



STRETTON & STOCKEN NEWS

*Newsletter for the residents of Stretton, Stretton Woods, Stocken
Hall and Stocken Mews: May 2022*

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

To celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee the parish is to hold two main events....

A BBQ AND BONFIRE ON THE EVENING OF THURSDAY 2ND JUNE in 'Peter's Field' (along Stocken Hall Road) to join in with the national beacon lighting at 9.30 pm. There will be a communal BBQ, but please bring your own food and drinks, tables and chairs. Car parking will be available.

Live music will be provided by The Thursday Club with the gates opening at 3.30pm and the main bonfire lighting at 7.30pm.

A 'BIG LUNCH' ON SUNDAY 5TH JUNE in Helen and Johnny Hall's field at the top of Church Lane and at St Nicholas Church and Community Hub. Gates open at 12.45pm, with the main entertainment between 2.00pm and 5.00pm. Note that Church Lane will be closed to traffic other than residents until midnight and the only parking available is in the village. However, if you are bringing your own chairs, tables, gazebo and picnic etc, you can drop these off at the gate between 12.45 and 1.30 pm.

Live music will be provided by The Vintage Singers (music across the decades) and you are invited to wear 1950's style fancy dress, judged by our local celebrity, Paul Chuckle of the Chuckle Brothers. There is other entertainment in the form of a quiz (download from our Facebook page 'Stretton in Rutland'), table tennis and nurdles. Also, a Jubilee medal will be given to every young person in the parish.

The Parish Council has allocated £1,000 to the celebrations and Hambleton Bakery a further £500.

This means that both events will be free and all are welcome.

However, because of insurance we need to know numbers attending.

Please email Sue Armstrong-Brookes at sebab12@aol.co.uk to let her know of your attendance.

The Lord Lieutenant of Rutland (Dr Sarah Furness) has asked for the whole of Rutland to take part in the Community Decorations Week prior to the Jubilee weekend. She asks us to throw our energy into decorating our gardens, streets and villages with bunting and flags. The Chair of our Jubilee Committee, Sue Armstrong-Brookes has asked that households start their property decorations by Saturday 28th May with the aim of decorating the village on Sunday 29th May.

Volunteers will be needed for both setting out and clearing up the venues. If you are able to help please contact Sue on the above email address.



The Jackson Stops will be open from 12-4pm on Sunday 5th. You can pre-order a special Jubilee hamper by 29th May at £25 per person.

Details on the back page.

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY HUB OPENING

Dr Sarah Furness, Lord Lieutenant of Rutland formally opened the combined St Nicholas Church and Community Hub on 22nd April. Over 60 people attended the reception to say thank you to the very many organisations and individuals who had made the transformation possible.

Dr Furness congratulated the committee on their achievement after which Greg Harker thanked the many who had helped with the project, including Liz Foster and her team of helpers for organising the evening. Also to Helen Campbell for researching and constructing the historical display. Greg said that two very large grants in particular, one from the FCC Communities Foundation and the other from Mick George Ltd accounted for more than half of the £250,000 total. Over 40 applications for grants had been made of which 14 were successful. There were representatives of several of the grant providing bodies present as well as local business owners who had contributed.

After the speeches, The Reverend Anthony Oram gave a short blessing to the new facility and a short recital was played on the newly refurbished and repositioned organ by Mr Peter Davies from Oakham School. Also in attendance was Alicia Kearns our local MP and the local press. Finally, Greg was presented with a framed ink drawing of the church done by Tim Seal to thank him for his efforts over the previous 3 years. Greg ended his speech by saying that in many ways this was only the beginning and



VIP Guests Lord Lieutenant Dr Sarah Furness and former High Sheriff of Rutland, David Wood are welcomed to the reception

now the management had to be put in place to run the facility. This meant that processes were needed to ensure that the facility was maintained, and that the limitations of the location, for example with parking, would need to be taken into account. However, key to sustaining the facility long term would be raising sufficient funds. The Friends of St Nicholas, a non-religious organisation would continue to run fund raising events. By far the surest way of sustaining the Church and Community Hub, however, was through regular or legacy donations either through the Parochial Church Council or The Friends of St Nicholas. If you wish to do this please contact Mr John Leefe on 01780 410121



Re-Ordering Committee: Front left to right: Vyv Wainwright, Penny Isaacs, Helen Hall, Jonathan Pattison. Back row: John Leefe, Greg Harker

100 Years of Parish History

By Helen Campbell



Last year I was asked to put together a Stretton village history display encompassing the last 100 years or thereabouts and was presented with a large box full of interesting 'stuff' including some excellent work by a previous village historian Sue Howlett which was utilised in the display. Perhaps the most striking thought to come from the research was the significant change to the housing, mainly brought about by the sale of the 'Stretton Estate' in 1955 including the village pub, the Manor, Stocken Hall and many houses. From the sale of the houses began a transformation of homes with very many barn conversions. This time also coincided with the large reduction of farms in the village reflected in the changes of occupation over the period. Additionally, the parish grew substantially with the development of 13 houses that now form Walnut Close (about 1983), the redevelopment of Stocken Hall into apartments, and the housing at Stretton

