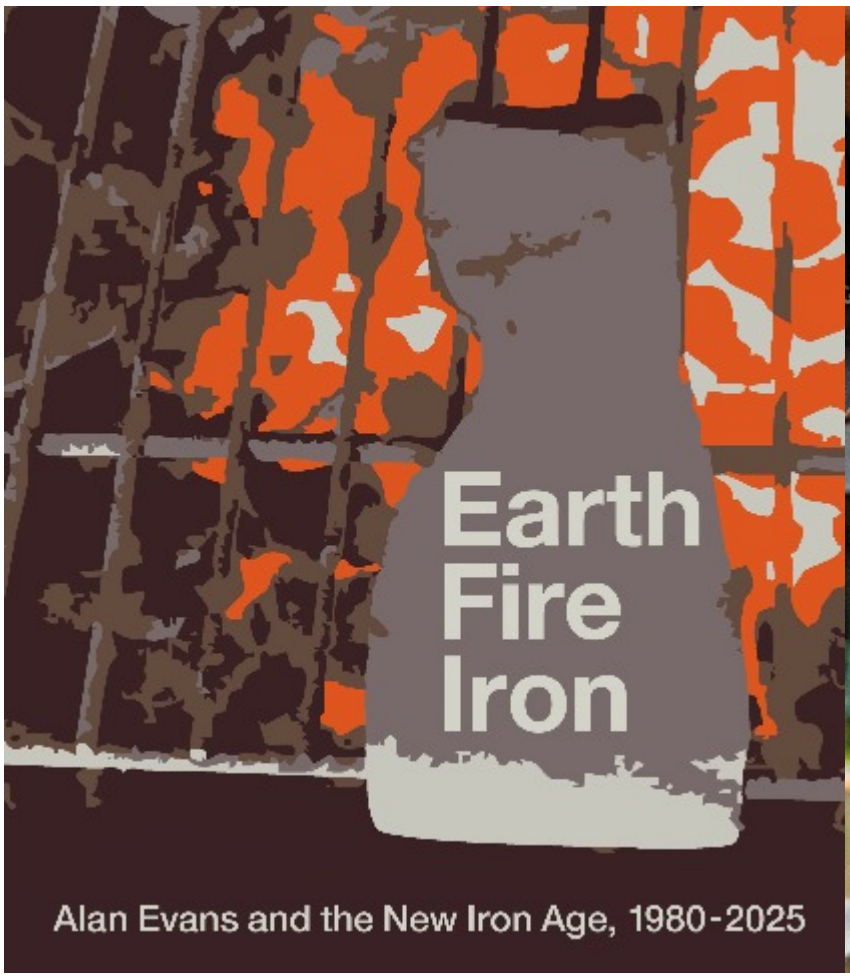
Award Winning

Parish Post

Miserden, Whiteway, The Camp
Sudgrove & Wishanger

Autumn 2025





Recently I was excited to attend the opening of the "Earth, Fire, Iron" exhibition at the Museum in the Park, Stroud – the event and exhibition were wonderful! I would recommend going to see it.

"Earth, Fire, Iron" celebrates the work of local artist-blacksmith Alan Evans, showing a large number of his works alongside those of his contemporaries and those influenced by him. Alan (1952-2023) grew up in Whiteway and worked here and later on in Catswood, Bisley. For an article on Alan's life and career see *Parish Post* Spring 2023.

A splendid selection of Alan's pieces are shown in the gallery at the Museum in the Park as well as in beautiful garden at the rear of the museum (the garden is well worth a visit in its own right). Alan's importance in the 20th century revival of artistic blacksmithing and in the British Artist Blacksmiths Association (BABA) is put in context with information panels and works by other blacksmiths.

Alongside is an exhibition "The Whiteway Artisans" telling the history of craft work in Whiteway and how it inspired Alan – with examples of work by Alan's parents, grandparents and other early Colonists.









The photographs alongside give you a flavour of the work displayed. Having an interest in music I was drawn to the musical sculpture "Ringing the changes" (opposite bottom right) which I had a go at playing using a handy beater (not normally provided) – luckily I hadn't read the programme notes for the exhibition at that point. Alan created the sculpture to be played by Dame Evelyn Glennie!

The exhibition is on until November 2nd and there are range of accompanying events at the museum and at other locations around Stroud including Ruskin Mill, Pangolin Designs, Hawkwood College and St Lawrence's Church. See the museum website (https://museuminthepark.org.uk/earth-fire-iron-alan-evans-and-the-new-iron-age) for details.

Now for a story most of which comes from Alan's widow Lesley but which I have continued: A couple of years ago Lesley gave me some tomato seedlings which I thought were labelled "BARA" (my misreading of BABA). I grew the tomatoes on, enjoyed their delicious flavour and saved some pips. I have grown these tomatoes every year since from the saved seed and most years I have seedlings to give away myself.

Eventually I asked Lesley where she got this tomato from. In 2007, four Israeli and two Palestinian blacksmiths stayed with Alan and Lesley on their way to the BABA conference in Ironbridge to build "The Pillar of Friendship" – a collaborative project. Uri Hofi, a blacksmith who died only a few weeks after Alan, brought the original seeds from his kibbutz and didn't know the name of the variety.

Alan and Lesley grew them ever since – they are a large tomato with unusual colouring and are brilliant slicing tomatoes. They are great grilled on bread with some oil and herbs, and make a very tasty sauce.

