



The Ruspidge & Soudley

Parish Newsletter

April 2021

Comment

Once again. Covid remains the main topic of discussion across the Land! However, after what has been an interminable year, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Just today (29th March) we take the first step on the Government's Road-Map to releasing restrictions. If things continue as they are, in a couple of weeks we will once again be able to visit non-essential shops, outdoor pubs & cafes and GET OUR HAIR CUT!

We should include a big **THANK YOU** to the Forest GP's, their staff and volunteers who have done such a good job in the vaccination roll-out. See more below.

When we issue the next Viewpoint in June, we may be weeks away from a return to normal - if anyone can recall what that is!

Ed

Parish Council News

Play Areas

Some of the surfaces have been repaired or replaced. Our supplier is awaiting delivery of new equipment, which we hope will be installed in the next month or so.

Your Council Needs YOU!

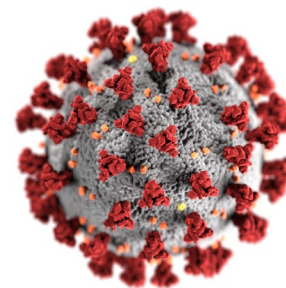
There have been some changes on the Parish Council since the last issue of Viewpoint. We have been joined by Joanne Smith, who lives in Soudley. Welcome Joanne!

As Joanne joins us, sad to report that Bernie Wood is leaving us at the end of March. Bernie has been a valued colleague, serving as Councillor for Soudley and, latterly as Vice Chairman. She will be missed. As this coincides with her retirement from work, we wish her well for the future. Perhaps, once the novelty of retirement wears off, she will consider a return to the Council?

Please consider joining your Parish Council. Three vacancies remain to achieve a full council. There is no deadline for applications. Council is happy to receive applications until all seats are taken.



COVID-19 - Latest Forest News/Information



FOREST GP SURGERIES

Update for those aged 50 Years and Over. Posted 12.03.21

Our next vaccination delivery is now confirmed and Surgeries have been given the go ahead to begin inviting all those in Groups 8 and 9 (those aged 50 to 59 years of age) for their first vaccination.

As always, please wait to be contacted by your Surgery. These two groups are a large number of people and it will take a little time for your Surgery to contact their entire list.

This will be for appointments at the Cinderford Vaccination Centre.

To see the latest, the website is www.forestgpsurgeries.co.uk

....<>....

Gloucestershire’s recycling centres set to move to summer hours

Gloucestershire County Council’s Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) will be switching to longer summer opening hours a week earlier than planned.

The centres are currently experiencing high levels of demand, which is believed to be due to the recent spell of fine weather.

To help meet the increased demand, summer opening hours will come into effect from Sunday 21 March instead of Sunday 28 March. They will be open from 9am to 5pm, instead of the shorter winter hours of 10am to 4pm.

Visitors to all household recycling centres need to pre-book their visit. Social distancing is required on site and to minimise queues and waiting times the number of booking slots available is limited.

Residents are asked to please keep to their appointment times to help to reduce queues.

Those with symptoms of COVID-19 or who are self-isolating must not visit and should stay at home, and follow the most up to date government and NHS advice.

You can find out about the HRCs and book a time slot online at www.gloucestershirerecycles.com/household-recycling-centres-hrcs/car-and-van-bookings-for-hrc-visits/

....<>....

Skills Portal

The Gloucestershire Local Enterprise Partnership, ‘gfirstLEP’, have launched a Skills Portal. This is a resource for people at any stage in their career, including links to support and to helpful organisations. It includes the Career Coach, which helps to match people to vacancies. <https://www.skillsportalglos.com/>

....<>....

Forest Lottery

The Forest Lottery was set up in 2019 by Forest of Dean District Council with 60 pence of every £1 ticket going to local causes. It is part of a national scheme and March saw the first big win in the Forest of Dean with £2,000 being won by a Coleford resident.

The draw takes place every Saturday night with results posted on online, although winners are also advised directly.

The top prize is £25,000. To sign up and nominate which local organisation you will be raising funds for.

www.forestlottery.co.uk



General Forest News

The Community Ownership Fund

The UK government has launched a new £150 million Community Ownership Fund.

