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ELECTRICITY Scottish Power (Manweb as was)	0800 001 5400
KNOCKIN Medical Practice	01691 682203
NHS Out of Hours Service	111
Orthopaedic Hospital	01691 404000
PARISH COUNCIL email: westfeltonpc@gmail.com https://www.westfeltonparish.co.uk/	
POLICE, West Mercia Non-Emergency number	101
Oswestry Police Station	0300 333 3000
Safer Neighbourhood team—email: oswestryc.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk	
PRADOE CHURCH: Chairman: Andrew Kenyon	01691 610218
PUNCH BOWL	07543 040618
QUEENS HEAD RESTAURANT	01691 610255
RAIL STATION, GOBOWEN	01691 681010
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH: Fr Philip Holy Mass Saturday 6:30 pm, Sunday 10 am	01691 652248
RSPCA Shropshire Branch	07703 567935
SAMARITANS	116 123
SCHOOL – West Felton C E School	01691 610388
SHOP: West Felton Stores	01691 610863
SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	0345 6789000
Anti-Social Report Line	0345 6789020
Shrops Councillor: Cllr David Walker	01743 256863/ M 07484 541576
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH: MINISTRY vacant	
Church Warden: Dr Michael Davie	01691 610612
ST. CHAD'S: Chapel Warden: Mrs Ann Hampson	01691 610845
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION	01691 610665
VILLAGE HALL Bookings	01691 610629
WASP Problems Emergency number	01691 831251 / 07772 006994
WATER - Severn Trent Water Authority	0800 783 4444
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: President: Rhian	07375 997 782

Year 32

OCTOBER 2025

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See page

Saturday 7:30pm
25th October

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NIGHT**

Parish Council Second Tues of the month, 7:30 School Hall

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Pilates Class Tuesday mornings: 2 sessions: 9:30-10:30 & 10:45-11:45am Need to book online GYMATCH. Phone: Abi 07904456368

Tai Chi Tuesday 2pm to 3pm, Village Hall

Badminton Every Tues evening: 8pm to 9:30pm. Village Hall

Tuesday Tots Every term time Tuesday 9.15 - 10.30 West Felton School

Felton Flexors Wednesday mornings 9:30am to 10:30am Village Hall

Table Tennis Thursday 7:30pm Village Hall

WI 2nd Thursday of the month 7pm Village Hall

Short Mat Bowls contact Glynnis on 610336

Royal British Legion INFORMAL MEETINGS 8pm Meeting, PUNCH BOWL first Monday of the month except Bank holidays then second Monday.

2nd Oct	10-12noon COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING Village Hall	15
6th Oct	9am SCHOOL HARVEST SERVICE AND EXHIBITION, St Michael's Church.	
11th Oct	10:30am-3pm - WEST FELTON ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR, West Felton Village Hall.	17
17th Oct	7pm SCHOOL FRIENDS QUIZ NIGHT, School Hall	21
21st Oct	6:30pm DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING, West Felton Village Hall.	13
25th Oct	7:30pm - QUIZ NIGHT in aid of Hope House Children's Hospice. West Felton Village Hall. Brought to you by DANCE HQ.	19
6th Nov	10-12noon COMMUNITY Coffee Morning Village Hall.	
7th Nov	7:30pm POPPY CONCERT West Felton Village Hall	
22nd Nov	Special  CHRISTMAS Coffee Morning Village Hall	
10th Dec	7pm VILLAGE HALL CHRISTMAS BINGO	
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Round and About West Felton

Articles/advertisement amendments for inclusion
in next issue
to Editor by email (preferred) or phone

Last day for submission of copy and
deadline for content changes
10th OCTOBER 2025

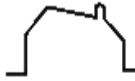
Editor: Colleen Hughes

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WEST FELTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to West Felton Parish Council: **Mrs Rosemary WOOD**

Parish Office: 5 Newtown Gardens

Baschurch Shrewsbury SY4 2HF Tel 01939 262 881

Email: westfeltonpc@gmail.com Website: www.westfeltonparish.co.uk

Chairman Cllr John THORNHILL 07714 759 466
Vice-Chairman Cllr Ozcan OZAGIR 07955 232 199
 Cllr David CURTIS 01691 610 665 (Rep WF Primary School & SALC Area Committee)

Cllr Alastair FORBES 01691 610 524
 Cllr Mick GREEN 07928 479 305
 Cllr Marian HESKETH 01691 610 441 (Rep for Village Hall).
 Cllr Chris JONES 01691 610 354 (Rep SALC Area Committee).
 Cllr Pat MABE 01691 610 400
 Cllr Ed NICHOLAS 01691 610 230 (Rep ABP committee)
 Cllr Neil SUMMERS 07523 318 005
 Cllr David WALKER 01691 897 117

Our Shropshire Councillor : Cllr David Walker T: 01743 256863
 Mobile: 07484 541576

Our Member of Parliament : Helen Morgan T: 01939 809387
 E: helen.morgan.mp@parliament.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS	13 January 2026
	10 February 2026
14 October 2025	10 March 2026
11 November 2025	14 April 2026
9 December 2025	12 May 2026

To Contact the Parish Council

Clerk – Rosemary Wood – 01939 262881

Email: westfeltonpc@googlemail.com

Website Address - <https://www.westfeltonparish.co.uk>

Under the main heading 'Contacts' on first page
 click on a named person

and you will be taken to an email contact form to write to them.

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Report from West Felton Parish Chairman, Cllr John Thornhill

Full-fibre broadband. There has been some correspondence on this issue with Shropshire Council and the Government. A letter was received on this matter from the Government which included comments in bold to which I responded as underlined. 'We expect to know which premises will be covered by this contract in the coming weeks.' This is urgent – who will be covered? 'However, this contract was not able to cover all premises in the village.' Which properties in the village were not included and have the residents been informed that are not included, and if not - why not?

As yet there is no further information on this matter but it is indicated that no contracts may now be agreed until next year. I further added that I thought that as the Parishioners of West Felton pay the same taxes as others they are entitled to the same services. Our local MP Helen Morgan has taken up this important issue. In her report for the first week of September she reports.