David Harris





Above and opposite: work by Alan Evans at the museum. Photos by James Whitestone



The "Pillar of Friendship" at the Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron, Ironbridge. Photo by Snapshooter46 (Creative Commons License)



MISERDEN

FIREWORK DISPLAY & BONFIRE

SATURDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2025

Gates 4.30pm — Display 7pm

Food stalls, refreshments, bar and disco, free parking

Gates open 4.30pm — Firework Display 7pm

Advanced online tickets: £10 Adult / £5 Under 16 / £25 Family of four / Under 2's go free

On The Door Tickets: £11 / £6 Under 16's / £28 Family of four / Under 2's go free

Helping to raise money for Miserden Primary School

Tickets at https://miserden.org/fireworks-2025



Working with Nature - part 2 gardening with Sue Spielberg

As promised in the summer edition of the Parish Post, I am returning with an update on how things progressed with our experimental 'polyculture bed' - which is a system of cultivating a range of crops in a given area rather than growing just one crop, more commonly known as a 'monoculture'.

Looking back at the sequence of photos I took during those last three months to illustrate this article provides a stark realisation of just how quickly space can change within that short time frame. All those unremarkable seedlings that I planted back in the middle of May, have grown with such vim and vigour that it's hard not to be impressed by their ebullience and zest for life.

Admittedly the recent growing season with its wet winter, warm spring and sunshine-filled summer days, has yielded bumper harvests all around, so maybe the results of this experiment aren't representative of a typical gardening year, but I have been pleasantly surprised by the outcome.

I loved watching it develop, partly because I enjoyed seeing what other opportunistic plants popped up - feverfew, Verbena 'Bampton', Verbena bonariensis, opium poppies and borage to name but a few. But I also relished the fact that I could allow this free-for-all to just get on with it, without becoming a slave to weeding out the plants that should not have been there, as is the case with most traditional vegetable gardens where the crops are grown in regimented rows with bare soil in between. This hands-off way of gardening definitely suits anyone who is time poor, or frankly anyone who can think of a hundred and one things they would rather do other than weeding!

If the audible hum and the frenetic activity of bees, wasps, hoverflies and ladybirds is anything to go by, the insects have appreciated this happy jumble of plants as much as we have. It is particularly gratifying to see such biodiversity in the garden particularly when modern farming methods have generally been detrimental to nature in the fields around us. More insects mean better pollination for many of the fruit and vegetables we depend upon, as well as maintaining a healthy balanced ecosystem, by providing natural pest control and supporting birds and animals higher up the food chain.

Of course it hasn't all been plain sailing. While some of the courgettes, outdoor tomatoes and runner beans have thrived, others have been totally swamped by the rampant growth adjacent to them. For instance, leaving just one single self-sown borage plant in the middle of a wigwam I had made for climbing French beans was definitely a mistake I won't be repeating. Its growth far outstripped the more delicate bean plants, and by the time I realised, I would have done more damage trying to extricate it from inside the supporting stick structure, and anyway the local







Views at mid June (top left), mid July (top right) and mid September (bottom left)

bumble bee population was enjoying its nectar-rich flowers far too much.

Interestingly the mound of spent forget-me-nots that I piled up and planted with a winter squash was extremely effective. As the heap rotted down over the summer, it seemed to provide the squash with enough nutrients to grow away happily until all the vegetation had been recycled back into the soil, curiously leaving the exposed roots of the squash on the surface of the ground where the vegetation had rotted away. But that didn't matter by this stage because it had completed its life cycle and provided us with two glossy orange fruits, just right for soup.

Encouragingly the soil beneath the ex mound was noticeably darker, more crumbly and teeming with worms. I'm now considering trying this on a larger scale so that when it is time to clear away all the spent flower and vegetable plants, I simply 'chop and drop' the leafy vegetation so that it rots back down in situ to protect and feed the soil over winter.

So to conclude, I will definitely continue to practice polyculture in this area of the garden, but will further hone the range of vegetables at ground level. Larger leafy crops such as perpetual





spinach, as well as early potatoes and perennial vegetables like asparagus and Jerusalem artichokes would all be strong enough to compete with surrounding flower growth and strike the right balance.

I will also make better use of vertical growing space by prioritising the climbing beans and nurturing the winter squash supported on wigwams and arches.

It is also worth remembering that although polyculture is a low maintenance way of growing vegetables, it certainly does not mean no maintenance. Knowing when to intervene and remove a plant is just as important as leaving things alone.





Views at early June (top left), early August (top right) and early September (bottom right)

Whiteway Fete and Dog Show
by Claire Coles-Jones









Sunday the 7th October, 9.30am. Myself and the tiny (but mighty) team of volunteers from Whiteway, were stood out in what could only be described as as a deluge of rain. 'It's just a shower, it's just a shower, it's just a shower' I repeated over and over in my head. Well. It really wasn't. The next few hours during the set up were punctuated by deep rumblings of thunder, interspersed with cracks of impressive forked lightening which lit up the whole sky, with constant hammering rain. In true British style we grimly carried on, periodically shouting to each other 'it's due to clear up by this afternoon!' and muttering unconvincingly 'it's brightening up!'

But - as luck would have it - it actually did! Resilient stallholders gave a big sigh of relief, as did all the volunteers. As it warmed up, the clouds parted and even the sun made an appearance. And then - the people came! Slowly but surely, the field began to fill up.

