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Citizens Advice Bureau, Castle View	03444 991100
CORBET SCHOOL <a href="http://www.corbetschool.net">www.corbetschool.net</a>	01939 260296
DIAL-A-RIDE, Volunteer Bureau and Qube Arts centre (main switchboard Osw.Community Action)	01691 656882
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: <a href="mailto:westfeltonpc@gmail.com">westfeltonpc@gmail.com</a> <a href="https://www.westfeltonparish.co.uk/">https://www.westfeltonparish.co.uk/</a>	
POLICE, West Mercia Non-Emergency number	101
Oswestry Police Station	0300 333 3000
Safer Neighbourhood team—email: <a href="mailto:oswestryc.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk">oswestryc.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk</a>	
PRADOE CHURCH: Chairman: Andrew Kenyon	01691 610218
PUNCH BOWL	01691 610322
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 Anti-Social Report Line	0345 6789000 0345 6789020
Your Shrops Councillor: Steve Charmley email: <a href="mailto:steve.charmley@shropshire.gov.uk">steve.charmley@shropshire.gov.uk</a>	01691 587958
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH: Revd Suzan Williams	01691 674948
Church Warden: Dr Michael Davie	01691 610612
ST. CHAD'S: Chapel Warden: Mrs A Hampson	01691 610845
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WASP Problems Emergency number	01691 831251 / 07772 006994
WATER - Severn Trent Water Authority	0800 783 4444
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: Gillian Sturgess	01691 611811

Year 31

SEPTEMBER 2024

# ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON

[www.westfeltonmagazine.co.uk](http://www.westfeltonmagazine.co.uk)

*All welcome*  
**HARVEST SUPPER**  
*West Felton Village Hall*  
*7pm Friday*  
*20 September 2024*



*See page 31*

# WHAT'S ON

<b>Parish Council</b>	Second Tues of the month, 7:30 <b>School Hall</b>
<b>West Felton Walkers</b>	10am Mondays, Punch Bowl <b>EXCEPT... see page 51</b>
<b>Pilates Class</b>	Tuesday mornings: 2 sessions: 9:30-10:30 & 10:45-11:45am Need to book on line GYMATCH. Phone: Abi 07904456368
<b>Tai Chi</b>	Tuesday 2pm to 3pm, Village Hall
<b>Badminton</b>	Every Tues evening: 8pm to 9:30pm. Village Hall
<b>Baby &amp; Toddler</b>	9:15- 10:30 Termtime WEDNESDAY at the school
<b>Felton Flexors</b>	Wednesday mornings 9:30am to 10:30am Village Hall
<b>Table Tennis</b>	Thursday 7:30pm Village Hall
<b>WI</b>	2nd Thursday of the month 7pm Village Hall
<b>Short Mat Bowls</b>	contact Glynnis on 610336
<b>Royal British Legion</b>	8pm Meeting, <b>THE PUNCH BOWL</b> first Monday of the month except Bank holidays then second Monday.

5 Sept	<b>10am COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING, Village Hall</b>	<b>17</b>
20 Sept	<b>7pm HARVEST SUPPER West Felton Village Hall</b>	<b>31</b>
21 Sept	<b>10:30 - 2pm HALLMARKS VALUATION DAY, Village Hall</b>	<b>19</b>
12 Oct	<b>VILLAGE HALL ARTS &amp; CRAFTS - Gifts galore</b>	<b>25</b>
7 March 2025	<b>5:30pm Jack Dent, CHILDREN'S MAGIC SHOW.</b>	



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see page 14**

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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 SEPTEMBER 2024**

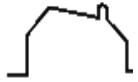
**Editor: Colleen Hughes**

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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](mailto:westfeltonpc@gmail.com) Website: [www.westfeltonparish.co.uk](http://www.westfeltonparish.co.uk)

**Chairman** Cllr John THORNHILL 07714 759 466  
**Vice-Chairman** Cllr Ozcan OZAGIR 07879 330 598  
 Cllr David CURTIS 01691 610 665 (Rep WF Primary School & SALC Area Comm)

Cllr Sonja D'ARCY 01691 610 302  
 Cllr Alastair FORBES 01691 610 524  
 Cllr Kerry GROVE 01691 611 776  
 Cllr Marian HESKETH 01691 610 441 (Rep for Village Hall).  
 Cllr Chris JONES 01691 610 354  
 Cllr Pat MABE 01691 610 400 (Rep SALC Area Comm).  
 Cllr Ed NICHOLAS 01691 610 230 (Rep ABP committee)  
 Cllr David WALKER 01691 897 117 (Rep Helicopter Noise Group)  
**Shropshire Councillor** Cllr Steve CHARMLEY 01691 650 488

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2024-25

10 September 2024	11 February 2025
8 October 2024	11 March 2025
12 November 2024	8 April 2025
10 December 2024	13 May 2025
14 January 2025	

