

Reeds Well



Whitsome's Newsletter
August 2025

Whitsome Enhancement Group (WEG)

Unfortunately, due to the weather the WEG Plant Sale on Sunday 1 June had to be held indoors and was extremely busy, particularly for the first couple of hours. Despite this it was as successful as last year, with sales on the day and after sales amounting to £1388.00, including the match funding from the Post Office. This is, yet again, a fantastic achievement, so a huge thanks for your plant donations, cakes, running the kitchen and for your continued support.

WEG are working together again with Swinton Horticultural Society on Sunday 20 September; we will be running the Café. There will be information booklets available in the shop if you would like to exhibit, or just come along!

We hope you enjoyed the French Event on 12 July; there are a number of events coming up later this year so look out for information on posters, our Facebook page and www.whitsome.scot.

Several local residents have asked if we would take part in Scotland Open Gardens for Whitsome next year. We have considered this in the past and will be sounding out local people to see if it is viable to run this event in July next year. Realistically we would need a minimum 12 gardens and help with administration, baking and running the kitchen. We appreciate this is a long time off, but if this is something you could help with in principle, please speak to any member of the WEG team. If it goes ahead the money raised would be split between WEG and a designated charity. (Contact details for WEG members can be found at the back page of this newsletter).

If you have any suggestions for WEG, please speak to me, or any member of the group, or send an email to chair.weg@whitsome.scot

In the meantime, enjoy the rest of the summer.

Anne Taylor- Clark

Chair WEG

(On behalf of the WEG team)

Community Council

The term of the current community council will expire in September. Over the last almost 4 years the current community council has tried to improve our area, represent residents' interests and improve the amenities we enjoy.

Come the end of September our term of office will end and a new community council will need to be formed. Some existing members will stand down, some will continue. What is certain is that new people will be needed.

If you have particular skills or knowledge you feel might help the community, or have ideas for improving the area, please do consider coming forward.

The community council is strictly non-political. Meetings are friendly, anyone is welcome to come and share views and ideas.

Details of how to stand will be circulated in the coming weeks.

Shop news

The **Community Shop and Post Office** is to be found in the hall. We are very fortunate to still have our local Post Office. It is able to provide the expected postal services, but now acts as a local banking facility.

You can pay in and withdraw money for most banks, pay some bills and obtain phone and meter top ups. We are working hard on improving what the shop can offer, any ideas and help are most welcome. It tries to provide a wide range of basic groceries, newspapers and magazines. You do not have to leave the village for the odd item so please support the shop. Currently we are looking to offer fresh veg and veg boxes, let us know what you want.

The shop is open every day except Sunday.

Hours: 8am to 1pm Mon - Fri; 8.30am-1pm Saturday.

Newspaper orders happily taken.

New volunteer helpers are most welcome.

Ringtons (famous for tea and goodies to enjoy with a cuppa) visits the Ark car park once every 4 weeks on Wednesdays. List of items for sale and/or order is available in the shop.

Border Mobile Library Service visits the Ark car park fortnightly on a Wednesday morning. Check out the dates on the Ark noticeboard.

Whitsome Calendar 2026

Bill Wilson will be putting together a selection of photos taken in and around the community for another fabulous calendar for 2026.

Please keep taking photos and email them to Bill (bookings.ark@whitsome.scot) in October for a closing date of 21st.

Crap News!!!

Sadly, it seems that every few years we have to remind people to pick up after their dogs. Responsible dog owners are especially angry, as it gives them a bad name. Fouling has recently happened along the green path to the old cemetery and in the Ark grounds.

Please bag and bin dog waste in the village bins, or take it home.



Hall News

Whitsome Ark is our community hub. Keep up to date with everything going on at www.whitsome.scot (community website).

Thank you to all to who made our French event such a success. Who knows what our next theme might be.

If you are new to the community, welcome, pop along to our regular **Coffee and Scones** morning on the second Tuesday of each month. It's informal, friendly and a great way to find out who's here and what's happening.

Coming up - Watch out for details on posters at the Ark and on www.whitsome.scot

Ark Bingo! Sunday 7th September - "Eyes Down" 2pm Fun for all the family.

Quiz Night Saturday 18th October 7pm

Curry Night Saturday 8th November

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 and must be received by the last day of January, April, July or October.

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 www.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 currently has 3 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.