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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

FEBRUARY 2024

# ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON

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

## Want to 'Flog it'?



West Felton Village Hall  
Sunday 11th February  
11am to 2pm  
**Hallmarks**

Paul is back in West Felton looking to buy  
all types of gold and silver jewellery  
in any condition.

"Rings, wristwatches, pocket watches, chains, brooches,  
crosses, cufflinks, bracelets, coins etc.

We also buy silver items: boxes, charm  
bracelets, cigarette cases, medals, etc."

**FREE VALUATION Paul (07305) 095849**



**Happy St Valentine's Day!**

"All you need is love. But a little  
chocolate now and then doesn't hurt."

— Charles M. Schulz

# 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 EXCEPT... see page	
<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 WEDNESDAY at the school	<b>New day</b>
<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	

<b>1 Feb</b>	<b>10am to noon COFFEE MORNING, Methodist School-room</b>	
<b>**13th February</b>	<b>7:30pm Parish Council meeting in the Methodist School-room.</b> Future meetings: If the venue, date or time changes this will be reported in the magazine and on Parish Council website so please check there if you wish to attend our meetings.	
<b>11 Feb</b>	<b>11am to 2pm GOLD &amp; SILVER VALUATIONS Village Hall</b>	<b>Front</b>
<b>14 July</b>	<b>WEST FELTON CARNIVAL24</b>	

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- New Painting & Decorating business, see pages 40/41
- New Angelic Healing see page 43

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### Round and About West Felton

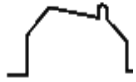
Articles/advertisement amendments for inclusion in next issue  
to Editor by email (preferred) or phone

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

**Editor: Colleen Hughes**

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## WEST FELTON STORES

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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 4 February 2024

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

### Parish Council report January / February

Following the news of the planned closure of the Methodist Chapel, members considered whether to meet at the Village Hall or the new hall at the school in November.

The Clerk contacted both halls to check availability. At the December meeting members felt they needed more information and agreed to visit the newly completed school hall. In late December, members met with the Head and had a tour round the new hall and left impressed by the facility. It will be a huge improvement for the school, staff and pupils, and everybody involved in the expansion project should feel very proud of what has been achieved.

At our January meeting this week members agreed to hold our future meetings in the school hall and are grateful to the school for facilitating that. We remain very grateful to the Methodist Chapel for hosting our meetings in recent years. Once arrangements are in place for the switch we will post details in the magazine and on our website, but for now we will continue to meet at the Chapel, while it remains open.

Three grants were applied for and awarded by members. The WI applied for a grant of £125 towards the cost of a new screen for the Village Hall. The WI also applied for a grant of £250 towards the cost of a new projector to support their members with poorer sight. The school applied for a grant of £500 to contribute towards the refreshing of the playground markings which were last refreshed 21 years ago. If organisations would like to apply for a grant then they should apply to the Clerk. These are ordinarily awarded at our January meeting and need to be applied for by the end of December.

Earlier in the public participation session of the meeting a member of the Carnival Committee asked for the council's support in securing a permanent Christmas tree.

*(Continued on page 9)*

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(Continued from page 7)

This was informally widely welcomed by members and was something we had previously contacted Shropshire Council about. If needed we could more formally offer such support at a future meeting. Members continued to consider the new inclusive play equipment having some concern about the scale of the costs. Kompan revised their quote downwards with some conditions but additional quotes from groundworks contractors were sought for the construction of the new path to the desired new play equipment. Sadly, one declined to quote with neither of the others coming back. So fresh quotes will now be sought for the path in time for the February meeting. Our Shropshire Councillor apologised and reported there was "...very little to report on local issues." Cllr John Thornhill continues to press Shropshire Council and their Leader on a number of outstanding issues, including Corbett's Bridge, the performance of Shropshire Highways, Shropshire grounds maintenance, our link councillor and flooding matters. Members agreed the budget and agreed to set a zero increase to the precept for the Council Tax. Members commended the Clerk for the clarity of the budget report. It is good to see the council's balances back within the recommended prudent range.

