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CORBET SCHOOL www.corbetschool.net	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: westfeltonpc@gmail.com https://www.westfeltonparish.co.uk/	
POLICE, West Mercia Non-Emergency number	101
Oswestry Police Station	0300 333 3000
Safer Neighbourhood team—email: oswestryc.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk	
PRADOE CHURCH: Chairman: Andrew Kenyon	01691 610218
PUNCH BOWL	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	0345 6789000
Anti-Social Report Line	0345 6789020
Your Shrops Councillor: Steve Charmley email: steve.charmley@shropshire.gov.uk	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
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - Secretary	01691 610357
VILLAGE HALL Bookings	01691 610629
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

JULY 2024

ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON

www.westfeltonmagazine.co.uk

WEST FELTON CARNIVAL 24
14th July 2024



Email: wfcarnival@gmail.com Phone Jenny: 07852 211099

Facebook: West Felton Carnival

SUNDAY 14TH JULY 2024

- 12:30pm** Road closed - tell your friends to get here before that.
- 1pm** Parade floats and walkers leave from The Punch Bowl.
- 1:15pm** Gates open to the field.
- 1:30pm** Parade arrives at the playing field (opposite the Methodist Chapel).
£2 admission. Free for children.

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

West Felton Walkers 10am Mondays, Punch Bowl **EXCEPT... see page 49**

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

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 WEDNESDAY 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.

4 July	GENERAL ELECTION - Voting in Village Hall	
5 July	3:15 WEST FELTON SCHOOL FARMER'S MARKET	15
9 July	7:30 PARISH COUCIL MEETING New School Halll	
11 July	10-12 noon COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING Village Hall	11
14 July	WEST FELTON CARNIVAL24	12
12 Oct	VILLAGE HALL ARTS & CRAFTS - BOOK YOUR STALL NOW	

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Wednesdays only : 9:30am until 11am.

Round and About West Felton

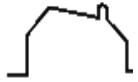
Articles/advertisement amendments for inclusion
in next issue
to Editor by email (preferred) or phone

**Last day for submission of copy and
Deadline for content changes 10th JULY 2024**

Editor: Colleen Hughes

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Tel 01691 610300	Quarter page	£50
colleenhughes748@btinternet.com	Half page	£75
	Full page	£125



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Sun 3 Nov
Sun 10 Nov (Remembrance Sunday)
Sun 1 Dec
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Wed 25 Dec (Christmas Day)
Sun 5 Jan 2025 (Plough Sunday)

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Parish Office: 5 Newtown Gardens

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

Chairman Cllr John THORNHILL 07714 759 466

Vice-Chairman Cllr Ozcan OZAGIR 07955 232 199

Cllr David CURTIS 01691 610 665 (Rep WF Primary School &
SALC Area Comm)

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

9 July 2024

(no meeting in August)

10 September 2024

8 October 2024

12 November 2024

10 December 2024

14 January 2025

11 February 2025

11 March 2025

8 April 2025

13 May 2025

WEST FELTON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

At the May meeting of your Parish Council John Thornhill was elected as Chair and Ozcan Ozagir as Vice Chair. The following Councillors were appointed as representatives to these organisations : West Felton CE Primary School (Cllr Curtis), SALC Oswestry Area Committee (Cllrs Curtis and Mabe), West Felton Village Hall (Cllr Hesketh), ABP Liaison Committee (Cllr Nicholas), Helicopter Noise Liaison Group (Cllr Walker).

Councillors discussed Shropshire Council's Local Plan now out for further con-

(Continued on page 7)

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(Continued from page 5) Parish Council

sultation. It focusses on additional material prepared in response to the Planning Inspector's interim findings about housing. It was agreed to submit individual rather than a formal Parish Council response.

Your Parish Council is considering creating a Neighbourhood Plan for West Felton. There are significant benefits in such a development and David Ward a former inspector of such plans set these out in a detailed presentation specific to our parish. This presentation can be seen on our website at <https://www.westfeltonparish.co.uk/>

The Council was addressed by a resident who introduced himself as the founder and manager of the newly reformed **West Felton Football Club**. He reported that as a long term plan the club is hoping to obtain a full-size pitch back in the village as they are currently using the Corbet School pitch. A player from the football club explained the importance of having one in the village and the big loss for him and his friends when the previous pitch was removed. The Council was supportive of the idea of bringing the local football team back into the village with its own pitch and agreed to collaborate with the club to achieve this. The representatives were asked to send further details to the Clerk, so that the matter could be considered at a future meeting.