### WEST FELTON PARISH COUNCIL

*By tradition, there was no meeting in August. Following the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting in July, attended by more than 95 residents, the Parish Council submitted the following objection to the outline planning application for the erection of up to 5 dwellings and associated infrastructure on land adjacent to the Punch Bowl Inn.*

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - PLANNING REFERENCE:**  
**24/02386/OUT - Outline planning application for the erection of up to 5**

**dwellings and associated infrastructure. LOCATION: Punch Bowl Inn, The Cross, West Felton, Oswestry, OS REFERENCE: 334676 – 325651**

**Introduction:** This is a speculative application, made on behalf of Trust Inns, designed to establish the principle that it is acceptable to build dwelling houses within the curtilage of the site outlined in the planning application. The site includes the Punch Bowl Public House itself and the barn.

*(Continued on page 7)*

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**Local Police Community Support Officer: PCSO Stuart Carroll 07970 544372.**



## West Felton Walking Group

**Walk leaders:-**

**Mike Bossen 01691 610623**

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

**Hilary Iles 01691 610707**

**EXCEPT on the first Monday of the  
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*(Continued from page 5) Parish Council*

The impact of this proposal would be contrary to planning principles set out in documents including the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2023) which in S2 - Achieving sustainable development requires 'that sustainable development is pursued in a positive way, at the heart of the Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. We submit this proposal would impact adversely on this presumption as it would undermine the economic, social and especially the environmental objectives as it does not 'take local circumstances into account, to reflect the character, needs and opportunities of the area.'

It would also not meet Shropshire Council's own Planning documents and the SAMDev Plan allocations 2016. Section 1.10 expects: The Plan is accompanied by the government required Sustainability Appraisal report to establish the long-term maintenance of individual and community well-being and the environment for our present and future communities. The process assesses the impact of any development plan on the environment, people, and the economy. It incorporates the requirements of the European Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The Proposal also conflicts with the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 particularly with reference to outline applications within a conservation area as in Sec 3 orders.

The Shropshire Local Plan 2020 con-

firms West Felton as a Community Hub Settlement. It states in Section 17.62 of the 2018 Place plan that 'West Felton is a large village south-east of Oswestry in an accessible location in the A5 corridor which benefits from a range of local services and facilities.' On the basis that West Felton was a designated hub and was an accessible location for housing, being within walking distance of the amenities within the village which include a Village Hall, post office, convenience store, public house, primary school and two churches it was proposed to set a site allocation for 60 dwellings none of which have as yet been built.

The Parish Council opposes this application on the grounds that granting it would be in serious conflict with the requirements for the 'health and well-being of individuals and the community as a whole' as set out in Section SP-CS Policy 6 Health and Wellbeing of the 2020 document above. This development would also significantly and adversely affect the village and the villagers and be contrary to Shropshire Local Development adopted Core Strategy which in Section CS6 seeks to ensure that any development 'protects, restores, conserves and enhances the natural, built and historic environment and is appropriate in scale, density pattern and design taking into account the local context and character having regard to national and local design guidance, landscape character assessments and ecological strategies.'

*(Continued on page 9)*



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## Tanat to Perry Community Wildlife Group

### Bird Survey, and Save our Curlews



*Photo Steve Hughes.*

Our bird survey has now finished, and the results will be analysed shortly. The area extends from Oswestry in the north to Kinnerley in the south, and eastward from the Welsh border to Ruyton-XI-Towns.

Preliminary results suggest only 5 - 6 pairs of Curlews returned to our area this year, 2 -3 less than 2023. Certainly one pair has been lost from near Trefonen.

If you've seen or heard Curlews anytime since March 2024, please let us know. Don't assume we know about them. Surveys can miss some pairs, particularly if there are two close together.

We have also been looking for breeding Lapwing, Kestrel, Cuckoo and Red Kite since late March. If you've seen or heard any of these species, again, please don't assume we know about them. Please report all your observations, especially any Curlew ("the most important bird conservation priority in the UK") to **Leo Smith 01694 720296, [leo@leosmith.org.uk](mailto:leo@leosmith.org.uk)**.

Also contact me if you would like to be kept informed of our activities, or would like to help with the survey next year.

Our bird survey is the first stage of the Save our Curlews project, as it locates the pairs of Curlews to focus the efforts of the nest-finders. Once a nest is found, it is protected with an electric fence, then when the chicks hatch they are fitted with a radio tag, and tracked to see what happens to them. Low chick survival rates are a major factor causing population decline, and we need to understand the causes to develop an effective conservation plan.

