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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
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WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: Gillian Sturgess	01691 611811

Year 30

DECEMBER 2023

# ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON

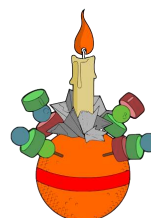
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contributors and volunteers



**BETTER WATCH OUT!**  
Santa will be driving  
through West Felton  
from 5pm **FRIDAY**  
22nd December  
Page 21



**CHRIST INGE**  
**ST. MICHAEL'S**  
2:30pm  
Sunday 24th  
Decem ber



Carol Services  
Page 21

# 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</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

<b>25 Nov</b>	<b>10am - CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING, Village Hall</b>	
<b>1 Dec</b>	<b>6pm - CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH-ON, Alma Close</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>3 Dec</b>	<b>4pm - CAROL SERVICE, ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>6 Dec</b>	<b>7pm - CHRISTMAS BINGO, Village Hall</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>7 Dec</b>	<b>10am - CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING, Methodist Hall</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>7 Dec</b>	<b>7pm - WI GROUP CAROL SERVICE - collection for Osw Food Bank.</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>13 Dec</b>	<b>7pm CAROL SERVICE, Pradoc Church</b>	
<b>17 Dec</b>	<b>2:30pm CAROL SERVICE, Methodist Chapel</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>19 Dec</b>	<b>9am SCHOOL SERVICE at St Michael's Church.</b>	
<b>22 Dec</b>	<b>Fr CHRISTMAS visits West Felton. Watch out for his sleigh from 5 pm.</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>24 Dec</b>	<b>2:30pm CHRISTINGLE in St Michael's Church</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>24 Dec</b>	<b>10pm MIDNIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE St Michael's</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>7 January</b>	<b>4pm CAROL SERVICE, St Chad's Church, Haughton</b>	<b>43</b>

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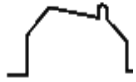
Articles/advertisement amendments for inclusion in next issue  
to Editor by email (preferred) or phone

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

**Editor: Colleen Hughes**

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Rector: Reverend Suzan Williams,  
The Rectory, Castle Street, Whittington,  
**01691 674 948**

**Services in West Felton Parish:  
CHRISTMAS SERVICES  
See page 43**

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*

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Wednesday 13 Dec 7pm CAROL SERVICE

Monday 25 December 10am CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

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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

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**Shropshire Councillor** Cllr Steve CHARMLEY 01691 650 488



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**People in Shropshire often feel confused and let down by responses to their NHS and social care complaints.**

A survey looking at people's experiences of making formal complaints about local NHS or social care services has found that people often come away from the process feeling 'ignored' and that they can find the process of making their complaint 'difficult' and 'confusing'.

78 people completed a Healthwatch Shropshire survey and the responses revealed:

17 people had considered making a complaint but didn't, due to feeling like it wouldn't make a difference (7), or worrying it would affect their care and treatment (5).

12 people were not told when they would receive a response and 15 people were given a deadline which was then missed by the provider.

10 people had waited 7-12 months for a response to their complaint.

21 people were 'not satisfied at all' with the outcome of their complaint.

30 people said they were 'not confident at all' or 'not very confident' that measures had been put in place to prevent the incident they complained about from happening again.

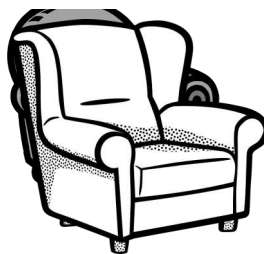
Lynn Cawley, Chief Officer of Healthwatch Shropshire, said, "There is a real opportunity for the NHS and social care providers in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin to work together to make the handling of complaints simpler for people, using the Complaint Standards from the Parliamentary Health Service Ombudsman as a guide. Complaints can offer providers valuable information into how their services are being experienced by the people who use them and we would urge all providers to embrace the feedback they receive and learn from it making improvements that can be evidenced."

Vanessa Whatley, Director of Quality and Nursing for Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care System said "We are grateful to those patients and service users who took the time to share their experiences [...] We are sorry to hear that the experience of complaining is difficult for those who access our services, and who contributed to this report. We will be discussing these findings in depth with health and social care professionals across the system, and those that experience our care, so that we can work together to make the necessary improvements."