At the Parish meeting in April two issues of concern were raised. The first was in relation to speeding on some roads in the village. Your Council had already agreed a proposed Traffic Calming plan, a copy which can be found on our website with maps of proposed sites for speed indicator signs. Using this plan, we secured some funding for the project from the Police Commissioner and have made other applications for funding. We have sought support from Shropshire Council to establish suitable sites for speed activated cameras. However, despite numerous requests they have yet to arrange a site visit.

Another way of moderating unnecessary speeding would be to introduce a Community Speed Watch programme (CSW). This is a community driven road safety initiative, coordinated by West Mercia Police but managed and run by volunteers in the local parish. It involves trained volunteers from the community monitoring the speeds of vehicles with approved, hand-held speed measurement devices. Where vehicle speeds are found to be inappropriate, a letter is sent to the registered keeper by the police with the aim of encouraging them to reduce their speed when driving in the future.

(Continued on page 9)

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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

Walk leaders:-
Mike Bossen 01691 610623
Hilary Iles 01691 610707
John & Eileen Hanmer 01691 610629

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

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COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

WEST FELTON



(Continued from page 7)

A CSW scheme is initiated when 'speeding traffic' has been identified as a community road safety concern by a parish council or safer neighbourhood team. To operate such a scheme in West Felton we would need at least six volunteers from the parish to participate in such a scheme plus one member to co-ordinate it. If you feel you could be involved with this programme then please contact the Parish Clerk at westfeltonpc@googlemail.com.

The second issue raised was the matter of dog fouling around the village. Shropshire Council has introduced the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to help tackle dog fouling and nuisance which came into force on Saturday 1 June 2024. It includes the power to allow police and dog wardens to issue fixed penalty notices of £100 – or £50 if paid within 10 days – to owners who allow their animal to foul pavements and public amenity spaces without clearing up afterwards. Your Council is looking into the need for a new bin at Fox Lane bus shelter. You can read more about the order on the Parish Council Website. **(See also P33)**

It is proposed, by the developer of the adjacent housing estate, to install a drainage scheme on the playing field with the aim of alleviating flooding on Ralph's Drive. The Council resolved to inform the developer's agent that it has no objection to work being conducted on the playing field. However, it does not support the proposed scheme as it believes that it will not alleviate the problem in view of concerns raised previously.

There are currently two vacancies on the Parish Council. Applications will be considered at the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 9 July 2024. If you would like to apply then please complete the application form which can be found on our website and return it to the Parish Clerk by **Monday 1 July 2024**. Applications are encouraged from a wide range of the community. Whilst previous experience of being a councillor would be an advantage, it is not essential as training will be given. Please contact the Clerk (details on the application form) if you have any queries about the application or what is involved in being a parish councillor.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 9th July, and you are most welcome to attend. If you have any comments on these or other items please send them to the Clerk at the email address above. ♦

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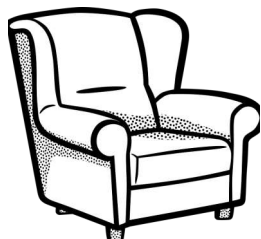


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Words in the English language for which there is no rhyme ~

Month, Silver, Bulb, Wolf, Walrus, Rhythm, Husband, Woman,
Orange, and Purple.

WEST FELTON CARNIVAL 24

14th July 2024



From Joanne
and the
Carnival
Committee

Email: wfcarnival@gmail.com

Phone Jenny: 07852 211099

Facebook: West Felton Carnival

We can't wait for the big day Sunday 14th July 2024.

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**Noah Bancroft is our 2024 Carnival King and
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Looking forward to seeing you all on the day!

We welcome any help on the day!

We're setting up the field in the morning, and clearing down afterwards, so please come along before, or stick around afterwards if you can lend a hand.

The Carnival Committee would like to give a special shout out and a big thank you to our generous Sponsors and Donors.



