

VIEWPOINT

The Ruspidge & Soudley

Parish Newsletter

August 2020

Parish News & Comment

COVID-19

And so, it goes on..... Since the last Viewpoint, life has become a little less stressful. It was great to get back to the shops (masked) and the pub (socially distanced) and pools and gyms are open – but we now have to wear masks in the supermarket! The level of deaths has mercifully reduced but infections appear to be stabilising Covid-19 is still very much around – like a cloud hanging over everybody. Hopefully, the optimistic predictions for a vaccination will prove true.

Parish Halls

On a lighter note, work on both of our halls has progressed (see below) and we will all be glad of that.

Play Areas

For those with children, an expansion of the Play Area inspections reported in the Parish Council news below. Each year the Council commissions a safety inspection of our Play Areas. This is carried out by approved specialists who report their findings to the Council. This year's report is far more detailed than those previously received. Clearly, the inspection was more forensic and exacting than before. The report runs into 130 pages, addressing each area/item of equipment in detail, assigning a 'Risk Factor' together with recommendations for remedial action where appropriate. Parents will be pleased to know that NONE of our areas/items were anywhere near 'High Risk', with the highest being only 'Moderate Risk' and many being 'Low Risk'. The general assessment for each of the 3 areas was 'Moderate Risk'. The Council takes safety matters very seriously. A group of three Councillors are reviewing the report in detail to address the remedial action needed to ensure that all areas/items are brought up to a 'Low Risk' level. This group will draft a detailed and costed plan, which will be submitted to the full Council in the near future.

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



SOUDLEY VILLAGE HALL

Hi all.

Despite COVID-19 Soudley village hall has still been very busy. We have refurbished the main hall starting with a new suspended ceiling, this will improve overall heating costs. Newly installed LED lighting will illuminate the hall and make it a light and fresher environment.

Aesthetically the hall looks more modern now its had a fresh coat of paint making it more inviting to the public, hopefully this will see an increase in interest from the local community to hire the facility.

New radiators have been installed in the large hall which will improve the heating going into the winter months.

The kitchen is now finished giving the hall a new lease of life.

We are hopeful going forward that we will be able to run the bonfire & fireworks night on the 5th November as planned.

Hope to see you all soon

Nick Holder (Chairman)



Ruspidge News

Ruspidge Memorial Hall

New Kitchen

While the hall has been shut the enlarged kitchen has taken shape, when it is finished it will be a lovely, light spacious area to work. It is twice the size of the old one, well equipped with modern appliances, an eye level oven with a slide under door, a modern hob, a boiling water dispenser for those endless cups of tea, and an enlarged hatchway into the hall for easier access.



Storage area

This has made good use of the old bar area, allowing the storage of unused tables, chairs, etc., then the sliding doors to block it off will make the main area of the hall more pleasant to use, as it will be both tidier and safer.



Opening Soon!

Both the main hall and the smaller lower hall will be available to hire from the beginning of August, Sadly the new upper hall kitchen will be unavailable for use as we are awaiting the delivery of the worktops. This will not effect the hall use.

Currently however, due to the Covid social distancing rules the number of people allowed in the halls at one time is limited. Please check out the hall website for further details and updates.

www.ruspidgememorialhall.weebly.com or find us on our Facebook page

Outside....

The trough planted in the spring is looking lovely, as you see from the photograph. The middle section is earmarked for a mosaic to be done as part of the craft group, so literally watch this space!!

Art on the Railing

The exhibition on Ruspidge Park Railings in the last 10 days of June and was enjoyed by many and a resounding success with submissions of Art and Craft Works from locals young and old; along with FODRocks' Snakeline of decorated rocks along the Park Wall which can still be added to. We will hopefully make this an annual event.

Lesley Dunckley



Ruspidge Memorial Hall 200 Club

The Hall Committee thanks all members, especially those who haven't won, for supporting the Hall. We still three numbers left, 75, 133 and 195. As we have had four sets of winners this year, it would only cost £8, or £16 for two numbers. If you would like to join the 200 Club, please contact Sally Graham on 781449, or email sallymg@live.co.uk Half the money raised goes straight to Ruspidge Memorial Hall fund, the other half is given out as prize money.

