



Rural Review

The Newsletter of Wem Rural Parish Council
Issue 45 Autumn 2024

In this Issue

WELCOME

CELEBRATING ARMED FORCES DAY

VISITNG MEN IN SHEDS

WALKS AROUND WEM

GARDEN WASTE CONSULTATION

BUSINESS EVENTS

MOTH SPOTTED IN BARKERS GREEN

LITTER PICKING

COMMUNITY GRANTS

PATHWAYS, BRIDLEWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

NEW REP FOR NCRA

BIODIVERSITY POLICY

SPEEDWATCH IN TILLEY

ANDY'S RAMBLES: ART OF HAYMAKING

NEWS FROM EDSTASTON VILLAGE HALL

AND MORE...

Rural Review

is produced by
Wem Rural Parish Council
4 Bazeley Way
Wem
SY4 5QN

For further
information
please contact
Helen McCabe on
07720 854185
email:
clerk@wemrural-pc.gov.uk
www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk

WELCOME.... to the Autumn issue of Rural Review.

Once again we have an action packed edition for the Autumn 2024. Summer, what we had of it, seems a distant memory as children get ready to start a new year in school. Many will have noticed the telegraph poles that have appeared along our lanes in preparation for Freedom Fibre to deliver fibre broadband however both as a resident and a councillor I'm still no wiser about when it might happen. When that changes we'll let you know. There are numerous articles that relate to specific things like the new recycling programme, litter picking, biodiversity, rights of way and the newly extended Edstaston Village Hall. I commend them all to you and thank the contributors.

We are your representatives so please reach out to us as and when you need our help or you have a suggestion about something we've missed or is new.

Huw Edwards
Chair, Wem Rural Parish Council
email: chair@wemrural-pc.gov.uk



Telegraph Poles: What you Need to Know!

As part of the UK's nationwide upgrade to full-fibre broadband, Freedom Fibre is installing new telegraph poles in areas where existing infrastructure is insufficient.

These poles are essential for deploying faster and more reliable internet connections, especially as the older copper network is being phased out.

If a new pole is planned near your property, Freedom Fibre will notify you and may consider adjustments to its placement within reason. Planning permission is generally not required for poles under 15 meters high, but local authorities will be informed before installation.

For any questions or concerns about the installation, residents can contact Freedom Fibre directly through their online form. This is your opportunity to raise queries, request changes, or get more information about the project.

For further details, visit www.freedomfibre.com/faq-poles



Celebrating Armed Forces Day

On 29th June, a touching service was held at St Peter and St Paul Church, drawing attendees from both Wem and Wem Rural.

The event was a moving tribute to the deep and enduring connections between the military and North Shropshire, a region with a long history of support for the armed forces.

The service highlighted the strong bond that the military has with this part of the county, celebrating the shared history and mutual respect that have developed over the years.

It was a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made and the important relationship between the community and those who serve.

Attending the service was Helen Morgan MP and from Wem Rural PC were Councillors Edwards, Goode and Matthews along with Councillor Peter Broomhall representing Shropshire Council, Wem Town Council and Wem Rural."



Recent Visit to Men in Sheds



The Wem Rural Parish Clerk recently visited the Men in Sheds group, a local initiative providing a workshop space for men to work on projects, share skills, and enjoy companionship.

The visit highlighted the importance of such community groups in promoting mental well-being and social interaction.

The Parish Council encourages residents to support and get involved with local initiatives like Men in Sheds.

They will be helping the Parish Council to replace the noticeboards that have been damaged or are in need of repair.

You can find out more about Men in Sheds by visiting www.menssheds.org.uk or phoning 0300 772 9626.

Walks Around Wem

Wem Parish Paths Partnership (Wem P3) recently hosted its first accessible walk, welcoming 18 local residents and a dog for a day of exploration and community bonding.

The walk was designed to be inclusive, allowing people of all abilities to enjoy Wem's paths.

Participants enjoyed the local scenery, made new connections, and contributed to a cleaner environment by picking up litter along the way.

Despite a brief rain shower, the event was a great success.

To learn more about this wonderful day and find out how you can get more involved visit www.walksaroundwem.co.uk.



Results from the Garden Waste and Recycling Centres Consultation

Residents across Shropshire were asked to submit their views on garden waste and household recycling centres Consultation earlier this year.

