



Rural Review

The Newsletter of Wem Rural Parish Council
Issue 11 June 2014

In this Issue

WELCOME

BE SAFE

Crime Awareness Day

Shropshire Library News

Fuel Buying Scheme

Annual Parish Meeting
Report

Family Cycle Safari

Ageing Well Update

Wem Swimming and
Lifestyle Centre

Aston Bridge update

Edstaston Road Repairs

Tilley Footpath diversion

Focus on Newtown

Round Meadow

Women and Children's
Centre

Wem into Work

Remember Them

Your Local Medical
Practice

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WELCOME...

to the eleventh edition of the Rural Review and my first as Chair of the Parish Council. I must thank Peter Broomhall, the Chair for the last 2 years, for his hard work in leading the Council. I look forward to my term of office and working with Cllr Bob Parsons who has been elected Vice Chair.

I do hope you will spare time to attend the 'Be Safe' day (see below). This event will be the first of several the Council will be organising following the publication of the Community Plan. Inside are details of the Cycle Safari, another Community Plan request.

This edition is again packed full of local information and articles and your feedback through Councillors or the Clerk will be most welcome.

Tim Wilton-Morgan, Chair Wem Rural Parish Council

Edstaston Village Hall
Saturday 5 July
10 am - 4 pm

ALL WELCOME

Wem Rural Parish Council invites you to come along and find out about:

- Neighbourhood and Farm Watch Schemes
- Smartwater (cycle and property marking available on the day)
- VET Micro-chipping of dogs (NB please phone 01948 710672 in advance to make an appointment for your dog)
- Fire Brigade advice (free smoke alarms - conditions apply)
- Business and Home Security...and much more!

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NEWTON EDSTASTON
WEM RURAL

SHROPSHIRE LIBRARY NEWS

www.shropshire.gov.uk/libraries

Summer Reading Challenge

If you are aged 4 to 11 you can join the Summer Reading Challenge! This year children will be challenged to find their way round a labyrinth that introduces them to fantastical creatures from the world of legend and mythology.

Children are encouraged to read 6 books during the summer holidays collecting rewards and stickers along the way.

It is free to join and you can sign up at any library in Shropshire from 12 July. Events and activities will also be organised.

SHROPSHIRE E-LIBRARY

Did you know that Shropshire Library's Zinio e-Magazine Service lets you read full digital copies of your favourite magazines, for free, on your computer, smartphone or tablet? Over 2000 newspapers are also free to read and a list of e-books is planned.

If you are a library member there is free access to an extensive reference library, from Theory Test Pro (Driving theory) to the Oxford English Dictionary.

To find out how to access this service go to shropshire.gov.uk/libraries/find-a-book/e-library/

INTERESTED IN JOINING A READING GROUP?

There are many reading groups across the county (some run by libraries). Find details in the Community Directory on the Shropshire libraries website or ask at your local library.

Shropshire Libraries holds over 300 sets of books specifically for reading groups to borrow with a list of titles to browse on the website.



FUEL BUYING SCHEME



Joining together with neighbours to buy heating oil makes sense for everyone. Customers get a better price, oil companies can organise deliveries more efficiently, and fewer tanker journeys reduces the negative environmental impact.

Shropshire Rural Community Council is a charity which organises the largest bulk oil buying scheme in Shropshire and we have helped local people save many thousands of pounds since we started in September 2011 and the scheme now has over 700 members.

STOP PRESS!! We are now able to offer bulk LPG and cylinders to our members at a very competitive rate.

Recently we have been able to order oil for our members at 49.2p per litre and the current LPG offer through the scheme is 41p per litre.

Individual membership of the scheme is £24 per year and this helps us to keep running the scheme and offering competitive prices to our members.

For more details on how to join the scheme or become a local coordinator, please contact Lizzy Thain on 01743 342167 or email oil@shropshire-rcc.org.uk

Please note the next oil buying deadlines are Tuesday 17 June and 22 July

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

For those who were unable to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 20 May here is a brief report of the meeting:

Outgoing Chairman Cllr Peter Broomhall gave a summary of many council activities during the year - from local elections in May 2013 to Highways issues, the new Round Meadow development, planning applications (46 during the year), the new parish council website, grants awarded by Wem Rural Parish Council, the planned bus shelter at Newtown School, Wem Rural Responders and the new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to the Wem Rural Community Plan. He also thanked Carole Warner the Parish Clerk for her hard work and support during the year.

