



# Rural Review

The Newsletter of Wem Rural Parish Council  
Issue 37 Summer 2022

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**WELCOME....** to the Summer issue of Rural Review. We have seen the Queen's Jubilee come and go with all its festivities. Thank you to those who helped organize this.

There has also been much to celebrate with the largest community project at Edstaston Village Hall completing phase 1. We have included a report of the official opening by none other than Mr. Greg Davies. The Edstaston Village Hall Committee has worked so very hard and their efforts are plain for all to see. Congratulations and well done to all!

Another community project is the extension of the car park in Newtown. The Parish Council has been able to support Newtown Community and Recreation Association in gaining planning permission. At short notice, Shropshire Council required a survey to be carried out — thank you to the Newtown and area residents for completing this in record time! Progress on the project is reported inside.

You may have noticed the notice board at The Lowe has been repaired and is now operational. We would like to thank Andy Williams for undertaking this work.

The Council would like to thank Northwood Nurseries for installing the planters by the traffic calming gates in Northwood and for their support in ensuring the planters are always full.

We still have some councillor vacancies, if you would like more information then please do not hesitate to call either the Parish Clerk or myself, our contact details are on the back of your newsletter.

**Ruth Williams,**  
**Chairperson, Wem Rural Parish Council**



## Rural Review

is produced by  
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Find out what's really happening in your area and keep in touch with West Mercia Police through the free messaging service.

The Neighbourhood Matters messaging system enables residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with local policing teams. You can receive updates on crimes, latest information on on-going incidents and learn more about what we're doing in your community.

Once signed up as a registered recipient you will receive messages of information, crime alerts or witness appeals local to the area in which you live or work by email, text or telephone. You can choose exactly the type of alert you wish to receive so you won't be bombarded with every alert.

Sign up at: [www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk)

Please note that this service is not for reporting crimes or incidents:

To make a report please contact West Mercia Police on 101 or dial 999 in an emergency.

# Newtown Community and Recreation Assoc

## The NCRA are ready to embark on the biggest project for 20 years!

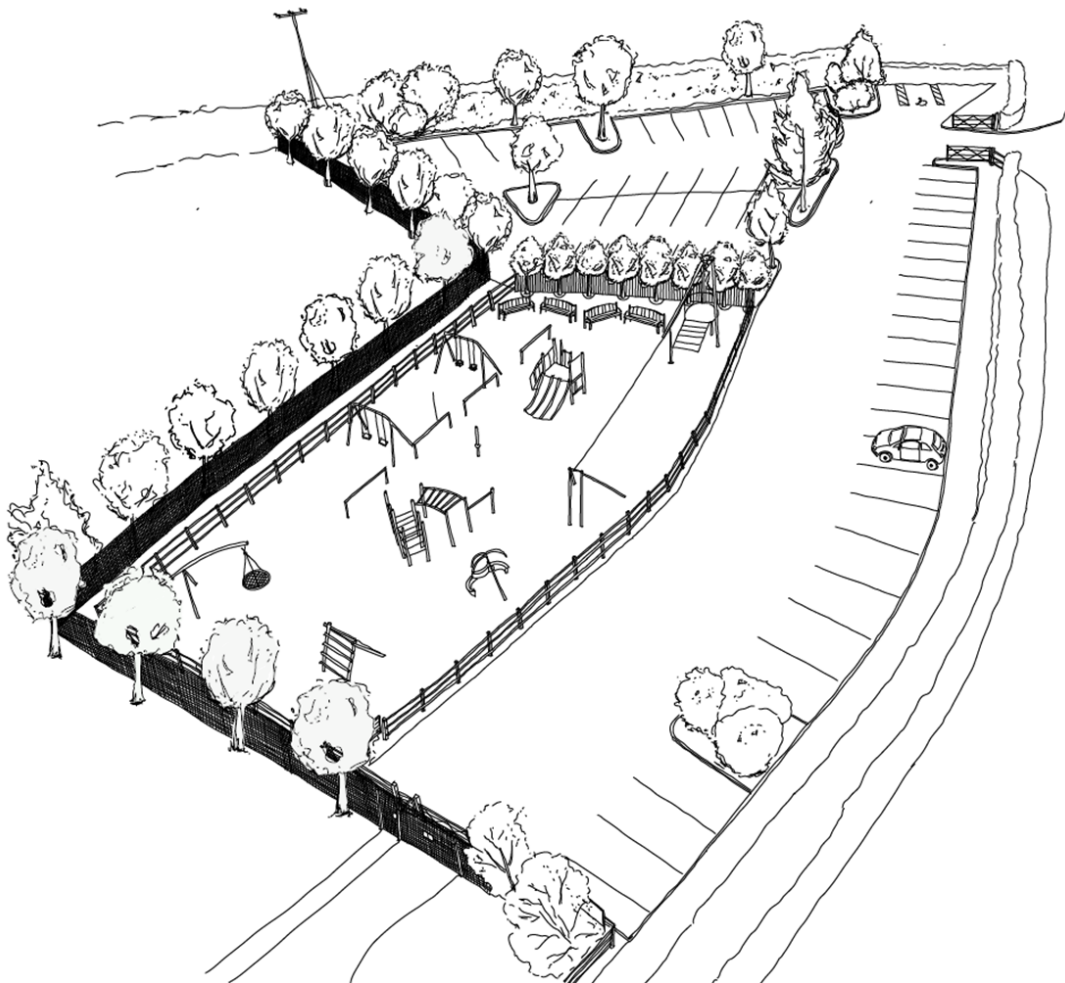
The Newtown Community and Recreation Association (the registered charity who own and maintain the car park, adventure playground and part of the school playing field) have been flat out for past 6 months on the most ambitious project since the charity was created and the facilities built in 2001. Formal planning consent was obtained in May this year to extend the car park by an estimated 28 spaces which will have a huge positive impact on reducing congestion at school drop off and collection times, along with improving road safety.