The full report is available on the Healthwatch Shropshire website here: [NHS and Social Care Complaints Report | Healthwatch Shropshire](#).

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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## WEST FELTON CARNIVAL CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH-ON 1st December, 6pm

The West Felton Carnival Christmas Tree light switch-on will take place on Friday 1st December at 6pm, at the entrance to Alma Close.

The **Porthywaen Band** will be helping with the festivities - come along and join in the carols.

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

**This year Father Christmas is paying a special visit and will be at the Punchbowl straight after the switch-on with a gift for the children.**

Be sure to head up to the Punchbowl with your Christmas list and grab a bite to eat from Wild Street Kitchen and a winter warmer from the bar.

We look forward to seeing you all on 1st December!

The tree will be dressed in personalised West Mercia Search & Rescue **Charity Baubles** - available to buy at £2.50 until 24th November.



To place your order please complete the form in last month's magazine or contact Sharon. Return forms with payment to:

**Sharon Arthur, 51 Applewood Heights, 610767, or Eileen Hanmer, Lawn House, 610629.**

**The committee would like to thank everyone for their support in all they do and wish you all**

**A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

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## Rector's Ramblings

*Rev Suzan Williams*

I wonder if you've ever had a moment we're you've just watched the news or read the paper and seen what's going on in the Middle East or somewhere else in the world and felt the absence of anything hopeful. The sense that things are going to improve and get better. I think we all as humans have that underlying need to have hope.

If you search for songs with a theme of Hope within them the list is a bit longer than you might expect. So it seems to be something that a lot of us need. Emelie Sandé sings 'I just hope I'm not the only one', Jack Jackson sings 'you better hope your not alone'.

It's said that antidote to any despair might be hope, experts say. It's one of the most powerful—and essential—human mindsets, and possible to achieve even when it feels out of reach.

"Hope is a way of thinking," says Chan Hellman, a psychologist who's the founding director of the Hope Research Center at the University of Oklahoma. "We know it can be taught; we know it can be nurtured. It's not something you either have or don't have."

As we begin our journey through Advent this year with the prospect of Christmas fast approaching. I wonder if we need to be reminded that the hope that God, our Heavenly Father offers us is much more robust and rooted in the reality of all that he came in human form as a vulnerable baby to bring.

As we enjoy time catching up with friends and family over the next few weeks

and the Christmas period itself. Let's take the opportunity to be thankful that we live in peace in comparison to others across the world and don't often fear for our safety. Let's take the opportunity to be generous with what we have. So that those in more vulnerable situations financially and otherwise might have the chance for that grounded hope to be nurtured in their situation and circumstance.

As we meet in church week by week during advent we will be praying for the hope of the Christ child to stir in our hearts and remind us that we are not alone. We draw strength from knowing the buck doesn't stop with us but we take responsibility for our part in making our community a more hope filled place.

Every Blessing, Suzan



### St Michael's Church

Carol service - Sunday 3rd December 4pm

Christingle - Christmas Eve 2:30pm

Midnight Communion service Christmas Eve 10pm

### St Chads Church, Haughton

Carol service 7th of January - 4pm

## Annual property review 2023

---

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# CHRISTMAS



## WEST FELTON VILLAGE HALL

### Wednesday 6th December 7:30 for a prompt start

Raffle prizes gratefully received  
by any committee member.

---

## West Felton Arts & Crafts Fair

On the 14th of October, following our initial event last year, we held our 2nd Arts and Crafts Fair.

The hall was filled with 25 sales tables selling a wide range of good quality crafted products and other goods, which meant for an interesting and varied visit.

The morning session was well attended by local visitors as well as some from farther afield.

Tea and cake sales from the kitchen was constantly busy, as visitors took a break from viewing the craft tables to have a catch up with friends and family over refreshments.

The atmosphere was very relaxed and enjoyable for all, and it seems that there really was something of interest for all who came along.

All proceeds from the tea and cake sales, and the income from the hire of the sales tables, goes towards the upkeep and running of our valued hall.

The Village Hall Committee would like to thank the traders and shoppers for making it a successful event.

