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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 001 5400
KNOCKIN Medical Practice	01691 682203
NHS Out of Hours Service	111
Orthopaedic Hospital	01691 404000
PARISH COUNCIL email: westfeltonpc@gmail.com https://www.westfeltonparish.co.uk/	
POLICE, West Mercia Non-Emergency number	101
Oswestry Police Station	0300 333 3000
Safer Neighbourhood team—email: oswestryc.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk	
PRADOE CHURCH: Chairman: Andrew Kenyon	01691 610218
PUNCH BOWL	07543 040618
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
Shrops Councillor: Cllr David Walker	01743 256863/ M 07484 541576
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH: MINISTRY vacant	
Church Warden: Dr Michael Davie	01691 610612
ST. CHAD'S: Chapel Warden: Mrs Ann Hampson	01691 610845
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION	01691 610665
VILLAGE HALL Bookings	01691 610629
WASP Problems Emergency number	01691 831251 / 07772 006994
WATER - Severn Trent Water Authority	0800 783 4444
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: President: Rhian	07375 997 782

Year 34

SEPTEMBER 2026

ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON

www.westfeltonmagazine.co.uk

Supporting local business - Supporting the community

HARVEST SUPPER

FRIDAY 18th SEPTEMBER

7:00 pm

West Felton Village Hall



Join us for food and friendship - All Welcome!

W H A T 'S O N

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

West Felton Walkers 10am Mondays, Punch Bowl **EXCEPT...see page 14**

Pilates Class Tuesday mornings: 2 sessions: 9:30-10:30 & 10:45-11:45am Need to book online GYMATCH. Phone: Abi 07904 456 368

Badminton Every Tues evening: 8pm to 9:30pm. Village Hall

Tuesday Tots Every term time Tuesday 9.15 - 10.30 West Felton 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 01691 610336

Royal British Legion **INFORMAL MEETINGS** 8pm Meeting, **PUNCH BOWL** first Monday of the month except Bank holidays then second Monday.

3rd Sept	10am COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING	11
17 Sept	County Councillor Surgery - see below	
18 Sept	7:00pm HARVEST SUPPER, West Felton Village Hal	11
CHURCH HARVEST SERVICES - see page 53		
17th October	WEST FELTON ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR	



Ballroom Dance classes in the Village Hall - page 21

YOUR opportunity to engage personally with your LOCAL COUNTY COUNCILLOR



3rd Thursday each month | Next surgery 17 Sept

WEST FELTON - 7pm to 8pm: at The Punch Bowl, at the back of the restaurant. or **WHITTINGTON**: 10am to 11am at Senior Citizens Hall, Station Road, Whittington in the back room - coinciding with coffee morning.

Cllr David Walker, Whittington Division: 01743 256863, Email: CllrDavid.Walker@shropshire.gov.uk | M: 07484 541576

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Round and About West Felton

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

Last day for submission of copy and
deadline for content changes
10th SEPTEMBER 2026

Editor: Colleen Hughes

Tel 01691 610300

colleenhughes748@btinternet.com

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Parish of Whittington and West Felton with Haughton

Services in West Felton Parish:

St Michael's, West Felton

9:30 am every Sunday
unless otherwise stated

Sunday 20th September
9:30 am

✝ HARVEST SERVICE

St Chad's, Haughton

SERVICES TO BE ANNOUNCED
SERVICE ACCORDING TO THE BOOK
OF COMMON PRAYER.

Sunday 27th September
4:00 pm

✝ HARVEST SERVICE
Led by Archdeacon of Salop

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals:

Please arrange with The Churchwarden:
Dr Michael Davie 01691 610 612

Pradoe Church

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Sunday 6th September : Morning Service at 10.30 am

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Clerk to West Felton Parish Council: **Mrs Rosemary WOOD**

Parish Office: 5 Newtown Gardens

Baschurch, Shrewsbury SY4 2HF Tel 01939 262 881

Email: see list. Website: www.westfelton-pc.gov.uk

Chairman Cllr John THORNHILL 07714 759 466
Vice-Chairman Cllr Ozcan OZAGIR 07955 232 199
 Cllr David CURTIS 01691 610 665 (Rep WF Primary School & SALC Area Committee)

Cllr Alastair FORBES 01691 610 524
 Cllr Mick GREEN 07928 479 305
 Cllr Marian HESKETH 01691 610 441 (Rep for Village Hall).
 Cllr Chris JONES 01691 610 354 (Rep SALC Area Committee).
 Cllr Pat MABE 01691 610 400
 Cllr Ed NICHOLAS 01691 610 230 (Rep ABP committee)
 Cllr Neil SUMMERS 07523 318 005
 Cllr David WALKER 01691 897 117

Our Shropshire Councillor : Cllr David Walker T: 01743 256863
 Mobile: 07484 541576

Our Member of Parliament : Helen Morgan T: 01939 809387
 E: helen.morgan.mp@parliament.uk

EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR PARISH CLERK AND COUNCILLORS

Rosemary Wood	clerk@westfelton-pc.gov.uk
John Thornhill	john.thornhill@westfelton-pc.gov.uk
Ozcan Ozagir	ozcan.ozagir@westfelton-pc.gov.uk
David Walker	david.walker@westfelton-pc.gov.uk
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Alastair Forbes	alastair.forbes@westfelton-pc.gov.uk
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SHAPE THE FUTURE OF WEST FELTON PARISH!

