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CORBET SCHOOL <a href="http://www.corbetschool.net">www.corbetschool.net</a>	01939 260296
DIAL-A-RIDE, Volunteer Bureau and Qube Arts centre (main switchboard Osw.Community Action)	01691 656882
ELECTRICITY Scottish Power (Manweb as was)	0800 001 5400
KNOCKIN Medical Practice	01691 682203
NHS Out of Hours Service	111
Orthopaedic Hospital	01691 404000
PARISH COUNCIL email: <a href="mailto:westfeltonpc@gmail.com">westfeltonpc@gmail.com</a> <a href="https://www.westfeltonparish.co.uk/">https://www.westfeltonparish.co.uk/</a>	
POLICE, West Mercia Non-Emergency number	101
Oswestry Police Station	0300 333 3000
Safer Neighbourhood team—email: <a href="mailto:oswestryc.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk">oswestryc.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk</a>	
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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
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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: <a href="mailto:steve.charmley@shropshire.gov.uk">steve.charmley@shropshire.gov.uk</a>	01691 587958
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Year 31

APRIL 2024

# ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON

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

## MEET YOUR MP

at West Felton

Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 18 April, 7:30pm in the new

School Hall - see page 21



Rainbow seen over the Chapel 24 February 2024  
*"Bright the vision that delighted... Lord thy glory fills the Heavens".*



# WHAT'S ON

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

<b>31 March</b>	<b>9:30 Easter Sunday Service St Chad's Haughton</b>	
<b>31 March</b>	<b>9:30 Easter Sunday Service St Michael's West Felton</b>	
<b>31 March</b>	<b>10:30 Easter Sunday Service Pradoc Church</b>	
<b>31 March</b>	<b>11am Easter Sunday Service Methodist Chapel</b>	11
7 April	<b>2:30pm METHODIST CHAPEL CLOSING SERVICE</b>	11
8 April	<b>7-8pm DANCE COURSE - Village Hall</b>	17
8 April	<b>8-9pm DANCE PRACTICE, follows the class above.</b>	17
9 April	<b>7:30pm Monthly Parish Council meeting now in West Felton new School Hall</b>	9
13/14 Apr	<b>JON YOUNG ART STUDIO &amp; GARDEN OPEN</b>	45
17 April	<b>7.30pm annual PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING in St Michael's Church West Felton. All welcome.</b>	21
18 April	<b>7:30pm annual PARISH MEETING in new School Hall.</b>	21
9 May	<b>COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING Village Hall</b>	23
14 July	<b>WEST FELTON CARNIVAL24</b>	

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

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Deadline for content changes 10th APRIL 2024**

**Editor: Colleen Hughes**

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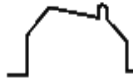
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 Email: [westfeltonpc@gmail.com](mailto:westfeltonpc@gmail.com)  
 Website: [www.westfeltonparish.co.uk](http://www.westfeltonparish.co.uk)

**Chairman** Cllr David WALKER 01691 897 117 (Rep Helicopter Noise Group)  
**Vice-Chairman** Cllr Kerry GROVE 01691 611 776 (Rep SALC Area Comm).  
 Cllr Carole COLES 01691 610 225  
 Cllr David CURTIS 01691 610 665 (Rep WF Primary School)  
 Cllr Marian HESKETH 01691 610 441 (Rep for Village Hall).  
 Cllr John HOUGHTON 01691 610 834  
 Cllr Chris JONES 01691 610 354  
 Cllr Pat MABE 01691 610 400  
 Cllr Ed NICHOLAS 01691 610 230 (Rep ABP committee)  
 Cllr Ozcan OZAGIR 07879 330 598  
 Cllr John THORNHILL 07714 759 466  
**Shropshire Councillor** Cllr Steve CHARMLEY 01691 650 488

**Parish Council report February / March**

Our next meeting in March will be our last at the Methodist Chapel and members are grateful for the support from our hosts in recent years. From April on our meetings will be at the school. The entrance is to the back of the new hall accessed through the car park and play ground.

At our last meeting, the first main item on the agenda was Reports. Members received a written report from the police. The police reports are increasingly brief and not very informative which makes it hard for members to observe trends or ask questions. Our Shropshire Councillor wasn't present with no apologies given and no report received in his absence.

