



# Rural Review

The Newsletter of Wem Rural Parish Council  
Issue 12 October 2014

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## Rural Review

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## WELCOME...

I am sorry to report that Lorraine Pugh has decided to resign as a Councillor. On behalf of the Council I would like to thank her for her contributions and wish her well for the future. Details of the procedure to fill the vacancy are inside.

A brochure about the new Round Meadow, Soultion Road, Wem housing development is enclosed with this edition. If you or anyone you know is interested in one of these new homes please act now.

Lastly now the evenings are drawing in please take adequate precautions to protect your property, ensuring your home and outbuildings are locked securely.

Tim Wilton-Morgan,  
Chair Wem Rural Parish Council

## CYCLE SAFARI



A magnificent turnout of families and others assembled at Edstaston Village Hall, and then Newtown School, for our Cycle Safari to explore some of the lanes in the north of the parish, and look at the plants and wildlife in its National Nature Reserve, Wem Moss.

There we were enthusiastically greeted and guided across by Shropshire Wildlife's Ambassador, Peter McKeon. There was much excitement at the discovery of an Adder, lizard and frog, and from youngsters jumping up and down on the swinging moss, and relief from

some at not finding a raft spider. (Read more about ongoing work at Wem Moss on page 5.)

A sortie across the border into Whixall Parish followed without loss of direction, and then back to Edstaston Village Hall for some very welcome tea and cake.

Many thanks to Emma Bullard and her team from Travel Shropshire (see their website [www.travelshropshire.co.uk](http://www.travelshropshire.co.uk) for other cycle events), Peter, and to Edstaston Village Hall volunteers for the refreshments.

## CYCLE SAFARI AND WEM MOSS PHOTOGRAPHS



## GRANTS

Wem Rural Parish Council awards grants to voluntary organisations and community groups. The paramount concern of the Council is that any grant application is beneficial to residents of the parish.

All applications will be considered on their individual merits. The final decision on assessment of applications and the level of any grant offered lies with Wem Rural Parish Council.

Local voluntary organisations, community groups and sports/recreational clubs can apply. All must be non-commercial, have a constitution, set of rules or documented aims and objectives and have a bank account with at least two signatures.

Individuals may apply for grants if submitted by an organisation to which they belong. The organisation is responsible for ensuring the grant is used for the purpose for which it was granted.

Grants can be used for capital projects or for revenue purposes but only for the purpose specified in the application.

Applications will need to be received by 10 December for consideration at the January 2015 meeting. Full conditions can be found on the parish council website or by contacting the Parish Clerk on 01948 710672.

## COUNCILLOR VACANCY

With the recent resignation of Lorraine Pugh there is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor for the Edstaston Ward of the parish. As this vacancy has arisen between the ordinary round of elections (normally every 4 years) it is classed as a Casual Vacancy.

Notices will be placed on notice boards around the Parish and on the Wem Rural website ([www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk](http://www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk)) advertising the vacancy from 3 November 2014 for 14 days (excluding weekends and bank holidays).

During this period of 14 days, ten electors from within Edstaston Ward can call for an election to be held. To do this they need to make their request in writing to Shropshire Council.

If an election is not requested the Parish Council will be notified to co-opt a member to fill the vacancy.

If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor or would like further information on the election/co-option processes please contact the Parish Clerk or alternatively, Shropshire Council's Elections Office on 0345 678 9015.



# PLACE PLAN CONSULTATION



The concept of Place Plans was introduced by Shropshire Council in 2011 as a way of documenting the aims and aspirations of towns and villages. There are 18 Place Plans each focused around a market town and its surrounding rural parishes. Our own Wem Rural Parish entry is included in the Wem Place Plan.

This year Shropshire Council is expanding the content and purpose of the Place Plan to include wider investment needs and services which will support the **future sustainability** of the community. Examples might include enhancement of the local environment, footpaths and bridleways, regular maintenance of ditches, improved Community transport scheme, etc.

