



Issue 39 April/May 2005

With spring comes news of a real challenge that could impact massively on rural areas. First signs were notices on Campden Lane & Whitehall/Puckham showing applications to open these lanes to all motor vehicles.

These applications are in anticipation of a law change on "Roads Used as Public Paths" to ban motor vehicles (except legitimate access). Details on back page.

Compliments to Glos County Council for their failure to forewarn Parish Councils!

Time to contact both your MP and your County Councillor?

Bill & Anne Jenkin: 820338

Email: villive@sevenhampton.info

Notice Boards

A reminder about who has keys to the various notice-boards around the parish. If you want to publicise something please use these boards rather than fly-posting on telegraph poles which is unsightly and illegal.

Brockhampton Bus Shelter - keys held by Ann vanRossem (the Old Shop), Val Smith (Gassons Farm) & Georgina Oldham

Sevenhampton Green - keys held by Gill Hyatt (no 52, Sevenhampton)

The Church notice board is for Church & Parish matters only, the Churchwarden is Gill Hyatt (see above).

The Rhodes Hall notice board is the responsibility of the Hall trustees, however suitable notices may be left with Clem Holland (Wood View).



Gardening Club UPPER QUARRY GARDENS OPEN DAY

Saturday 7th May

2:00pm

Some gardens at
Upper Quarry (top of Brockhampton) will
be open.

Teas & Refreshments will be served.

Details Carol Cann 820649

AGM on 20th April - see notice on back page

LIVE

Published for the residents of Sevenhampton
and Brockhampton, Gloucestershire.
Sponsored by Sevenhampton Parish Council

Fancy a bit of Tulipomania?

The WI would like to invite you to
join their trip to Dryham Park on
Monday 18th April 2005.

A European obsession with tulips
which dates back to the seventeenth
century will take centre stage as the Na-
tional Trust holds a five-day festival to cele-
brate the flower and its role in history.

'Tulipomania' features a colourful programme of spe-
cial events linked to tulips. The house and church will
both be decorated with flowers and the Trust is planning
to extend the activities to the gardens. Dyrham was fur-
nished in the fashionable Dutch style brought to Britain
by William of Orange, and visitors can still enjoy the
Dutch furnishings, textiles, paintings and Delftware.

The coach will leave the top of the village at
10am. Take a packed lunch or you can buy lunch
there. Cost to National Trust members is £12.50
Non members £20, this includes afternoon tea at
Avening on the way home.

For further details contact Georgina on 820423
or Lesley Ball on 820613

Meeting dislikes fly posting, fly tipping, abuse of tracks

The matter which was of most concern to those present at the annual parish meeting on 30th March was the **proposal to open up two of our local tracks to all vehicles** (see back page). The increasing use of these routes by vehicles was already a problem. The meeting proposed that the Parish Council should take legal advice on the best way of opposing the move before taking any other steps.

The meeting also raised the problem of **fly-tipping in Granna Lane** and the **amount of fly-posting** around the village. It was pointed out that fly-posting was untidy and illegal. Later the PC decided to write to the fly-posters (including the Police, who advertised the mobile police station by fly-posting) and ask them to remove the notices. If you want to put up a notice please use the notice boards. (for details about who has keys to the boards see left).

Also discussed - **affordable housing** (nothing further to report).

Dumped cars at Chapel Cottages - the PC is to investigate this further.

The flooding at Perch Pool which can be a danger particularly when it freezes over - the PC will write to the highways dept.

Next Parish Council meeting : Wed 25th May 2005 in the Reading Room

Coffee Morning

with Cakes, Plants & Produce Stalls
(contributions gratefully received).

Thursday 19th May
Rhodes Memorial Hall
10:30am

Proceeds to Church Funds

This event has moved from Ascension Day because the General Election is to be held that day (5th May). Church Services will be held on Ascension day as usual - details in The Colnrivergroup magazine.

More Information from
Gill Hyatt 820458 or
Clem Holland 820318.



Book Launch

Chris Haslam

will be launching his novel
**'IN THE LOST BOYHOOD
OF JUDAS'**

on Sunday May 1st
at 12:30pm
in the

Rhodes Memorial Hall,
Brockhampton
Drinks & Nibbles
All Welcome!



Do we want this...



Campden Lane near Elsdown Barn

to look like this?



Unrestricted Access?

Threat to local walking routes

THE BACKGROUND - Complicated but worth studying!

THE PROBLEM

The growing use of tracks & lanes by motor vehicles including 4x4s, trail bikes and the many dumped and burnt stolen cars has caused a rethink of the law on access to some lanes & tracks.

Their usage is of concern to landowners, walkers, riders and residents because of the impact on both track surfaces and quiet enjoyment of the amenity.



Campden Lane notice

This has been exacerbated by debate on the status of RUPPs (Roads Used as Public Paths). It is the attempt to properly define their usage that has caused a national flurry of applications to change their designations one-by-one to BOATs (Byway Open to All

Traffic) by clubs promoting motor vehicle "off-roading".

These applications include those posted on two of our favourite local walks; Campden Lane and the track from Whitehall to Puckham Scrubs.

Perversely, Law Changes to clarify RUPP usage spawned these applications.

HOW IS LAW TO CHANGE?

Later this year all RUPPs will be redefined as 'Restricted Byways' which will leave them open to walkers, riders, cyclists & horse-drawn vehicles but not 'mechanically propelled vehicles'.

At the same time the Government is proposing that evidence that routes have historically been used by vehicles will no longer be accepted as a reason to change the status of the route to a BOAT (Byway Open to All Traffic).

Getting in under the wire

The large number of applications is a response by groups representing off-road motor 'recreation' enthusiasts to try to ensure that all possible claims are submitted before the law changes.

This means that these claims must be considered under the old (current) law and if it can be shown that the path has been used by vehicles (a horse & carriage 170 years ago), it will be deemed incorrectly identified on the 'definitive map' and so should be marked as a 'byway open to all traffic' (BOAT). Thus the track will be open to all vehicles even pantechnicons if they can get there!.

CATCH 22

Sadly (& madly), under the old law decisions must be made without regard to:

- suitability of the track surface
- environmental impact or
- effect on other routes

In an AONB & Conservation Area like ours, this seems unbelievable and is why the law is changing - though not soon enough.

PROCEDURE

The procedure is lengthy (about 16 months) and can involve a public enquiry. A final decision may be made by the secretary of state.

What can we do about it?

1. **Write to the County Council** with your objections. The details* are given below.
2. **Sign the petition** (contact Liz Francis for details - 820 678).

Traffic Regulation Orders

Even if the re-designation to a BOAT does happen the County Council can still issue a 'traffic regulation order' which can again restrict the use of the tracks. This is another reason why it is important to make your views known to the County Council.

Parish Council to Act

The Parish Council will consider the situation and the best way to move forward including taking legal advice at its next meeting on

**Wed. 25th May 2005
at 7:30 pm in the Reading Room.**

*Write to: Sarah Ellis, Public Rights of Way Team, Gloucestershire County Council, Environment Department, Shire Hall, Gloucester GL1 2TH.
The Routes in Question are Sevenhampton PROW nos. 9 (Campden Lane) & 2 (Whitehall to Puckham).

Need help shopping?



Getting your prescription, getting to the doctor, taking your pet to the vet?

contact one of the co-ordinators.
**Sheila Agius 820102, Fay Swain 820402
Di Brown 820271**

Gardening Club

**The A.G.M will be held on
Wednesday 20th April 2005
at 7:30pm
in
Rhodes Memorial Hall
Brockhampton
all welcome**