'I met Chris Bryant this week, 6th Sept, the Government minister responsible for Building Digital UK (BDUK) to question him about the rollout of full-fibre broadband in North Shropshire. Freedom Fibre were contracted by BDUK to create a new

full-fibre network available to 12,000 North Shropshire homes. However, Freedom Fibre handed back their contract in June, with just 3,500 properties able to access the new network. Frustratingly the tender for a replacement provider hasn't yet been completed. I voiced my concerns about this delay and called for the process to be speeded up as a matter of urgency. Meanwhile BDUK said they are keen to make use of any leftover infrastructure so if there is any in your area that Freedom Fibre have left behind then please let me know.'

Planning Application – Tedsmore Estate. I referred to this application for the proposed use of the property for occasional weddings to which we sent a strong objection and can confirm this application has been withdrawn.

Flags and Graffiti. You will be aware that, like many other towns and villages, a number of Union and St Georges flags have been placed on lamp standards. The matter was raised with a member of the Parish Council about what action could be taken. I contacted The Chair of Shropshire Council, Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) and the Police to report the flags and

(Continued on page 9)



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It has been said the Burma campaign was "A war of mules, porters and air supplies – often not even jeeps."

John Kenyon won the Military Cross during his war in Burma and his Indian radio assistant received the Military Medal.

For 24 hours the two played their part in directing allied guns to fire on strongly fortified Japanese bunkers. The barrage was laid just 25 metres ahead of allied troops.

Col. Kenyon is proud of having been associated with loyal Indian troops on active service. He is particularly proud of their stand in the Arakan with its famous victory followed by the long trek to Kohima, carrying the guns over almost impossible terrain.

This epitaph is engraved on the War Memorial to commemorate the men who fell in the Battle of Kohima:



Colonel John Kenyon in June 1994

**When you go home
tell them of us and say,
for your tomorrows
we gave our today.**

After the war, Col John Kenyon attended the Staff College at Camberley, then was posted to the Suez Canal Zone; Germany; London; and the Far East, where he was military adviser in Far East Land Forces under General Sir Nigel Poett.

In 1966 he was appointed to the Joint War Staff as GSO1 at Headquarters, 1st British Corps, in Germany, and appointed OBE. His last appointment was as defence attaché at the British embassy in Brussels.

After retiring from the Army in 1973 to run the family estate at Pradoc, he was a keen supporter of the Animals in War memorial in Park Lane, which celebrates the great contribution made by Mountain Artillery mules.

He was chairman of Freeman of England for some years,

**A war hero, former county councillor, and a dedicated supporter of
West Felton Royal British Legion,
Colonel John Kenyon MC, OBE
died aged 84 in 2006.**



A tribute to THE FOURTEENTH ARMY IN BURMA

**From press reports on
6 June 1994**

On 6 June 1944, while the eyes and hopes of untold millions were focussed on the Normandy beaches, a forgotten army of British troops and their allies was fighting a decisive battle half a world away.

The men of the gallant Fourteenth Army have never been given the credit they deserved for their efforts in the Burma campaign.

Overshadowed by the momentous struggle in Europe, the jungle fighters first stopped the crushing Japanese advance on India, fighting the longest continual battle of the Second World War, and then launched the campaign that was to drive the enemy out of Burma.

It was a great achievement in conditions quite unlike the European scene with its good, modern roads and rolling farmland. The terrain was mountainous with steep slopes and once the monsoon set in the conditions under which the troops fought were a nightmare of mud and rain.

Today, 50 years on, there are still men and groups anxious to right the

wrong that has left their success story in limbo.

One of these men is Colonel John Kenyon of Pradoc, who served in the campaign as a young subaltern with the Seventh Indian Division which stood fast at Arakan and helped gain the first land victory over the Japanese.

The troops fought magnificently and were led by two of the best leaders every produced by Britain: The Earl Mountbatten of Burma and Lieutenant-General Sir William Slim.

By June 1944 the Fourteenth Army had been involved in bitter fighting for three months with Imphal under siege and a battle raging at Kohima. The twin battles for vital junctions on the map of Burma marked the turning point in the Far East war.

The Japanese had made a determined effort to break into India but only gained a toehold before being pushed back relentlessly until they were forced to quit the major towns of Rangoon and Mandalay.

The strategy of Gen. William Slim in drawing out the supply lines of the Japanese forces played a large part in the change in allied fortunes.

As a mountain gunner, the young subaltern, John Kenyon, shared the daily slog of a regiment which carried its guns and other supplies over the hills by mule.

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graffiti issues on behalf of our parishioners and seek advice about how to respond. The advice was that the Parish Council had no jurisdiction in these matters. SALC provided guidance which is set out in the document 'Guidance - Flying flags: a plain English guide'. The attachment of flags to what is called 'street furniture' may need permission but there is no restriction on flying the Union or the St Georges flags. In the case of West Felton, any such permission should be sought from Shropshire Council as I am advised they are responsible for the highways and its 'furniture' in the village. The police equally advised that we had no jurisdiction as any suggestion that these incidents were racially motivated is not a matter for the PC but for the police to investigate and decide if there is any criminality involved as set out in the Race Relations Act 1965 and subsequent legislation.

On behalf of parishioners we discharged our duty as a PC to escalate the issues higher. The Police reported that the banner/graffiti on the bridge had been recorded as a possible criminal matter. It was also reported to National Highways department and has been removed.

Defibrillator. Defibrillator training has been arranged for 6:30pm on Tuesday 21 October in the village hall. Everyone welcome to come along and

join in the training - there is no need to book.

Tree Protection Orders. An application was submitted in January and we have now received a temporary notice on the trees in Oak Farm Lane. We are awaiting response on the two other areas. As agreed at the July meeting, David Woodhouse, a local arboriculturist has carried out a tree safety survey and he has been informed of the success with the TPO application. He has replied; *'Good evening, thank you for the email and the update regarding the TPO. I am pleased that most of the trees have been protected. I think that tree protection does make sense in this instance but I am also aware that Shropshire Council have lost quite a few dedicated tree officers in the past few years so I would have expected that they would have cited lack of available officer time for such things.'*

Donation to West Felton Primary School. As previously reported the Council allocated a grant to the local primary school of £250 to help finance the initiative. We have received a response from Helen, Headteacher; *"Wow! That's fantastic news and very generous we've been a bit thin on the ground this year so that will certainly make it viable! Incidentally, we had the SATS results this year and got 100% in Reading, the national average is 72% so we're real-*

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ly pleased. I'm certain the summer slide contributes to this success, Thank you very much" Congratulations to all at the school for such positive SATS results.

