

QEII Platinum Celebrations: the Parish Council want to publicly thank the Village Hall Committee for hosting a range of celebratory events on Sunday 5th June which were enjoyed by packed audiences despite appalling weather conditions, and also extend our appreciation to everyone involved in organising an Arts & Crafts Exhibition in St. Andrew's Church that ran for four days from 2nd to 5th June, was really well-supported and thoroughly enjoyed by all who visited.

There were many highlights over the celebratory period including outstanding performances by the hugely popular Wellington Brass Band, a brilliant magic show from Mr Magic (David Oakley) and a showcase of power from the Karate group followed by the dulcet tones of the WI 'Songbirds'.

The Arts & Crafts festival showcased works of local people including beautiful water colours by the late Michael Evans, collages of natural materials creating vibrant images, as well as intricate cross-stitch, crocheting and knitting, and a range of model layouts with great attention to detail.

This special occasion also helped us recognise the work of three special people in our community with a presentation of Worthy Citizen awards to:-



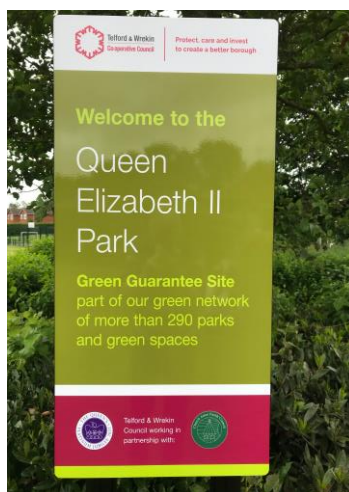
Andrew Delamere
for services to Scouting



Lesley Green for services
to St. Andrew's Church



Cllr Billie Knight for services to
the Church Aston Community



Church Aston Infant School children celebrate renaming of the play area
(New signage funded by Borough Cllr Andrew Eade)

Community Grant Awards 2022: applications for community grant awards are now invited. Application forms can be downloaded from www.churchaston-pc.gov.uk or by emailing: churchaston@gmail.com The closing date for applications is 4th September 2022

A Message of reassurance from Cllr Simon Stacey: some of you will have heard or read comments made by Cllr Lyn Fowler (Deputy Mayor of Newport) to the effect that Church Aston should become a part of the Newport Town area. I want to reassure you all that such a change could only happen if the people of Church Aston were in favour of it and, so long as you are not, the Parish Council will do everything within its powers to resist such a move.

I have set out below some more detailed information to help inform you more accurately, and to help you understand misleading information in Cllr Fowler's original statement. However, here are a few headline reasons why we believe Church Aston's unique identity should be preserved:-

- ✓ Church Aston is ~170 years older than Newport with the first recorded settlement of Eastun (now Church Aston) in 963;
- ✓ Church Aston residents strongly identify with the village and see it as a discrete entity separate from Newport;
- ✓ The amount you pay for Parish services is ~3 times greater in Newport vs its rural neighbours;
- ✓ A current LGBC boundary review is about electoral boundaries which are changed frequently in growth areas to balance numbers of population represented by each borough Cllr, and it is definitely not about historical Parish boundaries that are generally more permanent.

Who pays for what services?

Telford & Wrekin Borough Council is responsible for essential services such as education, social care, highways, planning, libraries and public open spaces. Most of these services are provided as '**duties**' i.e. the borough council must provide them, and many other discretionary services are provided under '**powers**'. It does not matter where you live in the borough as **you pay exactly the same amount for T&WC services at your tax band as others in the same band irrespective of where they live** (eg. Band 'D' is the same in Arleston, Brookside, Church Aston and Newport).

By contrast, parish & town councils only have '**powers**' to provide services within their area on a **discretionary** basis - i.e. we choose to provide services based on local need / demand. Both Church Aston and Newport provide street lighting and play facilities, and support local groups with discretionary grants (including the library). Newport provides public conveniences and a cemetery but these are provided out of choice and arguably should be self-funding and not charged out to all residents. Finally, there are the costs of overheads (staff & buildings) - the scale of contrast between Newport and its rural neighbouring parishes for this bureaucracy is immense.

- ❖ **Website & Facebook:** the Parish Council has a website: www.churchaston-pc.gov.uk and a face-book site: simply search for Church Aston Parish Council