The Clerk's report outlined correspondence from residents relating to: Grants; the state of the road to Rednal; Dog mess, hedge cutting, speeding, unsafe parking and flooding; Play equipment complaint; Parking on Oak Farm Lane. Many issues raised relate to Shropshire Council services and are best raised with our Shropshire Councillor. We remain happy to lobby on behalf of residents on these matters but they should also be reported via the "FixMyStreet" app and to our Shropshire Councillor. We would, however, take this opportunity to again ask residents to be respectful to others, clean up their dog mess using the bins provided and to keep their hedges tidy and not allow them to

*(Continued on page 9)*

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



## West Felton Walking Group

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

**EXCEPT** on the first Monday of the month when departure is 9:30 to allow time to travel to our chosen destination for the away day walk.  
New members always welcome.

Walk leaders:-

**Mike Bossen 01691 610623**

**Hilary Iles 01691 610707**

**John and Eileen Hanmer**

**01691 610629**

**Liz and Dave Embrey**

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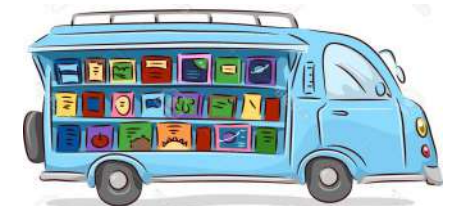
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*(Continued from page 7)*

obstruct footpaths. There were no other updates on the remaining items in the Clerk's report.

Cllr Thornhill reported that the OPCC Safer Roads Grant had been submitted by the deadline but with Shropshire Council having failed to honour the commitment made previously by the leader of the council, Lezley Picton, to confirm their authorisation of the proposals. He reported on his further engagement with Shropshire Council officers, and sought and was given support from members to continue pursuing the matter with Shropshire Council.

After noting income received and resolving payments, members agreed to support a planning application for replacement windows. Members also considered whether to send any comments to the Planning Inspectorate on the environmental impacts of the Green Gen Vynwy Frankton Project. Members resolved to not comment at this stage and wait for the second formal consultation, when specific locations would be known.

Members agreed to accept the quote from Tim Simmons, of Shropshire Council, for the footpath to the new accessible play equipment. There were some issues that needed to be resolved about the surface type, which was deferred to the next meeting when more information would be available.

The Clerk had received a letter from Helen Morgan MP about the flooding issue on Ralph's drive. As chair I have spoken to affected residents and mapped the area to assess the flooding. My survey and assessment, as a Chartered Civil Engineering Surveyor, was included in the Clerk's reply. Members agreed to send the Clerk's draft reply setting out the Parish Council's views on the matter.

Our next meeting (at the time of writing) on the 12th of March will consider a number of items ranging from insurance and policy renewals to sorting final details for the Parish's Annual Parish Meeting. Members will be considering recommendations from David Woodhouse about possible applications for Tree Preservation Orders.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be at West Felton CE Primary School on Thursday 18 April at 7:30pm. The Clerk, at the request of members, has managed to arrange Helen Morgan MP as the guest speaker.

**Our next Parish Council meeting is on  
9 April 2024 at 7:30pm  
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Cllr David Walker Chair of West Felton PC

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## West Felton Methodist Chapel

*from Christine Curtis*



How do you begin to sum up 115 years of the Chapel? Having lived in the village and attended the chapel for only 17 years, there will be many of you reading this who have many more memories than I – either of attending chapel itself or the Sunday School.

There have been many over the years who worked tirelessly for the Chapel – names some of us can put faces to, and others who are long gone but who still have family living in the parish. We still have 3 members whose combined membership exceeds 150 years – that is Dorothy Barnes, Doreen Catchpole and Eileen Hanmer. We will never know the Christian influence the members of the Chapel had on the people of West Felton.

I hear stories of the Sunday School outings to Rhyl and the services when the chapel was full – neither of which now occur. Whereas years ago most children attended Sunday School, few churches now run them; similarly attending church (of whatever denomination) is not a part of modern life, and we are not the only church whose closure is a consequence of this.