Our next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 13th February 2024 at 7:30pm in West Felton Methodist Church Hall, but should anything change going forwards this will be reported in the magazine and on our website so please check there if you wish to attend our meeting. Cllr David Walker, Chair of West Felton PC

arty alive FLICKS IN THE STICKS

## The Great Escaper

Cert: 12a - 96 mins

**Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Feb - 7.30 pm**  
**Myddle Village Hall**  
Admission: Adults: £5 Child: £2.50  
Enquiries: 07706 450075

Doors open at 7pm with snacks and drinks available at the bar. Film starts at 7.30pm and there is an interval for further drinks and snacks purchases.

In the summer of 2014, a World War II veteran sneaks out of his care home to attend the 70th anniversary commemoration of the D-Day landings in Normandy.

Starring: Michael Caine, Glenda Jackson, John Standing

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**Every term time Wednesday 9:15 - 10:30**  
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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](https://twitter.com/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 destination 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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Secretary Christine Curtis 01691 610665

### SERVICES FEBRUARY 2024

4th Prof. Mike Jackson  
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18th At Oswestry at 10.45 am  
25th Songs of Praise

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8th March, 22nd March

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## Up the Garden Path with Topiarius

### Spring clean

Although a little dangerous to say that the end of winter is in sight, it is the time when the gardener can set his or her sights on the new season. One of the first thoughts is or should be clearing up and preparing, and two important jobs to this end are sharpening tools and spring cleaning glasshouses/potting sheds. I find it very satisfying to sweep and tidy, although the pristine state does not last very long. I remember a columnist writing a long time ago that life is too short to wash and disinfect pots and trays every year. Quite right I thought and carried on just tapping out any compost/soil and using them again. However, it seems that Matthew Biggs writing for Which Gardening still does carry out a pot cleaning routine. Having had no problems, I will not be changing my habits, but will continue to ensure that seedlings in particular get adequate ventilation.

If you have been carrying out work over the autumn and winter to fulfil the actions that were identified in an assessment last summer, now is a good time to review progress. There are only a few weeks left until your time will be taken up with planting and cultivating so, if necessary, plans can be changed to fit the time remaining.

On the subject of trays, I am sowing more and more vegetable seeds in tray inserts rather than direct in the ground.

This is partly due to the influence of reading of Charles Dowding's advice in this direction but mainly because I increasingly have found it to give a better guarantee of success and actually does not add to the effort needed. Interestingly, Beth Chatto was advocating this approach more than 30 years ago.

Thinking of historical precedence, Charles Dowding is seen by many as the modern day guru of the no digging approach to cultivation. As so often is the case, this is nothing new. James Gunston invented no dig in the 1950s and wrote a book "Successful Gardening Without Digging" in which he describes his methods in detail. He ran a successful market garden on land that previously was thought unusable. His tool for producing a tilth was an ordinary fork with a hoe handle and the tines bent downwards at 90° to the shaft, which he called a chrome. I have found that a 4 pronged cultivator is fine for relatively small areas. His second tool was a marker with was a piece of 3" by 2" with five sharpened 2" wide and 9" long "teeth" screwed to the back and a handle attached. With 12" spacing of the teeth, this was bit big for most of us who are not market gardeners but a smaller version is worth thinking about. He would not have been too happy with the modern organic movement. One of his comments was "Minerals that are mined or quarried cannot be said to be artificial." ♦

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## COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNINGS

As you know, the Methodist Chapel will be closing in the spring, and therefore our March Coffee Morning will be the last one of these monthly gatherings. The coffee mornings have been going for several years and it will be sad to see them end.

Those of you who have joined the coffee mornings will know what a friendly and relaxed time is had by all.

There is a need in the village for a similar event that anyone can join in, whenever they want, and the members of the Chapel would like something else to start up.

However, we cannot do this on our own, and it would not be right to do so, as it will no longer be a chapel event.

The village hall is central to the village, so it seems to be an ideal place to start up such a new event - probably once a month.

- But we need a new team of people to organise and run the coffee mornings with us;
- if we have a team of people it would mean no one had to be 'on duty' every month.
- **If you would be willing to be involved, please let us know and we will see how things develop.**

For those who do not want to/cannot help, but would like to join in the coffee mornings - watch this space for more information!

**Christine at 610665 or Email [christinecurtis2022@hotmail.com](mailto:christinecurtis2022@hotmail.com)  
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From Joanne  
and the  
Carnival Committee

## WEST FELTON CARNIVAL 24



Happy New Year  
from the  
Carnival Committee!