When completed the Place Plan will document all local priorities within an area so current and future resources will be targeted appropriately. Shropshire Council will share the Place Plan with its partners. Partners can range from Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency to local developers and Wem Medical Practice; in fact anyone who has an interest in our Parish, its residents and associated community facilities.

The Wem Place Plan is therefore an important document as it provides an opportunity for the Parish Council to build on the requirements highlighted by our own Community Plan.

## Development related infrastructure

Having considered the needs and services for sustainability, we must also review the infrastructure needs within our Parish which are associated with new housing.

These infrastructure needs can be grouped as:

### Physical infrastructure

transport, accessibility, energy, waste and ICT/digital

### Economic infrastructure

business growth, employment and skills training

### Social infrastructure

education, health and community facilities

### Green infrastructure

open spaces, recreation and sporting facilities, renewable energy

It is vital at this stage to identify all the infrastructure needs, services and aspirations of our Parish. Your help is needed to feed into our Parish's section to make sure the final document, following this year's review, is a full and complete representation of the Parish.

If you have questions about the Place Plan please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Clerk or the Chair of the Parish Council, Tim Wilton-Morgan.

**futurefit**  
Shaping healthcare together

You may be aware of the recently opened Women and Children's Centre at Telford Hospital. This is part of an ongoing programme of change in our hospital and care services. These changes are considered to be necessary to provide for the future demands of patients in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, and Mid-Wales.

The changes must also be led and driven by local people and the various organisations that deliver health and social care provision. Hence the Future Fit programme, which brings these groups together to have their say.



Another example of an issue to be resolved is how best to deliver 'A&E'. It is argued that it is best provided by having a single Emergency Centre, and a number of Urgent Care Centres located strategically around the county. The locations of these centres are currently under consideration, and again Future Fit is leading these discussions.

If you want to know more, and become involved in the programme, all the information is on the website [www.nhsfuturefit.co.uk/](http://www.nhsfuturefit.co.uk/). The Key Document 'Clinical Design Report Summary' is particularly useful (this can be found at [www.nhsfuturefit.co.uk/key-documents/documents/33-ff-clinical-design-report-summary-web/file](http://www.nhsfuturefit.co.uk/key-documents/documents/33-ff-clinical-design-report-summary-web/file))



## NEW RODEN SUITE.

For the last few months the Parish Council has been holding meetings at Edstaston Village Hall whilst Edinburgh House was being refurbished by its new owners, Shropshire Housing Group. The Council would thank the Management Committee of the Village Hall for making us welcome over the summer.

Shropshire Housing Group has kindly allowed the Council to hold its meetings in the Roden Suite, the new name of the old Council Chamber, from its November meeting.

Council meetings are open to the public so if you are interested in Parish Council business please come along and see what it's all about!

# Upper Roden Survey

As part of a bigger survey of the River Severn, the Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership (M&M) will be undertaking a watercourse survey project in our Parish of the upper Roden. A survey of the river Perry has already been carried out and after the river Roden has been completed, a survey will start on the river Tern.

The project involves a volunteer doing simple walkover surveys looking at water quality, watercourses, aquatic plants and animals along the river courses and drainage networks. The initial survey will cover the area of the source of the Roden but will work its way down the river. M&M would like owners or those who have access to the banks of the water courses to contact them so that you can give your permission for the survey to be carried out. The M&M survey team members are fully trained and insured to collect observations and data.

The upper Roden according to recent Environment Agency monitoring has a poor aquatic population and the survey work aims to find out why. Waterborne bugs and insects are good indicators of river health and it is of concern when their numbers are low - this can indicate poor water quality and is likely to affect fish populations.

The survey will take place in Spring 2015 and will involve 3 basic techniques:

1. walkover survey to collect observations
2. Kick sample analysis of aquatic bug life and
3. Chemical testing of water quality.

