



stretewise

The Village Magazine



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stretewise@outlook.com



Where do
we go
from here ?

Devon County Council have submitted an initial estimate of £18m to rebuild the A379 and are now working to provide further details along with a business case. Once received, which way the government will go will not only determine the future of the A379 but also signal how they intend to deal with coastal erosion more broadly. Conversations with the Environment Agency are ongoing about their role in protecting our communities.



"I presented my petition on coastal erosion at Start Bay last night 11.00pm 24/02/2026 In just two weeks, over 39,000 have signed the petition, both online and offline through the businesses and residents who have gone above and beyond to get the message far and wide. Thank you!
This petition feeds directly into my work in Westminster by showing the strength of feeling among the community that something must be done to address coastal erosion at Start Bay"
Caroline Voaden MP





Temporary Disruption

affecting bus service 93

From Monday 16 February 2026

Due to the road closure on the A379 along Slapton Ley, service 93 is unable to serve Slapton Turn.

Devon County Council have organised for a replacement taxi service to operate between Slapton, Stokenham, Kingsbridge and Strete. This will be operated by Station Taxis Totnes. The taxi will leave from Wood Lane bus shelter in Slapton. In order to use this service, please pre-book your journey at least 1 working day in advance of travel by calling **01803 732834**.

Slapton – Stokenham / Kingsbridge / Strete

Replacement Taxi

Monday to Friday (except Public Holidays)

	☎	☎	☎	
SLAPTON, Wood Lane	0745	0930	1610	
STOKENHAM, Carehouse Cross	0755	0940	1620	
KINGSBRIDGE, Bus Station	-	1000	1640	
	☎	☎	☎	☎
SLAPTON, Wood Lane	0805	0910	1230	1730
STRETE, Kings Arms Car Park	0815	0920	1240	1740
	☎	☎	☎	☎
STRETE, Kings Arms Car Park	0920	1300	1600	1745
SLAPTON, Wood Lane	0930	1310	1610	1755
	☎	☎	☎	
KINGSBRIDGE, Bus Station	-	1200	1700	
STOKENHAM, Carehouse Cross	0755	-	-	
SLAPTON, Wood Lane	0805	1230	1730	

CODE: ☎ - Pre-book journey at least 1 working day in advance on number above

This service is financially supported by Devon County Council

Strete Chapel

We are continuing to meet every Sunday at 11am in the chapel building. All are welcome. With Easter approaching we are getting ready for our Good Friday conference. This is held each year in Stoke Fleming Village Hall. It is a wonderful time of fellowship and a chance to delve deeper in to God's word. If this is of interest to you, please come along to learn more. Easter provides an opportunity for reflection on what Jesus did by dying on the cross and a celebration of his resurrection.



GOOD FRIDAY - 3rd April, 2026

The Village Hall, Dartmouth Road, Stoke Fleming TQ6 0QT

11am & 2pm (buffet lunch at 12:40)

Bible Conference - Speaker David Coffey

Young Searchers children's club

We have had much fun over these past weeks learning more about the New Testament and now the Easter story. Below are photographs of the children making Bible scenes out of food. They particularly enjoyed the candy floss clouds!

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.



Let us exalt His name together. Psalm 34 v 3

St Michael's Church

Lent

The word Lent is derived from the old English word Lecten which means Spring season. Spring is a time for growth and development. In our gardens and in the fields there is new growth. Flowers, crops and plants that we want. Many of these will need support or tying up to keep them upright and others need pruning to maximise their yield of fruit. Meanwhile there are dandelions, brambles and weeds that we have to remove before they dominate our garden, veg plot or field.

It is the same in our minds new thoughts are constantly springing up. Good thoughts, good habits which we need to encourage and sometimes prune or support so that they flourish. Bad thoughts, negative or destructive ideas we need to root out before they do damage.

Some thoughts like young seedlings are hard to identify and need watching to see what their fruit is.

All this can be hard and often I am too slow to tackle my thinking. I frequently need help from God.

On the night he was arrested Jesus led his disciples into a vineyard and told them that his Father is a gardener. (It is an idea found throughout the Bible from the instructive story of the Garden of Eden that God planted as a home for Adam and Eve to the vision of heaven where the tree of life still grows and mankind has unrestricted access to its healing leaves and wonderful fruit.) On this occasion Jesus said that he is like one of the grapevines in that vineyard. His followers are like branches linked to vine and gaining life giving water from it. His father prunes those branches so that they grow strong, healthy and fruitful.

As we approach Easter and remember again the wonder of the resurrection of Jesus let us ask our father God to help us prune our thinking so that we produce a harvest good fruit in the coming months.

Happy Easter Jeff Hacon



You are most welcome to join us in our morning worship at St Michael's every Sunday at 11am.

April 5th Easter Communion

May 10th Communion

May 31st Communion with Band



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

The Annual Village Hall Quiz

was very well supported.
Thank you to everyone who attended.

As always, the questions from Jonathan were varied and interesting.
The food, jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings, was well received –
it was delicious!

We had decided not to have a bar and for people to bring their own
drinks – that also worked well.

Thank you to all those who helped make it such an interesting, fun
evening.

Last, but not least, the winning team was

The Platters

The next Hall event will be a
TABLETOP and PLANT SALE
On SATURDAY, 16th MAY
11.00am – 3.00pm

If you have anything you would like to sell, please book a table with
Penny

p.g.penhale@hotmail.com or 07976 176748

Cost/table is £10.00, payable on the day.

Plants, cuttings, etc will be gratefully received and can be delivered
to

Juliet at Sea Barton, Vicarage Lane
Tea, coffee and cake will also be available.

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CLASS: ¾ HOUR

STRETE VILLAGE HALL

COST: £60 FOR 6 SESSIONS

PROBABLE START: JUNE

THERE WILL BE A FREE TASTER CLASS ON A THURSDAY
(DATE TO BE DECIDED).

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NEWS FROM THE KINGS ARMS

Spring is here, and with it comes the news many of you have been waiting for. **The Kings Arms has a new chef!** Charlie Plumb joins us in the kitchen on 9th April, bringing a fresh menu and a fresh start. But first, a word about the winter because honesty matters.

It has been a tough few months. A sharp fall in trade through the autumn, felt right across the South Hams hospitality sector, left us facing some difficult decisions. We closed the kitchen for the winter, changed the pub's management, and reduced opening hours to match realistic demand. None of that was easy, but it was necessary to protect the pub's future, and we believe those decisions have been vindicated.

What kept us going? You did. Tally and Immie have done a superb job managing the pub through the quieter months, keeping the welcome warm and the community spirit bubbling. *Artisan Pizzeria* has continued to serve their delicious pizzas midweek, the new *Food in Transit* van has added an occasional Friday option, and events have kept the pub at the heart of the village as a place to gather - from a fabulous Spanish Tapas evening to a wonderful Spring Lunch prepared by Helene Kenny and Paul Green. You may also have heard the hooter from across the village signalling that Ralph and Celia Clark have reintroduced the popular Friday Night Draw ...with a twist! This community doesn't sit still.

We also asked for your ideas earlier in the year, and you didn't hold back. The suggestions that came flooding in gave us fresh perspective, shared clarity about what you value most, and renewed energy. The message was consistent: you want the pub to feel warm and welcoming, you want good quality, honest food and variety; and you want predictable rhythms that make it easy to say "see you at the pub." We heard you, and we haven't forgotten. We identified two volunteer-led projects in response - one on ambience, making the pub feel cosier and more inviting; and the other on visibility and engagement, refreshing the website, improving social media, and making sure people know what's happening and when. The writer is feeling a tad embarrassed that these haven't progressed as quickly as we'd like, but the sheer volume of things to juggle with a tiny volunteer Committee is constraining.

