

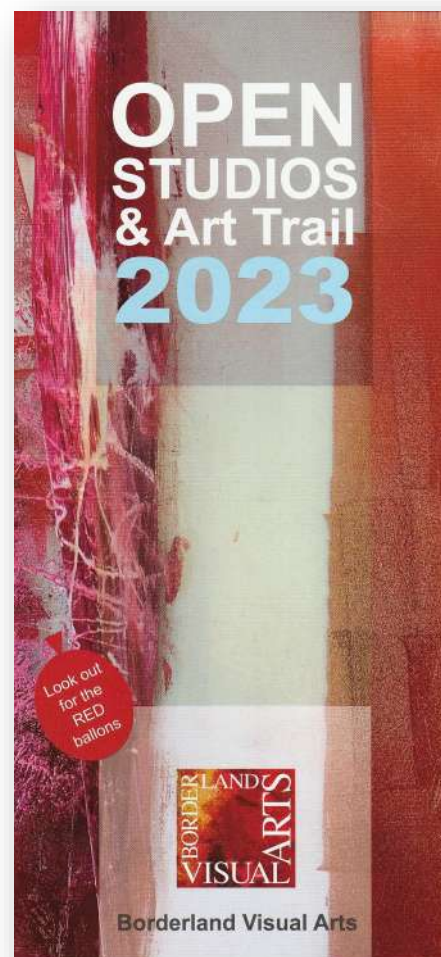
AgeUK Shropshire Telford and Wrekin ext.231	01743 233123
BINS - Waste Management customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk	0345 6789007
CAXTON SURGERY https://www.caxtonsurgery.co.uk/index.aspx	01691 654646
Citizens Advice Bureau, Castle View	03444 991100
CORBET SCHOOL www.corbetschool.net	01939 260296
DIAL-A-RIDE, 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	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 / 07779 811025
WATER - Severn Trent Water Authority	0800 7834444
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: Gillian Sturgess	01691 611811
Yvette Openshaw	01691 611645

Year 30

JUNE 2023

ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON

www.westfeltonmagazine.co.uk



Your full list of open studios is enclosed. Opportunities to visit local artists' studios as well as

**Brian Owen
MARCHES
HOUSE,
West Felton
OPEN STUDIO
2023**

**June 10th/11th
& 17th/18th**

Brian and Jane look forward to welcoming friends and neighbours once again.

**10am to 5pm
each day**

WHAT'S ON

Parish Council	Second Tues of the month, 7:30 Methodist Hall
West Felton Walkers	10am Mondays, Punch Bowl EXCEPT... see page 37
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

27/28 May	DERWEN FETE	
June 2/16/30	BUMPS BABIES & TOTS, Methodist Schoolroom	13
June 10/11	PAINTINGS & GARDENS, COFFEES & CAKES Jon Young Art	29
June 10/11 and 17/18	OPEN STUDIO, Brian Owen, Marches House	cover
9 July	CARNIVAL - TOMBOLA COLLECTION end June	15
14 July	BUMPS BABIES & TOTS, Methodist Schoolroom	13
27 Sept	7pm for 7:30pm WI Group meeting Wednesday Village Hall	
NEWS	PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF POST OFFICE TIMES	

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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

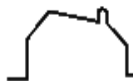
Articles/advertisement amendments for inclusion in next issue to Editor by email (preferred) or phone

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

Editor: Colleen Hughes

**Advertising Rates
for 12 insertions:**

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



WEST FELTON STORES

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Saturday: 7:30am - 8pm

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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 - all at 10:30am

7th May Family Service

4th June Family Service

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- * HOME COLLECTION SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL CHARGES
- * FOR NEXT DAY RESULTS SAMPLES TO BE SUBMITTED/ COLLECTED BY 3pm

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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

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 (Rep for SALC Area Comm).
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 Update - May 2023

Our April meeting was held on 18th April, a little later in the month than usual because of Easter bank holidays.

We were very pleased to welcome two members of the public to the meeting, and would like to remind everyone that our meetings are open to all to take part in the public session at the beginning, or just to watch and listen to the proceedings.

We discussed a request we'd received to fund a defibrillator in Grimpo and after discussion this was agreed in principle, as the defibrillator on the village hall in West Felton is too far away from Grimpo to be of any use in an emergen-

cy. We will now obtain firm costings and ensure the siting location is appropriate and easily accessible by members of the public.

We noted the planning application for West Felton school hall has been approved and that it is due to be completed as soon as possible. We understand much work will be done during the summer holidays and will keep you all updated with information as we get it.

Other Parish News

At the time of writing, we're really looking forward to the Annual Parish meeting on May 17th, and our next report will have details of that, as a recap for those of you who attended

(Continued on page 9)



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(Continued from page 7)

and for information for those who were unable to.

Some news now relating to an issue that has been ongoing for some time.

When Dennis Edwards Ltd built Alma Close, they transferred to what is now Shropshire Council, a piece of land, adjacent to the Close that included a public open space and space for a play area. They also made a payment to Shropshire Council for the provision of play equipment. The money has been held by Shropshire Council since then, and the parish council has asked Shropshire council on many occasions to release the money to enable us to purchase new equipment for the playing field on Tedsmore Road. Shropshire Council have said they were unable to do this as the residents of Alma Close may not agree with the suggestion to spend the money on our existing play area. We're very pleased to say that the residents of Alma Close have recently written to Shropshire council giving their permission for the monies held to be released and used for new equipment on the Tedsmore Road play area. Our thanks go to the residents for their help and co-operation in this, and we'll keep you all updated with what happens next.

