stretewise

The Village Magazine

William Small
1843-1929

Published with support from the
Captain Pearson Memorial Trust,
Advertisers, Strete Parish Council,
individual donations and our readers.
Printed by Parish Magazine Printers EX22 6TD.

February - March 2026
Vol 35:01

Price £1

www.stretewise.com

stretewise@outlook.com

New Dispensary Opening Hours from Monday 16th February

From the week commencing Monday 16 February 2026, our dispensary will be moving to new opening hours:

Monday – Friday
08:30 – 11.00
15:00 – 18:00
The dispensary will now be closed between 11am and 3pm every day.

These changes come after careful discussions with our Patient Participation Group (PPG) and Start Circle of Friends (SCOF) to ensure the new system works best for patients and the practice.

Why are we making this change?

This change gives our dispensary team protected time each day to focus on dispensing work without interruption.
These changes are designed not just for the dispensary team, but to ensure a smoother, safer and more efficient service for all our patients.

This will help us to:

- Dispense prescriptions more safely and accurately
- Reduce waiting times at the counter, particularly during busy periods
- Improve turnaround times for routine prescriptions
- Maintain a reliable and sustainable dispensary service for our local community

The middle of the day is our busiest and most complex time behind the scenes. This is when our dispensary team must manage:

- Ordering and checking stock
- Preparing prescriptions safely
- Completing medication queries
- Organising deliveries
- Liaising with GPs
- Ensuring the safe, accurate, and legal dispensing of medicines

These tasks require concentration and uninterrupted time to maintain patient safety. By closing during these hours, we can work more efficiently, reduce errors, and ensure your prescriptions are ready when you need them.

We are also proud to be the first GP surgery in the South West to install a 24-hour prescription collection machine. This allows you to pick up your medication at a time that suits you, without needing to queue or visit during opening hours. It is secure, convenient, and extremely easy to use — simply speak to one of our Dispensary team if you wish to use this service.

Update to Our Telephone System

We would like to let patients know that we will be introducing a new telephone system, which will go live on Monday 17 February.

"It is with very much sadness that I write to inform you of the unexpected news that

Cllr Peter Hales

passed away in his sleep on Saturday night (17th Jan)

Peter played a huge part in the village and Strete Parish Council and will be terribly missed for his guidance and expertise on many issues.

Our sympathies go to Karen and the rest of the family as they come to terms with this tragic loss"

Ralph Clark
Chairman of Strete Parish Council

"Peter's last night was a very happy one in Bristol for our son Mike's 40th birthday, celebrating with those he loved and he passed away peacefully in his sleep.
We are comforted by that and by the wonderful tributes, support and love that we have received from Strete and beyond"
Karen

Strete Chapel

We are continuing to meet every Sunday at 11am in the chapel building. All are welcome.

We hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. On the 19th January we were all treated to a glimpse of the coveted Northern Lights. What a spectacle this was to see over Strete. It reminded me of what an amazing creator God we have. In the Bible we are to do what many did on that Monday evening and I wonder if you asked yourself the question below.

"Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name." – Isaiah 40:26

It was a wonderful chance to see God's majesty displayed.

Each year in chapel we have a motto for the year. This year's motto was chosen by Lis Perkins.

'Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.'

What an encouragement this is to us all!

Young Searchers children's club

What an amazing carol service we had this year. The children both challenged and entertained us with their capturing of the Shepherd's experience in the Christmas story.

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

A Message of Hope

Christmas is long past. The turkey bones have been turned first to stock and then to soup. The cards and torn wrapping paper (except the sparkly ones) have been recycled. 'The Holly and the Ivy' now 'deck' the compost heap. The tree has been chipped and the decorations put back in their boxes till next year. The Christmas jumper is now washed and put away for another year.

In church, our readings are no longer about a baby in a manger or wise men from foreign lands. We have moved on to Jesus making disciples and beginning his work of teaching and healing.

At thousands of carol services from Kings College on the telly to our village carol services, we heard words spoken by the prophet Isaiah 600 years before the birth of Jesus.

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel which means 'God with us'. "*

There is no time limit here, 'God IS with us'.

As the year changes, eventually moving from winter to spring and then on to summer 'God is with us.' As we face the challenges of life, the continuing ones from last year and the new challenges of this year 'God is with us'

Furthermore since Jesus lived life as a human he understands what human life is like - as part of a family, as a skilled workman, as a friend, as one unjustly persecuted. And 'He is with us' in all the mess and complexity of our lives.

So, Christmas is over, but Immanuel God is still with you.

*Isaiah Chapter 7 verse 14, quoted in Matthew's Gospel chapter 1 verse 23

Services: February – March

February:

1st 11am at Stoke Fleming,

8th 11am Holy Communion with Rev Matt Gorton,

15th Morning worship 11am and 4pm
The 4! for all the family,

22nd 11am Morning Worship

March:

1st 11am Morning Worship,

8th 11am Holy Communion,

15th Mothering Sunday 11am at the Chapel,

22nd 11am Morning Worship,

29th 11am Holy Communion at Blackawton (joint service)

Booking Clerk:
Penny Penhale 07976 176748

1 Hynetown Rd, Strete, TQ6 0RT
email:Hello@stretehall.co.uk

Our next event is the

ANNUAL VILLAGE HALL QUIZ

on

SATURDAY, 14 FEBRUARY,

starting at 7.00pm, doors open at 6.30pm.

Tickets £8.00

On sale from the Village Shop

Jacket potatoes, with 3 different fillings, will be served but please bring your own drink as there will be no bar.

PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT YOUR HALL

Village Hall for Hire

Good sized hall with central heating

Suitable for receptions, meetings, group activities, parties, wakes, etc

Disabled facilities, Wi-Fi and sound system

Terrace area and parking

Hire charges: £11.00 regulars, £15 one-offs

Penny would be very grateful for any information regarding the history of the Hall from 1951

NEW GROUP

MOVE AND STRETCH

Strete Village Hall Tuesday 7.30-8.30pm
A COMMUNITY EXERCISE GROUP
FOR ALL ABILITIES
Small charge to cover the cost of the hall
(depends on numbers).
Dates: Weekly Tuesday 7.30-8.30pm Jan 6th 2026
If interested please contact Debby 0751166910
(Qualified exercise and Pilates teacher EMD UK)
ALL WELCOME - Bring a mat, small cushion and water bottle

ANNUAL STRETE VILLAGE HALL

ON

SATURDAY 14th FEBRUARY

starting at 7.00pm

doors open at 6.30pm

Tickets £8.00

On sale from the Village Shop

Jacket potatoes, with 3 different fillings, will be served but please bring your own drink as there will be no bar.

In aid of Hall funds Charity No. 279409

FINEST STAYS
LUXURY HOLIDAY HOMES
Join the local agency that makes letting your holiday home totally plain sailing
LET YOUR HOLIDAY HOME
AS SEEN IN:
The Guardian
THE TIMES
COUNTRY LIFE
Condé Nast Traveller
The ENGLISH HOME

DAYMENT

PLUMBING & HEATING LTD

Expert plumbing & heating services available.
Quick, efficient & affordable solutions.

james@daymentplumbing.co.uk
07737531165

Registered Oil Heating Business

OFTEC

GAS safe REGISTER

START BAY ELECTRICAL

DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL ELECTRICIAN

Tel: 07891 708018

startbayelectrical@hotmail.com

www.startbayelectrical.co.uk

All enquiries welcome

the Kings Arms

Welcome to our community pub on the South Devon coast.

Dear Shareholders, Subscribers and Supporters,

We wanted to write to you promptly and directly with an update on the Kings Arms, to explain a number of recent changes, and to set out clearly how we are responding to what has become a very challenging winter for the pub.

At our AGM last October, the pub was in a *relatively* stable position following a good summer.

On that basis, and unusually compared with previous years, we did not ask the community for lump-sum financial support. Since then, however, trade has fallen away sharply; not just here in Strete, but across the hospitality sector more broadly. Many pubs and restaurants, including in Dartmouth and the wider South Hams, are reporting a sudden and severe drop in custom over late autumn and early winter. The effect on a small, community-owned pub like ours has been immediate and serious.

Against that backdrop, the Management Committee met on Wednesday 14 January to review the position and decide how best to protect the pub's future.

Some difficult but necessary decisions were taken. There will be more to follow.

First, we made the decision to part company with Jon as Pub Manager.

This was a decision driven by affordability and the need to reduce costs quickly in order to stabilise the business. The Committee acted decisively, and the management arrangements at the pub have now been reset.