Community groups will be able to bid for up to £250,000 matched-funding to help them buy or take over local community assets at risk of being lost, to run as community-owned businesses.

The first bidding round for the Community Ownership Fund will open by June 2021. A full bidding prospectus will be published alongside this.

Local authorities, including parish councils will not be eligible to bid, however Parish councils may play a role in working with community groups looking to submit a bid. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-ownership-fund>

Flood defence – an alternative to sandbags

Over recent years, our Parish has been the victim of a number of flooding events, with properties being flooded on multiple occasions - particularly in lower Soudley.

The District Council has have recently been looking into ways that we can support you and are currently looking into the possibility of providing town and parish councils with a number of FloodSax and/or Hydro snakes, which you can deploy as appropriate within your locality.

FloodSax are an alternative to sandbags. They are an eco-friendly, robust flood defence system, generally supplied in packs of five and cost around £32 per pack, although bulk buy discounts may be available. They are lightweight and easy to transport which makes deployment much easier, absorbing up to 22 litres of water per bag, the semi-porous inner liner contains a gelling polymer that absorbs water to expand and become firm in just over 3 minutes.

The District is considering making a bulk purchase and then offering them to FoD households at cost. Parishes have been asked to canvass residents in order to determine if there is a demand and estimate volumes for purchase.

If you are interested, please contact the Parish Clerk, Joe. Note that expressions of interest must be submitted soon, as Joe must provide numbers to District by 30th April.

Details of the FloodSax product (with video) can be found at www.floodsax.co.uk/

Local Elections

Details of the key dates for residents to be aware of for the upcoming local elections on 6 May.

Registering to vote

Anyone who wishes to vote must be registered on the electoral register. The deadline for those who are not registered to make an application is Monday 19 April. For more information and to register see: <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

Postal voting

For anyone interested in voting by post this year they just need to make sure they apply before 20 April 2021. They can request a postal vote application form by visiting <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/about-the-council/elections-and-voting/register-to-vote/>

We would encourage people to sign up to do this as quickly as possible.

Proxy voting

If a resident is unable to make it to the polling station, then they can nominate someone to be their proxy and cast their vote for them. The proxy needs to be a registered voter and able to attend the voter's own polling station. Applications for proxy voting need to be sent to the District Council by no later than 5pm on Tuesday 27 April.

More information around the local elections for 2021 can be found at our website <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/about-the-council/elections-and-voting/>

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council - Planning Matters

Planning Schedule for the February, 2021 meeting

Planning Reference - Detail & Site Address	Parish Comment
<p>P2119/20/FUL Land At Former St Whites School , St Whites Road, Cinderford, GL14 3DH. Conversion of part former school to two by 2 bed dwellings (subdivision of approved Unit 1 to Units 1A & 1B- revision to approved scheme). Alterations to vehicular</p>	Obj - entrance
<p>P2204/20/FUL Former St Whites Primary School, Land At St Whites Road, Cinderford, GL14 3DH. Variation of conditions 02 (approved plans), 03 (approved details), 08 (vehicular access), 09 (improvements to existing vehicular access), 10 (vehicular parking), 13 (vehicular accesses), 17 (roof lights),_ 18 (landscaping) of planning permission P0827/20/FUL.</p>	no obj
<p>P1411/20/FUL 62 Ruspidge Road Ruspidge Cinderford Erection of a detached dwelling with associated works.</p>	no obj
<p>P0116/21/FUL 15B Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire. Erection of a two storey rear extension and single storey side extension. Partial conversion of garage to additional living space.</p>	no obj

Planning Schedule for the March, 2021 meeting

Planning Reference Site Address & Detail	Parish Comment
<p>Planning Reference - Detail & Site Address</p>	
<p>P0166/21/FUL Primrose Cottage, Upper Soudley, Cinderford, Glos Erection of rear single storey extension. Demolition of conservatory.</p>	No obj.
<p>P0050/21/FUL Valley View, Brains Green, Blakeney, Gloucestershire. Erection of single storey extension to provide dual use of annexe accommodation and holiday let including light touch external remedial works.</p>	No obj.