Conservation Area

Our clerk has heard back from Shropshire Council who advise that the conservation area will be discussed at one of their full cabinet meetings, not later than July, and again, we'll update you when we have heard more.

Upcoming Road Closures

We've received notification from Shropshire Council about the following road closures:

1. **Woolston Road, West Felton** – 12th June – 14 June 2023. Severn Trent will be carrying out some work. Diversion route is available at <http://one.network/?tm=133574593>.
2. **Tedsmore Hall**. 14th June – 16th June 2023. Severn Trent will be carrying out a new water connection.
3. **Cefn-y-Wern junction to Houghton Farm junction**. 3rd July – 4th July 2023. Severn Trent will be installing new marker posts. Diversion route available at: <http://one.network/?tm=133866084>.

Next Parish Council Meeting

Our May meeting, which will have taken place by the time you read this, is the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. This is a full meeting of the PC at which we will vote in a Chairman and Vice Chairman for the coming year as well as nominating councillors to act as our representatives on various local bodies. Usual parish council business will also be carried out.

Minutes of all our meetings are available on the parish council website: westfeltonparish.co.uk and if you'd like to contact us, our email address is: westfeltonpc@gmail.com and individual phone numbers are on the website and in this magazine. ♦



Fancy a bite to eat?

- ◆ Breakfast?
- ◆ Lunch?
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Our Forge Café serves an array of delicious, mouth-watering goodies

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See our fabulous breakfast and lunch menus online. If you have dietary requirements, don't hesitate to get in contact to find out more about what our café is currently offering! We try to cater for all allergen requirements, but we cannot guarantee that our kitchen uses equipment that is contamination free. If you have concerns please discuss with our staff, and you can also find information on food allergens online.

Children's Menu

We have a fantastic range of dishes designed especially for the little ones! From classics such as fish fingers, fries and beans, to a jacket potato with salad garnish, we want to ensure the smaller members of the family are catered for.

Dairy & Gluten Free Menus

We do our best to cater for a variety of dietary requirements, and our chefs have created these menus full of delicious dairy free or gluten free food.

Vegan Menu

For all our visitors who prefer a plant-based option, we have a dedicated vegan menu just for you! Using vegan alternatives, we can offer vegan-friendly classics as well as dishes with a vegan twist.

<https://www.britishironworkcentre.co.uk/>

Have you made a complaint about care at home or in a residential or care home in Shropshire in the last two years?

Whilst people often receive a very good standard of social care in Shropshire unfortunately there can be times where issues arise or things go wrong. When this happens you may feel that you need to raise a formal complaint about the care you, or a loved one, have received.

Healthwatch Shropshire are looking at people's experience of going through the complaints process with local social care providers or Shropshire Council. They want to know if people achieved the outcome they sought through the complaint but also their experience of making the complaint; did they feel supported, did they have the information they needed, how they were treated and if they felt listened to.

Lynn Cawley, Chief Officer of Healthwatch Shropshire, said, "Everybody has a right to complain about their care when they feel that it has not gone as well as it should have done. We know from our experience how difficult it can be for people and relatives to go through the process as it often involves raising difficult issues, from a distressing time in their lives, which can be emotionally challenging."

"Every social care provider, from domiciliary care providers to care homes to Shropshire Council has a complaints procedure for people to follow. We would like to hear from people who have either lodged a complaint or have considered lodging a complaint and decided against it in the last two years. We can then use these experiences to work with the health and social care sector to highlight where things are working well with the complaints process and where there may be room for improvement."

People can share their experiences with Healthwatch Shropshire through an online survey <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HWSComplaints> or by contacting them by phone on 01743 237884.

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

LIFE LESSONS

- ◇ **One of the lessons of history is that nothing is often a good thing to do, And always a clever thing to say. Will Durant 1885-1981**
- ◇ **By working faithfully eight hours a day you may well get to be the boss, and then work twelve hours a day. Robert Frost 1874-1963**

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West Felton Village Hall Centenary Afternoon Tea

With linen tablecloths, china crockery and flowers on each table, the hall looked perfect for afternoon tea. The event had been fully booked for weeks, and no one was disappointed. Sandwiches, scones, and cakes were beautifully presented and served.



West Felton
Village Hall
1923:2023

100
YEARS

Not many who attended needed to eat any more that day. Thanks must go to Hilary and her team for organising such an enjoyable event.

And ... in Coronation week, the Coffee Morning team pulled out all the stops too. The Methodist school-room was decked in bunting, the tables laid out beautifully with celebratory ware and golden crowns for all the guests. Cakes, quizzes, a raffle with extra special prizes and Irish Bingo added to the enjoyment - we all felt we had had a Coronation street party, but indoors in the warm!

Well done everyone for a memorable morning.



