

VIEWPOINT

The Ruspidge & Soudley

Parish Newsletter

February 2021

Comment

COVID-19

Following the sad demise of our dear friend Jeff, I took over as Editor of the ViewPoint at the beginning of last year. I recall my first edition (April 2020) mentioning Covid-19 and the newly imposed lockdown. Almost a year on, it seems like groundhog day! We are daily bombarded by doom and gloom, cases have risen, as have deaths - and we are STILL in lockdown!

There is a glimmer of hope in the very recent reduction in number of cases in the FoD but sadly, deaths (topped 100,000 as I write) have risen. Lets hope that we are nearing the peak of this pandemic and that the number of infections, and then deaths will continue downward.

Of course, there is a welcome ray of hope - the VACCINE! Forest GP's and others have so far done a sterling job in very quickly vaccinating the elderly - and continue to do so. Judging by reports, FoD clinicians are rated as amongst the highest in terms of number of jabs administered. We owe them all our gratitude and support.

Sad to say, it looks as if it will be a long time before life returns to something like normal I suspect that will be an even longer time before I do not mention COVID-19 in this journal.

More Covid-19 related information below:-

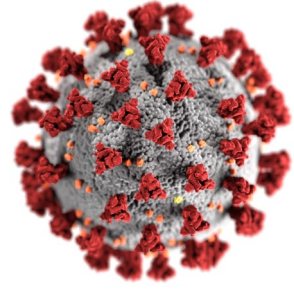
Your Council Needs YOU!

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.

Ed



COVID-19 - Latest Forest News/Information



FOREST GP SURGERIES

COVID-19 Vaccination Update - 13th January 2021

The Forest of Dean has now invited all its over 80s and is working through the over 75s cohort. Patients will be contacted in due course by their Surgery, please do not call your Surgery unless instructed to do so.

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

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Lydney Dial A Ride

I have been speaking to Sue Dubois over the past few days regarding the vaccination hub in Cinderford as she has asked me to get in contact.

Lydney Dial a Ride is still operating for essential journeys and that will include those attending their vaccination appointments.

Due to the pandemic, it is a reduced service that we offer and spaces are limited. However, we do have a small team of dedicated drivers, along with our fleet of wheelchair accessible minibuses and we are operating from 9m until 4pm Monday to Friday.

All passengers must join as members to our organisation, but the information can be taken over the telephone and will only take a few minutes. It is a door-to-door service that we offer, and all our drivers have undertaken training as well as being fully DBS checked. If you do know of someone who could use our service, please contact us on **01594 843809**.

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Forest Hospitals - Out of Hours arrangements

We have had some enquiries about the Out of Hours service at our Forest Hospitals and have obtained the following information:

The OOH service is still based at The Dilke (evenings and weekends) – the team based there will do a combination of telephone and face to face consultations. The Home Visiting service is Countywide – the car base is Highnam but they are dispatched to patients as required.

The service is provided by Practice Plus Group (essentially this is a rebranded CareUK).

The hours covered by the Out of Hours Service are: -

Weekday evenings 6.30-11pm

Saturday 10am-9pm

Sunday 10am-9pm

Access is via 111 (or referral from MIIU). No direct booking by 111 (due to COVID and National 'total triage'). Gloucestershire clinician (GP or nurse) calls the cases back from the 111 list and either treats remotely or books to the OOH clinic as appropriate.

Outside of the hours above the main hub at Gloucester is 24/7 over weekend (and home visiting is 24/7 and triage clinicians are 24/7).

Please remember that, unless it is an emergency, 111 should be your first port of call when your surgery is closed.



Website

The New Parish website has been active since just before Christmas. The old site was closed on 21st January. You may not be able to find it through searches yet, due to the fact that search engines take a while to recognise new sites. This is especially true of sites which are not heavily and frequently accessed. The address is:- www.ruspidgesoudly-pc.gov.uk

Play Areas

Owing to COVID-19 restrictions, progress has been slow. We are hoping that we will be able to begin replacing some of the old equipment and smartening up the areas in April - restrictions allowing.

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council - Planning Matters

Planning Schedule for the December, 2020 meeting

Planning Reference Site Address & Detail		Comment
P1840/20/FUL	62 Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire. Extension to rear of dwelling.	No obj.
P1876/20/FUL	Land Adjacent To, St Whites Farm, St Whites Road, Cinderford. Change of use of agricultural land to equestrian and retention of stable building, hay barn and container unit and associated equipment /works.	No obj.
Decisions notified by the Planning Authority		
P1434/20/FUL	Wildwood, Bradley Hill, Blakeney, Gloucestershire. Raising of roof, installation of dormers and erection of a new porch with associated works. (Part retrospective).	CONSENT

Planning continued:-



Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council - Planning Matters

Planning Schedule for the January, 2021 meeting

Planning Reference Site Address & Detail	Comment
P1348/20/FUL 35 Ruspidge Road Ruspidge Cinderford Proposed annexe to existing property for dependant relatives with proposed additional parking area and associated works.	No obj.
P1897/20/COU 43A Buckshaft Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire. Change of use of bedroom to a nail salon with associated works.	No obj.
P0993/19/FUL Land Off Railway Road Ruspidge for the delivery and siting of two park homes. Council concerned accessibility of site. Use of land for the siting of two residential caravans for permanent residential use The road to the entrance of the site is narrow, together with the provision of two car parking spaces. and council would request a site visit by the planning committee to fully appreciate the difficulty involved.	No obj.
P2012/20/FUL 36 Sutton Road, Soudley, Cinderford, Gloucestershire. Erection of a rear first floor extension with associated works.	No obj.
P2059/20/FUL Forest Lodge, St Whites Road, Cinderford, Gloucestershire. Erection of 7 dwellings with associated parking, landscaping and works. Construction of a new access.	Obj & Obs
P2139/20/APP 9 Hewlett Way (Land At The Rear) , Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.	No obj.
Approval of reserved matters (access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) of outline permission P0164/18/OUT for the erection of one dwelling and associated works.	
P1411/20/FUL 62 Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire. Erection of a detached dwelling with associated works.	No obj.

