

Stoke Orchard & Tredington Newsletter



December 2024



All is calm, all is bright... it's this year's Christmas theme from the Church of England. More info here or scan the QR code:

Follow the Star: Calm and Bright | The Church of England

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas/follow-star-calm-and-bright>



You may recognise the words from the carol Silent Night: 'Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright...' And the nights here are indeed very silent, other than the hooting of owls, bleating of sheep, and the sound of the wind in the trees. But are they holy, too?

Well, that depends on our understanding of what the word means. If you ask the worldwide net, it says that 'holy' means 'specially recognised as sacred by religious use or authority - dedicated to the service of God, church, or religion - saintly, pious, devout - with a spiritually pure quality.' Not sure that applies to dark silent nights... but there is one night this month which is definitely recognised as sacred by Christians all over the world, as we remember the birth of Jesus Christ who was and is dedicated to the service of God - or better, is God in human form come down to earth to live among God's people, absolutely with a spiritually pure quality. It is of course the night of Christmas Eve, when we remember and celebrate this event in church and with our families and friends.

On that sacred, holy night, we will light the churches with the brightest candles, and remind ourselves that even in the darkest night, Jesus can come alongside as a source of light and strength, leading us in the direction of hope and comfort. In the words of the carol mentioned above: 'Son of God, love's pure light'. Humankind certainly needs hope and comfort, love and light, and calm and brightness, and we will focus on these things in our services and events this month.

If you are unable to get to one of the services, please get in touch with us, as we can arrange for a member of the ministry team to come and visit you. We can talk about all things calm and bright, or all things chaotic and dark and difficult, and everything in between.

After the winter solstice on the 21st, the days begin to brighten again. And with that comes the hope of new beginnings, new possibilities, new paths to explore. Remembering the birth of Jesus Christ, love's pure light, becoming brightly visible in our midst on the 25th may help us take steps towards these beginnings, possibilities, or paths. May the Light of Christ guide and support us, be alongside us as we go on our way, and may you have a special, calm, bright, hopeful, holy Christmas!

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 January 8th, 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

Dear Resident,

Our first sprinkling of snow heralds the real onset of winter. As usual the country grinds to a halt. I'm sure most of us remember struggling to get to work or school at all costs back in the day. Are we just becoming soft? Or is it increasing risk averseness. Hmmm.

- Due to the deluges of October, it was apparent, with the difficulty imposed on our current flood warden, Richard Chatham, to be in two places at the same time, especially when the roads are impassable, that a further flood warden who would attend Stoke Orchard would be wise and more practical & effective. I'd like to thank Paul Simmons for taking on the role and hopefully we can all work together in making a difference, not just when the Parish floods, but in communicating with water & sewerage companies, and with the relevant authorities at TBC/North Glos Borough Council.

For any issues regarding this subject, please contact Richard on Richard.chatham@btinternet.com or Paul on paul1234simmo@gmail.com

- Further to this, our vice chair Sue Shorrock has managed to ascertain the relevant contact at Highways. A list of parish issues was submitted and the reply we have had is encouraging that these can be resolved. This includes a cctv survey of the historical problem at the bottom of Archers Lane, the results of which I will let you know in the next newsletter, and the problems in Watery Lane & Mill Lane too. A brief plea to residents in these areas that a few minutes clearing any detritus blocking any drains outside their property could go a long way to alleviating some of the flooding.
- Remembrance Day as ever was a poignant event wherever you might have commemorated it. My little family went to the war graves in Stoke Orchard church and joined the congregation there for a short service honouring the four

heroes interred there. I would love to see this grow if we could, with some of our village veterans and youngsters there, and I hope to try and get something off the ground over the next year.

- A resident Debbie Scott, who is passionate about our community and nature, has several great ideas for safeguarding and improving the lovely rural area in which we live. She would love if anybody who feels the same would offer any help or support. Please see her presentation elsewhere in this issue.
- Having reviewed the contract to maintain the POS on the Orchard Estate, we have decided on cost terms, to go with a different contractor – Smartcut – for the next two years. This should help to safeguard the fund we have to do this maintenance in the most cost-effective way. Thanks go to Cllr Ferguson for his persistence in getting the three quotes necessary.
- Lastly, with the great success of the new pump track being used by youngsters of all ages, the PC have managed to free up some more 106 funds to add a further loop. This will be technically more difficult and should provide more fun and challenge for our community youth (or oldies of course)!

Have a good month all!