Brownhill House, Ruyton XI Towns, SY4 1LR OPEN GARDEN

A unique two acre hillside garden with many steps and levels bordering River Perry. Visitors can enjoy a wide variety of plants and styles from formal terraces to woodland paths. The Good Garden Guide said 'It has to be seen to be believed'. The lower areas are for the sure-footed while the upper levels with a large kitchen garden and glasshouses have many places to sit and enjoy the views.

The garden is open for the National Gardens Scheme. The dates and times can be found in the NGS Garden Visitor's Handbook or by visiting the NGS website.

As well as the set days, we are open by appointment from mid April to the end of July for groups and individuals.

Please feel free to telephone 01939 261121 or email brownhill@eleventowns.co.uk to agree a date and time.



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June 1, 15, 29

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:
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♦ 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.



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Branch Sec: Amanda Wood 01691 610 357

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(Continued from page 41)

EDITOR'S COMMENTS: It has been a successful year for the magazine and a source of great pleasure for yours truly. It is a job I will do as long as I am able. It would be lovely to have someone in the background, ready and willing to take over when the need arises.

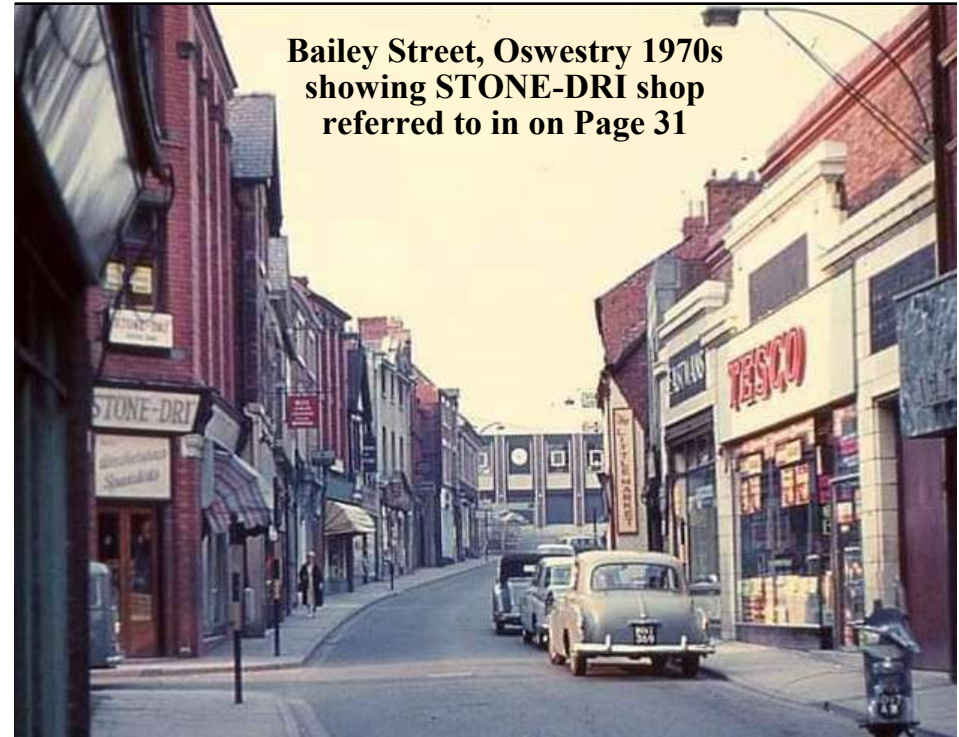
Is there anyone in West Felton who thinks they would enjoy the production of Round and About West Felton? The Magazine Committee would love to hear from you.

Colleen Hughes, editor/admin.

Magazine Committee: Dot & Kathy Bliss,

Christine Curtis, Lesley Firth, Kate Gray,
Colleen Hughes, Sue Lanigan, Pat Mabe.

MATT



**Bailey Street, Oswestry 1970s
showing STONE-DRI shop
referred to in on Page 31**



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Sunday 9th July

from Eileen & the CARNIVAL COMMITTEE



West Felton FAMILY CARNIVAL

Well I hope you all enjoyed the Coronation and now it's time to focus on our own carnival.

The committee as usual are busy sorting out all the things that go on behind the scenes to make the day enjoyable for young and old alike.

This year we have rather pushed the boat out and have spent £2000 on entertainment - things are just getting much more expensive as we all know.

So, it is the turn of the village to do their part and join in as much as they can. We need floats or "Walking" groups to take part to make the parade longer and better than ever.

The prize money is very generous £50, £30, £20 for children and adult floats, so get your thinking caps on, it would be nice to see different groups taking part this year as well as the old favourites.

Draw tickets this year will be 50p a ticket or £2.50 a book so buy one early as we sold out last year before the day.

STALLS - Any more stallholders wanting to sell their goods get in touch as soon as possible as now it's been published in the Advertizer and Facebook you just might miss out.

TOMBOLA - Friends of the committee will, we hope, help again this year in doing the house-to-house collection for the Tombola and Bric-a-Brac, so be prepared for that knock on your door.

Mr Nigel Evans of Invertex, Welshpool - This year we have been very lucky to have received sponsorship of £250 from Nigel Evans. This will be going towards the cost of the Wirral Pipe Band, a big thank you goes out to him.

Next month I will give you a list of all the entertainment we have for you to look forward to.

