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CAXTON SURGERY https://www.caxtonsurgery.co.uk/index.aspx	01691 654646
Citizens Advice Bureau, Castle View	03444 991100
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 270072
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 Oswestry Police Station Safer Neighbourhood team—email: oswestryc.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk	101 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 Your Shrops Councillor: Steve Charmley email: steve.charmley@shropshire.gov.uk	0345 6789000 0345 6789020 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
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - Secretary	01691 610357
VILLAGE HALL Bookings	01691 610629
WASP Problems Emergency number	01691 831251 / 07779 811025
WATER - Severn Trent Water Authority	0800 7834444
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: Gillian Sturgess	01691 611811

Year 30

JULY 2023

ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON

www.westfeltonmagazine.co.uk

Sunday 9th July



- Road closed at 1 o'clock, tell you friends to get here before that.
- 1:30pm - Parade tours village, leaving from The Punch Bowl
- 2pm - Arrives at the playing field (opposite the Methodist Chapel)
- Full programme of fun on the field - Live Music, Dancers, Fun Fair, Gymnastic display, Magic Show, and much more.
- Local Business Stalls; craft; Tombola; Bric-a-Brac; Bottle Stall
- Tea, Cakes and Ice Cream
- Bar and BBQ
- Carnival Grand Draw with a 1st prize of £100
- Admission £2 for adults. FREE for children and senior citizens

WHAT'S ON

Parish Council	Second Tues of the month, 7:30 Methodist Hall	
West Felton Walkers	10am Mondays, Punch Bowl EXCEPT... see page 35	
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	NEW TIME
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, 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	

26 June	Village Hall AGM	
6 July	10am COFFEE MORNING, Methodist Schoolroom	11
9 July	CARNIVAL - TOMBOLA COLLECTION end June	13
14 July	BUMPS BABIES & TOTS, Methodist Schoolroom	11
27 Sept	7pm for 7:30pm WI Group meeting Wednesday Village Hall	
14 Oct	Village Hall Craft Fair on Saturday, 14th October	15
NEWS	PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF POST OFFICE TIMES	



Shropshire Aggregates and
Kiln Dried Firewood supplier -
see page 24.

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Commercial rates by arrangement

The Post Office is located in the entrance lobby of the village hall. Due to a restructure by the Post Office head office, the Outreach Post Office hours for West Felton have been changed. **The new opening time from the 5th of June is Wednesdays only 9:30am till 11am.** Please keep supporting it.



METHODIST HALL

WF Methodist Chapel School Room (opp. playing field) is available for hire subject to COVID regulations.

Suitable for Meetings, Children's Parties, etc. £5.50 per hour

To book, contact Dianne Rowley 01691 611733

Round and About West Felton

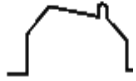
Articles/advertisement amendments for inclusion in next issue to Editor by email (preferred) or phone

Last day for submission of copy: Deadline for content changes 10th July 2023

Editor: Colleen Hughes

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



WEST FELTON STORES

Telephone - 01691 610 863

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Sunday: 7:30am - 7pm

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Rector: Reverend Suzan Williams,
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01691 674 948

Services in West Felton Parish:

St Michael's, West Felton : 9:30am each Sunday

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

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals:

Please arrange with The Rector:

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

Dr Michael Davie **0691 610 612**

Pradoe Church

Services - at 10:30am

All are Welcome - Tea, Coffee and Biscuits served after the service

Sunday 2 July	Family Service
Sunday 6 August	Family Service
Sunday 3 September	Family Service
Sunday 1 October	Harvest Festival
Sunday 5 November	Family Service
Sunday 3 December	Family Service
Wednesday 13 December	7pm Carol Service
Monday 25 December	Christmas Day Service

Christenings, Weddings and Funerals:

Please contact 07968 257452



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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

West Felton, Parish Council Report - May 2023.

The main meeting of the West Felton Parish Council was held on May 2, 2023.

This was the annual meeting of the parish council, at which it was our job to elect a chairman, vice-chairman, and appoint parish council representatives onto the various outside bodies within the parish, as well as considering all the usual parish business.

David Walker was re-elected as chairman, and Kerry Grove was re-elected as vice chairman and the counsellors nominated to the various local bodies were as follows:

West Felton primary school - David Curtis

West Felton, Village Hall - Marion Hesketh

ABP liaison committee - Ed Nicholas

Helicopter noise group - David Walker

SALC Oswestry area committee - Kerry Grove (plus another representative from the Parish Council will be appointed to this committee during our next meeting).

Other - none

(Continued on page 9)



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(Continued from page 7)

The parish council reviewed yearly accounts and financial arrangements for the year 2022/2023, and noted all of the planning applications received by the council during that same year.

Other parish matters

Annual Parish Meeting – May 17th

The meeting was well attended by parishioners as well as by representatives from various local organisations who gave us their reports of the year in person. Those local bodies who were unable to attend were kind enough to send in written reports to be read at the meeting.

We heard from West Felton, primary school, Saint Michaels Parish Church, West Mercia Police, the carnival committee and the WI, and read the reports from West Felton Methodist chapel, West Felton Village Hall, and West Felton Royal British Legion. The report for the village magazine was included in the last copy of the village magazine in order for it to reach a larger audience.

During the meeting, we also held an open forum for parishioners to ask questions concerns about any local matters and to make requests for items for the parish council to look at during the coming months. These suggestions included lighting towards the end of the Avenue near the A5 bridge which the PC will look at.

The council still has the CIL neighbourhood fund money to spend on infrastructure projects within the parish,

and we are very keen to hear from parishioners if they have any suggestions for items we could potentially cover with this fund.

