

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	07810 360778
Methodist Hall (Bookings)	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 31

MARCH 2024

# ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON

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

We cordially invite you



To the grand opening of our new  
facilities at  
West Felton CofE Primary School,  
SY11 4JR

On Tue 12th March 2024 2-4pm



Meet our wonderful children, see our school in  
action and enjoy tea & cakes with the community

RSVP

[head.westfelton@westcliffe.shropshire.sch.uk](mailto:head.westfelton@westcliffe.shropshire.sch.uk)

by 4th March

# 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: 2 sessions: 9:30-10:30 & 10:45-11:45am Need to book on line GYMATCH. Phone: Abi 07904456368
<b>Tai Chi</b>	Tuesday 2pm to 3pm, Village Hall
<b>Badminton</b>	Every Tues evening: 8pm to 9:30pm. Village Hall
<b>Baby &amp; Toddler</b>	9:15- 10:30 Termtime WEDNESDAY at the school
<b>Felton Flexors</b>	Wednesday mornings 9:30am to 10:30am Village Hall
<b>Table Tennis</b>	Thursday 7:30pm Village Hall
<b>WI</b>	2nd Thursday of the month 7pm Village Hall
<b>Short Mat Bowls</b>	contact Glynnis on 610336
<b>Royal British Legion</b>	8pm Meeting, THE <b>PUNCH BOWL</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 see page

**NEW TIMES**

**New day**

7 March	<b>10am COFFEE MORNING, Methodist Schoolroom.</b>	11
9 March	<b>12 noon to 2pm LENT LUNCH, Village Hall</b>	17
12 March	<b>2-4pm SCHOOL OPEN DAY - RSVP by 4th March</b>	28
20 March	<b>7pm - eyes down 7:30 VILLAGE HALL EASTER BINGO</b>	17
22 March	<b>5:30 pm FISH AND CHIP SUPPER, Methodist Schoolroom</b>	11
7 April	<b>7-8pm DANCE COURSE - Village Hall</b>	19
7 April	<b>8-9pm DANCE PRACTICE, follows the class above.</b>	
14 July	<b>WEST FELTON CARNIVAL 24</b>	



Dance courses coming to the village hall in April see page 19.

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Discos/parties	£80	Weddings, all day	£200

**Commercial rates by arrangement**

The Post Office is located in the entrance lobby of the village hall.  
The new opening time from the 5th of June is



**Wednesdays only : 9:30am until 11am.**

### METHODIST HALL

WF Methodist Chapel School Room (opp. playing field)  
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**To book, contact Dianne Rowley 01691 611733**

### Round and About West Felton

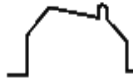
Articles/advertisement amendments for inclusion in next issue  
to Editor by email (preferred) or phone

**Last day for submission of copy: Deadline for content  
changes 10th MARCH 2024**

**Editor: Colleen Hughes**

**Advertising Rates  
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<i>Tel 01691 610300</i>	Quarter page	£50
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	Full page	£125



## WEST FELTON STORES

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**Sunday: 10am - 7pm**

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Rector: Reverend Suzan Williams,  
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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*

Sun 3 March 2024

Sun 10 March 2024 (Mothering Sunday)

Sun 31 March 2024 (Easter Sunday)

Sun 7 April 2024

Sun 5 May 2024

Sun 2 June 2024

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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

### WEST FELTON YOUNG FARMERS' TOP CLUB

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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.

