carrying gold and bronze weapons. The two wrecks were almost touching, and the gold that we found from the two vessels still shone bright yellow despite their sinking being separated by 3000 years in time.

Work continued surveying and measuring in the finds to enable a computerised picture to be created of the seabed. It was during this work that a most amazing find was made that linked the wreck to the Island of Sicily in the Mediterranean proving for the first time a trading link with Northern Europe three and a half thousand years ago.

Five years later in 2008 the first dive of the season, the team decided to dive closer inshore to investigate a strong underwater signal made during a seabed survey a few years previously, and we were quite unprepared for what we found, yes, another wreck. The wreck this time was a modern one, a large motor yacht that was destroyed by fire twelve years previously, also Bronze Age vessels didn't have brass nuts and bolts, and what we thought was molten copper from the engine of this yacht was in fact a Bronze Age tin ingot, once again the team had made an amazing discovery, and in the subsequent months more copper, tin, weapons and gold was found, the team had just found potentially one of the oldest shipwrecks in the world, a Bronze Age trading vessel.

Diving continued on this site for the next five years; widening their search towards the area where two swords and axe heads were found in 1979.

The possibility is that the latest finds could link up the two sites. The question is, is it one wreck or two. We know that the Bronze Age wreck further out to sea is definitely one wreck, because of the earlier dating evidence and distance from recent finds. Only time and research will provide the answer.

Last year we returned to the 'Gold Wreck' to carry on the job of trying to give it a name after an absence of eleven years, and straight away upon returning to the area we left, found gold coins, and a large gold hinged bracelet on the very first dive. Needless to say we are looking forward to this year's activities.

Our achievements in an historical context have been enormous, the British Museum describing the 17th Century finds as "one of the most significant discoveries in the history of Britain", and of the Bronze Age sites, "by far the most important archaeological discovery made in recent times in Northern Europe". Lastly the Salcombe Cannon Site has been named the tenth richest wreck in the world. Not bad for a small team of friends whose average age is now 68, and will continue to dive till it is time to hang up their fins, all we need now is keen young divers to hand over our legacy. Are there any takers?

Ron Howell Strete, 2015

The British Museum



Citi Money Gallery Room 68 in the British Museum



Editor

In 1999, the British Museum acquired this group of over 400 gold coins, broken pieces of gold jewellery and ingots as well as pewter, pottery sherds and a merchant's seal. The coins were struck by the Sharifs of the Sa'dian dynasty, who ruled Morocco during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The latest coin found was struck by Sharif al-Walid (reigned 1631-6) in AH 1040 (AD 1631).

This is a unique find in the history of Britain. It provides us with tangible evidence of a flourishing trade taking place between North Africa and Europe from the late sixteenth century.

British Museum Magazine:
Coins and musket balls in
Room 68 Display Case 7

Only part of the discoveries of Ron Howell and his friends are available to view in the British Museum. The coins are on display in room 68 together with a group of musket balls and the remains of some pottery. (**Salcombe Cannon Site** or Salcombe Bay Treasures) Entry to the British Museum is free. Some of the remainder can be seen on the web site http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/cm/t/treasure_of_the_salcombe_canno.aspx

With thanks to the Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British, Medieval, Renaissance and Modern collections Tel: +44 (0)20 7323 8629

..... "Sweet April showers

Do bring May flowers"

(Thomas Tusser - 1524 - 1580)

The May or hawthorn starts blooming in May and I have noticed the blossom during the last couple of weeks.

The tree has always had sinister, dark associations possibly as it might have provided the wood for the crown of thorns placed on Jesus's head at the crucifixion. The blossom should not be brought into the house for 2 reasons:

- 1. the sickly smell is said to be exactly that which accompanied the Great Plague in London in 1665
- 2. it brings ill luck to those living there.

Honeysuckle:

As I wrote earlier in Stretewise about roses being the flower of June, apparently the honeysuckle was considered the wild flower of the month. Honeysuckle in the hedgerow was known as woodbind or woodbine. Many children have sucked "honey" flowers which people referred to as the nose of an elephant! Walking sticks have been made from honeysuckle which was wound around straight

branches so that a spiral imprint showed on them.

Apparently in Japan the honeysuckle is considered a menace but on the banks of busy highways the scent overwhelms the stench of traffic fumes!

May Day celebrations : During the 19th century children from Kingsbridge carried flower garlands and branches of flowers tied to poles around the town Their clothes were decorated with flowers and they sang and danced while going through the town.

In Dartmouth

children made hoops of flowers with 2 intersecting hoops covered in blooms. In both towns the flowers

**" And what is so rare as a day in June
Then, if ever, come perfect days ..."**

(James Russell Lowell

"The Vision of Launfall" 1848)

and the clothes the children wore were adorned with long, brightly coloured ribbons while they paraded around the town.



Devon maypole dance Picture Courtesy of the BBC

My first teaching post was in Sidmouth at a primary school and each year the maypole played a large part in the Summer Term, All children brought flowers to decorate the pole and spare ones were placed in vases wherever there was space. I had no experience of maypole dancing but once the practising began all was revealed. The easiest dance was the Barber's Pole, straightforward, but watching later when the Spider's Web appeared it was most effective. I am sure some the teachers would have been willing to try but in the 1950's teachers were not as "laid back" as they are today!

Dances were thriving in South Devon during the 16th and 17th centuries and even today a legacy is seen in some Morris Dancing, In a book "History of Plymouth" the costs for the dances were recorded thus:-

1566 - Item paid to the minstrels and dancers upon May Day, for their dinner and drinking 6s 8d.

1688 - Item paid for the dressing of the May Pole 1s 0d., for renting of the May Pole 3s 4d. Paid to the Morris dancers on May Day 4s. 0d.

In those days dancers in teams or sides would know how to service a cow, prepare the land or raise a crop but their dances still inspired them. The music makers were permitted into houses and when the music failed to please the boys were "rewarded" with coins to ensure that they departed!

Obviously, at times, a good time was had by one and all!

I wish you all a sunny and fruitful early summer in the garden!

Jean Parnell

Devon History, BaSH and the Mediaeval Cookery Event

25 APRIL 2015

My fascination with food began many moons ago and I count myself lucky for that! I had chosen my career path by the age of ten! Food and all its forms have followed me ever since.

It's no surprise then if I tell you I have a massive library of 'cookery' books and constantly still do research. That research just about explains the title for this article!

I belong to Blackawton and Strete History – we are affiliated to Devon History Society – this year has been our privilege to host our big sister's Spring Meeting 25th April 2015.

Our endeavours were just like giving birth in that they were of about nine months gestation.

Our guests visited our villages to learn about past events in this very special area of the South Hams.

It was an all-day event with a fairly tight time table. It started at 10.00am at Blackawton Village Hall with registration and introductions by Chairmen of both groups and refreshments kindly served



by our members Rosie, Jacqueline and Helen.

Historically speaking our featured items commenced in the 19th century with an analysis by Gareth James of land usage in this part of the South Hams over the centuries. There were a huge number of orchards – they sadly have now all but disappeared.

Bringing us forward to the beginning of the 20th century - we proudly used this event to launch our latest publication – ‘Lest We Forget’ – an exploration of the names on the war memorials of our two villages researched and written by BaSH member James Mussen.