Grounds Maintenance

This month we've received a few queries from residents regarding grass cutting and hedge trimming in public areas, in particular regarding the public open space near Alma Close but also regarding the parish in general.

Our clerk has passed these concerns onto Shropshire Council as they're areas as we don't have responsibility for.

We thought it would be useful to let you know the areas that are our responsibility. These are:

- the playing field on Tedsmore Road,
- the burial ground,
- the war memorial,
- the lay-by on Holyhead Road between West Felton and Queens Head,
- and the flax pool.

All other public areas are the responsibility of Shropshire Council and we shall press them again to attend to the overgrown areas and keep our parish tidy.

As always, minutes of our meetings including the annual parish meeting, are available on the website www.westfeltonparish.co.uk, along with contact details for all parish councillors.

Kerry Grove, Vice Chairman,
West Felton Parish Council

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

Local police Officers : PC Roy Alderwick (see above), Oswestry South : (not to be used to report incidents) PCSO Stuart Carroll 07970 544372.

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Alternate Thursdays NOTE TIMES

July 13th, 27th

Grimpo 14:10 to 14:45

West Felton Village Hall

15:00 to 15:40



♦ Would you like to help clean up our neighbourhood?

♦ Perhaps on a walk or with a group of friends... ?

♦ Thanks to the generosity of the parish Council, the WI has ten sets of litter picking equipment available for use by local residents.

♦ These are free to borrow by groups or individuals.

♦ For more details please email Gillian at:
gilliansturgess@hotmail.com

♦ Please note the WI are just custodians of the equipment. You will have to do your own risk assessment (example available)

♦ and be responsible for the equipment and safety.



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

West Felton Branch Chairman Jim Maxwell

Branch Sec: Amanda Wood 01691 610 357

MEETING IN THE PUNCH BOWL 8PM, FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH
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Minister: Rev Julia Skitt 07810 360778
Secretary Christine Curtis 01691 610665

SERVICES JULY 2023

2nd - at Oswestry at 10.45 a.m.
9th - no service
16th - Mr. Andy Skitt
23rd - Songs of Praise
30th - Rev. Ruth Shoreman - holy communion

BUMPS, BABIES & TOTS

at

West Felton Methodist Chapel
Tedsmore Road - opposite the playing fields

drop in or stay between 8:45am - 10:45am
fortnightly on a Friday in term time

14th July

£1.50 per session

A warm welcome for expectant mums, and babies to school age
children with a grown up, for relaxed play, cuppa and a chat.

for more information,

contact: Rev. Julia Skitt 07810360778

Coffee Morning

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(no meeting in August)

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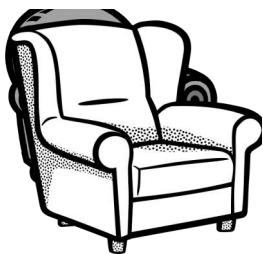
The Tanat to Perry Community Wildlife Group

has been looking for Curlew, Lapwing, Kestrel, Cuckoo and Red Kite since late March, in our area that extends from Oswestry in the north to Kinnerley in the south, and eastwards from the Welsh border to Ruyton-XI-Towns: from the Tanat to the Perry.



We are trying to find all Curlew nests this year, to protect them with an electric fence. If you've seen or heard any of these species, 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. If you want to help next year, please contact Leo.

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from Eileen & the CARNIVAL COMMITTEE



By the time you read this, the carnival will be very close, so I do hope you are all geared up for it.

Committee members and friends will be calling on all the houses in the village for your donations of bottles, bric-a-brac and, like last year, chocolates and biscuits for the tombola stall. We might have called already but don't worry you can also drop off your donations at my house which is Lawn House SY11 4 EQ or Hilary Iles, Dovaston Court or any committee member you know - all gifts are very welcome.

We shall also have draw tickets with us to sell too.

We have so much for you to enjoy on stage this year, non-stop entertainment, so bring all your family and friends.

**The Carnival King & Queen will be
Owen Forsyth and Darcie Martin.**

The Wirral Pipe Band are coming along for their first visit and old faithfuls, Porthywaen Band; the Orthopaedic Male Voice Choir; the Gymnastic display; Chloe Yeomans School of Dance; the Animal Man; Andrew Healey with his Magic Show and at long last we have Alfie Edwards the "Bar Entertainer" who will be popping on stage quite a lot in between acts.

Mike Perry will be our compere for the procession and on stage.

Food this year is by Su Casa and the WI Teas and cake. The bar will be stocked with local beer from the Stonehouse Brewery, and our local shop is having a stall where there will be plenty of soft drinks for children.

The fun fair will be here and I'm pleased to say the Men in Sheds also, with their old fashion games

We certainly have a good assortment of stalls for you to spend your money on.

It all seems very quiet where floats are concerned so, come on don't let the village down. People come miles for our procession and we do want to make our judges work hard. this year we have a representative from Invertek, Bryony Morris, and Michael & Anthea Davie have ac-

(Continued on page 15)



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(Continued from page 13)

cepted our invitation.

If you feel you can't do a float, try a walking group. But remember all floats and walkers must let me know in advance so we can arrange the prize money which really is well worth winning.

We will need all the help we can get on the field in the morning for setting up so please come along and join in if you can.



Remember there is a road closure from 1pm at the latest, so tell your friends to be in the village by then.

I do hope I have remembered all we had to tell you.

