



# Rural Review

The Newsletter of Wem Rural Parish Council  
Issue 24 September 2018

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## Rural Review

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## WELCOME to the latest edition of the Rural Review.

Our wonderful summer has left most of us with lots of marvellous memories and it was so good for the children to be able to enjoy their holidays in the sunshine. The farmers will have different memories, of blazing hot sun, trying to keep animals cool, grass fields that didn't grow because it was so dry and the harvesting of reduced yield crops. The hedge cutting season is now with us and this is a gentle reminder to check that your hedges are not obstructing the view for road users. It is a relief to have improved vision where hedges have been cut. Also, the recent strong winds remind us to check any overhanging trees on the road, to ensure traveller safety.

Improved broadband for Wem Rural Parish is long awaited. But there is the promise of the introduction of Airband and BT cabinets being connected soon! We do hope this improved service is what we have been waiting for!! I was really pleased to read that Airband is offering free connection for village halls and I know that Edstaston Village Hall Committee will be very keen to add this to their Village Hall plans for extension and refurbishment. The Hall will be able to offer new opportunities by having broadband in the future so this is very exciting! Congratulations on their successful Planning Application — update next edition.

You will see the photograph inside of the presentation of a certificate for our Quality Award. Our excellent Clerk, Carole, gave a presentation and Len Staines and I were asked questions by the panel in the Council Chamber in Shrewsbury. It was an interesting experience and it has certainly wetted our appetite to pursue the Gold Award.

In the next Rural Review, I will be inviting local residents to join the Councillors in a litter collection from our roadsides. Waste seems to be in the News on a regular basis these days and it would be so helpful if some people could take home their rubbish and pop it into their own bins. My husband and I usually do a litter pick in Edstaston on New Year's Day which is a good start to a new year and a good way of getting fresh air after any New Year's Eve parties!

Liz Vernon, Chair, Wem Rural Parish Council

## Highways Update

### Soulton Bridge

Work is progressing well with the bridge repairs, and as you can see, substantial reconstruction is needed to make it safe. At the time of writing, if the weather is favourable, it should be completed on schedule. You may recall that a few years ago, the parapets of Aston Bridge needed repairing, and new stone was used where necessary alongside the old. However, here more new stone is needed, sourced locally, and as before has to be assembled using lime mortar, which prevents cracking in the winter frosts. Although the colouring at present looks rather harsh, if it is anything to go by, the new stones on the aforementioned Aston



Bridge have weathered so well they are almost indistinguishable, so the repaired Soulton Bridge will soon blend into the landscape. Both bridges were designed by Thomas Stanton, working under Thomas Telford's supervision, and it is noteworthy that they have stood the test of time and the passage of older and more modern traffic. Further information can be found in Historic Bridges of Shropshire, by Anthony Blackwall, published 1985.



### Quina Brook

Residents have for some time have raised concerns about speeding traffic along B5476 and just before going to print we have received news that the Safer Roads Partnership have agreed to include this section of road under their mobile enforcement programme rather than the Community Speed Watch scheme. This is a big step forward in making this stretch of road safer.

## Banking at the Post Office

With Barclays bank closing soon, here is a reminder of what you can do at the Post Office.

What can I do?

- Withdraw cash from your usual bank account using your card
- Pay cash into your usual bank account using a card or paying-in slip
- Check your bank balance using your card
- Deposit a cheque using a paying-in slip (though Nationwide customers can't do this)

These banking services are available for free to customers of 28 banks, including all the high street big names such as Barclays and NatWest. The Post Office says it's able to serve 99% of UK banking customers.

The Post Office also offers business banking services, including withdrawals, deposits and change-giving services. Note that business banking services will incur a charge, which is set by the individual banks - check your bank's website for full details.

However, you won't be able to access some services offered by your bank. These include: opening new products, setting up standing orders, reporting a lost or stolen card and getting personalised advice. The important thing is go to the Post Office and check out what you can do!

## Wem Town Hall Supports 25 People into Employment

There is cause for celebration at Wem Town Hall, as Wem into Work, part of the Shropshire wide Building Better Opportunities project have achieved their 25th client into employment.

Project Co-ordinator, Adam Knight said "It's such a privilege to work with unemployed members of Wem's community and provide a helping hand to achieve their goals. It is amazing how much a difference one person's employment can make to the entire community and we are pleased to be able to offer such a service here at Wem Town Hall."

The Building Better Opportunities Project, funded by the European Social Fund and the National Lottery, through the Big Lottery Fund, has been working throughout Shropshire with people who are either unemployed or economically inactive. Sarah Zacharek, Project Manager commented "Wem into Work has helped cement our position at the centre of the community; we are pleased to be able to manage such an important provision to the area."

Wem into Work can help anyone unemployed or economically inactive aged above 19. Currently accepting new clients anyone interested can go into the Town Hall, or call on 01939 232299 to book an appointment.

## Parish Council Round Up

### Broadband

Some residents may have received a letter from Airband, the company Shropshire Council has contracted to provide wireless superfast broadband to those properties which can not have fibre broadband. The Parish Council would like to hear about your experience with Airband. For example, what was the result of the site survey to assess suitability? Did the packages on offer meet your needs? Please contact the Clerk or your local Parish Councillor.

