



STRETEWISE

The Village Magazine

*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year*

Price £1

December - January
2021 - 2022

Vol 30:06

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<https://www.stretewise.co.uk>

email: stretewise@outlook.com

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Strete Social Club

PROGRAMME 2021

A warm friendly welcome will be given to guests

Meetings are usually held in Strete Parish Hall on alternate Tuesdays at 2.30PM

November	23rd	Christmas Stall
December	7th	Christmas Lunch at the Old Inn Halwell

New Dartmouth Patients Group Representative

Liane is very grateful to Paul Green, who has recently moved into Landcombe House, for agreeing to take over her role as the Strete representative in the Dartmouth Patients Group. If you have any concerns that you would like addressed by the group, please contact Paul on 07799 772709 or pagreen1961@outlook.com.

Capt Pearson Memorial Trust

In early 2000 we had lunches for retired people in the Parish Hall run by volunteers.

As some of the volunteers moved away from the village and some were unable to carry on unfortunately it ceased, with only two members of the organisation left, they decided to put money left over, the sum of £800.00, into the Capt Pearson Memorial Trust so it could be used to help any organisation in the parish.

If ever the Lunches were started up again in the Parish Hall the Capt Pearson Memorial Trust would support it. **Pam Wills**

Best wishes from Alison. Dear friends,

As I write this letter it's a chilly night, yet last week it was just about warm enough to drink a morning coffee outside. The normal patterns of weather through the seasons that we experienced in years gone by doesn't seem to apply any more.

As I have been thinking about this letter, I have been thinking about the Church calendar, which takes us through the Church seasons, year by year. The Church seasons take us through the year, changing the colours we use in church and encourage to engage with different topics and different aspects of God's character and our relationship with him.

One of my interests is Godly Play, a form of Christian storytelling and as we end the Sundays after Trinity. I love to reflect on the green of Trinity, described by Rev'd Dr Jerome Berryman, the creator of Godly Play, as 'the great green growing Sundays' of the year.

We spend much of December in Advent, a time of preparation as we look forward to Christmas and Christmas the time of celebration as we thank God for the gift of his Son and the fact that God chose to become one of us.

Much of our time during Advent though is inevitably spent preparing for Christmas - gifts and decorations, food and drink, celebrations and gatherings with family and friends.

So how can we engage with the real purpose of Advent? How can we engage with the real purpose of Christmas?

Perhaps reading our Bible. Perhaps in prayer. Perhaps we could make an effort to think of those around us for whom Christmas will be a difficult time, those who are unwell, lonely, frightened, bereaved.



But, behind all of these things, we need to think about who Jesus is and why he came to be one of us. Jesus is God – God with us, Emmanuel. How amazing is that? God choosing to come here and be born as one of us. To identify with us, walk with us, share with us, experience what we experience and, ultimately to die for us and reconcile us to God.

If we can get our heads around this, then how should we respond? Not an easy question to answer!

I leave with you a poem entitled “Christmas Gift suggestions” by Oren Arnold.

To your enemy, forgiveness.

To an opponent, tolerance.

To a friend, your heart.

To a customer, service.

To all, charity.

To every child, a good example.

To yourself, respect.

Every blessing **Rev'd Alison**

Dates at St Michael's Church, Strete...



- **December 10th, 6pm–8.00pm. Christmas wreath making with mulled wine and mince pies. Tickets £25. Contact: 07976 269208**
 - **December 11th, 10am–2.00pm. Christmas Fayre.**
 - **December 12th, 3pm. Carols & Christmas music with the Lyric Ensemble. Tea & cake.**
 - **December 21st, 6pm. Chamber music by Candlelight with the Lyric Trio. Concert of Bach Organ Sonatas followed by mince pies and wine/cheese.**
- 

St. Michael's Church

Totnes Road Strete Dartmouth. **The Vicar is Revd. Alison Shaw.**

The PCC consists of: Church Wardens: Sally Green 01803 712 438

Brenda Range, Andrea Phillips (Treasurer),

Sally Green (Acting Secretary) PCC members- Sheila Kingsley Smith and Joan Kendall.



Strete Chapel

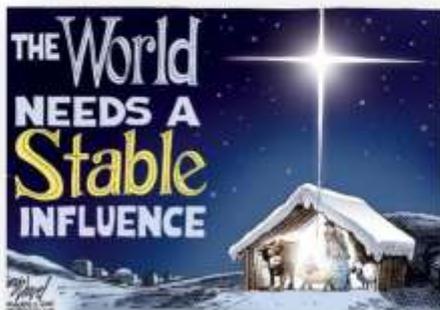


Happy Christmas from the fellowship to all in the village!

We will be celebrating this season with our carol service on 19th December at 11am. You are all invited, and we hope that you will join us in singing some of our favourite carols followed by refreshments.

Living in such a wonderful part of the country we are used to many visitors, especially since the 'staycation' has taken off. Finding holiday accommodation in 2021 has been quite the challenge. This has often meant we are sat scrolling through options on the internet from the comfort of our own sofa. Can you imagine travelling by donkey to a destination that is overrun by visitors with no accommodation

available upon arrival! That is what is recorded as having happened to Mary and Joseph over 2000 years ago as they followed government guidelines to register themselves in their place of birth. Now a stable is unlikely to achieve high reviews on TripAdvisor or even be listed on Airbnb, but there was one kind innkeeper who was willing to offer somewhere warm and dry for this family to stay. It was in this humble setting (not a five-star hotel) that Jesus our Saviour was born.



As we enjoy more freedom to travel this year take a moment to consider the true meaning of Christmas, and as Neal A Maxwell puts it, 'Each of us is an Innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus'.

We pray that this Christmas you make room for Jesus in your life.



Young Searchers Challenge



Young Searchers is a Christian children's club based on teaching the Bible through stories, games and craft. We are hoping to restart in January 2021. Keep an eye out for updates on the chapel notice board. All children in the village are invited to take part in the Stretewise challenge. Please ask your parent/carer to send in the answers by email to

strettechapel@gmail.com.

Q. What town were Mary and Joseph travelling to by donkey?



Stretewise Crossword

Solution on page 72.

Across:

1: The period immediately before and after 25th December.

8: To search for information on the internet using the search engine.

9: A green seed that is eaten as a vegetable.

10: A unique reference number issued in the United Kingdom by HMRC to an employer.

11: A unit of linear measure.

13: To catch sight of.

14: A person or thing regarded as a representative symbol.

15: A dried grape.

16: A rounded vault forming a roof. 19: A fossil fuel. 20: Compete eagerly with someone. 22: Make ineffective; nullify. 23: Change in character or composition.

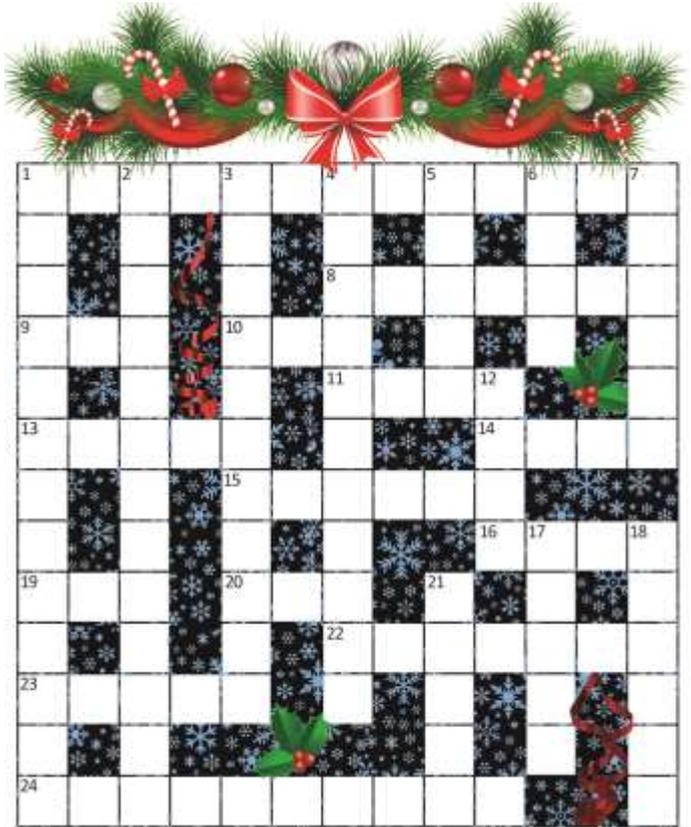
24: A word or phrase expressing love or affection.

Down:

1: Feeling or showing sympathy and concern. 2: Has stated again the main points.

3: A cocktail made from vodka and orange juice. 4: Extremely beautiful, elaborate, or impressive. 5: A person who can endure pain or hardship without showing their feelings. 6: Spend time doing nothing. 7: A flag or standard. 12: A female deer.

17: Consists of eight bits of information. 18: Cause to be loved or liked. 21: Another time; once more.



Q: What do you call a snowman with a six pack? A: An abdominal snowman.

Q: Why did Santa go to the doctor? A: Because of his bad "elf"!

Q: What is Santa's favourite pizza? A: One that's deep-pan, crisp and even.

Q: Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? A: A Mince Spy.

Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire? A: Frostbite



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Strete Social Club

28th September 2021: After the usual business our speaker for the afternoon who we are always pleased to have was introduced and she said how nice it was to be back with us once again.

Brenda Loosemoor's subject for her entertainment to us was 'happenings and non-happenings' on her time in lockdown. As always this was most amusing.

She read a few amusing poems to us with connections to the time we were all locked down gathered from various papers and the media. She received a phone call from a long lost friend who invited her to her wedding, (the 3rd time for the bride). Being a good excuse to get out Brenda and her husband booked into a hotel and attended this wedding. The hotel, as they found out, was haunted. And of course, it all happened in the room that they had.

This triggered the memories of two of our members. One in a hotel in Yorkshire where on returning to their room after the evening meal and relaxing on the bed all of a sudden, the electric kettle switched on, with its light and started to boil. Somewhat alarmed she jumped out of bed to switch it off when the kettle switched itself off. Next morning at breakfast when mentioning this to one of the staff and asked which room they were in were told that it was a friendly ghost who liked to play jokes.

Another member told us of how she was on a Constance Spry Floristry course and of how a child was heard in distress. When she mentioned this to the hotel was asked Did you see a woman, to which her reply was No. Apparently, others had seen a woman who it was thought to be a nannie who looked after this child and was there when it died. Needless to say, our member changed rooms for the rest of her stay.

Brenda was thanked, by Judy, for coming and keeping us entertained for the afternoon after which she joined us with a cup of tea and biscuits served by Shirley and Diane.

12TH OCTOBER 2021: Dorothy Teal, Joint Organiser, welcomed everyone to our early October meeting. She was delighted to see so many ladies despite many members being unable to attend.

Our speaker for the afternoon was Linda Maby, a florist from Cornworthy a very busy lady now that weddings are happily taking place again. Linda demonstrated how to create Gifts for Girlfriends just using a few supermarket flowers and foliage from the garden. She also used her own dried flowers, a fashionable new trend even for weddings.

Linda had some very useful tips including a way to avoid using oasis by criss-cross Sellotape over a pot – it all looked deceptively easy to do! She created a wonderful hand tied bouquet taking us slowly through how to do it by twisting as you arrange– although I may need bigger hands! It was an excellent practical demonstration and judging from all the questions certainly sparked everyone’s interest. Linda will be holding a pop-up shop at Stokeley Farm Shop for a week from 15th November where she will be selling floristry and items from her new hobby of Needle Felting. She will share the venue with Michelle Watson of Red Apple Clothes.

Tea and delicious biscuits were served by Carol and Chris with plenty of socialising too. Linda kindly donated all the posies and bouquets as raffle prizes to the delight of the winners.



26TH OCTOBER 2021

Dorothy Teal, Joint Organiser, welcomed everyone to our late October meeting.

Our excellent speaker for the afternoon was Jeremy Wilson from Strete Gate Camellias.

Jeremy is a national and indeed international expert on Camellias with an extensive business just down the road at Strete Gate.



His work takes him to Chelsea Flower Show and various Royal Horticultural Society venues to exhibit his camellias. Jeremy entertained and informed us explaining that camellias dated back to ancient times and that there are now 30,000 cultivars with some 500 varieties at Strete – indeed he mentioned a polytunnel with 10,000 cuttings! We learned so much including the fact that tea is a camellia – indeed he can return to tell us much more about the history of tea. His slides were a revelation. He explained how we should care for our camellias and demonstrated how to prune them. Jeremy spoke with the experience of a lifelong career of gardening for large estates. Some of us were also interested that he seeks local gardening work – we are fortunate to have an expert nearby! Jeremy brought along a range of specimens for sale and many members were tempted to add some to their own gardens. He also has a stall at Kingsbridge Farmers Market on the first and third Saturdays each month. Jeremy kindly donated a stunning camellia as a raffle prize.

Tea and delicious biscuits were served by Heather Robinson and Margaret Tuck. It was another enjoyable sociable afternoon.

9th November 2021: Dorothy Teal, Joint Organiser, greeted everyone especially our new male guests, to our early November meeting.

