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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
Methodist Chapel: Revd Julia Skitt Methodist Hall (Bookings)	07810 360778 01691 611733
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 Safer Neighbourhood team—email: oswestryc.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk	0300 333 3000
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: steve.charmley@shropshire.gov.uk	01691 587958
St Michael's Church: Revd Suzan Williams Church Warden: Dr Michael Davie	01691 674948 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

JANUARY 2024

ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON

www.westfeltonmagazine.co.uk



HAPPY
2024
NEW YEAR

**Message from the
village hall committee**

It is good to see the hall being utilised so much more in recent months and for a range of activities. The village hall committee would like to thank everybody for supporting the hall through 2023 and wish all a very happy New Year.

WHAT'S ON

Parish Council	Second Tues of the month, 7:30 Methodist Hall **
West Felton Walkers	10am Mondays, Punch Bowl EXCEPT... see page
Pilates Class	Tuesday mornings: Two sessions: 9-10am & 10:15-11:15am Need to book on line GYMATCH.
Tai Chi	Tuesday 2pm to 3pm, Village Hall
Badminton	Every Tues evening: 8pm to 9:30pm. Village Hall
Baby & Toddler	9:15- 10:30 Termtime Tuesdays at the 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	8pm Meeting, THE PUNCH BOWL first Monday of the month except Bank holidays then second Monday.
Bumps, Babies And Tots	8:45am - 10:45 Fortnightly Termtime Fridays at Methodist Schoolroom Email rev.julia@mail.com see page 13

22 Dec	FATHER CHRISTMAS visits West Felton from 5pm	
24 Dec	2:30pm CHRISTINGLE in St Michael's Church	
24 Dec	10pm MIDNIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE St Michael's	
4 Jan	10 -noon COFFEE MORNING, Methodist Schoolroom	
9 Jan	The next Parish Council meeting, is on Tuesday 9th of January 2024 at 7:30 pm. If the venue, date or time changes this will be reported in the magazine and on Parish Council website so please check there if you wish to attend our meeting.	
7 Jan	4pm CAROL SERVICE, St Chad's Church, Haughton	
19 Jan	5pm FISH & CHIP SUPPER, Methodist Schoolroom	

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The new opening time from the 5th of June is



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Round and About West Felton

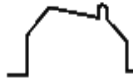
Articles/advertisement amendments for inclusion in next issue
to Editor by email (preferred) or phone

**Last day for submission of copy: Deadline for content
changes 10th JANUARY 2024**

Editor: Colleen Hughes

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St Chad's, Haughton : 9:30am on the second Sunday of each month

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals:

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Rev'd Suzan Williams **01691 674 948**
or the Churchwarden:

Dr Michael Davie **0691 610 612**

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Sun 7 January 2024 (Plough Sunday)

Sun 4 February 2024

Sun 3 March 2024

Sun 10 March 2024 (Mothering Sunday)

Sun 31 March 2024 (Easter Sunday)

Sun 7 April 2024

Sun 5 May 2024

Sun 2 June 2024

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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 David WALKER 01691 897 117 (Rep Helicopter Noise Group)

Vice-Chairman Cllr Kerry GROVE 01691 611 776 (Rep SALC Area Comm).

Cllr Carole COLES 01691 610 225

Cllr David CURTIS 01691 610 665 (Rep WF Primary School)

Cllr Marian HESKETH 01691 610 441 (Rep for Village Hall).

Cllr John HOUGHTON 01691 610 834

Cllr Chris JONES 01691 610 354

Cllr Pat MABE 01691 610 400

Cllr Ed NICHOLAS 01691 610 230 (Rep ABP committee)

Cllr Ozcan OZAGIR 07879 330 598

Cllr John THORNHILL 07714 759 466

Shropshire Councillor Cllr Steve CHARMLEY 01691 650 488

Parish Council report December / January

Our last few meetings have been relatively quiet affairs. However, there has been plenty going on between meetings in preparation for future decisions.

The Task and Finish Group looking into how best to use our Community Infrastructure (CIL) money came up with a series of proposals which were adopted by the parish council. These being:

- to enhance the Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) signs around the village;
- to explore with the school & Shropshire Council a solution to the parking problems around Oak Farm Lane;
- to add an additional street light to the Avenue by the bridge in conjunction with some road safety measures on The Avenue;
- and to explore 20mph zones in the approach to the school, The Avenue and Fox Lane.

The plan was to have a combined site meeting with Shropshire Council engineers to help resolve issues for Oak Farm Lane and The Avenue. Despite the Parish Clerk's best efforts over recent months Shropshire Council hasn't responded to requests for a meeting, directly or through our county councillor. Over recent months it is fair to say that members have become increasingly exasperated by the latter.