Rural Preservation (With Plan)

Use resident input to protect green spaces
and decide specific housing locations.

Large-Scale Development (No Plan)

Village character and rural views remain
at significant risk without a statutory plan.



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Next Action Team Meeting:

TBA

The team will set the work plan to be communicated at a future public meeting.



Attend the Critical Public Meeting

A future public meeting will be a critical event for all residents to attend.

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WEST FELTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2026/27

8 September 2026	8 December 2026	9 March 2027
13 October 2026	12 January 2027	13 April 2027
10 November 2026	9 February 2027	11 May 2027

West Felton WI compiled a list of the prices of everyday goods in Sept 1980

3 lbs Self raising flour	£ 0.42	1 lb Tomatoes	£ 0.38
1 lb Butter	£ 0.82	1 lb Cabbage	£ 0.12
1 lb Margarine	£ 0.38	1 lb Cooking Apples	£ 0.25
2.25 lbs Sugar	£ 0.41	1 lb Eating Apples	£ 0.28
1 lb Cheddar Cheese	£ 1.08	1 lb Pears	£ 0.28
1 lb Best Bacon	£ 1.20	1 lb Victoria Plums	£ 0.25
1 doz Eggs	£ 0.64	Oranges each	£ 0.10
Leg of Lamb/ lb	£ 1.40	Grapefruit each	£ 0.18
Shoulder of Lamb /lb	£ 1.00	1 lb Bananas	£ 0.28
Chops / lb	£ 1.45	1 pint Milk	£ 0.17
Sirloin of Beef / lb	£ 1.85	4oz Cadbury's chocolate	£ 0.59
Best Steak / lb	£ 1.50	Petrol 3 star /gallon	£ 1.60
Stewing Steak / lb	£ 0.90	Paraffin / gallon	£ 0.95
Lambs Liver / lb	£ 1.00	Telephone rental/quarter	£ 9.50
1 lb Tea	£ 0.93	House Rates 2 bed property / pa	£ 86.45
8oz jar Coffee	£ 0.95	Water Rates 2 bed property	£ 25.41
1/4 lb Cocoa	£ 0.54	Electric Bill / quarter	£ 53.00
Large loaf Bread	£ 0.38	1 cwt Coal	£ 3.10
Small loaf	£ 0.26	Bus Fare WF-Shrewsbury return	£ 1.00
5 lbs Potatoes	£ 0.35	Soap Powder	£ 0.54
1 lb Carrots	£ 0.07	1 lb Household Soap	£ 0.34
1 lb Runner Beans	£ 0.25	Small Tablet Toilet Soap	£ 0.18
Cornflour	£ 0.26	Second class stamp	£ 0.10
Vim	£ 0.22	First class stamp	£ 0.12



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**From Eileen and the
Carnival Committee**

What a day Sunday July 12th
was, one I'm sure we shall
remember, for the heat and
not the rain!



A big thank you

- * to the committee for putting on such a wonderful day and for putting up more tents so that people could get more shade.
 - * To the Friends of the carnival who help every year to do the house to house collection and sell the draw tickets so that we can carry on with this wonderful day every year.
 - * The parade was very colourful as usual even though not so many floats. The floats that took part were all amazing and the judges had a very hard job to do.
 - * The only children's float this year was the School, so they had the big money.
 - * In the adults float competition, the Walking Club were first with Save the NHS. They really went to town.
 - * 2nd David Attenborough 100th Birthday Party,
 - * 3rd WI the Cake Stall and
 - * 4th The Punch Bowl with a very fruity colourful punch bowl. Thank you all for taking part - also the Vintage cars that always come along.
- This year there were plenty of food outlets and stalls for you to browse around.

The Animal Family were a great hit with the children as was Andrew Healey the man who walked the whole parade on stilts.

The Prize winners for the big draw were as follows:

1st for the £100 were Mr & Mrs Maddox; other winners were Linda Jones, J Haigh, Graham SBN, Cath Baldry, Emma Bromley, Di & David Edwards, Jess Jones, Wagih El-Masri, Trevor Rowley, Dave Hayes, Gloria Howell, Christine Williams, Gillian Roberts and Phil Davis.

