RUISHTON VILLAGE HALL NEWSLETTER MARCH 2016

VILLAGE HALL MONTHLY DRAW FEBRUARY
£25 No 90 Mrs H Marsden
£10 No 24 Mrs H Greenslade 40 Newlands Cres
£5 No 133 Mrs M Skeggs Maythorne, Cheats Rd

The March **BINGO** will be on **Wednesday 9 th**. Doors open at 7pm and its **EYES DOWN** at 7.30pm. The **SNOWBALL** is now £40. (Please note all participants must be over 16 years of age).

The March **WHIST DRIVE** is on **March 23rd**. Doors open at 7pm and play commences at 7.30pm.

Many thanks to all who supported and helped at our **JUMBLE SALE and AUCTION** we made just over £600. Liz is prepared to store a limited amount of jumble for the next sale which is in May. Liz (443369).

The **March Health Walks.** These will be on **Weds 2nd** at 10.30 from Creech Canal car park, and one on **Weds 16th** from Ruishton Village Hall car park. Walks are up to 1.5 hours in duration. Dogs are welcome but must be kept on leads. **NB There will an extra short walk (about 25 minutes) on Wednesday, March 23rd starting from Creech Village Hall car park** For more information please ring Pat Pike on 442609 or Andy Smith on 444815 .

Tap Dancing in the Village Hall on Mondays 8pm to 9pm. Adult beginners. Learn the basics of Tap Dancing whilst having fun and exercising. Phone Julie on 07977272681 or just turn up!

Ruishton Carpet Bowls Club: Congratulations to our Singles Competition Club Winners, & Runners Up. **Ladies Winner:** June Fogwill, Runner up Beryl Brown. **Mens Winner:** Ray Broomfield, Runner up Chris Foukes. Our next club competition for mixed doubles will be on 2nd April 2016.
We meet at Ruishton Village Hall, on Friday Afternoons 2pm - 4pm. (We are still unable to take more members on this day at present as we are at full capacity on all 3 mats.) However New Members are still very welcome to join when we meet, and play on Tuesday Evenings 7pm - 9pm .
For further information Phone Mavis Skeggs 01823 442427 (Treasurer) or Derek Garrett 01823 442876 (Chairman)

There will be a **PRODUCE MARKET** in Ruishton Village Hall is on Saturday **27th March**, it will run from 10.00 - 12.00. We have a Butchers, Bakery, Fruit & Vegetables, Homemade Cakes and we are also doing Breakfasts and Refreshments. If you think you have something to offer the Produce Market and would like a stall, please give me a call. Jane 01823 443350 or email janesheavenlytiaras@hotmail.com

Flower Show – 16th July The Flower Show committee would like to thank everyone who came to hear a talk on Liqueur Making. The support for this event, organised in conjunction with Taunton Amateur Country Winemakers Circle, was such that the Village Hall was packed. To support this interest a new class "Any other home-made Liqueur" has been added to this year's Show to run alongside the existing home-made Fruit Liqueur and "Sloe Gin classes. We are looking forward to some interesting liqueurs this year!
Planning for this year's Flower Show is well underway and the new subjects for the Photography classes are "Pampered Pets" and "A travel/holiday experience". Plus exciting new classes have been introduced which will be announced in future Newsletters.
We are running the popular 'Potato in a bucket class again, and this year we have a supply of early cropping seed potatoes – or you can grow your own variety. Seed potatoes can be obtained from Lilian or Mike (13 Lawn Meadow) 10p each, this also covers your entry fee. *Mike Marshall (Chairman)*

See page 3 for more information on Village Day

Litter: We are very grateful to everyone who picks up litter in Ruishton particularly to the two volunteer gentlemen who pick up in Ruishton Lane and Cheats Road and around the village hall.

For all bookings and enquiries regarding the Village Hall, please contact Chris on 07958574905

ALL ITEMS FOR THE APRIL 2016 newsletter should be delivered to the Editor, Liz Harper, Marl Bank, Bushy Cross Lane, Ruishton (443369) NO LATER THAN Tuesday 15th March 2016, or e-mail ruishton_magazine@hotmail.com

LADIES COFFEE CLUB We meet this month on **Monday 14th March at 2.30pm** at Janet's house. Sally McEwen 442733.

RATS (Ruishton Artists in TexStyles) We are a group of craft enthusiasts who work with fabric and thread. We are now meeting on the 3rd Mon of each month 10.00a.m. - 3.00p.m. in the VH committee room. For more information about our regular meetings ring Rosemary (442039).

TAUNTON & DISTRICT FRIENDSHIP CLUB We are a club offering a wide range of social activities for the over 50s, so why not come along and try us out at our next meeting from 2-4 on **Thursday 17thMarch**. For more information contact Sally (442733).