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Rector's Ramblings

Rev Suzan Williams

This last week I have been starkly reminded of the preciousness of life and fragile in many ways it is. Often we take things including people for granted, well I know I do and as I spoke to someone with the wonders of technology on a zoom call from France reminisced that their mum had always told them 'life is never fair and no one said it would be' and yet somehow we expect the opposite and almost buy into the understanding that if we live a good life then nothing bad will ever happen to us.

In reality we know that isn't the case at all and bad things happen to good people all the time. And from a faith perspective I am drawn to Jesus words in Matthew 11 where he says 'Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.'

Those words are a great comfort a bit like a port in a storm for a ship or a hammock between two palm trees on a beach. A place of respite and peace, comfort and grace. Which I think we all need during certain times and seasons of our lives.

Just a few weeks ago my husband Darren and I had the pleasure of going to Ruthin Castle in Denbyshire and it was a beautiful pit stop in the midst of what had been a really difficult week. It provided space for us just to be and to enjoy the beauty of the surroundings. The quirkiness of the hotel and a few hours in the spa.

My advice to you in this season would be to make the most of those pit stops, whether it be a coffee and a catch with a friend. An unplanned trip out with family or just an opportunity to sit in the garden and enjoy the beauty of creation around you. Because I find it's those times that restore, replenish and feed my soul!

Every blessing,

Suzan



Annual property review 2024

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An asset to the village

Our village hall continues to be put to good use - in the main hall with Pilates, Tai Chi and Flexors.

During the evenings we have Badminton, Table Tennis, Argentine dance and Ballroom & Latin dance.

The rear room accommodates smaller groups needing less space to meet.

At weekends the hall makes a lovely venue for parties and celebrations, so please keep this in mind.

Our hall is run on a self-funded basis by a group of volunteers.

**Should anybody be interested in joining our friendly committee
please make contact with Ian on 07740 485925.**

As always, the committee thanks all who use and support the village hall.

Two tourists were travelling around Europe and had gone to the village of **Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogoch**. They stopped for lunch and asked the lady behind the counter, "Could you please pronounce the name of this place for us, and do it very slowly?" The lady behind the counter then said "Buuurrrgeeeer Kiiiiiiiing."

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(Continued from page 40)

Derelict for many years, the big challenge was to identify a future for the site that protected and conserved the historic buildings while providing it with a viable and sustainable economic future.

Historic England bought the freehold for the Flaxmill Maltings in 2005 and later partnered with Shropshire Council and the Friends of the Flaxmill Maltings to save these extraordinary buildings and bring them back to life. Under Historic England's ownership, the site is evolving into a new workspace and a place for communities from near and far to celebrate and explore the past.

Visit <https://www.shrewsburyflaxmillmaltings.org.uk/whats-on/> to find out what's on.

From **Fri 19 Jul 2024 to Sun 21 Jul 2024**, the Flaxmill Maltings are featuring **FLAXMILL CREATES FESTIVAL**, three days of live music, performances, street food, beer, children's activities and much more! Sonic Boom will headline the Friday night while Jason Allen is the Saturday night headliner. Sunday night is being headlined by Dan Owen. Tickets are free and can be claimed from

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/ukacproductions>

Visit UKAC website to keep to date with details and programme.

If you would prefer to visit at a quieter time, we run relaxed sessions on the first Saturday of each month from 3pm to 4pm.

These are for anyone who would appreciate a calmer visit, including visitors living with autism, dementia and learning difficulties and/or sensory needs, and their families, friends, companions or carers.

The Mill exhibition capacity is reduced to allow for a calmer environment, audio is lowered and our team is able to provide a more informal and responsive service to support you as well as possible.

Entry is free for companions and carers. Sat 6 Jul 2024 - 3.00pm - 4.00pm

Sat 3 Aug 2024 - 3.00pm - 4.00pm

PARK AND RIDE: You can use the Harlescott park and ride service to get dropped off beside, and collected from the Flaxmill Maltings. £2 return.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED: The Flaxmill is looking for volunteers of all ages and backgrounds to help deliver a diverse range of activities to the community and visitors. Not only will you be joining a lovely and supporting team, but you will have opportunities to build your CV or offer your valuable skills and experience to our service.



Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings, Spring Gardens, Shrewsbury, SY1 2SZ

Shrewsbury's Flaxmill Maltings

RIBA West Midlands Building of the Year

Shrewsbury's Flaxmill Maltings has been declared the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) 'West Midlands Building of the year' and will now be considered for a highly coveted RIBA National Award, to be announced in July.

