



Keeping YOU Informed

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council's Local Newsletter

Issue 18 - February 2014

Hello and welcome....

to your newsletter and, as this is the first issue of 2014, on behalf of the Parish Council, I wish you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year. Not that it has got off to a good start as the weather so far will have made life very difficult for all who travel and who work outdoors, not least our farmers.

The most important subject in this issue is the Refresh of the Parish Plan. You will find the questionnaire in the envelope with this newsletter, and more details below. When the current Plan was put together in the years leading up to its adoption in 2005, the response from the residents in the parish was excellent, with the strength of the volunteering team who lead the project, and the high level of questionnaire completion. In fact, our parish was highlighted by Shropshire Council to other parishes as a model of what could be achieved. So, please do it again! In completing the questionnaire, you will helping to shape our community for the next few years.

Sometime next month you will receive your Council Tax demand from Shropshire Council and in it you will see that there is zero increase in the Parish Council precept element of the tax. Last year you may recall that the precept included the sum of £1400 for election costs. As insufficient candidates came forward to be Councillors, an election was unnecessary. After much debate and consideration of the various options the Council decided that rather than absorb the money into this year's operating budget or reduce the precept it would be more sensible to hold the money as a designated reserve to be used to cover the costs of updating the Parish Plan. The significant work that this will involve is explained in the article below. A full breakdown of this year's expenditure by the Parish Council and the 2014/15 budget will be provided to you all with the Annual Parish Report in May.

As this newsletter goes to print, there is still a vacancy on the Parish Council for a Councillor to represent Welshampton ward. This is another opportunity for you to have a say in the activities of the Parish Council so please contact one of the Councillors or the Parish Clerk if you are interested.

Chris Symes

Parish Plan Refresh!!

Back in 2008 the Welshampton Lyneal and Colemere Parish Plan was published. Enclosed with this newsletter is a questionnaire to assist the review and refresh of the Plan.

A Parish Plan is an important document as it reflects the views of the residents of the Parish with regard to its future direction and will be taken in to account by Shropshire Council when the Local Authority has to make decisions regarding the Parish, in terms of future services, facilities and development. 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 of the questionnaire together with any additional suggestions, improvements and services that you would like to see, and which you believe have not already been covered in the existing Parish Plan, and be as forward looking as you can.

When completed please return the questionnaire in the enclosed envelope. There is also the opportunity to complete the questionnaire online by going to <http://bit.ly/1kTzGkz> or following the link from the Council's website www.2shrop.net/welshampton.

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. The agreed Parish Plan will be distributed to each household in the Parish and also published on the Parish Council's website.

There are also opportunities for volunteers to help with the review of the feedback from the questionnaire, producing the Action Plan and also joining steering groups to progress the projects of the Plan. If you would like to assist us in this project please contact the Parish Clerk. Contact details are on the back page of the newsletter.

Welshampton & Lyneal Parish Hall

Since the last newsletter the Parish Hall has held its AGM. New Committee members were appointed, as listed below, and Angie Symes and Ruth Evans stood down. Our thanks go to Angie and Ruth for their dedicated service on the Committee.

The annual accounts were presented at the AGM and showed a loss of £1,082. The loss was mainly brought about by bringing the Hall up to date with its safety checks, updating the ladies toilets and new flooring to the committee room. All these and other repairs/renewals amounted to approximately £6,000. This year the Committee is planning a number of fund raising events so keep an eye out for information.

The full list of Committee members is: Caroline Hamilton (Chair), Jennifer Wright (Secretary), Carole Warner (Treasurer), Rosemary Drake, John Edwards, Pat Edwards, Lorraine Jones, Derek Morris, Jan Price, Glo Wright and Brian Wynne. Carole will be stepping down as Treasurer in July so if you would like to help please contact the Chair, Caroline.

The Hall Committee



Visit us on
Facebook

[www.facebook.com/
welshamptonlynealandcolemerecommunity](http://www.facebook.com/welshamptonlynealandcolemerecommunity)

Meeting Dates

Council Meetings - start 7pm

Wednesday 26 March

Wednesday 23 April

Wednesday 28 May

Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 14 May at 7.30pm

All meetings are in the Parish Hall

Welshampton Church of England Primary School

The School has recently seen some changes — changes to the Governing Body and also the appointment of a permanent Head! Firstly, mention must be made of Suzy Vernon and Neil Jefferies. Both served as Governors for more than the normal term of 4 years and they freely gave their time and expertise to help guide the School. Thank you Suzy and Neil from all at the School.