Church services – December

Sunday 1st Dec 9.30am • Morning Worship at Tredington
 Sunday 8th Dec 9.30am • Holy Communion at Stoke Orchard
 Sunday 15th Dec 9.30am • Holy Communion at Tredington
 Friday 20th Dec 7pm • Carol Service at Tredington
 Sunday 22nd Dec 9.30am • Holy Communion at Stoke Orchard
 Tuesday 24th Dec 4pm • Christingle at Stoke Orchard
 Tuesday 24th Dec 11.30pm • Midnight Mass at Tredington
 Wednesday 25th Dec 10am • Christmas Service at Tredington

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

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOUR

— PADDY & ROGER GRIMSHAW



PADDY: I was born in Gloucester but lived my early life in Tewkesbury. My family are Haywards' the Ironmongers who have been in Tewkesbury since 1820 - making it, I think, the oldest family firm in Tewkesbury. My father, Alec and his elder brother Cecil ran the business from the 1920's to the late 1960's. My mother's family had a tailors shop which was at 100/101 Church Street.

I went to Tewkesbury High School Preparatory School from the age of six to thirteen where I made many friends then and am still in touch with several of them. When I was thirteen I went to boarding school in Burnham on Sea. I asked to go - I'm sure because in the Enid Blyton Adventure stories of the Famous Five. I loved the adventure of it all! I had an amazing Drama teacher there who wanted me to go to her drama school in Bristol but my parents couldn't afford this on top of boarding school and thought that acting was not a satisfactory career, so I went into nursing!

During the six months at home I joined the Hill Players in Kemerton and took part in two plays directed by the well-known local author, John Moore.

In 1956 I did a two year orthopaedic Nursing Course at Stanmore, before completing my SRN training at The Middlesex Hospital in London which also had an excellent drama society!

In 1961 I spent a year on Vancouver Island, Canada working at a long stay children's orthopaedic hospital before driving around America with two friends in a Chevrolet station wagon and covering 22 States! A wonderful experience. We came home by sea during the very cold winter of 1963.

After enjoying skating on the Avon, during that time I went to Bristol's Southmead Hospital to do Part 1 Midwifery. I didn't really feel this was for me so late in 1964 I did a one year course in Cheltenham for Health Visiting. I worked as a Health Visitor in Bristol until 1965 when my brother and I sailed to Cape Town with my Morris 1000 on board! I had a wonderful year health visiting in Cape Town during which, my brother and I + two friends drove up in my little car plus the friend's car to the Etosha Pan Game Reserve - several hundred miles of unpaved roads. Once there we were enclosed in a camp while the animals roamed free!

In 1967 my parents came out to Cape Town and the four of us drove the faithful Morris 1000 up to Zambia, on to Mozambique before sailing from Beira, then the Suez Canal to Venice from where we drove home! When the car was re-imported to England I was asked if the car had been sandblasted!!

On returning to England I applied for and got a job with Buckinghamshire County Council as a Health Education Officer for North Bucks. During my third year I was sent to London University to gain The Health Education Certificate - on the understanding that I would work for Bucks for three years afterwards. Amateur Dramatics continued to play a big part in my life!!

Six weeks after finishing the course I met Roger and we were engaged four months later - The County Council decided that Roger was 'an act of God' and I was released from my contract!

Roger and I were married in April 1970 in Tewkesbury Abbey where my parents were married in 1936. After our wedding Roger continued to work in London whilst also developing our own business in construction but after a short time, partly because it was difficult for me to work part time we moved back to Tewkesbury to live with my parents for a few months before buying a house in Cheltenham - where we lived for nine years! Roger and his brother both joined their father in the Grimshaw family construction/plant hire business.

Our three daughters were born in 1971-1973-1977. We also had a lovely yellow Labrador called Roly. This was a very happy time. Roger persuaded me to have more drama lessons with a wonderful teacher, Enid Barraclough. With her I took my LAMDA GOLD medal which enabled me to teach. Something I'd never thought of doing but Enid persuaded me to take over her classes at The Richard Pate School in Cheltenham - and this I did for the next twelve years - a job I loved. Also at this time I was asked to be a Magistrate in Cheltenham. I felt this was a great honour and again I enjoyed the experience and gained a lot from it. I did this for ten years.

In 1980 we moved to Home Farm, Tredington and have been here for 44 years!

ROGER: I was born in nearby Evesham at the outbreak of World War 2 during which I was moved around the country to construction projects with my very practical father and mother but with a strong dose of Yorkshire 'nouse and grit' then moved to Cheltenham in 1946 where I was at the same school from the age of six until the age of sixteen after which I was 'articled' to a local Chartered Accountant preparing and auditing accounts for all manner of local businesses! A great experience to understanding the 'ups and downs' of so very many different trades and activities throughout the town and surrounding Cotswolds.

