

# KEEPING



## Galatians 6:9

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

It's never an easy task to be the bearer of bad news and unfortunately with much sadness, I have to share with you that two of our dearest friends have passed away this Summer.

Muff Curtis and Phil Rodford were two of our faithful volunteer workers, who had a real passion for Jesus and the work that God is doing here at TRAC. They both have seen and been involved with many of the various development stages through the years and it is true to say that we would not have accomplished all of what we have today without their hard work and valuable contribution.



Long-standing Volunteers Muff Curtis (Far Left) and Phil Rodford (Centre)

Pictured with Trustees and Volunteers Paul Jones, Des Jackson, Celia Jackson and Andrew Tyrell.

Muff started helping at TRAC from the very early days when the vision was still just an idea in it's infancy and his practical skills as a builder's labourer (acquired in his youth) were once again put into practice during his "retirement" years. Very rarely did Muff ever miss a work party day, just one demonstration of his commitment and dedication to TRAC.

Phil started with us some 12 years ago, giving us all a much needed boost to push on at the time. Phil had great knowledge in all things practical and when a problem needed solving, Phil would often come up with the solution. Phil later became a trustee, generously giving us even more of his time and much needed support, as well as being one of our in house Archery Instructors.

It has been a great pleasure working alongside and getting to know both Muff and Phil, with many jokes and stories shared (along with a hot drink and a piece of cake) in between the many practical ways that they helped and supported us, on a weekly basis, for so many years.

Your prayers for both families during this very difficult time would be greatly appreciated.

Also, for the TRAC staff and volunteers who have lost not just work colleagues but personal friends.

Here on site, initial preparatory ground works for the dining room extension have now commenced.



Initially, this work involves the creation of a new service road, leading from the main carpark to the kitchen, courtyard and farm house.

The new road will run adjacent to the existing service road, which currently sweeps directly around the rear of the existing dining room and once construction of the new road is complete, the existing road will be dug out in order to lay the foundations for the new dining room extension.



Meanwhile, the main car park and main driveway are also in the process of undergoing resurfacing.



Some of these works were slightly delayed due to the very heavy rainfall that we experienced in September but praise God, we have had drier weather in more recent weeks, allowing the outdoor construction works to continue.

Please pray for continued good weather, health, safety, wisdom, strength and resources to complete these works in good time next year.

We've also been blessed to have been supported by a number of local businesses this summer, including the Ark Café, Newent Body Repairs and Woodland Energy forestry, who have all very kindly donated either courtyard parasols or new banners for the Go Kart track.



Please pray that we will continue to develop our relationships with local businesses, local schools and organisations in the local area.

As ever, we really thank you for all of your ongoing prayers, support and gifts during 2024. For those making gifts, if you haven't yet completed a new Gift Aid Declaration this year, please just drop me a quick email at [manager@tracnewent.org.uk](mailto:manager@tracnewent.org.uk) and I will send you the relevant form to complete.

It has also been suggested that recipients of the Keeping TRAC newsletter might like to join a Prayer Meeting via Zoom.

If this might include you, please register your interest here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WTSWMYB>

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

See you all in 2025!

God Bless!

Joe Aldridge

### **Psalm 23: 5-6**

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever."

*We hope this gives you an insight into what's going on at TRAC and where your gifts and donations are going. You can get the latest news from TRAC on our website at <https://www.tracnewent.org.uk/>*

If you would like to make a donation, be added to the mailing list or can help TRAC in any way please contact the manager: Joe Aldridge, Tom Roberts Adventure Centre (TRAC), Yates Farm Malswick, Newent, Gloucestershire, GL18 1HE. Tel: 01531 822606. Email: [manager@tracnewent.org.uk](mailto:manager@tracnewent.org.uk)