stretewise

The Village Magazine

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Royal Visit

The Royal Navy welcomed 126 future leaders into its ranks at Dartmouth as Princess Anne took the salute at Lord High Admiral's Divisions, the first passing-out parade of 2026 at Britannia Royal Naval College.
The Princess Royal was guest of honour as 126 young officers, 16 sailors promoted from the ranks and 13 warrant officers directly promoted, passed out in front of family and friends. *BFBS, Forces News*

Image: RNLI/Nigel Millard

The Princess Royal, accompanied by Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, as a Vice President of the RNLI, unveiled a plaque outside the building to officially open the new Dartmouth lifeboat station.
During the visit, Her Royal Highness also met the volunteer lifeboat crew, fundraisers, the visitor centre team, operational and station support teams, and lifeguards based in south Devon.

In an emergency at the coast, on the beach, a river or in a harbour.
Call 999 and ask for the Coastguard

Dart RNLI Lifeboat volunteers were tasked at 4.53pm on Saturday (April 25) after reports of a person in the water by the quayside in Dartmouth. The D Class lifeboat, helmed by Nigel Viles and crewed by Rich Eggleton and Shannon Hart, was launched to assist.
The 82-year-old male casualty had slipped off a boat and by the time the D Class arrived he had been helped out of the water. The Dart crew assisted with casualty care until an ambulance arrived and he was transported to hospital.
Huge congratulations to Shannon, Dart's youngest crew member, on her first shout. There was also a family link with her dad Buster Hart driving the tractor that launched the D Class boat.

Strete Chapel

We are continuing to meet every Sunday at 11am in the chapel building. All are welcome. We had a wonderful time over Easter celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus. A particular highlight was our Good Friday conference and being able to come together with fellow Christians. Thank you to all of those who helped to make this event possible.

On the first Sunday of each month, we join together for a shared lunch after the service. On the 3rd May this was a particularly special Sunday as we were able to celebrate the birthdays of two of our congregation – Hilary Lansdale and Heather Robinson. For Heather in particular this was a special occasion as she turned 90 years old on 6th May. We were able to share in some wonderful company and wonderful food - in particular the pudding selection was a highlight!

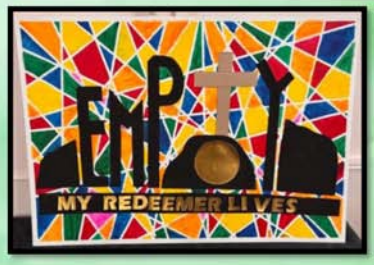
Whether you are marking a 1st birthday or 90th birthday like Heather it is truly a celebration of being part of God's creation.

'I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well… Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.' Psalm 139

Young Searchers children's club

We have enjoyed learning more about the Easter story and created some great artwork together to celebrate the most important event in history! It has been lovely to welcome some new faces to our group as well.

If you are a school age child and interested in learning more about the bible through stories, drama, craft and games then please join us on a Thursday from 5-6pm in the chapel building.



St Michael's Church

Readers Corner

Give thanks for every day. Cup your hands and imagine that you are holding a small seed in them. When you look at the seed, you have no idea what will come from it: whether it will be a beautiful blossom; a small insignificant weed; or a tree. This seed symbolises the possibilities that lie in this day. Here is today, O God. I don't know what this day will bring, although I like to think that I do. I have my schedule, my to-do list filled in, my agenda duly noted. I like to think that I have this day under control. But I know that's not how most days go.

I know that today I will be surprised by sorrows, joys and challenges.

I know that today I will face both problem and adventures.

I know that today may just be an ordinary day, or it might be the most extraordinary day of my life.

And I know that you are the only one who knows what lies ahead. So, I offer you this day. Raise your cupped hands and imagine giving the small seed to God.
Here is today, O, God. I give it you, trusting you will take whatever happens in this day and use it for your glory. I trust that whatever happens today, you will be with me.

Thank you for this day and for its endless possibilities. Thank you that I can face this day with you.

Here is today, O God:
a part of all the days we have spent together, a part of all the days to come, a part of who I am and where I am on my journey, apart of the plan you have for me.

Take this day. Use it to your glory. Thank you, God.

Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches.

– **Matthew, 13:32.**

Peace and Joy be with you all. **Jenny Harris.**

Please join us for Sunday worship 11am
at St Michael's. We meet weekly.
You will most welcome.

Coming soon……
Cream Tea at Winter Cottage July 11th.

Booking Clerk:
Penny Penhale 07976 176748
1 Hynetown Rd, Strete, TQ6 0RT
email:Hello@stretehall.co.uk

STRETE VILLAGE HALL

THE TABLETOP and PLANT SALE

took place on Saturday, 16th May

We should have liked more people there but those that came had a good time, made some purchases and enjoyed the social occasion. The Hall also made some money to add to the funds.

THANK YOU to those who supported.

NB

The Hall Committee is not sure yet about our next event but keep a look-out for news!

EXCITING NEWS

2026 Village Day will be happening on

Saturday, August 1st

More information will be available from the new Village Day Committee.

DANCE WITH LIZ

A free trial session in the Hall is on

Thursday, 11th June, 10.00 – 10.45

Village Day 2026 — it's on!

Mark your diaries: **Saturday, 1st August**, from midday, at Mewstone Paddock. Strete Village Day will be back for another year ...and we'd love your help to make it happen.

After many years at the helm, Penny is stepping back from leading Village Day, and Dave Jones is also passing over his reins after so many late nights in service of the cause. Both have given the village an enormous amount over the years, and both deserve our heartfelt thanks. A new organising group has formed to carry the day forward - parish councillors, Sam Cheese, Paul Green and Tim Singleton, joined by Jane Warren, Phil Cruse, and Martin Bull and Lisa Lyne from the King's Arms. We met for the first time on 9th May, and we're cracking on.

Village Day 2026 — it's on!

What's certain, what's coming, and how you can help

The favourites you'd expect are firmly in the plan: the BBQ, the Pimm's Tent, the Tea Room, the Bar, the Bric-a-Brac, the Book Stall and the Prize Draw will all be there. We're also working hard to bring back the **Family Dog Show**, always a highlight and a proper crowd-puller, along with the coconut shy, and lots more besides is being worked through. We'll share the full programme as it firms up.

There's plenty still to do between now and August. Marquees to shift and perhaps borrow, licences to arrange, layouts to plan, stalls to staff, cakes to bake - and a hundred small things that add up to a wonderful afternoon. And then, of course, there's the weather, which we'll be negotiating with separately.

This is where you come in. Village Day only happens because villagers make it happen. If you can spare a few hours - whether that's helping to set up or pack down, running or supporting a stall on the day, baking a cake or a tray of sausage rolls for the Tea Room, donating bric-a-brac or books, or lending a hand with anything in between - we would love to hear from you.
No contribution is too small, and many hands really do make light work.

If you'd like to get involved, or have ideas, offers, or questions, please get in touch with Sam Cheese by email - **samanthacheese@btinternet.com** - or drop a note for Sam at Lindos, Hynetown Road and we'll make sure it reaches the right person.

More news will be posted in bulletins around the village, and via the Kings Arms social media and a dedicated page on its website. In the meantime, save the date, spread the word, and let's make 1st August one to remember. Hurrah!

The Kings Arms is Strete's community-owned pub – the village stepped in to save it in 2020, and have been running it together ever since. The Open Arms Draw is our way of looking after the pub and making it the best it can be, with the community that owns it. The first six years have taken their toll, and the pub needs refreshing!

The draw closes at 6pm on Saturday 6 June 2026 and the winner will be drawn live later that evening at our Bubbles 2026 World Sparkling Wine Fair.

One ticket. One winner. £1,000 in cash.

What's a little different about this draw is what happens behind the scenes. As tickets sell, we'll be using the funds to make the changes that help the pub open its arms – changes that lift the place and make people pause as they walk past, decide to come in, and stay. We aim to respond to the suggestions the community put forward earlier this year to improve the look and feel inside the pub. Its ambience! We have a small 'Ambience' team of supporters who are focused on this. Anyone who's bought a ticket might find their name credited against an item, picked from the entries to date, as the funding allows. It's the pub being put together, piece by piece, by the people who own it – and one of you walks away with £1,000 to do with as you please. If you'd like to donate an item – a piece of the pub's new look – as well as buying tickets, please do get in touch and the A-team(!), busy curating a coherent look, will consider the offer to make sure your generosity lands well.

The pub is owned by the community. So is its future. Thank you for being part of it.

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Bubbles 2026

STRETE'S WORLD SPARKLING WINE FAIR

Twenty Fizzes. One Pub.

Food & Non-alcoholic drinks also available
Children and dogs welcome

Saturday 6 June 2026

12:00 - 20:00 LAST ENTRY 19:00

the Kings Arms in Strete

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£28	£15	£10
EIGHT TOKENS	FOUR TOKENS	FIRST 90 ONLY

ONE TOKEN PER GLASS OF STANDARD WINE
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Email: tweed833@btinternet.com
PLEASE NOTE: Stallholders by invitation only due to limited numbers

the Kings Arms

Welcome to our community pub on the South Devon coast.

NEWS FROM THE KINGS ARMS

Well, what a difference a few weeks makes.

Last time I wrote in these pages, Charlie was on his way and we were holding our breath. He has now arrived, settled in, and is firmly at the helm of the kitchen. His menu launched in April and the early signs are very good indeed - now established, feedback has been glowing, bookings have been steady, and the kitchen is humming. Charlie cooks Wednesdays to Saturday evenings, plus Saturday and Sunday lunchtimes. The menu is shorter, sharper and seasonal, and built around quality, consistency and fresh local produce. If you've not yet been in to try it, please do, and bring friends.

A separate thank you is owed to our local food hero, Serin Aubrey, who once again rolled up his sleeves to provide the Easter Roast for us. We are very lucky to count him as a true friend of the pub.

We are *delighted* to announce that new villager, Martin Bull has joined the pub's Management Committee. Martin brings fresh energy, new ideas and a willingness to turn his hand to whatever is needed doing - exactly what a small volunteer Committee needs. After a long stretch with just four of us doing the work of considerably more, this matters. Please do say hello and welcome him when you see him about. The Committee now stands as: Duncan Tait (Interim Chair), Lisa Lyne (Secretary - yours truly), Robin Staunton, Sandy Clarke, and now Martin Bull; with the magnificent Helene Kenny continuing to look after the accounts, and who has provided a series of amazing special dinners, the most recent of which being the Spring Lunch.

We need to talk about volunteers, because the pub *needs* them, and because we know we haven't always got this right. Several lovely people have offered their time over the last few months, and we are genuinely grateful. One-off events in particular (quiz nights, themed lunches and suppers, big occasions) are where volunteer help is able to shine brightly, and this is where we have learnt we must focus. We are reliant on being able to bring in extra help for events.

But weaving volunteers into normal day-to-day service has proved tricky. We can't always predict how busy a shift will be; we have to meet obligations to our paid staff; and life, as ever, has a habit of throwing the odd spanner. We have an admirable and growing collection! Arrangements have sometimes gone awry, and if that has happened to you, we are sorry. The gold star is having the pub run daily by a mix of staff and volunteers alike, which you'd think would be easy enough - alas not! But try we must. So the invitation stands, warmly and openly: if you'd like to help - with events, or a regular shift - please do get in touch. We promise to do our up-most to be more organised about it, despite shifting sands. And the appeal extends to the Committee itself. If you care about the pub and can spare some time, we'd love to hear from you. Your life will be richer for it!