Lets make it another great day for West Felton, thank you all,

Eileen Hanmer 610629

MATT



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our children on holiday
during an important
school strike'*

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Lingen Davies Cancer Fund
Registered Charity No. 1160922



Our charity, Lingen Davies Cancer Fund, is hosting a cycling sportive for a third consecutive year this September. **Pedal the Borders** offers three routes to choose from; 25km, 60km and 100km so it is an inclusive event for all types of cyclists. Children over the age of 12 can take part in 25km route as long as they are accompanied by an adult.

All money raised from this event will go towards improving and enhancing cancer services in our region of Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Mid Wales. Each year 4000 people are diagnosed with cancer in our region, Lingen Davies fund equipment and support services to make sure they receive the best possible treatment.

Since our first event in 2021, we have raised over £70,000, and we want to continue to raise vital funds by getting as many people there as we can in 2023. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Emilie Kerr, Events Marketing Coordinator, Tel: 01743 492396
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WEST FELTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

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INSPIRING WOMEN

At the May meeting, the start of the new membership year, the membership had reached 51.

Regarding the business element of monthly meetings, and bearing in mind members' expressed opinions, Gillian explained that she tries to keep 'the business' to the absolute minimum, but as West Felton is a very active group, there is usually much to remind members about and, of course, whilst all the information is disseminated online, not all members are in a position to receive the information that way.

Preparations are ongoing for the Carnival - members required for the float, and for the tea and cake stall; donations of cakes as well as helpers on the day.

For the Ironworks Homemade Festival members reminded about the arrangements and request issued for volunteer helpers for the day.

Reminders too for the various groups: Lunch and evening meals, Book club, Derwen Fete, garden visits and other outings especially the June outdoor meeting at Babbinswood Farm.

The Oswestry North Group trip Wed 19th July is to the Liverpool Docks area with optional afternoon excursion to two cathedrals. Approx. £15 each. St Martins have organised this trip. Pick up will be St Martin's miner's institute 9am. Oswestry Show 6th August, stewards arranged.

Legacy Outing (funded by the late Margaret Frances) is on Saturday 19th August. Pick up approx. 8am. Members chose the visit to Forge Mill Needle Museum and Bordesly Abbey followed by Birmingham Botanical gardens, the trip includes refreshments on arrival and buffet lunch.

Craft and Produce Show, 14th September (normal meeting night). Schedule printed and available. The judge has requested all photos be on photo paper, if this is difficult, please Email/What's app photos to Sam before the end of August. Sam will print them.

West Felton to host the Oswestry North Group Social Evening Wed 27th Sept. Speaker will be Darren Edwards, Disabled Adventurer.

The guest speaker, Kristian Hickson-Booth, an experienced horticulturalist, gave a very informative talk about various aspects of gardening - from watering, to soil conditions, to choosing the right plants for your garden - look out for shape, texture, colour and foliage. "Nip off dandelion heads to avoid spreading, water pots thoroughly so it gets to the roots at the bottom." She used to be a gardener at Powis Castle before setting up her own business. Take a look at her website for more information: www.gardenlikeamaster.com. ♦

Queens Head Shop

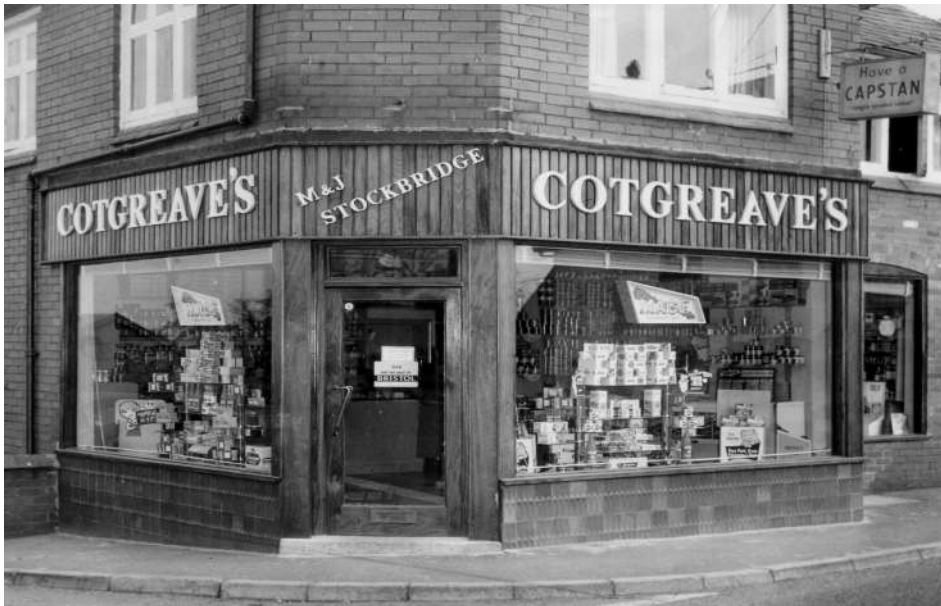
We met John Jones last month in relation to the demolition of the Toll House. Now we have his son Thomas living with his family at 2 The Hollies, The Cross, West Felton, having inherited the mill, the shop and the bakery. In due course they were taken over by his daughter Kate (*Norman's Auntie of whom we hear later*) who had married John Gittens from Sandford. It remained in the Gittens family. John and Kate were still in the shop in 1921 with sons David and Frank, daughter Kate Margaret, and a servant Bertha Jones. John seems to have retained the bakery when he later sold the shop to William Cotgreave. Kitty tells us that in 1932 **"Gittens was the Baker and brought**



the bread around".

