



# Keeping YOU Informed

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council's Local Newsletter

Issue 24 - February 2016

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## Hello and welcome....

to the latest edition of your parish newsletter. I have enjoyed my first 6 months as chairman and a lot has happened during that time. I hope you find the following summary of the parish council's activities interesting.

*Andrew Haydon, Chairman of Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council*

### Councillor Needed

The Parish Council is still looking for a Parish Councillor for Welshampton ward. This is a great opportunity to get involved in your local community and influence local decision making. If you would like to find out more about what the role entails, please contact the Clerk, Rebecca Turner or any councillor, contact details on the back page of this newsletter.

### Highways

Highways matters have featured prominently on the agenda at Parish Council meetings. PC Crump has been to a meeting to discuss the ever present problem of speeding. The Safer Roads Partnership are currently assessing the area to see what speed management measures may be possible. The council has also put forward the junction of the A528/A495 as a site of community concern. We are concerned that the road markings on that stretch of road are unclear, particularly when coming from Shrewsbury. We are discussing with Shropshire Council how we can improve this junction. The parish has also suffered from numerous road closures over the last few months.

### Planning

SAMDEV was adopted in December 2015! There are still likely to be planning applications and appeals but hopefully with SAMDEV being adopted, there will be a clear framework for assessing applications. The council is hopeful that it will receive some Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding. None has been received to date but as planning applications are implemented, some CIL money will be received to invest in community infrastructure. In terms of planning applications, of particular note is a revised planning application which has been submitted for the expansion of Wood Lane Quarry. The parish council has objected to this application—you can view our comments on Shropshire Council's online planning tracker, the application reference is 14/04589/MAW.

### Broadband

Ben Walker of Connecting Shropshire came out to give a talk on broadband last autumn; the key points he made were reported in the last newsletter. Since then, we have been informed that faster fibre broadband is now available to order in parts of Hampton Bank, Balmer and Lyneal. Connecting Shropshire has installed fibre to cabinet 3 in the Bettisfield exchange, which serves around 50 premises in the parish. The council is well aware that there are still numerous properties in the parish with no promise of high-speed broadband and we are continuing to press for this to be resolved.

### Finance

Overleaf, you will find the finances for the Parish Council showing last year's actual expenditure and income, this year's anticipated, and next year's budget which is for the year from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017. The budget is the figure on which the Parish Council element of your Shropshire Council Tax bill (the precept) will be based. This year, there is nil increase to the precept per Band D household and it will be £46.02 as in 2015 to 2016.

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# Parish Council Budget 2016 / 2017

The Parish Council has taken on a number of additional responsibilities over the years, in response to residents' requests (through the Parish Plan), such as the parish hall grounds, Stocks Lane car park, the sports court, and Balmer telephone kiosk, and obviously these all need maintenance. The 2015 Parish Plan is now complete and so the Councillors believe that it is prudent to budget for this as there are cost implications with some of the items identified. We hope to pursue some exciting projects such as helping to fund broadband at the Parish Hall.

Shropshire Council has also again not passed the Council Tax Support Grant to parishes in 2016/17 and this means that the budget requirement has to be met from the precept.

The Parish Council is conscious that last year saw a large increase in the precept. Therefore this year, the precept increase has been kept to nil per Band D household. This will mean a small draw on the Parish Council's reserves. Reserves have to be maintained at an appropriate level and they will be reviewed next year.