Situated just outside Shrewsbury town centre, the internationally important Flaxmill Maltings site reflects a time when Shropshire led the way in engineering. The site is home to eight special buildings each with a unique story to tell.

The Main Mill at Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings is the first iron-framed building in the world. The pioneering frame is what makes this an internationally important industrial heritage site. Known as 'the grandparent of skyscrapers', the Main Mill opened in 1797 as a purpose-built flax mill. Since then, the site has grown and been repurposed and adapted many times. It was a maltings from 1897 to 1987, but also served as a temporary army barracks during the Second World War. After the maltings closed in 1987, the future of the site and its important buildings became increasingly uncertain.

(Continued on page 41)

Our biennial Farmer's Market is fast approaching.

Sycamore Class (aged 9 –11) take charge of organising and hosting this event. We visit Oswestry Artisan market; talk to stall holders, taste produce and take advice.

The children write letters and emails inviting a range of businesses and then send out the relevant information to those able to attend.



West Felton Farmer's Market
Friday 5th July 2024
Starts @ 3:15pm
on the school playground!

We have a range of exciting stalls in attendance this year, from delicious sweet treats to organic farm food products—there is something for the whole family. Please join us to enjoy this fabulous community event, supporting our local children and businesses all in one go!

Here are just some of our confirmed stall holders for 2024:

The Little Fudge Box



Derwen College

Jon Young - Artist
People and Places



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fellows.

Christ himself, according to Matthew, apparently issues two conflicting messages on individual wealth. Thus: *"For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath"* appears to conflict with *"Verily I say unto you, that a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."* That is to say wealth is no sin, but what you do with it is important. It is not up the secular authorities to do the Christian duty for you; rather it is up to you personally. It is your choice and charity should come of your own free will.

Another tenet of 'faithful Christianity' must of course be faith and this is much more difficult. Some years ago I posed the question in this series of articles 'Why go to church'. A professor of philosophy pronounced that

people come to church and have no clue why. They sing a few songs, listen to a sermon, and go back to their lives without any change. A vicar's wife asked her husband what a cultural Christian was. Someone who likes hymns and churches, wants to be respectable and comfortable replied the husband. Lately correspondence in a national newspaper has embraced the subject. Even someone as wise as the Astronomer Royal has vouchsafed that he likes going to church for all these reasons, but has never found God in Heaven. Yet, it is these people who like singing hymns, embrace the liturgy, enjoy the fellowship and the surroundings, who provide the funds for the parish priest. And this is where faith comes in. Supported and funded by a congregation drawn to church, be it evangelical or traditional, by the rich and varied tapestry of song and word, the priest is able to promote the faith amongst the laity of the parish by the example of service set by Christ himself. ♦

INVENTORS WHO WERE KILLED BY THEIR OWN INVENTIONS

1. William Nelson

A lot of inventors have tried to make bicycles, cars, or trains faster, with disastrous results. Not much is known about William Nelson, who in 1903 was a 24-year-old employee at General Electric in Schenectady, New York.

He worked on inventing a motorized bicycle, and took it for a test run on a hill opposite his father-in-law's house in the village of Mapletown. He fell off the machine and was killed instantly. The New York Times noted, "Nelson was regarded as an inventor of much promise."

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WEST FELTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



At the May meeting Gillian welcomed
the members and a visitor, Pat Bird.

For the new membership year, WFWI has 48 members.

Arrangements were made for all the regular monthly events, including lunch outing, evening meal, book club, and a litter-pick around the village.

The School Farmers' market on the 5th of July will feature a WFWI stall selling cookies and craft items and, of course, the busiest day of the year falls on 14th July - Carnival Day. Plans for the WI float are well in hand and volunteers were organised for the Carnival Tea tent as well as donations of cakes to sell.

The coach for the outing to Stratford was nearly full, with perhaps one seat remaining. *(PS. The sun shone brightly and everyone thoroughly enjoyed a great day out in this historic town ... and their cruise along the river.)*

Eileen confirmed the arrangements for the June outing; a tour, a talk and a train ride from the Cambrian Railway Centre. Tea and cake is included and will be served in one of the carriages at Weston Warf. Car lifts also arranged. Should be an interesting excursion!

