

# STRETEWISE

The Village Magazine



Photo by Juho Luomala

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

email: [stretewise@outlook.com](mailto:stretewise@outlook.com)

# QUIZ

## Night & Pasty

**Saturday**  
**1<sup>st</sup> February**

**Strete Village Hall**  
**7pm**

**Proceeds to cover  
maintenance costs  
at the Hall**

**Strete Hall is a  
registered charity: 270409**

**Cash Bar**

**Tickets**  
**£8.00**

**Deadline for purchasing tickets Wednesday 29th January  
(to allow for catering confirmation)**

**Tickets available from Strete Village Shop**





The Butterfly Alphabet is a photographic work by the Norwegian naturalist Kjell Bloch Sandved. Sandved's idea of finding all 26 letters of the alphabet and the numbers 0 to 9 in the patterns on the wings of butterflies, after searching for the forms for over 24 years, he finished in 1975 and published it in the Smithsonian Magazine.

# Strete Chapel

## Happy New Year from the fellowship to all in the village!

We are continuing to meet every Sunday at 11am in the chapel building. The current refurbishments are ongoing and we look forward to sharing with you the progress made in coming weeks.

As always, we start the new year with a new chapel motto. Each year a member of the congregation brings a verse that is special to them. This year was the turn of our faithful pianist Anthony Wood.

### LOOKING UNTO JESUS...

Behold! The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

John 1 v 29 (NKJV)



We all enjoyed a wonderful festive season with lots of opportunity to worship and have fellowship together. The carol service was a highlight where we were able to join together and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Thank you to all of those who worked hard to make this service possible. A special thank you to the children

who took part in a variety of ways. Tom and Josh with their solo performances on the oboe and trumpet. All the children who did the song and dance. They were also able to showcase their artwork depicting the Christmas story.



At the end of the service, we were able to celebrate the children's efforts throughout the year with prize giving. Each week at Young Searchers the children can earn points. This year Tom got the most points and received an additional gift for this achievement. The competition between the children whilst friendly remains high!

**Young Searchers continues to meet every Thursday from 5-6pm in Strete Chapel. Please contact us at [stretchapel@gmail.com](mailto:stretchapel@gmail.com) or pop in to see us.**





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## St. Michael's

Welcome to St Michael's Church, Strete; a rural coastal village  
in the beautiful South Hams.

We hold services each Sunday morning at 11am,  
(but not on a 5th Sunday) these will be Morning Worship and usually  
a Holy Communion service on the 3rd Sunday, but this varies.  
If you would like to find out more, please do contact us, we'd love  
to hear from you!

Rev Matt Gorton is supported by a wonderful selection of very  
talented and committed Readers, Lay preachers and visiting Clergy,  
who look forward to welcoming both regular members of the  
congregation and visitors who may be staying in the area or seeing  
family, or just passing through this beautiful area of the South Hams.

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The Village Hall is available to hire for events, clubs and activities. Book through Danni Brien on 07841 505797

## **STRETE VILLAGE HALL EVENTS**

**1/**

### **ANNUAL QUIZ and PASTY EVENING**

**SATURDAY, 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY, 7.00pm.**

**Doors open 6.45pm**

**Tickets £8.00 on sale at the Village Shop.**

**The present holders of the trophy are The Platters.**

There will be pasties and baked beans for supper during the interval and promises have been made that all will go well in the kitchen this time!

**2/**

### **SEA SHANTIES from MIZZEN LIST and SUPPER**

**SATURDAY, 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH, 7.00pm.**

**Doors open 6.45pm**

**Tickets £12.50 will be on sale at the Village Shop from beginning of March**

**3/**

### **VE (Victory in Europe) 80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY TEA PARTY**

**THURSDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2.00-4.00pm**

**NB more details about this event will follow later**

**4/**

### **STRETE VILLAGE DAY**

**SATURDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST**

**NB if you would like to help with this fantastic event, please let Penny know.**

**771005/p.g.penhale@hotmail.com**

We have received reports of cold callers offering roofing/home maintenance services in the Torquay area.

If you want work doing in your home or garden please consider the following advice:

- Don't agree to work offered by unsolicited doorstep callers.
- Don't rely on posts or recommendations on social media sites without doing your own research.
- Don't be swayed by glossy flyers or impressive websites as they may not show the trader's own work.
- Don't pay cash or agree to be taken to the bank or immediately transfer money before any work is started.
- Don't be rushed into making a decision.

Do:

- Get three written quotes from reputable businesses.
- Research the companies you're looking to use e.g. ask for references and look online.
- Ask friends and family to recommend local traders or search via Buy with confidence
- Decide who to use in your own time and make sure you have confidence in their skills and abilities.
- Ask to see professional qualifications, public liability insurance and if applicable waste carriers licence.
- Make sure you have full contact details for a tradesperson not just a mobile phone number.
- Check if you're entitled to your 14-day cooling-off period

If someone knocks on your door and you are not sure, don't open the door.

If you are concerned someone is at risk, always call the police.

If you are concerned rogue traders are operating in your area, always report it.

If a company claims to be working with a local council, contact the local council yourself to check this is true.

If you have concerns, or have any information please contact Trading Standards or police by phoning 101, if possible, please make a note of any descriptions and vehicle registrations seen.

Please phone 999 if immediate/or a crime is taking place.

Please pass this information on to neighbours.



Cold callers, South Devon

I have recently received emails asking for my personal details regarding ordering prescriptions on-line via Pharmacy2U.

Looking at the email addresses made me suspicious.

On-line Pharmacy info@mail.visiterungis.com

On-line Pharmacy info.rvlut@clinicaalexandrelima.com

On-line Prescriptions info.SRA@twoclassygals.ghost-services161.com

This one really made me think again. (Two classy gals)

I checked with the Pharmacy2U contact and they confirmed the emails are not from them and are probably a scam. No reflection on Pharmacy2U and are probably a very effective business.

But be aware.

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Here we are in winter and what better place to spend time in the depths of winter than a cosy village pub with wonderful views of the bright chilly skies or the raging storms...

There are plenty of other reasons to visit the Kings Arms this February when normal Winter Hours resume on the 5th, so the pub is once

again open Wednesday to Sunday (full details below).