Thanks also should go to the volunteers who manned the kitchen area, provided the cakes, and those who helped to set up early in the morning and put away at the end of the day. ♦

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## Up the Garden Path with Topiarus

### Winter cometh

There is none of the usual weeding and watering on the list this month, but hopefully the winter pruning will get ahead without too much weather interruption. We certainly don't want an unreasonable cold period like last year. Pruning includes the climbing roses and the blackberry but is mostly shrubs. The other main occupation is work on restructuring projects. We have yet more wall renovation and levelling of paths. The only other things on the December list are spreading soil conditioner and sowing sweet peas. Our home made soil compost is reserved for the soft fruit and we buy in ProGro for the vegetables and some flower beds.

It was a very good year for roses, in our garden at least. Why? Why do some things excel one year while others fail, but the year after it could be reversed? We know about such effects as frost on early blossom or lack of water at particular times, but often there is no obvious cause for unusual success or failure. That is just one of the mysteries of gardening. One negative mystery for us this year was a very poor crop of black currants—no big bud, no birds got in the cage, perhaps they just decided on a rest year. We can, however, report success with protecting the main crop carrots with a taller mesh tunnel, which proved to work well and involved little effort.

Whilst waiting for the shortest day to

pass when we can raise our spirits in looking forward to the garden coming to life in Spring, there is time for such indoor pursuits as reading gardening books. On that score, if you have never read *The Well-Tempered Garden* by Christopher Lloyd then put it on your Christmas present list. It is probably the best book in my garden collection for the amount of information coupled with some entertaining strong opinions. In fact, any Christopher Lloyd book is worth having.

One autumn job is bringing in tender plants grown in pots to the glasshouse. It makes me ponder on the advantages of having a collection of pots, regardless of how big your garden. They are not just for a balcony or small patio. Obviously, they add colour and interest to a paved area such as where you sit outdoors or have a barbecue. In particular, they allow you to extend the range of plants you grow with things that are tender, borderline hardy or need a special type of soil. It is possible to have a variety of things that would look very odd put together in a bed. You can change the display according to the season or simply because you changed your mind. You can mix what whatever you like and, if a hardy shrub gets too big to stay potted, it can be moved into the garden. We have some semi-bonsaied trees, annually root pruned, mixed with pelargoniums, hardy perennials and an eclectic variety of shrubs. ♦



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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 DECEMBER 2023

3rd Mrs. Olwen Weller

10th Songs of Praise

17th 2.30 pm Rev. Jassica Castillo-Burley, Pastor Roy Burley

24th tba

31st Mr. David Woolley

It is now 3 years since the Rev. Castillo-Burley (known to us all as Jassica), Roy and El Nathan moved from West Felton. But we are delighted to say that Jassica and Roy will be leading our Carol Service at the Methodist Chapel on Sunday, 17th December at 2.30 p.m. I think we can promise you an enjoyable, happy Carol Service. If you would like to catch up with them and join us, you will be very welcome - and of course the service will be followed by tea and mince pies.

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(Continued from page 37) Churches meaning. They believed that opinion after the First World War would not take kindly to a temple of artistic endeavour. Co-incidentally Mrs Behrend's brother, Harry Sandham, had also fought in the Salonika campaign. He died in 1920 of malaria contracted in Greece and the Behrends decided to name the building after him. The chapel was dedicated by the Bishop of Guilford in 1927. However neither the Behrend's family, who were Jewish, nor Spencer himself, whose religious views had changed, attended the ceremony. Services are still held at the chapel, notably on Remembrance Sunday.

Buildings built for one faith may later be taken over by another faith. The most famous example is the Hagia Sophia. This served as the cathedral of Constantinople and later the seat of the Eastern Orthodox church before becoming a Mosque when the Ottomans conquered what is now Turkey.

Christians were not averse to taking over Mosques to use as churches. Most of these are to be found in Spain, although most are now closed. Much of Spain in the early Middle ages was under Moorish rule. During the period known as the 'Reconquista', the rulers of the territories of the Iberian peninsula not under Moorish rule gradually, with great encouragement by the Christian church, reclaimed the whole peninsula. It was thus convenient to redesignate Mosques as Churches.

