

AgeUK Shropshire Telford and Wrekin ext.231	01743 233123
BINS - Waste Management <a href="mailto:customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk">customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk</a>	0345 6789007
CAXTON SURGERY <a href="https://www.caxtonsurgery.co.uk/index.aspx">https://www.caxtonsurgery.co.uk/index.aspx</a>	01691 654646
Citizens Advice Bureau, Castle View	03444 991100
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
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: <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>	
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: <a href="mailto:steve.charmley@shropshire.gov.uk">steve.charmley@shropshire.gov.uk</a>	01691 587958
St Michael's Church: Revd Suzan Williams	01691 674948
Church Warden: Dr Michael Davie	01691 610612
St. Chad's: Chapel Warden: Mrs A Hampson	01691 610845
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - Secretary	01691 610357
VILLAGE HALL Bookings	01691 610629
WASP Problems Emergency number	01691 831251 / 07772 006994
WATER - Severn Trent Water Authority	0800 783 4444
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: Gillian Sturgess	01691 611811

Year 30

NOVEMBER 2023

# ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON



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

## POPPY CONCERT

The Orthopaedic Male Voice Choir

WEST FELTON VILLAGE HALL

Friday 10th November 7:30pm

Tickets £6 from the Shop or Legion Members

For more information call 610629



**COFFEE MORNING** Village Hall  
10am - SATURDAY 25th November

Stalls  
Raffle  
Tea/Coffee  
Mince pies



# WHAT'S ON

<b>Parish Council</b>	Second Tues of the month, 7:30 Methodist Hall
<b>West Felton Walkers</b>	10am Mondays, Punch Bowl <b>EXCEPT... see page 19</b>
<b>Pilates Class</b>	Tuesday mornings: Two sessions: 9-10am & 10:15-11:15am Need to book on line GYMATCH.
<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 Tuesdays 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>LAWN HOUSE, WF</b> , first Monday of the month except Bank holidays then second Monday.
<b>Bumps, Babies And Tots</b>	8:45am - 10:45 Fortnightly Termtime Fridays at Methodist Schoolroom Email rev.julia@mail.com

27 Oct	5pm FISH 'N' CHIP SUPPER , Methodist Schoolroom	page
2 Nov	10am - noon COFFEE MORNING, Methodist Schoolroom	17
10 Nov	7:30pm POPPY CONCERT, Village Hall 	cover
11 Nov	11am Remembrance Service at the War Memorial	9
12 Nov	9:30am REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY Service St Michael's Church	
12 Nov	10:30am REMEMBRANCE Service, Pradoc Church	
25 Nov	10am - CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING, Village Hall	7
1 Dec	6pm CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH-ON, Alma Close	28
6 Dec	7pm CHRISTMAS BINGO, Village Hall	



Two new advertisements this month, can you find them?

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Discos/parties	<b>£80</b>	Weddings, all day	<b>£200</b>

### Commercial rates by arrangement

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



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## Round and About West Felton

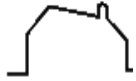
Articles/advertisement amendments for inclusion in next issue  
to Editor by email (preferred) or phone

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

**Editor: Colleen Hughes**

**Advertising Rates  
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**01691 674 948**

### **Services in West Felton Parish:**

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

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

### **Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals:**

Please arrange with The Rector:

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

Dr Michael Davie **0691 610 612**

## **Pradoe Church**

*Services - at 10:30am unless otherwise stated*

**All Welcome. Tea, Coffee & Biscuits served after service**

**Sunday 5 November Family Service**

**Sunday 12 November REMEMBRANCE SERVICE**

**Sunday 3 December Family Service**

**Wednesday 13 Dec 7pm Carol Service**

**Monday 25 December 10am CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**

### **Christenings, Weddings and Funerals:**

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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](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



