



# ViewPoint

December 2018

*We wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and  
a Peaceful New Year*



## PARISH COMMENT

### Traffic

Because of public concern with excess speeding in our parish, after much effort, three signs were put up, one on Buckshaft Road, one on Ruspidge Road, and one on Church Road in Soudley. The stored data was downloaded from the signs on a monthly basis and forwarded to the police commissioner, the police and members of the parish council. The results make horrifying reading, with several speeds recorded in excess of 65mph. The parish council is powerless to act upon this apart from requesting that the police do regular checks and book some of these lunatics before they kill somebody.

Sadly, these requests have fallen on deaf ears, so we would like to inform our parishioners that whilst we do care and would like to do something about it, we cannot force the police to act. However, we believe that most of these speed freaks live locally, and we wonder if they would have any conscience about killing someone else's, if not their own, child or the child of a relative.

Driving in accordance to speed limits or conditions prevalent at the time is the responsibility of the driver, not the council or anybody else. We urge people to be aware of this and if they know someone that drives irresponsibly, perhaps have a word with them before someone else they know becomes a victim. It would be devastating to be in a 'lessons to be learned' situation before we realise that public responsibility is for all of us and not just the council, police or anybody else

### **Biosphere for the Forest of Dean?**

A new idea is UNESCO Biosphere Reserve (BR) designation for the Forest of Dean. This would be in addition to any other designation, such as Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The current application for an AONB for the Forest of Dean has been delayed by Government. The present Government is not keen on regulation. Could a Biosphere Reserve be the way forward to fill the void? BR and ANOB are complementary to each other. So, what is a Biosphere Reserve (BR)?

In a nutshell, it is a best practice framework to allow people to thrive alongside nature. The region would be zoned, with the most valuable ecology and landscapes being strictly protected as 'core zones'. Around these would be zones where only activities that complement the core zones are allowed. In the rest of the Reserve, greater activity would be encouraged. The emphasis in all zones would be on sustainable development, to the benefit of the local communities and nature.

One of the strengths of a Biosphere Reserve is the ability to obtain grant funding for projects that benefit wildlife and people. For example, in North Devon, the Biosphere secured £14K of funding to enhance the Tarka Trail. The Tarka Trail generates a £3.7 million tourism spend and supports nearly 60 jobs.

A successful application would need the support of the Council but also of the local community – particularly business partners. Forward looking sustainable businesses will see the opportunity that BR would bring to them, particularly in providing a local 'brand'. The first step is for people to get involved and find out how BR could help the Forest of Dean. For more details email [nicky\\_packer@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nicky_packer@yahoo.co.uk).

### **Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service**

In September Police and Crime Commissioner, Martin Surl announced that he had taken the decision to reopen the work to assess the case for a change in the governance of Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS).

The next stage is to gather the views of people who live and work in Gloucestershire and this includes you. It is very important that as many people as possible take part in the consultation so please have a look at the outline business case and spare a few minutes to complete the short, anonymous, online survey.

We do hope you will make your views known via the survey ([www.gloucestershire-pcc.gov.uk/how-to-get-involved/consultations-and-surveys/](http://www.gloucestershire-pcc.gov.uk/how-to-get-involved/consultations-and-surveys/)) and please do circulate this to your contacts. Alternatively, you can e-mail us at [pcc@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:pcc@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk) or telephone 01452 754348. You can also write to us at The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, No. 1 Waterwells, Waterwells Drive, Quedgeley, Gloucester GL2 2AN.

The next Parish Council Meeting is to be held in the Ruspidge Memorial Hall at 7.00pm Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

### **MESSAGE FROM TERESA**

#### **Thriving communities are built by the people who live in them.**

We have been lucky enough to have a wonderful Autumn and I hope that as many of you as possible managed to get out into the Forest and enjoy all that it had to offer. It has been a busy time in the villages in the last couple of months. New people becoming involved in things happening in both Ruspidge and Soudley. And it is great to see more people getting the chance to join in what is going on.

**RUSPIDGE** Following their successful coffee morning the **Golden Oldies**, who meet week in the hall on a Tuesday from 2 - 4pm, have welcomed new members. They will have held their first Christmas Bazaar at the end of November - offering tea/coffee and delicious cake as well as stalls with crafts. We hope that these coffee mornings will become a regular event - so watch out for information about the next one. The group have also linked with **St White's School** and some of the children are now visiting to enjoy activities with the members.

The **Photography** class was enjoyed by all those who attended. They are keen to use their skills and practice what they have learnt so there may be the opportunity to start a new group in the New Year - and other keen "snappers" might like to join them. Let me know if you are interested.

**Forest Leisure** held an **Explorer Orienteering** event in the recreation ground during half term which was well attended and enjoyed by all those who took part. Thanks are due to the Parish Council for helping to facilitate this.

**NEW TAI CHI CLASS.** The Healthy Lifestyles team from the Forest of Dean were delighted with the number of people who attended the taster session for this. The classes have now started on a weekly basis - Wednesday 2 - 3pm. If you would like to join please call the team to find out more and register your interest - 01594 812399/812447.

