

Stoke Orchard and Tredington Newsletter



Memories of Harvest in the 60's

August 2023



Monthly Message — August 2023



The summer holidays are here!!

Well, if you are school child, student, or work in education, that is... If that is you, then no doubt this break from work is very much needed. School weeks are long and relentless with much planning and preparation paperwork / homework and meetings / after school clubs and hobbies, and everything else that comes with school / college / university life.

I think most of us would agree that it is good and healthy to take a break from our usual routines at times. And yet we live in a culture that seems to value 'being busy and productive' above all else. The question: "How are you doing?" is usually answered with: "Oh, I'm so busy!" As if being busy is the hallmark of a good and valuable life. And some people do have to work seven days a week, for financial or other reasons, often beyond their control. Farming, agriculture, and responding to care or other needs don't stop just because we want some time out. But even God, the Creator of all, took time out and took a sabbath on the seventh day: '... and [God] rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it...' (Genesis 2 verses 2-3).

Even if we can't take a whole day off each week, there is merit in taking some time away from work and other commitments in order to rest, refresh, and restore ourselves. The American author Walter Brueggemann wrote a book entitled '*Sabbath as Resistance: saying No to the Culture of Now.*' In this book he calls out the 24/7 society and

argues that a sabbath, regular time out, can help us to focus on what is truly important: God, other people, all life.

It's a book I'd like to read, and if the title intrigues you, then perhaps we can form a group and read it together over the course of a few weeks or months with regular meetings to discuss what we've read? Please register your interest at apperleypriest@gmail.com or 01452 780880.

Are you taking occasional or regular time out? What do you do to rest, refresh, and restore yourself? Please feel free to share your hints and tips and ideas!

Have a wonderful summer month, and peace and blessings to you all, Ilse .

Church Services August 2023

- Sunday 6th August 9.30am Morning Worship at Tredington
- Sunday 13th August 9.30am Holy Communion at Stoke Orchard
- Sunday 20th August 9.30am Holy Communion at Tredington
- Sunday 27th August 9.30am Holy Communion at Stoke Orchard.

Request for help and Donations. Please.-

TRUSSELL TRUST TEWKESBURY shopping list for food bank:

We urgently need: Tinned Fruit, Tinned tomatoes, Instant Mash, Shampoo, Deodorants, Small jars of instant coffee, Tomato and Brown Ketchup.

As we are able to shop at places like Bookers, a monetary donation would be much appreciated right now. BACS details are as follows:

Tewkesbury Foodbank, sort code 30-91-87, account no 52870560

The Tredington News Pages

TREDINGTON & STOKE ORCHARD WI are going on an outing to **Stanbrook Abbey** (Worcester's best kept secret!), Jennet Tree Lane, Callow End, Worcester, WR2 4TA, On **Wednesday, August 16th at 11am**. There will be a guided tour & history of the Abbey. Refreshments are available. For more information, please contact Gill on 07891 437 335.

Please come to our **fund raising Pimm's, Ploughman's & Pudding evening** at Tredington Court (by kind invitation of Roy & Vivienne Troughton) on **Friday, September 1st 5pm - 7:30pm**. There will be a tombola so if you have any unwanted gifts these would be gratefully received! Tickets £15 for adults & £10 for children 12 & under. These are available from Gill on 07891 437 335 or Viv on 01684 293540.

TREDINGTON & STOKE ORCHARD GARDENING CLUB

next event is our annual Fund Raising **STRAWBERRY TEA** at **York Barn, Home Farm, Tredington, GL20 7BP** on **Saturday, August 12th 3pm – 5pm**. Tickets include scone with jam & cream, cake, bowl of strawberries & cream & tea or coffee. Tickets are £7 for adults & £4 for children 10 & under are available from Paddy on 01684 294053.

The **September** meeting will be back in Tredington Village Hall on **Monday, 18th** at 7.30pm & will feature a talk on 'Late Summer Colour ' by Julie Ritchie.

The Tredington News Pages

THE VILLAGE HALL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE hope to organize a Whist Drive in late September/early October so Watch this space!

TREDINGTON VILLAGE LIBRARY in the telephone booth is looking rather shabby. Is there any kind soul who would like to come & give it a coat of paint? (Paint will be provided) This facility is well used & books are changed fairly regularly. Surplus books are taken to Tewkesbury Abbey book stall or The Bookworm. All our books are FREE!!

