

# Stoke Orchard & Tredington Newsletter



*September 2025*

# GO WELL!

Were you, or your children or grandchildren, waiting anxiously to hear about results of A levels and GCSEs last month? Every year the results are reported on the news; they are important to many as they help determine what the future of work and study looks like for young people.

We don't hear much, if anything, about other kinds of tests and exams. Has anyone heard of T levels? I had not. They were introduced in 2020 and are equivalent to three A levels, focusing on vocational skills and industry, an option to be chosen after GCSEs. Not everyone wants to go to university and spend another three years or longer with their nose in books, attending lectures, writing essays, and a dissertation.

We need people who are good with knowledge, and people who are good with practical skills - and these are not mutually exclusive, nor is one better than the other; both are very much needed for society to function well. You may know these words from the Letter to the Corinthians: '... if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but not have love, I am nothing.' Knowledge is good, but using it without love, without doing good, is questionable... But how about these lines from the book of Exodus? God speaks to Moses about Bezalel and says: 'I have filled him [Bezalel] with divine spirit, with ability, intelligence, and knowledge in every kind of craft, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, an in carving wood, in every kind of craft.' Arts and crafts are indeed specialised skills, and just like studying, not for everyone, but just as necessary. If you are able to use your special gift, skill, or talent, whether that's in further education or in a specific vocation, then you are absolutely succeeding, whatever your GCSE, A level, or T level results.

Special prayers this month for those who are returning to school, going to school for the first time, starting at a new school, starting at college or university or vocational training, or a new job. Go well!

Peace and blessings to you all,

*Ilse*

## *Church services - September*

- Sunday 7 Sept 9.30am • Morning Worship at Tredington
- Sunday 14 Sept 9.30am • Holy Communion at Stoke Orchard
- Friday 19 Sept 7pm • Harvest celebration at Tredington
- Sunday 21 Sept 9.30am • Holy Communion at Tredington
- Sunday 28 Sept 9.30am • Holy Communion at Stoke Orchard



# Stoke Orchard & Tredington Parish Council



## Parish Councillors from May 16th 2025 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@stokeorchardandtredington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stokeorchardandtredington-pc.gov.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 September 3rd, 2025 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](http://www.stokeorchardandtredington.org.uk)



Dear Resident,

- A double issue with both the brook on the Orchard estate, who's water turned black and smelly, and the Dean Lane manhole issuing yet again foul-smelling sewage, occurred at the same time in early August. The PC were quickly on it and Severn Trent spent almost a week on-site investigating and resolving the problems. On the back of that the council will issue a detailed report on this and other flooding issues that have plagued the Parish for years.
- On Wednesday 13th August the hall had a visit from our MP Cameron Thomas (right). It was a great opportunity for residents to meet him, and he seems determined to be as approachable and helpful as possible.
- An extraordinary council meeting was held at the community centre on Wednesday 13th August to discuss the planning application for 102 houses by the solar farm at the back of the Orchard estate. Some 30+ residents attended, and useful comments were made, both vocally on the evening, and through post it-notes written too. The council discussed some of these and a vote was taken to object. A request was made to extend our window to respond, and the official response will be submitted by the 28th of August. As with these and any other planning applications, it is so important to make your feelings known to Tewkesbury BC, as weight of opinion stands for a lot.



- Arsh Sohal of Gotherington Stores has now commenced work in the Orchard Stores (pictured right). Much of the inner walls have gone to create a bigger shopping area, and a rear fire exit put in. We are hopeful he will be open by the end of this month, all being well.
- A contractor has now been booked to resurface the area under the swings in the playpark. This will be done in the same rubberised wetpour tarmac that is under the glider, as it is a much more effective and permanent solution for the area. We have to find the time to excavate it in preparation for the company to do its work, but it should be done by the end of this month.
- The glider in the playpark at the hall has had a visit from the gentleman who built it, and he has repaired some of the small problems that had reared their head. However, it still needs painted.



*Have a good month all!*



## Calling all Volunteers!

We need your help with these jobs please:

- Paint both car park barriers at hall & Muga.
  - Weed around hall & car park.
  - Help clear attic room 3.



Vicar	Revd Ilse Ferwerda	01452 780880	apperleypriest@gmail.com
Assistant Priest	Rev. Kay Mundy	01452 780634	therevkaymundy@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	Nikki Clegg	01242 680941	info@stokeorchard.org

# LEST WE FORGET...

## *William Harold Coltman*

**William Harold Coltman**, VC, DCM & Bar, MM & Bar (17 November 1891 – 29 June 1974) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross (VC), the highest award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that could be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces. He was the most decorated other rank of the First World War.

Coltman was born at Rangemore, a village on the outskirts of Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire, and baptised at All Saints, Rangemore on 27 December 1891. He worked as a market gardener. He became a member of the Plymouth Brethren, and taught in the Sunday School in the village of Winshill. He volunteered for the British Army in January 1915, during the opening months of the First World War. He served in The North Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's), in the 1/6th Battalion.