One thing that has remained constant is the raising of funds for various projects such as the building of the schoolroom, the purchasing of the organ and latterly the new large window of the chapel – just to name but a few. They would not have been achievable without the support of those in the village and those connected to West Felton.

And here we must thank all those who have supported us so well over the years – either by making donations or supporting the various events put on by chapel members. Obviously over recent years the coffee mornings and concerts have been our fund raisers, but in the past there were many ways of raising funds.

For 12 months or more now there have just been 8 members. Under new rules of the Methodist Church we would no longer be able to be a stand-alone church. However, the members took the decision last year that we could no longer keep the chapel building in good order and as a consequence would no longer be able to keep the chapel building open. We wanted the decision to be ours rather than closure be forced upon us.

This is not just closing a building, this is our place of worship – where we meet as a family of Christ to seek guidance and strength and to praise together, to support each other and care for one another. So please remember us in your prayers and think of us as we find new places to worship.

**Our final 'normal' service will be on Easter Day at 11 a.m.,  
and our closing service is on Sunday, 7th April at 2.30 p.m.**

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**For Easter Day  
church Services  
see What's On,  
page 2**



## Today *By Billy Collins*

If ever there were a spring day so perfect,  
so uplifted by a warm intermittent breeze

that it made you want to throw  
open all the windows in the house

and unlatch the door to the canary's  
cage,

indeed, rip the little door from its jamb,

a day when the cool brick paths  
and the garden bursting with peonies

seemed so etched in sunlight  
that you felt like taking

a hammer to the glass paperweight  
on the living room end table,

releasing the inhabitants  
from their snow-covered cottage

so they could walk out,  
holding hands and squinting

into this larger dome of blue and white,  
well, today is just that kind of day.



### **WEST FELTON METHODIST CHAPEL and SCHOOLROOM**

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*(Continued from page 39)*

impact, with our latest data showing that one in five people have avoided going to the dentist because they can't afford it. A year ago, this figure was one in ten\*.

"The dentistry recovery plan is a good start in addressing these serious problems. To widen access to NHS dentistry to those experiencing the greatest health inequalities, it's vital dentists take up the new premium payments, promote availability of appointments to new patients and prioritise slots to people most in need.

"We also welcome the move to incentivise dentists to work in 'dental deserts' with golden hellos, to use dental vans in remote areas and to roll out more prevention schemes for children.

"However, in the long run more radical solutions are needed to get NHS dentistry back on track. We welcome the Government's to commitment to consulting with the profession on the con-

tract and urge this to happen as soon as possible."


"We know that people will generally welcome the plan, but ultimately, they would like to be able to register with a local NHS dentist in the same way as they can with a local GP, developing a trusted relationship with a dentist who can prevent poor oral health and treat any new problems or emergencies."

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.

\*Healthwatch England NHS Dental Recovery Plan - our response | Healthwatch. ♦

**Stamp price changes from 2 April 2024**

The price of first-class stamps will increase by 10p to **£1.35** and second-class stamps will increase by 10p to **85p**.




Nick Landon, chief commercial officer at Royal Mail, said:


*"We always consider price changes very carefully, but we face a situation where letter volumes have reduced dramatically over recent years while costs have increased.*

*"It is no longer sustainable to maintain a network built for 20 billion letters when we are now only delivering seven billion.*

*"As a result of letter volume decline, our posties now have to walk more than three times as far to deliver the same number of letters as before, increasing the delivery costs per letter."*




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### Healthwatch Shropshire responds to the Government plan to recover NHS dentistry

The NHS and the Government have published a plan to recover NHS dentistry setting out a major new focus on prevention and good oral health in young children, and an expansion of dental workforce.

Healthwatch Shropshire, the local health and social care champion has been receiving feedback for years about how people are struggling to access NHS dental care in Shropshire. They have been sharing this with their parent body, Healthwatch England, who has used it as evidence to support their work to persuade the government to provide NHS dentistry that is more accessible and affordable.

#### *What's in the plan?*

NHS dentists will be given a 'new patient' payment of between £15-£50 (depending on treatment need) to treat around a million new patients who have not seen an NHS dentist in two years or more.

People will be able to see which practices in their local area are accepting new patients on the NHS website and the NHS App. The government will roll out a marketing campaign encouraging anyone who has not been seen by a dentist for the past two years to access treatment.

