

Weldon Parish Council connecting our community

WELDON WIDE

Spring 2024 Magazine



ENTER THE COMPETITIONS

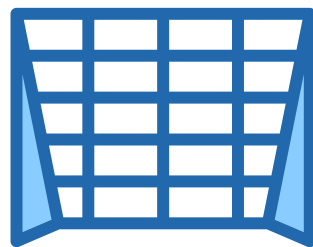
Jimmy Reed,
helping to
brighten up
Weldon



*Help make poppies
for the display*

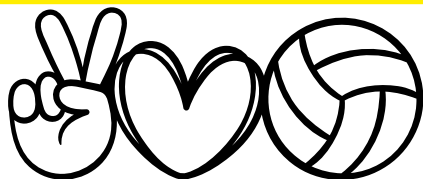
Rock Solid

Weldon Youth Work

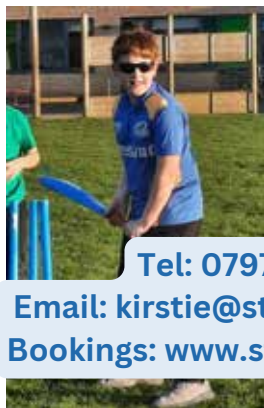


If you love sport, Rock Solid could be for you. Different sports each week with regular trips for high ropes, climbing, kayaking to name but a few.

Sport, Craft, Games, Tuck & Music for 11-17 year olds



**Mondays in term time at Priors Hall Park
Community Centre 6:30-7:45pm**



Tel: 07970902202

Email: kirstie@stmarysweldon.org

Bookings: www.stmarysweldon.org

WELCOME

The fresh cold days counteracted the wet dismal days and floods that we faced at the beginning of 2024.

This triggered a timely reminder to consider our Emergency Plan. The councillors are working on this vital document to ensure we are ready for any emergency, whether floods, major power cuts or traffic issues. To report incidents or sound the alarm, we do need wardens about the parish. Please consider offering your services to help others.

No matter what the weather, councillors and volunteers have been out preparing Weldon for brighter days, with projects such as Weldon in Bloom, Community Pay Back, Sensory Garden and 80th D-Day celebrations to name a few. New faces are always welcome to join in, no matter how much time you can offer.

The parish council is aware that the two hot topics for residents is development and traffic. These are very much on our agenda and your participation is always welcome, whether asking questions via email or attending the Full Council or Working group meetings. Do check out the various forms of communication to keep you informed.



Check out the back page and enter the Weldon in Bloom competition and how you can help our wildlife.

If you are interested in any of the items mentioned, please contact Sue Cook on scweldonpc@gmail.com

Weldon Parish Council,
www.weldonparishcouncil.co.uk



We are happy to receive relevant articles from the public. Send in your photos (high quality originals please) and article of no more than 350 words to apweldonpc@gmail.com

Advertisers

Adverts for publication in Weldon Wide (WW) are accepted at the discretion of the Weldon Wide Editing Team (WWET). The WWET is not liable for loss or damage due to error, late publication or failure of an advert to appear. The WWET reserves the right to alter, amend or edit advertisements as appropriate. Advertisements do not represent an endorsement of a product, company or person(s) by WPC.

Submissions

In case of inadvertent error or omission, the WWET will make the necessary correction in a future issue. The WWET reserves the right to edit any article as

necessary. All material included in WW may be reproduced with or without permission, provided acknowledgement is made of the author. The WWET reserve the right to select or reject letters for publication and to edit for grammar, length and style. We will only publish items appropriate for this magazine that supports and connects the community. Advertising specifications are available by contacting: apweldonpc@gmail.com

WW is produced by WPC and distributed to all the residents of Weldon (this includes the areas of Priors Hall Park, Weldon Village and Weldon Park)

Cover photography: Peter Dowsett

Ways to connect with Weldon Parish Council

Sue Cook, Clerk
07484658147

Scan the QR code or visit
weldonparishcouncil.co.uk



Join our Facebook and Instagram pages
[@weldoncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/weldoncouncil)



To register for WPC information, please email "I consent" to scweldonpc@gmail.com



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Dates for Your Diary 2024



Thu 6th June, Village Green at 5:00pm

Join WPC with Weldon Royal British Legion and Weldon Cricket Club to commemorate with communities around the world on the anniversary of the largest naval, air and land operation in history.