That is all for this month
 Eileen Hanmer 610629

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ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON

www.westfeltonmagazine.co.uk

Annual report May 2023

We are happy to report production of Round and About West Felton is running smoothly. The change of deadline necessitated by lengthening delivery times from the printers was well received and allows the Distribution and Delivery teams comfortable time scales, especially in bad weather. It is essential that the magazines are delivered before the 1st of each month to ensure fair publicity for those events scheduled for the first week of the month.

ADMINISTRATION is under control. Dealing with the bank is totally online. Expenses are reduced to the bare minimum. The main expense was postage of invoices and magazines to out-of-area advertisers, this has almost been eliminated; it now applies only to those with no email address. Volunteers give generously and freely of their time, petrol and other expenses.

ADVERTISING: We continue to maintain a balance between paid advertising and West Felton information, public notices and items of interest, in the hope of entertaining and retaining our readers. New advertisers take the place of those retiring or leaving the area. Some advertisers cancel because they have too much work! Because of the regular turnover, there is a noticeable increase in design and layout of advertisements. New & existing advertisers are entitled to amend or change their ads when they need to.

FINANCE: Printing costs increased by more than 33% in the past year. We introduced significantly increased advertising rates on 1 January, but the printers later trumped us with its increased charge so, whilst we might just about cover the costs including bank charges, we would be most grateful for any donations from groups or individual readers. We have been very lucky over the past few years with generous donations and have high hopes for future generosity.

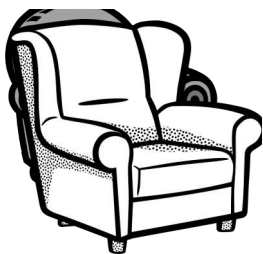
DISTRIBUTION: Dot and Kathy Bliss continue to receive the magazines from the printers and make them ready for distribution. Kate and Alan Gray complete the distribution, calling on deliverers throughout the village. Willing volunteers are always ready to step in at holiday times. The team of deliverers is as keen and generous with their time as always.

CONTRIBUTORS: The village organisations are cooperative, and happy with the way we all work together in harmony and goodwill.

WEBSITE: The only cost is an annual charge for the domain name: www.westfeltonmagazine.co.uk £14.39 last year. The presence of a website is important for those contributors and advertisers outside the delivery area, and of course for friends, family, and ex-pats everywhere. It is important to have an online presence so that we are found by Google searches for Shropshire village magazines. This is the source of much of the information included in the magazine from West Mercia Police, Shrops Healthwatch, and other organisations, as well as potential advertisers, many of whom approach through the new website.

(Continued on page 43)

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WEST FELTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



At the April meeting Gillian welcomed one visitor, Julie, and two new members, Michelle and Sandra.

Members were reminded this was the last opportunity to pay subscriptions before the end of the financial year. 2023/24 Programmes are available for collection. Committee membership was encouraged; several important admin positions fall vacant in November. County Federation is putting on a day course for prospective Treasurers in June, a good opportunity for members to see if this would be something they would enjoy.

Barbara's and Tricia's birthdays were highlighted. West Felton Annual Bursary was awarded for a breadmaking course at Niche Patisserie and another group educational activity.

Book Sales will now be at every meeting with a small bring and buy opportunity alongside the trading table. The full stock of books will continue to appear at open meetings etc. Claremont Club tickets were available, West Felton is usually very lucky in that draw.

Monthly competition points awards (April 2022 – March 2023) were announced and vouchers presented to the winners.

This being garden visiting season, plans were made for several outdoor visits as well as the June outing, and several dining and craft events. Oswestry show schedule was noted; West Felton will not enter the cooperative classes this year but members were encouraged to enter the individual classes.

Fundraising

- **Carnival 9th July**, a big fundraising day in WFWI calendar. Members were asked to indicate donation of cakes and availability to help on the day.
- **Homemade Festival. Sat 26th August**, at The British Ironwork Centre. WFWI will enter as a promotional exercise with Cookies and Craft stalls. Members reminded to start preparing goods and to volunteer for help on the day.

The guest speaker was Archie Walkerdine from Shropshire Fire Service.

Archie gave a fire safety quiz, highlighting that most fires start in the kitchen through cooking or electrical faults - tumble driers and washing machines included. There are 23 fire stations in Shropshire but only three are manned full-time. It was also interesting to note that the fire service will do a fire safety check on your home and replace fire alarms etc. It was suggested by a member to have a window key in a known location in each room.

The Speaker at the May meeting is Kristian Hickson-Booth, of 'Garden like a Master' who will give hints on making your garden work for you. ♦

Queens Head, a hive of industry THE UNION at Queens Head

The Union Inn at Queen's Head was built around the time of the construction of the canal, taking the name from the Shropshire Union Canal which was completed in the 1840s.

It was the meeting place for navvies working on the canal; hard-working, drinking men. It was said a man was killed in the bar and the blood-stained floor remained forever, no matter how much it was washed and scrubbed.

David Griffiths was the Innkeeper in 1921, had been there for at least 10 years. He gives his age as 64, but ten years before on the 1911 census he said he was 48 - unlike his wife Deborah who was 50 in 1911 and now, ten years on, she is only 54! One son, David Edgar lived at home, aged 26, he was a farm labourer.

Later Innkeepers were a Mrs Williams and after the war, Ike Kendrick and his wife Dora, late of Willow Crescent.

