

For inclusion on the Stretton Grandison Group Parish Council website under History of the Parishes

## **Stretton Grandison**

Is a hamlet and small civil parish in Herefordshire, England. The population of the civil parish at the 2011 census was 175. It is situated on the A417 (a Roman road) to the northeast of Hereford.

The settlement of Stretton Grandison was probably founded in Roman times. The name Stretton is the 'ton, or town, on the street or paved road which the Romans had built to connect Gloucester, in the south, to Wroxeter in the north and was crossed by the road running from the Roman settlement at Kenchester, in the west, to Worcester in the east. There is evidence of a fair-sized Roman market town at Stretton Grandison. The Grandison family, who supply the second part of the name, are first recorded in the 13th Century. Their castle was at Ashperton but they must have owned land at Stretton. They are most famous for John, Bishop of Exeter, responsible for much of the cathedral there and for Katherine who lost her garter and returned it to Edward III with the remark 'Honi soit qui mal y pense' - the origin of the badge and motto of the Order of the Garter! The last of the family dies without heir in 1376.

In 2007 Border Archaeology excavated a series of engineering pits in the Frome valley on behalf of Dwr Cymru, Welsh Water. The remains of a Roman cemetery were unearthed beneath farmland at Stretton Grandison, helping to produce a detailed picture of life in this part of Herefordshire almost 2,000 years ago. Pottery evidence dated the cemetery use from the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. Pieces of worked wood preserved in waterlogged deposits at a depth of up to 3m have been dated 3930 to 3870 BC and appear to be the remnants of prehistoric alder hurdles used by Neolithic people as fish traps or fencing or possibly as part of a trackway over marshy ground.

The church of St Lawrence was rebuilt in the 14th Century on the site of an earlier timber building. It is a Grade I listed building. The font is the only hexagonal one in Herefordshire. It has stained glass windows by Frederick Preedy and a surviving 14th century wall painting.