

The first documented mention of the village was as Streta in 1194. In 1244 it became known as Street, and remained so until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when it was renamed Strete.

In the past the village was mainly concerned with farming, there being three working farms, Cox's, Manor and Strete Barton. Many of the cottages, such as Glen Cottage, built in the 1600s, would have housed the farm workers.

Strete no longer has working farms within the village, but all three original farm houses still exist. The Long House of Manor Farm, sometimes known as Higher Farm, was probably built in the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> century. Strete Barton Farm barns were eventually sold for redevelopment and much of the stone from these was used to construct the new bungalows in Start Bay Park in the 70s. Farming is now located around the edges of the village, although there is still grazing of livestock on some of the fields within the village.

Strete was a relatively self-sufficient and self-contained community. There were two shops, a butcher, two bakers, blacksmith, carpenter, cobbler, fish hawk and a tailor all living within the village. The farms supplied eggs, vegetables, fruit and milk was delivered to the door. There were two family building firms and in the 1920s and 30s a car hire business was run from the local shop as well as a petrol pump outside the shop for passing motorists.

The Church, Chapel, Kings Arms Public House with Clifton House, The New Inn, now Sunny View, Caudells, originally called Spion Kop, and Roxburgh House, the village post office in the 1880s and 90s, were built between 1820 and 1838.

Asherne, perched on the top of the cliff, is an imposing house built in the 1820s and substantially extended in the 1840s. Since 1864 the house has remained in the ownership of several branches of the same family. Beyond Asherne's drive is Strete Lodge, possibly built in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, with its coach house, stables and servants' quarters next door in The Mews.

The school was built in 1838, opening in 1839, with 90 children on the roll. The main playground was in what is now the church car park. In 1965 the school closed and was converted into the Stable Door Restaurant, later to be re-christened the Laughing Monk. In 1943 the Government issued a high level order to clear an area of 25 square miles, including the village of Strete, of civilians and farm animals. The local people were told they had six weeks to pack up and leave. The American army moved in to train for the D-Day landings. In late May 1944, when the huge numbers of military vehicles in the area were joined by an ever-increasing armada of warships in Start Bay, Operation Overlord began. Many months passed before the villagers were allowed to return, some never did. Much work was needed to repair, clean and clear the area of large amounts of unexploded ammunition. One of the prettiest old thatched buildings had been burnt down. It stood where the King's Arms car park is today and housed the Women's Institute reading room, in which there was a small library, the Young Men's Club, a cottage, and a blacksmith's forge. More recently there have been new dwellings built at Start Bay Park, Hyne Town Road, The Plat, Crestway and Crestfields. There have been older properties demolished and rebuilt, some in context with their surroundings, others setting a precedent of modern dwellings. There has been a change of use of some buildings. The amount and speed of traffic passing through the village, especially at peak times, has increased as has the number of visitors from home and abroad.