

Reeds Well



**Whitsome's Newsletter
February 2025**

Whitsome Enhancement Group

We hope you all had a Happy New Year!

Thanks to everyone who helped with putting up and taking down the Christmas Lights. Also, thanks to those who took part in the competition, made soups and joined us at the "Lights switch on" and Carol singing. Special thanks go to the "Whitsome Wailers" choir for their input. This year the proceeds from the competition was £32.31 and the collection £97.85 - the proceeds went to WEG this year as we are still raising money for the Robotic Mower.

WEG are holding a Car Boot and Table Top Sale on Sunday 23 March at 10am-2pm so if you have any items you have to donate, please speak to any member of the WEG team (Contact details are on the back of the newsletter and at Whitsome.scot). Also, if you wish to book a table yourself, please see the poster for more details.

The date for the Annual Plant Sale is Sunday 1 June 2025 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.

There are a number of different events taking place throughout the year, so keep your eyes peeled for updates in Reeds Well, Whitsome.scot and facebook for updates.

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

Community Events

Accompanying this newsletter is an A5 poster with community events taking place in the first half of 2025.

Keep it safe/Pin it to your noticeboard!

There will be another in the August edition with events until New Year 2026.

There's something for everyone, so come along, have some fun, and support the village hall and enhancement group. If you can offer help with events, or have suggestions/ideas for the future get in touch with committee members (listed on the back page), or speak to Derek or Ali in the Shop/PO, as they are both on committees.

The first event of the year was the Alternative Burns Supper, a great evening thanks to Kathy's organisation and team of helpers. The food was delicious, the games had us laughing and singing. Entertainment included music from The Whitsome Wailers, Andrew and Rob, and a humorous tale from Ricky, which everyone, both young and old could relate to!!!

Keep an eye out on our community website whitsome.scot for all the latest information.

Whitsome Winter Warmers

Just a few more weeks for a tasty Soup & Roll lunch and friendly blether at 12.30pm on Fridays in the Ark. No charge. See you there!!

EVENTS

WHITSOME

Ark

CALENDAR 2025

FEB
21

ARK WHIST DRIVE
Feeling lucky? Doors open 7pm

MAR
14

QUIZ NIGHT RETURNS! 7PM
Teams of 4- tickets on the door!

MAR
23

WEG CAR BOOT/TABLE SALE!
10am - 1pm. Grab a bargain!

MAY
11

ARK BEETLE DRIVE
From 2pm. Refreshments and prizes!

JUNE
1

WEG ANNUAL PLANT SALE
10.30am. Plants and home baking

JULY
12

Summer Célébration Française!
From 2pm : Pétanque & French cuisine

SEE EVENT POSTERS OR VISIT
WHITSOME.SCOT FOR MORE DETAILS

Whitsome Village Hall: SC010128

Whitsome Enhancement Group (WEG): SC021104

WHITSOME ENHANCEMENT GROUP

CAR BOOT



& TABLE TOP SALE

SUN MAR 23 ~ 10am-2pm

Refreshments available ~ all proceeds to W.E.C

Sellers set up
from 9am
Tables inside £12
and outside £10

No vans or
dealers please!
Book a table
01890 870609

WHITSOME Ark TD11 3NA

Whitsome Enhancement Group (WEG): SC021104

Community Council

The Community Council's next meeting will be held on Monday 17th February 2025 at 7pm in the Whitsome Ark. As always, you are welcome to attend.

Speed Indicators - finally

The long awaited traffic speed indicators are finally in place. They may not stop all speeding, but should help some drivers appreciate the limit. We should hopefully also soon have the painted teeth markings at the entry to the village, which may help to make more drivers aware.

Crime

We live in an area that is on the whole very safe and with a low crime rate. There have however been reported examples of theft in Berwickshire, so please take all sensible precautions. One crime that is on the rise is theft of parcels left on doorsteps. If you do not have a safe place, or neighbour to accept parcels many suppliers (including Amazon) will deliver to a post office of your choice (Whitsome PO we suggest), where it will be held safely for you to collect.