The Made in Whiteway stall was full of fantastic things made by the Colonists, ranging from delicious homemade sweets, jams and chutneys, to beautifully wood turned candle holders, hand crafted bird boxes, cushions, knitted items, cards, fabric bags to name a few.

Sue and Richard had a wonderful 'Grown in Whiteway' stall (which was the only stall to benefit

from the downpours!) - a huge amount of healthy, beautiful plants ready for their new homes.

Bric-a-brac was back this year too, and Mary & Les had an enormous amount of bargains to be bought. They wisely set up the stall under the veranda of the Colony Hall, thus avoiding having to try and cover up all the items in the lashing rain.

We had numerous stalls this year, with a few new ones including Bisley Birds, the rare breed Guernsey Goats to look at, and a couple of new games - Hook a Duck and Splat the Rat. Splat the Rat was particularly popular - mainly because it was SO difficult!

The afternoon was a huge success and it stayed dry. Delicious food was cooked on an Argentinian BBQ (which was made by Barney Yendall), BBQ & Bar volunteers were kept busy, and the tea & homemade cake tent also saw a steady stream of visitors all afternoon.

Entertainment was provided by The Gloucestershire Morris men & women, live music from Susie & The Banjos, and the Dog Show, and this helped to add to the lovely atmosphere of this wonderful traditional Fete.

Many thanks to the locals for their support - Miserden School, Sue & Aubrey Andrews for lending us the hurdles every year, and thanks to the local businesses for generously donating Raffle prizes - The Carpenters Arms, Miserden Estate, The Fostons Ash, Ruby's, Miserden Shop & Post Office, (to name the most local) and thanks to those who donated some lovely bottles of Aqua Vitae!

But the biggest thanks go the incredible tiny team that pulls it all together every year. They are the ones that put up and take down the tents, the fencing, the bunting, control the parking, sort the floats, bake the cakes, shop for the teas, do the washing up, order the loos, shop, cook and serve on the BBQ, run the bar, run the tea tent, run the stalls, sit on the gate, provide the history stall, source the musicians - the list is endless and I know I will have forgotten something! Dingus Hussey must have a mention, as he is the one who de-signed the brilliant signs & posters that you will have seen around. A fabulous day, despite the wet start. Will we do it all again next year? Probably! The date will be Sunday 6th September.









Miserden Texels
by Sue Andrews

By the time this comes out in print in September we will probably be paddling round in wellies and full waterproofs, wondering where summer went, but what a fantastic summer we have had. Weather that brought back memories of childhood summers, where we played outside all day, every day. Only when we were hungry did we go home.

Who needed iPhones or similar. We played with and talked to our friends. A blanket on the garden wall and a piece of string tied to the gatepost became a pony's saddle and bridle where hours could be spent on imaginary adventures, I must be getting old, but I do feel so many children, even locally with the freedom of the countryside, are missing so much these days.

On to more serious stuff. While the weather has brought us the most fantastic summer, for farmers the weather has been pretty drastic. While the general public look no further than the grass verges, that are still amazingly green, the dry weather has burnt up most of our grass and we are feeding sheep expensive concentrates as well as last years hay, with none cut this year.

We aren't as badly off as some, still having some forage left from last year, but normally the barn would be full of this years hay. Cereal farmers have far lighter crops, little or no straw and at the moment there seems no point in drilling any crops for next year as without some substantial rain nothing will grow.

Dairy farmers are already feeding this years early silage and wondering what the cows will survive on over the winter. The year is being compared to 1976, but really it is far worse. While we then had a heatwave for sixteen consecutive days from mid June to the end of August, there was rain in May and although grassland looked burnt off, I don't think crops were as severely damaged as they have been this year.

But our weather is now so fickle. Last winter was horrendous for stock. From October to the 13th February this year the rain kept coming. Our sheep looked permanently miserable and some were actually doing breast stroke around parts of their fields. We gave a sigh of relief when the rain stopped, as lambing was due to start on the 23rd, and after lambing indoors to avoid the crows that can peck the eyes out of new born lambs, we were then able to turn sheep out almost immediately after lambs were born.

We had set the timing for two weeks later than the previous year as bad weather had forced us to keep ewes and lambs indoors for so long in



February 2024. Little were we to know that February 13th was the last time we'd see any substantial rain in this area throughout 2025 to date. Yes, we had a weekend with 8ml dropped and two or three times we've seen 2-3ml of rain, when Gloucester and Stroud have had deluges. The small storms we've had have freshened the grass for the following few hours until the steam rose as the day warms up.

On the top here we do appear to have our own weather system. We are now being warned to anticipate severe disruption from the remains of Hurricane Erin, but when you look closely at the weather maps we could miss it completely. Wales and the Midlands look destined to be wet, but please let the weather front slip our way.

As September approaches, so do pedigree sales and our final show at Moreton in the Marsh. It would be good if the sun was out that day. Considering the conditions our sheep look great. Stock always appreciates dry weather but we are still amazed at what they find to chew on.

Now in September and the rain has arrived! Our fields honestly looked overnight as though they had been fast forwarded in film, the brilliant green showing through long dead grass and even better where fields were mowed. It's not going to be an overnight change for the stock but certainly an improvement.