The ideas are good, the intention is firm, and the need is real, but we simply need more hands to own challenges and turn plans into action.

And so to the headline. Charlie Plumb is our new chef, and he'll be arriving in Strete at the end of March, and will spend a week or so getting to know the pub and its kitchen, preparing his menu, ordering supplies and saying hello to customers. He'll be helping Serin Aubrey with the Easter Roast (we're all looking forward to) on Sunday 5th April, before launching his own menu and full kitchen service from Thursday, 9th April. The plan is a menu built around quality, consistency and fresh local produce. Good food, made properly, with real local appeal - the kind of cooking that makes you want to come back next week, if not the next day! We'll build from there as the season develops. Finding the right chef has been one of our biggest challenges so we're thrilled to have Charlie on board.

There's plenty happening through April. Our *Artisan Pizzeria* friends, who have been serving on Thursday evenings since our reopening in January, are moving back to Wednesday evenings (their original slot) from the 8th April. The month also brings a Quiz Night on the 2nd with a fresh face and fresh vibes; a Grand National Sweepstake on the 11th; an Open Mic on the 16th; Clairvoyant readings on the 22nd; and a likely St George's Day celebration on the 23rd!

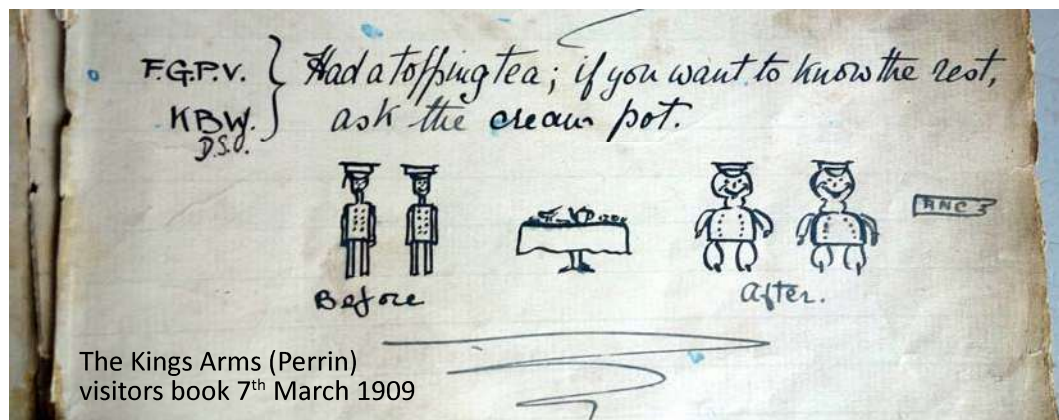
From 6th April, our opening hours expand. The bar will be open Wednesday through to Sunday, with the kitchen serving Thursday to Sunday once Charlie's menu launches on the 9th. We expect to extend hours further in May, as the season builds. Check the schedule on our website, on Google and on social media, or in the pub for the detail. Emails will also be sent (to all those for whom we hold an email address) when changes are made.

Looking to May, we very much want to contribute to a village celebration marking Pam's BIG birthday, and we truly hope she'll be able to join us in person. What a wonderful occasion that will be. And while we won't be staging a Pirates Day event this year for the early May Bank Holiday - no point trying to compete Brixham's Pirate Festival! - we will be going all in for the late May Bank Holiday weekend with music, great food and community spirit. More on that soon.

A word about subscriptions, because this really matters. The pub cannot sustain itself on trade alone. It needs a reliable base of monthly income to cover its fixed costs through the quieter months and provide the confidence to invest in the Spring. At £20 a month, a subscription is not a large commitment for most households, but collectively it is trans-formative. Do not forget too that subscribers receive a KArD giving 10% off all food and drink. If you're not yet a subscriber, please consider becoming one. If you already are, thank you, and if you're in a position to give a little more, or to encourage a neighbour or friend to join, that would make a real difference.

Behind the scenes, the Management Committee - currently just four volunteers - carry a significant load across governance, finance, operations, staffing, events, marketing, communications and more, all unpaid and alongside busy lives. There are many good ideas and plans for the pub, but turning them into reality with so few people is genuinely hard. We need more people. You don't need hospitality experience, just a willingness to care about this place and join in. Talk to any of us.

The pieces are coming together: a chef on his way, the kitchen ready, opening hours expanding, events landing, and a community that has shown, loudly and clearly, that it wants its pub to succeed. Come and see for yourselves. The Kings Arms is open, the welcome is warm, and there is much to look forward to.



The Kings Arms (Perrin)
visitors book 7th March 1909

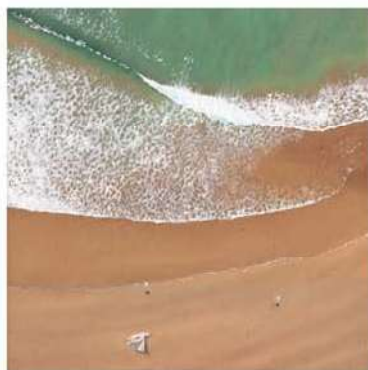
"Lenny Cornforth is an oil painter based in Devon where the artist lives and works with her husband, two sons and dog"

Endlessly enthralled by the ocean, Lenny Cornforth creates evocative site-specific oil paintings inspired by the wild and rugged coastlines around Devon. Using her own drone photographs to capture a unique and authentic perspective, Lenny's work carefully translates rocks, sea and shoreline into beautiful vibrant oil paintings.



A keen sailor and surfer, there is an integral connection to the landscape within the paintings, drawn from days walking the coastal paths and summers lying in the sand. Lenny graduated from Newcastle University with a degree in Fine Art, and has exhibited widely in the UK including Oxford Castle, Edinburgh Art Fair, The Rock Institute, Waterperry Gardens and the Scin Gallery in London. Currently her work can be found with a wide selection of galleries including The Dart Gallery in Dartmouth, The Brownston Gallery in Modbury, The Signet Contemporary in London, Wychwood Art, Whistlefish and others.

<https://www.lennycornforth.com/>





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Get Growing this April with Gardentime

Spring is well and truly underway, and there's a real sense of life returning to the garden. Warmer days and longer evenings make April the perfect time to get outside, enjoy your space, and get stuck into a few key gardening jobs to set everything up for the months ahead.

In the garden, now is the time to give things a fresh start. Cutting back dogwoods will encourage vibrant new stems for next season, while lawns can have their first regular cuts — just remember to keep the blades set a little higher to begin with. Adding some early colour is easy too, with summer hanging basket plants brightening patios and doorways, while pruning summer and autumn flowering clematis will help keep them healthy and full of blooms. If you notice any unwanted suckers on your roses, these can be gently pulled away from the base to keep plants strong and tidy.

For those with a veg patch, April is a busy and rewarding month. It's a great time to sow crops such as beetroot, broad beans, carrots and cauliflower, while seed potatoes can be planted out — just keep some fleece or cloches handy in case of any late frosts.

If you have a greenhouse or enjoy growing indoors, don't forget to repot any plants that have outgrown their containers and begin feeding them regularly to support new growth. Indoor climbers such as jasmine and passionflower can also be pruned now to keep them in good shape.

At Gardentime, we're fully stocked and ready for the season ahead, with plenty of inspiration to help you get growing. From vegetable plants and summer bedding to geraniums, herbaceous perennials and specimen plants, there's something for every garden. Whether you're planning a full refresh or simply adding a few seasonal touches, we'd love to welcome you in.