With a little support the Christmas Tree managed to weather the storms!

Planning has already begun for this year's Carnival.

The date has been set for Sunday 14 July 2024.

If you would like to keep up to date on what's happening, or are interested in having a stall, or participating in the Parade or on stage, please follow us on our Facebook page 'West Felton Carnival'.

We're looking forward to making 2024 the best carnival yet!

### Tanat to Perry Community Wildlife Group Curlews in North-west Shropshire Please help with our 2024 bird survey.



The Tanat to Perry Community Wildlife Group area extends from Oswestry in the north to Kinnerley in the south, and eastwards from the Welsh border to Ruyton-XI-Towns: from the Tanat to the Perry.

We will be organising our bird survey again this year, to find Curlew and Lapwing, and we need more helpers, please. It's all done from public rights of way, and it's only necessary to record where the birds are seen or heard. No nest-finding is involved. It only takes three 3-hour visits between the beginning of April and mid-June, simple instructions and a map to record your observations are provided, and there will be a training session if you want to come.

**A meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th March at 7.30pm at Morda Social Club, Weston Road, Morda, SY10 9NS, to present the results of our work in previous years, and plans for 2024. All welcome!!!**

Our bird survey is the first stage of the Curlew project, as it locates the pairs of Curlews to focus the efforts of the nest-finders.

In 2023, the two groups located 12-15 pairs altogether, 9-10 in the Tanat to Perry area, and 3-5 in the Three Parishes. One nest was found and fenced, north of Oswestry, and three of the four eggs hatched, but all the chicks were predated. A chick from a nearby nest went on to fledge, and two other separate pairs near Trefonen each also produced at least one fledged young, so there has been some success to build on.

If you saw or heard a Curlew in 2023, particularly if you observed evidence of breeding, please tell us: don't assume we know about it.

**A report with the 2023 results will be published before the end of February. If you want more information, please see our website, [www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk](http://www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk). If you're interested in getting involved, please email [leo@leosmith.org.uk](mailto:leo@leosmith.org.uk). ♦**



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**The Love Oswestry cultural week for February 2024** has a fantastic half-term drama offer for young people ages 8 to 17 organised by **Stage Five Theatre**.

This time we are offering the workshops to a wider age range, split into two groups.

**From Saturday February 10th to Friday February 16th** drama and stage combat workshops will be led by theatre professionals Tom Jordan, a Royal Shakespeare Company Associate, together with Penny Jones and Abi Johns, both from Montgomeryshire Youth Theatre.

The week will end with a public performance in Hermon Arts Centre at 3pm on Friday 16th. **NO DRAMA EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!**

There will be a £60 charge per child for the whole week. A reduced fee is available to families in receipt of some benefits, please see below.

The fee will include all workshops and free tickets for the Friday performance.

There are separate sessions for the two age groups and young people must be able to come to all of the workshops for their age group.

The two groups will be held as follows

**Juniors - Primary school ages 8 to 10**, in the Open Space studios SY11 1JN

Saturday Feb 10th: 12.30pm to 4.00pm

Mon 12th, Tues 13th, Weds 14th: 10am to 12.30pm. Thurs 15th: 10am to 4pm and

**Fri 16th - 10am to 4pm in Hermon Arts Centre  
with the performance starting at 3pm.**

**Seniors - Secondary school ages 11 to 17**, in the Open Space studios SY11 1JN

Sunday Feb 11th: 1.30pm to 4.00pm,

Mon 12th, Tues 13th, Weds 14th - 1.30pm to 4pm, Thurs 15th : 10am to 4pm and

**Fri 16th - 10am to 4pm in Hermon Arts Centre  
with the performance starting at 3pm.**

If any family wishes to take up a low cost place for their child(ren), they must provide us with proof of receipt of either Income Support, Income Based Jobseekers Allowance or Income Related Benefit Employment and Support Allowance.

*Please be assured that all information provided to us will be kept completely confidential and we encourage to you take up this offer if it applies to your family. Proof can be emailed after a reduced price place has been booked.*

Places can be booked on Ticketsource <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stage-five-theatre>. For more information email [stagefivetheatre@gmail.com](mailto:stagefivetheatre@gmail.com) or call Pam Johnson on 07814489713



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## WEST FELTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Gillian Sturgess chaired and opened the December meeting: welcoming members and three visitors, Amanda, Irene and Taryn.