The Three Parishes (Weston Rhyn, St Martins and Gobowen) Community Wildlife Group also participated in the Save our Curlews project, managed by Shropshire Ornithological Society (SOS). In the two areas combined, seven nests were found, an excellent result, and much better than last year. Two of the nests were replacement clutches by pairs that had their first nest predated after finding, so nests of five pairs were protected. In summary, six of the seven nests were lost, three to corvids, two to fox and one to Badger. Two chicks hatched from the remaining nest, but unfortunately, both these chicks were predated, one about two weeks old and the other about three weeks (no more than 25 days old).

Thanks a lot to the farmers and landowners who gave us permission to search their land, and put fences up.

You can find much more information about Save our Curlews, which has been operating since 2018, on the SOS website **[www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/](http://www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/)**

Leo Smith





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*(Continued from page 7) Parish council*

We submit that this development would have a severe negative impact on the Punch Bowl Public House and the Village Hall - with subsequent harm to essential village assets and the sustainability of the village as a Community Hub for residents. A major concern is that the Punch Bowl may no longer be a going viability and were it to close then the infrastructure of the village would suffer - with an adverse impact on the viability of the shop and Village Hall.

The view of the Parish Council and the many residents who attended a special meeting of the PC is that if this application is granted then it will be used to market the whole plot as an attractive purchase for a bigger residential development with agreed outline planning permission already in place. This would lead to the closure and loss of the main village asset - the Punch Bowl public house and be an adverse impact on the sustainability and life of the village.

**Amenity Issues:** Contrary to the claim in the Planning Statement (3.1) that the Punch Bowl itself will not be affected, this proposed development will in fact have a severe and negative impact on its viability as an essential asset of the village and be detrimental to the sustainability of the village resulting in considerable harm to a community hub which also serves several outlying hamlets.

As the proposed development site lies within a Conservation area NPPF

Sec16,196 (C) requires any development within one should bring 'wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring' - no such benefits are set out in the plan. In fact, the opposite would be the outcome, as a result of considerably reduced parking availability which currently serves the entire community with severe adverse impact on village amenities. This would cause considerable harm to everyday village life and the lack of off-road parking will increase congestion on the narrow roads with more risk of harm and danger to villagers.

Despite Trust Inns claims, in recent years, there has been minimal investment in the Punch Bowl and barn to make it a better asset for the village. The current managers, local to the village, have worked hard to improve relations with parishioners and the facilities it provides. They have also appreciated that the car park, which is the only one in the village, is vital to the wellbeing of the village. Their log of parking indicates that it is used regularly throughout the day to provide access for villagers to various activities which often overlap.

Currently the Punch Bowl provides about 40+ parking spaces but the proposal would only provide 10 car parking spaces for the dwelling houses and just 8 spaces for the Punch Bowl itself. This serious reduction in parking capacity would render the business unviable. It

*(Continued on page 11)*

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## Rector's Ramblings

*Rev Suzan Williams*

From September 1st to  
October 4th, Christians

around the world unite to pray and care for creation. It's the "Season of Creation", and it's happening from London to Lisbon, Lagos to Las Palmas. Since 2018 the Church of England has produced a calendar of daily prayer and action on food. They point out that our food is one of the largest sources of carbon emissions from UK households. At the same time, it is an area of our lives where we can all make a difference. Globally, even without climate change, the world food system faces a challenge: experts estimate that global food production will need to increase to feed a growing population and satisfy shifting diets.

You might wonder what difference you can make but if we all do our bit to reduce our carbon footprint and to be more mindful of how our actions impact others and the world in which we are blessed to live we can make a collective difference.

On the first Saturday of every month a group called the Eco Warriors meet to intentionally impact our local community, creating bug hotels, taking part in litter picks and other activities. So in this season of creation this September. Lets do what we can and make a difference.

I end with a prayer from the resources available

Triune God, Creator of all,

We praise you for your goodness, visi-



ble in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common

home. Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection.

We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator. Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures. We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us. May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him. May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the firstfruits of hope may blossom.

Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord. Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image.

In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Every Blessing, Suzan

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**daniel@danieljamesresidential.com**



*(Continued from page 9) WFWI report*

would also increase the amount of cars having to park on Holyhead Road with an escalation in safety concerns.

Parents who have to transport children from outlying areas to the Primary school are able to use the Punch Bowl car park to prevent serious congestion and danger to life if they dropped off at the school. It is situated in a residential area on a narrow road which is a main thoroughfare for large tractors and other vehicles to access local agricultural properties with the threat to safety. Children who have a disability which prevents them walking very far, have just a short walk to school if parking at the pub. Based on ROSPA reports it is submitted that the closure of the car park would increase the risk of serious accidents outside the school.

At the end of School Lane near The Cross, car parking is already congested and would only get far worse and more dangerous if no parking is available at the Punch Bowl. Local residents already report that tractors and large lorries are mounting the narrow pavement with subsequent danger to pedestrians.

The local travelling library van uses the Punch Bowl car park to allow safe access.