Decisions notified by the Planning Authority	District Decision
Planning Reference Site Address & Detail	
P1840/20/FUL 62 Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire. Extension to rear of dwelling.	Consent
P0110/20/DISCON Land South Of (Site Compound), Edmunds Way, Cinderford, Glos. Discharge of condition 03 (Bat and Bird boxes) of planning appeal APP/P1615/W/20/3251097.	Consent
P1434/20/FUL Wildwood, Bradley Hill, Blakeney, Gloucestershire. Raising of roof, installation of dormers and erection of a new porch with associated works. (Part retrospective).	Consent

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.



200 Club Winners

£30 Prize - Winner

£20 Two Prizes

£15 Two Prizes

January

105 Tony Matthews

175 Michael Partridge

76 Clive Reynolds

70 Heather Dalziel

16 Sid Phelps

February

196 Suzanne Sexton

22 Mary Wilkes

117 Ann Beddis

21 Lee Bevan

154 Elaine Smith



21st January 2021

Ruspidge Memorial Hall

Hello everyone,

Here we are Lockdown 3, as seen in a street near you!! I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

The hall remains loved but sadly quiet.

We are very much looking forward to opening our doors when it is safe to do so and to welcome the return of all our regular users along with possible newcomers.

So roll up, to roll up, your sleeves!!

The hall is a COVID-19 safe environment as stipulated by the government. So we are ready to open when given the go ahead. What a great day that will be for all.

New tables

We have invested in some lovely new small tables, These are, smart, solidly made, and a little lighter than the originals. Thus making them easier to move and stack for those of us with fragile backs that complain if over stretched!



An example of the old tables. I guess these now would be classed as vintage being, to our best estimate, some 50 years old!

Below....the new tables, a vast improvement on the old ones.



These were bought with funds raised by the 200 club. So thank you to those who work hard organising this fundraiser and, of course all the members who put money in each year. As you can see your funds have been put to good use improving the facilities we can offer.

A list of the 200 club winners are listed in each episode of Viewpoint and online, on various social media websites.

So, please, everyone stay safe, keep well, and enjoy the lengthening daylight, along with the signs of spring.....

Helium balloon releases

Forest of Dean District Council have banned the release of helium balloons on council land and will discourage organisers from releasing them at events.

What goes up must come down and balloons or balloon fragments are a problem when they do finally come back down. They are sometimes eaten by livestock, especially cattle, and cause a slow and painful death. The balloons can also be lethal to marine life and any released in the Forest of Dean could easily end up in the Severn Estuary or the sea.



Helium cannot be made artificially. Shortages of helium, such as in 2019, are worrying because it is essential for MRI scanners used in health screening.

Please consider a different way of celebrating or of commemoration. There is no such place as 'away' - when the balloon fragments come back down, they are litter. When the harmful litter that they cause is considered, releasing balloons is not a beautiful or inspiring tribute.

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Forest of Dean District Council finances – OK for now but the future is worrying.

In December, the Cabinet approved the interim budget proposals for consultation, including a proposed council tax of £189.03 (a £5 increase which equates to 2.72%) based on a Band D property.

It is expected that there will be a balanced budget for next year, which is a great improvement on the fears early last year that there would be a large deficit. The welcome change is due to cost savings by the Council and taking money from reserves but also because the Government have not cut back funding as they previously said that they would do. However, it is expected that the Government will cut back funding in 2022-23 even more harshly because of the delay this year to their planned cuts.



At present it looks like the years 2022-25 could have a large deficit each year. Finding further savings without impacting on service delivery is going to be difficult. Council tax payments cannot be increased by more than £5 for a Band D property without a costly referendum, which anyway may not find a majority in the District in favour of a larger increase. **Nicky Packer, District Councillor Newnham ward**



New National Census

census 2021

Households across the Country will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021. The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

“A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can allocate services and funding in the places where they are most needed,” Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said. “This could mean things like doctors’ surgeries, schools and new transport routes.

That’s why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online, on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them.”

Census day will be on March 21 2021, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

For more information, visit: www.census.gov.uk

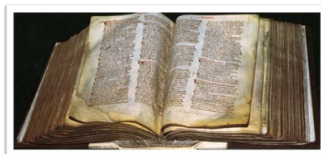
Census 2021 will provide a SNAPSHOT of modern society

Census facts

The first modern UK census was in 1801. It collected everyone’s name and address, and some age data...



A census enumerator in a Gray’s Inn Lane tenement, London



... but the first thorough survey of England was in 1086 when William the Conqueror ordered the production of the Domesday Book. This detailed inventory of land and property was a massive undertaking at the time, taking many years to complete.



In 2011, the census captured more than **94%** of people in England and Wales.

The population on Census Day was **56,075,912**

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@derkrspc.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), Bernadette Wood (Vice Chair), Tony Matthews, Helen Medcraft, Chris Richardson, Norman Snell.	

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

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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.

Next issue of ViewPoint will be 1st April. Last date for receipt of copy will be Friday, 26th March.

