

Stoke Orchard & Tredington Newsletter



November 2024

A warm, cozy living room scene. In the foreground, a cup of tea sits on a saucer on a textured blanket. In the background, a fireplace with a roaring fire is visible, and a window with curtains is on the left.

The day is yours, and also the night...

Don't the days get noticeably shorter and colder now? The window for 'doing outdoor things in daylight' is getting smaller, and I haven't quite managed to get in tune with the shorter days yet. One month I manage to finish running a quarter marathon, the next I am struggling to find the right time to get out of the door for a one mile jog.... I am sure I am not the only one who has less energy at this time of the year and finds they want to get up when the sun rises, even if that is after 8am, and go to bed when the sun sets, even if that is just after 6pm.

But there are things we may appreciate more when there are longer periods of darkness. I have an open fire, and I love watching the flames, and the smell of the wood. I love candlelight, and listening to music by candlelight, huddled under my heated blanket, even better when one or both of my cats are on my lap or next to me.

Between November and the end of January, a friend of mine arranges an online gathering one evening each week, and while we sit in darkness, she plays music and reads poetry, some of it written by her, with periods of silence in between. It feels like being a child tucked up in bed listening to bedtime stories and songs, and it's a highlight of my week!

What sorts of things do you appreciate or enjoy in these shorter darker days?

Psalms 74 has some beautiful verses: 'The day is yours, and also the night; you established the sun and moon. It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter.'

The good thing about living in this temperate and fertile region of God's creation is that we have clear seasons, and each has their own challenges and blessings. Our meeting together for services and events throughout the benefice is a definite blessing, even if the temperature in church may be more of a challenge! So wear your woollies, bring a blanket, and let's celebrate and connect with all that is good in this season.

Peace and blessings to you all,

Ilse



Stoke Orchard & Tredington Parish Council



Parish Councillors from May 16th 2024 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 – 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 November 6th, 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,

It's been a very wet Parish over the last month! Is it climate change beginning to be felt or is it just a normal spell of weather. I do feel, if you look around the world at the increasing extreme weather events occurring, that it can't be ignored.

We can only hope that the people in power behave as they should... well, we know some of them won't!

- On the subject of the rain, we had more than our fair share over the last few weeks. It resulted in Highways closing the roads, both through Tredington and in Stoke Orchard for a period of time. Despite this some motorists still thought it was fine to ignore the closures and move the barrier to go on their merry way. No thought was given that the wave of water from their vehicle was further flooding people's homes.
- We are trying very hard to hold both Highways and the Environment Agency to their responsibilities, as the ditches around the Parish need cleared out and any blockages of pipes from roots and the like are contributing to the slow dispersal of water.
- Further to this, we hope (by being pests), that we can get some action (or at least acknowledgement), that there is an inherent problem with our existing drainage and sewerage arrangement, that causes the discharge through the manholes in both Dean Lane, and in Swan Lane.
- Work commenced on the repair to the bridge at Tredington, but this was halted almost immediately when the Environment Agency decided they wanted to look at Highways plans before they would approve the works. Hopefully they can agree soon, and this can be another issue put to bed.
- The M5 Junction 10 team are still consulting with other parties. With all in agreement, the mitigating measures for Stoke Orchard will be implemented in the next few months.

- The pump track has been a massive success with up to thirty or so children on there at any one time. The older kids are being very mindful of the little ones, so thank you! Could I ask that everyone uses the litter bin by the MUGA please, so that the area doesn't begin to look unsightly. We have tried to get an extra bin up by the picnic tables, but TBC wouldn't empty it so far from the road.
- We are investigating the plans for a bypass from J9 to the A46. There are currently three options, two of which come through the Parish. We will look closely at these and keep you posted.
- With the departure of Helen from the community centre (although she will continue on the committee), Gordon & Heather Webber have stepped in to temporarily manage it until we can find a new manager. We have done a number of interviews and are considering all applicants carefully. With big shoes to fill, and with all of our passionate desire to build on the existing success of the hall and shop, we really want the right person. As ever, anybody who has an hour or two to spare, please, please do offer. There are so many little odd jobs, and our little team can't do them all. I have put a wee list in this newsletter of easy tasks, Please do say if you could help; it would be sooo welcome!