RUISHTON BOOK CLUB 'The Snow Child' by Eowyn Ivey was worthy to go on many of our all time favourite book lists. Set in Alaska in the 1920s the book was full of wonderful descriptions with a magical storyline. Moriarty by Antony Horowitz will be a great contrast for next month. If you would like to join us we meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10.30. Please phone Viv Streeter 443103.

Taunton Amateur Country Winemakers Circle meet in the committee room at the Village Hall on the 2nd Tuesday . For further information please contact Peter on 251110 or Jean on 256265.

Ruishton Coffee Stop meets every Tuesdays between 9.45 and 11.15 in the Church meeting room, come along and join us for 10 minutes or 90 minutes all are welcome. Phone Liz 443369 if you want more details.

The Ruishton Inn The Ruishton Inn would like to Thank everyone who took part in the World's Biggest Quiz and thank the people who donated raffle prizes. We had 49 people taking part in the Quiz and raised a total of £270.02 for St Margaret's Hospice.

THE RUISHTON INN Tel:442285



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PS 2631 - Huw Jenkins – 07889 657890
PC 1146 - Maria Jennings – 07889 658000
PCSO 8784 - Lynsey Gamblin – 07889 655212
PCSO 9981 – Steve Chapman – 07889 655196
If it is an emergency and you need an immediate response please telephone 999. If you wish to report a crime or for any non emergency calls please telephone 101. Please do not report crimes on officers' mobile phones.

RUISHTON GUIDING
If you wish to put your daughter's name on any of the waiting lists please contact: Guides Cath Ellis (442398), Brownies Cathy Jones (443160), Rainbows Cath Ellis (442398)

Taunton Mobile Library calls at Dinhams Farm Corner once every 4 weeks from **9.15 to 9.25**. Next visit **Wednesday March 3rd.**



In stitches @ St George's will next meet from **10 – 12 am on Friday 11th March**, in the Ruishton Church meeting room. This month Sonia will be giving us another crotchet lesson. If you enjoy knitting or crotchet or would like to learn how, then we would love to see you. Muriel Coles 443019

Guides, Brownies and Rainbows

Since returning to Brownies in January we have been doing the Brownie Hostess badge which they completed by serving tea, coffee and cakes to the Brownie parents at a Brownies have got Talent evening where 3 new girls made their promise. Ruishton Guides have done various activities since the New Year including making sock puppets and salt dough. Outside the meeting place they did the Taunton trail and went swimming.Rainbows, Brownies and Guides will all be going to the CARDS pantomime during half term week. If you wish to put your daughter's name on any of the waiting lists please contact: Guides Cath Ellis (442398), Brownies Cathy Jones (443160), Rainbows Cath Ellis (442398)

Ruishton Village Day July 16th. Last year we had many helpers, setting up, manning gates and carparks and helping to take down at the end, for this we thank you, we need helpers for 2016 please help us again if you can and anyone else who is willing come down as well. We have enough monies to cover the show for 2016 due to everyone's generosity in 2015. If anyone would like to see a copy of our accounts for 2015 please ring me. Our thanks to the Parish Council for allowing us to use the recreation field this year and their help towards insurance costs etc. 3 enquiries have been received for new stalls this year , if you would like one get in touch. If you had a stall last year you will get a form in May. Special thanks to our sponsors Roy Bulgin Ruishton and The Carpet Shed Ilminster. J Elston 442568.

Ruishton Companion Dog Show 16th July 2016. Good news Diane Swales has confirmed that the Taunton and District Canine Association have agreed to help us run the Dog Show. Schedules will be available later. Jenny Sweet (JENTERISE) will be judge this year, its nice that Jenny helped Bob Wine in the early days so we will be pleased to see her again. Special thanks to our sponsors Hannah's Hairlines Salon, Ruishton also Craig of Western Fuel Supplies Bridgwater. J Elston 442568.

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RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL

VILLAGE AGENT

Village Agents work with all ages dealing with a wide variety of issues. Helping to solve these problems may, ultimately, help the elderly to remain living independently for longer. Village Agents also have the role of helping to shape services by feeding back to the appropriate body information about gaps in service e.g. transport provision. They can also motivate and support a community to respond to a local need by working together to address issues e.g. by helping them to set up a coffee morning for a group of lonely people or start a volunteer car scheme

Audrey Mansfield, the Village Agent for Ruishton & Thornfalcon parish has been on this post for 3 years. Her main role is to help with all ages dealing with a wide variety of issues, although a considerable number of their clients are elderly and involves social care issues and those who are isolated. Audrey outlined a few examples where she has helped parishioners in this parish.
The Chairman thanked Audrey for attending the February meeting and the Council will promote the service where it can to the parishioners.
You can contact Audrey on: Mobile 07870577925; Email:www.somersetrcc.org.uk; Web: www.somersetrcc.org.uk

