

Reeds Well



Whitsome's Newsletter August 2023

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!

Whitsome Enhancement Group

Celebrations of the WEG @30 Anniversary have continued throughout the year. WEG held a Plant Sale on Sunday 4 June and raised £1,280.00 this is a fantastic amount the most we have ever raised! This includes plants sold on the day, food and drink sales and cash donations. Also included in this is the plants sold after the sale. This year we had a Bee activity and information stand which proved to be very popular. Thanks to everyone who helped raising plants, designing the poster, baking and to those who helped on the day and the many people who came along to support us. It is really appreciated! There is a dedicated page on WEG @30 on the whitsome.scot website highlighting the events that have taken place so far.

We held a “Whitsome Big Clean” work party on 17 June, this was well attended and helped us to keep on top of the many jobs that need doing at this time of year. It is intended to have another one later in the Autumn. There will be a poster put up in the Ark asking for volunteers nearer the time. Information can also be found on our Facebook page and on whitsome.scot. This helps to keep you updated on events and updates on what is happening locally.

The other good news is that we were successful in getting funding for a path from the Loaning down to the Orchard, this will make it much easier for accessibility to the area. Thanks to Derek for putting together the bid. Work is due to start shortly.



Finally, we intend to hold an AGM on **Monday 25 September 2023** in the Ark at **6.30pm**. All welcome.

In the meantime, enjoy the rest of the summer!

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

Tattie-in-a-Bucket and Grow a Sunflower Competitions

Hi, to all the young people who collected seeds from the Ark shop in spring.

How does your sunflower grow?

How are your sunflowers growing? When they are in full bloom, ask for some help to measure the height of the tallest and the width of the widest flower and send a picture with you standing next to them to reedswellwhitsome@gmail.com

Closing date 24th August

Everyone who sends their pictures and measurements is invited to come along to the **Ark on Sunday 27th August** at 10.30am for a prize-giving gathering.

PLUS

If you've grown a **Tattie-in-a-Bucket** bring your bucket along for a weigh-in at the same time.

Bring the family!

I'm excited to see your results!!! June

Community Council

Road Safety

The issues continue and possibly get worse. Some drivers seem to find driving safely and considerably difficult. We still have vehicles driving too quickly, not just in the 20 zone in the village but also past Whitsomehill. The speed limit there may be 60 but that is too fast past the homes there. More locally sourced signs are now up in the village which may help. We will also be receiving training from the police in the use of a speed camera.

Despite badgering Scottish Borders Council for years progress has been very slow. They defend their position by saying they have large number of villages with similar problems and have to prioritise the worse accident locations. This seems to be an excuse for not helping until there is a serious accident. We urge you to contact SBC and voice your concerns. The more that do this the sooner something will happen. We do not want to wait until we have a serious incident.

On a lighter note we are pleased to have been able to provide a seat for the new pétanque court in Whitsome. If there are any other small improvements like this you would like please do get in touch.

Village Recycling Banks

Behind the 3 big planters just along from the Ark (at the west end of the village) are a Textile Bank and Bottle Bank.

The Bottle Bank takes glass of all colours.

The Textile Bank takes clothes, paired shoes, bags, belts and some other household textiles in tied bags (see notices on the bank) and earns money for village projects.

So, go no further, save your fuel, recycle here!

Whitsome Community Shop

With all the local banks set to close later this year the role of the post office in providing basic banking services is set to become even more important. Please do remember that you can make withdrawals, pay in cash and cheques, and check account balances. Whilst there you can of course top up on your basic shopping from the Community Shop. We are happy to stock any items you require from magazines to food items.

The more custom we get the more secure this valuable asset becomes so please do give us a try.

Walking Football

If you are a man over 50, or a woman over 40, you may be interested in a new event being considered for our Village Hall. Walking Football is a gentler version of the beautiful game being enjoyed by elderly folk all over Scotland. It follows the basic rules of the young blades' game, but there is strictly no running, no bodily contact, and no heading. Teams, usually of 5 to 8 players, can be one gender or mixed. The game is played with safety and enjoyment at the forefront, and is a great way of keeping fit, meeting up with friends and making new ones. Plus, you will have access to all the wonderful facilities in the Hall.