Secondly, we have taken the decision to close the kitchen for the remainder of the winter season, reopening on Good Friday, 3 April, at the start of the Easter holidays. We will begin preparations to recruit a chef in readiness for Easter and beyond. During the winter break the kitchen has been thoroughly deep-cleaned and will be ready to reopen in good order.

For the coming weeks from this Thursday (22nd), the pub will operate on reduced opening hours that reflect realistic winter demand. We begin with this schedule:

- Thursday and Friday evenings, 5–10pm
- Sundays, 12–4pm (no Sunday lunches)

Apart from our Artisan Pizzeria pop-up, which has moved from Wednesdays to Thursdays, there will be no food service while the kitchen is closed.

You may also have heard that the Burns Night Dinner has been cancelled. Despite concerted efforts to promote it, bookings were too low to make the event viable once staffing and other costs were taken into account. Cancelling was hugely disappointing, but it was the responsible decision.

We are very pleased to let you know that Tally Richmond has agreed to run the pub through the period of reduced opening hours to Easter. Many of you will already know Tally. She has worked at the Kings Arms before, knows the pub well, and brings energy, experience and ideas.

She is popular with staff, the Committee and the wider village, and we are confident that she will help bring a sense of welcome and momentum back into the pub during this interim period.

Financially, we are working urgently through the cash-flow position and prioritising the actions needed to get the pub safely through the winter.

The New Year £1,000 Prize Draw, our most successful so far, has given us the ability to keep going in the here and now, but the next few weeks remain critical. There are tentative offers of short-term loan support to help bridge the period to Easter, but these are necessarily limited.

The single most important thing the village can do right now is simply to use the pub. Come in, bring friends, buy drinks, and help keep the Kings Arms alive while we reset and regroup, and plan a pathway into the spring.

We are conscious that news travels fast in a small community, and that Jon's departure has inevitably prompted questions and speculation. We ask for a little patience. The Management Committee is small at this time - just four volunteers - and our immediate focus has been on taking the right decisions to protect the pub rather than offering running commentary while matters are still unfolding. We will continue to communicate as plans become clearer. There are many ideas swirling around, but not the capacity to progress them. We are in need of help!

This is a sobering moment, but it is also a constructive one. By acting decisively now, simplifying operations, and putting interim management in place, we believe the Kings Arms can come through this winter on firmer footing and be ready to be rejuvenated in the spring.

Thank you, as ever, for your continued support, goodwill and willingness to help.

It truly matters, and it is felt.

To that end, we've included a short "How you can help right now" note below, which sets out a handful of simple, practical ways that individuals can support the pub over the coming weeks. None of them require grand gestures, but taken together, they genuinely make a difference while we steady the business, protect what matters most, and prepare for the next phase.

Warmest wishes, Lisa, On behalf of the Kings Arms.

How you can help right now

1. Use the pub

This matters more than anything else. Come in for a drink, bring a friend, meet someone there rather than at home. Regular, everyday custom keeps the lights on.

2. Choose the Kings Arms by default

If you're deciding where to have a drink locally, make the pub your first choice on Thursday and Friday evenings and Sunday lunchtime.

3. Bring others with you

Neighbours, visiting friends, family, dog walkers, winter visitors.

One extra person per visit makes a difference.

4. Spread calm, accurate word-of-mouth

If people ask how the pub is doing, the simple truth is:

"It's being actively stabilised, costs have been reduced, and it's being put on firmer footing for spring."

5. Support events and pop-ups

Our Thursday Artisan Pizzeria evenings and any low-key winter events only work if people turn up. Presence is support.

6. Stay engaged

Read updates, respond when we ask for input, and bear with us while plans are still forming, and no doubt change. There will be volunteering opportunities. This is a community-run pub, and clarity improves with time and breathing space.

We won't get everything right in the first instance, but we do learn.

7. If you're able to help financially

Take out a monthly subscription - you can do this with just £20pm, more if you can afford it.

If already a subscriber, please consider increasing your monthly payment. Some do already.

A village pub is invaluable!

None of this requires heroics.

What keeps a community pub alive is steady, ordinary, community support - repeated often.

Thank you for being part of that.

the
Kings Arms

open
MIC
Pub vibes!
Enjoy making music?
Your stage awaits!
22nd January 7.30pm
Look who's back!
Artisan Pizzeria Pop Up
Every Thursday!
£35
Book a reading with a
CLAIRVOYANT
29th January from 5.30pm
Suggestion
SESSION
Have ideas for the pub?
30th January
6.00 - 8.00pm
LET'S TALK
JANUARY

FEBRUARY
v. Wales
Saturday
7th February 4.40pm
v. Scotland
Saturday
14th February 4.40pm
GUINNESS
SIX NATIONS
v.
15th February 3.10pm
The pub will open by exception on the Saturdays that England are playing in the Six Nations.
open
MIC
Pub vibes!
Enjoy making music?
Your stage awaits!
19th February 7.30pm

THE KINGS ARMS
NEW YEAR'S EVE
2026
BACK TO THE 80S
MOVIES & TV FANCY DRESS
PARTY!
LIVE MUSIC
& DJ SETS
TICKET

COPPER TOPS
TREE SURGERY & LANDSCAPING

Tree Surgery
& Stump Grinding

Hard Landscaping &
Groundworks

Fencing & Gates

With decades of experience, Copper Tops provides reliable and professional tree surgery, landscaping, and outdoor transformation services throughout the South Hams.

01803 712632 07782 349069
matt@coppertopstreesurgery.co.uk

Anna Francesca
INTERIORS

BEAUTIFULLY CONSIDERED DESIGN

Interiors that blend timeless elegance with modern sensibilities that are both beautiful and deeply personal

RENOVATION / REFRESH
FURNITURE, FIXTURES & FINISHES SELECTION
VISUALISATION PACKAGES
PROJECT MANAGEMENT
STYLING & STAGING

Contact: hello@annafrancescainteriors.co.uk www.annafrancescainteriors.co.uk 07796 497 542

the Kings Arms

Kings Arms Winter Promotions

1st December - 28th February

PLEASE JOIN US — For — **DRINKS**

SELECTED DISCOUNTS

EVERY

Friday Happy Hour X2 **5 - 7 pm**

Sunday sundowner **2 - 4 pm**

Please empty our barrels!

FEBRUARY

An evening of **Cheese & Wine**

5 x Sharpham & Majestic

UNDER REVIEW

£20 pp

20th February 7pm

v. Ireland

Saturday

21st February 2.10pm

MARCH

v. Italy

Saturday

7th March 4.40pm

v. France

Super Saturday!

Saturday

14th March 8.10pm

Happy Mother's Day

15th March

Getting Your Garden Ready for Spring with Gardentime

As winter begins to ease and the first hints of spring appear, February and March are the perfect months to start preparing your garden for the year ahead. Even on chilly days, there's plenty to do outdoors, while indoor gardening tasks can keep you busy when it's frosty.

At Gardentime, we have everything you need to get a head start this year. Pruning and planting are key tasks: prune your roses and wisteria now, tidy evergreen hedges, and plant new shrubs or trees while the ground is workable. Don't forget to stake and water young trees for a strong start.

Tidying up is just as important — clear away winter leaves, pull up weeds, and secure climbers and tree stakes. This not only keeps your garden looking neat but also helps prevent pests from taking shelter.

Seeds and vegetables can be started indoors now. Sow tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, leeks, and celeriac in a warm, bright spot to get a head start on the growing season. Early seed potatoes can also be chitted from mid-February, ready for planting in late March.

Gardentime is bursting with the first signs of spring, including cheerful primroses, potted spring bulbs, fresh herbs, soft fruit, cottage garden perennials, and spring-flowering shrubs. It's the perfect time to plan your summer borders, vegetable plots, and garden displays.

Pop into Gardentime this February and March to explore our fresh stock, seeds, bulbs, and tools, and let us help you make this your garden's best year yet.

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.

On Reflextion
THEN and NOW

OLD AT TWENTY TWO?

The other night I was standing at the bar of the Kings Arms with my village friends enjoying our usual Friday night banter, and as usual the youngsters of the village arrived for the late shift joining in with the 'old uns' chatter, great to see, and nice that they have a place to meet up.

During the chatter one of the young lads sitting on a stool said "I am 22 and feel old", well it was obvious that was going to cause a bit of controversy between the 'Old and young Uns' and it did. It was then I stopped my self from jumping into the fray because earlier on in the evening I was talking to my friends of an experience I had in the Navy when I was 22. Later I went home and thought more about what I would have said to him and realised it would be a long conversation once I compared the youth of today and the youth of my time, and yes, thinking about it we led very different lives.