Cllr Jon Murgatroyd gave a brief talk about the Community Plan adopted this year. Projects have already been identified for action e.g. improved communication with parishioners, improvement of public footpaths and rights of way, fly tipping/litter in the parish, as well as Highways issues - notably speeding and road maintenance. As a direct result of the Community Plan a Crime Awareness Day has been planned for Saturday 5th July (see front cover for more details) and a Cycle Safari on Sunday 14 September (more details on page 6)

Cllr Bob Parsons gave an update on Round

Meadow, the community-led development of 23 affordable houses on Soutton Road now under construction.

The Parish Clerk, Carole Warner, gave a report on planning in the parish and how Wem Rural may be directly affected by the government's planning policies as well as details of the Community Infrastructure Levy and how it could benefit the community.

The first invited speaker Victoria Doran, Highways Manager at Shropshire Council, gave a short report on Highways issues speaking about the Hedge to Hedge scheme and of the difficulties of keeping up with all the road repairs that needed doing with a reduced workforce.

The second speaker was Neil Wilcox, Local Commissioning Officer at Shropshire Council. He talked about collaborative partnerships between public sector organisations and communities to maximise assets (buildings and land, finance, people and their skills and expertise, etc.). Successful examples of this are the community "Ageing Well" hub in Wem and the transfer of the Thursday market rights and operation to Wem Town Council and Wem Town Hall respectively, also Local Area Youth Boards and an Into Work approach in Wem.



FAMILY CYCLE SAFARI

**Sunday 14th September
11am**

**Starting at Edstaston Village Hall
and cycling to Wem Moss for a guided
tour of this fascinating landscape
followed by a picnic lunch
(please Bring Your Own)**

**(Refreshments available to purchase
on return to Edstaston Village Hall.)**

**For more information please contact
the Parish Clerk. (See website for any
updated details closer to the time.)**

AGEING WELL COMMUNITY HUB

For the past few months an Ageing Well initiative in Wem has aimed to support people to live independently, actively and healthier for longer.

A gateway for advice and guidance has been set up at Wem Town Hall known as the Ageing Well Community Hub. Each Thursday on Market Day Wem's Community Coordinator delivers an information, advice and guidance session at the Town Hall. These sessions are open to anyone and have been a fantastic success, with the Community Coordinator able to ensure that individuals are receiving the right support at the right time. The sessions have also allowed individuals interested in volunteering to 'give back' to their community in a variety of ways, such as "befriending".

To date support has been provided to 35 individuals with a variety of needs, including social isolation, risk of falling, or practical and financial support for carers.

There are plans to build on the success of the Ageing Well project in Wem and the number of people that have been helped; to expand the approach to the entire community - from better support for pre-natal mothers, improving outcomes for families with young children, right through to providing support for carers and older residents to live independent and fulfilling lives.



WemSwimming andLifeStyleCentre

Wem's swimming pool/gym is currently managed by Teme Leisure but in January 2015 it will become a community run centre managed by "The Friends of Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre" a group set up in 2011 consisting of pool staff, members and professionals, Wem Town and Shropshire County councillor, all passionate about the future of Wem's swimming pool and gym complex.

Membership of Wem Pool currently stands at over 200 (although anyone can use the facility). Over 1,322 school children enjoyed swimming lessons at the pool in March 2014!

The pool is open 7 days a week and has a wide range of enjoyable sessions on offer. Membership is fantastic value at £15.50 per month and includes unlimited use of all the facilities. (Just one swim a week covers the membership fee)...and it comes with a free and spacious car park!

The Friends have exciting plans for Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre including SwimGym - using a qualified trainer to design personal structured programmes for gym and swim.

Improvements in the changing rooms as well as renewal of the heating system are urgently required. The Friends are in the process of applying for Charity Status as an Industrial Provident Society. This will enable them to offer Community shares (similar to Fordhall Farm, who pioneered this form of funding). They will also be looking at more conventional funding sources. The Local Joint Committee has already given £2000 for further market research essential for funding applications.

Follow Friends of Wem Pool on FACEBOOK
To become a Friend or Member please contact
Cadi Price, Membership Secretary
cadiprice@hotmail.com.