Wm. Cotgreave continued the thriving business, providing much more than groceries: coal and sand; the post office was in his shop at one stage; and a busy telephone exchange. William's daughter Marjorie was born in 1923. During the war she joined the ATS and delivered telegrams etc. to the airfield at Rednal. There she met dashing RAF pilot, Flight Leader John Stockbridge, 122 squadron. They married in 1946 and in due course took over the shop from her father. Whilst everything at Queens Head changed around them, they ran a successful business until they

(Continued on page 19)



Up the Garden Path with Topiarius

High summer

If your garden features a lot of herbaceous borders and bedding then July will still be peak time, but gardens more orientated to earlier shrubs could be starting to look past their peak. Our garden tends towards being of the early type, which is one reason why I choose this month to make my annual assessment to note changes to be made for next year. It is easy now to see what has become tired and also what has outgrown its allotted space. A year never passes without a few things being listed for severe cutting back or even removal. Whenever you review your garden, it is virtually guaranteed that you will note things that failed or exceeded expectations without the reason being obvious. You have to put it down to plants having a will of their own. I then feel better by considering that, if gardening was reduced to an exact science, it would lose much of its attraction.

There is very little seed sowing in July, lettuce for succession and cucumbers to replace the first crop, which in all probability will pack in earlier than you would like. There is also some planting out of brassicas sown earlier in modules plus chard sown in June will need to be thinned. I tend to look upon July as when I tire of the routine jobs of weeding, feeding, mowing and watering, which are most unlikely to have become less. Hence, some resolve is

needed. Also, a reminder that things to look out for this month are caterpillars on brassica and blight warnings (www.blightwatch.co.uk). Last year some parts of the country had some exceedingly high temperatures, although we escaped reasonably lightly. Let us hope, there are no such problems this year.

A couple of garden columnists have commented recently on plants going in and out of fashion, which is sometimes very difficult to understand. I can remember a time when a local nursery couldn't get enough water lilies but a year or two later nobody wanted them. That was put down to some safety police telling the world that ponds were unsafe. It reminded me of the joke that, if water were invented now, it would be banned as you could drown in just a few centimetres and, worse, the same water could go on drowning people. Apparently, rock gardens have also been out of fashion for some years. Once they often featured in show gardens but you would now have to look back in the photo archives to find them being used. I have no idea why but I do know that gardens with a steep slope to contend with are highly likely to be keeping the genre alive. Leylandii gave conifers a bad name and, to be fair, some "dwarf" conifers end up anything but, so a downturn in popularity is understandable. Happily, there are dwarfs that can be kept in check and they are enjoying a comeback. ♦

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(Continued from page 18)

retired in 1981. The business changed hands again. It eventually closed in the 1990s and is now a private house. John Stockbridge was a local and County councillor until the early 2000s.

Whilst still at school Eileen Hanmer used to help "Aunty Marjorie" in the shop, and upon finishing, joined them full time in 1962, only leaving to look after her new daughter, Jane, at the end of 1978. By 1983 her experience as postmistress saw her working in West Felton shop at The Cross, where she remained for 17 years.

Norman Jones, wrote down his memories for Ann Evans some years ago. They are abridged here:

MEMORIES OF LIFE IN WEST FELTON

by Norman Jones, great grandson of the first owner of Queens Head Mill.

"The house at West Felton where I was born was known as No 2 The Hollies next to Public Hall. I have vivid memories of watching traffic when I was about 4 or 5 years of age. As I was not allowed beyond the garden gate, I watched from a vantage point through the railings of the front garden. There was an amazing variety of passers-by, men, women and children, animals of all kinds - especially on market day. Many animals were driven by drovers to and from Oswestry, some five miles away. The farmers and their wives rode on the horse and cart. There would be the occasional wagonette: a four-wheel vehicle, horse drawn of course, the driver up front and passengers seated on

benches down the sides and facing inwards. In the autumn particularly they would be engulfed in produce to sell. I remember those huge wicker baskets.

"As there was a big army camp at Park Hall, we had a lot of military personnel, vehicles and equipment passing to and fro. There were men marching or sometimes cycling, wagons drawn by mules, occasionally gun carriages. The Royal Flying Corps (later the RAF) drove by in their super motor vehicles; best of all were the ambulances with a big red cross.

"Vehicles of all kinds were a continual fascination. Naturally, there was a variety of agricultural equipment, invariably drawn by a steam traction engine.

"The two greatest attractions were the threshing machine and very occasionally - maybe twice a year - a fair or circus drawn by the ubiquitous traction engine. They were so noisy and slow moving that they gave ample warning of their approach and I was able to scamper to my vantage point through the railings.

"There are so many vivid, colourful, happy memories of my childhood in West Felton. Some of the most endearing and enduring are the outings. All-day excursions to nearby beauty spots: Nesscliffe Hill, Llanymynech on the Welsh border, and Ellesmere the local "lake district". We of course went to Oswestry to the circus, the theatre, or whatever. Although mother must have been very busy with the house, garden,

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(Continued from page 19)

and lodgers, she obviously loved a day out.

"We could get to Oswestry by train involving a walk to Rednal Station, but the other places meant borrowing a horse and trap from the local shopkeeper. This would only be possible on Bank Holidays (Sundays were out). The shopkeeper, Mr Lloyd, was a staunch Primitive Methodist - in any case, I don't think mother would have wanted to have a day out on a Sunday.

"Then there were Sunday school outings; two well remembered were by horse-drawn canal barge. One "voyage" was to Ellesmere and the other to Llanymynech. The barge was a coal boat, swept clean and wooden forms placed along the sides.