Our excellent speaker was a good friend of the Club, Nick Shepherd a talented photographer from our village. Nick brought with him a magnificent exhibition of his photographs taken locally near Start Point. He chose to speak about Lighthouses. His interest stemmed from a childhood near Cawsands Beach in Cornwall out on a boat with his brother looking at Eddystone Lighthouse just 9 miles from Plymouth. The feats of engineering in constructing such lighthouses are indeed a marvel with the third lighthouse lasting 150 years until the rocky base started to move. The replacement was built on stronger ground and the top of the tower it replaced now stands on Plymouth Hoe as a tribute to Smeaton who designed and built the new lighthouse.

Start Point Lighthouse was built on the mainland and therefore not quite so subject to the forces of nature. It was needed to protect shipping from the perilous Prawle Point and Start Point with 10 kilometres of hazards including the Skerries sandbank which has just two metres of water at low tide. Trinity House commissioned Start Point Lighthouse in 1834 at a cost of £2765 and as we know it is still there! It was designed and built by Hugh Mackintosh a blind engineer. The original Fresnel Lens Light comprised of glass prisms weighing 7 tons floating on a trough of mercury. It has now been electrified with new LED lamps for the main navigation light. But the iconic Lens can still be seen at the Visitor Centre. The new light no longer spins which many locals miss as they found it so comforting. But the new light still provides guidance for 25 miles, together with a foghorn for foggy weather. Even in these days of Satnavs mariners still need Lighthouses.

Nick also spoke about his favourite sight at the lighthouse the Grey Seal. He captured their beauty in a range of wonderful photographs. To our surprise half of the world's population of grey seals live in the UK that is some 120,000 seals. They catch their prey using their hearing, not those doleful big eyes!

Everyone enjoyed looking at his photographs in the display set up by Barbara. Nick kindly donated one to the raffle. Some early Christmas gifts were also bought!



Christmas

GRAND DRAW

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Grand Draw 15th December

Tickets

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(all money raised will go towards upkeep of the Parish Hall)

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A FUTURE ART GROUP

Hello to all Readers

Many years ago, Strete ran a very good art club/group, call it what you will. Like minded people would meet on a Thursday morning and paint/draw together.

We were a great bunch and enjoyed our common interest in art, from watercolour painting, to acrylic and oils, from abstract to local scenes. There was no set criteria. We were so enthusiastic that we held an annual exhibition in the barn on Village Day which was very successful.

Since the pub, The King's Arms, became a community venture, local artists have been showcasing their "works of art" in the pub, and this has raised interest generally in the village, with people asking if there should, once again, be an art club in Strete. A possibility is initially to meet once a fortnight. There would obviously be a small joining fee to cover the cost of hiring the hall but it would not be a money making venture. Everyone is welcome from beginners to the more advanced, we can all learn from each other.

I am therefore publishing this message asking if you would be interested in joining an art group, to contact Lesley Saffin, l.saffin7@gmail.com

If you have any questions, queries or suggestions please do not hesitate to ask.

Lesley SAFFIN



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Mon 3 Jan	Thur 6 Jan
Tues 4 Jan	Fri 7 Jan
Wed 5 Jan	Sat 8 Jan
Thur 6 Jan	Mon 10 Jan
Fri 7 Jan	Tues 11 Jan
10 - 13 Jan	Two days late
14 Jan	17 Jan
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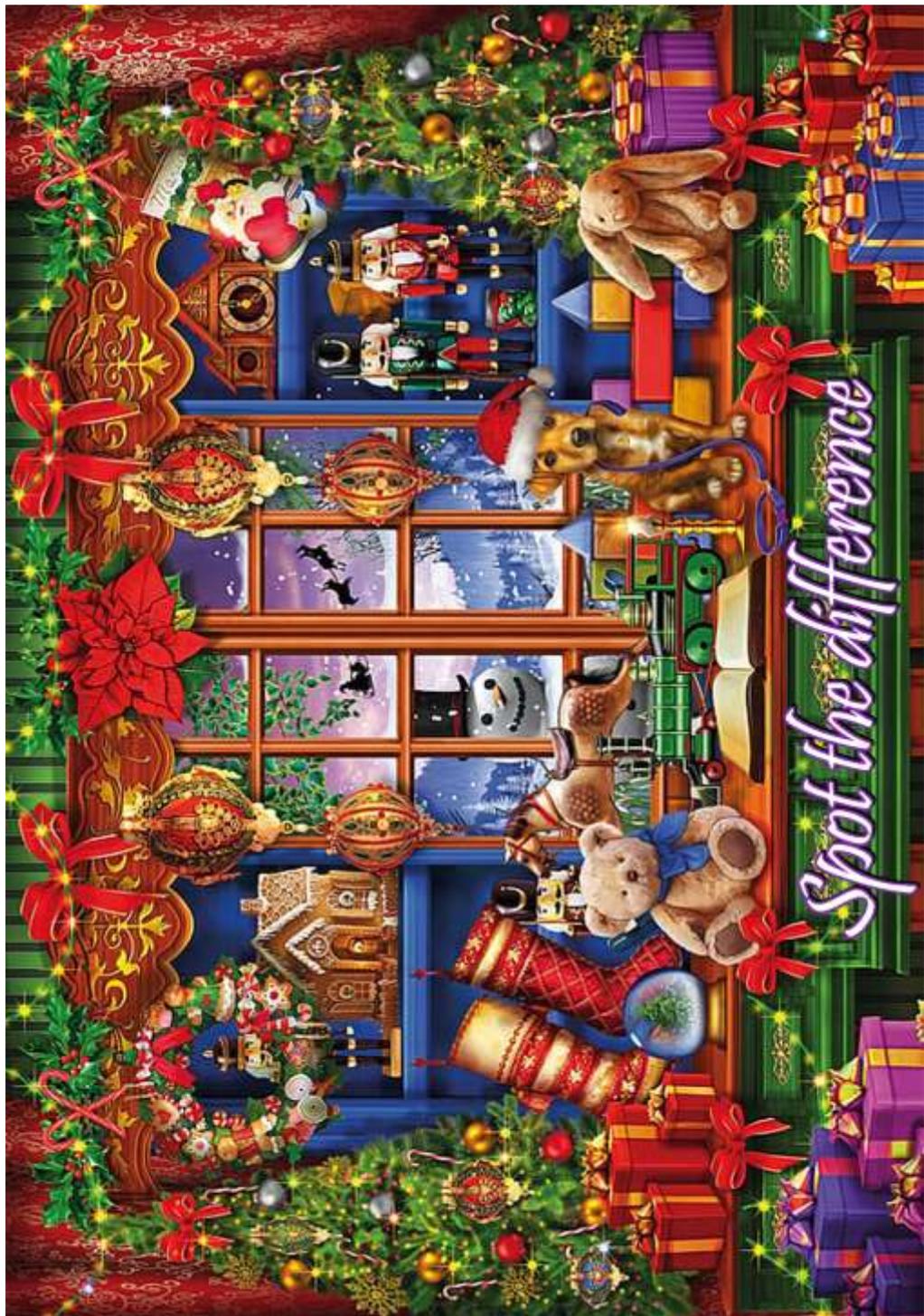
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Our 'Tree Team' is here to help you pick your perfect tree, net it and carry it to your car – or let us take the strain and have your tree delivered. Why not take advantage of our delivery service, it's FREE throughout the South Hams. If you're looking to beat the crowds, you can choose your tree early and we'll happily look after it until you want it. And remember, you'll receive a FREE £10 gift voucher to spend in the garden centre next year when you purchase your tree from Gardentime - A little 'thank you' from us to you!

We will be hand making festive wreaths again this year and would love to make your bespoke decoration, or perhaps you would prefer to pick from our wide selection on display. We also have indoor and outdoor lights of all colours and styles as well as beautiful glass baubles to help make your Christmas sparkle.

When you've chosen your tree, you might like to warm up and relax in our Café. Excellent coffee is served with our full English breakfast, with sausages, bacon and eggs all locally sourced. We have a delicious lunch menu with daily specials. Don't forget all our cakes are homemade if you fancy a little treat.

Our Farm Shop is stock full of Christmas treats and fine local food. As a special Christmas treat why not purchase one of our homemade preserves, Christmas puddings, Christmas cakes or hampers. You'll also find a full selection of houseplants to enhance your home this Christmas.

Gardentime is open every day, weekdays from 9am to 5.30pm and Sundays from 10am to 4pm. We will be open on Christmas Eve too.

The Gardentime team would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our customers a very Merry Christmas and thank you for your custom throughout the year.

For more information see www.gardentime.biz/christmas:
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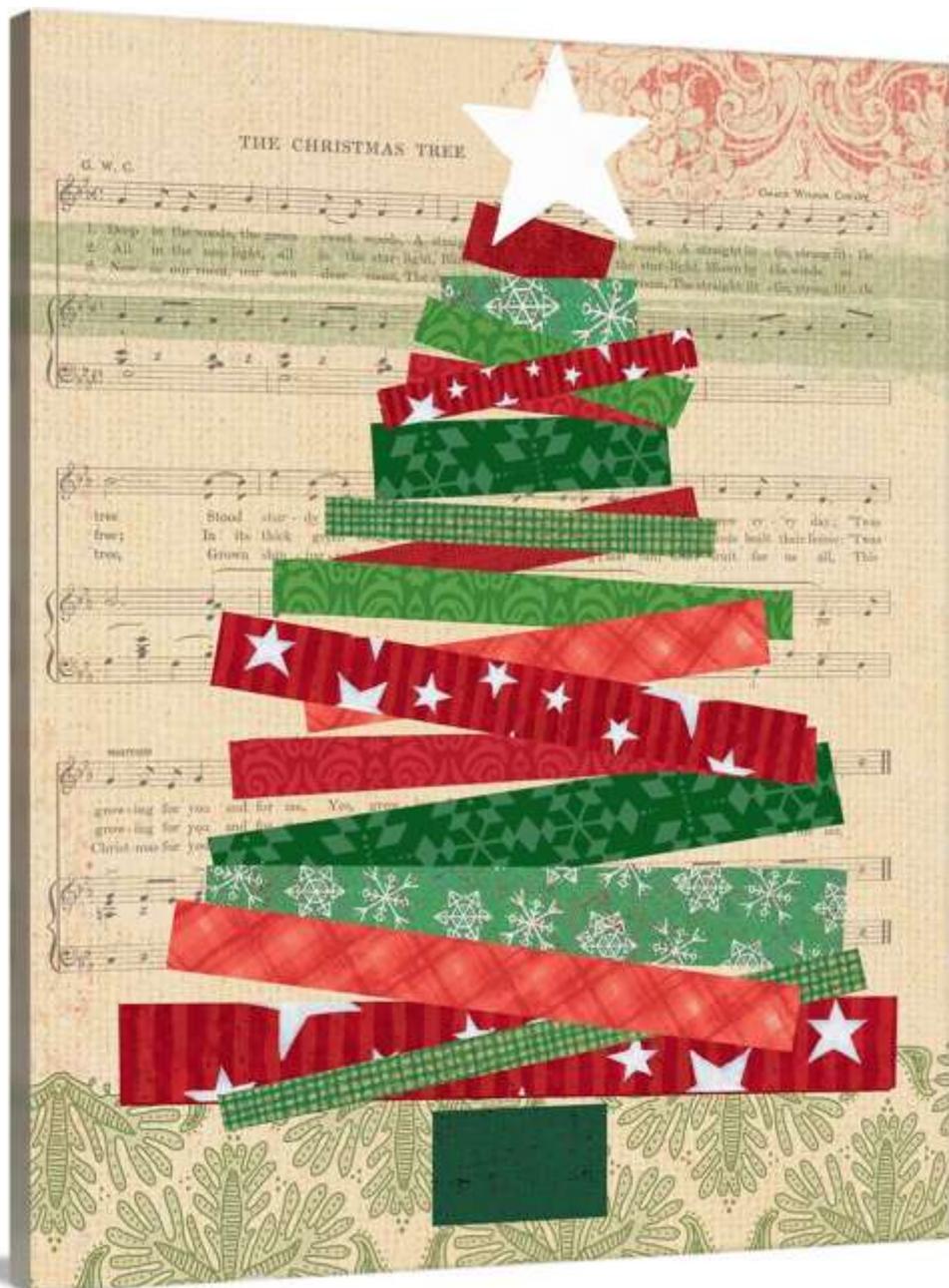
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Creative Corner



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Sunday 12th December

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Christmas by Candlelight

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STRETE PARISH COUNCIL (PC)

HELD AT STRETE PARISH HALL ON THURSDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT

Cllr Peter Hales (PH) (Chairman); Cllr Kate Gill (KG); Cllr Ralph Clark (RC); Cllr Ian Cumberlandidge (IC); Cllr David Rothwell (DR); Cllr Graham Campbell (GC); Mrs. Helen Darch {Clerk}; three parishioners in person.

