

Stoke Orchard & Tredington Newsletter



*Busy Stoke Orchard
bees will have honey
in The Orchard Stores
in June!*

June 2024

Changing one little thing at a time...

The 'Rule of life of an Oblate' and 'Atomic Habits'!

Twice a year, in May and November, I need to write an Oblate report and send it to the Oblate guardian of the Order of Julian of Norwich, based in the USA. I became an Oblate in 2013, when I took my life vows. The reason I chose this Order is a story for another time! But being an Oblate in life vows means that I try to live life according to the Rule of Life the Order has written, including rules on when and how to pray, when to observe special rules on eating and fasting, and when to receive Holy Communion. It has taken a long time to integrate these rules in my life, and I think it is fair to say that living by ALL the rules continues to be a lofty goal! Some rules are far easier than others, and as we all know, knowing what to do and what would be best for us is one thing, doing all of these things is quite another...

So I have been reading the book 'Atomic Habits.' This book sensibly advocates changing one little thing at a time. This is the way aspirant Oblates learn to live the Rule of Life: begin with one thing, then add another, then another, and so on. The book also advises to add one new habit to another, like building blocks: if your routine is to go downstairs and have a cup of coffee as soon as you wake up, and you want to find a way to sit quietly to pray or just look out at nature, then make this happen by putting the chair you would sit in, in front of the window. Or, if you want to do some exercise after drinking your coffee, put on your exercise clothes before you go downstairs and make sure your trainers are by the door to remind you. All very sensible, but it does take some planning and thinking!

I wonder what 'rules' you live by, and how these rules came to be into your life? Are there any 'rules' that need updating, reviewing, changing? Some rules are cultural, many are given to us by our families, and for Christians, the Church and the Bible have laid down rules too. Are there new rules you want to live by? And if so, how will you implement them in your life? Change is never easy, and best tackled small bit by small bit. Where will you start?

Peace and summer blessings to you all,

Ilse

June 6th 2024 – The 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings

Late in the evening of June 5th 1944, a group of six Horsa Gliders, towed by Halifax bomber aircraft, left RAF Tarrant Rushton air-field in Dorset, destination Normandy on the North Coast of France.

Those aircraft carried soldiers of the 2nd Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, their objective was to capture and hold two bridges on the Caen

Peninsular. The one over the River Orne was known as the Ranville Bridge, the second over the Caen Canal known now as Pegasus Bridge. Those gliders were piloted by soldiers, army staff sergeants, trained to fly gliders, many of whom were trained here at RAF Stoke Orchard.



This was the culmination of weeks of training and months of planning and the success of the early D Day Landings, as they became known, were in the hands of these six crews who piloted these 7 ton Horsa Gliders made of plywood in furniture factories like HH Martin in Cheltenham and that were as big as a DC3 Dakota.

The first three Gliders were to take Pegasus bridge, the others to take the Ranville. Three miles from the French Coast, the pilots re-released their tows at 6000 ft and started their descent. Relying on total silence for their surprise arrivals, they guided their planes into fields alongside the bridges using just a hand held compass and a stop watch. No GPS in those days, "Fly 212 degrees - 90 seconds, 269 degrees - 2 minute 30 seconds. Turn 212 degrees for the landing."

The third glider to land at Pegasus bridge was flown by Geoff Barkway and Peter Boyle, both trained at Stoke Orchard. Our Glider in the Playground carries the Pilot Marking 93, Geoff Barkway's pilot number, and LH469 the Aircraft Code. In this picture, Geoff Barkway's glider can be seen barely 50 yards from the bridge.



It was a feat of immense bravery and expertise. Later that day, soldiers of the Somerset Light Infantry under the charge of Captain Nigel Taylor, who had been granted an Emergency Commission just 24 hours before, were parachuted in to control the captured bridge. Captain Taylor and his troops were surrounded by the enemy but maintained control even though Taylor was injured and later awarded the Military Cross. Captain Taylor later became a Solicitor practising in Tewkesbury.