If the A5 is closed between Queens Head and the southern end of Holyhead Road, traffic which includes large lorries and agricultural vehicles has to come through village. Residents report that at such times the police require them to move their cars into the Punch

Bowl car park. This would not be possible under this proposal.

The Punch Bowl car park is used by many groups attending a range of events and activities at the Village Hall throughout the year. If this proposal were implemented the reduction in parking spaces would threaten the future of the Village Hall. Both the hall and Punch Bowl are village amenities, and both would be harmed considerably by any development at this site.

The Annual Village Carnival uses the Punch Bowl car park as its assembly point, the proposed development would adversely affect the viability of the Carnival.

The local football team uses the Punch Bowl for after match refreshments.

The loss of parking would lead to an increase in street parking and impact adversely on road safety in places where the Parish Council is already trying to reduce risks. This would be in conflict with CSP6 of the NPPF and result in an unacceptable impact on highway safety with severe congestion on a busy road and crossroads. It would further exacerbate the parking problems at the school.

Access for emergency vehicles would be compromised and even blocked within the village.

The plan suggests that access to the car park may be restricted for large vehicles such as emergency vehicles, dray

*(Continued on page 13)*



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## Up the Garden Path with Topiarius

### Fresh start September

Some people say that September is the start of a new gardening year, others say the old year ends at the end of September. Probably, most stick with the calendar year and say January. Why September? The only logic I can see is that it is the start of autumn (the early autumn month) and when you can reasonably focus your attention on looking forward to the next year rather than the current one. Indeed, I do start to take more interest in the next year but have to discipline myself a bit to still pay attention to the remaining tasks. The weeds don't know it is time to quit and not all the pests will hibernate for the winter.

One autumn job is harvesting fruit which means deciding when they are ripe. Apples are no big problem but deciding when to pick pears is a hit and miss affair for most of us. You have to take them before they are fully ripe and I find that a beginning of September start is OK for my William Bon Chretien and Conference trees. Also at the beginning of September, I plant out the last lettuce and replace the cucumber plants in the glass-house—those two thing alone show that summer is not fully over. September is also a good time to apply moss killer and scarify and aerate the grass. Then, as a sign of autumn, I start the winter pruning, beginning with ivies

on walls. I also expect to make a start on the list of jobs generated by the July assessment with the aim of getting ahead before any really bad weather.

Changes planned for our garden can be guaranteed to not be to follow fashion, much more likely to be to make life more convenient. There will be areas that have suddenly shouted at us that they are wrong, overgrown or simply tired (and probably have been for some time until we noticed). One area that we have started on is where we finally admitted that the shade was too dense to grow grass. It has been cleared but what to do with it is still in the planning stage. There is a lot to be said for taking your time to analyse what is best for an area, it gives time for new bright ideas to materialise from nowhere. We have a second area in this category of "it has to change" which will involve the removal of a hedge, but until it is gone and we can "see the wood for the trees" no decision will be made on a new scheme.

Then of course there are the jobs that are sort of forced on you. Two of ours involve water, a new pump and realising that our pond is well overdue for a clean out.

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*(Continued from page 11) Parish Council*

delivery vans, library and refuse collection vans which might not be able to turn around in the proposed confined space. That would be contrary to planning principles relating to access which is clear that vehicles must be able to enter and leave such a space in a forward gear.

**Specific Application Items:** The application proposes the erection of five dwellings on surplus land to the east of The Punch Bowl public house. It is noted that this is contrary to a Heritage Statement and Impact Assessment, dated May 2024 which states 'the development relates to the construction of 4no. three-bedroom terraced houses and 6no one-bedroom apartments.'

Para 6.2. of the Planning Statement in the application claims that the grass area is currently under-utilised. This is not accepted by the villagers who state how well it used for many public and arranged events. The Heritage statement claims that the impact would be neutral which is clearly not the case. The habitat survey was conducted in May 2023 and needs updating.

Over development would pose a risk to the trees which are integral to the character and setting of the Punch Bowl, and the heart of the village. The submitted Tree Survey provides details of each tree that might be affected and suggests that some might well be significantly pruned or cut down.

The proposed site contains three ma-

ture trees - 2 x mature sycamore in good health and 1 x Ash, which is a noteworthy mature architectural tree. All three trees contribute massively to the green infrastructure and amenity of West Felton, their scale is far superior to other trees in the vicinity which have been damaged by either poor pruning or not of sufficient size to warrant further protection. Indeed, there are few mature trees left within the immediate developed environment of West Felton.

Bats are regularly seen flying around the area of The Cross where the Punch Bowl is located, and these trees provide a significant contribution to support biodiversity which in turn helps to support this endangered species. As a result of recent building developments, the numbers have really declined literally within a year or so and as a result the bats now do not have anywhere to feed. There are still a few bats left, but you only see the odd one or two flying at dusk, where previously there used to be 10-20 hence the necessity to keep tree cover and moth habitat. The answer is not more bat boxes, which is a planner's answer to everything ecological - they need food!