The data collected is basic and will be used to help steer future conservation work within the area. If you are a landowner and feel you would benefit from the data collected (for assisting with a stewardship application for example) please get in touch with the M&M.

If you have any concerns or are willing to give permission please contact:  
Peter Lambert, River Projects Manager, Shropshire Wildlife Trust on 07506 120022 or [petel@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:petel@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk)  
or  
Alex Grant, Survey Leader, on 01691 624365 or [grant027@btinternet.com](mailto:grant027@btinternet.com)



## Community Tree Scheme



Shropshire Council's popular Community Tree Scheme is once again open for applications. It enables parish tree wardens, schools, environmental and community groups, Parish and Town Councils, farmers and landowners to apply for native trees and shrubs free of charge. In fact the scheme is open to anyone who wants to plant trees in a location where they will be readily visible to the public and enhance the landscape and character of the area.

The trees that we supply are usually small bare-rooted transplants, between 20 and 90cm tall. Rabbit spirals and bamboo canes can also be included to help protect against damage from rabbits and field voles, which could otherwise eat the foliage and gnaw the stems of the young trees. Due to the popularity of the scheme, there is a maximum number of 100

trees per applicant. Although it is a 'tree' scheme, you can also apply for very short lengths of native countryside hedging (for 'gapping up' or linking hedges and other habitats). There is a maximum of 60 hedgerow transplants per applicant. Applications must also include at least one tree to grow on as a 'standard' within the planted hedgerow.

Full instructions on how to order can be found at [www.shropshire.gov.uk/environment/trees-and-woodlands/shropshire-council-tree-scheme-201415/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/environment/trees-and-woodlands/shropshire-council-tree-scheme-201415/) or phone the Natural Environment Team on 01743 252564.

The scheme operates on a first come first served basis and when our allocation of trees has been reached the scheme will be closed so get your application in as early as possible.

## WEM MOSS NEWS

### Completion of Drainage Project

Wem Moss is arguably the best example of lowland raised peat bog remaining in Shropshire, having never been used as a site for peat cutting unlike neighbouring Fenn's, Whixall and Bettisfield Mosses. Despite the lack of cutting on Wem Moss, over the years the site has been affected by local land drainage and has slowly become too dry for many of the specialist species that depend on its depleting habitat.

In order to reverse this process, work has taken place throughout August to block more drains from the moss and to install plastic piling which prevent further water run off. By the completion of the works, which has been carried out by Middlemarch Environmental, water was already starting to collect on the moss side of the pilings, creating a wet habitat suitable for the rare raft spider.

In all, 340m of extra piling has been added to the existing system which was installed a number of years ago and has proved to be insufficient to hold back the necessary levels of water on the moss. During the work, a number of ancient tree stumps were uncovered during the process of pushing the pilings into the soft peat and these all required removal to allow the installation to be completed. It is thought that the stumps could be aged between 5000 and 8000 years and have been preserved in the acidic grounds of the moss.

In addition to the piling placement, the access track onto Wem Moss has also been improved to not only allow easier vehicular access to the site, but also foot access for visitors to Wem Moss. The next step in the work programme will be to install new dip wells around the moss later in September. Dip wells are plastic tubes used to gauge the water level below ground and will help to indicate the progress being made to retain water on the moss. It is anticipated that as the site becomes wetter, many of the plant and wildlife species associated with lowland peat bogs will become more prolific and Wem Moss will return to its former glory.