WFWI annual Bursaries were made available £50 each towards an educational course. Applications by letter or email by the end of March. Details in programme booklet.

Oswestry North Group Carol Service Thursday 7th Dec St Michael's. 7pm. Collection for Oswestry Food bank £164.78. About 50 attended, Lovely to see Jassica take the service (a past member but has now moved away) Thank you to the WI choir (and friends) wonderful performance.

The group who attended the Grosvenor Garden Centre, nr Chester in November enjoyed their scrumptious afternoon tea, and lots of shopping, and as for the members enjoying a Christmas lunch at the Queens Head in December, "Lovely ladies, lovely food - all in all a lovely afternoon" was the verdict.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM NATIONAL: Subs increase to £48 (pay in March, latest date April). The new WI learning Hub went live on 24th Jan, more details soon. Free online learning.

The main activity of the December meeting was a lively and jolly demonstration and practice making Christmas decorations by Julie Holmes. The Facebook photos show all the ladies wreathed in smiles - and ivy, and holly and greenery of all sorts! The results were stunning hanging wreaths. The members say, "Thank you, Julie, for all the hard work in making our wreath workshop evening very enjoyable. Also, to Babbinswood Farm for their help."

Looking back to the November meeting, members report on a very interesting talk by Belinda Johnson at Dog A.I.D. (Assistance in Disability) [www.dogaid.org.uk](http://www.dogaid.org.uk) Dog A.I.D. (Assistance In Disability). A small Shrewsbury charity. Visit their web site to see some endearing little videos including one where the tiny assistant dog is taking off his friend's socks and then goes off to get her slippers, lovely.

Belinda explained how the charity assist physically disabled people by helping them train their own pet dogs to provide assistance with day-to-day tasks such as opening doors, fetching medication, picking things up. Cockerpoos, labradoodles, little dogs and big ones, they can all be trained to do amazing things to help.

The charity can have a profound affect upon a disabled person's life, giving them independence and confidence. Belinda described them as a "small but mighty charity" - they receive no funding and rely totally on charitable donations.

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**Youth Drama Workshops, Stage Five Theatre. SY11 1JN**  
Feb 10th to 16th. Open Space Studios

**'Oswestry Performs', Hermon Arts. SY11 1IF**  
Feb 16th. 3pm. Stage Five Theatre Youth Workshops

**Story Shop 'Share Your Memories', Llwyd Mansion. SY11 2NF**  
Feb 14th, 16th & 17th. 10am to 3pm.

**Block Printing Workshop, Designs in Mind. SY11 2NF**  
Feb 17th. 1-3pm

**'A Tender Thing' Play, Hermon Arts. SY11 1IF**  
Feb 17th. 7.30pm & 18th Feb, 2pm. Stage Five Theatre

**Oswestry Guided Tours, Tourist Info Centre. SY11 1JR**  
Feb 17th. 11am & 2pm.

**DJ Workshops, Hermon Arts. SY11 1IF**  
Feb 17th. TBC

**Drumming Workshops, Hermon Arts. SY11 1IF**  
Feb 17th. TBC

**Myths & Legends Story Time. TBC**  
TBC

**Qube Art Exhibition. SY11 1RB**  
TBC

**Lantern Parade, Festival Square. SY11 2PA**  
Feb 17th. 6pm



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*(Continued from page 21) AI and the Clergy*  
of voice expresses a need for help. For the clergy, exposure to the flock at the Sunday service, funerals, marriages, baptisms and attendances at functions such as harvest suppers and public events offers opportunities for connection and caring.

Missioners in the church have used AI to gather data, and try to draw conclusions, from activities that people do, but statistical manoeuvres do not sway people towards God. They have sought to emphasize the use of AI in digital campaigns targeted to specific audiences, such as members of the community, and to children. Attached to these are scoring modules to allow the missionary to evaluate whether the target audience has been reached. It all becomes a marketing exercise and most of us dislike being bombarded with questionnaires asking us how well the company

in question has done after we have purchased some item from them. Undoubtedly AI can be a help, but personal contact is vital. Although safeguarding has inhibited people from bodily contact, 'pressing the flesh' as modern stylists would have it or a friendly arm around the shoulder can provide immeasurable comfort.