**St Michaels Church**

**COFFEE  
MORNING**

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Village Hall**

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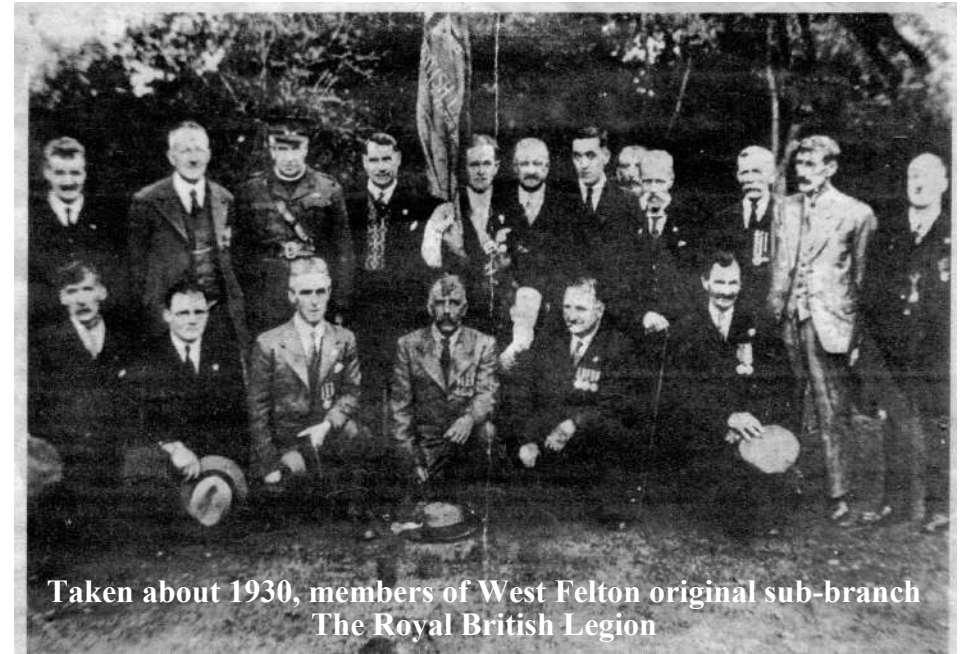
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## Armistice Day Service at West Felton War Memorial Sat. 11 November, 11am





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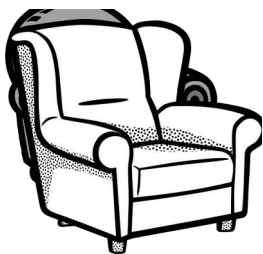
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## Local Health and Social Care Champion celebrates 10 year anniversary.



Healthwatch Shropshire, the health and social care champion for the people of Shropshire, has celebrated its tenth anniversary. Staff and volunteers, past and present, along with leading figures in health and social care gathered to mark ten years of gathering patient and service users experiences to help improve services.

Mandy Thorn, High Sheriff of Shropshire and a former volunteer with the charity, attended the event along with Rachel Robinson, Director of Public Health for Shropshire and Simon Whitehouse, Chief Executive Officer of Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin NHS.

The event celebrated how Healthwatch Shropshire has for 10 years raised the voice of patients and service users with NHS and social care leaders to help improve care.

Lynn Cawley, Healthwatch Shropshire Chief Officer, said, "We are independent from the NHS and social care providers and give people the opportunity to share their experiences of using health and social care services. We make sure that this valuable feedback reaches the powers that be and leads to positive change. We are very grateful to the more than 9,500 people who have shared their experiences with us over the last 10 years and are pleased to have provided information and signposting to over 40,000 people."

"While thanking all of the dedicated staff and volunteers who have worked tirelessly during these years to champion the voice of Shropshire patients and service users we were delighted to have the opportunity to mark this occasion by awarding 'Healthwatch Hero' awards to three people who have been pivotal in this work; Jane Randall-Smith, former Healthwatch Shropshire Chief Officer, for establishing the trusted brand that is Healthwatch Shropshire and laying the groundwork for its continued success; George Rook, former board member and active campaigner, for his passion and determination in highlighting the needs of people with Dementia and their carers in Shropshire; Vanessa Barrett, one of our longest standing board members, for her dedicated service and support to Healthwatch Shropshire as both a volunteer and Chair of the Board."

