

Reeds Well



Whitsome's Newsletter February 2023

Whitsome Enhancement Group

We hope you all had a Happy New Year, special thanks to Loraine for organising the Hogmanay Bothy Bash. Feedback from the event has been extremely positive.

Thanks to everyone who helped with putting up and taking down the Christmas Lights. We hope you enjoyed the additional display! Also, thanks to those who took part in the competition, made soups and joined us at the "Lights switch on" and Carol singing.

We are intending to restart Saturday work parties in May: these start usually around 10am. More details to follow nearer the time. Look out for information on dates on the Whitsome

website, in the next edition of Reeds Well, or Posters on the Notice Board once dates have been set.

Additionally, the WEG Friends of Whitsome database is being updated - this is a list of specific tasks that need to be completed from time to time and volunteers who have agreed to help.

This is a special year for WEG as we celebrate our 30th Anniversary. Please see flyer enclosed for more details. The date for the **Annual Plant Sale is Sunday 4 June 2023 at 10.30 am**. If you have any spare plants, or are splitting any perennials that you wish to donate please let us know. We will arrange collection if necessary.

Finally, we know there have been quite a few new arrivals to the village so if you are interested in joining the WEG committee or being a Friend of Whitsome please let us know.

Anne Taylor- Clark
Chair WEG

WHITSOME VILLAGE HALL TREASURER TO RETIRE

After four years as Treasurer of our Village Hall, John has indicated that he will retire at the end of the current financial year, on 31 March 2023. The post is a voluntary one, the principal responsibilities being the management of the Hall accounts, liaising with our Independent Examiners over the year-end presentation and publication of the Report & Accounts, and dealing with the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). The average time commitment is no more than 2 - 3 hours per week, and the Independent Examiners (Henderson Kildavaig, with an office on Berwick's Ramparts estate) are friendly and helpful.

The Hall cannot function without a Treasurer, so we are looking for a volunteer to take over when John retires. The Trustees are happy to discuss the possibility of a fixed-term appointment, as we are only too aware that positions such as this can easily turn into endless commitments, so if you would be interested in helping, and finding out more about what the job entails, please get in touch with John at treasurer.ark@whitsome.scot or contact Simon Deck at chair.ark@whitsome.scot .

Whitsome Village Hall is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated
Organisation No SC010128

A BIG THANK YOU TO WHITSOME RESIDENTS!

You have made the weekly **Whitsome Winter Warmer** lunches a huge success. So many of you have taken the trouble to cook, help and to eat. It has been a great pleasure to have so many of you come to the hall each Friday to join in to enjoy a lovely meal and chat.

Throughout 2023 we will be holding several other functions, some to celebrate WEG's 30th birthday, the King's coronation, the opening of our new Petanque/Boules court and to raise money for the village hall and surrounding area. If you would like to help organise these events and get involved with maintaining the village facilities, please come along to the Hall Committee meetings. You can join in as a friend or become a trustee. But we need more helpers; some of the present committee members are getting on in years and more hands would spread the load. The next committee meeting will be held in the hall on Monday February 6th at 7.00pm and you are very welcome to come along. If you are unable to attend and would like to be involved then please speak to a committee member, their contact email addresses are on the village website under 'key contacts' at www.whitsome.scot.

Coffee and Scone mornings are held at the Village Hall on the second Tuesday in the month starting at around 10.15.

These events have been well attended and pleasant gatherings over the last year, and we are grateful to our band of scone makers and assistants and also to all those members of the community who come along.

At present we are looking for an extra scone maker for the month of April with a view to seeing if they would like to join the rota. At present we have six scone makers and could really do with a few more.

If anybody feels they would like to be involved in this community event please contact Annette Cartwright at trustee01.ark@whitsome.scot

Fundraising Events for 2023

The two committees of Whitsome Village Hall And Whitsome Enhancement Group and a few Friends of both committees met on Jan 9th to discuss Fundraising events for 2023.

A few firm dates have been set for your diaries and there are others to be finalised.

The first event will be a Whist Drive on Feb 10th.

On March 11th there will be a Quiz Night, with Derek Russell as the Quiz Master.

The WEG Plant Sale will be held on June 4th.

A BBQ is planned for Sat, July 22nd with Jane Smithson as Coordinator.