A warm thank you to Ralph and Celia for reintroducing and running the Friday Night Draw through much of spring. It became a genuine highlight of the week: the hooter sounding across the village, people piling in, the pub feeling exactly as it should - bustling, warm and noisy. It gave the pub a real boost during a tough spell, both in cash and in spirit.

The Friday Night Draw is now pausing for the summer, making way in the first instance for the **'Open Arms' £1,000 Prize Draw** and then the tourist season, but it will be back in the autumn. Hurrah!

You may remember from my last piece that we're setting up two volunteer-led projects in response to the suggestions you sent us. The first - on ambience - is under way, with a brilliant team of volunteers working on how to make the pub feel warmer, more characterful and more inviting. There are ideas big and small in the mix, from furniture and its placement, lighting inside and out, and the colour and decoration of the walls. The project will consider solutions for specific problem areas such as the fireplace, the spaces either side of the stairs, the entrance...

Some of this work needs investment, and that's where our new £1,000 Prize Draw comes in. Proceeds from the draw will go directly towards the objectives of the ambience improvements, so every ticket you buy helps to make the pub a lovelier place to be (and gives you a shot at a cool £1000 in the bargain). See the poster in this edition for the QR code and details. There is though a caveat: as always, if something fundamental breaks in the pub, the profit from the draw will need to be redirected, and our ambitions to glow-up the pub will need to wait a little longer. Such is the life of a community pub.

In May, we threw open the doors for Pam's milestone birthday, a thoroughly joyful afternoon, and exactly the kind of occasion a village pub exists for. Photos elsewhere in this edition tell the story far better than I can. Happy birthday again, Pam, from all of us. Hot on the heels of these celebratory bubbles, I present...

Bubbles 2026 — Strete's World Sparkling Wine Fair!

Saturday in June, in the garden, and we cannot wait. This is something genuinely different for the Kings Arms, and something we've put together in direct response to your suggestions for more daytime events, more wine, and more reasons to gather in the garden.

Here's how it works. Tickets are £28 for 8 tokens, or £15 for 4 tokens, with each token redeemable for a generous tasting pour. You'll be choosing from sparkling wines sourced from around the world — Champagne, of course, but also Crémant, Cava, Prosecco, English fizz, and a few surprises besides. There'll be a limited-edition Kings Arms souvenir glass to take home (a lovely thing in its own right), and plenty to nibble alongside the bubbles. Bring a friend, bring a hat, and make an afternoon of it. We're trying something new here - a proof of concept, really, - for what we hope will become an annual fixture in Strete's summer calendar. Every ticket sold makes it more likely we'll do this again next year, bigger and better. So if a sunny garden, a glass of fizz and good company sound like your kind of Saturday, please do come along, and bring people with you.

You'll find posters in this edition for the Bubbles event and much more besides, including:

- **Friday Night is Fish & Chips and Curry Nights** British classics. Take your pick - are you team fish'n'chips or team curry!?
- **The Open Arms £1,000 Prize Draw** As ever, the draw offers the best odds you'll find anywhere for winning £1000, and every ticket helps the pub.
- **The FIFA World Cup** Yes, England in summer, on the big screen at the Kings Arms. Late kick-offs, a sweepstake, suppers. Quite possibly the biggest single trading opportunity of the year, and we'd love a full house for every England game.

Plus the regulars such as Open Mic (now on Wednesdays), magnificent Sunday roasts, and BBQs with live music later in the year when the weather plays ball.

The trajectory is improving, but the pub remains fragile. The single most important thing any household can do is **subscribe**. £20 a month or more, and you'll get a **KArd** giving you 10% off all food and drink. Set up a standing order to **Strete Community Pub Ltd, sort code 60-83-01, account 20428277**, with your name as the reference, and drop me a line at secretary@kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk so we can welcome you in, and I can keep you up-to-date with what's going on. Every new subscriber genuinely makes a difference.

In fact, if anyone wants to receive my update weekly/fortnightly emails about what's happening, please contact me using that email address, and I'll add you to my list. I'm also active on Facebook and Instagram, and the Kings Arms even has an active TikTok account. Yes, really! There are buttons on the What's On page of our website **kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk** that will take you to our social media, and I encourage you to follow, like and share whenever you can! (P*lease note that there is an old Facebook account for the pub that has not yet been taken down so do make sure you're on the new one - the website button will take you to it*.) The Kings Arms only exists because the village wants it to. Every drink at the bar, every Sunday roast, every subscription, every ticket bought… it all adds up. Thank you to everyone who keeps showing up. We'll keep doing our bit. **See you at the pub.** *Lisa Lyne — Secretary, Strete Community Pub Limited*

And it's LIVE from the Kings Arms in Strete, where the atmosphere is building nicely, the big screen is set, and the bar staff are showing real composure under pressure...

Ladies and gentlemen, the World Cup is coming to your village pub - the Kings Arms is ready to give 110%.

We're taking it one game at a time. Three massive fixtures. Three chances to come together and roar at a telly with people you actually like.

- 17th June — England v Croatia
- 23rd June — England v Ghana
- 27th June — England v Panama

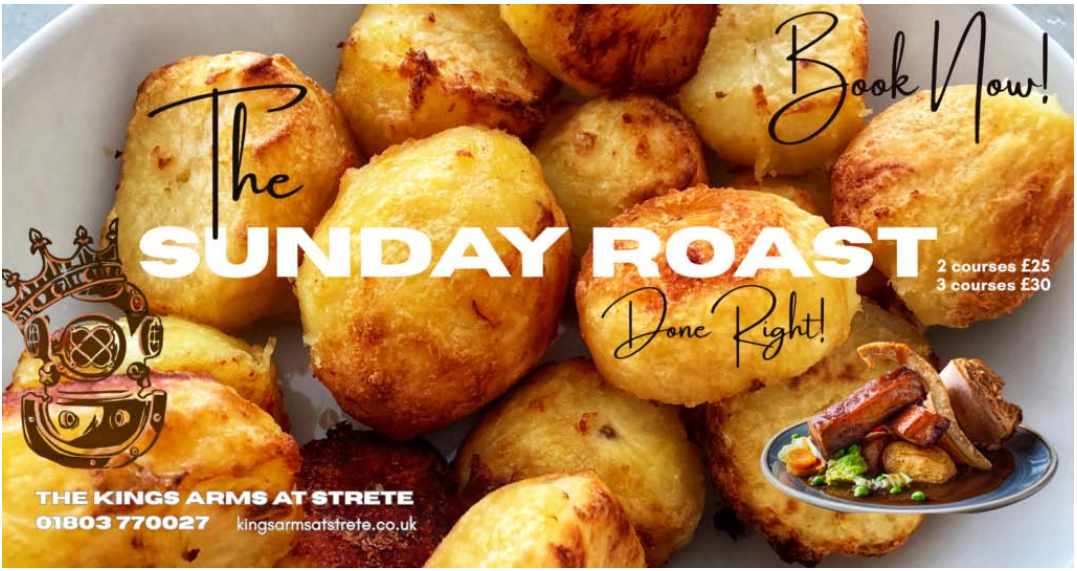
Big screen. Great beer. Food from Charlie.

The team has been working tirelessly in pre-season and are ready to deliver on the night. At the end of the day, football is a game of two halves, and at half time there'll be refreshments. You can't ask for more than that.

The gaffer says it's all about turning up - so turn up.

It's a game of fine margins and if you're not in the pub, you're not in the pub.

Come on England! Come on the Kings Arms!



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Get growing

this June with Gardentime

June is the month many gardeners look forward to all year. After the steady build-up of spring, the garden now bursts into life — borders overflowing with colour, roses in bud, and tall delphiniums reaching for the sun. With the longest days upon us, it’s the perfect time to slow down, take a seat, and enjoy the sights, scents and sounds of early summer.

It’s also a wonderfully productive time. With the soil warm and the risk of frost behind us, tender crops such as courgettes, sweetcorn, tomatoes and peppers can be planted out. Tomato plants will need staking and regular care, including pinching outside shoots to keep them strong and productive. Herbs like basil can be sown now, whether in pots on a sunny windowsill or directly in the greenhouse.

Containers and hanging baskets really come into their own in June. Fill them with vibrant summer bedding and keep them looking their best with a regular feed — a high-potash fertiliser will encourage plenty of flowers and fruit throughout the season.

One of the great joys of June is the first harvest. Early potatoes should be ready to lift, while lettuce can be picked regularly to keep it producing. Strawberries are also beginning to ripen — just be sure to net them to keep hungry birds at bay.

To keep everything thriving, regular maintenance is key. Hoe borders to keep weeds under control, water during dry spells in the early morning or evening, and apply a mulch to help retain moisture. Lawns will benefit from weekly mowing, while taller plants should be supported before they become top-heavy. Deadheading roses and sweet peas will keep them flowering for longer, and trimming hedges will help maintain a neat and tidy garden.

June is a time to both enjoy and nurture your garden — a balance of relaxation and gentle care that rewards you with a season full of colour and abundance.

At Gardentime, summer is in full swing, with the centre overflowing with vibrant plants and beautiful pots to help you make the most of your outdoor space. Whether you’re refreshing containers or simply looking for inspiration, it’s a wonderful time to visit — and perhaps enjoy a well-earned break in the café garden too.

Your local independent, family run, garden centre, café and farm shop

Gardentime, Hemborough Post, Totnes, Near Dartmouth, TQ9 7DE.
01803 712345 www.gardentime.biz

Open 7 days a week 9am-5.30pm Mon to Sat, 10am-4pm Sun.

Five more pages to be serialised in Stretewise
from a book written by Marion F Smithes and published
in 1933 by R. Crawford & Sons, Printers, Dartmouth.
Stretewise takes no responsibility for the authors views or historical accuracy

CHAPTER III.

EARLY VILLAGE LIFE.

ENGLAND owes much to the country folk which it will not be easy to repay. When ships bringing precious freights were being torpedoed wholesale in the Great War, and there was a danger of our being starved to death, the only salvation rested on the British farmers and their stout-hearted labourers. They ploughed up their pastures and set to work with all their might to produce food for the nation in spite of losing many of their best men who went to fight.

One of the charms of the country is its unchanging character. It retains its relics of the past, and the best way to enjoy both is to blend the new history with the old. The Roman villa probably stood on the site of the present Manor House; the Saxon Thane and the Norman Lord followed; then the monks began to build and encouraged and taught agriculture while the others went out to fight. The monks gathered the corn at their country grange-meetings into huge barns. There were the customs, games, and pastimes of the villagers, and it is interesting and worthwhile to discover how the people lived and prospered in ancient days.

The first men (Paleolithic) lived by hunting powerful wild animals: the mammoth, brown and grizzly bear, red deer and other creatures. These men left very few traces (see Kent's Cavern). The Neolithic man was of a much higher type: he grew corn to make bread and brought with him to this island cows, and sheep and goats, horses and dogs. He made pottery, moulding the clay with his hand and baking it in a fire. He could spin, thread and weave stuffs, and was not inferior to the Saxon and Dane who landed and carried fire and sword into our peaceful hamlets and towns many years later. No one knows exactly when the Neolithic man first settled in this country. He was certainly here about 1800 B.C., i.e., about 3000 or 4000 years ago, carrying on a simple pastoral life, worshipping the Sun God, building the great Sun Temple of Stonehenge and other stone monuments. They must have been here before the Israelites left Egypt, four centuries before the siege of Troy, eight centuries before Rome was founded.