So I will go back 1954 when I was 16, of course we didn't have mobile phones and only one channel black and white televisions, if you wanted to ring up your girl friend have a pocket full of pennies to use in the phone box. We were not allowed in the pub and if we went to a dance we had to be content drinking orange squash of something similar, if you did look under 18 and caught drinking alcohol you had your Dad to answer too. And then in my case at 17, my local pub in New Malden , Surrey 'The Fountain' let us in to play darts but not drink, however the favourite topic of conversation was several ways to avoid National Service. I had by then joined the Royal Navy as a regular and over the next year saw my friends turn up at the pub now and again when I was on leave in either Royal Air Force or Army uniform to do their two years National Service.

So at 18 four years younger than the lad at the Kings Arms I was serving on a destroyer fighting terrorists, being shot at by them whilst spending time with the Army in Cyprus, and then awaiting an air attack off Egypt. And then at 19 surviving a storm 11 in the Arctic in January, a huge wave hitting us splitting the forecastle and flooding the forward messdecks, three fishing boats sinking at the same time.

Then at the age of the subject in question, 22, I got married whilst serving on a Salvage Vessel in Scotland, and then after a few months of marriage was deployed again back to the Med. Leaving my new wife by herself for a year.

So did I feel 'old' at that age twenty two, certainly not, I didn't have time to think I was old, plenty of time in the future to feel like that I thought to myself.
So what did the future hold for me upon leaving the Navy and what will the future hold for our "old" twenty two year old lad in the Kings Arms?

Back to me at age 28, as a tradesman in the Navy I jumped straight into a job in a shipyard as an electrician building a Frigate for the Royal Navy, when that was finished I moved to Northampton as it seemed the town had a future having just had the M1 built through it. I got a job straight away on a guided missile program and in nine months had saved up enough for a deposit on a house.

Now this is possibility the biggest difference between my young life and the lad in the Kings Arms who is feeling 'old' at 22.
After nine months in Northampton I changed jobs to an Electronics firm earning an average wage, I think it was £25.00 per week with chance of overtime. So we bought a brand new three bedroomed semi- detached Chalet Bungalow on a small estate in Hardingstone, Northampton for the princely sum of £3155.00, a detached three bedroomed house on the same estate sold for £4,500.00.

Now my gripe, every man earning an average wage in those days could afford a brand new house thus putting them on the foot of the housing ladder for the rest of their lives, most wives in those days didn't work as they do now so it was just the man's wage Building Societies took into consideration for a mortgage, if you had a job you had a house.

Can our friend in the Kings Arms who feels old at 22 achieve what we could achieve 55 years ago? As it looks now, the answer is no. Yes he has a mobile phone, possibly a car, a smart TV possibly by living with his parents, but back then in comparison I had a brand new house, a push bike, a phone box in the village, and visits to auction houses to buy essential furniture, the important things came first then.
Soon however once I had settled down my push bike became an NSU Quickly Moped, then an old 'Ban the Bomb' two door Ford Cortina with a 'Go faster' stripe on the bonnet for £350.00. Our TV was a coin in the slot model and a phone was installed when we could afford it.

So to that young man in the Kings Arms this small write up saves me the trouble of saying we didn't have time to "feel old" in those days, we had too much to do, the time to feel old is when you are old, and hopefully he has many years in front of him.
I wish him all the best. **Ron Howell Strete**

Me aged 17 having no time to be bored with two girls.

Aged 20 climbing out of a 40mm Stagg Gun Mounting.

Aged 20 going ashore to Kyrenia in Cyprus after terrorists had just blown up a vessel in the harbour.

Armed guard with a Lanchester machine gun with spare magazines.

creative strete

Kat Lightfoot
Artist

Katharine Lightfoot is a
Strete, Devon-based artist who graduated
from the University of Plymouth
in 1995 with a degree in Fine Art

In 1998, Kat moved to Dartmoor, inspired by the moorland's remote beauty and its animal's stubborn ability to survive the elements with apparent ease.
Primarily working in oil, her large canvases capture the tension and movement of her subjects. Her portraits of sheep, particularly, catch their inquisitive nature and uneasy stare just moments before they turn and run.

In 2001, Foot and Mouth devastated the region.
Dartmoor was closed to the public and, understandably, Katharine's work was temporarily curtailed.
Instead, she started a series of seascapes of the North Devon coast, changing direction and style and using a minimal pallete, to evoke overcast winter scenes and rough seas.
She continued painting large-format sea and sky scapes while in Orkney. The ensuing series of canvasses reveal a moody, exploration of light with a sense of space and timelesness reminiscent of her Dartmoor paintings.

Katharine grew up in Salcombe, but spent her early years at Peter Tavy on the moor. Even at primary school, she knew she wanted to be an artist - her uncle, mother and older brother are all talented oil painters and in 1995, she graduated from the University of Plymouth with a degree in fine art. But it wasn't until she moved to Dartmoor in 1998 that she started painting full-time.

"I started off painting landscapes, but always had an animal as a focal point because the moor can be so bleak,".
"As a child I had always been surrounded by a menagerie. I just love animals and it suits my style. The animal became the subject rather than part of a landscape."
The six months spent in Orkney were very productive, and led to Katharine's first major exhibition at the Arndean Gallery in London's Cork Street.

Kat Lightfoot
Artist

There is something about the representation of her subjects in a non-sentimental way that is immediately refreshing - and powerful. Each portrait is just that, a portrayal of individual animals with characteristics all their own. Kat talks of the need to appreciate the importance both of the methodology of painting and the emotional content brought to the work. 'I often start the paintings upside down on the easel. This helps me to see immediately if the conformity of the animal is correct. by working in abstraction - seeing the shape as colour and form, I moved from that initial composition to completing the work the "right way" up. Without capturing the natural shape of the subject, the anatomy, the way each individual animal stands, there is no way in which the final painting can be successful.'
Kat has always believed that exhibiting her work is as important as its execution. It allows her to show her latest paintings - and meet the people who come to see them. Details of upcoming exhibitions will be posted on:
https://www.katlightfoot.com/exhibitions

If you would like to purchase a painting or limited edition print and you would like it to be sent to you, please email Kat from her web site: **https://www.katlightfoot.com/contact** and state your name and address for postage. She will then contact you as soon as possible.

WELLA PROFESSIONALS

Hair By Pura Vida 01548 581000

At Pura Vida we are a small salon offering personalised professional hairdressing.
As an experienced duo, we now work separately which offers a much more personalised experience. We like to take time with you to do a full consultation to ensure you leave our salon with your hair looking fabulous and you feeling amazing.
We want you to rest assured your comfort and welfare are important to us.

Hair By Pura Vida
Unit 1A Fairfield Meadow Orchard Way Chillington TQ7 2LB
www.hairbypuravida.co.uk

Prestige
TAXIS DARTMOUTH

Dartmouth's Premier
Taxi Service
with Female Drivers

Tel 01803 714336

Transfers to and from Totnes Station

Dartmouths only 8 seater Taxi Service

Executive Mercedes also available

yourtaxicab.co.uk

OVEN HERO

PROFESSIONAL OVEN CLEANING TO THE RESCUE

Oven Hero provides professional oven cleaning services in the South Hams.

Book your appointment today and our trusted technician will bring your oven back to nearly new!

Contact: hello@ovenhero.co.uk or Call: 07507 941705

https://www.ovenhero.co.uk

Maitland Roberts
CABINET MAKERS

Designed. Made. Fitted. For every room in your home.

We've been handcrafting luxury bespoke cabinets and interiors for homes across the South Hams since 2006. From kitchens & bedrooms to sitting rooms & boot rooms, every piece is custom built with care and precision. We offer a complete service, delivered with craftsmanship you can trust.

Get in touch now for a free, no obligation quote.