Planning continues:-

Planning Reference - Detail & Site Address	Parish Comment	District Decision
P2119/20/FUL Land At Former St Whites School St Whites Road Cinderford Conversion of part former school to two by 2 bed dwellings (subdivision of approved Unit 1 to Units IA & 1B- revision to approved scheme). Alterations to vehicular access and associated works.	Obj - Entrance	Consent
P2012/20/FUL 36 Sutton Road Soudley Cinderford Glos GL14 2TX Erection of a rear first floor extension with associated works.	No Obj	Consent
PI 897/20/COU 43A Buckshaft Road Ruspidge Cinderford Glos GL14 3DS Change of use of bedroom to a nail salon with associated works.	No Obj	Consent
P0993/19/FUL Land Off Railway Road Ruspidge Glos GL14 3HH Use of land for the siting of two residential caravans for permanent residential use.	No Obj	Consent
P18/20/FUL 35 Ruspidge Rd, Ruspidge, Cinderford Glos GL14 3AE Proposed annexe to existing property for dependant relatives with proposed additional parking area and associated works.	No Obj	Consent



Forest Food Growing Fair

10am – 3pm Saturday 24th April 2021

Cinderford Medical Centre, Valley Road, Cinderford, GL14 2NX

Down to Earth Gloucestershire’s Community Gardening Project at Cinderford Medical Centre was started when the new Medical Centre opened back in the Autumn of 2020 directly as a result of the growing awareness of the mental, physical and emotional health benefits of community gardening.

Our Facebook page, Down to Earth Cinderford (<https://www.facebook.com/CinderfordMedicalCentre>) shows our progress.

The main growing area for the volunteers is at the back of the centre, and the group are in the process of repurposing the whole area to grow food. They felt they wanted to contribute more to local communities helping them access fresh, organic vegetables and fruit, so with this in mind, the original 2 raised beds were far from sufficient. We also thought it would be a great idea to support people to help themselves by growing their own. To this end we are putting on a Forest Food Growing Fair, the first of many we hope.

Apart from sharing expertise, we want to have lots of seeds and seedlings available for people to take away with them in exchange for donations. We also want provide opportunities for seed saving groups, local gardening groups, and any other groups focussed on helping people grow their own to showcase what they do.

If you feel you meet the remit and would like a stand, or would just like to help with stewarding etc, please get in touch with Jaqui at info@downtoearthstroud.co.uk or jaquipix@greenbee.net or ring on 07919851669.

Ruspidge News

Ruspidge Memorial Hall 200 Club

The Hall Committee thanks all members, especially those who haven't won, for supporting the Hall. We now have 200 members. All members should receive an online or a delivered copy of the Viewpoint. If you are not, please contact John Powell at powjohn@btinternet.com, or Sally Graham on 01594 781449 Half the money raised goes straight to Ruspidge Memorial Hall fund, the other half is given out as prize money.



200 Club Winners - the last of the membership year

£30 Prize - Winner

March

52 Viv Whitney

£20 Two Prizes

146 Brenda Jones

27 Mandy Day

£15 Two Prizes

99 Mike Jotcham

197 Andy Longs



Reminder

It is now time to pay £12 for next year. The Club started about 20 years ago, with 100 members. Now we have 200 members. Last year **£1,200** was earned for Hall Funds, and the same amount given out in prize money. With little money earned from bookings this money is supporting the Hall more than ever. Another **50** members would earn another £300. If you know a neighbour or friend, who would like to join, please ask them and pass on details of how to join. The **200 Club would then become the 250 Club.** Support your Hall, then when we can meet socially in small groups why not book the Lower Hall, with it's sheltered outside paved area. **Only £5 an hour.**

How to pay or join

Please pay by Bacs if you can, as we can't collect money for a couple of weeks. BUT, one of our **amazing volunteers** will contact you from mid to end of April. Sincere thanks to those who have been delivering Viewpoints during lockdown.

Winners will not be drawn until everyone has been contacted.

To join the Club, or if you need help to pay contact Sally Graham at sallymg@live.co.uk or ring 781449.

Bacs details ; Account number : 00968514 Sort code : 30-95-29

Bank : Lloyds Cinderford

The 200 Club has been a great fundraiser for the hall over many years. Last year we bought new tables, the year before comfy chairs. This year, we intend to buy more of these, in order that everyone who uses the top or lower hall can be seated comfortably! We also need items for the new kitchen, so the funds will be put to good use.