## WEM RURAL PUBS



### DOG AND BULL

situated on the B5476 halfway between Whitchurch and Wem in the village of Coton SY13 2RA

[www.thedogandbullcoton.co.uk/](http://www.thedogandbullcoton.co.uk/)

Telephone: 01948 880559

Email: [thedogandbullcoton@gmail.com](mailto:thedogandbullcoton@gmail.com)

Opening Times: Tuesday - Sunday from 12.00pm

Quiz Nights: Tuesday 8pm

Music Nights: see website for details



### HORSE AND JOCKEY

Northwood

SY4 5NN

Telephone: 01948 710427

Opening Times:

Weekdays 4.30-11

Saturday and Sunday 12.00pm - 11pm



### THE TILLEY RAVEN

Tilley Village SY4 5EH

Telephone: 01939 234419

[www.tilleyraven.com](http://www.tilleyraven.com)

Opening Times:

Sunday - Thursday 12noon - 11pm

Friday 12.00noon - 1am

Saturday 12 noon - midnight

Live music every Friday Night

(see music diary on website)



# PROTECTING OUR VERGES

Shropshire is valued for its beautiful countryside and wealth of wildlife. This precious 'biodiversity' is in great need of careful protection and constant management. Common species such as bees and other pollinating insects as well as wild flowers such as cowslips have declined dramatically over recent years.

Biodiversity "corridors" such as roadside verges are vital links to allow wildlife to move freely between fragmented habitats. They also represent a remnant of our native grassland which has suffered catastrophic losses over the last century.

Some of the best are even protected as local wildlife sites or sites of special scientific interest (SSSR). When managed correctly road verges can support remarkable diverse collections of species. The good news is that good management often involve simply doing less, allowing the verge to develop and plants to set seed before cutting takes place.

The charity Plantlife have a campaign highlighting the need to protect these areas.

Jonathan Groom, Biodiversity Data Officer at Shropshire Council says:

"We at Shropshire Council fully support the

Plantlife Road Verge Campaign, and are in the process of putting measures into place to improve the management of our mowing regimes, using the guidelines provided by Plantlife. It is a challenging task and we need to gather information about the wildflower rich verges in our county. Shropshire is well-known for its natural environment and biodiversity and we want to do our best to maintain this."



## How you can help

With over 5,000 kilometres of roads, cycle ways, footpaths and verges in Shropshire, it is not possible for the council to inspect the entire network all of the time.

If you feel there is a verge that is particularly valuable for wildflowers and needs protecting please let Shropshire Council know by completing as much as you can of the verge-reporting form, available via the green button at [www.shropshire.gov.uk/sustainability/reporting-wildflower-rich-roadside-verges/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/sustainability/reporting-wildflower-rich-roadside-verges/)

Please provide as much information as you can in order to help locate the verge and ensure that the interest is protected.



## SPARE TIME ON YOUR HANDS?

### Have you ever thought of volunteering?

#### Into Work

Are you free on a Tuesday to work alongside the Into Work Co-ordinator at Wem Town Hall supporting local unemployed people secure a job, apprenticeship or work placement? Could you help with job searches, check application forms, give tips on interview skills and speak to local employers regarding any suitable vacancies. Interested? Please contact Sarah on 01939 232299 or by email [sarah@wemtownhall.co.uk](mailto:sarah@wemtownhall.co.uk)

#### Where Everyone Matters

For the past six months 'Where Everyone Matters' has provided information and advice drop-in sessions for the community at Wem Town Hall market. As of October we will be looking for new volunteer Community Coordinators to deliver these Thursday morning sessions. Interested? Please contact Ness on 01743 272053 or email [ness.hicken@people2peoplecic.org.uk](mailto:ness.hicken@people2peoplecic.org.uk)

These are unique opportunities to help members of the local community, and to volunteer in an exciting and engaging way. If you are passionate about helping others and would like to make a difference, this could be the opportunity for you! Training is provided for both positions.



# WORLD WAR 1 EVENT

## LEST WE FORGET



Thank you to the small group of volunteers who, assisted by the Parish Clerk, organised the 2 commemoration events on Saturday 2 August 2014 as well as the exhibition in Wem Town Hall. The group was represented by the Wem Branch Royal British Legion, Wem Civic Society, Wem Baptist Church, Wem Town Council, Wem Rural Parish Council and other community groups. Further events about the Great War are being organised by the Wem Civic Society.

Special thanks go to the Newtown Area History and Heritage Group whose excellent display was both informative and poignant.

