

VIEWPOINT

The Ruspidge & Soudley

Parish Newsletter

October 2020

Parish News & Comment

COVID-19

And so, it goes on, and on..... Contrary to optimistic signs reflected in the last Viewpoint, things have taken a distinct turn for the worse and life has become a little more stressful. Recent numbers are indeed alarming, indicating a second wave of the epidemic. Let's hope that the recently introduced restrictions will reverse the trend. Perhaps we won't have to cancel Christmas after all?

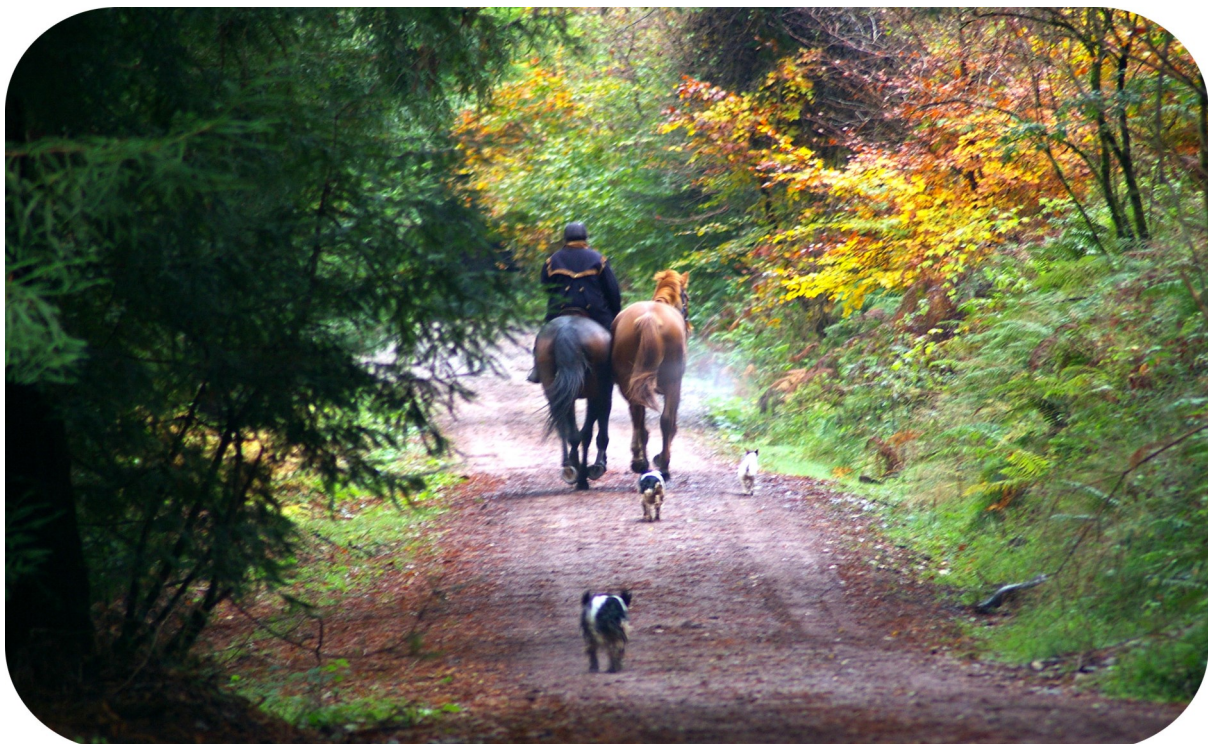
Parish Halls

On a lighter note, work on both of our halls has progressed - see below. Both Ruspidge and Soudley halls are greatly improved. We should congratulate both Committees for a job well done!

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



Ruspidge Memorial Hall

Since my last article, work has progressed well within the hall. The new kitchen is now finished!

We now have the following:

- ◆ An electric hob with extractor overhead
- ◆ A multifunctional eye level oven
- ◆ Catering grade worktops and splash backs
- ◆ A full size fridge and a Microwave



- ◆ A wall mounted boiling water dispenser
- ◆ An enlarged hatchway into the hall
- ◆ A cosy radiator fed from the central heating
- ◆ Lots of storage space for our regular users

It is a lovely airy space to compliment the hall.

