

Viewpoint



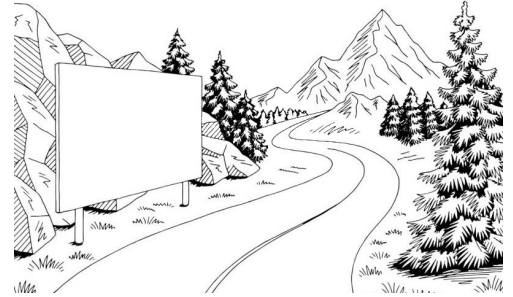
The Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2021

LOCAL NEWS

Continuing Road Closures

There has been some significant confusion with regards to road closures notified to the Parish Council by Shire Hall, and for this we can only apologise.



With regards to the closure of the Top Road bridge in Soudley, the latest we have heard is that this has been cancelled (we assume for the time being, although this will undoubtedly go ahead in the future). With regards to the closure of Church Road at Bradley Cottages, unfortunately, we have no further information other than that previously notified.

That is that the closure will go ahead but that the dates notified to us that the work is to commence have both passed. We have received no further information at the time of printing but will certainly do our best to let everyone know as soon as further information becomes available.

Crayfish Plague

You may have seen notices placed around the local area near to Soudley Brook and Soudley Ponds, advising that there is a potential outbreak of Crayfish Plague in the area. As the notices request, ***please do not let your dog enter the water.***

Your pet cannot be harmed by this infection, but it can carry it to another part of the water-course. Our native Crayfish are endangered and live in our local waters. Please help to stop the spread of this disease.

Thank you.



FUN FOREST FACTS

The oldest recorded tree (that we can find) in the Forest of Dean is an Eastern White Pine which was planted in 1787 in Worcester Walk, Coleford. There are undoubtedly older trees, but there is no record of when they were planted. If you know of any tree in the forest which is older, please let us know.

Get involved with the new Local Plan

By Councillor Nicky Packer

The Council's Local Plan sets out an overall strategy to guide development across the District. This must be updated every few years to accommodate the sites that the Government demands be included for new dwellings. The current planning requirement for new housing suggests that a minimum of 372 additional dwellings will be required by the Government in the District each year. This equates to a total of 7440 over 20 years, which is what the plan should accommodate.

The Local Plan is important – if a site is allocated for development in the Local Plan then it becomes almost impossible to oppose a planning application for that site if it complies with the designated policies.

It is getting more and more difficult to find sites to allocate for development, as land is used up all the time. Residents very often don't want new housing built nearby but the houses must go somewhere.

Because many of the sites already allocated for development have not yet been built on, (particularly brownfield sites), it gives the illusion that these are available for allocation, whereas the new dwellings quota is in addition to the already allocated sites which are presently lying dormant.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr Tim Gwilliam, is trying to make the public engagement process more inclusive. In addition to the statutory public consultations (that are laid down by National Planning Policy), Forest of Dean District Council is inviting local residents, groups and businesses to take part in new engagement forums to get involved with the drawing up of the Local Plan.

If interested, sign up on <https://fdean.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/get-involved/>

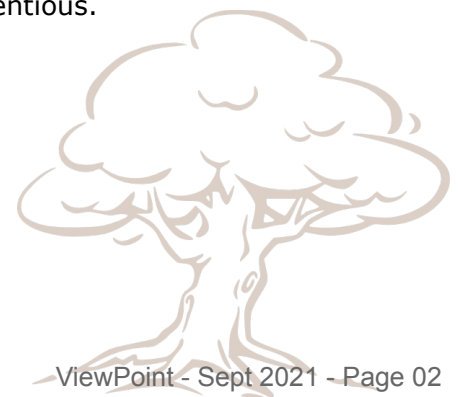
PLANNING ISSUES

There is little to report this month in regards to local planning.

Amended plans have been received for two flats above the takeaway shop on Ruspidge Road. These plans do not address our initial concerns of lack of parking and we have again objected.

There appears to be some progress on the old St Whites school development. A corner wall has been demolished ready for road widening for a later date.

Two other planning applications were received however these were uncontentious.



SATURDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER

OPEN DAY 10am – 2 pm

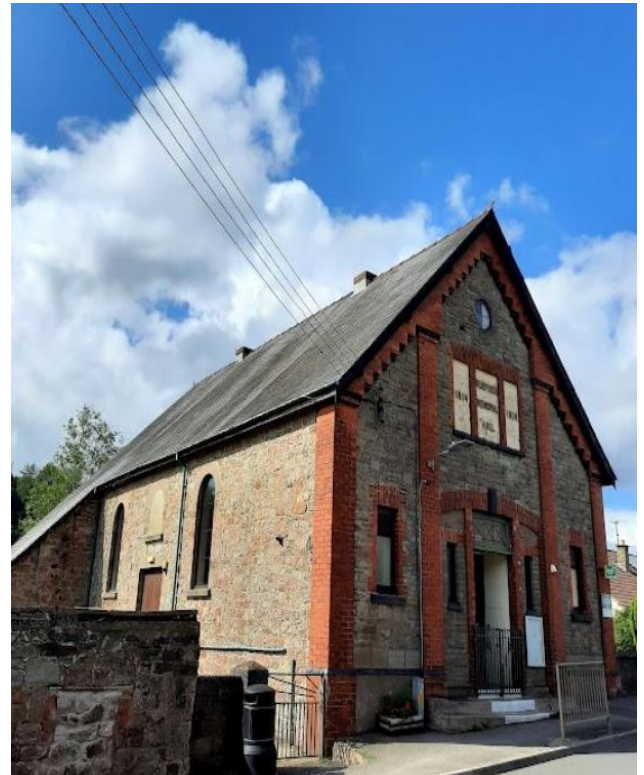
ALL WELCOME

Come along, see the modernisations to the Upper and Lower Hall – available to Hire at competitive rates.