TREDINGTON & STOKE ORCHARD GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL STRAWBERRY TEA

SATURDAY 12TH AUGUST 2023 3.00 – 5.00PM

York Barn, Home Farm, Tredington GL20 7BP

Raffle

Tickets- £7 for adults & £4 for children 10 & under,

available from Paddy on 01684 294053



**Tredington
Primary
School**



School on Holiday - Back for Autumn Term!!



STOKE ORCHARD & TREDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councillors from June 16th 2023 are:-

Cllr Alan McDonald (Chairman) Cllr Andrew Troughton, Cllr James Gilder,
Cllr Tim Jukes, Councillor Graham Ferguson, Councillor Sue Shorrock
Councillor George Fairbairn

Contact Details – through the Clerk - Mrs Michelle Hinde
S.O and T.P.C. phone:-07763 250303 email – clerk@sotpc.co.uk

Minutes of Past Meetings are to be found on the Parish Council Website.

Notice of Stoke Orchard and Tredington Parish Council Meeting The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Tuesday September 5th at 7.00pm. at the Community Centre, Stoke Orchard and will be held according to standard Parish Council Meeting regulations. The Council will continue the Clerks special Powers Facility invoked for Covid Regulations for the foreseeable future.

The Full Minutes of the meeting on July 11th will be available on the website when approved by Council. www.stokeorchardandtredington.org.uk

Dear Resident

Well, isn't July a bit of a damp squib. At least we're not sweltering under the temperatures the rest of southern Europe is experiencing at the moment. It certainly appears, this year especially, that climate change is making its' effects very apparent; even the doubters would have to agree.

Now into my third month as chair, it has become apparent just how much our previous chair found time to do. I shouldn't really have my own business, as I could quite easily fill my whole week with council stuff! I thought it would be easier to bullet point the issues this month that all the pc have been dealing with.

- The search for a safe and most beneficial haven for the public open space money from Bloor has been led by Cllr Ferguson. I'm pleased to say that he has secured some great interest rates, which should allow us to use the money to maximum benefit for longer for the whole Parish.
- Matt McGovern at Typecraft kindly produced at cost a massive and detailed picture board of our whole parish. It has been

installed in the meeting room at the Community Centre. Do go and have a look.

- The pump track go ahead has been received and we are currently contacting the companies involved for updated costs. Once they have been received the work can commence. Hopefully the youngsters should be able to enjoy this later in the year.
- We have discovered that there is some money available from TBC to be spent on the MUGA, which is in need of a little attention. We will be getting quotes for new, longer-lasting back boards for the basketball hoops, repairing the tennis net post holes, and sourcing a secure storage box for the tennis net, netball poles and any other sports equipment, which is currently stored at the community centre. Anyone who'd like to help in any MUGA matters, we'd love to hear from you. Do please contact the clerk if you have any time to help.
- The POS contractor, in the next few weeks will be going round the estate dealing with the kerbside weeds, which have loved the latest rain. The trees and hedges have to wait until September, until the birds have flown their nests.
- The Community Speedwatch team are proactive as ever, and it's this persistence which will pay dividends in the end. A grant for a speed camera is still being pursued.
- Finally on Sunday July 30th, I'm begging for a bit of help from any willing residents. The area in front of and around our lovely community centre is looking a little unkempt. The few volunteers are struggling to keep up with the incessant list of to-do's. Could I ask that anybody with a couple of hours to spare on that Sunday, please come and help? We will start at 10am at the hall, and coffee and cake will be provided.

Have a great Month all!

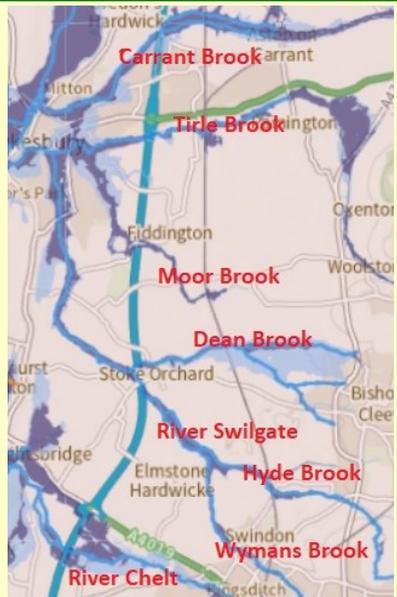
Richard's Ramblings

The dramatic rainfall in the last few days reminded us of those days back in 2007 and the floods of June 22nd and July 20th. However, it gave cause to consider the land drainage in our area as against the storm water drainage, both in the villages and towns and of course road side drainage. Our land, or soil around the Severn Vale and especially here, is very heavy in fact, some of the heaviest in the world. Without land drainage, cultivation and even livestock farming at the intense levels know today would be well nigh impossible.