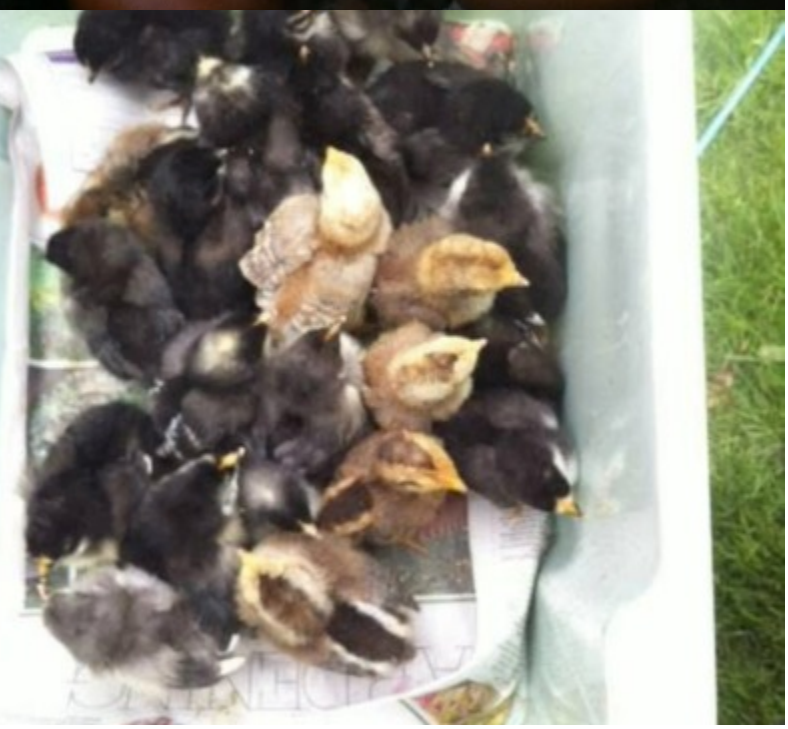
And yes, we did still manage to have a beautiful day for Moreton show, where all five of our sheep gained rosettes (see picture of Aub below)





Pets Corner - Life with chickens by Claire Coles-Jones





I miss my chickens. Despite the fact that they ate my plants, laid eggs all over the place (we loved to let them really properly free range - it comes at a price!) There are a few that really stick in my mind.

Our first venture into chickens, was a batch of 'hatching eggs' from eBay. We had an incubator, and in went the eggs. The children were young, and the process fascinated them (and me too!). It was a gamble as to whether the eggs were fertile.

The day came when we had to 'candle' them - to use a torch to see if we could see any of the signs that the eggs were going to develop into chicks. Sure enough, we saw the red blood vessels highlighted by the torch. So now we had to follow the rules of home incubation. To be honest, my memory is a little hazy, but I remember a cross on one 'side' of all the eggs. This meant we knew which way to turn the eggs every day - something that the mother hen would do naturally.

Anyway a long story short and they hatched! We taught them to scratch and feed on the special chick crumbs that we gave them. Over the coming days and weeks we worked out the ratio of cockerels to hens. It wasn't brilliant (it never is!) As they grew older, they left our kitchen (and the added risk of being eaten by our cats!) and went into a safe pen outside. Eventually we ended up with a beautiful variety of hens.

We kept one of the cockerels, and named him Ebay. He was the calmest most handsome cockerel that we had over the years. Ebay used to take his ladies everywhere. We stopped keeping them in the run fairly quickly, as the pleasure in seeing them living their best lives in our garden and in the neighbouring fields outweighed the damage that they did to the flowers that I lovingly planted.

In fact the trough in the front of our house was a favourite place of theirs. I would be lulled into a false sense of security that they were, this time, going to leave the nearly grown flowers alone. Surely, surely the acres of fields behind the house, and indeed the large back garden would be enough to keep them away from the trough? Nope. It never was. Every year I'd plant it up, and every year, they'd trash it.



Ebay used to take his girls off every morning, down the garden, over the wall, and into the field behind the house. They'd make their way along the hedgerow, enjoying the variety of food available to them. And every morning, en route, one of the girls would stop to lay her egg in the hollowed out trunk of the yew tree that grew up through the Cotswold stone wall. It seemed like the perfect place to lay an egg - the view from the nest was absolutely beautiful!

Ebay was always gentle, and the children were perfectly safe amongst him and his ladies. Unlike his successors...George, a bantam cockerel , re-placed Ebay. He was noisy, grumpy and constantly harassing the (much bigger than him!) girls. He was fiercely protective of them too, but as long as we kept a healthy distance away from his ladies, he left us alone. He unfortunately succumbed to a fox, but his genes had already been passed down to a batch of chicks.



In that batch was a little black, grey and white cockerel. This young cockerel grew up to be a formidable bantam cross. What he lacked in size, he made up for it with attitude and raging hormones. Georgeson (see what we did there?!) was feathery ball of fury, constantly checking in on the girls, rounding them up, shouting at them when he found something for them to eat. He did his job well, if a little too enthusiastically. But he was also not to be trusted, and we gave him a wide



berth, as ankles were constantly at risk from his sharp spurs (thick claws on the back of his legs, which cockerels use to attack/defend)

However. The biggest, and most furious of cockerels was Georgeson's successor. We had a largeish flock and a friend was looking to rehome her cockerel because he was very noisy. We lived in Wishanger at this point, and our lovely friends & neighbours fortunately, didn't mind the noise (plus the supply of eggs was a sweetener!). So we went over, in the dark, to collect him. He was a magnificent Buff Orpington cockeral, a HUGE chap, and was called...'Sir Cockalot' (see photo above)

Well. Our poor girls. Sir Cockalot was large, and very bossy. He came out of the hen house in the morning, and got straight to work, rounding them up, moving them around, and, well, basically mated with every single one of them! Over the coming days it became apparent that Sir Cockalot had rather a lot of testosterone. He was constantly stressed and angry, as the girls were used to roaming around far and wide, not afraid of us, the cats or any visitors.