A new 'Smile For Life' programme will be rolled out to offer parents and parents-to-be advice for baby gums and milk teeth, with the aim that by the



time children go to school, every child will see tooth brushing as a normal part of their day.

Dental vans will help deliver dental treatment to people in rural and coastal areas.

A water fluoridation programme will be rolled, which could reduce the number of tooth extractions due to decay in the most deprived areas of the country. Subject to consultation, the programme would enable an additional 1.6 million people to benefit from water fluoridation, first expanding across the North East.

Lynn Cawley, Healthwatch Shropshire Chief Officer, said, "I would like to thank all of the people in Shropshire who have taken the time to share their experiences of accessing NHS dental care with us. We hope that this plan will improve the ability of Shropshire residents to access NHS dental care. It is early days and we don't yet know how it will affect services in Shropshire but hopefully this will become clearer. As it does we would still like to hear from people so we can feed their experiences back to the local NHS and to Healthwatch England to help build up a picture of how the plan is working."

Healthwatch England CEO, Louise Ansari, said "Across England, we have seen major access issues in NHS dentistry. The rising cost of living has had a real

*(Continued on page 41)*

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## Times have changed at the Parochial Church in West Felton

On April 5th 1923, almost one hundred years ago, 27 people sat down to listen to, and comment upon, the proceedings of the Annual assembly of the Parochial church in West Felton. Nineteen men and eight women were present. Two churchwardens for the Parish church and 2 for St Chad's were appointed, together with 10 sidesmen for the church and 7 for St Chad's. PCC members included J Withers Edwards, Withers being a long standing name in the parish, and featuring on an 18th century charity board in the church. The Electoral roll contained 318 names, the roll requiring 10 people to keep it up to date. Four Committees, Finance, Fabric, Women's and Library, assisted the Parochial church council run the church. The Fabric committee was given the rôle of running the Haslehurst Institute. The women's committee was thanked for its work in maintaining the church clothing and linen; a subcommittee was formed to build up the Sunday school, teachers for which were required. Although a Library committee was elected, there is no record of what it did.

Other references were made to two men's groups. One was the Church of England Men's society which met at the home of Mr Bradley at Stonehouse. This society was a relatively recent group started in 1899 by Archbishop Frederick Temple, father of William Temple the Archbishop of Canterbury

who played an important role in setting up the education act of 1944. The Church of England men's society provoked criticism for getting involved in discussions on divorce and resisting the force feeding of suffragettes. The second group was a young men's Club which met in the Haslehurst Institute and had a membership of 43.

Finance inevitably occupied much of the report. At the time there were no less than four accounts and funds served by two treasurers. Equal oversight was not however attributable to all accounts. There was a general account which included special offertories, an altar and sick fund which was under the control of the Rector (and which was to cause some upset a decade later), a St Chad's fund and a free will offering fund. Figures given below are to the nearest pound and £1 in 1923 is worth £73 today.

General fund collections came to £104 in one year from 45 offertories and there was £38 from free will offerings. Of this £29 was spent on the choir and organ. £42 on a new boiler and £32 on work done by the sexton and others. Coal cost £13 and a church cleaner £10. The church was insured for £6000 and required a premium of just over £5. A further £62 was collected for such worthy causes as waifs and strays and local hospitals. At that time the Rector received his income from tithe, not from the parish share. The Altar fund had receipts from services on early communion on Sundays, Saints days and

*(Continued on page 21)*



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*(Continued from page 35)*

see what confirmation is all about. What a declaration of faith is about and what it means. It is a very warm and friendly service as well as being celebratory with tea and cake afterwards.

However long we may have been around, however much we have stood the test of time, I believe God is always wanting to work in us for renewal. As we welcome and listen to those of us that are new, let's all be challenged by new ideas and be changed and renewed in the process.

Every Blessing , Suzan

## Tanat to Perry Community Wildlife Group

It's not too late to help with our Bird Survey, and Save our Curlews

The first Curlews returning to the area to breed were heard in early March. Have you been lucky enough to see or hear any yet? If so, please let us know.

Our area extends from Oswestry in the north to Kinnerley in the south, and eastward from the Welsh border to Ruyton-XI-Towns.