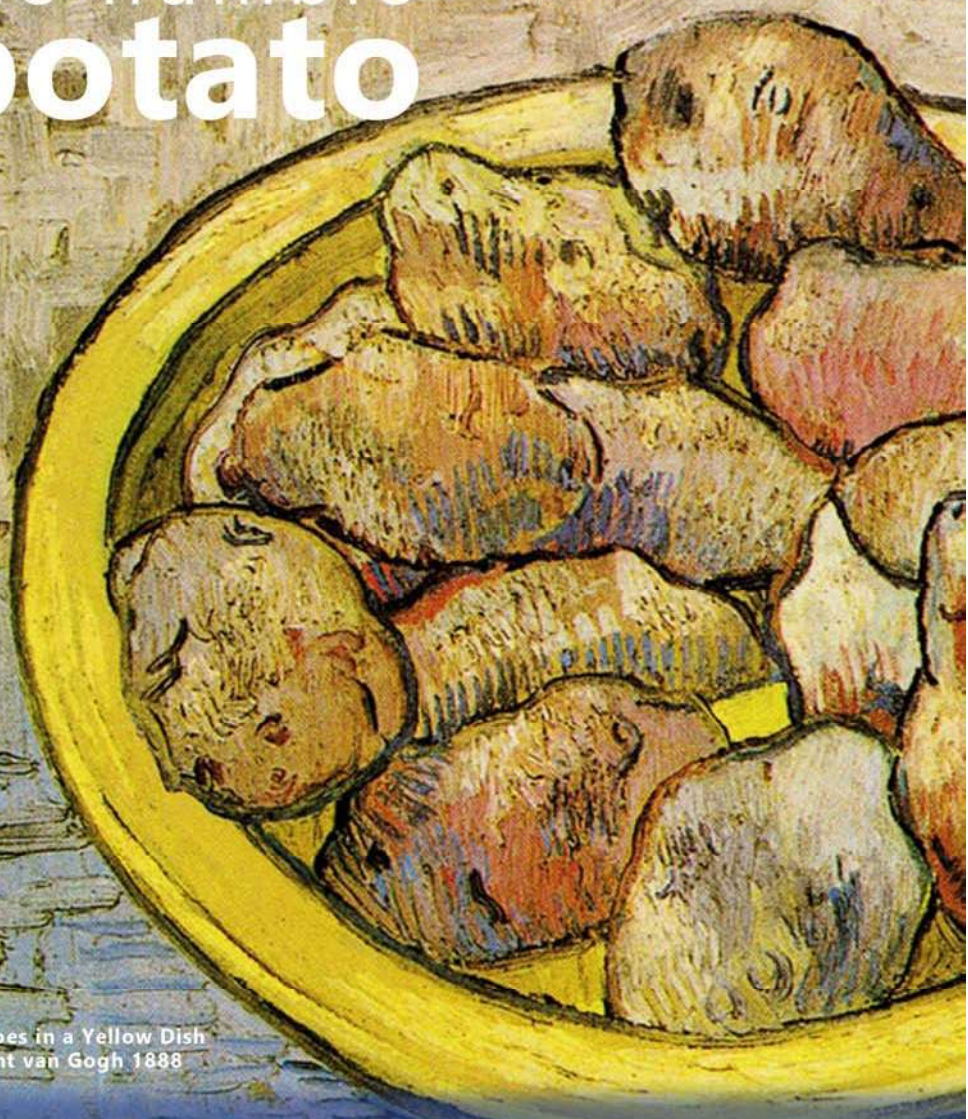
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the humble potato



Potatoes in a Yellow Dish
Vincent van Gogh 1888

Potatoes were domesticated in southern Peru and extreme north-western Bolivia about 7,000–10,000 years ago.

There are some 5,000 potato varieties worldwide.

In 2023, world production of potatoes was 383 million tonnes.

By 2030, it is expected that 11.1 billion packets of potato crisps will be consumed in the UK annually.

During Shakespeare's time, they were called "apples of love".

In 1927, there were over 35,000 chip shops in the UK.

Some of the earliest archaeologically verified potato tuber remains were found at the coastal site of Ancón (central Peru), dating to 2500 BC. In the Altiplano, potatoes provided the principal energy source for the Inca Empire, preparing their potatoes in a variety of ways, such as boiled, mashed, baked, and stewed in ways similar to modern methods.

In 1537, Spanish conquistadors became the first Europeans to encounter the potato. Don Juan Castellanos mentioned the plant in 1537 as part of a military report detailing a raid on an Inca village in Peru during a search for gold and silver.

Mention of the potato to European readers were made in *Historia de las Indias* in 1552 by Gonzalo Jiménez de Quesada, who wrote that in

1537, when he was in what is now the South American nation of Colombia, his party came across "una especie de trufas"

("a type of truffle") Sailors returning from the Andes to

Spain brought maize and potatoes used as part of their food supply for the trip. The potato arriving in Spain

around 1570, and the British Isles between 1588 and

1593. Potato cultivation spread across Europe as a

non-food purposes at first, mostly used as fodder

for livestock and grown as an exotic novelty in

botanical gardens. It was regarded with suspicion and fear due to it being a member of the nightshade family.

The potato eventually had a large effect on European demographics and society, due to the fact that it yielded

about three times the calories per acre of grain while

being more nutritive it could also be grown in a

wider variety of soils and climates this helped

to significantly improving agricultural

production in the early modern era.

Probably the first area of Europe to

cultivate it on a wide scale was Ireland

in the early 17th century, so that by

the 18th century the Irish population

exploded, and its people subsisted almost

entirely on the crop. The only problem with

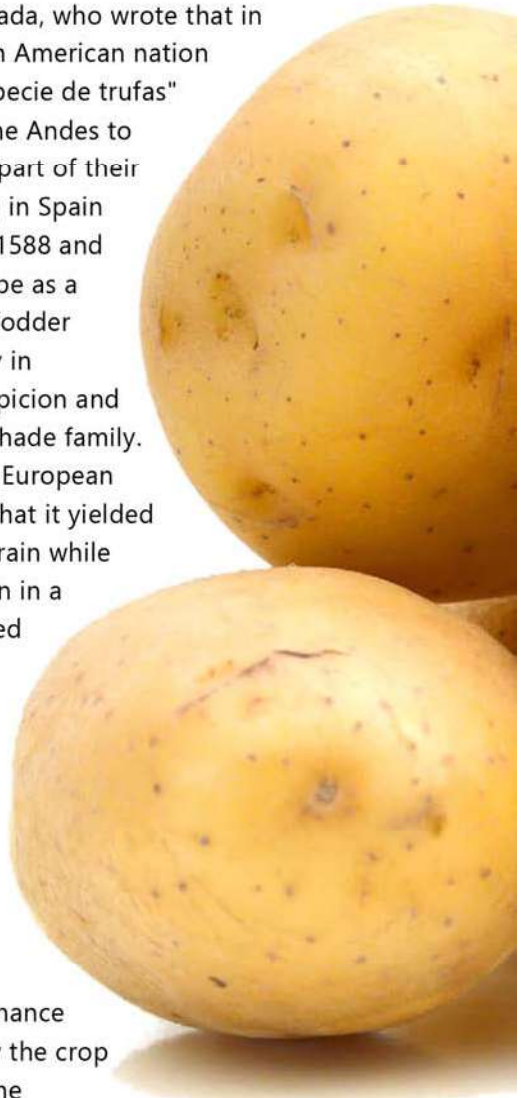
potatoes are their susceptibility to blight.

Irish dependence on a single crop for sustenance

was devastating. The events of 1845-52 saw the crop

decimated in Ireland, becoming known as the

Great Famine with more than a million dead from starvation and disease.



Potatoes are highly nutritious, providing a good source of fiber, potassium, and vitamin C, especially when eaten with the skin on. They are low in calories and very filling. However, their health benefits depend heavily on preparation, baked or boiled is healthy, while fried versions are high in fat and calories.