One afternoon I was in the house upstairs. It was a beautiful day, and alongside our house was a footpath. I was suddenly alerted to high pitched screams, shouting and a lot of hysterical laughing...I rushed to the window, to see Sir Cockalot scattering a large group of Scouts up the footpath and into the field - he wasn't satisfied until they had gone far away. I kept a low profile and made a note to make sure the gate to the footpath was firmly closed.

But his final moment of territorial fury was one too many. I had parked the car at the front of the house, and the children had got out and were stood on the footpath. Out of nowhere came Sir Cockalot - a feathery, 40cm 4.5kg testosterone-fueled angry cockerel. He launched at my bare legs spurs first, and no amount of shouting or bopping on the head with a flip flop (don't ask) did anything - it just made him even crosser! I was slightly hysterical myself - laughing but also slightly terrified that he was going to finish me off and move on to the children!

I backed away into the drive, children crying, me bleeding. This was his final day with us, and our last ever day with a cockerel. Sir Cockalot was rehomed to an enormous breeding flock, where the new owner assured me that she was happy that he was so full of hormones - he had a job to do and he would be perfect! Our girls were much, much happier without a bossy cockerel around, and peace reigned once again in the garden. I miss having chickens. One day, I will get a few girls...but no boys. Definitely no boys.

Claire x

OUT OF CONTROL DOGS

Reports are reaching me of an aggressive dog, or dogs which are out of the owner's control and menacing users of the public rights of way around Lypiatt and Sudgrove.

These paths are well used, and it is simply not acceptable for anyone, perhaps with their own controlled dog or a child to be threatened by an animal which is not under the control of its owner.

May I ask anyone who reads this article to please ask themselves whether this could refer to their behaviour, or that of their own dog, and if it does to keep their dog on a lead before I have to report that someone has been hurt.

Martin Ractliffe

Parish Council News by Laura Cobb



Following the results of the **speed survey** conducted in The Camp, the next steps are to have a feasibility study undertaken by Highways to look at what speed reduction methods would be allowed, affective and cost effective.

Our District and County Councillor Gary Luff has also shared the results with Gloucestershire Police, who have started to undertake more enforcement through The Camp. We appreciate your patience and hope to be able to hold Public Consultation on the options available in a timely manner.

All District and Parish Councils have been invited to contact GCC with expressions of interest to reduce speed to 20mph through populated areas. MPC have expressed an interest in Whiteway, Miserden and The Camp, all which are currently at a speed of 30mph. We will update the Parish with any further correspondence regarding this matter. We believe it will be a long process with most villages and hamlets across the County applying.

Potholes can be an issue in our Parish, and MPC Councillors try to report as many as they can. But any person can report Highways issues such as pot-hole, flooding, trees down through www.fixmystreet.com

Highways have installed a new **drainage system** on the Miserden side of Bullbanks and are installing new drains in Miserden village centre due to flooding of properties. Highways will also carry out a study on the road at the top of Whiteway, outside of Claypiece field, to see if a drain would help manage water volumes the residents and highway users are experiencing through heavy rainfall surface wash off.

Highways are working to replace missing and damaged signs and finger posts too.

Our Parish is very fortunate to have a **Countryside Warden** called Nick Mann, who works closely with landowners and other bodies to ensure that our footpaths, bridleways and stiles are accessible and maintained. He is very much an unsung hero and works tirelessly behind the scenes. He is currently applying for a grant for a new kissing gate to be installed to replace the stile opposite the road entrance to Clements Farm near Whiteway. MPC would also like to thank all the landowners and volunteers who help keep our beautiful Parish accessible.

The **Parish Conservation Verge** is situated part of the way between Whiteway and Miserden. In the early summer Councillors Allin, Shields and Ractliffe replaced our Conservation Verge barriers, which are now more visible and sturdier. The Verge had become overgrown and unruly and, after a consultation with the Biodiversity Officer at SDC and some ecology volunteers, the Verge is on a schedule with Highways to be cut back, to allow new healthy growth. There are many interesting and key species in this Verge and we look forward to seeing what a more managed approach will bring.

MPC is continuing to work on an **Ash tree replacement** scheme, Trees For Gloucestershire. If you are a landowner who would like to be involved in the scheme or like any further information, please contact Councillor Cobb or the Parish Council.

We would like to finish by saying congratulations to the Whiteway Colony Fete organisers and volunteers, who held yet another successful Fete despite the very challenging weather conditions!