The team are always looking to try different things and a new regular event starts in February – **The Adventure Series with Monty Halls**. A former Royal Marines Officer, Monty lives locally and regularly visits the pub. He is a British TV broadcaster, marine biologist and speaker, best known for his BBC Great Escape series and C5's My family and the Galapagos. We are a very fortunate to have Monty offer to lead a series of evenings in which he invites various adventure friends to speak about their amazing experiences around the world. The first of the series on February 13<sup>th</sup> starts with Monty Halls offering *A Lifetime of Adventure: trials, trails, tribulations and tall tales from around the world*. Fascinating and funny, it is not to be missed. This is a ticketed event at £20 per ticket with a hot and cold buffet included. Starts 7.30pm.

Also, in the pipeline is what we are currently calling **The Really Big KA Fundraising Draw**. Buy a ticket and answer a question and you could win big...really big. This will offer enormous prizes that will appeal to people near and far. More will be announced in the next few weeks.

All of the Six Nations Rugby will be shown on the big screen starting with France versus Wales at 8.15pm on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> - followed by Scotland vs Italy at 2.15pm and Ireland vs England at 4.45pm on Saturday 1st February. For each Saturday gameday, **Artisan Pizzas** will be at the pub offering their wonderful pizzas from 2.20pm to 5.30pm, and when the kitchen re-opens at 5.30pm you can get your usual favourites like burgers and fish & chips.

The **Artisan Pizzas Pop-up** will also be available as usual each Wednesday when it is Jon's popular **Weekly Quiz**. The quiz starts at 7.30pm and there seems to be a different winner each week so it really is a quiz for everybody.

Because we moved back the January Open Mic Night, there are two **Open Mic Nights** this month, one on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> and one on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>. Starts 7.30pm, all players welcome.

Every Friday sees the popular Friday Night Lucky Number Draw and a lively crowd in the bar. The rules are simple. You have your number, it belongs to you. The prize is a £50 KA voucher. But you have to be in the pub to win, otherwise it is a Rollover.

For the romantics amongst you, there's even a Lucky Draw on Valentines Day, what better way to show someone how much you care....

It was packed to the rafters for the Bingo night before Christmas, with much fun and banter. The next **Bingo Night** will be Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March. An adrenaline fuelled night with loads of prizes to be won.

The subscription model has been reasonably well supported. As requested at the Shareholder AGM, work is being done to see how this might work with benefits for subscribers, allowing the business to better monetize the holiday seasons when there are many one-off visitors. More on this as soon as there is something specific to announce but if you are interested in subscribing - and more are needed - please contact the SCPL secretary Lisa Lyne, details below.

**The pub is always a great place for Sunday Roasts**, and despite changes in the kitchen these are still getting excellent reviews. One key Sunday to look forward to is **Mothers' Day** on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March. This is always busy so book ahead to avoid disappointment.

To book or ask a question just call on 01803 770027 or pop into the pub.

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[Facebook.com/kingsarmsatstrete](https://www.facebook.com/kingsarmsatstrete)

Or go to the website  
[www.kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk](http://www.kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk)

For other enquiries, please contact  
[info@kingsarmsatstrete](mailto:info@kingsarmsatstrete).

For SCPL matters contact Lisa Lyne  
on [lisa.lyne@kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk](mailto:lisa.lyne@kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk)

#### **Opening Hours:**

**Wednesday** Quiz & Pizzas 5-10pm

**Thursday** normal menu  
resumes 5-10pm

**Friday** 2-10pm, open right through  
for an early doors drink after work.

**Saturday** 12-10pm

**Sunday** 12-6pm with  
roasts served 12-4pm

the  
**Kings Arms**  
Community Pub

**What's On in February & March**

**Weekly Quiz & Pop Up Pizza** every Wednesday evening  
Win big with the **Friday Night Draw** every Friday  
The best reviewed **Sunday Roasts** every Sunday  
**All Six Nations** rugby games live at the KA  
**New!! The Adventure Series with Monty Halls** Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm  
**Open Mic Night** Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Feb & 20<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm  
**Bingo Night** Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March  
**St. Patricks Night** Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March  
**Mothers Day Sunday Roasts** 30<sup>th</sup> March  
Watch out for **The Really Big KA Fundraising Draw**. Coming Soon.

**Support your community pub.**  
**01803 770027**  
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# Support the Kings Arms

Subscribe today!

To Friends of the Kings Arms.

First and foremost, thank you for doing this, your support plays a crucial role in preserving our pub.

Restricted by our bank from offering a direct debit payment route, **we ask that you set up a [standing order](#) with your bank.**

This is almost as convenient, and importantly allows you to maintain your generous support while giving you full control over your donations.

A step-by-step guide for setting up a standing order is provided aside, and here is the detail you will need:

**Account Name:** Stretre Community Pub Limited

**Swift Code (BIC):** NWBKGB2L

**IBAN Number:** GB93NWBK60023571418024

**Sort Code:** 608301

**Account Number:** 20428277

Please also include the appropriate reference with your monthly payment, reflecting either £30 (gold), £20 (silver) or £10 (bronze) monthly payments.

**Reference:**  
GOLDDONATION  
SILVERDONATION  
BRONZEDONATION

Payment date: 1st day of each month

Ideally, we ask that you set up the standing order for the first day of each month, continuing indefinitely. If your circumstances change, you can easily modify or cancel your standing order at any time without providing notice - you will be in control.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to keeping the Kings Arms alive. Every contribution helps!

If you have questions or need help with setting up your standing order, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to help.

With huge appreciation,  
The Stretre Community Pub Limited Committee

## How to Set Up a Standing Order:

You can do this simply by visiting your local bank branch or calling your bank's customer service line, but for those preferring online banking...

1. Log in to your online banking or mobile banking app.
2. Look for an option like 'Payments' or 'Transfer money'.
3. Select 'Set up a standing order' or 'Regular payments'.
4. Enter the details given above, as requested.
5. Choose the amount you wish to donate monthly.
6. Set the payment date (1st of each month) and frequency (monthly).
7. Enter the appropriate reference - e.g., GOLDDONATION - in the reference field.
8. Select the end date as 'Until further notice' or leave it blank for an indefinite period.
9. Review all details - there's a lot of numbers there! - and confirm the standing order setup.

