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

**Welcome to the first edition of 'The Warbler'**

With our busy lives today we don't spend enough time talking to our neighbours and many of the traditional word of mouth communication routes are broken. This news sheet is an attempt to give everyone an opportunity to talk to everyone else in Whiteshill and Ruscombe.

Although it is set up by the Parish Council it is *not* a Parish Council newsletter, neither should it be confused with the church's Parish Magazine. This is an opportunity for *all* villagers to raise issues of interest to the village. We would particularly like to hear from the active organisations in the village so that people know what is going on.

Contributions from individuals would also be welcome — perhaps you would like to share some local history or ecological information with the rest of the village. It could also be used to raise questions and local issues (but not ones that are better raised in the Stroud News and Journal or the national press). The aim is to publish a quarterly news sheet but this could become more frequent if we find there is a sufficient supply of articles and general interest.



We would also like to hear **YOUR FEEDBACK** and suggestions and if you would like large print copies — please contact the Parish Clerk, Julie Masters (address on page 2)

**All Newsletter Contributions to: The Editor, 'Ashbourne', Star Green, Whiteshill, Stroud, GL6 6AE or please email to the address below.**

**WARP - Whiteshill and Ruscombe Players proudly presents**  
**THE WEEKEND REVUE**  
**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2007 - 7.45pm**  
An evening of songs, sketches and silliness.  
Tickets available from the **1<sup>st</sup> February 2007** in the Village Shop or Chris Bird (Tel. 01453 766031)  
Proceeds to Meningitis Trust, Cotswold Care Hospice and Whiteshill & Ruscombe Village Hall  
**WARNING! This production may contain nuts**

Please email the Editor on: [editor@whiteshillandruscombe.org.uk](mailto:editor@whiteshillandruscombe.org.uk)

## *Your Parish Council*

Some current projects being pursued by the council are:

- Renovating the Village Green.  
Yes we do have one—it's that bit of tarmac below the Woodcutters.
- Getting speed actuated warning signs installed on the main road.
- Extending parking restrictions around road junctions.

If you are interested in any of these issues or have something else you would like to discuss you are

welcome to attend a meeting where there is an opportunity to raise issues with the council at the start of each meeting.

Meeting dates are posted on notice boards throughout the village. Alternatively you can raise issues by contacting

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

[clerk@whiteshillandruscombe.org.uk](mailto:clerk@whiteshillandruscombe.org.uk)

**PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE to view Agendas and Minutes at**  
[whiteshillandruscombe.org.uk](http://whiteshillandruscombe.org.uk)

## *Ruscombe Valley Action Group*

The **Ruscombe Valley Action Group** was set up in July 2004 following the sale of three agricultural fields, within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to Gladwish Ltd, and their subsequent division into over 100 plots of land sold on to individuals all over the UK and even abroad. The Action Group is concerned about both the practice of subdivision and the likely deterioration and overall management of the land, when sold to absentee landlords. Much progress has been made in the two years we have been in operation.

Stroud District Council has placed an Article 4 directive on the land (no boundaries, no change of use), together with tree preservation orders on the major trees. Gladwish Ltd has already attempted a planning application for one of the plots which was wholeheartedly rejected by SDC. The **Ruscombe Brook Action Group** has been established as an offshoot to RVAG, to monitor and help improve the quality of the brook which runs along the valley. This is a very active group that has also achieved much in the time since it was set up. Such are the concerns over land banking as a national problem that the Council for the Protection of Rural England has

now stepped in to lobby for legislation to make such practice illegal.

Neil Carmichael and David Drew have both been involved in practical help with our cause. Letters have been sent to every plot owner, advising them that the plots they have bought are highly unlikely to gain any development agreement and to bring the work of the Action group to their attention. We plan to remain tireless in our efforts to maintain the beauty of the Ruscombe Valley in the years to come. If you see any suspicious activity on the land, please do let us know.

Our next open meeting takes place on **4th June 2007 in the Village Hall.**

**CONTACT:**  
**Gerri Kimber,**  
**Vice Chair,**  
**RVAG**

**Visit the new Parish Council website for more information about this and other activities going on in the village:**  
[whiteshillandruscombe.org.uk](http://whiteshillandruscombe.org.uk)



## *R&W Village Shop*

In 1998 the shop opened as a community run facility to serve the Ruscombe and Whiteshill area, after the last local store closed in the early 1990's. Built with community loans, armies of volunteers and a substantial grant from Stroud District Council, the original idea blossomed into the village shop that today stands at one end of the Whiteshill playing field. There is ample free parking and is conveniently close to the village school.