PUBLIC FORUM

Toby Russell of the Devon Air Ambulance Trust [DAAT] attended to explain how the air ambulance night landing scheme worked. KG had decided to withdraw her offer of Manor Farm as a landing site and this meant the Village would be able to consider another suitable site. The role of DAAT is to work with communities on identifying suitable sites, including negotiation with landowners, and installing the lighting to make them safe for night operations. Hours of operation now extend to 2am each morning.

Toby outlined the specification for the site to be operational and observed that ideal sites were recreation grounds as these were usually well-maintained and often had good lighting as well. A good example is the site at Stoke Fleming on the recreation ground.

The landing site should be on a 50m² space [or half a football pitch] to comply with CAA operational and safety requirements. The site should be on flat land, fairly close to the village and preference is for sport, grass or silage use rather than where animals are routinely kept. The site is a community asset so it is not owned by DAAT but looked after by the community [parish council] so this is a long-term commitment.

The level of lighting needed must be sufficient to illuminate the air ambulance and any backup vehicles that attend an incident. Also, lighting must be enough to allow the incident to be dealt with which includes loading, unloading and carrying kit to the scene. Where lighting is installed, this is usually a single 10 m high column with lights on top in a 'T' formation. Toby confirmed this is similar to a standard streetlight in an urban area. The lights are switched on remotely when the helicopter approaches the site. The specification for the lighting is two units with a single phase 300 w LED.

Costs were briefly discussed. Any labour costs are offset by monies the DAAT has received from central government [LIBOR fines]. Capital costs will be around £2.8k typically and cover the lighting system including cables and the column. These are borne by the local community but fundraising and grants can alleviate [some of] the cost. KG later informed the meeting she has £1,010.47 raised in 2017 which would go toward the project. Toby confirmed in an email on 19th September that the Parish Council should hold this money and disburse it against the project costs. **Resolved the council discuss this as on the agenda and let Toby know the outcome.**

Three parishioners attended but declined to speak.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

There was no County Councillor report.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

RF sent a report by email. *Firstly, I am waiting for the officer to come back to me on Blindwells I understand your frustration. The main topic of conversation of course is the recycling and refuse collection or lack of it.*

I am as frustrated as you after all I am dealing with complaints for my 6 parishes I represent and beyond, I can only apologise but assure you that I am doing all I can in an impossible situation to which there are no easy answers, not only have FCC let us all down very badly but there is also the well-publicised lack of HGV drivers and the fact that golden hellos are being offered left right and centre. There are moves going on in the background that at this time I will not discuss other than we know things will have to change.

In answer to the residents and others about bringing the service back in hand I do not think who ever does this service there is still the national element that we have no control over.

0921/1 APOLOGIES – Cllr Louise Newman (LN) ; Cllr Richard Foss, District Councillor, Allington & Strete Ward (RF) ; Cllr Julian Brazil, County Councillor, Kingsbridge Division (JB).

0921/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 15 July 2021

The above minutes were AGREED as a true and correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

0921/3 MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 17TH August 2021

The meeting received and adopted the minute of an extraordinary meeting on August 17th to approve the use of two carpark spaces at Strete Gate as refreshment stations for the Iron man Challenge on Sunday 19th September.

0921/4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Parish Councillors were invited to declare any unregistered or other interest, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting. **PH noted that if Blindwells was discussed he would declare an interest.**

To the extent that as he is an adjacent resident to Blindwells he had already previously objected to the proposals as a private citizen.

PH has no pecuniary interest in the development.

0921/5 PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

Planning applications consulted on. To discuss and respond to South Hams District Council on:

2875/21/HHO. (Revised plans) Householder application for new ancillary extension over existing garage with associated ramp & landscaping works (resubmission of 1518/21/HHO). **Blue Horizon Strete TQ6 ORH. Resolved: to support the application.**

Two planning applications were received and decided under delegated powers during August when the Council didn't meet. **It was resolved to record decisions to support on 2683/21/HHO 51 Start Bay Park and 2079/21/HHO 53 Start Bay Park** which was a resubmission of an earlier application heard in July 2021 [minute 0721/4].

Other planning matters. Blindwells. RC noted the issue of permission for a wayleave through to the Plat for sewage remained unresolved from **July 2021 [minute 0721/4].**

He emailed SHDC planners on the 16th September to ask an update on the 2nd home aspect and the sewage disposal route [1349/21/FUL].

He noted these plans referred to a hedge between the site and the next-door property which was not the case. There is a s106 on the development in application 2954/20/VAR which must be paid over by the date of development [25th September 2021 as the decision notice] and must be used against certain sites in the village [Strete Playpark, Village Green, Blackbird Wood].

Enforcement and other matters. There was recent discussion between neighbours over a fence which was deemed unsightly and may need planning permission. This was being resolved. An enforcement was raised earlier.

Memorandum of Understanding [MOU]. SHDC had issued a draft MOU to govern its relationship with parishes on planning matters. The Clerk had confirmed with SHDC that Strete PC could respond after 21st October.

0921/6 UPDATES ON STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

Council targets agreed for 2021/22 year.

	Project	Target	Resolved - latest
1	Night Landing Site for Air Ambulance.	Operational by May '22	Resolved: KG will give £1,010.47 raised to go toward any new site in Strete for the air ambulance. Councillors discussed sites.
2	Enhanced vehicle Speed Control measures in the village.	Operational by May '22	Ongoing discussion with DCC. Councillors discussed a variety of speed-abatement measures. Resolved to approve PH's paper on speed problems in the village. This will be presented by PH and RC at the South Hams HATOC meeting on 15 th October. Resolved RC to obtain 5 20MPH signs at £4 each to place around the village
3	Raise Awareness of any forthcoming Green Grants for domestic heating, insulation etc.	When grants are available	Drop-in event in Village Hall as COVID rules permit. CAB to talk on green grants. Ongoing.
4	Secure electric vehicle public charging facility in the village.	Operational by May '22	Mark Hildyard [freeholder of the pub] has suggested land and some money toward an electric vehicle charging facility. He has asked the Pub leaseholder to contribute. Noted.

5	Identify sites for tree planting in the village.	Plant trees in winter 21/22	The PC to identify sites around the village to enhance green sustainability. To identify where a Platinum Jubilee commemorative tree might be planted. IC commented on the difficulty of getting sites for trees in the Village. Ongoing.
6	Agree and sign up to an Action Statement on the Climate Change Emergency.	August 21 Meeting	Councillors observed small communities were finding adoption of a climate change statement challenging. PH was putting together a mailshot to the Village. Ongoing.

Strete Gate. IC reported briefly. The middle carpark barrier had worked well to exclude large vehicles until it was broken. Camper vans tried to use Strete Gate carpark despite limited facilities. On balance he believed 2021 was a better season than last year and the measures adopted by SHDC appeared to work. GC felt there were fewer visitors this year and so less strain on facilities.

Slapton Line Partnership. The next meeting is on October 12th when Anthony Mangnall MP and Judy Pearce of SHDC will attend. This was seen as a positive development and a sign that government action may be taken.

Waste Collection. Problems remain with the green garden waste. The contractor had ceased collection of this from August 16th originally for four weeks to concentrate on sorting the problems with the domestic waste and recycling service. SHDC Executive on 16th September extended this suspension to 14th October. **RC had suggested a green skip to RF.** DR wondered if the Village could engage a skip service in the interim.

Poo bins. The bin for the new site by the village sign and recycling area is ready to instal and IC will deal with this.

Playpark. IC reported there is a rotten post which will need to be replaced with a tanalised 8–9-inch post. Some of the equipment needed attention and anti-rust treatment. The climbing frames can be treated with a wire brush and hammerite applied. The chains were sound. A hinge on the access gate on the Hynetown side needs replacement and IC will do this. Gardens on the Hynetown side have overgrown into the park and need to be cut back. GC has done wood preservation. Any paint used should be anti-slip suitable for children to use. **Resolved The Clerk would contact the localities officer [Simon Smith] to confirm suitable paint for the play equipment.**

0921/7(a) FINANCE

Nine cheques were listed for payment on the agenda, invoices circulated before the meeting and invoices approved for payment at the meeting. Another invoice was presented at the meeting and a cheque was raised at the meeting [Cheque 1795].

1786 – Clerk salary August £261.	1787 – Clerk salary September £266.25. Includes annual increment on pay scale to £10.65/hr.
1788 – Greenspace July two cuts £203.80.	1789 – Greenspace August two cuts £203.80.
1790 – Brooking Hire August sweep plus Fuge Road £530 plus VAT.	1791 – John Gilbert hedge trim (Visibility splays) £110 plus VAT.
1792 – Strete Parish Hall July hire £40.	1793 – Chris Ellis bench repairs as contract £1,246.50 plus additional repairs agreed £65 total £1,311,50.
1794 – Chris Ellis strimming around benches and bus stops £125.	1795 – Ms Juliet Collins cost of materials to make display for Tour of Britain. £35.72.

It was proposed and AGREED by all present to authorise the payments as enumerated above.

0921/7(b) FINANCE

The Clerk presented the monitoring statements for September 2021. **It was resolved the monitoring statements would be put on the website and the noticeboards.**

0921/7(c) FINANCE

Cash at bank – £10, 887.76CR Current account at 06/09/21, £10,298.58CR Business Reserve account at 06/09/21.

0921/7(d) FINANCE

Budgets would be discussed next month for any revisions. A budget for the air ambulance would be added.

0921/8UPDATE ON CONTRACTS

IC asked to declare an interest in the Buddle hole contract which was discussed. He explained the works now being done relate to old and neglected drainage works, many by DCC. He confirmed he would draw up a contract and a map of the drainage sites. **IC to draw up a specification for the buddle hole work.**

0921/9 MONUMENT

In August PH circulated drafts of a contract for maintenance of the monument and the garden site by the Strete Gate carpark once the monument had been moved there. This contract would be agreed between the parishes and the Field Studies Centre. **Resolved the Clerk to send Draft no 2 to the Field Studies Council and arrange a meeting with them to discuss arrangements as the site is on their land.**

0921/10 WALL AT MAGNOLIA COTTAGE

The Clerk updated the meeting on the ongoing wall issue. This was first raised in December 2019 when the householder asked confirmation on responsibility for the wall which showed signs of loose stones. The wall runs along the slip between Start Bay Park and Vicarage Lane. DCC had not responded to confirm who was responsible. IC visited the site and inspected the wall. It was not felt to be dangerous but he recommended the householder carefully remove ivy and growth from the wall. **Resolved: The Council would ask a contractor to quote to do drystone walling. There would be no offer of council funding at this stage.**

0921/11 CLERK'S REPORT

Report submitted before the meeting.

Standing Orders. The only changes made are to Section 18 Controls and procurement. These have been updated to reflect the latest contract limits agreed in financial regulations and the current procurement rules post Brexit. Financial Regulations already include delegation for cheque signing in Regulation 5.2.7. **Resolved to adopt.**

Updated Code of Conduct. This is the councillor code which contains the Seven Principles of Public Life also known as the Nolan Principles. It was adopted in July 2021 by SHDC and it forms the basis for our PC code of conduct which is based on its predecessor and adopted in 2012. The rules were updated by SHDC in July to include concerns over behaviour in the public sector which the Monitoring officer wrote out to parishes on in March this year. The Local Government Association Model Code of Conduct [produced by the Committee for Standards in Public Life] was incorporated into the existing SHDC Code. **Resolved to adopt.**

Afghan refugee crisis. The Clerk was contacted by a parishioner to ask whether the Council would organise a collection of supplies for refugees when they arrive in the UK. The Clerk asked DCC's refugee unit who said they would only take supplies when they knew where people were being resettled. St Michaels will accept and keep any donations of materials on their premises. The Salvation Army and care4Calais collect donations specifically for this crisis. GC has contacted these agencies who confirmed they did not want any more donations for the moment. **It was resolved the Council would keep an eye on what need emerged before we acted.**

Banking. The Clerk has been using Lloyds online banking for her locum work and this works well. It is easy to use and the authorisation protocols can be easily set up. **Resolved to report next month.**

Pay rise and review. The Clerk met with PH and LN in late July to discuss personnel matters. One target agreed is to keep the contract management programme updated. Another is to focus on the targets set in June for the year. It was agreed that CILCA training could be undertaken. This is a useful qualification as it confers on the Council the General Power of Competence [Localism Act 2011 ss1-6] which gives Councils general powers to act provided this is within the law. The cost is £710 in two parts: one is registration with the SLCC and the other is the training. The cost, it has been agreed, will be split with the Council. The course takes about 7 months from October 2021 and is online seminars plus a portfolio of work assignments. The Clerk has gone up from SCP 7 to SCP 8 £10.65/hr. **This was approved, details of the cost sharing to be finalised.**

St Michaels PCC. Didn't meet over the summer. Due to meet on 22nd September when the Clerk will report back.

Village pump. This is on unadopted land. It was tidied up in 2007/8 and plans were drawn up to register the land it stands on. So far nothing has resulted from that. There is also interest in that land for electric vehicle chargers so a decision needs to be made on what is done with the land. **This was noted. The report was received.**

0921/12 CHAIR'S REPORT

Report submitted before the meeting.

Since there was no regular Parish Council meeting in August, some of my remarks will date back to July.