# A creation to be proud of.



Matthew made the wonderful new veg rack for Andy and Monica at the post office. If someone has a similar project they could get in touch with Matthew for a quote. Or some small gardening jobs.

To contact Matthew phone: 01803 770 634







*Christmas  
Retrospective*



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# Celebrates



THE KINGS ARMS PRESENTS

# 2025

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# *Strete Social Club*





## February at Dart Gallery

As 2025 unfolds, Dart Gallery will be showing beautiful new work by many gallery artists. At the February half-term, the gallery will have a new selection of work from artists Debbie Lush, Steve McLoughlin and Sian McGill. Debbie Lush creates dreamlike landscapes inspired by the gentle folds of the Devon countryside. Steve McLoughlin's delicate

canvases capture fragrant summer days full of warmth. Sian McGill uses a vivid palette and paints iconic views around the South Hams with verve and energy. Each artist's work makes a statement and will add life and colour to any wall.

All the new artworks can be purchased using the brilliant Own Art scheme, allowing you to spread the cost over 10 months with no interest.

The gallery can arrange shipping to any location in the UK or worldwide.

**Discover the new work and much more at the gallery and online.**

Dart Gallery 4 Lower Street Dartmouth Devon TQ6 9AJ

More details: [www.dart-gallery.com](http://www.dart-gallery.com) 01803 834923



Steve McLoughlin



Debbie Lush

As 2025 unfolds we'll be showing beautiful new work by many of our artists. This February half-term discover wonderful new paintings by Debbie Lush, Steve McLoughlin and Sian McGill.



Sian McGill



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# THE COMPASS ROSE



Prior to the invention of the compass, directions at sea were determined by the position of celestial bodies. Navigators had found their way using the sun and the stars. In the northern hemisphere, seafarers would use the North Star (Polaris) to show the direction of north helping them to navigate across the seas. This technique of course had substantial limitations, as it was only of any use at night, with clear skies.

The history of the compass started more than 2000 years ago during the Han dynasty (202 BC - 220 AD). The first compasses were made of lodestone, a naturally magnetized stone of iron, in Han dynasty China. It was called the "South Pointing Fish" and was used for land navigation by the mid-11th century during the Song dynasty (960-1279 AD).



A wind vane, weather vane, is an instrument used for showing the direction of the wind. It is typically used as an architectural ornament to the highest point of a building. The word vane comes from the Old English word fana, meaning "flag". The oldest known references to weather vanes date from 1800-1600 BCE Babylon, where a fable called The Fable of the Willow describes people looking at a weather vane "for the direction of the wind."

Around 48 B.C., Greek astronomer Andronicus created a weather vane. The Tower of the Winds is an ancient octagonal tower made from marble situated in the Roman Agora in Athens. The first weathervane - also called a "wind vane" - was fashioned to look like the Greek god Triton, who had the head and torso of a man and the tail of a fish.



The frieze under the roof of the tower features the eight wind direction deities.

- North ~ Boreas • North East ~ Kaikias • East ~ Apeliotes
- South East ~ Eurus • South ~ Notus • South West ~ Liva
- West ~ Zephyrus • North West ~ Skiron

On early compass roses, the eight major winds can be seen with a letter initial above the line marking its name, as we do with N (north), E (east), S (south), and W (west) today. Later compass roses, around the time of Portuguese exploration and Christopher Columbus, show a fleur-de-lys replacing the initial letter T (for tramontana, the name of the north wind) that marked north, and a cross replacing the initial letter L (for Levante) that marked east, showing the direction of the Holy Land.





"Flavio Gioia or Gioja, also known as Ioannes Gira Amalphensis is reputed to have been an Italian mariner, inventor, and marine pilot. He has been credited with developing the sailor's compass, perfecting it by suspending its needle over a wind rose design with north designed as a fleur-de-lys, and enclosing it in a box with a glass cover.



The biggest challenge raised by the compass was what we now call magnetic variation: the angular difference between geographic or "true" north and the magnetic north, or the direction in which a magnetized needle points. Under clear skies, mariners could find the geographic north-south axis for comparison with where the compass pointed by either referring to the polestar or looking at the sun at noon. Beginning in 1698, with the support of England's Royal Society and the Admiralty, Edmund Halley, who would later be named the Astronomer Royal, set out on several long expeditions to measure Earth's magnetic variations across the northern and southern regions of the Atlantic Ocean. This data offered great advantage to the English Navy. In 1701, Halley produced the world's first isogonic chart, which shows how the angle between magnetic north and true north varies at different points in the Atlantic Ocean.



# WEATHER VANES



Viking-age vanes mentioned in the Icelandic sagas indicating that vanes have been made for longships.



A wind vane, weather vane, or weathercock is an instrument used for showing the direction of the wind. It is typically used as an architectural ornament to the highest point of a building. The word vane comes from the Old English word *fana*, meaning "flag". Weathervanes have been around for over 2,000 years, invented by the Greek astronomer Andronicus in 48 B.C. to determine the direction of the wind.

The world's oldest existing weathervane is a Weathercock and is the Gallo di Ramperto or Rooster of Ramperto, is made of copper sheet and originally gilded and silvered. It was made about the year 825 on commission from Bishop Ramperto to adorn the top of the bell tower of the church of Saints Faustino & Giovita in Brescia.



It is reputed that Pope Gregory I had previously said that the cock (rooster) "was the most suitable emblem of Christianity", being "the emblem of St Peter". The Bayeux Tapestry of the 1070s depicts a man installing a weather cock on the roof of Westminster Abbey.