Roy Howard, another of the advanced D Day Glider Pilots trained at Stoke Orchard was in the third glider destined for the Orne river bridge at Ranville. Landing adjacent to the bridge he found he was the only one there but his troops took the Bridge in 13 minutes. Of the other two Horsas, one had landed short and soon joined Howard. The other had landed at the wrong bridge but captured that one instead. A wonderful description by Roy Howard is available here https://www.pegasusarchive.org/normandy/roy_howard.htm



However, we must remember those who died both on the battle field and in training. We have four Graves in the Churchyard at Stoke Orchard maintained by the War Graves Commission. Flt Lt. Hollindrake 77472 RAF, Cpl Charles Palmer 10546720 (close friend and training colleague of Geoff Barkway,) Sergeant Charles Petre RAF Volunteer Force, and Lt.Col. Charles Fryer 48339 M.C. and Bar all died while in training at Stoke Orchard. LT Col. Fryer was O.C. Glider Pilot Training and enrolled in a second training course to brush up on his skills. He was an exemplary soldier with an amazing career in both wars. Once lovingly described as "Mad as a Bunch of Frogs."

On this, the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings and especially "Operation Deadstick" - The capture of those two important bridges – We Will Remember Them.

Glider pilots Geoff Barkway and Peter Boyle



Lest We Forget.



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laugh,
live

Tewkesbury and District



MEETING - June 10th
10:30am - 12:00pm

Chris O'Grady will speak on the subject of

REMBRANDT

- the Artist's life through his self portrait

No longer in full time work?
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(speaker every second
Monday of the month).

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- Skittles
- Solos Groups
- Spanish
- Strumming for Fun
- Table Tennis
- Walking Groups

**Join us
for fun and
friendship**



Stoke Orchard & Tredington Parish Council



Parish Councillors from May 16th 2023 are:-

Cllr Alan Macdonald (Chairman) • Councillor Sue Shorrock (Vice chair),
Cllr Andrew Troughton • Cllr James Gilder • Cllr Tim Jukes
Cllr Graham Ferguson • Cllr 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 Wednesday June 12th, 2024 at 7pm 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.

www.stokeorchardandtredington.org.uk



Dear Resident,

Our monthly shenanigans:

- The flooding at the end of Archers Lane is becoming regular and cannot just be blocked drains. We had a meeting there with TBC and the issue has been passed up the chain for further investigation. We will keep pestering the relevant department for a solution.
- The new Christmas tree is doing well although several branches have been broken off by youngsters playing football there. There is also some graffiti now in the playpark glider sadly. The community policing team have attended and will monitor the area when they can. I hate to say it, but it is criminal damage so could parents please make their children aware. It'd be a shame for the area to be spoilt.
- The pump track. It's driving us potty! The planners have now asked for a drainage plan. This has been submitted and I live in vain hope that the project might finally be allowed to go ahead. I will keep chasing it, as we're determined not to lose the opportunity.
- We continue to negotiate with the M5 J10 team and other officers involved. The traffic volume seems to get heavier and faster every month, and with other developments planned at Spitfire Homes and elsewhere, this will only get worse. We are determined to try and get the best possible mitigating arrangements in place to alleviate this if we can.
- Local artist Stella Ashmead now has some of her work in the new coffee area of The Orchard Stores. Do go and have a look and treat yourself to coffee and cake too!

- Pleased also to say that the most local of honey is now on sale in The Orchard Stores. As we only have two hives, stock will be limited, so please do try it. I gather greatly enhanced health benefits are to be had from honey made in close proximity to where you live.
- Local residents John and Suzanne Cooper are hoping to form a local football team. This is still in its conception but will be amazing for youngsters of all ages, I hope. Please do consider helping in any way you can. On the same note, we would love to try and get a youth club formed. We have great facilities, and it would be so beneficial for our growing kids.
- The proposed development at Roseleigh has just submitted an updated planning application. Please do have a look and comment if you will on the TBC website. 23/00755/FUL | Full planning application for the erection of 126 dwellings and associated vehicular access, public open space, landscaping and other infrastructure including the demolition of the existing property known as Roseleigh along with associated outbuildings and the agricultural building located to the north of Banady Lane. | Roseleigh Stoke Road Stoke Orchard Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL52 7RU (tewkesbury.gov.uk)
- Otherwise, we continue to try to better the community in which we live. Please do contact us if there is anything we can help you with.

Have a great month all!

Items Affecting the Parish

ROAD CLOSURES

Bozard Lane will be closed from 8th May - 7th November 2024 so Solar Farm infrastructure can be installed in the public highway

EVENTS

First Aid Training will take place at the Community Centre on Saturday 1st June 11:30-2:30. Places can be reserved in the Community Shop and there is a £5 fee for the training to be paid at the time of reservation.

