

Hello and welcome.... to the autumn edition of the Parish Council's newsletter!.

I am writing this having attended the two wonderful Services of Remembrance held in the Benefice Churches, including an insightful and moving presentation on the Dam Busters at Colemere. They are such special services.

A huge thank you to everyone that came along and visited or took part in the Big Green Day at the end of September; look inside for some great pictures of the day — in particular don't miss the beautiful giant butterfly made by the talented pupils of Welshampton Primary School.

But with shorter days now that the clocks have gone back, there is still plenty to look forward to over the next few months — look out for the Advent coffee morning at the Parish Hall on Sunday 3rd December for a lovely festive morning!

For those who travel along the A528 on a regular basis, the Parish Council and neighbouring Councils have been following up the site meeting at Spunhill held with Shropshire Council which was held after a tragic accident in the spring. Measures to improve the safety are being discussed and we will let you all know the outcome as soon as we can.

Wishing you all the very best for the festive season ahead, it will be panto time in the Parish Hall before we know it!

Karen Bland
Chairperson, Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

Jan Snell Award 2023



Having been awarded the Local Council Award Scheme, Quality Gold, for the second time earlier this year, the Parish Council has rounded off a productive year by being awarded joint winner of the Jan Snell Award at the Shropshire Association of Local Council's AGM. The Jan Snell Award is named after a clerk whose desire was

to see town and parish councils make a difference to their communities. It is awarded annually to a council which has over the last 3 years accomplished a significant improvement for their local community.

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council nominated itself for retaining the Quality Gold Award and continuing public engagement with the community through its Working Group on Climate, Sustainability and Biodiversity (consisting of Parish Councillors and various hardworking residents) at two public events, namely a 'Swish!' on 8 July and 'The Big Green Day' on 30 September.

The SALC President introduced the Award by saying "Past winners have demonstrated exceptional good practice and innovative ideas and this year was no exception. The Panel, (Cllrs Wickson, Allan and Abbiss) have found it very difficult to select a winner. It was clear that the final three are all outstanding applications and all offered an enhanced service to their communities. After consideration, the Panel agreed that all three are worthy of the Award and their Council names would be added to the Jan Snell Shield. The three Councils, in alphabetical order are Childs Ercall, Rodington and Welshampton & Lyneal. These will be the last Councils to be added to this Award as the Shield is now full."

In accepting the Award on behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr Kathryn Holland said, "On behalf of the Parish Council I feel proud and privileged to accept this award. Retaining the Quality Gold Award has been recognised as hard to do, arguably harder than to do so in 2018, having to work through the Covid years. The Council will continue to work with and for the community in many areas. Finally, thank you to the Panel who felt the Council had successfully made its case and deserved the award."

The BIG Green Day

Saturday 30 September 2023 proved to be a busy day for Welshampton & Lyneal Parish Council.

The Climate, Sustainability and Biodiversity Working Group, a group comprised of Parish Councillors and interested parishioners put on a very 'Green Day.' Indeed we called it 'The Big Green Day.' Our intention when planning this day was to 'inform and inspire.'



The day was taken up in part with talks from various individuals. The first talk was given by Dr Anton Garrett. He spoke about the science behind 'Climate.' He is passionate about this subject and whilst his views were not to be taken as the Parish Council's views, listening to Dr Garrett proved very interesting.

The second talk was prepared by Tim Hulbert but actually presented on the day by Martin Withington on Tim's behalf owing to illness. The subject matter was renewable energy with particular reference to future energy in the form of BioLPG and rDME. Tim's concern has been how we can realistically power rural homes such as those in our parish in the future. Heat pumps may not be suitable for everyone.

The third speaker was Janet Cobb from Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project. Janet spoke about what is being done in South Shropshire in the name of nature. By rewilding some of our verges we can create safe corridors for all manner of small mammals. We can also provide more pollen for pollinators. We have made a start here in North Shropshire. Safety for pedestrians and road users more generally is of course uppermost in our minds. We are starting slowly and carefully. Only a small amount of rewilding will be undertaken in the first instance.

Our final speaker was Richard Small from Marches Meadows Group. Richard talked to us about meadow creation and the recommended ways of going about creating beautiful meadows to assist nature. All of our speakers spoke twice, once in the morning and then again in the afternoon.