(Continued on page 9)

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(Continued from page 7)

Having previously secured the Alma Close funds from Shropshire Council, after a lot of hassle for the Clerk, Cllr Chris Jones and myself held several on site meetings with prospective contractors for new accessible play equipment for the playing field. Initial quotes for the equipment were very close, prompting councillors to ask for visualizations of the designs and revised quotes which remained very close. After consideration of the specifications and the designs Kopman was chosen as the preferred contractor and asked to draw up a more detailed quotation.

For what seems like an age members have been concerned that works off Rednal Mile, by Corbett's Bridge, may have been happening without the required permissions in place. More recently this has been about an adjacent site to the original site. Once again the council resolved to contact the enforcement team at Shropshire Council. This has again resulted in some frustrating contact with Shropshire Council.

Members were pleased to see the School expansion project reaching a conclusion. The school is an important part of the village and we are all pleased to see the situation for pupils improved by this project.

With the sad news that the Methodists Chapel will be closing the Parish Council have been exploring where to hold our meetings. The Clerk made enquiries at the Village Hall and the School and we will be making a decision on that at our December meeting. We are sad to see the Chapel close and are extremely grateful to them for hosting our meetings over recent years.

Cllr John Thornhill recently attended Shropshire Council's 'Meet the Leader' drop in session in Oswestry. Cllr Thornhill took the opportunity to discuss a number of concerns with the Leader, Cllr Lezley Picton. Detailed reports from John will be considered at our December meeting. In summary, at John's meeting with the Leader, he expressed the council's ongoing concerns about the link between the parish council and our Shropshire Councillor; lack of action at Corbett's Bridge, and the lack of response from Shropshire Council highways in relation to traffic calming measures. Cllr Thornhill also attended a session with the Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion, in Kinnerley, where the PCC accepted that Shropshire didn't have the right policing levels – something we all know.

A resident has asked us to mention in the magazine that many paths and verges are overgrown and they kindly ask residents to trim their hedges back from paths to improve access and safety.

We hope you have had a good Christmas and we wish you all a safe, healthy and prosperous 2024.

Our next Parish Council meeting, is on Tuesday 9th of January 2024 at 7:30 pm. If the venue, date or time changes this will be reported in the magazine and on our website so please check there if you wish to attend our meeting.

Cllr David Walker
Chair of West Felton PC

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Patient experience will help improve diabetic care and support



According to NHS figures there are currently 30,000 people living with diabetes in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin (STW) and the proportion of adults living with the condition is the 16th highest out of 42 areas in England. Furthermore, the rate of people receiving the 'National Institute for Health and Care Excellence' (NICE) recommended care processes is the lowest in the country.

This means that organisations within the local Integrated Care System (ICS), including NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and public health bodies, are looking at ways these services can be improved. As the independent patient champion, Healthwatch Shropshire gathered experiences to ensure that the patient voice is at the heart of efforts to improve services. The Healthwatch Shropshire report is now available <https://www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk/report/2023-10-30/diabetes-care-and-support>.

Lynn Cawley, Chief Officer of Healthwatch Shropshire, told us, "I would like to thank the over 200 people who shared their experiences and suggestions for service improvements. We are really pleased to be working with organisations from the Integrated Care System to ensure that patient experience helps to inform decisions as services change. The report has been shared with the leaders and decision makers and we will be presenting the findings to meetings across the area to ensure the patient voice is at the heart of efforts to improve services."

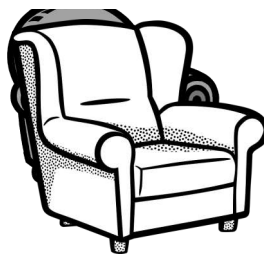
Councillor Cecilia Motley, Shropshire Council cabinet member for adult social care, public health and communities and Co-Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board, said, "Our Public Health Team will work with Healthwatch to ensure that this report and its recommendations is received by the Health and Wellbeing Board in Shropshire, and that as a Board we take ownership of monitoring actions that are agreed. The survey findings are clear; we must do more to work together as a system to improve our care, treatment and support for our residents living with diabetes."

Dr Syed Gillani, Clinical Lead for Diabetes at NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, said: "We are currently undertaking a system-wide transformation of the way we provide diabetes care for our residents in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin. This will include how we support people with diabetes to understand and manage living with their condition on a day-to-day basis."

"We will use the results of this survey to help inform how we best design these new pathways, with those people with both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes at the heart of our work."

Healthwatch Shropshire is the independent health and social care champion in Shropshire. It gathers the views and experiences of patients, service users, 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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The Post Office is located in the entrance lobby of West Felton village hall

The opening time is: **Wednesdays : 9:30am until 11am.**
Changes in time/date are always published on page 3 of this magazine delivered FREE to your home by volunteers every month.