Shropshire Council received 18,000 responses and on the 17th July it was agreed by the Cabinet to introduce an annual charge of £56 for the collection of garden waste from the kerbside.

It was also agreed to keep all five of the council's household recycling centres to open, however there will be changes to how residents can access the sites with reduced opening times and a booking system.

Garden waste collections will stop from 1 October 2024 for anyone that hasn't subscribed by this date and it will no longer allow residents to put food waste in their garden bin.

You can download the full report from the Shropshire Council's website www.shropshire.gov.uk

More than 50 people attend Business Networking Event

More than 50 people from local businesses attended a networking event at Wem Town Hall on a Monday evening to hear more about how they can use digital media.

This event is part of the economic development project run in partnership with Wem Rural Parish Council and Wem Town Council to help and support local businesses.

It was held at Wem Town Hall and kindly sponsored by Monks Estate Agents who also provided the biscuits and gave all the attendees a plant.

The workshop was run by Helen McCabe, Clerk for Wem Rural Parish Council.

The training included the importance of having a GREAT website, how we can use AI to create content that search engines like and how best to use social media.

For anyone that would like to continue the conversation about digital media or would like to speak or sponsor the next networking event then you are welcome to join us at Wem Library for a Coffee Morning on Tuesday 10th September at 10am.



Business Coffee Morning

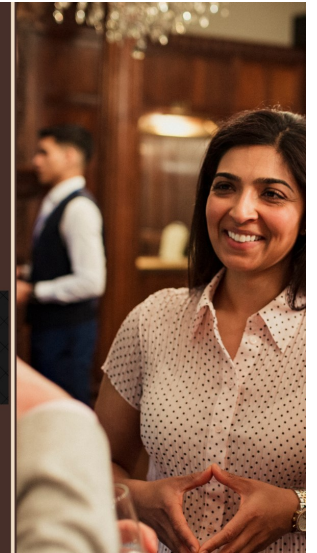
An opportunity for local businesses to network over coffee and pastries

Tuesday 10th Sep 2024
10am-12noon
Wem Library

Funded by
Wem Rural Parish Council
Wem Town Council
Wem Library
Wem Fibre

Sign Up

www.wemevents.co.uk



Pine Hawk Moth spotted in Barkers Green

Readers of Rural Review may recall in earlier editions, there have been reports of some interesting moths that have been attracted to a light trap in Barkers Green – Small Eggar, Clifden Nonpareil, and Cinnabar.

However, this year's weather hasn't been good for moth trapping, even though they may be around.

Nevertheless, in July an interesting species has come to light not seen here before in four years of trapping. It took a while to identify it as Pine Hawk Moth. The find is surprising, because as its name suggests, its caterpillars feed on Pine needles.

Thus it is found particularly in coniferous forests, but also parks and gardens, where conifers grow. Although there are plenty of Cupressus and Leylandii around here, they are not suitable foodplants. There are a few individual Pine trees around, so maybe it came from one of those. In contrast to this single find, several other species of Hawk Moth have come to light every year of trapping.

Not all butterflies and moths are found in their adult stage. Again, although there have appeared to be very much fewer butterflies around, it was good to see a nest of Peacock butterfly caterpillars in June, so let us hope that they have survived to adulthood and will appear soon.



You're never too young to litter pick

Well at least age six, according to Miri of Barkers Green. She has already appeared on Midlands Today and Radio Shropshire, her mission is to "stop people littering". She was originally inspired by a children's programme 'Octonauts' about a team of underwater explorers who rescue and protect sea creatures. Miri realised that pollution does not only affect the marine environment, but that the litter all around us is harmful too. She made a poster, contacted the media, and did her own litter picking locally (under adult supervision of course) – and filled four binbags. She hopes to raise awareness by setting up her own group via school, and joining an existing litter picking group.

In Wem Rural we have already had litter picking sessions, featured in previous editions of Rural Review. So if you want to get involved, look on WRPC website for announcements, or contact the Parish Clerk, or look out for events on social media. By the way, Miri grows her own vegetables as well!



