Autumn Newsletter 2026

Mayfair Mice Mayhem!

'Twas the month before Christmas, and all through the house,

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

The beautiful craft creations were laid out with care

In the hopes that everyone would come along to Mayfair.



Excitement is building for our annual Frost Fair on 28th November, from 10 to 3pm – an important event for Mayfair that brings the whole community through our buildings. The fair is part of wider town celebrations, culminating in the Christmas Light Switch-on. We will have a wide selection of beautiful craft stalls, refreshments, wonderful entertainment and a special mouse trail to follow.

Leading up to the Frost Fair we are inviting people in the community to enter a special competition and decorate a little 'Mayfair Mouse'! The competition costs £5 to enter, with all proceeds going to Mayfair, and for this you will receive a papier-mâché model to decorate. Alternatively you could create your own mouse as long as it's not too large. You can decorate the mouse however you would like – it could represent your business, or something special about the Strettons, or just be a special festive mouse. All mice

need to be decorated and returned to Mayfair by 16th November. We'll then display them around both of our buildings in readiness for the Frost Fair. You can get your mouse model or find out more about the competition in Mayfair reception, or visit www.mayfaircentre.org.uk/mayfairmouse.

Members of the public will be invited to vote for their favourite few mice at the Frost Fair and we'll award a prize of £25 and a Christmas cheese board to the winner. We'll also have the mice available for sale at the fair (unless entrants want to keep theirs). If you don't get a chance to see all the mice at the Frost Fair, you can also see an exhibition of them from Tuesday 1st December until 8th December in both of our building receptions.

Give us your views

Our short, anonymous annual survey is out now. Feedback from this helps us to see what's working, what to improve, and what to focus on next at Mayfair. It also provides vital data for funding bids.
Please give us your views by clicking the survey link on our homepage: www.mayfaircentre.org.uk. Or pick up a paper copy at Mayfair reception.

The power of your donations

Did you know that nearly a quarter (24.4%) of all of our income at Mayfair in 2025 came from donations and legacies? Donations are absolutely vital for keeping Mayfair running. But the cost of living squeeze is affecting us all. Our donations from the first part 2026 are significantly lower than last year.
So, if you are able to support us financially, any donation to Mayfair will make a huge difference in your local community and will help to ensure we can continue our wide variety of services for people in the Strettons and beyond. It may be that you fancy challenging yourself and gathering sponsorship for Mayfair – if so, please get in touch – we would love to help you fundraise.
Thank you to everyone who continues to support us either through financial donations, or the gift of your time.

Tombola prize request

We are collecting bottle and chocolate donations for a Frost Fair tombola to raise extra funds for Mayfair. The tombola requires a variety of prizes. Bottles could range from a bottle of alcohol to a small shower gel or hand cream. Chocolate prizes could be a big box of chocolates or a small individual chocolate bar. This was a great success at the fair last year so we hope to repeat it again this year.
Any contributions would be greatly appreciated - Thank you!

Thank you raffle donors

We have, once again, been shown wonderful support by local businesses and residents who have gifted prizes for our big Christmas Raffle. Tickets go on sale very soon. You can pick up yours at the Frost Fair, or from Mayfair reception.

Our thanks go to the following donors and anyone else who has provided a prize: Bluebird Care, Hough's Butchers, Mr Bun the baker, Berry's Café, Steeles Bakery, Peppers, Rainbow's End, John Thomas Florist, The Little Café, Jemima's, Appleby and Shaw, Shampers, Boulton's Coaches, Clun Eggs, Eaton Manor, Second Sense, Ragleth Inn

A generous gift to Mayfair

Mayfair is being gifted a very generous bequest – the estate of Mr Hyslop of 8 Burway Road (Spring Cottage) and 6 Burway Road (The Holly Bush Café), who died in 1999. Since that date, the buildings have been held in trust and provided a residence for his daughter. Mr Hyslop wished to leave his estate to the local community for the 'benefit of the elderly'. Whilst Mayfair had only recently opened when Mr Hyslop died, Mayfair was selected by the Hyslop Estate Trustees as it is on the site where his late wife died and it met all his objectives.

Mayfair is extremely grateful for this generous bequest and will use funds received from the sale of the Estate to benefit the elderly in the local community, as Mr Hyslop wished. The Trustees of the Hyslop Estate are selling Spring Cottage and the Hollybush Café so that the proceeds can be gifted to Mayfair.