ASTON BRIDGE REPAIRS

"Poohsticks Postponed"
by Cllr Len Staines



Readers will be well aware that Aston Bridge is currently closed. This bridge is one of a series over the river Roden commissioned in the 19th Century. It is astonishing to note that it is 173 years old, having been contracted to be built in February 1841 and the stones are original. For more details on our bridges, see "Historic Bridges of Shropshire" by Anthony Blackwall.

It is a listed building, but was also listing with essential major repair works needed because the parapets were leaning dangerously into the river. Work to the sides and arch also needs to be done as well as kerbing to protect the parapets and prevent them splaying again.

Most of the parapet stones are being removed and re-used, but where replacement is necessary the material is being sourced locally. They are being re-set using lime mortar rather than cement mortar, which is more effective at reducing frost damage as it draws moisture away from the stones.

At the time of writing it is expected that the bridge will be fully re-opened on schedule at the end of June.

EDSTASTON road repairs

Wem Rural Parish Council continues to lobby the Highways Department at Shropshire Council for the extensive and long-awaited repairs needed to the road through Edstaston.

The parish council has been assured that funding is available but no start date has yet been given. Residents are frustrated and the parish council will continue to push for an urgent start to these repairs.

TILLEY footpath

Following successful public consultation the Public Footpath at Tilley is to be diverted and new gates installed to allow better use of the footpath for residents. The parish council would like to thank Mat Stephens the Shropshire Rights of Way Officer and Cllr Chris Mellings as well as the residents of Tilley for their help with this project.

FOCUS ON Newtown

Newtown is a small village north west of Wem which is interesting for its church dedicated to The Blessed Charles, King and Martyr, one of only 6 churches in England to have been given this name in the 17th century. It originated from a house converted into a church by Royalist sympathisers during the Civil War in the middle of a staunch Roundhead district.



The War Memorial in the churchyard commemorates 5 men from the area who died in WW1 and 2 from WW11. A local heritage group is trying to trace any information about these men and any others with a connection to Newtown who served in WW1. Please contact Eirene Craney or Mark Lockett on 01948 710218 if you can help.

Newtown boasts the only school in Wem Rural Parish - the OUTSTANDING (Ofsted-rated) Newtown Primary School.

Northwood Hall's rare double moat (scheduled in 1974 under the ancient monument and archaeological areas act by English Heritage and believed to have the same preservation order as Stonehenge) is situated in the beautiful countryside of Newtown. **The Moat Shed** (opened August 2013) is a very popular café, heritage and visitor centre with a long deck overlooking the moat (there is even a hitching post for those arriving by horse!). The café prides itself on using only local produce and is also a popular destination for cyclists. Read more about the fascinating creation of this unique building on their website themoatshed.co.uk. (Educational visits are also welcomed).

Newtown has an active community and recreation association (NCRE) with volunteers taking care of the play area, car park and playing fields. Wem Rural Parish Council recently helped to secure the building of a bus shelter for the children of Newtown who attend Thomas Adams School.

FORTHCOMING NEWTOWN EVENTS:

Newtown School BBQ Friday 27 June at the school

Newtown PCC Garden Trail Sunday 29 June noon - 4pm starting at King Charles the Martyr Church

Round Meadow (Soulton Road) Affordable Housing



The parish council is pleased to announce that work has begun on 23 new homes at Round Meadow, a joint project between Severnside housing Association, Shropshire Homes Ltd and Wem Rural Parish Council with part-funding from a Shropshire Council and Homes and Community Agency grant. The project is expected to take about 16 months to complete and will provide 20 houses and 3 bungalows.

Mal Price, Shropshire Council portfolio holder for planning, housing and commissioning said "I'm very pleased to see the partnership working between Wem Rural Parish Council, Severnside Housing and Shropshire Homes in the delivery of this very much needed high quality affordable housing scheme."

New £28million Shropshire Women and Children's Centre on course to open in September 2014

A new £28million state-of-the-art Shropshire Women and Children's Centre is set to open at the end of September at the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford.

This facility will be for:

- Women who need a consultant-led birth
- Gynaecology services where you have to stay overnight
- Children who need to stay overnight
- Children's Oncology and Haematology care
- Babies who need intensive and special care

The Children's Ward at the Princess Royal (previously Ward 14) has already moved into the new Centre (Children's Ward 19) and the rest of the building will open on 29 and 30 September.