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Tewkesbury Borough Council want to change their name to North Gloucestershire Borough Council. The name-change consultation is now live! The consultation explains why they want to make the change and details the benefits and concerns. Most importantly, it gives residents, businesses and local organisations the chance to share whether there are any benefits or issues they haven't thought of

Vicar	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		
Reader and Young People's Church	Mrs Vivienne Troughton, Tredington	01684 293540	
Tredington Primary School	Head Mrs Emily Watton	01684 293617	Head.TPS.glatrust.org.uk
Tredington Church Hall/ Village Hall	Frank Jukes	01684 292143	tredingtonvillagehall@gmail.com
Stoke Orchard Community Centre Bookings	Helen MacDonald	07437 533132	info@stokeorchard.org

Church services – June

Sunday 2nd June 9.30am • Tredington Morning Worship
 Tuesday 4th June 3pm • Meet the vicar at Stoke Orchard shop
 Sunday 9th June 9.30am • Stoke Orchard Holy Communion
 Sunday 16th June 9.30am • Tredington Holy Communion
 Sunday 23rd June 9.30am • Stoke Orchard Holy Communion
 Tuesday 25th June 2pm • Meet the vicar at Tredington Village Hall
 Sunday 30th June 10am • Forthampton Benefice Communion

Recycling & Waste Collection Dates for June 2024 - Stoke Orchard & Tredington

BLUE	Thursday 13th	Thursday 27th
GREEN	Thursday 6th	Thursday 20th



REQUEST FOR HELP AND DONATIONS

TRUSSELL TRUST TEWKESBURY shopping list for food bank.
 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

An illustration showing a variety of hands of different skin tones (light, medium, and dark brown) stacked together in a huddle. The hands are wearing various colorful sleeves and watches, symbolizing diversity and community. The background is a solid blue color.

HAVING A COMMUNITY IS HAVING A SUPPORT NETWORK

ERIKA HELSTROM



Stoke Orchard Community Centre



We are very lucky to have some excellent exercise classes here at the hall and we would like to highlight them. We will do this over the next few months.

Mondays



Zumba With Michele Darnell • 9.30am Monday

Zumba·In Person – 55min • £6.00 • REGISTER £6.
Suitable for ages 16 and over at all levels of fitness. We are a very friendly group and everyone is welcome. £6 per class. CLASSES HAVE TO BE PREBOOKED. NUMBERS LIMITED. NO DROP INS. A mixture of Latin, Dance, Salsa, Bachata, Cumbia and many more. This is a low intensity class that you take at your own pace. Workout Intensity – Low



Sweatymama Classes run by Laura 10.30am on Mondays

A fun, effective aerobic style workout both you and your little one will love. Pre and postnatal adaptations to suit your needs. Suitable for mama's little ones from 6wks to pre school age. For enquiries or to book email: laurawilliams@sweatymama.com



Green Tree Yoga • 7-8pm Mondays

Please contact Katy on info@greentreeyoga.co.uk

Please support these wonderful classes. If you would like to run your own class, please contact booking@stokeorchard.org

The Orchard Store and Amy's Coffee Shop!



We are loving the new area for the Coffee Shop and we are now displaying and selling Stella Ashmead Art.

Our shop is temperature controlled which is a welcome relief from when it gets hot outside. Have a drink and a slice of cake in the cool and admire the Art work. Now that the weather is getting better, please don't forget that we sell a good selection of cold drinks and ice creams.

Thank you for your continued custom!



Stoke Orchard Community Centre



June 2024 Class Timetable

Please contact the class instructors for more details.

Monday	ZUMBA 9.30 – 10.30AM michele.darnell@btinternet.com	SWEATYMAMA 10.45AM – 12.30PM www.sweatymama.com	YOGA 7.00 – 7.55PM info@greentreeyoga.co.uk
Tuesday	PILATES 9.30 – 10.30AM pilatesbycharlotte@gmail.com		KETTLERCISE 6.30 – 7.15PM PILATES 7.30 – 8PM tredtraining@outlook.com
Wednesday	STOKE ORCHARD TODDLERS 9.30 – 11.00AM		
Thursday		CHI CHI 6.00 – 7.00PM jess.thesugarshack@gmail.com	HATHA YOGA 7.30 – 8.45PM sadiehawson@gmail.com
Friday	PILATES 9.30 – 10.30AM gravityfitness@live.co.uk		
Saturday	ZUMBA 10.00 – 11.00AM michele.darnell@btinternet.com		
Sunday	KETTLERCISE 9.00 – 10.00AM tredtraining@outlook.com		

Tredington News for June 2024

TREDINGTON & STOKE ORCHARD WI

held a very happy meeting playing board games! This was something we had not tried before but everyone present voted it a great success. Next month we are meeting in Tredington Village Hall on **Tuesday, June 11th at 7.30pm**. Our speaker is Benjamin Nicholls & his subject "The Devil's daughter & Me" sound very intriguing! Do join us if you can. Visitors & new members are always welcome.