We have screened off an area to store all the tables and chairs when activities do not require furniture, such as an exercise class. This is also handy as it means any unused furniture can be stowed away safely when only some of the furniture is required.

The lower hall is in the process of being fitted with new flooring.

This hall has proved to be very handy as it opens out to a west facing patio and grassed area overlooking part of the park and edged by trees. During these unusual times this has been used many times for plant sales and various meetings.

The hire charge currently for main hall costs £10.00 (£8.00 for regular bookings) per hour and the lower smaller hall £5.00



continued.....

Ruspidge Memorial Hall - continued.....

To allow for social distancing the larger hall is limited to 22 people, the lower hall 14 people. Please note however, COVID-19 restrictions below.

Naturally, the Hall Committee are abiding by current COVID-19 rules imposed by the Government. At time of publication, in addition to Social Distancing, there is now the new Rule of Six that applies to some activities. We recommend that prospective clients ring us in advance of booking to check how these rules will apply to their requirements. The person to ring is Jenny East, on 01594 823620, who will be pleased to advise you. Alternatively, if you are able, the latest Government guidance may be viewed at;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities>

For the security of our users we have worked hard to make the hall COVID secure and we intend to continually review the procedure in order to ensure we are following the latest government guideline on village hall use.

The mosaic for the old noticeboard has now been started, it is being worked upon during the craft club.

For the comfort of those who attend, the craft club are now having sessions on the 1st and 3rd Monday in the month, this enables them to keep to lower numbers for each group.

Apart from the craft club on Monday afternoons, there is a yoga session, a Shaolin group and various meetings. We also have ad hoc users who book the hall for band practice.

stop press!.....stop press!.....stop press!.....stop press!

The main hall has just been booked by Karen Stiles of Adult Education in Gloucestershire for an Arts and Craft Course running throughout November. It will take place every week on Wednesday mornings 10.00 - 12.00, starting on the 4th running through to the 25th November So if you fancy learning how to make the following:

Bath Bombs Glass candle Holders Wet Felt purse Dream Catcher


The course sounds great - learn skills in a lovely COVID secure setting!


To book a place or find out further information tel 01452 583452 or 07748 933849 or email karen.stiles@gloucestershire.gov.uk



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			
	<u>£30 Prize</u>	<u>£20 Two Prizes</u>	<u>£15 Two Prizes</u>
<u>August</u>			
156 - Louise West		164 - John Aubrey	191 - Brenda Jeffery
		132 - Roy Fletcher	178 - Jamie Tew
<u>September</u>			
172 - Judy Webb		129 - Sandra Worgan	144 - Pam Sheppard
		113 - Simon Drake	169 - Vic Drew



Ruspidge Gardening Club

The Club is supporting **OURBORETUM**, a scheme to plant 2020 seeds of native trees this autumn. These saplings will replace Ash trees dying in the County. To join in please see our website, or contact Sally Graham at sallymg@live.co.uk, or ring 781449.





Audit 2019/20 – the external auditor PKF Littlejohn LLP having completed the review of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return advised ‘on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. The AGAR and Notice of conclusion of audit have been published on the council website.

Parish Council Meetings – having held two remote meetings the council were pleased to hold a face to face meeting in September. The Soudley Hall was unavailable and the meeting was transferred to Ruspidge Hall, where sanitisation was supplied and social distancing was observed. Face masks were worn at the individual’s discretion and paper circulation was kept to a minimum. To keep to the meeting rota the October meeting will also be held in the Ruspidge Hall. **Please note that, as a result of the COVID ‘Rule of Six’, members of the public will not be permitted to attend Council meetings until further notice.**














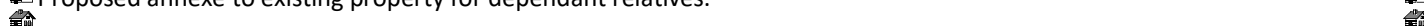





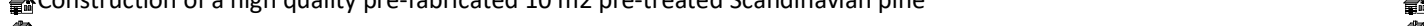

VAS – Vehicle Activated Signs – The Council have agreed with SWARCO to renew the maintenance contract for one year.

Football Field – The field has been in use again, this time by a youth team. The organisers have been asked to observe the need to keep the adjacent lane clear to enable residents to access and egress safely, as vision onto Ruspidge Road is very limited.

