

Reeds Well



Whitsome's Newsletter

February 2026

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. The “Twelve days of Whitsome” was fantastic! The money raised from the competition and the collection was £180.05 the proceeds went to The Borders Children’s Charity.

At our January meeting we welcomed Maureen Simpson to the group who I am sure will be a great asset.

The date for the **Annual Plant Sale is Sunday 7 June 2026 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. This year Whitsome is going Potty and holding a Flower Pot Festival prior to the Plant Sale. For more information, please see the article from Mary-Rose. We hope you are able to take part in this fun event.

Twelve local residents have volunteered to take part with WEG in Scotland’s Open Gardens on **Sunday 5 July 2026 from 11 am -3pm**. Refreshments will be available at the Ark and the Loaning will also be part of the attraction. Proceeds will be split with WEG and Scotland’s Open Gardens designated charity. More details to follow.

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.

Anne Taylor- Clark

Chair WEG

(On behalf of the WEG team)

Whitsome's gone to pot!

Whitsome Enhancement Group (W.E.G.) plans to hold a Flower Pot Festival for two weeks this summer. This will take place from Sunday 31 May -Sunday 14 June.

Residents of Whitsome and the surrounding area are invited to take part in the festival by creating characters (any theme) from flower pots and displaying it/them over the two-week period.

The display area will be along Whitsome Main Street and the land around the Ark.

Some people may prefer to position theirs at the road ends, farm etc.

Websites for ideas include-

“Settle Flower Pot Festival 2025”- It has a really colourful gallery page for ideas.

Also

“Flamborough Flower Pot Festival”- As well as a brilliant gallery of photographs, it has videos showing how to assemble a character.

W.E.G would love you to take part in the festival.

Entry is free.

Is open to the young and young at heart

Make as many characters as you like!

There is no charge to the public to view our efforts- this is purely a fun event.

Get your thinking caps on – It's surely going to be pretty potty!

Mary-Rose Blythe.

Whitsome and its history



Are you interested in history? Would you like to join an informal group exploring the history of the area around us and its inhabitants? Recent events such as Whitsome's Burning and the fascinating talk by David McLean on farm servants have been very successful and we are considering expanding the activities of the History Group. We are fortunate to live in an area rich in all types of history, whether natural or man-made, and would plan to meet a few times a year and explore historical topics. We also intend to invite guest speakers to share their knowledge with us and possibly arrange trips to local sites. If you'd be interested in joining us or have any interesting materials you might share please email whitsome984@proton.me.

Community Council

Roads and weather

Unsurprisingly the recent weather has brought a new rash of potholes in our area. The CC has reported a number of these and hopefully action will follow soon. However, we urge everyone to report any potholes they come across to SBC either by phone, 0300 100 1800, or online where you can also include photographs. Unless reports are made nothing will be done.

Do be careful when driving as new problems are appearing daily.

Jim Clark Rally

This will be held on the weekend of the 22nd-24th May. Details of the route are not yet available but when they are copies will be posted on the village notice board, in the Ark and on whitsome.scot. Please refer to their website for more information and guidance, especially if you believe the road closures may negatively impact you, eg for access for carers etc.

Planning Applications

It has become apparent in the last few months that planning applications are taking a long time to be determined by SBC. If you have experienced problems because of this please do contact us or one of your elected SBC councillors and we will do what we can.

Edrom Church

Whilst not within our parish it may be of interest to some Whitsome residents to know what is happening to Edrom Church. The church is earmarked for closure this year. Currently there are no plans for what will happen to the building. If no community use is found it will probably end up on the open market. Any suggestions for a way to keep the church for local benefit are welcome.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the CC will be held on Monday 2nd March in the Whitsome Ark at 7pm. As always the meetings are open to all and we welcome contributions from the public. We cannot promise to resolve issues brought to us, but we will try.

Whitsome Shop and Post Office

Shop update

Sales of ice cream and coffee continue to be strong and are making a real difference to our trade. Thursday opening until 3pm continues, manned by volunteers - thank you, so do come along then if its more convenient.



We are always on the lookout for more that we might be able to offer. If you have any thoughts on more products, or services we could add get in touch, or come along to the shop improvement meeting on 9th February at 7pm.

Post Office

We did excellent trade in the run up to Christmas and footfall has been better than usual in 2026 so far. Having the post office is key to keeping the shop running and the hall open as much as it is. An important factor in securing its future is having as many transactions as possible each week. The most popular services at present are Everyday banking - cash withdrawals and deposits, and cheque deposits for most banks.

Local collect - you can have parcels delivered to us by this service for collection when convenient to you , knowing they are in safe hands.

Postal services - we can help you with choosing the correct service for your needs.

Foreign currency - order online and collect from us next day.

Ark Events News

Soggy 2026 got off to an energetic musical start with the band "Sitka" (former local resident Molly Adcock and friends) at the Hogmanay in the Ark. Well worth booking if you are looking for a great ceilidh band for your party, or event.

Burns Night followed with a hearty supper, musical entertainment from Whitsome Wailers, historical and hysterical renderings from John Smithson, Bill Wilson, Andrew Lothian, June Russell and last (but never least) another brilliantly humorous reflection on an aspect of Whitsome life from Neal Clark.

Keep an eye out on the Ark notice board, shop A-frame and whitsome.scot website for all news and events.

Coming up - WEG Beetle Drive February 22 at 2pm. Prizes and refreshments. Fun for everyone, no matter your age.

Quiz Night - March 13 7pm Team booking essential.

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

Shop Improvement meeting. Monday 9th February 7pm Ark
Scones & Coffee 10th Feb; 10th March; 14th April 10.15am-11.30am
Ark

WEG Beetle Drive Sunday 22nd February 2pm in Ark
Whitsome Enhancement Group meeting Monday 2nd March 2.30pm Ark
Community Council Meeting 2nd March 7pm Whitsome Ark
Quiz Night 13th March 7pm in Ark

To book the Ark email our Booking Secretary Bill Wilson at:
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!