These neolithic folk were long-headed men and women, the backs of the skulls being strangely prolonged. They were

dark, of small stature, about 5 feet 6 inches in height, and their descendants are the Iberian or Basque races in Spain and the south of France, in the west of Ireland, and in parts of Wales. They were conquered by the men of the Bronze Age, a people who discovered the use of bronze, an alloy of copper and tin for making weapons and tools. Their skulls were round, and they are believed to have belonged to the Aryan race, whose birthplace was southern Asia. They are usually termed Celts.

Very often people find earthworks near their villages and flint tools and other treasures. Stanborough Camp on the hill behind Blackawton was a fortified place before the days of written history, with the enclosing fosses and earthen walls. Later on the manor houses and farms often surrounded themselves with moats or deep ditches filled with water which protected them from outlaws or wild beasts. When the scouts brought news of the advance of an enemy the people would at once flee to their camp or enclosure, driving their cattle before them. In many of the enclosures or stockades are the remains of pit dwellings formed by digging holes in the ground and roofing them over with a light thatch. Near these camps there is often a mound or 'barrow': the burial place of some chieftain. A chain of bonfires was lighted on some of these old mounds to warn the countryside in case of invasion. We have one on the Totnes road near Oldstone.

In a book called "Old Village Life," by P. H. Ditchfield, we can see pictures of the early Anglo-Saxons ploughing with two or four oxen. The men wear tunics and their legs are bound with what look like leather straps. The village consisted of a number of families usually about thirty, and the land was divided regularly into three portions: there was the village itself where the people lived in rude houses built of wood or rough stone. Around the village were a few small enclosures or grass yards (quillets) for rearing calves and baiting farm stock. Outside was the arable land where the villagers grew their corn, wheat, oats, rye, beans and barley; and around this the common meadows or pasture land, held by the whole community, so that each family could turn their cattle into it.

There was an officer elected by the people whose duty it was to see that no one trespassed on the right of his neighbour, or turned too many cattle into this common pasture. Around the whole colony lay the woods and uncultivated land which was left in its natural state, where the people cut their timber and fuel, and pastured their pigs in the glades of the forest. Each field was ploughed into narrow strips called "furrow-longs" or furlongs. Each village was free, only bound by its own laws and rules, established for the benefit of the community, but for the sake of protection and military necessity

the community took to itself a leader, commander, or lord, to act as its chief.

The lord, or thane, was in his turn required to provide food for the king and his retinue when he passed that way, and to fight in the king's wars. He lived in a low one-storied house in the centre of the village, the principal chamber being a hall with the kitchen on one side, and when he became a Christian, a chapel on the other. It was built of unplaned wood with pillars composed of oak trees, the roots of which were placed upwards so as to form the rafters of the roof. A fire burned in the centre, and the smoke blackened the timbers of the unceiled roof, hung as a cloud over the guests, and finally made its escape through a hole in the roof.

The earthen floor was strewn with reeds, save at the end where the lord and his family had their meals on a raised dais. The servants slept in the hall on straw, both men and women, separated by the arras or curtain. The lord's family had separate sleeping apartments. The roof was thatched with reeds or rushes, and the wind and gales blew through the crevices of the walls and provided ventilation. They were hardy folk or the draughts would have killed them! Sheep-skin rugs were their only coverlets. Armour and implements of husbandry hung on the walls, and rich tapestry, worked by the ladies. The seats were called "mead-settles" where the Saxons sat drinking their favourite sweetened beer, or cider out of horns. Then there was singing of songs and passing round the harp for each in turn. Bards and gleemen delighted the company with their songs and stories of gallant deeds, and weird legends, and sometimes acrobats and dancers astonished them with their strange postures.

Around the lord's house were grouped the dwellings of the villagers. The work of a cotter is thus described:—He shall do what on the land is fixed; each Monday in the year he shall work for his lord, and three days a week in harvest; he should have 5 acres in his holding; he pays hearth penny on Holy Thursday and Kirk-shot at Martinmas.

Lastly there were the theows or slaves, who could be bought and sold in the market and exported to foreign lands. The price of a slave was about £2 16s. 3d. Frequently men were released from slavery and later on the Church did good service in rescuing these unhappy people from bondage.

There were free tenants or yeomen, and sometimes the yeoman owned the farm he tilled and did good service to his country as well. Each village was self-supporting in those days; Blackawton for instance had its own "faber" or black-smith, and a carpenter who repaired the ploughs and put together the wooden frame-work of the houses. There was stray cattle; the cementarius or stone-mason; the "custos apium" or bee-keeper, an important person as much honey the "pounder" who looked after the fences, and impounded

was needed to make the sweetened ale, or mead, which the villagers loved to drink. Each village brewed its own ale or made its own cider, provided itself with meat, baked its own bread, ground its own flour, grew flax for linen and caught the deer, hares and rabbits in the surrounding woods.

They ought to have been very happy places, these Saxon villages, but the life was hard. The system of agriculture was wasteful and unproductive. There were frequent famines. The houses were poor and insanitary, and plagues often carried off their victims. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records many disasters and frequent fightings.

The time came when the Gospel message was brought by devoted missionaries and the thanes were encouraged to build churches on their estates. In most villages a plain wooden church arose, with a house for the priest who was supported by tithes given by the farmers and the lord. Many monasteries were founded where books and histories were preserved, and the monks taught the people better ways of agriculture. A new influence was felt. Men turned from darkness to light and were taught "all Christian men are brothers, whether high or low, lord or slave." The clergy watched over the poor, the widow, and the orphan, and were not afraid of any tyrannical lord. Early preachers often set up a cross of stone. Many of these remain; there is an ancient one by the entrance to Widdicombe; another in Stokefleming churchyard.

At first the Parish Church at Blackawton was probably built of timber, but soon a stone building would take its place. We often find in old churches a doorway or bit of wall which was put up by Saxon masons a thousand years ago.

Some of the Angles used cremation and urn burial, at other times a warrior's weapons, shield and axe, were buried with him, and rings and necklaces, beads of glass and amber,

The Norman conquest in 1066 changed many things in the villages. Their own Saxon lord, or thane, was deprived, and his land given by the King to some haughty Norman Baron, who treated the people like slaves and called them "English swine." The term 'manor' came in with William the Conqueror, but it was only the old Saxon village with a new name. Some of the thanes took to the woods and became outlaws, like Hereward the Wake, and Robin Hood.

The Norman lord usually lived in a castle or big house, apart from the village, and levied heavy taxes upon them. He loved hunting and destroyed farms and cornlands and hamlets in order to find forest homes for the tall stag and the wild boar. Forest laws inflicted death or mutilation, the loss of an eye or a hand, if anyone were caught chasing the deer. Dogs had the balls of their feet cut out so as to prevent them from hunting.

There was the **Village Folk-Moot** for settling the affairs of the community, and each village sent its representative to the Hundred Court, and above the Hundred was the Shire Moot. King William the Norman ordered the great Domesday Book to be made, mainly to discover how he could tax the people. The following were the chief points:—

(1) The owner of the manor, (2) the name of the farmer owner in the reign of Edward the Confessor, (3) the number of hides or ploughed lands, (4) the number of plough oxen, (5) of villeins, (6) of cotters, (7) of slaves, (8) the extent of surrounding woodland for providing pasture for the hogs, cows, sheep. Goats are seldom mentioned, not being employed in agriculture. Sheep as well as cows and goats supplied the people with milk.

Our Land Measures are taken from those in use in Saxon villages. The furlong, or 'furrow long,' was the longest furrow that a team of oxen could plough without stopping to rest, i.e., about 220 yards. The ploughman used an ox-goad to urge on his oxen. This goad was a rod with an iron point at the end for pricking the beasts. In order to reach all his oxen this rod was about sixteen-and-a-half feet in length, i.e., the length of a rod, pole, or perch. The ploughman's ox-goad would naturally be used as a land measure; he would place it at right angles to his first furrow in order to see how much land he had to till. Four of these lands or roods make up the acre, the day's work of the ploughman, who would drive his beasts home well satisfied with his labour.

The same order goes on year after year. Nothing is so changeless as agriculture, but in the 14th, and again in the 16th century when the rich English fleeces brought much gain, ploughing was neglected and the labourers went to the towns and many cottages were pulled down.

Later on the Enclosure Acts changed everything, and the old common field system vanished. The Norman "Hall" or Manor House was a finer building than the Saxon one. Together with barns and out-buildings it was usually in the form of a quadrangle, but by degrees more rooms were added, and the lord and his family lived in the 'solar' or upper-rooms —usually built towards the sunny south. A prominent feature of the Manor House was the chapel with its Gothic window. Dartington Hall is a very fine example of a complete manor house that is almost a village in itself, and Oldstone in our parish has a beautiful Gothic window.

Dart Gallery

You'll find much more information about the gallery on the website www.dart-gallery.com but if you want to ask us anything please do get in touch at info@dart-gallery.com or call 01803 834923.

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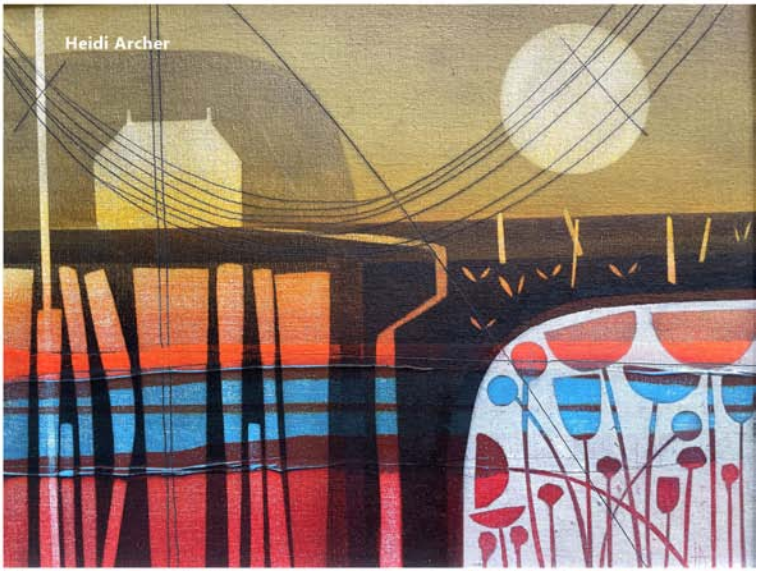

