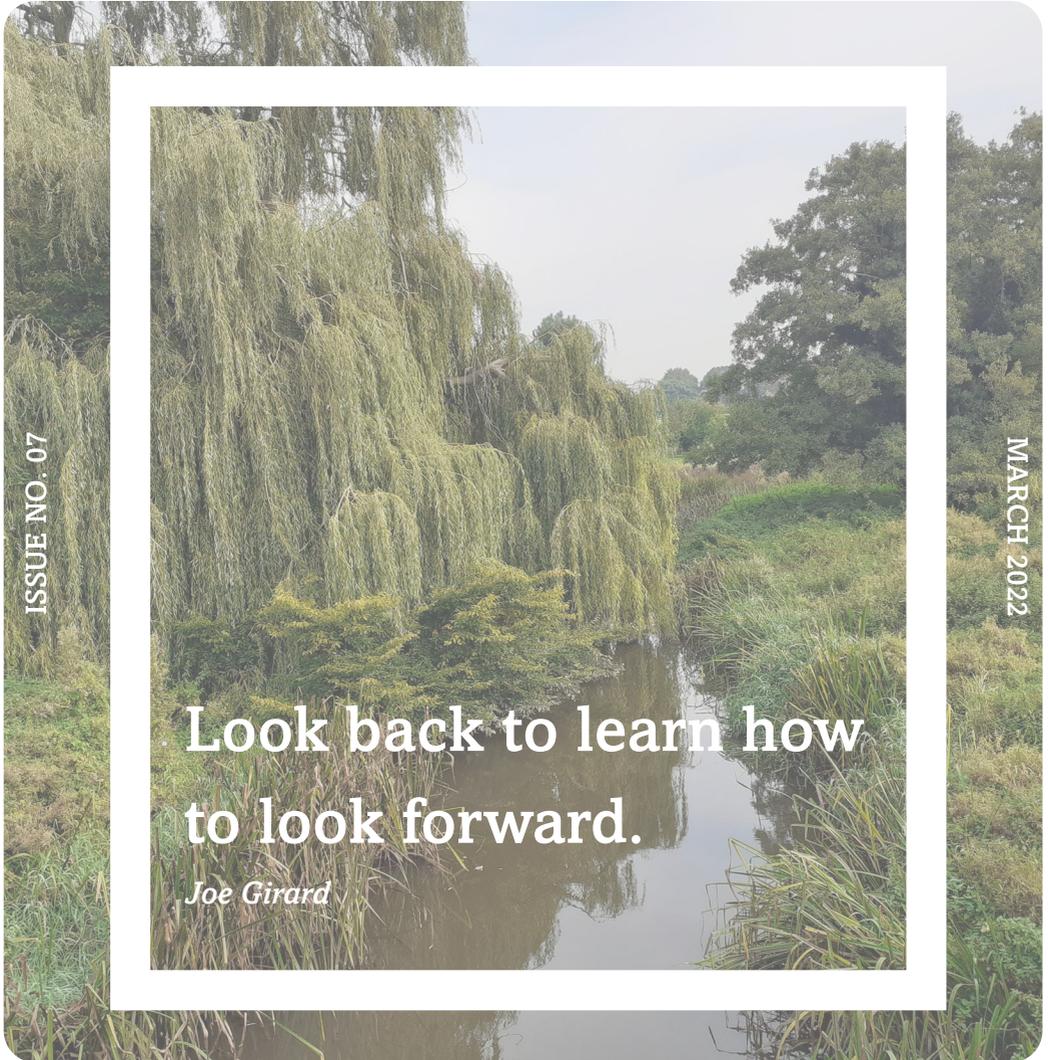




VILLAGE VOICE

Isombridge, Longdon upon Tern, Rodington Heath, Rodington, Sugden, Somerwood



ISSUE NO. 07

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Look back to learn how
to look forward.

Joe Girard

LOCAL CONTACTS



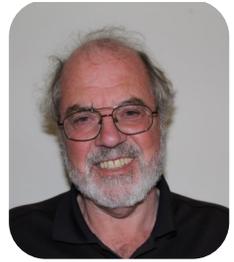
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Local Safer Neighbourhood Team

PC Nigel Barsley	07811 758596
PCSO Zoe Beven	07870 167791
PCSO Gareth Rhodes	07971 395039
PCSO Donna Picken	07976 869162
PCSO Ivan Collumbell	0781 7941151

LOCAL ISSUES

Keeping you up to date with some of the local issues that Councillors are dealing with in and around our parish.

Transport working group

Following the parish council meeting in November last year where 25 residents attended to raise their concerns with use of the road by transporters (HGV's) the parish council, in partnership with some of those residents has developed a working group to look into the issues of transport in the rural area around us.

Some investigations have already begun and we would like to invite residents to the first meeting of the working group to investigate specific issues in more detail, in order to challenge the highways authority to implement real changes.

If you can help us look into specific issues, have some information, wish to assist in developing a scope or want to know more about the working group then we invite you to this meeting.

The meeting will be held on 9th March at Longdon upon Tern Village Hall at 7:30pm.