Neighbourhood Plan. You may have read in the Shropshire Star that West Felton is seeking to create a Neighbourhood Plan and that the initial application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area went before Shropshire Cabinet on 10 September. On 8th September Cllr John Thornhill (Chairman), Cllr Ozcan Ozagir (Vice Chairman), Rosemary Wood (Parish Clerk) met with Shropshire Council staff - Eddie West (Head of Planning Policy), Rosie Corner (Policy & Neighbourhood Planning Officer). It was a productive and very informative meeting in helping us to progress the creation of the Parish plan. A Neighbourhood Plan is a community-led document that provides a vision for future development in a local area, allowing residents to influence where new homes, shops, and offices are

built, and to shape the design and infrastructure of these developments. These plans, created by local communities rather than the planning authority, become part of the local plan and carry legal weight in deciding planning applications. They are a tool for communities to ensure that development meets local needs and aligns with local priorities. Previously Parish Councils could apply for a locality grant of up to £10000 to support such development but the government has very recently withdrawn such funding and any development will now have to be funded locally. This was fully discussed at the above meeting and a report provided to the Parish Council. It was agreed to set aside time at the October Council meeting to fully examine this issue with a view to establishing a group of parishioners supported by the Council to progress the matter. It is a requirement that non-council members be part of the working group so if you are interested in being involved then please contact myself or our Clerk.●

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(Continued from page 46)

command of Lieutenant General William Slim.

In March 1944, the Japanese launched an attack on British bases behind the Indian Border in Imphal and Kohima. These battles saw some of the worst fighting of the Second World War.

At the same time, a second Chindit expedition began, the second-largest airborne invasion of the Second World War with 20,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers and air support provided by the 1st Air Commando, US Army Air Force.

At the Indian base of Kohima, 2,500 British-Indian troops defended Garrison Hill against 15,000 Japanese. In one area, only the width of the District Commissioner Charles Pawsey's tennis court separated the two sides. When relief forces arrived, the British defensive lines were reduced to a shell-shattered area of only 350 square metres.

The resolute defence by British and Indian forces, and the monsoon, defeated the Japanese. They had now been broken by multiple battles, and after fierce fighting, central Burmese cities Meiktila and Mandalay were captured in March 1945. This was the decisive battle that effectively ended Japanese hopes of holding Burma.

The route south to coastal city Rangoon was now open, and it was a race between the 14th Army and the start of the monsoon. Lieutenant General Slim requested support from the Royal Navy, who redeployed from nearby areas, resulting in a combined air and seaborne victory on 4 May.

Colonel John Kenyon - Colonel John Kenyon won an immediate MC as a mountain gunner in the Burma campaign during the critical battle of Kohima; some 35 years later he waged a successful campaign to restore his county council's name to Shropshire instead of the government-approved Salop.

John Frederick Kenyon was born on December 30 1921 on the Pradoe estate near Oswestry, Shropshire. He was educated at Marlborough, and joined the Royal Artillery in 1941.

Kenyon was posted to 5 (Bombay) Indian Mountain Battery, part of 25th Indian Mountain Regiment in India. His unit, as part of the 7th Indian Division, was involved in intense fighting in Burma from 1943 to the end of the campaign. Within a month of going into action, Kenyon's legs had swollen with ulcers, but a parcel from home containing a medication normally prescribed for pregnancy cured him.

He developed a lasting affection for his mules. One night during close quarter fighting in the Arakan, a mule was badly wounded close to his trench. He got out to dispatch it, then returned to find that the trench had been destroyed by a shell.●

Burma Campaign

'If mankind is lucky, it may be that the end of the Burma campaign was the last great battle in the last great war; and even if it wasn't, it may still be worth remembering from an ordinary foot-soldier's point of view.'

- George MacDonald Fraser, author and veteran of Burma.

Burma was a part of the British Empire during the Second World War, so when Japan invaded Burma in January 1942, the British and Commonwealth troops who had been driven out of the area began the struggle to reclaim it.

The fighting lasted until July 1945, and British Forces - made up mostly by the British Indian Army, Gurkhas and divisions raised in Africa - experienced incredible hardship, stirring leadership, tactical innovation and inspiring bravery.

Retreat - The Japanese captured Rangoon, the capital of Burma, in March 1942 and began to drive the British out of the country. To avoid being surrounded by enemy Forces, the British began to retreat up the Irrawaddy and Sittang valleys in appalling conditions – including crossing difficult terrain, and in the worst dry and hot weather of the year - and against determined enemy forces.

On 15 May 1942, just after the monsoon broke, defeated British Forces finally retreated all the way across the Indian border. It was the longest retreat in British history, covering a distance of 1,000 miles – like walking from Birmingham to Rome.

Stalemate - After their retreat, British Forces in India immediately started forming plans to recapture Burma, though the next year saw very little progress.

In the early months of 1943, the 77th Indian Infantry Brigade under Brigadier Orde Wingate began Operation Longcloth, driving far behind Japanese lines into the heart of Burma.

The 3,000 man brigade, nicknamed 'the Chindits', included British Army and Gurkha regiments and eight RAF sections and signallers. They sabotaged railway lines to limit the movement of the Japanese, and encouraged Burmese resistance groups. However, they suffered heavy casualties. 818 men were killed, wounded or missing – 27 per cent of the original force.

Despite their limited results, the Chindits had shown the Japanese were not invincible in the jungle. The British public was inspired by their mission and their operation raised morale among other British troops.

Advance to victory - 'I have been kicked by this enemy in the place where it hurts, and all the way from Rangoon to India where I had to dust off my pants. Now, gentlemen, we are kicking our Japanese neighbours back to Rangoon.' – Lieutenant General William Slim to the 11th East African Division, Palel Plain, 1944.

