

Stretton News

Newsletter for the residents of Stretton Parish comprising:
Stretton, Stretton Woods, Stocken Hall, Stocken Mews,
Stretton Lakes & Hooby Lodge



Winter 2022

Community get togethers

The Stretton Rutland Community Hub Association Launch. The SRCHA hosted their first event with a **Cheese and Wine Evening** on Friday, 30th September in the Hub.

Jill Lessey and her friends hosted a successful **Macmillan Coffee Morning** on Saturday, 1st October at The Old School raising £1036 for Macmillan Cancer Support. There were numerous stalls, Stretton Hub, Little Bytham Art Group, Garden Produce, entertainment by King Don with his Caribbean Steel Drums as well as delicious cakes, drinks and plenty of chat for villagers and outsiders enjoying a morning out in a garden. Many thanks to all who contributed to this national annual event.

The **World Nurdling Championship** was held on Saturday, 12th November at The Jackson Stops Country Inn, with 16 juniors and 64 adults taking part. Nurdling is a Midlands pub game where each person throws 13 old pennies into a hole in the bench; first to successfully get all their coins in wins. The event was such a fun day for all and had the High Sheriff open the event. The junior winner was Louis Overton and the adult competition was won by Henry Hayns with the final leg culminating with Henry getting all 4 of his coins in the hole in swift succession. The money raised by entry fees was split between the winners and Jackson Stops with each choosing their own charity to donate the money to.



Curry Puffs Recipe by Liz Foster

This is a canape I learnt to make when we were living in Brunei. I usually make batches around Christmas to serve with drinks.



Ingredients

600 grams rolled puff pastry
1 egg, beaten
250 grams lean minced beef
1 large or 2 medium potatoes chopped very small
1-2 teaspoons medium curry powder
Pinch of salt
Approx 7 fluid ounces water

Method

Put the beef, water, potatoes, curry powder and salt in a pan and bring to the boil. Then simmer until the water is absorbed and the potatoes are very soft. Leave to cool.

Roll out the puff pastry and cut out 4inch/10cm circles. Place a teaspoon of curry mix in each circle (do not overfill). Fold over and seal with water.



Place in a baking tray and brush with the beaten egg. Bake for 10-15 minutes at 200°C or until the puffs are light brown and crisp.

Serve warm or cold.



New Stretton Website

Penny Isaacs has produced a new website for Stretton, <https://strettonrutland.co.uk/>

The website is designed to give you as much local news and information as possible, plus a history of the village. On the new website is a page for the newsletter that shows the current newsletter which you can view and download. The digital version will contain the printed newsletter plus trial extended pages which go into greater depth on some of the articles featured, www.strettonrutland.co.uk/newsletter

I encourage you all to have a look through the website.

New to Stretton? Firstly **welcome** and secondly the new website has a downloadable Welcome Pack that contains useful info and links to local services, interests, etc which you may find helpful. It is found under the 'news' section, full link below.

<https://strettonrutland.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Welcome-Pack-2022-Draft.pdf>

Other useful links:

Parish Council business - <https://strettonvillageparishcouncil.co.uk>
Meetings, Agendas etc

Facebook page, 'Stretton In Rutland' - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/strettoninrutland>

Church Services – <https://northrutlandchurches.org.uk/>

Stretton Parish Council News

Stop Press! It has been announced that Mr Paul Finlay has resigned from his post as Deputy Chair of the parish council and from the parish council. Mr John Cooch and Mr Michael Arnold have also resigned from the council. The postponed meeting of 3rd November is now planned to be held on 5th January 2023.

Further updates will be provided on the website.

The Passing of Russell Patrick Digby

Kathy would like the village to be aware of the death of her husband, Russell Patrick Digby, who passed away peacefully at home in Manor Cottage on Monday, 14th November. Russell was 72 years of age. His funeral will take place at Marholm Cemetery, Peterborough, PE6 7JE at 1.30pm on Friday, 9th December.



Remembrance Day Services & Poppy Appeal

On Sunday, 13th November a service was held in St Nicholas Church to remember those who fought and died for our freedom.