200 Club Winners



£30 Prize

June

190 - Courtney Wood

July

24 - Becky Breeze

£20 Two Prizes

47 - Susan Hayes

128 - The White Hart

186 - Eileen Denton

49 - Judith Tatum

£15 Two Prizes

29 - Betty Baker

60 - Tim Dunkley

84 - Amy Godfrey

54 - Marion Jeffries





Parish Council News

Annual Play Inspections have been carried out on all three play areas in the parish. Any matters arising will be dealt with accordingly.

Council successfully held its second remote meeting in July. there will be no meeting in August. It is hoped that by September face-to-face meetings can be resumed. The September meeting is scheduled for Soudley and confirmation of this will be on the relevant agenda displayed on parish notice boards and on the parish website (www.rspc.org.uk).

In the interim the Clerk is working from home and continues to deal with all matters relating to the parish.

Emails are monitored and can be sent to info@clerkrspc.plus.com or from the contact us page on the parish website.

Skip in Ruspidge Recreation Field – after many months of chasing, even prior to lockdown, the skip has eventually been collected. Latterly, the supplier Bell Waste refused to collect the overflowing skip due to COVID19 operational reasons, but council were able to procure the services of Lydney Skip Hire. The skip was not ordered by the council and despite requests to residents to stop dumping their personal rubbish the skip was overflowing and it should be noted that the costs incurred by the parish council will come from the parish precept of the council tax.

Grants – under Section 137 of the LGA 1972 the Council approved the following grants:

- ◆ Soudley Village Hall/Football Club - £900 towards pitch maintenance and marking.
- ◆ Severn Area Rescue Association - £250 to aid funds severely restricted by the pandemic.

To apply for a grant please download the relevant form from the parish website at www.rspc.org.uk or email the Clerk at: info@clerkrspc.plus.com

Helen Hook, Parish Clerk

Recent planning applications awaiting decision by the District Council:

Parish comment

<u>Recent planning applications awaiting decision by the District Council:</u>	<u>Parish comment</u>
P0818/20/PQ3PA	
St Whites Farm, St Whites Road, Cinderford.	
Prior notification for the conversion of two barns into two dwellings and associated building operations.	No objection
P0827/20/FUL	
Former St Whites Primary School, St Whites Road, Cinderford.	
Variation of condition 02 (approved plans), 08 (visibility distance) and discharge of conditions 03 (roofing and external facing materials), 05 (full surface water drainage scheme), 15 (biodiversity enhancement) and 19 (first floor window) of planning permission P1480/19/FUL.	Obs. & No objection
P0835/20/FUL	
104A Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.	
Demolition of existing single storey extension and replacement with two storey and single storey extension.	No objection
P0881/20/FUL	
Fairview, Lower Road, Soudley, Cinderford.	
Proposed single storey extension to replace existing conservatory.	No objection
Householder Appeals Service (HAS)	<u>Appeal Decision</u>
P1878/19/FUL	
62 Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge.	
Erection of a rear extension and associated works. (Resubmission.)	DISMISSED

Cinderford Northern Quarter

Cinderford Northern Quarter (CNQ) is located on the northern edge of Cinderford, between the Forest Vale Industrial Estate, Steam Mills and the A4136. The site was formerly dominated by mining and other heavy industry but was later landscaped.

The availability of £14.75m awarded to the District under the National Coalfield Programme was used to formulate and support a scheme comprising a new 'Spine Road' (to by-pass Steam Mills), relocating the college from Five Acres, plus sites for housing, a hotel, offices and light industry.

Further grant funding has enabled the relocation of the college and construction of the first section of the Spine Road, which were opened in September 2018. Unfortunately, the road cost an extra £2.5m on top of the £3.8m contract price, due to ground conditions.

It was expected that this first phase of publicly funded development would attract private investment, but no development has taken place since 2018. So, what is happening now?

Forest of Dean District Council (FoDDC) have obtained a sustainable grant to fund making a new planning application. This application would allow development of the central area without completing the Spine Road and is expected to be submitted soon.

Two sites designated for employment have no need to wait for this, however, as they are already accessible by road. They have been marketed as the "Southern Gateway".

In April 2020, FoDDC advised that the cost estimates for the Southern Gateway were not viable and that the design team had been tasked to re-visit the design work with a focus on cost-effectiveness. This has now been done and a business case is expected to be discussed at FoDDC Cabinet in September and a decision made whether to proceed with more detailed design work and ultimately with construction, funded from Council borrowing.