### Community Grants

The Council is inviting applications under the Community Grants Scheme. There are an agreed criteria and application form which can be obtained from the Clerk. Completed applications must be submitted by 30 November and will be considered at the December Parish Council meeting.

The aim of the scheme is to benefit the 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.



**Mini BEER FESTIVAL**

and **OPEN MIC**

*Edstaston Village Hall*  
*Saturday 20th October*  
*4.00pm - 11pm*

*Come along and sample some of the best local beers and hospitality! Cider, wine and soft drinks also available.*

*Bar food/snacks available to purchase*

*Entry £3 in advance or £4 on the door*

*Local band Dogs Aloud will be playing. There will also be an OPEN MIC so come and share your talents!*

*Tickets from*  
Bryn Thomas 01939 232505 [bryn@fieldhouse.myzen.co.uk](mailto:bryn@fieldhouse.myzen.co.uk),  
Bev Horsley [bev@ryebank.co.uk](mailto:bev@ryebank.co.uk), Elaine Brown, Sandra Price, Don Gregory, Carolyn Shingler, Liz Vernon, Neale Sadler, Corrine Brown, Anna Thomas

*Proceeds to be shared by Edstaston Church and Edstaston Village Hall*



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## Working to become Dementia Friendly Wem

This initiative is led by The Alzheimer's Society and supported by the Wem Economic Forum where all local businesses, organisations, clubs and groups - however large or small - are being encouraged to sign up as Supporters by attending a Dementia Friends session and considering how small actions can make a huge positive difference.

The Dementia Friends programme aims to transform the way the nation thinks, acts and talks about the condition. Stigma and lack of understanding cause many people living with dementia to experience loneliness and social exclusion, so Dementia Friends hopes to tackle this by creating communities and businesses that are dementia friendly and more inclusive of people affected by dementia.

People living with dementia often find it harder to have conversations, or might need a little time to gather their thoughts and remember whatever they wanted to do or say. These symptoms often cause people to lose confidence.

Dementia Friendly Wem is a way to make it easier for people living with dementia to remain active and involved in their communities. We also want to increase understanding of what dementia is, and to reduce the fear surrounding the condition. In order to achieve this, four Dementia Friends information sessions have been arranged, led by local Dementia Friends Champions and hosted by Wem Town Hall and Wem Cricket Club.

Our hope is that every shop window in Wem will be proud to display a sticker and that groups and clubs will also embrace the initiative. We look forward to welcoming you to one of the following sessions. To book your place email [viv.edgar1@gmail.com](mailto:viv.edgar1@gmail.com) or pop into Wem Town Hall Reception

Vivienne Edgar  
Dementia Friends Champion

## DEMENTIA FRIENDLY WEM

Find out more:

### Come to a dementia friendly session!

Wednesday 12th September, 1.30pm  
Wem Town Hall

Wednesday 3rd October, 7pm  
Wem Cricket Club

Thursday 11th October, 7pm  
Wem Cricket Club

Tuesday 23rd October, 5.30pm  
Wem Town Hall

To book your place email  
[viv.edgar@gmail.com](mailto:viv.edgar@gmail.com) or pop into  
Wem Town Hall Reception.



Working to become

**Dementia  
Friendly**

**DAA**

Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin  
Dementia Action Alliance

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## Council Achieves Quality Level



Less than a year after achieving Foundation Level, the Parish Council has achieved the Quality Award under the Local Council Award Scheme.

The Accreditation Panel commented: "The Panel agreed that the decision was easy to make and the Council had met the criteria required with flying colours. There was very little that they could see to improve. The Panel were impressed with the evidence of partnership working which was commendable as was the Council's involvement with the Wem Economic Forum. They also thought that the monthly action plan was an excellent tool to monitor progress and the police report template was very helpful for all."

The Parish Council is now working towards the Quality Gold Award.





# 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
Ruth Williams	01939 233389	Pool Cottage, Poolhead, Wem SY4 5QY
Jon Murgatroyd	07766 106826	11 Brereton Close, Malpas, SY14 8NU
Georgia Bruce	07709 065195	Greenbank Farm, Poolhead, Wem SY4 5UH
Pete Slack	01939 236990	Fairview, 7 Paddol Green, Wem, SY4 5QZ

### NEWTOWN

Geoff Glover	01939 233357	The Old Stables, 1 The Barns, The Lowe, Wem, SY4 5UE
Stella Whyte	01948 710302	Grange Villa, Northwood, Wem, SY4 5NP

### RODEN

Peter Broomhall	01939 232573	3 Swains 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

Tuesday  
2 October 2018

Tuesday  
6 November 2018

Tuesday  
4 December 2018

Tuesday  
8 January 2019

## 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 Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem. The Parish Council occasionally holds Extraordinary Meetings to consider planning applications when the time stipulated for response to Shropshire Council (31 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.



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LOCAL COUNCIL  
AWARD SCHEME  
QUALITY

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