"This gives me the opportunity to write about Queens Head. This was an ideal spot for the business founded by my great-grandfather. A mill for grinding corn into flour dominated the business. The flour was transported to Liverpool along the canal via Ellesmere Port on the Mersey. What is more likely by a flourmill than a bakery and grocery shop? But by good fortune, there was also a sandpit and a coal business; truly a flourishing concern. Later came the post office and still later the telephone exchange. I recall many happy hours at Queen's head, occasions before mother died in 1919, but later, after her death, when on Sundays I had dinner and tea there with Auntie Kate - my father's sister. The day included Chapel morning and evening and Sunday school in the afternoon." ♦

Rector's Ramblings

Rev Suzan Williams

As I'm sat at my desk putting together my contribution to this months magazine, which comes round quicker than you think!

We have been blessed by the most glorious sunny weather for most of May. Lots of folks have taken the opportunity to get out in their gardens, visit the national trust properties around and about or head off to the seaside. Which we ourselves did on the Whit week bank holiday Monday. Did you know that 'Whitsun' is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word 'Wit' meaning understanding. In the past Whit Sunday or White Sunday was the Sunday when Baptisms would take place and those who'd been prepared by the local Priest would make that public profession of faith. For some from a Methodist background Whit Sunday was the occasion to celebrate your church membership and being part of the family of God. A number of people have spoken fondly of memories of the annual Sunday school picnic at this time too.

I wonder what memories you have of your childhood or the traditions that have been passed down in your family from one generation to the next.

In my own family owing to the fact that over the years nieces and nephews and even a great nephew, grandchildren and brothers-in-law and sons-in-law and one daughter-in-law have swelled the numbers of our extended family we meet for an annual barbecue in August to celebrate no less than our own wedding anniversary and three birthdays. Its an occasion to catchup with one another and to give thanks for all that has happened in the last year. However difficult or challenging it may in reality have been there are always things to be thankful for. Psalm 107 says *Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. 2 Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story.*

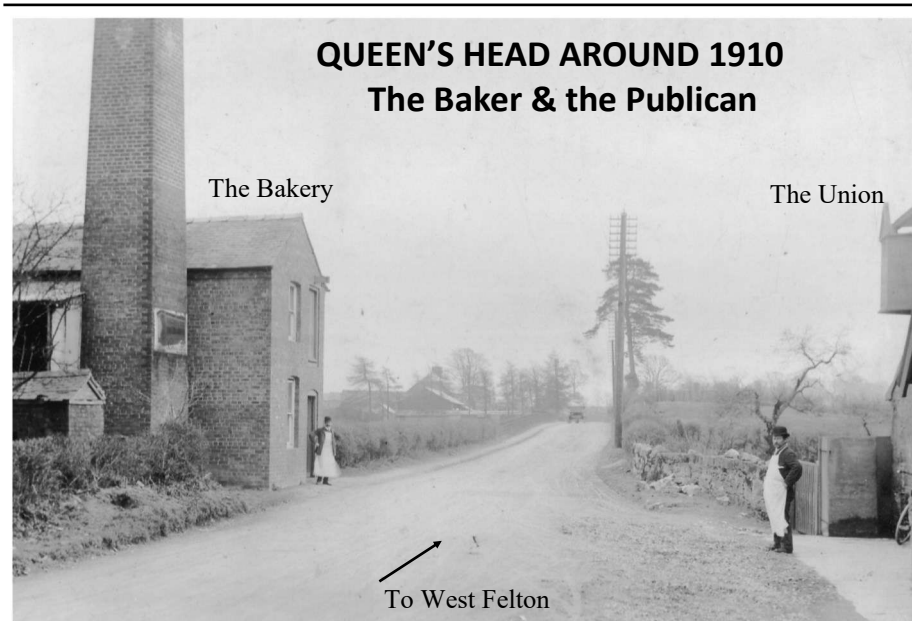
I wonder what your story to tell is? What things there are for you to bring before God in lament or in thanksgiving? In reality life is never either or, its both and! Lets be grateful and give thanks.

Every Blessing,

Suzan

P.S Please don't forget our annual barbecue which you are very much invited to on Sunday 9th of July from 1-4pm at The Rectory in Whittington

email revwilliams1991@icloud.com or tel 01691 674948 to let us know your coming and to inform us of any dietary requirements.



Experiences of diabetic care and support

Healthwatch Shropshire wants to hear from people with diabetes, or who are at risk of developing diabetes, about their experiences of care and support. 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 with the help of patient feedback.

Healthwatch Shropshire are working to gather patient experience of their current care to ensure that the patient voice is at the centre of future developments.

Diabetes UK list 15 elements that are key to good diabetic care (https://www.diabetes.org.uk/about_us/news/are-you-getting-the-15-healthcare-essentials-new-report-shows-they-could-save-your-life1). Healthwatch Shropshire want to know if patients are receiving this care. People can fill the survey out online, https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HWS_diabetes/ or ring Healthwatch Shropshire on 01743 237884 and a member of the team will take them through the questions.