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**Non emergency number : 101 web: [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)**

Email: [oswestrys.snt@westmercia/pnn.police.uk](mailto:oswestrys.snt@westmercia/pnn.police.uk) Twitter: @OsCops

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



## West Felton Walking Group

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

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

**Walk leaders:-**

**Mike Bossen 01691 610623**

**Hilary Iles 01691 610707**

**John and Eileen Hanmer**

**01691 610629**

**Liz and Dave Embrey**

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



Minister: Rev Julia Skitt 07810 360778  
Secretary Christine Curtis 01691 610665

### SERVICES MARCH 2024

3rd Deacon Carys Woodley  
10th Mrs. Olwen Weller - Mother's Day  
17th Songs of Praise  
24th Mrs. Heather Watts  
31st Rev. Ruth Shoreman - Easter Day  
April 7th Closing service at 2.30 p.m. Rev Julia Skitt and  
Deacon Carys Woodley

## Coffee Morning, Methodist Schoolroom

Thursday 7th March 10am to noon

Bacon Baps, £1

Produce, Books, Bring & Buy, Raffle.

All the usual Methodist hospitality.

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## WEST FELTON CARNIVAL 24 14th July 2024

From Joanne  
and the  
Carnival  
Committee



Thank you to Chris Smith! Towards the end of last year Chris resigned from the committee. He joined the Carnival team in 2000 and many of you will remember him being behind his camera recording the day and interviewing people for the videos and then DVDs that he produced. Chris was responsible for instigating the installation of the village Christmas tree that we enjoy every year. His passion for the event helped to ensure its success each year. A big thank you to Chris for his leadership and dedication over the last 23 years.

The Carnival Committee is determined to bring you a fun packed day on Sunday 14th July. We thought we'd take this opportunity to introduce ourselves.

We welcome any help, whether it be on the day, throughout the year, or by joining the committee. Please get in touch with any of us if you have any time, re-sources or expertise you can offer.



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## Up the Garden Path with Topiarius

### Spring is sprung

March heralds the start of seed sowing and the increasing emergence of weeds. The first is pleasurable the second is definitely not. My first sowings at the beginning of the month will be radish and carrot in the bed of a cold glasshouse and lettuce, both looseleaf and hearting, in a 40 cell tray insert. A start can also be made on sowing annuals such as lobelia and ageratum if you have the facility to keep them warm after germination. Outside, I will plant shallots and force rhubarb with an old chimney pot. On the other side of the coin, war on weeds will have to be declared. In a small patch, use of chemicals may be avoided but in larger gardens applying weedkiller will be necessary.

As the month progresses, sowing gets into top gear. There will be onion sets, tomatoes, broad beans, leeks and, towards the end of the month, the first early potatoes. As well as two rows of Casablanca I will plant a couple in a 15 litre pot in a cold glasshouse. Sowing of half-hardy annual will continue in the warmth. I expect many of you will be sowing in peat-free composts as there is a ban looming. I have not made the transition yet on the grounds that the professional composts I use are still based on peat. Also, the peat-free materials seem to be continually changing in composition and I hope they will eventually settle down as I don't want

every year to be an experiment.

There will be plenty of clearing up around the garden in readiness for new growth/new planting. For me, this will include sweeping of paths. When paths and steps are clear, it is good time to apply moss killer where needed. March is the time to complete pruning of floribunda roses and also to check on the shrubs and climbers. If you have blackcurrants, don't forget to check them for big bud. A job that heralds repeated work ahead is to give grass the first cut of the year.

Getting away from the garden, we like to make visits to our favourite local nurseries before the Easter rush with our wanted lists at the ready. You do have to be a bit careful with early purchases as some of the stock will have been grown under cover and will need protecting/hardening off before planting out.

Among my Christmas presents were three gardening books that I probably should have bought years ago. A Gardener's Dozen is book of a chapter per month all by different authors. I decided to in fact read one a month so that I could immediately relate to the content. In January, I was particularly taken by the simple bit of advice from Anne Scott-James that, when shrubs become overcrowded, it can be better to cut one or more out completely rather than prune them all to fit, and in doing so probably ruin their shape. ♦



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## New Future for Kinokulture (Oswestry's Independent Cinema)



An exciting new plan is in place to retain Kinokulture Oswestry's unique independent cinema, as a vital community space for experiencing the very best in film, from Hollywood blockbusters to international and British independent films.

