

# *Reeds Well*

**Whitsome's Newsletter August 2022**



# Whitsome Enhancement Group

## EDITORIAL

Since the last update in Reeds Well in May of this year, work has continued for WEG. It is fair to say we have been overwhelmed with the tasks at times, in particular keeping on top of pruning, repairs, weeding and the numerous bonfires we have had following the damage from Storm Arwen. From early in the year we have been busy with the preparation for the Plant Sale, which also takes up a lot of our time. We have for several years had a Friends of Whitsome list, but as there has been a significant turnover of residents in Whitsome we are hoping there are new residents in the local area willing to either join our committee, or to become a Friend of Whitsome, helping out with tasks at particular times of year.

WEG is a small group of dedicated people who need more help from time to time to keep the village and the Loaning looking good for the benefit of the community. I would like to thank those who already help with looking after planters, cutting the banks, grass cutting, planting, weeding and watering. It really is appreciated!

If you are interested in helping, please speak to any member of the committee, who will be able to outline the jobs we need help with. You do not need any gardening experience and it is a relaxed atmosphere.

The plant sale held on 5 June was open to the wider public and held outdoors. It was also great to be able to run the cafe this year. The plant sale proved to be a great success with £588 raised on the day, and some after sales for those who could not make it on the day. Match funding was given from the Post Office, which made a final total of £980.

On behalf of WEG, I would like to personally thank those who assisted and those who helped and supported the event and for the many plants donated from the local community.

Also, a date for your diary, on 13 October at 18.30hrs John Wood will be doing a talk "Back at the Ark Take Two 2".

If you came to this event previously be reassured John has a lot of new material to impart. This event will also be open to the wider public. Please see the Poster for more details. It would be helpful if you could register an interest using this e-mail address

[fingerspresents@btinternet.com](mailto:fingerspresents@btinternet.com),

or alternatively there will be a list held in the shop at the Ark to enable you to reserve a place. This will help us to assess the catering requirements and to comply with the Hall seating capacity numbers.

Finally, we intend to hold an AGM on 3 October in the Ark at 6.30pm.  
All welcome!

In the meantime enjoy the summer!

Anne Taylor-Clark  
Chair WEG (On behalf of the WEG team)

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### **Tattie in a Bucket Challenge**

If you entered the challenge I hope your potato plant is growing well.  
I'll be in touch in the next week to arrange a weigh-in. June

### **Loaning Community Orchard**

I hope all the young members of the community (and the young-at-heart) who helped to plant our wee orchard in 2021 have been to see how well the trees are growing. The wild flower mix sown there, and the established wild flower meadow further down the Loaning, have been wonderful this year. Everyone, please take a stroll around the Loaning and see for yourselves.

### **Village Resilience planning - might you need support or could you provide support?**

Many of us struggled in the aftermath of Storm Arwen last year and in the snow that came with the Beast from the East in 2018. To help our village deal with such events in the future, we propose setting up a local network of volunteers who will contact anyone who might need assistance in adverse conditions (snow, floods, power cuts etc) and make sure that they are safe and that they get any assistance they might need. If you think you might like to be included on such a list, please contact us with your details. You can either speak to someone in the shop or telephone Lynda Lothian on 01890 870328 or email her at [secretary.ark@whitsome.scot](mailto:secretary.ark@whitsome.scot).

Equally, we are looking for volunteers to be on the list of people who will mobilise to contact our vulnerable residents and provide assistance where necessary. It would be particularly helpful to have a few volunteers from the central and eastern parts of the village to ensure full coverage. Again, please contact Lynda or the shop to sign up. Precise details of how the system will work will be sorted out once we know how much of a demand there is and how many volunteers we have.

## **EVENT**

The Tour of Britain Cycling Race comes through Whitsome on Monday 5th September around 1pm.

## **50 CLUB - new season about to start**

The first draw for the 2022 - 2023 season will take place at the Ark's Drop In Coffee Morning on Tuesday 9th August, so there's still (a little) time to buy tickets!