0777 932 5990
david@maitlandroberts.com
maitlandroberts.com

Hyne Town House

RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME FOR THE ELDERLY, SPECIALISING IN HIGH QUALITY DEMENTIA CARE

Hyne Town House is a highly regarded Residential Care home in Devon for elderly people who require full time or part time professional care, sheltered housing or assisted living in a safe, luxurious, warm and welcoming, care home near Dartmouth in Devon

Please call on 01803 770011
or email manager@hynetownhouse.com
Strete, Dartmouth, Devon TQ6 0RU

OPEN DAILY 9AM-CLOSE

Serving breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea & takeaway

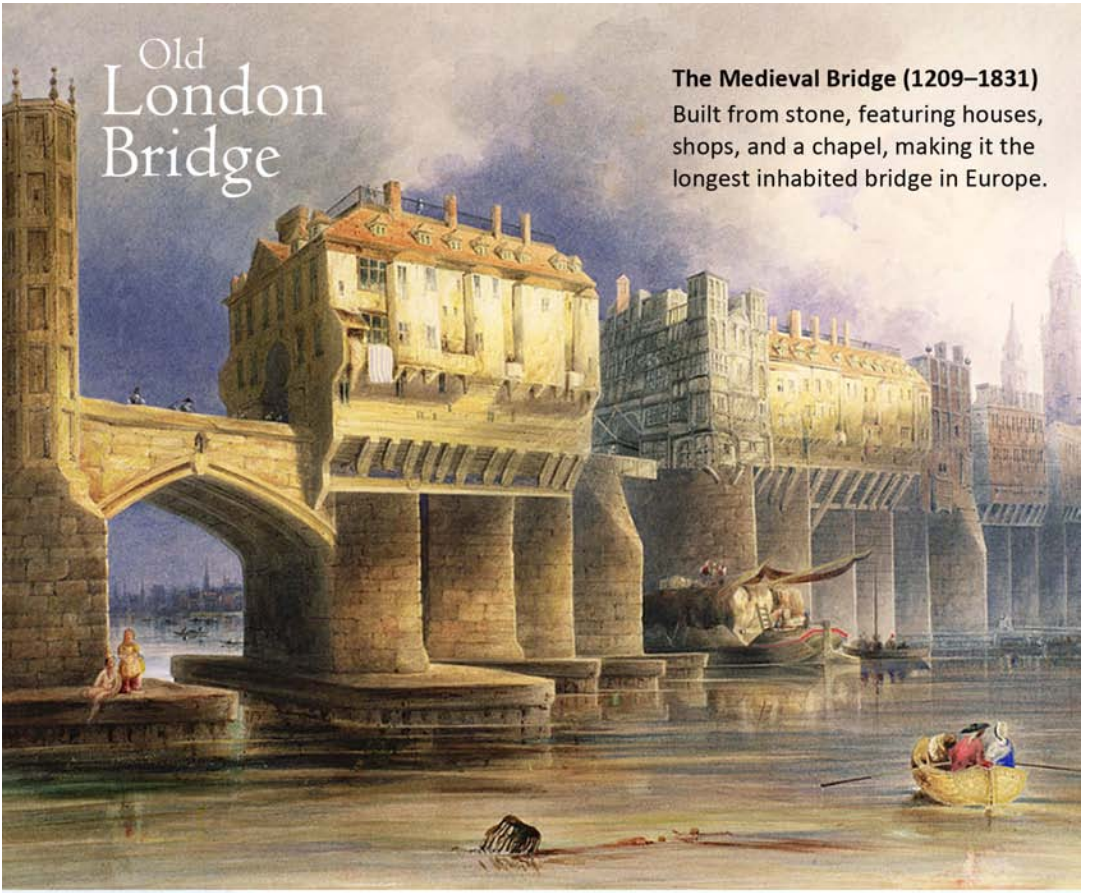
Private party bookings available

Check our socials for summer pop up party nights

BLACKPOOL SANDS
South Devon

blackpoolsands.co.uk

Old London Bridge



The Medieval Bridge (1209–1831)
Built from stone, featuring houses, shops, and a chapel, making it the longest inhabited bridge in Europe.

It is possible that Roman military engineers built a pontoon type bridge at the site during the conquest period (AD 43). A bridge of any kind would have given a rapid overland shortcut to Camulodunum (now Colchester in Essex an important city in Roman Britain) from the southern and Kentish ports. On the relatively high, dry ground at the northern end of the bridge, a small, opportunistic trading and shipping settlement took root and grew into the town of Londinium. Londinium became the administrative and mercantile capital of Roman Britain. The bridge offered uninterrupted, movement of foot, horse, and wheeled traffic across the Thames.

In the early 5th century, Londinium was gradually abandoned and the bridge fell into disrepair.

Following the Norman Conquest in 1066, King William I rebuilt the bridge. It was repaired or replaced by King William II, destroyed by fire in 1136, and rebuilt in the reign of Stephen.

In 1163, Peter of Colechurch, chaplain and warden of the bridge and its brethren, supervised the bridge's last rebuilding in timber.

King Henry II commissioned a new stone bridge in place of the old, with a chapel at its centre dedicated to Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury. Building work began in 1176, supervised by Peter of Colechurch. Construction was not finished until 1209.

The bridge was about 926 feet (282 metres) long, and had nineteen piers, supported by timber piles. The piers were linked above by nineteen arches and a wooden drawbridge. Above and below the water-level, the piers were enclosed and protected by 'starlings', supported by deeper piles than the piers themselves.

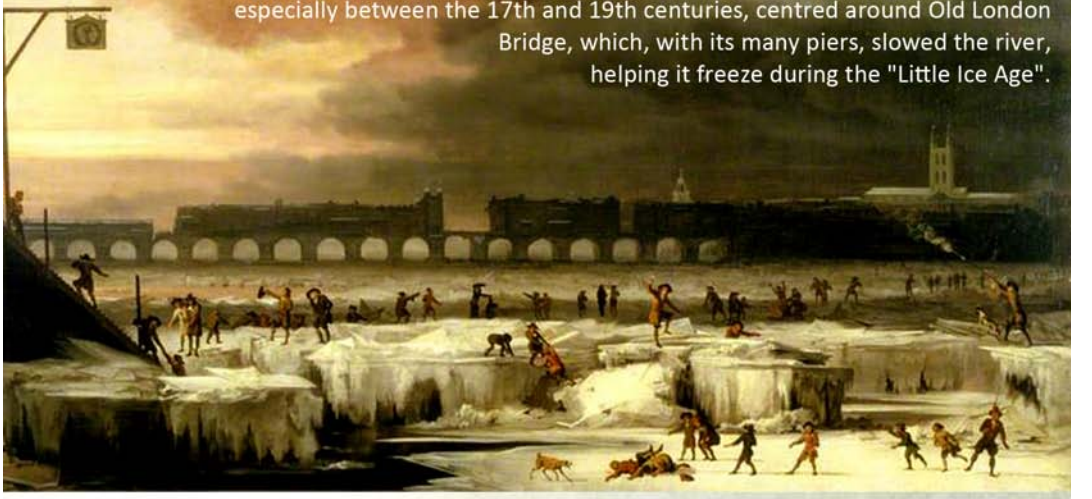
The bridge, including the part occupied by houses, was from 20 to 24 feet (6.1 to 7.3 metres) wide. The roadway was mostly around 15 feet (4.6 metres) wide, varying from about 14 feet to 16 feet. The numerous starlings restricted the river's tidal ebb and flow. The difference in water levels on the two sides of the bridge could be as much as 6 feet (1.8 m), producing ferocious rapids between the piers resembling a weir. Only the brave or foolhardy attempted to "shoot the bridge" – steer a boat between the starlings when in flood – and some were drowned in the attempt.

The three major buildings on the bridge were the chapel, the drawbridge tower and the stone gate, all of which seem to have been present soon after the bridge's construction. The chapel was last rebuilt in 1387–1396, by Henry Yevele, master mason to the king. Following the Reformation, it was converted into a house in 1553. The drawbridge tower was where the severed heads of traitors were exhibited. The drawbridge ceased to be opened in the 1470s and in 1577–1579 the tower was replaced by Nonsuch House. Nonsuch House was a four-storey house on completed in 1579. It is the earliest documented prefabricated building. Originally constructed in the Netherlands, it was taken apart and shipped to London in pieces in 1578, where it was reassembled.

London Bridge survived the Great Fire of London in 1666. A previous, smaller fire had destroyed several houses on the north side of the bridge, which provided a firebreak and saved most of the bridge from the flames. The Great Fire did however destroy the bridge's waterwheels, preventing them from pumping water to fight the fire. They were replaced in the 1680s, when almost all the houses on the bridge were rebuilt.

The roadway was widened to 20 feet (6.1 metres) by setting the houses further back.

In 1695, the bridge had 551 inhabitants. From 1670, attempts were made to keep traffic in each direction to one side, at first through a keep-right policy and from 1722, through a keep-left policy. This has been suggested as one possible origin for the practice of traffic in Britain driving on the left. London's Frost Fairs, winter carnivals held on the frozen River Thames, especially between the 17th and 19th centuries, centred around Old London Bridge, which, with its many piers, slowed the river, helping it freeze during the "Little Ice Age".



