

Contact The Parish Clerk on: [clerk@welshnewtonllanrothalgroup-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@welshnewtonllanrothalgroup-pc.gov.uk)

#### Meeting Dates:

All meetings - Covid allowing - will be held in Welsh Newton Village Hall and start at 7.30pm

- 9th September 2021
- 14th October 2021
- 11th November 2021
- 9th December 2021

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Do you have a project you would like the Parish Council to help with? If so please contact your local Councillor or the Parish Clerk.

# Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Parish Council - Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

Summer 2021

## Drainage Funding and Works:

In 2020, the Parish Council was successful in bidding for £20,000 of drainage grant money from Herefordshire Council. This followed a detailed survey by the Parish Lengthsman and the Parish Council as to areas suffering from drainage issues. Terry Griffiths has worked tirelessly to ensure that all 20 of the schemes have been completed.

The Parish Council wish to use this opportunity to thank Terry for his efforts. All the measures put in place will have an impact on drainage issues in the parishes and will hopefully prevent future damage of the highways caused by run-off.



## Water quality testing - a citizen science approach:

The Environment Agency are working with volunteer groups to increase our understanding of the pollution that is destroying the ecology in the Wye. There is a particular focus on phosphate and the ways in which it gets into the rivers and streams. Most of the phosphate is coming from the land with around 25% coming from sewage treatment plants (including 2% from combined sewer overflows) so it is really important that the minor tributaries are properly monitored for pollution. If you would be interested in joining this growing army of citizen scientists then please contact Elissa Swinglehurst [elissaswinglehurst@gmail.com](mailto:elissaswinglehurst@gmail.com) no previous knowledge is required, training and equipment will be supplied. This is a catchment wide initiative (including Wales) so spread the word and save the river.

## War Memorial Area Upgrade

The Parish Council's project for the summer and autumn months is the restoration and enhancing of the area around the War Memorial. It is hoped that this is something both parishioners and pupils at Llangrove School may like to get involved with.

The Parish Council is therefore requesting that any designs for the area are drawn up and submitted to the clerk by 1st September for consideration at the September meeting and in readiness for Remembrance Day in November. The Parish Council have purchased an Unknown Tommy Silhouette to be sited in this area, so it can be incorporated in the designs.





## Litter Pick:

The parish litter pick will be on the 31st July 2021. Meeting up at the village hall car park at 10am. Please wear hi viz if you have it and working gloves.

**We look forward to seeing you there!**



## Defibrillator Installations and Future HeartStart Training -

The first community defibrillator has been at the Village Hall for nearly 1 year now, with the second due to be installed in the Welsh Newton phone box early July, following an enthusiastic and well supported community fund raising effort. These lifesaving devices are simple to use and provide step by step voice instructions as soon as they are switched on. The Parish Council would like to thank Thomas Brown Electrical for installing both machines free of charge - and for Monmouth Rotary Club for arranging this. The Parish Council are proposing to organise Heart Start training via Herefordshire HeartStart and will notify everyone once they have some training dates available.

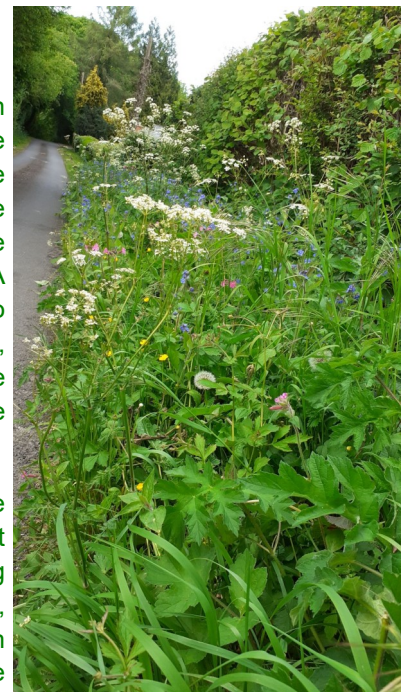
## Emergency Planning Policy:

The Parish Council have been compiling a list of contacts that can be used for a variety of tasks should an emergency situation arise in the Parishes. They would like to thank those parishioners who have put themselves forward in an attempt to make the parishes more resilient to emergencies moving forwards. Some examples of assistance have been to allow emergency service helicopters to land on private fields or general labour. If you would like to add your name to the list please contact the clerk. Perhaps you could store sandbags or even offer your tractor to help clear a fallen tree etc?

## Verging on the Wild:

During lockdown, with less traffic on the roads it felt safer to walk and cycle on normally busy roads. Travelling at a slower pace, it was possible to appreciate and enjoy the many wild flowers on roadside verges that had always been there but hadn't been noticed in the rush to get from A to B in our cars. Roadside verges are actually incredibly important vestiges of lost habitats, which have never been treated with weedkillers or improved by the addition of fertilisers. A new Herefordshire charity has been established, called Verging on the Wild to encourage better appreciation, management and treatment of the best verges, spurred on by the national charity Plantlife who have been championing the role that roadside verges play in preserving many rare or uncommon plants, and the other creatures that rely on them.

Within our parish we are lucky to have some of these rare, species rich roadside verges, where once common plants are clinging on to survival. One of the best of these verges so far identified locally is Pembridge Castle Pitch with interesting plants throughout the year – primrose, violet, cowslips, yellow archangel, bluebells, vetches of various colours, hedge bedstraw, wild basil and autumn crocus. The pitch from Welsh Newton to Gwenherrion cross also hosts a wide range of different plants. The parish council is working with Balfour Beatty to manage verges so that a broad variety of plants can thrive, without compromising road safety.



How you can help.

If you want to find out more, have a look at the Verging on the Wild page on the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust website: <https://www.herefordshirewt.org/projects-0/verging-wild>. Sue Parkinson who lives in the Parish has been surveying local verges, but there are many miles of roads to walk and cycle along, and some enthusiastic assistance would help, some knowledge of plant ID is useful, but not essential; time and interest are the main prerequisites. Please phone: 01989 770098.

The Parish Council wish to thank Sue for her effort with this project. It is much appreciated!