Lieutenant General William Slim

In late 1943, the British created the 14th Army to take over offensive operations against the Japanese under the

(Continued on page 47)

Shropshire Council Report: Aug/Sept 2025

July was again a busy month - Over 30 meetings, 500 emails and 300 teams messages, plus site meetings with residents. Things generally slow down in August each year as people take their holidays. No time for me to take a break just yet as things continue to find their new level.

Shropshire Council completed the withdrawal of the draft local plan and issued a new 'call for sites' as part of the evidence gathering process, in preparation for restarting the local plan review process next year. We have also launched the 10-week consultation on the Local Natural Recovery Strategy (LNRS) at the Burwarton and Minsterley shows. The 'call for sites' and the LNRS consultation run up to October. The 'call for sites' is for anybody who owns or has an interest in land to put their site forward for consideration to be included in the local plan allocation. The LNRS by contrast is for anybody who has an interest in owning, managing, working or using land and our green spaces, to comment on the strategy. The strategy aims to make the most of those spaces and to assist in nature recovery in those areas. The consultation includes a map of the whole county of identified sites. In other news Children's Services at Shropshire Council has been judged as Outstanding by Ofsted inspectors. This is massive testament to the hard work and dedication of everybody involved in the service and they can justifiably be very proud of their achievement. As an administration we now need to replicate that across the rest of the organisation. Casework has been around planning and enforcement, but also highways maintenance,

boundary issues, rights of way, trees, utility services, footpath repairs, road signs, bus stops and service delivery.

On Highways maintenance I talked with Park Hall Countryside Experience, residents and with Keir about the works on North Drive. I also met Multevo on site to discuss their road closures on Ellesmere Road. I have had plenty of feed back on both sets of roadworks and I will be working to make sure those problems aren't repeated.

408 emails 134 Teams messages and 15 meetings over the balance of August and early September showed the drop off while people were away.

As we moved into the 2nd week of August, I was talking to Tedsmore residents and officers about Tedsmore Hall planning applications, culminating in a meeting with residents about their future options. Residents had significant concerns about the plans, which had grown significantly over the previous weekend. The applicant withdrew the application soon after with the case officer siting concerns that couldn't be resolved by a few tweaks. Undoubtedly a good outcome for residents. I had a meeting with the Chief financial officer and another portfolio holder about how to use CIL to earn more money for Shropshire Council.

I had a successful meeting with the Head of Property at Shropshire Council which has giving me a better understanding around issues in the property portfolio. A joint meeting between departments around the portfolio will be happening later in September to see

(Continued on page 13)



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ships, 6 hospital ships, 2 distilling ships, 2 water carriers, 13 oil tankers and several other ships under the auspices of the RFA.

Although Admiral Fisher and his team were on hand, the plan was that the whole of Operation Iceberg to conquer Okinawa and Japan was carried out by the US who would be responsible for prisoners of war in Japan and Korea.

The British authorities would be responsible for their own nationals in Shanghai, North China, and Formosa, (Taiwan) and for all nations in Hong Kong.

On 30th August 1945 a communication, marked SECRET URGENT, addressed to Lt Cmdr. WF Waddington RNR, sets the scene in Hong Kong for Admiral Fisher and WFW when they arrived on September 9th on HMS 'Montclare' for the re-occupation and the many problems which ensued.

The colony was in dire straights with the inhabitants, Japanese soldiers and released prisoners of war all desperately short of food. The BPF organised supplies of coal, rice and food convoys from Burma, India, Thailand and Australia, saving the colony from certain starvation.

Perhaps it was at this time, when hungry Hong Kongers were happy to sell anything for food, that WFW 'acquired' the spoils of war, presumably either 'liberated' or bought very, very cheaply. As a child I remember playing with a large traditional umbrella made of bamboo ribs and oiled fabric and in our house were three carved camphor-

wood chests, the largest of which adorns our lounge to this day.

There were still approximately 8,000 civilian internees in China, and the Admiralty instructed Admiral Fisher that civilian internees would receive equal treatment as prisoners of war and arrangements were made for return transportation to UK and elsewhere in Asia.

As WFW was serving under Admiral Fisher on his flagship, he was very involved with evacuation of RAPWI (Recovery of Allied Prisoners of War & Internees), the huge task of rescuing, feeding and repatriating POWs and internees, many of whom were very sick, back to their country of origin.

The fact that my father was serving on the Admiral's flagship 'Montclare' during the attack on Okinawa, the re-occupation of Hong Kong and the recovery of POWs and Internees meant he played a vital part in ending the war in the Far East.

After he left the service, WFW received a glowing reference from Admiral Fisher, which enabled my father to get the plumb job of Port Officer in Zanzibar, perhaps the most important port on the East African coast, involving traffic round Africa, across the Indian Ocean to India and the Far East.

HMS 'Montclare' finally left Hong Kong on 3 January 1946, her crew having played an important part in getting the colony back on its feet again. She and WFW arrived back in Portsmouth on 21 February 1946. ●



Victory over Japan Day

Yoland Brown, August 2025

Some people might perhaps be interested in the following bit of my family history.

6th August 1945 Atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima; **9th August** Atom bomb dropped on Nagasaki **15th August:** Emperor Hirohito of Japan announced the surrender of Japan. The documents were formally signed on 2nd Sept 1945, ending the Second World War.

My father,

WILLIAM FREDERICK WADDINGTON,
by Yoland.

On 1st February 1945 the Navy List announced WFW of the RFA (Royal Fleet Auxiliary) was now Lieut. Commander, Acting, Temporary, on HMS 'Montclare' which sailed in convoy, through the Suez Canal, arriving in Sydney, Australia on 20th April.

It would appear that he had been promoted to be a Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Navy and joined the office of the Lord High Admiral Douglas Fisher as Assistant Fuelling Officer of the British Pacific Fleet (BPF), 'for the duration', as they said. This must have been a hugely responsible job for WFW, the whole plan to invade the Japanese Island of Okinawa would depend on ships having fuel.

Although the BPF was based at HMS 'Golden Hind' shore base in Sydney, Australia, there must have been much

toing and froing between there and Manus Atoll, recently reclaimed from the Japanese and described by British seamen as "Scapa Flow with bloody palm trees"!

The only story my father ever told me about his wartime experiences was when he was in an aeroplane which crashed into the sea and some clown pulled the string to inflate the rubber dinghy while it was still inside the plane.