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. ♦

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## Rector's Ramblings

*Rev Suzan Williams*

Dear Friends,

There are many things to commend about getting in the car and taking a break somewhere in our wonderful British Isles, but being stuck in traffic on the motorway is not one of them!

I'm sure you all have stories of sitting in jams, sandwiched between lorries for what seems like hours with 'roadworks ahead' signs all around and miles and miles of cones. And when you finally reach the roadworks the site seems deserted with no sign of active construction going on at all - diggers seemingly abandoned, and no sign of life!

Apologies to all construction workers reading at this point – I do understand that you need time off too!).

On a recent trip to Kent I got caught up in roadworks both on the motorway and a sign caught my eye that I had never seen before. It read 'We are working out of sight, so you may not see us'. I wondered if this had been created in response to all those grumbles from the general public about just such experiences.

Construction work on motorways is incredibly complex. What we see and experience once the work is completed in the new intersections, widened motorways, new bridges etc. is the result of the keen minds and skills of a myriad of people from all sorts of disciplines from planners to architects, from civil engineers to groundworkers, often working out of sight, always working to a masterplan but all we experience is the upheaval as change takes place- and all this takes time.

Change often causes upheaval, always

takes time, but may bring with it significant benefits.

My experience of seeing God at work is not dissimilar to my experience of motorway roadworks. Life can be hugely frustrating. We try to find a way through the obstacles that get in the way of what we want to do or where we want to be, or we get 'stuck in traffic' in a rut that we can't see a way out of. Perhaps we look around for those who can help us and we see no-one.

But God is working, often working hardest in the most difficult and challenging times we encounter. God may be working out of sight, and you may not see him, but he is there, patiently waiting for each one of us to accept that changing our ways, turning towards him and asking to be part of his masterplan is the only way to bring about the change that leads to life in all it's fullness.

Perhaps the motorway sign that God writes might say this: 'We are working out of sight so you may not see us, but you will definitely know where we have been'

Perhaps it's time to make a few changes in your life and seek the God who loves you and is working to change your heart and bring about a better future for you– even if he seems to be out of sight!

Our annual 'Remembering service' for those who've recently been bereaved is on Sunday 5th of November at 6.30pm please let me know if you would like your loved ones name included on the list that will be read out during the service.

Blessings as you navigate through November.

Rev Suzan

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## West Felton Methodist Chapel

and Schoolroom - opposite the playing field

Minister: Rev Julia Skitt 07810 360778

Secretary Christine Curtis 01691 610665

The Chapel activities continue and the list of services for November can be found in this magazine. Our next coffee morning will be on Thursday, 2nd November from 10 a.m. - 12 noon; everyone welcome. Also on Friday, 27th October will be a Fish 'n Chip Supper; £6 per person but places must be booked by calling 01691 610629

Unfortunately the chapel premises have been damaged by a few acts of vandalism in recent weeks. If you are passing the chapel and notice anything untoward, we would appreciate you contacting the police, to whom the incidents have been reported.

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**Friday 3rd November 7.45pm, Montford Parish Hall SY4 1AD**

**Saturday 4th November 7.45pm, Ellesmere College SY12 9AB**

**Saturday 11th November 7.45pm, Llanymynech Village Hall SY22 6EE**

**Sunday 12th November 2.30pm Llanymynech Village Hall SY22 6EE**

Tickets will be available to book online at [ticketsource.co.uk/ladstheatre](http://ticketsource.co.uk/ladstheatre), by phone on 01691 830558, or at our usual local outlets.

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## Up the Garden Path with Topiarius

### Almost winter

November is understood to be late autumn, that is the last chance to prepare for winter. This means such things as bringing tender plants into the glass-house, covering gunnera with their own leaves, clearing indoor tomatoes, lifting begonia tubers and cutting down asparagus ferns. I don't bring in all borderline hardy plants at this point but have to imprint on my brain that it must be done when severe weather is forecast—I have been caught out before. It can be advantageous to buy plants in the autumn rather than in spring. It is then safer from the point of view of frost to overwinter them under glass, and will also give them a good start for spring planting out, particularly if you go for the sensible economy of buying smaller but much cheaper plants.

