



Rural Review

The Newsletter of Wem Rural Parish Council
Issue 36 Spring 2022

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Rural Review

is produced by
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WELCOME....

to the latest issue of Rural Review. I am going to start with some good news and welcome our newest Parish Councillor, Jordan Page. Jordan will represent the Roden Ward and he brings a number of skills and knowledge of the local area. We still require councillors for Roden Ward and Edstaston Ward — **WE NEED YOU!**

These are without doubt very trying times across the world, not least here in Europe. In spring time we tend to think of the year ahead and those of us who are gardeners are planning, potting and sowing. Local farmers are continuing to work extremely hard in challenging conditions to keep the local community provided for. The weather remains a concern for a lot of us, with flooding and the damage this entails. The Parish Council has been working very closely with Shropshire Council to address flooding concerns in Edstaston as well as Barkers Green. The Parish Council continues to work very closely with the Wem Area Climate Action Forum, looking at ways for householders to reduce their carbon footprint. One difficulty is, in an area like ours, there are no buses or easy access to public transport. We are looking to hold an event at Edstaston Village Hall in the autumn on how we can reduce carbon emissions, become more green and celebrate local business. Hopefully artisan and local food producers will also be in attendance so look out on our social media page for more details.

Community and celebration is another key theme for the Parish Council this year as we head to Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The Parish Council is keen to emphasize the real community spirit evidenced in Newtown throughout the winter. Newtown Community and Recreation Association (NCRA) has been extremely busy to say the least. There were festive times in Newtown with a visit from Brass Buttons with mince pies and mulled wine. Residents got together to have a good sing along to carols to thank everyone for all their hard work and support in moving forward the improvements to the recreation area. There has been a huge amount of work completed. The Newtown School Carol Service, sadly could not take place at the church due to storm damage and two events were held at Loppington Village Hall. These events raised much needed funds for NCRA and the event was well sponsored by the Coop. A huge 'thank you' to Simon Thornley, (the Coop Manager), as well as to Andy Black (Chair of NCRA) and Leah Davies for all their hard work.

The Parish Council would like to thank Edstaston Village Hall Committee for all their hard work in progressing the improvements at the Hall — it is a beacon in this community. Work is still on-going but what has been completed is looking absolutely amazing. Volunteers are always welcome to take work forward towards its Grand Opening event in June. Please see progress on the Edstaston Village Hall Facebook page.

Over the last few months the Parish Council has also been working very closely with Shropshire Council's Highways Dept and our Clerk is part of a very active working group to address the concerns residents have expressed about the state of the roads locally. Road safety has also been an issue raised by local residents and a few years ago the Parish Council commissioned a survey of the type and volume of traffic in Pepper Street, Quina Brook. It hopes to do something similar along Ossage Lane later this year. Volunteers are always welcome. Barkers Green has had a number of traffic issues and I am pleased to note that measures are now being put in place to address road safety concerns.

Ruth Williams,
Chairperson, Wem Rural Parish Council

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Newtown Community and Recreation Assoc

A planning application was submitted on 20 January 2022 to extend the car park into the current picnic area, which we anticipate will provide an additional 30 car parking spaces. We have received tremendous support in favour of this application and are very grateful for the help and encouragement provided by Wem Rural Parish Council.

We have a lot of supporters lined up to help, just as soon as planning is granted, including a tremendous offer of support from Alun Griffiths / Network Rail who are looking to donate the majority of the stone for the car park from the works at Wem Bridge. We are also planning to replace all of the fencing around the park and are working closely with Newtown School to ensure all of the works enhance the safety of the children.

We are always open to receive comments, suggestions and feedback and would also love to receive offers of support to continue to allow us to improve our facilities for the whole community. Please email ncracommittee@gmail.com

Andy Black,
Chairman, NCRA



Wem Area Climate Action Forum - WACAF

First of all, note the slight change in name of the group, to reflect the intention to carry out practical, realistic and local activities as far as possible to mitigate climate change in Wem Town and Wem Rural.

Along with this, meetings of all of the Forum members will now be held monthly, with individual groups focusing on different projects and meeting separately and reporting back to the full meeting. The first of such meetings was held online on Monday 21 February, with the groups and projects reporting as follows.

Level Crossing Waiting. When travelling in and out of Wem, how often have you waited for the gates to open at the level crossing by Wem Station? Wouldn't it be better to have signs to encourage you to turn off your car engines to reduce pollution? An excellent example how we can make a difference at a local level. Network Rail Crossing Manager and Shropshire Highways have been approached to see if signs can be installed. Meanwhile, no need to wait to be asked!

Habitat Mapping. Members are working with local wildlife organisations to receive training to do this effectively. Specific areas such as Millfields, and wildlife corridors, are being looked at, also wildflower meadows could be established.

Footpaths. Linked with this, as previously reported, in conjunction with Shropshire Council, a Wem P3 (Parish Paths Partnership) Group has been formed, which is particularly relevant to Wem Rural.

Millfields.

In 2021 the area in Wem Town known as Millfields had been declared as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) as a result of the action of WACAF and Wem Town Council. The Forum continues to monitor this site.

Heritage Buildings. A group is looking at the built environment in the Wem area to see how it could be enabled to respond to climate change.

Local Sustainable Food. A group is working on promoting this. There is also some consideration of the possibility of a Community Shop, but looking at these elsewhere shows that this would be a big project.

What Can You Do?

With all these important projects you would imagine that a large number of volunteers would be involved, but at the moment WACAF is a very small group, some of them from Wem Rural. To carry out these very worthwhile local activities we would very much welcome more supporters. So please can you help to make a difference to strengthen our membership?