Emily Marston, Project Officer, Transformation and System Commissioning for NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin

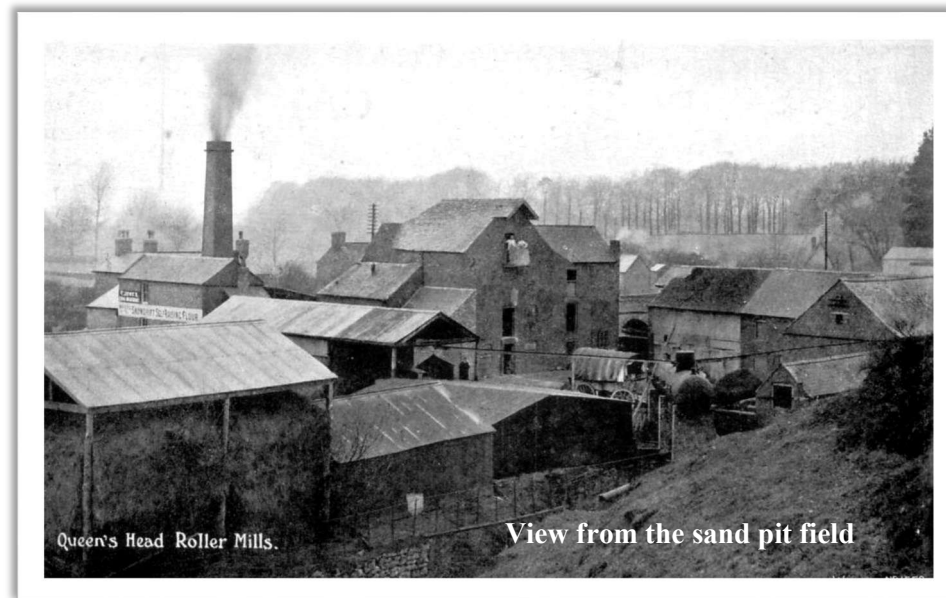
said, “There are approximately 30,000 people living with diabetes across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and this number is increasing. In 2030 the number of people living with Diabetes across the UK is predicted to reach 5.5 million (Diabetes UK, 2022).”

“To address the rising prevalence of diabetes in our community, we want to develop diabetic care pathways with a vision of improving the lives and treatment outcomes for patients affected by diabetes or those at risk of developing it.”

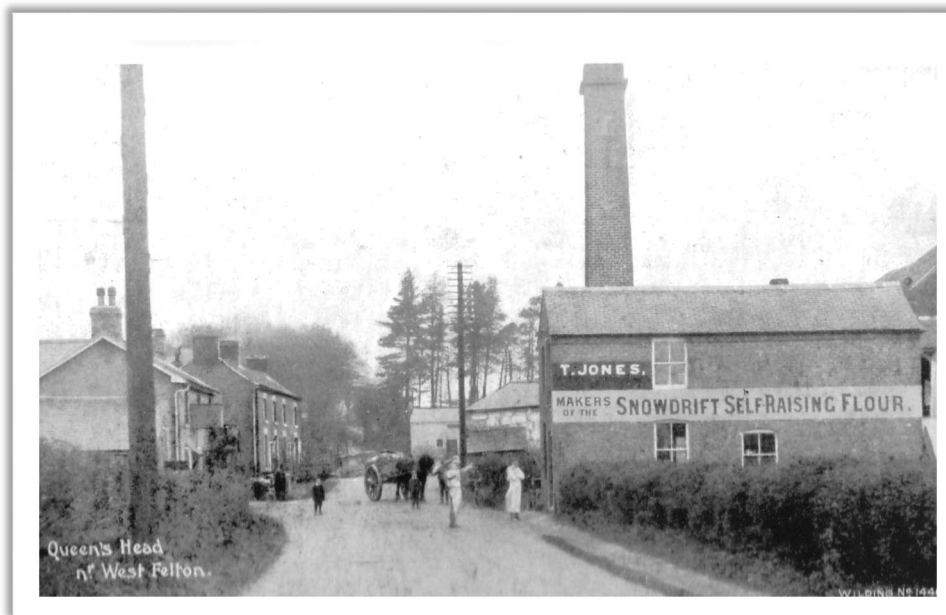
Lynn Cawley, Chief Officer of Healthwatch Shropshire, told us, “We are really pleased to be working with organisations from the Integrated Care System to ensure that patient experience helps to inform decisions as services change.”

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. ♦

“I used to go out with a giraffe. Used to take it to the pictures and that. You’d always get some bloke complaining that he couldn’t see the screen. It’s a giraffe, mate. What do you expect? ‘Well he can take his hat off for a start!’” – Paul Merton



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - We are, as usual, indebted to **Ann Evans**, Willows Crescent, village historian, for much of this information.



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(Continued from page 33)

think it was a Austin seven, I remember him teaching Mary and me to drive, trouble was we had to buy the petrol, once around the old airfield and he said we had used it all! I never did get the hang of double de-clutching.

One night we all went to the pictures in Oswestry, on the way home the light on the car failed, it was very foggy so Doris Allman walked in front striking matches to show the way, we laughed about this for weeks, can you imagine it with today's traffic! ♦

Message from the Walking Group

The walking group would like to thank farmers, land owners and crop growers for maintaining the public footpaths and rights of way that cross their land which enable everyone access to our beautiful countryside without having to run the gauntlet of traffic on narrow country lanes.

There are however a few who buck the trend and perhaps a gentle reminder to those concerned of their legal obligations regarding the reinstatement of public footpaths after cultivation and sowing of crops might be in order.

The following extract is from the FW website,

'... Yes, you can disturb a path surface when ploughing or cultivating the field, but if you do, you must reinstate a good path surface within 14 days of the first disturbance if a crop is being sown, or within 24 hours in other cases.'



West Felton Walking Group

The walking group continues with whatever Covid restrictions are relevant at the time.

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.