The frost fair of 1814 began on 1 February, and lasted four days, between Blackfriars Bridge and London Bridge. An elephant was led across the river below Blackfriars.[18] Temperatures had been below freezing every night from 27 December 1813 to 7 February 1814 and numerous Londoners made their way onto the frozen Thames.

The fairs were bustling events with stalls, food, drinks, games (like bowling) but ended after 1814 due to climate warming and the construction of a new bridge with wider arches, allowing the river to flow more freely.

In the mid 18th century, work began to remove the shops and houses from the bridge in order to widen the road. But despite the improvements, which also included replacing the two central arches with one larger arch, the changes proved inadequate.

In 1799, a competition was opened to design a replacement for the medieval bridge. The old bridge continued in use while the new bridge was being built, and was demolished after the latter opened in 1831. Rennie's bridge was 928 feet (283 m) long and 49 feet (15 m) wide, constructed from Haytor granite. The official opening took place on 1 August 1831; King William IV and Queen Adelaide attended a banquet in a pavilion erected on the bridge.

The 19th-century London Bridge survived for little more than a century before it in turn was replaced, in the 1970s, by the present bridge. The 19th-century bridge was sold and re-erected in Arizona. The current London Bridge was designed by architect Lord Holford and engineers Mott, Hay and Anderson. It was constructed by contractors John Mowlem and Co from 1967 to 1972 and opened by Queen Elizabeth II on 16 March 1973.

Made To Measure Upholstery

We are more than happy to look at any Bespoke Projects Proposed so do please give us a call.

We've Got It Covered!

South Hams Upholstery South Hams Business Park Churchstow Kingsbridge Devon TQ7 3QH 01548 464383

Alternatively email to Kim, Sarah or Rob at: info@southhamsupholstery.co.uk

South Hams
Wills & Probate

Your local cost-effective alternative to solicitors

Wills

Probate

Lasting Power of Attorney

Inheritance Tax Planning

Trusts

Call Vanessa (Chartered Accountant) on **01548 858806**

mail@southhamswills.co.uk
www.southhamswills.co.uk

SPI

South Hams Property Improvements

Bathrooms, Kitchens & General Building

Specialising in plastering, boarding, rendering, tiling and all types of flooring.
Decorating internal and external, carpentry and general building.
Over 20 years experience in France and the UK.

All of the South Hams
Salcombe - Malborough - Kingsbridge - Loddiswell - Totnes
Strete - Dartmouth - Ivybridge

Christopher Jefferson Bland

Tel: 07480 766671 or 01803 770766 chrisbsb@hotmail.co.uk
southhampropertyimprovements.com

Sarah Summons
South Hams Kinesiology
Kiln Lane Stokenham

mobile **07754 737461**
e-mail **hello@southhamskinesiology.com**
website **www.southhamskinesiology.com**

Pathway to health

As a Kinesiology Practitioner I like to think of myself as a detective. Symptoms are my clues. I use muscle testing to locate body imbalances and help to solve the mysteries of poor health.

There are many reasons why the body is out of kilter:
The wrong nutrition
Structural imbalances
Food intolerances
Poor lymphatic and vascular circulation
Poor energy flow
Emotional instability
Dehydration

Kinesiology offers many techniques to help balance the body. Not only within the treatment room at my home, but for you to take with you to strengthen the results.

Consultation £90 - 2hrs Balance £75 - 90mins
Discount for under 18s.
Home visits are available if you are unable to travel.
See website for pricing details.

There are many ways that the body is telling us it's not happy. These are some of the most common:

Headaches
Pain
Difficulty in sleeping
Anxiety, Depression
Hot Flushes, Period pain
Joint pain
Brain fog
Digestion problems
Constipation
Low immunity
Blood sugar instability
Allergies
Weight gain/loss
Movement difficulties
Acne

If you see symptoms that relate to you, then perhaps I can help?

Sarah Summons Kiln Lane Stokenham **07754 737461**
hello@southhamskinesiology.com **www.southhamskinesiology.com**

No one should have to leave their home just because their care needs have changed. And with Live-in Care, your loved one won't have to. Our highly-trained Care Experts will live in your loved one's home with them, helping them with everything from bathing in the morning to settling into bed at night. Whatever your loved one needs to stay in the place that makes them happiest.

See how we can *support you.*

It's good to be *home*

Call us for a friendly chat on

01752 347 700

Or visit

plymouth@bluebirdcare.co.uk

Big Garden Birdwatch

Results 2025

RSPB

Big Garden Birdwatch 2025 top 10

United Kingdom

Big Garden Birdwatch

RSPB

We're so excited that 592,265 nature lovers took part in the Birdwatch, spotting a phenomenal 9,095,355 birds. Perched in top spot for the 22nd year running was the chirpy House Sparrow. We also saw the Woodpigeon move into 3rd place, pushing the Starling down a spot.

1 House Sparrow

A non-mover in top spot

Change in average count since 2024: -11.3%

Nick Upton (rspb-images.com)

2 Blue Tit

A non-mover

Change in average count since 2024: -8.6%

Drew Buckley (rspb-images.com)

3 Woodpigeon

Up one place

Change in average count since 2024: +8.7%

David Broadbent (rspb-images.com)

4 Starling

Down one place

Change in average count since 2024: -5.7%

Ben Andrew (rspb-images.com)

5 Blackbird

A non-mover

Change in average count since 2024: +9.3%

Chris O'Reilly (rspb-images.com)

6 Robin

A non-mover

Change in average count since 2024: +1.4%

Ray Kennedy (rspb-images.com)

7 Great Tit

A non-mover

Change in average count since 2024: -2.2%

Paul Sawyer (rspb-images.com)

8 Goldfinch

A non-mover

Change in average count since 2024: +2.8%

Laurie Campbell (rspb-images.com)

9 Magpie

A non-mover

Change in average count since 2024: +6.4%

Steve Round (rspb-images.com)

10 Long-tailed Tit

A non-mover

Change in average count since 2024: +4.6%

Ray Kennedy (rspb-images.com)

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654

5504-24-25 BGBW 2025

STRETE

Past

AND

Present.

This is the first four 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

BY

MARION F. SMITHES

1933

STRETE—Past and Present.

CHAPTER I.

THE SEA AND THE LAND.

THE village of Strete stands between 300 and 400 feet up on a cliff in the centre of Start Bay, and any history of the place can hardly help including the wide half-circle of sea which extends from the Mew Stone off Berry Head to the lighthouse at Start Point.

These two groups of great rocks stand well out into the English Channel and protect the fishing boats and trawlers from the full force of the gales. Start Point lies like a huge dragon, its scaly back forming a jagged ridge against the sky-line, and its head covered with foam stretches far out to sea. The lighthouse now guards sailors on the high seas, with its great revolving eye and booming fog-horn. These rocks are tremendously strong and some of the oldest in Britain.

The hill on which the village of Strete is built was once very much higher than it is now, and it appears from the look of the rocks below Asherne, Seacliff and Homelands, that there was, very far back in past ages, a tremendous upheaval of the earth, possibly from an underground volcanic movement; the rocks are twisted this way and that, and appear to be pressed and broken.

If we would find water on a hill of this formation we should look for it near the top, for usually the rocks are bent over or massed crossways at the sides, but at the centre they are more upright, and the water which exists far down below can find its way to the surface more easily through the cracks of the upright rocks.

The top of a hill is weathered by centuries of rain and wind, and landslides with quantities of earth, dust, gravel and fine stones have swept down into the valleys, or into the sea. The crumbling of the cliffs is going on steadily, and after a storm one can see the colour of the soil for some distance out among the waves. Once it was possible to walk all the way from Strete Sands to Blackpool, and the remains of submerged forest trees can still be seen there at certain tides, showing the age-long struggle between the sea and the land; yet one could not exist without the other!

"From the sea we have all come," says Professor Bidder in his address on this part of the coast to the Devonshire Association in 1929, "and so has almost everything that we can touch or use; back to the sea all shall go . . . . ."

Three fourths of the earth's surface is covered with water, and as the sun draws the moisture out of the earth in mists, one third falls back on the land in rain, but two thirds will fall into the sea. Thus, apart from the water which is buried deep under the rocks, all the water which is on land and sea circulates continually. Geologists tell us that it is 600 million years since the rocks of Start Point became solid, and in that time, even at our present rate of evaporation the whole ocean has fallen on the land in rain 40,000 times. The power of this mighty deluge has been enormous, in changing both sea and land.