The Guest Speaker for the evening was Paul Rushworth BEM, stage name Paul Ray. Paul is a comedy magician, singer and entertainer, he comes from a family of magicians and he told about his life in the world of entertainment on board cruise liners. He had lots of stories to tell about the celebrities he met over the years – Mohammed Ali being very memorable and about his friendships with Paul Daniels and Ken Dodd.

The other family business was antiques and furniture making – as a young man he worked in the antiques shop here West Felton, before opening up Rushworth's furniture store in Shrewsbury. He has supported charities throughout his life, organising numerous variety performances to raise money. In recognition of this, he was recently awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to charity. And of course, Paul finished the evening with a magic trick or two.

The June meeting is traditionally an outdoor event as described above, so the next WI meeting in the village hall will be on the 11th July when the Guest Speaker will be Tullis Matson from **Nature's SAFE** - Saving Animals From Extinction. **Nature's SAFE** is a charity safeguarding the future of our natural world by preserving live cells of animals at risk of extinction. ♦



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CULTURAL CHRISTIANITY FAITHFUL CHRISTIANITY

In 313AD, Constantine legalised Christianity throughout the Roman empire. This action laid the foundation for the Edict of Thessalonica in which the Emperor Theodosius made Christianity the official religion of all the lands overseen by Rome. Such events extended the influence and power of Christianity over most of the peoples of the western world. In 800AD Charlemagne become the first Holy Roman Emperor, crowned by the Pope. Although the Holy Roman Empire was famously described by Voltaire as neither Holy, nor Roman nor an empire, it did provide a way of life based on Christian principles. Out of these grew a legal system, a culture and religious influence. Some practices, such as burning at the stake, were not altogether what Christ might have espoused and He would not have applauded inter-necine warfare. Nevertheless over the centuries a western culture based on Christian values gradually emerged.

For many years Christianity meant both the following of the culture and the worshipping of God. The two were inseparable. From the earliest times however, the cultural attributes of Christianity were more appealing to some than the spiritual aspects. Such a Christian is called a cultural Christian, of which Richard Dawkins is a leading light. Probably from the be-

ginning Christianity began to separate into the secular and the spiritual. Usually the church has tried to associate the two. Thus religious orders were among the first organisations to establish hospitals, St Bartholomew's and St Thomas' in London being examples. Monks and nuns helped to staff them and introduced medicines such as Sea Holly (used as an aphrodisiac, and for the treatment of cystitis). Education was much encouraged by the church and schools founded, no doubt with a heavy input of religion. Welfare was in the hands of the church until relatively recent times, although many parishes had an elaborate 'poor law' system. Come the 19th and 20th Centuries these benefits were gradually taken over by the state. The education acts of the 1870s introduced state funding of schools, although the local clergy still have a rôle as school governors. The National Health Service took over hospitals whilst the welfare state adopted most of the responsibility for looking after those in need of help. All these services require funding. Christianity believes that all these principles are valuable. Cultural Christians believe that the intervention of a God is irrelevant and that these services should fall on the state. What might be called faithful Christianity differs by believing that faith is important and this has a bearing on personal charity and the attitude towards one's

(Continued on page 39)



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(Continued from page 33)

consented.

8. A person or persons in charge of a dog must keep a dog on a lead no longer than (1metre in length) on a Highway.

9. Exemptions – blind persons, disabled persons with assistance dog, working dogs while working.

10. Failure without reasonable excuse to comply with the prohibitions or requirements is an offence under Section 67 Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. A person guilty of an offence is liable upon conviction in a Magistrates Court to a fine not exceeding £1000.00 or a fixed penalty notice not exceeding £100.00.

11. Being unaware of the defecation of the dog or not having the means to remove the faeces shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces.



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You can even take a heritage train from the old station down to our local brewery and distillery!

Oswestry Food and Drink Festival 6th and 7th July 2024

Days out in Oswestry and the Borderlands are a bit different,

Oswestry Hot Air Balloon Carnival 17th and 18th August

In August experience the thrill of seeing hot air balloons taking off in Cae Glas park, in the centre of Oswestry town.

Whenever you visit, be sure to take some time to enjoy borderland flavours. The town market hosts a monthly artisan's market, there is a local vineyard, a brewery and two award winning local distilleries!