Want to help make poppies for our large display contact apweldonpc@gmail.com

There will be entertainment, food and stories. A piper will announce the procession to the War Memorial and Beacon lighting at 9:15pm.

Regular Groups

Little Stars Baby and Toddler Group meets every Thursday, term time, from 10:00am–11:30am at Priors Hall Community Centre. For more information contact: **Louise on 01536626361** or www.stmarysweldon.org/book-events-here/



Rock Solid Youth Group is a weekly session open to all 11–17 year olds, term time, every Monday at Priors Hall Park Community Centre, 6:30pm–7:45pm. For more information contact: **kirstie@stmarysweldon.org**
Book places at
www.stmarysweldon.org/book-events-here/

Hope Cafe every first Wednesday of the month starting at 10:00am at the Cricket Club in Weldon Village. A supportive and friendly group.



Weldon Not Just Knit and Natter takes place every Tuesday at 2:00pm in the Shoulder of Mutton. A good opportunity to natter while

making some lovely creations. Check out the facebook page.

Weldon Book Worms the third Wednesday of the month, from 7:00pm in the Shoulder of Mutton. Details are posted on the facebook page of the same name.



Weldon Parish Council WPC Full Council meetings are every first Monday of the month at 7:00pm in the Weldon Village Hall Annex. We welcome the

public's attendance. The agenda is posted on our website. WPC working groups: Traffic, Parish Maintenance, Planning and Communications are held via zoom. if you want to know more, email **Sue Cook** scweldonpc@gmail.com

Weldon Cricket Club: Junior Sessions



Thursday 18:00-20:00 U11, 13&15 groups. Friday 18:30-19:30. All Stars for ages 5-8yrs. Dynamos for ages 9-11yrs. **Details on FB page & www.weldoncricket.com**

Councillor's Corner

Meet Colin Shepard

Parish Maintenance Committee Chair

I was born and went to school in Northampton. After training to be a teacher at Loughborough, I took up a teaching post in Corby. I later moved to Weldon in 1971 soon after I married.

I have two sons and four grandchildren. My eldest son is a Chartered Civil Engineer whilst my younger son works in Motor Racing and lives in the United States.

As a teacher I rose to become Head of Design Studies at a local comprehensive as well as running an Adult Education Centre. With the introduction of the Education Reform Act 1988 and Local Management of Schools, I was made redundant as a teacher, along with many other teachers.

Through a fellow contract bridge player I moved into the employment world of Financial Services. I eventually became an Independent Financial Adviser and along with two other partners running our own business based in Wellingborough.

Although I have been retired for many years I am still fit and active, probably in part due to the years spent playing rugby for Corby, and was persuaded to join the Parish Council. I am Chair of the Parish Maintenance Committee and hold a similar role with the steering group for Weldon in Bloom. I am also a member of the Planning Committee.

As a Parish Councillor I am particularly interested in working with others to try to improve our Parish environment with the flower beds that we have



"I am particularly interested in working with others to try to improve our Parish environment."

installed in recent years, the maintenance of the wilder Parish owned areas, or just simply trying to keep litter to a minimum. Many of you are aware that our Weldon in Bloom project will in fact form our first ever entry to the RHS Britain in Bloom competition. Although there is already an enthusiastic group of people helping with Parish Maintenance and the Weldon in Bloom project the more people involved the better our Parish will look and our competition entry will become.

Contact me via email at csweldonpc@gmail.com if you would like to help.

Weldon in Bloom Project
meets at the Cricket Club.
For meeting dates, visit
www.weldonparishcouncil.co.uk



Garden Gossip



Let's help our garden grow with pre-spring cleaning!