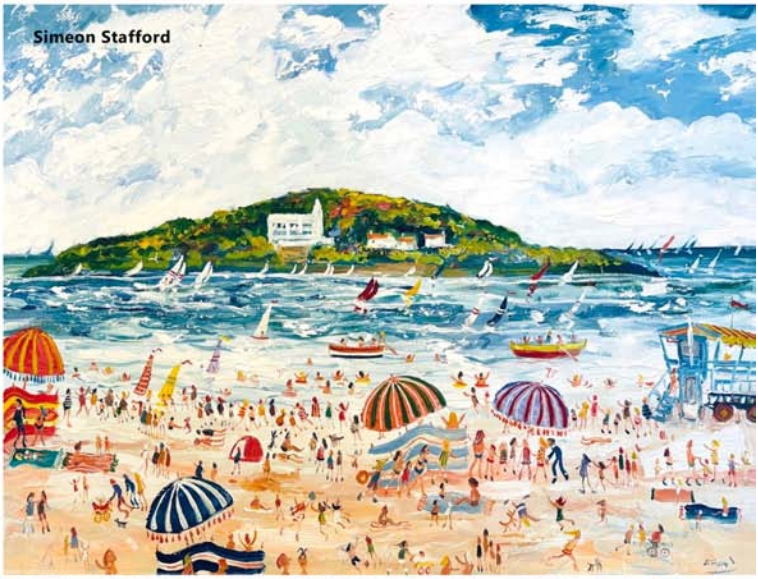

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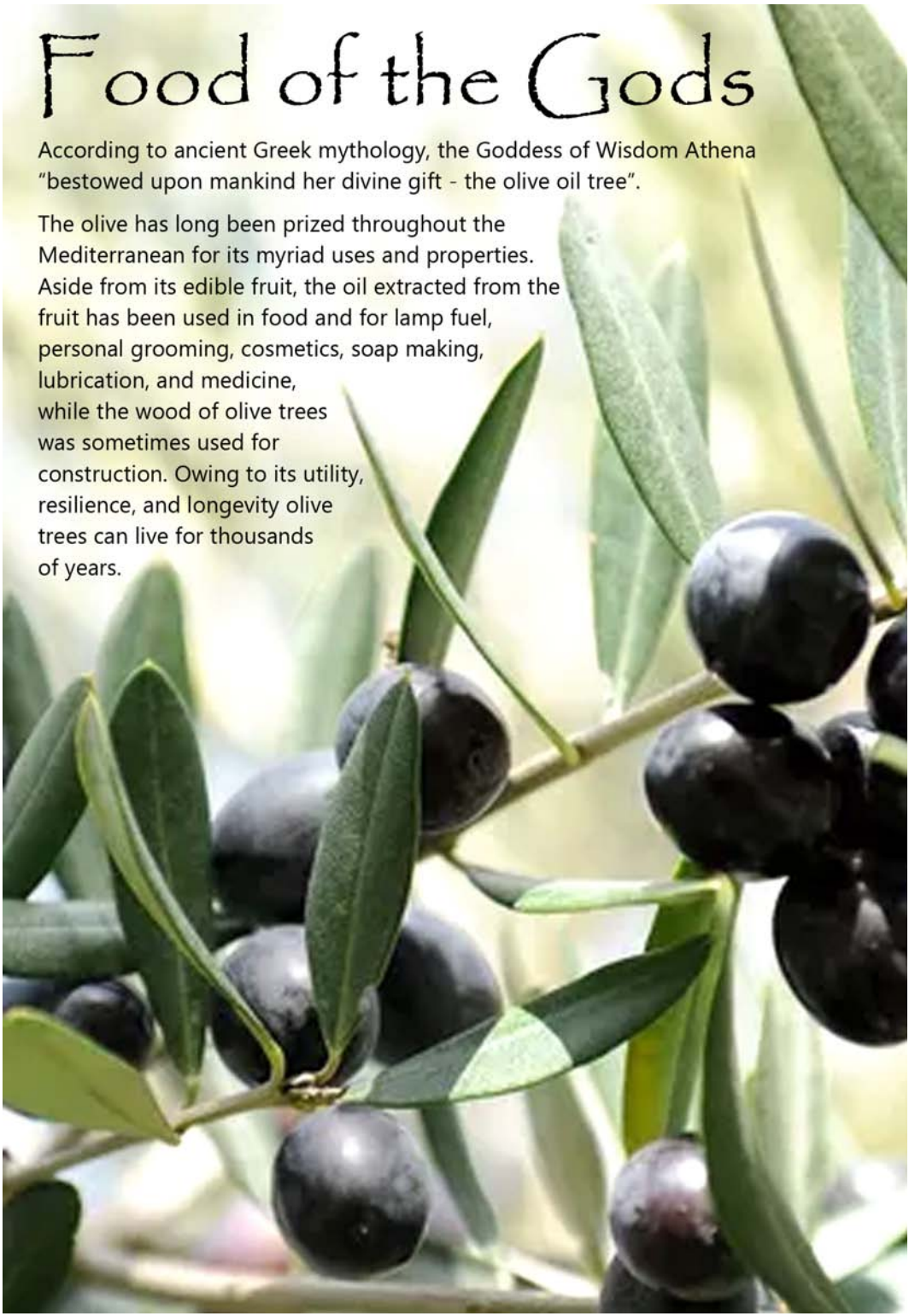
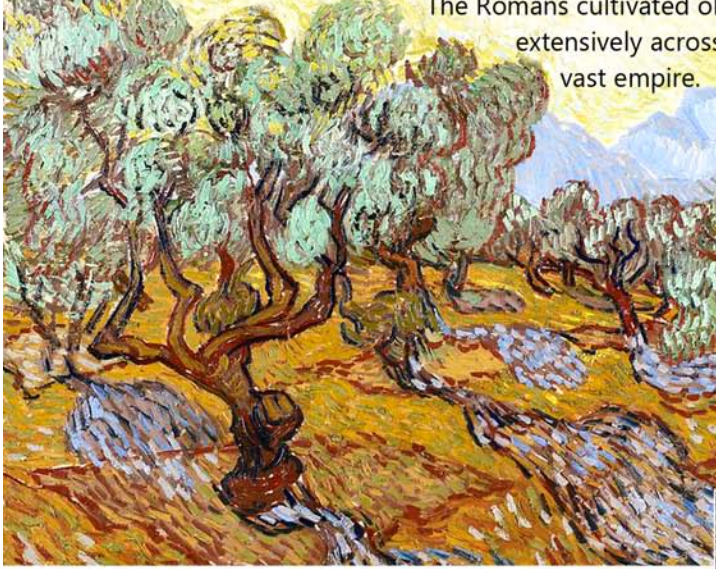
Food of the Gods

According to ancient Greek mythology, the Goddess of Wisdom Athena "bestowed upon mankind her divine gift - the olive oil tree".

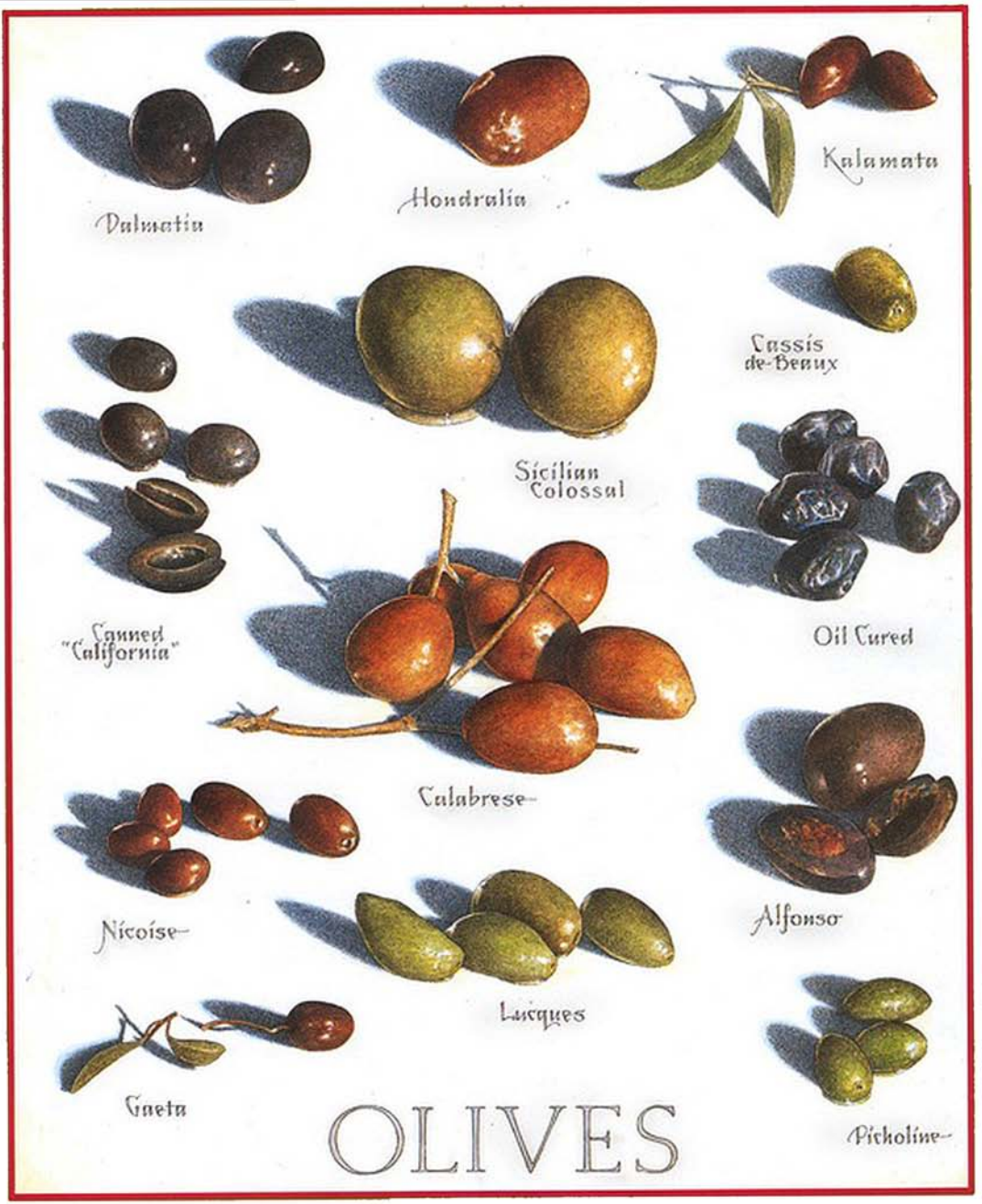
The olive has long been prized throughout the Mediterranean for its myriad uses and properties. Aside from its edible fruit, the oil extracted from the fruit has been used in food and for lamp fuel, personal grooming, cosmetics, soap making, lubrication, and medicine, while the wood of olive trees was sometimes used for construction. Owing to its utility, resilience, and longevity olive trees can live for thousands of years.



The olive tree, Olea europaea, is an evergreen tree or shrub native to Mediterranean Europe, Asia, and Africa. It is short and squat and rarely exceeds 8–15 m (25–50 ft) in height. Olive trees have existed for over 20 million years, but cultivation began roughly 6,000–8,000 years ago, likely in the Levant. Phoenician merchants helped spread the tree throughout the Mediterranean Basin. The Romans cultivated olive trees extensively across their vast empire.



Small, white flowers are borne generally on the previous year's wood, in racemes springing from leaf axils.
Each flower is made of four yellowish white petals fused at the bottom joined to a base of four fused green sepals.
The flower buds grow slowly from 4 to 6 weeks before they reach a length of about 2 cm and bloom, they bloom quicker between 5–6 days in hot weather and 2 weeks in colder areas. The flowers pollinate and fertilise faster in hotter climates.
The fruit is a small drupe, 1–2.5 cm (3⁄8–1 in) long when ripe, thinner-fleshed smaller in wild plants than in orchard cultivars.
Olives are harvested in the green to purple stage.
It would appear that there are two predominant types of olives: black and green. However, olives begin as green and slowly transform to light brown and reddish-purple before fully ripening and becoming dark black. The colour is largely indicative of maturity, though some varieties remain green even when ripe.
Olives are technically fruits, specifically drupes or stone fruits, belonging to the same family as peaches and pistachios. They are a dietary staple packed with healthy monounsaturated fats and antioxidants.