The Union Inn and the row of cottages including the Jubilee Cafe were demolished in the 1960s.



The Union Inn, Queens Head 1960s



Up the Garden Path with Topiarius

Visit gardens, new ideas

June is not a good time for a gardener to go on holiday but it is a good time for garden visiting. Hence, we pray we can get number one son to water the glasshouses and we can go on our annual three day break to enlarge our garden experience. This year we are back to the Cotswolds and, amongst other places, hope to visit Bob Brown's nursery. Last year we went to Lincoln and visited several very interesting gardens, notably Walled Garden Bamber, but were greatly disappointed by Gunby Hall. It is a reminder that we all have different ideas of what makes a great garden. However, what is almost guaranteed is that you will learn something new, even if it is what not to do. Another reminder is to look at the Yellow book/NGS web site for gardens opening nearer home.

The perceived wisdom is not to be too hasty to throw out dead looking plants as they could just be very slow in recovering from winter. However, I think we will draw the line in June and fear that losses will be more than usual. For example, after I boasted that our pittosporums were fine, they promptly dropped their leaves. Losses did not always follow what might be expected, and live or die could be very dependent on exact position. Grevillea in a pot on the terrace suffered not a bit, all coprosmas died except one with its pot inside a larger container, and only the

smaller salvia Hot Lips survived in a cold glasshouse. Just more of the surprises that plants can throw at you. I had been a little apprehensive that astilbes that suffered a bit last year in the hot weather might not pull through, but back they came as good as ever. Perhaps we should be optimistic and see losing things as a chance to get something new.

When not visiting gardens or buying new plants there is still plenty of work to do at home. Not least will be the continued assault on weeds and there is a fair chance of watering becoming necessary. Early in the month we expect it to be safe to plant out bedding and also to move on tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers. I will also be planting out runner beans sown last month in large modules, which I have found safer than sowing direct. We now sow leeks in modules and they will be planted out under a fine mesh tunnel. The brassicas will be planted out in succession through the month from sprouts to kale. Maincrop carrot can be sown, as can, for example, lettuce, spring onions and peas for succession. Further sowing this month include sweet corn and chard.

The beans will need supports put in place and the vegetables will welcome some Growmore if not already applied. Last but no least, my notes say that the first of the new potatoes will be enjoyed. ♦

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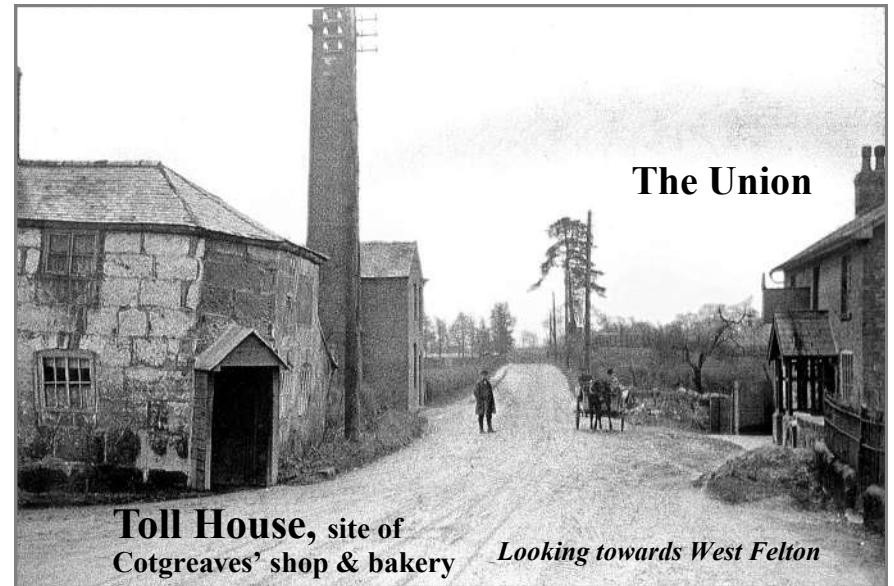
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THE TOLL HOUSE

18th century road maintenance was the responsibility of the parishes through which the roads passed, but they did not have the resources to keep the roads in good repair. A turnpike road was a toll road operated under a trust set up by an Act of Parliament. The Act authorised a group of trustees to levy tolls on a stretch of road in order to finance its maintenance and improvement. The turnpikes were wound up in the 1870s and the responsibility for road maintenance passed to the Highways Board. The Queens Head tollhouse was still standing in 1860. John Jones (*more about him later*) built a steam mill at Queens Head, deemed the tallest building in Shropshire at the time. He demolished the toll house and built a shop and bakery.



The Union

**Toll House, site of
Cotgreaves' shop & bakery**

Looking towards West Felton



Looking towards The Queens Head

**The
Union Inn
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proud to
advertise
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Sundays**

The Montgomery Canal is part of a whole network of canals called The Shropshire Union canals.

In 1793, the Ellesmere Canal Act was passed for making a canal from the Severn at Shrewsbury to the Mersey in Chester, this would pass through several parishes including West Felton, Queens Head, Wootton & Rednal. After years of competition, but finally cooperation, the canal system gave way to the new invention of the railway.