Work is due to start on Monday 25 July and will last for several weeks. During this time the car park and playground will be closed to all visitors due to health and safety regulations. Please note the car park will be locked at 18.00 on 24 July.

At the same time as the car park is being constructed, many other improvements will take place, including the replacement of the 20+ year old wooden fencing (made possible by a hugely generous donation of £5,500 from Loppington Parish Council), lots of tree planting and also security improvements to the school as recommended by the Safer Schools Partnership.

Due to the soaring costs of building materials and other associated costs relating to this project we are having to watch our modest budget very closely. Whilst we are confident we can deliver the project, we would love to hear from anyone who would like to help, in particular local companies interested in donating to support the community project which will generate a huge amount of positive goodwill and PR opportunities. Please direct all offers of help and support to: [ncracommittee@gmail.com](mailto:ncracommittee@gmail.com).

The NCRA would like to acknowledge the huge amount of support we have received from Newtown Primary School in getting our National Lottery Application submitted. We are keeping our fingers crossed for a successful outcome which will certainly help our modest current budget!



## The Website of the Small Eggar



Readers may recall a while ago that a rare moth, the Argent and Sable, is to be found in our parish, on Wem Moss, and also Whixall Moss. Now it has come to light that there is another species of interest to be found locally – the Small Eggar. And to say it has come to light is particularly true, as the adult moth flies during the night and can be caught by being attracted to a special trap – which uses a mercury vapour lamp. It is on the wing mainly in March and April. The photo shows the adult moth.

Its British distribution is on the decline. According to the Butterfly Conservation website, its status is Nationally Scarce B, and most frequent in Somerset and Dorset with scattered records around Oxfordshire, Norfolk, Lancashire, eastern parts of Wales and two localities in Northern Ireland. As such it is quite unusual to find it in this area.

Its presence can be noted by the caterpillars living communally in a web on hedges, usually Hawthorn or Blackthorn. This photo was taken in

Barkers Green. You may see other species of caterpillars in webs on hedges, but Small Eggar ones can easily be distinguished from others. When they are fully grown they spread out in the hedge and form cocoons in the branches.

Although there are exceptions, normally hedges or trees should not be cut or trimmed between the dates of March 1st and September 1st to avoid harming nesting birds. However, the cocoons remain in the hedge until the following spring until the next generation hatches, and therefore are susceptible to autumn trimming. Therefore it is suggested that this practice is the cause of the decline of the Small Eggar, and some other hedgerow insect species. So if it is possible, and the resulting untidiness can be tolerated, it is in the interest of wildlife conservation to leave some hedges to grow for two or three seasons.

Meanwhile, while you are out and about in Wem Rural, Cllr Len Staines would be interested to hear of any sightings you may have. Photos are by the author.