Both the Trustees of the Hyslop Estate and the Strettons Mayfair Trust seek to deal with this sale in a sensitive and community-minded way whilst adhering to the law and respecting Mr Hyslop's will. As a charity we are regulated by the Charities Act which means we legally must get best value from the sale of any property or gifts.
This bequest is timely as Mayfair is experiencing an ever-increasing squeeze on funding. Running costs are rising and our buildings require significant investment. At the same time, donations are falling because of the cost-of-living crisis. Grants are also becoming harder to win due to reduced public sector funding and greater competition for grant opportunities.

Despite this bequest, then, Mayfair will still need to continue fundraising efforts. The on-going financial support of the community remains essential for the security and continuity of Mayfair's services in the future.

A message from David Ian Hyslop Deceased Trust:

"The Hyslop family were a well-known Church Stretton family. They were coal merchants who lived in Spring Cottage in Burway Road. The coal business was run in premises at the back of their home. Juliet, his wife, came from Little Stretton where her parents were landowners. Ian and Juliet had two daughters, Susan & Oonagh.

Juliet spent her final days in the local authority care home where she died in 1991. The care home was closed and, on the site, the present MAYFAIR was built. David Ian Hyslop (known as Ian) died in 1999 and Oonagh, his daughter, took over and she continued to live in the house and manage the Holly Bush café until she died in 2023.

Ian was a prominent figure in Church Stretton which was evidenced by the huge attendance at his funeral. A member of the Church Stretton Golf Club, a great participant in the Church Stretton Carnival and the Salop Steam Engine Society Limited.

Once his daughters had died it was Ian's wish to inject his assets into the local community for the benefit of the elderly. He selected THE MAYFAIR TRUST as it is on the site where his late wife died and it met all his objectives. He was advised by his solicitor to direct that the capital of his Will trust, following the death of both of his daughters, would pass via a discretionary charitable trust - which would give the trustees discretion in the selection of the ultimate charitable beneficiary. However it was Ian's clear wish that it would be THE MAYFAIR TRUST that would benefit."

Shirley Radford, Trustee of the late David Ian Hyslop Deceased Trust

An update from Reuben's

We're delighted to report that the current total raised for Mayfair by Reuben's secondhand bookshop now stands at £15,775 since the shop opened in 2025! We are so grateful for this incredible donation - Thank you to Reuben and family, the volunteers at the bookshop and anyone who has donated or purchased books there.

At the moment the shop is unable to take new donations so Reuben and family have asked that you hang onto them until the new year please, if possible.

Mayfair and the Health and Wellbeing Centre can take some book donations, but only paperback fiction please.

Celebrating decades of volunteering

We recently held our annual volunteer meeting – an important opportunity to bring our volunteers together and to listen to their thoughts and ideas about Mayfair. We've had great feedback about the event – our volunteers always enjoy the chance to be sociable - after all, they're a lovely, friendly bunch of people!

The meeting was also a chance to celebrate those who have given an exceptional amount of time and energy to Mayfair. All of our volunteers are valuable – every bit of time given makes a huge difference. But we have many in our team who have been volunteering with us for decades. This year we announced long service awards for 22 people. 9 awards were for 10 years of volunteering, 3 were for 15 years, 7 were for 20 years and 3 awards were for over 25 years at Mayfair – just incredible! Thank you to

everyone who came along to this year's meeting, and to all 300+ volunteers at Mayfair who make everything that we do possible.

If you are interested in joining the team and giving some of your time to Mayfair, please do get in touch on 01694 722077 or email our Volunteer Coordinator Cleo: antony.cleobury@mayfaircentre.org.uk. We have all sorts of different roles you could try and can be flexible to your skills, interests and availability.