At 12 noon our guests and participants were whisked from Blackawton onto mini buses for a conducted coastline tour from Dartmouth to Torcross with particular historic places explained on the way, including the tank at Torcross and its significance.

Next stop Strete Parish Hall at 12.45. Time to study our panels of pictures of previous projects (Val), buy books (Anne) and for lunch with a difference! Interestingly dubbed Mediaeval Munch by Bob and Anne Harvey who were our glue holding the teams together!!

Thank you to the team who worked hard to help me, family Caspar and Juanita and friends Val (again) and Trudi. Special thanks to Rosa Jamieson, my granddaughter; who worked with me in the months previously to test and develop the mediaeval recipes using the ingredients available now, setting the tables, serving the dishes and gathering wild ‘sallat’. Not forgetting Fred my grandson who acted as house-carl, serving trencher bread from wooden chargers and being generally useful. We served 45 lunches!

After lunch including as I understand it several soporific guests; having con-

sumed several courses of mediaeval food some rosehip cordial, plus some home brewed Mead they enjoyed an historic film of the evacuation of the area in 1943. It showed the preparations for the invasion of Normandy the following year. David Stranack kindly spoke about the event and interviewed four of those who were youngsters at the time (seventy two years previously) about the trauma of their personal experiences, all now happily retired and living in Strete. Those youngsters were Ken and Jean Parnell, Pam Wills and Roy Kendall. Thank you to them for sharing their memories with us.

Before departing, guests were invited to partake of tea and a taste of Mediaeval Shortbread – one comment was ‘reminds me of Christmas’. Indeed you were nobody in mediaeval times if you were not able to afford spices in abundance.

Confession here – I’m really not good at giving dates to specific eras of history – one of my greatest fears was to be caught wrong footed on that aspect of my preparations. If I’ve made a mistake so far I have got away with it. Phew!! The results of months of researching, checking and rechecking so far stand firm.

Of my many cookery books; some dozen and a half happen to be food related to the Mediaeval (Taster Menu) Munch. Historical eras and recipes both, even the SAS Survival Guide featured in my reading. Studying botany at school helped me on my way to foraging for



‘sallat herbes’. For the rest let’s say our foreign visitors and conquerors mainly the Romans and French together with our country men’s sorties abroad provided us with new varieties of food and ways to prepare it. Having studied French and Latin when young and palaeography with BaSH enabled me to decipher much of the information gleaned from the books I needed.

The menu was based on recipes found in these books and on line. Our food era covered say 500 AD to 1600 AD

Even finding and getting some ingredients proved challenging. With two or three recipes available for some dishes, it was necessary to translate the ingredients their quantities and methods. Well at least I’m satisfied with the results and if that sounds cocky so be it!

For this event we followed a modern menu set up – soup, fish, main course, with accompaniments, dessert followed by petits fours. We also had a drinks menu!

I give you the menu as it appeared in our event souvenir.

Menu

Pottage

The dish which constituted a whole meal for the poor – is vegetarian and contained the vegetables available at the time of making. Say – leeks, onions, cabbage, carrots, all chopped - plus herbs, boiled in water, thickened with crushed oats and seasoned with salt.

Mackerel Souse

Mackerel was an easily acquired food in this area. Sousing is a type of pickling using spices, with ‘slow’ cooking.

Sauce Verte

The mediaeval version of this sauce uses bread as its thickening agent, not mayonnaise, and parsley as the main herb.

Spatch-cocked Quayle

Quail were caught, plucked, eviscerated, spatch-cocked and then put on spits and roasted in front of an open fire.

Rapés

Here we have a vegetarian dish, based on lentils, also containing oatmeal, almonds, coconut, soft cheese and eggs, all finely chopped/grated. Raper is ‘to grate’ in French. To have an orange in this era was to denote wealth and as a result many dishes were made to look like oranges – this is one such dish.

Ymbre Tart

Pronounced ‘amber’, this dish is also vegetarian – it is a spiced cheese and onion savoury custard tart even though it contains currants.

Herb Puree

A vegetarian accompaniment based on spinach, lettuce and marjoram combined with butter, nutmeg and sugar with a dollop of clotted cream and a drizzle of 'sack'.

Sallat

A selection of available salad vegetables mediaeval style, with some pickled fruits.

Medlar Tarte

Medlars are an almost forgotten fruit, if the trees on which they grow were not so beautiful – they might not still be around. Judge for yourself!

Applemoy

This is a simple pureed apple dish using an almond and ground rice pudding base; containing the usual saffron and honey.

Doucette

Doucette is a generic name for a sweet dessert. In this case it is applied to a cream custard tarte containing the inevitable saffron.

Quiddany

Quiddany is a fruit pastille made from puree of quinces and as a sweetmeat takes the place of petits fours.

Beverage Menu

Mead, Pure spring water, Rose-hip cordial Hot alternative - Tisanes.

My first concern was – what do we drink? Ale, water, mead - racked brains; research to the fore; most sources of water were contaminated. So it would have to be something with boiled water and or alcohol. Roses were around in Roman times and rosehip cordial though not strictly recorded as a drink, wild fruits were gathered and turned into juice and consumed. Following the principle that I had lots of rosehips I did what my mediaeval ancestor's would have done – used what was available! The big fat rosehips of my *rosa rugosa* were turned into cordial, carefully dated and frozen.

First task accomplished – now source the equipment and the rest of the ingredients. Trenchers, eating knives, (no fork) picks instead, wooden eating spoons!

A friend kindly gave me a very long well-seasoned 'lime' log. I took it to a sawmills where they sawed it into one inch thick rings – rough and hairy – I took it to a very friendly wood working establishment. They spent many hours belt sanding them for me. I next sealed the surfaces with food friendly Danish oil. Later when the smell had gone I treated the surfaces again with bees wax. Eating knives were sourced from local charity shops, picks were brochette skewers and disposable wooden dessert spoons came via eBay. Trudi lent me the linen napkins.

Mead takes several months to ferment, about 4 months beforehand the mead was started.

Having decided on the menu I set about trying out recipes with the aforementioned Rosa. Time would not allow me to make the trencher bread so I tried to delegate the job. A local baker happy to do it then declined on seeing the recipe on the grounds that they might not make a success of it! My good friend Ben at the Laughing Monk came to my rescue. Using the tried recipe he made me 8 trencher loaves. He deserves a big hug – thank you Ben!

Quinces and medlars are only available in season, so I had to strike whilst they were around. Andy at Strete Post Office kindly ordered a tray for me and really saved my metaphorical bacon. Pickled quinces and the pulp (frozen) needed for Quiddany were then made. Medlars a difficult prospect, until my daughter realised there were trees at a local tourist attraction. On investigation we were able to liberate a quantity – sufficient for a taste at least. They needed to be blotted ‘let to get nearly rotten’. They were duly processed turned into a dubious looking puree and frozen until needed and baked with beaten egg and honey in an open tart.

Quail next came into my sights – trying to delegate again, though I have all the necessary equipment to produce them – I approached another friend to source them. Success! Quail eggs incubated, hatched, reared, fasted, killed, plucked and collected, they were spatch-cooked mediaeval style on the morning of the event by Caspar and Trudi. They were rubbed with olive oil, sprinkled with sea

salt and roasted over some red wine and basted.