Tony Crawford Unfortunately, this summer has seen the passing of yet another PC stalwart. In mid-July the PC was deeply saddened to hear the news of Tony's passing. His long service as councillor and Chair of the Parish Council was sorely missed when he stepped down in mid-2015. On behalf of the residents of Stretre, the PC wrote to the family expressing our condolences.

Tour of Britain Devon Stage Cycle Race. Promised promotional materials were duly received and the event took place in blazing sunshine as planned on 6th September. St Michael's Church kindly agreed to the temporary use of the Church Car Park for resident's vehicles overnight on Sunday 5th. Thanks to all residents who helped out and especially to those who normally park on the A379 for removing their vehicles from the route for the day. Special thanks are also due to farmer Phillip Knight and the Landowner for permitting the use of a meadow at Frogmore as a temporary car park, a measure which proved to be much appreciated by visitors. I was struck by the large number of spectators who chose to come to our village to view the race. Afterwards, many stayed on to enjoy a drink and a snack in the sunshine at the Kings Arms and I overheard a large number of complimentary remarks about the village (and the pub!). Many thanks to Lisa and the staff who came in to help present the village in the best light. Thanks also to resident artist Juliet Collins who put the village on the map by creating an innovative art installation on the Village Green in the form of a sustainable cyclist constructed from recycled materials (visible by drone from above) which was entered into the Cycle Race art competition. We await the outcome!

Bus Consultation by Devon County in March, the government announced a new National Bus Strategy - Bus back better - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). Alongside the delivery of this strategy, Devon County Council have committed to working with our local bus operators to form an Enhanced Partnership by April 2022, and to writing a joint Bus Service Improvement Plan by October 2021. At the end of July, the PC was canvassed by DCC for its views on local bus services. The PC provided a written response, lobbying for greater flexibility and shorter routes thus allowing for better frequency intervals, the extension of the Dartmouth town service to the outlying villages and a more modern (and hence less polluting) fleet to be assigned to country routes and not just towns. We await sight of the Improvement Plan.

Coleridge Meeting County Councillor Julian Brazil called an informal Zoom meeting for 20th July which was attended by a number of PCs in Julian's constituency (known as the Coleridge Meeting) to discuss issues which are of shared interest across PCs. It included a presentation from Simon Oldridge from Staverton PC representing

'Sustainable South Hams', which is a pressure group aiming to push the sustainability message across communities. The meeting also included items on the Bike Race (see above) and planning issues, which were fed back to Councillors. It is clear that Strete is not alone in voicing concern about the inconsistencies in some recent SHDC planning decisions, nor are we the only PC struggling to respond to the wave of information being produced concerning sustainability and environmental matters.

Road Maintenance Over the summer. Some progress has been made with road maintenance issues surrounding maintenance of the by-ways in the Fuge area. Following discussions with the local farmers, a photographic survey of damage was carried out together with a mechanical sweep of debris to expose areas requiring maintenance. The PC is now in discussion with Devon Highways to have remedial work carried out.

Road Safety. Despite continued lobbying, we have been unable to make progress with getting the attention of Devon Highways, regarding the PC's concerns about speeding and road safety in the village, and in particular at the Totnes Road entrance. At the July PC meeting and the subsequent Coleridge meeting (see above), we have therefore appealed to our local County Councillor Julian Brazil for help. He has agreed to make our case to the Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC) at the South Hams area meeting in October if we will support him on the day. The PC will need to decide upon which traffic calming option it wishes to press for at this site – speed bumps, lane restriction or chicane, bearing in mind that it is used by heavy vehicles, a variety of agricultural machinery and is a secondary bus route when buses are on diversion.

HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Anniversary. The PC proposes to take a co-ordination role, bringing together those organisations in the village who have an interest so that the holiday weekend in early June 22 can be planned out. KG confirmed the beacon would be lit at Manor Farm on the Thursday of that holiday period.

Proposed relocation of the Slapton Line Memorial. The PC held a site meeting at Strete Gate on 5th August in order to assess the state of the proposed site following receipt of a copy of the design from DCC. There has been considerable growth of vegetation over the pandemic, and the site was noted to be in a poor state of repair. Following a discussion, I offered to provide a first draft of a suitable Parish Council maintenance agreement for discussion by Strete Parish Councillors. Comments have now been received, and a revised draft will be proposed for endorsement at September's meeting. This draft will then be discussed with the Field Studies Council and the Slapton Line Partnership, hopefully in time for feedback to be received at the SLP meeting scheduled for October.

Waste Collections. The situation remains critical. SHDC have informed us that following a request from their contractor, collections of garden waste have been suspended until further notice. This is to allow the full collection of other categories of arguably more critical waste to be made on schedule. The complete lack of a garden waste collection is unacceptable and we shall continue to press for the rapid reinstatement of full-service collections or other arrangements as soon as possible. The conversion of more householders to the new system of boxes and bags has already been suspended until the present rollout householders have a reliable smooth arrangement.

Night Landing Site for the Devon Air Ambulance. Long-time residents will recall that for many years there has been a wish to see the establishment of an official Night Landing site in the village for the Devon Air Ambulance Trust (DAAT). The DAAT service now has extended operating hours and flies until 2am every night.

Now that local health facilities and road ambulances have been rationalised and some local hospital facilities removed, it is particularly important that a site be established locally; the nearest is currently at Stoke Fleming (Village Hall) or Stokenham (School). Response time is critical in the event of some forms of medical emergency and a local community landing site is the only way of improving it and providing better outcomes. The PC remains determined to see that either an existing incomplete site is completed and established in Strete as soon as possible, or else an alternative technically acceptable site is adopted, as residents have already waited too long for this vital facility.

Coronavirus Pandemic. Much has happened since July - it is easy to forget that the nation only fully opened up on 21st July. As expected, South Hams experienced unprecedented numbers of cases in July and August with a very busy school holiday season and the figures have only recently started to recede. 332 Cases of Coronavirus were reported in South Hams in the week 31st August to 6th September, down 25 compared with the previous week, driven largely by cases of the Delata variant in people under 60, as the Delta variant spreads more readily than others. However, in the same week, 88% of adults in the South Hams have had one dose of vaccine, 81% are 'double jabbed', and the vaccination programme to vaccinate all over 16s is continuing. Whilst this is welcome, the pandemic is not over, and we will all need to adhere to advice regarding ongoing precautions in crowded settings. In Strete, the NHS Testing van continues to visit on Monday afternoons in the Parish Church Car Park and will offer advice on testing to everyone who turns up. **Resolved the Clerk will ask about booster vaccinations.**

Befriending. We have been made aware that there is a need for volunteers from the Community to step forward and assist with befriending, including within Strete. Residents should contact any Parish Councillor if they feel that they might be able to help out. **The Chair's report was received.**

0921/13 CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY

Resolved: PH will circulate a letter drop in due course. GC would look at a presentation in future by say the CAB before a council meeting.

0921/14 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

PH. This report was given under 0721/12.

KG. Slapton Line Partnership. There is not a lot to say at the moment. You will all be familiar with the visit we made to the site for the Memorial. We will be discussing an adaptation project at the next meeting provisionally to be held Tuesday 12th October via Zoom. There are some annoying problems which have raised their head at Strete Gate: - 'Doughnutting' has started again in the car park. The fire brigade was called out to extinguish a fire lit on the tarmac between the wall and the Kiosk at about 8.45p.m. on Sunday last. The perpetrators appeared to be highly intoxicated.

LN. Roads: hedges, litter and local transport. Regarding the roads I only have to report that these have been exceptionally busy over the last few months and the Tour of Britain cycle ride has meant that some potholes have been filled along the A379 which is good. I am intending to organise a litter pick in October and will fix a date on my return from holiday.

DR. Health and safety, Parish Hall liaison. Defibrillator training is now available. DR will liaise with the South Western Ambulance Service Trust to arrange this before winter.

The garage storage facility at the Parish Hall needs repair. He wondered if the Council could buy a storage container for the grit salt or arrange for the excess to be removed. **Resolved DR will contact DCC to find out if they can take away unneeded grit salt. The Clerk would check with the Devon Records Office if they could store records such as the Neighbourhood Plan.**

IC. Rights of Way, Tree warden, Strete Gate and Playpark. Play Park. All is looking 'reasonably' tidy and 'useable', but there are some issues that need attention. Most of them are small items that can be fixed by 'ourselves'. A post needs renewing/replacing, to maintain safety. A gate-closing spring needs fixing/renewing, and the skateboard ramp needs to be treated against further rusting, followed by painting. Ditto the climbing frames at North side of park. There is considerable overgrowth on S E. fence, with originates from neighbouring gardens. Attractive, but possibly detrimental to the fence structure.

Rights of Way. These have been recently attended to, by the "strimmer/clearance" team, after much summer overgrowth, but are now much more accessible. **Strete Gate Area.** Strete Gate area has obviously been well-used, (and quite often "abused") over the summer period, and there is a small "catalogue" of items that can be spoken about at the P.C. meeting, but too lengthy to type out...!! The council, (S.H.D.C.) have been doing their best to try to deal with the overload of "visitors", but have struggled, at times, with "less-than-sympathetic" members of the public...!! (I nearly said "members of the Human race", but at times, this was questionable...!! There are still no steps at Strete Gate. **Resolved to ask RF to deal with this.**

Tree warden. Very obviously, the loss of two mature Cherry trees from the grounds of the Village Hall has occurred in the last couple of days. As we are supposed to be planting more trees to assist in the climate change issue, I think that we need to keep a very close eye on the possible removal of trees, and the reasons behind them...!!

A mature Pinus Macrocarpa has been felled in a garden adjacent to Totnes Road, which was, "apparently", showing signs of 'decline'.

RC. Planning and Neighbourhood Plan, road maintenance including sweeping and Kings Arms liaison. Neighbourhood Plan

The consultation period for the NP amendment, in respect of the Kings Arms car Park, formally ended on 15/08/2021. Despite being advised that the next stage would take approximately two weeks, there has been a delay in obtaining availability details of an examiner to complete the process. Until the necessary information has been provided this remains an ongoing matter.

The Kings Arms

Since the last PC meeting there have been some personnel changes in the Management Committee (MC) as well as Operational Staff (OS). Both David Rothwell and Nigel Backwith resigned from their roles with the Management Committee and Gavin Cooper (Chef) resigned. As a result, there have been some challenges that members of the MC have had to address.

This includes Nicola Cullen accepting an acting role as Chairman until Strete Community Pub Ltd (SCPL) Annual General Meeting on 2nd October when it is hoped this will be formalised by shareholders. In addition, Karen Hales has joined the MC as Secretary.

A particular challenge has been finding a suitable chef to provide a food offering to the community and visitors. This is ongoing and we are hopeful of securing a suitable replacement from the applications received soon. In the meantime, both David and Nigel, at different times, have provided food options that have helped the Kings Arms (KA) to become a pub to visit. From this experience, we are developing a model by utilising the OS currently employed. This is being led by Lisa (Front of House Manager) and a committed flexible team operating in both the kitchen and front of house together with monthly events including David's fortnightly offering of fish and chips, which is always a sell-out. During July and August there have been BBQs and Beer Festivals that included music that were well supported and, from feedback received, considered to have been successful. The September calendar is underway starting with the Tour of Britain. A big success, with the £5 pastie and pint offering that cleared all the KA stock of pasties & sausage rolls. Events information is posted on <https://kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk/> <https://www.facebook.com/kingsarmsatstrete/> as well as by email to all subscribers to the Kings Arms email listing.

Fuge Road – Road Surface Condition

Following dialogue with Mark Wall and Phillip Knight, the hedges and banks along Fuge Road were cut back in readiness for Brooking Hire to sweep the road in conjunction with the Village Sweep on 10th August. RC observed the farmers were asked to keep the road cut and swept. This was done to encourage and support Devon Highways with their proposed makeover surface maintenance activities. Surface patching has subsequently taken place and appears to be ongoing. It is hoped Devon Highways can be persuaded to surface dress Fuge Road in Spring 2022 to protect the route from total failure. An approach to Devon County Councillor responsible for Highways, Stuart Hughes, to be considered if there is a negative response. RC also suggested Lisa Edmonds and JB could be included.

GC. Village Green, Prideaux Lane, campervans and carparks, social care and Slapton Line partnership. The grass cutting has been carried out as planned despite some difficult weather conditions. Richard Soans has done most of the clearing of the copse of trees, just a few bits to do. I will thank him as we had thought we would have to do it. We had agreed to do this with the pruning of the buddleia, so that is now ready to arrange with David and Ian. A quote was given by Greenspace for the memorial site. There is a need for befrienders in the area and in Strete. I am happy to pass on names of any volunteers so Kate Cooke who works on social prescribing can contact them and discuss. Lockdown has made it quite difficult for some people to pluck up courage to re-enter society so they often need encouragement and a friendly face. It was suggested an article could be placed in Stretewise on this. **Reports were received.**

0921/15 CORRESPONDENCE

The Council is owed a response to its letter of 12th May on council tax; in particular on the state of the roads from the SHDC Corporate Director for Strategic Finance. The Council is owed a response to its letter of 11th March to Devon County Council Meg Booth, the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste, on Council tax.