In the main Hall there were stands representing all things Green! We had growers growing sustainably whether it be food – Babbinswood Organic Farm, or flowers – Ellesmere Eco Flowers. We had representatives of renewable energy sources – two different local businesses – Shropshire Renewables and Princes LHS both showing what they can do for us in our homes.

The Ellesmere branch of The Repair Café were present as was Rachel Pittaway showing us how to reuse and repurpose materials that were no longer being used for their original purpose. Colemere Rangers were present and also Whixall Moss. Shropshire Compost Association enlightened us all with a very interactive stand including a microscope to investigate soil microbiology.



The Butterfly Conservation Trust were assisted by Bridget Bomford. Indeed the children of Welshampton CofE Primary School designed a beautiful butterfly with individual pictures dealing with Climate Change. Tudor Griffiths were represented and focussed on the quarry, recycling and Wood Lane Nature Reserve. Shropshire Wildlife Trust and CPRE, the Countryside Charity also had stands as did the WI who had a plant and seed swap. Rotary were represented and Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project and Marches Meadows Group also had stands throughout the day.

Parishioners were invited to pass their contact details onto our Clerk if they wanted to visit homes within the Parish to look at renewable energy initiatives in situ and working. Parishioners were also invited to contact Marches Energy Agency if they wanted to view additional renewable energy initiatives throughout wider Shropshire.



The Big Green Raffle raised £312.28 in aid of Ellesmere Food and Warm Clothes Sharing Project.

We had many visitors on the day. From feedback we believe it was a good and in many ways a helpful day. The talks went down well and our exhibitors engaged with visitors throughout. We even had Joseph Schneider from the Rural Arts Hub entertaining children outside the hall making things with an eye on repurposing and reusing. Unfortunately, the weather intervened in the early afternoon and inevitably the games were cut short.

We will learn from this day and do it again at some stage in the future when the time is right.

Thank you to all those who helped organise the day and to all those who came and visited.

Cllr Kathryn Holland

Tree Planting and Woodland Creation

My name is Ross Cowie, and I have recently started as the Strategic Treescape Officer for Shropshire Council. The main purpose of my role is to facilitate the creation of new woodland areas and new tree planting in Shropshire.

There is a growing awareness and appreciation of the many and diverse values and benefits that tree and woodland planting can bring, not least in adapting to the effects of climate change and more immediately, responding to the devastating impact of ash dieback disease upon our ash tree population.

One of my first objectives is to identify potential sites, ideally (but not necessarily exclusively) on public land, that would be suitable for woodland creation or new tree planting. Once I have a list of suitable sites, I will then be able to apply for grants, which will provide funding for tree purchase and planting, as well as post-planting maintenance. If Shropshire Council is successful with these grant applications, then I would be aiming to plant in the 2024/25 season (November to March).

If other funds or sources of trees (for example via Shropshire Council's Community Tree Scheme (see link below) and means of planting are available sooner, there is always the chance Shropshire Council may be able to undertake planting on suitable sites during this winter season (2023/24).

I am currently investigating land owned by Shropshire Council, but I am aware that landowners may want to plant trees or areas of woodland. If you have any land that could be suitable for planting, please get in touch with me as soon as possible and I would be happy to explore further.

Here's a link to the Shropshire Council Community Tree Scheme website:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/environment/trees-woodlands-and-hedges/shropshire-council-community-tree-scheme-202324/>

Many thanks and I look forward to hearing from you.

Ross Cowie

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A warning / reminder to all drivers, while driving in the dark, winter evenings, please take more care and pay attention to your surroundings. Over the last few weeks the Police have been called to a number of livestock out on the road, which are a danger to road users. These have been dealt with but also with the weather we are having now, high winds etc. there is a chance of trees and other debris in the road.

Please remember to take your time and report any issues you see.



It is much easier for burglars to operate using the cover of night and they embrace the longer hours of darkness, but you can help yourself from being a victim of crime. Head of prevention Superintendent Edward Hancox says "When the evenings are dark, this gives burglars a clearer understanding if a property is unoccupied. They are more likely to pick one that seems empty without lights on than one that has. If you leave a light on, or even have a light set on a timer, you will reduce the risk of an opportunist burglar targeting your home."



Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

Welshampton Ward

Karen Bland (Chair)
Mike Dinsdale
Andrew Haydon
Kathryn Holland
Sheila Stringer
Guy Wellsbury

Lyneal Ward

Lawrence Houghton MBE (Vice Chair)
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 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

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