**Thanks once again -
now we look forward to the big Christmas Tree switch on.**

WEST FELTON WALKING GROUP

Walk leaders:-

Iain Lambie 01691 900 539

Hilary Iles 01691 610 707

John & Eileen Hanmer 01691 610 629

WE MEET AT 10.00 AM MONDAYS
AT THE PUNCH BOWL CAR PARK
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OF THE MONTH WHEN DEPARTURE
IS 9:30AM TO ALLOW TIME TO
TRAVEL TO OUR CHOSEN DESTINA-
TION FOR THE AWAY DAY WALK.
NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME.

The first Monday of the month was an away walk to Nesscliffe area.

Sixteen folk left from Punch Bowl via car share along A5 to Nesscliffe vil-
lage, following road past school and into Hopton, turning up to nice shady
car park at top.

We started along through Shrug's Coppice and followed the boundary
past Valeswood and on to the bottom side of Cliffe, with lovely views
south and east before turning up and along Cliffe to the high point near
the reservoir and view point to the north and west.

Plaque for site of home guard watch, and many benches at vantage
points added to the enjoyment of a great walk in good company before
heading back to cars and a shady beech tree for refreshment.

Thanks to June and Bill for leading.

Plaque on the site of Home Guard watch, photo courtesy of the Brown family, RXIT



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If you would like to find out more about being a volunteer at Llanymynech Canal Wharf, we would love to hear from you.

Unfortunately, we are not running boat trips at the moment, but we are still interested in hearing from you if you could help in the visitor centre, gift shop and serving light refreshments.

We hope to run boat trips next year, so it would be great to hear from you, so we can train new recruits for 2027. You can email us on **news@themontgomerycanal.org.uk** and we will be in touch!

We are dependent on help in the visitor centre to sell items, prepare light refreshments and to welcome visitors.

We are also planning to refurbish our wheelchair accessible boat and help with that would be really good and hopefully we can welcome new skippers and crew next year too. Why not pop in for a chat with us?

**For lots more information on the 'Monty' go to
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We are working hard to tackle Anti-social behaviour (ASB), and the information provided to us by residents can be essential in taking action to making a difference where you live. Some ASB incidents might be an issue for your local council so it may be useful to know to who contact.



Here are some examples of ASB that we want to know about:

- * Fireworks misuse (full laws and guidance on our website)
- * Abandonment of cars
- * Aggressive animals or use of animals in illegal activities
- * Nuisance noise from people being inconsiderate in a public space
- * Indecent, threatening or offensive phone calls
- * Street drinking causing disruptive behaviour
- * Vehicle nuisance such as street racing and riding unlicensed powered vehicles

Here are some examples of ASB that *isn't* a police matter and your local council could be informed on:

- * Someone blocking your driveway
- * Stray dog that isn't sick or injured
- * Nuisance noise from pubs and clubs, and construction sites
- * General littering, fly-tipping, hazardous items
- * Neighbour disputes such as loud music or dogs barking, parking, property boundaries, overgrowing trees and hedges
- * Trespassing without causing damage or harm
- * Full guidance on ASB and the different types can be found here:
<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/asb/asb-antisocial-behaviour/>

Or you can contact your local council.

Should you have any concerns about potential ASB, or are experiencing ASB where you live, please contact your local council or if necessary report it to us:

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/>

In an emergency, if you or your property are at risk, or a crime is in progress call 999. If you aren't comfortable contacting us directly, you can pass on information anonymously to the independent charity, Crimestoppers, by calling 0800 555 111 or by visiting their website: www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Thank you for your help. It is only by the police and the public working together that we can prevent and detect crime.

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(Continued from page 37)

him.

'And what do you think you are doing on Carmarthen bridge in the middle of the afternoon,' he said sternly, 'with your best waistcoat and your old hat?'

Grandpa did not answer, but inclined his face to the river wind, so that his beard was set dancing and wagging as though he talked, and watched the coracle men move, like turtles, on the shore.

Mr Griff raised his stunted barber's pole. 'And where do you think you are going,' he said, 'with your old black bag?'

Grandpa said: 'I am going to Llangadock to be buried.' And he watched the coracle shells slip into the water lightly, and the gulls complain over the fish-filled water as bitterly as Mr

Price complained:

'But you aren't dead yet, Dai Thomas.' For a moment grandpa reflected, then: 'There's no sense in lying dead in Llanstephan,' he said. 'The ground is comfy in Llangadock; you can twitch your legs without putting them in the sea.'

His neighbours moved close to him. They said: 'You aren't dead, Mr Thomas.'

'How can you be buried, then?'