At weekends I would play hockey for Cheltenham and Lansdown hockey clubs and in the summer months would 'cycle' to Twynning, learning to sail - sometimes in the boat or often on a windy day in the water at the then Avon Sailing Club (now based on the River Severn at Chaceley). Whilst still at school in the holidays I well remember a friend and I would CYCLE from Cheltenham to Elmstone Hardwicke every day, come rain or shine to work on a mixed farm. I recall sitting at the rear of a rather primitive Ferguson tractor planting potatoes and I can still reminisce as I drive by the field near the Gloucester Old Spot whenever I drive to Cheltenham.

Since moving to Tredington 44 years ago we have brought up three daughters, their schooling and further education and now are blessed with seven fantastic grandchildren (five girls and two boys) themselves much involved in sport and drama.

Although I have been retired for some years now, I have spent many years playing my part in our family construction, plant hire and portable buildings business working out of Cheltenham, Oxford and Swindon

PADDY AND I have much enjoyed the friendly, exciting and sociable aspects of our two, yet one community of Tredington & Stoke Orchard where I have spent time on the Parish Council and I still retain the 'honour' of being your Village 'Snow Warden'! I was also involved in the early stages of the Village Shop fit out committee. Both Paddy and I are actively involved in The Tredington & Stoke Orchard Parochial Church Council (T&SO PCC) and over the many years I have spent much time organising/sorting out the buildings fabric of our two churches and Tredington Village Hall. My most recent major project has been the conservation of the interior of the church of St James the Great in Stoke Orchard. This incredible Grade 1 Listed Building is now regarded of international significance and part of the well-known centuries old Pilgrimage Routes to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. If you live in Stoke Orchard I hope you can feel proud of this amazing story which attracts visitors from all over the world! My next task is to organise the refurbishment of the external parts of this ancient building.

May I ask - If there is anyone in either of our villages who has an interest in history and/ or, of ancient buildings who would like to talk with me I shall be delighted !

To conclude - Paddy and I feel there is a strong bond of 'togetherness' in our community, with so many friendly activities taking place in Tredington Village Hall - WI - Gardening Club - Choirs - Art Classes - Whist - Film Club - Play Readings and social events. We even have a 'free' library of books in our Tredington Telephone box. A recent initiative is the Tredington Sandbaggers (a group of Tredington men who meet monthly for an hour for coffee and chat and the occasional trip on the T Bus for a Wetherspoons breakfast in Tewkesbury!)

There is a lot going on here!

Tredington & Stoke Orchard News for December 2024

TREDINGTON & STOKE ORCHARD WI will be holding their last meeting of the year on **Tuesday, December 10th at 7.30pm** in Tredington Village Hall when we will be celebrating Christmas with Phil Collins & Mike who will present "Dickensian Christmas Part 2". If you are coming please bring a small plate of finger food for the buffet which will follow.

TREDINGTON & STOKE ORCHARD GARDENING CLUB do not meet in December so we wish all our members a Very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year. Our first meeting will be on Monday, January 20th at 7:30pm in Tredington Village Hall.

TREDINGTON SANDBAGGERS are hoping to meet for a Christmas Breakfast, including the T Bus ride, at Wetherspoons, Tewkesbury. All men of Tredington are invited. Roger will announce date soon!

Granny STAGGS Mince Pie Day

Saturday 7th December, 10.30am to 3.30pm

TOMBOLA · BOOKS & PUZZLES
CHILDRENS TOMBOLA · NEARLY NEW
RAFFLE · CAKE STALL

TEA, COFFEE & MINCE PIES

Proceeds to Cancer Research UK

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

BLUE	Thursday 12th	Saturday 28th	Friday 10th Jan
GREEN	Thursday 5th	Thursday 19th	Saturday 4th Jan

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



It's nearly Christmas - hooray! Most of our regular classes close over the Christmas and New Year period and all information is on our website www.stokeorchard.org

Look out for new classes starting in the New Year, alongside all the usual classes which are so well attended. New classes include:

Tuesday 11am to 12noon - Strength and Balance, perfect for increasing your fitness levels in a safe and friendly environment. If you'd like to give it a try please just come along and work at your own pace with this lovely group.

Wednesday 7 pm to 8pm - Sweaty Mama. Following on from the very popular Monday morning session an extra class is running on Wednesdays.