After setting up and running Kinokulture for over 14 years, current owners, Ian Garland and Ruth Carter, will be retiring in Spring 2024. Following a wave of public enthusiasm for its continuation, they have spent the last few months planning to ensure the cinema's eclectic programme remains available to the people of Oswestry and the wider area.

**Kinokulture is now registered as a Community Benefit Society** - which means its activities will be managed for the benefit of the whole community - and volunteers are being trained in activities such as film programming and projection. A small steering group has also volunteered to take over the administration and management tasks.

"We are so excited for the future of Kinokulture. There is still an enormous amount to do, but we have a passionate and committed team dedicated to working together to achieve a smooth transition of management" said Martin Anderson (a member of the steering group).

Ruth Carter added "We are very pleased that the steering group have stepped forward and we will be working alongside them and our volunteers over the next few months to ensure a smooth transition and the continuation of our film programme. We hope that this new phase brings more opportunities for community participation and engagement in the cultural activities that the cinema can offer."

The film screening programme will continue in its present form - please see <https://www.kinokulture.org.uk/> for booking details.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: EMAIL - [sgkinokulture@gmail.com](mailto:sgkinokulture@gmail.com)

*Indoors or out, no one relaxes  
In March, that month of wind and taxes,  
The wind will presently disappear,  
The taxes last us all the year.*

Ogden Nash

When my cats aren't happy, I'm not happy. Not because I care about their mood but because I know they're just sitting there thinking up ways to get even.

Percy Bysshe Shelley



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## WEST FELTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



West Felton WI met in January for a light hearted evening of fun and games - 'Pass the Parcel WI style' was a big hit and so was 'Play Your Cards Right'. Irish Bingo and Guess the Items in the Bag went down a treat too.

The National Federation of Women's Institutes took the opportunity of the new year to recognise and congratulate members on their long time membership by the award of certificates.

Of the 50+ current West Felton membership, there are:

- Two members of more than 45 years
- Two members more than 40 years
- One 35 years
- Three 30+ years
- One 25 years
- One 20+ years
- Two 20 years
- One 15+ years
- Eight 10+ years
- The remaining members have joined in the past 10 years.

As one member observed, *"With that kind of loyalty West Felton WI must be doing something right!"*

Members were reminded of events planned including:

- Ladies Lunch Monday 11th March, 1pm Red Lion Ellesmere.
- Kinnerley Quiz Fri 15th March teams of 4 x £4 per person
- Foraging Walk -Date 16th March 10:30am. From Yvette's house. Run by member Julie.

**and that subscriptions, £48, are due in March.**

The evening was rounded off with the Committee giving a performance of their version of Cinderella - it had to be seen to be believed!

The February guest speaker will be Leslie Wills - Food as Medicine.

### *Did you know ??*

Learning and Development have always been at the heart of the WI since its very beginning. The Education and Training Team brings members a range of interactive courses, activities, events and training programs as part of their membership.

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## Rector's Ramblings,

*Rev Suzan Williams*

It seems amazing to me that a quarter of the year is nearly over already! January went by in a flash and now February has done the same. We are also a third of the way through Lent and I wonder if you decided to give something up or alternatively take something up instead.

I decided this year I wouldn't give anything up, so instead prayed and took time with God to pray and ask what he wanted me to work on. I felt the phrase 'Be intentional in the tension', and with that in mind in the last month I have tried to explore what the outworking of that looks like in different areas and situations in my life. As some of you may or may not know the Church of England has its fair share of issues to navigate during this season and in my role as Rural dean of Oswestry with different people holding different understanding of the Bible and how the outworking of it should shape our decisions and lives in very different ways. The phrase 'Be intentional in the tension' has come into its own.

In life we won't always agree with everyone and over some things we will disagree with one another profoundly and fundamentally.

But I'm reminded of St Paul's words in 1 Peter 'Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.'

Loving one another deeply is a choice every day and in every conversation and interaction we have with one another. It seems to me we can disagree over all sorts of things from, the way you put clotted cream and jam on a scone, to the raids in Iraq just last night and one disagreement has much starker consequences than the other and yet we can feel that difference of opinion very deeply and at the core of who we are.