If you, or anyone you know, are interested, please come to an initial meeting in the Hall on Monday 14 August at 3pm, and learn more about Walking Football with a cuppa and biscuits.

Not the Rural

We are a group for women, usually meeting in the Ark café on 3rd Thursday of the month at 2pm. Here's our programme; just come along and join in.
September meeting - meet in Ark car park at 2pm to share lifts.

NOT THE RURAL PROGRAMME 2023-2024

September 21st - Walk/cuppa at Paxton House

October 19th - Shortbread Masterclass

November 16th - Christmas Crafts

December 14th - Floral Art

January 18th - Meal and Secret Janus

February 15th - Show and Tell: My favourite toy

March 21st - Wax Crafts with Glenys

April 18th - Otters with Anne Mills

May 16th - Thai Cooking Demonstration

June 20th - Outing

Meetings are informal and always include a cuppa and a chat

(Want to know how we got our name? Come along and ask, if you can't guess!)

Dates for Your Diary

7th Aug Whitsome Enhancement Group meeting 2.30pm in Ark

7th Aug WVH Finance Committee 7pm in Ark

8th Aug Scones & Coffee 10.15am in Ark

27th Aug WEG Young Grower Presentation 10.30am at Ark

4th Sept WVH Trustees Meeting 7pm in Ark

12th Sept Scones & Coffee 10.15am in Ark

18th Sept Community Council meeting 7pm in Ark

25th Sept AGM Whitsome Enhancement Group 6.30pm in Ark

29th Sept Quiz Night 7pm in Ark

9th Oct Whitsome Enhancement Group meeting 2.30pm in Ark

10th October Scones & Coffee 10.15am in Ark

16th October Community Council meeting 7pm Allanton VH

To book the Ark call our Booking Secretary Bill Wilson 07485109944 or email: bookings.ark@whitsome.scot

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 on 01890870256 (the current compiler).

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

All submissions by the last day of the preceding month. Entries may be edited if space is tight.

Local Organisations

With so many new people joining our community we thought it would be a good idea to clarify what each of the 3 main groups active in the village get up to. With any luck you may then decide to join in with one, or more, to help enhance our little community. All meetings of these groups are open to anyone who wants to come along.

Whitsome Village Hall (WVH)

Our new hall (The Whitsome Ark) was opened in September 2009. Funds were raised to provide for the future needs of the community and the Ark was the outcome.

The Ark has and still does provide a flexible, warm and comfortable space for the community to gather, be it in organised activities or just informal gatherings, parties etc. (see list in entrance, or whitsome.scot for details).

It also provides a home for our Community Shop and Post Office.

WVH is managed by a board of volunteer trustees who meet regularly.

Fundraising is always important to ensure continued success of the Ark.

Whitsome Enhancement Group (WEG)

Enhancing Whitsome since 1993! So what does this mean?

Initially getting a playpark built in the village (and getting it upgraded a few years ago) - over the years the group has developed the Christmas lights (the best in the area) - taken on developing the Whitsome Loaning (our community space) to provide a wildlife friendly amenity space - manages the area around the hall and other plantings in the village. WEG also publishes what you are reading, "Reeds Well".

All activities supported by funds raised by events, especially the annual plant sale. The WEG committee meet monthly in the Ark.

Community Council (CC)

Allanton, Edrom and Whitsome Community Council is responsible for representing the views of residents to Scottish Borders Council and other bodies such as Police Scotland and the NHS.

Activities include commenting on planning matters, acting to improve the amenities in the area (such as defibrillators) and trying to improve the safety of our local roads.

The annual Remembrance services are organised by the CC.

Whitsome has 4 elected members of the CC who serve 4 year terms.

The CC receives a small grant from SBC and carries out fundraising for specific projects.

If you feel you can help any of the groups in any way please do come forward. Do not be shy. You do not have to join a committee.