Have your say about new groups; hear about what you can join in with now in your hall.

Plus: Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning

- enjoy Coffee & Cakes with us for a very good cause.



Join in the Crafts in the Lower Hall

* add to the Mosaic making and leave your mark

* or help Wyldwood Arts designing a new Hall Banner

+all ages welcome.

Table Sales in Main Hall

grab a bargain !!

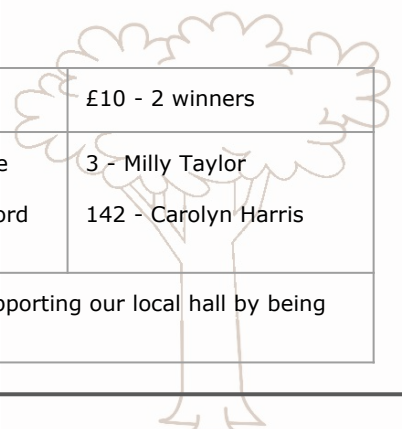
200 Club

The latest draws:

September 200 Club Winners

	£30 - 1 winner	£20 - 2 winners	£10 - 2 winners
Sept	171 - Scott Jones	113 - Simon Drake 182 - Jennie Radford	3 - Milly Taylor 142 - Carolyn Harris

Congratulations to our winners and thanks to all for supporting our local hall by being part of the 200 club



Build Back Better

Funding worth £500,000 is available to market towns in Gloucestershire to help them put on community events as part of their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Build Back Better – Market Towns fund has been launched by the county council this week, with the aim of boosting the economy of the county’s market towns and high streets.

It focuses on market towns, rural communities and those that live on the edge of urban areas and forms part of the wider £1million Gloucestershire Restart Fund agreed by cabinet in June.

Applications can be made by parish and town councils, as well as voluntary and community organisations, for bids ranging from £1,000 to £25,000.

Events could include Christmas fairs, spring shows, summer fetes, vintage car shows, music festivals or farmers’ markets and all allocated funding must be used by August 2022.

Completed applications must be received by midnight on 26 September 2021 and applicants will be informed of the outcome on 4 October.

Final decisions on the funding awards will be made by a panel, who will consider areas including how many people will benefit from the event, its impact on the economy, the ability to deliver it successfully and those that leave a lasting legacy.

Cllr Lynden Stowe, cabinet member for finance and change, said: “We hope this fund will help bring back some fun and entertainment for communities that have been unable to host any events during the pandemic. We want to revitalise our market towns and the local economy by helping them to put on some fantastic events and are looking forward to receiving your bids.”

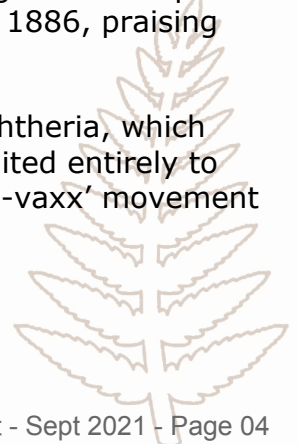
For more information on the fund and to apply, please see www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/market-towns-fund

Vaccination - A historical note

We were interested to find out recently that in the archive at the Dean Heritage Centre are handwritten drafts for ‘handbills’ (what we would call ‘flyers’ today) for printing by the Dean Forest Mercury offices in Cinderford.

These items were dated July 1886 and were advertising public meetings in the Forest of Dean to protest against compulsory vaccination, which would, at that time, have been against Smallpox. In the same archive was a letter to the Editor of the Dean Forest Mercury dated 1886, praising the vaccination effort and commenting on how many lives it had saved.

The eradication of Smallpox, along with other deadly diseases like Polio and Diphtheria, which have collectively claimed the lives of hundreds of millions of people, can be credited entirely to vaccination and yet it is interesting to note that vaccine-reluctance and the ‘anti-vaxx’ movement has existed as long as vaccinations.



USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish Council Office:

01594 825343, email: 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: harperm@parliament.uk

County Councillors:

For Ruspidge and Buckshaft:

Graham Morgan
01594 829349
email: graham.morgan@gloucstershire.gov.uk

For Soudley:

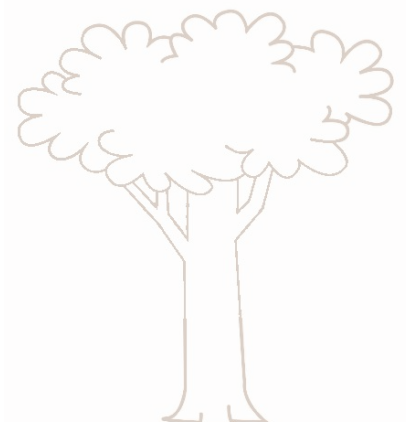
Beki Hoyland
07815 660013
email: beki.hoyland@gloucestershire.gov.uk

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

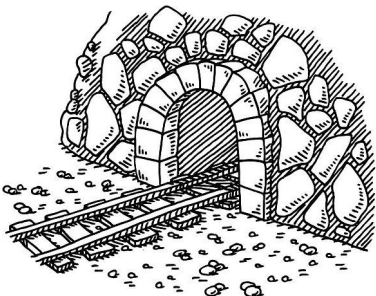
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Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of either Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council or the editor and may not reflect their policies. Neither Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council nor the editor takes any responsibility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

The next issue of ViewPoint will be 1st October. Last date for receipt of copy will be 25th Sept.



FUN FOREST FACTS

Haie Hill Tunnel, which can be seen from the bridle path in Lower Soudley, runs from Soudley to Bullo Pill and was built in 1810. At the time of construction it was longest railway tunnel in the world, at 1083 yards long.