0921/16 OTHER BUSINESS: None was raised.

0921/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 21ST October 2021. Venue in the Parish Hall unless otherwise advised. **THE MEETING WAS CLOSED** at 9. 17 p.m.

Signed: Cllr Peter Hales (Chair) Dated: 21ST OCTOBER 2021

CHSW Christmas Fair

There'll be a Christmas Fair on Saturday 4th December in Dartmouth Market, from 10am to 3pm, raising funds for Children's Hospice South West. Stalls are currently available at £20. All proceeds from this event will help CHSW to provide essential specialist care and support for over 500 families with life-limited children in the South West. Contact Sue Tweed, 01803 770730 or tweed833@btinternet.com.



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The Kings Arms. Your Community Pub.

Pub life has moved inside through October and November, with a range of events. And they've been a great success. In fact, they have been so popular that we are having to turn people away.

In October, the Trafalgar Night Celebration saw sea shanty singers The Nautibouys bring the house (the sails?) down, whilst the Halloween party saw a mass of little sugar fuelled ghosts and ghouls have a wonderful time before heading off around the village for Tricks & Treats. Many thanks to those who put out their Halloween Pumpkin to announce their stash of treats.

In November, we had an Acoustic & Folk night which saw some wonderful communal singing and much amusement. The hope is to hold live music events on a regular, perhaps monthly, basis. We had to turn away numerous people from this event so the demand is clearly there.

A special call out for Pam's Tea & Cake Get-together. Pam Wills has taken it upon herself to arrange a monthly get-together for people to meet old friends and make new friends. On December 16th, the tea & cake will be replaced with an end of year lunch of cottage pie & crumble. Contact Pam or the team if you'd like to know more.

In terms of food, the full winter menu launched in November. See an example below or visit www.kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk for the range of tasty menus. Sunday lunches are also back and they are beginning to build up a good following.

There's beef, turkey and nut roast....all perfect for the cold Winter months.



DECEMBER EVENTS

December is going to be a special month in the pub with a range of Christmas related events and activities.



Saturday 4th. Christmas Begins Event. 2.30pm-5pm

The festive season starts with a Christmas Begins afternoon event.

There will be festive activities, mulled wine and mince pies and, true to the spirit of being a community pub, we'd like to ask the community to decorate the pub. We're asking people to offer some decorations, either homemade or old and unwanted, to help make the pub feel special for Christmas.

Setting off from the car park, Father Christmas will be driving around the village on his Devon style sleigh from about 2.30pm, do follow behind as he heads back to the pub.

Wednesday 15th. Christmas Carols 5.30pm-6.30pm

A melodious early evening get-together in the garden, full of festive cheer and friendly smiles. Mince pies and mulled wine available. Strong singers needed to lead the choir!

Please get in touch if you are happy to lead the singing.

Saturday 18th. Christmas Cocktails Social 7pm-9.30pm

As a pre-Christmas fun evening, the upstairs will become a cocktail bar, with sophisticated cocktails and smart dress. A little bit of Bond in Strete.

Five cocktails and canapés for £25.

New Year's Eve Party. 7pm-1am.

This year's theme is Hollywood. So dress to impress!

It will be a ticketed event - although please note that the bar area will be open as usual without tickets from 5pm to 10pm. The Party will run to 1pm with a dinner upstairs from 7-10pm and after this a silent disco, a glass of fizz at midnight and late night sandwiches. Carriages at 1pm. There are two types of tickets. The All-In ticket covers 7pm-1pm and includes a 5 course dinner, games, silent disco, fizz and late night sandwiches for £50.

Pre-ordering is essential.

The Drinks & Dancing ticket starts at 10pm and includes the silent disco, midnight fizz and late night sandwiches, all for £10.

There is a limited numbers of both tickets so please book early.

the Kings Arms

Dinner
5.30-8.30pm

Starters

Homemade chicken satay skewers, satay sauce & cucumber salad £6.50

Traditional prawn cocktail with brown bread & butter £6 *GF available*

Homemade soup of the day with freshly baked crusty roll £5

Creamy garlic mushrooms with blue cheese on a toasted bread roll (V) £6 *GF available*

Cauliflower fritters with a garlic, caper & parsley dipping sauce (Ve) £6

Mains

Homemade curry of the day, rice, naan, poppadom and lime mango chutney £9.95

Homemade 6oz steak burger in a brioche bun, tomato, salad, homemade coleslaw with chips £9.95

Add cheese or bacon £1

Vegan burger in a brioche bun, tomato, salad, homemade coleslaw with chips (Ve) £9.95

Add vegan cheese £1

Beer battered Start Bay cod fillet served with minty mushy peas, chips and homemade tartar sauce £10.95 (GF)

Deep fried breaded scampi served with peas, chips and homemade tartar sauce £10.95

'Hunters chicken'. Chicken with smoked bacon, BBQ sauce, cheddar cheese, homemade coleslaw, salad with chips. £10.95

Homemade vegetable lasagne served with garlic bread and salad (V) £9.95

Homemade mixed bean and Quorn chilli, sour cream, tortilla chips, basmati rice (V/Ve) £9.95

8oz Elston Farm sirloin steak served with mushrooms, peas, tomato, onion rings, with chips £22

Sides

Chips £3

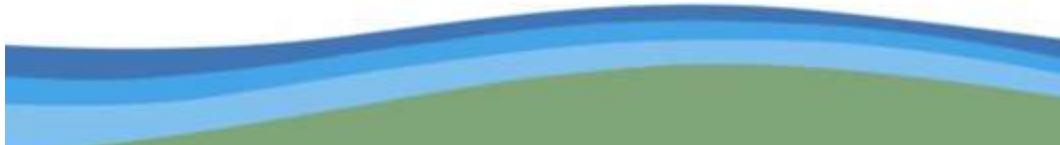
Halloumi fries £4

Garlic bread £3.50

Onion rings £3.50

Portion of vegetables £3.50

Mixed salad £3





CHRISTMAS MENU

Perhaps you fancy a pre-Christmas get-together with some old friends? There is a special Christmas Menu available for group bookings through December. If you'd like to find out more, please get in touch.

STAFF REQUIRED

Christmas is a busy time in the pub and we are looking for part-time staff over this period. Do you know anyone who might be interested? Perhaps a returning University student, or someone who wants to earn a little extra money over Christmas. Please get in touch.

YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Winter is of course the time of year when the pub really needs the support of the community so please do make the effort. The opening hours are a little different over the Christmas period, as listed below.

CONTACT

To book: use bookings@kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk or call 01803 770027

To contact about any other issue, please use: info@kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk web: www.kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk [facebook.com/kingsarmsatstrete](https://www.facebook.com/kingsarmsatstrete)

the Kings Arms

Our opening hours for the Christmas period are as follows:

Christmas Eve Friday 24th - 12-3pm - No food

Christmas Day Saturday 25th - Closed

Boxing Day Sunday 26th - Closed

Monday 27th - open 12-10pm

Tuesday 28th - open 12-10pm

Wednesday 29th - open 12-10pm

Thursday 30th - open 12-10pm

New Year's Eve Friday 31st Open from 5pm. Party from 7pm-1am.

New Year's Day Saturday 1st January - Closed

Sunday 2nd January - open 12-6pm

Have a wonderful Christmas at your community pub!

Call 01803 770027

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DISCOVER WELLBEING

"Big things have small beginnings"

I have been noticing how many more people are venturing out and about, taking walks and being creative with their gardens and houses. With more events taking place in both the Parish Hall and the church, as well as the Kings Arms, it feels like the challenges of the past couple of years are slowly being put behind us.

Our interview for this magazine is with our vicar, the very kind, warm and compassionate Reverend Alison Shaw.

I started off by asking Alison what were the things that she most enjoyed, in her role of being the vicar of St Michaels church, Strete.

"I think it is the sense of community in the village, with interesting people and amazingly beautiful scenery!"

Do you have opportunities in your varied and interesting life, to get out and about in nature?

"Yes I do... two places really. Forests, where it is so still you can hear the earth breathing and the seashore, majestic and powerful yet soothing"

Where is the next place on your travel bucket list and why?

"The Fjords to see the northern lights!"

What activity instantly calms you?

"Talking on the phone to my grandchildren!"

What originally got you interested in your current work?

"Someone else's 'journey' of discernment"

What is the favourite part of the workday for you?

"When I am out and about talking with people rather than on the computer or Zoom"

What is the one thing that you really enjoyed during lockdown?

"Less driving in my car!"



Image Copyright: Google and Google Maps

For more information on

St Michaels church,

please visit:

www.strete.org.uk/community/worship

'A fallen leaf is nothing more than a summer's wave goodbye'

A warming drink before bed...

Golden Turmeric Latte

by Deliciously Ella

Ingredients

½ or 1 teaspoon of ground turmeric

½ teaspoon of ground ginger

½ teaspoon of ground cinnamon

200ml almond milk or oat milk

1 teaspoon of maple syrup

Method

Place all of the ingredients into a pan over a medium heat.

Mix well and heat until warmed through.

Pour into a mug and enjoy.

Tip: use a milk frother to make it extra creamy



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Let Your Thoughts Come and Go

When we are anxious our thoughts about our worries go around and around in our mind.

Whenever you try not to do something it is guaranteed to make you do it more so instead, observe your thoughts like you are an outside looking in.

Just watch your thoughts for a minute. Imagine leaves floating on the surface of a stream.

For each thought that comes to mind, allow that thought to take its place on a leaf and watch it blow away in the wind. Allow those thoughts to come and go, you don't need to respond to them.



Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ)

Heart of the South West Trading Standards Service have advised us that as of 5pm on the 3 November 2021 an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone was declared across Great Britain. This means that all bird keepers in Great Britain (whether they have pet birds, commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard) are required by law to take a range of bio-security precautions:

Schedule 1 - Minimum biosecurity measures applying to all keepers

- Keep domestic ducks and geese separate from other poultry.
- Ensure the areas where birds are kept are unattractive to wild birds, for example by netting ponds, and by removing wild bird food sources.
- Feed and water their birds in enclosed areas to discourage wild birds.
- Minimise movement into and out of bird enclosures.
- Cleanse and disinfect footwear and keep areas where birds live clean and tidy.
- Reduce any existing contamination by cleansing and disinfecting concrete areas and fencing off wet or boggy areas.
- Keep free ranging birds within fenced areas, and ponds, watercourses and permanent standing water must be fenced off (except in specific circumstances, e.g., zoo birds).

Schedule 2 – Enhanced biosecurity measures for premises with over 500 poultry or other captive birds

Keepers with more than 500 birds will need to restrict access for non-essential people on their sites, workers will need to change clothing and footwear before entering bird enclosures and site vehicles will need to be cleaned and disinfected regularly to limit the risk of the disease spreading.

Full details of what is required can be found on the government website: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1030990/aipz-declaration.pdf

To assist all bird keepers in complying with the new rules, the biosecurity guidance and self-assessment checklists have been updated and all the latest information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#biosecurity>

Remember that if you have poultry, it is your responsibility to keep updated on any outbreaks and an easy way to do this is to sign up for text notifications - register with the [APHA alerts service](#).

STRETE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Helen Darch

Homer Park, Strete, Dartmouth TQ6 0SJ

streteClerk@gmail.com 01803 770018 www.strete.org.uk

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STRETE PARISH COUNCIL (PC)

HELD AT STRETE PARISH HALL ON THURSDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT

Cllr Peter Hales (PH) (Chairman); Cllr Kate Gill (KG); Cllr Louise Newman (LN); Cllr Ralph Clark (RC); Cllr Ian Cumberlidge (IC); Cllr David Rothwell (DR); Cllr Graham Campbell (GC); Cllr Richard Foss, District Councillor, Allington & Strete Ward (RF) (arrived later); Cllr Julian Brazil, County Councillor, Kingsbridge Division (JB) (arrived later). Mrs. Helen Darch {Clerk}.

PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public attended.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

JB mentioned the site meeting between Highways, PH, RC, and himself on Tuesday 19th October which considered a number of highways problems in the parish. The meeting notes are in 1021/9. Councillors raised the state of the Fuge road, in particular access to emergency vehicles and the perceived low priority of the road for maintenance. JB promised to continue to pursue this with Highways. He mentioned the need to draw up a design specification for traffic measures in the parish.

The A379 at Chillington will be closed from 7th to 18th February for flood works between Coleridge and Fairfield. The A381 will have an evening road closure [7pm to 7am] between Totnes and Churchstow; 8th to 12th November.

JB noted DCC had recently moved to decline a blanket 20 MPH speed limit across Devon and assess on a case-by-case basis.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

RF spoke on the waste contract. The garden waste collection is a non-statutory collection. The contractor [FCC] will resume this service in Spring 2022. Councillors discussed what could be done with the garden waste meanwhile. RF suggested composting and mentioned the Climate Change and Biodiversity Locality Fund, set up to reduce carbon footprint. The parish could claim from this toward the costs of composting. The Loam Rangers in Stoke Fleming can advise on how to organize a composting service. IC noted that land would have to be set aside for composting. <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/article/3854/Community-Grants-Funding>.