Well done Miri!
from Barkers Green

Pictured here with her Blue Peter Badge



Community Grants 2024

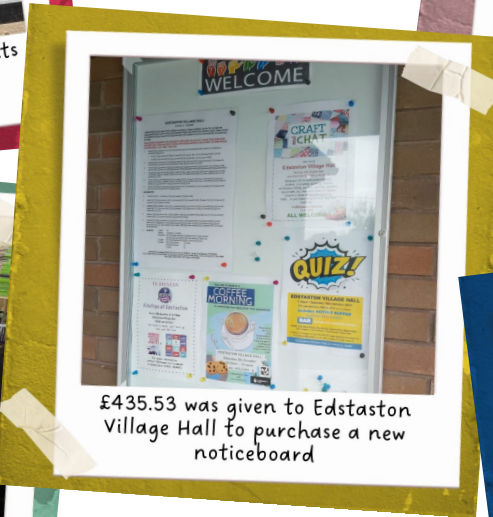
Each year Wem Rural Parish Council supports local community groups with funding. Here's how some of that money has been spent.



£500 was given to 1st Wem Scouts to help provide activities



£400 was given to St Mary's Church to help maintain their church grounds



£435.53 was given to Edstaston Village Hall to purchase a new noticeboard



£275.29 was given to SYA - Wem Senior Youth Club to purchase new sports equipment



£500 was given to the Friends of Whitchurch Cemetery to help maintain the cemetery



£500 was given to Newtown Parish Church to help maintain their churchyard



£500 was given to North Salop Wheelers towards the community bus



£610 was given to Wem Town Hall to help provide activities for children with special needs

Other groups to be awarded funding community grants are:

- Newtown Community Recreation Association - £1,500 to replace the bark.
- Wem Carnival—£500 to help towards this years carnival.

You can read more about each of these projects on the Parish Council website along with details of the Community Grant Scheme and how to apply for next year.

Who is Responsible?

The maintenance of pathways, bridleways, and footpaths is governed by several legal frameworks in the UK. Here's an overview:

- **Shropshire Council**
The primary responsibility for maintaining public rights of way, including footpaths, bridleways, and byways, falls under the provisions of the **Highways Act 1980**. This Act provides Shropshire Council, as the local highway authority, with the duty to maintain public rights of way to ensure they are in a safe and passable condition. **Section 130 of the Highways Act 1980**: This section specifically mandates that highway authorities must protect the rights of the public to use and enjoy highways, including footpaths and bridleways, and take action to prevent obstructions.
- **Wem Rural Parish Council**
Under the **Local Government Act 1972**, parish councils have powers to contribute to the maintenance and improvement of public paths within their area. While they do not have a statutory duty to maintain footpaths and bridleways, they may be involved in minor repairs and improvements through local initiatives. **Section 6 of the Local Government Act 1972** allows parish councils to undertake works that benefit their local community, which can include maintenance activities on local pathways.
- **Landowners**
Landowners are required by law to keep public rights of way across their land unobstructed and safe for use. This is specified in the **Highways Act 1980. Section 130 of the Highways Act 1980** also imposes a duty on landowners to prevent obstructions and ensure that the public can pass and repass over the paths that cross their land.
- **Volunteers and Local Groups**
Volunteers and local groups like Wem P3 may assist with maintenance activities under the **Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act)**, which encourages community involvement in the care and management of public rights of way. **Section 47 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000**: supports the involvement of volunteers in the maintenance and improvement of public rights of way, facilitating local engagement in these efforts.

You can report any specific issues with pathways, bridleways, or footpaths in Wem Rural Parish via Fix My Street. It's easier if you are in the exact location as it will pick up where you are and if possible upload a photograph along with your report. You will then be kept up to date on the progress.

Once you have submitted your report send the reference to the Clerk who can follow this up if needed.



Please trim your
hedges and borders

IT'S YOUR
RESPONSIBILITY

Crime Prevention

Wem Rural Parish Council is working with West Mercia Police to help prevent crime. We are making several information sheets available which can be downloaded from our website at www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk/crime-prevention.

Please do share them with your neighbours, family and friends to help keep your property safe. If you are a victim of crime then it is important that you report it.

STREET REPAIRS

If you see any roads needing repair then you can report them on the Fix My Street App.

You can either download the App on your smart device or visit the website.

You will then be sent updates on your report. If you would like the Clerk to chase it up then email the number to the council.