### In the UK 200 people per day suffer an unexpected cardiac arrest!

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May, a group of residents from Wem Rural Parish attended the Community Heartbeat Trust Awareness session in Edstaston Village Hall. We all felt nervous and underconfident before the session. The trainer put us at our ease and gave us lots of useful information to empower us if ever we have to deal with a sudden cardiac arrest. But importantly, ALWAYS DIAL 999 first. We all left the session saying – 'I didn't know that, did you?' We now understand more about three heart conditions – heart disease, heart attack, and cardiac arrest.

Wem Rural Parish now has four defibrillators (AEDs). Do you know where the defibrillators are situated?

Northwood – outside the Horse and Jockey

Newtown – outside the school in the old Phone Kiosk

Edstaston – outside the Village Hall

Coton – outside the Bull and Dog

All defibrillators are registered onto the WebNos Governance system which ensures the local ambulance service is aware of the location and status.

There are a number of videos on the CHT website which explains their work, basic life support and how to use a defibrillator.

[www.communityheartbeat.org.uk/tv](http://www.communityheartbeat.org.uk/tv)

Liz Vernon, Wem Rural Parish Councillor

### Armed Forces Day

On the 25th June, a service was held at St. Peter and St. Paul, Wem, to mark Armed Forces Day. The touching and intimate service was conducted by Rev Rob Haarhoff on the lawn in front of the church.

Prayers were said in honour of those who have served, those who are serving and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. As head of the Armed Forces, a prayer was said for Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth 11, and in a typically relevant and poignant moment, for Ukraine and all those suffering at this ghastly time.

Thank you to all who attended.

Julia Goode, Wem Rural Parish Councillor



# Edstaston Village Hall

The new extension to the Edstaston Village Hall was opened by celebrity Greg Davies on Saturday 18th June 2022 followed by a celebration party with music by fantastic local band Halcyon. Greg was presented with a portrait of him painted by local artist Bev Horsley.

The Edstaston Village Hall committee would like to give heartfelt thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to improve this valued resource. It was terrific to see it filled with community members young and old who have all contributed to this wonderful achievement.

The project began in 2017 with the donation of some land by the Price family of Edstaston. This enabled the committee to plan the much-needed new extension adding space while also making the hall fully accessible. Extra outside space also allowed a patio area and overflow parking. After community consultation plans were drawn and passed and the fundraising began. The Village Hall committee was delighted to be awarded grants from the Wem Rural Parish Council, Bernard Sunley Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation, ACRE/DEFRA (Village Halls Improvement Grant), Co-op Local Community Fund, Midcounties Co-operative Community Fund and Shropshire Council. In October 2020 the community



began the groundworks.

This was a truly local project - local architect Ian Jamieson of Bleazard & Galletta provided the plans, ATEC Construction built the shell of the extension and other local businesses provided materials and invaluable work including Trev Gough from TAG Services Ltd, Mike and Russell Vernon of M & R Vernon Contracts, Ali and his team from Hunter Lloyd Ltd. Alpha Windows fitted our gorgeous full height gable end window, and the crowning glory of the new extension - the falling leaf chandelier – was supplied by Iestyn Davies of The Contemporary Chandelier Company. Special thanks also to Gordon Jones of Edstaston and his sons, Mark, Chris and Nick for working so hard to finish the patio in time for our grand opening.

Many skilled volunteers from the community played a part in the build, helping to dig the footings, pouring/raking concrete, procuring all materials, doing all the internal renovations, plumbing, painting, fitting the kitchen, building the patio and raising the outdoor ground level with tons of soil to create a future amenity space for the community.

It has been a truly fantastic community effort and we are very grateful to Wem Rural Parish Council for having faith in us and awarding us a grant. We are justly very proud of our achievements so far and are ready to start fundraising for a second extension on the opposite side of the hall to create a stage area with dressing room and storage.

To see more about the project or to find out about hiring the hall please follow us on Facebook @edstastonvillagehall or on our website [edstaston.org.uk](http://edstaston.org.uk)

Edstaston Village Hall Committee

Bev Horsley (Chair), Elaine Brown (Vice-Chair), Sandra Price (Bookings), Anna Thomas and Corrine Brown (Treasurers), Liz Vernon (Secretary) Don Gregory, Trev Gough, Neale Sadler and Hazel Rees.