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City & Guilds

(Continued from page 31)

village school. Because we lived three miles from the school, a bus picked us up from Haughton, I clearly remember my cousin Hazel, and school friends Jean and Margaret Hamlett and myself, running the gauntlet past Evans's geese on Haughton pool in the mornings, they always seem to be hiding just around the corner, ready to chase us. For some reason I can't remember them being there when we came home in the afternoon. While waiting for the bus, we spent many a happy ten minutes in the old Smithy playing pussy in the corner or hide and seek. (don't laugh!).

Mr Cecil Evans was the headmaster for many years, a keen sportsman. West Felton School had the best football and netball teams in the area. He and Mrs Evans, a lovely lady, retired and lived at the Avenue House for many years. Mr Johnson was the next headmaster, I think it was about 1947, he taught me for about twelve months, and then at the age of eleven we were sent to school in Oswestry, we were the first eleven year-olds not to finish our education at the village schools.

After school and tea, we would all congregate at Evans's farm at Haughton to play football, rounders, or whatever was popular at the time. Harvest time was a time for running rabbits when the corn was cut. Home we would go with our trophies for mother to make a rabbit stew, 'wonderful.' Winter time, going around the houses singing carols, Miss Rowson (teacher at the village school) always had an apple for us and sixpence. On Sundays we went to St Chad's Church for Holy Communion, home for breakfast and back again for Sunday school at 11

o'clock, Miss Seabury was the Sunday school teacher, she also taught at the village school for over 50 years. In the evening a bus came to pick us up for Evensong at St. Michael's, the church would be full. We also went to Sunday school at the Methodist chapel in Haughton, and took part in the anniversary, I still remember the enthusiastic singing, and all in our best dresses especially bought or made for the occasion. In our teens, my sister and I were Sunday school teachers at St. Chad's, to about fifteen children. In later years, I had the privilege to be Chapel Warden there for twenty years.

In the 50s, we started our teenage years, leaving school and going to work. From Hen Barnes it was a 3 mile bike ride to catch the bus at West Felton, (I met my husband Sid waiting for that bus to Nesscliffe Army Camp where my sister Mary and I worked. We married in 1960). But on a Friday night it was off to a village dance, sometimes Felton, Knockin or Ruyton. A crowd of us would set off with perhaps 2 bikes between 6 or 8 of us, we took turns with the bike, riding so far then leaving it for the next girls. (No easy feat with all our frilly petticoats, which was the fashion). No one to run us around in cars in those days, you walked, biked if you had one, or stayed at home. But on a Saturday night there was a bus from Hen Barnes, off we would go to the Plaza or Victoria Rooms, sometimes 'the pictures', returning on the last bus at 11pm. You must remember all places of entertainment had to close before midnight on a Saturday because of the Sunday laws.

My brother bought a car in the 1950s, I

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LETTERS TO THE NEW KING

from Michael Davie

Over the past year the church has sponsored three competitions for children from West Felton School. These have been in connection with the Platinum Jubilee, Christmas and most recently the coronation. The entries have been divided into junior and senior groups and the church has provided cash prizes for the top three entries in each group. Prizes have been awarded at special services held in the church and the exhibits from all the children, not just the prize winners have been on display. Much credit must go to Helen Hughes, head teacher, and her staff for arranging the topics, to the children for entering into the competition with such enthusiasm and to Patricia and Rob Hicks for their sterling efforts in preparing the 'washing line' (complete with clothes pegs) from which to hang the pictures. Thanks must also be due to the judges. Judging was always the worst moment whenever I was asked to speak at meetings. There was always a competition that I was asked to judge at the end – flowers, walking sticks etc. Inevitably one competitor was delighted whilst five ended up thinking I was the most unenlightened man on earth.

The most recent competition invited the junior children to design a £5 note for the new reign. Novel designs there were a plenty. Some would have tested the ability of any forger and all were colourful. One entrant produced a picture that caused all who beheld it ex-

claim 'that's Prince Charles'!

The more senior children were invited to write a letter to the King telling him what their hopes were for his reign. Some correspondents attributed more power to him than a King has these days. What did strike many observers was the neatness of the handwriting, together with the excellent spelling. Interesting too were the subjects that the children chose to draw to the King's attention. Inevitably the children may have been exposed to certain topics as part of their school curriculum. Many letters asked the King to intervene in more than one problem. Others, when addressing an issue, suggested that the King might visit someone, usually Mr Putin, and give them a good telling off as a Head teacher might deal with an unruly pupil.

Looking through all the letters, there were themes that came through. It was not possible to work out proper statistics since not all children may have produced a letter. In addition attributing a sex to a child can be difficult since some names can be either male or female and some children wrote about more than one subject. Of the individual topics, stopping war was pre-eminent, followed by concern over trees, and this applied to both girls and boys. Various aspects of the environment including trees, oceans, climate and litter came second for both sexes, with only a few mentioning oil. Concerns over deprivation were less frequently mentioned,

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dog was fastened in when they came. But one day a black airman came for eggs when the dog was out, but strangely, the dog and airman took a fancy to one another. After several visits the airman asked if he could have the dog, as he was very fond of it, so away up the road went the airman on his bicycle with Spider tucked under his arm.

Every evening before dark, a bucket of water was drawn from the well (no tap water then) and placed by the back door, with a cover over it. One night we heard a noise outside but because Dad was not at home Mum did not go to investigate.

