

Hello and welcome....

Welcome to a special edition of the Council's newsletter. It is timed to report on the weekend of commemoration of the Centenary of the Armistice. Several events took place in the Parish, all of which were very well supported, and concluded in the special Remembrance Services.

As part of the 'Our Gallant 35' exhibition the presentation of the inaugural 'Community Service Award' was made. Two highly thought of residents had been nominated and the Parish Council could not decide between them. It was unanimously agreed to present an additional award! The recipients were Keith Egerton and Tommy Lindsay. Keith's nomination included reference to his work for the Church, School, Parish Hall and Parish Council. Keith has helped raise thousands of pounds for those organisations and continues to help where he can. Tommy's nomination cited his commitment in maintaining the churchyard. Tommy's high standard of work has been noticed by many different people. One resident stated, "When I came to look at my house, before I bought it, the Church and churchyard stood out to me and made my decision to buy the house easier in a village that obviously

cares." The presentation of the Awards was made by Mr Stuart Lawrence, Group Estates Manager, Tudor Griffiths Ltd, the sponsors of this year's awards.



I believe the phrase 'a village that obviously cares' should be expanded to 'a Parish that obviously cares' as the commitment shown across the Parish to help in any and every way to honour our Gallant 35 was amazing. It was a weekend of fitting tributes.

Andrew Haydon

Chairman of Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

Remembrance Services

There were three acts of Remembrance over the weekend of the Centenary of the Armistice. The School held its service on the Friday and the Churches held theirs on the Sunday. Over 100 people attended each of the services on the Sunday. The names of those who died, including those in other wars and conflicts, were read out and wreaths laid.



Pictures are of the altar at St Michael and All Angels and the wreath laying at the memorial.

Crosses with hand written tributes from residents were joined by crosses made by the school

At St John the Evangelist Colemere small crosses were presented bearing the names of the dead, at the foot of a larger cross made for the Centenary from timbers left over from the building of the Church 150 years ago. The commemorative Centenary Cross will go on to form part of the permanent War Memorials at Colemere Church.

The Centenary Cross



OUR GALLANT 35 THEIR LIVES THEIR FAMILIES THEIR COMMUNITY

Our Gallant 35

Saturday 10th November saw the culmination of many months of planning, researching, designing and printing for Welshampton and Lyneal Parish's tribute to those who had fallen during the First World War. A small team of Parish Council representatives and local residents waited nervously within the Parish Hall to see if anyone would arrive to view the exhibition of profiles on the Gallant 35 and other related information. It was amazing to see the residents outside waiting for the official opening. During the day over 150 people visited the exhibition and many stayed to the end to see the Bonfire Committee's Tribute in Words and Song. We hope the photos give a flavour of the occasion.

Those attending had amazing stories to tell about their families and there was even an unexpected family reunion! One family, relatives of one of the fallen, came up from Haywards Heath and another family from Norfolk.

The purpose of the exhibition was not just to remember those who had given their lives as part of the Great War, but to announce that work on all the research, of which only a small amount was on display, will soon commence to pull it all together into one book. If you have any additional information please get in touch with the Parish Council. We would hate to miss out any key details.

Our Gallant 35 was the middle day of three days of Remembrance. The Primary School held a Remembrance service on the Friday afternoon and the church was decorated with a marvellous display of poppies and the children's work. On the Sunday there were services at St Michael and All Angels and St John the Evangelist.

There were so many people who helped make the whole weekend a moving tribute. They helped by generously allowing precious artefacts to be displayed, being part of the magnificent Bonfire Committee's tribute, preparing and serving refreshments and spending hours setting up and dismantling the exhibition. There are too many to list them individually but the Parish Council and, we're sure, all Parish residents, thank you. Without all of you, Our Gallant 35 weekend would not have happened.



A Tribute in Words and Song

The Bonfire Committee was honoured to take part in the World War One commemoration of Our Gallant 35 with a tribute in words and music.

Parish residents turned out in force to support the afternoon performance which included specially written poems, songs and a performance of music and readings.