There are instances in the Bible in which Jesus touches someone to heal them. The reverse, as in one instance described by the physician Luke, Jesus felt something was being transferred from him when a woman touched his clothing knowing that, by touching him, she would be healed. Communication with people especially at public events and not necessarily only by touching, is a vital rôle for any priest in their being a shepherd to the flock, and is one that AI is unlikely completely to fulfil. ♦



**Smiling Feltonians: 11th April 1977 - Mrs Sarah Thaw, Mrs Constance Jay, Mrs Frances Gittens, Mrs Margaret Kenyon**

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## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE CLERGY

Michael Davie

The Clergy are included among the professions at risk of their rôle being subsumed by Artificial Intelligence (often abbreviated to AI, though this abbreviation has other connotations for country folk). That being so, what can the purveyors of the gospel do to flourish?

As might be expected, an entire church service including the sermon has been put together and delivered by AI. In this experiment the reactions from the congregation to the service were that "it was interesting but don't let's do it again"; "the human element was lacking...it seemed to in some way prevent us from connecting with each other. ... the heart was missing." The clergyman in charge said that the service seemed stilted. The reactions to the AI service emphasize the need for a human connection between clergy person and the flock. What can a human being offer? Here creativity comes into play. The audience (congregation) is missing the human input that creates interest. A human can read the service with varying tones of voice, deliver the sermon with passion. If the service is a communion, ordained priests must according to the Prayer Book break the bread and lay their hands upon the chalice to consecrate the wine. Services have been run with recorded sermons from distinguished preachers, but the pastoral, a word derived from the Latin for shepherd, aspect is missing. The com-

ment that the AI service prevented people from connecting with each other, suggests that a priest was necessary to bring people together.

Connecting with people correlates with those professions seen to be at no risk from AI. Vocational occupations such as medicine and its allied professions which involve caring for people and sport come high on the list of occupations that AI will be hard to challenge. How then can the clergy adapt? In the past medicine was a large part of the clergy's role. Monasteries provided medical assistance and monks produced their own herbal remedies as described in the Brother Cadfael stories by Ellis Peters. Many present hospitals had a religious origin (think St Bartholomew's and Christ's hospitals). Over the centuries religious input into healing has declined and after the advent of the NHS only a token input has been maintained.

The connectivity that people felt was lacking at the AI service and the gradual disengagement of the clergy from the healing services are both examples of the detachment of the clergy from their basic duties, namely caring for people. The old saw for success "it's not what you do, it's the way that you do it" applies to many professions, not only the priesthood. Many lawyers, doctors and other professionals tell of clients or patients wanting to come back and see them at intervals more frequent than necessary. Often a tone

*(Continued on page 37)*

## Annual property review 2023

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Kind regards,  
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## Rector's Ramblings,

Rev Suzan Williams

### Shrove Tuesday and Lent

Why is there a tradition of eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday? How did Ash Wednesday and Shrove Tuesday get their peculiar names? And why is this time of year associated with early versions of football, cock fighting and the strange figure of Jack-a-Lent?

Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on February 14th which is also Valentine's day, is the first day of Lent – a forty-day fast in the run-up to Easter. In the past, Christians would mark this period by avoiding meat, cheese, cooking fat and eggs, and trying to behave in a sombre and serious fashion.

This had the inevitable effect of encouraging people to get their fill of rich fatty foods and to indulge in boisterous behaviour before this downbeat time started.

This is why the tradition of wolfing down pancakes – made of butter, eggs and lard – on Shrove Tuesday (the day before Ash Wednesday) arose. As well as enabling people to enjoy these foodstuffs before the long weeks of frugal meals began, pancake-making was a chance to use up any such ingredients.

A number of customs are associated with Shrove Tuesday pancakes. Britain's oldest pancake race takes place in Olney, Buckinghamshire, with the competitors – dressed as traditional housewives – flipping their pancakes as they run.

In Bedfordshire, there used to be a custom of children running to a certain hill and putting their ears next to the earth to

“hear the old lady frying her pancakes underground.”

Nowadays only Catholics and very devout Anglicans seem to observe Lent, and their fasting often involves giving up just one indulgence, like chocolate or alcohol. But though the practice of strict fasting at Lent has gradually decreased, pancake eating on Shrove Tuesday has survived.

