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Summer
2007



whiteshillandruscombe.org.uk

The WaRbler

Notes from Whiteshill and Ruscombe

Inside this issue

- Weeds in pavements and walls* 2
- Weddings, Christenings and Funerals* 2
- Woodcutter's Charity* 2
- RVAG Village Walk* 2
- Lightbulbs* 3
- New Keep Fit Class* 3
- Village Hall* 3
- Parish Council News* 4
- Village Agent* 4
- Library for the Housebound* 4

Whiteshill and Ruscombe Parish Council's aim is to make the village a pleasant place to live

Shared Space : Community Space : Your Space

The main cause of the traffic problem in our communities can be explained by a simple observation; if your streets look like roads, then drivers will treat them as roads. This is why people drive through villages at a bit above the speed limit, slow down for obstacles, and then speed up again. The issue is that streets are more than just traffic corridors; they are pedestrian routes, and places for meeting neighbours.

Shared space is about designing our streets so that they encourage all of these activities to take place simultaneously, without giving dominance to any one group. Where this has been tried, traffic speeds have reduced to less intimidating levels and journey times have improved.

Now let's get real. We are not going to redesign and rebuild our village streets, but there are some things we can do which should have a similar effect. Firstly we could reduce the number of road signs and markings to make the village look less like a road; secondly we can improve the look of

the roadside spaces and convert them to attractive community spaces. Anyone who saw Sarah Lunnon's presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting will remember how dismal our village looked in her photos of the main road. It looked like a grey tarmac area that nobody cares about. We can change this if we act as a community. The Parish Council is trying to get some green back in the Village Green and there are a number of other places where the pavement is wide enough for planted tubs, seats, dog bowl, garden gnomes or anything else that shows that people actually live here.

Although Sarah's photos were of the main road, the same approach of converting boring roadside spaces into community spaces would work throughout the village. We don't need a grand design for a whole village; after all, this village was not planned. All we need is for a number of people to adopt a small piece of roadside near them and cheer it up a bit. The Parish Council can handle the bureaucracy and provide some of the funding but the ideas and the labour needs to come from you.

A few years ago the children led the way by painting the bus shelters; now it's the turn of the rest of us to put some local character back into our village.

Any changing of road markings etc. may have implications on safety, parking and congestion. These will have impact on all of you. If you would like to get involved in reclaiming the streets or if you have reservations about the ideas, please drop in to our Traffic Issues Coffee Morning on Saturday September 22nd at the Village Hall.

John Rogers

Weeds in pavement and walls

can look untidy and may damage the tarmac. The Highways Authority will spray weedkiller on pavements and roads where there are weeds. Stroud District Council may be persuaded to sweep them up once they have died.



Alternatively, you can do as Debbie and Steve Tomkins did in Lower Street and Bell Pitch and clear them up yourselves. The advantages of this last approach is that you get a better job done, no chemicals are used and you save some council tax money. So please, next time you are weeding your garden, look over the wall and do a bit of the roadside as well. It will make your village look nicer.

Weddings, Christenings and Funerals

Many of us like to mark life's key events with a church service. With dispersed families, this usually means that a large number of guests arrive

by car. Frequently more people are looking for car parking spaces than there are spaces in the car park. No one wants to get heavy about parking on these occasions, but recently there have been incidents of extremely inconsiderate parking. If you are organising such an event, please ask your guests not to park on the pavement, not to park across dropped kerbs and not to block the lane to Stockenhill. It may also be worth using cones or warning triangles to "reserve" parking spaces outside the church for any guests with mobility difficulties. This should allow your guests access to the church without endangering the rest of the public.

Woodcutters' Charity

As The Woodcutters is now non-existent, the remaining committee had to decide what to do with the cash left in the fund. After discussion it was decided that 3 seats would be purchased through the Parish Council and placed in the playing field near the orchard for use by all parishioners. Plaques will be placed on the seats to commemorate the charity. In conclusion we would like to thank everyone who helped over many years to raise money for the village and to state that the fund is now closed.

D Hulme (Chairperson) and J Mutton (Treasurer & Secretary)

**1st August 2007 Ruscombe
Valley Action Group Annual Walk
starting at Farnhill field at
7.00pm and also at various points
around the village to Walk the
Field. Finishing at
The Star at 8.00pm**

Lightbulbs

5,265 council properties in Stroud District this month are being given six bulbs while tenants at smaller sheltered housing units will each receive four bulbs .

Pam Thorne, Village Agent and District Councillor Philip Booth delivered hundreds of light bulbs to Council tenants in Paganhill and some to over 40 properties in Whiteshill and Ruscombe; thanks to Jane Cant and Ron Powis for their help with the delivery.