RC suggested a skip could be hired for a day [say] and paid for out of public subscription. Others felt parishioners had already paid for waste collection and shouldn't have to pay twice. PH asked about refunds as the service promised was not provided, or an adjustment to next year's council tax for services not provided? RF stated this part of the service was not levied in Council Tax as it was non-statutory. Fines would be levied on FCC where contract obligations or performance were not met.

There are ongoing discussions with FCC on the contract. Any fines would be used to the benefit of residents. He offered some of his Locality Fund monies toward skip hire and there might be other dedicated funds to claim as noted already.

GC asked about collecting the brown bins with rotting garden waste in them as they are heavy to deliver to the skip. Some contractors offer composting unlike FCC.

Regarding the main contract, councillors observed the kerb-side sort was slow, hard on the sorters, and delayed traffic in the village. Waste could be comingled at collection and sorted later in the process. RF stated around 95% of waste is recyclable at the moment but 30% of waste is food waste. IC asked about the old waste system which was still being used at Chelston Meadow. RF confirmed 90% is recycled and 10% incinerated there. JB noted reports that Torr Quarry was not accepting all waste and was at times turning residents away. If parishioners experienced a problem with this, they should contact him.

The Slapton Line Partnership [SLP] met on Tuesday 19th October and formal minutes are awaited. Remedial works will be started to shore up the road by placing rocks as ballast in suitable places. This will retard erosion but not save the road from a major storm. The MP attended the meeting and asked for a plan to be put together to take to parliament to protect and promote the future of the road. GC had attended and his informal notes are included under 1021/11.

The steps at Strete Gate have not been replaced despite repeated PC appeals and RF reported that the officer responsible had decided not to do the work. Councillors observed there is a health and safety issue here with access to the beach and walking on the road. **RF asked PH to send an email to the officer [Dan Field] expressing concerns. RF will also take the new Chief Executive of the Council to visit the site. The report was received.**

1021/1APOLOGIES – None were received.

1021/2MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 16 September 2021

The above minutes were AGREED as a true and correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

1021/3DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Parish Councillors were invited to declare any unregistered or other interest, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting. **None were declared.**

1021/4 PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

Planning applications consulted on. To discuss and respond to South Hams District Council on

1624/21/HHO READVERTISEMENT (Revised plans received) Householder application for demolition of existing entrance conservatory and creation of new entrance extension, addition of garden room extension & day room extension and internal and landscaping works. **Tallis Rock Vicarage Lane Strete TQ6 0RN.**

A full discussion took place. It was resolved to respond stating:

‘Councillors discussed the revised plans in some depth. It was felt the plans improved on the earlier ones submitted in respect of the extent of glass and the roofing and overall were better than before. In summary three councillors were in support, one wouldn’t object and three others had no comment.’

Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] with SHDC. SHDC issued a draft MOU on 13th September as a basis to govern its relationship with parishes on planning matters.

Resolved to respond to SHDC to emphasise the response times to planning applications and amendments were too short, in particular the latter at 21 days. A preferred timescale of 35 days for responses is requested. A number of other suggestions to improve the planning process are included in the Council's review which will be sent with this response. The Council felt it was not listened to and correspondence was one-sided.

Other planning matters. Blindwells: RC reiterated a number of concerns over this development. Correspondence with SHDC planners on a number of matters since March had not been answered. This correspondence includes concern over the omission of the approved Strete neighbourhood plan in making planning decisions especially on second homes. Also, correspondence on behalf of a parishioner who raised concerns over a wayleave to his property in the approved application. And also, a September letter asking confirmation on the lapse of permission granted on one application and a related s106 grant. **Resolved: RF promised to chase up outstanding correspondence with planners. JB suggested the Council copy in Cllr Judy Pearce on any correspondence as the councillor who oversees the planning department. RC said he would send his email of 14th October to Cllr Judy Pearce and say RF has emailed the head of planning and not had a reply.**

1021/5 UPDATES ON STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

Council targets agreed for 2021/22 year.

No	Project	Target	Resolved - latest
1	Night Landing Site for Air Ambulance.	Operational by May '22	Resolved: KG will give the £1,010.47 raised for the new site by cheque or cash to the Clerk to pay into the reserve account. Discussion on sites is ongoing.
2	Enhanced vehicle Speed Control measures in the village.	Operational by May '22	This was discussed at the site meeting on Tuesday 19 th October. The meeting notes are in 1021/9.
3	Raise Awareness of any forthcoming Green Grants for domestic heating, insulation etc.	When grants are available	Drop-in event in Village Hall probably a Saturday in November or January. CAB energy advisors to talk on green grants and improvements. 90,000 £5k grants toward heat source pumps over 3 years and a boiler upgrade scheme. Letter drop to be done to assess interest. Resolved GC to confirm when the CAB can attend. PH to run off 300 copies of the Climate Change and Sustainability leaflet to post.
4	Secure electric vehicle public charging facility in the village.	Operational by May '22	This is ongoing.
5	Identify sites for tree planting in the village.	Plant trees in winter 21/22	This is ongoing.

6	Agree and sign up to an Action Statement on the Climate Change Emergency.	August 21 Meeting	A parishioner asked the Council to endorse the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill going through parliament. The resolution follows.
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Resolution

Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill

At the meeting of Strete Parish Council held on 21st October 2021, the assembled members voted unanimously to pass a Motion submitted by a resident to support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill.

Preamble

The Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill is a private members' bill with cross-party support of 110 MPs and a growing number of local councils around the country. It would enshrine in law a commitment to deliver policy and action in line with the latest science - and with our government's own ambitions. It is the only proposed legislation which addresses the interconnected crises in climate and nature, with annual legally-binding targets to keep us on track.

The Council unanimously resolved to:

Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill.

Write to our local MP, the Right Honourable Anthony Mangnall MP, urging him to support the Bill. Notify the [CEE Bill Alliance](https://www.joinus@ceebill.uk) of this motion - joinus@ceebill.uk

Other matters.

Strete Gate is covered in 1021/11. Monument. Parishes are still to discuss and respond to Strete. GC felt there should be a meeting for the parishes and a representative of the Field Studies Council to iron out any issues. **Resolved to wait a month for responses and send out reminders with an invitation to convene a joint meeting of the parishes.**

The skip for garden waste. A skip with dimensions 6m² would cost £150 inc VAT. **Resolved RC would canvas interest for the skip plus any contributions from parishioners. If this is not successful then RF's funds could be used toward a skip. The canvas could be done by email or post-box in the post office with Andy's permission.**

Dogbin on Totnes Road. Resolved the dogbin will go up next week behind the Village sign. Signs could be put in the farmer's field to direct people to the location of the bin.

Right of way [Strete No 2]. The farmer had blocked this with electric fencing. **Resolved IC would have a word.** Councillors observed there needs to be signs from the Village VAS sign to the field entrance for safety purposes. **Resolved: RC to look into signage.**

Playpark. Resolved: IC will buy two new springs for the gate. Undergrowth needs cutting back on the side by the bungalows. GC will purchase *protectacoat* at £25 plus VAT plus delivery to coat the equipment.

1021/6(a) FINANCE

Six cheques were listed for payment on the agenda, invoices circulated before the meeting and invoices approved for payment at the meeting. Two later invoices were received before the meeting and sent to councillors to review. An additional two cheques were raised at the meeting [Cheques 1802 and 1803].

1796 – SLCC annual membership renewal £95.	1797 – Clerk salary October £266.25.
1798 – Annual playpark insurance £210 plus VAT. Paid by Clerk and reclaimed.	1799 – Kingsbridge Websites domain fee for 2 years £30. Paid by Clerk and reclaimed.
1800 – Safetylabel.co.uk 5 road safety signs total £20.94 plus VAT. Paid by Ralph Clark and reclaimed.	1801 – Strete Parish Hall September hire £30.
1802 – Ian Cumberlidge buddle hole maintenance April to October 2021 [24 hours] £480.	1803 – Devon Association of Local Councils – Clerk attendance on CILCA training programme £300 plus VAT.

It was proposed and AGREED by all present to authorise the payments as enumerated above.

1021/6(b) FINANCE

The Clerk presented the monitoring statements for October 2021. **It was resolved the monitoring statements would be put on the website and the noticeboards.**

1021/6(c) FINANCE

Cash at bank – £14,237.69CR Current account at 8/10/21, £10,298.66CR Business Reserve account at 8/10/21.

1021/6(d) FINANCE

A draft revised budget for 2021/22 was circulated along with a first draft for 2022/23. Councillors would look at the budgets and come back with bids in November. The Clerk agreed to revise the inflation factor used in certain budgets to CPI for September 2021 [3.1%] or higher as inflation may peak in Spring 2022.

1021/7UPDATE ON CONTRACTS

IC went through his paper on the Buddle hole contract which had been circulated earlier. **Resolved IC to mark up a map with the buddle hole sites. The Council to draw up a formal specification for the buddle hole work based on the paper produced by IC.**

1021/8 CLERK'S REPORT

Report submitted before the meeting. Banking. The Clerk confirmed with NatWest that the free Bankline online service includes parish councils. The waiting list is lengthy but, in the meantime, the Council must update the bank mandate as Bankline only uses four signatories. A resolution would have to be made at the meeting which would go with the mandate to NatWest for processing. This resolution follows. The Clerk would be the administrator and there would be two of four signatories to countersign payments being made. The likely set up would be to approve the payments at the meeting and then pay online straight after the meeting. The Clerk also looked at online banking with Lloyds but the Council would have to transfer the current account to Lloyds and then go through online set up which is also lengthy. **Resolved: to remain with NatWest for online banking. To update the bank mandate for four rather than six signatories and send this to NatWest. LN and RC volunteered to come off the mandate. That leaves KG, IC, DR and the Clerk. Resolved that the authorised signatories in the current mandate, for the accounts detailed in section 2, be changed in accordance with Sections 5 and 6 and the current mandate will continue as amended.**

CILCA course. The course will take roughly 200 hours. The training cost is £300 plus VAT for DALC and £410 for SLCC to register. The Clerk offered to pay the SLCC element to register as a student (£410) and reclaim in 2022/23 for budget purposes. **Resolved: The Council to fund the training element (£300 plus VAT) in 2021/22 and carry over the registration cost (£410) to 2022/23.**

St Michaels PCC. The Clerk attended the PCC meeting on 22nd September. The cost of the churchyard and grass cutting exceeds £1,000 per year. The Church resolved to request an increase in the Council grant toward this. The Clerk wrote to the treasurer to request a figure for the 2022/23 budget. The Church also recorded its thanks toward our chairman who repaired the organ cover. The next meeting is on 22nd November.

This was noted.

Bus shelter works. The bus shelter roof was damaged last month. Three quotes were asked for and one returned. The insurance excess is £125. **Resolved to accept the single quote returned in the sum of £70 from Chris Ellis.**

Devon Air Ambulance. The Clerk approached DCC on the use of the Village Green as a possible landing site. She spoke with Toby Russell of DAAT on practical issues to be addressed such as noise and the visual aspects of the lighting equipment. Toby will visit the Village Green to review the site. **This was noted. The report was received.**

1021/9CHAIR'S REPORT

Report submitted before the meeting. Bus Consultation by Devon County Following on from the National Bus Strategy consultation (which the PC took part in), during October Devon County Council have unveiled ambitious proposals to upgrade bus services and cut fares across Devon. The DCC Cabinet is set to approve a £34 million bid to the Government under its post-Covid improvement programme, Bus Back Better. The plans are part of a major public consultation exercise to be launched in Devon in November. They aim to make buses cheaper to use, greener, more frequent and more reliable and they are being developed in partnership with Devon's bus companies. Whilst Devon's towns and cities will form a major focus for improvements, there is a commitment that rural services will not be forgotten.

The new plan calls for greater integration with the rail and coach network in Devon and greater cooperation with other neighbouring councils to recognise that journeys often cross geographical boundaries. DCC agreed with local bus operators to work towards an "Enhanced Partnership" with Devon publishing a Bus Service Improvement Plan by the end of October. DCC is working with the bus companies to ensure more vehicles are zero emission although this is said to be more difficult in rural Devon than in a city because of the mileage range that is required. The improvement plan will also provide opportunities to continue to work with Devon's community transport groups.

The PC's written response submitted in July lobbied for greater flexibility and shorter routes thus allowing for better frequency intervals, the extension of the Dartmouth town service to the outlying villages and a more modern (and so less polluting) fleet to be assigned to country routes and not just towns. Let's see what transpires .

Bus Shelter The bus shelter opposite the pub car park has been damaged again by some form of vehicle. Repairs will be put in hand – there may be a need for an insurance claim as the shelter is a Parish Council asset.

