

Tour d'Ilmington 30th June 2024 – A Festival of Cycling

The ever popular Shipston Rotary Tour d'Ilmington is now in its 7th year and during that time hundreds of riders have enjoyed the fun of the family rides and the challenges of the longer journeys up the Ilmington escarpment and through the Vale of Evesham and the Cotswolds. Over the years, the event has raised thousands of pounds for Rotary charities benefitting many local good causes as well as those further afield. Recent beneficiaries have been the Shipston Food Bank and Shipston First Responders as well as the High School.

Historically the event has been staged from Newbold-on-Stour but this year we are moving to Ilmington Playing Fields (CV36 4JQ). The new site provides more space for cyclists and families, and we hope to have some cycling related attractions.

The Rotary Club is proud to say that it works with several partner organisations, including Shipston Home Nursing, Pharmacy to My Door, Cyclists Fighting Cancer and Stour Health & Well Being Partnership. Shipston Spokes will be proving advice to all standards of cyclists as well as providing mechanical support throughout the event. Shipston Therapy Centre will also provide nutritional advice and massages to ease those tired muscles after completion of the course.

All cyclists are welcome as well as anyone else who would like to enjoy the home-made cakes, bacon butties and tea or coffee in the glorious setting of Ilmington.

To find out more and/or to enter:

















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Enjoy a taster session with Flowers of Ilmington any Tuesday, 7:30pm at Ilmington School

Contact Kathryn 628087

The Downs and Valley Churches Service Rota June 2024

June 2024	St George's Darlingscott	St Mary's Ilmington	St Mary's Preston-on-Stour	St Peter's Stretton-on-Fosse	St Gregory's Tredington	St Mary's Whitchurch
2 nd Trinty 1		11.00am Holy Communion (1662)	6.00pm Evensong (1662)	No service	11.00am Morning Worship	9.30am Morning Worship
9th Trinity 2	No service	11.00am Morning Worship	9.30am Holy Communion (1662)		11.00am Holy Communion	
16 th Trinity 3		11.00am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Holy Communion (1662)
23 rd Trinity 4	4.00pm Evening Worship (1662)	6.00pm Evensong (1662)	11.00am Morning Worship		11.00am Holy Communion	
30 th Trinity 5		11.00am Morning Worship	Holy Communion (1662) 9.30am		11.00am Morning Worship	

Church web-pages - For further information, please search for the Church name and click on the relevant 'A Church Near You' page. (This is more effective than searching 'A Church Near You' directly.)

Ministers: Rector:

Reader:

The Revd Canon Dr Richard Cooke 07952 544820 (mobile) or 01608 544821 (landline) or

01608 682244 (landline) Richard. Cooke. Ilmington@Outlook.com The Revd Dr Tim Seller Hon. Assistant Minister:

Malcolm Davies Ros Wakefield Reader Emeritus:

Churchwardens:

Posts vacant – contact the Rector Carol Rutter Stretton-on-Fosse Whitchurch

Helen Patrick

John Craner 01789 450200 (landline)

01789 450795 (landline)

Bells

I was very sorry to hear a few weeks ago of the death of David Clark, one of the Ilmington bell-ringers who was also tower-captain at Mickleton. David and his wife Daphne were on holiday in St Ives and were badly injured by a car while walking with their dog. Daphne has survived, but ringers locally will be aware of the gap which David's loss leaves.

You may not ever have met David, but you will probably have heard his ringing. Church bells are one of the most distinctive sounds of the English landscape. 'Change-ringing' originated in this country and while you'll find it in a few other English-speaking lands, it is a contrast to the chiming bells you'll find in other places. Pretty though they are, they lack the full-throated joy of our bells.

As a boy, growing up in the Kent countryside at the foot of the North Downs, church bells fascinated me, especially as the chalk face of the Downs acted like a huge sounding board for bells in the villages which sat along the spring-line at the foot of the hills. When all of them rang together (for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977, for example), the sound could be heard for miles, amplified across the countryside. Here, with the wind in the right direction, you can certainly hear Tredington's bells at Darlingscott.