There are over 1,000 different olive varieties (cultivars) worldwide, though estimations vary. While the International Olive Council (IOC) estimates 139 primary varieties are grown across 23 countries making up about 85% of global production, the total genetic diversity includes over 1,200 known varieties selected over thousands of years.
Italy alone has over 400–500 distinct cultivars. The most popular table and oil varieties include Manzanilla, Kalamata, Hojiblanca, Arbequina, Picual, and Gordal.

Black Olive Tapenade with Garlic, Capers, and Anchovies

1/2 cup pitted black olives
1 tablespoon drained capers
2 drained oil-packed anchovy fillets
3 medium cloves garlic
5 basil leaves
1 tablespoon loosely packed fresh oregano, marjoram, or thyme leaves
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
1 teaspoon fresh juice of 1 lemon
Extra-virgin olive oil, as needed. Salt and freshly ground black pepper, if needed

Method:

Combine olives, capers, anchovies, garlic, the herbs, and mustard in a bowl using a food process, scraping down the sides, until a finely chopped paste forms. Continue to mix in lemon juice. With the processor running, drizzle in just enough olive oil to loosen to a spreadable paste,

Nicoise Salad

8 baby potatoes
120g green beans, trimmed
10 baby plum tomatoes, cut into halves
1/2 baby cos lettuce, cut or torn into pieces
3 hard-boiled eggs , peeled and quartered
100g black olives
250 - 300g canned chunk tuna steak

Method:

Boil potatoes until tender. Drain and leave to fully cool. Slice into halves.
Blanch green beans until tender. Drain and refresh under cold running water to cool. Drain, pat well to dry. Arrange the cos leaves on a large, wide plate. Scatter and layer the remaining ingredients around the plate, finishing with the eggs, olives and chunks of tuna.
Dressing: 1 1/2 tbsp lemon juice, 4 tbsp extra virgin olive oil, 1 small garlic clove grated, 1/4 tsp salt, 1 tsp Dijon mustard, Pinch black pepper. Drizzle with dressing and serve.

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Dartmouth Triathlon

Sunday morning 7th June

Think Bike!

Given the state of the Slapton Line, the cycling leg of this year's Dartmouth Triathlon, starting at Blackpool Sands, will proceed through Stoke Fleming and continue on towards Dartmouth before joining the A3122 and then following Three Mile Lane / Totnes Road back down to Strete (there will be multiple laps for multiple races).

This is the first time since 2018 (the last time the Line was washed away) that the triathlon route will head towards Dartmouth and as the month progresses, we're likely to see an increase in cyclists practicing the route. As one of this group, and whilst recognising that most road problems are caused by visitors driving through the parish rather than by l ocals, I hope sharing the following reflections may help everyone keep cyclists safe.

Most people will know that since 2022, the Highway Code has recommended drivers provide a 1.5-metre passing distance around bikes. That's not always possible on our roads and lanes, but, in general, it's helpful to wait for cyclists in the same places we pause for other cars. (I've had several drivers try to squeeze past me on my bike on the narrow stretch of the A379 up to Swannaton Road!).

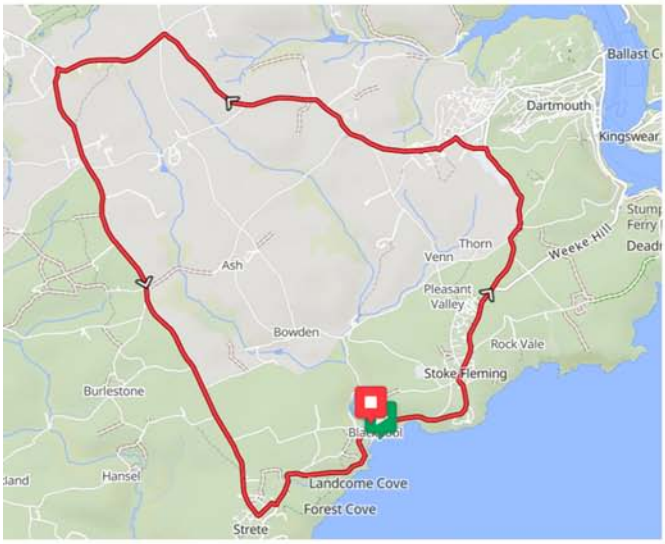
The same applies to Three Mile Lane too – cyclists will generally be going faster here so if coming up behind them, you may have to wait a while longer to get past, but there are several junctions and hills where they'll slow down and you should be able to easily get past. The other area to note, which applies more to race day rather than the practice time before this, is the A379 going down from Strete into Blackpool. Cyclists will be going very quickly here, often a bit faster than most cars, especially at the bends. If possible, please hang back and don't overtake riders shooting down the hill as this may force them to slow down behind you, which they will obviously find quite frustrating when they're trying to race.

I'm sure all race participants will appreciate you supporting them in this way during the race and in the period beforehand.

Dartmouth Triathlon

Sunday morning 7th June

Sponsorship for Ukraine Action Team Devon



This is the third year I'll be competing in the triathlon and I am seeking sponsorship for the great work of Ukrainian Action Team Devon, based locally in Stoke Gabriel, who are currently raising funds and procuring vehicles and aid for their 16th mission to the Polish border where the vans and trucks will be picked up and delivered to support evacuations at the frontline.

This mission, taking place at the end of May, will include the 100th vehicle the team has delivered. It has been partly funded by a major event held at the Flavel towards the end of last year, but more support is always needed (including for the following convoy in July).

See: **https://uateamdevon.org/.**

You can sponsor me and support Ukraine Action at **https://www.justgiving.com/page/jon-ingham**.

If any other parishioners are participating in the triathlon, let us know by 16th May if you'd like to be included in our June and July magazine.

Jon Ingham (Treasurer at Stoke Fleming Voice)

creative strete

Serin Aubrey
Chef

"I love working with food and have always got a massive sense of satisfaction out of people enjoying my food and having fun. Food and entertaining should be fun, and I believe we offer a locally unrivalled service, with a keen eye for detail".

I have always enjoyed food and cooking, I often joke that my mother who is an excellent cook was bored by the time I arrived on the scene as I have significantly older siblings. My life started in Kent, we had large vegetable patches, soft fruit bushes and lots of apple trees. We kept Chickens, ducks and geese along with ponies and sheep. Lots of my early memories are based around food, eating plums under the tree, mum plucking the Christmas goose at the Kitchen table and a family favourite like apple crumble. This vein still runs to this day as my parents still continue to grow and raise even in their 80s and 90s.

My parents purchased Clovelly Farm at Fordee when I was 6 months old, it was 36 acres with a farm house it now stands just short of 400 acres which my brother Peregrine farms full time.

creative strete

Serin Aubrey
Chef

Having won a Conran scholarship and training at chef school I worked in some big kitchens in London landing at Le Pont de la Tour where I cooked for all kind of celebs.

Devon soon became too much of a draw so in 1999 the move was made. After a spell of working on the farm we opened Anzac Street Bistro in 2001. A very successful and happy 12 years later I fancied a change and alongside Simon my business partner Dartmouth Fine Foods was born. Originally we offered outside catering alongside our production work but post Covid the catering was dropped.

Sarah and I love to travel when work allows. Food is always front and centre, when I can the first stop is the local market to check out the local ingredients.
I have very special food memories from Peru and Vietnam along with Spain, France and Portugal.

For the last 22 years I have been involved with Dartmouth food festival as a founder member. This event shares all my passions and brings joy to so many along side food learning and tasting. Many of you will know me from The Kings Arms, again food and drink being at the heart of it so go eat drink and be merry. What ever I do the same ethos always comes through. Food is something we all have to do everyday so enjoy it. Eat well and enjoy food, friends and family together. I am at my most happy home cooking on my BBQ and wood-fired oven cooking with great ingredients a glass of wine or beer in hand making my family and friends happy through food.

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Slapton Ley Festival of Nature

Sunday 9th August 2026 – 11am – 5pm

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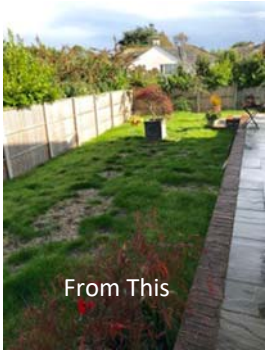

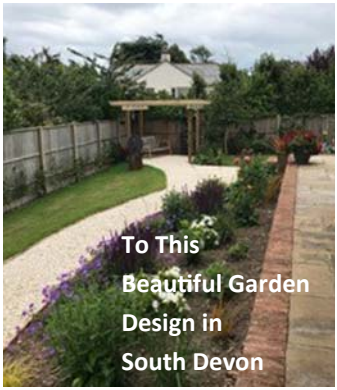

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STRETE PARISH COUNCIL
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Minutes of **Strete Parish Council** meeting held in Strete Parish Hall on **Thursday 19th March 2026**

Present councillors:
Ralph Clark (Chair); Ian Cumberlidge (IC), Timothy Singleton (TS), Cllr Paul Green (PG), County Cllr Julian Brazil (JB), District Cllr Laurel Lawford (LL)

Meeting commenced at 7pm

PUBLIC FORUM
The chair invited Julian Ferguson to speak. Mr Ferguson lives at Gara Mill and has noticed cables installed for monitoring Traffic use of the road between Gara Mill and Burlestone and wished to establish what is happening in light of the closure of the A379. Mr Feguson explained that large vehicles that use the route often need residents' help to extricate their vehicles and he is concerned that the data gathered will be used to identify the road as short cut between Five Mile Lane and Three Mile Lane. Mr Ferguson also asked why a bridge was not being considered as a solution to protect the route of the A379 between Torcross and Strete Gate.
The chair invited Cllr JB to respond but he was unable to offer a fully informed explanation other than to surmise that the purpose of the cables is likely to be to identify the number of vehicles using the road. He further explained that this data can be useful to establish which of the back roads should be upgraded, for example by increasing the number of passing places. Cllr JB added that Devon County Council are speaking with the specialist Satnav companies, whose products are used by HGV and coach companies to ensure routes reflect impassable lanes. In response to the possibility of a bridge, Cllr JB explained that from an engineering point of view this would be a huge, expensive project. The shingle ridge is unstable and any structure would require piling of 30-40 feet to reach solid ground, the span of the bridge would be approximately two miles. Cllr RC noted that a camera has been erected to monitor traffic on 3-mile lane.

The chair invited Peter Bodley, who lives in Strete to speak. Mr Bodley shared that the Stagecoach number 93 bus driver had told him that, if three-mile-lane gets any busier, a convoy of cars meeting a bus that cannot reverse will cause traffic chaos. Mr Bodley queried whether Stagecoach could be approached regarding using a smaller bus, similar to those for the current shuttle bus service between Kingsbridge and Torcross and added that Devon County Council could apply pressure as they subsidise the route. Ms Saffin also raised concerns regarding lorries carrying earth to/from one of the farms on three-mile-lane, as they cause problems on the route to Kingsbridge/Dartmouth.
Cllr JB confirmed that, while site managers can be spoken to about problems being caused by their operations, highways cannot stop vehicles from using public roads. Cllr JB added that the types of vehicles used are decided by the bus company. Devon CC could make a suggestion, but the final decision would rest with Stagecoach. As residents rely on the current bus routes Devon CC must ensure that they do not push bus companies into removing services altogether.

Cllr TS shared that the current levels of traffic being monitored in March will not be reflective of the volumes at the height of summer.