The survey only involves three 3-hour visits, between the beginning of April and mid-June, simple instructions and a map to record your observations are provided, and there will be a training session if you want to come.

Our bird survey is the first stage of the Save our Curlews project, as it locates the pairs of Curlews to focus the efforts of the nest-finders. Surveyors are not expected to look for nests.

For more information, please see the Tanat to Perry pages on the Community Wildlife Groups

website <https://www.shropscwgs.org.uk/tanat-to-perry-wildlife-group/>

**If you want to help, please email me: [leo@leosmith.org.uk](mailto:leo@leosmith.org.uk)  
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## MEET YOUR MP

### Helen Morgan

has been the Liberal Democrat MP for North Shropshire since December 2021. She currently undertakes the roles of Liberal Democrat Spokesperson (Levelling up, Housing and Communities), and Liberal Democrat Spokesperson (Local Government).

**She will be the guest speaker at  
West Felton Annual Parish Meeting  
Thursday 18 April at 7:30pm in the new school hall.  
ALL WELCOME**

*(Continued from page 19)*

week day communions. The Rector distributed all the proceeds. St Chad had its own accounts and had an income from services of £79 for the preceding year. Additionally a bequest of £100 was received and free will offering including subscriptions totalled £64. Expenses included £7-10s for a church cleaner and 15 shillings for a cleaner at Grimpo school. Care of the churchyard cost £3, coal £3 and a set of new chairs was purchased for £12. Other significant costs included £35 for a new organ, £38 for a new boiler and £19 to the Diocesan fund.

From the accounts it is not easy to compare the income from equivalent sources at the two churches. However collections at the main church services and 'subscriptions' came to £118 at St Chad's and £142 at the parish church. Of all income from both churches excluding bequests, St Chad's produced about one third of total parish income. Of the income from the Parish church that appeared in the accounts about 17% was spent on charitable donations.

Commenting on the church's finances, the Rector, Rev Frank Taylor, estimated that £600 -19s-2d had been collected for church activities from all sources in the parish. He concluded by saying: "Evidently if the material affairs of the church were a true index of the spiritual side of the church's work our parish would indeed be in a healthy condition and fulfilling its primary object".

The Annual assembly of the Parochial church is now called the Annual Parochial church meeting (APCM). **It is open to everyone in the parish.**

**Should you wish to come and compare the results for 2023 with those of 1923, please come to the 2024 APCM which be on Wednesday 17th April at 7.30pm in St Michael's Church West Felton.**

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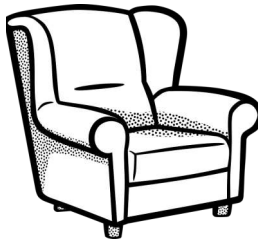


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**Rector's Ramblings,**

*Rev Suzan Williams*

With Easter having been being celebrated relatively early this year, it also seems a bit odd that the daffodils and many bulbs have been in flower so long (and survived some very cold weather!).

Things being around for a long time, yet being reborn again and again, made me reflect on the Church. It holds a similar position in the village really – it has stood the test of time, weather and wars and still stands. It has been around a long time. And yet, it is continually being reborn with new people, occasional new décor and renewed vision for the future. A huge welcome to all those who have moved into the village and have joined the church to worship regularly and to those who, for whatever reason, have decided to come along on a Sunday. Welcome. The task of the Church now is to listen to you – to hear what you would like and what vision and ideas you bring. As with the daffodils, West Felton Parish Church is being reborn.

In 2 Timothy the Apostle Paul says of the community of faith 'I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sin-

cere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.'

Part of our ongoing witness is these outward expressions of our commitment to God and the tradition of faith that has been passed down from one generation to the next.

This happens continually of course, but what is extra special is when someone publicly makes a real undertaking to do their best to be a true disciple of Christ. We call this 'Confirmation'. A time to confirm their faith and the promises that were made for them at their baptism. To take ownership of those promises for themselves and to start again – to be renewed.

This year we are thrilled that we have five people wanting to do this and they will join with those from other Churches in our group of parishes to make this declaration before the Bishop on Sunday 12th May at 11am in Whittington Parish.