Clean your pathways, clear dead leaves and branches and compost all organic matter where possible, turning the compost pile would be beneficial at this point.



If you have too much compost, offer it to a fellow gardener who would appreciate the extra matter.



Clear garden debris, as it can harbour diseases and infect your plants.

Spring is a good time to rake and feed the lawn, reseed bare patches for lush growth going into summer.



Start propagating in the warmth of greenhouses or windowsills, allowing early seeds to be sown for planting out later.



After the last of the frosts, repotting and pruning can be carried out. Do your research first to identify plants that need spring pruning to prolong plant health.

Raking the soil improves airflow and a chance to pull out weeds as you go. Add some new topsoil in preparation for spring planting.



A garden journal is a good way to track your spring jobs and planting.

Remember - Always clean your tools, so they are free of bacteria and germs. You don't want to undo all your hard work!



SAFER COMMUNITIES WALK ABOUT



Since restarting the Parish walkabouts last year, the councillors have covered Weldon Village, Weldon Park and this January Priors Hall Park.

crossing are on the agenda of the Traffic Working Group, which is held via Zoom and welcomes residents to join and find out first hand what is happening and offer your views. Contact our Clerk on how to attend - scweldonpc@gmail.com

The lack of lights has been raised. Persimmons have now provided lighting along a path to the school gate. On Priors Hall Park walkabout, a resident raised the lack of lights on their street. WPC are looking into this with U&C and NNC Highways.

The next walkabout will be in May and follow the route the judges will take for Weldon in Bloom. Have you checked out the centre and back page to see how you can be part of this rewarding project?

It is a useful opportunity to view matters that you have raised and to meet you. Your Parish Council is working hard to make this a safer place, as this is a regular topic. Speed, parking and the A43



Interesting EFFECTS OF ROAD CLOSURES

Last autumn WPC was contacted by NNC Highways and the developers from Magna Park at Cowthick, because Kettering Road would need to be closed to build the first new roundabout there.

This closure was discussed at the WPC Traffic Working Party and 10 recommendations for change were made, most were accepted and the traffic management plans improved. The diversion route would be the A43 single and dual carriageway bypass roads with access to the landfill site, and other businesses, there via High Street.

For more than two years villagers have been concerned that closing Kettering Road would cause traffic to use Corby Road instead.

Kettering Road duly closed on 4 December. It was clear that

the diversion route caused more HGVs to breach the 7.5t restriction.

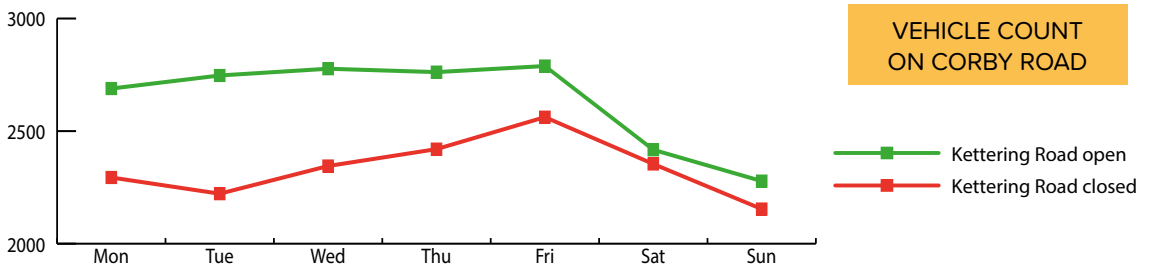
Over many years WPC has deployed Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) signs with a data logger on board, the analysis of this data has now been done. Corby Road VAS showed traffic volumes reduced while Kettering Road was closed and increased again when it was reopened. The data collected, to show the analysis, is evident in the graph below.

Residents regularly ask for traffic in Weldon's residential streets to be reduced and slowed. WPC is working with Persimmon

Homes, NNC Highways and Tom Pursglove MP, to calm traffic in Weldon Village. We want to get through traffic out of the ancient streets of Weldon Village and onto the A43 where it is best.