Dog fouling – The Council has received complaints regarding dog fouling on the Ruspidge Play Area. This is particularly dangerous in an area mainly frequented by **children**. If the situation continues the Council will be forced to reconsider banning dogs from the field. There is no excuse as there are two litter bins, which can now be used for dog waste, and a proper dog waste bin inside the double gate entrance of the field. **Please control your dogs and dispose of their mess responsibly! Thank You.**

Recent planning applications awaiting decision by the District Council:

Parish comment

	
 P1299/20/FUL	Obj.
 43 Buckshaft Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.	
 Erection of a detached bungalow with associated parking and works.	
 Demolition of existing garage.	
	
 P1348/20/FUL	No obj.
 35 Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.	
 Proposed annexe to existing property for dependant relatives.	
	
 P1311/20/FUL	No obj.
 28 Cullimore View, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.	
 Construction of a high quality pre-fabricated 10 m2 pre-treated Scandinavian pine	
 cabin with central BBQ with chimney, 3 double glazed windows and 3 lift up sleeping	
 platforms for occasional use.	
	
 P1411/20/FUL	No obj. & obs.
 62 Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.	
 Erection of a detached dwelling with associated works.	
	
	

Remembrance Sunday



8th November



Major planning shake-up proposed



'Planning for the Future' - White Paper & Consultation

The Government are proposing fundamental change to the planning system in England, to make development easier and quicker. They claim that this will lead to more new homes being built. However, critics of the proposals dispute that planning has significantly restricted house building, as 9 out of 10 applications are currently approved by Councils. Developers are often slow to bring forward sites for construction after obtaining planning permission, with more than a million homes given planning approval over the last decade yet to be built.

My own view is that the White Paper is a developer's dream. Here are some of the reasons why:

We may treasure the right to have some say about what happens on our locality but to developers that is just a hassle. The certainty that the Government is promising developers in the White Paper would be achieved by restricting public consultation to the drafting of the Local Plan and by stripping away all the later checks and balances that currently take place. People will wake up to find that development is proposed on their doorstep and that their right to consultation has expired, perhaps years before.

The current situation, where assessments and reports are often required to prove that a site is suitable for development, would be swept away. There would be a single test, (about which there is currently no detail), to determine whether a site should be included in the local plan. Any further assessments at a later stage, when a developer submits detailed plans for a site, are deemed unnecessary.

Proposals that comply with set standards will have permission in principle, described as 'implementing fast-track beauty'. To formulate these standards, it is proposed to set up a new national expert body and for each local authority to have a new 'chief officer for design and place-making'.

There will be little planning process other than the Local Plan. To quote the White Paper: 'it will strip away the decision-making role of the planning committee and the discretionary judgment of the planning officer'. So, under the proposed arrangements, the public will have no opportunity to influence decisions on individual developments. An application that complies with the Local Plan and with adopted standards will automatically be approved.

For more information see the White Paper (link below), though it is short on detail, so there is still much that is unclear. This is also the link to participate in the consultation, which closes on 29th October:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future>

Nicky Packer, District Councillor for Newnham Ward which includes Soudley

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. In the previous edition of Viewpoint it was stated that both Community Halls were closed as a result of COVID lockdown. This is no longer the case and both Ruspidge and Soudley Halls are OPEN FOR BOOKINGS.

Both Hall Committee are abiding by current COVID-19 rules imposed by the Government. At time of publication, in addition to Social Distancing, there is now the new Rule of Six that applies to some activities.

The latest news on COVID Rules for Community Halls is available at;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities>

USEFUL CONTACTS

For Ruspidge & Soudley Parishioners

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE/CLERK

Helen Hook
email: info@clerkspc.plus 01594 825343

VILLAGE HALL & GROUP CONTACTS

For Soudley;
Jane Scott 07961405803

For Ruspidge;
Jenny East, Bookings 01594 823620
Sally Graham, 200 Club 01594 781449

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Mark Harper 01594 823482
harperm@parliament.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLORS

For Ruspidge and Buckshaft;
Graham Morgan 01594 829349
graham.morgan@gloucestershire.gov.uk

For Soudley;
Richard Boyles 07979 755101
richard.boyles@gloucestershire.gov.uk

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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

PARISH COUNCILLORS

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 December. Last date for receipt of copy will be Wednesday, 25th November.