After clearing the tomatoes, it is a good plan to rake and hoe the glasshouse beds before pots are brought in for the winter. I also check the pH in case liming is needed, and convince myself that applying Jeyes fluid will disinfect everything. It is probable that the glass needs washing to maximise light during the duller months. Outside on the vegetable patch it is not too early to be preparing for next year by weeding and raking the beds after the crops have been cleared. This will also make them ready for spreading soil conditioner or compost. We can't generate enough of our own compost so I will be ordering

ProGrow, which will also be used on flower beds.

We are now well into the pruning season and I like to get as well ahead as possible with dealing with shrubs and trees before any really cold weather or snow brings it to a halt. Floribunda roses can be shortened to reduce the effect of wind but the perceived wisdom is that the main pruning is left until spring. Shrub roses generally need very little pruning but I do any that is needed this month.

At a time when the planned changes to the garden resulting from the summer review should be underway, I started thinking of the great variation in the frequency that people change plants or make design changes. Some are forever falling in or out of love with a plant or getting bored with a feature, and hence removing things and probably spending a considerable amount of money on replacement with the latest fancy. Others are perhaps guilty of keeping plants well beyond their sell by date, perhaps out of misplaced loyalty or simply inertia. I am in the second camp and can readily put off making change until it is clearly essential. In fact, I find that I am generally oblivious to the need for something to change, whether it be a plant or feature, until some unsuspected stimulus produces a sudden realisation that a change is long overdue, and I will then embrace the change with enthusiasm. ♦





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## West Felton Methodist Chapel and Schoolroom - opposite the playing field



Minister: Rev Julia Skitt 07810 360778

Secretary Christine Curtis 01691 610665

### SERVICES 2023

#### NOVEMBER

5th Songs of Praise

12th Remembrance Day – service at St. Michael's

19th At Oswestry at 10.45 a.m.

26th Songs of Praise

## Coffee Morning

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*(Continued from page 37) Bells and Churches*  
 Museum of London. The earliest bells were not tuned, but later an attempt was made to tune a bell by chiselling bits of metal off the inside. Later mechanical means allowed bells to become precisely tuned. The Whitechapel foundry designed the Olympic bell for the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games. The foundry was not able to provide sufficient metal to make the bell which had to be made in a shipyard. It is not rung these days since it produces such a loud sound that it would upset local residents.

The sound of church bells upsetting local residents has a long and distinguished history. In America the ringing of bells in a Californian church distressed the locals so much that they called in the local council. Long were the arguments about freedom of ex-

pressing religion and right to a quiet life. The chimes of the church in Wantage, celebrated by the late John Betjeman, caused so much disturbance to the local Landlord that he burst into an evensong shouting 'what about love thy neighbour?' Church bells summon not only the faithful but also record the time. Such announcements may be too noisy for some and local noise abatement officials have from time to time been called in to adjudicate. Generally church bells signifying the time are silenced between 11.00pm and 7.00am. The Duke of Bridgwater, of canal fame, was asked by his workers to set the clock to strike 13 times at 1.00pm since they often missed the single chime and didn't get back to work. The clock was later installed in St Mark's church, Worsley near Manchester, where it can still be heard to strike 13 chimes at 1.00pm. ♦

The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,  
 The lowing herd winds slowly o'er the lea,  
 The ploughman homeward plods his weary way,  
 And leaves the world to darkness and to me.

*Thomas Gray's Elegy  
 Written in a Country  
 Churchyard*

**The bells of  
 St. Oswald's Parish  
 Church, Oswestry,  
 being re-hung  
 30 November 1970.**



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## BELLS AND CHURCHES

Michael Davie

Bells have been associated with the Christian religion for centuries. Bells themselves are one of the oldest musical instruments, possibly originating in China 5 millennia ago. Church bells ring to announce the time, to proclaim that a service is beginning and to celebrate events during a service: smaller hand bells are often in Catholic and high Anglican churches to acclaim the blessing of the communion bread and wine.