'Nobody's going to bury you in Llanstephan.'

'Come on home, Mr Thomas.'

'There's strong beer for tea.'

'And cake.'

But grandpa stood firmly on the bridge, and clutched his bag to his side, and stared at the flowing river and the sky, like a prophet who has no doubt. ■

Join a free Shared Reading Group at Oswestry Library.



The Reader, a national Shared Reading charity based in Liverpool, runs a free, weekly Shared Reading group in Oswestry library every Monday afternoon 2.30pm to 4pm. Everyone is welcome.

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Shared Reading brings people together through stories and poems, creating opportunities to connect, reflect and share experiences in a friendly and supportive environment. There is no pressure to read aloud, speak, or attend every week – you can simply come along and listen.

The charity has more than 420 Shared Reading groups across the UK and 850 volunteers. Research shows that Shared Reading can improve wellbeing, reduce social isolation, and help build stronger, more supportive communities.

**To find out more about Shared Reading come along to Oswestry library
any Monday afternoon or visit www.thereader.org.uk**

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(Continued from page 35)

'Has grandpa been to Llanstephan?' asked Mr Griff anxiously.

'We went there yesterday in a little trap,' I said.

He hurried indoors and I heard him talking in Welsh, and he came out again with his white coat on, and he carried a striped and coloured walking-stick. He strode down the village street and I ran by his side.

When we stopped at the tailor's shop, he cried out, 'Dan!' and Dan Tailor stepped from his window where he sat like an Indian priest but wearing a derby hat. 'Dai Thomas has got his waistcoat on,' said Mr Griff, 'and he's been to Llanstephan.'

As Dan Tailor searched for his overcoat, Mr Griff was striding on. 'Will Evans,' he called outside the carpenter's shop, 'Dai Thomas has been to Llanstephan, and he's got his waistcoat on.'

'I'll tell Morgan now,' said the carpenter's wife out of the hammering, sawing darkness of the shop.

We called at the butcher's shop and Mr Price's house, and Mr Griff repeated his message like a town crier.

We gathered together in Johnstown square. Dan Tailor had his bicycle, Mr Price his pony trap. Mr Griff, the butcher, Morgan Carpenter, and I climbed into the shaking trap, and we trotted off towards Carmarthen town. The tailor led the way, ringing his bell as though there were a fire or a robbery, and an old woman by the gate

of a cottage at the end of the street ran inside like a pelted hen. Another woman waved a bright handkerchief. 'Where are we going?' I asked. Grandpa's neighbours were as solemn as old men with black hats and jackets on the outskirts of a fair. Mr Griff shook his head and mourned: 'I didn't expect this again from Dai Thomas.' 'Not after last time,' said Mr Price sadly.

We trotted on, we crept up Constitution Hill, we rattled down into Llanmas Street, and the tailor still rang his bell and a dog ran, squealing, in front of his wheels. As we clip-clopped over the cobbles that led down to the Towy bridge, I remembered grandpa's nightly noisy journeys that rocked the bed and shook the walls, and I saw his gay waistcoat in a vision and his patchwork head tufted and smiling in the candlelight. The tailor before us turned round on his saddle, his bicycle wobbled and skidded. 'I see Dai Thomas!' he cried.

The trap rattled on to the bridge, and I saw grandpa there; the buttons of his waistcoat shone in the sun, he wore his tight, black Sunday trousers and a tall, dusty hat I had seen in a cupboard in the attic, and he carried an ancient bag. He bowed to us. 'Good morning, Mr Price,' he said, 'and Mr Griff and Mr Morgan and Mr Evans.' To me, he said: 'Good morning, boy.'

Mr Griff pointed his coloured stick at

(Continued on page 39)

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(Continued from page 33)

ade, and he paid Mrs Edwinsford with a sovereign out of the tinkling bag; she inquired after his health, and he said that Llangadock was better for the tubes. We went to look at the churchyard and the sea, and sat in the wood called the Sticks, and stood on the concert platform in the middle of the wood where visitors sang on midsummer nights and, year by year, the innocent of the village was elected mayor. Grandpa paused at the churchyard and pointed over the iron gate at the angelic headstones and the poor wooden crosses. 'There's no sense in lying there,' he said.

We journeyed back furiously: Jim was a bison again.

I woke late on my last morning, out of dreams where the Llanstephan sea carried bright sailing-boats as long as liners; and heavenly choirs in the Sticks, dressed in bards' robes and brass-buttoned waistcoats, sang in a strange Welsh to the departing sailors. Grandpa was not at breakfast; he rose early. I walked in the fields with a new sling, and shot at the Towy gulls and the rooks in the parsonage trees. A warm wind blew from the summer points of the weather; a morning mist climbed from the ground and floated among the trees and hid the noisy birds; in the mist and the wind my pebbles flew lightly up like hailstones in a world on its head. The morning passed without a bird falling.