A busy Beacon

You may recall that the Stretton Players made an extremely generous donation of £800 to The Beacon this Summer. The donation came from the proceeds of their fantastic performance of Agatha Christie's 'The Hollow'.
Our Beacon Day Activity service at Mayfair has been using some of this money to support a varied programme of activities this Autumn/Winter. Plans include a trip to Acton Scott, planting spring bulbs, lots of great craft activities and a visit from the famous Stretton Strummers! There will also be baking of festive delights, decorating 'Mayfair Mice' for the Frost Fair, and the usual weekly activities like the Breathing Space Singing Group.
As the winter months draw in, the colder months can be a lonely, isolating time for some. The Beacon offers a truly caring, home-from-home environment, providing day activities, social connection, personal care, and vital support for independence to people with a wide range of needs, including social isolation, physical disabilities, dementia, and mental health challenges. We've included a selection of photos from this year to show you just how much they get up to.

If you, or anyone you know, may benefit from the warm, sociable space that the Beacon can provide, please get in touch with Mayfair on 01694 722077 and ask to chat to Kat or Helen.













Dates for your diary

Our ‘What’s On’ page at www.mayfaircentre.org.uk/whats-on provides a monthly list of all Mayfair events and activities.

Many of our ticketed events, such as our family films, can be booked at www.ticketsource.co.uk/mayfair-community-centre. Alternatively give Mayfair reception a call on 01694 722077 (please note that a booking fee applies to all online ticket purchases).

Monday 9 November, 2-3pm **CoCo meeting and public talk - Tim Almond, Exercise on Referral**

A free public talk by Tim from Church Stretton Leisure Centre, followed by a closed meeting for CoCo volunteers.

Sunday 15 November, 2pm Royal Opera Screening: Carmen

Tickets: £15 adults, £10 Under 18s. In this signature piece by The Royal Ballet, MacMillan explores the moral decline of Manon's Paris, vividly depicted through Massenet's score and Georgiadis's designs.

Wednesday 18 November, 9.30am-12 noon CoCo training for new volunteers

If you are interested in becoming a CoCo befriending volunteer, please contact maysi@mayfaircentre.org.uk or call 01694 722077 and ask to speak to Janet or Shaz.

Wednesday 18 November, eyes down 7pm Bingo in HWBC

A fun evening of BINGO raising funds for Mayfair and Church Stretton Rotary. Great prizes, including a cash prize for full house. Entry is just £2. Ring and Ride members within the Strettons can book transport in advance although spaces are limited.

Saturday 28 November, 10am to 3pm Mayfair Frost Fair

Join us for a festive community celebration including craft stalls, refreshments, and entertainment. Come and follow our mouse trail and try some games and crafts in our Art room.

Sunday 6 December, 12 noon Sunday Lunch at Mayfair

A delicious three course Sunday lunch at Mayfair for just £20 per person. Booking is essential.

Tuesday 8 December, 7pm Mayfair Christmas Quiz Party

Join us in the Health and Wellbeing Centre for festive fun and plenty of brain busting challenges at our Mayfair Quiz Party.Thank you to guest quiz master Sue who will expertly lead this evening of fun and fundraising. Entry is £5 per quizzer. Call 01694 722077 to book in your team of 6 now.

Sunday 13 December, 2pm Royal Ballet Screening: The Nutcracker

Tickets: £15 adults, £10 Under 18s. Peter Wright's production of this festive family favourite sparkles to the wondrous swell of Tchaikovsky's orchestral score, alongside the glow and grandeur of Julia Trevelyan Oman's period designs.

Friday 18 December, 10am **Mayfair Volunteer Christmas Coffee Morning**

Our Mayfair volunteers are all warmly invited to a festive coffee morning in Mayfair Jubilee Room. This is a chance for you to meet up with other volunteers and for us to thank you all for your invaluable support this year.

Monday 11 January, 7pm **National Theatre Screening: Golden Boy**

Tickets: £15 adults, £10 Under 18s. Following a sold-out London run, Josh O'Connor (The Crown; Challengers) leads the cast in this searing revival of Clifford Odets' American classic.

Thursday 14 January, 12 noon **Community Lunch**

A free community lunch available to anyone in the Strettons and surrounding area. Booking is essential and opens in December. Enjoy some delicious, wholesome food and a very warm welcome.

Thursday 14 January, 2pm **Daytime Disco - Hello 2027!**

Following the success of the 2026 Discos, Sue and Angela will once again be providing a fantastic afternoon of music, dancing and fun. The event is for adults and all abilities are welcome. Fancy dress is completely optional but adds to the fun atmosphere. Entry is free but donations to Mayfair are greatly appreciated. Refreshments will be available to purchase. Get those dancing shoes on!