Bev Horsley

## Future Housing Needs Survey in Wem Rural

A Shropshire Council-led initiative to identify housing needs across the county will circulate in Wem Rural 2022 over the next few weeks. All residents in the parish will receive the survey through the post, and are encouraged to complete it as soon as possible.

Right Home, Right Place, part of Shropshire Council's Affordable Housing Team, have been running surveys in a number of towns and villages since 2018; the responses they receive through these surveys are invaluable in helping Shropshire Council identify whether there's a hidden housing need in the area.

Edward West, Shropshire Council's Planning Policy & Strategy Manager, said: "Throughout Shropshire, as with the rest of the country, we're seeing a growing gap between the average salary and the average house price, which is making it very difficult for people to stay in the areas they've grown up in, gone to school, have family in or now work in.

"This can result in people moving elsewhere, which then has a knock-on effect on our towns and villages; schools close, pubs shut down, and we begin to lose various aspects of what makes our local communities thrive.

"There are many people who may be in housing need, from young professionals who are struggling to get on the ladder to families who need a larger home but can't afford anything nearby, and older residents who need to downsize for cost or mobility reasons but can't

find anything suitable locally.

"Our job is to help identify what type of housing people need, and where it's needed most. So even if people don't currently have any housing needs, we still need to know - so we need everyone to take the survey. It's an invaluable chance to have their say on the future housing in the parish."

For more information or to take the survey online, visit [www.righthomerightplace.co.uk](http://www.righthomerightplace.co.uk)





## Wem leads the Jubilee celebrations in style!

As Britons around the country set out to make the Queen's Platinum Jubilee a most memorable occasion, the residents of Wem and area were determined to make it one to remember.



Thursday evening started off the celebrations with a parade of societies represented such as the Royal British Legion, Scouts, Guides and Brownies across the

Recreational Ground in the centre of the town. A few patriotic tunes played out by the Wem band and supported by the RAF Shawbury Military Wives Choir, and the new anthem, specially composed music for the Jubilee was unveiled. The occasion was opened by the newly elected Wem Mayor Geoff Soul, and as Her Majesty the Queen lit the beacon outside Buckingham Palace this started a chain reaction across the country with Wem's beacon being lit at 2137 by our own local hero's of the Fire Fighting Service. The ceremony came to a close with everyone united in a rendition of the National Anthem as the beacon burned bright above us.



Friday was kicked off by a grand game of 'Jubilopoly' throughout the morning, where teams would have to throw the dice onto the board in the Town Hall and make their way around the town answering questions to claim their prize. It was great fun for all the 37 families that got involved, with rave reviews. Don't worry if you missed it, it will be making another appearance during the summer so keep a look out – you don't want to miss it! The afternoon was a series of age grouped childrens' parties where they played games and made new friends, the building was once again filled with joy and laughter. The day was topped off by a film showing for our young adults in the evening.

Saturday was the social event of the year that everyone had been waiting for and it did not disappoint. Opened with a jaw dropping flypast by two Juno helicopters courtesy of RAF Shawbury, we were so lucky that the weather held out as the Recreation Ground was filled with stalls, charities, food, residents, visitors, a stage, bands, choirs, children, adults, pets and of course Dennis the Dinosaur keeping everyone entertained with his shenanigans throughout! As it moved into the evening portion of the day, musicians continued to impress as people cheered, sang along and danced, the positive atmosphere resonating



throughout the town. The evening came to a close with a spectacular 'last night of the proms' style finish with the full band playing, full choirs singing, the audience bobbing and waving their Union Jack Flags with pride and as the sun set, the fireworks completed the wonderful experience with a bang.



Sunday wrapped up a joyful four-day tribute to Queen Elizabeth II with a beautiful church service in St. Peter & St. Paul's Parish Church where all churches were represented, followed by refreshments which were jointly provided for. Despite the downpour of rain throughout the day, this didn't dampen our spirits and many parties of celebration were had throughout the town, joining our neighbours and community together in unison.

In addition to the events that were put on there were many demonstrations of affection for our monarch; from the tree planted in the Recreation Ground to mark the occasion, the crocheted Post Box Topper depicting the Queen for each decade throughout her reign, and many fantastic displays out on home and shop fronts throughout the Wem.

A special thanks must go to the Wem Jubilee Celebrations Committee, made up of resident volunteers who planned and executed all the major events throughout the long weekend. And of course to all those who attended, performed, assisted, set up stalls and importantly made donations, that made this up to be a memorable occasion for all across the community. As Her Majesty the Queen herself so eloquently put it in her thank you message "I have been inspired by the kindness, joy and kinship that has been so evident in recent days, and I hope this renewed sense of togetherness will be felt for many years to come. I thank you most sincerely for your good wishes and for the part you have all played in these happy celebrations."

