



Rural Review

The Newsletter of Wem Rural Parish Council
Issue 26 March 2019

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Garry Colvin

Rural Review

is produced by
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WELCOME to the latest edition of the Rural Review.

I am starting to feel really cheerful! The weather has been improving, sun is shining, birds singing and daffodils starting to flower! I do hope this will carry on but we never know do we?!

I would like to invite you to two Wem Rural Parish Council Spring events (further details are within the Rural Review). Firstly, as part of the Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean event, 22 March to 23 April 2019, I will be at Edstaston Church at 10am on Saturday 23 March with my high vis jacket, gloves and bin bags. I intend to walk through Edstaston, Ryebank, Highfields, The Lowe and finish at Horton near the B5063. I will be litter picking and I welcome anyone who wants to join me for the walk. We will have a support vehicle with us to collect up the full bags. High viz jackets, litter pickers, bin bags and hoops will be provided. When I have finished, I am going to treat myself to a cup of coffee at The Moat Shed. Anyone else who wishes to clean up their area can contact Carole, our Clerk so we can register the event. I continue to thank those volunteers who are already picking up litter in their home areas.

The second event is the Wem Rural Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday April 2 starting at 7pm. We will be able to hear about the work of the Dementia Friendly Wem from George Rook and Viv Edgar. Also, a representative from Smartwater will talk to us about a possible scheme in our area. Please come and listen and ask any questions.

I am sorry to have to report that Fiona Ford has had to resign as Councillor due to business commitments. Fiona has been a Councillor for 6 years and we will miss her. On behalf of the Council and Wem Parish residents, I would like to thank Fiona for all her work over those 6 years.

The article below explains about the Community Plan Re-fresh Questionnaire that is enclosed with the newsletter (**return by 29 March, SAE enclosed or complete on-line**) Please let us know your comments.

Liz Vernon, Chair, Wem Rural Parish Council

Community Plan Refresh

The enclosed questionnaire is to assist the review and refresh of the Wem Rural Community Plan which was published in 2013. A Community Plan is an important document as it reflects the views of the residents of the Parish with regard to its future direction. Please consider what you would like OUR Parish to look like in 5 years time and what changes are needed to get it there. All ideas, visions and criticism will be taken on board in producing the plan; all these things will help decide what needs to be protected and what needs to be improved.

Please take a few minutes to review a few key objectives already identified for the future and their associated actions and let us know if you agree or disagree with them. Please do add your own comments on page 4 and be as forward looking as you can. When completed please return the questionnaire in the enclosed envelope. The information provided will be treated in utmost confidence, will be independently analysed and the anonymous results used to produce an Action Plan for the Parish for the next 5 years.

To complete the questionnaire on-line go to www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk and follow the link

Shropshire's Great Outdoors Annual Public Survey

Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy 2018-28 sets out the strategic direction for the management and development of publicly accessible greenspace, rights of way and other access in the unitary authority area of Shropshire, aiming to inspire action to improve health, prosperity and happiness by cherishing Shropshire's great outdoors. The strategy fulfils the statutory requirement of a rights of way improvement plan, but broadens the remit to deliver across multiple policy areas and to integrate activity across local authority services and partner organisations.

To help define our services Shropshire Council undertake an annual user satisfaction survey. They would like to hear from you, even if you don't use rights of way, parks, play areas or countryside sites, so they can understand what the barriers to participation are. It will only take 10 minutes.

<http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/shropshire-s-great-outdoors-annual-public-survey-jan-mar-2019/>

Parish Council Budget 2019/20

This year, the Parish Council increased its Precept by £263 to £26,263 but this will not mean an increase to you if you pay Council Tax. The increase is from new properties and changes in Council Tax allowances. Full details of the Budget for 2019/20 can be found on the Council's website: www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk/financial-information/

The Parish Council continues to financially support local groups. If you belong to a group which Wem Rural residents attend, contact your local Councillor for details.

Annual Parish Meeting 2019

This year's Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday 2 April at 7pm in Edinburgh House and will have special speakers. Firstly, George Rook and Viv Edgar will update everyone on their work to make Wem Dementia Friendly. Then representatives from Smartwater, the crime fighting and crime prevention company will explain how the Parish could take part in a new initiative.

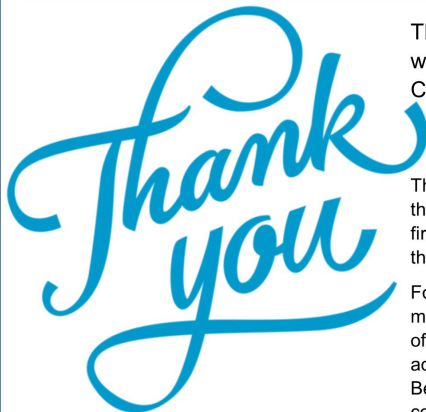
Lastly on the agenda, is the opportunity for you to ask questions of the Parish Council. Come along and hear the speakers and put your views across!