I would suggest that in our 'Intention in the tension' We can be doing the following as we continue to journey through Lent

**P** for Prayer – Pray for yourself and/or for others.

**R** for Respond – To the needs of others around us whether we agree or disagree with them over certain issues.

**A** for Act – There are different responses that each of will be called to day by day

**Y** for Yearn – For a different outcome than what we are seeing across our nation at this time and of our love for one another as we choose day by day to commit to caring and stepping out in faith as we called to be the outworking of the love first shown to us by Christ Jesus.

You are also very welcome to join us for our Maundy Thursday service in Whittington church on Thursday 28th March at 6:30pm, and for our West Felton Easter Celebration on Sunday 30th March at 9:30am in St Michael's. Every Blessing, Suzan

## Annual property review 2024

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Derwen College has  
relaunched its  
10km Challenge, creating  
an inclusive event where everyone can do 10km in their own way.



Derwen  
College

The College is inviting the community to join students, staff and supporters on 23 March, to run, walk, skip or wheel a 10km route which starts at Derwen College, in Gobowen. The route meanders through local country roads, finished back at the College, where participants will receive a medal and goodie bag.

The challenge on Saturday 23rd March, starts at 10am is open to anyone. Check-in opens at 8.30am, with registration and sign-in closing at 9.45am.

There will be a group warm-up, led by sports staff. Walkers, families and dogs on leads are welcome, and local running groups are encouraged to come along for a fun run. It's a friendly, no-pressure event, making it the perfect introduction to a 10km distance. There's also a 6km alternative route available, and a 1km option around campus for students.

**Entry is £10, which includes an event number, medal and goodie bag.**

Derwen Charity t-shirts are available to buy separately. Money raised will go to Derwen Charity, which supports students and clients with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) with tools, equipment and experiences to enhance their learning and independence skills, and reach their goals.

**The College is also asking for volunteers to help marshal the route and cheer on participants.**

There is plenty of free parking, and Derwen Marketplace will be open, offering plenty of refreshments, and shopping opportunities for participants and their families. Visit The Walled Garden Café, Garden Centre & Gift Shop and The Vintage Advantage charity shop for some well-deserved retail therapy.

Derwen College Community Fundraiser and Events Organiser Megan Charman explains why this year's 10km Challenge is so special:

"This year, our 10km Challenge has been relaunched as a stand-alone event. We want to make this event bigger and better than ever, giving participants the full recognition they deserve.

"We hope to see our dedicated sponsored walkers taking part as usual, but to also attract runners to join us as well.

"We're making it as inclusive and accessible as possible, and are hoping to get the local community involved, as well as students and their families."

Find out more or sign up today at <https://derwen.me/10kmChallenge>



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## RELIGION AND THE STATE

Michael Davie

Last year an article discussed how the English parliament interfered with the Church of England as religious beliefs changed. Religion needed to be carefully watched. People can have a close relationship with a church or religion and states and religions can make use of this to further their own interests. States have fought each other over religious beliefs, notably after Martin Luther set out the road for Protestantism. Earlier in 1095, Pope Urban II started the first Crusade following the council of Clermont, urging countries to free Jerusalem from the Turkish (Muslim) invaders so that Christians could again visit the holy places. Many joined his call, though the possibility of plunder and riches were an additional powerful incentive.

Governments have found that use of religion to encourage their peoples to follow a course of behaviour facilitates their control. Supporters of a state sponsored religion point to its preventing social fragmentation. People adhere to the same code of behaviour and support an ethical process. The involvement of religion in how the state behaves may inhibit extreme behaviour. Its presence in state ceremonies such as the Coronation gives weight to tradition and a sense of belonging, often described

as cohesion. The influence of the church declines when secular changes come into conflict with church doctrine, an example of which is the current debate over same sex marriage – an institution over which the church itself cannot find agreement.