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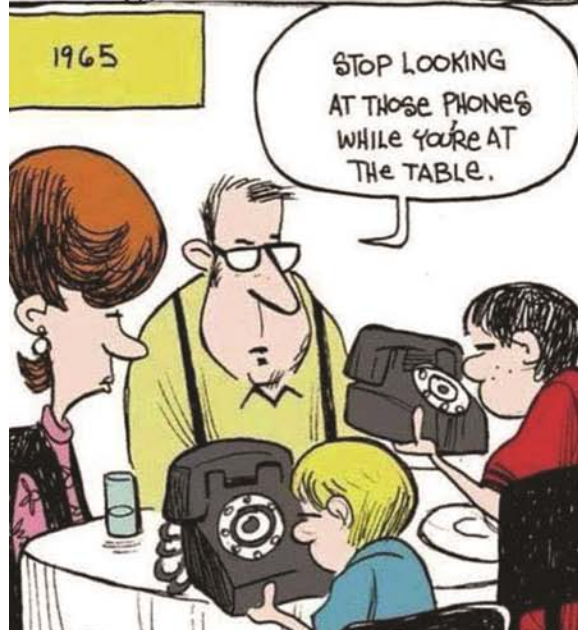


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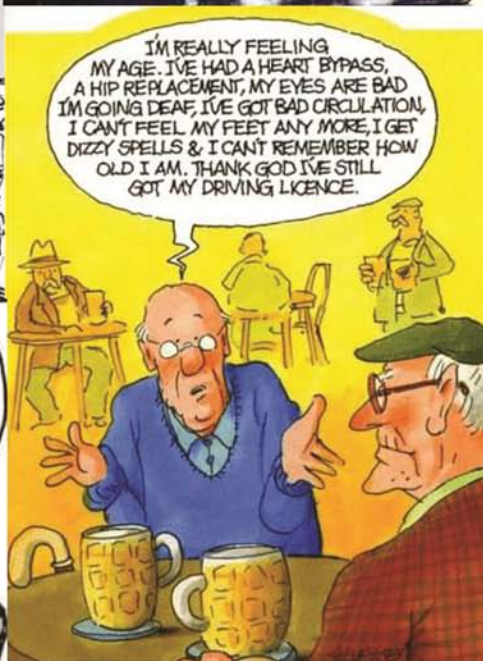




People who wonder if the glass is half empty or half full miss the point. The glass is refillable.



ANYBODY  
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TO STARE AT  
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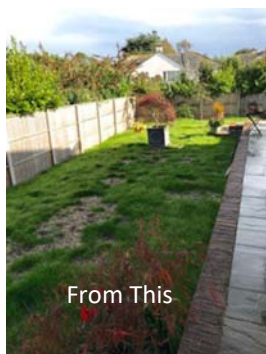
Stoke Fleming Village Hall.

Houses at Deer Combe, houses by the Green Dragon,  
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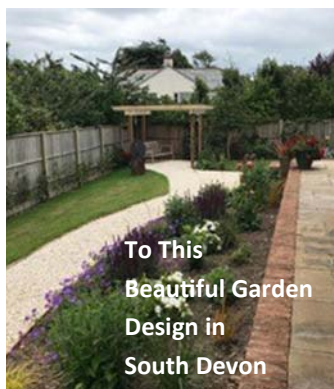
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# FRIENDS OF STOKE FLEMING PRIMARY SCHOOL



*Set sail in the world...*



## Happy New Year to Strete village from the school!

Throughout December the school enjoyed many festive events and activities including the nativity, pantomime and carol concert performances. All were a huge success – well done to all the children who took part. The children also had a visit from Father Christmas who arrived on a trailer towed by a tractor rather than his traditional sleigh!

### Events

This year the PTA have not sat on their laurels post-Christmas and have organised a 'Clubbercise' event at Stoke Fleming Village Hall on 28<sup>th</sup> January. Perfect timing for those feeling the need to get up and moving after all that Christmas food. It is great fun as well as a workout. Tickets are still available. This was a sold-out event last year so do not wait until the last minute to buy a ticket!



### How you can help...

#### Chess Club request

A chess club is being started at Stoke Fleming school but currently there is a shortage of chess sets. If anyone has one to donate, please drop in to reception at the school or if it is from a local address collection can be arranged.

#### Reading

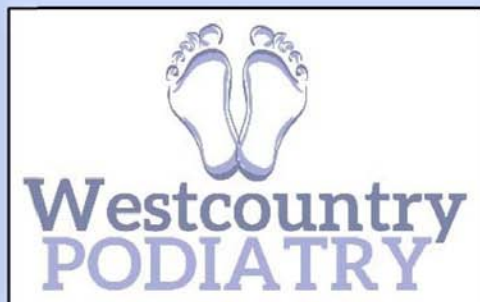
*"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Dr. Seuss*

One area that remains a key focus in primary school is teaching children to read. The above quote fits perfectly with the school's motto of helping children to set sail in the world. To do this the children need much practice and time given to this area of learning. Volunteers are needed to come in to school and listen to children read. If you or someone you know would like to know more then please contact the school for more information.

The PTA have also set a Readathon challenge for the children in February. If you know of a child from the school consider sponsoring their efforts to encourage them to complete the challenge. All funds will go towards to school improvements.

If you think you can help in anyway then please get in touch with the school on 01803 770244



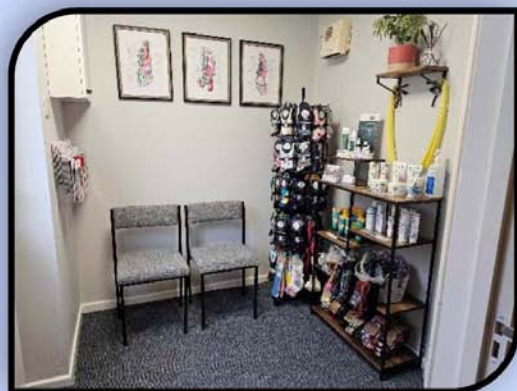
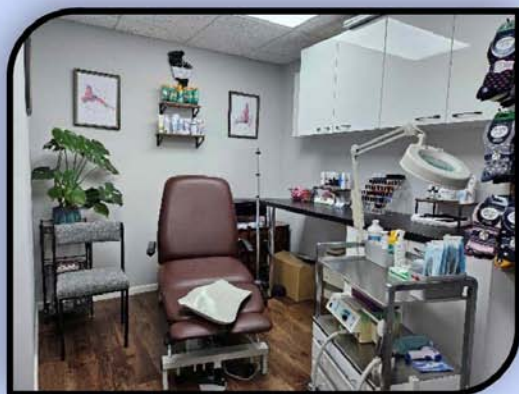


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## **A Very Big Thank You to the Stretewise delivery team:**

Brenda Range, Liane Baldock, Colleen Seymour, Heather Robinson, Joan Kendall, Chris Burne, John Goldring, Carol Wills, David Wall and Trudy Rothwell and not forgetting Monica, Andy, Sally at the Strete Post Office and Stores.