In earlier times churches were built not only for worship but also for practical purposes such as holding meetings, concerts, markets or even storing grain. Use of churches solely for worship is a relatively modern concept. Newer churches such as Hope church in Oswestry have a design that harks back to earlier days. With some radical thinking, many existing churches might revert to their more utilitarian past. ♦

*To the pupils of WEST FELTON CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL ...*

**Kind Hearts are the Gardens**  
*By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

Kind hearts are the gardens,  
Kind thoughts are the roots,  
Kind words are the flowers,  
Kind deeds are the fruits.  
Take care of your garden,  
And keep out the weeds,  
Fill it with sunshine;  
Kind words and kind deeds.

To celebrate National Poetry Day, the children of West Felton School were out and about delivering to the community copies of their favourite poems.

Those who received a poem through their doors wish to thank the children very much for brightening their days.



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## CHURCHES - Their origins

How do churches originate? A stupid question – they are built to provide people with places for worship. Indeed this may be the case and many cathedrals are testament to the desire to provide worshippers with a space to pray. But they also impose a sense of awe upon those who enter their walls, a sense that they are in the presence of something mightier than stone alone. An article in the October 2023 edition of West Felton magazine about the church at Haughton opened up some reflections on the theme.

Bulkeley Owen built St Chad's to save local people the trek to West Felton. That is reason enough, but he also supported the Oxford High church movement and he himself was a priest. He may not have trusted the clergy at West Felton to provide a high church service. Furthermore just down the road a new church was taking shape at Pradoc and an element of competition may have arisen between the two estates. Having a church of one's own, especially if one was ordained, was no doubt attractive.

On a grander scale, the Medici family, who provided three Popes, funded the building of Florence cathedral which testified as much to their power as to their holiness. Churches may also house memorials and most churches have plaques a-plenty. Others have had additional chapels built to accommodate tombs such as that of Sir Francis Knollys and his wife in the church of St Nicholas

at Rotherfield Greys.

More unusually buildings become churches almost by accident. Such a church is the remarkable Sandham Memorial chapel. Now owned by the National Trust, it was built by the Behrends family. Its genesis sprang from the writings of a young Stanley Spencer who, in the words of the Guide book, said "when I come home I am going to learn fresco painting .. and build a church. If I don't do this on earth, I will do it in Heaven". When he wrote this in 1918 Stanley Spencer was an unknown artist recovering from malaria in Salonika, where he was serving with the army. After the war he was introduced to the Behrends family. They were impressed by Spencer's sketches of the murals, which related to the Salonika campaign, that he wished to paint and decided to build accommodation for the murals. The original design did not suit Spencer. His ideas clashed with those of the architect leading the latter to resign. Spencer essentially designed the building, although some changes were required to ensure that the result was architecturally sound. Originally the Behrends family envisaged a secular building with two almshouses attached. Spencer was having none of that: he wanted a chapel for his murals, and a chapel is what he got. It became known as Spencer's 'God box' although others called it a 'biscuit factory'.

Once the chapel had been built, the Behrends felt that it needed a broader

*(Continued on page 39)*

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City & Guilds

## Santa will be touring West Felton in his sleigh on Friday 22nd December from 5pm

Great news everyone, Oswestry Cambrian Rotary Club is holding their annual Christmas sleigh street collection again this year.

They are all volunteers who give up their free time around Christmas to do something special and that's to put a smile on children's faces and raise money for our town!

Unfortunately, they cannot get into every road and close because they have to turn the sleigh round and parked cars make it impossible.

Obviously the nights out collecting are also subject to weather due to ELF AND SAFETY !!

For more information join the Facebook group 'Oswestry Santa Sleigh'



## CAROL SERVICES DECEMBER/JANUARY

3rd 4pm St Michael's Church, West Felton

7th 7pm WI Carols, St Michael's Church

13th 7pm Pradoc Church Carol service

17th 2:30pm Methodist Chapel Carols with Rev. Jassica and Pastor Roy

7th Jan 4pm St Chad's Church, Haughton





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Pc Bryant says, "I look forward to getting over and meeting you all soon. I will attend all Parish meetings where possible."