The rain washes mud and sand and stones in torrents down the Dart and other rivers, and spreads them at the bottom of the sea whence they will eventually rise again as land. Water passes through the ocean and is used again and again thousands of times; lime passes through the ocean and is used again many times. "There is nothing new under the sun." We owe the sea a debt, for it takes carbon-dioxide which is a poison out of the air, and if it did not do so, life on the earth would be impossible for us and our beasts. Animal life, including ourselves, breathe out this poison which is blown out to sea. The air then gains oxygen over the ocean from the minute surface flora or vegetation, and gives it up to the animals on land. The sea is like a great circulating reservoir giving health and life and brain-power.

In the ocean, the carbon-dioxide is not free but is neutralised by alkaline salts, so that marine creatures take no harm from it. Our coal fires put into the air 50 per cent. more of the poison gas, but fortunately the great south-westers sweep across England and in a few hours take every trace of foul air away to the Arctic Ocean. It is due to the Ocean sending us fresh air and purifying our sea air before it returns to us that life in our manufacturing Island in the 20th century is possible. Go to London or Manchester when an anti-cyclone has kept the sky windless for ten days in winter, and see what the chimneys there can do for the air!

The deep ocean is rich too in phosphorous where no plants can grow, and if there is a big gale that stirs the bottom of the water to the surface, the phosphorous comes to the top. Every farmer knows how necessary that is to plant life if he wants to have good crops. Then think of the table salt that comes from the sea, for the various salt mines are of sea salt from old seas! Arsenic is contained in many sea animals; I have been told that a lobster contains a larger quantity of arsenic than is allowed under the Food and Drugs Act—also oysters!

But there is one point of supreme importance: for some years it has been known that goitre among adults and cretinism among children are due to deficiency of iodine. There is no danger in Devon—swept by the sea spray—of those punishments that fall on the Derbyshire heights in the centre of England, or in the Swiss mountains in central Europe.

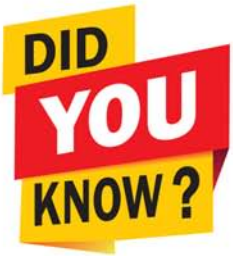
The sea is a great road uniting all countries. More than 3,000 years ago the Blue Stones of Stonehenge were probably brought round by sea from Wales to Hampshire, and may have passed along this coast. We owe to the sea our existence as a nation. The living creatures of the land are the offspring of the sea, and depend on it—man in particular; and of all men especially Englishmen; and of all Englishmen, Devon men and women."

(from the Report of the Devon Association).

Did you know: **dreamt is the only word that ends in mt**

Did you know: **the average human brain contains around 78% water**

Did you know: **a 1/4 of your bones are in your feet**



Did you know: **the word laser stands for 'Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation'**

Did you know: **that you burn more calories eating celery than it contains (the more you eat the thinner you become)**

Did you know: **when lightning strikes it can reach up to 30,000 degrees Celsius (54,000 degrees Fahrenheit)**

Did you know: **if you add up all the numbers from 1 to 100 consecutively (1 + 2 + 3...) it totals 5050**

Did you know: **hummingbirds are the only bird that can fly backwards**

Did you know: **M&M's chocolate stands for the initials for its inventors Mars and Murrie**

Did you know: **there are only 4 words in the English language which end in 'dous' (they are: hazardous, horrendous, stupendous and tremendous)**

Did you know: **an egg contains every vitamin except vitamin C**

Did you know: **a group of owls is called a parliament**

Did you know: **giraffes and rats can last longer without water than camels**

Did you know: **the word typewriter is the longest word that can be typed using only the top row of a keyboard**

Did you know: **African Grey Parrots have vocabularies of over 200 words**

Did you know: **the longest street in the world is Yonge street in Toronto Canada measuring 1,896 km (1,178 miles)**

Did you know: **'Bookkeeper' and 'bookkeeping' are the only 2 words in the English language with three consecutive double letters**

NOKIA

Did you know: **the brand Nokia is named after a place in Southern Finland**

Did you know: **The Great Wall of China is approximately 3,995 miles long**

Did you know: **Oak trees don't produce acorns until they are 50 years old**

Did you know: **the yo-yo was originally used as a weapon for hunting the in the Philippines**

DART GALLERY

Dart Gallery

Discover a brand new collection filling the gallery this winter!

Winter Show

This winter discover beautiful new work by many of our artists, including *(clockwise from top left)*;

Stewart Edmondson
Jo Quigley
Heidi Archer
Kit Johns
Marie Mills
Colin Willey
Theo Crutchley-Mack
Harry Brioche

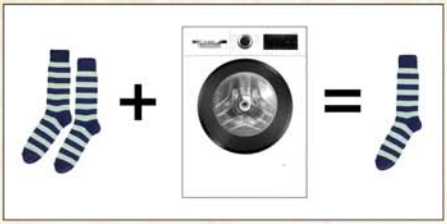
Stretewise readers get a 10% discount on all gallery artworks with this advert or using code 'STRETE10' when buying online. Offer ends 28th February.

Scan me!

4 Lower Street
Dartmouth
TQ6 9AJ
01803 834923
dart-gallery.com

I can't remember how to write 1, 1000, 51, 6 and 500 in Roman Numerals

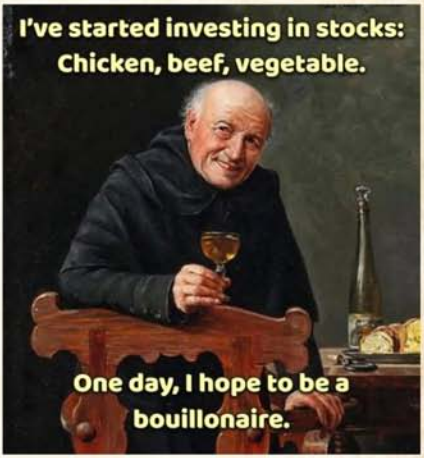
IM LIVID



Winter Cheer

Safety warning

2 WEEKS LATER...



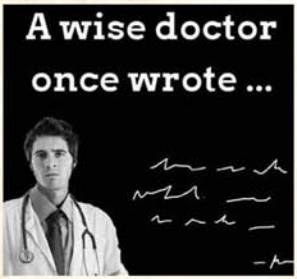
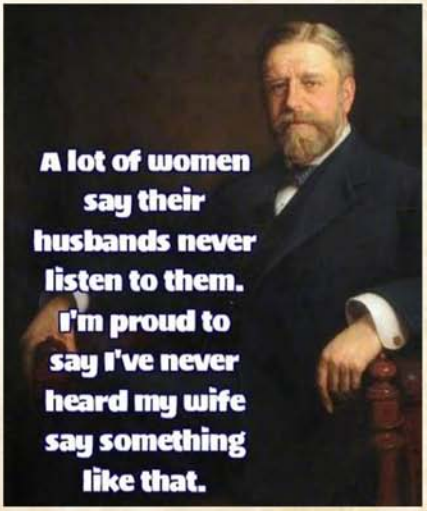


Table football manufacturers have brought out the "Premier League" edition.....



Philip Elliott

Company Director

01803 770787 07974 382158

philip@elliott-construction.co.uk

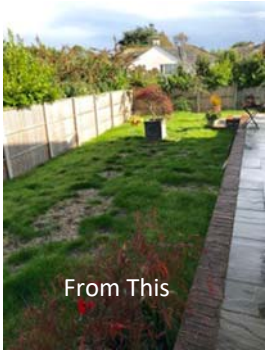
www.elliott-construction.co.uk

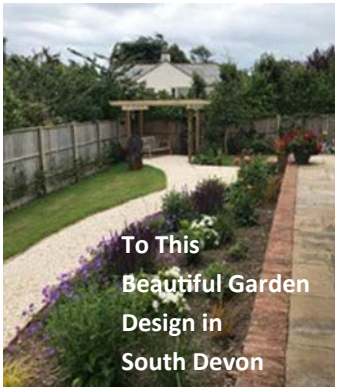
Sunnyhurst Baileys Meadow Stoke Fleming TQ6 0QD

Building company established 1980 in Stoke Fleming.

Projects have included:
Stoke Fleming Village Hall.
Houses at Deer Combe, houses by the Green Dragon, Frenchman's Creek.

ELLIOTT Construction 01803 770787
Attention to detail and quality.
Traditional skills without living in the past.





shoreline
planting design

Julie Elliott

01803 770787

m 07989 564082

julie_elliott@hotmail.com

Beautiful garden design
in South Devon.

Experienced Qualified Trained Local Garden Designer.