In March 1945, while supporting the invasion of Okinawa Island, BPF combat division had sole responsibility for suppressing Japanese gunfire and kamikaze attacks on British and American shipping. Rear Admiral DB Fisher took HMS 'Montclare' as his flagship for the Pacific Fleet Train (Task Force 112) with the British Pacific Fleet until the end of hostilities. She sailed to Manus in the Admiralty Islands to support the destroyers of Task Force 57 on Operation Iceberg – the conquest of Okinawa.

The British Pacific Fleet was the most powerful conventional fleet ever assembled by the Royal Navy. It consisted of 17 aircraft carriers with 300 aircraft, 4 battleships, ten cruisers, 40 destroyers, 18 sloops, 13 frigates, 31 submarines, 35 minesweepers plus other fighting ships. We shall never see the like again.

To keep these ships supplied with everything from flour and vegetables to heavy oil and aviation fuel, the Fleet Train included 3 submarine depot ships, two accommodation ships, 9 repair

(Continued from page 11)

what leverage we can get out of the assets to deliver more affordable housing, economic or other development. The objective being to maximise the value of the portfolio and deliver the priorities of the administration.

I attended a site visit at Shrewsbury Flaxmill for a meeting with Historic England to discuss their future plans for the site. The transformation was incredible from when I was mapping the site 20 years ago. I can recommend going on the tour, particularly the tower tour. September started as August finished with some strategic visits to potential developers interested in putting sites forward for the new local plan, in various parts of the county. Various other briefings with officers around the emerging Supplementary Planning Documents that will be considered by Cabinet this week. However, a big chunk of my time in September has already been around the year-end financial projections contained in the period 4 report to Cabinet. In the first 3 months we had seen some positive improvement in the General Reserves. The 4th month had seen a dramatic and alarming shift. As previously reported Shropshire Council's reserves were far too low, leaving the council vulnerable to external events. Reserves were around £600k instead of £15-20million. However, the period 4 report now shows a year end projection of minus 890k, which is illegal. Should that negative position continue then the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) will have to effectively declare the council bankrupt and call in Government Commissioners to run the council. The CFO is the only person who can make that decision. Officers and members across the council want to avoid that at all costs. Cabinet are being asked to declare a 'financial emergency' by

the CFO. In practice this means a ban on all but essential spending for the remainder of the financial year. The CFO believes there is time to recover the situation before he has to make that decision. This is a particularly grim news. Commissioners will impose massive cuts and big rises in charges and council tax.

Why is Shropshire Council in this mess? For the previous 4 financial years savings have not been delivered. This financial year, the budget agreed by the last administration needed to make £60million worth of savings. That number included £25million worth of savings in previous year's budget which weren't made. Many savings have been unrealistic and undeliverable, but did balance the budget. In March the council took out a loan to help balance the budget. In August Shropshire Council had a corporate peer review which has pointed out the failures of the previous 4 financial years and issues extending further back. That report will be published soon, and it isn't a pretty read. The review recommended that the council urgently appoint an external, independently chaired, improvement board to help turn the council around. The Veolia contract is ripping off Shropshire residents. The contract runs until 2039 – the cost to buy out the contract is £140million at present. The contract is costing the council 10x more than any other similar contract in the country. Veolia gets an automatic uplift of inflation + 2.5% every year. If they put in a planning application Shropshire Council have even had to pay their planning fees. This year alone the contract will be going up from £43million to £44million. It is safe to say that there have been far too many unforced errors in the budget. For example, the Green

(Continued on page 14)



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(Continued from page 13)

Bin charge. The charge was budgeted for a 70% uptake. The research survey predicted 56% uptake with the charge. With the charge in place the actual uptake is 55%. Using an optimistic budget figure that was unjustified and not evidenced has left a £600k hole in the budget. Just appalling way to run any budget. But this cavalier budgeting has been going on for quite a few years. Cuts that have taken place have even hurt the councils own ability to generate revenue.

In other news there are 240 estates across the county waiting to get their roads adopted. I have a number in the this division that I have been discussing with residents. This backlog has been building for 10 years! With the new mandatory housing targets virtually doubling the housing requirement across the county, this problem will

only increase at a faster rate. I am working with officers on a "bold" plan which promises to get on top of the problem very quickly. That would benefit around 3,000 residents in Shropshire. Hopefully this works but I will report back on this as things develop further.