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## Public Houses in West Felton in the '20s The Punch Bowl Inn

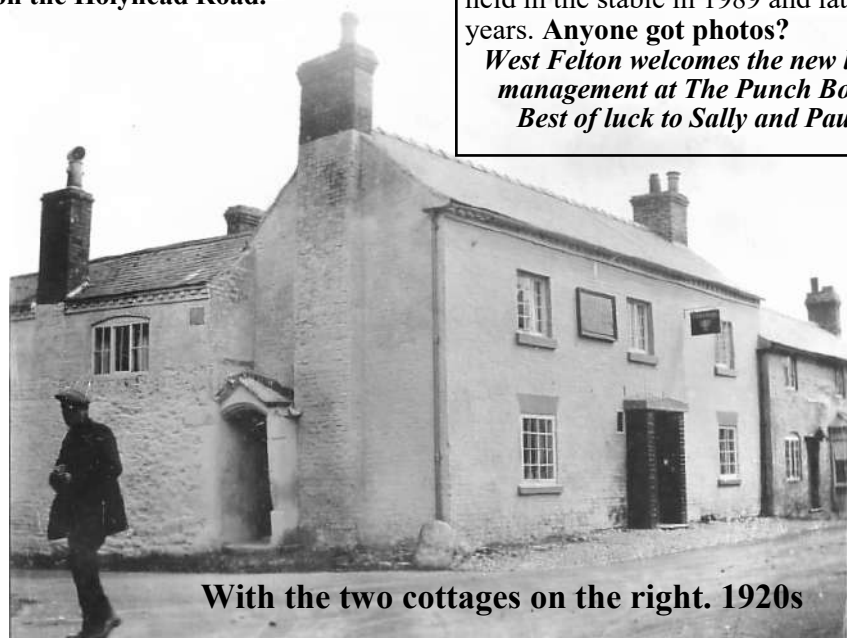
The Landlord in 1921 was William Joseph Naylor (53), Licensed Victualler, assisted by his wife, Martha and niece, Nellie Wilkinson. Martha died in 1925 aged 59 and is buried in St Michael's churchyard.

The Punch Bowl was licensed in 1791, and had stabling for 5 horses. It was originally owned by the Lloyd family of Fords Farm, Twyford, and in 1837 the tenant was Timothy Sides. It was purchased by John Dovaston, and remained in the family until it was sold to Bank's Brewery in the 1950s. Up until the 1960s there were two cottages attached to the Punch, they were demolished along with outbuildings to make way for the car park. Ann Evans' brother Richard (Dood) had a match box cover given to customers as a little gift at Christmas by Mr & Mrs Naylor. The inscription on box reads:

**Mr & Mrs Naylor Punch Bowl Inn**  
**This tiny box I give to you**  
**To light you on your way,**  
**May all your joys be "matchless"**  
**on this happy Christmas Day.**  
**"Twill strike a spark of friendliness**  
**in every one's abode"**  
**But don't forget the Punch Bowl Inn**  
**on the Holyhead Road.**

From Kitty's poem we saw that the Landlord in 1932 was jolly Beatty Williams.  
 Of the very many who followed in this capacity, we know little.  
**Perhaps you have fond memories of the Punch that you could share?**  
 We know there were Nativity plays held in the stable in 1989 and later years. **Anyone got photos?**

*West Felton welcomes the new local management at The Punch Bowl.  
 Best of luck to Sally and Paul.*



**With the two cottages on the right. 1920s**



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### *Do cats think in Haikus? 5/7/5*

You never feed me.	The rule for today.	Shoe laces.	Wanna go outside.
Perhaps I'll sleep on your face.	Touch my tail, I shred your hand.	Must attack at once.	Oh NO! Help! I got outside!
That will sure show you.	New rule tomorrow.	Didn't know that was you.	Let me back inside!





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*The Punch Bowl 1980*



2002



**26 May 1981**

**Busy road, no footpath on the right  
(compare with photo on page 29.)**

**Marches House was an Antiques shop.**

In 1980s the footpath along the Holyhead Road was widened. Many of the properties on the side opposite the Punch Bowl lost some of their frontage/gardens. This was in preparation for the big change to come in 1986. see page 28/29.