For the first course I settled on pottage to replace soup, though the textures are nothing alike. Then to my surprise who should I see on television but food historian Ruth Goodman, cooking and consuming just that!



Ken and Jean Parnell with their pottage

The fish course was dictated by the fact we are next to the sea – mackerel is easy to catch – except that the very moment I ordered them from the fishmonger there were none to be had at Brixham Fish Market. Trudi’s son Tim went fishing – no luck! Fortunately this was a taster menu so eight would be sufficient. I

trawled the supermarkets and came up with the right number. (Excuse the pun)

The sousing recipe is very similar the one my mum used when I was a child, so simple and delicious. Those keen summer fishermen should try it!

Mackerel Souse

Ingredients for 8 - 12 people as a taster
- 4 as main course.

4 large mackerel fillets (portioned into 2 or 3)

200 mls malt vinegar

100 mls water

1 tsp sugar

2 bay leaves

1 tsp mixed pickling spice

1 good pinch sea salt

Method

Lay the portioned mackerel fillets in an ovenproof dish.

Heat the vinegar and water together in a saucepan, bring to the boil, add the sugar, salt, bay leaves and pickling spice. Remove from the heat and allow to steep for 5 minutes.

Pour over the mackerel, including the bay and spices.

Cover with greaseproof paper and bake for 20 minutes in a preheated oven 160°C, reg. 4 350°F

Allow to cool in the liquid and serve garnished with a sauce verte – mediaeval or modern.

Prep the fish a day in advance, sauce verte just before consuming.



Soused mackerel with bay leaf

This was a taster menu, so portions were designed to be small. There was a choice of main course, but most people had all available. In preparation the quail were straight forward and the results delicious, the Rapés were a nightmare as I followed the original recipe, which broke the modern rules of method. Try sticking a granola style coating on a highly mobile spoonful of filling without the help of beaten egg as an adhesive, and then deep frying it. It doesn't work. After a test in a fryer the rest were baked in the oven. Enough said you will not be getting the recipe.

Now the Ymbre tart was a different story so I give you the recipe. Just so that you have an idea of the original recipe I worked from I give it to you.

Original Receipt

Tart in Ymbre day. Take and perboile oynouns & erbis & presse out þe water & hewe hem smale. Take grene chese & bray it in a mortar, and temper it yp with ayren. Do þerto butter, saffroun & salt, & raisons corauns, & a litel sugur with powdour douce, & bake it in a trap, & serue it forth.

Now for the modern version.

Ymbre Tart. (Amber)

3 to 4 small onions finely chopped with 2 bunches of parsley.

1 cup of grated Cheddar cheese.

8 beaten eggs.

1 tab melted butter. (see method, no need to pre-melt)

Small pinch saffron.

Small pinch salt.

Handful currants.

Pinch sugar.

1/8 tsp each of ground cloves and mace.

Optional extra herbs – ½ tsp dried – basil, sage and thyme.

Plus a 9 inch quiche style pastry case baked blind. (The 'trap' above - also sometimes called a 'coffyn')

Method

Pre-prepare the pastry case.

Bring to the boil, and then simmer the onions and parsley in a little water as

you can manage without burning, until soft. Allow to cool. This should have a small amount of liquid left i.e. parsley and onion stock which replaces any milk or cream you might have added in a normal modern recipe.

Add butter in a lump whilst still warm.

In a separate bowl put the remaining ingredients and beat thoroughly.

Combine the two mixtures thoroughly and pour into the pastry case. Bake until set and golden – light 'amber' colour.

Eat whilst warm. This recipe has been much requested. It really does taste Mediaeval!

All my pre-prepared, frozen and hoarded components were duly used for the event.

Herb Puree

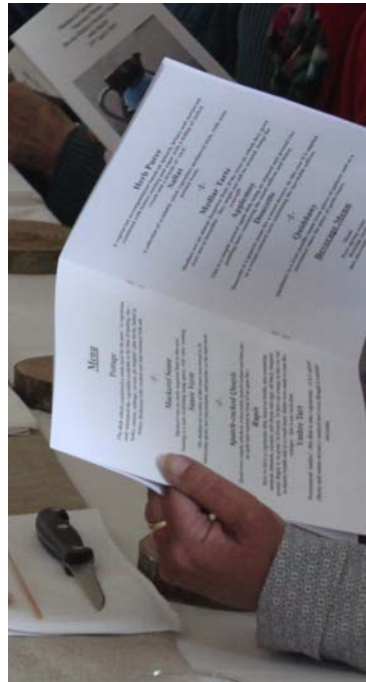
Is really a wilted/sautéed collection of the ingredients listed in the menu and easy to replicate. I did include some wild garlic leaves which added to the flavour.

Sallat

Is a collection of wild salad vegetables served with a simple olive oil and wine vinegar dressing. However I purchased wild rocket and watercress, and BaSH members, Rosa and I gathered the remaining items. These included:- forced and small dandelion leaves, sorrel, wall penny wort - growing a plenty in my garden, wild garlic leaves and flowers. Herb Robert flowers, violets, primroses and cowslip flowers were also included.



The spatch-cooked quails



The menu

The desserts are pretty self-explanatory in the menu, but I'll finish with **Quiddany**.

This is so simple and if you like the flavour of quince give it a go in the autumn.

Take your 'given' quantity of quinces and bake them in a moderate oven until they are soft. Poke them to see when! Allow them to cool and carefully remove the cores and skins, preserving the cooked flesh which will be light golden

pink colour. Mash and weigh the pulp. Take the same weight in granulated sugar and cook the two together as though you were making jam. When ready, put into a plain flat tray lined with silicone paper. Allow to set. Keep covered in a warm dry atmosphere. Cut into small shapes and roll in caster sugar when required.

Sorry I haven't researched the mediaeval 'toast' before a meal!

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16: INVENTORS AND THEIR 25 INVENTIONS

DATE	INVENTOR
1799	Alessandro Volta
1839	Charles Goodyear
1841	Thomas Cook
1844	Gustav Pasch
1849	Walter Hunt
1850	L. Strauss
1853	George Crum
1888	John Dunlop
1892	Jesse Reno
1892	Whitcombe L Judson
1895	Wilhelm Rontgen
1896	Italo Marcioni
1902	Dr Arthur Korn
1906	Alva Fisher
1926	John Logie Baird
1930	Richard Drew
1936	Eugene Schueller
1938	L & G Biro
1945	Percy LeBarron Spencer
1950	Ralph Schieder
1952	J Woodland & B Silver
1959	Ruth Handler
1960	Theodore Maiman
1967	Jack Kilby
1968	Don Wetzel

Match the inventor and the date with the invention from the list below:

Adhesive Tape, ATM (Cash Machine), Ball Point Pen, Bar code, Barbie Doll, Battery, Credit Card, Escalator, Fax Machine, Ice Cream Cone, Jeans, Laser, Microwave Oven, Pneumatic Tyres, Pocket Calculator, Potato Crisps, Safety Matches, Safety Pin, Sun Tan Lotion, Television, Travel Agency, Vulcanised Rubber, Washing Machine (Electric), X-Rays, Zip Fastener

Provided by ADRIAN SAWYER

adrian.sawyer@btopenworld.com

For answers see Web site



The Homeless Trust Dartmouth

For the homeless and needy in Dartmouth and district

People are sometimes surprised that there are homeless in Dartmouth. Where are the rough sleepers? Well, there are some rough sleepers and we do try to let them know that we are here if they need us but most of our clients do not sleep rough. Our aim and that of local government is to prevent homelessness ...not pick up the bits afterwards.