Community Shop and Post Office Future plans

On Monday February 10th at 7pm there will be a meeting at the Ark to discuss ideas for how we can make the Community Shop even better in the years to come and ensure we keep our Post Office. All ideas are welcome. The village is quite fortunate to have these facilities, which most small villages, unfortunately, do not any more. Please do come along and lend your support, ideas and thoughts. (See also Ricky Walthew's letter)

Lego club

Extract from a motion at the Scottish Parliament

Emma Harper MSP: Congratulating the Allanton, Edrom Whitsome

Lego Club — That the Parliament welcomes the

launch in February 2024 of the Allanton, Edrom and Whitsome

Lego Club, for which the Lego was supplied by

generous donations from local residents in Berwickshire,

Roxburghshire, and North Northumberland; understands that the

club was inspired by a small group of parents, who, in 2023,

started hosting Lego playdates at each other's homes, and has

already supported over 30 children between three and 13 years

old from Duns, Swinton and Chirnside primary schools, along with

some children who are home-schooled; is encouraged to learn that

a number of children with additional support needs (ASN) are

flourishing in the club, which is open to all local children in the

are and remains completely free....

further thanks Allanton, Edrom and Whitsome Community Council

for their support with the idea of the Lego Club, along with

Councillor Aileen Orr for her guidance on setting up the project;

thanks local resident and Community Councillor, Janie Orr, for

leading the efforts to establish the club, and wishes the many

individuals and organisations involved in launching this popular,

socially beneficial recreation every success for the future.

A letter received from one of the longest residents of Whitsome

Sometimes, we only realise the value of things when they're gone. How would you feel if Whitsome suddenly lost its Community Owned shop and Post Office? Couldn't happen? Well, it already has.

The old PO and shop used to be in Glamis House - you can still see where the letter box used to be. It was run by a local worthy called Bill Drummond and his wife Cathy, who sadly died of cancer. On 19 June, 1992, Bill became unwell, and died shortly after the writer had collected his paper; probably the last person to see Bill alive.

While the Post Office did put a temporary Postmaster in charge, the shop side closed immediately. We had to travel to Chirnside or Duns to buy papers or everyday groceries like bread, sugar, tins of beans, and so on. It was inconvenient, especially for folk with no access to a car, though of course neighbours did help.

Fortunately for Whitsome, a daughter of the parish, Marion Anderson (nee Wilson), decided to site a portacabin with a shop and PO on the council car park where the garages are. Local Councillors and the Community Council supported the project, and it opened up on 21 of September, 1992. So actually the community was without a shop for a comparatively short time, but nevertheless, we all breathed a sigh of relief when Marion opened the door.

When Marion, who is an excellent accordion player, sold the shop to pursue her successful musical career, another villager, Maureen Stogden, took over, followed by Rod Thomson who carried on when the PO moved into our new village hall when it opened in 2009, and with Rod's help the shop became community owned, with any profits going to hall maintenance.

The enterprise is now run by the inestimable Derek Russell (Mr Whitsome!) with help from Ali Macintosh, Liz Casey and Kate Thompson. Services from the PO have increased from the old days,

like banking and being able to withdraw cash, get foreign currency and much more. The stock in the shop has also increased with a choice of many more items.

All the surrounding villages, Swinton, Allanton and Norham, have lost their Post Offices, and some their shops also. Whitsome is very lucky to still have both.

So if you don't want Whitsome to be without the shop and PO again, remember the old mantra - use it or lose it: and that applies to me also!

Ricky Walthew

Mobile Library

For many years we have had a fortnightly call from the mobile library. Recently local usage has dropped off. This means it is likely to not continue much longer. If you value the service please do use it. The next 2 visits will be on 12th and 26th February at 11am by the hall.

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. Entries may be edited if space is tight and must be received by the last day of January, April, July or October.

Dates for Your Diary

10 February Open Shop meeting 7pm Ark
Scones & Coffee 11 February, 11 March, 8 April 10.15am-11.30am
Ark
17 February Community Council Meeting 7pm Whitsome Ark
21 February Whist Drive 7pm Ark
3 March Whitsome Enhancement Group Meeting 2.30pm in Ark
3 March Whitsome Village Hall SCIO Meeting 7pm in Ark
14 March Quiz Night Returns 7pm Ark
17 March Community Council Meeting 7pm Ark
23 March Car Boot/Table Sale 10am-2pm Ark
7 April Whitsome Enhancement Group Meeting 2.30pm in Ark
7 April Whitsome Village Hall SCIO Meeting 7pm in Ark
21 April Community Council Meeting 7pm Ark
To book the Ark call our Booking Secretary Bill Wilson on
07485109944 or email: yasumi5591@gmail.com

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!