West Felton Stores hosted The Post Office for as long as anybody can remember. The shop used to be called 'the post office' as it seemed to be the most important part of the enterprise.

A 'Post Office restructuring programme' in 2012-2018 saw quite an upheaval, with post office counters removed in many rural shops and an outreach service instituted where the shop owners agreed to have a visiting postmaster attend on certain days at certain times with their 'post office in a box'. People grumbled, but there was no choice so it was accepted and worked fairly well for some years. But, not well enough for The Post Office which, having split from the Royal Mail in 2011, now had to be a viable, separate company.

At the same time we all started to do most of our communication by text, email or social media; and sending parcels has become easier - the postman will now collect them from your home for FREE!

The Post Office has been keeping a close eye on the business conducted by every outreach postmaster and, as we found more convenient ways of posting our letters and parcels, they cut down the hours they were prepared to provide services, especially in small villages like West Felton.

That is how we ended up with an hour and a half in the lobby of the village hall - which is volunteered free of charge, or we would have no outreach at all!

Again we, the population, have worked our way around the unsatisfactory system, resulting in a noticeable fall off in business in the village hall Outreach Service. This will not have gone unnoticed by The PO. The West Felton service is just one of those run by Ruth Hutchings and our hours were reduced against her wishes.

So, whilst many of us have found our way around the poor Post Office service in West Felton, we should bear in mind those for whom this is still an essential service and, in spite of the regular technical and other difficulties, perhaps we should try to use it a bit more in the hope of it's continuation going forward. ♦

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Rector's Ramblings, Rev Suzan Williams

I wonder what your approach to the New year is. I've possibly become a bit cynical when it comes to the whole New Years resolution element of crossing the threshold from one year into the next. But this week being right at the beginning of December, I came across this poem written by an unknown author and it seems to hit the spot for me.

Take twelve whole months.
Clean them thoroughly of all bitterness, hate, and jealousy.
Make them just as fresh and clean as possible.

Now cut each month into twenty-eight, thirty, or thirty-one different parts, but don't make up the whole batch at once.

Prepare it one day at a time out of these ingredients.

Mix well into each day one part of faith, one part of patience, one part of courage, and one part of work.

Add to each day one part of hope, faithfulness, generosity, and kindness.

Blend with one part prayer, one part meditation, and one good deed.

Season the whole with a dash of good spirits, a sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play, and a cup full of good humour.

Pour all of this into a vessel of love. Cook thoroughly over radiant joy, garnish with a smile, and serve with quietness, unselfishness,

and cheerfulness. **You're bound to have a happy new year.** AUTHOR UNKNOWN.

With all we see going on in the world at the moment. An intolerance if you like of those who may think, act, behave or look differently to us. If we take the principles contained within these words. What a difference it would make. Of course, we have no guarantees or promises of what 2024 holds in store but what we can pledge to be is kinder, more generous with our time (and this speaks to me too, so don't think I'm pointing the finger!) Looking out for those on our doorstep and further afield.

In Matthew 5 we hear Jesus clearly say, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

(Matt. 5:13-16).

So I wonder what you or I can do to bring that enhanced flavour to lives of those that we meet. May our words be seasoned with compassion and love, kindness and care as we journey over the threshold from all that 2023 has been and into 2024 and all it has in store for us.

Every Blessing, Suzan

Annual property review 2023

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Kind regards,
Daniel & team



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Secretary Christine Curtis 01691 610665

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Up the Garden Path with Topiarus

One of gardening's interesting features is that the "experts" don't always agree and that "the rule book" is not always right. Matthew Pottage recently mentioned a few rules that could be broken in his article in *The Garden*. One was that he had been surprised that an unpruned wisteria will still flower. I could have told him that as ours gets very little attention but flowers. The aspect of our garden is such that we have to ignore the rules about plants needing full sun as otherwise we would be a bit short on variety. The quick answer is that, whilst some things sulk or throw in the towel, there are many plants that have not read the rule book.

Another area where "rules" don't always work out as expected is in hardiness. In many cases there are other factors than just temperature involved, for example the time at low temperature, the wind factor and how wet the soil was. Perhaps most annoying are the plants that are borderline, they do fine in most years but the next year you are caught out. This was the case with us after last year's unusual cold spell in December. Here too experts don't always agree, I found ratings on the web for a particular salvia to vary from definitely tender to standing several degrees of frost! My system (if it is a system) is to bring really tender stuff into a frost-free glasshouse at the beginning of November and to bring definitely

dodgy things such as fuchsia in pots into a cold glasshouse later in the month, leaving what I judge to be almost hardy until very low temperatures are forecasted—my mistake last year was to fail to see the cold coming.