## Meeting Dates

Council Meetings - start 7pm

Wednesday 24 Feb  
Wednesday 23 March  
Wednesday 27 April  
Wednesday 25 May

All meetings are in the Parish Hall

Payments	Actual 2014/15	Anticipated 2015/16	Budget 2016/17
<b>General Administration</b>			
Clerk Salary / Allowance	£5,626.95	£5,100.00	£4,547.58
Admin Expenses/Audit	£758.70	£1,165.25	£1,180.25
Newsletter	£1,324.75	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
<b>Training</b>			
Clerk	£0.00	£60.00	£100.00
General	£60.00	£100.00	£160.00
<b>Establishment</b>			
Insurance	£609.05	£629.44	£648.32
Meeting Room Hire	£0.00	£440.00	£150.00
Subscriptions	£356.46	£381.35	£415.00
<b>Parish Maintenance</b>			
Street Lighting	£1,287.45	£2,537.12	£1,882.83
Grounds Maintenance	£867.50	£1,742.50	£1,650.00
Stocks Lane Car Park	£0.00	£500.00	£500.00
Sports Court	£967.13	£250.00	£250.00
Balmer Phone Box	£0.00	£320.07	£0.00
<b>Elections</b>			
Election Costs	£200.00	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Other</b>			
S137	£45.00	£200.00	£200.00
Churchyards	£0.00	£700.00	£350.00
<b>Parish Plan</b>			
Parish Plan	£532.86	£0.00	£1,800.00
Sports Court	£159.96	£0.00	£0.00
Parish Plan Grant (broadband)	£994.10	£0.00	£900.00
P3 Expenditure	£100.00	£100.00	£0.00
Walking Leaflets	£1,490.00	£0.00	£0.00
Contingency	£0.00	£150.00	£500.00
<b>Total excl VAT</b>	<b>£15,379.91</b>	<b>£15,875.73</b>	<b>£16,733.99</b>
VAT	£393.32	£560.00	£300.00
<b>Total incl VAT</b>	<b>£15,773.23</b>	<b>£16,435.73</b>	<b>£17,033.99</b>

Receipts	Actual 2014/15	Anticipated 2015/16	Budget 2016/17
Precept	£12,686.00	£16,000.00	£15,675.00
Interest	£6.31	£6.31	£5.00
VAT Refund	£261.37	£614.41	£560.00
Council Tax Support Grant	£777.00	£0.00	
Other	£1,200.00	£130.00	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£14,930.68</b>	<b>£16,750.72</b>	<b>£16,240.00</b>
Transfer from/to Reserves	-£842.55	£314.99	-£793.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>£15,773.23</b>	<b>£16,435.73</b>	<b>£17,033.99</b>

## Reserves 2015/2016

Balance as at 1 April 2015	£9,433.65
Less transfer to Budget 2015/2016	£314.99
<b>Anticipated Reserves 31 March 2016</b>	<b>£9,748.64</b>
Less transfer to Budget 2016/17	-£793.99
<b>Anticipated Reserves 31 March 2017</b>	<b>£8,954.65</b>

## Breakdown of Reserves

2016/17

### Earmarked Reserves

Elections	£1,200.00
Parish Plan	£900.00

### Contingency Reserves

£6,854.65

**£8,954.65**

# Welshampton Church of England Primary School

## Farewell to Mrs Cawkwell

It is the first time I have written an article for the newsletter as Chair of Governors and it is with regret that this first time is to inform the wider community that our headteacher, Mrs Heather Cawkwell will be leaving us at Easter. She has secured the headteacher's position at Hodnet Primary School.

I would like to thank Mrs Cawkwell on behalf of all the children, parents, staff and governors, who have benefitted enormously from her hard work, endeavour, dedication and enthusiasm, for making school life the very best experience for all during her time with us.

The Governing Body will take this opportunity to build upon the school's many strengths and its distinctive Christian character. Our aim is to ensure outstanding education and leadership of the school. In our work we will be guided and assisted by both the Local Authority and the Diocesan Board of Education.

As always, the governors and staff appreciate the support received from parents, carers and the community to help the school flourish.

*Carole Warner*  
Chair of Governors  
01948 710672

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## January and February News!

The spring term has arrived in the usual rush of activity. This term Class 1 are learning all about castles: Why they were built, their different designs and not forgetting knight and princesses! Class 2 are continuing their topic on Invaders and Settlers and this term they are learning all about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings.

They are also developing their story telling skills and will be recording each other as they perform stories they have learned as well as those they have written themselves.

Class 3's topic is 'Here, There and Everywhere.' The children will be learning all about the physical geography features of many countries in the World. So far they have enjoyed filming themselves explaining all about 'Why the Polar Ice Caps are melting?'