Here are examples of the new and old chairs. The new ones with their padded seats and back support are a vast improvement on their old counterparts.

With our best wishes to everyone as we swing into spring!



Ruspidge Memorial Hall



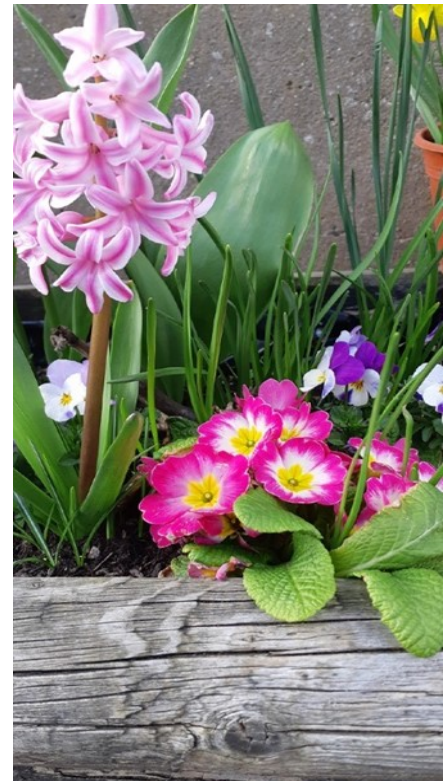
Hello Everyone,

The days are lengthening nicely, the weather is warm, and the birds are singing...what is there not to like?

The planters around the hall are looking lovely....



The hall is sadly not in use at the moment, so we are taking advantage of this time and doing some maintenance work. (Thank you John, Pam, Bob, and Peter for their hard work).



This means we will be ready fling open the doors to welcome all our regular users, and, of course, any folks wishing to book single events.

We already have private parties booked for later in the year, which is wonderful!

Roll on 12th April :-)

Continued.....

Soudley News

Soudley Community Allotments Project

Soudley community allotments are now available creating a lovely community space for all to enjoy. They are situated behind the Soudley village hall old tennis courts. All villagers are welcome to apply.

If you are interested please contact Nick or Kay on 01594 825932

Wild Boar in Soudley

Following a query received by the Parish Office from a Soudley parishioner, this reply from Forestry England.

have been passed your query regarding the issue of feral wild boar and the impacts they are having in Soudley in particular.

The boar activity is quite seasonally dependent and is often driven by different food availability. In the late summer / early autumn there is an big increase in insect activity in the upper layers of the soil with an abundance of leatherjacket larvae being available. This often triggers an increase in the boar targeting grassland areas such as amenity grassland residents gardens and roadside verges. This activity often brings boar into residential areas where they can target this food source. They often pay repeat visits to the same areas once they have discovered a good food source, this tends to stop once that food source dries up or they find a better alternative area to feed somewhere new.

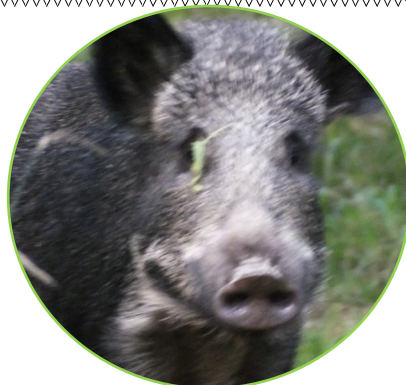
There is very little that can be done as amenity areas / grass verges cannot be protected by fencing. We strongly advise residents to protect their properties with adequate fences and keep their gates close to try to prevent the boar access to their gardens.

We are aware some people misguidedly put food out for the boar for a variety of reasons, this is both irresponsible and illegal. The boar don't need supplementary feeding and such acts draws them into communities which creates further problems. We also encourage residents to put their food waste bins out as close to collection as possible to prevent this acting as an attractant.

We are actively culling the boar all over the forest including in the Soudley area to reduce the number down to a level where their negative impacts are reduced and to enable residents to live alongside them with minimal problems. We have culled over 800 since the 1st April last year, and are continuing with that operation.

I continue to research alternative deterrents in an effort to find a non-lethal method or product that can be employed within the communities to try to ease the problems the animals create when straying into residential areas. I will pass on any relevant information or possible solutions as I obtain it.