Who are we? Currently we are a team of nine with four of that team taking it in turns to be on duty for two weeks at a time handling any enquiries and conducting interviews. On duty means 24/7. We have no paid staff and none of the team draw expenses of any sort. Thanks to the generosity of the Ivy Lane Centre we pay no rent.

Where do our funds come from? From day one we have operated under the umbrella of Christians Together in Dartmouth, a loose amalgam of most of the churches in the area, and we are indebted to them for their encouragement and financial backing. We also receive private donations from time to time which help keep us afloat. Debt recovery is not a major problem although over the years we have registered some bad debts..

There are many examples of homelessness. What happens to young families or single parents (mother or father)? Quite clearly being homeless is complex and unique to those who find themselves in this position. There are many charities and organisations who work to help the Homeless

The Homeless Trust if Dartmouth became a registered charity in 1997. We have developed good working relationships with SHDC, Dartmouth Caring, CAB and the Food Bank. We have years of good working practices and experience which continues to evolve. Sometimes we are unable to offer an interest free loan because it might not be the clients. Instead, we can either take them, or guide them to other agencies to receive the right help. For those whom we can help into accommodation with a loan, an agreement is made, tailored to their specific financial situation.

If you have good people skills or have an interest in our Charity or would like to hear more about us, we would like to hear from you, so please contact us by phoning one of our committee members – 01803 722436 or 01803 835735

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the sea or simply relax in the sensory garden. You will be invited to join in the home’s varied entertainment programme including regular music concerts, coffee mornings, garden parties etc as well as the regular Church service.

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STRETE PARISH COUNCIL (PC) HELD IN STRETE PARISH HALL ON THURSDAY 19 MARCH at 7.30P.M.

PRESENT Cllr Tony Crawford , Chairman
(TC) Cllr Kate Gill, Vice-Chairman (KG)
Cllr Ian Cumberlidge (IC) Cllr Malcolm
Hollis (MH) Cllr David Rothwell (DR) Cllr
Bryan Seymour (BS) Cllr Richard Foss,
District Councillor, Skerries Ward (RF)
Mrs Andrea Phillips – Clerk
Three member of the public

OPEN FORUM Ralph Clark (RC) reported that he had received his Housing Needs Survey communication from SHDC today, on which was stated it would be useful in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. He asked if the PC could explain why the questionnaire didn't make any provision for any other comments? He also asked whether the PC would be starting a campaign against the closure of the Kings Arms?

MH responded initially to say that the HNS isn't to determine any future policy, it is simply to provide evidence as to whether there is or is not a housing need in the Parish. This format has been used by South Hams on previous occasions. The PC wasn't allowed to make substantive changes to the form. The complete forms should show in a village of falling population those who have a need. BS added that it wouldn't reach those who

have had to move away as there was no provision for that either. MH thought that those who had moved away could enter their details. The PC has no ulterior motive, this has been carried out by SHDC and it was originally intended to be an online submission but their systems failed. It is hoped that some results may be ready by the next PC meeting. KG added that the 2010 HNS was deemed to be outdated so this was why it was done; it was not done for a Neighbourhood Plan. RC said that he thought the previous proposed property development was felt to be too large by SHDC for the previous HNS. It will be in part useful for a NP but it may well prove there is no housing need.

MH moved on to the second question regarding the closure of the pub. He confirmed the PC is very anxious to keep the pub open as, in part, the 'holiday accommodation providers' in the village need this to fulfil their guests' needs. MH has spoken to Heavitree Brewery and they state that they are still looking for a tenant, they did have some potential tenants who pulled out but they have other applicants to see next week. MH asked for the unsightly fencing to be removed from the car park. He told Heavitree that this type gives the wrong impression of the village to visitors. RC said there were many rumours going around and it would appear that there is a breach if tenants are now living in the pub as 'stand-alone' accommodation. The PC advised that it has been reported to SHDC as a potential breach and an officer, David Lloyd, has been allocated

the case as it is generally considered that a change of use should be required. The pub should be viable as a business if run well and now the new stretch of coastal footpath is almost completed it is a very bad time not to have a pub for walkers passing through the village as well as the village as a whole. It is possible for a community to purchase and run a pub, but only if it comes to the open market. RC asked RF what was SHDC policy if a change of use planning application was lodged? RF replied that they would fight that change as best they could as there is no other pub in the village. TC asked MH if he had asked Heavitree if the pub could be sold off? MH replied that they may consider a sale but it would be on a commercial basis, but they are not pressured into selling. In summary, it is a Listed building and so it can't be altered too much. RF added that the planning officer and Listed Building officers would be involved. MH said that the property did form 5 parcels of land; the pub, the cottage, the pub garden, the car park and the garage and garden. The Clerk added that she purchased the land registry plan today which will be needed to accompany the parish asset register form which shows all the land parcels are indeed registered. It is not known how or when Heavitree Brewery came to own the car park which was historically the site of cottages and the village reading rooms.

APOLOGIES Cllr Jeff Scanlan (JS) Cllr Julian Brazil, County Councillor, Kingsbridge & Stokenham Ward (JB)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None were declared.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 19 FEBRUARY 2015 The above minutes were AGREED as a true and correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT In JB's absence, he emailed to say there may be possible bus route cuts after DCC have cut their bus service subsidies. One route possibly in danger in this area is the summer Sunday 93 service from Dartmouth to Plymouth, if parishioners oppose these cuts then they need to go online to make their objections known during the consultation process which is running now on DCC's website under public transport budget or by calling DCC.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT RF reported that the elections are in May and he intends to stand for election again in the new ward for this area. SHDC are still in the T18 process, two executive officers are now in place, one for finance and one for practical systems. This is in turn causing problems in the planning department at the moment, there is a national shortage of qualified planning officers as they are all favouring working for private development companies, but SHDC are advertising for two additional officers. Some departments have already gone through the T18 process and are much improved for it, there has been £7.7m of savings by working with WDDC and 100% of frontline services have been maintained.

Discretionary services have had some cuts to achieve this saving over the next few years. SHDC has the third lowest council tax in Devon and parking costs have been frozen for 5 years. They also have one of the highest recycling rates in Devon and have received an award for helping small businesses in need. It is thought that central government funding to district councils will gradually cease. Following on from the Boundary Commission changes, the numbers of wards and District councillors has reduced, Strete will now be in a ward with Slapton, Frogmore, East and West Charleton, Buckland Tout Saints and East Allington and is the area for which he is standing in the forthcoming elections.

There may be a new scoping study carried out for Slapton Sands and the line, the last one was done in 2006, and there is a grant to carry this out. It would be a good move because more funding would be available for the preservation of Slapton Line if the study proved a great need for it. The road and footpath needs to be maintained for as long as possible as the whole area depends upon it to be viable and this includes the pub. JB reiterates his full support as did Oliver Letwin MP following his meeting with RF.

TC noticed that Sainsbury's has received planning consent for a petrol station in Dartmouth and wonders if there was any 106 monies to be gained from this? RF is to check.