During this road closure Church Street was bliss for walkers, cyclists and other vulnerable road users. Along with Kettering Rd, both enjoyed two weeks of calm and we now know that the volume of traffic on Corby Road did not increase, indeed it dropped slightly.

To find out more, please contact our Clerk, Sue Cook
scweldonpc@gmail.com





WELDON IN BLOOM

PRIZES FOR BOTH COMPETITIONS ARE
£75
 1ST PRIZE
£25
 2 x RUNNER-UP
 PRIZES
 CLOSING DATE 30.06.24

CALLING ALL RESIDENTS OF PRIORS HALL,
 WELDON PARK & WELDON VILLAGE

Alongside the Parish Council's first-ever entry to the RHS Britain in Bloom competition, WPC is running two competitions of its own that you can enter.

COMPETITION 1: 'BEST FRONT GARDEN'
 COMPETITION 2: 'BEST WACKY PLANTER'

Don't have a front garden?

BEST WACKY PLANTER is just for you! Everyone can get creative in the garden – be it with

your choice of plants, how those plants are presented or both.

Terms & Conditions:

Both competitions are open to all Parish residents. Entry is free. To enter, please email your name, address and photos of your garden or planter display to weldoninbloom@gmail.com. Closing date for entries is 30th June 2024. Judging takes place in July. Judges will review emailed entries and shortlist a number of finalists to visit before selecting the winners and runners up. The judges decision is final.





A GROWING PROJECT



Progress has continued on a number of fronts on what will be our entry to the RHS Britain in Bloom award scheme since the last issue of Weldon Wide.



The number of people involved in the project continues to grow. The working group has finalised the route that the judges will take and work has begun on the brochure that forms part of our entry.

We are growing the majority of our bedding plants from seed and will be planting these out around the time this edition of Weldon Wide is delivered. One of our main planting themes for the summer, particularly near the War Memorial, will be linked to the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

The purpose of the brochure is to showcase areas not visited on judging day and Weldon in bloom throughout the year, not just in July.

Work has also progressed on transforming the Gandy Field from an area of neglect to a community garden. Its correct name is Gander Field, as historically geese were kept in this field.

If you would like to help with this, compiling the brochure, or any of the other tasks that need to be undertaken prior to judging or would like further information please email weldoninbloom@gmail.com with your contact details.



WPC are grateful to Corby Indoor Mall, a collection of artisan businesses, sponsoring both competitions and providing prizes.

Simon Green, the MD for Corby Indoor Mall, said:
"We're happy to support the Parish Council in their efforts to improve the visual appearance of the Parish".





Carry on camping

From the 4th to the 5th November 2023, the 21st Corby Scout Group went to camp at the Sir John Lowther Centre.

Despite a very wet weekend, the Cubs and Scouts took part in a lot of activities, including tent pitching, fire lighting, archery, tomahawk throwing, shelter building, cooking, games, and a nice campfire.

of months' time and will involve many more challenges.

The group normally meets every Friday evening at the Priors Hall Park Community Centre and has 3 sections:



Beaver (6-8 year olds)
Cubs (8-10 year olds)
Scouts (10-14 year olds)

We have plenty of space if your children wish to join us. If you'd like to volunteer as an adult, we'd love to have you on board.

Please reach out to Darren Storey (Group Scout Leader) on 21stcorbyscoutgroup@gmail.com or 07845281230 for information.