We can expect some weather interruption in January but I won't be breaking the rules of walking on grass or digging when frozen. However, I hope that remaining restructuring and shrub and tree pruning can continue in the better spells. Also, it is a good time to check the pH of the vegetable plot for application of lime if necessary. Our soil is pretty near neutral and generally OK for lime hating plants but to be sure I sprinkle sulphur chips on the rhododendrons etc. Other than that, it will be a very quiet gardening month although the new year will prompt a start on clearing the accumulated debris from paths.

Some people make New Year resolutions but that is not something that I have taken up. However, the path clearing is first indication that spring will be coming and is a good job to lift any low winter spirits. Among the looking forward thoughts will be plans and expectations for how we will prevent the problems and failures encountered last year. In my case there will be some adjustments to how I protect vegetables from insects plus the perennial determination to do better at weeding.

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Coffee Morning, Methodist Schoolroom

For the December event the schoolroom was packed, the Christmas spirit evident in everything that happened, what a lovely morning!

After the usual fun and laughter and the various draws and announcements, Christine led a very moving short service. Prayers of thanksgiving for companionship over the year; hopes for the future; carols loudly and beautifully joined in and, of course, poems from Doreen and Eileen.

Here is Doreen's lovely poem. Eileen's poem is on page 17.

MY CHRISTMAS LIST

There is a list of folks I know, all written in a book,
And every year at Christmas time
I go and take a look,
And that is when I realize that these names are a part,
Not only of the book they're written in - but of my very heart.

For each name stands for someone who has walked my path sometime,
And in that meeting, you've become "Rhythm of the Rhyme".
And though sometimes the list may change and not remain the same,
I really feel that I'm composed of each beloved name.
And while you may not be aware of any special link,
Just knowing you has shaped my life more than you can think,

For once you've met somebody, the years cannot erase,
The memory of a pleasant word or of a loving face.
Never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine,
Of names upon a Christmas list forgotten in between.
For when I send a Christmas card that is addressed to you,
It's because you're on that list, of folks I'm indebted to.

For be you relative or friend, or just folks I have met,
You happen to be one of those I prefer not to forget.
And whether I have known you for many years or few,
In some way you have had a part of shaping things I do.
And every year when Christmas comes, I realize anew,
The biggest gift that life can give is knowing folks like you.

May the spirit of Christmas that eternally endures,
Leave its richest blessing in the hearts of you and yours.
And as you read this message that I send at Christmas time,
Know that I send you all my love, while you are on my mind.

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These personal mobile numbers/email addresses can be used to gain quick contact with our local policing team **BUT are not to be used to report new incidents**. All incidents must be reported on either of the two numbers: 101 in the case of non-emergency and 999 for emergencies.

Crimestoppers: 0800 555111

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Email: oswestrys.snt@westmercia/pnn.police.uk Twitter: @OsCops

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



West Felton Walking Group

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

EXCEPT on the first Monday of the
month when departure 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 and Eileen Hanmer

01691 610629

Liz and Dave Embrey

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Another happy morning!



The Coffee Morning in the village hall that signalled the start of West Felton's Christmas season was declared a great success by all. We know when you mention 'cake' in West Felton, the people will flock, and jam and marmalade are popular too - but there was so much more to interest this year.

People meeting neighbours they had not yet met; friends and family popping in for a chat, but staying much longer; picking up interesting plants whose names we probably had forgotten by the time we got home; cards and gifts to buy and all sorts of surprises to be won.

**Congratulations to the members of St Michael's Parish Church
for putting on a great community event,
all the hard work really showed.**

'Twas the Month After Christmas "You can't spend a winter disguised
as a man!"

'Twas the month after Christmas,
and all through the house
Nothing would fit me, not even a
blouse.

The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog
I'd taste at the holiday parties
had gone to my waist.
When I got on the scales there arose
such a number!

When I walked to the store (less a
walk more a lumber),
I'd remember the marvellous meals I'd
prepared:

The gravies and sauces and beef
nicely rared,
The wine and the rum balls, the bread
and the cheese
And the way I'd never said, "No,
thank you, - please."

As I dressed myself in my husband's
old shirt

And prepared once again to do battle
with dirt—

I said to myself, as I only can,

So - away with the last of the sour
cream dip,
Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker
and chip.

Every last bit of food that I like must
be banished
'Til all the additional ounces have
vanished.

I won't have a cookie—not even a
lick.
I'll want only to chew on a long celery
stick.

I won't have hot biscuits, or corn
bread, or pie;
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.
I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a
bore—

But isn't that what January's for?