Everyone is invited and welcome. You might like to come along just to

*(Continued on page 37)*

## Annual property review 2024

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**HORSE WORK :** ● Wormers (discounts on large quantity)  
● 'Vetting' pre-purchase/insurance

## Up the Garden Path with Topiarius

### The height of spring

For as long as we have grown vegetables it has been our practice to sow peas at the beginning of April. But not this year as an earth shattering decision was made that we would no longer bother with growing our own peas. This was on the grounds that they are lot of hassle for a modest yield that has to be picked at just the right time. The farmers do it perfectly well. However, that won't detract a great deal from April being the busiest month for seed sowing. Our list includes nine varieties of bedding and hardy annuals, tomato, cucumbers, potatoes, broad beans, radish, courgette, squash, watercress, carrots, sprouts and sprouting broccoli. That will keep us busy enough before we get to attending to grass and waging war on weeds.

Early in the month is a good time to apply lawn sand and resow any thin or bare patches in the grass. Also at this time, I apply a general feed (Growmore) to vegetables, fruit and flower beds. If you have a rotation plan for vegetables and use a frame to keep pigeons off your brassica, now is the time to move it to its new position.

The mention of crop rotation reminds me that Charles Dowding of no dig fame has questioned the need for this practice. It is based on the two factors of preventing build up of pests and diseases and plants having different food needs, and was developed for farming

rather than small scale gardening. Dowding has not had problems with a little or no rotation approach and argues that in a small space rotation is not really possible, while intercropping and successive crops on the same land rather negate the practice. Additionally, his no dig methods involve the use of a lot of organic material, far more than in farming, which will have a large effect on fertility.

I have always followed the traditional approach and practiced rotation but on a three year basis as that suited my space and range of vegetables. I shall continue to do this as I find it convenient and my situation is not complicated by intercropping or a very small space. Also, I am not able to apply the same quantities of organic matter as Dowding does and strongly suspect that rotation is helpful to maintain a balanced fertility. However, I can see the merits of his reasoning and certainly don't believe that my rotation is effective in warding off pests. In a very small space, there really is no choice.

In the gardening seasons calendar, February is considered to be late winter and March is early spring. It then follows that April is mid spring and, consequently, it should not be in the least surprising that it is the top month for sowing. However, caution has to be exercised because spring does not mean warm and in Shropshire we have to expect frost well into May. ♦



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# Lezley's Leader update



## MEET THE LEADER OF OUR COUNTY COUNCIL

I've been holding my Meet the Leader sessions across the county for over two years now and I love listening to your ideas.

The sessions offer everyone the chance to share their thoughts and have their questions answered, as well as an opportunity to help make Shropshire even better. The sessions are friendly and informal and there's no need to book in advance. If you like me to come to your community, let me know.

My next session will take place in April and I will confirm a time and location shortly. For more information about future sessions, please keep an eye on

**Shropshire Newsroom.** <https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk>

*Extracts from a very long newsletter from the Leader of Shropshire council:*

### "Becoming financially sustainable

Like many other councils, we are facing huge pressures on our finances. We've put an enormous amount of work into transforming the way we do things, such as enabling people to be less dependent on our services in the future, doing things more efficiently and reducing our spend" ...

"The savings we now need to make will impact upon you. For me, it's heartbreaking. We are having to make decisions that we never wanted to make so that we can continue to support the most vulnerable people in our communities. Demand for our services has increased, particularly in social care, and so has the cost of delivering them..."

*One of many items in the Leader's newsletter. It's worth visiting the Co Council website for more information:*

### "Charging for collecting green waste

"Charging for the collection of green waste was another difficult decision for us. It's something that we have considered before and decided not to do. However, this time, things are different. We are proposing to charge just £1 per week to collect people's green waste, but it will be optional.

"Charging just this small amount will enable us to reduce our spend on collecting waste and use this money instead to protect our most vulnerable people."





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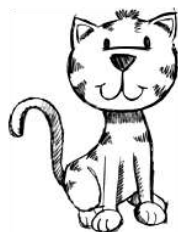
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## News from Beech Class (Year 2 and 3)

During the Spring term, Beech class have been learning all about Australia. We welcomed a parent visitor who kindly offered to talk to us about her home country, Australia. We were given the opportunity to look at diggerdoods and also tried popular Australian foods—fairy bread and vegemite sandwiches!