As proof of the density of our soil here is a piece from the Museum of Rural Life at Reading University. "**Gloucestershire Long Plough:** There were strong traditions of regional styling in plough design around the country, reflecting differences in soil, climate and farming practice. The traditional form of plough made by local workshops in Gloucestershire had a very distinctive long wooden beam and long straight-surfaced mouldboard. It was meant to be well suited for working the heavy clay land of the district. There were no wheels at the front to become clogged and the long beam gave a good line of draught for the four or even five horses that could be required for the heaviest land. Another Gloucestershire long plough in the collection is described as "**an all wooden plough from the clay land of the Vale of Tewkesbury. It is almost fifteen feet long and was pulled by five horses.**"

So how do farmers work the ground in the Tewkesbury Vale? Well the first and most important input is land drainage. In around the 1870's, much of the farmland around here underwent a land drainage programme. This consisted of digging trenches and laying clay or earthenware pipes in the trenches which drained into ponds or into the ditches along the sides of the fields. These ditches then interconnected like a labyrinth and finally drained out into one of the streams and rivers around the Parish. In the ancient History of the Parish of Tredington it was noted that it was well served by the Swilgate and the Moor Brook. Stoke Orchard added the Dean and the Hyde to the Swilgate.

This map shows the rivers and streams which drain the Parish. I added the River Chelt to show how the divide between our Catchment area from the Harp Hill above Cheltenham around to Gotherington Hill. This is the Environment Agency Planning Map of Flood areas. Please do NOT get too excited, it needs updating due to recent improvements. As Flood Warden and also now giving talks to Flood Groups on behalf of GRCC it is a map to which I refer in my lectures. Back to Drainage!!



Probably the first recorded land drainage was 4000 years ago in what we now know as Northern Pakistan in the River Indus Basin and worked by the Indus Valley Civilisation, a Bronze age time. However, early use of Bamboo with holes drilled in it was believed to have been use around that period by the Chinese. In the UK, early drainage was by ditches and then in the 17th Century, underground drainage



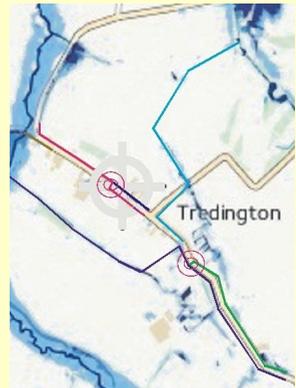
installed by digging trenches and filling with bushes or stones. These were followed in the 18th century by terracotta or earthen ware pipes. Today plastic corrugated pipe with slits punched in it has all but seen the end of the clay pipes. The clay ones were of many different diameters from 2 inch right up to 9 inch and

were laid butt jointed with no collars which allowed the water to seep in through the joints. The optimum level for laying drains was around 30 inches and then a 6''' to 9'' layer of clean gravel on top to assist water to run to the pipe. However, drains did not run from the minute they were laid. It often took 2 to 3 years for the ground to settle down and the drain pipe to draw the water from the soil.



Ridge and Furrow, which came from the feudal system before enclosure and the hedges and fences created fields, always ran to water which is why even nowadays, where the remains of Ridge and Furrow are evident, one field may have furrows running in several different directions. As in the 1870's the drains were laid to follow the furrows, it is often possible to dig in a furrow and find a clay drainage pipe. Certainly in our area the ground rises and falls in different directions, so where the lie of the land prevented open ditches being used, main carrier drains were dug, often by hand, to take the drainage outfall from one area up to three miles away to outfall into a convenient watercourse. A good example of this is the drainage from part of the Solar Farm at Stoke Orchard which runs in a 9 inch clay drain, under the M5, under Bozards Lane, across the golf course, under the main buildings at 9ft 6 inches deep, under the Fiddington Lane at 7ft deep and outfalls in the little Fidd behind Walton Cardiff.