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TREDINGTON & STOKE ORCHARD GARDENING CLUB are planning on going on our Annual Day Out on Sunday, June 9th to an Open Garden Day around the village of East Hendred near Wantage. This is a coach trip which will leave Tredington Village Hall at 9.30am. Cars can be left in the Village Hall car park. If you are interested in joining us (you don't have to be a member) please contact Bob on 07967701454 as soon as possible as we need a certain number to make the trip viable.



Date for your diary:
Annual Strawberry Tea at Home Farm, York Barn
on Saturday, August 17th, 3 - 5pm.



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TREDINGTON VILLAGE HALL

COMMITTEE held a successful "Walking on History" event in York Barn, Tredington on May 10th when local metal detectorist, Martin Robinson gave a most interesting talk & showed us his displays of artefacts found around this area. 44 people attended & also enjoyed a wine & Cheese buffet.



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THE SANDBAGGERS Eleven members of the Tredington sandbaggers went on the T bus to Tewkesbury & enjoyed breakfast at Wetherspoons in May. Any man living in Tredington is invited to join this group who usually meet for coffee, biscuits & chat once a month in Tredington Village Hall.

Meet your neighbour

Lee Major • Age 47 • Director of Major Solutions IT Consultancy Ltd
Designer and Craftsman of Natures-Design.co.uk

Tell us about yourself..

Well, I guess I should start at the beginning. Born into the Royal Navy and christened on HMS Invincible, it was inevitable I would end up serving for my country one way or another but first I would have to navigate my way through education.

Education was not at the top of my list when it came to things I liked to do so I often bunked off and went down to the sea front and watched the anglers on South Parade Pier wasting their day away awaiting the mysterious whopper that they all dreamed off.

I spent most of my other free time on the building sites with my step dad Micheal who taught me all the education I believed I needed and that was hard graft with a bit of will and determination and an attitude of "If you want something, go and get it as no one will hand it to you" is all you need. With that in mind at the grand old age of 10 I was working and earning money as a laborer, growing some great biceps at the same time.

At 12 my parents decided we needed a culture change and wanted to escape the rat race of Britain and we moved abroad to Northern Cyprus where I was again made to attend school, this didn't last long as I did not speak Turkish at the time so made a deal with my mum that if found a job that I could leave school. She said yes so, I got a job as helper/waiter at a local French cuisine restaurant used by the UN VIP's. It soon became apparent by the English owners that my talent was wasted in front of house (or I was so bad at waitering they did not know what to do with me). So it turned out I was a fast learner and had a creative side to me that the owner/chef had noticed and taught me to cook and within a year I was running the kitchen due to the chef having to head off to the UK for a major operation. So between Usef the potato peeler and myself we covered of the cooking side of things for 3 months over the summer... what a great experience at such a young age but something I was not sure I wanted to continue in, so once the chef was recovered fully, I moved on to the next adventure. Casino Royal!

15 years old and I was bored, it was hot hot hot and I was bored so my dad got news of a new casino opening up on the Island and he knew someone who knew someone else who was training up croupiers for the Grand opening of the casino in 3 month's time... now remember I did not know maths and my written English was horrendous so surely I had no chance of getting the job...best jeans and t-shirt on and off I went. So it seems they were desperate and I was white English and just what they were looking for! Luckily for me the gambling business in Cyprus did not really follow any legislation and in fact was the most corrupt business you could work for. As it turned out I was also fairly good at

dealing Roulette, Poker, Blackjack and Punto banco! And my maths came on leaps and bounds. After a while I decided to take my new profession to Istanbul and wow what a difference. It was a dark dangerous place to be a croupier and after a few near misses with the local Mafia I went back to Northern Cyprus to live with Mum.

So, what do I do now? Well whilst helping my dad out on a renovation job I met my new Turkish Best friend who did not speak English and I spoke very little Turkish so we hit it off instantly and we the terrible Duo turned our hand to Italian Plastering and we worked hard and played hard but after another job for my old restaurant employer on a new building venture they had started on they asked If I would run their building site as I now spoke very good Turkish and not so bad English and the worker where all Turks... and so at just shy of 17 I was a site foreman. Year on the British sites taught me loads and so I knew by the end of the job I would never ever by a Turkish property... now obviously building sites only operate during the day, right? So, they asked if I would help out in the kitchen again on the busy evenings for which I reluctantly said yes. This turn out to be advantageous, as their very close friends owned the Michelin star Bear Hotel in CrickHowel in south Wales (did not know what Michelin star meant or where Wales was) and upon seeing and tasting my delights one fine evening they offered me a job on the spot if I was ever to return back to the UK! Well, I being someone not to pass up a potential gift horse in the mouth I packed my bag of returned to England!

