



Keeping YOU Informed

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council's Local Newsletter

Issue 58 - Spring 2026

Hello and welcome.... to the spring edition of our newsletter.

We would like to welcome you all to our Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 13th May. It is open to all and starts at 6.30pm. This is an opportunity for us all to discuss how we can work together for the benefit of our community. The Annual Parish Council Meeting will follow after the Parish Meeting. We currently have two vacancies for Parish Councillors and would love to talk to anyone who may be interested, and encourage attendance at meetings to understand the role further. Please see page two for a lovely honest opinion of life as a councillor from Councillor Kathryn Holland who has been with the Council since 2021.

We have had the pleasure of working with Shropshire Councillor Sarah Marston over the last year since Cllr Brian Williams stepped down from the post. Sarah attends our monthly Parish Council meetings and please see page 3 for her summary of the last year in this post.

Welshampton Parish Hall is welcoming a new regular meeting on the second Monday of each month, 2pm to 4pm, Models for Heroes. This is an opportunity for all active members and veterans of the armed services and Blue Light workers and is fully funded. Models for Heroes is a national charity and all models are provided free or you can bring your own. If anyone has any models in their cupboard that they would like to donate, contact John at john4models@gmail.com or 07814 395001. See the back page for more details.

Karen Bland
Chairperson, Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council



The Great Welshampton Curtain Concert 2026



Hello all,

We are staging the third Great Welshampton Curtain Concert on October 9th and we would love you all to be involved in raising money for our invaluable parish hall.

The theme for this year's variety concert will be The Good Old Days bringing together music and song, performance and dance in the style of late Victorian/Edwardian musical theatre. There are still episodes on the BBC iPlayer of the TV show which ran for 30 years if you want to take a look. The wonderful bonfire committee wardrobe team has also offered to help with costumes.

As ever we want to highlight all our fantastic local talent. We have a few acts in mind to tie in with the theme. It could be a comedy strong man act complete with leopard skin leotard and handlebar moustache, a variation of Wilson, Keppel and Betty's sand dance, a ventriloquist act possibly with a 'real' dummy or one of the popular music hall songs. Any other ideas are very welcome.

We would very much like to hear from you if you would like to be involved. You can contact us by emailing Richard Jones at richard.jones2019@outlook.com

It's a one-night only event so there's just a chance we might not be able to fit everyone in. However, if you could let us know as soon as possible and by Friday, June 26th at the latest, we can draw up a programme which will hopefully suit everyone.

In the meantime, please put the date in your diary. Tickets will go on sale in August – watch out for the announcements. It's going to be a very entertaining night!

All the very best.
The Great Welshampton Curtain Concert team

Would you like to make a difference?

The Parish Council has two vacancies for Councillors in the Welshampton Ward. Cllr Kathryn Holland, who joined the Council in 2021, reflects on her time as a Parish Councillor.

Starting Out: Induction and Early Challenges

When I first became a parish councillor, the parish clerk paid me a visit and guided me through the induction process. There was a considerable amount of reading to undertake, alongside several training courses, which were mostly completed online. The role itself is incredibly varied—one day I might be asked to review a planning application, while the next could be spent organising a community event. Above all, I have tried to remember that my primary responsibility is to represent my community and give a voice to those who might otherwise go unheard.

Understanding Procedures and Building Confidence

I quickly realised that the paperwork and procedures are there for a reason. Documents such as agendas, minutes, standing orders, and declarations of interest can initially seem overwhelming, but they are crucial for ensuring that all decisions are made fairly and transparently.

Learning from Colleagues and the Clerk

Working closely with the parish clerk and councillors with more experience was invaluable. I came to appreciate just how much of the role takes place outside of formal meetings—following up on agreed actions, responding to emails, and monitoring local issues before they escalate.

Representing the Council Externally

Another aspect of the role involves representing the parish council on other bodies. For example, I act as our representative on the Shropshire Association

of Local Councils, the TG Liaison Group, and the Colemere Liaison Group.

Contributing to Community Initiatives

During my first year, I played a part in setting up a Working Group made up of residents and parish councillors focused on Climate, Sustainability and Biodiversity. We have organised several events, including a Big Green Day, a Creature Habitat Day, and two Clothes Swap events. In 2025, we also brought together local farmers and major landowners for an event centred on Nature Recovery.

Navigating Challenges and Learning Lessons

The journey has not always been straightforward. There were moments of disagreement, and occasions when residents quite rightly expected prompt answers, even though council processes can take time. These experiences have taught me patience, the importance of effective communication, and the need to stay focused on what genuinely benefits the parish as a whole.

Personal Development and Ongoing Commitment

I have learnt how to work collaboratively and make decisions openly. Most importantly, I have discovered that being a parish councillor is about consistently showing up for the community and carrying out the steady, often quiet work that helps the parish run smoothly.

Do I regret becoming a Councillor?

Certainly NOT!

Calling all keen Gardeners!

The Climate, Sustainability and Biodiversity Working Group invite you to contact our Parish Clerk if you would be interested in opening your garden for a few hours one Saturday afternoon in late May/early June 2027. If you express interest now but subsequently change your mind that will not be a problem. Our idea is to have gardens open throughout the parish.



We suspect that the National Garden Scheme would be a step too far so what

we are thinking of is something a little less demanding but still involving gardens that we as residents nurture and care fondly for. If gardens are particularly nature friendly that will be the added bonus!