Fly-boat - Ellesmere Port was the hub of the Shropshire Union's operation, fly-boats left daily for such destinations as Birmingham, the Potteries, Llangollen, Shrewsbury, Welshpool, Newtown and Trench (Telford); dropping off and collecting goods at many intermediate points.



The boats themselves were the ultimate development of the art of wooden narrow boat building, considered probably the finest narrowboats ever built. They had to have a unique combination of fine lines, light weight, fast performance and great strength. The **Shroppie Fly** represented the peak of the craft of wooden narrow boat construction before the final decline of canal transport.

From 1853 to 1862 there was a fly-boat service on the canal from Newtown to Rednal Station. The journey from Newtown took approximately 5 hours, the return journey 7 mins less. It covered 32 miles and had 22 locks to negotiate; the speed achieved gives great credit to the design of the boats, some 68 feet in length, and the maintenance of the towpaths. The horse teams would have been changed several times during the journey.

Along the straight mile from Queens Head, by the bridge at Heath House, there is a half timbered building, this was a warehouse, but canal passengers would have disembarked there to walk the short distance to Rednal Railway Station. First

(Continued on page 21)

(Continued from page 35)

(and Catholicism) differ from these groups in how the fruits of prosperity should be shared. Should it be forced (such as tithing) or should it be voluntary? Those that believe that sharing should be voluntary turn to St Paul again in the verses preceding those quoted above. Here St Paul says "And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have". Paul appears to be saying that there must be a desire to give – almost to the extent that in itself giving (charity) is something worthy.

Catholics may feel affronted that PR

proclaims much that the Catholic Church preaches. Both support the right to earthly property, though the belief that the Bible has promised prosperity to believers may be a step too far for Catholicism. Both regard giving as important and both churches run social programmes. PR may go further than the Catholic Church in the degree of coercion in giving. There are probably many other issues, such as birth control and abortion that tend to move people away from the Catholic Church.

That said, the Catholic Church has the largest number of followers of any Christian church. It hosts some of the world's finest buildings. And it has shown itself to be remarkably resilient to all competition, and has shown a significant ability to adapt over the years. Prosperity religion may well succeed if the accumulation of earthly riches is followed by Christian charity. ♦



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.

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Hilary Iles 01691 610707

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(Continued from page 20)

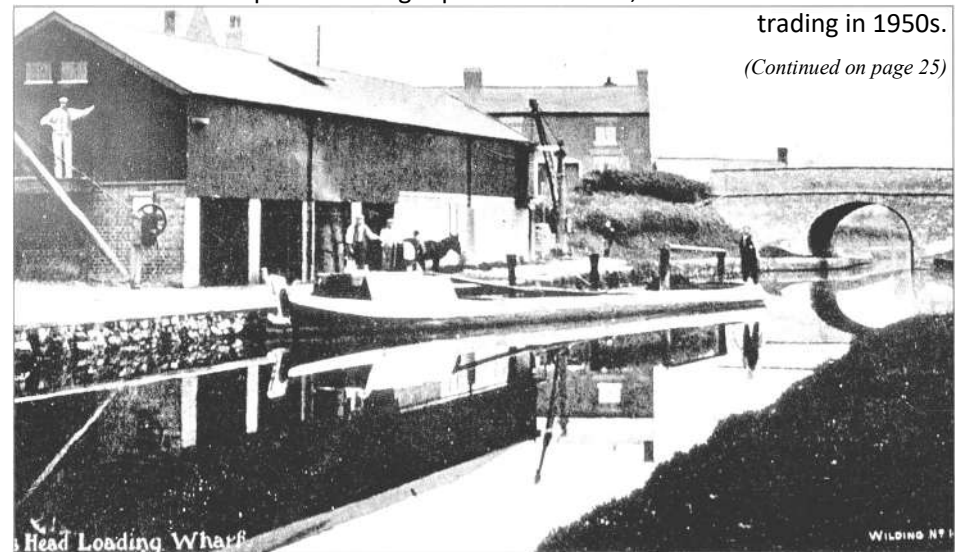
class tickets cost 5 shillings and second-class 3 shillings. Poorer people could not afford the complete journey and probably used it over the shorter distance to the markets at Oswestry and Welshpool.

The construction of a rail/canal transhipment basin at Rednal was carried out in the late 1850s to oblige the Great Western Railway, which until then had no means of getting its goods into Llanymynech, Welshpool and Newtown areas other than by the Shropshire Union Canal.

Rednal Bone Works - Rednal boneyard was in operation until the 1950s. The business moved from the Maesbury boneyard in the 1890s to the towpath warehouse already mentioned. There was no road access to the site adjacent to the Great Western Railway track at Rednal. All goods delivered would have come and gone by canal barge. Animal carcasses were brought from far and wide, even as far as Liverpool. They were boiled and stripped of fat and tissue which was then reloaded onto barges and taken to Port Sunlight in the Wirral to be made into soap. The bones were finely ground for fertiliser. The firm also supplied sulphate of potash, nitrate of soda and super phosphate of lime, the raw materials being imported by canal. According to an elderly local resident, the works was also used during the war to manufacture gunpowder. Richard Hamlett of Heath Houses, Rednal, used to work at the bone yard after the second World War, as did his father before him. After WW1, the products from the bone works were taken by road. Unable to compete with larger port-based firms, the bone works ceased

trading in 1950s.