It was one of 3 camps we have had in the last 12 months, and we plan to have many more. The next one is in a couple





WELDON CRICKET CLUB

www.weldoncricket.com



Weldon Cricket Club



Friday Evenings 18:30-19:30 (register 18:15)

- All Stars (ages 5-8 years)
- Dynamos (ages 9-11 years)
- Register your child at www.ecb.co.uk/play and receive a great kit package
- Or just turn up and take part! (£3 per session)

NEW



Thursday Evenings 18:00 – 20:00

- U11, 13 & 15 hard ball training (£3 per session)
- This season we are partnering with **Tom Flowers Cricket Coaching** to deliver hard ball coaching

COMMUNITY PAYBACK INITIATIVE



I'm Graham Stray. As part of my job as a Parish Councillor I go on the monthly on-line video calls chaired by Stephen Mold the Fire Police and Crime Commissioner for

Northampton. It was here that I heard about The Community Pay Back scheme Initiative presented by the East of England Probation Service. A person who has been convicted of a crime that doesn't warrant a prison term pays back with unpaid work within the Community. They are of course supervised at all times.

With some organising, a team of low risk offenders have been carrying out work within the Village for the past couple of months. Weldon Park and Priors Hall Park are not currently included as the developers of those areas are responsible for them until they are adopted by North Northampton Council.

The Village Green railings have been painted and vegetation around the trees have been cleared. This all helps towards the Weldon in Bloom competition. The Cricket Club kindly offers its facilities for the group. As a thank you the Parish Council agreed that their outside benches are painted, the perimeter wire fence along Stamford Road be replaced and new planters built.



Simon, The Community Payback Team Leader

It would be remiss of me not to say a massive thank you to my fellow Councillor Colin Shepard, who meets the Pay Back team and agrees the work to be carried out.

The team took on all the tasks we asked them to complete, using just hand tools and working in the rain and cold. An invaluable resource to supporting the continued maintenance of the Village. Win-win for both parties.



Evidence shows that our wild hedgehog population has decreased by as much as 75% over the last few decades.

This decline is due to wild areas and hedgerows being replaced with houses and warehouses. Our neat, tidy gardens with paving and fake grass lawns surrounded by walls and means hedgehogs must travel across busy roads to find food. Increased use of chemicals and pesticides within farming and in our gardens means there are less insects for hedgehogs and their main competitor, the badger, to eat. The list goes on and on.

Gradually people are becoming more aware of the situation and informed to make their environment more hedgehog friendly and what to do when they spot a sick or injured hedgehog.

If you spot a hedgehog out in daylight, it is likely to be seriously ill and therefore an emergency. It is vital to quickly secure it in a sturdy box and contact your local rescue for advice.

The good news is hedgehogs have been spotted regularly in Weldon. With the help and support of our local rescue we are helping to maintain a healthy and hopefully increasing population of hedgehogs within the village.



Caroline Lee, who runs Hedgehog Lodge Rescue in Geddington, has nursed several sick hedgehogs from Weldon back to health over the last couple of years. We have several foster carers in our village who work alongside

"A HEDGEHOG OUT IN THE DAY IS NOT OK"

Caroline to care for recuperating hedgehogs in their own homes until they are big enough and strong enough to be released back to the wild. This is a vital service as it frees up space in the rescue centre making room for more seriously ill hedgehogs.

Running the rescue centre is expensive: buying equipment, vet consultation fees, purchasing medication and food and paying utility bills really adds up.



This is where some of our very talented volunteers within the village come in. Sue Wildman who tirelessly and generously crochets, sews and knits all types of items that can be sold at fundraising and awareness events locally. Elizabeth McIntosh makes snuggly snoods where hedgehogs sleep whilst in the rescue and people donate essential items either physically or via Caroline's wish list. Thank you to all of you!

If you can make crafty items, please contact Gemma on 07983 237595. She would love to hear from you even if you would like some advice on setting up a feed station.

HOW TO HELP OUR HEDGEHOGS



Link your gardens Hedgehogs can roam up to 2 miles a night so it is critical that we put 13 x 13cm gaps in all fences.

Make ponds, holes and drains safe Cover up drains and holes and make piles of stones or wood to create a ramp out of ponds.

Create a wild corner Let plants grow to encourage bugs. Add log piles and compost heaps. You may get a hedgehog nest there.

Deal with Netting and Litter Hedgehogs are prone to getting tangled. Plastic cups and elastic bands are common offenders. Replace netting with a rigid structure.

