

Hello and welcome.... and trust 2021 will be a better year for everyone.

I was looking at the newsletter published this time last year and my opening words included "best wishes, albeit a soggy one". I could have easily repeat those words this year! As I write this introduction, snow is falling which will only exacerbate the situation. Please all take care when you are driving or walking along the roads and lanes.

Thank you to those who replied to the Gigabit survey. We had very good response and have forwarded the data to both Openreach and Airband. Airband have been commissioned to install the expansion of superfast broadband in the area for Connecting Shropshire and Openreach are working on a similar project on our Welsh border with the Welsh Government. We will update you as soon as we have feedback from them.

2021 is planned to be election year for Shropshire Council and local authorities so we have taken the opportunity to look back over the past 4 years and I hope you will agree the Council has been active, although 2020 less so for obvious reasons.

The Council is looking for your help again. The 2021 Community Service Award nomination form is included with the newsletter. We are also hoping you will have inspiration for images to go on the traffic calming white gates. We are looking for images that depict Welshampton; not just buildings, but nature as well.

Keep safe and well.

Andrew Haydon

Chairman of Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

Welshampton Traffic Calming

One of the first decisions made by the Parish Council when it resumed meeting after the first lockdown was to order two vehicle activated signs for each end of Welshampton along the A495. Unfortunately, there has been a delay, some due to COVID-19 and some due to the necessary permission from Shropshire Council. The Council is working to overcome these delays.

The Parish Council has awarded a contract to ensure the traffic calming white gates at the main entrances to Welshampton are maintained throughout the year. This includes cleaning and cutting the verge so they are visible all year round.

The Parish Council has received requests to make the gates stand out more. A picture of local interest and/or some words like 'drive safely' or equivalent. The Council is looking for some suggestions or even pictures/photo that depict Welshampton village. Can you think of anything? Please let the Clerk know. Contact details at the back page of the newsletter.

Back in 2009, as part of the Spring Fair and Grand Plant Sale, there was a competition for a village emblem and motto. The Council will try to include these themes.



What has your Parish Council done?

An election year is a good time to review what the Parish Council has achieved. Below are the highlights since the elections in May 2017.

- Safer Roads Partnership speed monitoring at Welshampton Parish Hall.
- Parish Consultation on Future Development in the parish and drainage in Welshampton.
- Progression through the Local Council Award Scheme from Foundation to the first Council in Shropshire to be awarded the highest level, Quality Gold.
- Creation of the Community Service Award — now in its 3rd year!
- 'Our Gallant 35' exhibition and book.
- Conversion of all street lights to LED.
- Financial assistance to the automation of Welshampton School clock.
- Installation of 4 Community Public Access Defibrillators.
- Community Defibrillator Seminar.
- Clothing and Shoe Recycling Bank jointly with The Salvation Army.
- COVID-19 Community Support Group.
- Traffic Calming Measures including promoting Community Speed Watch.
- Gigabit Broadband Project.

A long list and many could not have been achieved without parishioners' help. Thank you!

COVID-19 Update

The vaccine roll out is underway, but some residents may have difficulty in getting to the centres. If you are needing help with this or other issues during lockdown, please contact the Clerk or a Councillor and we will do our best to help

The Parish Council has been approached by the University of Southampton to offer the opportunity to take part in international research into COVID-19. A flyer is enclosed.

Shropshire Council now has a range of funding available to help the most vulnerable of Shropshire's households to manage over the winter months.

The Council has been granted an **Emergency Fund** through DEFRA and funding through a **Winter Grant Scheme** through the Department for Work & Pensions to help those residents in Shropshire that are most in need. Between them, these funds will be able to help the most vulnerable with the cost of food, energy and water bills and other essential outgoings.

There is one application process which can be done over the phone (a paper form is available on request). Advisers will go through the person's circumstances and will complete an initial application, at the same time they will be able to point people in the direction of other help and advice available. After that, a specialist adviser will deal with the application, including any supporting information we may need to help us decide.

These awards are aimed at people in hardship and who are struggling to manage during the Covid pandemic. A person does not need to be getting benefits in order to qualify, each application will be looked at on its merits and will take all circumstances into account, including any other money that the person might have available to help. So, if you, or someone you know, is having difficulty meeting essential outgoings, call Shropshire Council on **0345 678 9078**.

Census 2021

What is the census?

The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. Local councils, charities and many other organisations use census information to decide how to spend billions of pounds on services every year. This includes spending on transport, education and healthcare. To make sure this money is spent where it's most needed, it's important that the census counts everyone.

Your support matters.

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) understand that building good relationships with communities means more people will want to take part in the census. They also understand that no one knows your community better than you. Support from trusted local leaders and community representatives will be vital in helping people take part.

Building community links

ONS need your help to reach the widest possible audience for Census 2021. Everyone should have the support they need to fill in the census. ONS local community engagement staff will be on hand throughout the census with resources, advice and practical support that helps everyone to take part.

When should I fill in my census questionnaire?

Census Day is Sunday 21 March, but you can fill yours in as soon as you get your access code in the post. Your answers should be about the people who usually live in your household on this date, even if you're filling it in before then. If your household circumstances change on Census Day, you can let ONS know.

