

ReedsWell

Whitsome's Newsletter
November 2023



Whitsome Enhancement Group

The path in the Loaning down to the Orchard is now complete. Feedback has been very positive. Additionally, we have had signage boards made to be put up in the Loaning. As the weather is changeable at the moment, the Group have decided to delay the official opening until the spring. More details to follow nearer the time.

On 25 September we held our AGM, the same members have remained in post. Additionally, Glenys Richardson joined the Committee in June this year.

For those newcomers to Whitsome this is the time of year when we ask for volunteers to help put up the Christmas lights in the village. This involves approximately 2 hours work and volunteers are rewarded with tasty soup and refreshments in the Hall. The date for this is **Saturday 18 November at 10am**.

We also run a competition during the month of December, with the proceeds going to charity. This year the money raised from the competition and collection at the Carol Service will go to the MND Charity, My name's Doddie Foundation this goes towards research and effective treatments to motor neuron disease.

The winner of the Competition gets to switch on the Christmas Lights. The lights switch on will be on **Sunday 10 December at 6pm**. There will be carol singing, mulled wine and mince pies.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Big Berwickshire Clean Up at Whitsome on 16 September, your efforts make a difference to the local area.

Following the success of the Christmas Market in the Ark, the next event will be the Curry Night on 11 November, numbers are limited so book your ticket promptly!

Finally, on behalf of the WEG team we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and our very best wishes to you all for 2024.

Anne Taylor- Clark

Chair WEG

(On behalf of the WEG team)

Curry Night Saturday 11th November

Banish the November chills!

Our cooks are planning their tastiest curries!

Tickets are selling fast!

Booking form included with this edition.

All prize contributions to the raffle will be gratefully received. Please leave them at the shop or hand to Bill Wilson. Thank you.

The Whitsome Winter Warmer returns!

The village hall is delighted to announce that the very popular Whitsome Winter Warmer will be running again this year. We plan to start the free Friday lunches at the end of November and to run them right through to Spring 2024. Come along to the hall and enjoy a hot lunch and chat with your neighbours - and remember that if you have difficulty travelling to the hall, we can arrange transport for you or, failing that, bring you a home delivered hot lunch. There is no charge - just turn up and enjoy yourself!

Details of the start date will be published on the website and advertised at the hall.

Can you help?

The WWW could not happen without a dedicated team of volunteers to produce and serve the food, set up the hall, make deliveries and do the washing up! If you would be able to help in any way (either on the day or by shopping or preparing food in advance) please contact Lynda by email at: secretary.ark@whitsome.scot or let Derek know in the shop.

Last year's WWW was a huge success - let's see if we can make it even better this year!

Community Council

Remembrance Day 2023

There will be a service of remembrance at the memorials at the graveyard in Whitsome on Saturday, 11th November at 11 o'clock to remember those who gave their lives in the defence of our country. Everyone is invited to attend. Please gather at 10.45.

At the same time there will also be a service at Edrom War Memorial.

Getting together for a cuppa and slice of toast is a bit of a tradition in the Armed Forces, dating back to the First World War when it was seen as essential to morale. Following on from the Remembrance Services on the 11th drop in to the Whitsome Ark for Tea and Toast between 11 and 12 and help to raise more funds for Poppy Scotland.

Bus Services

With Travelsure no longer running services there have been significant changes to our bus provision. The service bus, 32, is now run by Border Buses. The new timetable is available on the village notice board and in the Ark. It is also available via the website at whitsome.scot. The service now runs to Berwick and Duns.

In addition the on demand service Pingo continues to provide an invaluable service allowing you to travel anywhere in Berwickshire and also into Berwick. You can book a Pingo online or call 01289 385506.

Christmas Lights

Its nearly that time again!

On Saturday 18th November (weather permitting) we will be putting up the village Christmas lights. Do come along and help if you can (many hands pun resisted).

We will start at 10am and all helpers will be rewarded with a soup lunch. If you are new to the village drop into the shop, or give Derek a call to find out more or just turn up on the 18th. Soup making offers also welcome.

The grand switch on with carol singing and mince pies will be on Sunday 10th December at 6pm

Scone Mornings

We are looking for volunteers to bake scones and host a scone morning in Whitsome Ark.

These events take place on the second Tuesday of each month from approx 09:30 until about 12:00. The 50 Club Lottery is also drawn during these events.

We have around 6 regular bakers however could do with a few more.

If you can bake scones and have the time to host a scone morning why not have a go!

These mornings are a popular event for the community to come together. If you are new to Whitsome come along and meet your neighbours! It is great to have a chat, help draw the 50 club, and enjoy tasty scones, they are also a great fund raiser for our local hall.

If you can volunteer to become one of a band of happy scone makers, then please contact Annette Cartwright. You can contact me via E-mail at petercartwright197@btinternet.com.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Community Shop and Post Office

Whitsome Community Shop is just that. The shop is run for the community by the community. Any profit it makes goes to support the village hall.

We try to stock items that people want, so let us know if there is anything you need. We have bread and milk deliveries twice a week and we are very happy to take orders for the bakery items that come from Fords.

Most stock is bought by volunteers alongside their own shopping, so we can hunt down the best bargains. The volunteers keep the shop in good order, help with the newspapers and generally keep it going.

We cannot compete with the big supermarkets, but we can provide those basic items that we all run out of; when it makes little sense to drive to Berwick or Duns.

Newspapers and magazines are delivered daily and again we will happily take your order for these.

The more custom you can give to us when the going is good, the more likely we will be able to be here when difficult times come round. We are proud that Covid never shut us, nor did the 'Beast from the East, 'nor its friends since.

Post Office and Banking

The nearest bank branches are now Kelso and Berwick! Do not despair however as your local Post Office can fulfill most basic banking needs alongside the usual postal services you would expect. We are very fortunate to still have our post office, so the more custom we get the more assured is its future.

The shop is here for you, but the shop does need more help. If you think you can help in any way at all please have a chat with Derek (or Ali, Liz or Kate) in the shop.

A thank you from Whitsome Village Hall Committee and Trustees ..

What a busy year! As you know we have a great asset in Whitsome Ark and it takes a small army to keep it ship shape and able to provide a venue for sports, events, our shop and post office and a hub for many community activities . The Ark has an amazing group of committee members and trustees and you can find out more about the achievements this year at our upcoming AGM.

Highlights include:

- our new pétanque court!
- a summer/autumn clean with new facilities and decorating
- set up of our Energy Efficiency, Finance and Ark Angels working groups.
- we refreshed our notice boards, branding and communications
- AND had great events including our Christmas pop up market!

Look out for Whitsome Winter Warmers making a welcome return from Fri Nov 24th.

A very big thank you to everyone who's supported us this year and if you'd like to get involved or find out more then come along to our AGM on Monday 4th December!

All welcome :)

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.

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

11th November Curry Night

14th Nov; 12th Dec; 9th Jan Scones & Coffee 10.00am-11.30am in Ark

18th Nov. WEG work party to put up Christmas Lights 10am at Ark

20th November Community Council AGM Meeting 7pm in Ark

24th November Whitsome Winter Warmer

4th December Hall AGM 7pm in Ark

10th December 6pm "Switch-on" Christmas Lights in Ark

18th December Community Council Meeting 7pm in tbc

15th January Community Council Meeting 7pm in tbc

To book the Ark email our Booking Secretary Bill Wilson on

yasumi5591@gmail.com