Each ticket costs £14, and will last for the entire season – even if you win a prize, your ticket/s will remain eligible for all seven monthly draws up until the final one in March. Half of the money raised is handed out in prizes (varying from £20 to £100), while the other half helps towards the upkeep of our Village Hall (an annual requirement of around £10,000).

Further information can be found on the Village Website at [whitsome.scot](http://whitsome.scot) where you can also download an application form - forms are also available from the Shop. If you don't like Lotteries but are still interested in supporting us, we are happy to accept donations and, if you're a taxpayer, we can benefit from Gift Aid on your donation!

**Thanks to all those who have already purchased tickets, and to any others doing so now.**

## **BBQ Cancelled**

Sadly, the BBQ advertised for Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August has been cancelled. The hall committee are looking for more members and/or helpers. Please contact a Trustee if you could spare some time to support the hall.

## **Recycling**

The glass and textile banks in the village continue to be well used, which is fantastic. The latter brings in useful funds for village projects. Please be aware that the glass bank takes all colours of glass and the textile bank cannot accept some items, so check the notice on it. Please take away anything else for your home bin.

## **Community Shop and Post Office**

Thank you to all our customers old and new. In these difficult times please remember that we try to stock most of the basics you might need from milk to toilet rolls, papers, magazines and even logs and kindling. Save the fuel and time going elsewhere. If there is something you would like us to stock just ask. We are also keen to sell any local produce, crafts etc, so drop in and chat. PS We still need more volunteers to help in all sorts of ways.

## **Community Council**

### **Road safety.**

An increasing number of residents are concerned about the speed at which some vehicles are driving through the village. So far pets have been killed and hurt. It seems only a matter of time before it is a child. We have repeatedly raised this issue with Scottish Borders Council and the police. We hope to get a flashing speed sign soon, but SBC are very slow to get this done. Please feel free to report back your concerns to us, but also to SBC and the police. Let's just pester them until we get something done. Any constructive ideas to help are welcome!

Derek Russell

## **Christmas Lights**

Yes we know its August, but we are planning how to make our lights this year better than ever. If you are interested in getting involved in any way please let Derek, or Anne know.

## **Exercise Class/Keep Fit .....**

If anyone is interested in an exercise class in Whitsome please let me know. If there is sufficient interest I will try and get something started. BAVS (Berwickshire Association for Voluntary Services) are offering support with publicity and funding for new groups.

Contact: June at [fitsomeinwhitsome@gmail.com](mailto:fitsomeinwhitsome@gmail.com)

**[whitsome.scot](http://whitsome.scot)**

**for up-to-date news about  
what's on in Whitsome  
visit the website.**

## What's your news?

If you've got a story to share relating to Whitsome let us know. Items for inclusion in Reeds Well will be most welcome and if possible will be included in the next issue. We aim to publish 4 times a year, early in February, May, August and November. Contributions by the last day of January, April, July, or October addressed to: [reedswellwhitsome@gmail.com](mailto:reedswellwhitsome@gmail.com) or call June on 01890870256 (the current compiler). Entries may be edited if space is tight.

**Please do not send any contributions to my personal email address, as they may be overlooked.**

### Dates for Your Diary

9<sup>th</sup> August Coffee Morning 10.15am in Ark  
22<sup>nd</sup> August Community Council Meeting 7pm in Ark  
13<sup>th</sup> September Scones & Coffee 10.15am in Ark  
19<sup>th</sup> September Community Council Meeting 7pm in Allanton  
3<sup>rd</sup> October WEG AGM 6.30pm in Ark  
11<sup>th</sup> October Scones & Coffee 10.15am in Ark  
13<sup>th</sup> October John Wood Talk 6.30pm in Ark  
17<sup>th</sup> October Community Council Meeting 7pm in Ark  
To book the Ark call our Booking Secretary Jane Smithson on 01890 870205 or email: [bookings.ark@whitsome.scot](mailto:bookings.ark@whitsome.scot)

### Who's Who in Whitsome

The title "Reeds Well", alludes to the site of the Whitsome

Tragedy (Tales of The Scottish Borders No. 41 -Vol. 1. P319) and to the fact that the newsletter is worth reading!