Unable to giggle, no longer a riot,

**Happy New Year to all,
and to all a good diet!**

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Community Resource's "Warmer Winter Appeal," embodies the spirit of compassion, unity, and support that defines your parish.

What is the Warmer Winter Appeal?

Our "Warmer Winter Appeal" is a heartfelt effort to provide warmth and comfort to local vulnerable households who find themselves at risk of fuel poverty during the colder months. For over a decade, Community Resource has been dedicated to supporting those in need, and this campaign is an extension of that commitment.

Why Does It Matter?

Rising energy costs, coupled with the economic challenges of recent times, make it increasingly difficult for many households to afford the basic necessity of a warm and comfortable home. The "Warmer Winter Appeal" is our response to this challenge, a way to ensure that no one in our community has to endure a cold and uncomfortable winter.

How Can You Get Involved?

Donate: Your generous contributions to the "Warmer Winter Appeal" will go directly to providing essential support to households in need. Every donation, no matter how small, makes a difference.

Spread the Word: Share this initiative with friends, family, and fellow parishioners. Encourage others to join us in making a positive impact in our community.

Together, we can make a significant difference in the lives of those facing fuel poverty in our community. As the days grow colder, let us come together in the spirit of giving and support.

To make a donation please visit -

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/shropshirefuelpoverty>

or email our Fundraising Manager –

Stacey.teece@community-resource.org.uk to discuss other ways to make a gift.

Community Resource is an operating name of the Community Council of Shropshire A Company Limited by Guarantee 4652487 and a Registered Charity 1096779. Registered Office Address: Community Council of Shropshire, 4 The Creative Quarter, Shrewsbury Business Park, Shrewsbury, SY2 6LG Tel: 01743 360641

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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - WEST FELTON BRANCH 2023 REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND

A massive thank you to everyone who attended the Poppy Appeal events.



We started on Friday with our Annual concert at the Village Hall in the presence of the fantastic Orthopaedic Male Voice choir, the brilliant young Saxophonist Zac Addison, and of course the amazing Choir from West Felton School. It was a truly magnificent evening and for the first time, we actually ran out of chairs, which demonstrates the incredible attendance. Everyone enjoyed a memorable evening which for many spilled over afterwards into the Punch Bowl, where we were made so very welcome.

The ceremony at the Memorial on Saturday was as always very moving and so well attended, with many new faces from the Village. Apologies to those to whom we just did not have time to say hello.

Again, a Thank You to the Punch Bowl who provided soup following proceedings, and a further chance to chat with friends and neighbours.

Finally, the well supported Church Service on Sunday at St Michaels was a fitting end to a special weekend. and special thanks to the Church for the refreshments which again allowed for a friendly chat.

As a footnote, the Branch raised £2,765 towards the appeal this year, and I therefore repeat a MASSIVE THANK YOU for your support.

- **WELCOME** - We would love to see new members.
- You would be made extremely welcome.
- Unless otherwise stated we meet the first Monday of the month in the Punch Bowl at around 19.30-20.00.
- Proceedings are very social!
- If you do not have any connection with the forces, that makes no difference. Every new Face is an asset to our cause.

See you there! DC

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Volunteers Needed to Spread the Joy of Reading in Shropshire Schools

West Felton Head Teacher, Helen, focusses on a really strong reading programme. Our school has achieved 95% in the Reading SATS compared to 73% nationally. Other children are not so lucky.

Children's literacy charity **Schoolreaders** is looking for more volunteers who can help spread the joy of reading to children in primary schools across Shropshire, particularly in Market Drayton, Shrewsbury, Telford and **Oswestry**.

Every year, 1 in 4 children leave primary school unable to read to the expected standard.

Schoolreaders recruits volunteers to listen to children read in primary schools, focusing on schools where children require the most support. Volunteers are asked to listen to children read once a week in term time and to commit to an academic year.

95% of children supported by a **Schoolreaders** volunteer improve their reading age. Partner schools also reported that volunteers had a positive impact on pupils with 95% improving their reading confidence and 87% their reading enjoyment. Additionally, children benefit enormously from the volunteers as positive role models in the classroom.

Jane Whitbread, founder of **Schoolreaders**, comments "Children who leave primary school unable to read well can't access their secondary schooling fully which will compromise their life opportunities. One in seven adults in England (7.1 million) are functionally illiterate and cannot read instructions on a medicine label, sit a driving theory test or fill in a job application form. Working together we can change this.

"Our **Schoolreaders** volunteers provide a crucial supplement to classroom teaching and are welcomed by schools and the children. If more children gain pleasure from reading from an early age and their reading fluency and confidence improves too, communities and society will reap the benefits."

Reading skills and developing a love of books from the earliest age will hopefully aid children to become confident, interested and engaged readers who read for pleasure.