The Council appointed a scrutiny task group to review the financial viability of the scheme, the likely delivery of new jobs, the interest in investment by the private sector and the success of the wildlife mitigation. However, this work had to stop as soon as it started, because of the pressure on local authority staff caused by the Covid-19 emergency. At the time of writing, only 'essential activity' is allowed officer support.

Nikki Packer, District Councillor for Soudley.

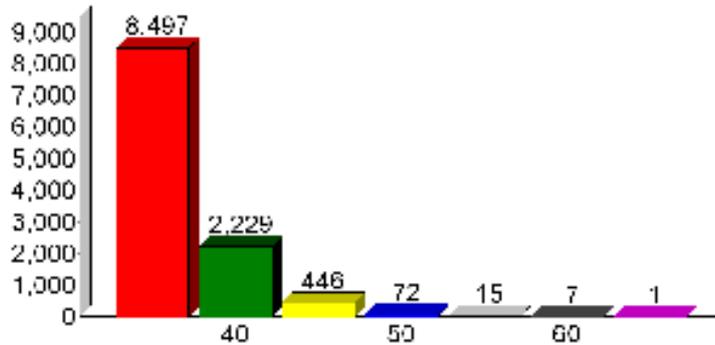


Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

SpeedWatch

VAS data report for the period April - June 2020

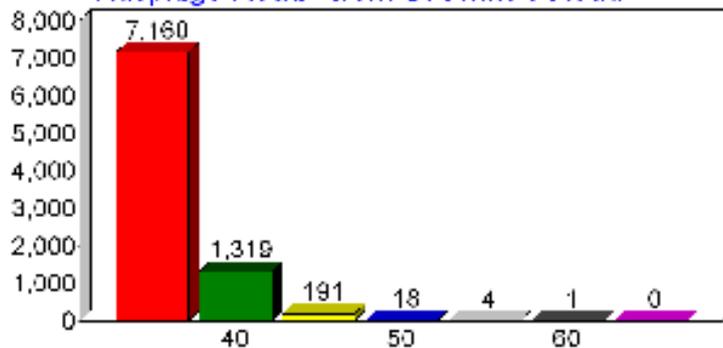
Buckshaft Road - from St White's Road *



Highest speed recorded this period:
70 MPH

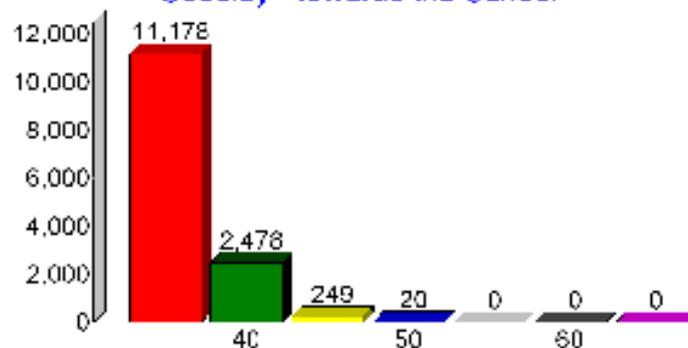
Total below 30 mph:	20112
Total above 30 mph:	11268
Grand total:	31380
% above 30 mph:	36
Highest speed:	70

Ruspidge Road - from St White's Road *



Total below 30 mph:	49395
Total above 30 mph:	8693
Grand total:	58088
% above 30 mph:	15
Highest speed:	60

Soudley - towards the School *



The Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) were funded by the PCC through a grant to the Parish

Total below 30 mph:	20842
Total above 30 mph:	13925
Grand total:	34767
% above 30 mph:	40
Highest speed:	50

* Direction; this is the direction FROM which vehicles are approaching the VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign)

Signs are located: Junction of Ruspidge Road and Railway Road, beside Soudley ponds and near No. 7a Buckshaft Road

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

Note. Due to COVID-19 measures, both Ruspidge and Soudley Halls have been closed since the end of March. At present there is no indication when they will be able to open. When it is able to provide an update, the Parish Council will do so through the normal channels.

USEFUL CONTACTS

For Ruspidge & Soudley Parishioners



<u>PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE/CLERK</u>	
Helen Hook email: info@derkrspc.plus	01594 825343
<u>VILLAGE HALL & GROUP CONTACTS</u>	
For Soudley;	
Jane Scott	07961405803
For Ruspidge;	
Jenny East, Bookings	01594 823620
Sally Graham, 200 Club	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

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

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.

Next issue of ViewPoint will be 1st October. Last date for receipt of copy will be Friday, 25th September.