I broke my sling and returned for the midday meal through the parson's orchard. Once, grandpa told me, the parson had bought three ducks at Carmarthen Fair and made a pond for them in the centre of the garden; but they waddled to the gutter under the crumbling doorsteps of the house, and swam and quacked there. When I reached the end of the orchard path, I looked through a hole in the hedge and saw that the parson had made a tunnel through the rockery that was between the gutter and the pond and had set up a notice in plain writing: 'This way to the pond.'

The ducks were still swimming under the steps.

Grandpa was not in the cottage. I went into the garden, but grandpa was not staring at the fruit-trees. I called across to a man who leant on a spade in the field beyond the garden hedge: 'Have you seen my grandpa this morning?'

He did not stop digging, and answered over his shoulder: 'I seen him in his fancy waistcoat.'

Griff, the barber, lived in the next cottage. I called to him through the open door: 'Mr Griff, have you seen my grandpa?'

The barber came out in his shirt-sleeves.

I said: 'He's wearing his best waistcoat.' I did not know if it was important, but grandpa wore his waistcoat only in the night.

(Continued on page 37)

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Attracting a new Rector

As a parish we owe a debt of gratitude to Christine Curtis and to Patricia Hicks, our profilists, for compiling the Parish Profile. This document provides the basic details about the parish and what the parish is looking for in a new priest.

It is no easy job to collect information, present it in an attractive form, decide what to omit and what to include, all the time considering what a prospective applicant might be looking for. Our profilists have been helped considerably by our visiting clergy who have been forthright in pointing out what to avoid and what to include: we are grateful to all these clergy for their views. Although the villages of Whittington and West Felton have increased in size over the last 50 years, the area remains predominantly rural. Responses to the valuable questionnaire that was circulated with the magazine show that there is interest in a wide range of Christian followings, but overall there was no thirst for extremes.

Today the Church of England has developed three traditions, the Anglo Catholic, the evangelical and the liberal. The Reformation and Henry VIII's split from Rome established a different church. It took greater note of texts from the Bible and in many ways is the forerunner of the evangelical wing of the Church of England today.



In the 18th century the rise of Methodism alarmed the established Church, but the comfortable lives of many of the clergy, funded by tithe (which the Methodists opposed), tended to stifle change. By the nineteenth century, stirrings amongst those in high places brought about a feeling that some of the pre-reformation traditions had been lost. Out of these stirrings arose the Oxford movement and Tractarians who developed a strong Anglo-Catholic tradition

By the end of the 19th century however evangelism in the United States was on the march and began to take hold in Britain. One American evangelist, Reuben Torrey, was instrumental in encouraging Eric Nash, a chaplain at Wrekin College, to set up the Iwerne camps. These were intended to find future leaders for the Church of England, and indeed did: Justin Welby was a product of this institution. However blatant abuse, verging on cruelty, led to notorious incidents, such as

(Continued on page 25)

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too much. Who ever heard of horses in a bedroom?'

He fumbled under his pillow, brought out a small, tinkling bag, and carefully untied its strings. He put a sovereign in my hand, and said: 'Buy a cake.' I thanked him and wished him good night.

As I closed my bedroom door, I heard his voice crying loudly and gaily, 'Gee-up! gee-up!' and the rocking of the travelling bed.

In the morning I woke from a dream of fiery horses on a plain that was littered with furniture, and of large, cloudy men who rode six horses at a time and whipped them with burning bed-clothes. Grandpa was at breakfast, dressed in deep black. After breakfast he said, 'There was a terrible loud wind last night,' and sat in his arm-chair by the hearth to make clay balls for the fire. Later in the morning he took me for a walk, through Johnstown village and into the fields on the Llanstephan road.

A man with a whippet said, 'There's a nice morning, Mr Thomas,' and when he had gone, leanly as his dog, into the short-treed green wood he should not have entered because of the notices, grandpa said: 'There, do you hear what he called you? Mister!' We passed by small cottages, and all the men who leant on the gates congratulated grandpa on the fine morning. We passed through the wood full of pigeons, and their wings broke the

branches as they rushed to the tops of the trees. Among the soft, content-ed voices and the loud, timid flying, grandpa said, like a man calling across a field: 'If you heard those old birds in the night, you'd wake me up and say there were horses in the trees.'

We walked back slowly, for he was tired, and the lean man stalked out of the forbidden wood with a rabbit held as gently over his arm as a girl's arm in a warm sleeve.