To find out more about Schoolreaders visit www.schoolreaders.org.

By applying now new volunteers will be matched as quickly as possible to a partner school and be ready to start once they have completed a mandatory DBS check and virtual safeguarding training. ♦

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From Joanne and the Carnival Committee

WEST FELTON CARNIVAL 24



The Christmas Tree is up and looking spectacular in the centre of the village.

Lots of people braved the cold to see the lights switch-on, and make it a huge success. The mulled wine and cakes helped keep the cold at bay, while the Porthywaen Band brought everyone into the festive spirit.

A cheque for £450 was presented to the **West Mercia Search and Rescue**. Thank you to everyone who bought a bauble to support this great charity. We hope you were able to spot your name on the tree!

It takes a team of people to organise the event. A big thank you to everyone who was involved in helping with the evening.

A special mention to Sharon and Derek for the baubles; Darryl from Daz C Lifts and Clive Whittingham for their help putting the tree up. Caroline Dean and Mike Perry for their assistance to Father Christmas, and all the walking ladies, and everyone else who donated cakes.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the West Felton Carnival Committee.

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Advertiser Cup Bowling Final 25 June 1980

Below: Fred Jones follows the line of his wood ...
then shows his consternation whilst
Gareth Jones (Corwen) contemplates his shot!





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FROM ISLAM TO CHRISTIANITY

The web site unHerd.com exists to publish articles that push against established thinking. A recent article describes how a Muslim lady migrated from Islam to Christianity via atheism. The writer's thinking has led her to believe that civilisation rests on Christianity and seeing how Western Europe has developed it is easy to understand how this happened. Starting to read the article, a reader might gain the impression that life can be split into two parts. There is the 'modus vivendi' – the way of living; and there is the spiritual aspect. The author dwells for much of the article on the former and her adoption of atheism, but latterly the author discards atheism for its failure to answer a simple question: "what is the purpose of life?" The same question is put in a slightly different way in the opening chapter of Timothy Radcliffe's book, "What is the point of being a Christian?"

As a way of living, Christianity has had a profound influence, but its teachings have evolved over the years. Some practices are echoed by Islam. The wearing of a head covering was emphasised in the early church and still obtains in some Eastern Orthodox countries today. Head covering is obligatory in Islam although pressure is rising to abolish it. Homosexuality is regarded with disdain in both Christianity and Islamism. Islam reserved a special hatred for Jews and a similar, those less evident, undercurrent of antisemitism continues to permeate Christian socie-

ties The article portrayed how a young Muslim girl was taught to behave. Prayer and ablutions were obligatory but she regarded them as pointless: she was taught to hate people who were unbelievers.

Her journey to Christianity progressed through atheism. She read Bertrand Russell's famous lecture on "why I am not a Christian" given in 1927. She felt that religion had imprisoned her and now she could be free. Hell and eternal damnation no longer existed; she was unburdened from the fear that religion imposed on her. She came to see as well that not everything that Christ did was kind; note the effect that Jesus had on the fig tree or the Gadarene swine. Russell persuaded her that morals were not necessarily a recipe for happiness. The church's denial of divorce, illustrated by his rather distasteful description of a diseased husband, was used as an example of the failure of religion. Russell claimed, not without evidence, that the church had tried to hold back scientific advance. The arrest of Galileo, who held that the earth went round the sun, contradicting the Catholic church's belief that the opposite occurred, did much to discredit religion.

At this stage her journey through faith might have stopped. But she didn't stop thinking. Christianity, unlike Islam, allowed plenty of freedoms; of conscience, of the press, of expression and other freedoms. Compare the reactions of the cartoons of God with those of

(Continued on page 25)



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Fox & Hounds


Some of the regulars.

14 SHROPSHIRE STAR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30. 1978




Madame "Teddy" Lorge, wartime "mum" to thousands of British troops during the liberation of Belgium, played the piano during her visit to the harvest festival celebrations at the Fox and Hounds, West Felton, last night, when she was reunited with one of her former "sons," Mr John Kendrick. Seen with Madame Lorge are (from left): Colonel J. Kenyon, Mr John Kendrick, Mr Fred Jones and Mr Percy Jones.





*By the KING'S Order the name of
**Lance Corporal of Horse J Kendrick
The Life Guards***

*was published in the London Gazette
22nd March 1945
as mentioned in a Despatch for
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Secretary of State for War

THE LANDLORD AND HIS LADY WIFE

**Dora and Ike Kendrick
in the Fox and Hounds**



Dora on holiday with her friends 1999



(Continued from page 23)

Mohammed. The important point is that whereas the Christian church might have behaved in the same way to caricatures of God in the past as Islamists do to Mohammed today, Christianity has shown that it can evolve. Indulgences (in Protestant churches) went with Luther; the Privy Council abolished Hell in 1864 (the two Archbishops voted against), but disagreements still exist; witness the discord over same sex marriage.

