

## Further Road Closures in Soudley



The Parish Council was recently informed of yet another road closure in Soudley which would, unfortunately, have a significant impact on the village.

We were notified of an application to close the road out of the village towards Blakeney completely from 6th August until 15th October from Church Road to Bradley Cottages (between Bridge Cottages to its junction with the road to Hillside) for a distance of approximately 150 meters.

The closure is required to allow repairs to a retaining wall. Pedestrian access will not be maintained either due to the nature of the repairs.

As reported in last month's Viewpoint, the bridge out of the village towards Ruspidge is also to be closed and we are acutely aware that these repairs will fall within the timescale of this newly reported road closure, meaning that the main road through the village will be closed in both directions for a period of around one month. The only route in and out of the village will be via Littledean.

The Parish Council has returned to the County Council to challenge this most recent notice. At time of writing there is now some confusion within Shire Hall as to whether this closure will still go ahead at present.

## Speeding update

A motion was put to the County Council meeting in July, asking for 20mph limits in all towns and villages across the County where practical to do so, this was supported by the Liberal Democrat, Labour & Green groups of Councillors. The Conservative Councillors would not fully support this and instead put forward an amendment asking for it to go to the Environment Scrutiny Committee. Unfortunately, their greater numbers ensured this amendment passed.

If this is something you feel strongly about, please let your County Councilor know. Their details can be found on the Ruspidge and Soudley Parish Council website

<https://www.ruspidgesoudley-pc.gov.uk/>

## Forest of Dean Climate Action

Forest of Dean Climate Action is a new community partnership established to coordinate a district wide community-based response to the climate emergency.

They aim to bring together communities, businesses and organisations across the district with the aim of driving the district to become carbon neutral by 2030.

If you would like to know more, or possibly get involved, please see their website at [forestofdeanclimateaction.org.uk](http://forestofdeanclimateaction.org.uk)

**FUN FOREST FACTS**

The Forest of Dean sits upon Carboniferous rocks more than 300 million years old. These sit on rocks that are even older, dating back over 400 million years.

## Forest of Dean Hospital

The Parish Council has been advised by the Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group that the final stages of preparation are underway for the construction of a new community hospital in Cinderford which is due to open in summer 2023.

Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust is preparing to submit a full planning application for the new 24-bed hospital in Steam Mills Road, which will replace the existing Dilke Memorial Hospital and Lydney Hospital. If plans are approved by the Trust, planning permission will be sought with construction to start in 2022.

Public comment on the plans is welcomed as part of this process – from Wednesday 7 July they can be viewed at <https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/foresthospital> which also includes a feedback form for comments.

A number of artists' impressions, floorplans and site drawings are now available following months of work to develop proposals for the site, which was agreed with Cinderford Town Council back in 2019. Development of the hospital was put on hold through the Covid-19 pandemic.

The ward will be made up of single rooms with ensuite facilities to minimise the risk of cross-infection and maintain infection control standards, and a purpose-built therapy gym for rehabilitation. Alongside the inpatient ward, the hospital will include a Minor Injuries unit with separate adult and children waiting areas, x-ray, radiology and ultrasound services, consulting and treatment rooms for outpatient clinics, a children's clinic area, endoscopy suite and clinic space for dentistry and podiatry.

The hospital is also being designed with BREEAM certification as a target – as previous community hospitals such as North Cotswolds and Tewkesbury have been – to help reduce energy consumption and support an NHS ambition of net zero carbon emissions.

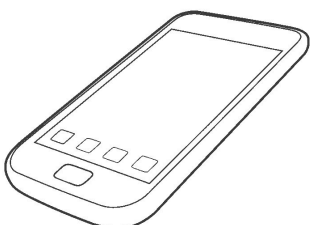
Access to the site will be via a new junction where the current skatepark entrance is located, with parking to the front of the site and the building positioned further back.

As part of the hospital project, the Trust will provide a new skatepark in Miner's Field and a rebuilt multi-use games area at the Sports Field.

## Coming soon: An app for self guided geology walks within the Forest of Dean

Forestry England has been busy facilitating the production of a number of apps for local people to access the hidden heritage of the Forest of Dean.