On the last day but one of my visit I was taken to Llanstephan in a governess cart pulled by a short, weak pony. Grandpa might have been driving a bison, so tightly he held the reins, so ferociously cracked the long whip, so blasphemously shouted warning to boys who played in the road, so stoutly stood with his gaitered legs apart and cursed the demon strength and wilfulness of his tottering pony. 'Look out, boy!' he cried when we came to each corner, and pulled and tugged and jerked and sweated and waved his whip like a rubber sword. And when the pony had crept miserably round each corner, grandpa turned to me with a sighing smile: 'We weathered that one, boy.' When we came to Llanstephan village at the top of the hill, he left the cart by the 'Edwinsford Arms' and patted the pony's muzzle and gave it sugar, saying: 'You're a weak little pony, Jim, to pull big men like us.'

He had strong beer and I had lemon-

(Continued on page 35)

A Visit to Grandpa's

Dylan Thomas

In the middle of the night I woke from a dream full of whips and lariats as long as serpents, and runaway coaches on mountain passes, and wide, windy gallops over cactus fields, and I heard the old man in the next room crying, 'Gee-up!' and 'Whoa!' and trotting his tongue on the roof of his mouth.

It was the first time I had stayed in grandpa's house. The floorboards had squeaked like mice as I climbed into bed, and the mice between the walls had creaked like wood as though another visitor was walking on them. It was a mild summer night, but curtains had flapped and branches beaten against the window. I had pulled the sheets over my head, and soon was roaring and riding in a book. 'Whoa there, my beauties!' cried grandpa. His voice sounded very young and loud, and his tongue had powerful hooves, and he made his bedroom into a great meadow. I thought I would see if he was ill, or had set his bed-clothes on fire, for my mother had said that he lit his pipe under the blankets, and had warned me to run to his help if I smelt smoke in the night. I went on tiptoe through the darkness to his bedroom door, brushing against the furniture and upsetting a candlestick with a thump. When I saw there was a light in the room. I felt frightened, and as I opened the door I heard grandpa

shout, 'Gee-up!' as loudly as a bull with a megaphone. He was sitting straight up in bed and rocking from side to side as though the bed were on a rough road; the knotted edges of the counterpane were his reins; his invisible horses stood in a shadow beyond the bedside candle. Over a white flannel nightshirt he was wearing a red waistcoat with walnut-sized brass buttons. The over-filled bowl of his pipe smouldered among his whiskers like a little, burning hayrick on a stick. At the sight of me, his hands dropped from the reins and lay blue and quiet, the bed stopped still on a level road, he muffled his tongue into silence, and the horses drew softly up. 'Is there anything the matter, grandpa?' I asked, though the clothes were not on fire. His face in the candlelight looked like a ragged quilt pinned upright on the black air and patched all over with goat-beards. He stared at me mildly. Then he blew down his pipe, scattering the sparks and making a high, wet dog-whistle of the stem, and shouted: 'Ask no questions.' After a pause, he said slyly: 'Do you ever have nightmares, boy?' I said: 'No.' 'Oh, yes, you do,' he said. I said I was woken by a voice that was shouting to horses. 'What did I tell you?' he said. 'You eat

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the actions of John Smyth, and the camps were closed. Similar organisations such as New Wine also had experiences of abuse and one of its leaders, Mike Pilavachi, was forced to resign after inappropriate relationships. There is no doubt that evangelical organisations do draw in the crowds. Many who are now senior will remember the multitudes that greeted Billy Graham in the 1960's. The Architect who looks after St Michael's says that he has been kept busy designing buildings for evangelical churches.

Such support has been noticed by the Church of England and the erstwhile Archbishop, Justin Welby, himself caught out by the misbehaviour of an evangelical, moved the Church Commissioners to put their money into evangelical church plants in towns. Welby was a member of Holy Trinity Brompton, an evangelical church (again inspired by an American evangelist) in London, where the Alpha course originated. There are evangelical churches in Oswestry (Google lists Albert Road, Hope church and Holy Trinity). The Church Commissioners largest church plant locally, Telford Minster, reputedly cost £3.5m including the rent for 25 years.

Many, uncomfortable with either extreme, favour a liberal approach and stress the importance of reacting to the advances in human knowledge

and understanding They may even stress the need for social and political action. Their support for recognition of homosexuality and same sex relationships are at odds with the Anglo Catholic and Evangelical wings of the church.

The movement towards the more direct action of the evangelical approach by the leaders of the Church of England has caused alarm amongst the clergy. Canon Angela Tilby, erstwhile Canon of Christchurch Oxford, feels that the Church is pursuing mission and neglecting its traditional rôle in pastoral care. Bishops are accused of seeing their role as closer to a branch manager than pastors and teachers. New initiatives have often cut across traditional parish boundaries leaving those parishes feeling ignored and bewildered.