In January, Mrs Heather Cawkwell was appointed Head of the School after holding the role of Acting Head for the last 14 months. Many of you will know Heather personally as she has taught at the School for 12 years. We're sure you will join us in congratulating Heather and support her as she leads the School forward.

PC Crump visited School this term. This report of his visit was written by Mia Navin in Year 5.

Sound the Sirens!

All the children and teachers gathered in the middle area of the school to welcome P.C. Crump

and listen to his speech. He spent the whole morning with the children in each of their classrooms. He told them some amazing facts. He also taught them how to handcuff people in three different ways! They had the opportunity to ask him questions in order to learn more about the role of a police officer. When the questions were over they viewed the police van and were given the chance of going inside the prisoners' cage. The excitement rushed through the children's bodies. This was the first time they had been in a police van in their lives and hopefully the last! The time came when he had to leave but they all know that he will visit school again soon.

Welshampton School

*Marie Curie Coffee
Afternoon*

*Welshampton School
Friday 28th March 2014
at 2.30pm*

*Everybody welcome
Please come and support such a
wonderful charity*

Student Exchange

If you are a parent, grandparent or family friend of a pupil attending Welshampton Primary School and have a spare room, we are looking for a host family for an Austrian student working at the school for 3 weeks in June. Sophie Hafran (16) attends a bi-lingual business college in Vienna and will be arriving as part of a large group on the 31st May who will be busy on excursions at the weekends. Sophie is fluent in German and has good conversation in English and Spanish.

If you would like more information about Sophie and hosting, please contact Jan of Student Exchange Experience Limited on 01743 742125 or mobile 07766 135 785. Alternatively, you can send an email to jan@see.uk.com Expenses are paid for hosting.

Welshampton Walk and Bike Weekend

12th and 13th April 2014

Over the weekend of 12th and 13th April the Parish Council, Meres and Mosses Landscape Scheme and Shropshire Council will be organising walks and bike rides around the Parish.

On the Saturday there will be another chance to join in the Meres and Mosses Cycle Safari starting at 10.30am and 2pm. A report of the first Safari follows below. For the more experienced cyclist there will be a guided ride over the same route but extending down to Loppington and back through Brown Heath and English Frankton.

Sunday will concentrate on walking with one walk setting off at 10am and a second different walk at 2pm. Look out for posters and

the Parish Council website for details nearer the date.

Meres and Mosses Cycle Safari

The first Safari took place in October 2013 during Shropshire Council's 'Love Your Bike Month'. It was a joint venture between the Council's Travel Shropshire team and the Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership. Travel Shropshire led the ride while Luke Neal from the Meres and Mosses partnership was our guide and stopped at various places along the route to tell participants interesting information about the history and landscape of the area and to try to spot wildlife.

The ride started at Colemere and did a 7 mile loop taking in Lyneal and the canal. There are

plans to sign this lovely family friendly cycle route and produce a leaflet including the route in 2014.

About 20 people took part in the first cycle safari, including a number of children who really enjoyed Luke's insights into the Meres and Mosses area, particularly spotting a badger sett with fresh tracks and otter poo under the canal bridge! We look forward to even more families joining us in April for our second cycle safari, which will feature lots of signs of wildlife and plants waking up after winter.

We hope this has encouraged you to get out your bikes and dust them down!! All walks and rides will start at the Parish Hall.

Welshampton Plant Fair - Monday 5th May

Our 9th Charity Fair takes place at the Parish Hall, gates opening at 12 o'clock for the Grand Plant Sale. The "Special Plants" Auction is at 1.15pm, followed by "August Pzzazz the Wollerton Way" - top tips for high summer borders from Andrew Humphris, Head Gardener at acclaimed Wollerton Old Hall.

We are also planning a Giant Sunflower Growing Competition, in memory of Welshampton teenager Tom Hancock, who sadly passed away last year, aged just 19 years. Tom loved growing plants, especially giant sunflowers. Young plants grown by his mother Heather will be on sale for competitors to grow on through the summer. The tallest one reported to us will receive a super prize and trophy.