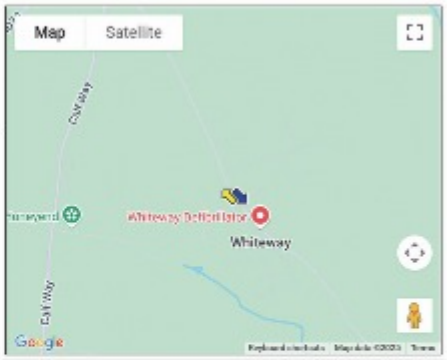
All further Parish information is on our website

Gloucestershire COUNTY COUNCIL
Road Safety and Transport Data Team

C191 Main Lane - Whiteway Site A

Grid Ref: 391841 210424 Site Ref: 000099186885

Survey Dates from 05/06/2025 to 11/06/2025



Introduction

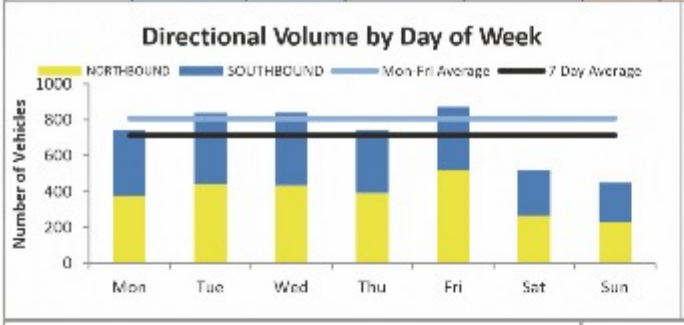
This survey was carried out by means of an automatic traffic counter connected to pneumatic tube sensors, attached to the carriageway surface. With a good road surface and careful installation a high degree of accuracy is possible. It is expected that traffic flows are within +/- 2% and speeds within +/- 3% overall. Surveys are carried out over a period of at least 7 days. These results have been averaged over a 7-day period.

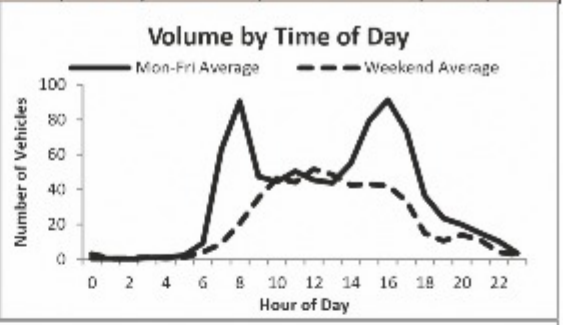
Mean Speed is the measurement used nationally in the assessment of speed limits. The 85%ile speed is the speed at or below which 85% of vehicles are travelling. All Speeds are given to the nearest mph.

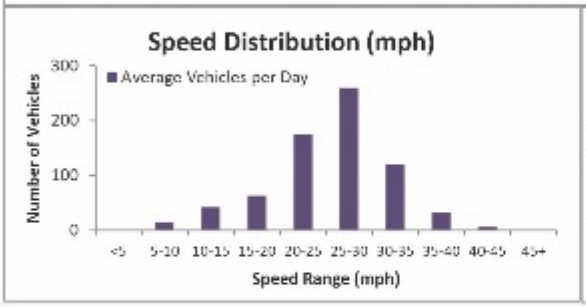
Traffic volumes are usually averaged over 24 hours and 7 days to reduce the effect of daily variations and give the best indication of overall traffic. In the table below, volumes are rounded to the nearest 10 vehicles, but individual classes are given to the nearest vehicle. Therefore some rounding differences may occur.

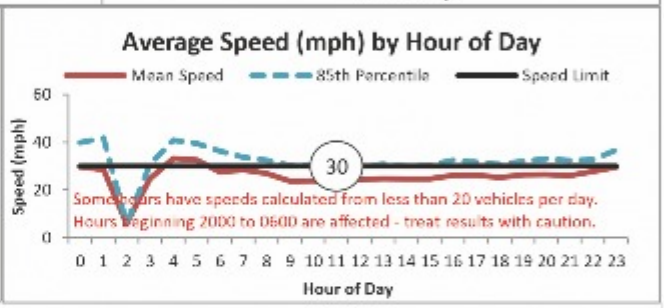
Summary of Results

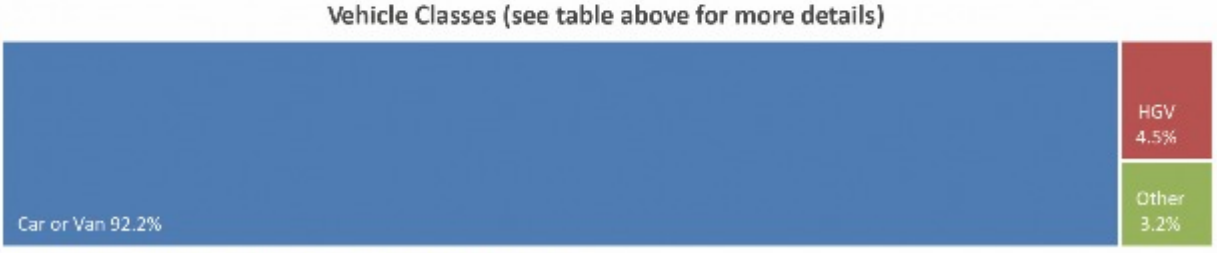
	Volume (All Vehicles)		24 hr Average Speed (mph)		7 day Average Vehicles by Class						
	7 day Ave	Mon-Fri Ave	Mean	85 %ile	Pedal Cycle	Motor Cycle	Car or Van	2 or 3 Axle Rigid Lorry	4 Axle Rigid or Articulated Lorry	Bus	Other
NORTHBOUND	380	430	26	32	5	6	351	14	3	0	1
SOUTHBOUND	330	370	26	32	5	5	307	13	3	0	1
Combined	710	810	26	32	9	12	658	27	5	1	1