Wood originally purposed for workers of HMP Stocken. Walking through the village, you still get a sense of history and character with many listed stone buildings alongside the modernised and new. Another standout from my research was the sense of community, with the village 'Feast Week' celebrations and Nurdling competitions that have taken place over the years. This sense of community will be seen again during the upcoming Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The above display will be set out in the Church Community Hub on 5th June. There must be many more memories in and around the village that can be shared with the new arrivals. If you have documents, photographs or memories to share with others we now have the opportunity to pull them together within the framework of the Church and Community Hub... Please share your stories with me and maybe we can upload the best to our website at www.strettonvillage.co.uk ?

This short extract is taken from a document called Stretton Remembered written by A Wilson in 1984, which are reminisces of Stretton in the late 19th and early 20th Century. It makes interesting reading.....

..... At that time it was mostly horses on the farms and the horsemen were up early in the morning to feed them before going to work in the fields at 7am. Ploughing, drilling and reaping had to be done and hay-time and harvest were very busy days. The farmyards were full of stacks of hay and corn, with no bales. Then there was threshing to be done some in the autumn and some in the spring. The threshing tackle, i.e. large steam engines drawing the drum and straw. They needed a lot of coal to keep it going and the water was carried from the village pond in a horse drawn large barrel with a hole at the top on two wheels. The horse walked into the pond and the driver stood on the shaft and filled the water cart with a large scoop on a long rod. Many journeys were made to the pond during the threshing season. The pond was situated north of the village and was never dry. During winter time, and a hard frost, wonderful times were had sliding on it, during daylight and in the moonlight. The pond is dry now and is planted with trees. It seems that cleaning the pond caused a crack in the bottom.

There was a village carrier who went to Stamford each Friday. He had a covered wagon with seats each side so passengers faced each other and the driver sat on a bench across the front of the wagon. He used a heavy horse and left the village at 9.00am, arriving back at about 5.30 pm. He would shop for you, be it half a pound of cheese or a small barrel of beer.

Parish Council Chair Stands Down

On 12th May the Parish Council held both the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting. The first contained a review of the year from Council Leader, Paul Finlay. He was pleased with the progress that had been made and was particularly pleased that our Clerk, Jayne Isaacs, had such excellent reports from the auditors. Paul also welcomed Shani Storrie to the council and noted that the council now had strong representation from Stocken. At the Annual Parish Council Meeting which followed, however, Paul stepped down as Council Chairman due to a high workload and health problems. Michael Arnold, it is fair to say reluctantly, took the reigns and chaired the meeting to conclusion. Paul offered to continue as Vice Chairman, however, and remain on the council. Unfortunately, because of internal resignations at RCC, it had not been possible to follow up with them, particularly on the problems of the footpath to George Henry Wood. Our Ward member, RCC Councillor Nick Begy, advised that the new RCC Chair was in process of nominating her cabinet and, once settled, he would reset the arrangements for the head of

Highways and Transport department to come to Stretton. The opportunity would be taken at that time to show RCC the ongoing problems with two trees within the village.

A1 Noise Pollution

Work to lay 'quiet tarmac' on our stretch of the A1 has been proceeding for 6 weeks now. The work is on the northbound carriageway and started near Stamford and is continuing overnight. The contractors have reached us in the last few days and the intention is to reach South Witham by the end of this month with work starting on the southbound carriageway in July.

Greetham to Stretton Footpath/Cycle Path.

Our MP, Alicia Kearns, met with representatives from the village to hear at first hand our views on the Greetham to Stretton footpath. Although unlikely to be deemed 'essential' our best hope is that this becomes part of creating pedestrian/cycle paths across Rutland.

Happy Jubilee!

Jackson Stops 'Big Lunch' picnic hamper for Sunday 5th June

Each hamper for 1 person contains:

Smoked salmon & cucumber sandwich on Hambleton 7- cereal
Sirloin of beef & horseradish on Hambleton white bloomer
Melton Mowbray pork pie, our piccalilli
Grasmere Rutland sausage roll
Coronation chicken
Stilton & bacon tart
Rocket & mixed salad
Pipers salted crisps

English strawberries, cream & meringue
Lemon & raspberry tart

£25pp, please order & pay for no later than Sunday 29th May

Phone Jackson Stops on 01780 410237

New to the Village?

Did you know that you can download a copy of the village Welcome Pack from the village website? The village website can be found at www.strettonvillage.co.uk. If you would like to publish an article on the website, please contact Penny Isaacs by using the link at the foot of the home page. Parish Council business can be found at www.strettonparishcouncil.co.uk. Here, you can find all of the minutes, agendas and important notifications received by the Parish Council.

You can also keep in touch with others in the village via our Facebook Page, [Stretton In Rutland](#)

This newsletter was jointly edited by Greg Harker and Helen Campbell.

Helen is now taking over as editor in chief and any comments or newsworthy articles should be sent to her.

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