Dartmouth Born and Bred
- familiar with plant tolerances for climate and condition.
Qualified garden and planting designer experienced in wide variety of styles.
RHS trained in advanced horticulture.

Complete Garden Design offered or individual borders or areas.

STRETE SOCIAL CLUB PROGRAMME 2026

Meetings are held in Strete Village Hall on alternate Tuesdays at 2.30PM All will be made very welcome		
January		
	20th	Dartmouth Harbourmaster - Paul Britton
February	3rd	Musical Fun - Lucy Higston
	17th	To be confirmed
March	3rd	Artisan Breadmaking - Paul Green
	17th	To be confirmed
	31st	Easter Floristry - Linsay Johns

16th December: For our last meeting of 2025 we held a party. Tables of four were tastefully set, chocolate balls of brussels sprouts and red cabbage were there to tempt us with a few crisps. Glasses of wine or non-alcoholic drink was served. Janet did a quiz for us which she and Rita had compiled. The winning table on a decider was given a prize each.

Several ladies then brought around plates of delicious food for us all to have, glasses topped up if required and of course the usual cups of tea were served.

We had the presence of Santa Claus who soon had to remove the beard because of being so hot. His sack was empty but we all had a chance to win a raffle prize from the table laden with them as usual manned by Derek. We also had a stall selling Xmas related items which members had brought for the last meeting and didn't sell although the last meeting raised over £60 towards our funds from the stall. Hopefully a few more pounds were raised today.

After a very happy afternoon we all left for our homes, Karen telling us when the meetings start in January 2026 and wishing us all a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

6th January: We welcomed 2026 in with our first meeting which was the Annual General Meeting. Karen was in the Chair and commenced the AGM after wishing us all a Happy New Year and updating us on matters.
After apologies the Annual General Meeting went along smoothly.
In Her report for the year, she said how sadly we had lost two loyal members, Pam was still in a Nursing Home. We have had a very varied programme this year from two outside visits one to Buckfast Abbey and one for soup and lunch at the Flavel to see a film.

Speakers in the hall have been on the work of Dame Hannahs of Ivybridge, wildlife, Kiwis in Torquay, World War one land army women. Songs with Winston on his guitar along with quizzes, afternoon teas and of course our talk on Miranda the Mermaid by Heather one of our members.

The annual accounts were then gone through with thanks to our treasurer Heather and Helen who audits them for us, and these two ladies were presented with a plant and bunch of flowers. She thanked all the people who had helped in any way, Dorothy and Maura who always get the room ready for us. Derek for manning the raffle table and Joan for her report for Stretewise and of course all the volunteers who serve our most welcome cups of tea at the meeting.

Karen had brought along a quiz which members worked in pairs to do. Very unusual as each answer started with the letters of the alphabet starting with A and finishing with Z. This resulted in a tie between Chris's team and Lisa's team. Fortunately, there were four whisper bars as the prize. As usual the meeting ended with our cups of tea and biscuits served by Dorothy and Joan.
Karen was re-elected as leader, Heather Robinson as Treasurer, Derek as in charge I Of the draw and Joan will continue with press report for Stretewise

£21,000 Raised in 2025

Dartmouth and District Friends Group

End of year report to be proud of!

Children's Hospice Southwest, Dartmouth and District Friends Group

We have had a full year of events for the Children's Hospice South West, supporting the fundraising for this very special charity. Thank you to everyone within our community who has donated, attending our events and undertaken personal challenges to contribute to the 'pot'. This year we have continued with our usual street collections, Royal Avenue Fetes, Easter and Christmas Fairs and our popular Dartmouth Art Day. We were pleased that our new venture, the Fashion and Fizz event at The Flavel, showcasing local independent boutiques, sold out in 4 days attracted and was a worthwhile and fun evening. We are planning our 2026 events, but in the meantime don't forget we have local shops in Brixham and Totnes which will always give you a warm welcome!

Our local volunteer group is friendly and informal but highly effective. We raised around **£21,000** last year with the kind support of local people either attending our events, donating or carrying out challenges.

Come and join us, as there is a role and place for everyone and you can offer the time commitment that suits you in an informal and flexible way. For more details contact Sue Tweed (07955197721)

Happy New Year to all our supporters!

Cheque Deposits

As of January 1, 2026, Lloyds Banking Group (Lloyds, Halifax, Bank of Scotland) no longer offers cheque deposit services at Post Office branches, a change affecting millions, requiring customers to use the mobile app (photo deposit), post cheques to LBG Processing (PO Box 13664, Harlow CM20 9XF), or **visit a physical bank branch *!?#!**

Tunes on the Sands

at Blackpool Sands, Devon, is confirmed for July 24-25, 2026, offering live music, DJs, wellness activities, and family fun on the beach.

info@tunesinthedunes.co.uk

Dr. Property

Maintenance + Refurbishment Services

Based in Torcross with care for detail and service

Kitchens, bathrooms, general maintenance, carpentry, tiling, windows, decorating, roofing and all things property.

Over 15 years experience in the South Hams

Contact: Mark Leetham 07932 740236 drpropertyoffice@gmail.com

Toodles

Helping Dogs & Their Owners

Qualified & Insured Groomers

Specialist Shop

Quick Nails to Full Grooms
Spa Treatments
Ultrasonic Teeth Cleaning
Puppy Packages

Raw Food & Treats
Restraints & Life Jackets
Shampoos & Brushes
Gifts for Dogs & their Owners

07572 239 219

ToodlesLovesDogs.co.uk

15 Victoria Rd, DARTMOUTH TQ6 9RT

SOUTH HAMS PLUMBING & HEATING

Oil Heating

Air Source Heating

Servicing / Repairs

A Family Run business with over 15 years' experience in South Devon

Previously known as Oil Burner Service

Call Us: 01548 852375 Email Us: info@shph.co.uk

Unit 5J, South Hams Business Park,
Churchstow, Kingsbridge, Devon.TQ7 3QH

Selworthy Vets
farm equine pets

01548 853322
selworthyvets.co.uk
@selworthyvets

The best care for your best friend is closer than you think

- PET, FARM & EQUINE SERVICES
- VETERINARY PHYSIO & HYDROTHERAPY
- 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE
- LOCAL, CARING INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

The Probus Club of Stoke Fleming and District

The Probus Club of Stoke Fleming and District are sad to record the passing of our Secretary Peter Hales, a stalwart of our Club for many years.

Peter was from Strete and we extend our thoughts to Karen and their family and all those who knew this larger than life character. RIP Peter.

John Hosea
Chairman

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 Peter Hales (Club Secretary) on 01803 770739 to discuss the Club and book a place. Alternatively, simply come along to an event and see for yourself!

Strete Social Club

Tuesday 20th January: On a dreadful stormy afternoon, a dozen ladies braved the elements to attend social club. There were many apologies for various reasons.

Joan took the meeting. We started with a minute's silence in memory of Peter Hales, husband of Karen our leader, who passed away suddenly.

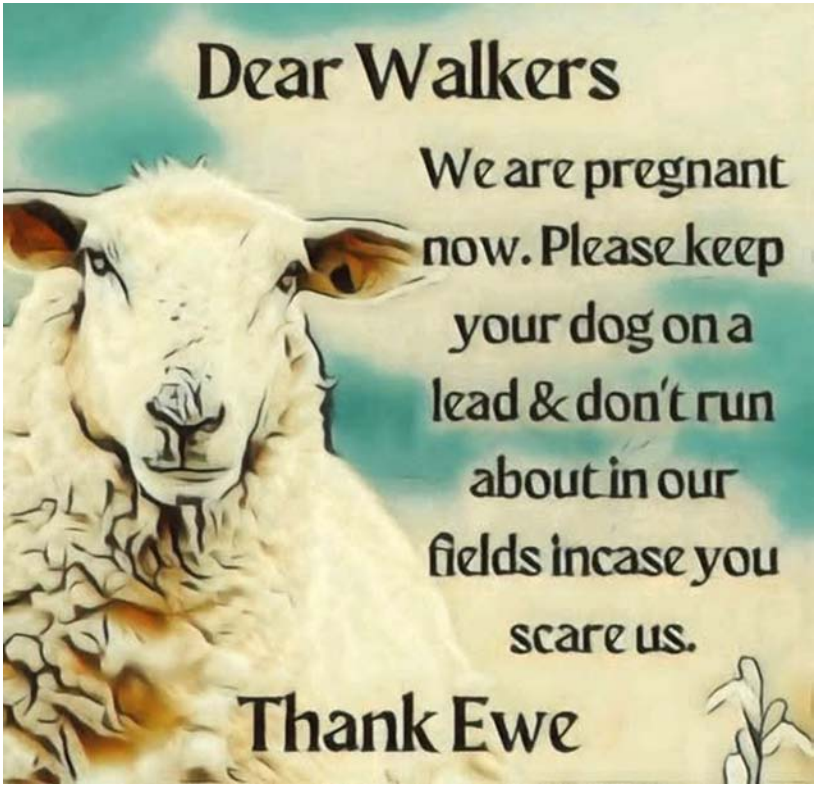
After dealing with the business, Joan asked members for suggestions for speakers and read out a questionnaire from Penny, Chairman/Secretary of the hall asking for any information we had of various times work that had been done to the hall as she wanted to put an article in Stretewise.