We are learning how to download these films onto our school website and hopefully by the time you read this we will have succeeded in this mission!

Children are enjoying both their gymnastic lessons at Criftins CE Primary School and also their swimming lessons at Wem and we look forward to seeing who will be the house champions in the House Swimming Gala at the end of March -Brimstone were champions in 2015, so it is all to play for!

Reviews and photographs of all school events and activities that have happened can be found on our school website: [www.welshamptonceprimary.co.uk](http://www.welshamptonceprimary.co.uk)

This term we are looking forward to celebrating Easter as we have our Easter service in church but before Lent begins, the teams will also be competing in our annual Pancake Race.

*Mrs Cawkwell, Headteacher*



Life at Caterpillars is busy! We currently have 26 children on role, 9 of whom started with us in January. We had our first Ofsted Inspection at the end of October, receiving an "Outstanding" judgement. Thank you to all the families who were determined to share their views about Caterpillars with the inspector.

We have a dedicated team of 5 very special people who are committed to supporting each and every child to reach their highest potential.

The children are currently learning about the weather and seasons and what happens in our environment during each month of the year!

We are very privileged to be able to go out for lovely nature walks and experience all of it by the time we reach the top of the lane - wind, rain, sleet and even a bit of sunshine! We love taking advantage of being in the beautiful countryside, and now know the names of the different trees that used to have leaves but now have bare branches.

We love having visitors from our community, so if you are interested in what we do in a Montessori Nursery School, please send an email to: [caterpillarsmontessori@gmail.com](mailto:caterpillarsmontessori@gmail.com) and we can book a time for you to come and visit us!

# Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership

## Restoring the Marches Mosses

As you may know, the Meres and Mosses Nature Improvement Area, managed by a Landscape Partnership Scheme, aims to protect and enhance the special landscape of meres and mosses (peat bogs) of North Shropshire, Wales and South Cheshire. Please see [www.themeresandmosses.co.uk](http://www.themeresandmosses.co.uk) for more information.

Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield and Wem Moss complex is the third largest lowland raised peatbog in the UK and has been the subject of over 20 years restoration by Natural England, Natural Resources Wales and Shropshire Wildlife Trust. Few people realise that the mosses of North Shropshire are of international importance.

Following the success of recent initiatives in the Meres and Mosses, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales and the Shropshire Wildlife Trust have bid for funding to carry out extensive management works and encourage more people to understand the mosses through volunteering, appropriate improved access and research. This will also see additional land adjacent to the existing National Nature Reserve purchased including the old Furber's scrapyards and fields to the south.

We are now consulting with local communities and other site users to understand what you feel might be appropriate ways of raising the profile of the National Nature Reserve and how this fits into your vision of the future for the region.

**Please come along to any of these local events to give us your views :**

**Bettisfield Village Hall Thursday 18th Feb between 6pm and 9pm**

**Bronington Primary School Tuesday 23rd Feb between 6pm and 9pm**

**You can also fill in a questionnaire and leave your feedback online at:**

**[www.themeresandmosses.org.uk](http://www.themeresandmosses.org.uk)**

**Follow 'Meres and Me' and 'Restoring the Marches Mosses' at the top of the page.**

**You can contact me directly to find out more or make any comments about how you would like to see the mosses developed for the benefit of us all.**

*Luke Neal Community Officer, Shropshire Wildlife Trust*

*[LukeN@ShropshireWildlifeTrust.org.uk](mailto:LukeN@ShropshireWildlifeTrust.org.uk)*

*01743 284275*



# Meres and Mosses Community Grants

**Are you part of a club, community, team,  
or just a group of friends?**

Do you want to conserve, enhance, access,  
explain or celebrate your local landscape?

This could be through arts, media, practical work,  
an event, a display, a walk, a talk, surveys,  
research. Or something we have not thought of!

**We have grants available of £1,000  
(or more if you can inspire us!)**

You don't need to be a formal group or have a  
bank account, our community officer will offer  
support to develop your idea.