About 52 million eggs are consumed in the UK on Shrove Tuesday, which is 22 million more than normal.

Shrove Tuesday was traditionally a time of disorder. It was a day for cock fighting and cock throwing (hurling objects at birds tethered to the ground). It was also a time when many 'football matches' were held.

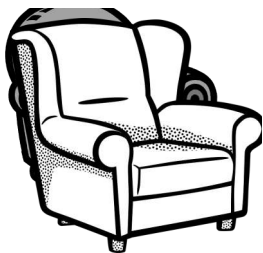
Past versions of football were different to the game we know today. The ball could be carried or thrown as well as kicked, the teams could have scores of members, and there were few rules – often the games resembled little more than all-out brawls. The goals might be several miles apart and the game could take most of the day.

Many of these Shrove Tuesday football matches were banned due to their roughness, but a few have survived, in slightly cleaned-up forms. One such game takes place in Sedgfield, County Durham.

This game is played with a cricket-sized ball, which is passed through a metal bullring on the village green at the start and finish of the match. Though the action in Sedgfield is still fairly robust, play stops sometimes to let a pensioner or child have a 'lucky kick' at the ball.

*(Continued on page 25)*

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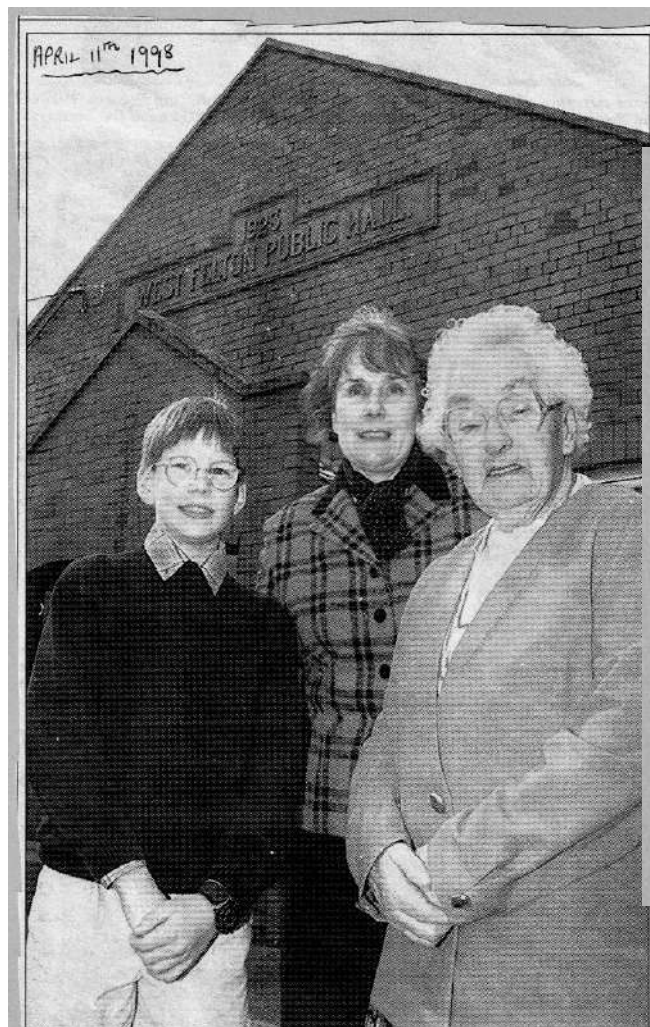
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Pictured at the official re-opening of West Felton village hall are Jolyon Iles, 12, and Phyllis Brown (right), who served on the village hall committee for 50 years, and Eileen Hanmer, chairman of the village hall committee

## New hall opened

West Felton's village hall re-opened this weekend after a major refit.

The Memorial Hall attracted a £20,000 lottery grant for the redevelopment of the building.

Despite winning the grant a year last Christmas, work didn't begin on the £80,000 plus scheme until this December, due in part to some financial hitches.

As well as upgrading the premises, the redevelopment has included creating a business centre equipped with computers and the latest technology.

Grants also came from other sources and villagers' fundraising events.