The potato has become a fundamental ingredient to a vast majority of the world's cuisines. With crops growing annually on 17.58 million hectares it currently sits at number four on the list of largest staple food crops on the planet following rice, wheat and maize. In the past few decades, the potato has become popular in Southern and Eastern Asia. Now, nearly a third of the entire planet's potatoes are harvested in India and China.

The benefit of potato farming worldwide is the tiny amount of land required to grow a Kilogram of food compared to other staple foods.

1kg of Wheat uses 3.85 m²

1kg of Rice uses 2.8 m²

1kg of Maize uses 2.94 m²

1kg of Potatoes uses 0.88 m²

Soil and Climate: Potatoes require well-structured, aerated soil, ideally with a pH of 5.5 to 7.0.

Planting: Sprouted seed potatoes are used to ensure proper growth, typically planted in spring.

Methods: Common techniques include mounding soil around plants (hilling) to protect tubers, or using deep straw/hay mulch to keep the soil cool and moist.

Timeframe: Potatoes can be harvested in about 90 days, with larger potatoes requiring longer, cooler seasons.



National Potato Day is celebrated on August 19 in the US and UK to honor the versatile, nutritious tuber, featuring various cooking methods like mashing, roasting, and frying. International Potato Day is celebrated annually on May 30th.

Green potatoes occur when exposed to light, causing them to produce chlorophyll and a potentially toxic compound called solanine. While the green pigment itself is harmless, it signals higher solanine levels, which can cause nausea, headache, and diarrhea.

Cadbury's Smash is a brand of instant mashed potato launched by Cadbury in the 1960s, famously advertised in the 1970s and 80s with animated Martians mocking humans for peeling real potatoes. Smash continues to be popular in the UK, selling 140 million servings a year. Made of dehydrated potato flakes (98% potato) that are mixed with boiling water



Mr. Potato Head is an American toy produced by Hasbro since 1952. Mr. Potato Head was offered as separate plastic parts with pushpins to be affixed to a real potato or other vegetable. Hasbro began including a plastic potato body with the set in 1964 after complaints regarding rotting vegetables and safety regulations.



Poitín (or potcheen) made with potatoes is a traditional, high-ABV (40–90%) Irish spirit historically produced as "moonshine" in small pot stills. While originally made from malted barley, potatoes became a popular, cheaper alternative for illicit distillers during the 17th-century crackdown. Potatoes are mashed fermented into a wash, and then distilled.



The first UK commercial potato crisps were produced by Frank Smith in 1920, operating from a Cricklewood, North London garage and delivering them via horse and trap to local pubs. Marketed as "Smith's Potato Crisps," they were sold in greaseproof paper bags, often with a small blue paper twist of salt included.



Baked potato sellers began selling their wares around the late 1830s these sellers became a regular item on London streets. Even though potatoes were sold for eating, not all potatoes were eaten. Sometimes potatoes were purchased just to warm hands. Russets are the classic choice for baked potatoes because they're a dry, floury variety.





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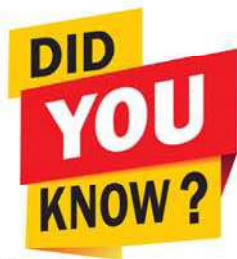
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Did you know: **The Ancient Romans used to drop a piece of toast into their wine for good health - hence why we 'raise a toast'.**

Did you know: **A googol is the number 10 100 or ten to the power of one hundred. In decimal notation, it is written as the digit 1 followed by one hundred zeros.**



Did you know: **There are 31,557,600 seconds in a year.**

Did you know: **The word 'uncopyrightable' is the only 15 letter word that can be spelled without repeating any letter.**

Did you know: **The sentence "the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter in the English alphabet.**

Did you know: **You take over 23,000 breaths everyday.**

Did you know: **The word 'underground' is the only word that begins and ends with the letters 'und'.**



Did you know: **Clothes dried outside smell better because of a process called photolysis (sunlight breaks down compounds that cause odor)**



Did you know: **More people are killed by hippopotamuses than by lions, elephants and water buffalos combined.**

Did you know: **A sphygmomanometer is a medical device used to measure blood pressure.**

Did you know: **Halley's comet passes the Earth every 76 years (the next time it will return will be 2062)**

Did you know: **The hyoid bone in your throat is the only bone in your body not attached to any other.**

Did you know: **The meaning of 'Blue Chip' comes from blue casino chips which have a high value.**



Did you know: **It is illegal to own just one guinea pig in Switzerland under the Swiss Animal Protection Ordinance, which classifies them as highly social "herd" animals that require companionship.**

Did you know: **Icelandic phone books are listed by first names (not surnames)**

Did you know: **William Caxton's The Game and Playe of the Chesse, printed around 1474-1476, is widely cited as one of the first, if not the second, books printed in the English language.**

Did you know: **A deck of cards should be shuffled at least 7 times before playing.**

Did you know: **The ball on top of a flag pole is called the truck.**

Did you know: **Giraffes has the highest blood pressure of any animal**

Dart Gallery

Discover a brand new collection filling the gallery this Easter!

Spring Show

Launching this Easter, our spring group show will feature new work from many gallery artists, including;

Martin Procter (top right)
Marie Mills (bottom right)
Theo Crutchley-Mack
Amanda Hoskin
Rob Walker
Paul Treasure

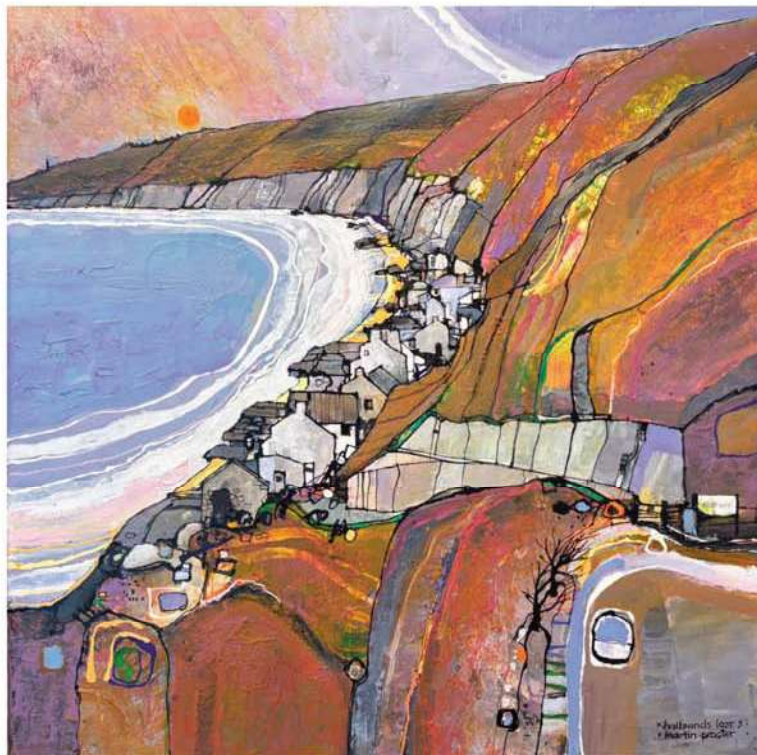


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STRETE

Past

AND

BY

MARION F. SMITHES

Present.

CHAPTER II.

IN ANCIENT TIMES.

HERE, in this corner of England, the records of the human race go back beyond the earliest days of history. First there were wild men clad in skins like the animals, or stained with a blue dye as Cæsar found them when he first landed in Britain; men who mined on Dartmoor and traded with the ancient Phœnicians for beads and coloured stuffs from the East.