In particular we remember those who died in World War I: L/Cpl **Benjamin Hickson**, Leicestershire Regiment; Private **William Hickson**, 2/5th Durham Light Infantry; Private **Percy Charles Moreton**, 1/4th King's Shropshire Light Infantry; Gunner **Robert Henry Peacock**, Royal Field Artillery; Trooper **William Joseph Thraves**, 1/1st Staffordshire Yeomanry and Private **George Knott**, Bedfordshire Regiment.

Additionally Barry Swallow marched as a standard bearer for the Royal Air Force Association & Richard Foster, along with his grandchildren, went door to door in Stretton selling poppies and raised the brilliant sum of £334 for the Royal British Legion. This money helps the RBL with its welfare work for veterans, serving personnel and their families.

A short History of Stretton Rutland Community Hub Association by Penny Isaacs

In 2021 our now sadly late queen, Queen Elizabeth II, celebrated 70 years on the throne; her Platinum Jubilee. The whole country celebrated with her over 4 days. Stretton was not going to miss out! There were 2 celebration events, as reported in the last newsletter, and much fun was had by all.

These celebrations were organised by a small, but hard-working committee, led by Sue Armstrong-Brookes.

By now, our small but beautiful church, St Nicholas, was falling into disrepair. The 'church roof' problems were causing issues inside. After years of water ingress the ceiling, walls and pews were damaged and the pew platforms becoming dangerous. Dwindling congregations (or more truthfully 'dwindled') could not keep up. St Nicholas was in danger of being closed. **A committee led by Greg Harker took on the challenge of the first major refurbishment since 1881.** Singlehandedly, Greg raised the £250,000.00 required by getting monies from numerous grant-giving organisations. Further information about this project can be found on

www.stnicholasproject.co.uk.

We owe Greg a huge amount of thanks for the work he has done to safeguard our church for the future.

One condition associated with the majority of the monies raised, however, was that the church must be used for the good of the community in addition to being a place of worship. To meet this condition a Community Hub was proposed.

NO COMMUNITY HUB = NO MONEY = NO CHURCH

In 2022 the small, hard-working, Jubilee committee set up the Stretton, Rutland Community Hub Association (SRCHA)

Although the SRCHA will be using the St Nicholas building for many of its activities, it is not a part of the Church organisation and is completely secular. The church is now referred to as 'the Hub' for activities organised by SRCHA.

The purpose of the SRCHA is to:

- Bring the Community together
- Bring vitality and life to Stretton by holding events for all to take part
- Make it inclusive and especially appealing to our younger residents

Please read the full article in the extended section of the digital version of the Newsletter to find out more about the events we have organised, (including a lottery!) our future plans and how you can support your local Community Hub.



The poster is for a Christmas Concert by the Stretton, Rutland, Community Hub Association. It features a green border decorated with holly leaves and red berries. At the top left is a circular logo with a horseshoe shape inside, containing a silhouette of a church. The text is in green and black. The main title 'Christmas Concert' is in a large, bold, green font. Below it, the date 'Saturday 10th December 2022' is also in large green font. The location 'at the Community Hub, St Nicholas Church, Church Lane, Stretton, Oakham, Rutland LE15 7QR' is in black. The start time 'Start time 6.30 for 7 start.' is in black. The food and drink 'Mulled wine and mince pies included.' is in green. The auction host 'Auction hosted by John Graham-Hall.' is in black. The performers 'Presenting - John Graham-Hall (tenor) Yvonne Howard (mezzo-soprano)' are in black. The soloists 'Both regular soloists at Covent Garden, English National Opera, and Glyndebourne with Peter Davis (piano and organ) Director of Music at Oakham School' are in black. The ticket price 'Tickets £15.00 per person with light refreshments at the interval. More details on' is in black. The website 'www.https://strettonrutland.co.uk/' is in blue. The contact information 'Contact for tickets Email: hub@strettonrutland.co.uk' is in black.

STRETTON, RUTLAND, COMMUNITY HUB ASSOCIATION

Christmas Concert

Music by Verdi, Gilbert and Sullivan, and music from opera, musicals and Christmas Carol finale

Saturday 10th December 2022

at the Community Hub, St Nicholas Church, Church Lane, Stretton, Oakham, Rutland LE15 7QR

Start time 6.30 for 7 start.

Mulled wine and mince pies included.

Auction hosted by John Graham-Hall.