Yet she makes another and probably the most important point. With all these freedoms, do we still need God? And here she returns to the question in the first paragraph – what is the purpose of life. Free at last, she still had a niggling feeling that life was not complete. She sought professional help; she sought support in alcohol: then a therapist said to her: “You’re spiritually bankrupt”. She reacted to this startling

pronouncement by saying that she was an atheist; she hated God. “That’s great” came the reply, “you have the opportunity to design your own God”. Given this chance, she set to work thinking what she would like her own God to do and to identify what God would stand for. As she started to think and to express

what she would like, she suddenly realised that she was describing what Jesus and Christianity stood for. Implicit in her article is that having the one (Christian way of life ‘modus vivendi’) is incomplete without the other (God).

She ends by saying that if we are to withstand Islam, Communism and other religions, we must defend the civilisation that we have built, and that civilisation is founded upon Christianity. Islam as a faith is 600 years younger than Christianity and may be, in time, will evolve like Christianity. ♦

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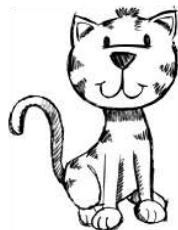
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The first Harvest Festival 1955 : The Fox & Hounds



The Rev Howard-Bowen (Captain) Chaplin to the Forces with the founding committee: Walter (Patch) Little, Grimpo; Col. Charles Eaton, Charles Thomas, Weirbrook and Glyn Jones, Haughton.



Front : Mrs Jones, Bagley; Sam Higginson; Glyn Jones; Walter Little.
2nd row: Frances Jones; Rene Mullineux; Belle Clark.
Back: Ann Hanmer, Florrie Coles; Dolly Jensen.

The first Harvest Festival ever to be held in a public house, 1955 : The Fox & Hounds,

As recounted by the late Glyn Jones

It was 1955; in the Fox & Hounds a few friends were discussing gardening, harvesting and so on when someone suggested that we organise a Harvest Festival in the pub. A small committee was formed involving: Charles Eyton (The Colonel), Walter Little (Patch), Charles Thomas (Mick) and Glyn Jones, also helped by Elsie Bonnar and Doll Durnall.

It was decided to arrange a Harvest festival in the Fox & Hounds with the permission of the **Landlord, Wally Phillips and his wife.**

Glyn Jones approached the West Felton Rector of the time, Rev RGT Gillman, to know if he would be willing to take part but he refused, being disgusted at the idea of such an event!

Nothing daunted, Glyn then asked the Padre of Park Hall Army camp if he would conduct a suitable service.

Captain Howard-Bowen, Chaplain to the Forces was delighted to help. He conducted a 15 minute service, during which time the beer pumps were closed down for silence. A good gathering of local people attended, produce was auctioned and made £34.6.4d. This was later handed

to a villager who was suffering from a bad illness.

The evening paper of that period was the Wolverhampton Express & Star which reported the event as a great success and quoted it as the first of its kind in Shropshire. Many other areas followed and the tradition continues to this day.

When the Rev Kenneth Millington arrived as Rector to the Parish he took kindly to the task of conducting the service for many years, as did those who followed him down the years.

Qualified Auctioneer Jim Pearce conducted the sale of the goods and later on was assisted by his son, Jim Junior, making much money for local charities.

Towards the end of the 1960s the committee amalgamated with the British Legion as a joint effort and soon afterwards the Legion organised the full event, issuing Christmas parcels to widows of ex-servicemen and senior citizens until 2001.

The Harvest Auctions continued in the village hall for some years, but the distribution of parcels ceased, the proceeds instead going to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. ♦



WEST FELTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The meeting in November comprised the formal Annual Meeting as well as the normal monthly meeting. Gillian welcomed seven visitors: **Linda, Yvonne, Jo, Tess, Suzanne, Amanda & Irene and WI adviser Heather Dulson.**



Forthcoming events were confirmed,

- Oswestry North Group Carol Service Thursday 7th Dec St Michael's. 7pm; collection for Oswestry Food bank
- Christmas meal at the Queens Head on Wednesday 13th December at 1pm. No regular ladies lunch in December.
- Final Legacy outing to The Grosvenor Garden Centre, nr Chester, Monday 20th November, leaving West Felton at 10.30am.
- December meeting: making Christmas door wreaths. Members reminded to bring any extra foliage material such as leaves with berries, pinecones etc. Secateurs. Or any other embellishments. This is being hosted by our member Julie on behalf of Babbinswood Farm.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM NATIONAL FEDERATION: NFWI Annual meeting at Royal Albert Hall, 5th June 2024. Observer tickets £28.00 and payment needed to be sent with booking forms, no later than 31 December 2023. Individuals can join on Zoom free of charge –more details to follow.