Ian Hutton, who lives in Strete, walked from the Slapton Memorial to Torcross and noted that since the original storm the damage is now far worse. He shared his concerns that leaving the road for a whole year could result in nothing being left to fix. Mr Hutton spoke to a person on site with a clipboard and asked why the road cannot be diverted through the car park. He wondered if there had been any costings prepared for this consideration.
Cllr JB advised that there is no funding within Devon CC to fix the road. All possibilities will be looked at by the Slapton Line Partnership, who will provide recommendations for Devon Highways to consider as the most appropriate action.

Devo CC are waiting for central government to confirm whether they will make any funding available to repair the road before alternative plans can be actioned. Cllr JB stated that Devon CC can look at the possibility of rerouting the A379. However, land does not belong to Devon CC. He added that the backroad upgrades and an A379 temporary route cannot both be funded at the same time.

Mr Staunton commented that Devon CC has £100 million in reserves and questioned why the council are not using these funds to repair the A379 and protect the rest of the Slapton Line when this is an emergency situation. Mr Staunton advised that that a car had broken down and blocked Deer Bridge Lane. The vehicle, subsequently, had to be reverse towed clear by a resident otherwise the route would have been blocked indefinitely.
Cllr JB confirmed the reserves are £70 million. Current estimates to repair the road and to protect the line (based on Lou Hoskins use of AI to update the figures compiled in 2018) would take the entire reserves of the Devon CC, leaving Devon in a precarious financial position.

Having listened to the concerns of local people, Cllr PG suggested that a forum is needed to allow the public to share their views and ask questions about what is going to happen. Currently people feel like there is nothing happening and, while that is probably not the case, nobody hears anything and people feel that their voice is not being heard.

Ms Safrin queried why there has been no plan since 2001. Cllr JB suggested that it was due to the SSSI.
Cllr RC commented that he does not believe this is the case and, while recommendations were made in relation to the SSSI, the decision rests with Devon Highways. After central government granted funds for the repair of the A379 in 2018 the funds left over could have been used to improve the back road network.
Cllr JB commented that Devon CC had failed to provide real improvements to the back roads since 2018.

Mrs Bodley highlighted the pot holes on the back roads and fears that the lanes will be destroyed due to increased traffic volume and heavy vehicles now using lanes that were not built for this purpose. Mrs Bodley noted that the surface of the road near the post office was due to be repaired in 2025, but no work has been carried out.

Cllr RC noted that the road through Stoke Fleming had been closed repeatedly since the closure of the A379, which has caused further issues.
Cllr JB confirmed that, while understandably frustrating, the works were scheduled prior to the road closure and were better to be carried out now rather than when traffic volume increased during the summer.

Cllr RC thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting and sharing their views and he also thanked Cllr JB for his responses. The chair closed the public forum.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT –
At the budget meeting the district council increased their portion of the council tax by 2.99%. This is due to rising costs and equated to approximately 11p a week. £500,000 raised from the double council tax on second homes will be spent on housing schemes e.g. where the district council funds part of the cost and this is matched by central government.
It has been decided that all district councillors in the South Hams will have a DBS check, due to their work with the community. The LGR consultation is open until 26th March 2026. Garden waste early bird renewal of £3 discount before April can be done on the SHDC website. Weather has stalled works at Blackbird Woods. Stoke Fleming school are planning to visit and Cllr Simon Rake has given some of his funding to the project as Stoke Fleming school falls within his area. There is a new trustee at Blackbird Wood, Chris Ellis. There was a £150,000 underspend on waste for 2025/26 and the surplus will be invested in community composting. Cllr LL is planning to find out the impact on the district council budget in relation to the potential loss of businesses caused by the A379 closure but noted that business rates are not retained by District Council. It is unlikely that there will be a noticeable impact on the double council tax income caused by the selling of second homes. Cllr LL will follow up about the SLP working group meetings.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT –

The county council portion of council tax increased by 4.99%. Council tax is funding adult social care as central government funding has stopped. Any mansion tax proceeds will be going to central government. SEND running costs are way over budget, currently at £60m and will be £180m by the time the reforms come in, in 2028. Investing more in children's services. £4 million revenue increase in roads plus £15 million borrowed to invest in roads, so that costs decrease in the medium to long term on emergency repairs.

There is a combined sewer and culvert issue that has been opened up at the bus station in Kingsbridge. South West Water state that the culvert issue is caused by Devon CC, but SWWs is a closed system, so this does not make sense.

Cllr JB sends his advance apologies for next month in case he cannot get back from his conference on time. Cllr JB will do his upmost to attend as he especially does not want to miss the APM.

STRETE ESTATE REPRESENTATIVES – none present.

Cllr RC will speak with Strete Estate to see if this should continue to be included as a regular agenda item

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Cllr KG and Cllr SC.

Councillors acknowledged the reasons provided for absence.

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON Thursday 19th February 2026**

   All councillors present agreed for the minutes to be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

   Members were 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.

   Cllr IC declared an interest in buddle hole clearance. An invoice having been presented for approval.

3. **PLANNING AND PLANNING MATTERS**

   019/426/HHO and 019/526/LBC The Longhouse

   Councillors reviewed the plan. Councillors unanimously agreed to support the application with no comment.

   Clerk to action before 6th April 2026

4. **FINANCE**

   Finance Reports – the finance reports and bank statements were reviewed by councillors prior to the meeting. There were no queries for the clerk.

   Councillors approved the following payments to be made by the clerk -

   - Strete Village Hall Rent+ WIFI
   - Ian Cumberlidge (buddle holes)
   - Greenspace (Village Green & Play Park grass cutting)
   - Mark Rowe (Village Sweeping)
   - Chris Ellis (Play Park repairs)
   - PCW – to be paid after 1st April 2026
   - Clerk's wages
   - PAYE/NI
   - Expenses
   - Home working allowance

   All payments are approved by the council and will be paid by the clerk

   The VAT paperwork has been lost be Royal Mail (sent tracked). The clerk will resend the paperwork if the tracking status does not update. A refund has been requested. There is no update on the PAYE request to link the clerk's government gateway ID to the Strete Parish Council account.

5. **PLAYPARK MAINTENANCE**

Chris Ellis has carried out repairs to reported defects. An invoice has been received and approved for payment.
Defect report received and reviewed by councillors prior to the meeting. The inspection report picked up the wobbly spindle bar, which Chris Ellis has been asked to repair along with the goal post, which is still wobbling.
Cllr IC will start work on the trim trail shortly.
Cllr SC to provide an update on the grant funding application for the two large items that are beyond economical repair. These items are not within the PC budget to replace.

6. **VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr SC will update at the next meeting.

7. **GRASS CUTTING**

The current grass cutting contract expires next month and the new contract has not yet been formally accepted.
It has been flagged up to councillors that dogs are at risk of escaping since cutting back works have taken place.
Councillors noted that the wire netting has shifted and may need to be replaced. General feedback of the works carried out is positive.
Action for clerk: Contact Greenspace to request acceptance of the new contract before the first cut after the current contract expires

8. **ROAD SAFETY**

Paul Potgieter shared the speedwatch group data with councillors prior to the meeting. Traffic volume on the A379 has reduced since the road closure at Torcross. However, traffic on Totnes Road has increased.
With the increased volume of traffic using Totnes Road the VAS battery is only lasting four days. There has been no response to grant funding requests to upgrade the units with solar panels. The VAS units need to be sent away to be upgraded and a box will need to be built to transport them. Arrangements to be made for one to be upgraded.
Action: Cllr RC to approach a carpenter to provide a wooden box

9. **SLAPTON LINE PARTNERSHIP**

Signage and news articles will be discussed at the SLP Inland Roads Working Group meeting this week.
Cllr RC proposed a temporary road at Torcross whilst upgrade works to the Inland Roads takes place.
Cllr RC advised a meeting is to take place with like-minded PCs to discuss ideas to repair the A379 at Torcross.
There is a meeting for the priority inland roads scheduled for the same day.
With the A379 road closure, councillors anticipate an increase in users at the Strete Gate car park causing safety risks due to increased vehicle and pedestrian volumes. While district councillors are understandably busy with the problems created by the road closure, replacement Steps at Strete Gate still need to be actioned.
Movement of the Slapton Line Monument is to be discussed when the SLP Amenities Working Group takes place.

10. **HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE / ACTIVITY REPORTS**

Bank cutting work has been completed at the site opposite Laughing Monk. There are no issues at Snails Castle.
Cllr PG and Cllr IC have volunteered to review sites for the South Hams Ramblers footpath maintenance offer before the next meeting.

11. **STRETE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW**

Cllr RC attended the SHDC asset transfer online meeting this evening. Details to be discussed at the next meeting.
The current Strete Neighbourhood Plan doesn't meet with requirement of the new NPPF because it doesn't provide an allocation for housing development. Strete does have the protection of being in the SW National Landscape, South Devon Heritage Coast and Strete Conservation Area. Cllr RC to meet with SHDC next week to review.
Review of the plan to include discussions with residents regarding alternatives for the Village Shop/Health Hub.

12. OTHER ONGOING MATTERS IF NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE

LGR update – PCs are not statutory consultees, but DALC has asked for comments to their consultation submission. Cllr RC asked if councillors wish to endorse or comment on DALCs proposed submission. Councillors raised concerns over the funding and capabilities for parish councils to take on the additional assets/manage additional contracts.
Action: clerk to email DALC to support the draft but underline that parish councils may not have the capability to take on the additional assets/manage additional contracts.
Police Advocate Scheme – expect an update from Cllr SC at next meeting
Following the meeting with police representatives at the village hall yesterday a letter has been circulated with guidelines from the police on how to report, what to report and what to look out for.
SPC Financial Regulations – review to continue
Annual Parish Meeting – councillors agreed that the APM will be held on 16th April 2026 at 6.30pm.
Cllr PG agreed to arrange refreshments following the APM.
The PC to confirm the invitation list for local businesses and organisations before the clerk distributes invitations.
Following the death of Cllr Peter Hales the clerk will contact SHDC elections team to establish if there is a need to advertise the vacancy to the electorate before co-opting a replacement.

13. CORRESPONDENCE- Kings Arms report appendiced

14. CLERK'S REPORT

I have submitted the comments on the planning applications as agreed at the February meeting.

Iain Randall at Greenspace has not confirmed acceptance of the contract.

There is no update on HMRC PAYE account linking query, payment was made manually for February.

The VAT forms have not been delivered to HMRC. I have raised with Royal Mail to see if this pushes them to locate it and move on from the locate where it is stuck. If there is no update by Monday, I will resend the forms and letter.

Information from the Start Bay Business Action Group meeting has been shared with councilors.

I attended the online NP briefing; slides and a video shared with councilors. Key points were that a NP has to be less than 5 years old and needs to allocate sites to meet housing requirements as a minimum. They must be new sites, not a repeat of JLP sites and identified on a map. They must have an indicative housing target (policy TTV25). SHDC to establish where Strete scores on sustainable village methodology, if it is not already identified as a sustainable village. There is additional protection for settlements partially or entirely within SW National Landscape (AONB). The scoping plan this year will give PCs a chance to suggest what that would like. The presenter labelled the changes "intentionally disruptive" and clarified that funding has been removed from central government for local plans. Resources are stretched but his team will try to help and will discuss pros and cons for NPs in different areas. The LGR process was deemed to be irrelevant to the discussion and focus should be on the short term because what happens down the line cannot be controlled. It's going to take about 36 months for a new JL plan to be in place.

I would like to propose amending the HP subscription on my printer to cover current printing volumes.
The portion allocated to the parish council will be £5 per month.
My personal rolled over prints that were subsidising the print costs have now been used up.