Geology of our Forest is one of our 38 projects under the National Lottery Heritage funded programme Foresters' Forest. One of these apps is designed to inform users of the special geology within the Forest of Dean and to enable users to follow a walk that uses GPS technology. There are 10 walks covering different areas of the Forest; one of these walks falls within our own parish - Soudley Valley. There are lots of fascinating facts, some hidden gems within our Forest, and an abundance of photos and images capturing the beauty of our landscape and also what lies beneath. The Forest has a complex geological history, with some of the oldest rocks in Gloucestershire, and these have massively influenced the landscape, history, culture and economy of the local area.



The app, once downloaded onto a smartphone or tablet, can be used from anywhere, either whilst out on one of the self-guided walks, or simply from the comfort of your armchair. Forestry England will be launching the app shortly and as soon as we are notified that it is available, we will publish the details in Viewpoint.

## A date for your diary

The committee of the hall would like to invite the local community to join us on Saturday September 4th to Celebrate the reopening of the hall and to share with You the hall improvements: including the new kitchen Facilities, Improved seating, tables, updated accessibility and Dementia awareness additions.

We have decided to do this by holding a table top sale During the day, with refreshments available from the kitchen - all we ask of you is to come along, have a look around and give us your feedback..... We are currently in the process of applying for grants to help us fund some new groups - so come along and have your say what activities you would like on your doorstep! See posters, and contact us for the latest news via social media for more details - Ruspidge Memorial Hall facebook page and The local Nextdoor site



In the meantime the monthly Craft group are starting on Monday August 2nd between 2 and 4pm and the monthly book club will resume on Monday 9th August in the evening between 7 and 8 o'clock, the gardening club, monthly on 2/3 Tuesday of the month between 7.15 and 9pm, this as well as the ongoing exercise classes every Wednesday afternoon, and the Shaolin weekly sessions on Sunday evening.

Other regular groups are going to let us know when they are ready to re-start.

Now that the Covid rules have been relaxed in theory there are no precautionary measures we need to follow.

However we are aware that different hall users will have differing ideas on how they wish to proceed. So, we are leaving it to the different groups to decide for themselves what rules they wish to follow. We will continue to leave antibacterial gel at the doorways, sprays, cloths and wipes to clean down the chairs and tables, for everyone to use. If you have used the hall furniture, it might be polite to give it a quick wipe down anyway, as we have always asked users to leave the facilities clean.



It has been a long haul, best wishes to everyone and here's to a summer and Autumn to remember for all the good reasons!



...We are open for bookings, yes, yes yes!!!

## 200 Club

If you would like to enter the monthly prize draw TWO numbers have unexpectedly become open for the last 6 months of the Club Year, which ends in March. If you would like to join please contact Sally at sallymg@live.co.uk or on 01594 781449.

This will only cost £6 (£1 a month) however the Hall Committee hopes you will continue the yearly membership, supporting your local Memorial Hall.

Payment can be by cash, cheque, Bacs, or Standing Order.

## The latest draws:

	£30 - 1 winner	£20 - 2 winners	£10 - 2 winners
July	110 Marilyn Meredith	148 Rob Giddings 64 Alan Booth	3 Lily Taylor 130 Charlie Underhill
August	52 Viv Whitney	17 Chris Richardson 56 John Powell	139 Julie Robins 55 Nen Bowkett
Congratulations to our winners and thanks to all for supporting our local hall by being part of the 200 club			

## Mini Movers



In September, Allsteps Mini Movers Dance Academy will be opening new classes for pre-school children on Tuesday mornings in Ruspidge Memorial Hall, giving little ones the opportunity of learning all of the important Early Years Foundation skills, whilst being fully immersed in the fun, imaginative world of music, movement and dance. Fully qualified teacher. Insured & DBS checked. For children aged 6 months to 4 years. Tuesdays, 9.30 am & 10.15 am. Please contact Lisa Rafferty to book on 01594 810849/07795 430149.

## Balance Class

The Forest of Dean District Council run course for healthy lifestyle at Ruspidge Memorial Hall on Wednesday's at 1.45pm. This involves a mixture of Tai Chi, balance and tone activities and costs £3.50 per session. There is an initial induction and review session required to produce an individual plan at a cost of £15 but this also includes two free sessions. All sessions can be tailored to individual needs. For further information, please call the instructor, Michelle Gardiner on 0779 003 5743.

