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**Village Annual Parish Meeting**

The Parish Council would like to remind all residents of Whiteshill and Ruscombe that the Annual Parish meeting will be taking place on Thursday 24 May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

This is your chance to catch up with all the news and events from your Parish Council over the last year, in an informal meeting, over a glass of wine and nibbles.

Councillors will update residents with reports from various committees, including Highways and Footpaths, Planning, Playing Field, and the ever popular 'news' from the Snow Warden!

Our District Councillor Philip Booth will be giving us an update on his work for the parish since his election. The local Head, Robert Kempner, will be presenting news from Whiteshill Primary School, and there will be updates from members of both the Ruscombe Valley Action Group and the Ruscombe Brook Group. Our recently appointed Village Agent, Pam Thorne will be updating on her new role. If you care about the parish and want to find out what we've been up to on your behalf, then come along – you will be very welcome!

**Gerri Kimber, Vice-Chair, Whiteshill and Ruscombe Parish Council**

**Letter from the Chairman**

Dear Villagers

I would like to update you on some of the things we have been trying to do about speeding through the village. Last summer we signed up to a scheme run by SDC to share a mobile speed actuated speed sign which we could have located a various sites through out the village for periods of a few weeks at a time. This sounded ideal as it would allow us to test out the effectiveness of such signs before buying one. Then the Highways Department got involved and declared that the sign purchased was acceptable if it was attended but not acceptable if it was left unattended. This is incomprehensible particularly as such signs are only reminders to drivers. SDC are now in the process of buying an approved sign.

We also supported a scheme for a 20mph zone covering much of Ruscombe and Randwick on the basis that the roads are not safe for high speed travel. Highways agreed but the Police say that they can not enforce it, so it should only be implemented if the average speed is already below 20 mph

*(continued overleaf)*

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

in all of the zone. They think this can only be achieved by artificial traffic calming which is expensive and out of keeping with a rural environment. The county is currently only funding such schemes in accident black spots i.e. where there have been fatal crashes. In short they know speeding along village roads is dangerous but they will only do something about it if a child gets killed.

There is an alternative approach to speed limits called 'Shared Space'. It works by giving visual signs to drivers that they are driving through a community rather than along an open road that happens to have houses built along it. I think this is more appropriate than yet more expensive highway engineering and it should have the effect of making the village a nicer place to live. Although this approach has been implemented by giving whole areas a make over there is no reason why it should not be implemented on a piece meal basis. As such it is something we can do over a number of years and in ways that suit each location. As a first step we are looking at refurbishing the village green.

If you would like to discuss shared spaces, speeding traffic, traffic congestion or public spaces please come along to the Village Meeting on Thursday 24th May. Regards **John Rogers**

## *Green Blogs*

**Folley Farm footpath change**—This has been dropped by GCC: it means they are liable for costs but probably cheaper than a public inquiry which I am sure would uphold residents' objections. This is possibly the best result in what is quite honestly a ridiculous process that must be hugely frustrating to all - not least the poor householder who is seeking to change the path.

## *Brook Partnership*

SDC have approved an informal partnership so we will hopefully be able to carry out a scoping exercise of what needs to be done: Water 21 have offered £3,000 to do the exercise which will take 6 months minimum. All frustratingly slow but we are moving ahead!

**CONTACT: Philip Booth Lark Rise, Bread Street, Ruscombe, Stroud, Glos. GL6 6EL Tel: 01453 755451 E-mail: philip.booth2@virgin.net**

## *Garden Birdwatch 07*

For the last four years a Garden Birdwatch has been held every January to find out about the birds that visit the gardens in our parish. This year 33 households very kindly took part and a total of 29 species were identified. The Blackbird was the bird seen in the most gardens. This was followed by the Robin which was seen in 75% of gardens.

The most numerous bird was the Blue Tit with an average of 2.7 in each garden, followed by the House Sparrow, Blackbird, Great Tit and Chaffinch. Our less numerous sightings included Blackcaps, Jays and Song Thrushes with one sighting each of a Goldcrest and Marsh Tit.

The Birdwatch is supported by Stroud Valleys Project, a local organisation that works with the community to help people care for their local environment. This year the winners of the prize draw for those who took part were Mr & Mrs Royce of The Orchard, Ruscombe. **Jenny Slater**

If you would like large print copies — please contact the Parish Clerk, Julie Masters (address on page 4) Please also give us feedback on the Newsletter.