THE KING'S ARMS PUBLIC HOUSE This was discussed as part of the open forum.

THE SOUTH WEST COASTAL FOOTPATH

An update email has been received from DCC which states that the ordnance scan is complete which was very necessary as a number of unexploded devices had been uncovered. The path construction is underway and it may be possible to have a partial opening perhaps in late April or early May and if no problems arise with use, then a formal opening sometime later. MH reported that there is a fairly large mis-match in levels due to the slope of the site, which will need an initial ordnance scan then be stepped to access all levels. Excavation starts tomorrow on the private underpass for Sea Cliff which will also need a scan.

REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

To receive reports from councillors on their attendance at meetings or reports: None were due.

TREE WARDEN REPORT No items to report.

PARISH REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Traffic & Highways: (JS) - no items to report.

Litter Bins, Street Litter: (DR) - no items to report.

Play Park: (KG) BS reported that SODS from Stoke Fleming have some funds to possibly distribute following their closure, they may be able to contribute a small amount to the play park repairs, the Clerk is to enquire. The costs of the repairs have come in around £3,800 excluding VAT which can be reclaimed, less the SHDC grant from Cllr Foss's Locality Fund, leaving around £2,700 to fund. The

Playdale repair quote was discussed but it is unknown whether any other company would be able to quote for repairs when they didn't supply the equipment. It was agreed therefore to approach Playdale with a list of questions regarding the repairs and also to ask DALC whether we would need to approach other companies to see if we could obtain further quotes, but bearing in mind that we had to pay for this one. If other quotes were not obtainable and we received favourable answers, then we would go ahead with the Playdale quote.

Public Rights of Way: (IC) – TC discovered and reported a spring or water leak at the bottom of Old Hill which is running fairly heavily making the area very muddy. DCC have investigated and discovered that it is indeed a spring that has suddenly arisen, they are to divert and rectify.

Strete Sands, Strete Gate, Pilchard's Cove: (IC & KG) - DCC are no longer to do the white lines at Strete Gate entrance, their contractor who was in the area ran out of time and they are not carrying this out anywhere else at present. The Clerk is to chase DCC after requesting they look at parking restriction signage as nothing further has been heard. KG is to see if she can find out whether the coffee vendor will be back this summer.

Tannen Land (Community Area) & Dog Waste Bin: (BS) – needs cutting, the contractor is due to do the wildlife corner. MH has taken up to date photos of the retaining wall on the A379 for reference, this will be done annually.

Milestones & benches: (MH) MH has in-

spected the benches and all are OK. Old Hill bench will not get much use in the future and so any repair work is uncertain, at present it is not causing any problems.

PC Website www.strete.org.uk & PC email clerk@strete.org.uk : (Editor – Clerk) – no items to report.

PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS New applications to be considered by the PC at this meeting: None

Applications brought forward from a previous meeting: None

SHDC DECISION NOTICES RECEIVED

Applications GRANTED by SHDC:

54/3179/14/F Way Park Cottage, Hynetown Road, Strete, TQ6 0RS - Householder application for alterations to property including new balconies and replacing doors and windows. Case Officer – Clare Stewart. Conditional Approval.

Applications REFUSED: None received

Applications WITHDRAWN: None

Query was raised relating to the front wall of the Blossoms, and the works were to be checked to see if there was a deviation from the details on the consent drawings. MH undertook to inspect

FINANCE The Clerk supplied the Chairman with the bank balances as follows:

Current Acc opening bal	£12,403.08
Strete Parish Hall – hall hire	£15.00

Andrea Phillips :Clerk's salary	£217.53
SHDC – Play Park annual inspection and insurance	£120.00

Kaspersky annual virus prot £24.99
 DCC – donation towards new stretch of
 Coastal Footpath £2,500.00
 Playdale – inspection & quote £114.00
 Balance £9,411.56

Noted receipt of the sum of £1024.00
 from SHDC – Cllr Foss’s Locality Fund
 towards play park repairs, making
 Closing balance £10,435.56

Petty Cash opening balance – less £3
 Land Registry Charge £60.01

Reserve Acc opening balance - plus in-
 terest of £3.39 £10,256.78

It was proposed and AGREED by all pre-
 sent to authorise payments as enumer-
 ated above.

POINTS OF INFORMATION The following
 items will be available in the mail bag to
 be circulated. The Clerk – SLCC publica-
 tion; **CORRESPONDENCE** Grant
 Thornton – notice of audit for y/e
 31.3.15; Royal Voluntary Service
 (formerly WRVS) letter of thanks for
 annual donation

Playdale – quote for playpark repairs -
 £4,573.50 incl VAT

REPORTS DR and MH reported in the
 recent defibrillator training, it was con-
 ducted by two new ambulance person-
 nel who were very informative and help-
 ful and it was attended by about 12 pa-
 rishioners. Apparently the wall box our
 machine is located in is not intended for
 exterior use, it is an internal one. An
 exterior box should have a very low watt
 heater in and many parishes now use
 decommissioned telephone boxes for

their machines as these have light and
 power already installed but the tele-
 phone needs to be removed prior to this
 use. At present there are no plans to
 remove the telephone from Strete’s box
 so this can’t be considered now. DR was
 thanked for organising the training.

It was agreed the bus shelter should be
 inspected regularly, MH has looked at it
 now and it needs the foliage removing.

Village parking especially along the A379
 is in desperate need and since the pub
 car park has been closed this has esca-
 lated. MH has spoken to Heavitree
 Brewery regarding this and they state
 they would consider selling the dilapi-
 dated garage and surrounding garden
 for parking but at commercial rates. It is
 not known what this would be.

Strete has been approached by the
 AONB to see if new village name plates
 would be required incorporating the
 AONB symbol. All were in agreement to
 pursue this.

BS reported that DCC have no plans at
 present and for at least three years to
 close any libraries local to Strete which
 is good news.

KG reported that the lay-by outside
 Manor Farm Campsite has been attend-
 ed to and potholes filled in at her ex-
 pense, but unfortunately the remains of
 a chemical toilet was found to have
 been emptied behind the bottle bank.

This meeting is to be the last one for BS
 as he is away for the April meeting and
 thereafter not standing for re-election.
 TC has decided also not to stand for re-

election and the April meeting will be his last before he hands over the Chairmanship at the May meeting which he will open. Both have done a remarkable 16 years for Strete Parish Council, and TC having done several years on his previous council, making his tally a very impressive 29 years. Both are to be thanked for their commitment and long standing service to the community, it is a great achievement for Strete.

THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY 16 APRIL 2015 IN STRETE PARISH HALL, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WHICH WILL COMMENCE AT 7PM.

THE MEETING WAS CLOSED at 9.25 p.m.

Signed: Cllr Tony Crawford, Chairman (TC) Dated: 16 APRIL 2015

STRETE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Andrea Phillips 1 Hyne Town, Strete, Dartmouth TQ6 0RT
clerk@strete.org.uk 01803 770786
www.strete.org.uk

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STRETE PARISH COUNCIL (PC) HELD IN STRETE PARISH HALL ON THURSDAY 16 APRIL 2015 AT 8.15PM FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

PRESENT Cllr Tony Crawford, Chairman (TC) Cllr Ian Cumberlidge (IC) Cllr Kate Gill, Vice-Chairman (KG) Cllr Malcolm Hollis (MH) Cllr David Rothwell (DR) Cllr Julian Brazil, County Councillor, Kingsbridge & Stokenham Ward (JB) Cllr Richard Foss, District Councillor, Skerries Ward (RF) Mrs Andrea Phillips – Clerk
Four members of the public

OPEN FORUM No items were raised.