The task before our profilists is clear. Not only do they have to present a picture of the parish that is distinct yet authentic, but they also have to present a document that will appeal to a wide church of applicants. Many of these applicants may be a generation younger than the congregations who wish to attract them and the information and presentation must be done in a way that compels their attention. The profile is essentially an advertisement aimed at drawing as many people as possible to apply. Who is appointable and who is the

(Continued on page 27)

Shropshire Council has partnered with Citymapper to provide a new official journey planning app for Shropshire, helping residents and visitors to plan journeys more easily across the county.

Officially launching on 1 August 2026, **Citymapper** makes it easier for local communities and visitors to plan journeys across the county by bringing together buses, trains, walking and cycling routes in a single, free app. The app provides real-time journey information, service alerts and step-by-step directions, helping people travel with confidence and make informed travel choices.

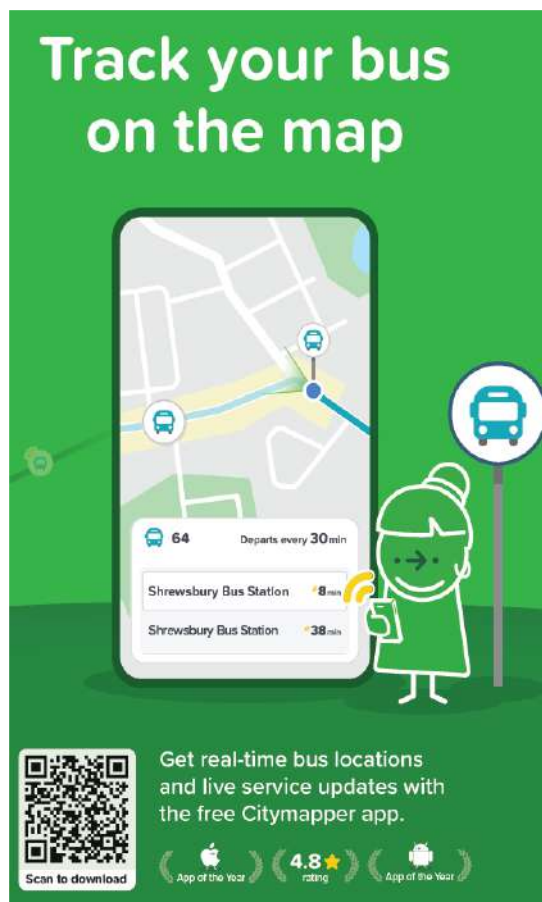
We are anxious to raise awareness of **Citymapper** within West Felton, and to encourage residents to give it a try. .

We want to ensure that as many people as possible are aware of the new journey planning tools available to them.

Further information about **Citymapper** can be found on the Council's new **Citymapper webpage**, and the free app is

available to download via the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. An online journey planner is also available for those who prefer not to use a mobile app, we have also created a step-by-step guide on how to download and use the app – for those that would like to try but are not sure how.

**Public Transport Team,
Passenger Transport Group,
People Directorate**



Up the Garden Path with Topiarius

Last of the summer wine

September is the end of summer and by then I am getting rather tired of weeding—I reckon the weeds know it and keep up the pressure. The common definition of a weed is a plant in the wrong place. However, a major reason why I cannot love weeds came to me when I stopped to remove an ivy leaved toadflax from an ivy covered wall (perhaps it thought that having a similar leaf shape entitled it to be there). I realised that first and foremost I consider a weed to be a plant that arrives without permission and self-seeds prolifically, especially when it goes from seedling to seeded when your back is turned. Hence, thistles, cleavers, herb Robert and, perhaps above all, what we call pink weeds (presumably an *Epilobium*). The likes of Himalayan balsam are most undesirable but at least they give you a decent time period before they set seed.

September brings an urge to start on improvement jobs identified in the July survey, but first you have to continue with the routine, notably the aforementioned weeds, plus harvesting. This includes the main crop potatoes to be stored. We also have grapes, and the outdoor ones are ready this month for applying our wine making skills. A last sowing of lettuce to be kept under cover is in order but that is all the sowing we will do. September is a convenient time for some lawn management. If

necessary, apply lawn sand and a bit later scarify and spike, but we leave any resowing to spring. I like to get ahead with winter pruning and start with on ivies etc on walls. The other bit of pruning is to cut back overhanging branches while they are still weighed down with leaves and easier to reach.