20MPH SPEED LIMIT - UPDATE

The Council has investigated the process for a 20mph scheme at Newlands Grove, Newlands Road, Newlands Crescent and Lawn Meadow as well as researching other measures. The process was for the County Councillor to lead the scheme and put it forward as a Small Improvements Scheme. County Councillor Ross Henley informed the Council that the first step for a 20mph zone would be a traffic survey to see how many cars were travelling over 20mph and he agreed to have this arranged.
The Chairman and Vice Chairman had a meeting with the School which was also attended by two PCSO's. The School's concern is the lack of parking which results in dangerous situation at the School's opening and closing times with parents trying to find a place to park especially when they have to use the reserve gear. There are 175 children at the school which 48% live outside the area.
Our current PCSO will be leaving Avon and Somerset Constabulary at the end of February after 10 years of service. PSCO 8466 Eamonn Leniston and PCSO 8412 Claire Escott will be covering this Beat. The Beat Manager will be PC2898 Dean Chedzoy

CHANGES IN THE BEAT TEAM FOR RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor Ross Henley reported on the following at the February meeting:

- He visited the Mobile Library and met a number of parishioners. He hopes to keep promoting the service and to get the school involved.
- He is appalled on the state of some of the pavements in parts the village and he will keep onto Highways to repair.

Somerset County Council has increased the Council Tax by 5.24% for 2016/17 which is the highest in the country of any County Council. Part of this rise is for the River's Authority to pay for the costs of flooding in the Somerset Levels two years ago and to pay for the alleviation of flooding. He will campaign for this money to be allocated across the board to other areas that suffer with flooding.

A303/A358 CORRIDOR PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENTS

These events will take place in late February at various locations which will be open to the public between 13.00 – 20.00 during which Highway England Staff will be available for people to talk to and ask questions. The nearest event for this parish is on:
26 February 2016 – Creative Innovation Centre CIC, Taunton & Tesco Superstore, Castle Street, Taunton.

DATE OF THE SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR 2016

2.3.16	6.4.15	4.5.16	1.6.16	6.7.16	3.8.16
7.9.16	5.10.16	2.11.16	7.12.16		

Council Meetings commence at 7.30pm (unless otherwise stated) and are held in Ruishton Village Hall. There is an opportunity at 7.30pm for the public to make comments or ask questions. A full set of minutes can be seen our website at www.ruishton.org.uk.com.

Parish Clerk: Mrs Heather Bryant, Northay House, Northay, Chard. TA20 3DN. Tel: 01460 234770. Email: ruishtonpc@gmail.com

Message from the Chairman of the Parish Council Doug Lowe.

I thought it would be good to highlight some information for parishioners.

I think we must all thank everyone who helped on the weekend of the 5th to 8th February with the flooding in the Parish with their time spent on protecting the parish.

The Parish council will be arranging a meeting with all the agencies involved to see what more can be done to protect Ruishton. There was no flooding in Lower Henlade , so the work SCC did last year has helped. At the moment "Operation Gannex " flood team in Ruishton are short of people to help….. could you?

Highways England are planning several public information events along the A303/A358 corridor in late February to raise awareness of their plans for the route and provide local stakeholders and communities with an opportunity to give their initial feedback. These information events will also lay the foundations for future consultations on the three major improvements that we are developing for the route.

They will be holding a series of events on the following dates at these local venues:
25 February 2016 – The Monks Yard, Ilminster
26 February 2016 – Creative Innovation Centre CIC Taunton and at Tesco Superstore, Castle Street, Taunton.

The events will be open to the public from 13:000 until 20:00 during which Highways England staff will be available for people to talk to and ask questions.

We have asked our County Councillor Ross Henley to see if we could get some improvements to Ruishton Lane under small schemes , Mike Marshall and myself walked the road with him to point out the problems and dangers faced by pedestrians along the road. With increased traffic using Ruishton Lane to get onto the A358 we wish to make it safer for all users.

We have also asked Ross to arrange some speed checks on roads around the school which would be the start of the process to introducing a 20mph zone. Depending on the results Somerset County Council highways would consider it and ask the police traffic team for comments.

At our last Parish council meeting Ross was going to try to get a grant so the parish council could run a First Aid course in the village through St Johns Ambulance.

As you may have seen in the newsletter last month the Parish Council believes it would be of benefit to the community of Ruishton, Henlade and Thornfalcon to produce our own Neighbourhood Plan. We have had some offers of help and are seeking others to contribute. Change is inevitable with the improvements to the A358 and further pressure for houses.

What benefits to the community do we want to see in the next 20 years; more play-space, walking and cycling routes, shops, school/nursery provision, community buildings, allotments, homes for local people? Unless we take the initiative change will be imposed on us as has happened elsewhere in Taunton Deane.

The Neighbourhood Plan is the way in which we can influence our community's future.

A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WOULD GIVE EVERYONE IN THE PARISH A SAY IN WHAT THEY WANT TO HAPPEN IN THEIR COMMUNITY !!

Doug Lowe