Another Quiz is planned for Sept 29th with Robert Loch as Quiz Master.

The Curry Night is scheduled for Nov 11th.

It is also hoped to repeat the success of last year's Hogmanay celebration organised for the Hall by Jim Lamb and Loraine Small.

There was also discussion about marking the Coronation during the weekend of May 6th-8th. As the Pétanque Court will be nearing completion around that time a suggestion has been made that a joint inaugural and commemorative function could be organised.

Planning for this is ongoing.

These are the main fund raising and other events so far for the year. Other events such as a Car Boot Sale are under consideration.

If anyone is interested in helping with any of these proposed events please get in touch with one of the committee members or myself, Maggie Clegg.

It is planned to hold three more fundraising meetings throughout the year and to encourage interested members of the community to attend these. Dates to be provided at a later stage

Community Shop and Post Office

The cost of living crisis is affecting many of us, but we at the Community Shop can offer some suggestions as to how to make your money go further. We have always tried to stock the everyday essentials including, bread, milk, tinned goods, frozen food etc. If you avoid the journey to the big stores for the odd item you will save in 2 ways. Firstly we are closer so less fuel cost (or none) and secondly that temptation to buy much more stuff is that much less. Our prices are deliberately as low as we can make them so even more reason to come along.

Looking ahead we will soon be offering compost from the shop (end of Feb), again it will be well priced. If you would like to place an order in advance just let us know. It will sell out.

If there is any reason you cannot get out to us, just call us on 870627 and we can arrange deliveries, even if it's just a pint of milk.

Our community is fortunate to still have a post office, but please do remember the more it's used the safer it is. The Royal Mail strikes do not affect our opening (it's a different company), but do impact on delivery times for post we receive.

So here's a little quiz for you. One of the following statements about Whitsome Post Office is false, can you spot it?

1. You can withdraw money from your bank.
2. You can send items anywhere in the world through Parcelforce and Royal Mail
3. You can buy special philatelic stamps from us.
4. You can pay cash and cheques into your bank account.
5. Buying your postage from us rather than online improves our income.
6. You can access Post Office Savings accounts.
7. You can enquire about insurance services
8. You can get us to jump on your parcels to make them smaller and cheaper to post.

No prize for spotting the false statement, but you can reward yourself by trying some, or all, of the other items (and maybe lingering to buy some chocolate to make you feel even better)

Community Council

One item of real importance. Road safety.

It has become increasingly obvious that this is a big concern. Speeding traffic through the village is just too frequent. We have, and are engaged with the council and the police as to what can be done to slow the drivers who simply do not want to obey the law. Before any more pets are killed, or people injured we would like to see meaningful action taken.

A speed indicator sign will soon be in operation by the playpark. Dragon's teeth markings will be added at the village approaches and possibly more signage in the village. None of these will stop those drivers who ignore the current speed limits so what more can be done?

If you witness speeding and dangerous driving report it. Report it to the police and/or tell your local councillors. In the case of marked vehicles email, or call the company involved and complain. The more noise we make the sooner we will get action, but we need more voices to speak out.

Phil Stogden

Following Phil's sudden death, a huge thank you to all residents of Whitsome who have helped me so much during the past few weeks.

Also, thanks for the donations in his memory to WEG, who will be planting two plum trees in the Community Orchard in recognition of the help he gave to village projects in past years.

Maureen

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.

All contributions should be addressed to:- reedswellwhitsome@gmail.com or call June (the current compiler).

We aim to publish 4 times a year in February, May, August and November.

Entries may be edited if space is tight.

Dates for Your Diary

6th Feb Whitsome Enhancement Group meeting 2.30pm in Ark

6th Feb Whitsome Village Hall Committee meeting 7pm in Ark

14th Feb Scones & Coffee 10.15am in Ark

18th Feb WEG at 30 Coffee Morning 10.45

20th Feb Community Council meeting 7pm Whitsome Ark

11th March Quiz Night 7pm for 7.30pm in Ark

14th March Scones & Coffee 10.15am in Ark

20th March Community Council meeting 7pm Allanton VH

11th April Scones & Coffee 10.15am in Ark

17th April Community Council meeting 7pm Whitsome Ark

To book the Ark email our Booking Secretary Jane Smithson at bookings.ark@whitsome.scot