Look out for the stand of Mills & Boon books amongst the Persil and Corn Flakes.



**WEST FELTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

Gillian Sturgess chaired the October meeting, welcoming members and three visitors Wendy, Caroline and Laura.



**Annual Meeting in November:** Members were reminded of the need for a new correspondence secretary and an invitation was extended to anyone to join committee for next year.

**West Felton will host the Group Carol Service at St. Michael's on Thursday 7th December. The collection for Oswestry Food Bank.**

**WFWI annual Bursaries** - two available, £50 each towards an educational course, applications invited.

Members attended the Wellbeing Community event in Hope Church 11th October. Thank you to everyone who helped on the day. It was also supported by members from Oswestry North and South Groups. Very busy day dispelling stereotypical views of WIs, there was lots of interest, so the various institutes may gain some new members.

Crazy Daisies WI camping weekend 15th Sept. Ashby-de-la-Zouch, nine members attended. Fun and activity-packed weekend.

**Forthcoming WI Activities/Events:**

- Salopian Sleepover. This camping weekend is on 26th to 29th July 2024 at Much Wenlock. Twelve members of WFWI attending so far.
- Girly Gourmets Thursday 19th Oct. Meze Greek restaurant Ellesmere.
- Christmas meal booked at the Queens Head on Wednesday 13th December at 1pm.
- Further Legacy outing. West Felton WI still holds funds from the bequest of the late Margaret Francis for members' outings. This additional outing will be to The Grosvenor Garden Centre, nr Chester, Monday 20th November. Lunch included.

October's guest speaker was Caroline Coulman who led a laughter yoga session. They learned about the benefits of sitting up straight with a smile on your face, breathing deeply and taking in plenty of oxygen and stretching – that's the yoga part, then add in the laughter. Laughter has been proven to have psychological benefits and helps to relieve stress - a very entertaining evening.

November's speaker will be Laura Jackson-Tyler talking about working with assistance dogs - Dog Aid. ♦

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George retired from the West Felton Post Office in December 1989 after ten years as Postmaster. Helping him with the business was his wife, Audrey, until her illness and death earlier in the year.

They moved to the village in 1979 so that George could renew his family connections with the area. His father was born in West Felton and George spent school holidays with his aunts at Grimpo.

At that time his home was in Liverpool and he left school shortly before the war to join Cunard shipping company. During the war he was commissioned into the Royal Artillery, serving in Greece and Italy. After the war he rejoined Cunard. After 27 years he and Audrey decided to start their own business and for 14 years ran a newsagents in Wallasey, before fulfilling George's ambition to move back to West Felton.

For some years, George continued to live at the Old Plough cottage, maintaining his membership of West Felton British Legion and the Royal Artillery Association.

The Post Office was taken over by Mr Fred Butler of the White Lion, Whittington.

# A kind of hush

by **BETTY DUNCAN**

Oswestry's new bypass has brought peace to half a dozen villages after decades of heavy traffic.

And last week, after the Christmas holiday break, people out shopping in Gobowen, Whittington, Morda, Babbinswood, Queen's Head and West Felton, were delighted to find they could cross the road without having to wait long minutes for a break in the traffic.

**The Advertizer  
7 January 1987**

Local shopkeepers generally welcomed the new road although they expect to lose some sales from passing traffic that no longer passes.



The empty road through West Felton.



Mr and Mrs George Seabury at the Post Office and Stores, West Felton, believe the benefits of the new bypass will far outweigh the loss of a few customers. Customer Mrs Phyllis Davies, of Queens Head, thinks the new road is very good for getting about.

## Heavy traffic has

shaken the foundation of the Post Office and Stores, West Felton, for many years but on Monday, December 22, at about mid-day, there was an unaccustomed hush as through traffic was diverted to the newly-opened bypass.

"The bypass is sure to affect us a little but most of our customers are local people," said Mr George Seabury.

His wife Audrey said she would miss some of the interesting callers they had occasionally.

"Once Enoch Powell dropped in," she said.

Mr Seabury said the benefits of the new road would far outweigh the disadvantages. "The windows of our shop will be a bit cleaner. On a wet day, five minutes after cleaning them they were filthy again from the mud off the road," he said.