Pictured Advertiser 11th April 1998 :

Feltonians Secretary, Phyllis Brown, who also served on the village hall committee for 50 years;

Eileen Hanmer who has beaten Phyllis' record by at least six years and still counting;

and Jolyon Iles, representing the young people of the village.





West Felton Brownies and Feltonians



Craft Exhibition, Oswestry Memorial Hall, May 2000

*(Continued from page 23) Shrove Tuesday Lent*

So whatever your own family traditions might be of eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday or not, you are very welcome to pop to the Rectory anytime between 12-8pm for a pancake or two or even three, sweet or savoury. And to stay to the introduction to our Lent course where we'll be focussing on The Unity course written and based on a book called Loving Disagreement by Christopher Landau.

We will have our usual Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday the 14th at 6.30pm in Whittington Parish church.

Every Blessing, Suzan

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by Ben Power

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Shakespeare's timeless poetry provides the backdrop for this delicate and moving account of old age, memory, and the demands we make of those we love.

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Ben Power weaves the text of Romeo and Juliet into a provocative new tale of love and sacrifice. Re-imagining Shakespeare's story, **A Tender Thing** is an elegiac yet ultimately hopeful account of the human capacity for love.

Hermon Arts Centre, Chapel St, Oswestry, SY11 1LF

Saturday 17th February 7.30pm and

Sunday 18th February matinée at 2pm.

Tickets <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stage-five-theatre>, scan the QR code or call Pam Johnson on 07814489713 to book and pay for tickets over the phone.



By popular request we are re-staging this production as part of the  
2024 Love Oswestry week of culture.

Correction, apologies, I'm told Len Brown was not the landlord of the Fox & Hounds, he was a good customer and had the use of the stables for his barbering business. (Ed.)



## The Feltonians

West Felton **Feltonians** was an organisation of its own time - and it ran out of time some years ago. Have you noticed there are no 'old-age pensioners' any more? We're all supposed to carry on as if we are still middle-aged, "seventy is the new fifty" etc. When Americans were asked in 2009 what "being old" means, the most popular response was, "Turning 85". In 2022 the average lifespan in the USA was 76 years - apparently the average American dies before getting old. Are we going the same way?

Well, in 1976 there *were* still Senior Citizens. On 10th February 1976, Major Jim Pearce, President of the Royal British Legion, West Felton Branch, and his very active wife Betty (WI, Meals on Wheels, Poppy Appeal organiser, etc.) invited members from the various organisations of the village, viz. WI, Church, Chapel, Parish Council, etc, to a meeting at Lane End to discuss the formation of a Senior Citizens Club in West Felton.

It was attended by Mrs L Beddoes from WI; Mr & Mrs Stan Roberts representing the Chapel; Mr Bob Edwards from the Parish Council and Mr Joe Stokoe, a British Legion member.

Jim Pearce proposed that a tea party be given for the Senior Citizens on 3rd March, to find out if a Senior Citizens Club was wanted or needed, the cost of the tea to be paid for by the Royal British Legion, West Felton Branch.

Mrs Pearce invited to the party all the retired people of the village and a Mr Thomas, Secretary of Age Concern. Mr Thomas opened the proceedings with a talk on how to run a club.

Mrs Pearce was appointed President    Mr Stokoe - Chairman  
Mrs Lloyd - Secretary                    Mr Gittens - Treasurer  
Mr & Mrs Coles - Entertainment        Mrs Kenyon - Savings Organiser

It was decided that the Club would be called **The Feltonians** and would meet every Tuesday at 2pm. Tea would be made and served by Mrs Pearce and Mrs Kenyon, biscuits would be provided by three members on a rota system. A Savings Group was started for members to save for Christmas, holidays etc.