(Continued on page 25)



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

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PROSPERITY RELIGION

from Michael Davie

The whole teaching of Jesus Christ was crammed into three years – three remarkable years it may be said that changed the world, albeit helped along by the Roman Empire becoming Christian following Constantine’s adoption of Christianity. Many wish that Christ had spent longer explaining matters more deeply given the different interpretations of what he or his apostles said.

Whereas the Catholic and Orthodox churches have more or less managed to keep their flocks together, Protestantism has spawned many different branches. Often these have apparently diametrically opposite interpretations of the Bible. A new branch of Christianity, the so called Prosperity religion (PR), has come to challenge the Roman Catholic Church in many countries particularly in South America. Indeed in Guatemala and Honduras it is set to overtake the Catholic Church by 2030. On present trends it may have equal numbers as the Catholics in Brazil by 2035. PR has its roots in 19th century America. It came to prominence through a famous sermon delivered by Russell Conwell, a Baptist minister. Conwell equated poverty with sin and asserted that anyone could become rich through hard work.

PR believes that well-being is a Christian entitlement and that this includes good health and prosperity. Adherents maintain that Christians have been given power over the world, and other living things. In the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross in which he died to rescue mankind from sin, PR interprets this rescue as including the alleviation of sickness and poverty. PR asserts that earthly wealth is to be regarded as a sign of divine blessing. This may be based on the parable of the Talents;” For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away”. These claims have struck a chord amongst the poor in cities. How therefore does PR differ from its competitors?

PR has been welcomed by some branches of the Pentecostal church. Other Christian churches including some evangelicals and Christian socialism do not hold earthly wealth in high regard. They emphasize sharing, taking their beliefs from such writings as Paul’s 2nd letter to the Corinthians: “that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack—that there may be equality”. A degree of reciprocity is indicated. Apart from ownership, PR

(Continued on page 37)

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COINCIDENCE ...

Just as I finished the item about the flyboat, with the old photo of SATURN on page 20 - I read an article in the ADVERTIZER (Ed.)

A community arts group has welcomed a famous historic canal boat back to the town. Members of Fizzgigs welcomed Saturn, the last remaining Shropshire Union flyboat, to Ellesmere.

Built in 1906, the boat was returned to the town's Canal & River Trust's Maintenance Yard, Ellesmere.

Saturn, originally horse-drawn, on this occasion was towed to the Yard by another special boat, a motor called Beatty, built in 1937, owned by Nick and Liz Grundy.

Saturn will be moored at the Canal & River Trust's Maintenance Yard Ellesmere for large parts of the summer, including the weekend of June 3 and June 4 when Fizzgigs be putting on a show called 'Bridging the Gap'—a family-friendly show, to be performed at 2pm and 4pm.

John Yates, Chair of Saturn Flyboat, said: "She looks at home, she feels at home, she is at home."

<http://www.saturnflyboat.org.uk/about-saturn/fly-boats.html>

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Village Hall memories
65 years out of the 100!!

from another proud Feltonian

West Felton
Village Hall
1923:2023

100
YEARS

"In the 50s I remember going to see **TOP CLUB** this was when they had a Young Farmers Club in the village, and they had a variety show when all clubs competed against each other.

"Also early on I believe they had dancing every Friday evening and jive evenings. Whist Drives were a popular evening out when the hall could be packed with tables, even on the stage, when people came to try and win their turkey for Christmas.

"Weddings breakfasts and birthday parties were celebrated and the school put on their plays at Christmas.

"The British Legion later started Bingo which ran every week for years, now we just have Easter and Christmas Bingo, still very popular. The Legion Harvest auctions used to be a big fundraiser for the Poppy Appeal. 'Recycling' before it was even a regular thing".

"Youth Club was also a big thing for the youngsters, Mrs Stockbridge ran it for some time and Rob Millington the vicar's son was chairman. I remember we went to the theatre to see the Rocking Berries, great excitement. Once the youth club put on a variety show for the OAP of the village and did the food for them.

"When Rev Brannigan was here the village put on two pantomimes "Cinderella in wellie boots" and "Jack and the Beanstalk", great homemade entertainment.

Anyone fancy doing another? We just need a producer?

"Sport has always been played in the hall, badminton for years and still going, table tennis and in later years indoor bowls. There is also Pilates, Tai Chi and Flexor classes for the people who want to keep fit."

"We have always used the hall and are a massive support to everything in the village. their Christmas Fayres alternating with St Michael's Church down the years. And now we have Lenten Lunches and Harvest Suppers, and regular Male Voice Concerts by local choirs, especially in November for the Poppy Appeal. More recently we have fundraising events for the Methodist Chapel, some really exciting shows and events.

"Our village hall is a great asset to the village. The committee, though small in number, do a great job in keeping it looking great, so here's to the next 100years! **Anyone who feels they would like to join the committee would be very welcome, just get in touch with Ian on 01691 610224.**"

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Canal Restoration and the Village Hall

Montgomery Waterway Restoration Trust was formed to save the canal network from the threat of new roads and motorways. Restoration began in 1969, in Welshpool, in response to a plan to use the canal route for a by-pass. In the 1950s when there were breaches of the banks, the railway companies, which then owned the canals, did not repair them, and the canals became derelict. By the 1960s, at Queens Head the canal was overgrown, silted over in places.