Whilst Women and Children's Services are changing, most people accessing the service will continue to go to the same hospital as they do now. The Princess Royal and Royal Shrewsbury Hospitals will both still have a Midwife-led Unit, a Children's Assessment Unit as well as Outpatient services. Women having a low-risk birth will still be able to choose to have their baby at home, at one of our five Midwife-led Units (Oswestry, Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Shrewsbury, or Wrekin at PRH) or one of the

Midwife-led Units provided by the Powys Teaching Health Board.

While the county-wide review of health services (NHS Future Fit) continues, building the Women's and Children's Zones at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital has been put on hold.

This means that temporarily the:

- Shrewsbury Midwife-led Unit will stay where it is
- Maternity outpatients and scans will relocate to the vacated postnatal ward
- Antenatal Day Assessment (PANDA) will also remain within the current RSH Maternity building
- Children's outpatients will move into the Rainbow Unit
- Children's Assessment Unit will move to be adjacent to A&E

If you have any questions or comments about any of the changes to Women and Children's Services please email future@sath.nhs.uk, call 01743 261183 or visit www.sath.nhs.uk/future. For more information please contact John Kirk, Communications Officer at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, on 01743 492285.

WEM INTO WORK

**Have you been unemployed for less than 52 weeks?
Would you like help looking for work?**

Wem Town Hall is working with Job Centre Plus and the local community offering bespoke support to local unemployed people to help them secure employment and local businesses to fill vacancies.

Based at Wem Town Hall every Tuesday, support is provided to unemployed people from Wem and the surrounding area. We can help with job searches, updating a CV, interview skills, confidence building, general computer skills and securing work placements. We also have computers available throughout the day to enable clients to carry out independent job searches.

Calling all employers!

Do you have any vacancies that we can advertise on your behalf?

We can also help co-ordinate work placements and apprenticeships and match unemployed people to vacancies.

Interested?

If you would like more information regarding this project, would like to book an appointment or discuss a vacancy you currently have, please contact Sarah on 01939 232299 or email sarah@wemtownhall.co.uk.





An evening of Commemoration

Songs, poems, drama, letters of those who lived through World War I and a service to remember

Wem Town Hall
 5pm Saturday 2 August 2014
 (Refreshments available for purchase from the Town Hall Café from 4pm)

FREE ENTRY
 by ticket only from Wem Town Hall
 (as seating limited)
 The Evening Parade to the Memorial event on Wem Recreation Ground is free for all to attend (starts at 7pm)



Supported by The Royal British Legion Wem Branch, Wem Town Council and Wem Rural Parish Council, Shropshire Council, Wem & District Rotary Club, Wem Civic Society and Wem Senior Club

YOUR LOCAL MEDICAL PRACTICE

Have your say

Many of you will be patients of one of the two medical practices that serve Wem Rural, either Wem and Prees or Clive Medical Practice. Both practices have each recently formed a Patient Participation Group (PPG).

A PPG is a group of interested patients who meet to learn from each other and represent patients' interests in health services. The group is not a committee, the meetings are open and it is not a pressure group. It is a great way for patients to work alongside the practice to improve and promote services.

The Group could also be referred to as "The Critical Friend", The following are just a few examples of what the group might discuss:

- Patient survey results
- Problems
- Advocacy
- New Ideas
- Fundraising
- Promotion of Health Campaigns, such as Flu Clinics, Immunisations and Screening.

(It should be noted that individual complaints should always be directed to the Practice Manager.)

For further information, or to get involved, contact details of the practices are as follows:

Wem and Prees Medical Practice
 01939 233476
www.wemandpreeshealth.co.uk/

Clive Medical Practice
 01939 220295
www.clivemedicalpractice.nhs.uk/

(If you are a patient at another practice, please contact them – they will probably also have their own PPG.)

CONTACTS

Shropshire Council customer services

Phone 0345 678 9006

Email 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.

Wem Rural Parish Council

www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCILLORS

12 Councillors represent the 3 wards

EDSTASTON

Liz Vernon	01939 234896	The Park, Edstaston, Wem SY4 5RF
Lorraine Pugh	01948 710280	Oakwood Grange, Northwood SY4 5NP
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

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Please check website and notice boards for venue. Meetings may be held in Edstaston Village Hall during building work at Edinburgh House

Tuesday
1 July 2014

Tuesday
5 August 2014

Tuesday
2 September 2014

Tuesday
7 October 2014

Tuesday
4 November 2014

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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