# **Notes from a Teams Meeting with Matt Barrow, Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS)**

**12 Noon 18th Dec 2024**

## **Present**

NB Nick Barrow, CDS Stakeholder Engagement Officer

SR Simon Rake, Blackawton Parish Council Chairman

ST Steve Thomas, Blackawton Parish Councillor

PH Peter Hales, Strete Parish Councillor

Apologies from Ralph Clark who was unable to attend and Slapton Parish Council who were unable to provide a delegate at short notice.

## **Purpose**

CDS is charged with the delivery of the national broadband installation programmes to the residents and business of Devon and Somerset on behalf of Devon and Somerset County Councils.

The meeting aimed to provide an opportunity for CDS to discuss the recent 'Out of Scope' announcement of the Airband contract for Broadband provision in rural areas, the reasons for this and the effects it would have upon the affected Parish Clusters 272 and 273. Finally, to review the way forward to ensure that the Parishes taken out of scope are not disadvantaged.

## **Discussion**

The meeting opened at noon.

MB opened by explaining that there were currently two government projects in train to deliver Broadband nationwide to rural areas and specifically the rural areas of Devon and Somerset.

These are:- The (now somewhat superannuated) Superfast programme, focussed on bringing up to 100Mb/sec connection speeds to communities by installing new fibre connections to new infrastructure (green cabinets) in the villages and hamlets, leaving the final connections to the premises to be via the existing copper telephone wire connections. This arrangement provides an approx 80Mb/sec connection for premises immediately beside the green cabinet which is attenuated by distance due to the final copper connection – typically down to about 30Mb/sec at a distance of 1.2 km from the cabinet. The newer Project Gigabit programme, whose aim is to provide up to 85% of the population with a 1000Mb/sec connection by Dec 2025 and as close as possible to 100% by 2030. Launched in the Spring of 2021, this is to be achieved by upgrading the fibre network and replacing the final copper connection to individual properties with fibre – Full Fibre to the Premises (FFTP)

MB explained that the Airband work scope contract issues related solely to the Superfast programme. Phase I of Superfast had been implemented by BT Openreach some years ago, with most population centres in the two counties being provided with new green cabinet infrastructure and fibre connections., including the villages of Strete, Blackawton and Slapton. Over 320,000 people across the two counties have been connected in this way.



## **Airband and the Failure of the CDS Airband contract**

Phase II of Superfast was intended to deal with the more rural small groups of premises and properties and individual houses, all of which pose a much greater challenge in terms of cost and commerciality for operators, and which would only get connected with the aid of government support. CDS tendered competitively and let a long-term contract to Airband, an Exeter based communications company, against a defined work scope inherited from BT. The contract between CDS and Airband was a standard contract written by Central Government, dating back to 2012, and made no allowance for inflation with time. The Airband work scope for our three Parishes had been lumped together and was known within the Airband contract as 'Cluster F23'.

At the beginning of 2024, Airband announced that it was stopping the network build work on the contract because it was losing money. In April it made 190 staff redundant and announced that it was restructuring. At that time, CDS entered into negotiation with Airband to try to salvage as much of the outstanding work scope with the aim of getting it completed within the existing arrangement. CDS did not communicate this to the outside world (commercial confidentiality?) but did eventually manage to persuade Airband to complete 9,000 of the outstanding 37,000 connections in the workshop. This left 28,000 connections to be taken 'out of scope' of the Airband contract, which unfortunately includes the whole of Cluster F23. Interestingly, Cluster F22 which includes the rural areas of Stoke Fleming down towards Blackawton will continue within the 9,000 connections rescued. Finalisation of this contractual arrangement for Airband to finish off led directly to the CDS announcement to Parishes in November. Many other rural areas in the South Hams are also affected by being taken out of the Airband Scope. ST asked MB to confirm that Airband had been paid based upon connections completed, and therefore with the work scope not fully completed, a proportion of the original Superfast funding remains unspent. MB replied that this was the case, although it was currently not possible to transfer Superfast funding into the Gigabit project.

CDS believes that the underlying cause of Airband's failure to complete was contractual, in that the contractors on these follow-up Superfast rural contracts (and there are others) progressively lost profitability with time, and there were no contract provisions which would allow any additional form of funding, modification or allowance for inflation.

*NB Author's note There is also the possibility (not discussed in this meeting) of inefficiencies and wastage in contract management and handling – after all, the contractor squeeze situation was foreseeable for a long period of time prior to the eventual collapse. This will be for the respective County Councils to determine.*

## **Possibilities for the Parish rural areas Looking Forward**

MB described to us how Project Gigabit (which is much newer than superfast has been set up with separate central government funding to Superfast. It is centrally run and overseen by Building Digital UK (BDUK), a UK Government Agency within the Dept of Science and Innovative Technology. In contract to Superfast, the BDUK organisation controls its own contracts centrally.

Theoretically, all three Parishes will qualify for Project Gigabit upgrades, but the concern is generally centred more around what will happen with rural premises, rather than the villages and hamlets with existing fibre infrastructure. BDUK will run their own procurement services and have intimated that they will implement here sizes of contract:-

Type A, intended to serve up to 40,000 premises, with no lower limit on size.

Type B for 40,000 to 80,000 premises.

Type C for notionally 80,000 to 500,000 premises – with a typical contract at the upper end worth around £800k.

With these in place as sole suppliers for a given area, population could be added over time via call-offs on these contracts. Currently it is expected that South Hams, Teignbridge, Mid Devon, East Devon, all of Somerset – exc. South Somerset – North Somerset and B&NES will now go forward into a Type C Call-Off (Call-Off 4), with confirmation of this build expected in December 2024. It is possible that the Cluster F23 work scope taken out of the Airband contract could be incorporated into a separate call-off in Giga bit. It is just too early to say yet.