The children thoroughly enjoyed this topic and produced some excellent pieces of work. We looked at where Australia is in relation to Great Britain. We also studied Australia's History and it's key geographical and tourist features.

The whole school recently visited Chester Zoo which is always a fantastic day out. After finding out about Australian animals and habitats, we could then compare animals and habitats that are found in the United Kingdom.



The children continue to use Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) - a fun and challenging Maths programme which supports children's fluency and recall in multiplication and division. This term, our Year 2 and 3 children have been playing TTRS more frequently than ever! The children are enthusiastic, motivated and highly competitive to complete the weekly challenges set by the class teacher. It has been great to see consistent engagement and fluent practice.



Following our fantastic second term, Beech children have many exciting things to look forward to in the Summer term, including: Bikeability training, a whole school cricket day and a visit to Deva Roman Experience in Chester where we will transport back to the time of the Romans!



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## WEST FELTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Gillian Sturgess chaired the February meeting: welcoming members and a visitor, Carol Marshall Bloom (from Oxon and Bicton WI).

Former member Val Stock who passed away 30th January was fondly remembered. Arrangements were made for attendance at her memorial service on 27 February.

Members reminded to pay their annual subscription, preferably by BACS. Cash or cheques to be in secure envelopes with member's name on the outside.

**New programme booklets** are now in production showing an interesting programme of speakers for this year. To complete, names taken for the various monthly tasks. A big increase in speakers' costs was noted.

**Derwen Fete 25th May - Oswestry North Group Lucky Dip Stall:** Whittington are manning the stall this year. Members requested to start preparation of suitable parcels. Contents minimum value £1, and marked on the outside as gifts suitable for adult males, adult females and age specific boys/girls, new items only. More adult male and female gifts needed. A cheque for £286 raised last year was presented to Derwen College.

WFWI will have a stall at the **School Farmers' Market 5th July.**

Plans for various other events continue, especially the main biennial fundraiser, the WI Christmas Fair.

Thoughts then turned to the **Carnival**, an important community event in the WFWI calendar. A new co-ordinator is sought to oversee WFWI participation this year and going forward. Hilary is stepping down after many years service.

**Guest Speaker:** Leslie Wills spoke with enthusiasm about Food as Medicine. She originally trained as a nurse, went on to run a whole food co-operative before retraining as an aerobics instructor and then as a nutritional advisor.

She talked about the importance of a diet of fresh food - full of variety, but not forgetting that "a little of what you fancy does you good".

She also spoke about her interest in Ayurveda which is an alternative medical system originating from India which advocates good food whilst considering that the mind also needs to be in balance to achieve good health.

**MARCH MEETING** - 14 March, 7pm in the Village Hall. Guest Speaker Pamela Willing, "The Pen is Mightier than the Sword" - the scandalous life of Edward Bulwer-Lytton. The Book stall will be open. ♦

# What's in a name? Unpopular old title was cheerfully ditched



Colonel John Kenyon led the campaign to rename Salop County Council



The old Shirehall in The Square, Shrewsbury, being demolished in 1971

## NOSTALGIA

With Megan Jones

**When Shropshire was establishing a county council in 1888 the decision was made to call it Salop County Council.**

An old Times article noted: "There was no record of why the

name Salop County Council was adopted" – and we can't work it out either. A campaign in 1980, led by a retired Army officer, to re-name Salop to Shropshire received overwhelming public support.

In 1979 Colonel John Kenyon, a county councillor from West Felton, argued the history of the county was under threat.

He said: "We Shropshire men and women are in danger of losing our

county's true identity. This is being done by the hasty whim of a bureaucratic machine which has in no way taken into account the traditions, history and wishes of the people of Shropshire."

Reportedly another reason why Salop was unfavourable was a fear of being laughed at by the French.

If you add the letter 'E' it becomes the French word for a rather derogatory term.

So on March 1, 1980, an overwhelming majority of 48 to five councillors voted to officially bid farewell to Salop.

The name change came into effect a few weeks later, on April 1, 1980.

Salop County Council was based at Shrewsbury's old Shirehall, which stood in The Square, until the new Modernist building opened in 1967.