While Stoke Orchard drainage, apart from the area of the Solar Farm, drains into the Dean, the Hyde and the Swilgate, the Village drainage in Tredington is quite fascinating. All the land to the south of the village drains to the Swilgate. From the M5 bridge on Stoke Road, the first field next to the school and the school playground is drained via a pipe under the road side footpath and thence under the road across the field and down a ditch to the Swilgate. Fields from the



School all the way to Mill farm on the North of the road drain to the Tirlle Brook at Tewkesbury via ditches and thence the Lesser Fidd and the Little Fidd and joined by the Moor Brook. The road drainage Home Farm to the Swilgate is by the old 225mm sewer pipe which we have had so many problems, down to the Swilgate. However long before the 225 mm pipe was used, drainage was by road side ponds and ditches of which 20 ponds in the village curtilage recorded in 1838 have been filled in over the years. The Village Hall (Old School room) part of the Vicarage out-houses and other buildings actually being built on the site of old ponds which drained the highway at that time.

Returning to the local soil being heavy, the main problem is compaction leading to an impervious layer of soil in the top 6 inches preventing water seeping naturally through the soil. This was very evident at the Golf Course where the constant passage of feet, trollies and buggies, not to forget the mowers, but they had low pressure tyres, would create a pan, I built a miniature 4 leg mole plough that cut the soil and pulled a 4 legs set 11 inches apart through the ground at 5 inches depth. Not only did this assist drainage, it allowed the grass roots to permeate the soil access moisture during drought. You may have the same problem with your lawn. We spent well over £100,000 on drainage building the golf course but that's another story! Some lawn mowers, especially those with small rollers to create the stripes, continually roll the surface and along with netball, football, cricket and many other garden based sport this creates a pan under your lawn. Always a good idea to aerate the lawn with a fork or similar tined unit at least 4 inches deep, driving it in and wagging back and forth to break the pan and allow the roots to breathe and grow.

Coming up to the present day, farmers in a heavy soil area have realised that major ploughing and cultivation and the continual roll of massive machinery while tilling the land further compacts the soil. Years ago the rotavator was heralded as a one pass



cultivator until it was found that the continual spinning blades actually formed a pan under the rotovated soil. Now it is the era of “minimal cultivation” and the use of one pass direct drills to minimise compaction and movement of the soil. Where possible all heavy machinery follows the tram lines we see in crops to prevent an overall pan. Having sat on a Defra Grant Committee for many years, the Direct Drill is the tool that in this area most arable farmers want to use.

Naturally in the fens and other areas of light, free draining sandy and loamy soils, things are different, but in the Tewkesbury Vale, we have heavy soil—VERY HEAVY SOIL!!



Stoke Orchard and Tredington Parish Council Community Speed Watch



Brake, the road safety charity, reveal that this year's theme for Road Safety Week is Let's talk about SPEED

Five people die on UK roads every day.
Why do we still think it's ok to speed?

The aim of the 2023 campaign is to create conversations around why speeding is considered acceptable in some situations, what happens when we speed and why reducing speed saves lives.

We want people to talk about speed at work, in schools, within communities and online to raise awareness throughout Road Safety Week. Though it is not the cause of all road crashes, speed remains a significant factor in every road crash, and everyday speeding is something we need to talk about more.

The theme was set following discussions with representatives from community groups, the police, Government, businesses, educators and other charities and road safety campaigners.

Sign up now and as always we'll provide an action pack of resources including information and facts on the subject of speed, videos and animations, activities and learning tools for everyone to take part. You'll only get these by signing up to Road Safety Week 2023.

[https://www.brake.org.uk/road-safety-week?
mc_cid=f1bffe1933&mc_eid=39ad808c95](https://www.brake.org.uk/road-safety-week?mc_cid=f1bffe1933&mc_eid=39ad808c95)

This morning, 20th July, three CSW members (wearing hi-viz jackets) conducted a speed monitoring session at 9.00am - 10am. 102 vehicles were counted. 34% exceeded the 30mph speed limit, with 15% exceeding 35mph. Three vehicles exceeded 40mph.



