

Hello and welcome....

to the Summer edition of the Parish Council's newsletter. The summer has got off to a great start with successful applications to the National Lottery for funding. The Parish Council has obtained a grant of approximately £8,500 to provide 4 defibrillators around the parish: 2 in Welshampton, 1 in the phone box along The Balmer and 1 in Lyneal. The Parish Hall Management Committee has also been successful, receiving a grant of £10,000 towards replacement doors and windows. Great news for all in the parish!

Advance notice — we have been advised that Shropshire Council will be carrying out a Housing Needs Survey in the parish over the next few months. This survey has not been requested by the Parish Council.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition especially the background to the annual music festival.

Andrew Haydon

Chairman of Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council achieves national excellence award

Your Parish Council is celebrating achieving the Quality Gold level of the national Local Council Award Scheme.

The Quality Gold standard is the highest level of the scheme and the Parish Council is the first local council in Shropshire to achieve it. The scheme exists to recognise excellence in governance, community engagement and continual council improvement.

We were honoured that this achievement was recognised by Shropshire Council. Parish Council representatives were invited the Shirehall to receive the award. It was presented to the Chair Andrew Haydon, Vice Chair Mike Dinsdale and Clerk Carole Warner by Shropshire Council Chairman Ann Hartley before the Shropshire Council meeting on Thursday 16 May. The following is a flavour of what was said at the presentation

Councillor Hartley said:

"Although being a small parish council in the north of the county, Welshampton and Lyneal continually represent their community at all levels of government and Shropshire Council has been pleased to work with them on many occasions."

Cllr Andrew Haydon, Chair of the Parish Council, said:

"I am delighted that the Parish Council's efforts, its understanding of good governance, the desire for community engagement and on-going planning for the parish's future has been recognised. I would especially like to thank and acknowledge our clerk, Carole Warner's contribution as without her experience, professionalism and commitment to the Council and the community we would not have

attained this prestigious award"

Clerk Carole Warner said:

"Achieving this award recognises the effort and hard work put in over the years by everyone involved with the council. Without the backing of councillors who always support each other and look for ways to make a difference, we could not have reached Quality Gold. Every member of the council team has reason to be proud."

Katrina Baker, MBE, President of Shropshire Association of Local Councils and Chairman of the Accreditation Panel said:

"We congratulate Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council in obtaining Quality Gold. They have worked so hard to achieve this award from being the first council in Shropshire to achieve Quality standard, the middle level of the scheme, just over one year ago"



From left to right, Cllr Mike Dinsdale, Clerk Carole Warner, Cllr Andrew Haydon, Cllr Ann Hartley and Cllr Brian Williams



Big Weekend celebrates sounds of south west Louisiana

The North Shropshire Big Weekend music festival returns to Welshampton on August 16 to 18 for the seventh celebration of Cajun, Creole and Louisiana roots music, dance and culture. It is the only event in the UK to bring both Cajun and Zydeco musicians to the UK from south west Louisiana.

It may seem an odd event to find at Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Hall. But in fact north Shropshire and its surrounding areas are home to some of the UK's leading Cajun and Zydeco musicians. A group of these are now involved in running the festival as a non-profit making organisation including the festival's artistic director, Gavin Lewery from Ellesmere.

Gavin explains the history of Cajun and Zydeco music and the ethos behind the festival:

"Cajun and Zydeco music and cultures are linked through a common root – the unique location of south west Louisiana where the prairies morph into the cypress swamps and bayous which become the levees of the Gulf of Mexico. This inhospitable region has an uncomfortable history of migration, persecution, exile and slavery which has played a role in shaping the vibrant music, dance and cuisine of this Cajun country."

Since the early 17th century French settlers had colonised and settled in Canada in an area they named Acadia, bringing with them their Celtic influenced traditional music, song and cuisine. During the English – French wars of 1755 – 1764 the French were forced to leave Acadia by English armies. Many left by ships for New Orleans which was still under French rule but when they arrived the city had fallen to the British and the newly arrived Acadians were exiled to the swamps of south west Louisiana.

The word Creole is used to describe those descended from those of colonial Louisiana during both French and Spanish rule. It also came to be applied to African-descended slaves and Native Americans who were born in Louisiana. Louisiana

Creoles share cultural ties such as the traditional use of the French and the Creole language.

Both the French Acadians and the French Creoles found themselves living alongside each other excluded from the new states developing around them. The white Acadians, who became known as 'Cajuns', were fiercely suspicious of their new black 'Creole' neighbours



as were the Creoles towards the Cajuns.

The Cajuns brought their Celtic influenced traditional music with them, mainly played on the fiddle. The Creoles had their songs and rhythms passed down from West African descendants with Spanish and Native American influences. The accordion first began to be played by the African Creoles, reflecting their blues and rhythm based music. During the 1950s the black Creole style became known as Zydeco, a term derived from a popular saying of the time 'les haricot son pas sales' which means 'the beans are not salty'.

Inevitably the musical and cultural influences from the two communities began to cross pollinate resulting in extraordinary music, songs and stories reflecting the harshness of their respective epic journeys. As the blues based Creole music met the folk songs and melodies of the French Acadians, a new sound emerged within both cultures. Each has maintained its individual identity but both acknowledge that there is an inextricable link forged over the last 250 years.

In the present climate of suspicion and division within our own communities it seems even more important to bring people together in a creative and collaborative way. Our aim is to do this by inviting musicians from both the Cajun and Creole communities to play at our small Cajun and Zydeco festival. Not only do they play the highest quality authentic music but they also speak directly about their individual experiences and cultures as they play with and teach musicians from the UK and Europe.