There will be even more choice of plants, plus our usual stalls and delicious home-made refreshments. All proceeds to

Macmillan Cancer Support and St Michael and All Angels Church, Welshampton.

A warm welcome to all.
The Organising Committee

Please note: guide dogs only

Welshampton Calendar

Last year we ran out of time to produce a 2014 calendar so this year we are starting earlier for a 2015 calendar!

To remind you, we are looking for photographs of people, places, events, current or past, to make an interesting calendar of village life. Contributions can be left at the school, the church, The Sun Inn or with any church member. For more information contact me on 01948 710242.

Beth Marsh.

"300 Club"

Some of you will be familiar with the "200 Club" which has raised funds for the Caterpillars Pre-School and the Friends of Welshampton School for many years. Caterpillars have recently changed from being run by a Committee to managed by a Trust and has decided not to participate for a while. The Friends were keen to share any proceeds with another local group so this year the Parish Hall will be the joint beneficiary. You will also notice that the Club has changed from "200" to "300" - an opportunity for more to participate!

Tickets cost £6 each for the year and you have 5 chances of wining each month. Prizes are £25, £15, £10 and 2 £5 prizes. Tickets are drawn at the Whist Evening on the first Saturday of each month at the Parish Hall. For more information and to purchase tickets please contact Becky Lea on 01948 830225.

The Lyneal Trust

The Lyneal Trust is a charity which provides canal boats and canal-side recreational facilities for people with disabilities, illness or injury, or any other vulnerability, and their family, friends and carers who may accompany them. You will all be aware that the Trust is based on the Llangollen Canal at Lyneal Wharf, where there is accommodation for up to 14 people, and where the two boats are moored – the Shropshire Lass which is a 70-foot 8-berth barge for holidays, and the Shropshire Lad which is a 45-foot day boat for up to 12 passengers. All the facilities are fully wheelchair friendly.

Lyneal Trust is run by volunteers, with professional help for bookings management, boat maintenance, cleaning and gardening. The main duties for the volunteers are the “meeting and greeting” of customers for both the boats and the accommodation (which involves making contact with the customer, agreeing meeting times and ensuring that the customer is happy and understands the boats and/or the cottages) and “day skippering” (which involves being in charge of the Shropshire Lad when groups have hired it for a day).

For various reasons, and not least because the bookings are increasing, our existing volunteers are not able to cope with the demand and therefore the Trust is seeking to recruit new, local, volunteers. They will need to be able to attend the Wharf for “meet and greet” for an hour or so (often at the weekend), and/or skipper for a full day (usually weekdays) on an ad hoc, pre-arranged basis. The team of volunteers are given the booking schedule on a regular basis so that they may choose which duty and when to do it. Apart from being adult and physically able to handle a canal boat (when day skippering) there are no restrictions on sex, age or experience, as training will be given. Potential volunteers should appreciate that they will be representing Lyneal Trust in their dealings with our customers, who often have particular needs. If anyone is interested in becoming a Lyneal Trust volunteer, please contact Chris Symes on 01948 710276 or cnsymes@btinternet.com

Thank you.



Useful Contact Details

Parish Council

Welshampton Ward

Sarah Jefferies Caroline Hamilton (Vice Chair)

Bob Richards Jennifer Wright

Vacancy Vacancy

Lyneal Ward

Lawrence Houghton Martin Withington

Chris Symes (Chair)

Councillors can be contacted by letter, phone or email through the clerk

Shropshire Council

0345 678 9000

Shropshire Councillor

Brian Williams

01939 234198

Emergency Contacts

In most emergencies you should dial 999

For non - emergencies

West Mercia Police 101

Shropshire Fire & Rescue 01743 260200

West Midlands Ambulance Service
01743 273649

Community Contacts

Welshampton Parish Hall

01948 710687

Contact Information

Keeping YOU Informed is produced by:
Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council
Orchard Cottage

Rowe Lane
Welshampton
SY12 0QB

For further information please contact the Clerk:
Carole Warner on 01948 710672
Email: welshamptonandlynealpc@hotmail.co.uk



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