Speed indication devices (SID's)

As we approach the new financial year the parish council will be looking to purchase two SID's. These SID's will routinely travel around the parish in 5 locations which have all been approved by Telford & Wrekin Council.

The aim is to slow drivers down to safe speeds and reduce any risk of accident. The locations are roughly: Cotwall Road (past Tern Lane), Summerwood (before Manley's Lane), Rodington Heath (between Hunkington Lane and Crowder Terrace), Sugden Lane (before The Hall) and the B5063 (just past Millers Row heading to the village hall at Longdon).

The data that is collected can be used by the transport working group that has been set up by the parish council to support arguments for speed reductions. This data can also be used by the highways authority to monitor road use and prioritise the annual capital fund that funds improvements to the public highways.

GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

Our gardens are often our pride and joy and many people take a great deal of time in designing and maintaining them. Whilst this can create beautiful gardens, it does not necessarily always create the best gardens for wildlife. Our native species including birds, mammals and insects have evolved to thrive in a less ordered countryside, so gardens that look more like those natural habitats will suit them best. This doesn't however mean that gardens need to be abandoned for wildlife to benefit.

There are lots of things that everyone with even a small garden can do to have a green space that looks good and works for both people and wildlife to spend time in. The first thing to do is to identify those corners of the gardens where a bit more 'mess' won't bother you. Even small wildlife-friendly patches can make a big difference.

Once you've identified these areas, there are a couple of easy quick wins for nature. Allowing a small amount of nettles, brambles and other plants to grow in these hidden corners can make your garden a significantly more wildlife-friendly place (not to mention the treat of autumn blackberries on your doorstep). For example, nettles are the only plant that the caterpillars of the Peacock butterfly can feed on, so even a small patch will give you a much better chance of seeing these wonderful insects as their bright 'eyes' flash through your garden in the summer.

If you have a lawn, another thing you can do is allow all or a part of it to remain uncut for part of the year. You'll be amazed at the flowers that will appear when you stop mowing – I even had 2 beautiful Bee Orchids emerge from my lawn when I lived in South Yorkshire and stopped cutting it! Cutting your lawn less often doesn't just help the wildflowers, you will also start to see more of the insects that pollinate them. In our garden in Rodington we now also have a healthy population of grasshoppers having reduced cutting for the last 3 years. It's a really joy to sit out on a summer's evening listening to them chirruping in the grass.

If you want to know more about what can be achieved, go to Plantlife's 'No Mow May' web page. They also have a tool for you to measure the benefit of your changes to pollinators (search for Every Flower Counts). Another really good resource is the 'Do Nothing for Nature' pages on Butterfly Conservation's website.

The last small thing that you can start to do to help garden wildlife is to hold back from trimming your hedges and shrubs between the end of March and September. These provide vital spaces for birds such as Robins, Blackbirds and Song Thrushes to nest in. Cutting them during the breeding season can result in nests being abandoned with eggs or chicks still in them.

We have some incredible wildlife in our area and these small steps will help them to thrive and attract more species.

Tom Hayek, Rodington Parish Climate & Nature Champion

CLIMATE & NATURE SURVEY - pg1

On 1st December 2021 your parish councillors declared a climate and nature emergency to acknowledge the twin global climate and nature emergencies. Whilst it can often seem as though there is little that can be done at the very local level, we believe that by working hand-in-hand with our community we can enact change in the parish that will reduce our collective environmental footprint and allow nature to flourish.

We will be preparing a Climate and Nature Plan over the next few months and we want your ideas for what actions can be taken in our parish's villages and the countryside in between. Please rip out this section and return this survey to one of your local parish councillors, whose details are on the back. Alternatively, fill out the online version here: <https://forms.gle/JB6ZJPayYseBm2kS8>

Waste & recycling – what additional actions could our Parish Council and/or communities take to increase the amount of materials we recycle and to reduce the amount of waste produced in our area.

Travel – what would help you and/or people visiting you to take more journeys by active travel (cycling and walking), by public transport or to drive a lower carbon vehicle ?

Do you have other ideas for how our communities can lower their carbon and/or environmental footprint?

CLIMATE & NATURE SURVEY - pg2

Habitats – what ideas do you have for increasing, improving and connecting the areas of natural wildlife habitat in our area? Please suggest specific locations if appropriate.

Species – are there any particular species that you have seen in our area that you would like to see helped to thrive?

Do you have any other ideas for how we can help wildlife in our area?

Are you a landowner who would like free advice on what else you can do to help wildlife?



ANNUAL COMMUNITY FORUM

This years “Electors Meeting” will be coming to you slightly differently!

On **18th May, starting 7pm at Rodington Village Hall**, the parish council welcomes all residents of the parish to our Community Forum (electors meeting), to hear about what the parish council does, what other organisations in the area do and how we can all help our community prosper.

NEIGHBOURHOOD MATTERS

Neighbourhood Matters - the brand new community messaging service.

Through Neighbourhood Matters you can sign up for local police alerts; receive information about crime in your area, find out about drop-in sessions, answer surveys, and more.

You're invited to sign up and become a registered recipient of messages of information, crime alerts or witness appeals local to the area in which you live or work by email, text or telephone.