I hope this information is of use. Ian Harvey, Wildlife Manager



REGULAR EVENTS

1st Monday	Craft Group	2pm	to	4pm	Ruspidge Lower Hall
2nd Monday	Book Club	7pm	to	8pm	Ruspidge Lower Hall
Every Tuesday	Art Club	10am	to	12noon	Soudley Village Hall
Every Tuesday	Golden Oldies	2:15pm	to	4:15pm	Ruspidge Hall
1st Tuesday	Ladies Group	7pm	to	9pm	Ruspidge Hall
2nd Tuesday	Gardening Club	7:15pm	to	9pm	More info at ruspidgegardeningclub.net
2nd Tuesday	Parish Council Meetings	7pm	to	9pm	Alternate between Ruspidge & Soudley Halls. Check Council website for next venue.
Every Wednesday	Fitness Class	2pm	to	3pm	Ruspidge Hall
Every Wednesday	Line Dancing	3:30pm	to	4:30pm	Ruspidge Hall
Every Wednesday	LVC Dance Fitness	7pm	to	8pm	Ruspidge Hall
1st & 3rd Wednesday	Said Eucharist	10am			St Stephen's, Cinderford
3rd Wednesday	Hall Committee Meeting	7pm	to	8:30pm	Ruspidge Lower Hall
5th Wednesday	Said Eucharist	10am			St John's Cinderford
Every Thursday	Walking for Health	2pm			Blakeney Surgery
Every Thursday*	*Brownies	6pm	to	7:30pm	Ruspidge Hall
Every Sunday	Parish Eucharist	9:30am			St John's Cinderford
Every Sunday	Canine College	10am	to	12noon	Ruspidge Lower Hall
Every Sunday	Under 4s & 5s Football	10am	to	11am	Contact Rich Wilkins Cinderford Town FC
Every Sunday	Fitness Club	10am			Soudley Rec Ground
Every Sunday	Shaolin Kung Fu	6:30pm	to	8:30pm	Ruspidge Hall

Both Hall Committee are abiding by current COVID-19 lockdown rules.



USEFUL CONTACTS

For Ruspidge & Soudley Parishioners



<u>PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE/CLERK</u>	
Joanne (Joe) Rawlings email: info@clerkrspc.plus	01594 825343
<u>VILLAGE HALL & GROUP CONTACTS</u>	
For Soudley; Jane Scott	07961405803
For Ruspidge; Jenny East, Bookings Sally Graham, 200 Club	01594 823620 01594 781449
<u>MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT</u>	
Mark Harper harperm@parliament.uk	01594 823482
<u>COUNTY COUNCILLORS</u>	
For Ruspidge and Buckshaft; Graham Morgan graham.morgan@gloucestershire.gov.uk	01594 829349
For Soudley; Richard Boyles richard.boyles@gloucestershire.gov.uk	07979 755101
<u>DISTRICT COUNCILLORS</u>	
Bernie O'Neill (Ruspidge)	01594 827586
Richard Boyles (Soudley)	07979 755101
Nicky Packer (Soudley)	01594 827516
<u>PARISH COUNCILLORS</u>	
William Acland (Chair), Tony Matthews, Norman Snell. Helen Medcraft, Chris Richardson and Joanne Smith.	

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/updates on Power Cuts	105
Shire Hall Reception	01452 425000
Street Lighting	08000 514514
Two Rivers Housing	08003 160897 01594 546222

If you find any text difficult to read, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01594 825343

Published and printed by Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council, First Floor, Rheola House, Belle Vue Centre, Cinderford, GL14 2AB.
Tel 01594 825343. E-mail - [info@clerkrspc.plus.com](mailto:info@clerkrspc.plus).

Edited by Chris Richardson, 6 Dean View, Buckshaft. GL14 3EE. Tel 01594 825329.

email : theeditor.viewpoint@gmail.com

Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of either Ruspidge and Soudley Parish Council or the editor and may not reflect their policies. Neither Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council nor the editor takes any responsibility for third party comment or events mentioned.

The Parish Website address is; ruspidgesoudley-pc.gov.uk

The next issue of ViewPoint will be 1st June. Last date for receipt of copy will be Wednesday, 26th May.