Go to VISIT OSWESTRY to find out more about Colemere Vineyard |

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WHO KNEW?

According to Dr Michael Mosley (*Just one thing ...*) reading poetry is good for us, but reading poetry out loud is positively therapeutic! Reading a poem out loud has been shown to be a surprisingly simple way to activate your relaxation response and bring about a sense of calm.

It's all to do with the way it slows and controls your breathing rate, which in turn stimulates your parasympathetic nervous system (*whatever that is?*) and can lead to many beneficial effects. It can significantly enhance your emotional wellbeing, reduce stress, boost feelings of hope; a bit like singing at the top of your voice, perhaps?

For those living alone, talking out loud might be something of a challenge but I'm told it's considered good exercise anyway, so seems worth trying whilst enjoying a poem. Here's one to start with...

O Tell Me the Truth About Love W.H. Auden

Some say love's a little boy,
And some say it's a bird,
Some say it makes the world go round,
And some say that's absurd,
And when I asked the man next door,
Who looked as if he knew,
His wife got very cross indeed,
And said it wouldn't do.
Does it look like a pair of pyjamas,
Or the ham in a temperance hotel?
Does its odour remind one of llamas,
Or has it a comforting smell?
Is it prickly to touch as a hedge is,
Or soft as eiderdown fluff?
Is it sharp or quite smooth at the edges?

O tell me the truth about love.

Our history books refer to it
In cryptic little notes,
It's quite a common topic on
The Transatlantic boats;
I've found the subject mentioned in
Accounts of suicides,
And even seen it scribbled on
The backs of railway guides.
Does it howl like a hungry Alsatian,
Or boom like a military band?
Could one give a first-rate imitation
On a saw or a Steinway Grand?
Is its singing at parties a riot?
Does it only like Classical stuff?
Will it stop when one wants to be quiet?
O tell me the truth about love.

I looked inside the summer-house;
It wasn't ever there;
I tried the Thames at Maidenhead,
And Brighton's bracing air,
I don't know what the blackbird sang,
Or what the tulip said;
But it wasn't in the chicken-run,
Or underneath the bed.
Can it pull extraordinary faces?
Is it usually sick on a swing?
Does it spend all its time at the races,
Or fiddling with pieces of string?
Has it views of its own about money?
Does it think Patriotism enough?
Are its stories vulgar but funny?
O tell me the truth about love.

When it comes, will it come without
warning,
Just as I'm picking my nose?
Will it knock on my door in the
morning,
Or tread in the bus on my toes?
Will it come like a change in the
weather?
Will its greeting be courteous or rough?
Will it alter my life altogether?
O tell me the truth about love. ♦



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Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order 2024



The Order came into effect today 1 June 2024.

Summary:

1. The Activities to which this order relate are:

**Dog fouling and subsequent removal of dog faeces; and
The walking of dogs in specified areas of Shropshire.**

2. Any person in charge of a dog in any public place must immediately
clean up and remove any faeces.

3. Any person in charge of a dog in any public place within the area of
Shropshire must comply with any request from any authorised officer of
Shropshire Council, a Police Officer, or Police Community Support Officer
to clean up and/or remove any dog faeces.

**4. Public place includes any place to which the public has access, for ex-
ample a public highway/footpath, a park, a playing field.**

5. A person in charge of a dog is prohibited from allowing the dog to enter
fenced/enclosed areas signed at the entrance(s) as 'dog exclusion zone'
or like effect.

**6. A person or persons in charge of a dog is prohibited from allowing the
dog to enter any enclosed public children's play area, playground or sim-
ilar enclosed area.**

7. A person in charge of a dog must comply with a direction given to them
by a Police Officer, Police Community Support Officer, or an authorised
officer of Shropshire Council to put and keep the dog on a lead, unless:

- (a) They have reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
- (b) The owner or other person or authority having control of the land has

(Continued on page 35)



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A Christmas Carol - by Charles Dickens, Adapted for the stage and directed by Alison Utting.

This will be our winter production. If you are interested in taking part, whether on or off stage, please drop into one of our casting sessions:

Sunday 28th July at Hermon Arts, Oswestry 14:00 - 17:00

Monday 29th July at Pant Memorial Hall 19:30 - 21:30

There will be lots of acting parts, large and small, young and old.