The rôle of religion in maintaining the established orthodoxy may itself become a danger. Adherence to a code of rules may prevent the seeking of new knowledge. Galileo observed that the earth and moon went round the sun (heliocentrism). The Church stated that the earth was the centre and everything went round the earth (geocentrism). This was based on verses in Chronicles (the world..cannot be moved) and Ecclesiastes (the sun rises..and sets ..and hurries back to where it rises). Galileo was tried by the Inquisition and sentenced to house arrest until his death. Restriction on new thought or on solutions to new problems by religious conviction is one of the major criticisms of religions. Whatever one may think of the refugee crisis, the assessment that the church has failed to come up with a useful answer continues to fester. Your correspondent remembers well a Religious education class in which a rebellious student suggested that the Ten Commandments had nothing to do with God, but everything to do with Moses

(Continued on page 25)



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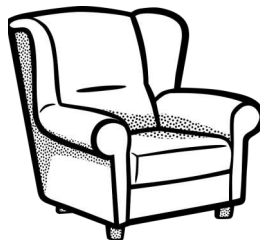


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Meals on Wheels came to West Felton 10 February 1971 1/3d each, soon to rise to 1/7d, or 8p with decimalisation on 1 March that year. Latterly the fleet of volunteers was recruited and organised by Joan Williams and the food cooked in the Council kitchen on Victoria Road.



## Mobile menu cheers up the old folk

Pensioner John Edwards walked from his back door to the kitchen table. Those few yards took him almost a minute.

Mr. Edwards (77) is virtually crippled with arthritis.

But he was soon tucking into roast beef, Yorkshire pud, gravy-covered cream potatoes and chopped carrots. Apple-pie and custard followed.

And the whole meal cost Mr. Edwards, of The Willows, West Felton, near Oswestry, 1s. 3d.

"Cheap at half the price," he said, before savouring another piece of Yorkshire pudding.

He was the first of nine old people, most of whom live on their own, to be given hot dinners yesterday. Outside his council home a Land Rover trundled off down the lane to its next customer.

Behind the wheel Mrs. Elizabeth Pearce, a farmer's wife.

With her was Mrs. Tudor Evans. Both are West Felton members of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service which yesterday delivered

meals-on-wheels for the first time. Next stop was at a small cottage in Woolston Road. Widower Mr. Tom Hulse paid his 1s. 3d. and got on with his dinner.

"They're too good for that price," he said. "Look at this lot. All nice and hot. This is just the job for me. I can't get round much. By the time I go to Felton now, I'm all in."

Mr. Hulse, a retired farmworker, is 84.

The WRVS pressed on. More meals were taken to Sandford and Rednal.

Mrs. Pearce said: "We've



been particularly pleased with the reception from the old people. We will be delivering them twice a week - Tuesdays and Thursdays."

The meals are prepared by six women at West Felton school canteen.

One of them, Mrs. E. K. Jones, said: "It's not much, but it's nice to help the old folk."

In fact, the West Felton service will boost Shropshire's existing record of being the top meals-on-wheels county in England.

Salop County Council subsidises the service which, in Shropshire, reaches more people per head of population than any other authority.

The WRVS, acting as the council's agents, delivers about 120,000 meals a year in the county.

Meals cost 2s. 6d. to prepared. Customers get them for half that amount.

Prices, however, are to go up. From March 1, old people will have to pay 8p (1s. 7d.) for their meals. The cost to the county and district councils will go up to 15p. per meal.



# The Feltonians

Mrs Eunice Davies, Mrs Winnie Evans,  
Mrs Violet Wigley, Mrs Agnes Lacon.

West Felton  
Village Hall  
1923:2023

100 YEARS



11 April 1977



Mrs Elizabeth Hillage, Ms Hannah Butler, Mrs Beatrice George

(Continued from page 23) Religion and the State trying to keep the Israelites under control by magic. Such apostasy was strictly dealt with. Followers of Islam are expected to be obedient to the will of Allah. In Iran, Islamic law is strictly enforced and the ensuing stringent restriction on life gives rise to some unhappiness. Further east in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sought to strengthen his support in a predominantly Hindu country, by demolishing a Moslem mosque and building a Hindu temple in its place, allegedly because it is the site of the birth of the Hindu God Ram.