I would appreciate it if councilors could revisit the backing up of the clerk's laptop, either to a cloud-based storage solution (preferred) or with USBs (noting potential for corruption) or external hard drive. Currently all files would be lost if anything were to happen to the laptop.

15. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Highway Safety and Road Works

A379 Slapton Line Road sea breach at Torcross has left people at risk of losing their homes.

The latest news is that the Environment Agency are arranging for rock armour to be shipped in to bolster up the front of the concrete barrier protecting properties at Torcross. It is anticipated that this will reduce the power of the waves in a storm to minimise the impact on these properties.

The loss of the road is causing major disruption to many local residents and businesses living and working between Dartmouth and Kingsbridge. It's now two months since the road was closed from Sands Road, Slapton to Torcross and, despite reasonable proposals to temporarily reopen the road, there are no signs or plans to implement anything to address the concerns of residents in the area.

Caroline Voaden MP has attempted to raise the profile of this in Westminster but no assurances of support from the Transport Minister have been forthcoming.

Julian Brazil has acknowledged that Devon CC Highways failed to meet its previously agreed commitment to upgrade sections of the inland roads to reduce travel chaos for local residents and businesses in the event of a breach. Devon Highways announced at a recent SLP meeting that 214 locations for improvements based on issues such as visibility and the distance between passing bays has been identified. The approximate costing to update 200 locations is £6m without any planning permissions and ecological mitigations. This is based on 10 locations requiring high-cost solutions and most being low cost. DCC has identified £1m to spend next financial year (26/27). The SLP Inland Working Group will be partly responsible for deciding where to focus upgrade works. Discussions with Government departments are ongoing in an attempt to secure funding that will allow repair works to the A379 to commence. Estimated funding has been suggested to be almost £18 million. The Dept for Transport has requested more details plus a business case.

The SW coastal footpath to Torcross is now open from the memorial carpark (with limited parking available) for pedestrians and cyclists. The Tank carpark is available for limited parking. The toilet facilities are functioning as normal. Vehicle access is only available from the Torcross side.

Strete PC has approached all parish councils in the area with the objective of forming an alliance where collective views can be agreed to ensure the profile of the A379 disaster is maintained at the forefront of media news and future SLP meetings. The first meeting is to take place on 26/03/26.

Due to the dramatic reduced traffic movement in the village, approval to upgrade the two VAS signs is to be decided in the near future.

Children's Play Park

Removal and replacement of 'Trim Trail' is ongoing with Cllr. Ian Cumberlidge.

Reported defect items have been completed by Chris Ellis.

The two large play equipment items need replacing as it is not cost effective to repair the reported defects.

Cllr. Sam Cheese is seeking Lottery funding to assist with the replacement of these items.

Strete Gate Steps to the Beach

Site meeting with Dan Field of SHDC took place on 08/01/2026. Ideas for improvements agreed to be followed up in two stages. Initial – steps opposite car park to be replaced. Long Term – A more detailed proposal for improvements to be incorporated into an Amenity Study through the designated Slapton Line Partnership workshop.

Cllr. Tim Singleton is representing Strete PC on the Amenity Working Group.

This also includes discussions about moving the Memorial to a safe place.

Strete Neighbourhood Plan (SNP)

Contact has been made with SHDC representative for support following a legal challenge made by a housing developer to build 70 new homes in Modbury that were not supported by Modbury PC.

It was established that the wording in Modbury's NP does not comply with the new NPPF introduced by the Labour Government in December 2024.

Although no land has been offered for development in Strete Parish to date and the fact that the Parish is in a protected area of the South Devon National Landscape (AONB), advice received suggests SNP as it exists does not comply with the new NPPF in respect of housing development. Further discussions with SHDC are necessary to establish if Strete is likely to receive a housing target in accordance with the requirements of the revised Plymouth and SW Devon Joint Local Plan. Residents' comments and aspirations are essential to ensure the revised SNP meets with the expectations of the majority in the village. Contact with an independent NP expert may need to be considered to ensure we complete the review before the end of 2026 deadline.

This review may also include community consultation about a post office and shop alternative should the existing premises be sold or closed.

Police Advocate

Fifteen residents met Jessica and Abi from the Police in the Village Hall on Wednesday 18/03/26. This was an informative 1½ hour surgery session during which an advisory handout was provided. Residents are encouraged to report non-emergency events online or by calling 101. The installation of 'Front Door Cameras' was suggested as being an effective prevention tool for most incidents as well as a tool that helps to provide evidence in an event happening at or near your home.

Issues relating to vehicle speeding, etc; are more likely to be followed up if registration details of the vehicle are provided.

Cllr. Samantha Cheese has agreed to become the Police Advocate for Strete.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

Although Parish Councils are not included in the consultation process, there is clear evidence from draft consultation documentation provided by DALC that PCs will be more involved in the effective running of their parish. DALC is an organisation representing Towns and PCs in Devon as a consultee in the LGR process. From reading between the lines all assets currently owned by SHDC in Strete Parish are likely to become the responsibility of Strete PC e.g. resident's council tax.

Unless there is a transfer of funding for this and all other service responsibilities there is a risk that the system residents expect may fail. Residents are encouraged to submit their comments.

The chair shared the following report received from The Kings Arms:

The Kings Arms, Strete

Statement to Strete Parish Council March 2026

Dear Ralph and Members of the Parish Council,

Thank you for the continued interest and support of the Parish Council. We are pleased to provide this update on the Kings Arms as we approach the end of winter and look ahead to the spring season.

Finances

Our financial year ends on 31 March 2026. We expect our annual operating loss to be significantly reduced compared with previous years, reflecting tighter cost control, improved gross margins during the summer, and the sustained contribution of our monthly subscribers. Winter trade has been extremely challenging across the hospitality sector in the South Hams, and the pub is no exception. We took decisive action in January to reduce costs, including operating on reduced hours and closing the kitchen for the winter. These decisions, combined with the continued generosity of our supporters and subscribers, have allowed us to protect the business through to the spring.

Fundraising has continued to play an important role. We are grateful to you, Ralph, and Celia Clark for reintroducing the popular Friday Night Draw; and we plan to launch another £1,000 Prize Draw shortly. Recent events, including the Spanish Tapas evening and Spring Lunch, have also contributed to our cash position while bringing the community together.

Kitchen and Staffing

Tally Richmond has been managing the Bar through the winter period and has done an excellent job in maintaining a warm and welcoming atmosphere under difficult conditions.

We have today confirmed the appointment of a new Chef to manage the Kitchen. Charlie Plumb joins us from The Royal at St Martin on Jersey, with a wealth of experience in pubs, restaurants and cruise ships and an eye for attractively presented, consistent food. He'll be settling in during the first week of April and getting the kitchen up and running, after its winter hibernation. Watch out for the new menu!

In the meantime, Serin Aubrey will be providing his popular roast for Easter Day.

Opening Hours

Through the winter we have operated on reduced hours. School holidays start on Thursday 2 April, from when we hope to increase our opening hours and add in our new Food offering. Exact hours to be confirmed shortly, with the aim of being fully operational well ahead of the main summer season. We recognise how important predictable, reliable opening hours are for both the local community and passing trade.

Governance and Capacity

The Management Committee currently comprises four volunteers: Lisa Lyne (Secretary), Duncan Tait (Chair), Robin Staunton, and Sandy Clark, ably supported by Helene Kenny who manages the finances. The Committee has previously had seven members, and we would welcome any support the Parish Council can offer in encouraging suitable individuals to come forward. Growing the Committee would allow us to do more and do it better.

The Slapton Line

The potential loss of the A379 remains a serious concern. Any disruption to or eventual loss of the road would have a significant impact on passing trade, summer tourism and the pub's viability. This is an issue where the interests of

the pub and the Parish are closely aligned, and we would welcome any opportunity to work alongside the Council in making the case for its protection.

Looking Ahead

The Kings Arms has come through another testing winter with its doors open and its community intact. A new chef has been secured and the kitchen reopens imminently. The engagement we have seen from the village over recent months gives us genuine confidence for the season ahead. We greatly value the relationship between the pub and the Parish Council, and we look forward to keeping you informed as the year unfolds.

We would welcome any questions from Council members and are happy to provide further detail on any aspect of this report.

With warm wishes,

Lisa Lyne

Secretary, Strete Community Pub Limited

On behalf of the Kings Arms Management Committee

16. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Paul Green

Health Care

Dartmouth

– The disabled parking bays have been incorporated into the free parking zone. Blue badge holders simply need to display their badge and are entitled to 2 free hours from the time of arrival.

– There are frequently insufficient non-disabled parking bays available in the free parking zone. Pressure is being applied to SHDC to change the car park design, thereby creating 4 additional spaces without sacrificing the paid spaces in the main car park.

– Dartmouth Medical Practice recently underwent a CQC (Care Quality Commission) Assessment. Overall, the practice was rated Good.

Chillington

– The closure of the A379 is having a major impact on the Chillington Surgery. The surgery relies on income from the dispensary. The surgery is undertaking a patient survey to assess demand for prescriptions drop off in Slapton village. Patients are registering with Dartmouth to avoid the road closure.

Slapton Line

Following closure of the road new approaches are needed.

The Alliance potentially gives us the ability to have more weight in discussions about the future of the road. However, in my view this will need to be supplemented by an additional overarching group to bring disparate local groups and interests together.

I think that local people need to clearly say that upgrading the back routes is not an acceptable solution to the closure of the road other than short term while the road is fixed. The choice for DCC and Government needs to be framed as one of building an entirely new stretch of "A" class road to join up the two ends of the A379 or fixing the existing road.

There is no forum for actively involving local people in what is going on. This means that not only is there an information deficit, but that local people are effectively marginalised and have no influence over decisions. Either the SLP should meet regularly on this, or another forum needs to be created.

The closure of the road should have influenced the priorities of Lou's role. We need to understand how these have changed and if necessary, seek to change decisions on this.

Pub

I thought it would be useful to put my views on this forward.

Lisa has been asked to send the PC information before tomorrow's meeting.

Trading has been particularly difficult since Christmas. To help alleviate the cashflow issues pop-up events have been run.

A short-term programme until Easter has been published. As far as I know no decisions have yet been made about opening after Easter.

A job offer has been made to an experienced Chef who can join fairly quickly.

Buses

I have been contacted by people who live near me to find out if any progress has been made in getting an additional bus stop for people living close to Landcombe.

Cllr Tim Singleton

Grass Cutting

Greenspace completed the planned cutting of the village green corpse which was managed by Ralph and Ian. This work, along with the regular cut for February, has now been invoiced.

Prideaux Lane is clear and ready for a full width cut once the ground dries out.

Start Bay Business Action Group

Attended the Start Bay Business Action Group meeting in the Tradesmans with Hannah. Understandably their main focus at the moment is dealing with the immediate situation their businesses find themselves in rather than the longer-term reinstatement of the road. Due to the slow reaction of DCC they are currently seeking support and, if possible, funding from Parish Councils for temporary road signage to help customers find their businesses.