Road Maintenance and road safety. The PC is still in discussion with Devon Highways to have remedial work carried out, and the situation is on the agenda for discussion at the October PC meeting. Finally, following lobbying of Devon Highways via Julian Brazil, the submission of a PowerPoint presentation explaining the situation in Strete and a proposal to attend the Traffic Commissioner's meeting in Exeter to make our case more forcefully, we have some progress. The South Hams Area Roads Engineer has agreed to a site meeting, which will take place on Tuesday 19th October. We have the attention of Devon Highways regarding the PC's concerns about speeding and road safety in the village, and in particular at the Totnes Road entrance. We expect to have a full discussion about the placement of speed restriction signs and options for traffic calming. Following receipt of a professional opinion from Highways we will then need to consult with the village residents about the recommendations before any further action is taken. We already have an offer to renew the rumble strips and road markings at Manor Farm.

HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Anniversary It has been confirmed that the village will take part in the Nationwide Beacon lighting event on Thursday 2nd June 2022 at 21.15 hours, using the beacon at Manor Farm (with the kind permission of Kate Gill). This will be a public event, and Kate tells us that she hopes to be able to offer refreshments afterwards, Covid permitting. The PC proposes to take a co-ordination role, bringing together those organisations in the village who have an interest so that the holiday weekend in early June 22 can be planned out. The Government has issued guidance about organising street parties and the insurance requirements (minimal for private events).

Slapton Line Partnership Two Parish Councillors attended a Slapton Line Partnership meeting on 12th October by Zoom. This was the first meeting held since January, and was also attended by Anthony Mangnall MP and other Council leaders. I am told that a sensible assessment of priorities was carried out. There was apparently agreement that as well as a requirement for a long-term adaptation plan, which had already been worked on, there was also a need for a plan to deal with maximum support for maintaining the fabric of the road for as long as possible. Mr Mangnall will apparently oversee the preparation of the latter plan, for use in Parliamentary discussions. We await receipt of the formal minutes with interest.

Proposed relocation of the Slapton Line Memorial A first draft maintenance agreement proposing cost sharing of maintenance and responsibilities (once relocation is completed) between six Parish Councils and the Field Studies Council has been prepared. The draft document has been circulated to the proposed participants and also to the members of the Slapton Line Partnership. At this stage the participants have been asked to provide an early indication if they agree (or not) with the principles laid out in the document. Responses are awaited, but are expected to take some weeks to appear, as the proposals will be discussed at PC meetings which are held monthly. The capital costs of relocating the monument will be met by DCC, who have budget available for the work.

Waste Collections Within the past week SHDC has confirmed that the collection of green waste (brown bins) will remain suspended until the Spring of 2022 because of the shortage of HGV drivers at their contractors. The PC recognises that this will be a disappointment to many residents, many of whom have a backlog of autumn trimmings which they need to dispose of.

We will continue to press Councillor Foss and SHDC to exert whatever leverage they can on their contractor to reinstate this service as soon as possible. Whilst we understand that the service is non-statutory, it remains the case that the green waste collection was funded from public funds, and at the very least, an adjustment to Council Tax will be necessary, as has happened in other Councils (e.g., Bristol).

The subject is on the agenda for discussion at the October PC meeting, where we hope to discuss and agree an alternative private arrangement which will at least provide (at some cost) a bulk green disposal service for those residents who wish to contribute. We understand that the conversion of more householders to the new system of boxes and bags remains suspended until the present rollout householders have a reliable smooth arrangement.

Night Landing Site for the Devon Air Ambulance It has been confirmed that the proposed site at Manor Farm has been withdrawn. At the September PC meeting your Parish Council reconfirmed their wish to see the establishment of a night landing site in the village as soon as possible and has vowed to press ahead immediately to identify an alternative site.

We have now carried out some preliminary screening work and have issued enquiries to various landowners in the village, concerning their willingness to allow certain parcels of land which meet the DAAT criteria to be used. Some replies to our enquiries have been received, but a couple of critical ones are still awaited. Once we have a possible short list, we shall invite the DAAT representative to inspect the sites and report on suitability.

The funds raised by public subscription some years ago, (which amount to just over £1,000) have been identified. They will be taken over by the Parish Council on behalf of the Community and will be put towards the costs involved in equipping the new site. The monies will be made visible and be accounted for in the Parish Council accounts. Some further fund-raising and grant application work will be needed once the final site and cost estimate is known. However, given the urgency with which completion of this vital project is needed, the Parish Council proposes to dip into reserves in order to fund the work pending further fundraising, thereby minimising any further delay.

Coronavirus Pandemic Levels of infection remain high in the South Hams. In the week 8th to 14th October the infection rate was 351 cases per 100,000, an increase of 51 on the previous week. The average rate in England for the same period was 458 per 100,000. However, in the same week, 85% of persons over 12 years old in the South Hams have had one dose of vaccine, and 80% are 'double jabbed', The pandemic is most certainly not over, and a return to previous levels of precaution may prove to be necessary. On a brighter note, the annual influenza immunisation programme is well under way, together with the Coronavirus booster jab programme for vulnerable citizens. If you are invited to join for these programmes, I would urge every Strete resident to accept and have the jabs. In Strete, the NHS Testing van continues to visit on Monday afternoons in the Parish Church Car Park and will offer advice on testing to everyone who turns up.

Road Safety Together with Julian Brazil, Ralph and I met John Fewings (South Hams Area Roads Engineer at Devon Highways) and Lisa Edmonds the local Roads Officer at 10am on Tuesday 19th October at the bottle bank in Strete. We thanked the attendees for turning out in person to meet us at last and explained that speeding in the village had

become a major concern of the Parish Council. We stated that the main problem was encountered at the Totnes Road entrance to the village and using a copy of our pre-prepared presentation, we explained the various hazards and speed limits present on the route. Observations made during lockdown led us to conclude that the speeding problem was largely caused by local drivers as much as visitors. We mentioned that a couple of complaints had been received from residents regarding 'near misses' with pedestrians and that the Parish Council had tried a number of initiatives, including an education programme to explain why the 20mph limit was in place. Finally, we made the point that the PC had concluded that only physical measures to calm traffic were likely to be effective and that we were seeking the professional advice of the Highways officers to improve the approach to the village on the Totnes Road. There followed a wide-ranging discussion about policy matters surrounding the adoption of 20mph restrictions. Much of the DCC's response concerned the lack of available budget to be able to implement improvements at the present time. It was finally agreed that: -

- The rumble strips and road marking roundels would be renewed (this has been instructed by Lisa on DCC's contractor Glendinning in August and will be chased up).
- A gateway would be appropriate for the approach, located at the approximate position of the Strete village sign and 20mph speed limit. This might take the form of barriers on the verges and line markings on the road to give the impression of the narrowing of the road at that point (although there would be no actual narrowing). DCC said that there was a waiting list of Parishes wishing similar improvements, and Strete would be added to it. The constraint was lack of budget. DCC will deal with the design and implementation of this improvement.
- Following installation of such a barrier, consideration could be given to relocating the VAS sign further down the road towards the Start Bay estate entrance, to act as a repeater.
- The Strete VAS sign is enforceable by law. Strete PC should lobby the Police to carry out regular speed checks.

Following the discussion on speeding, other matters were raised and briefly discussed:

- Fuge Road resurfacing. DCC outright refused the PC's request that the road be included in the 2022 surface dressing programme. The grounds stated were lack of priority in the face of budget rationing, and that repairs to the surface had been made in 2017 but the road had not been properly cleaned by the local farmers since and hence had deteriorated to a poor state. We made the point that the PC had arranged for the farmers to cut the hedges and had swept the road to clear up at Parish expense. The answer from DCC was unchanged.
- Road verge ploughing. There appears to be a dispute between DCC Highways and SHDC about the extent of sweeping being undertaken by the District Council. Insufficient road sweeping frequency is causing a build-up of debris in the verges of the roads, which is then impeding DCC ploughing to remove vegetation. Once again, budget constraints are at the heart of the matter as the limited budget available for ploughing means that less and less mileage is being ploughed. We explained that Strete had invested in additional sweeping to deal with the issue at PC expense and we were expecting that ploughing in the village should resume. We appealed to Julian to help sort out the interface between SHDC and DCC over this matter. **The Chair's report was received.**

1021/10 CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY

This was dealt with in 1021/5.

1021/11 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

PH. This report was given under 1021/9.

KG. Slapton Line Partnership and AONB. KG reported on the 60th anniversary celebration of the founding of the AONB in South Devon held at King Edward VI Community College. The AONB team set out to raise funds for fun for 60 young carers to celebrate 60 years of the AONB. The idea enabled youngsters especially young carers to enjoy our very special area with the idea that they should want others to be able to enjoy the same unspoiled countryside in another 60 years' time. They were encouraged to draw pictures of the sights they saw on their walks along the coastal footpath.

LN. Roads: hedges, litter and local transport. There has been a lot of discussion about the Fuge Road and it would be useful to discuss it at the meeting particularly the surface of the road but also a sign to go on the road at the junction where it goes down to Giles Halliwell's house and Snail's Castle and the use of a small sweeper on the section down to Snail's Castle. I also notice the painted markings for 20 mph on the road surface particularly on the A379 are becoming very worn. I propose to organise a litter pick on Saturday 6 November if everyone is in agreement. **Resolved: LN will check with SHDC on their small sweeper to sweep at Orestone and Snails Castle.**

DR. Health and safety, Parish Hall liaison. Monitoring of the defibrillator continues and the old phone box has had its bi annual spring clean. I have spoken with South West Ambulance and can confirm that a Defibrillator Training Event has now been planned for Tuesday 9th November in the Village Hall beginning at 6.30. These evenings usually last for between an hour and an hour and a half. Posters will be distributed around the village and in the post office. Perhaps something could be posted on the village web site. **The Village Hall** is now fully operational with a number of events planned for the rest of the year. Progress is being made with designing a new website, but already a few bookings are trickling in. An order has been placed for a new garage door. Enquiries have been made with DCC re the salt mountain which the parish hall committee has asked to be removed. DCC will not take back any salt, but suggest that we keep a small amount and possibly offer it to other parish councils or possibly try and find alternative storage possibly in a farmer's barn. This I am following up. Poo and litter bins continue to be collected on a regular basis without any problems.

IC. Rights of Way, Tree warden, Strete Gate and Playpark. Play Park. Strete Gate; - Nothing very much to report about Strete Gate, other than, as previously, there has been NO activity regarding the re-instatement of the Beach-access steps. Beach usage has slackened off considerably, but I have had a number of complaints regarding dog-fouling on the beach. A lot of folks are NOT picking up after dogs. There also seems to be a "build-up" of rubbish/unwanted goods dumped by the dog-waste bin adjacent to the loo block. There is a limit to how much SHDC will take, unless asked to do so. More rubber tyre marks on carpark left by "sad goons"! **Footpaths/Bridle ways;** - Mostly OK but duly noted re Graham's comment about quad bike/4X4 on Prideaux Lane. **Tree warden.** Nothing to report re trees at present. **Play Park;** this was covered in 1021/5.

RC. Planning and Neighbourhood Plan, road maintenance including sweeping and Kings Arms liaison. Neighbourhood Plan. An Examiner has been appointed to follow the necessary procedures in respect of the NP Amendment. It is hoped this will be resolved by the next PC meeting.

The Kings Arms. Strete Community Pub Ltd (SCPL) held its first Annual General Meeting on 2nd October in the Parish Hall. All shareholders were invited. The meeting was well received by all attending.

A new chef has been appointed, Stephen Seaward. Steve has been the chef at the Sportsman's Arms for several years and has joined the Kings Arms team with the objective of providing fresh, simple, home-made food for the community and visitors. During the period of no chef David stepped in with a fortnightly offering of Fish & Chips on Fridays and Lisa provided tasty specials.

Regrettably, Lisa (Front of House Manager), decided to move on but, again with support from David, the committed, flexible team are stepping up to ensure service at the pub is maintained. Monthly events are ongoing and Steve plans to slowly build momentum with menu choices and will be responsible for the fortnightly offering of fish and chips from November. Events information is posted on <https://kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk/> and <https://www.facebook.com/kingsarmsatstrete/> as well as by email to all subscribers to the Kings Arms email.

Fuge Road – Road Surface Condition. Correspondence in the hope of persuading Devon Highways to surface dress Fuge Road in Spring 2022 to protect the route from total failure has been submitted to Julian Brazil with copies to representatives of Devon County Council and Devon Highways. Julian acknowledged the correspondence and has asked for a response from Devon County Council although he is not confident that they will address the problem.

Village Road Sweeping. The next date for village road sweeping is Tuesday 9th November starting at 9am in Start Bay Park. Residents are asked to remove their vehicles from the highway on this day to allow the sweeper driver clear access on all the routes in the village. RC will be away until the 8th November so volunteers will need to do the wind-screen mail leafletting. PH volunteered.

Resolved: RC will email the householder at Magnolia Cottage with a quote for the wall works at £620 plus extras to around £750. The Council would not be able to contribute.

GC. Village Green, Prideaux Lane, campervans and carparks, social care and Slapton Line partnership. Village Green. Last cut waited for village green in October. Field OK and recovering from strange weather conditions. The buddleias in the village field copse have finished flowering and we agreed to prune them. Work morning needed and Ian/David/Graham to volunteer.