Also coming in the new year - watch out for our brand new Tai Chi class. Several people have asked about Tai Chi and we're delighted to be talking with an experienced instructor who will be running classes from January.

CHRISTMAS PUB NIGHT

Join us on Friday 20th December for a drink with your neighbours.

Music and dancing and a pop up wood fired Pizza oven for all to enjoy.

Maybe even a Christmas themed Pizza will be available.

Open from an earlier time of 6pm.



CHRISTMAS EVE – as usual the hall and bar will be open after Christingle from 4.30-6.30pm

The Orchard Stores and Amy's Coffee Shop

Thanks to generous donations we have FOUR wonderful hampers for four lucky ticket holders. Raffle tickets just £1 each – make sure you buy yours from the shop.

To be drawn at Christmas Pub Night on 20th December.

Many thanks to Michelle Darnell and her lovely Zumba group for their donations.



BY POPULAR
DEMAND — and
strange weather
recently, buy your
SNOW SHOVELS
here.

Would you like to offer a couple of volunteer hours now and again in the Shop?

Do you like talking to people, getting to know the Community? This is the place for you! Training will be given. Just call in and leave your details and a member of the committee will contact you.

As always, we thank you for your continued custom.

info@stokeorchard.org



Stoke Orchard Community Centre



December 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 APPRECIATION 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				

Stoke Orchard Football Club



Hello Fellow Residents and seasons greetings to all.
I am John the manager of our Stoke Orchard Football Club.

The football club was born out of a desire to provide a everlasting legacy, dedicated to my beautiful boy Ezra, who sadly died, aged 6 years old, in 2022.

We are a little over half way through our inaugural season and we have had a wonderful start. We have over 40 registered youth players, spread across 2 age groups, with many of our own Stoke Orchard children proudly representing their village badge.

Both our under 10s and Under 12s teams were entered straight into highly competitive leagues with the best youth teams from accross Cheltenham and the surrounding areas.

Our under 12s team had a flying start to their league and won their first 2 games, with a short spell as League leaders. A bumpy spell followed but we found our winning form again and have won 4 of our first 9 games.

Our under 10s had an equally impressive start to their first ever season and continue to grow as a team.

We have many plans for the future and will be expanding our age group offerings, with the planned expansion of 2 additional age groups to be added from next season.



We are always on the hunt for sponsors, volunteers, coaches, and new players, so if you would like to help grow our wonderful village's football team, please get in touch:
stokeorchardfc@gmail.com



Merry Christmas all from Stoke Orchard FC.



Background

Stoke Orchard and Tredington are hamlets in Gloucestershire with long histories. Traditionally farms & villages in a rural setting, the last two decades of rapid housing expansion have seen huge land & habitation changes.

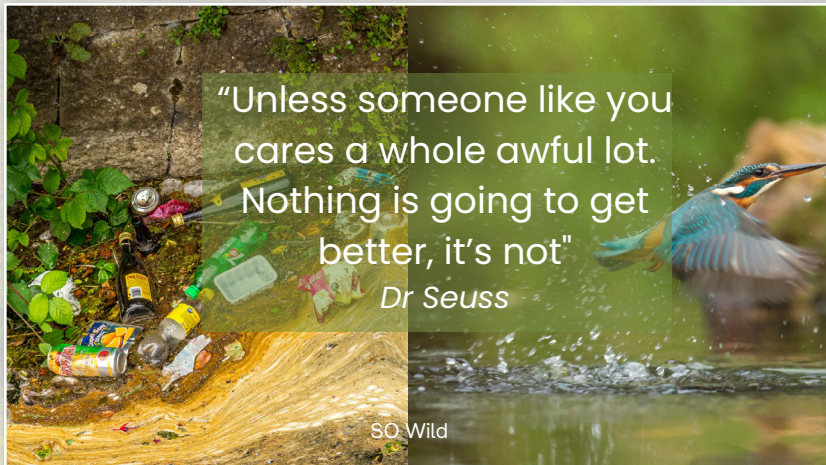
The UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world sitting in the bottom 10% for biodiversity*. Since the 1970s, wild animal populations across all species have shrunk at an alarming rate. Animals like hedgehogs are on track to become limited to isolated pockets of the UK

There is more house building and development planned for the area, putting more and more pressure on the local ecosystem. Nature is resilient and can thrive if there is the will to create a space for nature with homeowners and landowners.

What can we do to be part of the solution?



State of Nature 2023
More than 1000 species are at risk of extinction in the UK. Nature is in a state of decline. The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world.