In our parishes there are rings of bells at Ilmington (8 bells), Tredington (6 bells) and Preston (3 bells). Their sound marks Sundays, especially the Festivals, and Weddings (though the ringers sometimes need extra patience when a bride is late and they have to keep ringing – and ringing – until she arrives!). Sometimes, too, the old custom of tolling the bell before a funeral, one chime for every year of life, is still observed and is always moving when you hear it. And events like the Queen's death and the King's Coronation may be marked by ringing a full, half or quarter peal. This is music by numbers, complex sequences that can include as many as 5000 changes. One of the strangest elements of bell-ringing is that, because church walls ore often so thick, it can be hard for the ringers actually to hear the ringing.

If you'd like to try your hand at ringing, do drop me a line and I can out you in touch with the relevant tower-captain.

All three of our rings have at least some bells that go back to the first half of the 17th Century, when change-ringing was invented, a reminder that they have been an enduring part of Church worship for a long time. Some have inscriptions on them like the one at Tredington which invites hearers to 'Drawe Neare to God 1622'. The poet George Herbert, writing around that time, speaks of prayer as being like 'Church-bells beyond the stars heard', and I find that a lovely image, as if the sound of the bells both calls us to worship and also echoes up, beyond our villages, to be heard in heaven.

So I'm grateful to all those who practise ringing faithfully, week by week, as David Clark did, to make this music for us and offer a very English kind of worship to God.

Parish Giving Scheme - A Gentle Reminder!

We've given a lot of publicity over recent months to the Parish Giving Scheme, and many thanks to those who have responded. If you're one of those who means to take action but doesn't quite get round to it, can I encourage you to sign up to it? It is easy to do so online – just go to https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/home/ and use the 'Find my parish' button (you may need to specify 'Warwickshire to make sure you get the right village). I'm speaking to myself here. Despite launching PGS in September, it was January before I finally got round to signing up fully!

Advance Notice – Rectory Tea, Sunday 14 July, 2.30-4pm
Come and join us on the Rectory Lawn in Ilmington for tea, cake and some sideshows – all welcome from across the parishes!

From the Registers

Weddings:

At St Mary's, Ilmington on 18 May, Charlotte Horton and Leo Brice. At St Mary's, Whitchurch on 18 May, Amanda Partridge and Joe McRoberts.

Funerals:

At St Peter's, Stretton-on-Fosse on 4 May, Kathleen Anne Sutton, aged 72, of Shipston-on-Stour (interment of ashes)

At St Mary's, Ilmington on 17 May, Frederick Charles Terry and Edna Mary Terry (nee Handy), formerly of Ontario, Canada (interment of ashes in family grave)

At St Mary's Preston-on-Stour on 17 May, Fred Dale, aged 81 (followed by burial in churchyard).

The Downs & Valley Magazine is intended as a forum for village news from within the Parishes of Ilmington, Stretton-on-Fosse, Whitchurch, Preston-on-Stour, Tredington and Darlingscott. Opinions expressed are those of the individuals contributing and the publication of these and of news items does not imply support for those opinions or items by the churches.

Editor's Note

The deadline for copy for the July 2024 issue is Saturday 15 June to Susan Brock, Editor, E. s.brock9@btinternet.com, Daisy Cottage, Front St., Ilmington, CV36 4LA. Please note that the limit for editorial articles is 150 words. Enquiries about advertising to Tim Seller: E. Tim.Seller@outlook.com, Long Barn, Back St., Ilmington, CV36 4LJ. The image on this month's cover is by Sue Mulraine of Whitchurch. I'm always looking for artwork so if you have a painting, drawing or photograph which you would like to submit, email it to me, Susan Brock, as a jpg or PDF file (portrait layout). Age is no barrier! No computer? Drop it round to my house (see address above) and I'll scan it for you. Susan Brock, Editor