Eileen reminded members about the Attfield December performance.

Marian organising shoe boxes for Teams4U – any donations welcome for older boys and for mothers (scarves, accessories, candles, also household items such as kitchen utensils, dishcloths, washing up liquid). Any questions for Marian – email Gillian or Sam and they will pass it on to Marian, items can be left with Hilary or Eileen. **Further info on www.teams4U.com.**

Mair mentioned several local events coming up in November and December.

The Annual meeting was conducted with due formality, reports read out and ballots conducted by an independent teller, Kerry, and the whole overseen by Heather on behalf of Shropshire Federation. Gillian remains President for 2024. A further meeting after the event was held to appoint officers and allocate the various roles necessary to ensure the smooth running of WFWI for another year.

The guest speaker was Belinda Johnson – Dog Aid, talking about working with assistance dogs. ♦

THE FOX and HOUNDS

The Fox & Hounds was originally called the New Inn and was first licensed in about 1791. It was a coaching inn with stabling for ten horses. It was purchased by John Freeman Dovaston in the mid-1800s. The stabling was adjoining the pub facing the road.



In 1921 the Landlord was **Lewis Buckle** living there with his wife Mary Ann and their two daughters. Their son Frank was killed in France in 1916 and Lewis himself died aged 54 in 1922 - so we don't know who was running the public house when the hall was first opened.

Pte. Frank Buckle, Army No 17261, 4th Batt, Grenadier Guards is remembered on West Felton War Memorial

The son of Lewis Buckle and Mary Ann Hammond, he had three siblings, Sidney, Annie and Dorothy. His father, Lewis, had a varied career: Gamekeeper at Worksop; Railway Porter when they lived at St Martins and by **1915 they are all living at the Fox & Hounds Public House, West Felton.** Frank signed up in 1914, aged 17. He served in Belgium and France and was killed in action. Sidney also enlisted but was discharged immediately on medical grounds due to an operation for removal of appendix.

Frank was killed, aged 19, in the second phase of the Somme Campaign.

At home in West Felton his father had also died and his mother and the family left the Fox & Hounds to live at Gatacre Road, Oswestry. She died in 1949.

Wally Phillips was Landlord in 1932 and still there in 1955, see page 24.

Ann tells us, in the late 1950s the landlord Len Brown used to cut hair in the stables; many a time he would cut half of someone's hair and then go for a pint or tell them to come back tomorrow for him to finish it. Len was quite a character and was well liked by everyone. He also had an egg business and was well known in the area.

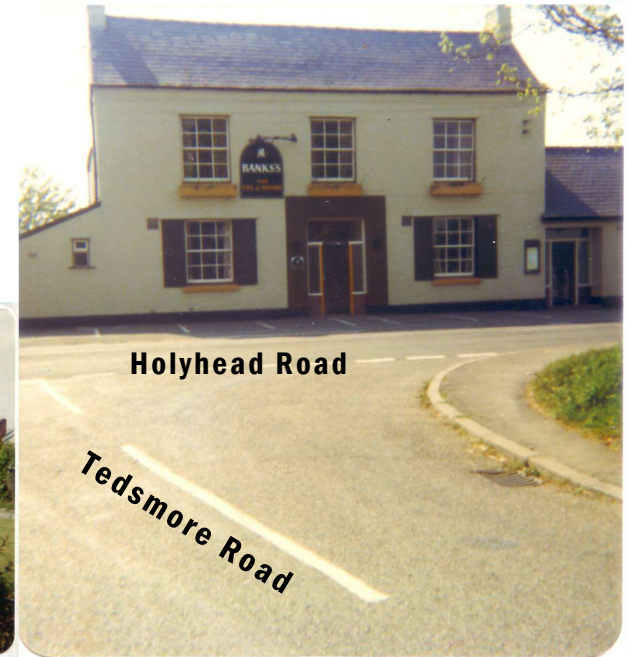
By the late 1970s the Fox & Hounds was run by **Ike and Dora Kendrick late** of the Union Inn at Queens Head. It was home to a popular bowling green and there was great disappointment when the owners decided to give it up for development as private homes.

The bus stop by the houses was still named "The Fox and Hounds" on the Arriva timetable until a few years ago.

Across the road, where Pradoc View houses now are, was West Felton Garage.

The Fox and Hounds with its beautiful Bowling Green

1980



Holyhead Road

Tedsmore Road

West Felton Garage, prop. J Royle & Son.