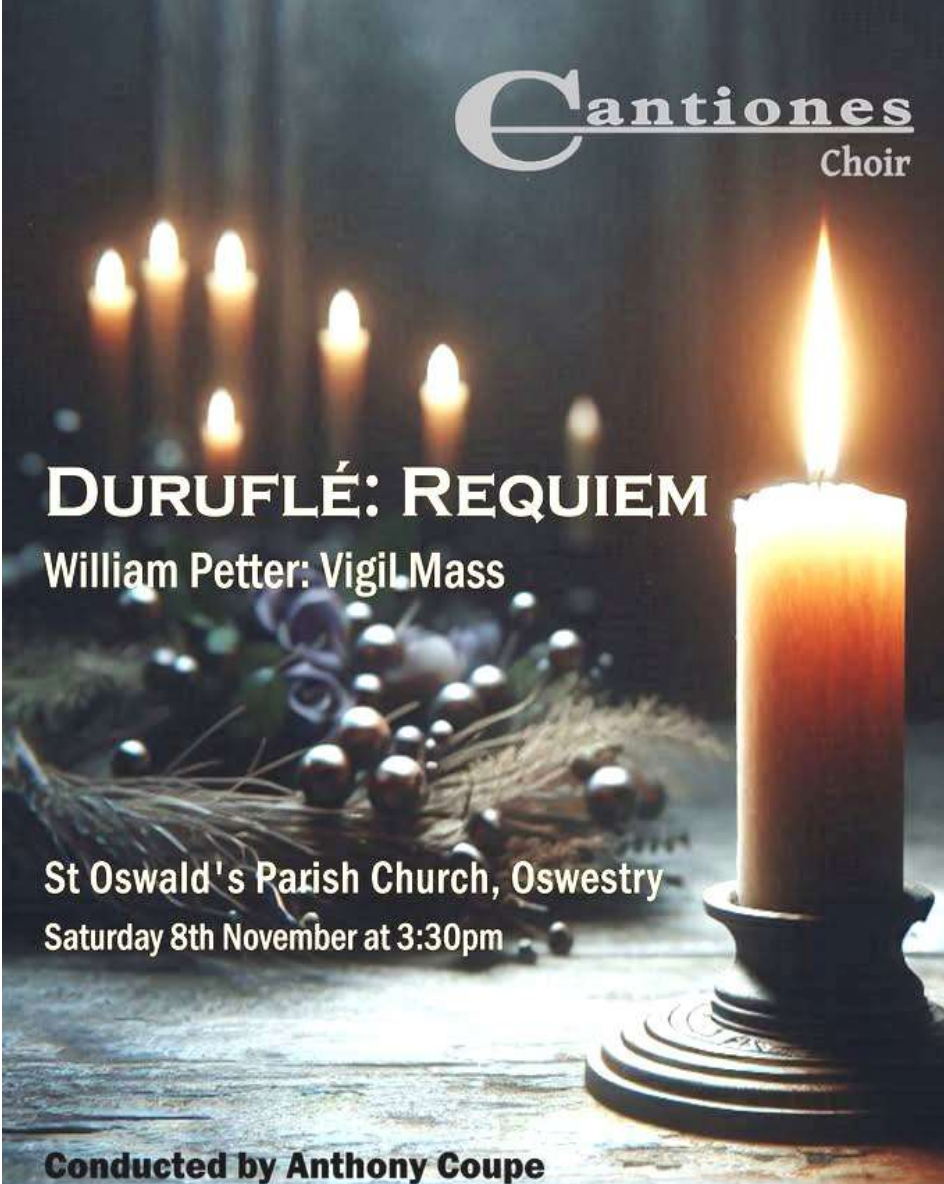
Yesterday Cabinet voted to approve West Felton PC's request to have a Neighbourhood Plan Area. The Cabinet also voted to declare a financial emergency and to stop all non-essential spending.

Hopefully, next month I can report something more positive in a number of areas.

Cllr David Walker
Shropshire Council:
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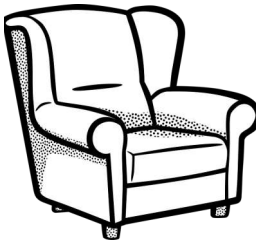


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From Ian and the Village Hall Committee

Here is an update from the Village Hall Committee to remind us all of upcoming events:

1. **Saturday 11th of October** from 10.30am is the **Arts and Craft fair**. We have 27 tables booked, covering a range of goods and produce. Free entry, so do come along.
2. **Saturday 25th of October** we have a **Quiz Night** in support of Hope House Children's Hospice in Oswestry. It's £5.00 entry. All proceeds are going to Hope House. The committee has kindly donated the use of the hall to this great cause, so as to maximise the proceeds. Make up a team and come along with your drinks and nibbles. 7.30pm start. Please contact Ian on 01691 610224 or 07740 485925 so we have an idea of numbers attending.
3. **Friday 7th November** is the **Poppy Concert**, starts at 7.30pm. This is always a hall filler.
4. **Saturday 22nd November** is the St Michaels Church **Christmas Coffee Morning** which includes sales tables.
5. **Wednesday 10th December - Christmas bingo**. 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. This is always a very popular event. £2.00 admission (free for u16's) with prizes galore.

Other news: Wednesday evenings are now available for the main hall to be hired, so if you are a group looking for hall space please contact Eileen on 01691 610629.

We are pleased to announce that West Felton resident Oz Ozagir has joined our hall committee. It is so good to have another pair of hands to help run our village asset - **Welcome to Oz**.

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A busy start to August even though it's our holiday month. We were pleased to support Oswestry Show on Saturday 2nd with our contributions to various categories in the WI 'hut'. Several members baked tempting ginger cakes and indeed Secretary Sam triumphed with a win. Success too in the Bread category with a first and third for Gillian and June respectively. Tote bags were crafted and photos taken but no luck there.

In the group classes, for the table top display category with its theme of Myths and Legends we chose to portray the goddess Aphrodite (or Venus in Roman mythology). Whilst not ultimately placed, plenty of talent was to the fore with an impressive portrait of this figure so associated with beauty and love skilfully painted by Yvonne; tempting truffles from June which the judges described as rich and delicious; a handcrafted hand-held mirror encircled with myrtle from Gillian and Sue E. It was all displayed on a felted background representing the sand and sea with decoupaged scallop shells and hearts. As regards the 'trio of preserves' WFWI gained second place so a very well done to Jo L, June and Gillian.

We prepare for our own show during September's meeting so are attempting to grow the longest runner beans we can, nurture our favourite houseplant and produce divine chocolate cakes for just a few of the many categories open to members. We also look forward to a return visit from Annie Moody who on Thursday 11th will tell us all about the history of Queen Mary's Doll's House.

Do join us for friendship and fun (and cake!). Visitors £5. Meetings begin at 7pm on the second Thursday of each month in the village hall. ●

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At recent Community Coffee Mornings we have been lucky enough to find on our tables past copies of WEST FELTON VILLAGE MAGAZINE, thanks to Mike Bosson and the kind person who gave them to Mike.

These early issues of the magazine were treasured down the years and now they are surfacing again, to the delight of many.

I would be grateful to have sight of all copies available, to scan and re-publish items of interest these days.

So, please, if you took a magazine home in the last couple of months, could you please take it back to the next Community Coffee Morning. I will return them all to Mike who will distribute them again in due course.

Colleen (Ed)

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Up the Garden Path with Topiarius

And so to autumn ...

I think I can safely say that this year we were completely free of whitefly in the glasshouse and so the French marigolds did their job (or there were no whiteflies in the vicinity). We will extend the experiment to Mexican (African) marigolds next year which are supposed to deter/kill all manner of things.

The feeling in September of the beginning of a new gardening year leads to placing the annual seed order. We were not happy with a couple of alternative varieties bought last October because our usual ones were no longer available, so this year will search alternative suppliers in the hope of getting what we want. We will also continue our campaign to reduce the amount of bedding in favour of more perennials. With a lull in the treadmill of breeding, feeding and weeding, doing the seed order is one of life's little pleasures.