<u>Beds for the Badger - Public Meeting: 18th June 7pm</u> Townsend Hall

On 26th May 2023 South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust (SWUFT) issued a press statement to say that the inpatient beds which had been temporarily removed from the Ellen Badger Hospital would not return to Shipston. They would remain located in Leamington Spa.A mass meeting in Townsend Hall and Two Protest Marches made the residents position clear. Both Warwickshire County Council and Stratford District Council Overview and Scrutiny Committees insisted on Public Consultation. On 19th July 2023 the Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (CWICB) allowed 9 months to prepare a business case for Public Consultation. That time is now up. The residents of Shipston and the surrounding area now request an explanation of progress towards that Public Consultation at a public meeting in the Townsend Hall to which both SWUFT and CWICB are invited.

Alasdair Elliott, Beds for the Badger Organising Committee

Nature Notes June 2024

This year we can celebrate the BIG Green Week from 8th to 16th June. There are many free events to enjoy. It is the UK's biggest celebration of action to tackle climate change and protect nature, taking place in communities nationwide. To find out about the events in Shipston on Stour visit https://greatbiggreenweek.com/green-week-events/stourvale-great-big-green-week/.

God created our environment and we called to care for it and manage it in a responsible way not only for us but future generations. We can all play our part throughout the year, whether a wild flower patch in our gardens, a small pond or providing another water source for birds and other animals to drink out of. Or planting bee and butterfly friendly flowers in our gardens, or leaving a hole under our fence for a hedgehog to get through to continue foraging etc. Whatever you decide to do have a great time!

ILMINGTON

Ilmington Screen-on-the-Green: 'Next Goal Wins'

For our film on Friday 28th June we are choosing Taika Waititi's Next Goal Wins, starring Michael Fassbender with Elisabeth Moss. Although the UEFA Euro 2024 football competition will be in-full flight at the time of the screening, this film is set a world away from Gareth Southgate's band of merry men and promises to be a humorous interpretation of the shenanigans by the eccentric characters that make up the lowest ranked football team in the world, American Samoa, as it aims to fightback from one heavy loss after another. So come along and cheer on the underdogs! Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start at Ilmington Village Hall. Tickets £4 from the Village Shop, although some are available on the door. Licensed bar and raffle. *Graham Downie*

Ilmington Community Shop and Café: Flaming June?

Come along to our midsummer **Pimm's Night** in the Community Café on Friday 4th June from 6.30pm. It's our annual pop-up bar and we hope to be able to spill out onto the Terrace in the sunshine (!) with our neighbours and friends. No booking required. Looking forward a month, please put 7th July in your diaries for our **Summer Supper** (menu to be confirmed.) As always, it's great value at £20 for three courses, including a glass of something and a hot drink. Tickets from the shop. Meanwhile, don't forget **Book Club** on 4th June at 2pm – we'll be chatting about "My Name is Why" by Lemn Sissay, and you are welcome even if you haven't read the book. Also **Knit & Natter** will be meeting on 26th June at 2pm in the Café: knitting not compulsory!

Ilmington Shop & Café Committee

St Mary's Ilmington: Flowers

Thank you everyone involved in arranging the flowers in church over Easter, we had a great many compliments! Thank you also to those that donated towards their cost, we collected £155! On the subject of flowers, we are looking for a volunteer to co-ordinate the flower rota, we are sorry to be losing Rachel (and Dan) Paton as they move from the village in May, and her position is vacant! Guidance will be given in this task, and is usually only a once-a-year rota, which has been done for 2024! If you are able to help, please speak with any of the PCC or contact Helen Patrick on hockeyhelen59@gmail.com. THANK YOU!