Planning principles expect that mature trees are preserved to function as green corridors, such as these, which are so necessary to support ecosystems and food webs that rely on each other.

The proposed development will cause irreparable harm to the trees due to

*(Continued on page 15)*



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(Continued from page 13) Parish Council either pruning, felling or root damage that will be necessary and unavoidable if permission is granted. Trees of this stature have extensive root systems that extend well beyond the tree canopy, damage to which through construction activities will result in terminal decline. With reference to the position of the trees, and the orientation to the sun, the proposed housing development will get little sunlight for the majority of the day during summertime. This further adds to the case against the suitability of this site for the proposed development.

Local Plan policy CS6 clearly states that new developments in a village 'must contribute to health and wellbeing of community' (and not harm it) – we submit that for all the reasons outlined and detailed above this development would NOT comply with CS6. Further all new plans must contain a biodiversity gain. There are two such documents in the proposal but neither identifies any biodiversity gain as required. On the contrary, the impact of the proposed pruning or felling of trees would have the opposite effect and reduce the biodiversity of the area with the reduction of feeding facilities for the bats.

The Heritage Adviser for Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) - the Countryside Charity - also states that the proposal 'does not reflect the importance of the site to the Conservation Area and its conclusion that the effect will be neutral is seriously flawed.'

There is already concern within this

specific area of the village regarding the ability of drainage to reduce flooding. Reports indicate that a local company already discharges 102 hours of sewage into Weirbrook. The land on which the Punch Bowl is built is raised, which would increase the serious risk of increased flooding in other residential areas nearby.

It is very clear from the documents referred to above and the Planning Order 2015 that in designated areas – conservation area being one - outline planning apps are not normally acceptable for the reasons set out in Section 9.

**Conclusion:** The Parish Council objects to this application and submits that it should be refused outright without any further action. Its acceptance and implementation would have serious adverse impacts which would be:

- to devalue the sustainability of West Felton and harm its function as a community hub;
- to impact adversely on the viability of the Village pub, Village Hall and shop;
- contrary to all planning principles for a village hub in a conservation area.

In the Shropshire Local Development Framework - Adopted Core Strategy document (2011) at CS4 it states with reference to Community Hubs that:

"Development proposals that do not make sufficient contribution to improving the sustainability of the community WILL BE REFUSED as unsustainable development."

(Continued on page 17)

## Wills, Property Protection, Powers of Attorney

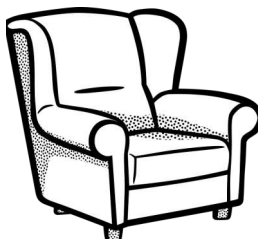


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(Continued from page 39)

out like that??? This is what I think it says: (Ed)

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Researched and written by John Pryce-Jones and narrated by Samantha Jones for the Oswestry Heritage Action Zone project, have a look at this interesting, brief video history of Oswestry. It has already been viewed by over 2000 people. It lasts for about 12 minutes and can be accessed on the following link.

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vw6gjrOhss>**

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(Continued from page 15) Parish Council  
The Parish Council expects Shropshire  
Council to follow its own strong di-  
rective and refuse this application.  
We also request that the application

goes to the Northern Planning Com-  
mittee to be decided."

Cllr John Thornhill, Chair,  
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(Continued from page 37)

and nearer home. Here is an 1834 handbill, written in phonetic vernacular, advertising "Ho-limpyc Gaymes" in Oswestry! Did Oswestrians really need it spelt

(Continued on page 41)



# NOTIS.

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Lynn Cawley, Chief Officer of Healthwatch Shropshire, said, "We would like to understand the experience of patients using pharmacies not only for the Pharmacy First service but all of the other services provided by pharmacies."

"We would also like to hear from pharmacy staff about their experience of providing Pharmacy First and other advanced services."

"To share experiences people can contact us online <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HWSpharmacyservices/> or ring our office and talk to one of the staff on **01743 237884**."

Healthwatch Shropshire is the independent health and social care champion in Shropshire. It gathers the views and experiences of patients, service users,

*(Continued on page 23)*



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## The Olympic Games – the Shropshire connection

Baron Pierre de Coubertin was the founder of the modern Olympic Games, inspired by the ancient Olympic Games held in Greece. Born in Paris in 1863, Pierre Baron de Coubertin, came from an aristocratic family and was a very keen sportsman. As an educationalist he firmly believed that sport was the key to developing mental energy. A keen Anglophile, he greatly admired British public schools and their concentration on sports.

Meanwhile in Much Wenlock, Shropshire, we had Dr William Penny Brookes, a local doctor and surgeon, who founded the Wenlock Olympian Society in 1850 and held their first games that year. The games included a mixture of traditional games such as football and cricket, athletics, and usually an event to entertain the spectators – this once included an Old Women's Race and a Blindfolded Wheelbarrow Race! A band led the procession of officials, competitors and flag bearers down the streets of Much Wenlock to the field where the games would be held.