There is still some harvesting in October, including apples and squash, and tunnels can be removed from carrots and leeks. We harvested potatoes earlier in September this year hoping to reduce slug damage. The glasshouses will be cleaned and tender plants brought in to over winter. Outside, the winter pruning will be underway as well as any projects to make changes in the garden. High on my list is to severely cut back overgrown shrubs and to make some developments in hard landscaping. But then, I make the same vow

to cut back shrubs every year and never manage to do as much as I should.

Those who dig their vegetable plots will probably do it this month, whereas those who go for no-dig will be saving their energy. I am a bit in between in that I dig the rest of the plot the potatoes were in, partly for it to be all the same and partly because I have not yet achieved the soil consistency I would like from application of compost. One of the benefits of no-dig is said to be boost it gives to the earthworm population. My own experience is that this seems to be the case and it makes no-dig very satisfying. Also, when you consider the amount of effort it must take a common earthworm to make a burrow it seems rather unfair to destroy it. I must keep applying organic matter.

I recently came across a Chinese proverb "All gardeners know better than other gardeners", or in other words we all think we know best. In the case of gardening, it is such an inexact science that there is never going to be simply one way and one time of doing a job. There is inevitably scope for umpteen opinions on how something should be done, and plenty of opportunities to say the experts are wrong. Nevertheless, we will never stop learning about gardening and there is a great deal of knowledge, and pleasure, to be obtained from books. Drop hints now for Christmas presents.●

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Donations of raffle prizes very welcome on the night
Bring your own drinks (alcohol allowed) and nibbles
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ALL PROCEEDS GO TO HOPE HOUSE

Saturday 25th October 7.30pm

West Felton Village Hall SY11 4EH



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Friends of West Felton CE Primary School Update

It's been a brilliant start for our Friends of West Felton . Although we have only been up and running for six months, we've already raised an amazing £3,483.81 for West Felton School - thank you to the fantastic support of our school, families, and wider community.

Over the past few months we have held a range of fun and successful events: Together these raised:

*Easter Raffle: £292.40

*Soak the Teacher (Sports Day): £58.90

*Frozen Fridays: £70.51

*Summer Raffle: £1,948 (the biggest amount the school has ever made from a raffle).



A special thank you also goes to Kathleen, Scarlett, and Flo, who took on a bike ride challenge from West Felton to the Quarry in Shrewsbury. Their efforts raised an incredible £649 for the school - what an achievement!

We are delighted to share that, from the funds raised so far, The Friends of West Felton were able to provide free ice pops at Sports Day. We are also giving £100 to each classroom (a total of £600). This will allow teachers to purchase additional resources to support learning and enrich the children's school experience - something we are really proud to be able to do so soon.

Alongside this, we have supported our pupils more directly: providing Year 6 leavers gift bags to send them off with happy memories, and preparing welcome bags for our new Acorn starters as they begin their school journey.

None of this would have been possible without the wonderful support of parents, staff, local businesses, and the community who have joined in, donated, and encouraged us along the way. We are truly grateful.

And we're not stopping here! Our next event is a Quiz Night on Thursday 17th October - a fun evening for all, raising money for West Felton School. Get your team ready, and put your Knowledge to the test!

Together we've shown what can be achieved in such a short time. As our motto says, we are "Rooted in Community, Growing with Purpose" - and we can't wait to see what we will grow together next.

From WEST FELTON VILLAGE MAGAZINE September 1994

WHAT'S YOURS IS MINE, AND WHAT'S MINE IS ME OWN

West Felton Rector, Alan Brannigan, September 1994

It's reassuring to note that, in an age when all old records must be deposited with the County Archivist, that in the tower of St. Michael's Church there remains the oldest record of land ownership in the parish. It is on a large painted board, precisely dated at July 23rd, 1718, and records not only who owned or tenanted land, but what were the tithes paid by farmers and landowners to the church.

It uses the old Township names, i.e. Felton Township, Twyford Township, Sandford Township, Tedsmere Township, Yardeston Township, and fields are named which it would now be difficult to identify.

Similarly, hardly any of the names mentioned can still be found here, although in their time they were men of substance. Nathaniel Thomas, William Rogers, Richard Jones, Edward Lloyd, Robert Lathrop, Thomas Bentley, Joseph Withers; you wonder who they all were, and what happened to them.

Where, I wonder, was Hungerhill Field, or Lowries Yard or Broad Meadow Field or Tedsmere Lane?

But amongst all the other things about which we may speculate, one thing continues to fascinate me. The land holdings are not measured in ways which we would understand, that is, acres and the like, but in what is called "Oswestry Old Measure". What would be the modern equivalent of "six strikes seedness" or "six hoops seedness"? Was there a change like the more recent decimalisation or metrication, and when did it happen? Did the farmers of the eighteenth century lament the passing of Oswestry Old Measure as a big con trick, as many commonly saw decimalisation, and how long did they go on thinking in the old ways, as many of us still think of pounds, shillings and pence? The fact that none of this is going to shake the foundations of society doesn't make it any the less intriguing.

The small pieces of a jigsaw are just as important as the large. ●

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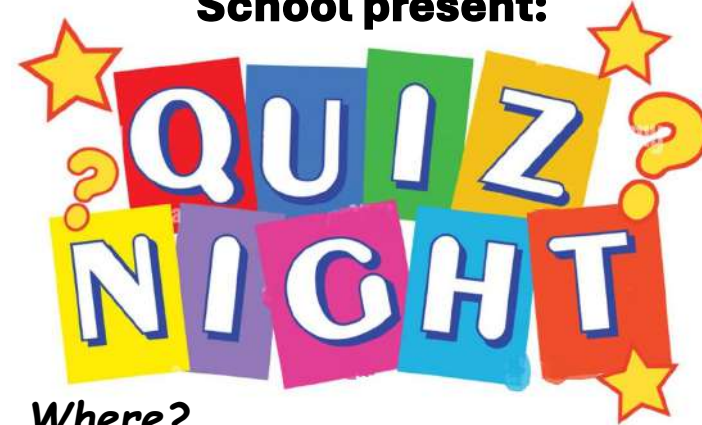


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Friends of West Felton School present:



- £10 a team
- Maximum of 5 per team
- Tea and coffee available.
- Bring your own alcohol and snacks
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Where?

at The Glade, West Felton School (the school new hall).