They imported the beautiful red Samian ware in the second century B.C. with scroll work of animals in chase, then they began to wear gold brooches and pins, ivory combs and carved hairpins, spiral beads and bronze mirrors. The religion was savage: there were probably human sacrifices, burning in wicker cages, and great grey stones were put up, connected with the observation of the sun's movements or of the moon and stars. Druids may have worshipped in the stone circles and avenues; the sacred mistletoe was guarded by them on the oak trees and gathered at a certain time. Probably they practised astronomy and chanted their hymns and lived in stone huts like those at Grimspound on Dartmoor, encircled by low walls within which the animals sheltered at nights. Perhaps Stoke Fleming was thus enclosed, as the name seems to indicate the stockade or enclosure of the Fleming clan or family.

In the forests and on the moors were red deer and the wild pig, the wolf and the fox, the badger and the pole cat. In peaty bogs the bones of the ox and the deer, the hog and the horse have been found. They were patches of corn on sunny slopes, flocks of sheep and the Celtic shorthorn.

The climate must have been much as now—temperate and rainy. The men were rather shorter than those of the present day. Before they began to build stone huts they lived either in pits underground with the entrances well hidden by brushwood, or in caves like Kent's Cavern near Torquay.

The old Undercliff village of Strete came later, and consisted of a row of fishermen's cottages clinging to the cliff like swallows' nests, half-hidden by trees and bushes. It must have suffered the same fate as Hallsands, and been swept into the sea. The drinking water fell from the cliff in a cascade, close to the fishermen's homes, and this stream can still be

seen at certain times of the year. Down on the sands, which were much broader in those days, there would be rough boats made of wicker-work covered with skins of animals, and lobster-pots and spears to strike at the big fish, and any other sea monsters. Now there is hardly anything to be seen of the Undercliff cottages, but just a piece of stone wall, and the outline of a chimney and a rough path. The hundred stone steps built by the Hon. Edward Herbert for the fishermen are now in the Asherne property and the fishermen go down by their own path to their boat-house further along the Sands. Our neighbours from Cornwall were very bold in their 'coracles' or little round boats made of skins stretched over wicker ribs—one wonders how the Phœnicians carried their loads of tin ingots across the Channel in these open boats, long, long ago.

If it were not for the pirates and raiders who came to these coasts from time to time, there is no doubt that the early inhabitants would have lived more on the edge of the sea, and in the sheltered coves of South Devon, but as they had to protect their homes they gathered into enclosed camps like Stanborough above Blackawton, or collected into villages and stockades behind the hills, such as Slapton and Stokenham.

In far off days, when pirates and Danish raiders were seen in the offing, the unarmed country men with their women and children and sheep and pigs would hurry off to some enclosure and stay there until it was safe to come out again. No doubt when they emerged there were sad traces of fire and sword on the country-side.

There is a high mound still to be seen among trees beside the Totnes road, just before coming to the gates of Oldstone. It is said that watchmen kept a look-out there in case an enemy should land at Blackpool or Torcross, to burn and ravage the farms and villages. Most likely beacon fires were lighted to warn the people to collect their cattle in time.

The early Christian Missionaries may have landed on the west or south coasts on their way to Glastonbury: St. Joseph possibly or even that great traveller St. Paul. Very probably St. George passed along the coast and eventually came to the Channel that bears his name.

Some old maps show traces of a Roman Camp in horse-shoe formation on the hills behind Slapton Ley, and if so, the name of "Strete" may very likely have come from the long straight road or street which the Romans made for their soldiers to march from one camp to another.

There are various old tales, or legends, about King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table, and of the many fights they had with heathen invaders before England became free. Probably he was the first Christian King who tried to unite the other rulers and drive away a common foe. It is said that he came from Tintagel—appearing as a babe on the crest of a

wave, from a mystical faery ship all full of light, that disappeared as suddenly as it came in the storm. Merlin, that old wise man, drew the child from the water and had him carefully taught and trained so that he might one day save Britain. He also led him to the magic sword Excalibur which no other man but Arthur could wield, and before which the heathen could not stand; but even the King was not perfect, and so he and his Knights had to undergo great trials before the end.

One old story says that the last great battle was fought along the Ley by Slapton sands, and that when it was over, in the grey mists of a winter's day, the enemy left the coast; and the king, mortally wounded, was carried away in a 'dusky barge' up an inland creek. Three Queens were on the barge mourning his departure; possibly a symbol of England, Scotland and Ireland.

As King Arthur lay like a shattered column he said:

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new"
 "And God fulfils Himself in many ways. . . ."
 "Pray for my soul. More things are wrought by prayer"
 "Than this world dreams of. . . ."

We like to think that the Great King passed this way, and that the barge took him along the 'Happy Valley.' Many people have felt a kind of well-being come over them as they go up there, as if the place were haunted by happy spirits.

Before the King passed on his way, and while he lay beside the lake, he remembered that Merlin had said the precious sword Excalibur should be returned to the Ley when its work was done:—

"Nor ever yet had Arthur fought a fight
 "Like this last, dim, weird, battle of the West. . . .
 "So all day long the noise of battle roll'd
 "Until King Arthur's table, man by man
 "Had fallen in Lyonesse about their Lord
 "King Arthur. Then, because his wound was deep,
 "The bold Sir Bedivere uplifted him,
 "And bore him to a chapel nigh the field (Torcross or
 Slapton?)
 "A broken chancel with a broken cross
 "That stood on a dark strait of barren land:
 "On one side lay the ocean, an on one
 "Lay a great water, and the moon was full."

Then the King told his one remaining Knight to take Excalibur and throw him into the Ley, but Sir Belivere would not at first obey the King's orders to cast the jewelled sword away. However, after two attempts to deceive his master he closed his eyes lest the gems should blind his purpose, and

seizing the dazzling sword he flung it far out into the mere. . . . Before it dipt the surface an arm arose, clad in white samite, mystic, wonderful, and caught the sword by the hilt and drew it under the water. . . .

All this took place on a winter's day, long before any history was written down; but King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table, and the great sword which no other man could use, are still remembered as part of the legends of early times in Britain. Certainly what people now call the Happy Valley, on the way to North Mills where the Gara runs down to the sea, was once an estuary opening to the Ley. Some years ago the remains of a large boat were found embedded in the soil by a farm-house, showing that in olden days the tidal water came up there. A bank of sand has now blocked the entrance from the sea, and the swans build their nests among the reeds, and wild fowl feed there. In the autumn, when it is time for the smaller birds to winter in the south of Europe they collect in flocks along the ridge of sand which is now covered with grass and starred with wild flowers. When the wind blows off the shore these countless flocks of birds rise at dawn, and fly off to Spain and Africa for the winter months.

Slapton Parish Heritage Appraisals

"Silt samples taken from Slapton Ley show that the now flooded valleys of the River Gara and its tributaries were tidal estuaries until c.900 BC.

Pollen analysis shows that tree cover was decreasing from the Middle Bronze Age and grasses increasing, suggesting deforestation, possibly due to human activity"



Another four pages to be serialise 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

Spring is on the way and soon the Easter Bunny will make an appearance in Dartmouth!



Children's Hospice South West, Dartmouth Friends group will hold its annual Easter fair on Saturday 4th April between 10 - 3pm, in the Old Market, Dartmouth. Along with a large Easter Bunny that you can try to win, we have homemade cakes, craft stalls and children's toys on sale.

Everything contributes to this great charity. Put this event into your diary.



Dartmouth Coastguard Rescue Team 17/03/26 18:11

Tasked to Kingsbridge Coastguard Rescue Team station to some expired marine flares that had been discarded. Dartmouth Coastguard Rescue Team are specially trained to deal with Pyrotechnics and Ordnance Incidents.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency is a Search & Rescue service, not a waste disposal facility, whereby our facilities and infrastructure are not intended nor designed to store waste products. Individuals who are in possession of explosives, whether in date or not, have a legal duty to dispose of them responsibly. Anonymously abandoning bags of pyrotechnics on Emergency Service, HMCG and RNLI service properties is illegal and may lead to prosecution.