Which only leaves me to say; Congratulations Your Majesty on this your Platinum Jubilee, and thank you for your 70 years of dedicated service to your country. God Bless you Ma'am and best wishes for your continued health and reign for the time to come.

Louise Blakemore (Resident of Wem)



## Wem Baptist Church - Ukraine Hub!

Whilst we have opened the Hub in recent months to respond to the crisis in the Ukraine, I first want to make it clear that all guests and refugees are welcome to get support with us wherever they come from!

Currently, we have met 11 different Ukrainian families from our area mainly ladies, most with their children. Most have come in under the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme, which means they are stopping with Host families, although two of our families came earlier in the 'Uniting Families' scheme. More arrive each week, with the number in Shropshire being expected to double in the next few months.

Our Hub currently opens at the church on Tuesday 10-12.30 and Wednesday evenings from 7-8.30pm although this is constantly under review. We may move to doing once-monthly special social events in the evenings perhaps with Ukrainian cooking, films and games for the youngsters. We have links to the 'Shropshire Supports Refugees Charity' in Shrewsbury, who have their own hub in Riverside with a large clothes, toiletries and toys store. They have kindly provided two lap tops for us, as well as free Sim cards. We use the lap tops to help our guests apply for their visas, bank accounts, universal credit and so on! This has been really appreciated. Many of the guests are out in the countryside with limited transport so we have

been running a volunteer driver scheme to help them get to places like the doctors, the Job Centre, school and even some nice trips out!

We have also been running some English lessons to help folk get started in the area and hopefully look for work, I have to say that many of them speak excellent English especially the children! Most of the people we have met are happy to have a place to meet up and chat, have a piece of cake or toast and a coffee or tea. Again the Co-op have been kind enough to provide some of the refreshments! The local Youth Club and the Fruitful Deli have also offered support.

Any clothes or toy donations should be given to the Shrewsbury Hub as we have no storage where we are. Our only needs, currently, are for resources to teach English!

A massive thank you to all those who have volunteered to help at the Hub.

Liz Dakin,  
Ukraine Co-ordinator, Wem Baptist Church.



## Community Support

Over the past few weeks I have had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know a small group of ladies from Ukraine. I first met them at a coffee morning, which is held on Tuesdays at the Baptist Church in Wem. As soon as you walk through the doors you are greeted with a very warm welcome. It will come as no great surprise to learn I do not speak Ukrainian and so it was a huge relief that the ladies spoke very good English, phew!

I helped them organise a trip on the Sabrina, down the River Severn. The Fruitful Deli generously supplied 10 picnics for the ladies and the children. They had a lovely afternoon.

One really amazing thing to have come out of that day, was that I was contacted by local residents, many from Wem, many not. They had seen my post on Wem community page on Facebook and had taken the initiative to contact me. Yet another fine example of the kindness and generosity of spirit the people of north Shropshire possess.

I have contacted several local attractions to see if tickets can be donated to the ladies, who by the way I now I believe to be dear friends, and I am happy to report that some such attractions have kindly donated. A local dance studio has invited the children to join them and I know some of the

children are hugely looking forward to this.

Claire, the force of nature that she is, from the Fruitful Deli, is running a summer camp in conjunction with the youth club. There is also fresh fruit and veg available at the Fruitful Deli which is free having been donated by several supermarkets. I took 3 of the ladies there and they were thrilled to see rather blackened bananas....."perfect for banana bread!" Proof if ever we need it that a positive approach can make a difference.

The delightful children I have met are all very good at speaking English and I am happy to say we have one little girl at school in Newtown. I hear she is rather fond of the chips the school serves at lunchtime.

The result of having got to know these ladies and aid them as best I can, I have found to be both humbling and uplifting. They are so brave. Their men remain in Ukraine. I am the wife of a retired RAF pilot, each time he left to go to a hostile environment I had to be stoic. These ladies husbands are not military men, they are teachers, doctors, engineers, farmers.....heroes

Julia Goode, Wem Rural Parish Councillor



# Wem Rural Parish Council

[www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk](http://www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/wemruralPC](https://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](mailto: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
Vacancy		
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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