As our speaker had to cancel Joan & Roy stepped in to give a brief talk on their life being involved with folk dancing (other names Barn dancing, country dancing) and their life on the farm since their marriage. Roy also spoke on how at the age of 6 he was evacuated with all his family to North Huish to live with his grandparents in a small cottage, attending Diptford School and what happened to the animal and crops etc that had to be moved. Also, how things were when they went back to their farm.

After questions, tea and biscuits, some homemade, served by Chris and Carole.

Derek ran the draw. Chris Burne thanked Joan & Roy for the talk.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 3rd February with Lucy Higston on musical fun, 2.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.



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

RGC mobility

KITCHENS & BATHROOMS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

- Grab Rails
- Wash & Dry Toilets
- Adapted Taps
- Side Opening Ovens
- Rise & Fall Worktops
- Wet Rooms
- Walk-in Baths
- Raised Toilets
- Seated Showering
- Level Access

Collingwood Road Dartmouth TQ6 9JY
01803 834622 **rgcbuildingsupplies.co.uk**

A & A COMPUTING

Covering Strete, Dartmouth
Totnes and Kingsbridge

Call 0845 643 1812
Or Tel Mob 07985 009954

On-Site Servicing:

Repairs & Upgrades,
Internet Access,
Software Problems,
& Virus Removal

We also supply PCs
From budget machines
to custom-built,
Including
Delivery & Installation

MICHAEL SUTTON'S CELLAR

Your friendly local Wine Merchant in Blackpool Valley.
We sell wine from all over the world with a great selection under £10 - Free local delivery or pop in to see us.
Jonathan & Suzie Sutton
www.michaelsuttonscellar.co.uk 07736 245701 wines@michaelsuttonscellar.co.uk

Westcountry PODIATRY

Erica Nicholls BSc(Hons) MRCPod

Professional, warm, and friendly Podiatrist offering a wide variety of treatments in Chillington and the surrounding areas.

Nails/hard skin/corns | Ingrowing toenails | Verrucae | Minor skin surgery | Diabetic foot checks | Foot pain | Home visit appointments

The clinic is also stocked with foot creams, files, and lots of socks!

Appointments are available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9am til 6.30pm. Home visits are available in the afternoons.

2a Orchard Way, Fairfield Road,
Chillington TQ7 2LB
Contact: 01548581005/07545596016
info@westcountrypodiatry.co.uk
www.westcountrypodiatry.co.uk

hcpc health & care professions council

ROYAL COLLEGE of PODIATRY

Timber-Jack

4 Island View Thurlestone Kingsbridge TQ7 3NH

07866 696 307
01548 560564
WWW.TIMBERJACK.CO.UK
E mail:
info@timber-jack.co.uk
A J Rhymes

Landscaping & Fencing

We have experience in building and carrying out a wide variety of garden services and are able to design and build any style of fence to your personal requirements using the highest quality locally sourced timber products.

Tree Services

All aspects of tree surgery from pruning to the removal of dead, dying and dangerous trees.
Stump grinding Replanting Woodland management and maintainance.
All of our work is carried out to BS:3998 standards by fully trained and qualified staff.

Working today for tomorrow's countryside

Timber-Jack

4 Island View Thurlestone Kingsbridge TQ7 3NH

07866 696 307
01548 560564
WWW.TIMBERJACK.CO.UK
E mail:
info@timber-jack.co.uk

Chimney Sweeping

We are committed to providing a thoroughly professional service towards all aspects of chimney care. Our qualified staff will treat your home like their own and ensure that you are totally satisfied with all aspects of our visit.

Rayburn & Multifuel burners
Inglenook fire places
Traditional chimneys
Advice on getting the best from your burner

AGA flues
Twin & flexi lined systems
Smoke draw test
Chimney Certificates Issued

AXA
Pol No:5500 26209

Registered Member
ICS
Reg No: 0784

be carbon monoxide aware

Keith Ellis & Son

Working locally, with over 30 years experience
Carpenter & Joiner
General Maintenance Including Painting & Decorating
Also undertaken: PVC Fascia Boards & Guttering, Doors & Windows ect
Kitchens, Bathrooms Including Tiling

Tel: (01803) 770264

Start Bay Park, Strete

TV & INTERNET SERVICE

Aerials Free View
Satellite Free Sat
Smart TVs Set Up
Internet Links & Boosters
TV Wall Mounting

RICHARD 07778471300
Your Local Man At STOKENHAM

RGC
BUILDING SUPPLIES

Inspirations
Kitchens • Bathrooms • Interiors

KITCHENS
75% Off
RRP

Collingwood Road DartmouthTQ6 9JY
01803 834622 rgcbuildingsupplies.co.uk

Directory

Devon County Councillor	Julian Brazil	01548 511109
District Councillor	Laurel Lawford	07908 104473
Doctors (Chillington)	Chillington Health Centre	01548 580214
Doctors (Dartmouth)	Dartmouth Health/Wellbeing	01803 832212
Paul Green	Dart Patients Participation Group	07799 772709
Highways	Devon County Council	0845 155 1004
Kings Arms	https://kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk/	01803 770027
Parish Council Chairman	Cllr Ralph Clark	01803 770954
Parish Council Clerk	Hannah Iles	01548 580449
Village Hall Committee	Penny Penhale (Bookings)	07976 176748
Village Hall Committee	Penny Penhale (Chairman/Bookings)	07976 176748
Village Hall Committee	Danni Brien (Treasurer)	07841505797
Probus	John Light	johlight1@gmail.com
RSPCA		01803 859695
Short Mat Bowls Secretary	Gary Taylor	garytaylor@hotmail.com
Strete Social Club	Karen Hales	01803 770739
South West Water	Report leaks	0800 230 0561
St John the Baptist Church	Fr Sunny Paul	01803 853406
St Michaels Church	Revd. Matt Gorton	01803 906861
Strete Chapel	Derek & Gill Harris	01803 770256
	Andrew and Lesley Kemp	07774 431109
Stretewise Editor	Dave Jones	01803 770059
Totnes Ring and Ride		01803 867878
Tree Warden	Ian Cumberlidge	01803 770020

Local Emergency Services

Emergency Fire, Ambulance, Police and Coastguard	999 or 112
Non-emergency contact with emergency services	101
NHS Direct	0845 4647

Torbay Hospital	01803 614 567	Derrifiord Hospital	01752 202082
Totnes Hospital	01803 862 622	Kingsbridge	01546 852349

Strete Post Office and Stores 01803 770225

Stoke Fleming Library Village Hall John Lewis 01803 770075

Monday 3.00pm to 5.00pm, Tuesday 10.30pm to 12.30pm,
Thursday 3.00pm to 5.00pm. Or 24 hours at devon.gov.uk/libraries

TOTNES & DARTMOUTH RING AND RIDE

Phone between 10:00am and 12:00 midday 01803 867878

Strete Post Office and Store

Pay in telephone, electric, water rates, foreign currency and postal services round the world.

If you bank with: NatWest, Barclays the CO-OP, Cahoot, Alliance and Leicester, or Smile, you can deposit and pay cheques. Withdrawals or deposit of cash can be made via your card (and PIN number).

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 April - May will be 23rd March.

Stretewise is either £1 per copy purchased from the shop or £4 for a yearly subscription of six issues. To subscribe for six issues of Stretewise 2026 pay £4 at the Strete Post Office or send £4 to the editor Stretewise 27 Start Bay Park, Strete, TQ6 0RY.
Please provide your name, address and the date you paid.

Stretewise Advertising: Contact stretewise@outlook.com or Dave Jones 01803 770059.

Knight Frank

When it matters most, put your next move in safe hands.

Knight Frank Exeter
01392 914507
mark.proctor@knightfrank.com

Your partners in property