## *Village Hall*

**Monday** Yoga 18:00 - 19:00, Keep fit 19:15 - 20:15 (New Leader required)

**Tuesday** Toddlers 10:00 - 12:00

Lindy Hop dancing 19:00 - 23:00

**Wednesday** Toddlers 10:00 - 12:00

Pilates 18:45 - 23:00

**Thursday** first Thursday of the month - Wives Club 19:00 - 22:00

second Thursday of the month - Parish Council 19:30 - 22:00

**Friday** Ballet 15:30-18:00

To book the hall and to find out how you can help, please contact

**Mrs Bremerkamp 01453 759023**



**HAVE YOU GOT ANY OLD VILLAGE PHOTOS YOU WOULD LIKE US TO PUBLISH?**

## *Community Transport - just a phone call away!*

Don't know where the next bus is coming from? Then call the **Community Transport hotline on 0845 045 0302**. Alternatively get on line at **www.A2Binfo.net/gloucestershire**.

This central service gives you access to more than 25 operators, providing nearly 250,000 journeys a year throughout the County. Services are provided for many activities, including health appointments, leisure activities, educational purposes and employment, by dial-a-ride minibuses, voluntary car schemes and community buses—and it reduces congestion on the roads.

A publicity campaign will be running over the next month or so, promoting the opportunities that are available—so keep a look out in the local press.

## *Community Orchard*

On a cold, but dry day in December 2005 the whole of Whiteshill School turned out on the playing field to help plant the 25 trees that were to be the village orchard. It had taken about a year of discussion prior to the planting and right from the start Whiteshill School were keen to be involved, so plans were made for the children to do the planting along side members of the Parish Council.

25 trees were chosen, the majority being Gloucestershire apple varieties, with one or two extra such as the Beauty of Bath thrown in for good measure, along with a couple of plum and a couple of pair trees.

Four children were allocated to each tree. The same 4 children would plant, tend and monitor the well being of the tree from then on. With great enthusiasm the

children set about removing turf, digging, knocking stakes in and carefully planting the trees. All 25 trees were planted in one morning; the children able to return to school in time for lunch.

We have a plan of the site so the varieties can be identified. At some point we hope for this information to be put onto a display with a brief description of each one included enabling all of us to select the best fruit for a specific purpose.

The trees all survived their first year and at the moment look pretty healthy. Hopefully our first apples will be produced soon and the village will be able to enjoy local, fresh fruit that the children have helped to grow. We hope that everyone feels they can eat and cook with the resource that is now part of our village.

**Rebecca Charley**



## Parish Councillor WHO'S WHO

John Rogers (Chairman)

John.rogers@whiteshillandruscombe.org.uk

Julie Masters, Clerk to Whiteshill & Ruscombe Parish Council, 3 Headlam Close, Tuffley, Gloucester, GL4 0YD (Tel 01452 548291) or email:

clerk@whiteshillandruscombe.org.uk

PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE to view Agendas and Minutes at whiteshillandruscombe.org.uk

## SDC Concessionary Fare Scheme



From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 you can choose either travel tokens, or a free bus pass. Opting for a bus pass will entitle you to free travel on any recognised County bus route. If you are aged over 60, registered disabled or visually impaired you are eligible for the Scheme. If you are in receipt of a carer's allowance, you are eligible for half an allocation of travel tokens.

If you received tokens or a bus pass last year you should have automatically received an application form for this year's scheme. To collect your tokens please take the completed application form and proof of age or eligibility to your local Post Office **between 8<sup>th</sup> March 2007 and 16<sup>th</sup> May 2007.**

After the Post Office distribution of tokens, applications should be made by post or in person to Ebley Mill, and each month the value of a token allocation will be reduced on a pro-rata basis. Please complete the application form and return it with a passport sized photograph, proof of age or eligibility (photocopies only please) to the **Concessionary Fare Officer** at Stroud District Council, Council Offices, Ebley Mill, Stroud, Glos, GL5 4UB. For any other queries phone **01453 754417** (a 24-hour message recording service), email **con.fares@stroud.gov.uk** or you can visit Ebley Mill in person.

**COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF THE WarBLER IS 15th JULY 2007**

## Village Agent Project

provides easier access to information and services for the over 50s. Join me for a coffee in the Whiteshill Shop, alternate Wednesdays from 11am to 1pm, and find out what you may be missing! Future dates are 28<sup>th</sup> March and 11th April. **Pam Thorne, Village Agent for Whiteshill and Randwick.**  
**Tel: 07776 245791**



### **THE VILLAGE SHOP NEEDS YOU!**

If you can spare one or two hours to volunteer in the shop or 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.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** We really want to know what YOU think and we need your letters for publication - but they do need to relate to specific issues about the village. 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**

WARP would like to than all those who came to the Weekend Review.

The hall was packed both nights and we raised over £470 for local charities and more than a few laughs!

## 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'**