The shop stocks over 400 products including Winstones ice cream and fresh baked bread and promotes local food; we also sell Co-op and Sainsbury's products. And why not relax in the coffee shop and enjoy the views across the valley? **OPENING HOURS** are 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, 9am to 1pm on Saturdays and 9am to 11am on Sundays and Bank Holidays. We would love to see you and if you can spare one or two hours to help in the shop or you have skills for the Management Committee, please phone the shop on **01453 766277**

## *What's on at the Village Hall?*

There's more going on in the village hall than you think!



### **Monday**

Yoga 18:00 -

19:00, Keep fit 19:15 - 20:15

**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

We are always making improvements to the Hall, to make it a more friendly place to visit.

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

**Mrs Bremerkamp 01453 759023**

***District Councillor's Blog*** - There are now nearly 300 short articles or comments on Cllr Philip Booth's online 'Blog' (or diary) since he was elected as Green Party councillor last May. The Blog has been listed amongst the top Green Blogs and linked to the New Statesman website. The entries cover many local issues and Philip's work as a councillor. *Topics include:* land banking in Ruscombe, homelessness in Whiteshill, footpath changes, health service cuts, on-going work to get a 20 mph speed limit, litter, the local bus service, street-lighting and a feature length article looking at the Ruscombe Brook Action Group and their activities, achievements and plans.

You can leave comments on the website and Philip will respond: in some cases quite a debate has got going. You can also search for particular topics or issues using the search facility on the website: the brook item for example was on 5th January. See: <http://ruscombegreen.blogspot.com> Why not leave a comment?

Philip is very happy to discuss matters on the phone or meet with people over particular issues. Call him on 01453 755451 (not before 9am or after 8pm please).

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

## Parish Council WHO'S WHO

**John Rogers (Chairman)**

john.rogers@whiteshillandruscombe.org.uk

**Gerri Kimber (Vice Chair)**

gerri.kimber@whiteshillandruscombe.org.uk

**Rebecca Charley**

rebecca.charley@whiteshillandruscombe.org.uk

**Steve Tomkins**

steve.tomkins@whiteshillandruscombe.org.uk

**Robert Walker**

robert.walker@whiteshillandruscombe.org.uk

**John Mutton (via Parish Clerk)**

**Peter Hood (via Parish Clerk)**

**Elizabeth Redvers-West (via Parish Clerk)**

**Michael Lakin (via Parish Clerk)**

**Julie Masters (Parish Clerk)**

clerk@whiteshillandruscombe.org.uk

## What is a Village Agent?

Meet local resident **Pam Thorne** — your new Village Agent for Whiteshill.



This County wide Scheme, is a joint initiative between the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council and the County Council and it bridges the gap between the local community and public and voluntary organisations offering help to older people over 50 and those with disability. Pam is trained to give high quality information and gives advice and support. Pam will be in the **Village Shop** on

**Wednesday 28 February and 14 & 28 March at 11am to 1pm. Pam is also holding a session in the Village Hall on 6 March from 10.30 to 12.30pm**  
**Please phone her on 01453 751915 or 07776 245791 or email her on pam.thorne@gmail.com**

**A POLITE NOTICE - Lower Street**  
**A reminder that DOG FOULING**  
**carries a £1000 fine for dog owners**  
**found to be in breach of the Dogs**  
**(Fouling of Land) Act 1996.**

## Whiteshill Primary School



It is now two years since I joined Whiteshill Primary School. Time has flown by and it is unbelievable all the exciting things that have taken place during my time here. Whiteshill Primary School remains very popular and in some year groups we are bursting at the seams!

As well as delivering all the usual subjects at school as part of the curriculum, we have also been exploring ways that we learn and how to become better citizens. We have also worked hard on becoming more healthy and many children now eat fresh fruit and vegetables at snack time.

We are also working hard encouraging our children to walk or cycle to school instead of coming by car, whenever possible. We have been working in conjunction with the local Police and have now identification marked all our valuable belongings with 'Smartwater'. This is an invisible marking system that identifies items as belonging to Whiteshill School. As your village school we look forward to further developing a strong partnership with the village community.

If you want to find out more about how you can support the school or more information please see our website: [whiteshill.gloucs.sch.uk](http://whiteshill.gloucs.sch.uk)

Robert Kempner, Head Teacher