Email: transportmonitoring@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Click here for Road Safety and Transport Data webpage

Produced on: 16/06/2025

Gloucestershire COUNTY COUNCIL

Road Safety and Transport Data Team

C199 Calf way - The Camp Site B

Grid Ref: 391234 209570 Site Ref: 000099186886

Survey Dates from 05/06/2025 to 11/06/2025

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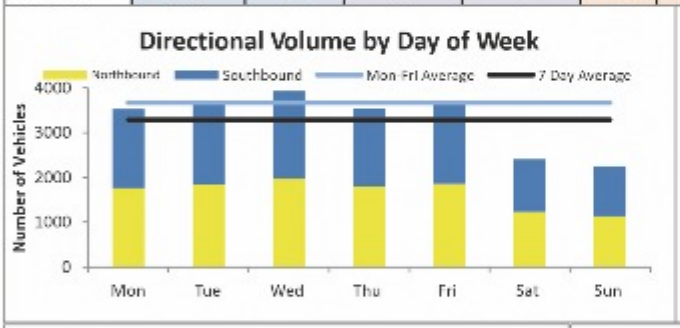
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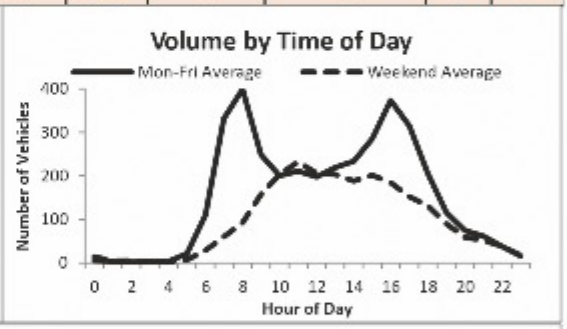


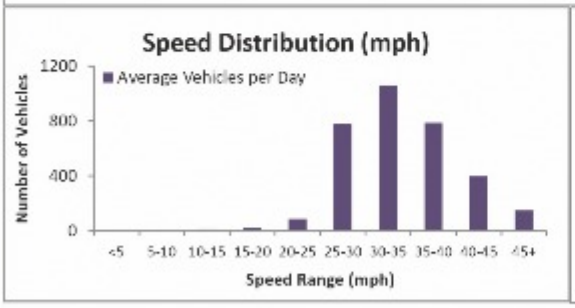
Traffic volumes are usually averaged over 24 hours and 7 days to reduce the effect of daily variations and give the best indication of overall traffic. In the table below, volumes are rounded to the nearest 10 vehicles, but individual classes are given to the nearest vehicle. Therefore some rounding differences may occur.

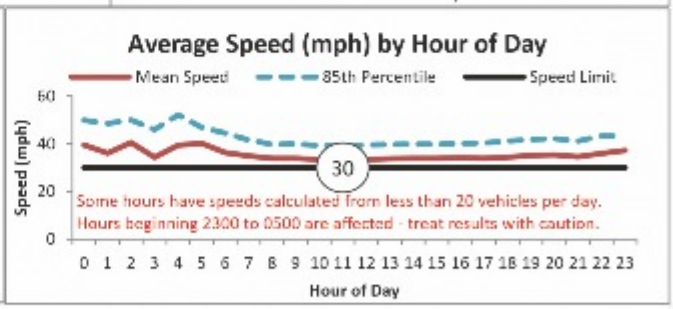
Summary of Results

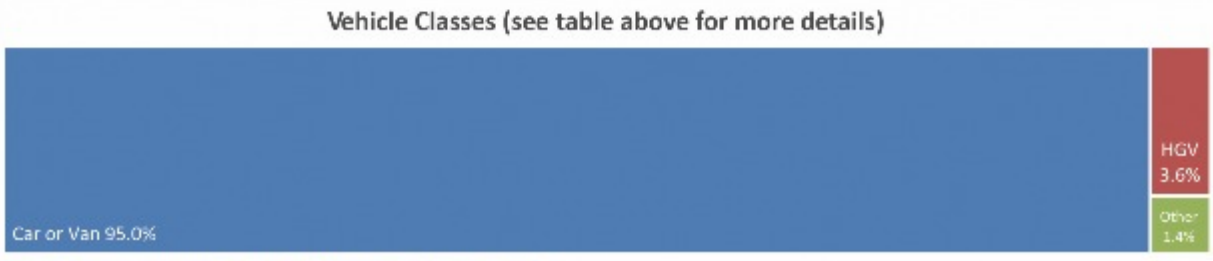
	Volume (All Vehicles)		24 hr Average Speed (mph)		7 day Average Vehicles by Class						
	7 day Ave	Mon-Fri Ave	Mean	85 %ile	Pedal Cycle	Motor Cycle	Car or Van	2 or 3 Axle Rigid Lorry	4 Axle Rigid or Articulated Lorry	Bus	Other
Northbound	1660	1850	35	41	6	14	1575	49	11	2	1
Southbound	1630	1830	34	40	5	13	1550	47	11	1	3
Combined	3290	3670	34	40	11	27	3125	96	22	3	5











Email: transportmonitoring@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Click here for Road Safety and Transport Data webpage

Produced on: 16/06/2025

County Council News by Gary Luff



County News

Following a visit by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMIC-FRS), the final cause for concern around promoting equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) at Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) has been lifted.