Five people die on roads every day > Why do we still think it's OK to speed?

www.brake.org.uk/RoadSafetyWeek



**STOKE ORCHARD COMMUNITY CENTRE and
THE ORCHARD STORE AND AMY'S COFFEE SHOP**

Sunny August We Hope!



August is a quieter month for us with respect to Hall bookings but we will be working behind the scenes trying to get some much needed maintenance completed. Look out on social media when this will be taking place and the maintenance to be done.

All volunteers are welcome and gratefully received!

Some classes are taking a summer break, please check the dates on the schedule.

We do have some availability in August for any last minute hires/parties. If you would like to book please email

booking@stokeorchard.org a.s.a.p.

Please SUPPORT your local Community Shop!

The Orchard Store has many delectable delights for you including ice creams, cold beverages, snacks, locally made cakes and biscuits. We have a daily delivery of fresh bread and cakes. We take orders if you need something specific for the weekend.

**The Shop will also be open August Bank Holiday – 28th August
from 10am to 3pm!**

To book the hall for events or classes please email

booking@stokeorchard.org

Thank you for your support as ever.



Stoke Orchard Community Centre

August 23 Class timetable

Please see below our class timetable. Please contact the classes directly on the email provided.

Please note that some classes are on holiday in August.

Monday	Zumba 09:30-10:30am michele.darnell@btinternet.com			Yoga 7pm – 8:00pm info@greentreeyoga.co.uk
Tuesday	Pilates 09:30-10:30am pilatesbycharlotte@gmail.com	U3A Art Appreciation 2.00- 4.00pm August 15th	Kettlercise 6:30pm-7.15pm Pilates 7.30-8.00pm tredtraining@outlook.com NO class Aug 19th	
Wednesday	Stoke Orchard Toddler 9.30am - 11:00am Aug 16th and 30th			
Thursday			Chichi - fit 6.00pm - 6.50pm	Hatha Yoga 7.30-8.45pm sadiehawson@gmail.com
Friday	Pilates 09:30-10:30am GravityFitness@live.co.uk			
Saturday		Zumba 10-11am michele.darnell@btinternet.com		
Sunday	Kettlercise 09:00-10:00am tredtraining@outlook.com			

Please see the list of Church Services on Tredington News Pages.

Priest in Charge	Revd Ilse Ferwerda	01452 780880	apperleypriest@gmail.com
Assistant Priest	Rev. Kay Mundy	01452 780634	therevkaymundy@gmail.com
Priest in Charge	Revd Ilse Ferwerda	01452 780880	apperleypriest@gmail.com
Church Warden	Tessa Mills	01684 216563	
Hon Associate Minister	Rev. Tom Curtis, Stonehills Tewkesbury,	01684 295298	
Reader - and Young People's Church	Mrs Vivienne Troughton Tredington, Tewkesbury	01684 293540	
Tredington Primary School	Head Teacher -Mrs Helen Pearce.	01684 293617	hpearce@glatrust.org.uk
Tredington Church Hall/ Village Hall	Frank Jukes	01684 292143	tredingtonvillagehall@gmail.com
Stoke Orchard Community Centre Bookings	Helen MacDonald	07437 533 132	info@stokeorchard.org

Recycling and Waste Collection Dates for **August** Stoke Orchard and

Tredington. Blue - Thursday 10th Thursday 24th

Green. Thursday 3rd Thursday 17th

FLOWER Volunteers are needed to help with flowers and decorating Stoke Orchard Church, especially at Christmas, Easter and Harvest. No skill is required - just a love of flowers! Please contact Tessa Mills (Churchwarden) if you can help. Thanks! Tessa's contact number: 01452 780434

Tredington Flower Rota.

August— 6th Vicky Ward

Aug 13th and 20th Sue Midgley Aug 27th Claire Boldridge

T.Bus Timetable—

Please note times shown are at Stoke Orchard. - Times at Tredington will differ by approx 3 minutes

Tewkesbury to Bishops Cleeve

Stoke Orchard, nr The Orchard	07:59	09:16	10:26	11:37	12:46	13:57	15:09	16:29	17:41	18:51
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Bishops Cleeve to Tewkesbury

Stoke Orchard, by St James's Church	07:14	08:39	09:49	10:59	12:09	13:19	14:29	15:44	17:04	18:14
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