In St Michael's, the tower contains three bells, but none can be rung since the structure of the tower would not support the force of a swinging bell. One of the three bells appears to have a different history from the other two. Lloyd Kenyon's scholarly history of West Felton church mentions a bell being installed in 1662. A further bell with the inscription, not easily discerned these days, "canteMus Domino CantiCum novum" – 'let us sing unto the Lord a new song' was hung in 1700, the capital letters MDCC indicating the Latin date for 1700. It is not clear how many bells there were in the church at that time.

St Michael's church tower collapsed in 1782 and the fate of the bells is not stated; neither is it mentioned whether too hearty a ringing of the bells had a rôle in this disaster. The bells must have been restored since there is a record, again in Lloyd Kenyon's article, of a bell being rung for the curfew. The

first record of this is in 1844-5 but it may have started earlier. The sexton was paid 7s 6d (about £50 in today's money) for ringing the curfew, to start at 7.00pm and to finish at 5.00am, from 5th November to 1st January.

This practice lasted until 1862. Ringing of the curfew originated in the time of William the Conqueror. The word Curfew is derived from the French 'couvre-feu' or cover the fire, indicating that all lights and fires should be extinguished. It was repealed by Henry 1 in 1100, but evidently the practice continued for centuries after that.

Another bell, a tenor, was acquired in 1857 bearing the name of the founders C and G Meares, London foundry, to replace the 1662 bell which had become cracked. An inscription reads: God save the Church the Queen and the Realm. The initials of the churchwardens JD and WH (John Dovaston and William Howells) are also recorded. The old bell had some monetary value but the church had to pay £21 for the new bell and £13 to have it installed.

C and G Meares were bell founders at the London bell foundry in Whitechapel. One of their bells, admittedly rather smaller than those in St Michael's is currently for sale on eBay for £3500. The Whitechapel foundry cast the Liberty Bell and the bell for Big Ben. The foundry started in 1570 and cast its last bell in 2017, the bell being given to the

*(Continued on page 39)*

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The three-day seasonal extravaganza offers something for everyone, including a popular Christmas Market, an audience with Santa and an array of shopping and eating opportunities. There's even the chance to meet two adorable



miniature donkeys. The Christmas Fayre will see a host of local artisan producers selling festive food, gifts, crafts and decorations. The market stalls will be offering unique hand-crafted present ideas alongside Derwen College's own Garden Centre and Gift Shop merchandise. There's also a bar and live music. **There will be late night shopping on Friday until 8pm, followed by Saturday opening (10am-4pm) and Sunday opening (10am-4pm).**

Santa will be reading stories, while Mrs Christmas hands out gifts and chats to youngsters on all three days (**booking essential at <https://derwen.me/AudienceWithSanta>**). Youngsters can meet two cute miniature donkeys from Dinky Donkeys. The loveable little donkeys are just 32 inches tall, and adore a bit of fuss and a photo opportunity. There will be festive food available to buy in the Walled Garden Café on all three days.

Throughout December, The Garden Centre & Gift Shop promises a sparkly festive welcome, with the sale of Christmas trees, Derwen Charity Christmas cards, seasonal plants, wreaths, decorations, and unique gifts and hampers. The Vintage Advantage charity shop will be brimming with yuletide pre-loved treasures including Christmas fashions, gifts and homeware. The Orangery Restaurant will be starting its Christmas Menu on Monday, 27 November, and then serving Monday to Friday until 15 December (deposits and pre-booking required for groups of more than six). What's more, customers to our Derwen Marketplace will be supporting Derwen College students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in their learning and work experience. At the same time, customers will be raising money for Derwen Charity, which further supports students with SEND to reach their aspirations. **To find out more about Christmas at Derwen and how to book your visit to meet Santa and Mrs Christmas, visit the website at [www.derwen.ac.uk](http://www.derwen.ac.uk)**

## ST CHAD'S CHURCH, HAUGHTON

St. Chad's Church, Haughton was built in 1886 by the Reverend T.M.B. Bulkeley Owen, of stone taken from the Tedsmore quarry. Previously the Vicar of Welsh Hampton, before inheriting the Tedsmore estate from his father, he also founded All Saints Church in Shrewsbury, the foundation stone of which was laid some ten years earlier in 1875. It was built from stone taken from Shelvock quarry also on Tedsmore estate.