You now need to use a third-party service to dispose of flares. You may be breaking the law if you do not make sure flares are disposed of safely, to prevent any risk to other people or property. Follow the link below to find a flare disposal service.

<https://www.gov.uk/.../disposing-of-unwanted-marine-flares>

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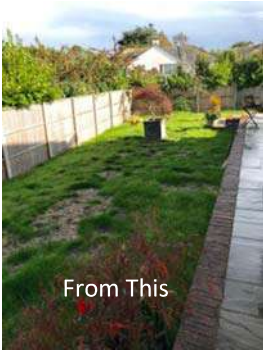
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Houses at Deer Combe, houses by the Green Dragon,
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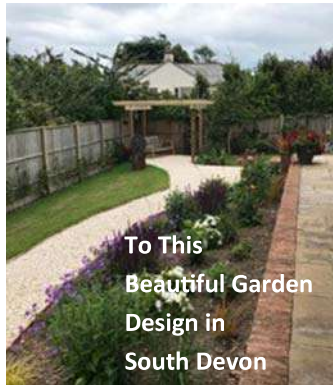
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Minutes of **Strete Parish Council** meeting held in Strete Parish Hall on **Thursday 19th February, 2026**

Present councillors present:

Ralph Clark (Chair); Ian Cumberlidge (IC), Timothy Singleton (TS)

County Cllr. Julian Brazil JB

Members of the public are invited to attend.

Meeting commenced at 7.15pm

PUBLIC FORUM

A few words from Cllr RC to express the shock and sadness in the community following the news that Cllr Peter Hales had died preceded the commencement of the meeting.

Sara Dixon noted an increase in traffic via Vicarage Lane to the A379, possibly due to SatNav instructions. Due to builders scaffolding at Strete Barton House and the narrowness of Vicarage Lane, vehicles are getting stuck and damaging the Devon Banks. Warning signs to be proposed to Devon Highways for approval.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr LL was not present at the meeting and no report was received.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – The start of the meeting was delayed and Cllr JB had to leave prior to the commencement of the meeting. No report was received.

STRETE ESTATE REPRESENTATIVES – No representatives present

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr PG, Cllr SC and Cllr LL. Cllr KG was also absent.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON Thursday 15th January, 2026

All councillors present agreed the minutes which were 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. No invoice has been presented this month.

3. PLANNING AND PLANNING MATTERS

• **007/026/HHO Hidcote House**

Councillors met with the applicant at the property on 17th February 2026. Councillors consulted the neighbourhood plan. The property is adjacent to but not within the conservation area. Cllr RC prepared a comment in advance of the meeting, which was shared with councillors, who resolved to ask the clerk to submit the comment to SHDC via the planning portal.

• **032/926/ARC Lower Burlestone Farm**

Councillors resolved to support the application with no comment.

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 £47.50
 - AJ Paine and Sons Hedge Cutting £834
 - Judge's Web Design £90
 - John Gilbert £456
 - Clerk's wages £466
 - PAYE/NI £1.40 for PAYE + £7.56 for employers NIC
 - Expenses – clerk (filing materials, printing fees and postage) £32.80
 - Home working allowance £728 (back pay from November 2023)
 - Ian Cumberlidge did not submit an invoice but agreed that all works carried out will be invoiced before the meeting of the parish council on 19th March 2026.
 - PCW invoice received, agreed to be paid after 1/04/2026 and before 14/04/2026.
VAT and PAYE update – see clerks report.
5. **PLAYPARK MAINTENANCE**
No work has taken place due to poor weather conditions. See Cllr SC report.
6. **VILLAGE HALL**
See Cllr SC report.
7. **GRASS CUTTING**
Greenspace have not formally agreed to the new contract. Cllr TC, Cllr IC and Cllr RC meeting with Greenspace tomorrow and will raise signing of the contract.
Cllr IC has met with family to discuss tree on village green.
Councillors agree that batraps can be used to secure memorial bench and move next to wall. Councillors suggested metal collars would protect bench during grass cutting.
8. **ROAD SAFETY**
Speedwatch update – weather has not allowed for any operations to take place.
VAS Modifications – no responses received to date re: requests for funding. Councillors resolved to upgrade the VAS machine on the A379 this year. Proposed by Cllr RC and agreed by Cllr TS and Cllr IC.
Email sent to PCSO to arrange meeting in the village hall. **Meeting arranged for 18th March from 2:30 until 4pm.**
9. **SLAPTON LINE PARTNERSHIP**
Councillors discussed the extent of the storm damage and discussed how to move the proposed Parish Council alliance forward. Cllr TS proposed to call a meeting of the alliance. Cllr RC agreed and councillors resolved to call a meeting before the end of March.
Any actions regarding the Strete Gate Steps and Slapton Line Monument have been postponed.
Shuttle bus between Torcross and Kingsbridge to continue. Clerk waiting to hear if taxi service will be extended past this week linking Slapton to Strete and Stokenham.
10. **HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE / ACTIVITY REPORTS**
Maintenance work on site opposite Laughing Monk will be carried out this weekend. Snails Castle is clear.
South Hams Ramblers offer to assist with footpath maintenance will be discussed at the March meeting.
11. **STRETE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW**
Cllr RC reported on the DALC meeting. A letter was received from Modbury Parish Council who advised their NP had been legally challenged due to a change in the policy wording of the new NPPF document. This has resulted in a new development outside of the NP settlement area being approved by SHDC.

A SHDC contact has been established to help with the review of Strete NP and councillors discussed the potential to seek further outside assistance to ensure Strete NP is fit for purpose.

12. OTHER ONGOING MATTERS IF NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE

LGR update – It was noted that parish councils are not statutory consultees for the Local Government Reorganisation consultation process. However, DALC is and parish councils can submit their views to DALC. Residents are being encouraged to submit their comments direct to SHDC.

Police Advocate Scheme – see Cllr SC report

SPC Financial Regulations – Cllr RC will take over the review of the financial regulations, alongside the clerk.

13. CORRESPONDENCE –

Chivelstone Parish Clerk contacted SPC regarding the next actions for the Slapton Line Alliance. Councillors asked the clerk to let CPC know that they will be arranging a meeting asap.

Correspondence received from residents regarding the twenty mile an hour road signs in the village.

The parish council appreciate residents' frustration at this, but it is a responsibility of Devon Highways to maintain these signs and SPC can take no further action.

14. CLERK'S REPORT – Arnold Baker – Website Access

Comments submitted for planning applications as agreed at January meeting. Decisions received for three planning applications –

0038/26/ARC Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions		
Applicant Name:	Mr Nigel Spokes	Officer: Richard Nicholson
Grid Reference:	(282443, 48339)	
Site Address:	Lower Burlestone Farm, Burlestone, TQ6 0LW	Decision: Discharge of Condition Approved
Description:	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 8 (Bat Roost) of planning consent 3019/25/LBC	Decision Date: 13 February 2026
3682/25/HHO Householder Application		
Applicant Name:	Mr Nigel Spokes	Officer: Richard Gage
Grid Reference:	(283160, 48162)	Decision Level: Officer Delegated
Site Address:	Higher Fuge Farm Fuge TQ6 0LL	Decision: Conditional Approval
Description:	Householder application for structural works to the west elevation of the west wing.	Decision Date: 13 February 2026
3683/25/LBC Listed Building Consent		
Applicant Name:	Mr Nigel Spokes	Officer: Richard Gage
Grid Reference:	(283160, 48162)	Decision Level: Officer Delegated
Site Address:	Higher Fuge Farm Fuge TQ6 0LL	Decision: Conditional Approval
Description:	Listed Building Consent for structural works to the west elevation of the west wing.	Decision Date: 13 February 2026

Greenspace contract re-sent to Iain Randall, still waiting for his acceptance.