Next morning there was high excitement: a prisoner of war had been found in a aircraft at Rednal airfield with a box of pepper in his pocket "to throw in someone's eyes if he was caught" so the tale went. But we did wonder whether the prisoner had had a drink from our bucket of water before heading across the field to the aircraft. There were a lot of prisoners of war working on the farms, just ordinary lads a long way from home and glad to be out of the fighting. During the harvest times they were fed with the rest of the workmen around the big kitchen table, one of them called Henry continued to write after the war and my aunt was Godmother to his first son. Because my Mum and Dad were such lovely people they were frequently asked by the airmen who came to the house, if their families could come for a holiday to have a break from the cities and all the bombing, no one was ever refused. Looking back I wonder, "where did we put them all?"

One night the siren went and the drone of the aeroplanes was heard, but this

time they dropped a bomb at Hen Parks leaving a massive crater, they were apparently trying to hit the main railway line, to stop supplies, that one was a little close for comfort. As mentioned, Rednal was a training airfield, and unfortunately crashes were pretty frequent, but there are two that remain in my memory: Sergeant Stanley Paul Lister crashed into the farm building at Haughton Farm. The rescuers were unable to reach him for the flames. There is now a plaque to his memory on the farm building. The other was the day a bomber crashed into Tedsmore woods killing all on board. A few of us children went next day to see the plane, I shall always remember the tail of the craft hanging from the trees and debris strewn around; it was a very subdued bunch of children who returned home. I remember going to a circus on the air-drome in one of the big hangers, I think it must have been after the war, just as the airfield was winding down. I had never seen an elephant before, it was marvelous. I can also remember Mum coming home from Oswestry with a bunch of bananas, we had never seen any of these before either, what a treat.

We were very lucky during the war, we never went short of anything foodwise, because we had our own produce from our smallholding, and fruit in abundance, which was picked, bottled, jammed and stored for the winter. Nearly everyone was self-sufficient, having chickens and sometimes a pig to fatten and kill, then along came Mr Huxley to slaughter the poor thing, we were always sent out of the way on that day, but to country children it was all part of our way of life.

At the age of five, we all went off to the

(Continued on page 33)

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although these concerns were more commonly mentioned by girls. It was girls who specifically mentioned cost of living. The youngest group was more concerned about war than the oldest. The environment caused more grief to the oldest group whereas unease about animals featured in some of the younger children's letters. Although this is a farming area, anxiety about farmers and farming did not feature strongly.

When the late Queen came to the throne in 1952. I don't remember being asked to write a letter to her with my hopes for her reign. Having just come through the war and the even tighter rationing after the war, peace would have been uppermost in my mind. This as much as to allow for more of certain foodstuffs. Sweets only came off the ration in 1954. Around that time I remember being taken to an ice cream parlour by my parents. My eyes lit upon

a 'Knickerbocker glory'. When my father learnt that this cost half a crown (£3.90 in today's money), he exploded and I had to make do with a 3d (0.39p today) wafer. I cannot recollect environmental concerns or deprivation being high on the list, though coming from a farming family I am sure that ensuring farmers did well would have featured.

Five hundred years ago, Pope Leo X had just awarded Henry VIII the title of Defender of the Faith for his treatise against Martin Luther's ideas. The initials F.D. still appear on our coinage. Yet England was on the threshold of the mightiest change in religion for a thousand years. Perversely F.D. no longer refers specifically to the Catholic creed. In 1546, following Henry's break with Rome, parliament conferred the title on Henry. Certainly no child called upon the sovereign to uphold the Faith and neither would I have done so in 1952. ♦

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MEMORIES

by Mrs Ann Evans

I was born at the Old Farm, West Felton, but my family, the Lindops, moved to Hen Barnes in 1939, and although our childhood was spent during the war years, what a wonderful time we had, so much freedom to wander over the fields and woods, summer months bathing in the river Perry.

We were well used to the wail of the siren to warn of enemy aircraft on their way to bombing raids on Liverpool, the search lights lighting up the sky, the distinctive sound of spitfires taking off and landing, the shock of young inexperienced pilots crashing. Because we were young it was accepted as part of life. On one occasion an aircraft crashed in the long meadow belonging to my Uncle Fred, the young pilot crawled from the plane and my Auntie Min took him in the car to the hospital; sadly the young pilot died. Just as they were taking the aircraft away, another crashed in the same field; fortunately, the pilot was unhurt. I remember as a child running to see the plane and the airman lifting me up to look inside. On the nights of air raids the neighbours would all get together for a cup of tea and a chat or to play cards. It was not all doom and gloom for us children, we had a marvellous time. We spent our days playing hopscotch or hares and hounds. No need of computer games or television to occupy us, we were never bored. The Antrobus family lived next door and in the holidays Barbara, Gladys and Margaret Davies who lived at the Pump House would put on a concert for the neighbours in the barn. The summer days always seemed to be hot



and long and in winter, snow to make snowmen or frozen pools to skate on, only wandering home when we were hungry.

We had our chores to do, collecting sticks to light the fire in the morning, no electricity in those days, every thing was cooked on the open fire; the washing was done in the boiler house where a fire was lit under the old boiler to boil the clothes. And in the evening, going down the field to fasten the chickens in for the night. Looking back how did our mothers find time to do everything? My mother, as well as looking after the family and household, also ran a smallholding doing the milking and feeding pigs and poultry, harvesting with horses when everyone joined in. Mum used to make beer for the harvest and weeks before corks would be popping from bottles at all hours of the day and night.

Dad worked hard, he left home about 5 o'clock in the morning to cycle to Marchweil near Wrexham to work as a fitter, not getting home until 7 or 8 o'clock at night; some weeks we would only see him at weekends. We were in bed when he went in the morning and when he came home at night.

Mum used to sell eggs, and the airmen from the airfield at Rednal came to buy them. We had quite a ferocious dog called Spider; mum had to make sure the

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