 FixMyStreet

www.fixmystreet.com

Men's Health Day Saturday
28th September 2024
8.30am – 1pm
Wem Practice



Cardiovascular appointments and health checks for 50+
Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms and Bladder Health
Erectile Dysfunction and Testicular health
Smoking and weight loss
Mental Health appointments
BP Checks, height and weight checks
Physio appointments

Supported by
WEMPREES
Wem Rural Parish Council
Patient Participation Group
1999

WEAR BLUE
FOR
MN
Men's Health Network
www.menshealthnetwork.org



New Council Rep for NCRA

Cllr Jan Hilditch has been appointed as the council representative on the NCRA, effective from the Annual Parish meeting on 7th May 2024. This new role follows Cllr Goode's dedicated service, which began in 2014. Cllr Goode initially tackled safety concerns related to school pick-up times in Newtown by advocating for an extension of the local car park. Her successful efforts led to support from Wem Rural Parish Council and her appointment as a Parish Councillor for Newtown and Northwood in 2018.

Cllr Goode served as the WRPC representative on the NCRA until April this year, when she assumed the role of Vice-Chair of WRPC. The NCRA made significant strides despite the challenges of Covid, with the first phase of the car park extension completed in summer 2022. The project received positive feedback from the community, and Cllr Goode's contributions were recognised with a floral tribute from Anne Lokier, Treasurer of the NCRA.

Phase 2 of the project is anticipated to begin soon

New Biodiversity Policy

On 6th August, Wem Rural Parish Council made a significant commitment to environmental sustainability by adopting a comprehensive Biodiversity Policy at its council meeting. This policy is a landmark development in the Council's dedication to enhancing local ecosystems and fostering sustainable practices throughout the Parish. In accordance with the duty imposed on Town and Parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, updated by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, the new Biodiversity Policy underscores the Council's responsibility to consider and promote biodiversity in its decision-making processes.

The Biodiversity Policy includes a detailed Action Plan with specific action points that the Council will focus on over the next two years. This Action Plan is designed to guide the Council's efforts in preserving and boosting local biodiversity, outlining a series of practical steps aimed at achieving environmental improvements.

You can read more about the key elements of the Action Plan on the council's website or request a copy from the Clerk.

Talking about Speedwatch in Tilley

Councillor Britton, who successfully participates in the Speedwatch campaign in Northwood, along with Councillor Morgan, a resident of Tilley, recently visited the Tilley Raven to share with local residents how the Speedwatch programme could help to combat speeding in Tilley.

There is a small section, about 100 yards from the turning from Wem, that is a 30mph zone, but most of the village is within a 60mph zone.

Councillor Britton explained to residents how the Speedwatch programme operates and what would be required from any volunteers who wished to participate in the scheme.

However, because the main stretch of the road is in a 60mph zone, local volunteers wouldn't be eligible to participate in the Speedwatch scheme in this zone thus making the need to reduce the speed limit to 30mph the first priority.

To facilitate this change, more data would need to be gathered to prove that vehicles are speeding through the village and posing a risk to other road users and pedestrians.

Several residents spoke about the frequency of speeding incidents and believe that it's only a matter of time before something serious happens.

Following the resident's meeting a letter was drafted and local residents asked to report any instances of speeding by emailing Tilleytraffic@gmail.com whilst Councillor Morgan has agreed to take up the matter on behalf of the village, with the assistance of Councillor Britton and Wem Rural Parish Council, to help combat speeding cars and prevent any accidents.

Andy's Rambles: The Timeless Tradition of Haymaking

Cllr Andy Mathews shares with us his tales of haymaking. One of the most important jobs on the calendar for smallholders and farmers is making hay. The art of drying long meadow grass was to know exactly the right time of year when goodness in the grass was hopefully just right and the weather was on their side to dry it on the fields. This used to be in late June or early July. The making of hay goes back to when early farmers first decided to try to over winter farm livestock and to feed the family or extended tribe as well.

This practice, which is eons old, still goes on to this very day but now the scythe to cut the grass and the pickle to turn by hand have given way to ever larger and more modern machinery. What started as horse-drawn finger bars in the 1800s; some of which were used until WW2, became basic tractors with a variety of tools to cut, turn, row-up and bale the cut grass. The size of the machinery required has grown and grown and seems a world away from the scythes and pickles that I remember and used.