Presenting - **John Graham-Hall** (tenor)
Yvonne Howard (mezzo-soprano)

Both regular soloists at Covent Garden, English National Opera, and Glyndebourne
with **Peter Davis** (piano and organ) *Director of Music at Oakham School*

Tickets £15.00 per person with light refreshments at the interval. More details on
[www.https://strettonrutland.co.uk/](https://strettonrutland.co.uk/)

Contact for tickets [Email: hub@strettonrutland.co.uk](mailto:hub@strettonrutland.co.uk)

Easyfundraising Total Passes £700!

With grateful thanks to all of you who have signed up, our Easyfundraising total has reached £722 in just over two years! All money raised goes directly to our Community Hub to help with running costs such as WiFi, cleaning and refreshments. For those not yet signed up, did you know that whenever you buy anything online, you could be raising a free donation for the Community Hub? There are over 7,000 brands including Amazon, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, Uswitch, Gocompare, eBay, M&S, BT, Curry's, and even TUI holidays ready to give a free donation every time you shop online via Easyfundraising. It only takes 2 minutes to sign up. Plus, if you sign up and raise £10 in donations, Easyfundraising will give us a bonus £10 donation. Go to the Easyfundraising website and look for Stretton, Rutland, Community Hub or follow the link below: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/strettonrutlandcommunitycentre

Christmas Menus at The Jackson Stops Country Inn

The local Jackson Stops pub is run by Rob, Mandy and son Richard Knowles and they have some delicious looking food on their menus for this Christmas period, please take a look:

<https://www.thejacksonstops.com/christmas.html>

The link will also show you their opening hours, or call them on 01780 410237.

Rutland County Council - Cost of Living Support

Rutland County Council has a cost of living support website page, <https://www.rutland.gov.uk/my-community/cost-of-living-support/> which has useful information and advice in these trying times. They also have a **Crisis Fund** if you have no money for gas, electricity or food. The Fund is managed by Citizens Advice Rutland. If you need help urgently, please see their website, <https://citizensadvice.rutland.org.uk/> or call 01572 723494 from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Ram Jam Site Redevelopment

The Ram Jam started life as a coaching inn, withstood 2 world wars, survived a fire and sadly due to disrepair was demolished this November bringing down with it 200+ years of history.



In its place will be 'Ram Jam Services' which will include 4 retail units. <https://www.godwingroup.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Ram-Jam-Rutland-Brochure-2.pdf>

Get in touch with the Editor

Please do get in touch if you have any suggestions, articles, recipes etc for the newsletter.

Helen Campbell, Editor : helenjcam@gmail.com : 07450 509894

Cut-off date for the Spring newsletter is Wednesday, 15th February 2023

Please do get in touch with the editor as soon as you can if you are thinking of asking for an article to be included in the next edition.

CHURCH VIEW

Dear village friends, the season of Christmas is with us again. May we of the church community send our greetings and a warm welcome to all that we are doing to celebrate the birth of Christ. Yes, Christmas is a religious festival, but also a wonderful time to join together as families and communities with joy, fun and love. May your Christmas be blessed with all of those things, as well as some great food and drink! If you'd like to delve a bit more into the Christmas story, there's something in the extended digital edition of this newsletter that you might enjoy reading.

Rev Anthony Oram

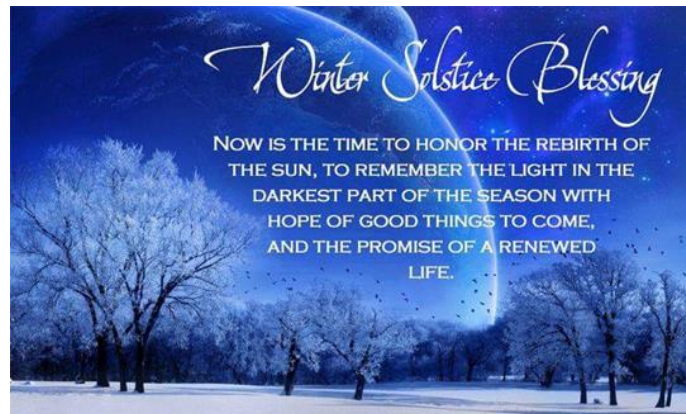
Carol Service, Sunday 18th December @ 4pm

Christmas Day Holy Communion Service at @ 10:30am



The Winter Solstice – 21st December

Our winter solstice occurs when the North Pole is the farthest away from the Sun and produces the shortest length of daylight of the year. It is also celebrated as 'the return of the light' as it marks the time when days start to become longer and is often a time of feasting and celebration; a time of year that the Christian tradition also uses to celebrate the birth of Jesus.