The games went from strength to strength attracting competitors from all around England. Brookes insisted that the games would not exclude any able-bodied man. Dr Brookes was so determined for the games to be open to all men that when the railway came to Much Wenlock, the first train was planned to come to the town on the

PARIS 2024



day of the games and Brookes insisted that working-class men were allowed to travel free. Brookes was also Director of the Wenlock Railway Company.

The Wenlock Olympian Games became very popular, and in 1861 the Shropshire Olympian Games were founded. The games were held in different towns each year and it is from the Shropshire Olympian Games that the modern Olympics are thought to have taken the idea of host towns (or cities and countries in modern days) to take responsibility for the financing of the games.

In 1890 Baron de Coubertin accepted Brookes' invitation to come to Much Wenlock to watch the Wenlock Olympian Games. It is thought the two discussed their similar ambitions for an International Olympic Games. Six years later de Coubertin founded the modern International Olympic Committee (IOC) with the first Games taking place in Athens, April 1896.

Brookes sadly died just four months before the first International Olympic Games of the modern era. The Wenlock Olympian Games are still held annually in July; 2024 saw the 138th Wenlock Games organised by the volunteers of the Wenlock Olympian Society.

Having said all that, it seems that Olympian ideals were evident much earlier

*(Continued on page 39)*



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## The recent election was not noted for any fireworks or major controversies.

### *Michael Davie*

There were some upsets in mainly Muslim areas in which established candidates faced groups of Muslims who believed that a stronger line should be taken against the war in Gaza. Some important existing members of parliament (MPs) with large majorities either lost or came near to losing their seats. The influence of religion on voting intentions has been the subject of several learned dissertations over the years. Results generally confirm the adage that the Church of England is the Conservative party at prayer, that Roman Catholics tend to be more left wing and that members attached to the Liberal party tend to be those described at 'nones'; that is they have no religion. Overall however practising Christians (of any sect) tend to the left of centre at least in the UK. In America Evangelical churches tend to favour the Republican cause.

As was discussed last month the relationship between the temporal and the spiritual has had a turbulent history. Charlemagne and the Pope set up a loose association known as the Holy Roman Empire. In England matters came to a head when Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, tried to make the church more powerful than the king, Henry II, thought

appropriate. The king wanted to have power over appointment of Bishops and church courts: Beckett would not agree – a position that would ultimately cost him his life. By the middle ages there were Bishops in the House of Lords and today there are still 26 Lords Spiritual. . The clergy had significant influence in the Middle Ages and after, largely because they comprised a large body of literate people. In 1640 however, the Clergy Act prevented anyone in Holy Orders from exercising temporal power. At the time 22 members of the 70 in the Lords were Bishops and effectively blocked much legislation.

At the Restoration, the Bishops were restored. Matters rested there until 1801 when clergy were prevented from standing as Members of Parliament. This related, however, only to clergy ordained by a Bishop, and may have been a move to keep Roman Catholics out of parliament. At the time the Union of Ireland bill was progressing through parliament and relations with France, a Catholic country, were at a low ebb. Across the channel Napoleon considered that "skilful conquerors have not got entangled with priests: they can both contain them and advise them". For 200 years ordained clergy were prohibited from being Members of Parliament. That was until 2001 when the Blair government "believe(d) that the current sit-

*(Continued on page 23)*



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**News from the school**

The last few weeks of the school term in July were as busy as ever with Leavers plays and services at the church, Sports Days, trips out to Aico and our Biennial Farmers Market. Our youngest children in Nursery and Reception were busy too. They had been learning all about the village. They had been comparing the differences between West Felton and local towns and cities. They had also been comparing some modern houses in the village with some of the older properties in West Felton.

Whilst learning about the village they also had discussions about how they could help to look after our village. The children decided that they wanted to do a litter pick around the village. They wrote a letter to the West Felton WI to ask if we could kindly borrow their litter picking sets. The WI responded with a lovely letter and granted us permission to use the litter picking sets. We also made posters to display around the village to remind people to either take their litter home or to put it in the bins.

Reception children (4-5 year olds) then braved the rain and set about collecting rubbish on the roads around the school whilst our nursery children (2-4 years old) did a litter pick on the school site and field. The children were highly engaged and soon the pavements were spotless. The children were shocked and saddened by the amount of litter they found but they are hopeful that their posters will help reduce the amount of litter in the future.