**Get in touch to find out more and discuss your idea:**

Luke Neal, Community Officer. [luken@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:luken@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk). 01743 284 275



[www.themeresandmosses.co.uk](http://www.themeresandmosses.co.uk)

## Welshampton Parish Hall

The Parish Hall management committee would like to thank all regular users for their support over 2015 and continued support for 2016, the hall has had a few changes over the last 12 months including the relocation of the bar and the conversion of the snooker room to a conference ready suite.

During 2016 we hope to carry on making improvements to the facility to ensure we are the number one choice for local hiring by groups and private hire.

Also we have a website in development so keep any eye out as we will be advertising up and coming public events.

If you would like to know more, or have any improvement ideas that you wish us to know, then please feel welcome to attend one of our meetings which are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30pm, or just drop us a line or maybe a phone call.

*Derek Morris, Chair of Parish Hall Committee*

# Friends of Ellesmere Library



Dear Friends,

As it is now more than three months since we formed the Friends of Ellesmere Library, members of the committee felt it was time that to hold an event to bring everyone together and let you know what is happening.

As you know, Shropshire Council decided shortly before Christmas, that the re-location of the library from Fullwood House to the Meres Day Centre should go ahead, though it is likely to be several months before the move takes place. The council is now in the process of trying to find a social care organisation to run the library and the day centre as part of a new community hub.

In the meantime, the Friends' committee are busy trying to organise a programme of events and activities for the coming months that we hope will appeal to people of all ages.

You will recall that in December, we held our first event at the library, with a book-signing by local historian Chris Jobson to mark the launch of his book, Mere History. It has been such a success, that a reprint is now being organised. The book has been published by Geoff and Sue Ardill from Mere News and Chris has very kindly donated all profits from sales of the book to support Mere News. In turn, we are extremely grateful to Geoff and Sue and Geoff for a generous financial donation to the Friends as a thank-you for our support with the launch.

*Friends of Ellesmere Library*

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## Welshampton Plant Fair

**Bank Holiday Monday, 2nd May, Noon to 3pm**

This year will be our 11<sup>th</sup> charity fair with all proceeds again divided between Shropshire Macmillan Cancer Support and St Michael & All Angels Church in Welshampton.

After last year's celebrations to mark our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are refocussing this time on everyone's favourites – the plants! We plan to offer an even greater selection of fabulous plants to tempt gardeners, including, yet again, some very special items in this year's Auction. For example, the now extremely rare Iris 'Ellesmere' (siberian) has been donated by the National Collection holder.

Accompanying stalls will again include home-made cakes and preserves, the popular Gardeners' Stall and Grand Draw with great prizes, plus delicious refreshments to enjoy.

A warm welcome to all at Welshampton Parish Hall. (Guide dogs only, please).  
More details on our new website  
[www.welshamptonplantfair.co.uk](http://www.welshamptonplantfair.co.uk)

## NHS Future Fit

NHS Future Fit is a major programme looking at the future provision of health care services in Shropshire. There will be a number of events held in February/ March:

- Tue Feb 16, 9am-5pm Pride Hill Shopping Centre, Shrewsbury SY1 1PL
- Thu Feb 25, 10am – 2pm The Shropshire Women and Children's Centre, Princess Royal Hospital TF1 6TF
- Tue Mar 1, 10am-2pm Roberts Jones and Agnes Hunt Hospital, Oswestry SY10 7AG
- Tue Mar 1, 4pm-8pm Memorial Hall, Smithfield Street, Oswestry, SY11 2EG
- Fri Mar 11, 10am-2pm Outpatients, Royal Shrewsbury Hospital SY3 8XQ
- Wed Mar 23, 10am-2pm, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, TF9 3AX

[www.nhsfuturefit.org](http://www.nhsfuturefit.org)

# Shropshire Parish Paths **PARTNERSHIPS**

**Do you enjoy exploring the Rights of Way in and around Welshampton and Lyneal Parish?**

Why not become a Parish Paths Partnership Volunteer to help us maintain the network in your local area?  
Jobs include:

- Cutting back vegetation to keep routes open
- Replacing or repairing stiles, gates, steps and bridges

We supply training, tools and materials and you can volunteer as much or as little time as you wish, there is no obligation! With your help we can ensure Shropshire's Great Outdoors can be enjoyed by all.