### **VICTORIA CROSS**

Lance Corporal Coltman was 26 years old and a stretcher bearer, when the following deed took place in France, for which he was awarded the VC.

For most conspicuous bravery, initiative and devotion to duty. During the operations at Mannequin Hill, north-east of Sequehart, on the 3rd and 4th of Oct. 1918, L.-Corp. Coltman, a stretcher bearer, hearing that wounded had been left behind during a retirement, went forward alone in the face of fierce enfilade fire, found the casualties, dressed them and on three successive occasions, carried comrades on his back to safety, thus saving their lives. This very gallant NCO tended the wounded unceasingly for 48 hours.

Coltman was invested with his Victoria Cross by King George V at Buckingham Palace on 22 May 1919.

### **DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL**

The first award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) was made for gallantry over a period of days in July 1917. The citation in The London Gazette reads:

Conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in evacuating wounded from the front line at great personal risk under shell fire. His gallant conduct undoubtedly saved many lives, and he continued throughout the night to search for wounded under shell and machine gun fire, and brought several in. His absolute indifference to danger had a most inspiring effect upon the rest of his men.

## BAR TO THE DCM

The second award of the DCM was made for conduct in September 1918, only a week before his actions that earned him the VC. The citation read:

*On the 28th September 1918, near the St. Quentin Canal, near Bellenglise, he dressed and carried many wounded men under heavy artillery fire. During the advance on the following day he still remained at his work without rest or sleep, attending the wounded, taking no heed of either shell or machine-gun fire, and never resting until he was positive that our sector was clear of wounded. He set the highest example of fearlessness and devotion to duty to those with him.*

## MILITARY MEDAL

The Military Medal (MM) is gazetted when awarded but no citation is given. Coltman was still a private at the time of this award. The award was made for rescuing a wounded officer from no man's land in February 1917. The officer had been commanding a wiring party during a misty night. The mist cleared and the party found themselves under fire, the officer was wounded in the thigh and Coltman immediately went out to bring the man in.

## BAR TO THE MM

The second award of the MM was gazetted in August 1917. This award was for conduct behind the front lines in June 1917 and covered three separate instances of gallantry in a short period in June 1917. On 6 June an ammunition dump was hit by mortar fire causing several casualties, Coltman took responsibility for removing Verey lights from the dump. The following day he took a leading role in tending men injured when the company headquarters was mortared. A little over a week

later, a trench tunnel collapsed trapping a number of men. Coltman organised a rescue party to dig the trapped men out.



The grave of Coltman and his wife Eleanor

## OTHER AWARDS

Prior to any of his decorations Coltman was mentioned in dispatches for his work.

## LATER LIFE

After the war, Coltman returned to Burton and took a job as a gardener with the town's Parks Department. During the Second World War he was commissioned in the Army Cadet Force in 1943 and commanded the Burton ACF; he resigned his commission in 1951. He retired in 1963 and died at Outwoods Hospital, Burton, in 1974 at the age of 82. He is buried in the churchyard of St Mark's parish church in Winshill with his wife Eleanor May (née Dolman).

## LEGACY



The Coltman Trench at the Staffordshire Regiment Museum (above and right).

His medals, including his Victoria Cross, are on display at the Staffordshire Regiment Museum at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffordshire. At the museum there is a replica First World War trench named in honour of Coltman. Coltman House is the headquarters building of Defence



Medical Services at Whittington Barracks. The Burton Army Cadet Force base and Army Reserve Centre is at Coltman House, Hawkins Lane, Burton.

There is a monument to Coltman at the Memorial Gardens, Lichfield Street, Burton. The Coltman VC Peace Wood is at Mill Hill Lane, Winshill. In Tunstall a road has been named in honour of Coltman.



# AFTER SCHOOL TAG RUGBY

COMMUNITY  
SPORTS  
FOUNDATION  
CIC



STOKE ORCHARD  
COMMUNITY CENTRE

MONDAYS AT 4PM

STARTING 8TH SEPTEMBER





# Tredington & Stoke Orchard News for September 2025

**TREDINGTON & STOKE ORCHARD WI** next meet on **Tuesday, September 9th** at **7.30pm** in Tredington Village Hall. Our speaker is Ian Boskett talking on "*The Ashchurch to Tewkesbury railway.*"



Sadly, the Bingo Evening on Sept 6th has had to be cancelled.

.....

**TREDINGTON & STOKE ORCHARD GARDENING CLUB** will be meeting again in Tredington Village Hall after our lovely summer visits to various beautiful gardens. The next meeting is on **Monday, September 15th at 7.30pm** when Jonathon Bishop will be taking us "*Behind the scenes at the Chelsea Flower Show*". Do come. Visitors & new members are always very welcome.

.....

## STOP PRESS!

The Village Hall Committee are organising a **Whist Drive** on Friday 3rd October at 7pm in Tredington Village Hall. *More details next month.*

.....