**Now as we start an exciting new term, our Early Years unit is busy again and we welcome many new families to our school. Due to hiring an additional member of staff we do now have a few spaces on some sessions if you know anyone who is looking for a nursery space for a 2-4 year old then please contact us.**







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(Continued from page 21)

uation on clergy disqualification can no longer be justified. If a person wishes to stand for Parliament, it should be a matter for the electorate to decide whether they want the person to become their representative if relevant qualifications are met". The ensuing bill was passed with Labour and Liberals being on a 3 line whip and the Conservatives allowed to vote according to their conscience. That the electorate should decide about the person brings the issue up to date with recent events. To be deselected from being an MP by an electorate not subscribing to your beliefs is an occurrence that is regarded as fair play: to be deselected by your party for subscribing to your beliefs may be actionable in law. Such a situation arose recently in the otherwise tranquil constituency of Sutton and Cheam. In this case did the statement that "it should be a matter for the electorate to decide whether they want the person to become their representative if relevant qualifications are met" apply to the selection of a candidate? What might be "the relevant qualifications?" Members of the Lib-Dem group (and

naming the party is relevant in the light of the discussion in the first paragraph) found that that the Christianity of the previously selected candidate made him unsuitable. The selected candidate stated that he was mocked and abused at a selection committee because of his beliefs, and was told he was unsuitable to campaign in certain wards. Being a member of a Parochial Church Council and a Chairman of a Christian movement was held against him. This is perhaps not surprising given that Liberals tend to be 'nones' as described above. The Bishops of Winchester and Guildford have called upon the party to reinstate the member whilst the member himself is suing the party under the Equality Act.

Perhaps attitudes have not changed much in the millennium between Henry II and 2024. There remains a feeling that the spiritual province should remain separate from the temporal province. Each has its own function. The clergy are entitled to be religious; that is their job. But with 37% of the population having no religion according to the 2021 census, a lay person espousing too much religion may cause unease. ♦

(Continued from page 19) Healthwatch

carers, and the general public about services including hospitals, GPs, mental health services, community health services, pharmacists, opticians, residential care and children's services. It also has statutory powers that it can use to influence service provision by encouraging improvements. ♦





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## WEST FELTON WI

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At the July meeting the guest speaker was Tullis Matson from Stallion AI Services in Whitchurch. Tullis specialises in equine artificial insemination providing a worldwide service. He is also pas-

sionate about saving species from extinction. He has been working to create a cryopreservation biobank in the UK which specialises in storing living regenerative material from animal species threatened with extinction. From this the charity, Nature's SAFE was born, a living biobank on a mission to save animals from extinction by indefinitely preserving live cells from endangered species.

During July members supported the School Farmers market. Huge thanks to the contributors of cookies and craft and those that were able to help on the day. Members enjoyed a garden visit as part of Shropshire Open Gardens and the Litter Pickers were out tidying up around the village.

**CARNIVAL** - West Felton WI came second in the adult float competition at the Carnival. The theme was Quality Street chocolates and their logo was "Quality ladies since 1921". It was a fantastic float, colourful and vibrant. Thanks go to Rhian for organising it and to all the ladies who took part. And of course WFWI ran the tea tent at the carnival - tea and cakes as usual very popular, thanks to the ladies who manned the tea tent and to the bakers of the lovely cakes. The next meeting is on 12th September, 7pm, featuring guest speaker Maggie Love - The Evolution of Dance.





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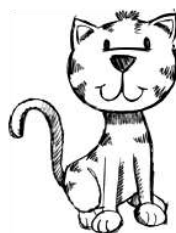
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St Michael's Parish Church, West Felton

*(Continued from page 29) Holyhead Road*

Chester and Liverpool roads.

Further along the road at Queens Head stands the old coaching inn of that name with the canal and various buildings that must have been busy with tons of goods unloaded from the barges: coals, bricks and manure etc. The coaches and travellers would sometimes branch off here directly through Whittington and rejoin the road at Gobowen. In Oswestry the main coaching inn was The Wynnstay Arms. In 1832 Princess Victoria passed through, being presented by Thomas Kenyon with the "History of Oswestry". The Wynnstay Arms was earlier known as The Cross Foxes. Cross foxes appear on the coat of arms of the Wynn family of

Wynnstay Hall, Ruabon.

The railways saw the end of an era and as the railways progressed so the coaches and inns that served them disappeared or served another purpose. The road was still there though and in the last forty or fifty years saw such an increase in traffic as more goods were moved by lorry and more families owned cars, that eventually a bypass was necessary for our part of the road to make life bearable once again for the people who lived in West Felton. Our road now is probably more like the old coaching road than at any other time, with only fairly local traffic around. The old coaches would not have travelled at quite the speed as now but on the other hand we're not up to our knees in mud these days. ♦



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## WEST FELTON CARNIVAL, 2024



Record breaking crowds were seen at West Felton carnival this year with well over 1000 people turning out for the entertainment.

This years procession included a juggler, stilt walker, classic cars and trucks, a pipe band, gymnasts, cheerleaders, and the land girls. Floats included The Wombles, a fire engine, a pirate ship, the Olympics, Quality Streets and the village primary school. The pirate ship and Olympics won in the children and grown-up categories.