APOLOGIES Cllr Jeff Scanlan (JS) Cllr Bryan Seymour (BS)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None were declared.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 19 MARCH 2015 The above minutes were AGREED as a true and correct record and were signed by the Chairman. RF is to check the Sainsbury's petrol station 106 monies position.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT JB says there is not much to report as the council is in purdah until after the elections. The Children's Centres are under review at the moment, the one in Dartmouth is safe; the one in Kingsbridge is still uncertain. JB gave his congratulations to the PC and all involved parties on the success of the coastal footpath as the new section is due to open soon which is very good news for the whole area, especially the village and walkers. It has been 60 years in the planning. He noted that it was the last full meeting for TC as Councillor and Chairman; he says he has enjoyed working together,

although not eye to eye politically! His own parish was also returned uncontested, as are most of the parishes, many reasons are often given for not standing which include increasing amounts of time needed and disillusionment with ability to change things. JB will of course continue as Strete's County Cllr as DCC are not having elections this year.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT RF's report was given at the annual parish meeting earlier and he added that it is a good part of local councils that they are non-political as they all work well together. He reported that he is not standing again in the parish elections, he is just standing for election again as District Council with one opponent from the Green Party and, if elected, will concentrate on this role which will be a larger ward than previously, resulting in more work.

THE KING'S ARMS PUBLIC HOUSE MH reported that the pub is back on Heavitree Brewery's website to let as a lock-up business without living accommodation. MH called Heavitree and was told initially that it wasn't available to let. After speaking to another person, he said they remove stagnant pubs from their website and re-launch them some time later and that they will soon be removing the Herras fencing around the car park. The situation will be monitored.

RF reported that Richard Gage is now back at SDHC and has spoken to Heavitree. He made it clear to them that no planning application can be submitted for the cottage etc., without making their intentions clear for the pub and furthermore, the pub would have to have been

available for sale for a year before they will consider any change of use. Richard Gage is aware that the pub is very valuable for the whole community and local businesses and he will be firm with these points. If the PC wishes, RF will arrange for Richard Gage to attend a PC meeting and especially with the new coastal footpath section opening soon and the tourist season fast approaching, it is a crucial time for the pub to be open for business. The question of how the pricing of the pub for sale would be approached on the open market is still to be determined.

SHDC HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY MH reported on the preliminary outcome following a chat with SHDC. There were 104 responses, some felt this was low but SHDC say it is a high response, nine returns are related to a need for affordable housing, four people are on the register for the Strete area. The nine received were looking to have home ownership but only one of these is on the register and meets the criteria. The current need is likely to be for three rented properties, numbers may have been reduced due to adjacent parish housing schemes having been completed. SHDC recommend a further HNS survey in two years instead of the usual five. The full report from Debbie Holloway is expected to be received before the next PC meeting. The Chair asked the Clerk what the outcome of the previous HNS was, it was for 8 rental units, that survey was hand delivered with paper replies but was for any projected need looking at the next few years whereas this recent one was for immediate need so they were not like for like.

Stoke Fleming are having a meeting with a housing officer from SHDC next week that Strete PC has been invited to, DR and the Clerk may be able to attend.

REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS ON OUTSIDE BODIES To receive reports from councillors on their attendance at meetings or reports: None were due.

TREE WARDEN REPORT IC reported that the storms two weeks ago caused much tree damage but luckily none locally.

PARISH REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Traffic & Highways: (JS) - no items to report.

Litter Bins, Street Litter: (DR) - no items to report.

Play Park: KG and MH met with Vita Play (a play equipment company) who are able to inspect and quote for repairs. MH has diagrammed the Playdale repairs onto a visual of the park, he will do the same with the Vita Play one when it is received. The Playdale quote is just for their own equipment and mainly on the original larger apparatus, not so much on the smaller, newer apparatus. The Vita Play quote will cover the whole play park. The top platform on the larger equipment needs taping off to prevent access. Vita Play suggested an annual expenditure of around £1k to maintain after repairs have been carried out.

Public Rights of Way: (IC) – Old Hill needs monitoring as the spring is still leaking, it was supposed to have been diverted.

Strete Sands, Strete Gate, Pilchard's Cove: (IC & KG) – more car tyre skid marks are on the car park surface. KG reported the

coffee vendor is delighted to be back again for the season and they are pleased with the wooden surface and gate. RF added that Charleton have also reported speeding vehicles at night. KG reported that the coffee vendor phoned her to say that somebody was removing stones and the wood chunks from the beach. The coffee vendor phoned the police on KG's advice as they had the vehicle registrations. KG and IC attended. The police arrived and said they will talk to the perpetrators. RF said that as the beach is a SSSI and is highly protected, no items can be removed. IC reported that there was a high level of dog mess at Strete Gate and professional dog walkers are taking up to 8 dogs out at a time, which are let off leads. These dogs obviously don't belong to the walker and it must be difficult to control these dogs and recall them, as well as clear up behind them. KG said that a new sign in the AONB colours had been put up on the toilet block advising visitors that the area past that point is used by naturists.

Tannen Land (Community Area) & Dog Waste Bin: (BS) – no items to report.

Milestones & benches: (MH) MH has inspected the milestones, the one at Matts Point is overgrown, the others are all OK.

PC Website www.strete.org.uk & PC email clerk@strete.org.uk : (Editor – Clerk) – no items to report.

PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS New applications to be considered by the PC at this meeting:

54/0755/15/F Falloden, Hynetown Road, Strete TQ6 0RS – householder application

for annex to main building over garage to front elevation. Case Officer – Wendy Ormsby. The plans were reviewed and it was agreed that a site meeting would take place at 9.30am, tomorrow, Friday. As no arrangements had been made with the owner, the PC should only view from the road.

Applications brought forward from a previous meeting: None

SHDC DECISION NOTICES RECEIVED

Applications GRANTED by SHDC: None received. Applications REFUSED: None received. Applications WITHDRAWN: None received.

FINANCE The Clerk supplied the Chairman with the bank balances as follows:

Current Account opening bal	£10,435.56	
Strete Parish Hall – hall hire	£19.00	
Andrea Phillips – Clerk’s salary	£223.17	
Mark Hanson – notice board	£33.74	
Hawthorns Accounting – 6 months administration HMRC RTI payroll submissions	£45.00, Kaspersky virus protection, balance of payment	£13.00
£333.91	Closing bal	£10,101.65

Petty Cash opening balance – less £3 land registry charge £60.01 Reserve Account opening balance £10,256.78
It was proposed and AGREED by all present to authorise payments as enumerated above.

POINTS OF INFORMATION The following items will be available in the mail bag to be circulated. Devon Senior Voice – newsletter Healthwatch Devon – quarterly publication South Hams Society –

March bulletin

CORRESPONDENCE None received
REPORTS MH is keen to investigate the creation of a ‘children’s committee’ to be run by children living in the parish, who could report to the annual parish meeting on their thoughts on the village and especially the play park. Initially MH has spoken to some youngsters and they have said they would like a second goal post in the play park and they say there is often dog mess in the play park.