Have a good month all!

Vicar	Revd Ilse Ferwerda	01452 780880	apperleypriest@gmail.com
Assistant Priest	Rev. Kay Mundy	01452 780634	therevkaymundy@gmail.com
Vicar in Charge	Revd Ilse Ferwerda	01452 780880	apperleypriest@gmail.com
Church Warden	Tessa Mills	01684 216563	
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

**PLEASE DO BE AWARE OF YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD
AND OUR PETS IF YOU ARE CELEBRATING
GUY FAWKES NIGHT, THANK YOU.**

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOUR

— STEVE WATTS

I was born in Wellingborough in 1972. We moved to Northampton soon after where my sister was born in 1974.

I clearly wanted to be a cowboy in those early days, and this picture was taken when living in Northampton. The costume was made for me by my mum's sister, my Auntie Chris. I apparently lived in that costume!

My Dad's side of the family are from Northampton and my Mum's were from Leicester. They were Pub landlords until they retired; I think this must be where I developed my love of a good pint!

Sadly, on 3rd November 1975 aged just 25, my Mum, Barbara Pauline Watts, died of a brain haemorrhage. I don't remember much about her being only 2 and half although I was in the house when she died and can vividly recall seeing my mum on the sofa as the ambulance man moved me out of the way on my ride on milk float! That was sadly the last time I saw her. My mum's family lived in Leicester I am pleased we have stayed close, and I have many happy memories of going to spend time with them over summer holidays and Christmas. Had events been different I may well have ended up living in Leicester, and I would not be writing this story as I would not have ended up here in Stoke Orchard. This is one of the last pictures of me and my Mum as she died shortly after this was taken.

Growing up without my mum has had a massive impact on my life and looking back I don't have massively fond memories of my childhood as a result. My dad remarried to someone I can only describe as 'the wicked Stepmother' where we lived in Bedford. Their marriage ended a year later, and we moved back to Northampton where I lived with my grandparents for much of my childhood. My Nana and Grandad were amazing! I have the happiest of memories while living with them. I recall going out every Saturday night to my Grandad's social club to play bingo and eating cheese rolls in the interval! My Dad's brother would often call the bingo and perhaps this is where I get my talent to call the Bingo at the odd event in the Community Centre!

I spent the rest of my childhood in Northampton. My Dad married for a third time to his current wife and my lovely stepmom, Kate, and her two boys. At School I was the first year to take GCSE's and I did my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, where I had the privilege to meet Emlyn Hughes when he presented my award. I used to sing in the church choir and



became Head Chorister and can remember singing solos at weddings (getting paid 50p a wedding!) and angelically singing the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City' for midnight mass. Unfortunately, in true showbiz style, my voice broke whilst singing a solo at a big wedding! Just before taking my GCSE's, my Mum and Dad moved to Watford, so I remained living at my grandparents to finish my GCSEs before joining them in Watford. Once there, I went to my first Watford football match where I saw a team managed by Graham Taylor win Division 2. Since then, I was hooked, and I have supported Watford FC ever since.

I started work at 16 with a career in retail working as a Sales Assistant in Clements an independent Department Store in Watford. The TV series 'Are you being Served' was actually based on Clements. Yes, there really was Mrs Slocombe, Captain Peacock, and Mr Humphries working there! In August 1990, I secured a Job as a Buyers Clerk in Leather and Travel Goods at The John Lewis Partnership. I worked in various roles within the Partnership for 27 Years! I have many things to thank John Lewis for including meeting my amazing wife Susie and also my long career working in IT. After 25 years' service in 2016, I took my long leave (a fully paid sabbatical) and took over the day to day running of the Stoke Orchard Shop (but more on this later).