In memoirs published February 1914, frequent reference is made to the large congregation who gathered regularly to worship in St Chad's. It is said that the Church was well loved but it also appears that its Priest inspired great respect and affection within the Parish, and this must have added greatly to the warmth and attraction of his services. Children were often present in such numbers that when seating was full, they sat round the altar steps. The Reverend Bulkeley-Owen was a strong supporter of the Oxford Movement, and it is interesting that the Anglo Catholic tradition was revived and continued for many years in the Parish of West Felton.

St. Chad's Church history is closely bound with Tedsmore and descendants of the founder who came to live there. The stained-glass window above the altar and the finely worked iron cross above a sandstone pillar outside, are memorials to the Reverend Bulkeley-Owen and to his wife. The stained-glass



window is from Charles Kempe & Co Studios, glass of exquisite quality. It was the Hon. Mrs Bulkeley-Owen who embroidered the beautiful altar frontals. The altar itself was made of oak grown on the Tedsmore estate and carved by the estate carpenter. The Reverend Bulkeley-Owen died on January 5th 1910, and Tedsmore passed to his nephew General Mainwaring Jacson, who continued to take services in St Chads. General Jacson's brother, the Reverend O.F. Jacson inherited the estate five years later. Services were taken by Reverend Jacson. His wife played the organ and ran the Sunday school. The Sexton, Albert Harding, at that time was a well-known local character who, of course, rang the bell, and his loud singing voice is well remembered by those who heard it during the service, he tended to hang on to notes when everyone else had finished.

St Chad's was first lit by candles and oil lamps; hymns were sung without accompaniment. Later a harmonium was installed and gas lighting, with gas supplied first by an acetylene generator and later by calor gas cylinders. In 1979 electric light fittings were put into the original iron supports. The gas lamp shades which give an attractive glowing light, were retained. Electric heaters had been put in some years earlier. Professor Blair-Bell, professor of gynaecology in Liverpool University, was a

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*(Continued from page 22)*

generous benefactor of St Chad's. He was a friend of the Jacson family and attended services in the Church, retiring to live in Eardiston House. A Memorial bearing his name and arms can be seen on the west wall. Professor Blair-Bell and his wife are buried in the churchyard, the place clearly marked by a tall bronze cross. Yoland Brown, in her Ruyton XI Towns history tells us, "The renowned Gynaecologist, William Blair-Bell, is listed as living in Eardiston House in the 1929 and 1934 Trade Directories. His wife Florence died in 1929. Blair-Bell himself collapsed on the train returning from London on 25th January 1936. He was taken to Royal Shrewsbury Infirmary where he



was confirmed dead. A review of 'William Blair-Bell – father and founder' by Sir John Peel in 1986 tells of a man for whom all mothers should be eternally grateful. It has been said that Blair-Bell (1871-1936) was the greatest gynaecologist of the century: that he laid the foundations of modern gynaecology, raising it from a branch of general

*(Continued on page 25)*

## Preb. David North and St Chads congregation 2002





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Why do you need this project?

Continue on a separate form if necessary and attach it to this application form

Application amount:  (up to a maximum amount of £500)



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT ...Please return your form to: Ian Bebbington, Chief Executive Officer, Shropshire & West Midlands Agricultural Society, The West Midlands Showground, Berwick Road, Shrewsbury SY1 2PF

Your application will be considered by the board of trustees, and you will be notified by post whether your application has been successful or not, timescales can vary depending on the number of applicants.