## CONTACTS

### Shropshire Council customer services

**Phone** 0345 678 9006

**Email** [customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk)

Potholes  
Litter problems  
Fly tipping  
Dead animal on road  
Fly posting or graffiti  
Vandalism or Anti-Social behaviour  
Damage to Street Furniture  
Discarded Syringes and/or needles  
Dog Fouling  
Dog Warden  
Overgrown verges and hedges, etc.

## EDSTASTON VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Thanks to a generous award from the Co-operative Membership Community Fund, Edstaston Village Hall is now able to buy a trolley to store its new trestle tables.

## NEWTOWN LITTER PICK

### The Big Tidy Up

Newtown Church of England Primary School and the Parish Council are joining forces on Friday 7 November between 12:45 and 2:45pm to join in the Big Tidy Up, a campaign run by Keep Britain Tidy organisation. Volunteers will meet at the school and work through the Church grounds, Play Park, School grounds and village carrying out a litter pick.

Litter is a topic raised by residents in the Community Plan so the Council is pleased to help support this initiative led by the School.

For more information about the Big Tidy Up and Keep Britain Tidy go to [www.thebigtidyup.org](http://www.thebigtidyup.org).

Maybe your area of the Parish would like to be the focus of the 2015 campaign? Contact your Councillor for details.

# Wem Rural Parish Council

[www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk](http://www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk)

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

12 Councillors represent the 3 wards

### EDSTASTON

Liz Vernon	01939 234896	The Park, Edstaston, Wem SY4 5RF
VACANCY		
Jon Murgatroyd	01939 234384	Grange Farm, Poolhead, Wem SY4 5QY
Bev Horsley	01939 232956	Ryebank Farmhouse, near Wem SY4 5RA
Pete Slack	01939 236990	Fairview, 7 Paddol Green, Wem SY4 5QZ

### NEWTOWN

Bob Parsons	01939 234434	The Chapel, Poolhead, Wem SY4 5UH
Bev Gee	01939 233120	Holly Bank, Foxholes, Wem SY4 5UJ

### WEM

Peter Broomhall	01939 232573	3 Swain Close, Wem SY4 5NZ
Peter Marsh	01939 232498	Aston Hall, Wem SY4 5JQ
Fiona Ford	01939 234358	Gwiwer Barn, Woodhouse Farm, Shawbury Road, Wem SY4 5PF
Len Staines	01939 234415	The Hawthorns, Barkers Green, Wem SY4 5JW
Tim Wilton-Morgan	01939 235703	Palms Hill House, Palms Hill, Wem SY4 5PQ

Councillors invite members of their ward to contact them to discuss any issues or matters of concern.

You can also contact the Parish Clerk, Carole Warner, Orchard Cottage, Rowe Lane, Welshampton, SY12 0QB 01948 710672 or email [clerk@wemrural-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wemrural-pc.gov.uk)

### SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Please check website and notice boards for venue. Meetings may be held in Edstaston Village Hall if the Roden Suite is unavailable.

**Tuesday**  
**4 November 2014**

**Tuesday**  
**2 December 2014**

**Tuesday**  
**6 January 2015**

**Tuesday**  
**3 February 2015**

**Tuesday**  
**3 March 2015**

## M E E T I N G S

Wem Rural Parish Council meetings are held at 7pm on the first Tuesday of the month in the Council Chamber, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem. Occasionally there may be a guest speaker in which case the meeting will start at an earlier time to allow time before public statements at 7pm.

The Parish Council occasionally holds Planning Meetings to consider planning applications when the time stipulated for response to Shropshire Council (21 days) does not allow them to be held over to the monthly Council meeting.

Agendas for all meetings are available on the website and are placed on notice boards around the Parish at least 3 days before the meeting.

Members of the community are welcome to attend all meetings and there is time set by at the start to allow you to address the Council.

This newsletter can be made available in large print and audio tape. Please call 01948 710672 for further details.



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