Musicians also needed, as well as sound, lighting, prompt, etc.

Rehearsals will start in September.

Performances will be 29th Nov - 1st Dec at Llanymynech Village Hall, and 6th - 8th Dec at the Hermon Arts.

If you would like to be involved but can't make it to the July sessions, please contact: alisonutting@gmail.com www.ladstheatre.co.uk

New members always welcome – just email us on

ladstheatre@g.mail.com

or call Marg Kynaston 01691 830558 for more information.



An article by Ruairi Walsh Reporter in the Oswestry Advertizer 1 May 2024 tells us:

Station house in Rednal near Oswestry, a Grade II listed former railway station near Oswestry was recently sold at auction.

The former Rednal & West Felton Station, which closed to passengers in 1960 and to goods three years later, stands in around 1.2 acres of grounds.

National Heritage List for England says the station building is listed as of architectural interest due to its “accomplished design” and for being “an interesting example of the Tudor Gothic style used for a small country station building” during the “heroic age of railway building”.

A notable date in the station’s history was June 7, 1865 when it was the site of a rail crash which killed 12 and in-

jured 49. The driver of a heavy excursion train from Birkenhead to Shrewsbury approaching the station, failed to see a warning flag for track maintenance, and derailed.

In her West Felton history Ann Evans tells us more about the railway and the accident.

REDNAL RAILWAY STATION

The railway station was in Sutton township, but because there were several Sutton stations, it was decided to call it Rednal station.

The very first engine passed over the railway between Shrewsbury and Ruabon on 5th August 1848, passing Rednal at about 5pm.

The line was formally opened on 12th October 1848, by the running of a free train starting from Shrewsbury at 9:30am, remaining at Chester for half-an-hour and returning to Shrewsbury at 3pm. The day was observed

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Up the Garden Path with Topiarius

May and June are when you can see the garden really start to get into its stride as warmer weather promotes growth. However, as regards vegetables it is actually a lean time for most of us. After the brassica frames were moved to their new location in the crop rotation order it meant the end of sprouting broccoli, cauliflower, kale, sprouts and cabbage that had fed us through the winter. Actually, there were a few cabbages left that have the ability to stand for months but that was all.

The carrots and leeks were also finished and very few onions are still in store. However, the asparagus started to yield in April and late sown chard was still doing well. However, even they are now over, but July marks the start of the vegetable garden being really productive again, which means that most pleasurable job of harvesting.

The effects of the winter storms (actually autumn, winter and spring) are still felt in our garden. Flooding of the river has resulted in erosion of the bank, deposits of slime on flooded beds, loss of plants that took offence at being under water for weeks, and slow recovery of grass. Even some gunnera that are supposed to be water loving took offence. We also had a large branch of a willow blown down that still needs clearing. It will be some time before the garden makes a complete recovery and all the damage made good.

By July the bedding and, in our case this year, some small perennials will start to fill out and put on a show. We will start to see how well our plan to cut back on annual bedding and replace with perennials has progressed. I suspect there will be less progress than hoped for, not least because of winter losses resulting in a one forward, two back scenario. On the subject of annuals, it is always a good idea to have a plentiful stock of spares for filling in gaps and replacing deaths.

On the vegetable front, cabbage and kale will be planted out at the beginning of the month to join the other brassica under netting, which need watching for caterpillar attack. I will make a second sowing of cucumbers to replace the ones that will get tired and probably suffer from mildew. There will also be more lettuce for succession and, if you start swede in modules, that will also need planting out.

To the sowing and planting you can add the ever with us need to hoe and weed, cut grass and probably water in dry weather, particularly the newly planted bedding and vegetables. If you have hedges or topiary, they will probably need clipping. Clearly, July is not a time for taking it easy in the garden, but it is worth trying to make some time for a few visits to see other peoples’ gardens and get some new ideas. ♦

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• 'Vetting' pre-purchase/insurance

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as a public holiday. In Shrewsbury there was a public dinner in the Music Hall at 3pm, and a ball at the Lion Hotel at 9 o'clock that evening.

THE REDNAL TRAIN CRASH

On 7th June 1865, two excursion trains were headed for Shrewsbury, one from Birkenhead and another from Manchester. At Chester they were joined together, to carry on to Shrewsbury as one train.