Slapton Line Partnership - A well-attended and very useful Zoom meeting, including chair of SHDC, MP, local DC and CC councillors and representatives of various agencies, parish and town councillors. **Coastal Defences.** Wide discussion about the balance of environmental protection and maintenance of road network. Clear it is inevitable that the line will eventually be breached, and that it is therefore necessary to create a plan for managing that. But also, clear that we can take steps to maintain the road for as long as possible. This is the position of SHDC, our MP, local councillors, as loss of road will be

a disaster for local people and Slapton in particular. Keep road as long as possible by all available means is overall view. There were a variety of reactions to this. Natural England take a 'no more consent for any hard line repairing' position, EA and AONB. similar. But many felt that a default position of doing nothing is not acceptable. Some opinion that we are being bullied by quangos. Examples of new technological work e.g., at Beesands and elsewhere suggest there are options. Suggestions of alternative routes say using improved back lanes seem to be impractical and ineffective. MP to meet with key officials to draw up a proposal for support to be put to Westminster, as it will take Parliamentary approval for some of the proposals to be put in place. Positive action prompted by MP. Many are critical of the long delays in appointing a manager for partnership after 2 years which is not a priority and has just been put off.

Monument delays have been largely DCC delays, now deciding to wait until maintenance agreement in place before they get on and do anything. This now being done, suspicion that DCC will sit on it still. DCC claim there is a lot less money available than we have been led to believe and it will cost them money. FSC will postpone any consideration of issue until after maintenance agreement is decided at a meeting of parishes asap. Certain reluctance here too sensed. **Social care.** The Citizens Advice provision is changing a bit as the Townstall Hall is not available on Fridays. Citizens Advice is switching to TQ6 community Partnership Hub in Dartmouth town, at the side of Quba shop on Fridays as soon as building work is finished. Details to be put on noticeboard and website plus some circulars. Support can be by phone, video link or webchat. **Reports were received.**

1021/12 CORRESPONDENCE

RC mentioned an email from a parishioner at Matts Point about a blocked drain which was overflowing down to the house. **Resolved RC will contact Lisa Edmonds on this.**

1021/13 OTHER BUSINESS

None was raised.

1021/14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 18th November 2021. Venue in the Parish Hall unless otherwise advised. **THE MEETING WAS CLOSED** at 9. 56 p.m.

Signed: Cllr Peter Hales (Chair) Dated: 18th NOVEMBER 2021

Stretewise Magazine Subscription 2022



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UNIVERSILLY CHALLENGED

Q1: What was the most popular girls name in the UK in 2019?

Q2: What is the capital of Chile?

Q3: How many countries still have the shilling as currency?

Q4: Which English city was once known as Duroliponte?

Q5: What does IPA stand for?

Q6: In which year was Joan of Arc burned at the stake?

Q7: What year was the very first model of the iPhone released?

Q8: When was the company Nike founded?

Q9: Which city in India would you find the Taj Mahal in?

Q10: Which two countries share the longest international border?

Q11: What is a female donkey called?

Q12: What nationality was sculptor Alberto Giacometti?

Q13: Who invented Cat's Eyes in 1934 to improve road safety?

Q14: What is the lifespan of a dragonfly?

Q15: What did Al Capone's business card state his occupation was?

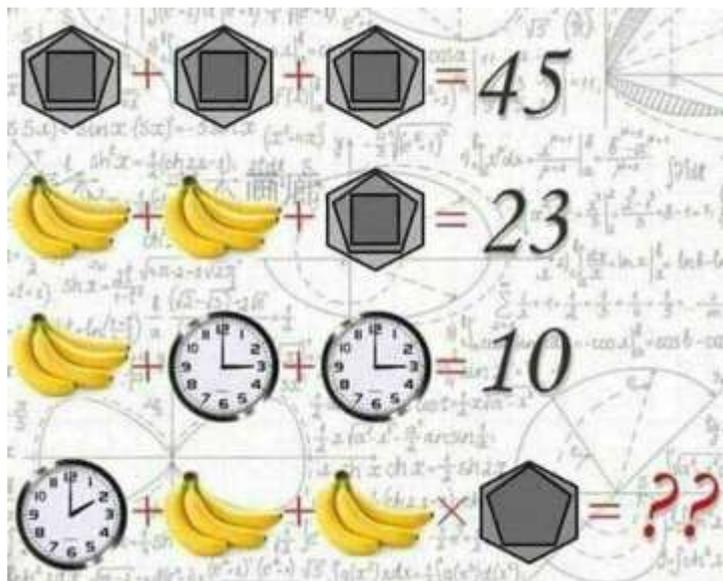
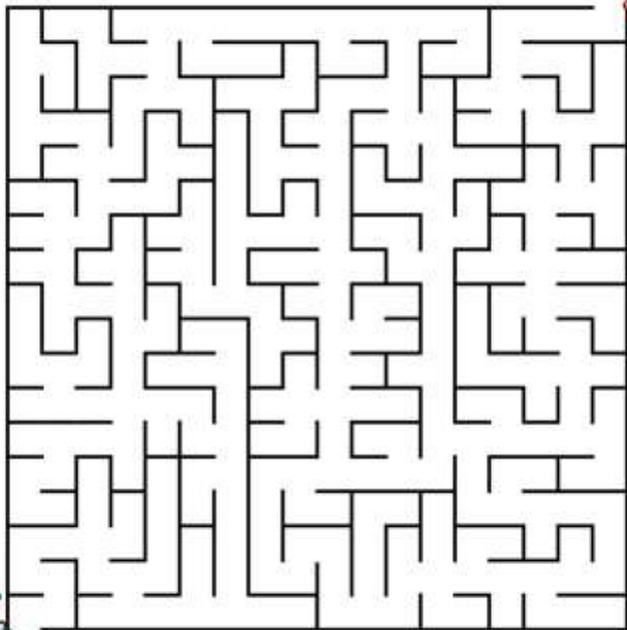
Q16: Who was Prime Minister of Great Britain from 1841-1846?

Q17: What is the chemical symbol for silver?

Q18: What year was William Shakespeare born.

Answers on page 72

Help Santa find his way to deliver the presents under the tree





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EVENTS

Quiz Night with Pasty Supper on Friday, 15th October: Jonathan Kendall was the Quiz Master and Joan kept the score. After four rounds there was a break when the food was served and the bar re-opened. There was also a challenging sheet on which there were parts of logos that had to be recognised - or not! There then followed four more rounds. After checking all the scores the winning team members were each presented with £5.00 vouchers to be spent in the village shop. It was a most enjoyable, social evening.

Christmas Fayre and Coffee Morning held on Saturday, 13th November: There was a good variety of tables: Alison's miscellaneous items, homemade soft furnishings, jewellery, spa products, carved wood items, Juliet's paintings, books, cakes, charity Christmas cards, Nick's mounted photos, basket ware and Christmas decorations. Coffee, tea and biscuits were also served and there was much chatter and social interaction all morning.

Christmas Party (due to be held on Saturday, 11th December)

RELUCTANTLY CANCELLED. INSTEAD: Grand Christmas Draw, with a first prize of £100. Tickets are on sale at the Village Shop so please support this venture and that prize, or one of many others, could be yours! The Draw will take place at The Kings Arms on Wednesday, 15th December

OTHER NEWS: Duke of Edinburgh Award You may remember that in one of the hall entries for Stretewise it was mentioned that a boy in the village, Shea, was doing the volunteer part of his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award at the hall. He was also asked to produce the following short account of the award.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme was launched in the UK in 1956 by the Duke himself. It aims to develop the "whole person" by building physical fitness, practical skills and team-working abilities. 14 - 16 year-olds can do a D of E programme at one of three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, leads to a Bronze, Silver or Gold D of E Award. There are four sections to complete at Bronze and Silver level and five at Gold. They involve helping the community/environment, becoming fitter, developing new skills, planning, training for and completing an expedition and for Gold only, working with a team on a residential activity. Any young person can do their D of E - regardless of ability, gender, background or location. It's all about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. You have fun, make friends, improve self-esteem and build confidence. You gain essential skills and attributes for work and life such as resilience, problem-solving, team work, communication and drive, thus enhancing CVs, university and job applications. Top employers recognise the work-ready skills Award holders bring to their business.

NB Shea has now passed all sections for his Bronze Award.

Christmas Fayre and Coffee Morning

Strete Parish Hall

Thank you
Nick Shepherd
for the pictures



Note from Penny (771005/p.g.penhale@hotmail.com): if you have any ideas for future events in the hall or you know of anyone needing a venue for a party, class, reception, etc, please let her know.

On behalf of the Parish Hall Committee best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Stretwiser Factoids

December 1, 1640 - A nationalist revolution in Portugal led to independence from Spain as the Spanish garrisons were driven out of Portugal.

December 2, 1852 - The Second Empire was proclaimed in France with Napoleon III as emperor.

December 4, 1791 - The Observer, now the oldest Sunday newspaper in the world, was first published in Britain.

December 6, 1921 - The Irish Free State became an independent member of the British Commonwealth.

December 11, 1901 - The first transatlantic radio signal was transmitted by Guglielmo Marconi from Cornwall, **England, to St. John's, Newfoundland.**

December 13, 1577 - Francis Drake departed Plymouth, England, in the Golden Hind on his voyage around the world.

December 13, 1991 - North and South Korea signed a treaty of reconciliation and nonaggression which also formally ended the Korean War, although actual fighting had ceased in 1953.

December 14, 1918 - British women voted for the first time in a general election and were allowed to run for office.

December 21 1972 - East and West Germany established diplomatic ties, ending nearly two decades of Cold War hostility and paving the way for international recognition of East Germany.

December 25, 1066 - William the Conqueror was crowned King of England after he had invaded England from France, defeated and killed King Harold at the Battle of Hastings, then marched on London.

January 1, 1660 - Samuel Pepys began his famous diary in which he chronicled life in London including the Great Plague of 1664-65 and the Great Fire of 1666.

January 3, 1959 - Alaska was admitted as the 49th U.S. state with a land mass almost one-fifth the size of the lower 48 states together.

January 7, 1714 - A patent was issued for the first typewriter designed by British inventor Henry Mill.

January 10, 1912 - The flying boat airplane, invented by Glenn Curtiss, made its first flight at Hammondsport, New York.

January 15, 1535 - Henry VIII became Supreme Head of the Church in England as a result of the Act of Supremacy following his break with Rome.

January 17, 1773 - The ship Resolution, sailing under Captain James Cook, became the first vessel to cross the Antarctic Circle.

January 24, 41 AD - Roman Emperor Caligula was assassinated at the Palatine Games by his own guard after a reign of just four years.

January 28, 1807 - London becomes the first city in the world to be lit by gas lights.

January 29, 1596 - The most famous English seaman of the Elizabethan era, Sir Frances Drake, is buried at sea.





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Royal Mail

Royal Mail Christmas 2021 nativity stamps

The 2021 Christmas stamp collection, featuring Nativity scenes by
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Stretewise Crossword - Answers

Across 1: Christmastide 8: Googles 9: Pea 10: Ern 11: Inch 12: Spied 13: Icon
14: Raisin 15: Dome 16: Oil 17: Vie 18: Negated 19: Alter 20: Endearment

Down 1: Compassionate 2: Recapitulated 3: Screwdriver 4: Magnificent 5: Stoic
6: Idle 7: Ensign 12: Hind 17: Octet 18: Endear 21: Again

Universilly Challenged Answers

Q1: Olivia. Q2: Santiago Q3: Four—Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Somalia.
Q4: Cambridge. Q5: Indian Pale Ale Q6: 1431. Q7: 2007. Q8:1971 Q9: Agra
Q10: Canada and the USA Q11: Jenny. Q12: Swiss. Q13: Percy Shaw. Q14: 24 hours
Q15: A used furniture salesman. Q16: Robert Peel. Q17: Ag. Q18: 1564.

PROBUS CLUB OF STOKE FLEMING AND DISTRICT

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Your local Probus Club has been in existence since 1984. It was initiated at the Stoke Lodge Hotel at Stoke Fleming and it has been their 'home' ever since.

During the early years our membership grew and now embraces all the villages of Stoke Fleming, Blackawton, Strete, Slapton, Dittisham and also members from Dartmouth.

We do however continue in strength and maintain an interesting and varied selection of carefully chosen speakers and our existing membership enjoy meeting on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at the Stoke Lodge Hotel. The first meeting in the month being 10.30am for coffee, 11.00 am the speaker and 12.30pm lunch. The second 10.30am coffee and speaker at 11.00am.

Our programme until January 2022 is as follows:

December 8th Lunch JIM REDMAN "Albert, Harold & Others"

January 14th No meeting due to holidays of Stoke Lodge Hotel

January 26th Lunch DAVID WILLS "Megalithic Gobekli-Tepe
A Technologically Important Discovery

FOLLOWED BY AGM

Why not be our guest? Our Club is keen to attract new members. **Come** and join us and receive a warm welcome from our members. For more information please feel free to contact **John Light** on **834861** or email **johnlight1@gmail.com**

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All contributions to the magazine are welcome:

Recipes, Crosswords (not cryptic) articles, letters,

but 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: 27 Start Bay Park, Strete, TQ6 0RY.

Copy deadline for the next issue February— March will be 23rd January 2022.

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