\*The Rural Charity\* is a brand name of the Shropshire & West Midlands Agricultural Society Charity Reg No. 832372



**WIN** AN AWARD OF  
**£250 to £500**  
FOR YOUR LOCAL CAUSE OR COMMUNITY PROJECT

**We want to help fund your community initiatives!**

It could be a community garden project, clean up operation, community newsletter, rural transport service, additional needs club, community safety service, elderly care club, community workshop or any community beneficial idea you may have...

**Complete the form on the reverse and post your application to be considered**

**ENTER TO WIN**

<b>SHREWSBURY</b> 77 Whitchurch Road Shrewsbury SY1 4EE 01743 440067	<b>OSWESTRY</b> 7-9 Albion Hill Oswestry SY11 1QA 01691 688650	<b>CHURCH STRETTON</b> 21 High Street Church Stretton SY6 6BS 01694 720284	<b>ELLESMERE</b> 4 High Street Ellesmere SY12 0EP 01691 624021	<b>WEM</b> 29 High Street Wem SY4 5DG 01939 236559
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**RURAL** Supporting local community causes that are important to you!

\*The Rural Charity\* is a brand name of the Shropshire & West Midlands Agricultural Society Charity Reg. No. 302312

(Continued from page 23)

surgery to a separate and important new discipline. His admirers stress his flair for research, his skill as a teacher as well as a surgeon, and his administrative ability. Most of all, they remind us that he was mainly responsible for the foundation of the College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in 1929. Son of a General Practitioner, he began his career in a GP practice in Wallasey. He was appointed as Assistant Consulting Gynaecologist to the Liverpool Infirmary in 1905 at the age of 34, when he began a lifetime of quarrelling with anyone who dared to disagree with him. In 1921 he began his controversial work on the use of lead in the treatment of uterine cancer. His biographer credits him with the introduction of chemotherapy for cancer."

The Church of St Chad's was built by the Rev'd T.M. Bulkeley Owen to save people the three mile walk to the parish church at West Felton. The services were very popular, and every Sunday the church was filled to capacity. There are two versions of the long wooden chest-like piece of furniture that stands at the back of the church, one being that it was made by a local man to be used as a coffin, but was not suitable, being too long and not wide enough. It was eventually given to the church to be used for church purposes - here comes the superstition "*If used for other purposes or thrown out or given away, ill luck will be bestowed on the person involved.*"

The other version which is believed to be the true one, is that a young man,

William Henry Davies, who lived at the Smithy at Rednal, went to work in America as a butler for a doctor, but unfortunately he took pneumonia and died, the doctor had the young man embalmed, dressed in his butler's uniform and paid for the body to be brought home for burial. The chest at the back of the church is the coffin that brought him home. He was buried in St Chad's churchyard and his grave can be found in row 18, beneath the big tree. Some years ago, the North Shropshire Work Force carried out careful restoration work to the churchyard and to the boundary wall. More recently a new gate was donated by the Lloyd family, a replica of the original. Well established families in West Felton and those who have come to live here more recently, continue to care for St Chad's. The inside is carefully tended, brasses polished, and altar linen laundered; flowers are arranged by volunteers. The church yard is regularly maintained.

In 1998 a new roof was required. The cost £11,000. Many events were held to raise the money, and in May 1999 work started, during this time services were held at St Michael's church. The work was completed in August 1999, a fitting celebration of the new Millennium.

Haughton pool was once a ducking pool where many people were ducked for minor offences, for example, one man was ducked for stealing a rabbit and killing it to feed his eight children.

◆

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## WEST FELTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



The West Felton WI September meeting included the Produce and Craft Show. Gillian welcomed members and visitors and thanked all helpers

who organised and set up the hall for the show. Members were congratulated for the wonderful display of entries. Trophies were awarded for overall points-winners in each section. Guest speaker Victoria Graham explained how The Biscuit Club came into being and why biscuits became so important to her at a certain time in her life. However we're not going to spoil it for the next WI who hear her talk - only to say we were surprised. Victoria is a fantastic speaker - natural and enthusiastic and has a most interesting story to tell - don't miss the opportunity to hear her talk if you get the chance - it'll be well worth it.