It is estimated that households can save up to £355 a year by fitting energy saver bulbs - and they last up to 10 times longer. The figures suggest that changing just one ordinary light bulb to an energy efficient alternative can save a typical house £39 per year - which when multiplied across the UK's 26 million households would add up to a massive £3312 m saving.

More information can be found on Philip's blog on

[http://
ruscombegreen.blogspot.com](http://ruscombegreen.blogspot.com)



Who's the lady with her child outside this house in Ruscombe?

(Thank you to Maggie Booth for supplying the photograph)



Why not get ACTIVE this Autumn?

We all need to get a bit more active, so why not try a friendly new **Keep Fit**

Class starting in the Village Hall on Mondays from 3rd September 2007 at 7.30pm until 9.00 pm? If you haven't done much exercise in the past, but want to get a bit fitter, then these classes will give you the gentle workout you are looking for in a friendly and safe environment.

Lyn Moss is an experienced and qualified Keep Fit Association (KFA) instructor, so why not give her a ring to find out more on **01453 766609 or 07773 493517**.

Regular **Village Hall** Events that will be running from September.

MONDAY

Yoga 18:00 to 19:00

New Keep Fit 19:30 to 21:00

TUESDAY

Tai Chi 14:30 - 15:30

Lindy Hop dancing 19:00 to 21:00

WEDNESDAY

Playgroup 10:00 to 12:00

Pilates (please ring number below)

THURSDAY

Playgroup 10:00 to 12:00

Wives Group First Thursday in month 19:00 to 21:00

Parish Council Second Thursday in month 19:30 to 22:00

FRIDAY

Ballet 16:00 to 18:00

Please check village hall notice board for confirmation of times. For booking enquiries please ring

Mrs Bremerkamp on 759023

Parish Council News

John Rogers (Chairman)

John.rogers@whiteshillandruscombe.org.uk

Please note that due to recently getting married, the Parish Clerk has changed her name & address. Mrs Julie Shirley (née Masters) can now be reached at 60 Hawk Close, Abbeydale, Gloucester, GL4 4WE Telephone 01452 424245, email clerk@whiteshillandruscombe.org.uk

Cllr Elizabeth Redvers-West has retired and we welcome Greg Dance who has been co-opted on to the Parish Council. PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE to view Agendas and Minutes at whiteshillandruscombe.org.uk

The Village Agent

Village Agents are active throughout Gloucestershire now, pointing people in the right direction for help with all sorts of things – home safety issues, social outlets, finance, transport, energy efficiency etc. Join me for a coffee in the Village Shop to learn more (alternate Wednesdays, 11am - 1pm), or give me a ring.



Tai Chi Qui Gong —

After two free 'tasters' of this very enjoyable form of gentle exercise we had enough enthusiasts to start a regular class which is on **Tuesdays at 2.30 -3.30 pm** in the **Whiteshill Village Hall, £3 per session** (last one this term 31st July – starting again on 4th September). Qui Gong is particularly suitable for older people because it can be done sitting down if standing is difficult, and can improve balance and help with sleep. **Claire Stagg** is an excellent teacher and the experience is somehow both relaxing and energising. Do come and try it! If transport is a problem, give me a ring on the number below.

There is also an ongoing class in **Randwick Village Hall on Fridays at 11.45am** – all are welcome.

Library Club for the Housebound

This meets at the Stroud Library on the last Wednesday of each month, 11.00am – 12.30 pm. There are currently spaces on the free door-to-door community transport if you would like to enjoy tea and biscuits and a chance to chat while you choose your books. There are also computer terminals for anyone wanting to use the internet. Next dates are : **25th July** and **26th September**. **Ring 01453 751651 to book a place.** **Pam Thorne, Village Agent for Whiteshill and Randwick.**

Tel: 07776 245791

COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF THE WARBLER IS 13TH OCTOBER 2007

THE VILLAGE SHOP NEEDS

YOU! If you can spare one or two hours to volunteer in the shop or on the Management Committee, please telephone the shop on **01453 766277**. They are open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, 9am to 1pm on Saturdays and 9am to 11am on Sundays and Bank Holidays

For letters and all newsletter contributions please send to The Editor, 'Ashbourne', Star Green, Whiteshill, Stroud, GL6 6AE or on email to: editor@whiteshillandruscombe.org.uk

ADVERTISING

If you would like to advertise your business here, please forward items to The Editor at the above contact. Ads start at £10 per 1/8 page and £20 per 1/4 page.

Make cheques payable to: 'Whiteshill and Ruscombe Parish Council'