Pollinator Planting

There are lots of spaces we could grow flowers, plants & trees that would provide food and shelter for a range of insects, as well as provide colour and interests for residents.

From flower meadows, to mini orchards to planters and window boxes, planting the right flowers could

- Increase biodiversity
- Reduce land to mow / maintenance costs
- Create more areas for people to sit outside
- Improve the look and desirability of the village/s





Forest Play

We are very lucky to have the MUGA and the brand new pump track. We could further enhance the area by creating a dedicated woodland play area. Children already access the area, however there is barbed wire on ground and lots of brambles.

There is a pond at the top of area but it is hugely overgrown. It could be cleared out and fenced off to prevent children and dogs accessing it. This would provide refuge for a variety of animals

Additional tree planting at the top of the MUGA could provide more food sources and shelter for wildlife and create more of a sound break from the M5



Waterways

Stoke Orchard is situated between two tributaries; Dean Brook and River Swilgate. Both streams are in poor condition and do not support much life due to various pollution sources.

! All Ideas must not increase flood risk or blocking river !

Water wardens - volunteers that check water quality, check river health and large debris that may create blockages.

Purchase waders and work with volunteers who litter pick and clean rivers

Create more reed bed areas to improve water quality and increase wildlife habitats.



Wildlife friendly Gardens

So much can be done in gardens and balconies. If residents take certain steps they can have a huge impact on improving habitat for wildlife:

- Support people who are willing to transition from pesticides to natural treatments
- Encourage native pollinator planting
- Create hedgehog holes in fencing to enable wildlife to migrate - garden highway register
- Create tiny ponds.
- Get involved in Coronation Gardens initiative with Wildlife Trusts
- and lots more...





Landowners

There are many landowners in the area who might be willing to support wildlife in various ways or join in our initiative to create small pockets of wildlife friendly areas.

By engaging with farmers and businesses we may be able to:

- Rent, lease, buy or be gifted small pockets to create wildlife zones
- Increase the size of wildlife corridors
- Provide positive PR and coverage for local business.
- Work together to improve accessibility into the countryside

For example, The Diocese of Gloucester have partnered with Wildlife Trust to create habimaps which designate church land as wildlife protection areas with churches encouraging wildlife friendly practices

Bridleways, cycle routes and pathways

Bridleways and pathways enable wildlife to migrate safely. It is probably better for wildlife that they are unused by people however, it's better for locals that our bridleways remain open and passable.

Unfortunately for many reasons (fly tipping, littering, dogs off leads bothering livestock, people walking through crops etc) bridleways are often left to become impassable.

Once they are no longer regularly used, it's possible for the landowner to begin the process to request a permanent close of the bridleway.

If we were able to find a way to maintain our local bridleways and protect landowners, we could increase walkways for locals and potentially increase traffic to coffee shop. Hopefully better access to the countryside should encourage more people to protect it.



This bridleway is poorly maintained and nearly impassable by horse in some places due poor footing and being overgrown. Made accessible, it could be a fantastic mixed use pathway for cyclists, horse-riders, runners and walkers accessing other bridle ways and walks.

- Stoke Road to Bozard Lane bridleway is often impassable
- Pedestrian path from Tredington to TPS is too narrow
- No path from Stoke Orchard to TPS
- Poor accessibility between estates.



Joining Together

There are already groups in the villages trying to protect the local area.

There will be areas of overlap where groups can work together and areas of specialism where specific initiatives are required.

There is an opportunity to look at where there are joint aims to reduce duplication and ensure specialist aims do not contradict.

Example: If environment agency are refusing to dredge brook due to presence of sticklebacks, Wildlife group could support with capture and release, so brooks can be dredged and animals safely returned. We can have flood safe and wildlife friendly waterways, they are not mutually exclusive.



What next?

Small changes will add up to big impact over time. If local authorities and agencies are dragging their heels, there may be other ways of getting things done. It's often about getting the right people into a room.



one family planting one tree a day for twenty years, replenished a whole valley that had turned to dust.



- Identify champions and supporters
- Compile full list of ideas and grade them by cost, complexity and benefits
- Map out who can do what...



- Promote and host wildlife event, create a positive buzz
- Promote initiatives on social media and local print
- Network with other communities



- Utilise existing support and community grants
- Set up a SpaceHive account to fundraise
- Utilise local knowledge and expertise



- See the fruition of the effort in 1 - 20 years

Final Thought:
No-one can do
everything but
everyone can do
something

Thank you!

Debbie Scott
SO Wild
ddebbs@gmail.com

We are not alone:



Making life better by water



RIVERACTION



Worcester River Action Group





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