**If you are interested in volunteering with us, or want to find out more, please visit our website [www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk](http://www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk) call us on 01743 255957 or email [hel-en.beresford@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:hel-en.beresford@shropshire.gov.uk)**

## **Come and have a Wander around Wem**

Walks are **FREE**

**Meet Edinburgh House  
10.00 am every Monday**

**Enjoy a chat and a gentle 30-60 minute walk**



Mostly on the flat and led at a pace that suits you. No need to book, just come along 5- 10 min early before the start of your first walk.

Wear comfortable , flat shoes with a good grip.

To chat about the walks and find out more contact  
Liz Evans on 01743 255068/[Liz.Evans@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Liz.Evans@shropshire.gov.uk)  
or go to [www.walkingforhealth.org.uk](http://www.walkingforhealth.org.uk)

## Useful Contact Details

### Parish Council

#### **Welshampton Ward**

Andrew Haydon (Chair)

Sarah Jefferies

Bob Richards

Mark Standen

Jennifer Wright

#### **Vacancy**

#### **Lyneal Ward**

Chris Symes (Vice Chair)

Lawrence Houghton MBE

Martin Withington

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

**Shropshire Council** 0345 678 9000  
Customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk  
www.shropshire.gov.uk

#### **Shropshire Councillor**

Brian Williams 01939 234198

#### **Emergency Contacts**

In most emergencies you should dial 999 or 112

#### **For non - emergencies**

West Mercia Police 101

Shropshire Fire & Rescue 01743 260200

W. Mids Ambulance 01743 273649

#### **Community Contacts**

Welshampton Parish Hall 01948 710687

#### **Contact Information**

Keeping YOU Informed is produced by:  
Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council  
c/o The Old Police House  
Nesscliffe  
Shrewsbury  
SY4 1DB

For further information please contact the Clerk:

Rebecca Turner on 01743 741611

Email: clerk@welshamptonandlyneal-pc.gov.uk

The information in this newsletter can be made available in large print and audio tape. Please call 01743 741611 for further details.



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## The Big Conversation (Shropshire Council)

In the context of major cuts to its funding, The Big Conversation is a five-year conversation which Shropshire Council wants to have with Shropshire people to ask them what council services are most important to them, and what they can do to help and make the remaining resources it has go further. The initial survey asked people about the council service areas they thought were the most important to protect from reductions in spending. Below are the results, as summarised on Shropshire Council's website. See [www.https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/big-conversation/](https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/big-conversation/)

The results indicate that protecting vulnerable children is considered the most important service area to protect from reductions in spending, followed by education and supporting older people and vulnerable adults. Protecting vulnerable children and education are regarded as being roughly twice as important as employment services, and three times as important as health and housing services. The Big Conversation survey also asked about ways of making savings and delivering services:

77% respondents agree or strongly agree that the Council should combine services with other Council's and Public Sector organisations. Just one in ten (10%) disagree.

53% of respondents agree or strongly agree with investing in IT to reduce staff costs. A fifth (21%) of respondents disagree.

Some 62% of respondents generally agree that Shropshire Council should protect some services and cut back others in order to make savings, while 17% disagree. Residents were asked their views around working with active communities.

Some 61% of respondents agree that Shropshire Council should make more use of local residents and volunteers to deliver services in order to make savings, whilst only 22% disagree.

71% of respondents agree that communities should be enabled to do more for themselves. Some 12% of respondents disagree.

32% of respondents are willing or very willing to contribute through participation or volunteering. Only 15% stated they are not willing to do so.

More than 55% of respondents agree that fees should be increased so that the costs of some services are largely paid for by the direct user.

49% of respondents agree with raising Council Tax compared to 34% who disagree. 15% of respondents identified that they neither agree nor disagree with increasing Council Tax.

Feedback from the survey and focus groups will inform the development of the next stage of the Big Conversation which will run from April 2016 for the coming years.