## Homeshare – AGE UK

This is a scheme that can improve the lives of older people who live alone and those of helpful people who need an affordable home. It matches older householders who have a spare room with younger people who are happy to chat and lend a hand in exchange for being able to share their home.

The Homeshare team make sure that the householder and sharer are compatible with each other, and both are continually supported by the team throughout the agreement.

The sharer is interviewed, and background checks are carried out before they are introduced to the householder, although only if the Homeshare team feel that they would be suitable. If the two parties feel that they would get on, an agreement is drawn up and then the sharer moves in for a trial two week period. If both parties are still happy after that, then a date is set for the Homeshare to begin.

Homeshare regularly carry out home visits or phone calls to check on the match and are always available when needed.

The Householder pays Homeshare a monthly fee of between £50 and £150 per month, depending upon their level of independence. The Sharer pays a monthly fee of between £150 and £200 per month depending upon how much help they agree to provide. Sometimes the sharer also makes a small contribution towards Council Tax and utility bills.

The level of support/companionship that the sharer agrees to give varies between 5 and 10 hours per week and may include specific tasks like dog walking. Although it isn't a large time commitment, just knowing that there is someone in the house with them at night can be of great benefit to someone otherwise living on their own.

The scheme has been running nationally for 40 years without incident.

If you know someone who you think may benefit from the scheme, why not find out more about it?

Age UK Gloucestershire 01452 422660

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire/our-services/homesharing/>



## The village hall is now in full swing!

Forthcoming events include;

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The Friends of Soudley School are holding their annual Duck Race on the stream by the village hall on Saturday 18th September from 10am until 2pm.

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Due to the disappointment of having to cancel the Fete this year, the village hall will also be running a Fun Day alongside the Duck Race, with a barbeque and refreshments, craft stalls, bouncy castle and ice-cream van from 12 midday onwards, to keep the entertainment going after the fun and excitement of the Duck Race is over. Entry to the Fun Day is free.

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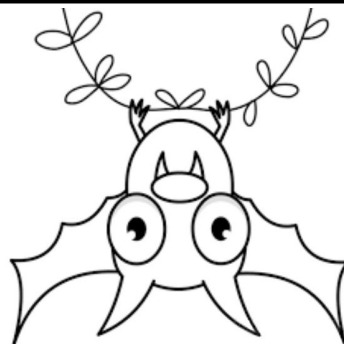
We are also holding a McMillan Coffee Morning on Saturday 25th September from 10am until 12.30pm. We look forward to your support for this well deserved fund-raiser.

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The village hall is also in need of more committee members and would welcome anyone along who wants to get 'stuck-in' with helping organize events in the village. We also need volunteers to do a half day Fire Marshall training course at Soudley Village Hall in September, in preparation for our annual bonfire event in November. This can be anyone over the age of 18 years old and the course will be fully funded by Soudley Village Hall.

### **FUN FOREST FACTS**

The Forest of Dean is home to five species of bats. The pipistrelle, noctule and long-eared bats are the most common species, but the lesser and greater horseshoe bat can be seen too.



Regular Events:

Art Classes:  
very Tuesday 10am until 12 noon

Fitness Sundays:  
Recreation ground from 10am

## Forthcoming events

The Dean Heritage Centre, located in Soudley, aims to preserve the heritage of the Forest with stories and artifacts and to bring it back to life by creating an exciting, interactive centre. This summer, they are planning several events:

**Summer holidays** - Our great team of facilitators including Alex, Ken, Amanda and Florrie will be on hand to make sure you have a great time visiting the Dean Heritage Centre this Summer.

**Sun 1st August** – HMS Pinafore aka The Lass that Loved a Sailor. Opera Anywhere presents the comic Gilbert & Sullivan operetta as part of a UK tour. Book tickets with DHC.