HMRC have updated PAYE contact details but are investigating why a new Gateway ID cannot be linked. HMRC advised that Strete PC were in credit and no payment needed to be made until this month for PAYE or employer NIC.

I have spoken with Sall Winstanley, who is unable to provide any more information about the original Gateway ID linked to the VAT account, all papers were returned to the chair when Sall left SPC.

Full copy of the register of electors 2026 received.

No correspondence received for Strete Community SpeedWatch Group.

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. It is also causing major disruption to many local residents and businesses. This has forced Caroline Voaden MP to finally take on board what Parish Council representatives have been calling for since 2018 when the last breach of the road occurred – protection of the A379 Slapton Line Road and Slapton Ley from the sea.

Julian Brazil has acknowledged that Devon CC Highways has 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. Discussions with Government departments are ongoing in an attempt to secure funding that will allow repair works to the A379 to commence as well as upgrade works to the inland roads.

Estimated funding for both has been suggested to be almost £30 million.

The SW coastal footpath to Torcross is now open from the memorial carpark. The Tank carpark is available for limited parking and the toilet facilities have been repaired. Access is only available from the Torcross side only.

VAS machine upgrade quotations received for Solar Power and Speed Data submitted to two organisations for funding support. No response to date.

Hedge cutting on the upper section of Prideaux Lane from Totnes Road to Start Bay Park completed.

Children's Play Park

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

No progress with repairs to reported defect items with Chris Ellis due to wet weather.

Strete Gate Steps to the Beach

Site meeting with Dan Field of SHDC took place on 08/01/2026. Ideas for improvements are 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.

No progress to date due to A379 Slapton Line breach at Torcross.

Strete Neighbourhood Plan (SNP)

A review of SNP by residents of Strete to reflect any changes since it was accepted by Strete community and approved by SHDC in March 2022 is to be concluded by the end of 2026 or earlier. Contact has been made with SHDC representative for support with the appropriate wording to address the recent legal challenge made by a housing developer against Modbury's NP.

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.

Police Advocate

Contact has been made with the local Police. Arrangements are in hand for residents to meet with the Police in the Village Hall to discuss any issues and to receive information and advice from the Police.

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

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

At a recent online meeting, much discussion took place about the undemocratic procedure taking place by the government in forcing through change in the way local services are to be provided in Devon. Devon CC and SHDC are the only local organisations permitted to take part in the consultation process. Parish Councils are not included in the consultation process. As a result, residents are encouraged to submit their comments direct to Devon CC or SHDC. Formal government consultation is due to commence at the end of February once a decision has been made by government on which submission for LGR has been accepted.

16. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Sam Cheese

1. Playpark funding - at the last meeting there were a number of items on the quote from Rhino Play which were no longer needed/already replaced since the original quote was obtained. I have asked Rhino play to re-quote for the remaining items again as I'm sure I will need a robust and complete quote when I apply for funding. The new quote should be sent within the next 7 days.

2. Police Advocate Scheme - I have had email comms with the commissioner's team concerning this and am in the process of being signed up to it. I think it's something which I will participate in and review after 6 months to ensure it's worth our while and working for Strete. I will let you when I receive the official sign up.

I note the email re: police surgery, which I'm guessing is a follow on from recent events.

For info - I've heard from a number of people that there was a second burglary, around the same time as the Hynetown Road one, to a property on the A379 in Strete but it was not reported to the police, for whatever reason. I only mention it because it gives a fuller picture of events.

3. Village shop to village hall - Nothing further has been received on the proposals for this; I guess we wait and see.

4. Village hall - roof is leaking in a couple of places. Penny is going to contact a couple of roofers to establish where the issues are and costs of repair. I have given her the names of two different companies and she will progress. Depending on the outcome we may look to get external funding for this e.g. lottery funding.

5. Village signage - I mentioned at the last meeting that Penny had raised the matter of signage throughout the village which wasn't clear/needed updating/improving. She is going to take some pictures of the ones she is referring to and we can review from there. Once I have them, we can discuss.

Cllr Ian Cumberlidge

Tree Warden:- Nothing to report this month .

Footpaths/Bridleways:- Prideaux Lane is obviously a lot more 'user-friendly' since the cut-back in the Totnes road section. I'm not aware of any problems on the paths, (apart from soaking wet/ muddy..!). On the path from Totnes Road to Higher Fuge, there are a fair number of sheep at the moment, and dog-walkers need to take extra care. As these sheep are "in Lamb"...

Strete Gate Area:- No particular problems, apart from flooding around Coffee-kiosk, after heavy rainfall.

Drains /Buddle-holes:- I have been putting in labour/time on the Totnes Road area, as the traffic is now much heavier, added to the Rainfall. However, all seems to be flood-free, at present. Have had to dig out a few 'new' drain-sumps that have been over-flowing, which, if not done, impact on the road/drains further down. 3 drains adjacent to "Leo's", which were full to brim, & not draining into field. (A379).

17. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Thursday 19th March 2026 at 7:00pm in the Village Hall

Meeting closed at 20.45



The poster for Slapton Ley Nature Days features a light blue background. At the top left is a large green leaf. The title 'SLAPTON LEY' is in large purple letters, followed by 'HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD' in smaller purple letters. To the right is a yellow starburst with 'FREE EVENTS!'. Below the title is 'NATURE DAYS!' in large purple letters. The dates '7TH - 10TH OF APRIL' and '11TH - 14TH OF AUGUST' are listed. At the bottom left is the 'Field Studies Council' logo. At the bottom right is the 'DEVON HAF' logo. Two circular photos show children participating in nature activities: one child is looking at a book on the ground, and another is using a spoon to dig in the soil.

SLAPTON LEY

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD

NATURE DAYS!

7TH - 10TH OF APRIL

11TH - 14TH OF AUGUST

09.30 - 14.15

Field Studies Council

DEVON HAF

FREE EVENTS!

1607 Bristol Channel floods

We all think that global warming is something we can blame for our atrocious weather nowadays.

As a translator I was recently approached by a lady who is submitting her PhD thesis based on the history of a devastating flood in the West Country in the seventeenth century.

Why approach me, I thought? The answer to that was that the event was so newsworthy in Europe that the English report was also translated into Dutch (my speciality), German and French.

On 30 January 1607, around noon, the coasts of the Bristol Channel and the Severn Estuary experienced tidal flooding that covered Somerset and Monmouthshire. It is estimated that 2,000 or more people were drowned; houses and villages were swept away, and that around 200 square miles of farmland and livestock were destroyed. Local economies suffered greatly as a result of the flooding. The north coast of Devon and the Somerset Levels as far inland as 14 miles were also flooded.

The sea wall at Burnham-on-Sea collapsed and thirty villages in Somerset were affected including Bream which was "swallowed up" destroying seven out of the nine houses and causing the death of 26 villagers. For ten days the Church of All Saints at Kingston Seymour, near Weston-Super-Mare, was filled



with water to a depth of 5 feet.

A chiselled mark there shows that the maximum height of the water in the county was over 25 feet.

The flooding is thought to have been caused by a high astronomical spring tide combined with severe weather: low atmospheric pressure bringing strong winds and a storm surge. The spring tide in the Bristol Channel on that day reached a height of (25 ft. 9 in.).

The resultant financial loss in one of the Somerset parishes was estimated as £5,000, equivalent to around £1.4 million today. (Memo to self, check that the household insurance covers flood damage.)