Don't worry, you won't be bombarded with every incident. You can choose exactly the type of alert you wish to receive.

Sign up now <https://neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/>

Please note that this service is not for reporting crimes or incidents – to make a report please dial 999 in an emergency.



SHOP LOCAL, MICRO SHOP SERVICE BROUGHT TO RODINGTON PARISH



An increasing number of people in the parish have been asking for a village style shop for some years.

In light of this, Connor and Anthony of the Tayleur Arms have decided to introduce The Tayleur Micro Shop.

They will be stocking a range of household staples such as Milk, Bread, Butter, Eggs, Pasta, Cereals, Flour, Jams etc. A full list of stock can be found on their Facebook page or "in store".

The shop will be open during the same hours as the pub plus from 12-3pm on Mondays when the pub is currently closed.

Connor and Anthony would really like your opinions on what you, the customers, would like to see available in the shop so please get in touch via bookinGS@thetayleurarms.co.uk

SUPPORT YOUR VILLAGE HALLS

Longdon upon Tern and Rodington Village Halls have been surviving through some difficult times supported by passionate volunteers and we're so pleased to report that they're **back open for business!**

Please consider hiring the halls for your functions, groups and activities. For more details please head over to Facebook or contact them below:

Rodington (Tom): **01952 770308**
Longdon upon Tern (Janet): **01952 770677**

Standard office working hours only please



Chairman's Awards 2021

At our February meeting our Chairman, Cllr Martin Holyoake was able to present the Chairman's Awards.

The awardees for 2021 were.... 🥁 🥁

Ann Richards

For so many years Ann has given so much to her community, without ever asking for thanks. She has been part of the village hall committee, she has organised and helped with fundraising events locally, 1-2-1 supported the elderly in our community and all together given whatever time she has available to improve the lives of so many. We are blessed to have someone like Ann as a part of our wonderful community.

Gordon Edgerton and Stephen Elliot

Gordon and Steve have been brightening up the mood of Rodington for a number of years with their festive lights in December. Together they have used their own homes to display a Christmas lights display like never before seen in our village. Their efforts, which are completely funded from their own pockets, have warmed so many hearts in the community over the years and helped create a closer community feeling. We are all so grateful to these two kind gentlemen.



Parish Paths Partnership

On Wednesday, 23rd February work commenced on the restoration of the towpaths on Rodington Canal. This will provide access to both sides of the old canal basin, offering walking opportunities for people as part of the local rights of way network. Several volunteers from the Pathways Partnership, and the Shrewsbury to Newport Canal Trust worked throughout the day to clear over 200 metres of towpath on both sides of the canal. Further work is scheduled for the 9th March (09:45-3:30) and the Pathways Partnership would be delighted to receive any volunteer support to assist on this, and other projects in the area as we begin clearance work on other established rights of way in the area. Please contact either Tom Currie, Chair of the Partnership (01952 770258) or Cllr Brian Gaskin cllr.gaskin.rpc@gmail.com

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

2022 will celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and there will be celebrations and events across the country, and our parish is no different!

There are fantastic teams of volunteers working away to ensure we put on family friendly, run and royal events in both villages of Rodington and Longdon upon Tern.

So watch this space!

There's lots to do and many hands needed, if you want to know more about the events and how you can get involved please speak to Tom Currie for Rodington on 01952 770258 or Claire Broderick for Longdon upon Tern on 01952 770636

Defibrillator training

Hopefully you'll never have to use one. But in the event that you do its always best to have the upper hand on knowledge of use!

In partnership with the West Midlands Ambulance Service, Rodington Parish Council has put together a user training session on **Saturday 19th March, starting 10am at the Tayleur Arms** car park in Longdon upon Tern. All residents and business in and outside of the parish are welcome as this is vital knowledge for us all.

PARISH BUDGET 2022-23

Every year parish councils are required to set their budgets, usually in January in order to project their claim of the overall council tax, this is known as the precept.

The precept, along with parish council savings, reserves and other grants are used to provide services in the parish that meet the needs of the parish councils responsibilities. In terms of this parish we are very small and have little services than what you'd find in the larger parish or in most cases town councils have. However, this parish council, along with many others, set a budget that aims to meet local desire for tackling issues or providing facilities or opportunities that are outside of the "responsibility" scope, nonetheless very beneficial to local people.

For the year 2022-23 Rodington Parish Council set their precept at £20,000, this works out to an estimated £48.19 per household per year and less than the borough average of £63.79 per household.

Below is a list of our overhead costs for the 2022-23 budget.

Administration, staffing and training costs

£9,810

Maintenance

£6,500

Community projects and events

£11,600

Grants for community groups and village halls

£2,000

We encourage you to look at the full budget report and understand the needs for certain costs and ambitions for the community. Please go to www.rodingtonpc.org.uk and click on "Finance"

**St. Bartholomew's Church
Longdon-upon-Tern**

SUMMER

*** FETE ***

Saturday 14th May

Stalls 1.00 p.m. Games
Teas Ice Cream

Bric-a-Brac

Cakes Tombola
Plants Books

*** BARBECUE ***

**A warm welcome to all our
friends - old and new!**

LONGDON VILLAGE HALL