Digital Edition - Extended Section

History of The Ram Jam Inn

The Ram Jam started life as a coaching inn, The Winchelsea Arms in the 17th century and was reputed to be the haunt of Dick Turpin and other highwaymen.



By 1802 it became known as the Ram Jam Inn. The alleged story for the new name is that a coaching guest conned the lady of the house to ram and jam her thumbs into holes in a beer barrel whilst he then jumped on a waiting coach and left without making payment. From that day the Winchelsea Arms became known as the Ram Jam Inn.



The Inn's success as a coaching inn was due to its location; 97 miles from London, a half-way house between London and York. It was an AA and RAC appointed hotel on the Great North Road, the A1 as we know it today. It was one of the greatest coaching inns in England.

A fire in November 1988 caused extensive damage, and the Inn finally closed in August 2013. Its recent demolition makes way for the redevelopment of the site to form "Ram Jam Services" which will hopefully bring jobs, shops and interest back to the land that the Ram Jam Inn occupied – may its spirit of bringing hospitality to travellers linger on.

CHURCH VIEW

One of my favourite subjects at Christmas is one that's definitely not the most popular with other people. Whenever I share this very interesting slant on the nativity it usually gets a rather cool welcome because it shatters too many fondly held myths. Nevertheless, I think it makes a hugely important point about the nature of Christmas. So, read on, only if you are prepared for a seasonal spoiler!

We read in Luke's account of the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:7) that Mary, "wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and placed Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." In our attempts to



paint a mental picture of the birth of Jesus, we latch onto two key words; manger and inn. We know that the heavily pregnant Mary and Joseph had just travelled to Bethlehem and were staying somewhere away from home, but there was no room in the *inn*. Where were they then? Well, wherever there might be a *manger* – that is, an animal feeder. It *must* be a stable or cattle shed! With just those two words, from *all* the accounts of the birth of Jesus, a whole sub-story has been imagined. And think about the implications of that: Mary and Joseph are strangers in an unfamiliar town, they are relegated to an outbuilding, they are alone. They seem to be ostracised and unwelcomed. Jesus is born into isolation, away from the people he's come to save.

But what gave me a different view was a diagram of a typical dwelling in first century Palestine, showing how they lived. It was a square, one storey building enclosing one main living space. The roof was invariably flat. An added luxury for some would have been a simple raised wooden platform that the family slept on. Why a luxury? Because the family would have also housed any livestock they owned *in that same space*. Maybe a cow for milk, maybe sheep or goats. What is also very important to understand is the *culture* of the time. There was a high value placed on welcome. Families would have always had somewhere to accommodate visiting relatives, or even just travellers. A guest space - sometimes referred to as the *upper room*. You can guess where that space often was – on the roof. Being the word for the place where travellers stayed, it was translated as *inn* in Luke's gospel.

So let's read and interpret that sentence again – with our greater understanding of Bethlehem homes. *Mary wrapped baby Jesus in cloths and placed him in the hay basket, because there was no room for them in the guest space*. Suddenly our imagined setting is completely changed. Because there was no room in the *external* guest space, Jesus was born inside, into the main living space. It wasn't a lonely and isolated birth for the son of God. Jesus was born into the centre of family. The story of Christmas is all about how the Son of God came to live with us, and what better place to start it than in the living room! Instead of the cool welcome that we can imagine for him, it was the warmest of welcomes for Jesus.

Rev Anthony Oram

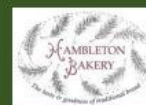


Stretton, Rutland, Community Hub Association

Church Lane, Stretton,
LE15 7QR.

Email: hub@strettonrutland.co.uk

www.strettonrutland.co.uk



'Happily sponsored by Hambleton Bakery'



A short History of Stretton Rutland Community Hub Association by Penny Isaacs

In 2021 our now sadly late queen, Queen Elizabeth II, celebrated 70 years on the throne; her Platinum Jubilee. The whole country celebrated with her over 4 days. Stretton was not going to miss out! On the first day of the celebrations about 150 people from Stretton, Stocken and Stretton Woods descended on "Peter's Field" in Stocken Hall Road with gazebos, picnics, barbeques, children, dogs and very heavy cool boxes. There was a HUGE bonfire to coincide with beacons all over the UK. There was live music – and some dancing! The final day of the celebrations our 'street party' was held in the Hall's field next to the St Nicholas Church. More gazebos, much feasting (also with heavy cool boxes!) more live music, more dancing and much fun was had by all.