A 2002 research paper, following investigations by Professor Simon Haslett at Bath Spa University and the Australian geologist Ted Bryant of the University of Wollongong (!) suggested that the flooding may have been caused by a tsunami, but this remains in contention

So, ladies and gentleman, while we moan and groan about getting drenched walking the dog or battling our way through the rain to the Kings Arm for a pint (or two) – go on –, use it or lose it! In my case, just kicking myself for not taking that job in Bermuda I was offered decades ago, just be thankful that you weren't that poor guy in the picture sitting on his roof!

Phil Clarke www.philipmclarke.com

STRETE SOCIAL CLUB PROGRAMME 2026

Meetings are usually held in Strete Village Hall on alternate Tuesdays at 2.30PM		
March	3rd	Artisan Breadmaking - Paul Green
	17th	Saint Lucia Cacao Chocolate Plantation - Pippa Tait
	31st	Easter Floristry - Linsay Johns
April	14th	Devon Historical and Hysterical - music and tales from Maggie Duffy
	28th	Guide Dogs - Lindsay Williams

20th January: There was not much business so our speaker for the afternoon was Paul Britton the Dartmouth Harbourmaster.

He told us how at a very early age he came to Dartmouth with his parents and visited regularly eventually to them buying a holiday home in the town.

He illustrated his talk with a presentation on screen and we were taken up the Dart towards Totnes where there are saltmarshes and how interesting the inlets to Old Mill Creek, Stoke Gabriel to name a few.

He went on to say that the waters of the Dart were safe to swim in with regard to pollution and the safe places to swim. There have been platforms where he can see from his office for folk to dive or jump into the Dart. They sponsor schools to teach pupils to swim as on a survey they were horrified that so many children living near the river could not swim.

We learned of the boats that use the river and of the cruise liners that visit Dartmouth which economically are good for the local shops. There are many taxis using the river to take people to various destinations on the banks of the river.

Dartmouth Naval college now been given their own pontoon. Officers who have trained at the college are very proud to say they trained in Dartmouth.

it was a very interesting talk and we all learned a lot of facts about our river that we did not know.

He was asked questions and Joan gave the vote of thanks.

Debby and Sandy served our usual cups of tea with a large variety of delicious biscuits to choose from. Derek had the draw in hand. this ending a very pleasant afternoon.

Please do come along as a guest to see if you like the social club, you will be made most welcome. It is held on alternate Tuesdays and there is a note of our meetings in the village shop.



3rd March: It was good to have such a sunny afternoon for our meeting after so many wet Tuesdays when we have met over the last few months. It was lovely to have Karen leading our social club this afternoon. Business dealt with our speaker for the afternoon was Paul Green, a local man, who had brought along ingredients, part made dough and tools to help with his talk on Artisan Bread. Asking the question how many of us had made bread several could say yes but on his second question anyone made sourdough bread, only one person had done this. He told us of the different flours used along with seeds, fruit and nuts that could be added. He showed us his starter culture, made of flour and water left to absorb yeast from the air. Apparently Devon was better for this than where he used to live. Passed around we all had a sniff. An array of bowls with various stages was passed around so we could see the different stages of the making of sourdough. He asked for a volunteer to lift and fold the dough in one of the stages. After silence Lisa was willing to have a go. When all stages completed he showed us the moulds he used to shape the bread for cooking in a very hot oven. Eventually we got to sample three varieties of his bread. He had supplied two different types of butter to put on, and delicious homemade jam. He was thanked by Joan. Served to accompany this delicious bread we're cups of tea by our hostesses Leanne and Lyn



Beesands 1927

Strete Social Club

17th March: It was a lovely afternoon when members met. With only a couple of apologies it was almost a full house.

Karen was in the chair with very little business to report.

We are going to have an outing in early June.

She then handed over to the first of our two speakers for the afternoon, who needed no introduction as it was Pippa who has been to us before and lives in the village.

She and her husband Duncan had been on holiday to St Lucia.

She gave us a brief idea of the island and its people and handed around some very nice pictures of the part she was speaking on. We heard all about the cocoa bean and their visit to a chocolate factory. Two samples of chocolate were passed around the first one a very high cocoa content witch personally I found very bitter and then a chocolate which has a spice added to it, this was delicious.

We were then treated to a sample of coconut liquor that she had brought home, then Pippa made a cocktail for us to sample using liquor that she had brought back with a base of pineapple juice. This was delicious and very much enjoyed.

Joan gave the vote of thanks and asked when she was coming back.

We then were given a taster session of chair Pilates which Liz is hoping to start in the village on a Tuesday morning. Karen and Lisa volunteered to have a go using larege expanding bands to exercise their arms and upper body and a soft ball on which they placed their feet and did various exercises to strengthen their knees and hips. Quite a majority of members signed up to do the course for six weeks. Anyone interested contact Lizzie on 07878199824. Joan also gave the vote of thanks to Lizzie.

Our tea ladies then served our usual cups of tea and today we were treated to coffee sponge and fruit cake along with the usual selection of biscuits.

Again, we would like to see anyone come along to our afternoon meeting on alternate Tuesdays at 2.30 in the village hall where we have a variety of speakers and enjoy a very social afternoon. **YOU WILL BE MADE MOST WELCOME.**

Come as a guest for the cost of £2 and then if you like it our annual subscription is £15.00. We hold a draw every week at the cost of £1 per ticket if you wish to partake.

Contact Karen on 07786430770

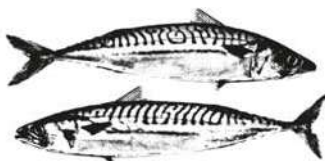


Stretewise Word Search

Sea Food

C A L H B W M A C K E R E L W B E J L A
R O T E A V A U P K W L O S T A W L O L
H A K E W L F W L R N E W A V S N O A A
W T D P L A I C E L E C T N W S B T R N
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B U E O W T Y W D N E T H W O T W I P A
T W S B V A S M T E C B W E N L H L Y T
R E B S T E T S R N R W T W R S I L A U
O W R T E A E N S A L M O N W R T O M R
U C B E W L R A E O W I B E C O I W U B
T E U R T Y S C T W L O D V E A N N B O
E W F E O W S N M B R E A M W O G W G T
P R A W N S E B E S D W B O I S A M E W

Mussels Scallops Clams Langoustine Lobster Bass Dabb Bream Flounder
Haddock Cod Plaice Halibut Bass Bream Sole Crab Prawns Brill Mackerel
Salmon Tuna Oysters Hake Mullet Herring Sardine Trout Turbot Whiting





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The Probus Club of Stoke Fleming and District

It has been pointed out to me that the I inadvertently left Peter Hales name as contact for the Probus Club in the last issue of Stretewise.

Can I apologise to Karen, her family and anyone who know Peter for this over-site.

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!

STRETE VOICES

About Us

We are a dedicated group of individuals who share a passion for singing an eclectic mix of songs and musical pieces. Our repertoire spans popular musical theatre numbers, folk songs, select classical pieces, and a variety of tunes—many of which harken back to our school days, with others added

Rehearsals

Our choir gathers every Thursday evening from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the village hall. We are fortunate to be led by Karen, an accomplished pianist and experienced teacher.

Community Engagement

We have previously visited the local Hynetown care home, where we performed for residents, many of whom are living with dementia. We look forward to returning for future visits. Each year, we also take part in the Christmas carol service at the church in Strete.

Join Us

If you are interested in discovering what we do, we warmly invite you to attend one of our sessions. For more information, please contact:

- Karen White: 07487 255134
- Kerris Petransky: 07970 688130



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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 between 2:30pm and 3:30pm 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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All editorial contributions to the magazine are welcome:

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