We would charge a very small amount to visit the gardens and we would hope to have tea and cake available at various locations. All monies raised would benefit a good cause as yet to be decided. Again if you are able to suggest a good cause please advise our Clerk.

Our Working Group wants to benefit nature and also our community. Please let us know if you think this would be an idea worth pursuing.

The Climate, Sustainability and Biodiversity Working Group

The Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia, (PCC) John Campion, has launched a consultation to seek the views of Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, and Worcestershire residents regarding Government proposals to merge police forces across England and Wales.

The Government announced that an independent review into these proposals would be carried out, which could see the existing structure of 43 police forces reduce to 12. This would be the biggest change to policing in more than six decades.

These proposals were not in Labour's manifesto in the General Election; therefore, the PCC is committed to representing the public voice. Through this three-month consultation, he hopes to hear from as many West Mercia residents as possible – regardless of whether people are for or against the proposals.

Whilst the consultation has been shared with parish councils, we would be grateful if you could please share with your networks to ensure that as many people as possible hear about it and have the chance to have their say.

Links to the consultation and further information are available below:

Consultation
<https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/91056156/Police-force-mergers-2026>

Website:
<https://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk>

Kind regards,

Lizi Platts
Head of Communications & Engagement
Phone: 01905 331656

Parish Council Meeting Dates

All meetings are held in Welshampton Parish Hall and start at 6.30pm, unless otherwise stated.

Wednesday 13 May (following the Parish Meeting)

Wednesday 11 June

Wednesday 8 July

Members of the public are invited to address the Council during the first 15 minutes of the meeting.

Shropshire Councillor Update

Over the past year, my work as your Shropshire Councillor for The Meres has focused on supporting the parish council and ensuring that local concerns are clearly heard within Shropshire Council at a time of significant challenge and change.

Following the change in administration, the Liberal Democrat-led council inherited a very difficult financial position, with high levels of debt, reduced reserves, and a backlog of unresolved issues across many services. A great deal of effort this year has therefore been focused on stabilising the council's finances, improving governance, and addressing long-standing problems while continuing to deliver day-to-day services. This has not been easy, and progress is often slower than any of us would like, but important steps are being taken to put the council on a more sustainable footing.

Highways and road condition remain one of the most common concerns raised by residents. Potholes, surface deterioration, and the condition of rural roads are long-standing issues across Shropshire. While these problems cannot be fixed overnight, the council has increased its focus on repairs, including additional pothole crews and a more targeted approach to the worst affected roads. I continue to raise specific concerns from our area directly with highways officers and will keep pressing for improvements where roads are deteriorating or repairs have not lasted as expected.

I have also been involved in council-wide scrutiny and improvement work, including

contributing to a task and finish group reviewing how Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding is allocated. This work aims to improve transparency and ensure that CIL funding is better aligned with local infrastructure needs and pressures caused by new development, including those identified by town and parish councils.

Throughout the year, my priority has been to act as a link between Welshampton and Lyneal Parish and Shropshire Council: raising residents' concerns, explaining council decisions, and working constructively to push for improvements where services fall short. While the challenges facing the council are still significant, there is clear progress being made, and I will continue to work on your behalf to ensure your voice is heard as those improvements continue.

If you have an issue you would like me to raise, please do get in touch.

Email: sarah.marston@shropshire.gov.uk

Landline: 01743 250181

Mobile: 07483 111566



Models for Heroes

Models for Heroes (M4H) is the first charitable organisation in the UK to support the use of model making hobbies within former and current Armed Forces and Emergency Service Personnel in the United Kingdom.

In March 2017 model maker Malcolm Childs began volunteering his time, experience and personal hobby making resources to the Rolling Recovery Programme at Tedworth House Recovery Centre.

Malcolm believed that the constant sacrifices made by complete strangers to protect his own young family needed to be repaid in which ever way he knew how. Being a keen model maker himself and witnessing the curative effects of the hobby. Malcolm convinced friends, family and fellow model makers around the world to help.

In a few months his garage was full of donations and Malcolm began to send these models out to Armed Forces Organisations that witness the benefit of the hobby. Within the year the name "Models for Heroes" was chosen and the non for profit was incorporated using a charitable constitution and later became a Community Interest Company.

Why come along?

Research into the use of crafts as an intervention activity report an increased level of happiness and social inclusion. The physical dexterity required to build the model kits challenges and promotes the sense of achievement. There are many more anecdotal benefits explained on the M4H website www.modelsforheroes.org.uk

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

Welshampton Ward

Karen Bland (Chair)
Mike Dinsdale
Sheila Stringer
Guy Wellsbury
Vacancy
Vacancy

Lyneal Ward

Kathryn Holland
Lawrence Houghton MBE (Vice Chair)
Chris Symes

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

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Parish Council Meetings

All meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday of the month and start at 6.30pm. The public may attend and speak in the public session.

Useful Contact Details

Shropshire Councillor

Sarah Marston Sarah.Marston@shropshire.gov.uk

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

Welshampton Parish Hall

Booking link: [Hallmaster V2](#)
Email: welshamptonphcontact@gmail.com
<https://welshamptonph.co.uk/community/welshampton-lyneal-parish-hall-10117/home/>

Keeping YOU Informed is produced by:

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For further information please contact the Clerk:

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