**Read more about the census at www.census.gov.uk
Follow the census @Census2021**

Make A Change, Become a Councillor

What Do Local Councils Do?

Your local council has overall responsibility for the wellbeing of your local community. Their work falls into three main categories:

- Delivery of services;
- Improve quality of life for residents;
- Give communities a democratic voice.

What has your Parish Council done? See page 1 for details.

Becoming a Local Councillor

As a local councillor you can become a voice for your community and make real change. Councillors are community leaders and represent the interests of the communities they serve. Local councillors have three main responsibilities:

- Decision-making;
- Monitoring;
- Getting involved locally.

Getting Elected

To stand for election to a local council you must be:

- a UK or Commonwealth citizen;
- at least 18 years old;
- an elector of the local council; or in the past 12 months occupied land or other premises in the area the local council serves (as owner or tenant); or work in the area local council serves (as your principal or only place of work); or live within three miles of the local council boundary

Welshampton C of E Primary School Update

National Lockdown and Remote Learning

As you will be aware all children were due to return at the beginning of term however at 8pm on 4th January a National Lockdown was announced and our schools are once again only open to the children of key workers and children deemed vulnerable. In just 24 hours our fantastic team at Welshampton then switched to remote learning for the whole of the school as well as supporting key worker children on site by creating a key worker bubble and staff rotas. It is safe to say that we have learnt so much from the first National Lockdown in 2020. This time around we are able offer much more support with remote learning with both online and paper-based packs as well as loan laptops to those who need them. Of course, nothing beats the children being in school though!

A massive thank you to the team at Welshampton School for their continued focus to educate and support the children and families of our Parish and beyond.

Staff Changes at Welshampton School

You may be aware that in December Mrs Rachael Clarke left after over 14 years of fantastic service to our school. Rachael supported so many children through their time at our school. As well as being a great class teacher Rachael was also a key link with the Friends of Welshampton School, a former school Governor and highly involved with the rest of the local parish community and the school.

"I feel incredibly privileged to have worked in such a wonderful village school: the children, families, staff, Friends, governors, and the local community make it a truly special place. For the last fourteen (plus) years the school has been such a large part of my life and the decision to leave has been long-thought-out and very emotional. After twenty-two-years of teaching, I am hoping to train as an Educational Psychologist and in doing so feel that I need experience in different sized schools and with children of all ages. I won't be far away and I will always keep Welshampton in my thoughts." Mrs Clarke.

Later this year Mr Andrew Hodson our Executive Head Teacher will be retiring from his role. Since the school's Federation in 2016 Mr Hodson has led Welshampton, alongside Newtown school, from strength to strength. Andrew was due to retire in April however due to the National Lockdown Andrew has agreed to stay in his role until the end of the summer term. This will ensure a stable handover to his replacement. The recruitment process has been postponed until later this term and all of the details are on the school website

www.welshamptonceprimary.co.uk

Community Carpark

We would like to thank the Parish Council and the owners of the community carpark for their help and support with the upkeep of the Community Carpark.

School encourage all parents to use the carpark and the unofficial one way system at drop off and collection for the safety of their children, themselves and the rest of the community.

Governor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a co-opted Governor. If you or any member of the community would be interested in a role within our Governing Body then please contact Andrew Hodson or myself via school for further information.

I would like to thank the whole of the school community, pupils, staff, governors and parents for their resilience and energy they have shown at this challenging time.

Clare Mainwaring
Chair of Governors



Have you been looking through drawers and cupboards during lockdown? We have, and discovered this picture painted by Carole Youngs used as part of the 150th anniversary celebration of the foundation of the school.

Parish Updates

Community Speed Watch

Following the appeal for volunteers in the last newsletter, sufficient residents have come forward to make the project viable. When they are able to be trained and in action, the team will be a valuable addition to speed management in Welshampton.

Welshampton Parish Hall

The Hall remains closed but the Management Committee are still actively working. They have been meeting with representatives of the Parish Council and together are looking at options to improve and enhance the facilities. Look out for updates in the next edition of the newsletter.

Litter Picking

If when you are walking around the parish, it is always a good opportunity for a litter pick. Remember, the Council has equipment to borrow to keep you safe.

Community Service Award 2021

Who do **YOU** think deserves to be recognised for their good works locally?

NOW is your chance to propose an award for a deserving individual or group working voluntarily in the Parish.

Nomination forms enclosed and available to download at www.welshamptonandlyneal-pc.gov.uk

Closing date for nominations 31 March 2021.



For further information:
www.welshamptonandlyneal-pc.gov.uk
or contact
clerk@welshamptonandlyneal-pc.gov.uk
or 01948 710672



Active at Home

is the latest initiative by Energize, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Active Partnership. Follow this link to find ideas which are ideal for people of any age who want to get started or remain active whilst at home: <https://www.energizestw.org.uk/active-at-home>

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

Welshampton Ward

Andrew Haydon (Chair)
Mike Dinsdale (Vice Chair)
Karen Bland
Sarah Jefferies
Sheila Stringer
Guy Wellsbury

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 normally held on the second Wednesday of the month and start at 7pm. 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

Keeping YOU Informed is produced by:

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