Friday 17th October

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Prompt start:

7:30

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(Continued from page 29)

future. The former however has led to the institution of Safeguarding and Disclosure and Barring service certificates. For ordinary mortals like PCC members, these can be done online, but for clergy a whole day at the Diocese is required together with the writing of essays reflecting on what they have learnt. All this training has triggered a defensive attitude to approaching people alone. Dropping in on a parishioner for a chat or a cup of tea is now viewed as a dangerous activity, laying oneself open to accusations of misconduct. Numbers are now seen as safe – visiting the local coffee morning or parish fête is less liable to cause problems.

Once again our parish is saddled with an Interregnum. We are greatly indebted to all the retired clergy who come and take services for us. It is amazing what the retired clergy will do and we are grateful to those like Robin Martin who are getting on in years and still keep helping us out. We are not alone as a parish in having no priest. Over 25% of parishes in the Lichfield Diocese are without clergy: in the Oswestry Deanery it is 43%. The Bishop cheerfully reminded us that West Felton is third in line to be filled after the Trefonen group of parishes and the Kinnerley group. Trefonen has advertised twice and had no applicants. Clergy

can pick and choose. Recent data show that ordinands have fallen to 370/year whilst last year 531 clergy retired. The Archdeacon of Salop has 15 clergy posts to fill and he is more concerned about lack of clergy than shortage of money. Parishes should not be in a rush to appoint anyone who appears unsuitable. A former Dean of Ely has warned parishes in an interregnum against appointing a person in desperation since “disastrous results can follow”.

At a recent Deanery synod meeting, the possibility of asking the Diocese for help in making a parish or Benefice attractive was raised. Many parish profiles have great similarities and are not particularly enticing. Inviting clergy to come and have a look and asking them to suggest what might make the job appealing was suggested. Assuming anyone applied, an interesting dialogue might ensue. It may well be the case that financial terms come into play. At present incumbents get no payments for taking weddings and funerals which hardly encourages enthusiasm for undertaking these tasks. Time for change?

Inevitably we are going to have a long interregnum and may well end up being incorporated into a Minster model. In the meantime we are grateful to our retired clergy for helping us out.●

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Carnival Budget Overview	Income	Costs	Balance
Carnival Items	£ 7,279.92	-£ 1,396.73	£ 5,883.19
Entertainment & Prizes		-£ 2,107.67	-£ 2,107.67
Operational Costs		-£ 3,287.93	-£ 3,287.93
	£ 7,279.92	-£ 6,792.33	£ 487.59

Carnival Items	Income	Costs	Balance
Gate	£ 1,374.35		£ 1,374.35
Bar	£ 2,147.97	£ 1,396.73	£ 751.24
Bric Brac	£ 152.95		£ 152.95
Bottle Tombola	£ 281.50		£ 281.50
Tombola	£ 246.90		£ 246.90
Grand Draw	£ 1,219.15		£ 1,219.15
Number Board	£ 118.60		£ 118.60
Auction	£ 150.00		£ 150.00
Concessions	£ 230.00		£ 230.00
Stalls	£ 125.00		£ 125.00
Sponsorship/Donations	£ 1,025.00		£ 1,025.00
Other Costs			
Entertainment	£ 208.50	£ 1,765.00	-£ 1,556.50
Prizes		£ 342.67	-£ 342.67
Operational Costs		£ 3,287.93	-£ 3,287.93
Totals	£ 7,279.92	£ 6,792.33	£ 487.59

From the Carnival Committee

You can see from the above figures, without the generosity of our amazing sponsors, and the generous donations from individuals and groups from within the community, the Carnival wouldn't be able to go ahead, especially in a climate of spiralling costs.

We wish to thank everyone for their support and we're glad to report that we are able to provide the Christmas Tree for the village again this year!



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West Felton Walking Group

We meet at 10.00 am Mondays
at the Punch Bowl car park

EXCEPT on the first Monday
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is 9:30 to allow time to travel
to our chosen destination for

the away day walk.

New members always
welcome.

Walk leaders:-

Mike Bossen 01691 610623

Hilary Iles 01691 610707

John & Eileen Hanmer
01691 610629

Changes ...

Michael Davie

This month's article is something of a milestone. It is 10 years since I started writing these articles for the magazine in September 2015. That only 115 articles have appeared is accounted for by a missing article in March 2016 and the magazine not appearing during some months of the Covid Lockdown. The number has been bolstered by two eulogies, one for Ken Gull, erstwhile churchwarden, and one for Barbara Brewster who used to live at 45 Woolston Road.

The first article included a tribute to Rev Tony Sparham who had recently retired from being our House for duty priest. The item recorded the esteem in which he was held, his knowledge of theology and his willingness to visit and engage with the wider community. Little did I think that 10 years thence I would once again be taking up my pen to record that in that time, we should have seen two rectors and one curate depart and we are now in an interregnum (Vacancy) of 12 months. With hindsight, I should not have been surprised. Clergy rarely stay in post longer than 5-6 years these days and vacancies of over a year are common.

The older clergy opine that an average of 5 years in a post is too short a

time to settle down and serve the community and the church. And not only do clergy not stay long in a post, but the qualities that Tony Sparham exhibited of a good theological knowledge and pastoral care are sadly lacking. Both in the National and Church press articles have appeared remarking upon the decline in the standard of people being ordained. The difficulty of finding anybody of the stature of William Temple or Michael Ramsay to fill the post of Archbishop of Canterbury has been the subject of comment and the intellectual calibre, or lack of it, in the candidates has been cause for lament.

Theology and pastoral care were embedded in the education of priests in training at Theological college. Nowadays many clergy are ordained after following a less rigorous course. Yet theology can be learnt on the job. Stretton Reeves, a Bishop of Lichfield in the mid 20th century, was noted for ringing up his clergy and asking what they were doing. If not studying the Bible in the morning or not visiting in the afternoon, they were guilty of idling. Whilst Bible study can still be undertaken, visiting and pastoral care have become a problem.

Misbehaviour and eccentric conduct by the clergy merits an article in the

(Continued on page 31)