## POETS CORNER

**I dream a world**  
By Langston Hughes

I dream a world where man  
No other man will scorn,  
Where love will bless the earth  
And peace its paths adorn  
I dream a world where all  
Will know sweet freedom's way,  
Where greed no longer saps the soul  
Nor avarice blights our day.  
A world I dream where black or white,  
Whatever race you be,  
Will share the bounties of the earth  
And every man is free,  
Where wretchedness will hang its head  
And joy, like a pearl,  
Attends the needs of all mankind-  
Of such I dream, my world!



# Stoke Orchard Community Centre



Hope everyone has had a lovely summer the hall has been busy with lots of parties and events. It really is a great space to hire and is so versatile, whether you want an Hours hire to practice dance or 3hrs for a party, the hall offers so much space. Remember residents of Stoke Orchard and Tredington receive a special discounted rate on all hires.

## *We have lots of new Classes starting in September*

**Community sports** will be with us every Monday 4-5pm offer an afterschool sports club offering sports such as Tag Rugby, Dodge Ball even a Nerf session!! You can book ahead or turn up on the day.

**Drama Tots** will be starting new sessions on Wednesday Afternoons, a great fun activity based session for 18mths - 5years based on lots of different themes.

**Stoke Orchard Baby and Toddlers** - Wednesdays 9.30-11am. If you have a little one and would like to meet other Parents or Grandparents, this is the ideal group for you. A lovely environment for the play and great coffee and cake on offer too!

**Sparkleaf Crochet** welcomes any newbies to the world of Crochet, with tuition on how to get started in this great craft. Currently Thursday Mornings 10.30am - 12pm. However Caroline is looking to do an evening class if people are interested. To register your interest or get more information email [live@sparkleaf.co.uk](mailto:live@sparkleaf.co.uk)

We have exciting news coming soon for the Kids of Stoke Orchard and this is something we have been trying to organise for many years! We are just in the final stages of planning, and all will be revealed soon.

*Please remember to check out the Noticeboards for more information on what's on.*

### Recycling & Waste Collection Dates for September 2025 - Stoke Orchard & Tredington

<b>BLUE</b>	<b>Thursday 4th</b>	<b>Thursday 18th</b>	<b>Thursday 2nd Oct</b>
<b>GREEN</b>	<b>Thursday 11th</b>	<b>Friday 25th</b>	<b>Thursday 9th Oct</b>



#### 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 Community Centre



## MONDAY

**ZUMBA** 9.30-10.30am • [Michele.darnell@btinternet.com](mailto:Michele.darnell@btinternet.com)

**\*NEW AFTERSCHOOL SPORTS CLUB\*** 4-5pm • Community Sports foundation  
For more information contact Rich, email [communitysportsfoundation@outlook.com](mailto:communitysportsfoundation@outlook.com)

**CHILL DANCE ACADEMY** 6-7pm • Chloe 09972 350896

**GREEN TREE YOGA** 7-8pm • [info@greentreeyoga.co.uk](mailto:info@greentreeyoga.co.uk)

## TUESDAY

**PILATES BY CHARLOTTE** 9.30-10.30am • [Pilatesbycharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:Pilatesbycharlotte@gmail.com)

**CHILL DANCE** 4.30-5.25pm • Chloe 07972 350896

**TRED TRAINING** Kettles 6.30pm • Hog Pilates 7.20pm • [tredtraining@outlook.com](mailto:tredtraining@outlook.com)

**CHILL DANCE** 8pm • Chloe 07972 350896

**16/9/25 - U3A ART APPRECIATION** 2-4pm

## WEDNESDAY

**STOKE ORCHARD BABY AND TODDLER GROUP** 9.30-11am

**DRAMA TOTS** 1-2pm • [www.dramatots.co.uk](http://www.dramatots.co.uk)

**3/9/25 - PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** 7pm

## THURSDAY

**CROCHET WORKSHOP** 10.45am-12.15pm • 07951 391449

**CHILL DANCE** 5.45pm • Chloe 07972 350896

**4/9/25 - U3A SCIENCE GROUP** 2-4pm

## FRIDAY

**GRAVITY FITNESS - PILATES** 9.30-10.30am • [gravityfitness@live.co.uk](mailto:gravityfitness@live.co.uk)

**12/9/25 - YOGA WITH SADIE** 6.45-8.45pm

## SATURDAY

**STOKE ORCHARD COMMUNITY DAY** 1-5pm

Celebration of the amazing community we live in, fun for all the family.

## SUNDAY

**TRED TRAINING** Kettle Bell HIIT 9am • Body Weight HIIT 9.30am  
[tredtraining@outlook.com](mailto:tredtraining@outlook.com)

*Support  
local!*



*You'll find us just  
down the road!*

**Fast, friendly and reliable print and design  
solutions at a price to suit all budgets.**

Brochures | Invites | Posters | Flyers | Order of Services  
Banners | Business Cards | Design | Artwork

**typecraft**  
Print. It's what we do.

Finnick House | Longhill | Cheltenham | Gloucestershire | GL51 9TB

01242 518191 | [sales@typecraft.co.uk](mailto:sales@typecraft.co.uk) | [www.typecraft.co.uk](http://www.typecraft.co.uk)