Helen Patrick, Ilmington PCC

Swing from Paris: Parisian-flavoured jazz and Gypsy Swing Saturday 20 July, 7.30pm, Ilmington Village Hall

"Intelligent, interesting and inventive" $\star \star \star \star$ – The Jazz Mann Look forward to an evening of Parisian-flavoured jazz and Gypsy Swing, with **Swing from Paris** at Ilmington Village Hall, on Saturday 20 July. Often described as 'the finest gypsy jazz in the Cotswolds', Swing from Paris are a UK quartet of violin, guitars and double bass. Inspired by the great swing bands of the 1930s and '40s, they present their own versions of music by Gershwin, Piazzolla, John Lewis, Django Reinhardt, Stéphane Grappelli and the Hot Club of France. They've been seen on the BBC's Hairy Bikers, and have appeared at major jazz festivals including Cheltenham, Brecon and the Django Reinhardt Festival at Samois sur Seine. Expect stylish jazz and vintage swing. Tickets are £15 in advance from swingfromparis.co.uk.

Ilmington Village Hall

Have fun exercising with fellow villagers at the following wellbeing events:

Table tennis on Tuesdays 2-3pm and Thursdays 7-9 on 6, 13 and 20 June when we will have also have some coaching

Indoor curling on Thursdays 2:30-3:30pm

Tai Chi on Fridays 11:15-12:15 except for the last Friday of the month when it is at 1-2pm.

Bryan Clifford, Chair

2024 Ilmington Show August Bank Holiday Monday

Plans are afoot for the Show and the committee are still looking for people who would like to have a trade of craft stand OR might offer craft demonstrations. Or if you can't come along in person become a sponsor to promote your business and support the Show which attracted over 4000 visitors last year. The proceeds are distributed to charities and organisations of value to the local community. You'll be able to set up on the day from 10am - just bring a table (or we'll supply one for £3) plus gazebo and chairs. For further information or to book your place via ilmingtonshow@qmail.com.

Dog Show: The dogs of Ilmington will be straining at their leads to strut their stuff at the Show. Classes will include: Happiest dog, Best trick, Best dog, Best bitch, Best rescue and the dog the judge would most like to take home. You can register on the day. Rosettes are waiting to be won.

Nigel Dunn, Ilmington Show Committee

Wednesday Club Next Meeting on 12th June, 2pm, Village Hall

The Samaritans provided a very interesting and informative afternoon. It was amazing to hear how much work they do outside their answering service. This is such a worthwhile charity to join and if you are interested, there is a meeting on 9th July at 7pm, Tyler House in Tyler Street. Irene Sabin helped by recounting some of her experiences when she worked for them.

The month of June sees **Paul Williams**, the famous professional Head Gardener of Bourton House for 18 years, coming to the Wednesday Club. This is definitely a treat for anyone interested in gardening. Besides being a Head Gardener, he is also a broadcaster, an author and lecturer. We are very fortunate as he is kindly giving his presentation free.

There are two birthdays in June, both belonging to two lovely ladies, Marilyn Patton on 13th and Sheila Lowe on 14th. Happy birthday girls! As summer approaches, so does our Ilmington Show and once more we are looking for any unwanted gifts, bottles of alcohol and popular books. Please give me a ring if you have anything; 682 996. Thank you!

Carole Clifford, Chair

PRESTON-ON -STOUR

May Day

The village hall committee would like to thank our lovely May Queen, Indigo Ogilvie, her attendants, Donald and Jackie, with the Flowers of Ilmington, all those who ran the different stalls and all who came along and contributed to another very successful day. It was touch and go with the weather but we were so lucky that the rain held off! PS Preston are still 'Tug of War' champions

PrestFest - Saturday 22nd June

This will be the third year of live music on the green (or in the village hall in the event of rain). We have four bands and two soloists booked already and would welcome more if there is any budding local talent looking for a venue. Please get in touch. We will be starting at midday and hoping to continue through to late afternoon/early evening. Bring rugs, chairs, a picnic and prepare to enjoy a wide variety of musical entertainment.

Film Night - Friday 28th June

This month's film will be 'The Holdovers'. A curmudgeonly teacher at a New England prep school has to stay on campus to look after a few students with nowhere to go during the Christmas holiday. He soon forms an unlikely bond with a bright but damaged troublemaker and with the head cook who has just lost her son in the Vietnam War. With an Oscar-winning performance and a heartwarming story this is a film not to miss. Doors open at 7 pm for 7.30 start.