The Bear Hotel: Well it become apparent very quickly that although I knew how to cook a very select menu in Cyprus I really knew very little about cooking in general... but the owners took me under their wings (probably felt like the needed to as I was only 17 and a bit) and I learnt the ropes of and soon turned my hands to Pastry and worked on deserts learning the other sides of the industry during the quieter periods and I did enjoy my time in Wales and with the team and it was the team that I realized I loved being a part off.

The Army: At eighteen and half I decided I wanted to join the Armed forces and after consulting my serving family members I decided I did not want to do what they did so I joined the Army, The Royal Engineers to be precise. Now not having any form of education or GCSE's meant that my options where limited to a few and went with the career path of least resistance and fastest promotion and I graduated from the school of military engineering as a combat signaler, coming top of my engineering class and signal class.

I went on to start my first Posting at 33 Explosive Ordinance Disposal and came top of the Bomb Disposal course much to my mums dismay as my dad had told her I would more than likely get a job in the stores and be safe to keep her mind at rest... as it turned out we had a nick name of Bomb Stompers! I absolutely loved my career in the Army and one I will never forget as it gave me purpose and kept me focused on what I was good at and that is my hands, during my time I defused IED's in Kosovo, built a dam in Kenya, swam in one of Saddam Hussains swimming pool in Iraq and smelt the fresh air of the wadies in Afghanistan. But after 12½ years and the loss of a few friends it was time to leave and start a fresh.

IT: What's all this IT stuff, well IT is where you go and make some good money by pretending you know what you are doing by surrounding yourself with others that are more technical than you but need you to convey their geekiness they come up with into a language that others like yourself can understand! And boy am I good at that, the wife calls me a blagger I like to think I'm more of a technical project manager that still has hands on... those in the industry will know, and those that do not well it's just IT magic.

My passion: After so long doing all sorts of things like snowboarding, carp fishing, cycling, running, tropical fish keeping I have decided that the energy that went into those hobbies are better spent planning for the future. After landscaping my garden and becoming passionate about gardening, nature soon came knocking on my door with birds and I started to have a fascination with them and the calming effects they bring to the mind and soul...as it turns out that seems to be nature in full just something that has taken until now for me to discover. So having a fully blown workshop to cater for all my building needs I thought what the hell lets plan for the future and retirement!

Now if people think retirement for me would mean a day at the golf course or sat around drink coffee doing nothing well you don't know me very well lol... having realized I probably has a wee bit of ADHD and OCD I don't sit still or rest (that's what sleep is for right?), and so most evening I will be outside in the workshop designing and building Bird bee/butterfly/hedgehog houses. And we, Ann (my wife bless her) and I have decided that this is something I could do now and then once I retire from IT to keep me busy and out of her way and earn a few pennies along the way.

Natures-Design: November 2023 after designing some bird houses and a hedgehog abode I took the prototypes to the Bishops Cleeve Garden Club evening to show case them and get some feed back. What I wasn't expecting was that in less than 48hrs I would have to make nearly 50 creature houses before Christmas and I didn't even have the templates and materials to do it. But in a true Major fashion and a wee bit of military planning of we went.

The company prides itself on only using reclaimed wood and we wont use new timbers as we wont be part of the habitat destruction just to provide habitats to birds because their tree was cut down if you get me? So of we went hunting down free and very cheap pine and hardwood furniture, if you look there are lots. 2 weeks later and all the wood needed was processed. Now onto the builds, in my head I can build 5 a night in reality I can completely build 7 a week 10 if I work very late into the evenings. Now do the maths yep it doesn't add up so off I went working every evening till gone midnight, getting up in the morning to re-paint the boxes before work and this continued until the last birdbox was hand delivered on Christmas Eve!

Times have moved on, designs have changed, and production has sped up a little bit and my time on the job has been reduced so the future is looking good and the plan I believe will work for the future retirement plans also! Will we be millionaires? Hell no, will we be having 3 holidays a year? Nope! Can I chill out at home near my family and enjoy what I do? YES

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