Not surprisingly, CDS believes that a larger number of smaller Type A contracts administered locally would be more appropriate for rural areas like the South Hams. They believe that there are only two organisations in the UK capable of implementing a Type C contract – BT Openreach and Virgin, and the Type C contract strategy is clearly angled to suit them. There is also a further possibility for premises not covered by either Superfast or GIS contracts, BDUK continues to operate a voucher scheme whereby communities or providers can apply for funding to connect eligible premises in a specific geography, with the current subsidy value set at a maximum of £4,500 per premise. This allows communities to organise their own shared arrangements on a micro basis, with perhaps a number of rural properties geographically close to each other able to fund their own connection. CDS can assist with formulating and arranging this, although the voucher scheme is currently paused until the Gigabit Project for South Hams is announced and tendered, in order to avoid duplication. There are a number of small contractors in the South Hams area who are interested in providing this service.

ST asked about the accuracy of the data used to define the Airband work scope and where it had been derived. There are clearly veracity issues with the data and some anomalies.

ST also asked whether Fibre was still considered to be the correct answer in rural environments – other possibilities exist such as fixed wireless, satellite, mobile. MB replied that all of these other methods had downsides compared to fibre and are not currently approved, but the picture is rapidly changing. For commercial reasons, manufacturers of alternative solutions have tended to concentrate upon connection speed rather than range, which makes them less suitable for rural solutions where distance to base is a big factor. Fibre is considered to be a 'generational upgrade' which is likely to suit the nation's needs for the foreseeable future and provides a solution which is likely to be easily upgradeable beyond that, so fibre is the preferred solution.

Decommissioning of the copper network is important in order to reclaim and reduce the metal used, and also important to reduce operating power costs – the copper network is electrified 24/7 and is thus energy inefficient and less sustainable than fibre.

Meeting closed 13.15. Notes by Peter Hales, Strete Parish Council 19 Dec 24.



## Devolution – January 2025

Before Christmas, the Labour Government and Angela Rayner published their English Devolution White Paper, alongside their National Planning Policy Framework changes, and the Local Government Finance Settlement. It sets out plans for **compulsory** local government restructuring and **imposing** ‘strategic authorities’ across England.

In current two-tier areas, this would involve districts and county councils being replaced by unitary council(s), alongside a combined authority (preferably with a mayor).

### ***Key point***

We should not allow government to dictate to local councils how they operate now or in the future. Councils represent local people and they must come first in local decision-making. Taken together, this is a recipe for taking responsibility away from local communities and making local government less responsive to the needs of local taxpayers.

This is likely to result in higher council tax, rural communities being kicked yet again, whilst underperforming councils are given handouts without public service reform.

The Localism Act 2011 is existing legislation that empowers local people to make decisions affecting their local community. Regional government was abolished years ago, red tape on local councils has reduced (though more is needed), local councils have been given more control over local planning along with enhanced accountability. Control has been decentralised down to the lowest level: making it easier to create parish councils, letting parents create new free schools and giving residents power to protect their locality through neighbourhood planning.

Unitary restructuring must be locally led and have local support.

### ***State control***

Local areas are likely to be forced to adopt a new “Strategic Authority”. Planning powers will be determined by these bodies. They could levy a new precept on council tax.

They could work alongside new nationalised quangos. The Standards Board and the Audit Commission quangos are, allegedly, being resurrected.

The current attitude on devolution is reflected in new planning reforms: waging war on the countryside whilst cutting house building in the cities; failing to champion the freedoms gained from leaving the European Union; and gagging councillors on Planning Committees. The so-called ‘Grey Belt’ reforms explicitly remove the Green Belt requirements of “safeguarding the countryside from encroachment” and “assisting in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land”.

### ***Proposed stance on restructuring***

Invite ‘proposals’ from councils for local government restructuring; this could result in county council elections in May 2025 being cancelled.

However, for such a monumental decision local councils have been offered a ridiculously short timescale to get those proposals in. No council should be bullied or blackmailed into local government restructuring. It should not be imposed by top-down Whitehall diktat. Any changes should be local decisions, made by locally elected representatives after listening to views of local people. Devolution must be about local decision-making.



We're looking for volunteers to join the Strete Community Speedwatch Scheme and help increase awareness of road safety in our beautiful village.

We have many youngsters living in Strete as well as a large retired population, all of whom should be safe from vehicles travelling through the village where much of the village does not have pavements.

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NEEDED**

PAUL POTGIETER  
STRETE COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH CO-ORDINATOR  
T: 07525 014343

Getting involved for just a few hours a month would help to increase awareness of safe speeds to travel through our village and protecting our community.

Please join us.

Make a difference

Help save lives



**HELP REDUCE DEATH  
AND INJURY ON OUR ROADS**



# A379 Slapton Line Protection Funding

This article reveals where Devon County Council has prioritised its support for Highway Improvements in Exmouth. Work to extend a stretch of Devon road to provide a "congestion-busting" scheme has started in Exmouth.

The scheme will see Dinan Way in Exmouth extended by about **830 metres**.

A council spokesperson said the work, aimed at beating traffic delays, was expected to be completed by the end of 2025 and had been made possible by £15m government funding. Devon County Council Chairman John Hart said: "This extension itself may not be that long,

but it has the potential to be transformational for Exmouth and the wider area."

Work on a two-metre wide shared path along one side for pedestrians and cyclists has already started.

David Reed, MP for Exmouth and Exeter East, said: "It's fantastic to see this vitally important project get underway".

After decades of campaigning, Exmouth's missing link road will be finally complete and will give our town much improved transport flow. Councillor Joe Whibley, Chairperson of Exmouth Town Council, added: "The town council is delighted, as this important infrastructure project should provide a respite from heavier traffic in the town and make life easier for those visiting and living here".

Where does the protection of the A379 Slapton Line fit in Devon County Council's lobbying priorities for government funding to get this underway. Local residents have been pursuing action to protect this vital route for decades. Despite the anguish of the majority of residents, businesses and visitors at the potential loss of this approximate two mile stretch of highway in South Hams that provides a vital link between Dartmouth and Kingsbridge, there appears to be little appetite from parliamentary and local authority





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# PayByPhone is coming soon to South Hams District!



Anyone using car parks will need to use the PaybyPhone parking app if they want to pay for parking through their phone. You will no longer be able to use our current provider RingGo from Sunday 12th January for cashless parking.

Residents and visitors can continue to pay by cash at one of our machines if they prefer. The PayByPhone app can be download at:

- the App Store
- on Google Play

For those already using the PayByPhone app may want to re-install it to make sure they are using the latest version.