Finally, our Louisiana artists collaborate together for a final concert to bring the festival to a close on a joyful note of reconciliation."

This year's Louisiana stars are Cajun musician Courtney Granger (above) and Zydeco accordion player Corey Ledet (right). Everyone is welcome to join the festival. The outside Cajun kitchen and back porch stage are both open to the public. Other festival and ticket details are available at the website www.northshropshirecajun.co.uk. We hope you can join us and we are sure you will again give our visitors a warm Welshampton welcome.

Janet Jones

Parish Updates

Litter picks

The Council recently purchased litter picking equipment: different sized pickers and hoops for bags. If you would like to borrow the equipment to litter pick your area of the parish, contact the Clerk to arrange collection.

Traffic calming

The Council is always looking for ways to reduce speeding in the parish and has decided to spend some of this year's allocation of funds under the Community Infrastructure Levy on white village gates. These will be placed on the A495 and B5063 near the 30 mph signs at the entrances to Welshampton. Other calming methods are also being considered.

Bus shelter at Welshampton

You will have noticed that the bus shelter, bench and notice board are in need of TLC! The Council is commissioning a new shelter which should be in place by the autumn.

Lane to Lyneal from B5063 — repairs

A re-assurance to residents that the Council is constantly lobbying Shropshire Council to complete the repairs started last year.

Shropshire RCC Fuel Buying Scheme

***Want to save money on your heating oil?
Read below!***

Shropshire RCC has asked we include the following:

Shropshire RCC is a local charity which runs a Community Fuel Buying Scheme to reduce the heating costs of those living off gas.

By bringing communities throughout Shropshire together and making the most of joint buying power, SRCC can make savings and pass them directly to people like you whose fuel costs are high simply because you aren't connected to mains gas. Being a member of the scheme not only gives you great savings on your fuel bills but removes the often time consuming task of ringing round suppliers for the best price. With local coordinators on hand to help those without email, and access to suppliers who can deliver to remote properties, the scheme can cater for everyone's circumstances.

In addition to heating oil SRCC also offer exclusive deals for members on LPG and Wood. Membership to the scheme is £24 per year and enables SRCC to cover the admin costs for running this scheme.

For more information please contact Lizzy Thain on 01743 342167 or join online at <http://www.shropshire-rcc.org.uk/services/individuals/oil-buying-scheme>

Warning from Trading Standards

The Council was recently contacted by Trading Standards to advise that unfortunately a few of residents in the parish had reported being victims of a scam. Trading Standards have asked we include the following advice.

Spot it, Stop it, Report it

Scams adversely impact millions of people across the UK and come in many forms. You may receive uninvited and unexpected contact by email, letter, and telephone or in person making false promises to con you out of money. Some of the most common scams are fake lotteries, deceptive prize draws or sweepstakes, clairvoyants, computer scams and romance scams but beware as there is a 'scam for everyone'

The criminals use clever techniques to attempt to trick you with flashy, official looking documents or websites, or convincing telephone sales patter. The aim is to persuade you to send a processing or administration fee, pay postal or insurance costs, buy an overvalued product, make a premium rate phone call or part with your personal and/or banking details. We know that these instances often go unreported by the victim themselves because they do not recognise that they have in fact been or are being scammed.

Our advice is simple – DO NOT respond to anything that sounds too good to be true: trust your own judgement. If in doubt, get advice. We do recognise that this is easier said than done.

There is also doorstep crime which can also adversely affect your life. Such crimes are carried out by bogus callers, rogue traders and unscrupulous sales people who call, often, but not always, uninvited, at your home under the guise of legitimate business or trade. These individuals convince you to pay for goods and services that you either do not need, or are at a highly inflated price, or both.

By law, doorstep traders must give consumers a 14 day cooling off period for goods and services over £42. This even applies when a visit is pre-booked. Use the time to research whether the work needs doing and who offers the best price and service. Get a second opinion, from someone you trust

Our advice is simple - DO NOT deal with doorstep callers. We do recognise that this is sometimes easier said than done.

Spot it, Stop it, Report it on 03454 04 05 06.

Welshampton Bonfire Committee

Date for your diary:

The Welshampton pantomime will take place next year on February 21, 22 and 23 which is the last weekend of the school half term.

The script is still in development, but it will feature space travel and rockets! There will be plenty of opportunity for adults and children of all ages to get involved either performing or back stage or with creating costumes, sets and props. All are very welcome.

The initial read-through is pencilled in for the end of November with rehearsals starting in December.

For more information or to be added to the 2020 pantomime mailing list, please contact Janet Jones at martinclan1@hotmail.com. Or have a look at our website at www.welshampton.org.uk and our Facebook page "Welshampton Bonfire Committee presents".

We look forward to hearing from you.

Parish Council Meeting Dates

The next 3 meetings are on
Wednesday 14 August
Wednesday 11 September
Wednesday 9 October

Also a reminder that we are looking for another councillor to represent Welshampton Ward.



Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

Welshampton Ward

Andrew Haydon (Chair)
Mike Dinsdale (Vice Chair)
Sarah Jefferies
Sheila Stringer
Guy Wellsbury
1 vacancy

Lyneal Ward

Chris Symes
Lawrence Houghton MBE
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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Useful Contact Details

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

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

Welshampton Parish Hall
welshamptonphcontact@gmail.com 01948 710964

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