Following a query raised on the wall height (Hidcote House – formerly Blossoms) to the front of a development, it is unclear if it is in line with approved plans. RF suggested SHDC planning department be asked to check.

The press and the public were excluded from the following item under the provisions of the 1960 Public admissions to meetings Act because it concerns possible legal matters.

CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE LEGAL DISPUTE

THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY 21 MAY 2015 IN STRETE PARISH HALL at 7.30PM AND WILL BE THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (APCM). THE MEETING WAS CLOSED at 9.20 p.m.

Signed: Elected Chairman
Dated: 21 MAY 2015

Report Strete Social Club

JOAN KENDALL

We have met regularly, alternate Tuesday afternoons, where we have had on several occasions speakers on a variety of subjects.

In March Ron Howell of Strete came and told us about the wrecks that he had dived on and of the gold treasure they found, illustrated with slides. He was enjoyed so much that we have invited him back in November to speak to us on the Bronze Age artefacts that he has found.

Brenda Loosemore was another very interesting speaker on her "Life on the wicked stage", once again Brenda is coming back to speak to us in June on 'Ladies of Laughter etc.' (Brenda is the Mother of Jo Loosemore of Radio Devon).

Christine Money gave a most informative talk entitled "Around the world with a Knitting Machine" She went to countries with a knitting machine and taught the ladies how to use them, which helped them out of poverty making garments that they could barter for food. The colour of the garment linked to the type of food that was bartered for. E.g. an orange jumper would be bartered to get a product coloured orange (carrots). Green garment would say get them green vegetables.

She had brought along samples of knitting done by these people from blankets to childrens dresses and adult

jumpers. Christine is now a Street Pastor in Torquay.

Peter Barker was the speaker at last Tuesdays meeting which he illustrated with excellent slides on Hadrian's Wall.

When we did not have a speaker we did our usual round of 'Have you anything to say'. A very worthwhile time when we learned of the activities of members, holidays and passed around any warnings of things to be aware of. (e.g. bogus callers etc.) Janice, our Treasurer, had devised an unusual game of Bingo made out of playing cards.

The lunch was held at the Sportsmans this year and was much enjoyed.

We always end our meeting with a cup of tea and sometimes homemade biscuits. Any person in the village is most welcome to come. Why not try it as a guest. The next speaker is Brenda Loosemore on 9th June. We meet every alternate Tuesday at 2.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Joan Kendall



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STRETE PARISH COUNCIL TRUNCATED MINUTE OF MEETING. THE FULL TEXT CAN BE FOUND ON THE STRETE VILLAGE WEBSITE

Clerk: Mrs Andrea Phillips, 1 Hyne Town
Strete Dartmouth TQ6 0RT
clerk@strete.org.uk 01803 770786
www.strete.org.uk

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH

MEETING HELD IN STRETE PARISH HALL ON THURSDAY 16th APRIL 2015 AT 7.00 P.M. PRESENT Cllr Tony Crawford (TC) Chairman) Cllr Ian Cumberlidge (IC) Cllr Kate Gill (KG) (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Malcolm Hollis (MH) Cllr David Rothwell (DR) Cllr Richard Foss, District Councillor, Skerries Ward (RF) Andrea Phillips – Clerk Louise Newman, Roy & Joan Kendall, Ralph & Celia Clark, Andrea Hollis, Ian Coates, David & Liz Ferguson, Norman Hallett, Andrew Pound, William Park + One other parishioner

APOLOGIES Cllr Bryan Seymour (BS) Cllr Jeff Scanlan (JS) Cllr Julian Brazil, County Councillor, Kingsbridge & Stokenham Ward (JB) is arriving later Strete Chapel

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 17 APRIL 2014. The above minutes were AGREED and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

TO RECEIVE STRETE PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS The Clerk recorded 2014 opening balances as follows, with the opening balances of 2014 in brackets.

Current Account £10,435.56
(£6,649.26) Reserve Account
£10,256.78 (£10,252.11)

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS' REPORTS

Representatives from the following organisations were invited to give a presentation:

- **Blackawton with Strete History Group (BASH)** – Val Phillips. No report was submitted so Kate Gill stepped in to report on the recent Medieval Lunch that was organised by the Devon History Group with BASH.

- **Maritime and Coastguard Agency & Neighbourhood Watch** - Mr Andrew Pound. Andrew Pound gave an interesting talk on the local Coastguards and reported on their busiest year on record. They dealt with 61 call outs last year against an average of 35, so it was almost double. Of these, there were 12 medivacs which included broken hips, a broken back and head injuries. There were 13 searches for missing persons and one death. Lives saved were 15 and in all, just over 100 people were assisted. They normally have a crew of 12 but they only have 11 at present with one vacancy. They have 320 hours training annually, so it is a big commitment and finding the right personnel is very important. The main qualities needed are common sense and to be available as full training is given. The Coastguard station at Brixham has now closed, the service is very short staffed, they are hoping to be sorted before the summer rush.

- **Melroe de Smithies Woodland Trust** - Ms Pam Wills. No report available.

- **St Michael's Parish Church – Revd John Bell** Joan Kendall read out Revd Bell's full report in his absence. The ministry of John Bell has continued with invaluable support from various Readers, in

particular Sally Green, and from members of the Church Council, the congregation plus other loyal supporters. Rev John Bell is to retire in June and he and his wife, Hazel, are to move to Okehampton in July. His last service to which everyone is invited is to be at St Peter's in Stoke Fleming on 21st June at 11am. The Deanery Plan predicts the Parish Church of East Allington will officially join Strete, Stoke Fleming and Blackawton when a new minister is appointed in the coming year. The Church and Chapel continue to do some joint services, the most recent was Mothering Sunday, which was a happy and friendly occasion. Once a fortnight a Holy Communion service with hymns is held at Hyne Town House and in the summer the Devon Christian Youth Camps staying at Southwood have evening services in the Church which are often very busy with 100-200 campers and chapel members in attendance. They also take part in a regular bible study group called Christians Together. Advertising God's message of love and the hope of eternal life through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is at the heart of what they hope to achieve, but it comes at a cost. The church is very expensive to run so fundraising has to be another priority. They are very grateful to those who have given so generously, including the Parish Council for their grant towards the upkeep of the churchyard. It is amazing all they have accomplished during 2014 and it is their hope that St Michaels can keep going for many years to come!

Strete Chapel – Gill & Derek Harris Nobody from the Chapel was able to be present and Jim Carver prepared a re-

port. The fellowship remained strong over the year with an increase in regular numbers attending the Sunday morning services. They have had many excellent speakers and in the summer of 2014 two baptisms were held at Strete Gate beach with a Thanksgiving service in the Chapel afterwards. The Young Searchers continued to meet on Thursday evenings but the Youth Club in Stoke Fleming reopened and some children attended there instead which made the Young Searchers numbers too low to continue, so it closed for a short break. However, after much prayer, the Chapel are pleased to report it has now re-opened with six young children attending! They are still looking for a new Pastor to lead fellowship. Just prior to Christmas, Derek Darch organised a Christmas Party in the Parish Hall, with a sit down Roast Turkey dinner followed by party games. Over the Bank Holidays, outings were arranged to Torquay with lunch and tenpin bowling and a trip to Weston Super Mare to see Jim and Pat Eldergill and have lunch at a local restaurant, a visit to the sea front and back to Pat and Jim's for a cream tea. More outings are planned this year to Plymouth Barbican with a boat trip to the King William Yard, a boat trip to Cornwall, a return visit to Weston Super Mare and Exmouth for a beach BBQ, swimming and games. Shared services with the Church included Remembrance Sunday at the Church, Carol Services at both Chapel and Church and the Mothering Sunday Service.