Village BBQ - 1 pm Sunday 14th July

Many friends of Preston and residents gather at the village hall for the annual bbq which never fails to please. There will be a wide range of meats, vegetarian options and delicious homemade salads all at a very reasonable price. Please bring your own liquid refreshments.

Margaret Brocklehurst

TREDINGTON with DARLINGSCOTT

Tredington & District Garden Club

Coffee morning and sale of plants & gardening items will take place on Saturday 1^{st} June in the WI Hall, 10.30 am - 12.noon. Admission is free and refreshments just £1.00. The event will include a raffle, with an emphasis on gardening prizes.

Our June meeting will be an outing to Quenington Old Rectory Garden on 20th June. We depart at 10.30am from outside the WI Hall. A few places remain – if you would like to join us, see www.tredingtongardenclub.weebly.com

Gill Goodlad, Programme Secretary

Tredington & Blackwell WI

The next WI meeting in the WI Hall is on Thursday 13th June when our speakers, Carole & John Matthews will share the history of vintage garden tools and bring examples. All women are welcome (Guests £5), please contact Gill by text to 07789 810877, or email secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk you'd like to attend. Gill Goodlad, WI Secretary

Craft & Chatter/Chatter & Craft

In June we return to two meetings: Thursday 6th and Monday 17th June, both from 2.00 – 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome to bring a craft item, or just to enjoy conversation over tea and cake. £1.00 per person. For details contact Vanessa on 07818 599353 or email vanessa@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk Gill Goodlad, Hall Secretary

Community Film Night

We are now booking places for our next film on Friday 7th June. Doors open at 7pm for discounted bar, with the film beginning at 7.30pm. There will be a short interval when the bar and ice creams are available. Our licence prohibits public advertising of the film details, which are available from Gill (text 07789 810877 or email gillgoodlad@hotmail.com). Use the same contact details if you would like to join our email group to receive details of all forthcoming films.

Gill Goodlad, WI Treasurer

Oigong (Movement, Breathwork & Meditation)

These popular techniques that are shown to reduce stress and enhance energy levels. They are suitable for those with all levels of experience (or none) and may be done seated or standing. Classes by Alissa Powell are on Fridays in the hall, 9.30 – 10.30am. To book a place visit https://breath-therapy.uk/events/ or email Alissa at alissa@breath-therapy.uk for more information. £7.00 per class. Gill Goodlad, Hall Secretary

Welcome to Tredington Booklet

The WI maintains this directory of local services. https://tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk/welcome-to-tredington
We now have postcards for new residents, explaining how to access the directory online. If you have a new neighbour, let Gill know their address (text 07789 810877/email secre-tary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk) and we'll pop a card through their door. Any suggestions for updates or improvements should also be sent to Gill.

Gill Goodlad, WI Secretary

Art Appreciation Course

A new group begins in the WI hall on Wednesday 5th June, 11.00am – 12.00noon. It will be held monthly, on the first Wednesday of every month. This art appreciation course is part of U3A and will be led by Sarah Lander. If you would like more information, or to book a place, contact Sarah at sarahjlander@gmail.com Gill Goodlad, Hall Secretary

OUTSIDE THE PARISHES

! SAVE THE DATE! 13TH JULY 2024 A Breakfast for Women at the Halford Bridge

Our next breakfast for women will welcome our speaker CLAIRE LEE who lives in Moreton in Marsh and attends St. David's church. Claire will be a very interesting speaker, with her experience in the ministry of Christian Retreat, healing and prayer. If you would like to book a place please e mail Liz Harvey on:

ma harvey@hotmail.com or 07914 026451.

Liz Harvey

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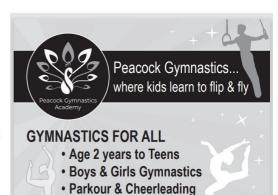
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Please feel free to contact me, as I would welcome the opportunity to help you build your own fond travel memories.





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