And next time Andy's Rambles will reminisce about.....



News from Edstaston Village Hall

EDSTASTON
VILLAGE HALL
Registered Charity no. 1095886

N E W S



Thanks to Wem Rural Parish Council, the National Lottery Community Fund and the hard work and generosity of the community, the Edstaston Village Hall extension project is now complete!

The committee is planning a celebration party in November...details to follow on our facebook page @edstastonvillagehall.

UPCOMING

EVENTS

You are invited to a

COFFEE MORNING

to celebrate our beautiful new extension



There will be the usual cards/ dominoes/table tennis or bring along any games, knitting/craft projects if you fancy a "craft and chat"

EDSTASTON VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 5th October

10.00am - 12 noon

ALL WELCOME

Coffee/tea/biscuits/
cake
£1 (or donation)



Edstaston Village Hall Frost Fayre

**FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER
2024**

16:30 UNTIL 20:30PM

**FEATURING HIGH QUALITY
LOCAL ARTISAN
STALLHOLDERS**

Entry by ticket:

**£4.00 TO INCLUDE A
WELCOME DRINK AND
MINCE PIE.**

**TICKETS CAN BE BOOKED VIA:
EVH@RYEBANK.CO.UK
OR AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR.**

QUIZ!

EDSTASTON VILLAGE HALL

7.30pm / Saturday 19th October 2024

£10 per person / teams of 4 (max 5 allowed)

Includes HOTPOT SUPPER

(vegetarian option available)

BAR (with both cash and cashless facilities)

Tickets from Elaine Brown / Bev Horsley / Sandra Price / Neale Sadler / Don Gregory / Corrine Brown / Trevor Gough / Hazel Rees

or leave a message on our FACEBOOK page @edstastonvillagehall or email evh@ryebank.co.uk with number of tickets required

Raising funds for Edstaston Village Hall / Charity no. 1095886

NEW TOWN



ED STASTON

RODEN

Wem Rural Parish Council

www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk
www.facebook.com/wemruralPC

Councillors invite members of their ward to contact them to discuss any issues or matters of concern.

You can also contact us:

Parish Clerk:
 Helen McCabe
 Tel: 07720 854185
 Email:
clerk@wemrural-pc.gov.uk
www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk

Do you have a story to share?

Wem Rural Parish Council would like to share news from local businesses, charities and community groups.

Please send your stories to the Clerk

PARISH COUNCILLORS

12 Councillors represent the 3 wards

EDSTASTON

Huw Edwards	07834 252412	Bank House Farm, Paddol Green, Wem, SY4 5QZ
Jan Hilditch	07973 934713	West View, Newtown, Wem, SY4 5UF
William Minty	07762 478353	Low Pond Farm, Lowe, Wem, SY4 5UE
Pete Slack	01939 236990	Fairview, 7 Paddol Green, Wem, SY4 5QZ
Liz Vernon	01939 234896	The Park, Edstaston, Wem, SY4 5RF

NEWTOWN

John Britton	01948 710846	Salters Rest, Northwood, SY4 5NW
Julia Goode	07971 102569	3 Oakhurst Villas, Newtown, SY4 5NT

RODEN

Peter Broomhall	01939 231565	Tilleycroft, 77 Roden Grove, Wem, SY4 5HJ
Andrew Matthews	07929 783456	1 Pyms Cottages, Lowe Hill, Wem, SY4 5UD
Denise Morgan	01939 232906	4 Locksmith Cottage, Tilley, Wem, SY4 5HE
Jordan Page	07508 270009	66 Manor Place, Higher Heath, SY13 2HD
Len Staines	01939 234415	The Hawthorns, Barkers Green, Wem, SY4 5JW

M E E T I N G S

The Parish Council normally meet on the first Tuesday of the month at Edstaston Village Hall at 7pm . Please refer to the Council's website.

Agendas for all meetings are available on the website at least 3 days before the meeting.

Members of the community are welcome to attend all meetings and there is time set by at the start to allow you to address the Council.



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper. When you have finished with it please recycle.

This newsletter can be made available in large print and audio tape. Please call 07720 854185 further details.



LOCAL COUNCIL
 AWARD SCHEME
 QUALITY GOLD