These celebrations were organised by a small, but hard-working committee, led by Sue Armstrong-Brookes.

By the middle of the first quarter of this century, our small but beautiful church, St Nicholas, was falling into disrepair. The usual 'church roof' problem was causing problems inside. After years of water ingress the ceiling, walls and pews were getting damaged and the pew platforms becoming dangerous. Dwindling congregations (or more truthfully 'dwindled') could not keep up. St Nicholas was in grave danger of being closed. **A committee led by Greg Harker took on the challenge of the first major refurbishment since 1881.** Singlehandedly, Greg raised the £250,000.00 required by getting grants from numerous grant-giving organisations. Further information about this project can be found on www.stnicholasproject.co.uk.

We owe Greg a huge amount of thanks for the work he has done to safeguard our church for, hopefully, the next hundred years.

One condition associated with the majority of the monies raised, however, was that the church must be used for the good of the community in addition to being a place of worship. To meet this condition a Community Hub was proposed.

NO COMMUNITY HUB = NO MONEY = NO CHURCH

During 2022 the small, but hard-working, Jubilee committee set up the Stretton, Rutland Community Hub Association (SRCHA).

Although the SRCHA will be using the St Nicholas building for many of its activities, it is not a part of the Church organisation and is completely secular. The church is now referred to as 'the Hub' for activities organised by SRCHA.

The purpose of the SRCHA is to:

- Bring the Community together
- Bring vitality and life to Stretton by holding events for all to take part
- Make it inclusive and especially appealing to our younger residents

i.e. make it a HAPPY community where we all look forward to 'what-next' is happening and to ensure the beautiful St Nicholas Church evolves as a Hub for years to come.

Since the first activities organised to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, the SRCHA has organised

- Cheese and Wine Launch party (30th September)
- Christmas Concert – Saturday 10th December in the Hub

and we are working on other activities for the new year. Requests for activities were posted by various people attending the Cheese and Wine party and are being reviewed – one example was Table Tennis, already actioned! A Book Club in the early stages of being put together and also a Book Exchange!

We have also re-invented the old Stretton Village lottery into the newly launched Community Lottery.

Entries cost £5.00 per draw (£20.00 for the year) with 4 draws per year and the first prize is £100.00.

This is a great opportunity to support the Hub with hopefully some financial return!

Full info at www.strettonrutland.co.uk/chub-lottery



Some of these events will raise money for the SRCHA, as hopefully will the Christmas Concert, but many events will cost money to run, partly due to the high cost of heating the Hub, e.g. the Table Tennis Competition.



In addition to activities for the community, the Hub is also available for hire. Stretton Parish Council now use the Hub for their meetings, which gives them and any attendees from the Parish much more room than they had previously.

The Shires School will be using the Hub for staff training.

The Hub is available for hire to locals for events such as children's parties, interest groups, exercise classes etc

The availability of the Hub as a space available for hire will be advertised shortly.

However, SRCHA is acutely aware that the Hub is a place of worship and will vet any applications to hire it accordingly.

The SRCHA committee has introduced a Membership Scheme - It is important to note that the Hub is 'Open To All' and Membership is not a requirement for any of the events and activities.

Taking a Membership option is a way of showing support for the SRCHA, but does come with benefits, e.g. discount on hiring the Hub and discount on SRCHA activities. Full details of Membership options can be found on www.strettonrutland.co.uk/chub-membership/

Although the aim of the Hub is to be a self-funding, non-profit making organisation, start-up costs have been high. This is due to both equipment needed for the Hub itself (churches tend to be a bit low on some of the essentials!) and for funding events (food, drinks etc).

Many of these costs have been met by the generosity of the committee members themselves.

So, at this initial stage, the SRCHA is looking for some start-up funding/donations to assist in buying necessities and organising events, and hope that the community of Stretton will help us in our endeavours.

We hope that you all will help us in supporting our new Community Hub.

Contact us at:- hub@strettonrutland.co.uk