It was suggested that businesses in our parish may also wish to join the group and be featured on a new interactive map which the group have developed

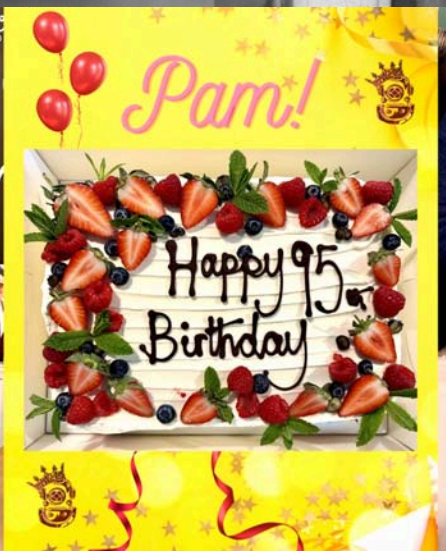
See further details sent by Hannah

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Para 14

Also joined the recent conference call with other Parishes. See details already sent by Hannah

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: **Thursday 16th April 2026** at **7:00pm** in the Village Hall

Meeting closed at 21.45



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STRETE SOCIAL CLUB PROGRAMME 2026

Meetings are usually held in Strete Village Hall on alternate Tuesdays at 2.30pm. All very welcome to join us!		
May	26th	90th Birthday Party for Heather and Dorothy
June	9th	Summer Outing - Boat Trip from Dartmouth to Totnes
	23rd	Creative Patchwork - Lynda Shinner-Booth
July	7th	Wellbeing Through Nature - Simon Tozer
	21st	Stories from Dartmouth - Jonathan Turner
August	-	Summer Break restart in September
September	1st	Garden Birds - John Tucker

31st March: On such a lovely afternoon the social club was held in our village hall.
The weather brought a good attendance with one guest to our meeting.

With Karen in the chair apologies were received and the rest of the business quickly dealt with..

Firstly, thanks were extended to Maura who alone had got the room ready, to Derek for manning the draw, the table once again laden with prizes brought by members.

The main point of discussion was to our outing this year. For a change Karen had suggested a trip on the Dart from Dartmouth to Totnes and had sourced information on times, prices etc.

We have the option of a morning sailing or an afternoon one.
All present were in favour of a boat trip, final arrangements to be made at the next meeting.

We have a lovely programme lined up and Karen told of us of these.

Business dealt with, Lindsy Johns, a florist, was introduced, although she really needed no introduction as she has been with us several times demonstrating her talent at floristry.

We always enjoy her coming and the talk she gives as she demonstrates. The main colour scheme for the whole of her demonstration was yellow, because of Easter. Her first piece was a beautiful wreath ring using fresh foliage, silk flowers and little fluffy Easter chicks and decorative eggs. (At the end of the afternoon this was presented to Karen for all the hard work she does for the Social Club). The next one was in a hat box, especially made for arranging flowers in, the next one was in a handle less basket, her third one was very spectacular. She had as the main component a large Easter egg shape made of wire bound in yellow ribbon. Into this were daffodils, irises, pussy willow and greenery. All these arrangements went into the draw and of course were the first ones to be selected.

Joan gave the vote of thanks to Lindsy and she then joined us for delicious Easter cakes and cups of tea. Our tea hostesses were Maura, Maureen, Colleen.

The afternoon had been very enjoyable and some lucky ladies went home thrilled with the flower arrangements they had won.

Please give us a try in the village hall on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2.30.p.m. Details are on the counter in the local shop.
You will be made most welcome.

14th April: There was a really good attendance for the afternoon with our guest of the last meeting returning and will be joining us.

As usual Karen was in the chair of the meeting and dealt swiftly with the business. She is going to book for the boat trip on the Dart the afternoon being the most popular time to go.

Joan suggested that it would be a good idea to have a 'lunch club' attending a local hostelry every couple of months. A list was sent around and quite a few of the members were interested. Joan volunteered to go further into this.

Maggie Duffey, from Brixham, was then introduced and gave us a wonderful afternoon of songs and poems. She was born in Brixham and lives there in a house called the Coffin House, of which she sang a song telling us the history of how this house, shaped like a coffin, became the dwelling of a young Brixham girl whose father had forbade her to marry the man she loved saying he would rather see her in her coffin than marry the said man. Father visited her later on and she said that she was in her 'coffin' living with her man.

Many of the songs she sang she had written; one was especially written for a time when she went to Blackawton W I and they wanted her to sing a song connected to Blackawton. Maggie didn't have any songs to do with Blackawton so made one up about a maid from the village.

It was such a pleasure to listen to Maggie's relaxed way of singing, she had a really lovely voice and accompanied herself on the guitar. Tea was served and cake and biscuits mainly by Dorothy and Joan but there were also a lot of ladies helping with the washing up.

Our next meeting will be someone form the Guide Dogs for the blind and it is possible that they will be bringing a couple of guide dogs with them.

We meet on alternate Tuesdays in the village hall at 2.30. There is always a list on the shop counter giving the dates and speakers.
Why don't you come as a guest and see if it is 'your cup of tea'?

Strete Social Club

28th April 2026 – Guide Dogs: We met on a beautiful spring afternoon and welcomed Lindsay Williams and two friends Margaret and Wendy together with three beautiful guide dogs. So business was kept brief, but we made time to sing Heather a Happy Birthday for 6th May when she will turn 90.
Many congratulations to her from everyone.

Lindsay shared the story of a Guide Dog from conception to retirement. Yes, even before they are born prospective Guide Dog puppies are carefully chosen and nurtured. Favoured breeds are labrador/retriever crosses, but the calmest visiting dog was a gorgeous labradoodle called Tess who accompanied her partially sighted owner.

At 6 weeks puppies are checked for any physical issues and those with issues are offered as pets. Exchange of puppies from regions in the South West takes place at Gordano Service Station with many an offer to buy them being refused!

Puppies are allocated to a puppy raiser who is given a bible full of guidance. Most advice is common sense, but some is counter-intuitive such as not playing with a ball or letting them swim as that could give problems once they are assigned to work.

The puppies like all puppies must not mix until 12 weeks old but they can be taken out if carried or in a sling – which can be heavy. Puppies are encouraged to experience all sorts of noise, busy main roads and traffic.
The puppies can have treats as a reward for good behaviour but that comes out of their strict daily food allowance.

There are 1600 guide dog puppies being raised at the moment but only about 850 will make the grade. Dropouts can be due to special food needs too difficult for an 'owner' to cope with, behavioural issues or a medical problem such as a hip displacement which is common in these breeds. The main current problem is a shortage of Trainers which is delaying puppies moving from puppy raisers to going to Training School for 4 months.

Once trained the dogs are carefully matched. Those dogs that prove unsuitable as Guide Dogs are then retrained as sniffer dogs for the Police and some act as Buddy Dogs.

The Guide Dog Association pays for everything without any funding from government. A puppy raiser is not paid but food is delivered and vet bills are paid. Trainers are paid employees.

It costs £106,000 for each Guide Dog and the organisation is entirely reliant on donations and Legacies in Wills. Lindsay was thanked by Lisa for her excellent presentation and Lindsay accepted a cheque for Guide Dogs from Club Funds in lieu of a fee. Members also generously donated towards this wonderful cause.

We concluded an enjoyable sociable meeting in good company with tea and refreshments together.

All are very welcome to come along to our meetings for companionship and fun.
Programmes are in the shop and on the notice board.

Further details from 01803 770782 (Joan) or 01803 770739 (Karen)

Strete Social Club

12th May 2026: A smaller than usual attendance at today's meeting. However, a delightful meeting took place. Karen dealing with the business including our boat trip in June and Joan was taking names for the proposed lunch to be held at the end of June on a Tuesday when we do not meet for social club.
Janet had put a lot of effort into arranging an afternoon of puzzle and games which were entered with great enthusiasm. We were competing in twos and different tables won each game.
she was thanked by Karen.
Lyn and Sandie put on a delicious tea and cakes for us.

Stoke Fleming petrol station

Thank you to everyone who has paid their subscription for the Stretewise magazine for 2026.

If you would like to subscribe for six copies of Stretewise for the year please pay £4.00 and leave your details with Andy and Monica at the Strete Post Office and shop.

We owe a big thank you to the very supportive team (Roy and Joan Kendall, Liana Balldock, Trudy Rothwell, Chris Burnes, John Goldring, Brenda Range, Heather Robinson, Nick and Barbara Shepherd and Carol Wills) who ensure that the magazine is delivered and Andy and Monica at the shop for taking subscription payments.

stretewise

Subscriptions for Stretewise 2026 are now due. Stretewise Vol 35. 1 to 6. Starting February - March.
To order your six issues of Stretewise please complete the details below and hand the slip and payment to Monica and Andy at the Strete Post Office and Stores.
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The Probus Club of Stoke Fleming and District

The Probus movement has branches all over the UK and is a form of social club aimed at retired gentlemen from business or commerce who wish to remain socially active. We are very keen to attract new members, and a warm welcome will be extended to any eligible gentleman wishing to come along and try one of our meetings. If you would like to attend, please call Graham Lewis

Tel 01803 712248 to discuss the Club and book a place. Alternatively, simply come along to an event and see for yourself!

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Lastly but not least we are a very friendly, albeit small group who welcome new people both Men and women.

For further information contact Karen or Joan.

Karen's telephone number 07487255134

Joan's telephone number 01803770782 or 07814810265

Funding to protect Torcross

May 2026: the Environment Agency has approved £19.8 million in funding for major rock armour sea defences at Torcross to protect the Slapton Line (A379) after severe winter storms caused significant damage. This funding aims to protect homes and businesses while the collapse of the road, which was largely washed away, is requiring further government support for repairs.

The project will see the Installation of rock armour in front of existing sea defences between the Torcross southern access steps and the northern slipway. While approved, the Environment Agency considers delivering the project in 2026 a "very considerable challenge" due to design, sourcing, and consent requirements. South Devon MP Caroline Voaden said the funding was "really great news" she added that the amount of rock being installed would mean most of the area of beach in front of the buildings where the work will take place is set to disappear.

Chillington Health Centre

Following recent disruption caused by the Slapton Road closure, we have been working closely with our Patient Participation Group and Start Circle of Friends (SCOF) to explore ways to support patients who are finding it difficult to reach the surgery.

We are pleased to confirm that, following sufficient patient interest, a weekly medication collection service has now been set up. This will take place every Wednesday time will be advised at Slapton shop car park.

Patients who have registered for the service will be contacted by the dispensary team when their medication is ready for collection at the Slapton point. All items must be signed for on collection, and any uncollected medication will be returned to the surgery.

This service is intended to support patients in Slapton, Strete, Blackawton and surrounding areas who would genuinely struggle to travel to the surgery due to the road closure.

We are very grateful to SCOF and the local community for their support in helping make this possible, and we will continue to review the service as the situation develops.

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Cllr. Kate Gill

It is with much sadness that Cllr. Kate Gill sadly passed away on 27th March after a short illness. Kate was a loyal, long-serving councillor for Strete Parish Council for many years, including serving as chair from 2016 to 2021.
Kate was an avid supporter of the Kings Arms. She provided the use of her camp site and barn for various village activities including Village Day.
Kate had a lot of historical knowledge of the area including events that took place during WW2 that she was always happy to pass on to anyone interested. The village beacon is situated at the camp site and its lighting has often received an official request from the Lieutenant of Devon for it to be lit on many special national occasions. The beacon was made and erected by Kate's husband.

Ralph Clark, Strete Parish Council Chairman

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All editorial contributions to the magazine are welcome:
Recipes, Crosswords (not cryptic) Articles, Letters. However, the editor reserves the right as to whether to include, edit or adjust the content. Contributions should be sent to stretewise@outlook.com or hard copies of contributions can be left at the to the Post Office or delivered to the Editor: Stretewise, 27 Start Bay Park, Strete, TQ6 0RY.

Copy deadline for the next issue of Stretewise August - September will be 23rd July.

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