**Sarah Summons  
South Hams Kinesiology  
Kiln Lane Stokenham**

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# Strete Social Club

## STRETE SOCIAL CLUB WINTER PROGRAMME 2024-2025

Meetings are usually held in Strete Village Hall on alternate Tuesdays at 2.30PM  
Everyone very welcome to come along!

January	7th	AGM and Games
	21st	Wildlife - John Walters
February	4th	Gara Valley Tales - Christine Cooke
	18th	Singing Together - Lucy Higston and Karen Hales
March	4th	Gardens from Cornwall to Kent - Keith Mason
	18th	To Be Confirmed
April	1st	Floristry for Easter- Linsay Johns

**26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024:** Karen Hales welcomed many members to our late November meeting. After business was concluded with details shared about our coming Christmas Lunch, we were delighted to declare our festive Bring and Buy table open for business.

Members had excelled themselves by bringing along all manner of festive items and goodies for sale. Trade was brisk and a healthy sum was raised for Club Funds. Our grateful thanks to all who donated and bought from the wonderful stall.

After the shopping frenzy, refreshments were very welcome provided by Dorothy, with the special treat from Maura of cakes to mark her recent birthday. Greetings were sung to her and Karen – providing some practice singing for Carols in December!

A sociable afternoon was had by all, and we look forward to our Christmas Lunch and our festive last meeting of the year in December.

**17<sup>th</sup> December:** Bitter cold weather did not deter us from enjoying an afternoon to finish out 2024 season with a Christmas Party. Due to illness and folk away, there were few of us there.

What a treat those not able to come missed.

As we entered a beautifully decorated hall there were tables of four laid up in a very festive mood, lovely Christmassy flower decoration along with crackers and napkins depicting holly which we all had fun pulling and some of us telling the jokes and doing the charades in them. Karen accompanied us on her guitar as we sang carols. During which we enjoyed a festive drink.

It was then time for our tea beautifully laid out on a table suitable decorated by Colleen and Irene and their helpers. Brought around were cups of tea and the plates of cakes to choose which ones we wanted to sample. All suitably fed and watered we then finished off the afternoon with a couple more Christmas songs and the large Christmas themed draw was held. I think everyone in the room got a prize.

This finished a very enjoyable afternoon. (I did say to that in my report I would say they were all rolling around the room intoxicated with the Christmas spirit, but this was not the case and after wishing each other a Merry Christmas we went our separated way to our homes.)



# *Stret Social Club*

**7th January: AGM** Our first meeting of the New Year was the Annual General Meeting of the Club.

Karen welcomed us all back and wished us all a Happy New Year. After apologies were given, she then went on to run the Annual Meeting.

Karen gave a very comprehensive report of the varied programme that we had enjoyed over the past year with a variety of topics and speakers.

Our Treasurer had prepared the annual Financial Report and this was taken through. We have landed up with a good balance to take us through the coming year. With help from the Parish Council, we have been able to book good speakers and demonstrators over the last twelve months and are in a position to repeat for 2025.

The annual Financial Report was adopted.

A Plant was given to Heather for her work as Treasurer and a bouquet of flowers to Helen Darche who audited our accounts.

The election of members to take on the various positions was held with Karen Hales to keep as our leader. Unfortunately, Lisa has had to give up being deputy leader due to workload and Joan Kendall has stepped into this role, which she will combine with her duty of press reports and local Stretewise.

Heather Robinson will continue as Treasurer.

Derek Darche will continue to organise the Raffle

Dorothy Teal will continue to organise the rota for teas.

Janet Fairweather will take on being our representative on the Village Hall Committee.

To finish the afternoon off we held a beetle drive, with three games being played and Brenda, Pam and Joan winning two of these.

As usual our afternoon finished with most welcome cups of tea and biscuits

The social club meets on alternate Tuesdays in the Village Hall from 2.30.

Further information from Karen 01803770739 or Joan on 018030770782



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## The Probud Club of Stoke Fleming and District First Half Programme 2025-2026

Lunch/ Coffee	Date 2025	Topic Title/ Further information	Speaker details
Lunch	12th February	Robert Burns <i>Scotland's best known poet and 'henspeckle character'</i>	Jim Redman
Coffee	26th February	Last Man Standing <i>The demise of Alexander the Great's talented Generals</i>	Bryan Short
Lunch	12th March	MI6 etc <i>Life in the British Intelligence Service from an insider</i>	Andy Gilbrook
Coffee	26th March	Kiwis in Torquay <i>In 1917, 30,000 NZ troops passed through Torquay...</i>	David Hinchcliffe
Lunch	9th April	Newcomen and Trevithick <i>A look at Dartmouth's own mechanical genius</i>	Mike Rowley
Coffee	23rd April	To be arranged	
Lunch	14th May	Guinness Brewing <i>A timely look at the black stuff, now much in demand</i>	Jeremy Sackett
Lunch	28th May	Awayday summer outing lunch for members and partners <i>At the Berry Head Hotel, Brixham, details to follow</i>	
Lunch	11th June	To be arranged	
Coffee	25th June	To be arranged	
Lunch	9th July	To be arranged	
	Summer break		

### Gentlemen

**Are you sociable? Do you enjoy male company and getting out of the house in the day to meet new friends?**

**Stoke Fleming and District Probud Club is actively recruiting new members for our regular meetings at the Stoke Lodge Hotel.**

**We are a mixed group of friendly chaps who meet on the second and fourth Wednesday mornings of each month.**

**We always have interesting talks from diverse expert speakers on many varied subjects. After the talk, we adjourn to the bar for a drink and a chat, and at one meeting each month we have lunch together at the Hotel.**

**Does that sound interesting? - Come and give us a try.**

**Please call Peter Hales on 01803 770739 for more information and to arrange to be welcomed to a trial meeting**



## The Probus Club of Stoke Fleming and District

*Where friendliness matters above all else*

A Lunch meeting will be held beginning at 10.30am  
at the Stoke Lodge Hotel, Stoke Fleming on

**Wednesday 12th February 2025**

The meeting will commence with coffee,  
followed by a talk by Jim Redman entitled

### **Robert Burns**

*From 'Auld Lang Syne' to his 'Address to a Haggis', Burns's  
work is intrinsically linked with Scottish culture.*