After my long leave, I decided to move on and I joined Arcadia (the group that owned Topshop, TopMan, Burton, Miss Selfridge, Evans) as a Business Analyst where I worked on the group's websites. Arcadia was a brilliant place to work and yes, I did meet Phillip Green on several occasions! I also met a number of celebrities including Naomi Campbell, Baroness Karren Brady and Richard Ayoade to name a few. Due to Arcadia's impending administration, I secured a role at Whitbread (owner of Premier Inn) where I work today leading a large team of Business Analysts in the Digital space. If you have ever used the Premier Inn website it will be myself or one of my team that has worked on that. My job is extremely demanding and takes me to London and Dunstable 3 days a week. I have to leave home at 4.30am each day to get to the office at a decent time.

Through my job I often travel to our IT partner based in the beautiful City of Cluj in Romania. I usually visit for a week at time every few months. Cluj is a university town which is in Transylvania. I have not yet seen Dracula, but his castle is an amazing place to visit. Romania is such a friendly and amazing place and I am really lucky to have met some people through my work that have become friends. Cluj is such a lovely and friendly city I would recommend anyone to visit.

I am married to Susie, we have just celebrated our 21st anniversary having met at John Lewis 25 years ago. We have two children; Jamie who is 18 and has just started work as a trainee Paralegal and Hollie, 14, who has just started her GCSEs and is an amazing gymnast! Our newest addition to the family is Pipa our gorgeous but slightly mad, Australian labradoodle. Susie and I lived in near Bedford when we were first married but moved to Tewkesbury 18 years ago to be closer to her parents.

We moved to Stoke Orchard 10 years ago. It was the best decision we have ever made! We are so lucky to live in such a lovely village and have made some amazing friends while here. We have



never lived anywhere where there is such a sense of community, have neighbours that have become our friends and where people will say hello to you when you're out walking around the village.

In my spare time, and when I am not spending time with the family or watching Watford or Formula 1, I am a volunteer doing various roles across the community, which I find extremely rewarding. I initially started my journey as a School Governor at the John Moore Primary School in Tewkesbury. This gave me the 'bug' and I now do lots of different roles within education.

To be able to do something that can make even a small difference to a Young Person's life is simply amazing! I also did a stint on the Stoke Orchard Parish Council as well as being part of the Committee that runs the Shop and Community Centre.



But the pull of education was too great, and I am now Chair of Governors at Grangefield School in Bishops Cleeve and also Vice Chair of Trustees at Cleeve School. If that wasn't enough, I also volunteer for Gloucestershire Council where I sit on independent review panels for School Admission appeals or reviewing permanent exclusions. I drive Susie mad because I need to say 'no' occasionally as I am finding it difficult to do my day job and spend time at home, especially with travel to Romania. It was a difficult decision to step away from the day to day running of the shop and Community Centre Committee, but I do try and help out behind the bar when I can!

I urge anyone if they have time, to do a small amount of volunteering as it can be so rewarding. I will finish by saying that I love living in Stoke Orchard - I have found that helping at the shop or volunteering at the Community Centre is very special and it's a brilliant way to get to know so many lovely people in our community.

A large, dark image of a mountain range under a dramatic, orange-hued sunset sky. The mountains are silhouetted against the bright, cloudy sky. The overall tone is warm and inspiring.

**A community that is engaged
and working together can be
a powerful force.**

Idowu Koyenikan

The Orchard Stores and Amy's Coffee Shop

Our wee shop has been very quiet over the last month. Please, please do come in and spend some pennies, however much or little. It means such a difference! Don't want to jump in your car to drive miles? As ever, we try and stock everything you might be short of or missing, just at the wrong time. If there's anything we haven't got, please do let us know.

Community Centre

The hall has been ably managed by Heather & Gordon since Helen's departure. We have interviewed several applicants and are in the process of considering which would be the right person to take our hall onwards and upwards farther.

As the building is now some 10 years old, there are more and more little maintenance tasks rearing their heads. As the hall is self-supporting financially, there isn't a big fund to pay for these to be done, and the few volunteers we have can't possibly do them all. Please help if you can - even an hour here or there would be such a help. Please see the section below if you can. Thank you!

Please help - Jobs for volunteers

Keeping your community centre nice



- Car park Gate needs second coat of yellow paint.
- Dismantle old tables (under stairs in Foyer).
- Playground gate latch needs to be fitted. Latch in office , needs nuts and washers.
- Wooden column in Foyer split, needs sanding back level and filling. Splinters risk to hands and fingers.
- Conduit on Screen wall in Hall needs new clips. Metal preferred but not purchased yet.