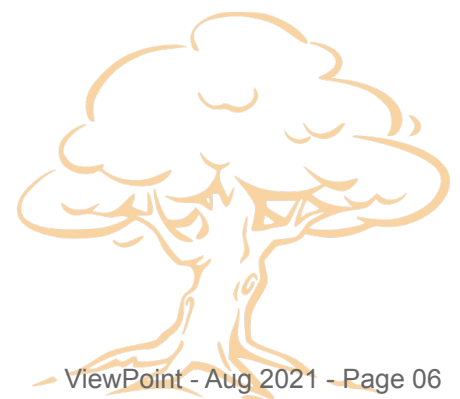
**9 th -15 th August** – The Gruffalo’s picnic. Great for children. Facebook photography competition to win a soft toy. Take a photo of yourself having a picnic at DHC with children’s favourite soft toy.

**28th – 30th August** – Fire & Wood Festival. A weekend of activities celebrating Forest skills and crafts that’s a great day out for all the family. Our traditional charcoal burn is one of the few still carried out in the country.

**Until 5th September** – Miners 1921 Lockout exhibition in collaboration with author Ian Wright who wrote the book on the lockout ‘God’s Beautiful Sunshine’. The displays look at conditions in the Forest of Dean Coalfield, the events leading up to the 1921 lockout and their roots in World War One, the national picture and the lockout in the Forest of Dean.

**Opening times** – 7 day opening throughout summer holidays. Season tickets available.

See their website for more details - [www.deanheritagecentre.com](http://www.deanheritagecentre.com), tel 01594 822170



## Parish Council Office:

01594 825343, email: [info@clerkrsrpc.co.uk](mailto:info@clerkrsrpc.co.uk)

## Village Hall and Group Contacts:

For Soudley	Jane Scott	07961 405806
For Ruspidge:	Jenny East, bookings	01594 823620
	Sally Graham, 200 Club	01594 781449

## Member of Parliament:

Mark Harper	01594 823482
	email: <a href="mailto:harperm@parliament.uk">harperm@parliament.uk</a>

## County Councillors:

### For Ruspidge and Buckshaft:

Graham Morgan	01594 829349
	email: <a href="mailto:graham.morgan@gloucstershire.gov.uk">graham.morgan@gloucstershire.gov.uk</a>

### For Soudley:

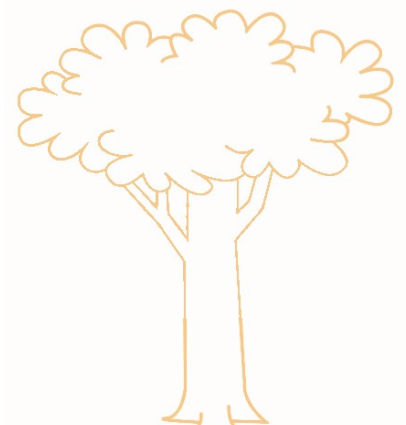
Beki Hoyland	07815 660013
	email: <a href="mailto:beki.hoyland@gloucestershire.gov.uk">beki.hoyland@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a>

## Forest of Dean District Councillors:

Bernie O'Neill (Ruspidge)	01594 827586
Richard Boyles (Soudley)	07979 755101
Nicky Packer (Soudley)	01594 827516

## Parish Councillors:

William Acland (Chair)  
Tony Matthews  
Norman Snell  
Helen Medcraft  
Joanne Smith  
Mark Ogden



## Other Useful Telephone Numbers

BIFFA	01594 825803
Cinderford Town Council	01594 822599
Citizen Advice Bureau	0300 330 9006
CAB existing clients	01594 823937
Dog/Street Warden	01594 810000
FOD District Council	01594 810000
Forestry Commission	03000 674800
FVAF	01594 822073
Highways	08000 514514
Health advice (NHS Direct)	111
Police	101
Report/update on power cuts	105
Shire Hall reception	01452 425000
Street lighting	08000 514514
Two Rivers Housing	08003 160897 or 01594 546222

If you find any text difficult to read, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01594 825343.  
Please note the new Parish Council email address is: [info@clerkrspc.co.uk](mailto:info@clerkrspc.co.uk)

Published and printed by: Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council  
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The next issue of ViewPoint will be 1st September. Last date for receipt of copy will be 26th Aug.



森林浴

### **FUN FOREST FACTS**

Shinrin-Yoku, translated into English as 'forest bathing', means taking in the forest atmosphere during a leisurely walk. It is a therapy that was developed in Japan during the 1980s, becoming a cornerstone of preventive health care and healing in Japanese medicine.