*Jim will tell us all about Burns's journey from humble rural  
beginnings to international renown—the story of a man  
inspired by nature, class culture and love.*



Drinks at the bar and an optional 2-course lunch will follow

*The club is keen to attract new members and a warm welcome  
will be given to guests. If you would like to come along and be a  
guest please contact our Secretary Peter Hales on*

**01803 770739**

<https://stokeflemingprobus.wixsite.com/stokeflemingprobus>



## The Probus Club of Stoke Fleming and District

*Where friendliness matters above all else*

A meeting will be held beginning at 10.30am  
at the Stoke Lodge Hotel, Stoke Fleming on

**Wednesday 26th February 2025**

The meeting will commence with coffee,  
followed by a talk by Bryan Short entitled

### **Last man standing: the fate of Alexander the Great's Generals**

*Much is known about Alexander the Great, but  
rather less about his highly competent and  
talented band of generals.*

*Bryan will tell us about their action packed story*



After the talk, drinks will be available at the bar.

*The club is keen to attract new members and a warm welcome  
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**Wednesday 12th March 2025**

The meeting will commence with coffee,  
followed by a talk by Andy Gilbrook entitled

### **MI6**

### **Life in the British Intelligence Service**

*Ever wondered what it would be like to be a real-life spy?*

*Andy will tell us a harrowing story all about his  
recruitment, his life inside the Secret Intelligence  
Service and how he eventually came to leave*



Drinks at the bar and an optional 2-course lunch will follow

*The club is keen to attract new members and a warm welcome  
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at the Stoke Lodge Hotel, Stoke Fleming on

**Wednesday 26th March 2025**

The meeting will commence with coffee,  
followed by a talk by David Hinchcliffe entitled

### **Kiwis in Torquay**

*Between 1917 and 1919 around 40,000 unfit and disabled  
New Zealand troops passed through the Discharge Depot  
in Torquay on their way home. David is a familiar speaker  
to our club and this time he will tell us about about the  
many buildings the Kiwis were billeted in, their  
extensive farming operation, social activities  
and relations with locals*



After the talk, drinks will be available at the bar.

*The club is keen to attract new members and a warm welcome  
will be given to guests. If you would like to come along and be a  
guest please contact our Secretary Peter Hales on*

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## Life in the Pond

Disappointing. No frogs in the garden pond this year; not even any frog-spawn. I do love to watch the tadpoles developing. Have you noticed that the more frog-like they become, the more nervous of humans they become? Frightened we'll eat their legs, perhaps! They should be nervous of the large grass-snake I found basking on the bank. She's probably the cause of their current absence. She lived in the garden for a couple of years and left her white and leathery eggs in the compost heap to hatch.

There are often newts in the pond. I read that there are three types of newt in the UK.

Ours are definitely not the Great Crested variety but I am left unsure if the ones in our pond are "Smooth" or "Palmate" newts – they are quite difficult to tell apart. Anyway, it's always nice to see them swimming in the depths. We have few pond snails - not the most exciting animal - but important members of the pond maintenance team, I believe.



I do hope we'll see frogs back again next spring. This one posed for me a couple of years ago. If you want to contact Steve use sjcsmith1@outlook.com

# Directory

Devon County Councillor	Julian Brazil	01548 511109
District Councillor	Laurel Lawford	07908 104473
Doctors (Chillington)	Chillington Health Centre	01548 580214
Doctors (Dartmouth)	Dartmouth Health/Wellbeing	01803 832212
Paul Green	Dart Patients Participation Group	07799 772709
Highways	Devon County Council	0845 155 1004
Kings Arms	<a href="https://kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk/">https://kingsarmsatstrete.co.uk/</a>	01803 770027
Parish Council Chairman	Cllr Ralph Clark	01803 770954
Parish Council Clerk	Hannah Iles	01548 580449
Village Hall Committee	Penny Penhale (Chairman)	01803 771005
Village Hall Committee	Danni Brien (Treasurer/Bookings)	07841505797
Probus	John Light	johlight1@gmail.com
RSPCA		01803 859695
Short Mat Bowls Secretary	Gary Taylor	garytaylor@hotmail.com
Strete Social Club	Karen Hales	01803 770739
South West Water	Report leaks	0800 230 0561
St John the Baptist Church	Fr Sunny Paul	01803 853406
St Michaels Church	Revd. Matt Gorton	01803 906861
Strete Chapel	Derek & Gill Harris	01803 770256
	Andrew and Lesley Kemp	07774 431109
Stretewise Editor	Dave Jones	01803 770059
Totnes Ring and Ride		01803 867878
Tree Warden	Ian Cumberlidge	01803 770020
<b>Local Emergency Services</b>		
Emergency Fire, Ambulance, Police and Coastguard		999 or 112
Non-emergency contact with emergency services		101
NHS Direct	0845 4647	
Torbay Hospital	01803 614 567	Derriford Hospital 01752 202082
Totnes Hospital	01803 862 622	Kingsbridge 01546 852349
<b>Strete Post Office and Stores</b>		01803 770225
<b>Stoke Fleming Library Village Hall</b>		01803 770075
John Lewis		
Monday 3.00pm to 5.00pm, Tuesday 10.30pm to 12.30pm,		
Thursday 3.00pm to 5.00pm. Or 24 hours at <a href="http://devon.gov.uk/libraries">devon.gov.uk/libraries</a>		
<b>TOTNES &amp; DARTMOUTH RING AND RIDE</b>		
Phone between 10:00am and 12:00 midday		01803 867878

**PS 3418 Ollie Abercrombie**  
**Dartmouth Neighbourhood Team Leader**

**Dartmouth Police Station**

**Mobile:** 07736 622761

**Email:** ollie.abercrombie@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk



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### **All contributions to the magazine are welcome:**

Recipes, Crosswords (not cryptic) Articles, Letters. However, the editor reserves the right as to whether to include, edit or adjust the content. Contributions should be sent to [stretewise@outlook.com](mailto:stretewise@outlook.com) or hard copies of contributions can be left at the to the Post Office or delivered to the Editor:

Stretewise, 27 Start Bay Park, Strete, TQ6 0RY.

**Copy deadline for the next issue of Stretewise April—May will be 23rd March 2025.**

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