Following the success of this there may be more classes to follow - watch out for further information.

**SOUDLEY** A new group of people are working together to look after Soudley Village Hall and Recreation area. They held a successful Firework Display, put up Poppies around the village to commemorate Remembrance Day and the 100th anniversary of the Armistice, and are looking to organise more events in the future. **Soudley School** also added to the visual contributions for the Armistice commemoration. The monthly markets are continuing - we hope the December Christmas market is in your diary. There will also be a Christmas Craft market at the hall - check out the information on the Community Website. In addition to this **Adult Education in Gloucestershire** are organising a **Christmas Wreath Making Workshop** in early December as a taster session. They are keen to see if members of the community would like to try different crafts with a view to setting up a **craft group** in the long term. I have contacted a few people who have expressed an interest to me about this already, but if there is anyone else who is keen to join such a group please get in touch by email.

Remember to visit the **Ruspidge & Soudley Community Website** site  
- then share the information with others

[ruspidgeandsoudleycommunityevents.wordpress.com](http://ruspidgeandsoudleycommunityevents.wordpress.com).

And don't forget the **Ruspidge and Soudley Community** Facebook page.

**I look forward to hearing from you – and to help make our community thrive.**

### **SOUDLEY VILLAGE HALL**

The bonfire was a great success and the weather was kind to us. The little switch on was a magical evening. It was great to see so many people, and you can't deny the tree looks wonderful. A special thanks to our new chairman Nicky Holder for an inspired idea. We look forward to future events, with our Christmas craft fair and afternoon tea on Sunday 9th December from 2pm to 5pm. There are tables still available. We're all getting much fitter with LVC fitness **Dance Yourself Fit** on a Wednesday evening from 7pm to 8pm. Also, you can't forget the monthly market where you can get all the tasty treats from the butcher, the baker and Green grocer. There are also the craft stalls, books and Bric a Brac. We look forward to seeing you there. Third Saturday of every month.

### **RUSPIDGE MEMORIAL HALL**

#### **200 CLUB**

**£30 (one winner).    £15 (two winners).                    £10 (four winners)**

October

19 Kath Browning.	118 Lesley Powell	55 Ben Bowkett, 5 Laura Riddell
	27 Mandy Day.	140 V Trewinnard, 94 Jackie Beard

November

114 Betty Hayes.	198 Austin Royce Wood	26 Beryl Ralph, 8 Kathryn Wilde
	4 Lily Taylor.	77 John Whitney 96 Betty Jotcham

### **RUSPIDGE GARDENING CLUB**

9th January at 7-15pm

Pat from Jolter Cider will update us on his latest offerings, with samples comparing varieties of apples used.

Also a Gardeners Question Time, our own experts have the experience and skills to answer most queries and offer advice for the new season.

13th February at 7-15pm

Ideas and planning for Community activities in the coming year. Seeds to swap, and propagation made easy with the Plant Sale in mind.

Visitors welcome, only £2 to include refreshment.

If you find this text difficult to read please contact the Clerk on 01594 825343

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Bernadette Wood (Vice Chair)

Tony Matthews

Nicky Packer

Sid Phelps

Bob Rhodes

Norman Snell

Jeff Stanford

Clerk – Helen Hook

**VILLAGE HALL & GROUP CONTACTS**

**SOUDLEY**

Helen Littlefair 01594 822926

Emma Hancock 01594 369813

**RUSPIDGE**

Jenny East, Bookings 01594 823620

Sally Graham, 100 Club 01594 781449

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

BIFFA 01594 825803

Cinderford Town Council 01594 822599

Citizen Advice Bureau 01594 823937

Dog/Street Warden 01594 812264

FODDC 01594 810000

Forestry Commission 03000 674800

FVAF 01594 822073

Highways 08000 514514

Police 101

Power Cut 105

Shire Hall Reception 01452 425000

Street Lighting 08000 514514

Two Rivers Housing 08003 160897

and/or 01594 546222

T Rose Community Worker 07970 697853

**REGULAR EVENTS.**

Every Sunday	Parish Eucharist	9.30am		St John's Cinderford
	Canine College	10.00am	- 12.00pm	Ruspidge Lower Hall
	Shaolin	7.00pm	- 8.30pm	Ruspidge Hall
Every Tuesday	Golden Oldies	2.15pm	- 4.15pm	Ruspidge Hall
Every Thursday	Walking for Health	2.00pm		Blakeney Surgery
	Brownies*	6.00pm	- 7.30pm	Ruspidge Hall
1st Tuesday	Ladies Group	7.00pm	- 9.00pm	Ruspidge Hall
2nd Wednesday	Gardening Club	7.30pm	- 9.00pm	Ruspidge Hall
1st & 3rd Wednesday	Said Eucharist	10.00am		St Stephen's Cinderford
5th Wednesday	Said Eucharist	10.00am		St John's Cinderford

\* Brownies are Term Time Only

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