**Shropshire WI Day** was celebrated on Saturday 16th September at Shrewsbury Abbey and was combined with the craft show moved from its usual venue at Shrewsbury Flower Show. Glenys Wheeler, Federation Chair was delighted by the success of the event. She says, "As SFWI members you showed your support for your individual WIs, for the Federation and for the WI movement. In other words, you were absolutely brilliant, so from all of the Trustees let me say thank you for making it such a successful and fun day... Please revisit the Abbey to see our Poppy display at the beginning of November and also join us for our Carol Service at the Abbey on 8th December."

**Oswestry North Group Social Evening Wed 27th Sept.** Darren Edwards was the guest speaker. Darren is a former mountaineer and Army Reservist who was paralysed in a climbing accident. He battled back with determination, grit and resilience to mould a new life for himself as an adventurer, inspirational speaker and author. Darren told us about how he led a team of injured veterans to kayak from Land's End to John O' Groats and how he became the first person with a disability to complete 7 marathons in 7 days across 7 continents. Darren's first book "Strength Through Adversity, A Story of Overcoming a Life-Changing Injury and Trumping over Adversity" became an instant best-seller. He is a natural and passionate speaker - his personal account of overcoming adversity is an awe-inspiring story. Find out more at [www.darrenedwards.org.uk](http://www.darrenedwards.org.uk) or on Facebook Darren Edwards - Disabled Adventurer. St Martins WI won the competition "Make a Hat for an Adventurer". The evening was rounded off with a buffet and cakes, a raffle and a quiz.

The evening also included WFWI's very first Swishing Event which is all about recycling pre-loved clothes & accessories - thank you to Gilli Booton, from the Climate Change Committee at County office who came and ran the event. ♦

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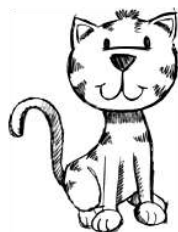
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Ann Evans Dawn Jones  
Robt Franklin, Christopher Lunt, Roger Jones, Paul Lindop, Stuart Halsea, Iain Butler  
Ian Franklin, Neil Coles, Stephen Jones, Robert Lunt, Simon Morris



**THE DIDDY MEN**  
FROM LEFT:  
Simon Morris,  
David Evans,  
Stuart Halsea,  
Iain Butler,  
Stephen Jones,  
Barry Jones.  
(middle) Andrew Hunt

**West Felton  
Cub Pack**

**From a show  
by the cubs  
in early 1970  
in the Village Hall**



## WEST FELTON CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

Happy, once again, to provide

- the CHRISTMAS TREE for West Felton,
- personalised Baubles for your loved ones,
- support for local Charity - West Mercia Search & Rescue

Make it special for your family,  
Order your baubles now,  
be ready for the  
big Christmas Tree light up on

**1st December, 6pm**

Order form on page 29.

Eileen Hanmer 610629

## CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

The Carnival committee is pleased once again to present the village 2023 Christmas Tree.

Christmas Tree switch-on will take place on

**Friday 1st December at 6pm**

at the entrance to Alma Close.

As usual there will be mulled wine and mince pies free of charge.

By popular demand we will be repeating the Personalised Baubles to raise cash for a charity.

Coloured baubles will be personalised and sold at a cost of **£2.50p per bauble** and placed upon the tree.

This is an ideal opportunity for you to have the name of your child, a loved one, a pet etc hanging on our village tree this Christmas - a little personal touch!

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED to**

**WEST MERCIA SEARCH & RESCUE**

To place your order of your personalised bauble(s) please complete the form below and return with payment to:

Sharon Arthur,  
51, Applewood Heights  
610767

Eileen Hanmer,  
Lawn House  
610629

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
<b>BAUBLE NAME - ONLY ONE NAME PER BAUBLE</b>		<b>£2.50 PER BAUBLE</b>
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2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		