There has been lot of comment recently about encouraging children to take an interest in gardening. And quite right too as I am sure that early involvement in growing is a great impetus to taking it up in later years, even if there is a break in their interest. I think this must have been the case for me as I had the influence of my grandfather who loved his garden and for a time I had my own little plot. The interest disappeared completely but re-emerged when presented with the challenge of our present property. It has been the same for our children as both of them were encouraged when young with limited success but really got interested as adults. Children seem to be more interested in food than flowers, which must be a natural instinct. Radishes are frequently suggested for children to grow as easy and quick but I am not convinced that many of them would be thrilled by the harvest. But then, it depends on the child, one of our grandsons was happy to grow a tree but our granddaughter wanted the quicker return of broad beans. ●

Oswestry Rural South SNT (oswestryrs.snt@westmercia.police.uk)



PC Mark Wright M: 07977 957689 Direct Dial: 101.

PCSO Kurt Mabe 07870 219669

PCSO Stuart Carroll M: 07970 544372 | Direct Dial: 101 Ext. 7704043

Team email: oswestryrs.snt@westmercia.police.uk

OSWESTRY RURAL SOUTH Safer Neighbourhood Team,
West Mercia Police, Oswestry Police Station, Park St, Oswestry, SY11 2HE.
These personal mobile numbers/email addresses can be used to gain quick contact with our local policing team **BUT are not to be used to report new incidents.** All incidents must be reported on either of the two numbers: 101 in the case of non-emergency and 999 for emergencies.

Crimestoppers: 0800 555111 Twitter: @OsCops

Non emergency number : 101 web: www.westmercia.police.uk



MOBILE LIBRARY

Owen's - Route 4

Subject to change due to inclement weather, vehicle breakdown, COVID-19:

Alternate Thursdays

Grimpo 14:10 to 14:45
West Felton Village Hall
15:00 to 15:40



(Continued from page 25)

most suited to the parish is the function of the interview, a further demanding assignment for our representatives. But you must attract people to interview first.

This month the Harvest supper will be at 7.00pm on 18th September in the Village hall.

There will be a Harvest Service at St Michael's on 20th September at 9.30am.

There will also be a Harvest Service at St Chad's Haughton on Sunday 27th September at 4.00pm, The Archdeacon of Salop will be officiating at this latter service.●

Oswestry Ladies Choir presents "Brush up your Shakespeare" A concert in aid of Hope House Children's Hospice

"If music be the food of love play on"...
the choir will be performing a selection of songs
from Shakespeare's plays

Wednesday October 7th 2026, at 7:30pm.

All Saints Church Hall, Gobowen

The composers are Bob Chilcott and other contemporary composers from around the world. The choir is conducted by Dawn Jaffray with resident accompanist Elizabeth Dobson.

Joining the choir will be well known actor Hugh Sayer from Grove Park Theatre, Wrexham and Stage Five Theatre.

Hugh will delight us with verse, Sonnets, and dialogue from some of his favourite plays.

If you have *"knitted your brows; made virtue of necessity; insisted on fair play; slept not a wink; stood on ceremony; danced attendance on; and laughed yourself into stitches"* then you are already quoting Shakespeare, so come and join us in the knowledge that you know more than you realise.

Tickets £10 for adults with Free entry for children under 16.

Available from choir members, on the door

or by telephoning 01691 659712

Refreshments are available during the interval.
Proceeds towards Hope House Children's Hospice.



hope house
tŷ gobaith
Children's
Hospice

WEST FELTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL PTFA

2025 - 2026



IT HAS BEEN A REALLY SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR THE FRIENDS OF WEST FELTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL PTFA. WE'VE RAISED VALUABLE FUNDS TO ENHANCE OUR CHILDREN'S SCHOOL EXPERIENCE. EVERY EVENT AND DONATION HAS MADE A REAL DIFFERENCE, AND WE'RE INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL TO EVERYONE WHO HAS SUPPORTED US THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



WE'VE EATEN ICE POPS, QUIZZED, SHOWN OFF OUR SPOOKY DANCE MOVES, DECORATED CHRISTMAS TREES, ESCORTED SANTA AROUND SCHOOL, MADE CHRISTMAS CARDS, ENJOYED A MOVIE TOGETHER, CREATED RIVERS FOR THE MIND ON WORLD BOOK DAY, PRODUCED A FUN TRAIL AROUND THE VILLAGE, HELD A HUGE SUCCESSFUL RAFFLE AND FINALLY ORGANISED OUR WONDERFUL SUMMER FÊTE

**AMOUNT
RAISED**
£4,192.02

WE HAVE PROVIDED WELCOME GIFTS FOR THE NEW RECEPTION CHILDREN, PURCHASED LEAVERS HOODIES FOR THE YEAR 6S, HELPED TOWARDS THE COST OF THE BUS FOR THE CHESTER ZOO TRIP, HELPED TO FUND THE PAINTING OF THE HALL AND MOST SIGNIFICANTLY WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT TOWARDS THE SCHOOL'S NEW CLASS STRUCTURE

Thank you to everyone who has supported us this year!