Entertainment on the stage was provided by the Porthywaen Silver band, the fantastic Alfie Edwards, the Wirral Pipe band and an array of local groups performing their arts.

In the field were donkey rides, a rodeo sheep, fairground rides and an inflatable assault course, as well as many stalls providing delicious produce and crafts. Food was provided by Pizza Box and The Punch Bowl Inn.

Noah Bancroft and Holly Dyke were our carnival king and queen.

A lot of effort goes into keeping the community event alive. The success of the event was made possible by our generous sponsors: Homemaster Relocations, Border Temperature Control, Network Plus, Invertek Drives, MVRs Horsebox Repair, as well as a resourceful band of helpers who volunteered to man the gates and road closures. A massive operation and effort from all.

From a wonderful West Felton.

## The A5 Holyhead Road

by Pat Mabe

I came across this pen and ink drawing of Queen's Head when I was researching an article on The Holyhead Road to be printed in West Felton Village Magazine as early as 1993 (one year after the original magazine started). I was really taken with this sketch.

The road through our village has seen some changes over the years; not least the latest when it became again a village street (the opening of the by-pass). When in the past we complained of the heavy traffic of the coastal-bound holiday makers and lorries carrying huge loads to various points west and north of us, did you ever stop to wonder what it was like two or even one hundred years ago?

As far back as 1650, apart from local carts and merchants, the only travellers would have been hardy country gentlemen wrapped in riding cloaks and with jackboots to their thighs splashing through mud and mire. The journey between London and Holyhead would have been made in six days if the travellers were both active and fortunate. They would have ridden post horses, changing their mounts at well-known stages on the way. The system took its origin from the establishment of post houses by the Post Office in 1635 when the charge for an able horse was two



and a half old pennies. As time passed this monopoly was abolished and most innkeepers supplied horses for those hardy riders who despised the new fangled coaches.

The earliest mention of a coach on the Holyhead Road is found in the *Mercurius Politicus* on April 9th 1657. It ran only between London and West Chester via Aldersgate, Coventry, Stone and to Chester taking four days on the journey. That was the advertised time; the journey due to bad weather and holdups (not road works we assume) took six days in actual fact. The route to Holyhead via Shrewsbury was not established until the early 1700s. Highway robbery was not uncommon, and the Shrewsbury coach was robbed in January 1703, in the neighbourhood of Brownhills, by a gang of men and women who plundered the passengers.

The roads were all incredibly bad, no

*(Continued on page 29)*

*(Continued from page 28)*

matter the route. Travellers were able, though, to consult Ogilby's *Britannia*, first printed in 1675, which was a thick folio volume containing engraved plates and descriptions of every road in Britain. Every important inn kept a copy of Ogilby's, just as now hotels keep railway timetables and tourist information.

The time taken to complete the route from London to Holyhead was difficult to establish, not just because of the bad state of the road, but also the length had never been finitely determined. The mile length itself had been defined as the Statute Mile in 1593 but the Post Office mile seemed longer. Trouble between the Post Office and postmasters arose with the appearance of milestones along the turnpike roads, and those who did business claimed extra mileage to make up the difference.

The first stagecoach to ply between London and Holyhead started in 1780 and went through Coventry, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Shrewsbury, Llangollen, Corwen and Conway, thus keeping pretty closely to the course taken by the modern Holyhead Road.

The road (A5) badly needed improvements and in 1810 Thomas Telford was called in to plan the work. The Government initially charged twenty-one townships between Shrewsbury and Holyhead to help pay for reconstruction of the road, but these townships were unable to do this and in 1815 the

Government adopted Telford's report and the Treasury found the money for the work. It was decided that improvements should be made all along the road from London to Holyhead, but as the Shrewsbury to Holyhead portion was the worst it should have the first attention. It took five years to complete this stretch of the road; passing as it did through some of the wildest scenery. Nowhere, now, was the gradient steeper than 1 in 20 and its width was 28 to 34 feet. The old road, frequently as steep as 1 in 6½ and with its sides unprotected from the cliffs and torrents that terrified bygone travellers, had almost wholly vanished.

Various travellers along the road were regulars and one locally seems to have been The Honourable Thomas Kenyon who regularly travelled between Pradoc and Shrewsbury, Oswestry or even Llangollen and Bangor. He was reputed to have given many lifts to local people travelling in the same direction but would not, for reasons not explained, give a lift to someone carrying a stick. He was always a very punctual man and very often made arrangements to take someone home, but if they came late to the inn yard, they would find him gone and have to walk home. He was responsible for improvements to the road locally and lived to see the old ways pass and railways take the place of coaches. In 1842 at The Lion in Shrewsbury a Token of Gratitude was presented to Thomas Kenyon from the coachmen and guards on the Holyhead,

*(Continued on page 31)*