Strete Indoor (Short Mat) Bowls Club No report had been prepared so Andrew

Pound stepped in. He reported that they had been promoted to the top league last year and came 4th! They have just had their last match of the season and have four new members. They are now up to around 25 members. New members are always welcome and the club meet every Tuesday evening at 7pm.

Strete Luncheon Club – Kate Gill

The club is still thriving, members enjoy the meals and the menu is varied each month. The monthly lunch costs £4 for a two course meal and a drink and this also provides for a free Christmas lunch.

Strete Social Club – Mrs Joan Kendall

There has been a good attendance at most of the meetings over the past twelve months. They have had a good variety of speakers who are mainly local due to the cost. Harry Fenton spoke on his life as a Fireman and Jocelyn Randol Mills gave an interesting talk on names and where they came from, giving members the origins of their surnames. Another topic was the Brooke Hospice for horses and the latest talk was given by Ron Howell on diving on wrecks and finding real treasure; this was so much enjoyed by members that he is returning later this year to speak on another of his diving experiences. A tea party was held in the hall to finish off 2014 and was a bit like the Ritz! The last meeting before Christmas was the usual mince pies and wine. The AGM returned the same leaders; Velma Crossman as Chairman, Janice Varnam as Treasurer and Joan Kendall as Press Officer.

•**Strete Parish Hall** – Roy Kendall Sadly the hall is not used as much as it used to be in the past. Organisations who do book it on a regular basis are the Short

Mat Bowls Club who use it every Tuesday evening and whenever they have a home match in the season, the Social Club fortnightly and of course the lunch club every month. They have tried running folk dancing every month on a Saturday evening, the money from which paid the hall hire and any profit was shared between the hall and the Church. Latterly a whist drive has been occasionally held on a Monday or Friday. Sadly they have had to rely on people coming from outside the village to support these events and due to those numbers now dwindling the dances have now ceased. There is a little support from villagers for the Whist Drive. There is a new art group meeting once a month and of course the election will bring in revenue. They have a contractor to cut the grass and Julia and Alan Makepeace and Penny Penhale are keeping the flower beds and tubs looking nice.

• **Stretewise Village Magazine** – Malcolm Hollis Malcolm reported that he has edited Stretewise since 2011 with a total of 21 editions. Income for 2015 is above that for 2014, advertising revenue has remained buoyant, subs have increased and printing costs will be within budget. All income and expenditure is managed through the Stretewise account at Lloyds Bank. Last year the magazine managed a surplus.

• **Strete Village Day** – Jeremy Swainston

No report was available.

•**Strete Conservation Group** – Ralph Clark Since 2013 the group are encouraged as many points raised have been actioned but it is disappointing that due to hold-ups with the Housing Needs Sur-

vey that the Neighbourhood Plan remains outstanding. The HNS was limited and did not provide space for comments and he trusts the results will be made public. It was good to see a big turnout against the closure of the pub which demonstrates to him that the village is not in danger of dying out. The coastal path will bring new people into the village. The Group would like to thank members of the PC for service to the community. TC replied that the PC has worked hard too in trying to get the pub re-opened, RC replied that he has seen nothing in the minutes.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT JB says there is not much to report as the council is in purdah until after the elections. The Children's Centres are under review at the moment, the one in Dartmouth is safe; the one in Kingsbridge is still uncertain. JB gave his congratulations to the PC and all involved parties on the success of the coastal footpath as the new section is due to open soon which is very good news for the whole area, especially the village and walkers. It has been 60 years in the planning. He noted that it was the last full meeting for TC as Councillor and Chairman; he says he has enjoyed working together, although not eye to eye politically! JB will of course continue as Strete's County Cllr as DCC are not having elections this year.

POLICE REPORT No report or apologies were submitted.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TC reported that because of age and wear and tear this is his final report as Chairman of a Parish Council because after serving as a Councillor for 29 years, 13 years in North Somerset and 16 years in Strete, he

thinks it is probably the right time to buy a deck chair, sit back, criticise others and try to enjoy life to the full! He gave thanks to everyone who has made a report here tonight; they are the backbone of a community village. Our village is at long last about to go on the map as one of the special wonders of the South West Coast Path after waiting for over half a century. Many obstacles have had to be overcome to achieve this final result and we should all be very grateful to the many Devon agencies involved as well as those who have supported a better way to walk, rather than on the roads and up through the back lanes! Yes, it's a change, but certainly a change for the better. That's a great pity as they are all unpaid volunteers who have spent much time and energy looking after the interests of all members of the community, rather than a chosen few who only have their own self interests in mind! All details of our deliberations and activities are published in the minutes and are available on the website, the notice boards and in Stretewise magazine. A special thank you goes to Julian Brazil, our County Councillor and to Richard Foss, our District Councillor for their attendance and strong support throughout the year. Also to Andrea for working above and beyond her duties as Parish Clerk, through difficult times. Keep this village tidy and we may be able to enter into the Best Kept Small Village competition once again after a lapse of 21 years! Goodnight and may God bless you all.

The Chairman invited all present to stay for refreshments, after which the PC meeting will commence.

DIARY 2015

The next Parish Council meeting is on 18 June 2015 at 7.30pm

Kingswear Regatta 25th to 26th July

VILLAGE DAY STRETE 1 AUGUST

Ditsum Regatta 8th August

Dartmouth Royal Regatta 27th to 29th August

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RSC LIVE The Merchant of Venice 22 July

Tour – Start Point Lighthouse – Sunday 12 April tours of the lighthouse, situated on one of the most exposed peninsulas on the English Coast, running sharply almost a mile into the sea on the south side of Start Bay between Kingsbridge and Dartmouth, last approximately 45 minutes – Start Point Lighthouse, Start Point, TQ7 2ET, 11:00am till 4:00pm, Adult £4, Child £2.50

DEVON SCHOOL TERM DATES

Summer Term Starts

13 April 2015

23—31 May 2015

Term Ends 24 July 2015

93 Bus Timetable on route Dartmouth, Strete, and Kingsbridge WEEKDAYS

Strete to Dartmouth 938 1041 11.36 12.36 14.36 15.36 16.17 17.36 18.36 19.37

Dartmouth to Strete 6.20 6.50 9.15 10.20 11.20 12.20 13.20 14.20 15.20 17.15

Strete to Kingsbridge 6.42 7.12 9.30 10.44 12.44 13.44 14.44 15.44 17.39 18.39

Kingsbridge to Strete 0855 1005 1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900

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**Copy deadline for Next issue 2 AUGUST 2015
(to include VILLAGE DAY)**

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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Hard copy can be delivered to the Post Office, submissions by email sent to Stretewise@gmail.com, or if you just want to speak your mind, and not have to write, why not contact the editor and arrange for your views or contributions to be recorded.

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