North Shropshire poet, Ted Eames, started the performance with a reading of his poem 'Welshampton, Colemere, Lyneal: Giving a voice to the Dead of World War One' which had been written specifically for the event.



The performance also included readings of World War One poems by Mary Lewery, Richard Jones, Tony Lewery, John Evans, Mick Higgins, Dawn Edwards and Peter Cartlidge. Bob Richards organised the lighting.

Welshampton resident, Keith Egerton and Ellesmere's Ruth Clarke followed the performance with readings of poems discovered in notebooks belonging to Keith's uncle, Gordon Egerton, who died in the war titled 'Only A Thought About Colemere in Wartime'.



This was followed by a performance organised by Welshampton Bonfire Committee which had been created by Kate Westgate of Ellesmere. It was based on letters from Kate's grandfather recounting his harrowing experiences as a soldier in France in World War One. Kate joined the performance as herself and the role of her grandfather was portrayed by Danny Davies of Welshampton.

The letters were interspersed with World War One songs performed by the Welshampton Bonfire Committee choir which included Becky Cooper, Jan Wheat, John and Hilary Evans, Nikki Dawson, Sarah Barnes, Heather Rodenhurst, Mick Higgins, Dawn Edwards and Peter Cartlidge. They were accompanied by Jonathan Layfield of Lyneal.



Welshampton singer, 17-year-old Felix Ashley then took to the stage to perform 'A Place We Called Home'. The lyrics had been written by Heather Rodenhurst, the music composed by John Evans, both of Welshampton, and the musical arrangement had been created by Carly Rose. Carly and John Evans accompanied Felix on flute and melodeon.

The afternoon's performance closed with the playing of the Last Post by Marie Haydon, and a minute's silence.

Janet Jones

Bonfire Committee presents....

Welshampton Bonfire Committee has started planning its next winter show which will take place on February 22nd, 23rd and 24th at Welshampton Parish Hall.

The 2019 show – the ninth from the Bonfire Committee – is written by Trixi Field who was the musical director for this year's Cinderella pantomime. It is loosely based on the story of the Pied Piper of Hamelin with a modern and musical twist.

The initial casting and "expression of interest" meeting takes place on Sunday December 2nd in the Parish Hall at 2pm and includes a read-through of the script. But the meeting is also for those who would like to get involved in one of the many backstage, musical and production roles rather than go on stage. The Bonfire Committee is always looking for new recruits of any age or experience.

If you would like to be involved and cannot attend the 2nd December meeting, please contact Janet Jones at mail@janetjones.co.uk for further details.

Janet Jones

Welshampton Parish Hall

The Welshampton Parish Hall Management Committee recently held its Annual General Meeting. The membership of the Committee has seen some changes over the last year and I would like to thank those who have joined us.

The current Committee comprises of:

Chair – Mike Dinsdale

Vice Chair – Bob Richards

Booking Secretary – Tracey Eccles

Trustee – Glo Wright

Trustee – Susan Richards

Trustee – Gill Cartwright

Trustee – Nikki Dawson

You will notice we do not have a Treasurer at the current time. Jackie Jefferies did hold this position but has had to stand down due to personal reasons. We all thank Jackie for her time and commitment. If you have basic accounting skills and could help us with this role please get in touch. Contact details are on this page below.

We will continue to keep you updated of events at the hall through this newsletter.

Mike Dinsdale

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

Welshampton Ward

Andrew Haydon (Chair)

Mike Dinsdale (Vice Chair)

Sarah Jefferies

Sheila Stringer

Guy Wellsbury

1 vacancy

Lyneal Ward

Lawrence Houghton MBE

Chris Symes

Martin Withington

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

Shropshire Councillor

Brian Williams

01939 234198

Parish Council Meetings

All meetings are held in Welshampton Parish Hall and start at 7pm normally on the second Wednesday of the month. The public may attend and speak in the public session.

The information in this newsletter can be made available in large print and audio tape. Please call 01948 710672 for further details.



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Emergency Contacts

In most emergencies you should dial 999 or 112

For non - emergencies

West Mercia Police 101

Shropshire Fire & Rescue 01743 260200

West Mids Ambulance Service 01743 273649

Community Contacts

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