Sports and garden netting should be stored away when not in use.

Put out food and water Hedgehogs really appreciate us supplementing their natural diet. Many kitten biscuits are suitable. Avoid mealworms, peanuts, suet and milk. Always make fresh water available in a shallow dish.

Stop using chemicals Lawn treatments reduce worm population. Pesticides, insecticides and slug pellets are toxic and reduce hedgehogs food source.

Check before strimming and avoid causing horrific injuries and death.

Be careful with bonfires Piles of debris are irresistible to a hedgehog looking to hibernate or nest – build or move on the day of burning to avoid a tragic end.

If you need any further help or advice or find a hedgehog out during the day, please call Caroline on 07952 430877

Weldon Development



A VISIT TO MAGNA PARK

Hosted by GLP

Some Weldon Parish councillors joined other local parish council members for a second visit to Magna Park.

The meeting was held in the second of the units built on this site. This building is not kitted out for a particular company, compared to the first building that is to be taken on by Tophat. We had an opportunity to ask GLP about the roadworks and effects of traffic. With regard to Tophat the HGV movements would be very low compared to a traditional distribution development. As the development includes office space this will have its own shift patterns.

GLP looks to go beyond just delivering commercial warehousing on their sites and cited the recent example of the Centrica training centre at Magna Park Lutterworth.

GLP explained that an occupier would want to use the buildings for distribution, but there



are proposals to also include staff amenities/a playing pitch facility which connects into the nature trail that runs along the A43 opposite the Holiday Inn. They are still working on having Bee Hives on site.

Discussions with Stagecoach and North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) have started on the bus service to support the staff. WPC has provided GLP with the details of the cycle and pathways discussed in the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LWCIP) forum. This NNC plan is for 5 new footpaths and 5 new cycle paths in the next 10 years. GLP are happy to work with local communities and improve connections where possible to and from Magna Park.

All invitees were given a tour of the second building with its very large depot and airy office spaces. It was agreed that this is a useful forum for a two-way relationship and to help businesses to tap into local knowledge. WPC welcomes the opportunity to meet with GLP separately to discuss the work being undertaken to discourage routing through Weldon.

Looking out for one-another

The measure of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable members.

This is something that I have heard said a few times, it says so much about the way we are called to be as human-beings to ensure those who struggle are not forgotten. Maybe the quote should extend to incorporate the phrase - even when the society itself is struggling. Recently we have been feeling the pinch in many ways, now is the time for us to step up and offer one another support and compassion.

When Mother Teresa was asked how she could do the work that she did with people who suffered with Leprosy, how she could embrace people who had been horrifically disfigured by the disease, she answered that in each person I see the face of Christ in them. As a Christian she was reflecting on the idea that each human was created in the image of God, something we are told about in Genesis.

I wonder how do we really view others in difficult times, with respect and dignity or another problem to solve? When we think like that we often lose interest or worse patients with others, this is exacerbated when people are from different walks of life. Maybe if we take time to get to know the people in our community we will see them in a different light and be more willing to look out for one-another.

ST MARY'S CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTHLY

First Sunday	10:15am	All Together Service
Remaining Sundays	9:00am	Holy Communion with Hymns
	10:15am	Service of the Word

EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday 28th March	6:00pm	Holy Communion
Good Friday 29th March	2:00pm	The Last Hour
Easter Day 31st March	10:15am	All Together Easter Communion



CONTACT

Vicar Kane:

01536 626361

kane@stmarysweldon.org

Blessings

Kane, Rector

St Mary's and Priors Hall Community Church



includes the Village, Priors Hall and Weldon Park

FREE ENTRY
Prizes to be won

The Categories

Wacky Planters

Prizes for the best unusual planter display.

Best Front Garden

If you have a garden, BIG or small, show it off, for one and all!



To enter, email your name, address and photos to weldoninbloom@gmail.com before 30th June.
The judging will take place throughout July.