Around the millennium, West Felton village hall was occupied every weekend by gangs of volunteers who cooked big meals and slept on the floor after a hard day's digging out the canal at Queens Head. A core team of experi-

enced engineers managed the project with volunteer work parties visiting week by week. You can now enjoy the fruits of their hard labour. As each section was completed, they moved along the canal to another site.

Sand Pit - During the excavations around the old canal-side building at Queens Head, the brick lined tunnel complete with rails and sleepers was revealed. This led under the building and under Rednal Road from the canal wharf to the sand pit in a field on the far side of the road. Donkeys pulled tubs of sand (*see Loading Wharf pic.*) for loading onto boats bound for Maesbury. This was still in use well into the 20th century. The tunnel has now been covered over and the building restored for use by the Paddle Club.

Before Restoration



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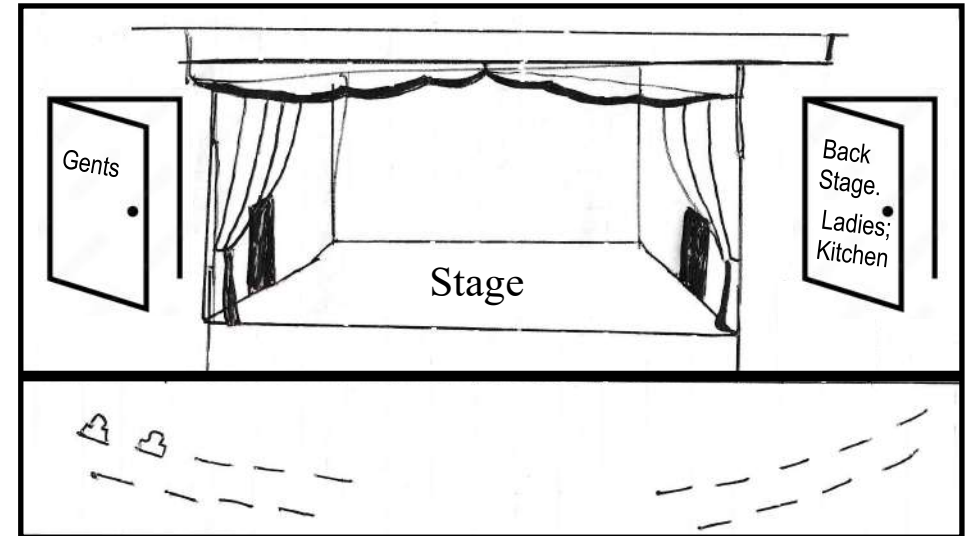


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WEST FELTON VILLAGE HALL 1973 - artist's impression from memory



Boyhood memories of the Village Hall 1973

from a proud Feltonian



"Reflecting back to the days when I was a boy attending West Felton Primary School, the highlight of the week was Youth Club held in the village hall on, I think it was a Tuesday night. With all our school friends we could have fun with table tennis, five-a-side football, games etc., - great times for youngsters.

"A couple of standout situations I can still recall to this day. Once, I was playing table tennis and getting really hot, a lad called Gary Bullock handed me a small bottle of orange pop which I slugged down with gratitude - until he told me he'd weed in it! He thought it was funny - I did NOT! 🤔

"Another incident was when we were playing 5-a-side football - a fight broke out between myself and Edwin Butler, only to be broken up by Mrs Butler who ran the Youth Club. She sorted it out by hitting both of us with about the head with a wooden bat. No messing in those days. Boys were boys - and mothers were ...

"Another outstanding memory was winning the jackpot at bingo in the hall. As I remember it was run by John Stockbridge and Maurice Jennings on a Wednesday night. I won £20, a lot of money back then. Next Saturday I went into Oswestry and in a shop called STONE-DRI on the corner of New St and Bailey St, run by Paul Eke, I kitted myself out with a bomber jacket, new shirt, Oxford bags and platform shoes - Did I think I was "The Kiddie"? Oh, yeah! Happy Days." ♦

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From 'An Unexpected Guest' a poem to mark the Coronation by Simon Armitage

She's treated herself to new shoes,
a window seat on the fast train,
a hotel for a night.
She's been to the capital twice before,
once to see Tutankhamun when she was nine
and once when it rained.
Crossing The Mall she's just a person
like everyone else
but her hand keeps checking the invitation,
her thumb strumming the gilded edge of the card,
her finger tracing the thread of embossed leaves.
In sight of the great porch she can't believe
the police just step aside,
that doors shaped for God and giants should
open to let her in.



She's taken her place with ambulance drivers
and nurses and carers and charity workers,

a man who alchemised hand-sanitiser from gin,
a woman who walked for sponsored miles,
the boy in the tent.
The heads of heads of state float down the aisle,
she knows the names of seven or eight.
But the music's the thing:
a choir transmuting psalms into sonorous light,
the cavernous sleepwalking dreams of the organ
making the air vibrate, chords coming up through the soles of her feet.
Somewhere further along and deeper in
there are golden and sacred things going on:

glimpses of crimson, flashes of jewels like flames,
high priests in their best bling,
the solemn wording of incantations and spells,
till the part where promise and prayer become fused:
the moment is struck, a pact is sworn.

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