If you can help do these small but essential tasks, please contact Gordon or Heather on 07437533132 or 01242 680941.

It would be such a welcome help





Stoke Orchard Community Centre



November 2024 Class Timetable

Please contact the class instructors for more details.

Mon	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
Tues	PILATES 9.30 – 10.30AM pilatesbycharlotte@ gmail.com	STRENGTH & BALANCE with Helen 11AM – 12PM Contact: 07740 309750	U3A ART APPRECI- ATION 22nd Oct 2.00 – 4.00PM	CHILL DANCE 4.30 – 5.25PM Contact 07972 350896	KETTLERCISE 6.30 – 7.15PM PILATES 7.30 – 8PM tredtraining@ outlook.com
Weds	STOKE ORCHARD TODDLERS 9.30 – 11.00AM				CHILL DANCE 8.00 – 8.55PM Contact 07972 350896
Thur			U3A SCIENCE 3rd Oct 2.00 – 4.00PM	HEART GROUP 5.30 – 6.45PM Contact Helen 07740 309750	HATHA YOGA 7.30 – 8.45PM sadiehawson@ gmail.com
Fri	PILATES 9.30 – 10.30AM gravityfitness@ live.co.uk				
Sat	ZUMBA 10 – 11AM michele.darnell@ btinternet.com				
Sun	KETTLERCISE 9 – 10AM tredtraining@ outlook.com				

Tredington & Stoke Orchard News for November 2024

TREDINGTON & STOKE ORCHARD WI next meet on Tuesday, November 12th for our AGM at Tredington Village Hall at 7,30pm. This will be followed by a fish & chip supper.

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TREDINGTON & STOKE ORCHARD GARDENING CLUB are holding their AGM on Monday, November 18th at Tredington Village Hall at 7.30pm. This will be followed by a bring & Share buffet supper. Please could everyone attending bring a small plate of finger food. Wine & soft drink will be provided by the Club. This is our last meeting of the year. Our next meeting will be on January 20th 2025.

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TREDINGTON SANDBAGGERS next meet at Tredington Village Hall on Tuesday, November 12th at 10am for coffee & chat. All men living in Tredington are very welcome to attend.

Church services – November

- Sunday 3rd Nov 9.30am • Morning Worship at Tredington
- Sunday 10th Nov 10.30am – Remembrance Sunday • Holy Communion at Stoke Orchard *(Please note: different time from usual)*
- Sunday 17th Nov 9.30am • Holy Communion at Tredington
- Sunday 24th Nov 10.30am – Benefice Service at Stoke Orchard Community Centre - Cafe Church *(Please note: different time from usual)*

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

BLUE	Thursday 14th	Thursday 28th	Thursday 12th Dec
GREEN	Thursday 7th	Thursday 21st	Thursday 5th Dec



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



Stoke Orchard and Tredington Parish Council Community Speed Watch



Can you help?

**We would like to recruit
new members within
Stoke Orchard to join
our dedicated team!**

You don't need to commit to weekly sessions but if you're concerned about speeding in Stoke Orchard, please email us at speed.watch@sotpc.co.uk and we can meet you for a chat.

Community Speedwatch (CSW) is a national initiative where, in partnership with the police, members of communities use detection devices to monitor local vehicle speeds.

The volunteers report drivers exceeding the speed limit to the police with the aim of educating drivers to slow down.

If the data proves a driver is ignoring repeated warnings police can prosecute them. The aim is to:

- **reduce death and injury on the roads**
- **improve the quality of life for local communities**
- **reduce the speed of vehicles to the speed limit**
- **increase public awareness of inappropriate speed.**

Community Speedwatch does not result in prosecution itself. However, if a persistent speeding driver is identified through the scheme, police can use this evidence to take action against them if required. If there is a persistent general speeding issue where highway improvements are required, the relevant agency will be contacted.



**If you'd like to find out more, please email Susan via
speed.watch@sotpc.co.uk**

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