The Leader of WACAF is Malcolm Adkins, and he can be contacted by email at: mal10@me.com

The Forum also has a website, <https://wemclimateforum.wixsite.com/wacaf>, which has a lot more information about the group, and information on how to **Think Global, Act Local**.

Robert Hill and Noble Street Trust

It is amazing that a trust set up in 1695, is still alive and kicking today. The Trust was originally set up with five trustees, with land and property being given by Robert Hill (a gentleman of Wem who owned a profitable tannery in Noble Street) the profits of which were to be given to the poor people of Wem on his demise. So, the Trust used the money to relieve the poor people of Wem, to financially support boys to go into apprenticeships, and girls going into service. The poor were also to be given a measure of corn. On the 16th of February 1697 Robert Hill died and the Trust came into being.

The first five trustees were Jospen Cooke, Thomas and Phillip Ireland, George and John Walmsley. In 1716, a Mrs Sarah Thornhill, conveyed to the trustees a piece of land in Noble Street for the purpose of erecting a Meeting House, the purchase price was £7. After a period of time the chapel's congregation finally demised, so it was sold with the money going again into the Trust. Today the only sign that is left of the chapel is at the back of the White Horse on Noble Street, where it has now been made into a house.

The Trust was put in the hands of the Charity Commission in 1886, which still oversees the Trust today. Interest from the investments are paid to the Trust four times a year. The current trustees are Peter Broomhall, Chairman, Alwyn Thomas, Secretary, Sylvia Starkey, Treasurer, Roger Aston, Mandy Meakin, Rosemary Dodd, Tim Wilton Morgan, Paul Johnson and David Waghorn.

We meet once a year, review requests for assistance and decide on donations. This year donations have gone to The North Shropshire Wheelers, who provide a much needed transport system, taking patients to doctors and hospital appointments among other services, the Mental Health Team, offering much needed support to pupils at Thomas Adams and St Peter's Schools in Wem and the Wem Carers Group, who meet up monthly offering support to each other. After those three, smaller amounts were donated to over ten other groups within the town including, Stagedoor, the younger section of Wem A.D.O.S., the Junior Tennis and Cricket Clubs, the Scout and Guides, Junior Wem Band, and Youth Club.

The Trust, I am sure will continue to support the people of Wem for many years to come.



The Parish Council is encouraging everyone to participate in the Great British Spring Clean 2022. This year's campaign, from 25 March to 10 April, asks everyone to join forces and pledge to pick a bag of litter from their neighbourhood in order to protect their vibrant communities, countryside and precious wildlife habitats.

Parish Councillor, Cllr Liz Vernon explains: "The past two years our outdoor spaces and places have mattered to us more than ever before as more people have embraced them during the pandemic. We know we have an extra battle on our hands to keep our parish clean and green so I would ask you all to do your bit!"

I am arranging a litter pick in Edstaston on Saturday 2 April meeting at Edstaston Village Hall car park at 10am. Walk from the Hall to Horton — with lifts provided back to the Hall. If you have your own litter picking kit, please bring it with you. The Council has limited kit."

If you would like to organise a litter pick in your area of the parish, please contact your local Councillor.

Wem Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

The Programme for the Jubilee weekend has been agreed as follows:

Thursday 2 June — Beacon Event
Friday 3 June — Youth Events
Saturday 4 June — Party In the Park together with screening of national events.
Sunday 5 June — Church Service and Big Jubilee Lunch / events in the community.

Look out for more details!



Come to the first event in our newly extended hall!

QUIZ NIGHT

EDSTASTON VILLAGE HALL
Friday 25th March 2022 at 7.30pm
£10 per person / teams of 4

BAR

Tickets from Elaine Brown / Bev Horsley bev@ryebank.co.uk / Sandra Price / Anna Thomas / Neale Sadler / Don Gregory / Corrine Brown / Trevor Gough / Hazel Rees

Or leave a message on our  page @edstastonvillagehall with number of tickets required

includes HOTPOT SUPPER
(vegetarian option available)

Raising funds for the Edstaston Village Hall Extension Project / Charity no. 1095886



Wem Rural Parish Council

www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk
www.facebook.com/wemruralPC

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

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PARISH COUNCILLORS

12 Councillors represent the 3 wards

EDSTASTON

Huw Edwards	07834 252412	Bank House Farm, Paddol Green, Wem, SY4 5QZ
Vacancy		
Pete Slack	01939 236990	Fairview, 7 Paddol Green, Wem, SY4 5QZ
Liz Vernon	01939 234896	The Park, Edstaston, Wem, SY4 5RF
Ruth Williams	01939 233389	Pool Cottage, Pool Head, Wem SY4 5QY

NEWTOWN

Julia Goode	07971 102569	3 Oakhurst Villas, Newtown, SY4 5NT
Stella Whyte	01948 710302	Grange Villa, Northwood, Wem, SY4 5NP

RODEN

Peter Broomhall	01939 231565	Tilleycroft, 77 Roden Grove, Wem, SY4 5HJ
Peter Marsh	01939 232498	Aston Hall, Wem, SY4 5JQ
Jordan Page	07508 270009	2 Tilley Green, Wem, SY4 5PL
Len Staines	01939 234415	The Hawthorns, Barkers Green, Wem, SY4 5JW
Vacancy		

M E E T I N G S

The Parish Council normally meet on the first Tuesday of the month at Edstaston Village Hall at 7pm . Please refer to the Council's website.

Agendas for all meetings are available on the website 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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