Gloucestershire County Council's Children's Services have been judged as 'Good' with some 'Outstanding' elements following its most recent Ofsted inspection. This represents a significant improvement since the last full inspection in 2022.

Gloucester Library

Gloucester Library will be relocating from its current premises on Brunswick Road to a brand new, state-of-the-art facility at the University of Gloucestershire - City Campus.

Local Government Reorganisation Update

A series of in-person engagement events were held over July and August which provided the opportunity for residents to raise questions and share views on devolution, Local Government Reorganisation, and the future of council services in Gloucestershire directly with councillors.

A survey through which residents could share their thoughts on how a unitary council – or councils – should be shaped was also circulated, receiving 3,112 responses. This information will be presented at full council in November where elected members will decide whether to submit a business case for one or for two unitary councils by the deadline in November.

The Minister for Housing, Communities & Local Government, Jim McMahon MP, has now been clearer about his intentions for LGR in relation to parish and town councils, in that:

• Government wants to "rewire the relationship between town and parish councils and principal Local Authorities, strengthening expectations on engagement and community voice", but "The government has no intention to require town and parish councils to deliver functions as part of local government reorganisation"

• "Town and parish councils are independent of local authorities"

• "We want to make sure that all local authorities have a way of working with people in their neighbourhoods, so they are not relying on town and parish councils to do it."

• The "neighbourhood governance structures" set up by new unitary authorities (which are intended to be local partnerships run by the unitary councillors for a group of unitary divisions, with devolved budgets and roles) may include representation from parish and town councils, and finally,

• That guidance will come forward (we've been told to expect it may be a year or so off unfortunately) and that "guidance will say how neighbourhood governance structures can work well with town and parish councils"

This represents quite a major change from our initial understanding of LGR, in that it's now clear Government do not see/want parish and town councils inheriting any significant roles from district councils. The fact that the guidance will not come out until after we have had to set up the neighbourhood governance is deeply unhelpful, but we will have to do our best with what we have. I am happy to go through it in more detail at a separate meeting if that is helpful.

Further work has been carried out in relation to locality arrangements and it is envisaged that neighbourhood area committees will be set up which will cover areas with populations of between 20,000and 50,000 people. These are likely to focus on market towns.

For more information, please visit the dedicated local government reorganisation site: https://futuregloucestershire.org.uk/

Stroud District Council is also involved in LGR and have expressed our preference that we join with the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) in the future.

Grassroots Community Fund It is likely that each council division will be allocated £20,000 over the next two years to support grassroots projects that improve health and well being, including tackling health inequalities within the division.

Roads

Please continue to use and promote the use of FixMyStreet to report issues on the roads. https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk/

Consultation on Community 20s and Safer Roads Initiatives Parishes and towns are being asked to express their interest on two issues:

1. Whether they would like any road in their area to be considered for 'Community 20s';

2. Whether there are other (higher speed) roads that would benefit from a reduction in speed limit.



Feedback is requested to be returned by 19th September with confirmation of the date and/or meeting at which the matter was considered.

Community Speedwatch

A site has been located for community speedwatch which means, subject to interest from local residents that training can be scheduled and speedwatch sessions can be undertaken. This normally take an hour or so and the worst offending vehicles are written to by the police. Repeat offenders may receive a visit from the police. Importantly speedwatch data is used to inform the police of the best locations for police enforcement.

Transport

Robin bookable transport A number of County Councillors from the Stroud District met with Gloucestershire County Council to request an extension of the Robin service (an on-demand service) to enable residents to be more mobile. Until that is up and running residents, who are able may be interested in the scheme below.

E-bikes Gloucestershire County Council is supporting the trialling of e-bikes, with a monthly rental which is returned in the form of a voucher for a local bike shop. If any residents are prevented by the cost please do let me know and I am sure that a work around can be achieved. Details are available at https://www.pedal-power.bike/

Do contact me any time on:
Gary.Luff@Gloucestershire.gov.uk

PARISH POST CONTACT DETAILS
parishpost@miserdenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Please could anyone intending to submit an article, advert or announcement to the Parish Post that is not a regular item, let the editor know as far in advance of the deadline as possible . The editor will acknowledge receipt of all articles, so if you do not hear back chase it up. **The deadline for the next Parish Post will be November 28th**

It's your Parish Post!

The Parish Post is created from stories written by our readers. We have great regular contributors but we would love to hear from more writers.

Stories, photos and memories are all welcome. Your friendly editor is always willing to help get the article into shape if you are not used to writing.

The Editor



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Tim Shields - Parish Councillor
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Gwen Durland - Clerk
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PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS
These are held on the last Tuesday of every month at 6.00 pm. All members of the Parish are welcome to attend. Participation is at the discretion of the Chairman.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS
Plans of any applications for property in this Parish may be viewed by appointment with the Parish Clerk.
clerk@miserdenparishcouncil.gov.uk

DISCLAIMER. The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily the views of the Parish Council except where specifically indicated. The Editor reserves the right to edit or omit material. No liability is accepted for any loss or damage arising from any omission of copy or advertising.