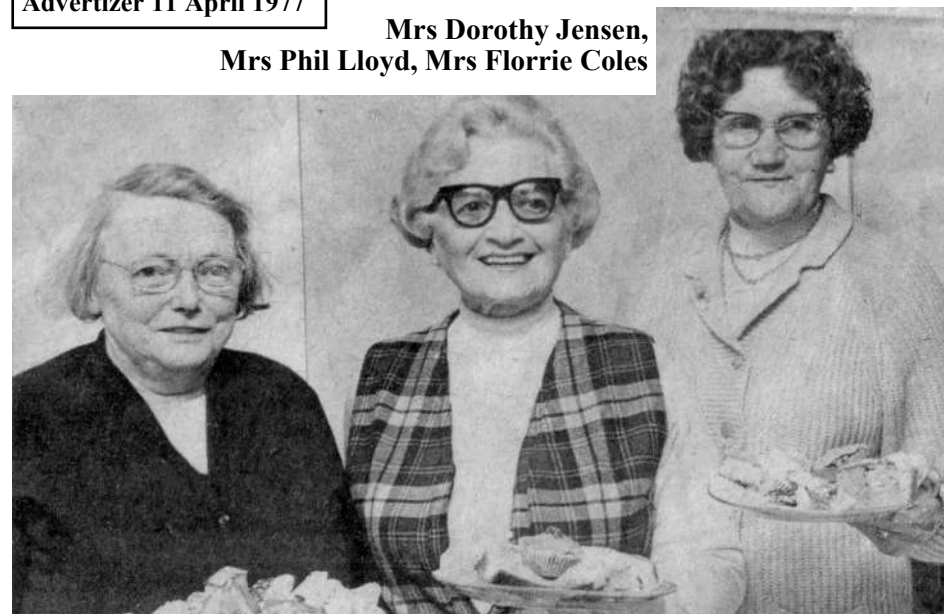
The Club was very popular and active for more than 35 years, the last big



Members of the Feltonian Club at West Felton, near Oswestry, held a social afternoon in the village yesterday after the club's first anniversary which they celebrated with an outing last week. Looking after the tea preparations are, from left, Mr Joe Stokoe (chairman), Mr Gwilym Lloyd and Mr Harry Coles. More pictures in Tuesday's social supplement.

Advertiser 11 April 1977

Mrs Dorothy Jensen,  
Mrs Phil Lloyd, Mrs Florrie Coles



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outing may have been Christmas Dinner at The Brow in 2011, but unfortunately I cannot confirm this date.

At weekly meetings on Tuesdays in the Methodist Schoolroom plans were made for trips to the seaside, longer holidays, formal Christmas dinners, anniversary celebrations and, really, any excuse for a party. After refreshments, games were played: whist, and scrabble and all the old favourites. As the membership naturally dwindled, there being no more Senior Citizens to continue it, the club folded.

Chris Hayes and family of the Avenue inherited a wonderful photo album from two of the last Feltonian members, most fondly remembered Olive Hayes, who joyfully celebrated her 90th birthday at the club in 2009 - and went on to enjoy more years as secretary, and Chris' late beloved mother Cissie who was a keen member and appears in most of the photographs. Olive's sister Evie and her husband later came to live in West Felton and soon joined the happy gathering. The late Mrs Dolly Jones was a particularly active organiser and keen to preserve the club as long as possible. (*We saw her husband Fred playing bowls in last month's story of the Fox & Hounds*).

The oldest photo (*date unknown*) shows West Felton Brownies serving the tea to more than twenty members in the Schoolroom. Christmas 1984 sees the members enjoying Christmas Dinner in The Boat House, Ellesmere; the following year they were at The Black Gate, Oswestry. In December 1986 the Christmas party is in The Pedigree with about forty guests. Later years saw the Feltonians travelling further afield for their formal dinners.

Summer garden parties at Lane End, The Milloon, and other members' gardens were a particular delight, and good opportunities for fundraising.

Handicrafts were still popular, many of the members were particularly skilful; prize-winners in WI shows as well as those organised by **Oswestry Association for the Elderly** (*what a name for a club! Ed.*).

Looking through the album, one feels as if one is on a long road trip: Bridgemere; Burlton; York; Morecambe; Church Stretton; Ludlow; Hereford; Pebble Mill Studios Birmingham; International Convention Centre, Birmingham; Stratford upon Avon; Llandudno; Audlem; Southport; Llanfair PG; Aberystwyth; Aberdovey; Machynlleth; The Wirral; Bowness; Newquay; Great Yarmouth; Grasmere, the Peak District - to name just some of their holidays and day trips. And as for hostelrys? Too numerous to mention! They certainly knew how to have a good time. ♦



## 90th BIRTHDAYS celebrated

Oliver Oakley  
with Mrs Betty  
Pearce

Mrs Olive Hayes

Olive's sister  
Mrs Evie Clayton

Oliver with  
Mrs Dolly Jones

Mrs Rene Biggs