The train was now twenty-eight carriages long, with two engines and two guards' vans, one in the centre and one at the rear.

This train was late leaving Chester and, being able to travel at an average speed of only twenty-seven miles an hour, had not made up time when it reached Gobowen Station where another four carriages were added.

The train now consisted of thirty two carriages, two engines and two guards' vans.

Passing under Babbinswood bridge, the train began to pick up speed down the Rednal incline, probably reaching forty miles an hour.

Meanwhile, about 600 yards to the north of Rednal & West Felton Station, on a 132 gradient from Whittington, a work party was lifting and packing the track in order to design a permanent way. A green warning flag was posted 1,100 yards away from the site.

An express train passed and all seemed to be well but, according to the workmen, the excursion train was travelling too fast. They waved their arms to the driver to slow down, but to no avail.

The first engine jumped the rails and ploughed along for six hundred yards in the ballast, then came into contact with the intersection of the junction of the canal. Here the engine and tender left the track altogether, and turned over. When the second engine hit the tender of the first engine blocking the track, the carriages ploughed into them and came to a standstill.

Soon doctors and nurses were on hand but nine passengers were killed outright and 49 were injured. The eventual death toll was twelve people, the driver of the first engine, the stoker of the second engine, four men, four women and two children.

The public enquiry, while criticizing the lack of braking power on such a massive train, blamed mainly the inadequate protection of the permanent way work, which should be supplemented by **detonators**.

The line really should not have been open while this work was under way. A railway **detonator**, or fog signal, is a coin-sized device used as a loud warning signal to train drivers. Placed on the top of the rail, it is secured with two lead straps. When the wheel of the train passes over, it explodes, emitting a loud bang. It was invented in 1841 by English inventor Edward Cowper. ♦

News from the Languedoc

Jim Pearce, late of this parish, now living in France with his wife Gill, writes to say how saddened he was to hear of the closure of the Methodist Chapel.

He has fond memories of his connections to the chapel.

The Pearce family of Lane End, Eardiston all bought bricks at £1 apiece for the schoolroom extension.

Sunday school was a ritual for Jim and his sisters as can be seen in this photo with Mrs Beddows. The eagle-eyed might spot other well known faces.

Jim now worships in St Michael's, an Anglican Church in the Gard in the Languedoc Roussillon region of France where he is a Community Worship Leader, leading services when no clergy present. He sends their May newsletter featuring his Thought for the Month:

Thought for the Month by Jim Pearce, Congregational Worship Leader, May 2024

In my last missive I mentioned the influence that the West Felton Methodist Sunday School had on my development as a Christian when I was a small boy.

A week after writing that I had very sad news that the Chapel is closed, the last service was held on 7 April. The congregation had sunk to 8. After a history of 115 years of worship when, in the 1950s, the congregation would be at least 60, how very sad.

The fellowship included bus trips to the North Wales coast and stupendous Christmas parties which included the whole village.

Jim and Gill are enjoying retirement in France.

Son, Lee, whom some will remember as a young soldier pictured here in 2005, is now a full Colonel doing a very interesting job in Oman.

Daughter, Mimi, is in London, head of music at a private school.

Top photo from the front: Mrs Emily Beddows, Jimmy Pearce, Mary Jennings, C Roberts, Margaret Thomas, John Corbet, Avril Evans, Eileen Davies, Christine Wilde, Carol Dyke, Sheila Jennings, Sue Perry, Clive Beddows, Dot Hillidge, Margaret Jones, Margaret Hillidge, Elizabeth Pearce, Sheila Pearce, Dorothy Jones, Shirley Humphreys, Colleen Dyke, Evelyn Beddows, John Beddows, Sheila Corbet, Mary Dyke, Christine Beddows. (APOLOGIES IF ANY OF THESE NAMES ARE INCORRECT, THEY WERE SCANNED FROM A 69 YEAR OLD NEWSPAPER CUTTING - A BIT SMUDGED BY NOW!)



**Sunday School -
Chapel Jubilee
1959.**



**West Felton Royal British Legion 60th Anniversary of
Victory Day in Europe Celebrations 2005.
Keith Diggins, Des Hughes, Colleen Hughes, Lee Pearce,
Kevin Homewood
and a few of the veterans whose service
was celebrated.**