As part of restricting new thought, religion may also limit liberty and lead to the persecution of minorities. This in itself becomes a problem since some faiths may adhere to specific practices. Quakers preach pacifism and seek to exempt themselves from military service, a stance also taken in Israel by fundamentalist Jews. Such attitudes by these groups may alienate them from society and lead to violence and persecution.

Support of a religion by a state is not universal. The constitution of the United States bans a state religion. France separated state and church in 1905. Stalin tried hard to eradicate religion from Russia, even going so far as to demolish churches. Christianity still continued as a force and modern Russia has embraced religion although Patriarch Kirill takes good care

to adhere to the state's requirements. In England the existence of 26 Christian Bishops in the House of Lords is testimony to the influence that the established church has in this country. It may act as a moral guide, though the disputes from the time of Henry II and Beckett up to the controversy over "Faith in the city" in modern times suggest that the relationship with the state is not always smooth. Nevertheless in England the state subsidizes the Church indirectly by tax reliefs or grants amounting to about £300m annually

Religion has shown that it has much to offer by offering a code by which to live, but it needs continuously to re-view its doctrines to respond to new discoveries, changing times and changing pressures under which people live. ♦

### Things you may not know about Galileo

1. He was a college dropout. ...
2. He didn't invent the telescope. ...
3. His daughters were nuns. ...
4. Galileo was sentenced to life in prison by the Roman Inquisition. ...
5. He spent his final years under house arrest. ...
6. NASA named a spacecraft for him.
7. **The Vatican didn't admit Galileo was right until 1992.** In 1979, Pope John Paul II initiated an investigation into the Catholic Church's condemnation of Galileo. Thirteen years later, and 359 years after Galileo was tried by the Inquisition, the pope officially closed the investigation and issued a formal apology in the case, acknowledging that errors were made by the judges during the trial.



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## Local healthcare champion examines General Practice appointments data

Healthwatch Shropshire has analysed GP appointment data released by the NHS. The data was a snapshot of the appointments offered during August 2023 by all practices in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin (STW). It covers the number of appointments offered, waiting times for patients, the method used for appointments and the number of cancellations.

Healthwatch Shropshire found that there is significant variation in:

- ◇ the number of appointments practices offer per patient
- ◇ the ratio of appointments offered with different types of clinical staff
- ◇ the percentages of patients waiting for different lengths of time for appointments from the time of booking
- ◇ the percentage of appointments held face-to-face, over the telephone or via video/online channels
- ◇ the percentages of patients who do not attend appointments across the different practices
- ◇ In STW practices the average percentage of appointments being with GPs was 45.3% compared with 45.5% across England.
- ◇ There appears to be no correlation between the number of appointments offered and waiting times.
- ◇ The average percentage of appointments carried out face to face in STW is 71.2% which is higher than the national average of 67.9%
- ◇ The total number of appointments where patients did not attend was 8,875. If these were 10-minute appointments it is the equivalent of nearly 1,500 hours of clinical staff time in one month.

Lynn Cawley, Chief Officer of Healthwatch Shropshire, said, "We continue to receive patient experience highlighting issues with accessing GP services. As part of our role in helping people understand NHS services we thought it would be helpful for patients if we were to analyse the data released by NHS Digital about General Practice appointments in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin."

"The data does not cover the process of booking appointments and we hear about practices using a variety of systems for patients to book appointments. We would be very interested to hear about patient experience of booking systems, those that work well and those which perhaps don't work so well.

**People can share their experience with us by ringing 01743 237884, by email enquiries@healthwatchshropshire.co.uk or online <https://www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk/share-your-views>."**

The full report can be found here: <https://www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk/report/2024-01-11/gp-access-shropshire-telford-wrekin>. Ends

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## Local health champion seeks experiences of living with cancer.

Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin NHS are working to improve cancer care services for the local population through the implementation of their Integrated Cancer Strategy 2022 - 2027.

To help with this aim and to ensure that the patient voice is at the centre of developments Healthwatch Shropshire would like to hear about patient experience of living with cancer in Shropshire. They would like to hear from all patients who have received treatment and support during the last two years.

Lynn Cawley, Chief Officer of Healthwatch Shropshire, said, “We would like to hear about all aspects of the treatment and support for cancer patients and their families, from hospital treatment, to GP help and community based support from self-help groups and organisations such as Macmillian Cancer support.”

We would like to hear about what has worked well for people so this can be highlighted as well as about things that have not gone so well. Any suggestions for change or improvement would be really helpful and then we can feed this back to the NHS and other organisations involved.

To share experiences people can contact us online at [https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HWS\\_living\\_well\\_with\\_cancer/](https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HWS_living_well_with_cancer/) or ring our office and talk to one of the staff, 01743 237884.

Healthwatch Shropshire is the independent health and social care champion in Shropshire. It gathers the views and experiences of patients, service users, carers, and the general public about services including hospitals, GPs, mental health services, community health services, pharmacists, opticians, residential care and children’s services.

It also has statutory powers that it can use to influence service provision by encouraging improvements. ♦



## Dear Westcliffe Governors,

West Felton CofE Primary School is the beating heart of our wonderful village in rural Shropshire.

We had a very successful Ofsted, highlights included:

- Pupils enjoy their time at this school. They are enthusiastic about their lessons and attend regularly.
- They (our children) set high standards for themselves. These live up to the school's core values of 'kindness, aspiration, community and dignity.'
- Pupils are very articulate and are keen to share their opinions. At the same time, they listen to, and respect the views of others.
- When pupils are worried about anything, they are confident to speak to any adult in the school.
- An ambitious planned curriculum ensures that pupils have access to a full range of subjects. The curriculum sets out clearly what they want pupils to learn and how they will check if this has been achieved.
- Leaders promote a love of reading throughout the school. Pupils enjoy reading for work and pleasure.

*Ofsted, July 2022*

Our KS2 SATS results exceeded national standards, with **94%** of our leavers meeting or exceeding the reading standard, compared to 73% nationally. And **75%** meeting or exceeding the maths standard, compared to 72% nationally.

*National Data, July 2023*

**100%** of parents felt that their children do well at West Felton, **98%** of our pupils would recommend West Felton to a friend and **100%** of our staff members are proud to be part of the team.

*Parent, Pupil, Staff surveys collated anonymously, November 2023*

In January 2024, we completed a ground-breaking building project with Shropshire Council and Pave Aways Ltd. A brand-new hall was erected where we gather daily to enjoy our lunch, engage in Worship and build a love for and appreciation of Physical Education and Drama whatever the weather! We have a safer, more welcoming frontage, accessible to all and a suite of meeting rooms, offices and even a nurture nook. All of which is heated by the latest ground source technology.

Many of you have been a huge part of our success story and we would love to welcome you to our upcoming Grand opening. Please see opposite for further details, please RSVP by 4th March.

Mrs. Helen Hughes BA QTS (Hons) NPQH NASENCO  
Headteacher, West Felton CofE Primary School

## West Felton CofE Primary School

It's been a busy few months at school but the building work is now complete and we can begin to reap the benefits.



At the rear of the site, we have our new hall which the entire school...all 163 of us...can fit into together.

We can all eat our lunches, host concerts and plays and never have to worry about the weather on PE days.

At the front of the site, we have a Safer School approved entrance which means that our children are even safer than ever. We have a bright, clean, accessible office, a new nurture space for our oldest children and a meeting room which is spacious and private.

We would like to invite the whole community to visit West Felton CofE Primary School on **Tuesday 12th March** so that you can all come and see our fantastic village primary school in action. |