Age UK seek volunteer befrienders

Age UK Shropshire Telford and Wrekin (Age UK STW) is appealing for additional volunteer befrienders to address an increasing waiting list of older people requesting its befriending service. The Charity is particularly looking for people in the Whitchurch, Wem, and Ellesmere areas who can donate a couple of hours of their time between 9am and 5pm during the working week.

Heather Osborne, said: "Our volunteer befrienders provide valuable, confidential support to older people who may be experiencing loneliness and isolation. They offer companionship, a good listening ear and act as a link between the person and services provided by Age UK STW, as well as other local organisations. Our volunteers come from all walks of life. They may be newly retired from the world of work, in part-time work and looking to do something positive in their community, or they might have experienced the feeling of loneliness themselves, been helped through it and wish to give something back. We offer training, expenses and on-going support to ensure all our volunteers are confident and happy in their roles."

For more information, please call Age UK STW's Volunteer Recruitment Team:
Telephone: 01743 588 570



The **Edstaston Village Hall** Committee would like to thank Wem Rural Parish Council for awarding a generous match-funded grant of £25,000 towards our building project.

This is our first successful grant application for this new project making the Parish Council our first funder so we are extremely grateful for their support.

For the project to proceed we will need much more funding so if anyone has any experience of grant-funding and would like to help us achieve our funding aims please contact Bev Horsley bev@ryebank.co.uk or any committee member.

Please support our next event GERRY COLVIN (Pop/Folk Legend) on Saturday 16th March (See ad for more details)

Saturday Special

A short dementia friendly Church service, suitable for all
Wem Methodist Church
10.30am for ½ hour service followed by refreshments

Saturday 16 March
Saturday 20 April
Saturday 18 May

Everyone Welcome

Contact: Ann Johnson 01939 232035, Rev Neil Adams 07985 417000

Become a Parish Councillor !

Do you want to help get things done in your neighbourhood? Are you already active in your community? As a councillor, you can make a difference. Wem Rural Parish Council is looking for a committed person to join the Council to represent Roden Ward. Roden Ward covers the settlements of Lacon, Soultton, Aston Grange, Aston, Palms Hill, Barkers Green, Tilley Green, Trench, Tilley, Ruewood, The Ditches, Horton and Lowe

Being a councillor is a rewarding form of public service that puts you in a unique position where you can make decisions about local issues and improve the quality of life for people within Wem Rural Parish. It gives you the opportunity to help your local community and be part of a dedicated team influencing and providing key services for your area.

The councillor's role takes in:

- Representing the parish ward
- Decision making
- Policy and strategy review and development
- Community leadership and engagement

Being an effective councillor requires some work. The primary role of a councillor is to represent their ward and the people who live in it. Community Leadership is at the heart of modern local government and councils are taking on new responsibilities for working in partnership with other organisations, including Shropshire Council and the voluntary and community sector, to improve services and the quality of life for citizens.

Councillors are expected to take steps to keep in touch with their communities. It is hoped that they will, at least on an annual basis, attend meetings of local community groups. Councillors are also chosen to represent Wem Rural Parish Council on outside bodies (both local and county) which include a wide range of trusts, associations and committees.

Contact the Clerk for more details.

The Great Spring Clean Event in Wem Rural

Saturday 23 March 2019

Leader: Liz Vernon Start time 10am

Place: Edstaston Church. Walking through Edstaston, Ryebank, Highfields, The Lowe, Horton. (approximately 3 miles).

Bring your own waterproof gloves

Support Vehicle will be available to collect bags and transport people back to Edstaston.

<https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean>





EDSTASTON VILLAGE HALL
presents FOLK/POP LEGEND
Gerry Colvin

"Gerry Colvin must be one of the most endearing and energetic musicians on the planet, just as much at home playing small clubs as he is supporting Status Quo on their Aquostic Live Tour."

"Once seen, never forgotten.
FUN GUARANTEED!"

EDSTASTON VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY
16th March 2019
Doors open 7pm for 8 pm start

BAR / PORK BAPS TO BUY (£3)
£10 ADVANCE / £12.50 ON THE DOOR

Tickets from
Bev Horsley bev@ryebank.co.uk / Bryn Thomas or Anna Thomas 01939 232505 or
Elaine Brown / Sandra Price / Trevor Gough / Don Gregory / Liz Vernon / Neale Sadler
Corrine Brown / Carolyn Shingler / Hazel Rees / Ruth Williams

**Profits will go towards the building project at Edstaston Village Hall
(Charity number 1095886)**



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
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
Vacancy		
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

Tuesday
2 April 2019
and
Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday
7 May 2019
Annual Meeting

Tuesday
4 June 2019

Tuesday
2 July 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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QUALITY

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